

Wokingham in the News

(Extracts from local newspapers)

1771 to 1999

by

Jim Bell



**Wokingham in the News:
A Chronological History of Wokingham from local Newspapers,
1771-1999**

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The Wokingham Society takes great pride in hosting this eBook, painstakingly produced by Jim Bell from original newspapers articles held in the Reading Central Library, and recently extended back in time by some 70 years. Jim in turn wishes to pay tribute to the late Edna Goatley, wife of the much-missed Wokingham Town historian, Ken Goatley and herself a considerable source of local history. Edna both encouraged and partially funded this enterprise and it is a pity that she is not here to see the fruits of Jim's labours.

It is Jim Bell's wish that the material he has transcribed, representing an unparalleled account of Wokingham's development from the late 18th century, through both World Wars and to the end of the 20th century, should be accessible to anyone with an interest in the town. He asks only that those using any material (copied from the Word or PDF versions) should acknowledge its source. I helped with the proof-reading so do let me know if you spot any errors.

Do enjoy dipping into this chronology's pages and discover for yourselves what Wokingham and its townsfolk were like in times past.

Peter Must
Chairman
The Wokingham Society
January 2022

Wokingham News from Berkshire Chronicle and Reading Mercury

Berkshire Chronicle 1771 to 1775

Mon 7th Jan

Tuesday last died, aged 82, Mrs. Marlow of this town. What is remarkable, she never drank a dish of tea or coffee in her life

At Wokingham Market, Tuesday last, Wheat £12 12s. 6d. Per load. Barley, 25s. 6d. per Quarter. Oat 19s. to 21s. ditto. Beans 25s. Pease 30s. to 33s.

Mon. 14th Jan

To be LETT, and entered upon Immediately, a Convenient DWELLING-HOUSE, with three Parlours, two Kitchens, five Bed-Chambers, Cellar, Stable for three Horses, and a good Yard and Garden.

For further Particulars, enquire of MR. FELTHAM, in the Market-Place, Wokingham.

APPRENTICES

THE OVERSEERS of Wokingham, give Notice, that several BOYS are ready to be put APPRENTICE to TRADESMEN of REPUTABLE CHARACTERS.

For Particulars apply to Messrs. BEACHER and TOGWELL, at WOKINGHAM, Berks.

MARKET-PLACE, WOKINGHAM

THOMAS BROOKES,

(Son and Successor to Mr. T. BROOKES, deceased)

Presents his Dutiful Respects to the Friends and
Customers of his late Father,

And begs Leave to inform them that he continues the MERCERY, LINEN and WOOLLEN-DRAPERY, HABERDASHERY BUSINESS, &c, as usual, and humbly solicits a Continuance of their favours.

FUNERALS completely Furnished.

PRICES of GRAIN

At WOKINGHAM Market, Tuesday last, Wheat £12 12s. 6d. per Load. Barley, 25s. 6d. per Quarter. Oat 19s. to 21s, ditto. Beans 25s. Pease 30s. to 22s.

Mon 4th Feb

For the BENEFIT of the
POOR of the Town of Wokingham,
At the TOWN-HALL,

THIS PRESENT MONDAY, the 4th of FEBRUARY, will

Be presented a TRAGEDY, call'd

The FAIR PENITANT,

“To which will be added, a Dramatic Satire, (written

By DAVID GARRICK, Esq.) cal'd

LETHE; or AESOP; in the SHADES.

All the Characters to be perform'd by Persons
Of the Town for their Amusement.
Before the Play will be spoke, a New PROLOGUE.
Written for the occasion----At the End of the Fourth
Act, (by particular Desire) MR. GARRICK's PROLOGUE
To BARBAROSSA will be spoke in the Character of a
COUNTRY Boy---And the Whole to conclude with an
OCCASIONAL EPILOGUE

No Person to be admitted without a Ticket, which may be had at the Rose, Bush
, King's Head and Roebuck Inns. And at the Printing-Office....BOX Three Shillings,
PIT Two Shillings, GALLERY One Shilling.—

The Performance to begin PRECISELY at SIX o'Clock; and no Person whatever will
be admitted behind the scenes.

N.B. Such Ladies and Gentlemen who intend honouring the Performance of the Night
with their Presence in the Box, are required to give early Notice, and Places shall be
reserved for them.

Mon 11th Feb

STOLEN or STRAYED, out of a Green called Pattin's Ash Green, near the Town of
WOKINGHAM, Berks, a little BLACK PONY , about ten hands high, the Mark out
of his Mouth, a Hog mane, a cut Tail, crooked behind, and going in ambling pace
Also, a Dark-coloured GREY GELDING, near 14 hands high, coming five Years old,
with a large Head, a short dock'd Tail, and spragg'd. Any Person that can give
intelligence of the above Horses, or will bring them to EPHRAIM HOULTON, or
HENRY TRASH, of WOKINGHAM aforesaid, shall be paid all reasonable Charges,
and have a Reward to their Satisfaction.

WEREAS JOHN KEMP, Labourer has left his WIFE and FAMILY chargeable to the
Town of WOKINGHAM, Berks: Whoever will give intelligence of him to Messrs.
BECHER and TOGWELL, OVERSEERS of the Poor of the said Town, shall be
handsomely rewarded for their Trouble.

He is about 35 Years of Age; five Feet five Inches high; strait light-brown Hair;
grey Eyes; well set. And goes ankle out at Knees.

TO be SOLD, Three HOUSES pleasantly situated in the Town of WOKINGHAM;
two of the Houses joining together; with large Gardens to each; they stand on a
pleasant Spot of Ground, dry and healthy, and have fine springs of Water. The said
Houses may be converted to several Purposes, for any Business, or very pleasant to
erect a House for a small Family; one of the said Houses in good Repair, the other in
indifferent. As they stand together, they may advantageously improved. The third
House is new built, with a Yard behind it walled in, fit for a small Family; containing
one Passage to the Staircase, one Kitchen 14 by 16, a Parlour ditto, and three Bed-
Chambers, with a good Well of Water.

Enquire of Mr. THOMAS ROUND , or of ANTHONY HADLAND, Ironmonger,
near the Church, WOKINGHAM. N.B. All the Premises are Freehold, and subject to
a very small Quit-Rent.

Mon 8th July

A SMALL FARM; consisting of a `Farm-House, Barn, Stable, and other convenient
Out-Houses, all in good repair; a Yard, Garden, Orchard, and about Twenty Acres of

good Land lying contiguous, well planted with Timber and now in the Occupation of Farmer John May, jun, and well situated in the Parish of Wokingham, in the County of Wilts; the Yard opening into a very good and extensive Common for Herbage, (near Ashridge Wood) to which there is an undoubted Right.

For further Particulars enquire of Mr THOMAS ROUND, Attorney at Law, at Wokingham.

To be SOLD
Situate in the Parish of WOKINGHAM, in the County of
Wilts, near the Church,

FOUR Freehold TENEMENTS and a BLACKSMITH'S SHOP < adjoining together, in the several occupations of Anthony Hadland, Carpenter, Joseph Budget, Blacksmith, Joseph Waldes, and Joseph Townsend.

And also, A BARN opposite the said Tenements, now used as a Playhouse.

For further particulars enquire of Mr. EDWARD WISE, jun. at Wokingham; or of Mr. Anthony Hadland, above-mentioned, who will show the Premises.

At the NEW THEATRE in WOKINGHAM,
On Monday, July 8, will be performed, a CONCERT of
MUSIC,---BOXES 3s. Pit 2s. Gallery 1s.
Between the Parts of the Concert will be presented (gratis)
A COMEDY, called
THE SUSPICIOUS HUSBAND.

Ranger, Mr. Dunn; Mr. Strickland, Mr. Bailley; Bellamy, Mr. Comerford, Frankly, Mr. Lloyd; Meggot, Mr. Jerrold, tester, Mr. Brownsmith; Simon, Mr. Young; Buckle, Mr. Corbyn---Mrs. Strickland, Miss Wright; Clarinda, Mrs. Simpson; Jacintha, Miss Villers; Lucetta, miss Dyer.

To which will be added,

An English Burletta called MIDAS

Immortals. Jupiter, Mr. Bailley; Apollo, Mr. Lloyd; Mars, Mr. Corbyn, Juno, Miss Villers---Mortals. Midas, Mr. Brownsmith; Sileno, Mr. Comerford; Pan, Mr. Yo8ng; Danaetes, Mr. Jerrold; Nyfa, Miss Dyer; Misis, Mrs. Simpson; Daphne, Miss Wright.

WOKINGHAM, *July 6*

Wednesday last, being the day on which young Mr. Neville, of Billngbear, in this county, attained the age of 21, in this and many other parishes in the neighbourhood, the inhabitants, to manifest their kind regard for that ancient and noble family, ushered in the day with ringing of bells, Towards noon the people crowded to his father's house, with hearts full of joy at the pleasing prospect of seeing, from the amiable disposition of the son, and the very respectable of the father, the splendour of the family which shone with such conspicuous brightness in the last century, revive in this by the virtues of so hopeful a youth. A plentiful entertainment was provided for the tenants and farmers who cheerfully enjoyed it, without the least riot or intemperance.

At the approach of the evening the scene was remarkably cheerful. Numbers of the neighbouring ladies and gentlemen together with the tenants, their wives and daughters, joined in a dance on the green, shaded with venerable trees. A cricket match in one part of the park, and parties of men and women dispersed in others, as well as in the gardens, greatly heightened the natural beauties of the place.

When night came on, the company retired into the house, where they danced in different apartments, and supped without interrupting the jollity of the tenants and other farmers in the hall,—It is computed there were not less than a thousand persons, who partook of the different entertainments of the day.

The following verses were sent by an unknown hand upon the occasion---

On the Birth-Day of R.A.N. compleating his 21st Year.—By a LADY

And will no muse, at female call,
Attend to grace this festival;
To say one handsome honest truth,
For this fine handsome honest youth,
Whose bright revolving suns have run
To the wish'd goal of twenty-one;
Come then, ye symphs, with zealous care
The festive garland to prepare
There let a sprig of oak appear,
Pluck'd from the choicest branches here;
And let the lilly, and the rose,
With Venus' plant, the wreath compose,
Becoming well his brows, to wear
Amidst the brave, the good, and fair;
Whilst the pleas'd muse prophetic cries'
"Let him. Who merits, bear the prize!"
But...not to tease him with my rhyme...
Let him remember, in due time.
That, to preserve an honest fame,
A Knight must have an honest Dame,
But soft... 'tis time to drop my pen;
Muse, we'll be cautious with the men;
Yet we must look with reptur'd eye
On him, (the fair example nigh)
Who now, that his career of youth is run,
Enjoys a second youth in such a son.

Billingbear, July 3rd, 1771

The ensuing installation of Knights of the Garter, will hold from the 25th to the 29th instant

His Majesty and the Royal Family will continue three or four days at Windsor:---It is said the day after the installation there will be a public breakfast, and a drawing-room at noon.

This day was found, with his throat cut, at Atwood, near Burnham, Bucks, James Denchen. Late shepherd to Mr. John Edgson of Britwell. He had been missing upward of a fortnight.

Monday last a man was committed to Reading gaol, charged, on the oaths of several witnesses, with stealing a quantity of lead from a place called Noah'

Mon 15th July

At the NEW THEATRE In WOKINGHAM,
On Monday, July 15, will be performed, A CONCERT of
MUSIC,---BOXES 3s. Pit 2s. Gallery 1s.
Between the Parts of the Concert will be presented (gratis)
A COMEDY, called
The COUNTRY LASSES
Or, The CUSTOM of the MANOR

Sir John English, Mr. Brownsmith; Farmer Freehold, Mr. Bailley; Modely, Mr. Comerford; Heartwell, Mr. Jerrold; Lurcher, Mr. Lloyd; Vulture, Mr. Corbyn; Shacklefigure, Mr. Young; Countryman, Mr. Pentyre;---Flora, Miss Wright; Aura, Miss Dyer; Cicily, Miss Villers

In the first Act will be introduced A Rural DANCE, and the Original Sheep-Shearing BALLAD.

To which will be added,
An English Burletta called MIDAS

Immortals. Jupiter, Mr. Bailley; Apollo, Mr. Lloyd; Mars, Mr. Corbyn, Juno, Miss Villers---Mortals. Midas, Mr. Brownsmith; Sileno, Mr. Comerford; Pan, Mr. Yo8ng; Danaetes, Mr. Jerrold; Nyfa, Miss Dyer; Misis, Mrs. Simpson; Daphne, Miss Wright.

Mon 30th Sept

At WOKINGHAM Market, Tuesday last, Old Wheat £14 17s. 6d. New Wheat £14 10s. 0d. per Load. Barley, £1 10s. per Quarter. Beans £1 15s. Pease £0 £0. Old Oats £1 6s. New Oats £1 1s.

Mon 18th Nov

WOKINGHAM, November 16th

The public are advised to be careful in taking guineas in payment, as numbers of false ones are daily circulating, which are well gilt and counterfeited, and os the last coinage of Geo, II but easily distinguished by their lightness.

We hear there is a person in custody for stealing the Wokingham mail bag, which was lost a few weeks since.

Early on Tuesday morning two military Gentlemen in a post-chaise were attacked near Bellfound-lane, by a single highway man, who demanded their money; but on seeing a loaded blunderbuss presented by one of the Officers, he rode off full speed.

Mon 2nd Dec

WANTED, for Constant Employment,
TWO CABINET and CHAIRMAKERS. Apply to CHARLES HOULTON, Upholder, in Broad-street, Wokingham, who buys, Sells, and Appraises all sorts of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, on the Lowest Terms.

On Wednesday, Jan. the Fifth, 1772, will be SHOT for, at ROBERT MAYS, the Bricklayer's Arms, in Rose-street, Wokingham, Berks.

A Gold-laced HAT, of £1 5s. Value

Each person who shoots to pay Two Shillings and Six-pence; if there are not enough to shoot for the Prize, the best Shooter to have the Money put in, to shoot at a Card, four-feet Barrels, to stand Forty Yards, all over in Proportion

To declare for shooting at TWELVE o'Clock.

THE Proprietors of the Wokingham MACHINE beg Leave to inform the Public, that the said Machine will, while the short Days continue, set out from Mr. WILLIAM WHEATLEY'S, at Bush Inn, Wokingham,, and from the Bolt-in Tun, Fleet-street, London at Eight o'Clock in the Morning.

N.B. Any Person that has found the Rim of a Silver Buckle, which was lost near Mr. Wheatley's, is desired to carry it to him, and they shall be rewarded for their Trouble.

ON FRIDAY the 27th of December, 1771, will be given by Mr. WILLIAM WHEATLEY, of the Bush Inn, Wokingham
SIX very good HATS,

To that Company which best performs a Round PEEL of Fifteen Minutes on Wokingham Church Bells; each Company is desired to bring an Umpire, as the above is to be decided by a Majority. The winning Umpire will be entitled to a Hat. No Company will be admitted to ring, or anyone allowed to be an Umpire, but what dines at the Ordinary, nor unless they give Notice before the Day appointed for Ringing
Dinner will be on the Table at One o' Clock, and begin Ringing at Two.

1772

Mon Jan 13th

WOKINGHAM

Extract of a letter from Guildford, Jan 8

“ The inhabitants of this town were yesterday morning greatly alarmed with two or three trembling of the earth, which were very great, and shook several houses , and was imagined by some people to be an earthquake. Others said it might be the powder-mills at Chilworth blown up. Many took their horses and rode to those mills, and found them safe; but to their great surprise, found several people from Godalming, Bramley, &c. there, who had been as much alarmed as those of our town. The trembling of the earth were felt ar Altn, 17 miles from Hounslow. It was also felt at Haslemere, 13 miles from hence, as also at Crondall, Crookham, and the neighbouring villages.

A correspondent assures us, that the shock of the explosion of th powder-mills on Monday last, was also felt as Windsor, where it threw down two very valuable chine tureens, from a gentleman's chimneypiece; it was also felt at Finchampstead near this place.

Mon 27th Jan 1772

WOKINGHAM, Jan. 16, 1772

THE Bag with the Letters from this Place of THURSDAY the Third of OCTOBER last, having by some Accident been lost upon the Road to London, any Person who may have found the same, and will bring it to Mr. CHAPLIN, Deputy Post-Master at this Place, shall receive from him a Reward of GUINEAS.FIVE

WOKINGHAM, Jan 25, 1772

All Persons who have any Demands on the Estate and Effects of Mr. Clement Cruttwell, of Wokingham, deceased, are desired to send an Account of the same forthwith to Mr. Cruttwell, Surgeon, of the said Place, in order to their being settled; and all Persons indebted to the said Estate, are desired to pay the same to the said Mr. Cruttwell, without further Notice.

Mon 3rd Feb

WOKINGHAM, Feb 1, 1772

WHEREAS I CHARLES HOULTON, of Wokingham, in the County of Berks, Cabinet-Maker, did on Thursday Night last, in public Company, misuse Henry Trash, of Wokingham aforesaid, Plumber, by assaulting and striking him several Blows in the Face; and the said Henry Trash has promised and undertaken not to proceed to recover Damages against me for such Assault, upon my publicly asking his Pardon for the same---I do therefore hereby ask Pardon of the said Henry Trash for the said Offence??. and promise never to assault him in like manner again.

Mon 10th Feb

WOKINGHAM, Berks.

CHARLES HOULTON, JOINER

UPHOLDER, and AUCTIONEER, in Broad-Street, returns Thanks to his Friends and Customers for their past favours, and begs leave to inform them, and the Public in general, that he has a large assortment of UPHOLSTERY and CABINET GOODS, new and second hand.. Beds, Bedding, Blankets, Quilts, counterpanes and Rugs. Chairs, Tables, chests of Drawers, Bureaus, Tea-boards, Tea-chests, &c. in Mahogany, Cherry, and Walnut-tree. Pier and Dressing-Glasses; Scotch, Wilton, and Lift Carpeting; Royal Matting, and Painted Floor Cloth; Variety of Paper Patterns for Rooms, Chimney-boards, &c.

Wanted, Two or three good Hands in the Cabinet and Chair-making Branch, for constant Employment.

Two very good to be Lett in the Market-place; enquire as above.

WOKINGHAM, Jan. 16, 1772

THE Bag with the Letters from this place of THURSDAY the Third of October last, having by some Accident been lost upon the Road to London, any Person who may have found the same, and will bring it to Mr. CHAPLIN, Deputy Post Master at this Place, shall receive from him a Reward of FIVE GUINEAS.

Mon 17th Feb

The PROPRIETORS of the
WOKINGHAM MACHINE

Beg leave to inform Gentlemen, Ladies, and the
Public in General'

That on MONDAY the 14th of February
The said Machine will set out from the Bush Inn, Wokingham exactly at Seven o'Clock in the Morning, and from the *Bolt-in-Tun* Inn, Fleet-street, at Eight o'Clock in the Morning, and continue setting out at the above Hours till they begin flying, of which Notice will be given.

WILLIAM WHEATLEY

At the Town Hall in Wokingham, on MONDAY Evening, Feb. 17, will be performed CONCERT of Vocal and Instrumental MUSIC.

The Vocal Parts by Mr. BROWN, who performed at the Grand Jubilee at Stratford-upon-Avon, and Mrs. MOORE, late Miss Muriel, Pupil of Dr. Arne, The First Violin by Mr. MOORE, late one of the Band at the Opera House.

Act 1. An Overture of Lord Kelly's. Song, *Vain is Beauty's gaudy Flower*, from the Oratorio of Judith, by Mrs. Moore. Solo on the Violin by Mrs. Moore. A favourite duet by Mr. Brown and Mrs. Moore. A periodical Overture by Bach. Solo on the German Flute, The Lark's Shrill Notes, by Mrs. Moore.

Act II This act will consist of the Grand Ode, performed at Stratford-upon-Avon to the Honour of Shakespeare, which will be spoke by Mr. CONNOR, who has delivered it with Applause in most of the capital Cities in England. Songs in the Ode: *Sweetest Bard that ever sung*, by Mrs. Moore. *When Nature Smiling, bail'd his Birth*, by Mr. Brown. *Wild frantic with Pinafore*, by Mrs. Moore. *The Soft flowing Avon*, by Mrs. Moore. *More Gentle than the Summer's Gale*, by Mrs. Brown. A hunting song, by Mrs. Brown. To conclude with a Song addressed to the Ladies and Gentlemen of the Town, by Mrs. Moore.

To begin at Seven o'clock. Tickets to be had at the *Bush Inn*, in Wokingham.

This is the only Evening they intend performing here.

Mon 24th Feb

WOKINGHAM, Berks
CHARLES HOULTON,—JOINER,

UPHOLDER, and AUCTIONEER, in Broad Street, returns Thanks to his Friends and Customers for their past Favours; and begs leave to inform them, and the Public in general, that he has a large Assortment of UPHOLSTERY and CABINET Goods, new and secondhand. Beds, Bedding, Blankets, Quilts, Counterpanes, and Rugs, Chairs, Tables, Chests of drawers, Bureaus, Tea-boards, Tea chests, &c. in Mahogany, Cherry, and Walnut-tree. Pier and dressing glasses; Scotch, Wilton, and ift Carpeting; Royal Matting, and Painted Flour Cloth; Variety of Paper Patterns for rooms, Chimney-boards, &c.

To be sold, a very good tilted CART and HARNESS, almost New.

Two very good SHOPS to be Lett in the Market-Place; enquire as above.

C. CRUTTWELL, in Broad-street, WOKINGHAM, begs leave to acquaint the Public, that he sells DRUGS of all Kinds as cheap as in London,

Lavender and Hungary Water, Eau de Luce, &c.

All Orders sent by the Newsmen will be punctually obeyed.

Mon 2nd March

WOKINGHAM, *February 19*

The new constructed narrow-wheel wagon is now finished; it weighs nineteen-hundred and an half, and was tried last Saturday, when it carried 15 sacks of flour and two sacks of pollard, weighing two ton, with great ease from Cluer-mill near Windsor, to Eton, drawn by two horses; the construction is so well executed, that it goes uphill loaded with great facility. It will be sent to town next week for the inspection of the Society of Arts, Sciences, &c.

Mon 23rd March

C. Cruttwell, Surgeon and Apothecary, in Broad Street, Wokingham, respectfully informs the Public, that he sells all kinds of Drugs, Wholesale and Retail, as cheap as in London. Fine Lavender and Hungary Water, Eau de Luce, &c. All Orders from the Country faithfully executed.

Mon 30th March

WOKINGHAM, Berks

WANTED

Two Journeymen SHOEMAKERS who may have constant Employ at making Men's Shoes

At 1s, 6d. and 1s. 8d. per Pair and more if deserving, by applying to WILLIAM WATTS, at the Sign of the BOOT, in Wokingham

Good Workmen may depend on great Encouragement.

WOKINGHAM, Berks

JOHN FELTHAM

In the MARKET-PLACE

Returns thanks to his FRIENDS and CUSTOMERS for their past Favours in his several Branches; and begs Leave to inform them, and the Public in general, that he has a large Assortment of MENS' and BOUS' HATS. Likewise, UPHOLSTERY and CABINET GOODS, New and Second-hand on the lowest Terms.

To be sold, a very good OAK FRAME of a Barn, 36 Feet long, 18 Feet wide, and 10 Feet 6 Inches high, now standing in the Parish of Wokingham. Enquire as above.

The PROPRIETORS of the
WOKINGHAM MACHINE

Beg leave to inform the PUBLIC

That the Machine will begin FLYING on MONDAY the 13th of April; will set out from the Bush Inn, Wokingham, every Morning at Six O'clock, to the Bolt-in-Tun Inn, Fleet-street; returns from thence every Day at One o'Clock, during the Summer Season---Stops, going in and coming out, at the White-horse Cellars, and Black and White Bear Inns, Piccadilly, to take up Parcels and Passengers

Prices as usual

WOKINGHAM, Berks

To be LETT

And entered upon IMMEDIATELY

A Genteel, Sashed HOUSE, consisting of two Parlours, a Kitchen, twp good Cellars, with other convenient Offices, five Bedchambers, (besides Garret) a large Yard, with a two-stall Stable, a large garden, walled, and well planted with Fruit Trees, late in the Occupation of Mr. THOMAS ROUND, Attorney at Law, at Wokingham.

For further Particulars enquire of the said Mr. Round, in Friar-street, Reading.

WOKINGHAM, Berks

To be LETT

And entered upon at MIDSUMMER next

THAT well-known, and good-accustomed House, called the ROSE INN, in Wokingham, distant from London 31 Miles, on the New Turnpike Road to Bath. Enquire of Mr. GRIFFIN, at Wokingham

N.B. No Person need apply that has not been used to genteel Company, and has a Capital to furnish the House in a handsome Manner.

Likewise to be LETT and entered upon immediately, furnished or unfurnished, (enquire as above) RAMSLADE HOUSE, very pleasantly situated in the Middle of the Stag Hunt, Windsor Forest, near Bracknell, Berks; consisting of four Rooms on a floor, with two Cellars, a Wine Vault, a good Kitchen, a Brewhouse, Wash-house, Pantries, Dairy, and all Conveniences fit for a genteel Family. A Double Coach-house, and Stall Stabling, for nine horses, a good Garden, three Fish-ponds, and thirty-one Acres of good Meadow Land. The above Premises have a Right to a large Extent of Common to feed Cattle, and cut Fuel for the Use of the House; is distant from London 26 miles, half a mile from the Turnpike Road, half a mile from the Church, two from Sunning-hill, and four from Wokingham. Francis Lavell, at Ramslade, will shew the Premises.

WOKINGHAM, Berks

JOHN CHAPLIN, at the ROSE Inn, Wokingham, returns his grateful Thanks to the Nobility, Gentry, and Others, for the many Favours they have conferred on him, for upwards of TWENTY YEARS, at the above Inn:---As his Lease will Expire at Midsummer next, and his Landlord not chusing to grant a fresh one, without an advanced Rent and other incumbrances, he takes the earliest Opportunity of informing them,

That he has purchased a HOUSE in Peak-street, a few Doors from his present INN, Which he is fitting up in a genteel Manner for their Accommodation, and humbly hopes for a Continuance of their Favours.

Mon 6th April

WOKINGHAM, Berks

JOSEPH BERRY
WHOLESALE and RETAIL HATTER
From Coventry

Begs leave to acquaint the Public in general, that he has taken the house lately in the Possession of Mr. BRYANT INSTOCK, in WOKINGHAM, where he will lay n a compleat assortment of Men's Fashionable Hats, likewise Men's stout Felt ditto, Castors, and Weatherproofs, together with Youths and Boys bound Hat, all entirely fresh, and exceeding good, which will be sold upon the lowest Terms, and all Favours gratefully acknowledged.

N.B. Hats cocked in the newest taste. Likewise well dyed, dressed, &c.

WOKINGHAM, Berks

ELIZ CRUTTWELL
BOOKSELLER and STATIONER
In the MARKET-PLACE

SELLS Wholesale and Retale all Sorts of Books, on the lowest Terms, viz. Bibles, Common Prayers, Testaments, Spelling Books, Psalters, School Books of all Sorts, Little Books for Children, Books in Divinity, History, Voyages, Travels, &c., Stationery of all Kinds, viz. Writing Paper of all Sorts, gilt and plain, Pens and Quills, red and black Ink. Dutch and English Sealing Wax, black and red; Accompte Books of all Sorts, and Alphabets; Copy Books, Pocket Books and Cases, Slates and Slate Pencils, Middleton's, Powell's Composition, and other black lead Pencils &c &c.

Magazines, weekly Numbers, or any new periodical Publications, will be regularly delivered.

A Circulating Library is kept as above, where Books are lent to read at 10s. 6d. a Year, 3s. a Quarter, 1s. 6d. a Month, or 3d. a single Volume; printed Catalogues of which may be had at 3d. each.

Bonds, Indentures, Warrants of Attorney, Bills of Sale, and all Sorts of Stamped Paper and Parchments.

Printed Warrants. Summonses, Certificates, Orders of Removal, &c. &c..

All Kinds of Patent and other Medicines, from the Genuine Proprietors

Books neatly bound, gilt, and lettered, and Writings fairly engrossed.

All Orders by the New{men or otherwise will be punctually executed.

Best Coniac Brandy, neat Jamaica Rum, fine shrub, and all other Spirituous Liquors, Wholesale and Retail, on the lowest Terms.

Mon 1st June

WOKINGHAM, May 28, 1772

ALL Persons who have any Demands on the Estate and Effects of Mr. JOHN FIELD, late of Wokingham, deceased, are desired to bring an Account of the same to his Widow: And those Persons indebted to the said John Field at the Time of his Decease, are requested to pay the same to his Widow.---Those Persons employed by him in the Woollen Manufactory, are desired to bring their Work, finished or unfinished, to Mrs. Field, or proper Methods will be taken to oblige them.

WINDSOR-FOREST TURNPIKE

A General Meeting of the Trustees will be held on MONDAY, the Fifth of June, at the BUSH Inn, in Wokingham, by Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon, to consider of a Scheme on foot for turning that Part of the Turnpike Road leading towards Virginia Water.

WOKINGHAM, May 28, 1772

THE STEWARDS of the NEW FRIENDLY SOCIETY at the KING'S HEAD, in the said town, hereby give Notice, That their ANNUAL FEAST will be held, as usual, on the Friday in Whitsun Week. All the Members of the said Society are desired to meet ny Ten o'clock in the Forenoon. Dinner to be on the Table exactly at One o'Clock.

This day is published.

And may be had at E. CRUTTWELL'S in the Market-Place, Wokingham, and of the Men who distribute the *Berkshire Chronicle*, Price only *Six-Pence*.

THE Rev. Mr. TALBOT'S Narrative of the Whole of his proceedings relative to JONATHAN BRITAIN.

Bristol: Printed by S. Farley; and sold by J. Dodsley,

Pall-Mall: J. Blyington, in St. Paul's Church-Yard; and by all other Booksellers.

Of the said E. Cruttwell may be had, just published.

OBSERVATIONS on Dr. Cadogan's Dissertation on the Gout, and all Chronic Disorders, by Wm. FALCONER, of ath, M.D. The Second Edition. Price 1S, 6d.

The ART of DRESSING the HAIR, a Poem inscribed to the Members of the Macaroni Society. By Ebenezer Pinch, Philocosm, and late Hair-Dresser to that Society, Price 1S. 6d.

Mon 20th July

WOKINGHAM, July 6, 1772

JOHN CHAPLIN

RETURNS his grateful THANKS to the Nobility, Gentry and others, for the many Favours they have conferred on him, for upwards of twenty years: and takes the earliest Opportunity of informing them that he has removed from the ROSE INN, in the Market-place, to the

NEW ROSE INN in Peak-street.

Which he has fitted in a Genteel manner for their Accommodation, and humbly hopes for a continuance if their Favours.

Neat Post Chaise and Saddle Horses.

Mon 3rd August

WOKINGHAM Berks, August 1st, 1772

To be LETT, and entered upon, *Immediately*

A convenient house, in Peake-street, with a garden, and some Outhouses which have been lately used in the Currying Business.

For Particulars enquire of Mr. SAMUEL WALLEN, of Wokingham, aforesaid.

All Persons who are indebted to the Estate of Mr. SIMON HOULTON, of Wokingham, Cooper, lately deceased, are desired to pay their respective Debts to MR. FRANCIS HOLTON, at the Rose and Crown, Queenhithe, London, who is Executor of the last will and Testament of the said Simon Houlton (he having proved the said Will in the proper Court) or to Mr. Jon Bennett, of Wokingham, Carpenter, who is properly authorised by the said Francis Houlton to receive the same, and to no other Person whomsoever, And all Persons having any Demands on the Estate of the Deceased, are desired forthwith to give in an Account thereof unto the said Francis Houlton, or John Bennett.

Mon 10th Aug

BUSH INN, WOKINGHAM

Mr. Wheatley takes this Opportunity to acquaint the Nobility, Gentry, and Others, that in order to accommodate them in a genteel and elegant manner, he has taken the Old Rose, (late Molly Moggs) and fitted it up in a manner, he flatters himself which will merit their Approbation, where he hopes the deficiencies of his House, the Bush (which is now joined to the Rose) will be amply made amends for. Mr. Wheatley returns his most grateful Acknowledgements to those who have hitherto honoured him with their Custom, and hopes this Step will more than ever attach them to his House, and be a Means of inviting Strangers where they will meet with the Accommodation, and the most civil Usage.

Mr. Wheatley's Concert will be in the latter Part of this month; the Particulars of which will be advertised in a future Paper.

N.B. A small House, with a Shop in Front, situate in the Market-place, to be Lett. Enquire of MR. Wheatley

To be SOLD by AUCTION

By FRANCIS COLLINS

On Thursday and Friday the 20th and 21st Days of August' on the Premises

All HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE of Mr.SIMON HOULTON, Cooper, Dec. at his late Dwelling House at Wokingham. Also his Stock in the Brewing Trade; consisting of between thirty and forty Barrels of good old Beer, a large Quantity of Calks of all sizes, together with his Stock in the Cooper's Business, consisting of several new Tubs, staves, Cooper's Ends, White Hoops, Working Tools, &c.

The Goods to be viewed the Day before the Sale, which will begin each Day at Eleven o'Clock.

Catalogues, in Convenient time, may be had of Mr. John Bennett, and of Francis Collins, the Auctioneer, in Wokingham; at the Black Horse, Reading; the Mermaid, Windsor; and the Three Tuns, Odiam.

The Tenement, called the HALF-MOON, to be Lett; also the new-erected Storehouse and Brewhouse, with a copper and all other Utensils fixed, adjoining thereto, late the Occupation of the said Simon Houlton, situate in Broad-street, Wokingham. Enquire of Mr. Bennett.

At the Widow Philp's, near the Church, on Tuesday the 14th Instant, between the Hours of Ten and Twelve in the Forenoon.

Two Waggons, one Dung Cart, one Tilted ditto, two Drags, two Harrows, a Swing Plough, a set of Bell Harness, and several other Articles in the Farming-Business. For further Particulars enquire of Mr. John Feltham, in the Market-Place.

N.B. A Complete Dwelling House to Lett, situate in Down-Street, with a very good Garden and Offices. Enquire as above.

WOKINGHAM, Aug. 10, 1772

Mark Porter, Clock and Watch-Maker, begs leave to acquaint the Public, that he has taken the shop lately occupied by Mr. John Winch, in the Market-Place, where he intends carrying on the several Branches of his Trade in the best Manner, and all Favours will be gratefully acknowledged.

Silver and Gold bought, sold, or exchanged. All Sorts of Plated Goods, Buckles, Spurs, &c. Articles in the Silver Way mended in the neatest Manner.

Two rooms unfurnished to be Lett at the said House.

Mon 17th Aug

WOKINGHAM

JOHN , in Peak-street, begs Leave to acquaint the Public that he purposes carrying on the respective Trade of PAINTING and GLAZING in all it Branches. Those Gentlemen who please to favour him with their Commands, may depend on his Endeavours to serve them on lowest Terms.

N.B. Oils and Colours at the London prices.

To the freeholders of the County of WILTS

GENTLEMEN,

I take the earliest Opportunity to return you my sincere Thanks for the Encouragement I have this Day received, to persevere in soliciting the Honour of representing you in Parliament. Permit me to request your appearance and Support on the Day of Election; and to assure you, if I am so happy as to succeed, I shall endeavour, by a constant uninfluenced Attention to my Duty in Parliament, to promote the true Interest of my Country, and of this County in particular.

I have the Honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your most obliged and
Devoted humble Servant,

Devizes,
HERBERT
Aug.7, 1772

HENRY

N.B. Carriages, &c., will be provided at the Bush, Wokingham.

Mon 5th October

WANTED

A sober COUNTRY LAD, as an Apprentice to a very good Handicraft Trade in London, which never fails for Employment, and when out of his Time may, if willing to work, get a Guinea and a Half a Week as Journeyman. Ant Person this may suit, may consult with the Master on Wednesday the 7th of October, and the two following Days, at the King's Head, Wokingham

WOKINGHAM, October, 1772

To be SOLD by AUCTION

Some Time this Month, of which further Particulars will be advertised in this Paper. A FREEHOLD FARM called WILTSHIRE FARM, situate near the Church, late Mr. Edward Naith's, deceased, now in the several Occupations of Mr. Cyprian Cotterel and Mr. John Chaplin. Some Part of the Land lies in Berkshire, the greater Part in Wiltshire.

Please to enquire of Mr. John Feltham, Carpenter, in the Market-place, Wokingham. EDMUND TOGWELL, in the Market-place, Wokingham, begs Leave to acquaint his Friends and the Public in general, that he has lately bid in a large Assortment of WOOLLEN and LINEN DRAPERY and HOSIERY GOODS, &c, which will be sold on the reasonable Terms

Likewise, WATCHES and CLOCKS to be sold at the said Shop, and taken in to be repaired,&c. for Mr. Thomas Crutchfield, at Arborfield. The most Money will be given for Old Gold and Silver. N.B. Gold Rings sold as above. Funerals furnished to any Part of the Kingdom..

Mon 14th Sept

WOKINGHAM

JOSEPH WARRY begs leave to Acquaint the Public, that he has opened a SHOP next Door to the King's Head, in the Market-place, WOKINGHAM, where he sells all Sorts of CUT LEATHER . Likewise crop Hides, Skins, Boot Legs and Feet. Also Callimancoes for Shoes, Linings, Bindings,, &c. He will attend at the above Shop on Tuesdays from Ten till Two, and on Fridays from Two till Four. Those who please to favour him with their custom, may depend on being served on the lowest Terms

WOKINGHAM

At the grand Concert of Vocal and Instrumental Music, which is to be performed at our Town-hall on Friday next, a part of the sacred Oratorio of the Messiah will be sung by several eminent Performers from The Choirs in London.

Mon 19th Oct

To be SOLD to the Best Bidder

On Tuesday the 27th of this instant October, at Wm. Fouch's. the Red Lion, Wokingham.

THE UNDERWOOD of Peeblestone Coppice, eight years' growth, being in the Foot-way leading from Wokingham to Binfield.

To be Lett, a Currier's Working-shop, with two Drying Lofts,&c. in Wokingham; Also Utensils in the Currying Business, to be sold. For Particulars enquire of MR. SAM WALLER, of the said Town

Mon 2nd Nov.

To the PUBLIC

WOKINGHAM, Oct. 29, 1772

As a proper caution to Tenants, I think it no more than doing the world a piece of justice to communicate to the Public an instance of a voracious savage, or landlord, who resides in the Market-place, Wokingham, who let his house for one year certain; the person who took it commenced Tenant the 25th of March 1772. The Landlord who by persuasions of some informal being, or I believe from his own diabolical heart, on the 9th of October last, takes out a distress for half a year's rent, only due at Michaelmas 1st, without so much as once asking the said Tenant for the rent: The aforesaid Landlord again on the 27th October, because the Tenant had not satisfied him for a few old fixtures, he the said Landlord proceeds against his Tenant by virtue of a Windsor writ, for that debt, only 50S. So that the whole expenses, quite unnecessary, which he has put his Tenant to, amount to near upon Ten pounds, for the small consideration of /six pounds, nine shillings. By such virulent and illegal treatment, the Tenant suffers the loss of his friends and trade, by such means his creditors fall upon him at once; and what is most valuable and dear to him, such a miscreant brings an infamy upon his tenant's reputation and character. I will leave it to the impartial public, whether such an oppressing blood-sucker does not deserve to be universally exposed.

MODERATOR

1773

Mon 4th Jan

AVERAGE PRICES OF GRAIN
At WOKINGHAM

Wheat £15 12s. 0d. to £16 05s. 0d. per Load

Oats 22s. 6d. to 25s. 0d.

Barley 13s. 0d. to 36s.

Beans 40s 0d. to 45s. 0d.

Pease 48s. 0d. to 50s. 0d.

WOKINGHAM, January 16

Mon 18th Jan

For this week past we have been pestered with one of those immigrants, who under the pretence of selling cheap, as the effects of a bankrupt, &c. enter into towns, and do the greatest injury to the settled trader, by taking away the ready money, while the other is obliged to give credit. It is amazing that any persons will be mean enough to encourage such hawkers, as the profit on drapery is too small to allow them fairly to undersell the honest trader; To the sensible they may sell bargains, but the unwary must balance the account.

Thursday night, one Mary Seward, in this parish, was found dead in her chair. She had not been out of doors for some days, when some persons went into the house, and found her in the above situation. The coroner sat on the body, and brought in his verdict By the Visitation of God.

Mon 25th Jan

WOKINGHAM, January 23

Should the petitions from various towns and cities against the hawkers' trade be disregarded by Parliament, it might be beneficial to the kingdom, if the example to the town of Devises was universally followed—the tradesmen of which place, when a travelling linen-draper, hosier, &c., with his wagon load of furniture lately stopped there, hired a number of persons with marrow bones, cleavers, and horns, to serenade those who were simple enough to be led by the to which he belongeth, do hereby give notice nose by his printed handbills, and thus not only prevented, their unwary neighbours being imposed on, but had the additional pleasure to see the wagon march off the next day as heavy laden as it entered.

This morning as Charles Fyshe Palmer, Esq; with some of his servants, was coursing on his manor, they found a hare, the person who saw her and immediately gave notice when the hare jumped against his breast and he caught her in his arms. They afterwards turned her down, and had a fine course, and caught her again.

Mon 1st March

WHEREAS EDWARD HOWARD, now a Brother of Wokingham Hospital, receives is Allowance Weekly, we the PARISHIONERS OF WOKINGHAM to which he belongeth, do hereby give Notice, that no Debt by him contracted shall be paid at the Expense of the Parish.

JOHN GOREING) CHURCHWARDENS

JOHN CORBETT) “

THOMAS SHIER) OVERSEERS

THOMAS WEBB) “

PHILIP CRISTMAS) “

N.B. Should he now stand indebted to any Persons at Wokingham, they may possibly get their Lawful Demands, by Applying to the Master of the said Hospital.

To be SOLD to the best BIDDER,

On Tuesday the 16th of March, 1773

At the House of JOHN CHAPLIN, the NEW ROSE INN,

Wokingham, Berks.

Between the Hours of Three and Five in the Afternoon,

TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SEVEN OAK TREES, as they are now marked, standing on the Farm late in the Position of Rachael Wells, deceased, commonly called DOWN-MILL, near New Bracknell, Berks.

The Timber may be viewed by applying to Mr. John BOND, Carpenter, at New Bracknell, Berks; or to FRANCIS COLLINS, Auctioneer, at Wokingham.

Mon 15th March

To the PUBLIC

Mr. Cruttwell proposes to inoculate the Poor belonging to Wokingham, or the Parishes adjacent , on the following Terms:

With a Recommendation, they must apply of Mr. Cruttwell, when, being proper Subjects, they will, on paying Seven Shillings, be inoculated and supplied with Medicines.

During the progress of Infection, they must wait on Mr. Cruttwell, from time to time if he shall appoint; till on sickening, Mr. Cruttwell will visit them, and afterwards as Occasion requires.

Gentlemen who chuse to encourage the Undertaking, may by subscribing, recommend what Numbers they please.

I have always thought that a general inoculation must be a very great Benefit to the Individuals of Society, as well as the Community in general. In the years 1767, 8 and 9, I inoculated a great Number of Patients recommended by the Rev. M. Wilson of Binfield, Mr. Webb, Mr. Lyford, Mr. Berry, Mrs. Hewitt, &c. as well as many others by Petition. Some were inoculated at a House I kept for that Purpose, and all supplied with Medicines, &c. without the least Fee or Gratuity whatever. The Small-pox declining soon afterwards, there was no Occasion to continue the Practice, nor indeed could I, in my small Station of Life, afford to pursue a Practice made expensive by the Numbers. Happy if I can be able to ease one aching Heart, I have brought the Price down low as I am convinced the Small-pox now rages in neighbouring Parishes, where many poor reside, who are ill able to pay the customary Fee.

N.B. Mr. Cruttwell has a House open for the Reception of Patients.

C.Cruttwell.

Mon 26th April

JOHN CRUDGE
HAT—MAKER
LONDON- STREET, READING,

Begs Leave to acquaint his Friends and the Public in General, that he has opened a Shop, next door to Mr. Togwell's, Draper, in the Market-Place, Wokingham, where, for the better convenience of serving them in those parts, he constantly attends every Tuesday, when may be had all sorts of Men's, Youths, and Boys' Felts, Castors, &c., of-the-best make and newest taste, wholesale and retail, at the lowest prices, of the Public's much obliged humble servant.

JOHN CRUDGE

N.B. Hats dyed, drest, cut and cock'd in the neatest and best manner.

Mon 3rd May

ON MONDAY in the WHITSUN WEEK, next will be given, by Mr. WILLIAM WHEATLEY, at the ROSE and BUSH INN, Wokingham, BERKS.

A Silver Cup of £5, Value

To be sung for by Companies. The Company that best performs the best three Songs in three or four Parts, and one Catch, to have the Prize.

Each Company is desired to bring an Umpire, as the above is to be decided by the Majority of them.

And Copies of what they intend to sing, to be brought to Mr. WHEATLEYS, and left with him by 12 o'clock; to begin singing at Three exactly.

An Ordinary will be on the Table at one o'Clock, and no Persons admitted to sing, or be an Umpire, but who declares for singing before they go to dinner.

The evening to conclude with a Ball.

To COVER this SEASON, at WOKINGHAM, Berks

A Large English ASS,

At only Seven Shillings and Six-pence a Mare; he is very remarkable for getting fine Mules.

Enquire of JOHN WILLATTS, Mule-Dealer and Corn-Chandler, in the Market-Place, Wokingham

N.B. Any Person that has any Mules to sell, may, by applying to the aforesaid John Willatts, have a good Price for them.

WOKINGHAM, APRIL 20, 1773

MARK PORTER,
CLOCK AND WATCH-MAKER

Begs leave to acquaint the Public, That he still carries on the above business in the shop lately occupied by Mr. John Winch, next door to Mr. John Bennet, Carpenter, in the Market-place, in all its branches; and returns his most grateful thanks for all Favours conferred to him, and humbly solicits a continuance of them.

A great variety of silver and plated goods, as buckles, spurs, spoons, &c. pinchbeck buckles, fine and common steel watch chains, keys, seals; pocket and pen-knives, buttons, spur rowels, buckles and knobs, and buckles repaired. Articles in the silver way mended in the neatest manner.

Guns cleaned and repaired, and jackets ditto.

Also clocks clean'd at Gentlemen's own Houses on the shortest notice.

Silver and gold bought, sold or exchanged.

Gold rings, mourning rings, ear-rings, and a great variety of other articles in th hardware and toy way.

N.B. Mr. John Winch has now no connection in the business.

After May 3rd 1773 Berkshire Chronicles were published on Fridays

Fri 2nd July

ROBERT HUNT SHOE-MAKER

In *Broad Street, Wokingham*, Late Apprentice to Mr. WILLIAM WATTS, Junior, begs leave to acquaint the Public, that he intends making men's, women's, and children's shoes and pumps of all sorts in the neatest and most fashionable manner, on the lowest terms; and all favours will be gratefully acknowledged.

N.B. He will constantly be furnished with the newest patterns of shoes from London.

Fri 27th Aug

WOKINGHAM, *Aug 27*

A Gentleman from Surry informs us that there are the greatest crops of corn on the ground that ever were known in this county, but it is mostly laid. Several farmers have offered sixteen shillings per acre for reapings, but hands are so scarce that they cannot tell when they shall be able to get it in.

There is now at the House of John Lane, at the Flower de Luce near Amersham Bucks, a wheat stalk that has an ear of wheat on it, out of which there are ten large ears of wheat grown, all full of grain, and are more than two inches in length each.

In the General Turnpike Road Act that passed last session, is a clause which enacts, that the owner of every coach, post chaise, or other carriage let to hire, shall paint across the panels of the doors of such carriages his Christian and forename, and place

of abode, in large letters, on penalty of £5. And this act takes place the 29th of September next. It is expected, therefore, says a correspondent, that next session an act will be passed to oblige the owner of every horse let to hire to have his name and place of abode painted in large letters upon the rump of every such horse, on the like penalty for every offence; and such is the determined resolution of the guardians of the people, that in order to make a proper distinction between a *gentleman* and a tradesman, an act will shortly pass to compel every tradesman to paint his name, place of abode and trade, in capital letters on the back of his coat, under a severe penalty.

The following uncommon instance of, canine sagacity, was transmitted to us as authentic:---Two mastiffs belonging to an Inn at Slough, having long conceive a grudge to each other, and having been several times parted when quarrelling, went a few days since, by themselves into a bye field a quarter of a mile from the town, where they engaged in private combat, and afterwards returned to the inn-yard together, both much mangled, and have behaved remarkably civil to one another ever since.

WOKINGHAM, August 25th

On Monday, Aug. 26th, will be played on the beautiful lawn called Chapel Green, near this place, a match at Cricket, between the Gentlemen of the Town, for Ten Pounds: It is expected that the game will be warmly contested, as there has been singular care taken in arranging the performers so as to make the match as nearly equal as possible. Great bets are depending on the occasion. The wickets to be pitched by twelve o'clock, and the game to be played out.

Fri 17th Sept

Wokingham, Sept. 10.

THE PROPRIETORS of the WOKINGHAM MACHINE, from the BUSH-INN, Wokingham, Berks, beg leave to inform the Ladies and Gentleman, that the machine sets out from the Bolt-in-Tun, Fleet Street, London, every day at Eleven o'clock in the morning; so long as they continue flying, and from the Bush-Inn, Wokingham, at the usual time.

WILLIAM WHEATLEY, at the
Bush-Inn, PROPRIETOR

Wokingham, Sept 15.

ELIZABETH PARKER, MANTUA MAKER, in Rose-Street, Wokingham, takes this method of informing her Friends and Customers, that she is obliged, on account of the state of her indifferent health to decline such business; and at the same time returns her most grateful thanks for the many and repeated favours she has received from those who have been so obliging to employ her.

To be SOLD by AUCTION
By CHARLES HOULTON

On FRIDAY the 24th of SEPTEMBER, 1773

ALL the neat HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE of Mr. ROBERT BOWER, deceased, at his late Dwelling house situate near the Church, Wokingham, Berks, consisting of four-post bedsteads and furniture, exceeding good goose feather beds, fine large blankets, quilts and counterpanes, fine mahogany tables, chairs, glasses, mahogany

bureaux, an eight day clock, stoves, &c., and variety of useful kitchen furniture. Likewise all his plate, linen, china, &c.

The whole to be viewed the day before the sale, which will begin precisely at ten o'clock on account of the number of lots.

For particulars enquire of CHARLES HOULTON, Sworn Appraiser and Auctioneer, in Broad-street, Wokingham.

Wanted a cabinet-Maker. Also an Apprentice. Enquire as above.

Fri 24th Sept

To be SOLD by AUCTION

On TUESDAY the 19th Day of OCTOBER next

At the TOWN-HALL, WOKINGHAM, in the County of Berks.

Between the Hours of Three and Six o'clock in the afternoon of the said day

A FREEHOLD HOUSE and PREMISES, formerly known by the Sign of the BELL, situate at the North Side of the Market-place in the said Town, and well situate for any Trade or Business. The said House is now in the possession of the Representatives of Mr. Francis Collins on lease, about which there are about nine years to expire.

For further particulars please to enquire of Mr. WILLIAM WHEATLEY, at the OLD ROSE-INN at Wokingham, who will shew the Premises, or of Mr. HILL, Attorney, Suffolk-street, London

N.B. The said Premises are well situate for trade, very roomy, and large and fit for any business or trade that may require much room.

An unforeseen accident has occasioned the sale of the above premises, formerly advertised to be on the 5th, to be postponed till the 19th of October.

Mon 18th Nov 1773

The public are advised to be careful in taking guineas in payment, as number of false ones daily circulating which are well gilt and counterfeited, and of the last coinage of Geo. II but easily distinguished by their lightness.

Early on Tuesday morning two military Gentlemen in a post-chaise were attacked near Bellfound Lane, by a single highwayman, who demanded their money; but on seeing a loaded blunderbuss presented by one of the officers, he rode off at full speed.

Fri 26th Nov

STOLEN or STRAYED

Out of Wokingham Common,

TWO HEIFERS, three Years old, one a pale red, the other a red and white, and both marked on both horns with J.W.

Any person or persons who will bring the said heifers to JOHN WILLATS, of Wokingham, shall receive Five Shillings Reward.

Wokingham, Nov. 25, 1773

WHEREAS on Tuesday the 9th day of November inst. One of HIS MAJESTY'S RED DEER (of the male kind) was found in the heath near a place called the Three Oaks, in the parish of Finchampstead, and in Bigshot Walk, within the Forest of Windsor, in the County of Berks, which had been unlawfully shot at and killed with a bullet, by some person hitherto unknown, and which appeared by his head to be a two-year old Deer; AND WHEREAS on Wednesday the 10th day of November inst another of HIS MAJESTY'S RED DEER, (of the male kind) was found in the heath

between Bigshot Lodge and the Three Oaks, aforesaid, within the said Forest, and county of Berks aforesaid which had been also unlawfully shot at and killed with a bullet, by some person hitherto unknown, and which appeared by its head to be a three-year old Deer:

NOTICE is hereby given

That whoever the person or persons, who shot at and killed the said two several Deer, or either of them, and will give notice to THOMAS COX, Esq; Ranger orr Head Keeper of Bigshot Walk aforesaid, so that such offenders may be brought to person or persons making such discovery shall conviction, receive a Reward of Ten Guineas either of them, to be paid by his Royal DUKE OF GLOUCESTER, Lord War Forest, over and above the penalty allow Parliament for such offences.

By Command of his Royal
The DUKE OF GLOUCESTER

Fri 3rd Dec

PRICES OF GRAIN
AT WOKINGHAM

Wheat £12 00s. 0d. to £14 00s. 0d. per Load

Oats 21s. 0d. to 24s. 0d.

Barley 00s. od. To 00s. 0d.

Bears 36s. 0d. to 40s. 0d.

Pease 00s. 0d. to 00s. to od.

Fri 10rd Dec

To the PROPRIETORS and COMMISSIONERS of
The Wokingham Turnpike Road

GENTLEMEN,

THE Surveyorship of the aforesaid Road being now vacant by the death of the late Mr Basnett, I beg leave to offer myself to succeed him in the capacity. Provided I have your approbation, and should be chosen Surveyor, I am determined to pay a strict attention to the interest of the Proprietors, and the benefit of the Road, and therefore humbly request the favour of your votes and interest.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your humble Servant,

JOINER BECHER

Wokingham, Nov. 23, 1773

N.B. The election will be on Monday the 3rd of January next, at the Old Rose Inn, Wokingham, at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

To the PROPRIETORS and COMMISSIONERS of
The Wokingham Turnpike Road

GENTLEMEN,

THE Surveyorship of the aforesaid Road being vacant by the death of Mr Basnett, the late worthy Surveyor, I humbly beg leave to offer myself a Candidate to succeed him in that capacity.

Should I be so happy as to be chosen to that station, I beg leave to assure you, that it shall be my constant endeavour to deserve the favour conferred on me, by faithfully discharging the duties of that trust: I therefore earnestly solicit your vote and interest.

*I am, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient,
Humble Servant,
JONATHAN GODDARD.*

Early Hatch, Nov. 29, 1773.

N.B. The election will be on Monday the 3rd of January, 1774

ALL Persons who have any Claim or Demand upon the Estate of MR. DANIEL BEARD, late of Wokingham, deceased, are desired to deliver in the same to Mrs. GIRDLER, the Administratrix, on or before the 26th of February next, in order to their being satisfied in due time. And all others who are indebted to the Estate of the said Mr. DANIEL BEARD, are required to pay the same as aforesaid.

This is to give NOTICE

THAT there will be two BULLS BAITED in the Market-place, Wokingham, on WEDNESDAY the 22nd of December instant.

St. Thomas's Day happening on a Tuesday, the Market-day of Wokingham aforesaid, has occasioned that sport to be postponed till the next day.

1774

Fri 14th Jan

To be SOLD by AUCTION,
By FRANCIS COLLINS,

On Tuesday the 18th of January inst.'

At Matthew's Green, near Wokingham, between the
Hours of two and four in the afternoon,

ALL THE HUSBANDRY UTENSILS and LIVE STOCK of Mr. NATHANIEL BASNETT, deceased. Consisting of wagons, carts, plows, harrows, drags, a wind fan, and also four good draught horses, sheep, lambs, nine or ten loads of exceeding good meadow hay, and several other articles in the farming business.

At WOKINGHAM, BERKS, Young Gentlemen are boarded, and instructed in the Languages, Writing, Merchants Accompte, and other parts of useful learning, by the Rev. RICHARD DAVIS.

The terms are twenty pounds a year, and two guineas entrance.

Mr. Davis will pay the greatest attention to the morals, as well as the literary improvement, of the young Gentlemen committed to his care.

Wokingham is a healthful and pleasant Market-town, situated in Windsor Forest, at thirty-two miles distance from Hyde Park Corner.

Coaches every day to and from London.

Mon 21st Jan

A NEW WOKINGHAM MACHINE

Set out on Monday the 31st of January 1774 from the Black Lion, in Water-lane, London, at eight o'clock in the morning, to the House of Mr. John Harris, the King's Head Inn in the Market-place, Wokingham, and will continue to do so every Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the winter season, and will return from thence every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at the same time.

The Coach will stop at the Angel Inn, behind St. Clement's Church in the Strand, and at the White Bear Inn in Piccadilly, London, going in and coming out; also at Mrs. Dowker's, White Hart, Staines Bridge; Sunninghill Wells, and at Bracknell.

Each inside passenger to and from Wokingham to London to pay Five Shillings, to and from Bracknell and Sunninghill Four Shillings, Staines Two Shillings and Sixpence, outside passengers half price, parcels and luggage Two Shillings and Sixpence per cwt.

Inside Passengers to be allowed twenty pounds weight of luggage; all above to pay in proportion to the other price.

N.B. The proprietress will not be accountable for any plate, money, writings, jewels, &c. unless entered as such and paid for accordingly.

Performed by the Public's

Obedient humble Servants,

RICHARD STYLES and Co.

Fri 28th Jan

The PROPRIETORS of the
OLD WOKINGHAM MACHINE

From Mr. WHEATLEY's, the OLD ROSE INN, WOKINGHAM

Beg leave to inform their Customers, and the Public in general, that they set out on Monday inst. and every day till further notice is given in this Paper, from the above Inn, and the Bolt-in-Tun, Fleet-street, London, at eight o'clock in the morning.

The machine stops at the usual places going up and coming down.

The Prices as follows: To and from WOKINGHAM Five Shillings; to and from BRACKNALL and SUNNINGHILL Four Shillings. Outside Passengers half price.

Each Inside Passenger to be allowed Twenty Pounds Weight of Luggage.

Parcels to and from WOKINGHAM, as usual, Two Shillings and Sixpence per cwt. (hundredweight)

Performed, if God permit,

By their humble Servants,

JOHN ALLALY,

WILLIAM WHEATLEY,

JOHN CLODE.

Fri 25th March

And on Wednesday was committed to Reading gaol, by the above C.F. Palmer, Esq., Thomas carter, of Toutley, near this town, on a violent suspicion of his having stolen one fat weather sheep the property of Mr. William Leach, of Wokingham. About twenty skins were found buried in his garden.

Fri 1st April

BERKSHIRE NEWS
WOKINGHAM, APRIL 1

subscription for the release of Mr. Miller, the Printer, out of prison, wherein Lord Sandwich hath thrown him for the whole damages given by a late verdict, are received by Mrs. Cruttwell, Book Seller, in the Market Place, Wokingham; where a book is opened for his truly benevolent and patriotic purpose; and it is hoped the friends to the freedom of the press will generously testify how dearly they value that freedom, by contributing to the release of a man who now lies in prison for exerting the noblest privilege of an Englishman in the service of his country.

Fri 8th April

Information having been given to the Magistrates of Bow Street, that a society of men met at a public-house in Westminster, who, by their behaviour, were thoroughly suspected to be guilty of abominable practices, several people were sent from the said office on Wednesday night, and took them all into custody, with the landlord. They were carried on Thursday before the above Magistrates, and nineteen of them were committed to prison. There was so great a crowd of people about Sir John Fielding's door, that it was with difficulty the peace officers could conduct them alive to the place of confinement.

A person of fortune, who all the last winter made a remarkable figure in the polite world, went off yesterday morning, in consequence (as it is said) of being concerned with the gentry who were taken up on suspicion of unnatural practices, at a public-house in Westminster, on Thursday last.

On Thursday night, about twelve o'clock, as a man belonging to the secretary of State's office, was going with the State's letters to the general post-office, a Customs-house officer stopped him in Cheapside, held a pistol to his head, and demanded to see what he had in his bag; the person not knowing that he was an officer, called the watch, who seized him, took a brace of pistols from him, and lodged him in the Poultry compter; he was yesterday carried before the Lord Mayor, when as both parties belonged to office under Government, his Lordship recommended it to them to make up the affair, which was done, on the Customs-house officer's acknowledging his error, asking pardon, making a present to the injured party, and paying the watchmen for their trouble; he was then dismissed.

JOHN FENNEMORE PAINTER AND GLAZIER

In the MARKET-PLACE, WOKINGHAM

Returns his grateful Thanks to his Friends and Customers who have been pleased to employ him; and, at the same time begs a continuance of their Favours, assuring them they may depend on being served with the greatest punctuality, and on lowest terms. N.B. He sells Oils and Colours ready prepared at the lowest prices. Also Twine, Thread, Hemp, Flax, Sacks, and all items of Grindery, Glue and fine Chamber Oil.

Fri 15th April

BURGLARY AND FELONY

Whereas in the night time of Friday, the fifth day of April last, the dwelling-house of EDWARD PRYOR, of Twyford, in Hurst, in the County of Wilts, was feloniously and burglariously broken open, and one game cock, the property of George Dyer (of which the said Edward Pryor was entrusted with the care) was feloniously stolen, taken and carried away from thence, which game cock the said Edward Pryor, on Saturday the 2nd day of April instant, found concealed in the dwelling-house of ROBERT BELSON the Younger, of the parish of Wokingham, in the County of Berks, Labourer; to the said Edward Pryor, having just cause to suspect that the said Robert Belson did commit the said felony and burglary, as well from his so finding the same, as from many other circumstances, he the said Edward Pryor, on enquiry, apprehended the said Robert Belson within the jurisdiction of the town of Wokingham, in Berks, on the said 2nd day of April inst and left him in the care and custody of Jasper Blandford and William Monk, Petty Constables of the said town,

from whom he made his escape , and is run away and fled from justice: AND WHEREAS the said Edward Pryor hath since charged the said Robert Belson on oath, before Charles Fyshe Palmer, Esq., one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said County of Berks, on a violent suspicion of having committed the said offences: Therefore notice is hereby given, That if any person or persons will apprehend and secure the said Robert Belson, and cause him to be delivered to the said Edward Pryor, Jasper Blandford and William Monk, or either of them, so that he may be brought to justice, and dealt with according to law, shall receive a Reward of Two Guineas, to be paid by Mr. Richards, Attorney, in Wokingham.

NOTE. The said Belson is about the age of 25 or 26 years, about five feet ten inches high, of a fair complexion, wears his own light brown hair and usually wears a brown cloth coat with metal buttons, a red waistcoat and leather breeches, and is remarkably fond of Cock fighting.

NOTE ALSO. By the Acts of Parliament there is a Reward of £40 for taking and convicting a Burglar, and a certificate of exemption from parish offices, and may be taken up without a warrant.

Fri 29th April

They write from Jamaica, that there are two pirates cruising off the East end of Hispaniola, who plunder all ships and vessels they meet with. One is a sloop, which mounts eight carriage guns, besides swivels, & c. and is manned with sailors of different nations; the other is a schooner of six guns. Chiefly manned by Irish and Spanish seamen. Admiral Rodney has dispatched two frigates in quest of these rovers.

WOKINGHAM

Yesterday was married at Eton in the county of Bucks, Miss Pote of that place, to Mr. Wise, jun. Attorney at Law, at Wokingham.

On Wednesday last a child about 6 years old, of Henley, Oxon, accidentally fell into the Arlington springs in that town, swam three or four hundred yards underground, and was taken out alive without any hurt. There some people saw the child fall in, and immediately ran to the end of the spring, which emptied itself into the Thames, and by that means, most providentially saved its life.

Yesterday morning, between eleven and twelve, the convicts under sentence of death in the New gaol, Southwark, were conveyed from thence to Kennington-common, and there executed pursuant to their sentence. They were attended at the gallows by the Rev. Mr. Dyer, of St. George's. The woman who was to have suffered at the same time, received a reprieve this morning, and is to be transported for life.

A few days since one Nooke, a lad about twelve years old, fell into a furnace of boiling wort, and was scalded to death, at the sign of the Duke's Head, a public-house at Horsely-heath, Wilts.

Fri 6th May

ROBERT HUNT
BOOT and SHOE MAKER
BROAD STREET, WOKINGHAM

Returns his most grateful Thanks to hid Friends and Customers, who have been pleased to employ him; and humbly begs a continuance of their Favours offering them

and the public, that they may depend on being served in the neatest and best manner on the lowest terms.

N.B. Wanted as above two journeymen, one for men's and the other for women's silk and stuff. If not good workmen are desired not to apply.

BERKSHIRE NEWS
WOKINGHAM, May 6.

Friday morning the Western mail cart was overturned in a pond this side of the turnpike at Turnham Green, occasioned by the imprudence of the driver, suffering his horses to go to drink, by which means two horses were drowned, the boy with the different mails for the Western part of England was safely got out.---An express was immediately dispatched to the General Post Office, when three of the clerks attended, and opened the bags, o prevent any damage being received by the water which got into the mail; the letters were obliged to be dried before they could be forwarded.---Our post, which was due on ~Friday morn, did not arrive till near nine o'clock that evening, occasioned by the delay in the above incident.

Yesterday as Joseph Horne, labourer, (upwards of sixty years of age) of King Street, in the parish of Hurst, in this county, was returning from Eversly fair, he overtook a tilted wagon in the lane near Eversly Long Water, and when he was endeavouring to pass by it, by some accident his horse took fright, and threw him, when he had the misfortune to fall under the wheel of the wagon, which went over his leg and arm, the latter of which was broke in the most shocking manner, and 'tis thought must be cut off.

Wednesday se'night a person who pretended to be dumb passed through Redbridge, a labourer observing him, declared that he remembered to have seen him whipped at Christchurch for being an imposter, which charge so exasperated the fellow, that he struck the labourer with a stick, broke his jawbone and one of his arms, and had nearly fractured his skull.---The villain made his escape, but diligent search being made after him, he was taken the next day, and committed to prison.

A few days ago a melancholy accident happened at Totton: two children got a bottle of rum which had been unfortunately placed on a table, of which they drank so plentifully, that one of them. A boy. expired in a few hours, the other, a girl, was with much difficulty recovered.

Sunday se'night the Worcester, Birmingham and Oxford fliers were stopt between Stoken Church and High Wycombe by two highwayman, who robbed them of about £50 pounds.

ON MONDAY in the WHITSUN WEEK will be given by MR. WILLIAM WHEATLEY, at the BUSH INN, in the Market-place, Wokingham'

A Handsome SILVE PINT CUP

To be sung for by Companies. The company that best performs the best Three Songs: in three or four parts, and one Catch, to have the Prize

Each Company is desired to bring an umpire, as the above is to be decided by the majority of them.

Copies of what they intend to sing to be brought to Mr. WHEATLEY's, and left with him, by twelve o'clock; to begin singing at three exactly.

No less than two or more Companies will be admitted to sing for the above Prize.

An Ordinary will be on the table at one o'clock, and no person admitted to sing. Or be an Umpire, but who declares for singing before dinner.

N.B. No objection to any instruments to accompany the Singers.

To be SOLD by HAND

On TUESDAY the 17th of May 1774, between three and five in the afternoon, at the Brewhouse in Wokingham, lately in the occupation of Mr. Simon Houlton, deceased A BREWING COPPER, COOLERS, BACKS, and other brewing utensils, late of the said Simon Houlton, Also some Cake and Household Furniture

N.B. The said Brewhouse with a Storehouse adjoining are to be let.

For particulars enquire of Mr. BENNET, Carpenter; or of Mr. EDWARD WISE, Jun. Attorney at Law, at Wokingham.

Fri 13th May

BERKSHIRE NEWS WOKINGHAM, May 13th.

On Wednesday as three boys were cutting heath at Frimley, one of them received a dangerous wound in his side from a hook, which first pierced through a thick foul weather coat. It is imagined that he cannot live. Neither the wounded boy, nor the others will discover how the accident happened.

Last week while the driver of a wagon from Bush to London was asleep on the shafts, the turnpike gate near Twyford being open, the horses went through, and bruised the poor man's leg in a shocking manner against the side of the gate. He was carried to a house in Twyford, where he expired a few hours afterwards.

Last week two principal farmers near Newbury quarrelled at a public-house in that town which occasioned a most severe battle, that lasted upwards of forty minutes. They were so much bruised that one of them died the next day, and the other is so ill, that it is thought he cannot recover.

Fri 20th May

Monday last a servant of Mr. Ilton, of Woodley, getting betwixt two stone horses while at plow, the horses took fright, and dragged the poor man a considerable distance before they were stopped. He is much bruised, but there is hopes for his recovery.

On Saturday last one Pigott, servant to Mr. Wenman, of Bullmarsh, dropt down dead while he was threshing in the barn

Monday se'nnight was married at Ansford, Wilts, one Corp, a gentleman's servant, to Christiana Speed. Soon after the ceremony, in the midst of a joyous company, the bridegroom was seized with an apoplectic fit, and died immediately.

Tuesday se'nnight died, after languishing a fortnight in great agony, a child of Mr. Lawrence, near Chichester. Her death was occasioned by the carelessness of the servant's leaving her in the kitchen, when going to the fire, it caught her cloaths, and before any assistance could be afforded her, she was burnt in a shocking manner.

The same day a person fell from the quay at Gosport, and was drowned.

Monday se'nnight the wife on one Price, a cooper at Farcham, Hants, rose very early in the morning, put on her petticoat, and went down stairs, threw herself into the well, and was drowned, her petticoat was found by the side of the well.

Fri 27th May

BERKSHIRE NEWS
WOKINGHAM, May 27.

Yesterday se'nnight as the crew of his Majesty's ship the Barfleur were exercising with their cannon and small arms, one of the soldiers' firelocks burst, and shattered his arm in a most shocking manner. It was the tenth time of discharging the small arms, and it is imagined he had all the ten charges in his piece at the time this unfortunate accident happened. His thumb and the lock of his firelock were carried to a great distance in the ship, but no other person received any hurt. The surgeon of the ship immediately cut off his arm below the elbow, and next day it was found necessary to have it cut off a little below the shoulder, the bone being shattered so high. The poor man bore both operations with great resolution, and there is hope of his recovery.

On Saturday evening the 15th inst. One William Fry, a tailor, who lived on Brinkworth Common, about two miles from, Wotton Bassett, was most inhumanly murdered. He was seen that evening in company with four or five other men drinking in a public-house in Wotton Basset, which they left about eleven o'clock, and parted, each to go to his own home. The above unfortunate man was not got out of the liberties of the Borough before he was assaulted, and it is supposed robbed, as he was heard by a person in bed to say, "Don't hurt me now." He was stuck under the ear with a knife in the manner butchers stick a calf, and had his jaw broke and trampled on his head.---The Coroner's inquest sat on the body, and the jury returned a verdict--"Murdered by some person or persons unknown."

Monday se'nnight as a young couple were going to be married at Whitechurch, Hants, the clerk of the parish dropt down in the church yard, as he was going to call the parson to perform the ceremony. He was immediately carried to a neighbouring house, and expired soon afterwards.--- he went from home seemingly in perfect health.

As Mr. Connell, surgeon, of Emsworth, was returning from Rowland Castle fair, Hants, he was stopped by five ruffians, who not being contented with robbing him of his stock silver buckle, and some money, but beat him in a most cruel manner and had it not been for the timely assistance of two neighbours, he might have been murdered. A warrant is issued out for apprehending the delinquents, who are a set of well-known sharpers that have infested that neighbourhood for some time.

Fri 3rd June

Tuesday morning a seizure of India silks and painted taffatees, was made at a house in Deptford to the amount of £500. The information was given by the waterman that carried them from on board the ship.

Yesterday a man with a child's coffin on his shoulder, was stopped by two custom-house officers in Fleet-street; when on searching it they found a quantity of French lace, valued at £400, which they seized.

Tuesday morning a man, decently dressed, supposed to have been a customs-house officer, was found murdered at Norwood, in Surry; there were several stabs in his body, and a contusion on his head; a quantity of tea and a loaded whip were found laying by him; it is imagined that he lost his life in attempting to seize some run goods from a gang of smugglers.

WOKINGHAM POST CHARIOT

Through WARFIELD, WINKFIELD, (by permission) thro' WINDSOR GREAT PARK, &c.

Sets out from the NEW ROSE in Wokingham, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at eight o'clock, to the ANGEL INN behind St. Clement's Church in the Strand, and returns from thence every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, at eleven o'clock; changes at the White Lion at Staines; and calls at the White Bear and Old White Horse Cellar, Piccadilly, every day, going in coming out of town.

BERKSHIRE NEWS

WOKINGHAM, June 3rd

On Wednesday evening the machine belonging to this place was stopped near the Shoulder of Mutton, about two miles from this town, by a single highwayman, indifferently mounted, who took from two gentlemen, about ten guineas. A woman in the coach offered him about eighteen or twenty shillings in silver, which he refused. He then rode away across the country, and got clear off. He was seen afterwards near Windsor.

About eleven o'clock the same evening a post chaise, in which were a gentleman and a lady, was stopped at Maidenhead Thicket by a highwayman who robbed them of about seven guineas and a half. It is supposed to be the same man who committed the above robbery.

Last week as an old man, named Burroughs, was binding a load of straw on a cart, in the tythe yard at Swallowfield, the rope broke, and he fell backwards with great violence, and his head pitching against a stone, fractured his skull in such a manner that he expired immediately.

Saturday Mrs. Whitchurch, wife of Mr. Whitchurch, Mayor of Reading, going down into the cellar on some occasion, stayed there for some time, and when the servant maid went to call her to dinner, Mrs. Whitchurch desired her to call her master, affirming she was *death struck*.---Mr. Whitchurch went down, and had her brought up stairs to bed, where she died early Sunday morning, but never spoke after she was brought out of the cellar.

Yesterday as a lad about ten years of age, belonging to Farmer Dodd, of Hurst, was climbing up a tree after a bird's nest, he accidentally fell down and broke his thigh.

The following horses are entered to run at the races on Ascot-Heath, which begin on Tuesday next, viz.

Tuesday.---A plate of £50, for four-year olds
Mr. Hodge's brown colt *Bramble*
Mr. Blake's brown colt *Marechal*
Mr. Bret's bay Filly
Mr. Stroud's brown colt *Beau Clincher*
Mr. Vernon's chestnut colt *Marius*
Mr. Cumberland's chestnut mare
Lord Millington's grey mare *Desdemona*

Fri 17th June

CRICKET

On Friday the 1st of July, a MATCH at CRICKET will be played on CHAPEL GREEN near this town, for a considerable sum; WOKINGHAM against CHERTSEY!

Wokingham, June 14, 1774

Fri 24th June

BERKSHIRE NEWS WOKINGHAM, June 24

We hear from Portsmouth, that the ships of war appointed for a cruise from this port are the Marlborough, Admiral Douglas; the Lenox, Capt. Moore; and the Egmont, Capt. Elphinstone, who are to join four at Plymouth, if the wind permits: They are to sail for Plymouth tomorrow.

One day last week Master Atkins, a young gentleman of Eton School, fell into the river Thames and was drowned.

Friday last Mr. Clark, of Abingdon, in this County, was drowned by bathing in the River Lea, near the bridge.

Wednesday a gipsey went into a farmer's house at Chobham, and was employed by the maid servant (the only person in the house at the time) to tell her fortune; the young woman in the mean time was called out upon some business, when the fortune teller robbed the house of a great quantity of wearing apparel, &c., with which she got clear off.

Wednesday while one Field was at work in the brew-house of Mr. Wallen, of this town, he fell from a ladder, broke his shoulder bone, and was otherwise much hurt. His recovery is doubtful.

Fri 1st July

BERKSHIRE NEWS WOKINGHAM July 1

As many people may not thoroughly understand the Royal Proclamation relative to the gold coin, and may be puzzled with the figures denoting penny-weight and grains together with the immoderate length of it, we think the following few lines will make it intelligible to the meanest capacity

Until the 15th of next July all guineas, up to the year 1771, wanting less than a shilling, will pass, and half guineas wanting less than sixpence. After that time they will not be allowed to pass or be current in any payment whatsoever; and therefore

from that time every person must be careful not to take a guinea that wants more than sixpence, or half a guineas wanting more than three-pence.

After the 15th of July those persons who have guineas wanting more than six-pence, and under a shilling, and half guineas wanting more than three-pence, and under sixpence, may have them exchanged any time before the 31st of August, by applying at the Bank, or at the other places named in the proclamation. The days for exchanging deficient gold money at the Bullion office in the Bank, will be on Mondays, Wednesdays or Saturdays, (holidays excepted) from the said 15th of July to the 31st of August following.

A scheme is in Agitation for building a military house on Portsmouth Downs, capable of holding 1500 Mtd., in the same Manner as those in Brest and Toulon.

Last week as Richard and John Piper, fishermen at Eton, were drawing the river for salmon, they caught a most extraordinary fish, by name Torpedo, between Maidenhead and Windsor bridges, which kind of fish was never known to be taken in the river Thames since the memory of man, John Piper's hand was void of sensation for more than an hour, in extracting the fish from the net.

On Monday morning as the wagon of Mr. Bailey, brewer, of Eversly, Hants was returning home with a load of peat, the driver by some means fell under the wheel, and was killed on the spot; it is imagined that he was as-leep on the shafts. The coroner's inquest brought in their verdict Accidental Death.

On Wednesday as Samuel House, a young man about 30 years of age, was mowing in Mrs. Dalby's park, at Hurst, he was seized with an apoplectic fit and fell on his scythe; Mr. Wheeler, jun. Surgeon of this town, was accidentally riding by, and immediately opened a vein which bled a little, he continued insensible about half an hour, and then expired.

Friday night, the Salisbury wagon was stopped at Bellfound Lane, by two highwaymen, who robbed the driver of two shillings and told him they were then greatly in distress, but the next time they met with him, they would give him double the sum they took from him.---They afterwards robbed several post-chaises,

Last week Mr. Tremain of Chichester, organist, missed his servant maid, and on searching after her, found her hanging on the stairhead; she was immediately cut down, and a surgeon sent for to bleed her, but unhappily it was too late to be of any service, what is remarkable, she informed her master the preceding day that she had dreamed she had bought a rope to hang herself.

We hear from Portsmouth that one of the labourers of the dock-yard going home to dinner, and entering his house, observed a sword lying on a table, which a little alarmed him; however, he took the sword and went to his bed-chamber, where he saw its owner with his wife, in no very agreeable situation, on which he drew the sword from the scabbard, and swore he would run him 'thro' the body, when the hero jumped up, fell on his knees, saying, *for God's sake spare my life, and I will give you any thing you require*; and at the same time presented the poor cuckold with £50, took him to his house, and added £50 more, when he desired his sword might be returned:

No sir, said the cornuted?? Blade I will keep it in honour of my victory, and wear it every Sunday of my life.

An old lady died at Newbery, in this county, leaving her fortune and a large house to her nephew, who went a short time since to take possession. Among other things which his aunt had left behind, was a large trunk containing a vast quantity of various quack medicines, which are offered to the public for the cure of every different order. The gentleman left the trunk open and locked up the house. Returning about a fortnight since, he found a prodigious number of dead rats, some in the trunk, and others in the room, and almost all his aunt's favourite medicines devoured.

Fri 8th July

At a time when the spirit of emigration so universally prevails, we hope the following letter from a young man who foolishly sold himself to one of those dealers in the human species commonly called Crimps, may deter others from following his example, and prevent their experiencing those misfortunes, which, as soon as felt, are past remedy.

Elk Ridge, Ann's, Arundel County, Feb. 2, 1774.

---"I now come to the description of our miserable treatment during our voyage. As soon as we had left Land's End the Captain began to treat us in the most cruel manner; our subsistence for three months (so long was our voyage) was generally but a biscuit and a half a day, and sometimes (but extremely seldom) two, about two ounces of salt beef, and three small potatoes; except on Tuesdays and Fridays, when we had, instead of the beef and potatoes, about six spoonfuls of pease-soup each. If any were hardy enough to complain, they were immediately put in irons, lashed to the shrouds and flogged. He would not allow us to boil our biscuit and water, which was our only drink, and very bad, though we had a most malignant fever, which only five out of ninety escaped. We had only straw to lie in, and that continually wet; and when we arrived at Baltimore, we were immediately advertised to be sold to the highest bidder like so many cattle.

BERKSHIRE NEWS WOKINGHAM, July 8

Monday the Morocca Ambassador went down to Portsmouth from London. On his entering the town he was saluted by a discharge of the cannon on the salute battery, and the invalids drawn up under arms as he passed the main guard. He will embark as soon as the wind permits on board the Thames frigate which is now in waiting, in order to return home.

A correspondent hints that as a new coinage of silver is to take place next year, a method might be adopted of promoting a spirit of enquiry into the English history, by striking on the reverie of the shillings the most remarkable occurrences in the history of this country, which would furnish hints for useful conversation on those subjects,, such a scheme was patronized by some great men about the time of the union; why it failed we are not able to account; the ancient Romans struck medals on all occasions, which passed as current money through the remotest part of the Empire.

Saturday se'nnight a barn belonging to Farmer Collins of Didcot, in this county, in which was a large quantity of corn, was maliciously set on fire at both ends and burnt to the ground, together with the stables, out houses. &c. &c., two horses that were in a

stable, and a bitch fastened to the manger, with a litter of puppies were all burnt. The perpetrators of this act of villainy have not yet been discovered.

We hear from Staines, that last week some villains broke into the dwelling house of Farmer Ride, of Felton, and after binding the farmer and cruelly beating him, the robbed the house of cash to a considerable amount

Wednesday last, one Jolly, a soldier, was committed to New Prison, London, on a violent suspicion of having murdered a young woman about twelve years ago at Salisbury, where proper enquiries are now making concerning this affair.

On Friday night last, the Hereford and Gloucester machine overturned near Crickley-hill, by which accident a passenger had his skull fractured, another his collar bone broke, and several others were much bruised. The same machine, on its return from London on Sunday night, overturned at Hurley-bottom, but no material then happened.

Fri 15th July

BERKSHIRE NEWS
WOKINGHAM, *July 15*

On Monday evening last a large Dutch ship, laden with tar, oil and other commodities, was by some accident, set on fire, and burnt off the Isle of Wight. The master and crew got safe in their boat to Cowed.

We hear from Sherborn, in Dorsetshire, that a mercer of that town, who, some months ago, was mentioned in the papers to be robbed and murdered in his way to London, to the great surprise of his wife and the inhabitants of Sherborn, arrived there on Friday se'nnight at two o'clock in the morning. The report of his death gained such credit, that his sister at Exeter went in mourning for him.

At the assizes held this week at Abingdon for this county, a remarkable cause was tried, wherein a person from North America was plaintiff, and a gentleman from the City of London defendant; the action was laid for the recovery of an estate in this neighbourhood, which had been in possession of the defendant's family upwards of eighty years, the right heir being abroad, and could never be heard of, till about seven years ago, when the defendant claimed the estate as his immediate successor; and after several hearings it was on Wednesday last decided by the Jury in favour of the plaintiff.

Richard Wright, the person who was apprehended on suspicion of robbing the machine of this town some time ago took his trial at this said assizes, and was acquitted, an alibi being proved, ten persons having sworn that he was in their company in the Borough of Southwark at the time the robbery was committed. A man was capitally convicted for burglary, but reprieved before the Judge left the town.

On Sunday last a boy, the son of one Lawrence, a barber, in Oxford, fell from a tree near that city, up which he had climbed in search of some birds' nests, by which accident he broke both his thighs, one of his arms, one of his fingers, and knocked out one of his eyes; he was immediately taken to the Oxford Infirmary, but without shewing any signs of life.

Extract of a letter from West Wycombe, July 8th

“According to your request I send you a short account of the experiments we tried here last Wednesday to set fire to a room which Lord Le Despencer lately built, the ceiling having been placed according to Mr. Hartley’s direction. The room in which we made the experiment is fifteen feet long and fourteen wide; our objects were to try the power of the fire plates to prevent the fire from ascending to a floor above, and from descending through an armed floor to the apartment below. Our first attempt was upon the ceiling of the lower apartment, by setting fire to two cart loads of dry faggots, which burnt with great fury for nearly half an hour, and seemed like the heating of an oven, but could not penetrate to the joists and floor above. We proceeded next to our second experiment, which was to try the power of the fire plates in preventing any fire from penetrating from the floor downwards; accordingly we set fire to several faggots on the bare boards, and let them burn to ashes, but this was attended with no other consequence than making the boards look a little red, although the room below was exceeding hot. This invention may turn out to be of such signal consequence towards preserving the lives and properties of many thousands, that I am happy to bear any testimony of its efficacy, and you may declare it in whatever manner you think proper.

On Tuesday a gentleman was stopped and robbed between Benson and Oxford by a single highwayman, who was soon after taken, and committed to Oxford gaol, in order to take his trial at the assizes held there this week.

Friday last, a young woman, servant to a farmer at Colcher, Bucks, standing upon a chair in the brew house, it gave way, when she, in order to avoid falling, took hold of a vessel full of boiling water, which overturning, scorched her in so shocking a manner, that she expired in a few hours after.

Fri 22nd July

WOKINGHAM, July 22.

Tuesday evening last a Staffordshire man going from the Globe at Newton to Bath, in the foot way, was attacked by a fellow armed with a long knife, who demanded his money, on which he immediately knocked him down with his cane.---two others then rushed out from a hedge, armed in like manner, at once seized him, and attempted to cut his throat, but for a while he courageously defended himself, till at length being overpowered he became an object of their utmost barbarity. They cut him about the throat, hands and arms, in a shocking manner; and after rifling his pockets of 9s, 6d. threw his body across a wall, imagining they had put an end to his existence, from whence he dropped into a ditch on the other side, and there lay quite senseless and weltering in his blood till the next afternoon; when he exerted the little strength left him; extricated himself from the ditch, and endeavoured to make for Bath.--- Fortunately a person coming by, saw his deplorable condition and conducted him to Bath; where all possible care has been taken of him; though it is imagined, should he survive, that he will never recover the use of his arms, so as to be capable of any laborious employment.

At Oxford assizes, which began on Thursday last, the following received sentence of death, but were afterwards reprieved: John Hides, for robbing Thomas Olive, Gent, on the highway, and Thomas Bromfield, for stealing a pair of silver buckles.

Fri 21st Oct

WOKINGHAM, Sept 16

MARK PORTER, CLOCK AND WATCHMAKER, in the Market-Place, Wokingham, returns his most grateful thanks to the Public in general for all favours conferred on him, and humbly solicits a continuance of them.

He sells a great variety of plated goods, as buckles, spurs, spoons, &c. pinchbeck buckles, fine and common steel watch-chains, brass and steel keys, seals, pocket and penknives, &c. gilt and common stone ditto spur rowels, buckles and knobs; common buckles of all sorts, paper and japan'd snuff-boxes; metal, silver, or plated shoe clasps for children, silver, white metal, Bath metal and brass thimbles. Buckles repaired, articles in the silver way mended in the neatest manner, guns and jacks cleaned and repaired.

Gentlemen and others may have their clocks cleaned at their own houses, on the shortest notice.

Silver and gold bought, sold or exchanged.

N.B. Gold rings, ear rings, and mourning rings, on the shortest notice.

Ladies ears bored with the greatest care and safety.

Run away from his Master

WILLIAM MARTIN, Apprentice to Mr. EDWARD PARKER, Cooper, in Wokingham, Berks. He absconded his said Master's service about Christmas last, he is about five feet four inches high, brown complexion, has a long nose, a tooth out before, and round shouldered. The public are desired to take notice, that if any person harbours or employs said Apprentice after this date, Mr. Parker is determined to prosecute them.

N.B. If the young man will return to his duty, and acknowledge his fault, he will be again admitted into his master's confidence.

September 23, 1774.

Chobham, Surry, Sept. 26.

RICHARD TRASH, GLAZIER and HOUSE PAINTER, from Wokingham, begs leave to inform the Public, that he has taken a house at CHOBHAM aforesaid, where he intends carrying on the above Branches.

Those who please to favour him with their commands, may depend on being served in the neatest manner, on reasonable terms.

By their humble servant,

RICHARD TRASH

SWAN WITH TWO NECKS INN

Carter-Lane, Doctors Commons, London.

THE WOKINGHAM NEW COACH

Sets out from the above inn every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, at ten o'clock in the forenoon. To carry six inside passengers at 6s, each; 14lb. luggage allowed; Children in lap, and outside passengers at 3s. each. Calls for passengers and parcels at the White Bear and Old White Horse Cellar, Piccadilly goes through Hounslow; Staines; dines at the Red Lion, Egham and goes from thence by Sunninghill Wells, to the New Rose at Wokingham; from which place it returns every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at eight o'clock in the morning.

The WOKINGHAM CHARIOT sets out from Mr. Chaplin's, the New Rose Inn, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at eight o'clock in the morning; and returns

every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday; goes by the Hole Bill-Hill, through Binfield, War field ad Winkfield and (by permission of His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland) through the Great Park.

The Chariot calls for parcels and passengers at the Stag and Hounds, Binfield; the Horse Shoes, Warfield; the White Hart, Winkfield Church; Fleur de Lis; Hatchet-Lane; and King's Arms, Bishopsgate.

The favourers of this undertaking may be assured that the greatest care will be taken of parcels, and that they will be carefully delivered on the arrival of the coach or chariot

Performed by
CRUTTWELL, GEVAUX, and Co.

Fri 28th Oct

BY PARTICULAR DESIRE
At the THEATRE in PEAK-STREET
WOKINGHAM

On Monday will be presented a Comedy, called
The WEAT INDIAN

To which will added an Entertainment, called
HIGH LIFE BELOW STAIRS,
Boxes 3s. Pit 2s. Gallery 1s,

The doors to be opened at half after five, and begin exactly at half after six o'clock.

PRICE of GRAIN
At WOKINGHAM

Wheat	£13 10s. 0d.	to	£15 15s. 0d.	per Load
Oat	3s. 0d.	to	25s. 0d.	per Q
Barley	30s. 0d.	to	34s. 0d.	
Beans	34s. 0d.	to	36s. 0d.	
Pease	33s.	to	34s. 0d.	

The PROPRIETORS of the
WOKINGHAM MACHINE

From the OLD ROSE and BUSH INN,

Beg leave to return the Gentlemen, Ladies, and the Public in general, thanks for their past favours, and hope for their continuance, as they will assiduously endeavour to do their business in the best manner possibly can be done. The Machine at present sets out from Mr. Wheatley's, the above inn, every morning at half an hour past seven o'clock; and from the Bolt-in-Tun, Fleet Street, London, precisely at ten, where passengers and parcels are regularly booked; stops going up and coming down at the New and Old White Horse Cellars, and the black Bear Inn, Piccadilly, to set down and take up passengers and parcels; stops at the Crown and Hind's Head by—Bracknell, and at the Inns at Sunninghill as usual; change horses, breakfast and dine at the Catherine Wheel,. Egham, every day, Sunday excepted.

Passengers forwarded to Reading at the usual prices,

Performed (if God permits) by

JOHN ALLALY,
WILLIAM WHEATLEY,
John CLODE

Fri 25th Nov.

Last Monday a gentleman in a one-horse chaise was run down near Ilford, in Essex, and his chaise broke to pieces by one of the Romford stage coaches, although he was in the clear road, and close to the causeway, and room sufficient for several carriages to go a-breast; but providentially the gentleman received no hurt. The coachman, on being remonstrated with, told the gentleman he might go to the devil for his damages, and that he could afford to spend a hundred as well as him, and then drove away without giving him any assistance. It is hoped the gentleman will make an example of Mr. Whip, in order to deter some of those insolent gentry, as many of those drivers of public stages are a terror to travellers.

Tuesday night a Mr. More, of Parliament-street, Westminster, was stopped as he was returning from the country seat at Highgate-Hill by a single highwayman well mounted, who robbed him of near nine pounds and his watch, took a guinea and a half from his footman, and then told them, if they should be stopped again, to say, *Gone forward*, and they would pass fair, and then made off towards town.

A few mornings a tradesman in Westminster, hearing some little noise in his daughter's room, got up to see what it was, taking a hanger with him, which he constantly kept in his own room; when finding an Irish gentleman, who lodged in the first floor, in bed with the young lady; he gave him several wounds in several parts of the body, which appear so dangerous at present, that it is thought the unfortunate enamourata will never destroy the peace of another family.

BERKSHIRE NEWS
WOKINGHAM, Nov. 25.

A scheme is in agitation to take the government of the poor out of the parish officers hands, and to place the same through England and Wales in the management and direction of select Governors chosen for that purpose; also to unite a certain number of parishes into proper districts, each of which is to have a work-house erected for the setting into work and employing all the poor in such a manner, and in such employments, as they shall be found capable of undertaking; and these Governors &c., to lay their proceedings before every session of Parliament.

Fri 9th Dec

Wokingham, Dec, 8, 1774

JOHN JENNINGS, Proprietor of the Stage Waggon from Wokingham to Reading, returns thanks to his Friends and Customers for the favours conferred on him for many years past, and hopes for the continuance of them, and begs leave to inform them, and the Public in general that the Waggon goes from Wokingham to Reading every Wednesday and Saturday as usual, and puts up at the Broad Face in the Market-plsce. All parcels committed to his care will be delivered with the utmost punctuality and dispatch.

Performed (if God permits)
By the Public's obliged humble servant,
JOHN JENNINGS

NEW STAGE from WOKINGHAM to READING

This is to inform the Public, That a WAGGON or CART will set out To-morrow, and continue to set out every Wednesday and Saturday morning at eight o'clock, from

the King's Head Inn in Wokingham, to the White Hart in Duke-street, Reading. Such Gentlemen, Tradesmen, and others, who shall think proper to encourage this undertaking, may depend on the utmost care being taken of their goods, as well as the strictest attention paid to the delivery thereof, with punctuality, immediately on their arrival.

Persons wanting coals may have them brought, from one bushel to a chaldron; and goods of any kind delivered at any place within five or six miles of Wokingham.

By the Public's most humble servants---

JOHN ELLIS
JOHN HARRIS

Wokingham, Dec 7, 1774

A meeting was this Day held at the King's Head, and a subscription entered into for the prosecution of felons, &c., the articles then produce were read and agreed upon, and another Meeting is ordered to be held at the King's Head on Monday the 19th inst. At ten o'clock in the forenoon.

Fry 16th Dec

BERKSHIRE NEWS
WOKINGHAM

On Wednesday next, being St. Thomas's Day, Two BULLS WILL BE BAITED in the Market-place of this town, when will be run for a very handsome MOROCCO COLLAR, stitched with Silver, and a handsome Silver Plate for a label. Each dog to be let loose three times at the first bull, and four times at the second and only one dog to run at a time. The owner of each dog that runs to pay one shilling entrance. Proper judges will be appointed before running to determine who may be the winner.

N.B. A good Ordinary at the King's Head Inn, between the time of baiting of the bulls.

1775

Fri 6th Jan

BERKSHIRE NEWS
WOKINGHAM, *Jan. 6.*

Wednesday Se'nnight Benj. Bond Hopkins, Esq. gave two bullocks and a proportioned quantity of bread to be distributed by his Agent, at his seat at Painshill, to the poor of the parishes of Cobham, Walton, and Wessley, which was a most seasonable and comfortable relief to a number of poor families. Such acts of benevolence are worthy the imitation of the opulent in general (especially at this season) as they may be truly said to add dignity to the most exalted characters.

The following is the Extract of a letter from Witney, in Oxfordshire, to a gentleman in this town, dated Dec. 30, 1774. "We shall not be unconcerned spectators, but poignant sufferers, in the general distress that now involves the manufacturers of this nation, if amicable and conciliatory measures, relative to our American colonies are not speedily adopted by the Ministry. The orders for the Indian match-coating, which at this season employed such an immense number of hands, are now totally withheld, and the consequence to every intelligent person too obvious to need explanation. If sympathy is the chief duty of life, what heart can be impregnable to the cries of the starving poor? Were one tenth part of the wretchedness to be seen by the King and ministry, that is now felt by the lower class of people, it would strike them with

horror, and, I am persuaded, awaken compassion, prudence, and teach us what we have to do,, by shewing us what we have to fear.”

Last Saturday night the dwelling house of Thomas Cock, farmer at Barkham, well noted for his humanity and benevolence to all his neighbours, was broke open, and two large loaves of bread, about 10lb. of cheese, a loin of mutton and suet, a piece of boiled bacon, a gallon of flour, 2lb. of plumbs, 2 sheets, 4 shirts, 1 shift, a muslin apron, a pair of pattens, a pair of men’s shoes, and buckles were carried off, A diamond square of glass in a casement light in the front of the house was taken out, by which means it was opened, and a little boy thrust in, who opened the outward door for the villains. This poor worthy man’s house was robbed a month since.

The same night the house of Farmer hall, of the same parish, was attempted to be broke open, but upon hearing a noise at the door, and coming down stairs, the villains thought proper to sheer off.

Yesterday se’nnight in the evening, as Henry Street, blacksmith at Chobham, was returning home from Ripley, two men asked him the way to Dunford-; he rode with them a little way to shew them the road, when one of seized the horse by the bridle, and presented a horse pistol, and said “no ceremony, but your money.” On which he gave them 13s. 6d. in a purse, and said “I have only three half-pence in the other pocket.” On his horse making a little struggle, one of them said, “Damn your blood, stand still, or I will knock you down.” While the other with a knife cut the horse’s bridle, stirrups, girth and circingle, and then made off.

A few days since was married Mr. Thomas Linthorne, of the Worcester man of war , to Miss Print, daughter of Mr. Print, vintner, of Gosport. The gentleman got a share of the £20,000, in this lottery.

Fri 20th Jan

BARKHAM NEWS
WOKINGHAM, Jan. 20.

Yesterday night the hounds belonging to Mr. Walker of Putney, found a fox on Wimbledon-common, which led him in a chace from nine in the morning till four in the afternoon, and only made one check during the whole seven hours. The course that he took was from Wimbledon, across the country to Sutton, from thence to Yeowell, where they were joined by Mr. Northey’s hounds, and a number of gentlemen who were hunting a hare, the fox was pursued by the double pack to Godstone, then back to Dorking, and over Box-hill to Leatherhead field, where the hounds were whipped off, it being too late in the day to pursue the sport.---In the course of the day’s amusement Mr. Walker’s Huntsman was near being drowned in attempting to swim across the river Mole; the horse being fatigued and fainting under him, the huntsman immediately quitted his back, and swam by his side till he came within the reach of the arm of a tree, which breaking almost as soon as he caught hold of it, he was carried down the stream, and with much difficulty saved by the assistance of some countrymen; two of the horses are since dead from the severity of the chace. The ground ran over is supposed to be upwards of fifty miles.

A curious matrimonial advertisement, published last week ---“Mr. William M---tt, of the parish of Bishopstoke, in the county of Southampton, yeoman, doth hereby advertise himself that he s in want of a wife. He is a stout jolly man, fair skin, and his

age about 40. He would be glad of a woman about the same age, is a man of good account, and endowed with one article more than commonly falls to the lot of man. Any woman may suit, may apply to the said Mr. M---. None but those of good account will be looked upon.”

One day last week, a most shocking and barbarous piece of cruelty was perpetrated by a person, by trade a fisherman, at Kingston upon Thames. As this monster of barbarity, who is upwards of 70 years of age, was coming down Kingston-hill he was met by four soldiers belonging to the Surry militia. Having a gate upon his shoulders, the first man imprudently d—d his old blood, and told him he supposed he had stolen that gate, and bade him carry it back again. The old monster exasperated into madness, threw the gate down, drew a long knife, and stabbed the man: the second being now come up, he flew at him with brutal ferocity, and gave him a mortal stab, by burying his knife in the unhappy man’s belly. The remaining two each received a wound, but it is hoped they are not mortal. They however secured him, and he is lodged in the New Jail, Southwark.

Wednesday last-came on at the quarter sessions for the county of Wilts, the trial of M. H--y, a taylor, late of Bath, for an attempt to carry Miss Elizabeth Smith by force from her mother’s house at Somerford, in that county, of which he was convicted on the clearest evidence. In the trial it appeared, that he had procured a licence to be married to the young lady, whom he had never seen or conversed with in his life. He had two Counsel to cross examine the witnesses, but made no defence, and thanked the Court for the lenity of their judgement; which was, to be imprisoned one year, to pay a fine of 13s. 4d. and to find security for his good behaviour for three years after the expiration of his imprisonment, himself in £100. and two sureties in \$20 each.

Fri 27th Jan

BERKSHIRE NEWS
WOKINGHAM, *Jan 27.*

A few evenings ago a , one of the Northern stage coaches was coming to town, it was stopped by two highwaymen a mile and a half the other side of Hatfield, near Lord Melbourn’s park; who presented their pistols, with imprecations demanded their money, which was delivered immediately by part of the passengers; but the window of one of the doors was not so readily sliding down as the robber on that side expected, the instant it was got down the villain discharged his pistol into the coach (which luckily did no harm) and called to his companion to fire; but he having received the person’s money who were on the side he stood, did not fire. After searching them for money and watches, they demanded their pocket books; when one of the gentlemen delivered his, assuring them that it did not contain anything that would be of use to them, and requested when satisfied, they would send it to the Bell Savage on Ludgate-hill; on this they thought proper to return the book, and rode off.

The following is an account, taken at an inquisition at the office at Kingston, and attested by the parties, in relation to the murder committed the 9th inst. Near the above place:-- Thomas Coston deposed; That as he, his brother, Mr. Phillip Coston, and two more men, were on their journey to Wandsworth, on Monday evening the 9th instant, they met the prisoner, with a gate, or part of a gate, with some iron to it, on his back, between six and seven o’clock, the two foremost had passed him some yards when the third man of the company (Thomas Coston) came up, and asked the prisoner where he

was going with that gate that he supposed he did not come by it honestly, and that he ought to be laid hold on.. On which the old man threw the gate on the ground. And, with a sharp pointed knife which he had ready drawn in his hand, ran upon him, and stabbed him on the right breast; upon which he called out to his brother to take care, for he was stabbed to death; and that Simon repeated these words on committing the fact, There, d---n you, I have done for you;” and immediately run upon the deceased, before he could well turn to defend himself, and stabbed him in the bowels with a mortal wound four inches and a half deep; who fell down on his back, declaring, he was a dead man!” On which the fellow said, “ And d---n you, I have done for you too. Then the fourth or last man came up, and pushed him down on the ground; the murderer recovered his feet, and as Hamton made at him again, Fox aimed a blow at his heart, but, luckily for the poor young fellow, he held up his arm to ward off the stab, and received a wound pretty near through the fleshy part of his right arm; when he pulled him down a second time, and then he had time to pick up a stick, which the wounded man dropt as he fell. By this time the foremost man came back to the assistance of Hamton, and made at the prisoner, who had now recovered his feet, and received a wound in the upper part of his thigh or groin; upon which Hamton struck Fox on the back of the hand that had the knife in it, which dropped immediately on the ground, and then with less fear they followed their blows, till they knocked him down, and sat upon him till some people came up from a public house at the foot of the hill where the murder was committed, who secured him, and released the poor fellows that lay on him, with their wounds bleeding. When carrying the prisoner to a place of security, he wished he had had his hanger and would have murdered every one of them.---The prisoner’s defence was, ‘That he was coming home from Billingsgate-market he saw the gate lie in the road, and he thought he had as much right to it as another; that as he was stooping down to pick it up, Thomas Coston knocked him down, and, on getting up again, repeated the same, upon which he thought he had a right to fight for his life and stabbed the man who knocked him down, and his brother deserved the same; which was all his defence. But a witness proved he had brought the gate some distance, and had asked him to let him put it into his cart, which he refused, for fear of being called to an account for it, as he suspected it had been stolen.

PRICE of GRAIN
At WOKINGHAM

Wheat	£16 10s 0d to £17 10s 0d. per Load
Oats	19s. 0d to 21s. 0d.
Barley	17s.0d to 30s 0d
Beans	30s 0d to 34s 01
Pease	36s 0d to 40s 0d

Fri 10th Feb

BERKSHIRE NEWS
WOKINGHAM Feb. 10.
ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE

This is to give notice, that the GOVERNOR and COMPANY of the Royal Exchange Assurance, have constituted and appointed Mr. ROUND, of Windsor, in the county of Berks, Attorney at Law, their agent and receiver for the said county of Berks, and parts adjacent, in their business of assuring houses and goods and merchandize from loss or damage by fire; and that the said Mr. Round is accordingly

to receive proposals from any person, who desire to have any assurance made in or near the aforesaid county.

Last Friday night about twelve o'clock, three villains came to the turnpike at Cobham, Surry, which was kept by Richard Earley, an old man, upwards of eighty years of age, and called the poor man out, under pretence of wanting to go through the gate, As soon as he came out, two of them seized, and threw him down. The old man attempted to call for help, but they held his throat, whilst the other villain rifled the house, and took upwards of forty shillings, and then made off with their booty

Saturday one Jon Andrews, hog killer, at Wooburn common, out of bravado, ate five pounds of raw mutton, and six quarts of strong beer, at a public-house, on the said common.—*It is a real fact.*

Fri 24th Feb

WOKINGHAM, Feb 22, 1775

Whereas some ill-disposed person or persons did on Monday night last, pull off a great number of BRICKS from the bridge, on the turnpike road near the mill, on Toutley Common: whoever will discover the person or persons that committed the above offence Will, on his, her, or their conviction, receive One Guinea reward, of Mr. Becher, of this town.

N.B. If any person concerned in the above offence, will discover his accomplice or accomplices, so that they may be brought to justice, he shall be entitled to the same reward, and a pardon.

Fri 3rd March

February 9, 1775

STOLEN, about a week since, from Tangleys Farm, near Wokingham, FAAT WETHER SHEEP, marked with an L in a ring on the near side, and a star on the rump.

Whoever will give information of the offender or offenders, shall receive ten guineas reward on conviction, by applying to Mr. WALLEN, Woolstapler, in Wokingham.

N.B. If an accomplice, he shall be entitled to the reward, and not prosecuted.

WOKINGHAM, Feb 22, 1775

Whereas some ill-disposed person or persons did on Monday night last, pull off a great number of BRICKS from the bridge, on the turnpike road near the mill, on Toutly Common: Whoever will discover the person or persons that committed the above offence, shall, on their conviction, receive one Guinea reward, of Mr. Becher, of this town.

N.B. If any person concerned in the above offence, will discover his accomplice or accomplices, to that they may be brought to justice, he shall be entitled to the same reward, and a pardon.

To be SOLD

A DWELLING HOUSE, situate near the Church of WOKINGHAM, in the county of Wilts, now in the occupation of Mr. James Lodge.

Also a very good-accustomed public-house, known by the sign of the WHITE-HART, adjoining to the aforesaid Dwelling-House, and now in the occupation of Mr.

Joseph Gibbins, a tenant at will. Also several Out-Houses, and a large Garden thereto belonging, included with a high brick wall.

Enquire of Mr. John Lawrence, in Wokingham; of Mr. round, attorney at Law in Windsor, or of the aforesaid Mr. Jos. Gibbins, who will shew the premises.

Fri 17th March

On Tuesday afternoon Robert Rous, one of the turnkeys of the New gaol, Southwark, seeing a prisoner, who was committed for different highway robberies, had tied rags round his fetters, was suspicious of some design, and ordered him to take them off, which he refused; Rous immediately cut them off, and found both his irons sawed through; upon which he secured him, and then sent up Cha. Davis and Symonds to overlook a number of prisoners who were in the strong room, when the rioters immediately secured the former in the room and all set on him with their irons which they had knocked off. Rous hearing of it, went up with a horse pistol, and extricated his fellow turnkey from their fury, and then locked the door; when all the turnkeys as well as constables surrounded the door and the yard, when the prisoners fired several pistols loaded with powder and ball at two of the constables; the balls went through their hats. After which a serjeant's guard was sent for from the Tower: In the interim, the outrages continuing, one of the constables, who had a blunderbuss loaded with shot fired through the iron grates at the window, which dangerously wounded one fellow committed for a burglary at the mint. When the soldiers, with a serjeant's guard arrived, and the muskets were loaded, the room was opened and the prisoners were all secured, 21 of whom are chained down to the floor in the condemned room, and all yoked. Some of the people belonging to the prison are wounded.

WOKINGHAM, *March*, 17.

At the assizes in Reading, two writs of enquiry of damages were executed on actions of trespass brought by Daniel Fox, Esq. lord of the manor of Sandhurst in this county, against Colonel Cox of Bagshot lodge in Windsor forest and his servant, for cutting turves in the waste lands of the manor of Sandhurst. Colonel Cox, as keeper of Bigshot-lodge, claimed a right to cut turves within the manor for firing to be used in that lodge; and to establish this claim, for which there was not the least foundation, he was one of the principal managers of two suits, instituted in the Court of Exchequer, in the name of his Majesty's attorney general, against Mr. Fox and his servant, for taking away turves cut by Colonel Cox in Sandhurst manor: Mr. Fox brought his action of trespass against Colonel Cox and his servant, and thereby gave the Colonel an opportunity of trying his pretended claim, but he thought proper to make no defence, and suffered judgement to go by default against him and his servant.

On Saturday last was committed to Reading gaol, by John Carr, Esq; Mayor of New Windsor, on the oaths of John Bye and William Kibble, (two paupers in Windsor workhouse,) Charles Jarman, one of the overseers of the poor of the said parish, being, charged with causing John Howard (another pauper) to be put into the bridewell belonging to the said workhouse, where he was allowed nothing but bread and water for his support, nor was he suffered even to have any straw to lie upon, in which deplorable situation he remained from the 5th of February to the third instant, when he expired, and was buried two days after. But by order of the worthy mayor and gentlemen of the said place, was taken up, when the coroner's inquest sat on the body, and brought in their verdict, "that the said John Howard, by being confined in

the above bridewell, perished through extreme hardships he underwent, and for want of the common necessities of life.

And the same afternoon, Samuel Wheeler, who keeps the above bridewell, was committed to the same gaol, on the coroner's request.

At the assizes at Aylesbury, for the county of Bucks, Joseph Buckingham, Thomas Buckingham, and John Morris for sheep-stealing; Thomas Kempton for housebreaking; and Stephen Cooke for robbing Elizabeth Arnold on the highway, received sentence of death, but were all reprieved before the judge left the town. Robert Johnson for stealing a silver tankard; James Well and John Batterson for stealing £2 10s. money out of the shop of Stephen Hoddle; and Richard Clark, brought by habeas corpus from Newgate, for stealing fourteen Guinea fowls the property of James Pudisent, were convicted to be transported 7 years. John Stevens, Cornelius Machrohan, Samuel Hill, William Goff, Henry Gurney, and James Well, and Thomas Well were acquitted

At Oxford assizes, George strap, a journeyman shoemaker, for the murder of Edward Bowden, his master, at Bicester, was found guilty, and ordered to be executed; and his body to be delivered to be dissected and anatomised. James Tappin for stealing a roan mare, was likewise capitally convicted and received sentence of death; but was reprieved. John Corderoy, for stealing wheat; Mary Garrett, for stealing five silver tea spoons; Thomas Gregg, for stealing four silver tea spoons; James Wiggins, for stealing bacon and cheeses; Thomas Welton, for stopping Mary Avery on the highway, with an intent to rob her, were severally convicted of grand larceny, and ordered to be transported for seven years, five were acquitted and five discharged by proclamation.

James Smith, found guilty of manslaughter, for killing James Glassington, was ordered to be burnt in the hand and imprisoned for six months.

Fri 24th March

Yesterday died suddenly while he was at work in his shop, Robert Miller, blacksmith, at Binfield in this county.

Monday last as a gentleman's servant from Farley-hill in this county, was riding one horse and leading another towards London, the led horse took fright at a boy driving a barrow near Bracknell, and getting from the man, ran round by Easthampstead, and in a little time came back into the turnpike road again, and ran against the turnpike gate at Coppidbeeche-lane with such force, that he bent the large iron bar at the top of the gate, & broke the gate in several places, & fell quite over several yards. The horse was terribly bruised.

Last Sunday night, about nine o'clock, a temporary horse patrol, fixed by Sir John Fielding on Hounslow heath, on account of some complaints in that neighbourhood, pursued and apprehended two highwaymen at Longford, after they had committed a robbery on Hounslow heath. A brace of loaded pistols were found upon each.

At Winchester assizes ten prisoners received sentence of death, viz. John Bates, for stealing a mare, Elias Goodall, and Joseph Goodall, for sheep-stealing; John Sturney, for assaulting and robbing John Passord, of Gosport, of eight guineas; Elias Bailey, for a burglary at Sherfield; William Freemantle, for stealing a saddle; Edward Bolter, for stealing a mare; James Fitzgerald and Robert Paul, for burglariously breaking into the house of Daniel Tribe, at Portsmouth, and stealing a quantity of plate, and other

things; and Joseph Pearce, for a burglary at Portchester. Fitzgerald and Paul are left for execution; the others are all reprieved

Last Sunday night, about nine o'clock, a temporary horse patrol, fixed by Sir John Fielding on Hounslow heath, on account of four complaints in that neighbourhood, pursued and apprehended two highwaymen at Longford, after they had committed a robbery on Hounslow heath. A brace of loaded pistols were found upon each.

Fri 7th April

WINDSOR FOREST TURNPIKE

Whereas many people with horses, wagons, carts, and other carriages, do (contrary to the act of Parliament) illegally go through Sinsam Mill Lane turnpike side gate, to void the Loddon-bridge turnpike gate, without paying the tolls:---- This is therefore to allow all people whatever, (except the tenants of the Rt. Hon. Earl Spencer, and all others that go to and from Sinsam Mill with grain or meal) that do go through that way without paying the tolls, they will (by the Commissioners of the said turnpike) be prosecuted for the same, according to the direction of the said act; and they have empowered Henry Wiggins of Loddon-bridge gate, to be their gate-keeper at the said Sinsam Mill gate, and to give tickets for the same; and do disanull all former appointments to the said gate.

Bush at Wokingham, 3rd April, 1775.

WOKINGHAM, March 24

The proprietors of the WOKINGHAM MACHINE from the Old Rose and Bush Inn, Wokingham, Berks, beg leave to return thanks to the ladies and gentlemen for their past favours, and hope for the continuance of them: Beg leave to inform them, that the said Machine sets out every morning from the above exactly at seven, to the Bolt-in-Tun, Fleet Street, London, and every morning at eight from the Bolt-in-Tun to the above inn at Wokingham: Stops going up and comes down to take up passengers and parcels at the usual place.

Likewise a new BINFIELD Diligence set out from the Five Bells at Binfield, on Monday morning the 2 of March, at seven o'clock, & will continue going every morning to the to the Catherine Wheel, Egham; and return from thence every afternoon to the Five Bells at Binfield; passengers by the Dilligence to be forwarded by the Wokingham Machine from Egham to London, and from London to Egham; but if full the Dilligence to go throughout London with fresh horses.

Particular care will be taken of all parcels, and that to be delivered as soon as possible, on the most reasonable terms.

Performed (if God permits) by

WILLIAM WHEATLEY, Old Rose Bush, Wokingham
JOHN CLODE, Sunning-Hill
JOHN ALLALY, Egham, and
WILLIAM HARRIS, Bolt-in-Tun, Fleet Street, London

WOKINGHAM, April 7.

On Friday evening, at about seven o'clock, as Sir Joseph Mawbey, Bart. was returning in his coach from the assizes at Kingston, he was attacked by a single highwayman at the entrance of Putney Common, who presented a pistol, and repeatedly called out to his postillions to stop; but neither complying, and Sir Joseph

ordering them to drive on, he several times threatened to shoot them, and for that purpose rode up to one postillion, and then to the other, for the space of sixty or seventy yards; notwithstanding which they continued the horses to a gallop, and cut at the highwayman with their whips. At last, on the appearance of company at hand, the highwayman made off towards Wimbledon without his booty.

Friday last a cow belonging to Mr. Martin, of Langley Park, Bucks, brought forth five calves, which are all likely to do well.

The following prisoners are capitally convicted at Kingston assizes: Blandford, Hoar, Hughes, Delany, Elson, Humphries, Stevens, & Goodchild.

On Tuesday morning, about nine o'clock, came on at the above assizes the trial of the coiners of halfpence, which lasted six hours, when the master and his foreman were found guilty: even of his journeymen and two apprentices were acquitted.

Fri 21st April

WOKINGHAM, *April 21*

Last week an inquisition was taken at Dorney, near Windsor, on the body of a male bastard child, murdered by its mother. In the course of her examination it appeared that she had mangled her child by cutting off its hinder parts, and taking out the entrails, which she concealed in a hog tub; she afterwards cleft the child's hear asunder, and took out the brains, which she likely hid in the same place; the remaining part of the body she conveyed it into a gulley hole, and is supposed to have been devoured by the hogs in the yard, as it couldn't be found. The Jury brought in their verdict of wilful murder, and as soon as her condition will admit of it, she will be committed to Aylesbury gaol, in order to take her trial.

Fri 28th April

WOKINGHAM, April 28.

Tuesday Lord Pigot and some other gentlemen (who came with his Lordship to Portsmouth on Sunday) embarked on board the Granville East-Indiaman, Capt. Abercrombie, lying at Spithead. Lord Pigot is gone as Governor of Bombay, and the other gentlemen are to enter upon places under his lordship; the ship is preparing to sail."

A gentleman who came through this town on Tuesday from Exeter, says that provisions of all kinds are very cheap in that city; beef three-pence per pound; veal two pence halfpenny; lamb and mutton at three pence per pound; and such a great plenty of fish, that a person may have a good dinner for two pence, including butter; bread likewise at a reasonable price.

About nine o'clock on Saturday evening one James Whayler, a dealer in run good, was attacked by three footpads near Poplar, who robbed him of upwards of six pounds in money, a silver watch, & several pieces of nankeen. The poor man making some resistance, the villains beat him in a cruel manner, and afterwards bound his arms and head to his thighs, and threw him into a ditch, in which posture he lay till between four and five o'clock on Sunday morning, when he was released by two men going that way.

Tuesday evening, as Mr. Henry Cotterell, of Burghfield in this county, was returning from Bracknell fair, he was stopped in Coppid-beech lane by two footpads,

(one of them dressed in a smock frock, the other had on a foul weather coat,) who knocked him off his horse, and dragged him into a ditch, where one of the villains held a pistol to his head, while the other rifled his pockets of 44s. after which they got clear off—Mr. Cotterell now lies very ill of the bruises he received.

Fri 5th May

WOKINGHAM MACHINE

The Proprietors of the Wokingham Machine, from Mr. Wheatley's, the Rose and Bush Inn, beg leave to inform their customers, that it began flying on Monday the 24th instant, setting out from Mr. Wheatley's every morning (Sundays excepted) at six o'clock, to the Bolt and Tun in Fleet Street; returns from thence every day at twelve. Prices as usual. Stops at all the places as usual to take up parcels and passengers
N.B. As there is some alteration in the partnership any person that has a demand on the above Machine, is desired to send an account to Mr. Thomas Plim, at Egham, Clerk to the Proprietors, who is empowered to pay the same, and to send them every week.

J. ALLALY
J. CLODE

W. WHEATLEY
W. HARRIS

WOKINGHAM COACH

Began flying on Monday the 17th instant, and continues every morning (Sundays excepted) at six o'clock, (in five hours) from the New Rose Inn, Wokingham, to the Swan with two Necks, Doctor's Commons, and returns from thence at twelve o'clock at noon to Wokingham. Prices for passengers and luggage as usual. Places taken at the above inns, and at the White Bear, Piccadilly.

As the Proprietors are resolved to accommodate their customers in the most agreeable manner possible, they are determined, should more places be taken for the Coach than the number it usually carries, to forward them in Post-chaises, at the usual price of the Coach.

It stops as usual at the White Bear and Old White Horse Cellar for passengers and parcels; at the Red Lion, Egham; Sunninghill Wells; and Hind's Head, and Bull; at Bracknell

A neat POST-COACH

(By permission of his Royal Highness) every day, by that most delightful situation the Lodge, and through those agreeable villas of Winkfield, Warfield, and Binfield.

Performed by

CRUTTWELL, GEVAUX, and Co.

A letter from St. Kitts says, that a Spanish ship had taken two vessels belonging to that island, having seized them within four or five leagues of St. Kitts, under the old pretence of their carrying on an illicit trade, and bore away with them towards Hispaniola. As soon as it was known, an armed ship was dispatched after them.

A letter from Hamburg mentions, that the Golden Lion, a ship belonging to that city, was lost lately at the mouth of the Elbe, and the crew, together with 23 passengers that were on board perished.

The Fox, William Thomms Commander, bound from Madeira to Waterford, deeply loaded, and full of passengers, is lost about 30 leagues west of Madeira, in a violent storm, & every soul on board perished.

They write from Gibraltar that four Moorish corsairs, on board one of which was an Admiral, were lately lost in a gale of wind within a few leagues of Ceuta, and all their crews perished.

The Hon. Mr. Grenville, who lately married the daughter of Lord Clare, has settled £21,000 per ann. Upon his lady.—The marriage articles are said to have been written on two hundred skins of parchment.

Early on Friday last a duel was fought on Wandsworth common between Colonel A. and Captain E. relative to a dispute about election affairs, when after discharging their pistols at each other, the seconds interposed, and the dispute was compromised

Thursday twenty-seven prisoners were tried at the Old-Bailey, four of whom were capitally convicted, viz. Thomas Palmer for burglariously entering the dwelling house of Robert Brook, in King—street, Old street-square and stealing three gowns, two petticoats, three sheets, & other things; Michael Conway, alias Irish Mick, and Thomas McDonald . for burglariously breaking open the dwelling-house of John Henderson, in Burr-street, Wapping, and stealing a stone ring and a pair of silver shoe buckels, the property of William Hunter; Thomas Wood, for stealing on Epping Forest an heifer and two calves, the property of John Board.---Twelve were convicted to be transported; two were convicted of petty larceny. And nine were acquitted.

Friday 23 prisoners were tried at the Old Bailey, four of whom were capitally convicted, Viz. Samuel Storer and Samuel Cross for breaking and entering the dwelling-house of William Wimot, butcher, at Clerkenwell, and stealing a quantity of meat; Henry Jordain and Frederick Williams for stealing a plate in the dwelling-house of Thomas Nugent, Esq; in Queen-square. Sergeant Beets, for the murder of Dorothy Day, was brought to the bar, and being about to plead guilty, he was advised to put himself on his trial, when he pleaded not guilty; and after examining several witnesses he was found guilty of manslaughter; three to be whipped, and 15 were acquitted.

This day were capitally convicted at the Old Bailey, the two following persons, viz. Jo Hins and Thomas Tunks, for a burglary in the house of Richard Jackson at Whitechapel, taking 4 silver mounted pistols and some plate.

Fri 30th June

WANTED
JOURNEYMAN COLLAR MAKER

A sober man may meet with constant employ, by applying to Thomas Houlton, at Wokingham.

Letters (post-paid) will be duly answered.

STOLEN or STRAYED, about a Month ago, From BILL-HILL, in the county of Berks,

AN old white PONEY, rather above 13 hands high, with a switch tail, commonly known by the name of JEMMY LAVEL

Whoever will bring him to Bill-Hill aforesaid shall receive half-a-guinea reward.

WOKINGHAM, 29th June, 1775

ANN BLANFORD, WIDOW OF JASPER BLANFORD, deceased, who for many years kept a common stage wagon from Wokingham to London, humbly requests the continuance of the favours of her late husband's customers, (as she is advised with her friends to carry on the said business for the benefit of herself and her children) which will be always be gratefully acknowledged, and the business punctually performed.

By their obliged humble servant

ANN BLANFORD.

Wokingham, June 22nd, 1775

TO be LETT and entered on immediately,

Part of a house in Broad-street, late in the occupation of Henry Prior, at the yearly rent of £2 10s. That part of the Garden lately managed by Richard Deane, for Thomas Beaver, at £2. Per annum; together £4. 10s. per annum. Also shortly will be Sold or Let, a New Built House, at the upper end of Rose-street. For particulars, enquire at the said House.

IRELAND

Dublin, June 21 . Last Friday there was the greatest fall of rain ever known, at the Curragh of Kildare; and, on Saturday, the greatest hail, by which many lambs, cows, pigeons and other birds, were destroyed. The stones measured more than an inch in diameter, by which many acres of the finest wheat and other corn were lodged near Mullehedderd, in the county of Dublin, by which one farmer lost more than £1000.. We also had most violent rains the same evening in Dublin and its neighbourhood.

LONDON, *Thursday, June 29.*

From the Pennsylvania Packet *of May 9*

Williamsburg, Virginia, April 22.

Last Thursday night, Capt. Collins, with a party of men, belonging to the Magdalen armed Schooner, by command of Lord Dunmore came to this city from Burwell's Ferry, and privately moved out of the magazine, and carried on board the said Schooner, about 20 barrels of gunpowder belonging to this colony. The inhabitants were alarmed with the intelligence yesterday morning, the Common Hall assembled, and the following address was presented to the Governor.

To his Excellency, the right Hon John Earl of Dunmore, his Majesty's Lieutenant, Governor General and Commander in Chief in Virginia.

The humble address of the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen, and common Council of the city of Williamsburg,

“My Lord, we his Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen, and Common Council of the city of Williamsburg, in Common Hall assembled, humbly beg leave to present to your Excellency, that the inhabitants of this city were this morning exceedingly alarmed by a report that a large quantity of gunpowder was in the preceding night, while they were sleeping in their beds, removed from the public magazine in this city, and conveyed under an escort of marines, on board one of his Majesty's armed vessels, lying at a Ferry on James River.

“We beg leave to represent to your Excellency, that as this magazine was erected at the public expense of this colony, and appropriated to the safe keeping of such ammunition as should there be lodged from time to time, for the protection and security of the country, by arming thereout such of the militia as might be necessary

in cases of invasion and insurrections, they humbly conceive it to be the only proper repository to be resorted to in times of imminent danger.

“We further beg leave to inform your Excellency, that, from various reports at present prevailing in different parts of the country too much reason to believe that some wicked and designing persons have instilled the most diabolical notions into the minds of our slaves, and that therefore the utmost attention to our internal security is become the more necessary.

“The circumstances of this city, my Lord, we consider as peculiar and critical. The inhabitants from the situation of the magazines in the midst of their city, have, for a long tract of time, been exposed to all the dangers which have happened in many countries from explosions and other accidents. They have, from time to time, thought it incumbent on them to guard their magazine. For their security they have, for some time past, judged it necessary to keep strong patrols on foot in their present circumstances then, to have the chief and necessary means of their defence removed, cannot but be extremely alarming. Considering ourselves as guardians of the city, we therefore humbly desire to be informed by your Excellency, upon what motives, and for what particular purpose, the powder has been carried off in such a manner: and we earnestly entreat your Excellency to order it to be immediately returned to the magazine.

The Gunpowder Incident happened the day after the Battles of Lexington and Concord began the American Revolution, but before word of these battles arrived in Virginia. The entire incident caused Governor Murray to fear for his safety and move on to a navy ship in the York River, effectively ending royal rule in Virginia.

be

Fri 14th July

Thursday morning last, between two and three o'clock, the Gloucester stage coach was stopped little beyond High Wycombe, by three highwaymen, who took from a young lady in it, two sequins, a dollar, about seventeen shillings, and a trinket; from another lady about a dozen shillings; from a gentleman a guinea and six or seven shillings; and from another gentleman his watch, and about sixteen or seventeen shillings in money. Every carriage betwixt Wheatley and High Wycombe was robbed by the same highwaymen, and; and among others the Worcester coach with two ladies in it, from one of whom they took a gold watch and ten guineas. They began with a stage wagon a little the other side of Wheatley, where they had been seen on Wednesday in the afternoon, the driver of which they plundered as well as the passengers. They then took the Birmingham Diligence and Fly, the driver of one of which they abused greatly and struck with a pistol. They also beat a farmer in the Diligence, who was rather in liquor, much about the breast, for being unwilling to deliver up three guineas and a half, which he had about him; and told the people in one of the Birmingham carriages, that they intended clearing the road. They were all three young fellows mounted on bay horses, one tall and well made, the other two slight and shorter.

A Caution,---There has lately appeared a great number of new guineas made of base metal and full weight. They are easily known, being thicker in the middle than any other part, and found very bad.

Fri 15th Sept

Extract of a letter from Coalbrookdale, Sept, 9.

“Last night, about ten o'clock, most of the inhabitants of this place were alarmed with a smart shock of an earthquake, attended with a rushing noise; the earth at first

trembled, then was agitated with a great violence; people in different stations were sensible of the rocking motion; those in bed, were apprehensive of being thrown out; those on chairs with difficulty kept their seats; and those standing, actually retorted; the windows rattled in their frames; the pewter jarred on the shelves; At one house, situated on a rising ground, the bar of a window flutter, which was not fastened up, vibrated like the pendulum of a clock; and at the same time, a bird was shaken off its perch. The shock continued about ten seconds. Its direction was from southward to north east. A person from Sheinton, a village about four miles from hence, informs us, the shock was felt there at the same time, and with equal violence.

Yesterday the sessions began at the Old Bailey, when twenty-five prisoners were tried, 6 of whom were capitally convicted, viz.

John Wild, for returning from transportation before the expiration of his term.

Thomas Young, for stealing a chestnut gelding, the property of Thomas Hillton.

James Johnson and Thomas Bath, for robbing William Germaine in Oxford-road, of six shillings and a piece of Russia cloth.

Silas Shearrs, for assaulting John Foster in the 5 Fields, Chelsea, and robbing him of a guinea, some silver, and two seals.

George Childs, for assaulting Thomas Holmes, near Tottenham Court turnpike, and robbing him of a guinea and a half.

Nine were convicted to be transported, and ten acquitted.

WOKINGHAM, *Sept.* 15.

On Monday evening about seven o'clock, a man from Anvill, Middlesex, was robbed at Bill hill, near this town, by two footpads, of five guineas, 20s. in silver, & three shillings worth of halfpence; after they had robbed him, they stabbed him in the arm to the bone.

The following robberies were committed last Thursday evening by three highwaymen, one of whom was dressed in a countrymen's smock, viz. About nine o'clock they attacked the Shrewsbury coach by the Duchess of Portland's wall near Beaconsfield; on their bidding the driver stopt, he begged they would spare a young woman among his passengers, who was a servant out of place, going to her friends; but the hard hearted villains robbed her of a guinea, which was her All, and four other women in the coach of about four more---They then waited a little while for the Gloucester coach, the passengers in which they robbed of about five pounds, and a gold watch.---They next attacked the Birmingham Diligence, with two ladies in it, whom they robbed of near four pounds---Their next and last attempt was upon the Worcester coach, which had a guard with a blunderbuss in the basket who told them the coach should not be robbed upon which one of them fired a pistol at him, the guard fired at them, and they retreated to a little distance. They came up a second time, d---d the guard, and said they would rob the coach in spite of his endeavours to prevent them; the guard resolutely declared they should not; they fired again, the guard returned their fire and they rode off, and left the coach to pursue its journey. The guard received a small graze on his ribs, and a ball went through the flap of his coat; but it is not known any of the robbers was wounded.

On Friday evening, a few minutes after ten o'clock, a shock of an earthquake was felt at Oxford, the vibrations were so strong that some people who were in bed rose

much frightened, and thought persons were in their room; several who were up saw the things about them shake, but happily no mischief was done.

We are informed from Egham in Worcestershire that a shock of an earthquake was felt there the same evening about eleven o'clock.

Fri 22nd Sept

WOKINGHAM COACH

CONTINUES FLYING every Morning (Sundays excepted) at six o'clock, (in five hours) from the New Rose Inn, Wokingham, to the Swan with Two Necks, Doctors Commons, and returns from thence at twelve o'clock at noon to Wokingham. Prices for passengers and luggage as usual. Places taken at the above inns, and at the White Bear, Piccadilly

As the proprietors are resolved to accommodate their customers in the most agreeable manner possible, they are determined, should were places be select for the Coach the number it usually carries, be forward then in Post-Chaises, at the usual price of the Coach.

It stops as usual at the White Bear and Old White Horse Cellar for parcels and passengers; at the Red Lion, Egham; at Sunninghill Wells; Hind's Head, and Bull, at Bracknell.

A NEAT POST COACH

(By permission of his Royal Highness) every day, by that most delightful situation the Lodge, and through those agreeable villas of Winkfield, Warfield, and Binfield.

Performed by

CRUTTWELL, MAYNELL, and Co.

Whereas many reports have been circulated round the country, signifying that the Proprietors instead dropping the NEW WOKINGHAM COACH, we beg leave to assure the public, that the same is absolutely false, as we are determined by every possible manner in our power, to deserve the favours we have received, by accommodations genteel as the nature of the conveyance will admit.

All demands on us as Coach Proprietors, are desired to be sent to Mr. Thomas Massey, book-keeper, at Egham.

If any lady or gentleman find any cause of complaint, for over-charge, or misbehaviour from Coachmen, they are humbly requested to signify the same to Mr. Massey or any of the Proprietors.

Fri 29th Sept

By Desire of Miss St. John

By a Select Party from Theatres Royal,

At the THEATRE, at the KING'S HEAD GREAT ROOM, in WOKINGHAM

On SATURDAY, Sept. 30, will be performed

a Concert of Vocal and Instrumental Music

Boxes 3s. Pit 2s. Gallery 1s.

Between the Parts of the Concert will be rehearsed, (without Hire, Gain or Reward) a COMEDY, call'd

THE WEST INDIAN,
To which will be added,
An English Burletta, call'd MIDAS.

N.B. That the Ladies and Gentlemen who come from the country, may not complain of late hours, the Company will begin precisely, at SIX o'clock, to whatever number are then in the Theatre, and 'tis humbly hoped that it will not offend in declaring that nothing under FULL PRICE will be taken during any part of the performance. And that it may not be deemed an infringement, the Manager begs leave to premise, that the short time of his stay, and the expenses attending it, will sufficiently plead for the resolution.

The Company perform on Monday and Tuesday next,
And Saturday will be the last night.

Sept 13th Oct

WOKINGHAM, Oct. 13.

The Public are requested to observe, that the OLD WOKINGHAM MACHINE sets out from the Bolt-and-Tun in Fleet Street, London, every morning at NINE o'clock, and not at eleven, as advertised in the first page of this paper.

MAIDENHEAD RACES

Tuesday the 10th, the ladies purse of fifty pounds, for five year olds, was won by Mr. Stacey's chef, colt Fortune-Hunter, beating Mr. Brown's brown horse, Croney, Mr. Gwynne's chestnut horse Culprit, Mr. Rider's bay gelding Casca, Mr. Jennings bay horse, Nestor, Mr. Dimmock's Zaccha, and Capt. O' Kelly's Casinius

Wednesday, the town plate of fifty pounds, for four year olds, was won by Mr. Adams's dun colt Dunny, beating Lord Castlehaven's grey colt Bosphorus, Mr. Green's bay colt, Trimmer, Mr. Duggins's bay colt Lightfoot, Mr. Tomb's bay colt Codrus, Mr. Stephenson's grey colt, Mr. Rider's black colt Ivory Black, Mr. Langbridge's grey colt Burntcrust, Capt. O'Kelly's Juno, and Capt. Bertie's Lady Catchet.

Thursday, the noblemen and Gentlemen's subscription plate of fifty pounds, give and take, was won by Sir Harry Harpur's bay horse Furiband, beating Mr. Tilbury's grey mare, Melissa, and Mr. Gott's Tyrant.

Last Sunday, as Samuel Harding, glazier, journeyman to the widow Barton, of Rickmansworth, Herts, was returning home from Watford, in a cart, he was taken with a swimming in his head, and falling under the wheel, was so much bruised that he died the next day. His mistress, her daughter, and a young woman were in the cart; the two former were very much bruised, but he latter escaped unhurt.

We hear from Streatly, in this county, a report prevails, that a house in that village is at this time haunted, and forsaken by the occupier of it in consequence thereof.

Fri 17th Nov

WOKINGHAM NEW COACH

For the Conveniency of travelling these short days

Sets out on Monday Morning next, and continues every day, (Sundays excepted) at Eight o'clock, from the New Rose Inn, Wokingham, to the Swan with two Necks Doctor's Commons, and returns from thence at ten o'clock every morning to Wokingham. Prices for passengers and luggage as usual. Places taken at the above inns, and at the White Bear, Piccadilly.

As the Proprietors are resolved to accommodate the public in the most agreeable manner possible, they are determined should more places be taken for the coach than the number it usually carries, to forward them in Post-Chaises, at the usual price of the Coach.

It stops as usual at the White Bear, and the Old White Horse Cellar for parcels and passengers; at the Red Lion, Egham; at Sunninghill Wells; Hind's Head, and Bull at Bracknell.

(by permission of his Royal Highness)

The only Coach every day by that most delightful situation the LODGE. Stops at the Stag and Hounds, Binfield, at half past eight o'clock; the Horse Shoes, at Warfield; the White Hart, Winkfield Church, at nine o'clock; and the Flower de Luce, Hatchet Lane, at half past nine o'clock in the morning.

Performed by CRUTTWELL, and Co.,

The proprietors return their most grateful thanks to the public in general, for the great encouragement they have met with; and hope for the continuance of their favours. WHEREAS many reports have been circulated round the country, signifying that the Proprietors intend dropping the NEW WOKINGHAM COACH, we beg leave to assure the public, that the same is absolutely false, as we are determined by every possible means in our power, to deserve the favours we have received, by accommodations genteel as the nature of the conveyance will admit.

CRUTTWELL, MEYNELL, &c.

November 16th, 1775

Whereas the parish Church of Wokingham, in the county of Berks, was in the night of Sunday, Monday or Tuesday last, broke into, and two surplices stolen thereout.

Whoever will give information of the person or persons guilty of the above felony, so that they may be brought to justice, shall upon their conviction, receive a reward of five guineas, by applying to Mr. Wm. HAMILTON, Church-warden.

And if there were more than one concerned, the person who will impeach his accomplice or accomplices shall have his pardon, and the same reward.

NOVEMBER 14th, 1775

Whereas on Wednesday the 8th of this month of November, one of his Majesty's deer, (a hind) was found shot, with the shoulders taken off, near King's bridge, in Bigshot walk, Windsor forest.

Whoever will give such information, as may tend to the conviction of the person or persons, concerned in the unlawful act as aforesaid, shall receive a reward of Ten Guineas, (besides what is allowed by act of parliament) on the conviction of the person or persons concerned, from me.

THOMAS COX

Head Keeper of Bigshot Walk

Fri 8th Dec

A correspondent having favoured us with the following account of the behaviour of Captain Suttie of Cranbrook, West Indiaman, late aloft on the Goodwin sands, we thought it too extraordinary to be concealed from the public. When his vessel struck the fore-part of her soon buried itself in the sands, whilst the aft part was raised to a considerable height, were all retired to, of course, for their preservation, however short it might be. In this dreadful confusion and terror, every face on board described the horrors of an approaching death, but Captain Suttie, who never once seemed to

change countenance, but with a steady composure which baffles all description,. Spoke comfort to all around, and especially to his passengers the ladies, whom he took first care of, handed and placed them in the longboat before he would suffer anyone else to go into it, and then went in himself, when all the ship's crew were following him, which he opposed, saying they would sink the boat; but now all command was over, and they swore they would come in, for their lives were as dear to them as his to him. The captain then asked if any of them would come to him into the pinnace, the small boat, which lay next to the long boat, and some answered they would, when the humane gallant captain jumped into the pinnace, and five or six of the sailors followed him, who were all drowned on the French shore, the boat being turned keel upwards by the violence of the surge. The poor captain was thrown on the beach near Calais; where, though he was stripped naked was hardly cold when some of the French Admiralty came to view the body, which lay guarded by his dog, who swam on shore with his master, and never forsook the body till it was buried. This Captain Suttie was the brother to Sir George Suttie, of Balgovan, who is a member of Parliament for Haddingtonshire, in Scotland; and this relation is given by a lady who was one of the passengers that escaped in the long boat.

Last Saturday night, between ten and eleven o'clock, two highwayman, well mounted, robbed Miss Reynolds (sister to Lord Ducie) in her carriage facing his grace the Duke of Buccleugh's house in Grosvenor square, and afterwards rode towards Oxford-street; several carriages and people were passing in the square at the same time.

The following are some particulars relative to the unfortunate circumstances which happened on Monday night at the Golden Lion in the Strand, Mess Hunt and Smith, two paymaster Sergeants of the first battalions of the regiment of foot guards, in the Tower, called at the above house where being elevated with liquor a quarrel ensued, and they both drew their swords, and exchanged a few passes; Smith then desired to wave the decision till another opportunity, and pointed his sword downwards; some aggravating words were at this uttered, when Hunt stabbed Smith in the right side, of which wound he expired in about half an hour. The deceased has left a wife and 4 children.

Yesterday Sergeant Hunt was examined at the Rotation office in Bow-street, for the murder of Sergeant Smith, both of the 1st regiment of foot guards, at the Golden Lion facing Exe Strand and committed to Tothill fields bridewell for further examination.

At the time of Sergeant Hunt's examination the crowd was so very great in Bow-street to hear the examination, that several people were much hurt and many lost their watches and handkerchiefs.

WOKINGHAM, December 8.

Sunday last three deserters belonging to the 32d regiment of foot, (ordered to embark for America) were brought here, and lodged in the town gaol, from thence they were to be escorted to their regiment; but early on Monday morning one of them found means to get off his handcuffs and by breaking a hole through the wall, made his escape, leaving his fellow prisoners in confinement, who deemed it more prudent to throw themselves upon the mercy of the court martial, than by a second transgression, run the hazard of being retaken and severely punished.

Fri 22nd Dec

Mr. WHEATLEY
PROPRIETOR of the
OLD MACHINE

From the Old Rose Inn, in the Market Place, Wokingham;

Begs leave to inform the Ladies and Gentlemen, and Piblick in general, that his Machine is removed from the Bolt and Tun Inn, in Fleet-street, to the Black Lion Inn, in Water-lane, Fleet-street; and will set out from his house every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning, at eight o'clock, to the above inn, and return from thence every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday morning, at the same hour.

Prices as usual, and stops going up and coming down at the usual places.

N.B. Mr. Wheatley returns thanks to the ladies and gentlemen, and the public in general, for their past favours, and hopes for the continuance of them.

READING MERCURY 1776-79

Mon 19th Feb.1776

WOKINGHAM, Feb 10, 1776

THOMAS CHARLES CRUTTWELL thinks it necessary to inform the Public and in particular the Friends of his late Mother to continue the Liquor Trade, and the Business of a Bookseller and Stationer in the same manner as during her life, and most respectfully entreats the continuance of their Favours, which he will take every opportunity to merit by a strict Attention to their commands.

N.B. his Rums and Foreign Brandy are really neat as imported, and all his other liquors are inferior to none being the best that can be procured.

Country Schoolmasters and shops served with books, Paper and all other kinds of Stationery, at the lowest Prices.---A circulating Library on the usual Terms of Subscription.---All the advertised medicines, genuine from the Proprietors, &c.

TO be SOLD, the improved Lease of a small genteel house, situate on Toutley Common, within one mile of Wokingham, five from Reading, and near Bill Hill, Berks. Four years of Lease are unexpired at Lady day next. Rent only £14. per Annum.

The premises consist of a Parlour, Hall and large Kitchen on the Ground Floor, a Drawing Room and three Bed-chambers, a Coach House and very good stabling for three Horses and other Conveniences; two Acres of good Meadow Land adjoining, The Furniture which is very good almost new, to be had at a fair Appraisalment.

Particulars may be had at the Mount Coffee House, Grosvenor Street, London; or of Francis Collins, Upholder and Auctioneer at Wokingham.

Mon 26th Feb 1776

To be Sold by AUCTION by FRANCIS COLLINS, on Thursday the 7th and Friday the 8th of March 1776 all the genuine elegant Household Furniture of Captain LESTER, at his House at Toutley, near Wokingham, Berks: Consisting of Four soft Bedsteads with fine Check and other Furniture, good Goose Feather Beds, Blankets, Quilts, Counterpanes, Mattresses &c, a neat Mahogany Press Bedstead, a ditto Sopha covered with Crimson Moreen, double brass nailed, Mahogany card and Pembroke tables, Fine wood, ditto Dining and Tea tables, a Side Board Table ditto, a handsome small Mahogany Writing Desk on a Frame, s ditto Wone Cooper, Mahogany Chairs, an eight-day repeating Table Clock. Pier and Dressing Glasses, Wiscot Chest of

Drawers, Bath Stove and other Grates, very good useful Kitchen Furniture, a Rotiseur Royal Jack, &c. &c. a strong Cart H, a Tilted Cart and two Setts of Harness, a Rick of exceeding good last Year's Meadow Hag, some Dung, a Stone Roller, Garden Utensils, &c.

The Furniture is in very good Condition and brought new about three Years since; it may be viewed two Days preceding the Sale, and each Morning of Sale, which will begin at Eleven o'Clock.

Catalogues may be had, in due Time, on the Premises, at the Bowling Green House at Hurst, and of Francis Collins, Upholsterer and Auctioneer, at Wokingham.

Mon 13th May 1776

MUSIC

On Monday in Whitsun-Week next, will be the ANNUAL MUSIC MEETING, at the Town Hall in Wokingham, Berks, when will be given, by Mr. William Wheatley, at the Rose and Bus Inn, in the Market Place, FOUR GUINEAS, to that Company which best performs the three best Songs or Glee's, in three or four Parts, and one Catch.

No Wokingham Person will be admitted to sing for the above Prize, nor be an Umpire. Each Company is desired to bring an Umpire, and deliver Copies of what they intend to sing, to Mr. Wheatley, before Dinner, which will be on the Table before Two o'Clock. No Person admitted to sing or be an Umpire who does not dine at the Ordinary, and declare his Intention of singing before Dinner is over

No Objection to any Instruments accompanying the singing,

Several pieces of Music will be introduced between the singing, on a variety of Instruments, Particulars of which will be advertised in our next.

The Evening to conclude with a BALL

Mon 20th May 1776

At Whistley Park in the Parish of Hurst, Berks, five miles from Reading, three from Wokingham. And two from Loddon-bridge, horses and other cattle will, during the summer season, be taken in to graze, from the 29th of May 1776 to the ensuing Michaelmas day, horses at 2s, per week; yearling colts and yearling fillies 1s. 6d. per week; cows and bullocks at 11s. 9d. per week; but no cattle whatever will be taken in for less time than the whole season, and they must be entered the first or second day of opening.

A proper person will attend at the mansion house in the said park, to take in and register the horses and cattle according to the conditions aforesaid. Neither he or any person shall have authority to alter the conditions for grazing contained in this advertisement

All money which shall be due for grazing as aforesaid, must be paid at the time or immediately before the delivery of the respective horses or cattle out of the park.

To be SOLD by AUCTION, by FRANCIS COLLINS, on Monday the 27th instant, Some neat household furniture of a gentleman leaving his house at Shute-end, Wokingham; consisting of bedsteads with crimson moreen and other furniture, goose feather beds, blankets, counterpanes, &c, a neat mahogany bureau, ditto chest of drawers, a large mahogany square dining table, a card ditto, pier and dressing glasses, a pair of mahogany elbow chairs with horsehair backs & seats and brass nailed, neat Bath and other stove grates, neat shovels, tongs and fenders, good kitchen furniture, a good copper that will boil 36 gallons, together with brewing utensils, &c. To be

viewed on Saturday next and the morning of sale, which will begin at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, by applying to the auctioneer in Wokingham

Mon 19th Aug 1776

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by Mess. LANGFORD, at the Town-Hall in Wokingham, in the County of Berks, on Monday the 26th Instant, at One o'Clock, the FREEHOLD ESTATE of William Reynolds, Esq; deceased, situate at Binfield, in Windsor-Forest, a Spot distinguished for having been the Residence of that great Poet, Mr Pope. The said Estate consists of a neat Brick House, with Interior Offices, Stabling for six Horses, Coach House for two Carriages, a Brick Barn, Granary, and several Outhouses, a Brick Cottage for a Gardener, Farm-Yards, Gardens, Orchards, Groves, and several Inclosures, containing about 20 Acres in which are upwards of 700 Timber Trees. The King's Staghounds hunt twice a Week in the Forest, and a Pack of Harriers is kept in the Neighbourhood. Binfield is 29 Miles from London, eight from Reading and Maidenhead, and two from Oakingham.

The Premises may be viewed every Day. Particulars may be held at the place of Sale; the King's Arms; Reading; Mr. March's, Maidenhead-Bridge; the White Hart, Windsor; on the Premises; and at Mess. Langford's in Covent Garden.

Mon 23rd Sept. 1776

To be SOLD to the BEST BIDDER, at the house of John Sergeant, called the Roebuck in Wokingham, Berks on Tuesday the 24th instant, between the hours of three and five in the afternoon, TWO TENEMENTS, situate at Shoot-End, near the town of Wokingham in the several occupations of Mary Langley, Widow and Thomas Ludgrove, together with the Barn, Garden, Ground and Close thereunto and joining; containing about two Acres, in the Occupation of Richard Wheatley; the Land is well planted with Elm Timber, and is contiguous to the Town of Wokingham.

Enquire of Edward Wife, Junior, at Wokingham.

Mon 25th Nov 1776

To be LETT or SOLD and entered on at Lady-day next, That old-accustomed INN (called or known by the name of the BUSH INN) in the Market-place in Wokingham, Berks, which is at present and has been in the occupation of Mr. William Wheatley for 27 years past. There is very good stabling for a great number of horses, a barn or coach house that will hold many carriages, five very good granaries that will hold some hundred quarters of corn, a Dutch barn in the yard that holds 30 loads of hay, with very good yard room and coach way through into Rose-street, with a brewhouse and every other convenience within doors and without, that can be required in an inn.

N.B. The turnpike road passes close to the front of the inn.

For particulars, enquiries of the owner, Mr. Willmot.

Mon 9th Dec 1776

To be SOLD by AUCTION, (on the premises) by Charles Houlton, on Monday the 16th instant and the two following days. The genuine neat household furniture of Mr. CLEMENT CRUTTWELL, Surgeon, in Broad-street, Wokingham, who is going to reside at Bath; consisting of mahogany and other bedsteads, goose feather beds, blankets and counterpanes, mahogany and other chairs, carpets, glasses, dining, card and other tables, two wardrobes, chest of drawers, a North American and several Bath stoves, useful kitchen furniture, a large brewing copper, mash tub, coolers, several bell casks, four cows in calf,. A fine chaise horse, a saddle horse, a brown mare in

foal, with several other articles which will be expressed in the catalogues, to be had, in due time, at the place of sale, at the inns in Wokingham and Reading, and of the auctioneer in Wokingham.

The goods to be viewed the Saturday before the sale which will begin at eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

1777

Mon 17th Feb 1777

WOKINGHAM, Feb.13. 1777

WILLIAM WOOLLDRIDGE, late Steward to Richard Matthews, Esq; at Wargrave begs leave to acquaint his friends and the public in general, that he has taken and entered upon

The KING's HEAD INN in the MARKET-PLACE,
WOKINGHAM

(late in the Occupation of Mr. John Harris) and humbly solicits the favours of his friends, and the customers who have hitherto used that house, assuring them it shall be his study to deserve their encouragement by, by accommodating them in the best manner.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by Mr. RILEY by order of the assignees of Mr. CRUTWELL, of Long Acre, London, Coachpainter, a bankrupt, on Tuesday the 25th instant, at Mr. Lomax's, the Bell Inn, Holborn, precisely at seven o'clock in the evening, One Third Share of and in the

WOKINGHAM STAGE to and from LONDON:

Together with the coaches and horses belonging to the same; consisting of Four Coaches and a Chariot in good repair, with 23 seasoned horses and harness compleat.

To be viewed at the Old Rose Inn, Wokingham; Catherine Wheel, Egham; the Bolt and Tun, Fleet-street, and the Black Lion in Water-lane, London.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, at Mr. Wheatley's the Old Rose Inn at Wokingham, Berks, on Tuesday the 18th of February 1777, at Two o'Clock in the Afternoon, 227 Oaks in the Five following Lots, viz.

LOT 1. 60 Oaks on the Farm now in the Possession of Mr. William Wheatley in Toutley Common, near Wokingham.

LOT II 20 Oak on Part of the farm rented by Mr. Jsmes Peaty, near Wokingham, called Simmonds and Broad Crop with 2 Oaks on the Land rented by Mr. James Smither at Easthampstead.

LOT III 40 Oaks on the land adjoining to Mr. James Petty's House.

LOT IV 85 Oaks on the Land called, Welchman's, near the said House.

LOT V 20 Oaks on the Land rented by Mr. Robert Thorn and Mr. James Woodason at Hswthorn in the Parish od Warfield, Berks.

All the said Oaks now being and standing, Hammer marked with I.F. Conditions of Sale may be had in due Time at Mr. William Wheatley's the Old Rose Inn, Wokingham.

N.B. The above Tenants will shew the Timber.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, at Mr. Wheatley's the Old Rose Inn at Wokingham, Berks, on Tuesday the 18th instant, at two o'clock in the afternoon, precisely, 140 Ash and 233 Elm Trees in the five following lots:

LOT I. 58 Ashes; 30 on the farm now in the occupation of Mr. William Wheatley at Toutley Common, near Wokingham; 28 on part of the farm rented by Mr. J. Peaty, called Simmonds and Broad Crop, near Wokingham.

LOT II. 82 ditto, on the land near Mr. Peaty's house, called Welchman's and the Round-about.

LOT III 86 Elms; 33 on the land called Welchman's and the Round-about, near Mr. Peaty's house. ad 53 on Broad Crop and Simmonds.

LOT IV. 80 ditto on the land rented by Mr. James Smither at Easthampstead, Berks.

LOT V. 69 ditto on the land rented by Mr. Robert Thorn at Warfield.

All the said timber now lying on the above farms.

Conditions of sale may be had at the Old Rose Inn, Wokingham.

Mon 17th March 1777

WOKINGHAM, March 24 1777

C. HOULTON, CABINET-MAKER, UPHOLSTERER, UNDERTAKER and AUCTIONEER, returns his most grateful thanks to his friends and customers for their patronage, and can assure them that he has a large assortment of, household furniture, new and old, with a large assortment of paper hangings. Rooms hung in the neatest manner on the shortest notice and lowest prices.

Mr. Houlton begs leave to inform the public in general that by the desire of Mr. Thomas Brookes, Linen Draper and Undertaker, who has left off business, he has (in partnership with Mr. Talmadge of Bracknall late an apprentice to Mr. Brookes and many years servant) purchased every article in the Undertaking business and assures them the above will be performed with the greatest decency and on the lowest terms.

By the public's most humble servants,

C. HOULTON, Wokingham,

C. TALMADGE, Bracknall

N.B. Funerals furnished to any part of the kingdom, and coffin furniture of all sorts sold.

WOKINGHAM, March 15, 1777

WILLIAM TRICKEY, LINEN AND WOOLEN DRAPER AND MERCER, of this town, returns his most grateful thanks for the many favours he has received in business, from the neighbouring nobility, gentry and others, and at MR. BROOKES, Linen and Woolen Draper, &c. has sold off his stock, and left the town, W. TRICKEY is laying in a new assortment of goods in the different branches, and humbly hopes for a continuance of their favours.

N.B. Funerals furnished to any part of England, with the greatest care and decency, and on the most reasonable terms.

MARCH 15, 1777

EDMUND TOGWELL, LINEN and WOOLEN DRAPER and UNDERTAKER, in the Market-Place, WOKINGHAM, Berks, returns his most grateful thanks to the public for the many favours he has received in business, and (as Mr. BROOKES has declined trade) begs leave to solicit the continuance of their favours in the above branches of trade, which will be executed in the most reasonable terms.

Mon 19th May 1777

To be SOLD by AUCTION, on the premises, on Friday the 22nd instant at four o'clock in the afternoon, at Wokingham, Berks, That old- accustomed inn. Called or

known by the name of the BUSH INN in the Market-place, which has been in the occupation of Mr. William Wheatley for the last 21 years, with exceeding good stabling for near 50 horses, with a barn or coach-house and sheds to hold many carriages, five very good granaries for corn, a Dutch tiled barn in the yard that holds 30 loads of new hay, with a brewhouse and storehouse and all other conveniences required in an inn. There is very good yard room and a coach way through into another large street, called Rose-street leading into the London-road.

N.B. Wokingham is a very good market town 31 miles from London to Bath (through Windsor Forest) passes the front of the inn.

The premises may be viewed any day before the sale (Sundays excepted) by applying to Mr. Willmot of Wokingham aforesaid.

Mon 23rd June 1777

Strayed from Wokingham parish, A BAY MARE about 15 hands high, of the saddle kind, wrung upon both shoulders, and has a large sore under her mane on the off side. Whoever will bring the said mare to Robert Miller of Wokingham parish shall receive five shillings reward and reasonable charges.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, on Tuesday the 1st of July next, at the Old Rose in Wokingham, at three o'clock in the afternoon, A FREEHOLD ESTATE, consisting of three-closes of very rich meadow land lying near the town of Wokingham and road or lane leading to the same, with a considerable quantity of fine growing timber, chiefly oaks and the barn and building thereon erected, in the two following lots, viz.

Lot 1. The close in the occupation of William Crutwell, Butcher, containing by estimation four acres, more or less, with the barn aforesaid.

Lot 2 The two closes in the occupation of Mrs. Grassingham and the lane or road, containing, by estimation, six acres and an half, more or less, with the building aforesaid

For particulars apply to Mr. Round, Attorney at Windsor, for, of Mr. Collins at Wokingham, who will shew the premises.

Mon 25th Aug 1777

At the Request of the Ladies and Gentlemen

THERE WILL BE

A PUBLIC BREAKFAST

At Mr. Wheatleys, the TOWN HALL, WOKINGHAM,

ON MONDAY THE 1st SEPTEMBER, being the first Monday after Reading Races

LOST, on Saturday last, between Wokingham and Reading, A Small Silver Watch with a purple ribbon and gilt seal, Maker's name, Maudslay, 11851: Whoever has found the said watch and will bring it to Mr. John Wilmshurk, Watchmaker, in Reading, shall receive half a guinea reward.

Mon 13th Oct 1777

WOKINGHAM, October 9, 1777.

To the PUBLIC

Mr. Wheatley takes this early method of advertising the Public (and particularly such ladies and gentlemen who have on similar occasions honoured him with their company, to whom he begs leave to return his most grateful thanks) that there will be A PUBLIC BREAKFASTING, at the Town Hall, in Wokingham, on Monday the 20th

instant, when the best London music will be provided, and such attention paid, as he flatters himself will give general satisfaction.

1778

Mon 16th March 1778

By desire of several LADIES and GENTLEMEN

At the Town-Hall in Wokingham, on Tuesday, the 17th instant, will be presented, A Tragedy, called,

H A M L E T

To which will be added, A Pantomime Entertainment, called

The WITCHES; or, HARLEQUIN SKELETON.

The doors to be opened at half past after five, and to begin

Exactly at half past six.---boxes 3s. Pit 2s Gall. 1s.

N.B. Mr. Smith and Company present their compliments

To the nobility and the gentry of Wokingham and its environs, and with due submission earnestly entreat being honoured with their company at the time prefixed.

Tickets to be had at Mr. Cruttwell's bookseller.

The company perform on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Mon 6th April 1778

BY PARTICULAR DESIRE

For the benefit of Mr. and Mrs. Hambling. At the Town-hall, Wokingham, on Monday, the 6th instant, will be presented, a Comedy called'

The COUNTRY LASSES;

Or the custom of the Manor,

End of the Play, an Interlude taken from Mr. Foote's Devil upon Two Sticks, called, Doctor Last's Examination before the College of Physician's

To which will be added, an Entertainment, called

The CITIZEN

The doors to be opened at half after 5 and to begin at half after 6 o'clock.—Boxes 3s, pit 2s. gall. 1s.---Mr. and Mrs. Hambling present their duty to the nobility and gentry of Wokingham and its environs, and with due submission earnestly entreat being honoured with their company.—Tickets to be had at the principal inns, Mr.Cruttwell's bookseller, Wokingham, and of Mr. and Mrs. Hambling at Mr. Stanford's, baker, Shute-End.

Mon 4th May 1778

RINGING

To be rung for, on Wokingham church bells, on Wednesday the 3d of June next, six hats, with silver tassels and loops, given by James Beakhurst, of the Ship, to that set that best performs a round peal; each peal to continue 15 minutes. Each set to bring an umpire, and to be decided by the umpire, and the umpire of the winning set to be entitled to the seventh hat. Dinner to be ready at one o'clock, and begin ringing at three. No person to ring or to be an umpire without dining or paying for the same.

Mon 22nd June 1778

All persons who are indebted to the estate of the late Mr. GEORGE TRASH; of Great Marlow; are desired to pay the same to Mrs. Trash of Marlow, or Samuel Trash of Wokingham, or Charles Talmadge of Bracknall, the executorship being nearly expired, and the accounts being obliged to be made up.

BUSH INN, WOKINGHAM.

TO be LETT, and entered on immediately, the BUSH INN at Wokingham, now in the occupation of William King; consisting of a great variety of useful rooms, and stabling for a great number of horses.

For particulars, enquire on the premises, or at Messrs. Patey and Co's Brewhouse in Reading.

Mon 12th Oct 1778

WOKINGHAM

To be sold by auction, by Mr. HOLTON, at the dwelling-house of Messrs. Monk and Parker, grocers, pawnbrokers, drapers, and dealers in new and old cloathes, and co-partners, bankrupts in Wokingham, Berks, on Tuesday, the 13th instant, and the six following days, Sunday excepted, (by order of the assignees) All the STOCK, in TRADE and HOUSHOLD FURNITURE of the said bankrupts:---Consisting of linen and woollen cloths, Bath beavers, men's, and boy's apparel of all sorts, new and second hand, a large assortment of new buckskin breeches, hats stockings, camblets, callimancoes, prunellas, durants, jeans and sustains, Irish, dowlas, flannels, bed-ticking, handkerchief, printed linens and cottons, sheets, table cloths, and napkins, new and old, blankets, quilts, counterpanes and coverlid, metal and silver watches, buckles, spoons, cream-pots, &c.

All the shelves, counters, glass-cases, &c. Also all the neat Houshold Furniture, consisting of four-post bedsteads in linen and stuff furniture, exceeding good feather-beds, mattresses, bedding, carpets, chairs, tables, an exceeding good eight-day clock and thirty-hour ditto, Bath stoves, a good kitchen range, a wind-up jack, pewter, a brewing copper, coolers, several good beer casks, a large oval water tub and spouts, a tilted cart and harness, a mare and colt, a black pony, some old and new hay, and several other useful articles, which the catalogues will express; together with a Lease of a Close of Meadow Land in the parish of Wokingham aforesaid, containing three acres, for the term of 7 years, which commenced the 10th of October, 1776, at the yearly rent of £6. And also the Lease of the House, good accustomed shop and garden, now in the occupation of the said Messrs. Monk and Parker, situate in Rose-street, Wokingham aforesaid, for the term of 21 years, of which about 11 years are now unexpired, at the very low yearly rent of £3 9s.

The goods to be viewed the day before and each morning of the sale. Catalogues to be then had on the premises, at the upper Ship, Reading; the Crown and Windsor; and at Mr. Houlton's in Broad-street, Wokingham.

Sale to begin each day at 12 o'clock.

All persons who have pledged any goods with the said bankrupts are desired, by the assignees, to take notice that unless the goods are fetched away before the day of the sale they will then be disposed of with the other effects.

For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneer, or Mr. Round at Windsor, attorney for the assignees

28th Dec 1778

WOKINGHAM STAGE WAGGON

William King, late London Carrier, at the Bush Inn, Wokingham, begs leave to return his sincere thanks to the public in General for their countenance and support, whilst in that belief, and informs them that he has disposed of his Old Original Stage Waggon, formerly BLANDFORD'S unto Mr. THOMAS HILL, Carrier, at Winkfield;

a person, who for his care and assiduity in that business, is generally recommended; and who likewise most respectfully informs them, that his CONSTANT STAGE WAGGON sets out from the King's Head Inn, Wokingham every Tuesday morning at four o'clock; gets to the Three Cups Inn, Broad Street, London, the same night; returning from thence exactly at twelve the next day, and arrives at Wokingham every Thursday afternoon. Calls going in and coming out of town, at the Black Bear and New White Hart Cellar, Piccadilly.

N.B. He begs leave to observe that he has removed the above waggon from the White Horse, Friday-street, to the Three Cups in Broad-street, and that he drives the waggon himself, and assures them that every order or message sent by him shall be faithfully executed, and goods expeditiously conveyed, on the most reasonable terms. Goods taken in for this stage at the Shoulder of Mutton, Binfield; Hinds-head, Bracknall; Sunning Hill Wells, and at the Flower De Luce, Hatchet-lane, Winkfield.

1779

Mon 18th Jan 1779

WOKINGHAM

To be let on a lease, 16 years of which are unexpired, and entered on directly, the good and well known Brewhouse and Storehouse, &c. adjoining to this town, occupied for upwards of 20 years past by the late Mr. Wheatley; together with a convenient House and Stabling for 7 horses, with a large Garden and 6 acres of Meadow and Arable Land, and a Barn.---The premises are all in good repair, and the land has been exceedingly well manured and is in most excellent condition. There is a very fine plant of wheat of about 4 acres to be sold at a fair valuation.

For particulars, please to enquire of Mrs. Wheatley, at the Old Rose Inn. Wokingham.

The premises may be seen any time after the 27th instant.

Mon 8th Feb 1779

WOKINGHAM

Stolen the 15th of June last. A dark Bay Mare about 14 hands and a half high, with a black mane and nag tail, coming 8 years old, and thought to be in foal; Also stolen on the 20th of September, A sorrel Gelding Colt, with a long tail, a little white at the fetterlock joint on the off leg behind, is about 12 hands high and coming three years old; and on Tuesday the second instant was stolen, a brown Mare Colt, with long tail, burnt marked in the two fore feet with a T, about 12 hands and a half high, and coming three years old. Whoever will give intelligence of the above horses to Mr. Talmage, Wokingham, shall receive one guinea reward for each horse, and all reasonable charges.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION

By FRANCIS COLLINS

On Tuesday the 9th instant, at the house of Mr. James Pither, the Roe Buck, Wokingham, between the hours of two and four in the afternoon, A FREEHOLD ESTATE, Situate in Non-such-lane, close to the town of Wokingham, consisting of three acres of exceeding good arable land, more or less, with a plant of thriving elms; now in the occupation of Mr. James Webb, at the yearly rent of £4 14s.

Particulars may be had by applying to F. Collins, auctioneer.

Mon 22nd Feb 1779

WANTED, in a very small family, Two Women Servants, one as a Chamber Maid, who can work well with her needle, clear-starching, &c, and clean the best part of a small house, the other Maid to understand plain-cooking well, and clean all the lower part of the house, and stand to the washing when it is done at home.---Both must have good characters from their last places, for being perfectly sober, honest, and cleanly both in person and business ,diligent and of good temper; ages about 30, and must have had the small-pox.---Enquire of Mr. Trickey, linen-draper, Wokingham, or of the Printer.

Mon 22nd March 1779

WOKINGHAM

TO be LETT, at an easy rent, and entered on Immediately. A large commodious DWELLING HOUSE, very pleasantly situated in the center of Broad-street; consisting of three parlours, a large hall, butler's pantry, china room, kitchen, servants' hall, &c. on the ground floor; with an exceeding good cellar under ditto; on the second floor, four bed-chambers, a large dining room, and dressing rooms; over which are four good servants' bed-chambers: likewise a brew-house, wash-house, and laundry, a coach-house for two carriages, good stabling for six horses, a garden upwards of half an acre walled in and cloathed with the best of fruit trees; also adjoining, half an acre of pasture ground; with or without it may be had five acres of excellent meadow ground near the town.---There are four years of the lease unexpired at Midsummer next.

Particulars may be had by applying to Mr. Thomas Talmage, carpenter at Wokingham.

Great part of the furniture to be disposed of.

Mon 3rd May 1779

The proprietors of the WOKINGHAM MACHINE beg leave to acquaint the public, that the said Machine will begin flying on Monday next the 3rd instant, and will set out from Mrs. Wheatley's the Old Rose in the Market-place, Wokingham, at 6 o'clock every morning (Sundays excepted) and return at one o'clock each day from London—Prices as usual.

Mon 26th July 1779

ALL persons indebted to Messrs. MONK and PARKER, late of Wokingham, Berks, are desired to pay their respective debts to Mr. Round, at Windsor, attorney for the assignees for the said bankrupts, or they will be sued without further notice.

ALL persons indebted to CHARLES HOULTON, late of Wokingham, Berks, Carpenter, Broker, and Auctioneer, a bankrupt, are desired to pay their respective debts to Mr. Round, attorney-at-law, in Windsor, one of the assignees of the said bankrupt.

TO BE SOLD by Auction, By Mr. G. DIAS, by order of the assignees, on the premises, in Wokingham, Berks on Thursday the 5th day of August next. The genuine stock of Mr. Charles Houlton, carpenter, broker and auctioneer, a bankrupt: consisting of walnut-tree and beech chairs, ditto tables,; Bath and steel stoves, a range, crane and jacks; brewing and other coppers; three work benches, &c. &c. The whole to be

viewed on Wednesday the 4th of August till the time of sale, which will begin at 11 o'clock.

Also, a FREEHOLD ESTATE, situate in Nonesuch-street, in the town of Wokingham aforesaid; consisting of four dwelling-houses with gardens behind; also a workshop in the occupation of Mr. George Trash, grocer; and a shop, yard and outhouse, late in the bankrupt's possession; together with a roomy and convenient dwelling-house, with a large shop very commodiously situated for any kind of business, with suitable buildings, and a very large garden entirely walled round, late in the possession of Mr. Houlton, upon lease from Michaelmas day 1775, for 21 years, at a low rent of £1 per annum.

Particulars to be had at Mr. Bushnell, bacon-merchant in Reading, Mr. Round, attorney-at-law, Windsor; the place of sale, and of the auctioneer, No. 21, Little Bell-alley, Colman-street, London.

It is agreed, That the Nobility and Gentry travelling with Four Horses to their own coaches cannot in future be conducted from stage to stage, without paying for the same at and after the rate of ONE SHILLING and TENPENCE per mile, duty included, from and after the 5th day of July next, and that each servant riding on the outside shall be charged THREE-PENCE per mile.

For every Four Horses to each Nobleman's, Lady's, or Gentleman's Chaises, ONE SHILLING and EIGHT-PENCE, per mile, duty included.

For a Pair of Horses, or a Chaise and Pair, ONE SHILLING per mile, duty included.

And for each and every Coach and Four Horses, TWO SHILLINGS per mile, duty included.

Saddle Horses, FOUR-PENCE per mile, duty included.

(Many signatures)

Mon 30th Aug 1779

JOSEPH BUTTER, SURGEON, Rose Street, begs leave to acquaint the sporting gentlemen, farriers, and the public in general, that at his house (and no where else) they may be supplied as usual, (for ready money only) with all his valuable articles in Medicine for the different diseases of HORSES, so much esteemed for many years, and formerly sold by him and his predecessor, Mr. PERKINS, in Gerrard-street, Soho, London.---His Medicines in general are found, from experience, better adapted for the relief of complaints in horses, than most others hitherto presented to the public, and being reduced to such a certainty, his former friends and customers have petitioned his renewal of the sale of them.---The articles are calculated for the different diseases, and their prices, with proper printed directions, may be had as above.---All letters (post paid) will be duly attended to and answered.---Mr. Butter continues his practice in SURGERY and MIDWIFERY, as usual.

Mon 13th Sept

Notice is hereby given, that application will be made in the next session of parliament, for an act to renew, alter, and enlarge the term and powers of an act of parliament passed in the 32d. year of the reign of his late Majesty, King George the second, intituled "an act for repairing and widening the road from a place called the Old Gallows, in the parish of Sonning in the county of Berks, through Wokingham, New Bracknall, and Sunning- Hill, to Virginia-Water, in the parish of Egham in the county of Surrey; which road passes through the several parishes of Sonning, Hurst, Wokingham, Binfield, Easthamstead, Warfield, Winkfield, Sunning-hill, and Old

Windsor: And also to enable the trustees, for putting in execution the act intended to be applied for, to repair and widen the road leading out of the first-mentioned road at Sunning-hill, over Beggars-bush Common,, through a place called Cracks-hole and a lane leading into the Great Western Road near unto the public-house known by the sign of the Red Lion, instead of that part of the said first-mentioned road which lies between the road intended to be repaired and widened and Virginia-Water, which last-mentioned road passes through or into the said parishes of Sunning-hill and Old Windsor.

By order of the Trustees,
Wise, junior, Clerk to the Trustees.

Mon 27th Sept 1779

BERKS
TO be SOLD by AUCTION
By FRANCIS COLLINS

On Tuesday the 30th instant, at the Old Rose Inn at Wokingham, between the hours of one and three in the afternoon, A FREEHOLD MESSUAGE, Barn and twelve acres of good Arable Land, in the parish of Wokingham, in the occupation of Wm. Standford, at £18. per annum.

For particulars, enquire of Mr. Thomas Round, attorney at law, at Reading.

BERKS
TO be SOLD by AUCTION
By FRANCIS COLLINS

On Tuesday next the 30th instant, precisely at three o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. Pithers, the Roe-Buck, in Wokingham, Two Acres of exceeding good FREEHOLD LAND, known by the name of Honey Piddle, near the Leathern Bottle, in the parish of Wokingham, aforesaid and now in the occupation of Mr. Wm. Hibbett, butcher.

For particulars apply to Mr. Round, attorney, at Windsor.

BERKS
TO be SOLD by AUCTION
By FRANCIS COLLINS

At the Old Rose Inn, in Wokingham, on Tuesday the 7th of December next, between the hours of two and four in the afternoon, A freehold strong built Brick DWELLING HOUSE, with sash front, situate in Broad-street, Wokingham aforesaid, consisting of two large parlours, a small ditto, hall, kitchen and brewhouse, a good staircase, a back ditto, five good bed-chambers, 2 large garrets, very good cellaring, and many other good conveniences in the dwelling-house; a three-stall stable, coach-house, fuel-house, and hay-loft; a pleasure garden, and orchard adjoining, partly wall'd round, clothed with variety of young fruit trees.

To be viewed the Saturday and Monday preceding the sale, by applying at the premises.--for particulars, apply to Mr. Edw. Wife, jun. at Wokingham.

Mon 11th Oct

TO be peremptorily SOLD by AUCTION,
By FRANCIS COLLINS

On Wednesday the 13th instant, between the hours of eleven and one o'clock, at the house of Mr. Walden, glazier, in Wokingham, Twelve New Pair of Astrigal

Wainscoat Sashes, glazed with the best Ratcliffe crown glass, seven feet six inches high by three feet nine inches wide; eleven Pair of ditto, seven feet high by three feet nine inches wide; and one pair of ditto, seven feet four inches high by three feet three inches wide.---The above sashes were intended for a house lately built at Sandhurst, Berks, belonging to Mr. Tho. Lodge, a bankrupt, and not being delivered is the reason of there being to be sold; they may be viewed the day before the sale, and mornings of sale, by applying at the premises.

Mon 29th Nov 1779

UNDERWOOD

To be sold to the Best Bidder, (unless before disposed of by private contract) at the Old Rose Inn at Wokingham, on Tuesday the 7th of December next, at two o'clock in the afternoon, HAW LANDS COPPICE, about five acres, belonging to Richard Raynsford, Esq.

For particulars, enquire of Mr. Thomas Round, attorney at law, Reading.

Mon 29th Nov 1779

A MALT-HOUSE

TO be LETT, and entered upon immediately, with leaden cistern, will work 20 quarters a week, with proper granaries and store-rooms near the Market-place, Wokingham. For particulars enquire of Mr. Webb, at Wokingham, or Mr. Round, at Reading.

Wokingham News from Reading Mercury (1780 to 1799)

1780

Mon 24th Jan

WOKINGHAM

JOHN BENNETT, of Wokingham, Berks, Carpenter and Undertaker, begs leave to inform the public, that he has taken out a Licence, and intends carrying on the Business of an AUCTIONEER and APPRAISER at Wokingham aforesaid.

Mon 7th Feb

WOKINGHAM

To be disposed of, The FIXTURES, DRUGS, &c. of an Apothecary's Shops, of the late Mr. J. E. CRUTTWELL, of Wokingham, Berks. The house, well adapted for carrying on the business, to be let or sold.

Enquire of Mr. Newbolt, at Wokingham.

Mon 6th March

READING, SATURDAY, March, 4.

Yesterday the Berkshire militia marched into this town from Henley and Wokingham, (where they had been quartered during our assizes); soon after they came in, the whole regiment paraded in the Market-place, where in honour of the great victory obtained over the Spanish fleet by Admiral Rodney, they fired three vollies, and gave three hurras. The bells of the parish churches were set a ringing, and

in the evening there was a general illumination throughout the whole town; bonfires were lighted in different places, and every other demonstration of joy exhibited, on the above happy event.---The militia officers were entertained with an elegant supper by Mr. Deane, the Receiver-general; after which the healths of the King and Admiral Rodney, and success to the British navy and army, were drank, and the evening was concluded with the utmost cheerfulness.

Mon 23rd March

To be LETT and entered upon at Lady-Day next, A commodious BRICK HOUSE, consisting of an exceeding good shop, parlours, bed chambers, kitchen, brew-house and other convenient offices and a neat garden, situate on the south side of the Market-place in the town of Wokingham.---For further particulars, enquire of Mr. Edward Wise, jun. attorney at law, Wokingham.

Mon 22nd May

WOKINGHAM, BERKS

TO be LETT, the corner HOUSE in Broad-street, next to the Market-place, now in the occupation of Mr. Samuel Trash, who is going to move to a larger house.

EDUCATION

A CLERGYMAN, who has been many years engaged in the Education of Youth, proposes to open a SCHOOL soon after Midsummer next, at WOKINGHAM, Berkshire, for the reception of Young Gentlemen, to be instructed in the Classics, English, Writing, Geography, Arithmetic, Mensuration, and the most useful parts of the Mathematics.---The TERMS are,

For Board and Tuition,	18 guineas a year,
Entrance,	a guinea,
Tuition without Board,	3 guineas a year.

Particular attention will be paid to their health and morals.

Letters, addressed to the Rev. Mr. Bremner at Mrs. Butters, Wokingham, Berks, will be duly attended to.

Mon 29th May

WOKINGHAM, Berks

TO be SOLD by Auction, on the premises, opposite the New Rose at Wokingham, on Tuesday the 6th of June, at 10 o'clock. The neat HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and EFFECTS of a Gentleman removing to London; consisting of four post bedsteads with morine, cotton, and chock furniture, good goose feather beds and bedding, window curtains, glasses, chests of drawers, tables and chairs, a mahogany bureau and bock case. A wind-up kitchen range, stove grates, good kitchen requisites, a very good violin, &c. the weather boarding, quartering, flooring, and other materials of a large shed, two draught horses, and numerous other articles.---The whole to be showed on Monday the 5th and to the time of sale, when catalogues may be had on the premises, at the Upper Ship, Reading; the Catharine Wheel, at Egham; the Sun at Maidenhead; and the Hind's Head, at Bracknell.

WOKINGHAM, BERKS, May 17, 1780

T.C. CRUTTWELL, respectfully informs his friends and the public in general, that his SCHOOL will be opened (after the Holidays) on Monday, the 5th of June next, at WOKINGHAM, Berks; where Youth are boarded, tenderly treated, and carefully and

expeditiously taught:--- CLASSICS; Writing, in all the different Hands now used; Arithmetic, divisions and decimal; Merchant's Accompts; Mensuration of Superficies and solids; and various branches of the Mathematics

His Terms are, Sixteen Pounds per annum for board and Tuition; One guinea entrance. Two Guineas per Annum, Tuition only.

Those Gentlemen who please to instruct their Children to his care, only depend on strict attention being paid to their Education, Health, and Morals.

N.B. The said T.C, Cruttwell continues his other business as usual, and solicits a continuance of the favours of his friends.

BERKS

TO be LETT, and entered upon immediately. The OLD ROSE INN, in Wokingham, formerly kept by Mrs. Molly Mogg, and is now in the occupation of Mrs. Wheatley, who is desirous of quitting it, the business being more than she can possibly attend to, together with the Stock, Furniture, Fixtures, &c. to be taken at a fair appraisement.

For particulars, enquire of Mrs. Wheatley, on the premises.

BERKS

TO be SOLD by auction, by order of the Assignees, by WM. KIMBERLEY on Wednesday the 7th of June inst. All the LIVE and DEAD STOCK, upon the premises, called HOSE HILL FARM, in the parish of Wokingham, late the property of Mr. THOMAS ROUND, bankrupt; consisting of six good cart horses, one black nag, with a long tail, two cows, four yearling calves, one sow and 16 store pigs, poultry, &c. two very good wagons, two dung carts, and harnesses for eight horses, ploughs, harrows, rollers, and other implements in the farming business; about six load of bent and clover hay; a small stack of meadow ditto and 12 load of wheat straw; several mines of dung and manure, faggots, &c. which may be viewed on Tuesday the 6th, and the morning of sale, which will begin exactly at eleven o'clock; catalogues of which will be delivered at the inns of Reading, and Wokingham, and by Mr. Kimberley, Auctioneer in Windsor.

B.B. In a sort time will also be sold by Auction, of which timely notice will be given, several Freehold and other Estates, late the property of the above Mr. Tho. Round.

Mon 26th June

WOKINGHAM, BERKS

TO be LET, A neat HOUSE, with bow windows; the front consists of a hall and two parlours; behind a study or breakfast room, a kitchen, laundry, and a wash-house; coppers, grates, ironing stove, a small oven, six bed-chambers, garrets for servants, a good cellar, garden, &c.

Also, one other House there, very pleasant, with or without the furniture, a kitchen, wash-house, &c.; coppers, grates, stoves, &c.; five bedrooms, two garrets, a neat garden well planted with fruit trees, flowering shrubs, ever-greens and flowers of most sorts; good cellars, &c.

Likewise, one other HOUSE there; consisting of one parlour, and a kitchen, four bed-chambers, out-houses, a small garden, &c.

And another HOUSE; consisting of two parlours, a kitchen, wash-house, with out-offices, four bed-chambers on the first floor and two ditto on the next, very good, and an extensive prospect into Surrey, Hampshire, Wilts, Bucks and Oxfordshire; garrets in the roof, cellars, &c.; a good garden of an acre, well planted with fine wall fruit

trees and standards of most sorts, asparagus, &c. There may be had with this house, a small Tenement adjoining, that may be converted into a hall; a house-keeper's room, &c. with three bed-chambers and a cellar, and are capable of improvement.

To be SOLD at Wokingham aforesaid, A FREEHOLD ESTATE, with right of feed for all sorts of cattle, in a LARGE COMMON ADJOINING in the possession of Joseph Jewill; consisting of four-inclosed pieces of arable land; and a small meadow with good water, a farm-house, most part new-built, a good barn, a large stable and house for a wagon, two carts, &c. with lofts over, new-built and tiled, and a cow-house ditto for firing, thatched; the live and dead stock may be had, with crops on the ground, at an appraisement; one field of wheat, one ditto of barley, and ditto of clover, one ditto, part pease and part vetches.

Also to be sold, in the borough of Great Marlow, Bucks, ELEVEN FREEHOLD TENEMENTS. Mr. Johnson there will shew the premises.

For further particulars, enquire of Mr. Benjamin Beaver in Wokingham.

Mon 31st July

WOKINGHAM, Berks
TO be SOLD by AUCTION
By FRANCIS COLLINS

On Tuesday the 1st of August, for the benefit of the creditors. The HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c. of Mrs. ANNE BLANFORD, at the Bell Alehouse in Broad-street. Consisting of very good feather-beds, four post bedsteads with check and other furniture, blankets, sheets, dining and other tables, pier and dressing glasses, an exceeding good eight-day clock, a variety of kitchen furniture, &c. several loads of Sandhurst turf, &c.---To be viewed the day preceding and morning of sale, wich will begin at eleven o'clock.

Particulars may be had by application to Francis Collins, upholsterer and auctioneer, at Wokingham.

WOKINGHAM

TO be LETT, and entered upon immediately, a genteel modern-built Sashed HOUSE; consisting of a large hall, two parlours, a kitchen, a dining room, four bed-chambers, (besides garrets) good cellars, wash-house, brew-house, stables, and other out-offices, with a large garden walled round---The premises are pleasantly situated in the town of Wokingham, a turnpike road by the door, and 32 miles from London.

Mon 7th Aug

WOKINGHAM, BERKS

Samuel Trash returns grateful thanks on his customers for past favours and solicits a continuance on them at the house where Mr. Brookes lately lived, where he continues his glazing and Painting business, in all their branches; and having erected mills, intends to grind all sorts of colours, by which he will be enabled to prepare and sell them on reasonable terms.

Mrs. Trash continues to sell China, Glass, and Staffordshire ware as usual; likewise having laid in an entire new assortment of Drapery, Haberdashery, and Hosiery, Goods which she is determined to sell on the lowest terms.

Funerals completely furnished.

WOKINGHAM COACH

Will set out from Wokingham, on Monday next the 7th instant, at six o'clock in the morning and returns from the inns in London a eleven o'clock, and leaves the White Horse Cellars at twelve o'clock

Inside passengers from Wokingham to London 7s. To Bracknell 6, 6d.; and from Sunninghill 5s. 6d.---Outsiders as before. Performed by your humble servants.

JOHN CLODE and Co.,

The proprietors will not be accountable for any thing above the value of £5. Unless entered and paid for by as such..

Mon 21st Aug

WOKINGHAM

TO be LETT, and entered upon immediately. A genteel modern-built Sashed HOUSE; consisting of a large hall; two parlours, a kitchen, a dining-room, four bed-chambers, (besides garrets) good cellars, wash-house, brew-house, stables, and other out-offices, with a large garden walled round,---The premises are pleasantly situated in the town of Wokingham, a turnpike road by the door, and 32 miles from London,

For particulars, enquire of Mr. James Webb, at Wokingham aforesaid.

BERKS

TO be LETT or SOLD, and entered upon at Michaelmas next, A FREEHOLD HOUSE, well situated in Shute-End, Wokingham, for town and country custom, now in the occupation of Mr. Wm. Stanford, grocer and baker, who is removing to the Bell in Broad-street, Wokingham. The counters, shelves, drawers, and other fixtures, to be had at appraisalment.---The premises consist of a large shop, a bake-house, with an oven that will bake nine bushels, a parlour, kitchen, wash-house, cellar, five bed-chambers,, a large yard, two stables, two barns,. A cart-house with a piddle of land adjoining,, and a garden.

For particulars, apply to Mr. John Feltham, in the Market-place, Wokingham.

Mon 4th Sept

WOKINGHAM, BERKS

TO be LETT, and entered on at Michaelmas next. Three closes of ARABLE LAND and Town MEADOWS, situate opposite the Tan-house, near Wokingham town, containing in the whole about 18 acres, lately in the occupation of Mr. Round.

Enquire of Mr. Edward Wise at Wokingham

Mon 30th Oct

WOKINGHAM, Oct. 28, 1780

MR. TAPLIN, (to attain a proficiency in the Science and Practice of MIDWIFERY) finding his constant and requisite attendance at the Lying-Inn Hospital, and Private Lectures, will render his residence in London till Christmas, a matter of indispensable necessity, has delegated to Mr. Swan, (Mr. Wheeler's late assistant) the power of officiating in his SHOP, during that period; but humbly hopes his temporary absence, on so pressing an occasion, will not (at his return) deprive him of a continuation of those favours he has already so largely and liberally experienced.

READING COACHES
From the ANGEL INN

A LARGE NEW COACH sets out from the above Inn, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at eight o'clock.

Inside Passengers Six Shilling each.

Outside Passengers Three Shillings.

A NEW POST — COACH

With FOUR HORSES,

Sets out every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at eight o'clock, to carry four insides only, at Eight Shillings each, outsides Four Shillings.

Also

The POST — COACH

Continues Flying, as usual, every morning at seven o'clock, and arrives at the Bolt and Tun Inn In Fleet-street, at twelve, and returns precisely at one o'clock

Performed by SMITH, LEWIS, & HARRISON.

READING, SATURDAY, Oct. 28.

A correspondent from Windsor informs us, that the Princess Royal attended his Majesty, the Prince of Wales and the Bishop of Osnaburgh, at the hunt on Saturday last, mounted on a beautiful roan; her Royal Highness never lost sight of the King, and was dressed in blue and gold, with a plain black hat.

On Monday their Majesties honoured Richard Aldworth Neville, Esq., of Billingbear, with a visit, being the first time of the Queen's taking an airing since her lying in.---They were accompanied by the Prince of Wales and Bishop of Osnaburgh..

Mon 20th Nov

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE Creditors of Wm. WHEATLEY, late of Wokingham, in the county of Berks, Inn-keeper, deceased, are desired to meet the executors at the Old Rose inn, in Wokingham aforesaid, on Monday, the 10^h of November instant, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, when a state of his affairs will be submitted to their consideration.

Mon 4th Dec

Early on Tuesday morning a duel was fought in Hyde Park, between Lieut. George Br---e of the navy, and Lieut. H---d, of the arm, when the latter was shot through the right arm. The quarrel originated from the officer of the army saying Lloyd George G---he (who had been a great friend to the naval officer) was a c---ly s---l.

Yesterday morning about nine o'clock, the two following malefactors were carried from, Newgate and executed at Tyburn, according to their sentence, viz. George Bishop, for feloniously secreting a letter which came into his possession as a letter-carrier to the General Post-office, and stealing thereout a bill of Exchange, value £30. And Margaret McLochlin, for feloniously assaulting W. Coppen, in a dwelling-house, and robbing him of a silver watch. They both behaved penitently, and seemed quite resigned to their unhappy fate.

Mon 18th Dec

WOKINGHAM, DECEMBER, 10th, 1780

WHEREAS a False Report has for some weeks past, been very industriously spread over this neighbourhood, that I am a going to decline business; this is therefore to acquaint all my own Friends, as well as the public, that the report is without any

foundation, and as long as my health will permit me (with my Nephew and Assistant, Mr. Joseph Butter, the business of my shop will be carried on as usual.

By the public's most obedient servant,
THOMAS WILMOTT, Surgeon and Apothecary,

N.B. Butter is removed from his late house in Rose-street, to the late Mr. Cruttwell's house in Broad-street, and practises Midwifery as usual.

BERKS

TO be LETT, at Lady-day next, at Wokingham. A large and convenient HOUSE, a very good and extensive garden with a small field adjoining; two coach-houses, a four-stall stable, and good offices; the original rent £36 per annum, but the present tenant has it for £26 being under another tenant, two years and a quarter of whose lease is unexpired at Lady-day next. The present tenant wishes to dispose of the Furniture, which is plain and neat, as he is going abroad.

Any person desirous of seeing the HOUSE and FURNITURE. May at any time, by applying to Mr. Smithers at Wokingham. The present tenant has no objection to quit it before the above time if required.

1781

Mon 29th Jan

WOKINGHAM

PEPPIN, SURGEON, APOTHECARY and MAN-MIDWIFE, respectfully takes this method of informing the public in general, and his friends in particular, that he has taken the well-known house, and established shop of the late Mr. Wheeler, situated in the Market-place, Wokingham, where he purposes continuing the same business in all its branches, and humbly solicits the continuance of those favours which have been conferred on the above house. He flatters himself the confidence those patients have reposed in him during the illness of the late Mr. Wheeler will be continued to him, and he hopes his future conduct will entitle him to further encouragement. Mr. Peppin purposes himself the pleasure of paying his personal respects to his friends as soon as the present hurry of affairs will permit.

Persons having any claims upon the late Mr. Wheeler are requested to leave an account of the same with Mr. Peppin; and those who stand indebted to the estate of the said Mr. Wheeler are desired to pay the same to Mr. Peppin---Mrs. Wheeler owes it to Mr. Peppin to say to her late husband's friends, that he had much reason to be satisfied with Mr. Peppin's whole conduct; she cannot therefore but wish his success.

Mon 12th Feb 1781

BERKS

TO be SOLD by AUCTION

By Mr. KIMBERLEY

At the Old Rose Inn, in Wokingham in the county of Berks, on Friday the second day of March next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon by order of the assignees. The following ESTATES, late the property of Mr. THOMAS ROUND, attorney-at-law, in eleven distinct lots

LOT I. A Modern-Built Compact DWELLING HOUSE in Broad-street, Wokingham, consisting of three parlours, kitchen, five bed-chambers, servant's rooms and requisite offices, stables for two horses, yard, garden, and pleasure ground thereto belonging, in the occupation of Mrs. Butter, tenant at will, at a low rent of £16. A year.

LOT II. A FREEHOLD FARM, called Woosehill, consisting of a farm-house with two barns, stabling for 10 horses, and other convenient out-buildings, yards, garden, orchard and about 25 acres of arable land thereunto belonging, lying contiguous to the house, situate in the parish of Wokingham, about one mile from the town, late in Mr. Round's occupation.

LOT III. Three FREEHOLD CLOSES of arable land, called Toutley's adjoining to each other, containing by estimation 9 acres, lying by the side of Toutley's common, in the parish of Hurst, in the county of Berks, within one mile of Wokingham, late in Mr. Round's occupation.

LOT IV. An undivided Moiety in Fee, in possession, of and in a Compact FREEHOLD ESTATE called Morrice's Farm, situate in the parish of Wokingham. Consisting of a substantial farm-house, barns, stables, cow-house, cart-house, and other convenient out-buildings, together with the lands thereto belonging, containing by estimation 70 acres, 24 acres whereof are enclosed pasture, and the remainder included arable, except about 6 acres of arable, disposed in Brumpton Common Field, in the said parish of Wokingham, all lying contiguous to the farm-house. And also the other undivided Moiety in Fee of and in the Premises comprise in this Lot, expectant on the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Lawrence, who is upwards of 70 years of age. This estate is about one mile and a half from Wokingham, and now held by Mr. Edward Lane, under a lease, 16 years of which were unexpired at Michaelmas last, at \$50, per annum.

LOT V An undivided Moiety in Fee in possession of and in Four Closes of Arable Land, at Lymer-hill, in the parish of Wokingham, near Woosehill Farm, containing by estimation, 9 acres; and also, the other undivided Moiety thereof in Fee, expectant on the death of the said Elizabeth Lawrence.

LOT VI The reversion +Interest of the said Thomas Round, of and in a COPYHOLD ESTATE, held of the Manor of Hurst, after the death of Mr. Charles Round upwards of 70 years of age, consisting of a messuage called Wheeler's, with a barn, stable, cart-house, and other buildings, yard, garden, orchard, and four closes of meadow and arable land thereto belonging, containing by estimation 8 acres, now in the occupation of Farmer Lane,

LOT VII. A COPYHOLD ESTATE of INHERITANCE, held of the Manor of Wargrave, in the county of Berks, consisting of 10 acres of arable land, by estimation, lying in the common fields of Wargrave, called Old Field, and Mumbery Field, now in the occupation of Farmer Stevens, as tenant at will, at an old rent of 6 guineas a year.

LOT VIII The LIFE ESTATE of the said Thomas Round, of and in 50 acres of Coppice Ground well planted, called Bear Grove, near Bowsey-hill, in the said parish of Wargrave.

LOT IX A FREEHOLD MESSUAGE or TENEMENT, and blacksmith's shop, situate at Ruscomb, in the county of Berks, together with the barn, out-houses, garden, and an orchard well planted with fruit trees, now in the occupation of William Hatch, as tenant at will, at a low rent of £4. 10s. per annum.

LOT X The reversion expectant on the death of Mrs. Sarah Beard, 60 years of age, of and in a COPYHOLD ESTATE, called Pottle-hill, at Yeately, in the county of Southampton, held of the Manor of Crondall, consisting of a dwelling-house, and out-buildings, garden, orchard, and about 10 acres of arable land, let therewith in Mr. John Marlow.

LOT XI An unexpired term of 89 years, of a LEASEHOLD ESTATE, near the town of Wokingham, called High-bridge Lands, containing about 10 acres of arable meadow, and pasture, subject to the annual rent of £10.

The Timber on the different estates to be taken at a fair valuation.

Further particulars may be had, by applying to Messrs. Terrell, and Wenman, or to Mr. Kimberley, at Windsor.

Mon 19th Feb

WOKINGHAM

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, on Tuesday the 27th day of February instant, between the hours of three and four o'clock in the afternoon, a SMALL MESSUAGE, with a stable, orchard or garden, situate at Limmerhill, in the parish of Wokingham, Berks, bounded on all sides by the common or waste. Also an old barn, and two closes of arable land, containing about eight acres adjoining together, situate at Limmerhill aforesaid.---The above premises are the estate of Mr. Trenery, and were lately in the occupation of William Stanford.

Enquire of Mr. Edward Wise, at Wokingham.

Mon 26th Feb

BERKS

TO be SOLD by AUCTION

By WM. KIMBERLEY.

On Thursday, the 8th of March next, and the two following days, on the premises. All the genuine HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, STOCK in TRADE, and other Effects, of the OLD ROSE INN, WOKINGHAM, the property of Mrs. WHEATLEY; consisting of four-post bedsteads, with cotton, linen, check, marine, and other furniture; goose and other feather beds and bedding complete; chairs, tables, pier and dressing glasses, window curtains, one clock which goes a month, one 24-hour ditto, a neat mahogany bureau and bunk-case; carpets, linen, china, glass, books and pictures; a variety of good kitchen furniture. Together with a modern hackney post-chaise, one pair of seasoned post-chaise horses and harness, a small market cart, a large horse-race booth complete, with a felt-cloth to cover ditto, benches, &c., several iron bound-casks, a lead pump and pipe, old iron, boards, and several useful articles in building.--The House to be lett, and entered on immediately.

May be viewed on Wednesday the 7th, and mornings of sale, beginning at eleven o'clock.

Catalogues will be delivered at the Black Bear, Reading; the White Lion, Hertford-bridge; Red Lion, Bagshot; the Wells, Sunning-hill; the inns at Windsor; the place of sale; and at Mr. Kimberley's Auctioneer.

N.B. Estates bought, sold, valued, or let by commission; all sorts of Household Furniture, Stock in Trade and Effects, or appraised, on the shortest notice, to any part of England.

Several exceeding good houses, and same with land, ready for immediate reception, to be let or sold, furnished or unfurnished, in and near Windsor. A modern ~Phaeton in good condition, with patent wheels, and a pair of tooth-egg harness, as good as new, to be sold very cheap.

Funerals decently performed by Mr. Kimberley & Son.

Mon 2nd April

TO COVER this season, at Wm. Churchman's, the Warren-house in Ashridge Wood, at half-a-guinea a mare, and one shilling the servant.

The famous White Swan, called SWAN

He stands full 15 hands high, and is a likely horse to get coach horses or saddle horses. He was coach horse to her Majesty. And this is the first season of his covering.

He will be at Henley every Thursday, at Reading very Saturday, and at Wokingham every Tuesday.

The money to be paid at the time of covering.

READING, SATURDAY, March 31.

On Sunday evening the 23th inst. were interred at Wokingham, the remains of the Rev. William Pennington, upwards of 39 years perpetual curate of that place; the universal respect paid to him while living, and the loss of him when dead, were sufficiently evinced by the attendance of the most numerous and respectable congregation ever known to be assembled in the church at one time. The funeral sermon was delivered by the Rev. B. Mosse, Curate of East Hampstead from the 14th chapter of Job, verse 13th.

On Tuesday last at 37 min. past 9, P.M. a luminous appearance was seen in the sky in the form of a rainbow, very bright but pale. Its direction was from S.W. by W. to N.E. one extremity being in Orion's belt, the other drawn to a point in the opposite side of the heaven. From this point there ascended by the north side of the arch, undulating rays, which moved slowly towards the west, and after a short time vanished: the body itself remained near half an hour, and then gradually disappeared, the smallest moving from the N.E. to S.E. by E. while the larger remained fixed in the constellation Orion. The evening was perfectly clear, and the Aurora Borealis appeared but faintly. The barometer stood at 30.0 and Adam's Thermometer at 19 degrees.

Tuesday evening as a post-boy living at the Castle at Salt-hill, was returning home, he was stopped in the road about a mile this side Twyford, by two footpads, who robbed him of about four guineas, and then decamped over the fields.

Mon 9th April

WOKINGHAM, BERKS.

To be SOLD by Auction, without reserve, on Tuesday the 10th inst. (by order of the Sheriff of Berks) The HOUSEHOLD GOODS and FURNITURE of Mr. William Trickey, at his dwelling-house in the Market-place; consisting of exceeding good goose and other feather beds, four-post bedsteads with cotton and linen furniture, Blankets, quilts, and counterpanes, mahogany tables, chests of drawers, chairs, &c. festoon window curtains, chimney, pier and dressing glasses, with variety of kitchen furniture, &c.

The sale, on account of the number of lots, to begin at 10 o'clock, and particulars may be had of

G. TUCKER, Auctioneer.

The whole may be viewed the day preceding the sale.

FLORIST FEAST

Notice is hereby given to all Gentlemen Gardeners and Florists, that on Monday the 16th inst. At Wm. Fouch's, the sign of the Red Lion, Wokingham, the following Prizes will be given, viz.---A handsome Piece of Plate, of 15s. value, to him that shews half a dozen of the best and completed trusses of AURICULAS, one of a fort, not less than five pips upon each truss. Also, a handsome Piece of Plate, of 10s. value, to him that shews half a dozen of the best trusses of POLYANTHOS'S, not less than five pips upon each, and to prove on oath that his blossoms are of his own blowing, from his own plants. The prizes to be determined by three umpires, chosen by the majority of the company. Dinner to be on the table at one o'clock precisely.

Tickets, 3s. 6d. each, dinner included. Every person to be entitled to one shilling's worth of liquor.

Mon 7th May

WOKINGHAM; May 6, 1781

MRS. CAROLINE TRASH, Widow of MR. SAMUEL TRASH. Of Wokingham, PAINTER and GLAZING, lately deceased, begs to inform all their old friends and customers, as well as the public in general, that she shall carry on the same business, in all its branches as well as the DRAPERY and UNDERTAKING business, as before; and humbly hopes for a continuance of their favours, and shall make it her utmost endeavour to have the business executed (by her eldest son, and proper assistants) in as punctual and good a manner as it always used to be in her husband's life time.

TO be Lett, and entered upon at Michaelmas next, a FARM HOUSE with convenient barn, stable, cow-house and out-buildings, and several closes of arable and meadow; containing between 70 and 80 acres, situate in the parish of Wokingham, in the counties of Wilts and Berks, called Hammond's Farm.

Also Two Closes of Arable Land, containing about seven acres, situate next Church-Lane in Wokingham parish.

The above mentioned premises are in the occupation of Farmer John May.

Also a Barn with several Closes of Meadow and Arable Land, containing between 30 and 40 acres, called Norrie's Lands, situate in Wokingham parish, in the occupation of John Jennings.

For particulars, enquire of Mr. Wilmot, or Mr. Edward Wise, Wokingham.

BERKS

To be SOLD by AUCTION

By FRANCIS COLLINS

By a written catalogue, on the premises, without reserve, on Wednesday, the 23rd of May, 1781, All the IMPLEMENTS in the HUSBANDRY BUSINESS, &c. at Keep Hatch Farm, in the parish of Wokingham, Berks; consisting of several waggons, one large very good-gilted narrow-wheel ditto fit for the road or a mealman, four dung carts, swing ploughs, harrows, drags, rollers, winnowing fans, earth screens, sieves, shovels, bushels, prongs, and several pair of trace and thill harness, two nine stone a strong cyder press, three draft horses, several parcels of chalk and dung with various other articles

To be viewed the day preceding and morning of beginning precisely at eleven o'clock.....had at the premises, or of Francis Collins Wokingham.

Mon 14th May

TURNPIKE ROAD from READING to CHICHESTER

A Turnpike Road from Reading to Chichester will open a communication with Oxford and the North of England, also with Odiham, Alton, Farnham, Guildford, Haslemere, Midhurst, Petworth, Arundell, and all West Sussex; likewise with Petersfield, Portsmouth, Gosport, Emsworth, Havant, Farnham, Isle of Wight, and all East Hants. A branch from this road is proposed near Alton in Basingstoke whereby a speedy conveyance from the above parts of Sussex and Surrey to Andover, Devizes, Bath, Bristol, the counties of Somerset, Gloucester and South Wales.---A meeting will be held on Tuesday, the fifth day of June next at the Crown Inn in Alton, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, to take the above into consideration, at which place all gentlemen interested or who are desirous to promote so useful an undertaking are desired to attend.

Mon 18th June

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The Creditors of Mr. William Leach, late of Loddon Bridge farm, but now of Wokingham in the county of Berks, are to meet at the New Rose Inn in Wokingham aforesaid, on Thursday next the 21st instant, at three o'clock in the afternoon, when a proper state of his affairs will be laid before them.

Mon 9th July

BERKS

TO be LETT, at Wokingham,---A handsome Brick HOUSE; consisting, on the ground floor, of three parlours, a large hall, store room, kitchen, pantry, servants hall, &c. on the first floor, a handsome dining-room, four good bed chambers, and two dressing rooms; the upper storey contains nine servants rooms; here is a double stair-case and excellent cellars; also a double coach-house, a four-stall stable, and every convenient out-office; a large garden walled round, with great plenty of the choicest wall fruit; a small field adjoining.

Wokingham is 32 miles from London;---a Coach to and from London daily.

For particulars, enquire of Mr. Smithies, Wokingham, or Mr. Kimberley, Auctioneer, Windsor.

Rent of the above £26, per annum, being £10 per annum less than it is at present let at upon lease.

Mon 6th Aug

WOKINGHAM

TO be LETT, An old-accustomed SHOP in the CANDLE and SOAP BRANCH, situated in Broad-street, Wokingham, with a large yard, garden, and other conveniences, and utensils in trade, many years in the occupation of Mr. Wm. Fernell, deceased.

For particulars, enquire on the premises.

Mon 1st Oct

WOKINGHAM, BERKS

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, on Thursday the 4th of October, 1781, between the hours of four and six in the afternoon, at Mr. John Chaplin's, the New Rose, Wokingham. A MESSUAGE or TENEMENT, situate in Peak-street, now in the tenure of James Sanders.

For further particulars, and conditions of sale, enquire of
JOHN BENNETT, Auctioneer

Mon 22nd Oct

WOKINGHAM, Oct 16th 1781

THE Stewards of the NEW FRIENDLY SOCIETY, held at the King's Head in Wokingham, desire all the Members of the said Society to take notice, that they are determined for the future to abide by the second article of the said Society, respecting the members clearing up their accounts every quarterly night; and that no further indulgence than what the said article expresses will in future be allowed.

Mon 12th Nov

WOKINGHAM, BERKS

We whose names are hereunto subscribed, Inhabitants of Wokingham, do certify, that there is not now, nor, to the best of our knowledge, has been for some weeks past any person ill with the Small-Pox in the town of Wokingham. Witness our hands,

JAMES WEBB, Alderman

W. BREMNER, Minster

J. CHAPLIN, Churchwarden

J. P. H. HOULTON “

THO. TALMADGE, Overseer “

JOHN ALLRGHT “

WM. DOUGLAS, “

J. NETHERCLIFT, “

J. WILMOT, Surgeon and Apothecary

A. PEPPIN, Surgeon and Apothecary,

WILMOT WALLEN, Surgeon and Apothecary,

Nov. 6th, WM. WEAVER, Assistant to Mr. Turner Esq. Surgeon and Apothecary, 1781

Mon 19th Nov

WOKINGHAM PARSONAGE

THE Occupiers of Lands and Hereditaments within the parish of Wokingham, in the couties of Berks and Wilts, or either of them, are requested to pay their Tythe Rents, which became due at Michaelmas last, unto the Proprietor of Wokingham Parsonage. On Monday the 16th day of November instant, in the forenoon, at the house of John Chaplin, at the new Rose Inn, Wokingham. EDWARD WISE, Jun. Attorney for the Proprietor.

Mon 10th Dec

THE SALE of the ESTATE of Wm. Trickey. Of Wokingham, late a bankrupt, is postponed to some future day, of which notice will be given in this paper.

Mon 17th Dec

READING, Nov 26th, 1781

WHEREAS a great many COUNTERFEIT HALFPENCE, which are of very small value, have been introduced into this borough, and are become a very great burthen on trade, many of the tradesmen of this borough have found so many great inconvenience

that they are determined neither to pay or receive the same, as there is a total stop to their passing in London.

As Halfpence were not intended to, or meant for payment, but as only as a convenience for change, it is requested that overseers will not pay their POOR; manufacturers their workmen; farmers, stewards, or others their servants, as those who take them will not have an opportunity of disposing of the same.

Mon 31st Dec

WOKINGHAM STAGE WAGGON

RICHARD CREAKER, at the Ship, Wokingham, Wilts, begs leave to inform his friends and the public in general, that he has purchased the above Waggon, which will continue to set out from the Ship every Tuesday morning at ten o'clock, to the Saracen's Head, Friday-street, London; from whence it returns every Wednesday morning at ten o'clock, and for the convenience of gentlemen who reside at Binfield, goods are taken in at the Stag and Hounds, the Jack of Newbury, and the Shoulder of Mutton; likewise calls at the Bull, Bracknall; and stops at the New White Horse Cellar, and at the Black Bear, Piccadilly, going in and coming out of London. Hopes by a strict attention to the above business to gain the patronage and approbation of his friends and the public in general.

By their obedient humble servant,

RICHARD CREAKER.

1782

Mon 21st January

TO be LETT immediately. A good accustomed COLLAR and HARNESS-MAKER's SHOP, in full trade, and much work in hand at this time, in the pleasant village of Egham in Surrey, opposite the Catharine Wheel in the Great Western Road

For particulars, enquire at the shop or of Mr. Marlow, collar-maker, at Wokingham, or of Mr. Bristow, collar-maker, Reading.,---The sooner application is made the better may be the coming in.

Mon 11th Feb

READING, SATURDAY, Feb 9.

A short time since died, in an advanced age, Mr. Turner, a surgeon, of Wokingham.

Mon 15th April

WOKINGHAM, Berks, April 13th, 1782

Lost, last night, supposed to be stolen from a ground of Silas Baggs, A BLACK MARE, aged, about 14 hands high, betwixt saddle and kind, blind of the near eye, and a little white on the off leg behind. Also, a BLACK COLT, two years old, about 14 hands high, with a bald face, white on the near leg before, and white on the off leg behind up to the hock.

Whoever will give information, so that the mare and colt may be had again, or the offender or offenders, brought to justice, shall receive one guinea reward of the said.

SILAS BAGGS.

Mon 22nd April

GRAZING

AT WHISTLEY PARK, in the parish of Hurst, Berks, five miles from Reading, three from Wokingham, and two from Loddon-Bridge; Horses and other Cattle, will, during

the summer season, be taken in to graze, from the 27th of May, 1782, to the next ensuing Michaelmas-day, viz. Horses as per week, yearling Colts and yearling Fillies 3s. 6d. per week. Cows and Bullocks at 1s. 6d. per week; but no cattle will be taken in for less time than the whole season, excepting horses, which may be interred for ten weeks, paying 3s. per week; and Cows (if desired) for the same time, paying 2s. 6d. per week.

A proper person will attend at the Mansion house in the said park, to take in and register the horses and cattle according to the conditions aforesaid. Neither, nor any person shall have authority to alter the conditions for grazing contained in this advertisement.

N.B. All money which shall be due for grazing as aforesaid, must be paid at the time, or immediately before the delivery of the respective horses and cattle out of the park.

Mon 29th April

RINGING

WOKINGHAM, April 26, 1782.

This is to give notice, that on Whit- Wednesday will be given to be Ring for, a set of HATS value three guineas, to the set of ringers that best performs a round peal of fifteen minutes, by Jacob Pocock, late of the Half Moon, but now removed to the Six Bells near the church. No less than five sets to be allowed to ring. Each set to dine at the ordinary, which will be provided precisely at one o'clock, and begin ringing at four. No trial peal to be rung on the day of ringing, and no Wokingham man to be allowed to ring. Each set to provide their own umpire.

N.B. If the winning set should not approve of the hats, the money will be paid instead of them, on condition of spending five shillings.

Mr. Pocock returns thanks to his friends for their past favours, and requests the continuance of their custom in the Shoe-making business, which he now carries on in all it branches as usual.

Mon 13th May

WOKINGHAM

TO be LETT, and entered upon immediately, Two closes of Arable Land, and One Close of Meadow Land late in the occupation of John Sargeant; Also a Close of Arable Land near the above closes, called the Roundabout; And a Close of Arable Land called Ham-hill, containing altogether about 22 acres, situate in the parish of Wokingham, Berks.

Enquire of Mr. Edward Wise, Wokingham.

WOKINGHAM POST COACH

Will set out on Monday the 20th instant, at five o'clock in the morning, and returns from the Inn in London, at half past one o'clock. Inside Passengers Eight Shillings

Also a large COACH will set out on the 20th instant, at nine o'clock in the morning, and every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and returns from the Inn in Loddon every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at the same hour.---Prices as usual.

CLODE, COTTERELL, and Co. Proprietors

1783

Mon 17th March

WOKINGHAM

To be LETT, and entered upon at Lady day. A spacious convenient House fit for a large family, situate in Wokingham, Berks; with a garden walled in and cloathed with fruit-trees, a terrace and shrubbery commanding, and extensive prospect, with a double coach-house, stabling for five horses, and small close of land adjoining.

For particulars, enquire of Mr. Edward Wise Wokingham; Mr. Tucker, at Reading; or Mr. Kimberley at Windsor.

Mon 24th March

READING

This day was committed to our gaol, by Edward Togwel, gent. Richard Netherclife, charged on the oaths of Richard Hollis and Francis Houlton, with breaking open the workhouse in Wokingham and stealing two loaves and a slice of cheese.

Mon 31st March

On Tuesday night the 11th March was stolen out of the yard of James Webb, brewer, at Wokingham, an old BLACK MARE, upwards of 15 hands high, has beenfired on both the hind legs, and much swelled, particularly on the off leg---whoever can give any intelligence of her, so that she may be had again, shall receive one guinea reward, by applying to the aforesaid James Webb.

Mon 7th April

A COUNTRY HOUSE

To be SOLD or LETT, and entered upon immediately. A neat Brick and Sashed HOUSE,, pleasantly situated near the town of Wokingham, in the county of Berks, adjoining to the Turnpike road, in a fine sporting country on the edge of Windsor Forest late inhabited by Joseph Merlott, Esq., consisting of two parlours, the one 14 feet and a half, by 13 feet and a half, the other 13 feet and a half by 12 feet and a half, a kitchen, wash-house with a pump in it, cellar, wine vault, four good bed-chambers, two garrets, two coach-houses, stable for three horses, and a pump in the stable yard, with a good garden well planted with fruit trees, near 100 yards long and upwards of 40 yards wide, with a well in it.---A close adjoining, containing between two and three acres, now laid down with grass, may be had with the same if required.

For particulars enquire of Mr. Wm. Trash, of Wokingham, who will shew the premises.

WOKINGHAM, BERKS.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION,

By FRANCIS COLLINS

On Tuesday the 22d instant, (unless before disposed of by private contract) at the Rose Inn in Wokingham, between the hours of two and five in the afternoon, in one lot, THREE MESSUAGES of TENEMENTS adjoining, situate in Roth-street, Wokingham; two of them in the occupation of Thomas Beaver, and Wm. Norman, tenants at will; the other untenanted, with convenient out-houses and good gardens.

Together with that very large Barn with two threshing floors therein (commonly called the Tythe Barn, having been originally built for that purpose) large yard, stable and cart-house thereto belonging.

For further particulars, and to treat for the purchase, please to apply to Mr. John Lawrence in Wokingham aforesaid.

WOKINGHAM, BERKS

JOSEPH BUTTER, Surgeon and Apothecary, Nephew and ate Assistant to Mr. Willmot, begs leave to acquaint his friends and the public in general, that he has, by the advice of many of the most respectable families in the neighbourhood, opened the shop (late Mr. JOHN CRUTTWELL's) in the Broad-street, Wokingham; where these families who shall please to favour him with their commands, may depend on being waited on with the strictest attention, and being served with the best genuine Medicines from Apothecary's-Hall.

N.B. Mr. Butler, at the particular request of many Noblemen and Gentlemen, whom he formerly had the honor of serving with the universally approved HORSE MEDICINES (late Perkins) will continue the sale of them as usual.

Mon 28th April

WOKINGHAM, BERKS
TO be SOLD by AUCTION,
By FRANCIS COLLINS

About the middle of May next, The Remaining Part of the STOCK in TRADE, of the late MR. JOHN FELTHAM, Carpenter, Upholsterer, and Broker, deceased, at Wokingham, in the county of Berks; comprising oak and elm timber and slabs, oak posts and rails, tiling, ceiling, and thatching laths, elm coffin boards, feather edge ditto, very good dry deals and some clean yellow ditto, dry wainscot boards. Rigs timber, an exceeding good iron rod with a set of bars for pipe boring, a pair of wood blocks and sail rope, four work benches, a very good standard and other ladders, pit and cross cut saws, pair of large wood screws, timber jack, large grindstone ,&c.; several pieces of bed furniture, viz. haraleens, cheneys, checks and binding for ditto, bed ticking, blankets, quilts, coverlids, sacking, buckram, paper for hanging, dressing glasses, mahogany tea-boards, and tea chests, various articles of coffin furniture, brewing copper will hold 40 gallons, brewing utensils and sundry lots of useful Household Furniture.

All persons having demands on the estate of said Mr. Feltham, are desired to send in their account to Mr. Joseph Feltham, his executor, at No. 59 Mary-le bone-lane, London, or at the late Mr. Feltham's dwelling-house, Market-place, Wokingham; also all persons indebted to the said estate are desired immediately to pay the same to the executor aforesaid.

Mon 12th May

WOKINGHAM, BERKS

TO be SOLD for the life of a gentleman aged 27, KEEPHATCH PARK, with a coppice adjoining, at £25 per annum, and well tenanted.

For further particulars, enquire of Mr. Thomas Round, Attorney-at-Law, Reading.

Mon 19th May

WOKINGHAM, BERKS
To be SOLD in AUCTION
By FRANCIS COLLINS

On Tuesday the 10th of June, (unless disposed before of by private contract) at Mr. Chaplin's, the New Rose Inn in Wokingham between the hours of two and five in the afternoon, according to conditions of sale which will be there produced, in three lots.

Lot I. TWO PIECES OF ARABLE LAND, called Manerrings, containing by estimation, nine acres and ONE PIECE of MEADOW GROUND adjoining, containing by estimation five acres, situate and being near the end of Coppid Beech Lane in the Parish of Wokingham, and very near the turnpike road.

Lot II ONE PIECE OF ARABLE LAND, called the Roundabout, containing by estimation three acres, situate and being near Lot I, but nearer the town of Wokingham.

Lot III ONE PIECE OF ARABLE LAND, called Ham Hill, containing by estimation four acres, situate near Hones Green in the parish of Wokingham.

N.B. All the above premises are freehold well forested with fine growing timber, and are greatly underlett to Mr. Thomas Britton of Wokingham.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. John Lawrence, in Wokingham aforesaid.

Mon 2nd June

RINGING

To be given at J. Pocock's the Six Bells, Wokingham, SEVEN HATS, to that Set that rings the best Round Peal of 15 minutes, and that Set that rings the second best is entitled to Seven pair of Gloves, and the third, Ribbons. No Wokingham nor Hurst man allowed to ring, not stand umpire. No prizes will be given without five sets ring. No set to ring but what dines at the ordinary, which will be ready precisely at one o'clock, and to begin ringing at four. No trial peal on the day of ringing, which will be on Whitsun-Wednesday next.

MUSICAL MEETING

On Thursday, the 3rd of July, 1783, will be held at the Town Hall in Wokingham. A Musical Meeting, where there will be given by Mr. Watkins at the Old Rose Inn, (Mr. Wheatley's in the Market-place)

A SILVER CUP, of five guineas value to that company of singers which best performs three Glee's of Songs, in three or four parts, and three catches, each company to bring their umpires as the above is to be decided by the majorities of umpires. No less than two companies to sing for the above cup.

Likewise will be given a handsome silver PUNCH LADLE, of One Guinea value,, for the person who best performs three Solo Songs or Cantatas set to music; to be decided by the majority of umpires. No less than two persons to sing for the Ladle. No objection to instruments to accompany the singers.

Ladle Ordinary will be on the table at two 'clock, and no person to be admitted to sing but what dines at the ordinary and declares for singing before they go to Hall, which will be at three o'clock. No Wokingham person to be admitted to sing or to be an umpire.

N.B. Tickets to be had of Mr. Watkins at 1s each.

Mon 16th June

A COUNTRY HOUSE

To be Lett or SOLD, and entered upon immediately. A neat BRICK and sashed HOUSE, pleasantly situated near the town of Wokingham, Berks, adjoining to the turnpike road, in a fine sporting country on the edge of Windsor Forest lately inhabited by Joseph Merlott, Esq. consisting of two parlours, the one 14 feet and a half by 13 feet and a half, the other 13 feet and a half by 12 feet and a half; a kitchen, wash-house, with a pump in it, cellar, wine vaults, four good bed-chambers, two garrets, two coach-houses, stable for three horses, and a pump in the stable yard, with a good garden well planted with fruit trees, near 100 yards long and upwards of 40 yards wide, with a well in it.---A close adjoining containing between two and three acres, field laid down with grass, may be had with the same if required.

For particulars, enquire of Mr. Wm. Trash, of Wokingham, who will shew the premises.

Mon 23rd June

WOKINGHAM STAGE WAGGON

To be Disposed of, at a fair Appraisement The Wokingham Stage Waggon, with the Horses, Harness, and all the implements, (the Proprietor being engaged in another business) also the crops in the ground of 24 acres of arable land, consisting of wheat, oats and clover; and 8 acres of meadow.

The premises consisting of a dwelling-house, barn, stable, out-houses, &c. proper for carrying on the above business, to be let, and entered on immediately; and a lease may be had if desired.

For further particulars, enquire of Benjamin Smith at Wokingham.

Mon 30th June

By particular desire of several Gentlemen

At the Theatre near the Queen's Head, Wokingham on Monday the 30th of June 1783 will be presented, A COMIC OPERA, called

LOVE IN A VILLAGE

To which will be added an Entertainment (never acted here) called

LOVE A LA MODE

Or, the HUMOURS of the TURF.

The doors to be opened at six and begin exactly at seven
Pit, Two Shillings. Gallery, One Shilling, Children half price.

N.B. Mr. Smith presents his duty to the ladies and gentlemen of Wokingham, and the environs, ad with due submission, hopes to be honoured with their company at the time prefix'd---The Theatre is made completely warm.

Tickets to be had of Mr. Cruttwell Stationer.

The nights of performance are Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Mon 21st July

Wednesday was married, at Woolwich, in Kent, Mr. Bottle of that place, to Mrs. Hawkins of Wokingham, niece of Benjamin Beaver, Esq.

By particular desire of several Gentlemen

For the benefit of Mr. and Mrs. SMITH,

At the Theatre near the Queen's Head, Wokingham on Tuesday the 22nd of July 1783 will be presented,. A celebrated PIECE, called

The BEGGAR'S OPERA

The musick to be conducted by Mr. Dannely.

To which will be added, an Entertainment (never acted here but once) called
ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

The Door to be opened at six and begin precisely at seven,
Pit, Two Shillings. Gallery, One Shilling, Children half price.

N.B. Mr. Smith takes this opportunity of returning the ladies and gentlemen of Wokingham, and its environs, his sincere thanks they have already conferred upon the Company. At the same time he hopes they will honour this night's performance; being absolutely the last for this season.

Tickets to be had of Mr. Cruttwell, Stationer.

1784

Mon 5th Jan.

WOKINGHAM, BERKS
To be SOLD by AUCTION
By FRANCIS COLLINS

On Tuesday the 6th of January, 1784 between the hours of two and four o'clock in the afternoon at the Roebuck, in the Market-place, Wokingham, unless disposed of before by private contract (of which notice will be given in this paper), in two lots, A Desirable FREEHOLD ESTATE, situate in the Market-place, Wokingham

Lot I. Consisting of a good Dwelling House, large yard, barn and stables, with convenient out-buildings, and a large garden, now let to Mr. Thomas Cruttwell, tenant at will, at the yearly rent of £10, the whole being in good repair, and capable of very great improvement.

Lot II. Consisting of a Dwelling-house, with house, and garden, let to Mr. Tomlinson, tenant at will, at the yearly rent of £6. and is in good repair; it lies contiguous to the other building.

The tenants will shew the premises, and further particulars may be had of the Auctioneer, or of Mr. Round, attorney-at-law, Reading.

WOKINGHAM, BERKS

RICHARD HOULTON takes this method to inform his friends and the public, that he has a very large Quantity of BUILDING BRICKS, at his Kiln, at Bill-Hill, near Wokingham, and, notwithstanding the duty recently imposed on this article, he means to sell at the same price as before the commencement of the act, which is Eighteen Shillings per thousand.—All other kinds of Kiln Goods may likewise be had on the most reasonable terms.

Mon 26th Jan

WOKINGHAM COACH

The Proprietors of the Wokingham Coach beg leave to acquaint the public, that they will set out on Monday the 16th instant, from the King's Head, Wokingham, at eight o'clock in the morning, and every Monday, Wednesday and /Friday, and return from the Bolt in Tun, every Tuesday, Thursday, and

/Saturday, at nine o'clock, in the morning, during the season.—The Prices as usual.

CLODE, COTTERELL, and Co. Proprietors.

A COUNTRY HOUSE

To be LETT, and entered on immediately. A neat Brick and Sashed HOUSE, pleasantly situated near the town of Wokingham in the county of Berks, adjoining to the turnpike road, in a fine Sporting country, on the edge of Windsor Forest; consisting of two parlours, a kitchen, wash-house with a pump in the cellar, wine vault, four good bed-chambers, two garrets, two coach-houses, stable and pump in the stable yard, with a good garden wall planted near 300 yards long and forty yards wide with a well in it,, summer-house, &c.---The rent reasonable

A Close adjoining between two and three acres, new laid down with grass, may be had with it, if required

For particulars enquire of Mr. Wm. Trash, at Wokingham, who will shew the premises.

Mon 1st March

BERKS

To Be LETT, and entered upon at Lady-Day. EMMBROOK-HOUSE, pleasantly situate within half a mile of Wokingham, and six of Reading. Together with from 10 to 27 acres of arable and meadow land, an exceedingly good orchard and garden, divided from the meadow land by a canal; a good stew pond in the garden, well stocked with fish; a coach house, stable, barn, granary, and other convenient offices.

The house consists of an hall, two parlours, kitchen, &c. on the ground floor; good cellars, four bed-chambers, with useful closets and garrets; a brew-house, dairy, &c. detached.

Enquire of Mr. John Talmage, of Wokingham; or of Samuel Norman, Esq., Henley.

Mon 8th March

BERKSHIRE

(Extract)

At the assizes for this county, held here on Tuesday last, the five following prisoners were capitally convicted, and received sentence of death, but are all since reprieved, viz—Henry Frewin, for marrying two wives, was sentenced to be twice publicly whipped at Wokingham, and imprisoned in bridewell two years.

Mon 29th March

TO COVER this season, at Mr. Churchman's, the Warren-House at Ashridge-Wood, at One Guinea a mare, and Half-a-Crown the servant,

The beautiful Chestnut Horse, SPOT

This is the third season of his covering; and he is a remarkable sure foal getter, upwards of 15 hands high, and was got by Otho, out of a famous mare called Zephyr, which was got by Squirrel, a good racer—Spot started the first time at Newmarket, July 7 1779, and beat Sir C. Davers's Wormwood, Mr. Vernon's Alert, Lord Clermont's Foppington, Duke of Grafton's Rubicon, and

Mr. Codrington's Scorpion. August 19, the same year, he beat Mr. Adam's Colt by Herod, Mr. Price's Humbug, Mr. Vernon's Pastorella, and Mr. Smith's Scipendood at Bedford. October 4, the same year, at New-Market, he beat Lord Ablingdon's by Marsk, out of Potooooooooo's [pot8'o's] dam. October 3, same year, at New-Market, he beat Lord Grosvenor's Middlesex. October 23 he beat Lord Clermont's Pippin-squeezer.

He will be at the Saracen's Head, Reading, every Saturday; at Maidenhead every other Wednesday; at Henley every other Thursday; and at home the rest of the week.

N.B. All mares covered last season that did not prove in foal, will be covered this at half-price.

Good grass for mares at Half-a-Crown a week, and good care taken of them; the money to be paid when they are taken away.

Mon 5th April

To LINEN and WOOLLEN—DRAPERS, &c.

To be Lett, and entered on at Midsummer next, (or before if required). An exceeding good handsome modern HOUSE, conveniently accommodated with a separate way to interior apartments, and a very large commodious, old-established SHOP, genteely fitted up, and well accustomed in the Drapery Business, &c. pleasantly and most advantageously situated for trade, in the Market-place, Wokingham, now in the occupation of Mr. Edmund Togwell, who is entering into another business. The Stock in Trade to be taken at a fair valuation.

For further particulars, enquire of Mr. Togwell aforesaid.
WOKINGHAM, April 3, 1784.

Mon 26th April

WOKINGHAM

TO be SOLD by AUCTION

By CHARLES BENWELL

(without reserve, for the benefit of the creditors) on Tuesday the 4th, and /Wednesday the 5th of May.

All the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Fixtures, Linen, China, and Glass, a pair of exceeding good Horses, CARRIAGES, AND Harness, about 26 dozen of wine and other liquors, farming utensils, straw, dung, &c. &c., the late property of MR. JOHN WATKINS, at the Old Rose Inn, Wokingham.

To be viewed the day preceding the sale, and catalogues delivered (in due time) at the Auctioneer's in Minster-street, Reading, and at the place of sale.

N.B. All persons having any claim or demands upon the said John Watkins, are desired to deliver in their accounts to Mr. Benwell, Upholsterer and Auctioneer; and all persons adebted to the said John Watkins are required to pay the same as above.

Mon 3rd May

WOKINGHAM, May 1, 1784

HENRY TRASH, and GEORGE TRASH, of Wokingham, and CHARLES TALMAGE, of Bracknall, Berks, executors of the late Mr. William Trash, ironmonger, brazier and glazier, beg leave to return thanks to the nobility, gentry and others, who for many years past employed their late Father, and

hereby acquaint them that the Ironmongery and Braziers will be carried on by Henry Trash, and the Glaziers by Caroline and her son Nathaniel Trash, who humbly hopes to have a continuance of their custom in the above branches of business, which will be strictly attended to, and executed as usual.

N.B. All persons who have any demands on the said Mr. William Trash, are desired to bring in their accounts, and those who are indebted are required to pay the same to the said creditors.

MARKET PLACE, WOKINGHAM, May 1, 1784

C. TRASH, returns her grateful acknowledgements for the past favours of her friends and respectfully informs them and the public that she (with the assistance of her SONS) still carries on the PAINTING and /GLAZING businesses in all the different branches, and begs their future countenance and support, which she will endeavour to deserve by a strict attention to their commands.---Also begs leave to inform them that she has laid in a neat and fashionable assortment of LINEN and WOOLLEN DRAPERY, MERCERY, HOSIERY and HABERDASHERY, which she is determined to sell at the lowest prices.

Funerals furnished in the best manner.

BERKS

Last week, died at Wokingham, in an advanced age, Mr. Wm. Trash, ironmonger and glazier;---as a tradesman, he ever bore the most fair and unblemished reputation. He was a tender and indulgent father, and a most sincere friend. His loss is universally regretted.

WOKINGHAM, May 1, 1784

To be SOLD whole, or in separate Lots,---The TIMBER and TILES of a large Barn, 90 feet long, and 46 feet wide, know by the name of the Tythe Barn, now standing, and in a very good condition, the timber being square, and fit for use.

For further particulars, enquire of Mr. James Haywood, plumber and glazier, in Rose-street, Wokingham.

Mon 10th May

WOKINGHAM

To be LETT, and entered upon at Midsummer next. A modern-built sashed HOUSE, with four rooms on each floor, together with a good kitchen, brew-house, &c. detached stables, coach-house, garden, &c. situate in Broad-street, lately occupied by J. Griffin, Esq.; deceased.

Enquire of Mr. Wallen, surgeon; or Mr. Togwell, linen-draper, both of Wokingham.

Mon 21st June

BERKS

To be SOLD by AUCTION

By FRANCIS COLLINS

On Tuesday the 2nd instant, various articles of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c. &c. of a Gentleman quitting his house in this

neighbourhood, which for the convenience of sale are removed to an empty house on the north side of the Market-place, Wokingham; comprising mahogany dining, card, and other tables, a very neat Cellaret brass hooped, chests of drawers, and chairs in mahogany, Wilton carpets, stove grates, &c. sundry useful kitchen articles, &c. a chicken coop, meat safes, &c. also a complete set of brewing utensils, viz, a copper with a cock that will boil off about 60 gallons, a mash tub, underback, wort tubs, coolers, wort pumps, beer pipes, butts, hogsheads, &c. &c.. The above brewing tackle is in very good condition.

To be viewed the day preceding and morning of sale, which will begin at 12 o'clock.

Please to apply to Francis Collins, upholsterer and auctioneer, Wokingham, Berks.

Mon 19th July

WOKINGHAM, July 16, 1784

JOHN PHELP, who is both deaf and dumb, by trade's carpenter aged about fifty-five years, wore his own grey hair, middle sited but rather thin, very cleanly dressed in a coat of light colour and has not been seen in Wokingham, his usual place of abode, for the space of two months past.

If any person can give intelligence to Martha Pierce of Wokingham, whereby she may be satisfied what is become of the said John Phelp, such intelligence will be thankfully received and acknowledged by the said Martha Pierce.

T. LAMPARD

(from the UPPER SHIP INN, READING)

Begs leave to inform the Nobility, Gentry, and public in general, that he has taken the ROSE INN, n the MARKET-PLACE, WOKINGHAM, Berks, which he has completely fitted up for the reception for those who shall please to honour him with their company, which he will be ever careful to merit, by providing the very best accommodation of every kind

Neat post-chaise and able Horses.

Mon 2nd Aug

To br LETT and entered upon at Michaelmas next, A FARM, situate in the parish of Wokingham in the counties of Berks and Wilts; consisting of a farm-house, two barns, stable, and other accessory out-buildings (all in good repair) good yard and garden and about 50 acres of arable and pasture land lying very near the turnpike road, about one mile from the town of Wokingham, and for the accommodation of a tenant, 22 acres of arable land lying near the said farm may be had with it, if required—The stock and crop upon the ground may be taken immediately at a fair valuation.

For further particulars, enquire of Mr. John Lawrence, Broad-street, Wokingham.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION

By CHARLES BENWELL

Upon the premises, on Tuesday the 3d of August next, All the FARMING STOCK, together with the STAGE WAGGON, HORSES, &c. of Mr. SMITH, of WOKINGHAM; consisting of two wagons, a dung cart, two ploughs, three

harrows, a drag, roller, plough and cart harness, corn screen, winnowing fan and tackle, five horses, two cows, a rick of meadow hay, quantity of dung, with various implements in husbandry, a brewing copper, &c. &c,

To be viewed the day preceding the sale, which will begin at one o'clock in the afternoon.

Mon 23rd Aug

WOKINGHAM

THOMAS BROOKES respectfully informs the friend and customers of the late Mrs. Mary Grassingham, and the public in general that he means to continue the business as usual, and hopes for a continuance of their favours.

N.B. all persons having any demands on the estate and effects of the said Mary Grassingham, are desired to send an account of the same to the said Thomas Brookes. And all persons indebted to the said estate, are desired to pay the same to him.

Mon 6th Sept

BERKS

Stolen out of a Stable at Wokingham, on Friday night the 3d instant, A BLACK GALLOWAY with a cut tail, about 13 hands and a half high, aged, rather low backed and gorged. Also lost out of a close at Wokingham the same night, a Two years old BROWN COLT, brown muzzle, blaze down the face, leg behind white higher than the fetterlock, tail lately pulled, and about 13 hands three inches high. Half-a-Guinea Reward for the recovery of the Gelding will be given by Francis Allwright; and, Half-a-Guinea for the Colt, by John Fennemore, both of Wokingham; and a Guinea, on the conviction of the person or persons that stole either of them,.

Wednesday last died, at Matthews-Green house, Mrs. Martin, relict of Edwin Martin Esq. late of Southcot in this county.

Mon 13 Sept

WOKINGHAM COACH

Will set out on Monday the 13th instant, at eight o'clock in the morning, from the King's Head Inn, and returns from the Bolt-and-Tun, at nine o'clock, every morning, Sundays excepted.----Prices as usual.

CLODE, COTTERELL, and Co, Proprietors.

Mon 20th Sept

WOKINGHAM BERKS

PALMER and MATTINGLY, in the Market-Place, return thanks to their friends and customers in general, for the very great encouragement they have received, and take the liberty of requesting a continuance of their favours, and of acquainting them that they have lately laid in a new and complete department of LINEN and WOOLLEN, DRAPERY, MERCERY, HABERDASHERY, HOSIERY GOODS, &c. which they are enabled and determined to sell on the very lowest terms, for ready money only.

N.B. Funerals completely furnished to any part of England.---An entire new velvet pall, funeral clothes, &c. lett at the most reasonable prices.

1785

Mon 7th Nov

WOKINGHAM ASSEMBLY

At the TOWN HALL

On Friday next the 8th of November, 1785

To begin at Seven o'clock

Tickets may be had at Mrs. O. Trash, and Mr. Mattingley, Market Place, Wokingham, and at Mr. Mattingley's, silversmith, Reading.

Mon 7th Nov

WOKINGHAM, Nov. 5th, 1785

W. TAPLIN, SURGEON, APOTHECARY, and Man-midwife, makes his most grateful acknowledgements for the unexpected proportion of favors he has experienced in every branch of the profession, during an establishment of Four Years; has every encouraging inducement to believe,

A selection of genuine Unadulterated
CHEMICALS, GALENICALS, AND DRUGS,

With a punctual preference in the regular discharge of professional duties, will ensure him a continuance of the confidence, that has been so liberally reposed in him.

He has different receptacles for Patients under Inoculation having performed the operation upon near three hundred in the neighbourhood. Without the least danger, or temporary inconvenience to a single patient.

N.B. Part of a genteel House to let, neatly furnished, with every convenience, garden, stables & c.

Mon 21st Nov

READING POST-COACHES

Set off every morning from the GEORGE and
UPPER SHIP INNS.

The FOREST COACH

Will set off every morning at ten o'clock goes through Binfield, Winkfield, and (by permission) through the Duke's Park, to the Black Lion, Water-lane, Fleet-Street, London; where passengers and parcels are carefully booked.

A coach will return also from thence (the same road) every morning at eight o'clock.

A family taking the whole Coach may set out any hour sooner or later.

Also, A Neat POST-COACH,

(To carry Inside Passengers only) Sets off every morning at seven o'clock, goes also to the Black Lion, Water Lane, and returns from thence the same day at one.

They call at the New White Horse Cellar, Piccadilly, going in and coming out of London, for the convenience of passengers and parcels.

N.B. Passengers or parcels going to London, are booked at the George, and Upper Ship Inns, and at Mrs. Parish's in Duke-Street.

N.B. No parcel above £5 value will be accounted for, if lost, unless entered and paid for as such.

MILLS, WILLIAMS, and ELMS, Proprietors;

Who returns thanks to their friends and the public for past favours, and humbly solicit their continuance.

1786

Mon 20th March

At Aylesbury Assizes five prisoners were capitally convicted and received sentence of death, viz., John Anderson, for a rape; John Bolton, for sheep-stealing; Henry Scott for stealing two pair of women's shoes; Joseph Dormer, for a burglary in the house of John Body; and William Keares, for a burglary in the house of Joseph Walker. Bolton, Scott, and Keares, were reprieved before his Lordship left Aylesbury, and Anderson and Dormer left for execution.

About four o'clock this afternoon Richard Hemmings, for horse-stealing; John Steptoe, for sheep-stealing; and William Cripps, for house-breaking, were executed here, pursuant to their sentence at our last assizes. "They were attended to the place of execution by the Under Sheriff, the Ordinary and proper officers. Since their condemnation, to the time of their sufferings, they have behaved with the utmost decency," They prayed and sung incessantly all the way to the place of execution, where Hemmings and Steptoe alternately addressed the spectators to take warning from their miserable and untimely end; and exhorted them to avoid bad company, and particularly that of bad women, whom Hemmings declared had been the first means of leading him from the paths of rectitude. They all confessed themselves guilty of the crimes from which they suffered; and after an hour spent in prayer with the Ordinary under the gallows, they were launched into eternity

Mon 3rd April

READING

On Thursday last, as Mrs. Mary Cooper, wife of Mr. Cooper, of Broad Street, was walking to Wokingham, to visit her relations, she fell down dead on the road, within a small distance of that town. She was in perfect health when she left her home. The same day an inquisition was taken on her body, before Mr. Osborn, surgeon, of this town, and one of his Majesty's coroners; when the jurors brought in their verdict, *died by the visitation of God.*

Oxford, Saturday, April 1.

Last Monday, noon, Miles Ward, for robbing the altar of Magdalen College of its plate; John Grace, with John Cox and Richard Cox, his brother, for sheep-stealing, were executed here, pursuant to their sentences at our last assizes. At the place of execution, Ward behaved himself in a manner very suitable to his situation; he prayed fervently, and shed tears abundantly, yet with a becoming firmness; Grace and the eldest Cox Shewed also a proper sense of the near approach of death; but the younger of the Coxes seemed either hardened or stupefied in his last moments.

When all four, standing up in the cart, were tied up to the gallows, Ward, with great composure, asked his companions, *Are you all ready to die? If you are, let us take leave of one another.* They then all shook hands; and the cart drawing away before the brothers had quitted each other's hold, they long remained with the hands of each strongly clasped together. After hanging the usual time, Ward's body was put into a handsome coffin, and carried away by his mother to Walham-Green in a smuggler's caravan and pair, which she had ordered down to Oxford for that purpose; and the two Coxes were conveyed to Henley.

Under the gallows Ward delivered a paper in the following words:---*William Cox's proposal to me Miles Ward.*

"To rob the tan yard at Littlegate, and from thence to go to Mr. Piesley's, currier, and rob an outhouse of his of some leather.

“From thence to go to New Inn-lane and rob a house where Mr. Spicer, of Abingdon, keeps his leather. He also wanted me to go with him to Long Crendon, to rob a shop that a liner-draper opens there once a week,---He likewise wanted to hire a horse and cart for he and me to go to Brackley, and rob his father-in-law, a shoemaker.

“Also wanted to rob Mrs. Watson’s warehouse, in Long Wall, of three pockets of hops, which he had seen when he went for barley for his pig.

He likewise proposed to me to rob Mr. Anson’s shop, at the foot of Magdalen Bridge, by taking bricks out at the end of the shop, where he had observed the wall was but one brick of thickness.

“And upon the night that the Chapel was robbed he fain would have had me take a brown mare belonging to one Mr. Spencer, but I told him I would have nothing to do with it, as Mr. Spencer was a man who had been used to travel.

“There are the words as I am a dying man, that Cox told me.

MILES WARD

Mon 24th April

Wokingham and Windsor COACH

Sets out from the OLD ROSE, WOKINGHAM, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, at seven o’clock, to the Castle at Windsor, and will return from thence the same evenings at six o’clock. Insides three shillings. Outsides two shillings.

Mon 29th May

WOKINGHAM, BERKS
To be SOLD by AUCTION,
By Mr. JOHN BENNETT

On Tuesday the 13th day of June, 1786, at Mr. Chaplin’s, the New Rose Inn in Wokingham, between the hours of two and five in the afternoon (unless before disposed of by private contract)

The following FREEHOLD ESTATES,
IN FOUR LOTS

LOT 1 A modern well-built MESSUAGE or TENEMENT; consisting of a very large parlour, kitchen and pantry on the ground floor; two very large bed-chambers on the first floor, with convenient closets; and good garrets over the same; with a large garden mostly walled in, and planted with fruit trees; a wash house, and convenient out-houses, pleasantly situated near the church. The premises have lately undergone a thorough repair, and are now in the occupation of the Rev. Mr. Bremner.

Also, a small MESSUAGE or TENEMENT adjoining, with convenient out-houses and a garden, thereto belonging, now in the occupation of THOMAS NORMAN.

LOT II. A new-built MESSUAGE TENEMENT, being the WHITE HART Public-House, situate near the Church in the parish of Wokingham, in the county of Wilts. With convenient out-houses, stable, yard, and garden thereunto belonging now in the occupation of JAMES BAKER

LOT III. A modern well-built MESSUAGE or TENEMENT; consisting of three good parlours, kitchen, pantry, and wash-house on the ground floor; six bed-chambers with convenient toilets on the first floor; a good cellar, stable and convenient offices; a large garden walled in, and planted with good fruit trees, pleasantly situated on an

eminence at the end of the town of Wokingham, near the turnpike road from thence to Reading; was lately in the occupation of Mr. Wm. Bunce, now untenanted, and is fit for the immediate reception of a genteel family.

LOT IV. A CLOSE or PIECE of exceeding good ARABLE LAND; containing by estimation Six Acres or thereabouts, with a large barn thereon, in good repair, situate and being at or near Nonsuch-lane, close to the town of Wokingham, and now in the occupation of Mr. ROBERT HOULTON

For further particulars, enquire of Mr. Bremridge, Office of Common-Pleas, Inner Temple, London; or of Mr. John Bennett, or Mr. Robert Houlton, Wokingham, who will shew the premises.

SINGING

On Tuesday the 13th day of June will be given by Mr. Lampard at the Old Rose, Wokingham. A very handsome SILVER CUP of Five Pounds value, to that company of singers which best performs two Three part Songs, two Glees, and two Catches. Also a handsome Silver Punch Ladle to the person that best performs two Solo Songs or Cantatas.—Each company of Singers to bring their umpire.

An ordinary will be ready at Mr. Lampard's, at one o'clock precisely.---to adjourn to the Town-hall, where the performance is to be held, and to begin singing at four o'clock.---Not less than two companies to sing for the cup, and no less than three persons for the ladle.---no person to sing that does not dine at the ordinary.

Admittance to the Singing, One Shilling.

N.B. No Wokingham person to sing for either of the above prizes.

Mon 12th June

WOKINGHAM, BERKS

Samuel Trash, LINEN and WOOLLEN-DRAPER, MERCER, HABERDASHER and HOSIER having taken the stock and business of his Mother, respectfully solicits the favours of and her friends and flatters himself that by best attention and a proper assortment of the best goods, he shall be honoured with their commands

Mon 26th June

A COACH

Sets out from the OLD ROSE WOKINGHAM, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning at six o'clock, through Windsor to the Three Cups in Broad-street, London; and returns from thence the same days at half past four—Insides 8s.—outsides 4s.

N.B. No plate, money or jewels above five pounds value will be accounted for, if lost, unless entered as such unless an adequate premium paid. T.

LAMPARD

Mon 3rd July

WOKINGHAM

MRS GRIFFIN, (late Mrs. CAROLINE TRASH) Linen and Woolen Draper, &c. returns her most grateful acknowledgments to her friends for all favours conferred on her; and beg to inform them, she has declined business in favour of her son, SAMUEL TRASH, whom she takes the liberty to recommend to their future countenance; hoping, by strict attention to business, he will be found to merit all commands he may be honoured with.

Mon 4th September

To be LETT, near the town of Wokingham, in the county of Berks on a repairing lease, for twenty-one years from next St. Thomas's Day, The HOLT HOUSE and Gardens, with thirty-five acres of land contiguous, with double coach house, plenty of good stabling, and every other convenience fit for a gentleman's family with a good dog kennel in one of the fields. The situation on an eminence commanding a most attractive and pleasing prospect, on a dry and healthy soil, near to a very good turnpike road (called the Windsor Forest Turnpike) leading from London to Reading through Wokingham, distance only 31 miles from London, 12 from Windsor, and seven from Reading.

Wokingham is a very good market with every convenience, such as stage coach and good wagon, with the London post every day to and from London.

For further particulars, enquire of Mr. Thomas Wilmot, surgeon, at Wokingham aforesaid.

To be shewn only every Tuesday morning from eleven o'clock to three in the afternoon.

Mon 9th Oct

READING, Saturday, Oct. 7.

Richard Aldworth, Esq. of Stanlake, in this county, is chosen High Steward of the Corporation of Wokingham, in the room of his Grace the late Duke of St. Alban's.

On Monday last, Mr. Hanson, the Mayor elect of this borough, was sworn into office; an elegant entertainment was presented at the Town-hall, on the occasion, at which were presented many of the neighbouring gentlemen, the gentlemen of the corporation, and a numerous company of the principal inhabitants of the town.

On Tuesday morning about ten o'clock, his Majesty arrived at the New Lodge in Windsor Forest, to partake of the diversion of stag-hunting, where he met a numerous field assembled for that purpose; the stag was immediately turned out, and directed his course through Binfield and Ashridge Wood to Wokingham, from whence, he took a circle to Easthampstead; but being headed, he returned, and ran close by the town of Wokingham, to Finchampstead and New Mill, and then went away for Arborfield and Swallowfield, to Shinfield, where he took water, when his Majesty left the hunt. After being a considerable time hid in cover by the water side, he was at length routed, when he ran as far as Farmer Goddard's at Maiden Early, where he was taken about seven o'clock, after a chase which continued upwards of nine hours, and afforded a great deal of sport.. Three horses were killed. His Majesty returned through Wokingham and took post chaise at the Old Rose.

Mon 27th Nov

READING

A correspondent says, the inhabitants of the Town of Wokingham must have been well trained in the trammels of tyranny, or school of pusillanimity, to submit to the exorbitant and additional demand of a halfpenny for the delivery of each letter though three or four are delivered at the same time.; and this is the more extraordinary, their rates by postage being (by disproportion of the act) equally heavy with any in the kingdom; as they pay fourpence for every letter from London, being only 32 miles, when letters conveyed, fourscore, pay no more, and 150 miles pay only five pence! To this he adds the permission of the inhabitants to the most unparalleled brutality of Baiting two Bulls, in the centre of the Market-place, in compliance with the last will

of a man in whose breast, cruelty was evidently the predominant passion to the last hour of his existence !---It is to be hoped the late addition to the Body Corporate, and the election of the New High Steward, will soon display such a spirit of independence, as will put a period to the tyrannical imposition of the one, and the inhumanity of the other.

Mon 18th Dec

BULL BAITING

On St. Thomas's Day, the 2nd instant, there will be TWO BULLS BAITED in the MARKET-PLACE, WOKINGHAM, as usual, and the following prizes will be given: for the three best dogs that are adjudged to run fairest at the said Bulls, Seven Shillings and Sixpence for the best, Five Shillings for the second-best, and Two Shillings for the third-best.

READING, Saturday, Dec. 16

On Friday the 8th instant R.A. Neville, Esq, representative in Parliament for this borough, was sworn into the office of High Steward of the Corporation of Wokingham; on which occasion the morning was ushered in with ringing of bells, firing of guns, and every demonstration of joy; at 12 o'clock the High Steward, (with Judge Hayes, then Recorder) was met at the Holte-house, by the Body Corporate, and principal inhabitants of that town and Neighbourhood in procession, with a band of music playing and colours flying; in this manner he was conducted to the Council-chamber, (amidst the acclamations of the people where the oaths of office being administered, a temporary adjournment was made to the long room at the Old Rose, to receive Lord Hinchinbroke, Lord Spencer Hamilton, General Cox, Messrs Palmers, Webb, Morse, Whatley, Ravenshaw, Humphries, Whitcombe, &c. &c. from whence they proceeded to the Town-hall, where a most elegant entertainment was provided; the High Sheriff did them the honour of his company after dinner; the greatest harmony and most universal satisfaction prevailing throughout; many loyal toasts were drunk, and a variety of jovial songs contributed greatly to the uninterrupted mirth and conviviality of the very respectable company, who honoured the Alderman and Burgesses with their presence on the occasion. The town was universally illuminated, and the different rejoicings continued through the whole of the next day.

On Tuesday was committed to our bridewell, by the Worshipful T Cruttwell and J. Fennemore, magistrates of the borough of Wokingham, James Heifer, to take his trial at our next assizes, with Henry Ghost, William Watts, Christopher Lawrence, and James Patey (admitted to bail, with additional security to keep the peace) for most violently, maliciously and cruelly assaulting, beating and dangerously wounding, William Taplin, of the said borough, on Friday night the 8th instant, for being the supposed author of a paragraph, (replete with humanity) inserted in this paper three weeks since, animadverting upon, and tending to abolish, the custom of baiting two bulls, in the Market-place of that town on every St. Thomas's-day. The circumstances attending this transaction, were aggravated by so many instances of cruelty, and shocking barbarity, as not only to rouse every principal inhabitant to a sense of his own danger, but to inspire the magistrates with a degree of ardour in the cause of justice, that does them the highest honour; they being now determined to destroy the very cement of a lawless combination, that has for years been a terror to the principal inhabitants of that town and neighbourhood; to effect which, there is no doubt that this prosecution will be very much contribute.

Mon 25th Dec

READING

On Thursday (being St. Thomas's-Day) the annual scene of cruelty and confusion, was repeated in the center of the town of Wokingham, where two bulls were in succession, brought to the stake for the amusement and gratification of both sexes all ages and conditions. The bell that summoned the religious to prayers, proved also the signal for bringing the first victim to the stake, who, in strong exertions to avoid his persecutors, twice broke his chain; but he was soon replaced at the intended spot, there to undergo the rigid sentence of his inexorable judges; his instinctive valour being easily subdued by the repeated attacks of his natural enemies, all the power of opposition sinking, and life itself almost exhausted, under the burthen of accumulated persecution, his dreadful roaring, with the exulting clamour of the unmerciful and inhuman, formed a most shocking contrast to those refined sensations that are an ornament to human nature. The second soon from after being produced for the afternoon's amusement unfortunately broke a horn in its own defence and continued a bleeding victim, till the approach of night put an end to the animal and the horrors of the day.

1787

Mon 22nd Jan

READING, SATURDAY, Jan. 20.

On Monday last, the Lady of Lord Euston was safely delivered of a daughter at his Lordship's seat at Dunston Park, near Thatcham.

Last week were caught at Badmington Park, four brace of fine young red deer, present from his Grace the Duke of Beaufort to his Majesty, for hunting and on Thursday se'nnight his Majesty's carriages arrived at Bedminster from Windsor to take them away.

On Thursday last was fought at Wokingham, the long expected battle, between Johnson, the corn-porter, from London, and Ward, the smith, from Bristol, for £200 a side. As they were both eminent in the art of boxing, and have never been beaten, each man was a great favourite of their respective parties; so much so, that one person, who farms a turnpike upon the road to Bristol, had £170, deposited upon Ward, and was so certain of success, he would not admit a partner for a single guinea. When stript upon the stage, the superior size and apparent strength of Johnson, seemed to justify an odds of 5 to 4, which was largely and repeatedly laid in his favour; whilst on the contrary, Ward's party were willing to receive 6 to 4 to any amount. In this state the battle commenced, and what was by many suspiciously supposed to have been intended for public deception and imposition, soon proved itself to be a most determined exertion for honour and emolument. The very quick perception, well regulated guard, and uncommon agility of Ward, was a wonderful counteraction to the steady courage and visible strength of Johnson and convinced a most incredible concourse of spectators what a serious contest was to ensue. An almost exact quality was preserved for full two hours, without a perceptible advantage to alter the state of bets; in all which time every manoeuvre in the art of boxing was minutely displayed. Johnson courageously sanded up to his antagonist, and depending on his superior strength, was most judiciously foiled by the feints and falls of Ward, who artfully (and with uncommon agility) eluded the blows of his adversary, whilst he was sure to give place to his own. Fortune that had been so long suspended seemed at length inclined to favour Ward, he having closed up an eye of Johnson's, and the blood flowing freely from other parts of his face, it seemed to exasperate him,

and being deserted by that steady coolness he had, thro' the whole battle, preserved, it not only threw him, in some degree, off his guard, but he unluckily struck his antagonist a blow, that was by the connoisseurs deemed foul and decisive. In the general clamour, Ward was taken from the stage, as victor, very little hurt; and Johnson, much bruised about the head, set off for London, in two hours after. The money deposited was not given up, nor will it, till an appeal has been made to the Newmarket Club, for a final decision.---it was universally allowed, that greater skill will never be displayed on a similar occasion; and it is well worthy remark, the most trifling dispute or altercation did not occur either in the town or neighbourhood.

Immediately after the battle, Reynolds (second to Ward) declared himself ready to fight any man in England for 500 guineas; and wished every person present to remember, and communicate his challenge.

On the above occasion, carriages of all kinds, and horsemen of all denominations, continued to pour in to the town of Wokingham, from nine o'clock, to the time of setting to; the carriages amounted to upwards of a hundred in number, and saddle horses were left in every part of the neighbourhood; the sums received at the different places of admission for the fight, amounted to nearly an hundred pounds.

The nimble fingered gentry from London were numerous and successful; in the general hurry and confusion, very little pity was excited, by the lamentations of different parties, for the lots of notes, cash and pocket handkerchiefs.

Mon 12th Feb

READING

We are informed, from undoubted authority that the umpires in the dispute concerning the battle lately fought in Wokingham, between Johnson and Ward, have come to the determination that it was a *drawn battle*.

Mon 26th March

WOKINGHAM MARCH 17, 1787

OLIVE HOULTON, (relict of the late Ephraim Houlton) GROCER, TEA DEALER, &c. Broad-street takes this method of returning her sincere thanks to her friends and customers for their past kindnesses, and as she now has declined half her business in favour of her son, Robert Houlton, they, with due submission, jointly beg a continuance of their kind support, which they will exert their utmost ability to merit, by the most diligent attention to their favourable commands.

N.B. Grocery, Teas, Cheesemongery, Flour, Meal, Malt, Hops, &c. wholesale and retail, on the most reasonable terms.

Mon 2nd April

On Sunday last, eleven prisoners in our gaol, under sentence of transportation, were conveyed in coaches to London, and lodged in Newgate, from whence they will be removed to Portsmouth in a few days, and put on board the ships that are nearly ready to sail for Botany Bay.---Soon after the prisoners were put in Newgate, an affray arose between them and some of the old inhabitants there; one of the turnkeys, in endeavouring to quell the riot, gave Ballard (one of the convicts from hence) a most terrible wound on the head, and many of the others were much hurt, before they could be brought to order.

The night previous to the removal of the above prisoners, Wm. Green, John Armstrong, alias Duncle, and John Musto, three convicts who were to have accompanied them, found means to affect their escape from our gaol. The Keeper,

from a suspicion that some of the prisoners' irons were not safe, had searched them in the morning, and discovered that some of them were sawed almost through, which plainly indicated a design to attempt an escape; he therefore had them new ironed, and a chain fastened to the floor of the room in which they were confined, which was run through their irons, and two additional guards were stationed in the gaol. It appears that a link of the chain had been previously cut in such a manner, that they could easily let themselves loose, which unluckily was not perceived by the Keeper, or blacksmith; and a hole of only nine inches wide; and nine and a half long, having been made in the boards of the ceiling, (tho' 11 feet high) they crept through it into the roof, and taking some tiles off, let themselves down by the help of their bedding, which they had cut in pieces and tied together. The watchman met two of them in an entry not far from the gaol, with their fetter on, and not withstanding he instantly gave the alarm, and pursuit was made after them, they could not be traced; nor has the least intelligence been since heard of them. Two ladders were found to have been placed near the gaol, to favour their escape, from which, and other circumstances, there is no doubt but they had accomplices. By the confession of some of the other prisoners, we find that the board had been cut several months before, and that a piece of paper had been artfully pasted over it and plaistered and chalked over, so that it could not be discovered.

Mon 9th April

FLORIST FEAST

On Wednesday, the 18th day of April, 1787, at Wm Fouch's the sign of the Red Lion, Wokingham, the following prizes will be given, viz.

A handsome Piece of Plate of a good value, to him that shews half a dozen of the best and compleatest trusses of Auriculas, one of a sort, not less than five pips upon each truss. And a Piece of Plate of 10s. value to him that shews the second best ditto. Particulars as above.

A Piece of Plate, of 10s. value, for him that shews half a dozen of the best trusses of Polyanthos', not less than five pips upon each, and to prove on oath that his blossoms are of his own blowins, from his own plants. And Five Shillings to him that shews the second best ditto. Particulars as above.

And 5s. to him that shews the best dish of Hyacinths,---Particulars as above.

No person to shew more than one dish.

The prizes to be determined by three umpires, chosen by the majority of the company

Mr. HOLTON, Stewards
Mr. STIVE,

**Tickets 3s. 6d. each, dinner included; and every person to be entitled to one shilling's worth of liquor.

Dinner to be on the table at one o'clock precisely.

On Monday, being the grand Easter Hunt, a remarkable fine deer, one of those brought sometime since from his Grace the Duke of Beaufort's, will be turned out, at ten o'clock, before his Majesty's hounds, at the Golden Ball, near Wokingham. From the great number of nobility and gentry, already arrived in the neighbourhood, and those that are expected to attend on his Majesty at that time, 'tis supposed that the meeting will be uncommonly brilliant. All the stables in the environs of the Forest, are already full. Great sport is expected.

Mon 16th April

There was a far greater company at the turning out the deer, before his Majesty's hounds at the Golden Ball, near Wokingham, on Monday last, than has been present at any hunt the whole season. At 10 o'clock his Majesty arrived, soon after which the chase commenced. The wood in which the deer was released, was so completely surrounded by foot people, that it was some time before the hounds could make him break cover; but being hard pressed, he dashed out, and passing the whole company, made for the commons, from whence he went, nearly in a direct line, to Wargrave, where he crossed the Thames. Keeping near the river side, he made towards this town, and after a very hard chase of about two hours and a half, was taken in a meadow belonging to Mr. Benwell of Caversham Farm. His Majesty was ferried over the water at Wargrave, and was present when the deer was taken, with about a third of the company that began the hunt. His Majesty took a post-coach at the Crown inn here, and returned to Windsor at three o'clock.

On Thursday last another deer was turned out before his Majesty's hounds near Bracknell, which afforded excellent sport. It is supposed he ran ten miles at one burst, six of which were in view. Only a few of the oldest sportsmen could keep up with the hounds, which they stopped for about a quarter of an hour till his Majesty came up, when the chase was renewed, which did not continue above half an hour longer, before the deer was killed by the hounds near Arborfield, in this county.

Mon 30th April

READING, Saturday, April 28

His Majesty has been graciously pleased to appoint Mr. Wise of Wokingham, and Mr. Secker of Windsor, Attornies at Law, to the office of Stewards of all the Lordships, Manor, Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments belonging to his Majesty's Honor and Castle of Windsor, and of all the Courts of Record in the same, and Clerks to the Constable of the said Castle; in the room of Humphrey Hackshaw, Esq., and Mr. John Norton, both deceased.

Mon 25th June

WOKINGHAM BERKS

To be SOLD BY PRIVATE CONTRACT, and entered on immediately, A neat Brick and Sashed FREEHOLD DWELLING HOUSE, situate in Shute End, Wokingham; consisting of two parlours, a hall, and good kitchen on the ground floor, and six bed-chambers on the second floor, (the parlour, hall, and part of the bed-chambers wainscoted from top to bottom) with a large garden walled in and well planted with fruit-trees, a large fuel-house, with wash-house, yard and stabling for three horses. The house commands a very pleasant and extensive prospect, and stands close to the turnpike road from London to Reading, and in the midst of the Royal Stag Hunt: now in the occupation of Mr. Robert Houlton.

Also a very substantial Brick and Sashed FREEHOLD DWELLING-HOUSE, pleasantly situated near the Church, Wokingham; consisting of two large parlours, a good kitchen, four bed-chambers, and two large garrets, with a large garden walled in and well planted; a wash-house, fuel-house, and every suitable CONVENIENCE for a small family wishing to live retired, and may be entered upon immediately if required; now in the occupation of the Rev. Mr. Bremner.

For further particulars, enquire of Mr. John Lawrence, attorney; or of Mr. Robert Houlton, Wokingham, who will shew the premises.

Mon 2nd July

READING

On Thursday evening two boys, about 10 years of age, sons of two poor men who live in different tenements under the same roof, in the parish of Wokingham, playing with a gun, loaded only with powder, while one was blowing in the mouth of the gun, the other pulled the trigger and the gun went off, and burnt the tongue of the former lad, the son of Richard Woods, labourer, almost off and otherwise wounded him in so terrible a manner, that he now lies dangerously ill without hopes of recovery.

Last week the shop of Mr. Samuel Walden, slopseller in the Market-place, Wokingham, was burglariously entered and plundered of many articles of different kinds.

About two o'clock on Tuesday morning the house of Mrs. Deane, in Wokingham, was broke open and robbed of plate, linen, and sundry other things; the villains eat the remains of a hock of bacon whilst they were in the house.

Mon 17th Sept

WOKINGHAM FAIR

The Public are hereby desired to take notice, that the FAIR at WOKINGHAM, BERKS, for the sale of Cattle of different kinds, goods, cheese, and other articles, and also for the hiring of servants, will be held in the Market-place, as usual, on Tuesday the 9th day of October next.

JOHN WRIGHT, High Constable

Mon 8th Oct

MARKET PLACE, WOKINGHAM

MRS. NEWBOLT, late FELTHAM Milliner, and Mantua-maker, returns her most grateful thanks to her friends, and the public, for past favors conferred on her, and humbly solicits a continuance of them.

N.B. W. NEWBOLT will continue the Glove-trade as usual, and Leather Waistcoats, on the most reasonable terms.

Mon 12th Nov

READING, Saturday, Nov 10.

Saturday last died, after a long illness, which he bore with great patience and resignation, Mr. John Chaplin, of the New Rose Inn. Wokingham.

Mon 26th Nov

NEW ROSE INN
PEAK-STREET, WOKINGHAM, BERKS
(POST and EXCISE OFFICE)

MRS. CHAPLIN, widow of the late Mr. John Chaplin, most respectfully begs to inform the Nobility, Gentry, and public in general that she will carry on the above Inn as usual, and humbly solicits a continuance of their favours and support, which she will be always ambitious to support by unstinting attention.

Neat wines, spirituous liquors, &c. the most reasonable terms.

Post-chaise and able horses, with careful drivers.

Mon 24th Dec

READING

On Tuesday last, the annual jubilee commenced at Wokingham, (just at the conclusion of the market) by the triumphal introduction of one of the intended victims for the stake on St. Thomas-day. He was most numerously and exultingly, and ushered in amidst the reiterated huzza's of men, women and children, to the great agitation of the proprietors of the earthen ware stalls who instantly packed up with wonderful agility. After being driven in the true bull-baiting style to the most conspicuous parts of the town., he was safely lodged at Mr. Alderman Lampard's, the Old Rose, but not till a very worthy representative of Majesty or Magistracy, in the person of a constable, was unluckily (in the hurry) laid in the dirt, in the execution of his office, when *humanely* officiating to insure the bull *fair play*. The fatigues of the day being over, the evening concluded with ringing of bells and every demonstration of joy.

A correspondent observes, the humane part of the inhabitants of the town of Wokingham, are at length disappointed, for relying on the Clerical and Magisterial professions of their present Magistrates, they had been for some months induced to hope, that spot would now be rescued from its characteristic cruelty of Bull-Baiting; but notwithstanding the overseers and churchwardens with-held their usual support, a subscription was entered into by the lowest class, and a second bull was procured late on the preceding evening. On Friday the first was brought to the stake in public market, and underwent the usual severities.

After a respite of two or three hours, the second was brought to the stake for the afternoon's diversion, and, notwithstanding there were plenty of dogs' it was pleasing to observe, that no *decent* inhabitants seemed inclined to countenance the business.

1788

Mon 4th Feb

T A P L I N

Surgeon, Apothecary, and Man-Midwife,
MARKET-PLACE, WOKINGHAM

Impressed with a due sense of the very extensive, and constantly increasing confidence for liberally reposed in him during an establishment of seven years, can no longer delay the communication of his most grateful acknowledgments for so flattering a promotion of interest in every part of the country. Consider himself singularly fortunate that the stability of his practice has been long since sanctioned with the stamp of public approbation, and it is a gratification of every wish that he can with the strictest veracity assure his numerous friends, the system of assiduity and moderation that first obtained their favours shall be most unremittingly adhered to for their preservation

CHEMICALS, GALENICALS, and DRUGS of the first qualities, and Prescriptions prepared with the greatest accuracy.

WOKINGHAM, 9th Feb. 1788

Mr. Willmot, Surgeon and Apothecary, returns thanks to his friends for their past favors and informs them that his shop and business are relinquished to his nephew, Mr. JOSEPH BUTTER, Surgeon, and begs leave to recommend him to their patronage.---Mr. Willmot's Books, Manuscripts, and Prescriptions, during forty years successful practice, are given to his Nephew, and he will most readily give his advice GRATIS to any patient of Mr. Butter's which shall want his assistance.

Mr. BUTTER, with gratitude acknowledges the favors already received from his friends and assures them nothing shall be wanting on his part to merit a continuance of them.

N.B. Mr. Butter carries on his Profession at his house in BROAD-STREET, and at the same time at Mr. Willmot's Shop in the MARKET-PLACE, where a regular bred assistant will constantly attend.

J. Wheeler, SURGEON, MAN-MIDWIFE, and APOTHECARY, beg leave to acquaint his friends and the public that he is settled in Wokingham.

Mon 18th Feb

READING

Monday night, about eight o'clock, four men came to the house of Mr. Lane, farmer, at Fast-heath, near Wokingham, and producing a brace of pistols each, demanded entrance to search for smuggled goods. On being let in, they bound four children and a man servant, and then took from Mr Lane, what money he had about him; they then proceeded up stairs, forcing Mr. Lane with them, where they broke open several drawers, and took 12 guineas in gold, 27s. in silver, several parcels of halfpence; some silver spoons, and other things to the amount in the whole of about £30. On returning down stairs, they bound Mr. Lane to his servant: but wanting something to drink, they loosed the man, and ordered to fetch them some beer, which having drank, they went away: they all wore frock smocks, and had crapes over their faces: they had left their horses at a little distance from the house.

It is imagined some of these villains must have known Mr. Lane some years ago, as, previous to this robbery, they both stopped at a farm house, formerly occupied by him, but now only tenanted by his servants, from whom they took about 30s. and a watch. They desired the man to accompany them to the house where Mr. Lane now lived, but he was so very ill as not to be able, on which they were satisfied with his informing them the road.. Three of them rode dark brown horses, the other horse had a remarkable bald face, with four white legs, and was 15 hands and a half high.

Part of a turnpike ticket was picked up the next morning, by which it appeared they had come through Kensington turnpike, so that it is imagined they are part of a London gang.

On Monday night, some villains broke into the warehouse of Mr. Houlton, of Wokingham, by taking off the tiles, from whence they stole a pair of old boots, and some other articles of no great value. As they left many moveable articles behind them, it is supposed they were alarmed before they had effected the purpose for which they came.

On Tuesday evening, as Mr. Abraham Boulton, of White Waltham, was returning from Wokingham market, he was knocked down on Priestwood Common, by two footpads, who robbed him of about 10s.

Mon 17th March

READING

On Thursday last, the landlord of the Bottle, a public house near the town of Wokingham, having been to receive a small sum of money at Bullbrook near Bracknell was returning about seven in the evening, when two persons of a suspicious appearance, continued to press upon him alternately, immediately upon the spot where

Mr. A. Boulton was robbed a short time since, as mentioned in this paper. Such circumstance giving him just cause of apprehension, he very luckily possessed presence of mind to call at the Shoulder of Mutton near Binfield turnpike, and leaving two guineas and his watch with the landlord, he proceeded on his way home, but on the hill, in the dark part of the turnpike road, he was unexpectedly tripped up by the men before mentioned, who had concealed themselves: but upon rifling his pockets and finding no booty, they complimented him with some very *emphatical* kicks on the *rotundity*, as a reward for their disappointment.

WOKINGHAM, BERKS
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION
By CHARLES BENWELL

On the premises, by order of the Sheriff of Berks, under an Execution, on Wednesday the 19th day of March 1788, and the following day,---All the very best HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Plate, Linen, China, and Glass, valuable Fixtures, Horses, Chaise and Harnesses Foreign. Wines, Spirituous Liquors, and Cyder; together with a seventeen year's Lease of the Premises, called the OLD ROSE INN, in the occupation of Mr. THOMAS LAMPARD.

The furniture comprises four-post bedsteads, with red and white cotton, check, and other furniture, festoon window curtains, 11 goose and other beds, mattresses, blankets, counterpanes and quilts, floor and bedside carpets, pier and dressing glasses, two best mahogany press; bedsteads with furniture, handsome mahogany tables, chairs, double chest of drawers, bureaux, 30 pairs of sheets, candlesticks, coffee pots, table and other spoons, a great variety of china, glass and Queen's ware; an excellent modern kitchen range, smokejack, copper, Bath stoves, and every requisite of good kitchen furniture, a time-piece, &c.---Four very good post-horses, a neat post-chaise, coach and chaise harness. Fine brandy, rums, arrack, foreign and common gin, peppermint, usquebaugh, old hock, tent, medicine, claret, cyder, and other effects.

To be viewed the day preceding and morning of sale, which will begin each day at eleven, and the Lease of the Premises will be sold at one o'clock the first day.

Catalogues to be had at the place of sale; Stag and Hounds, Binfield; Sun, Maidenhead; White Hart, Newbury; and of Mr. Benwell, appraiser and auctioneer, Reading.

At Aylesbury Assizes, four prisoners were capitally convicted, and received 'sentence of death', viz. Nicholas Day, a farmer of Braggenham, in Bucks, for the murder of his wife; Richard West for sheep stealing; John Davis (alias Rat) for horse stealing; and Jonathan Letts for house breaking, at Olney. Day was ordered to be executed on Thursday last, and his body to be afterwards dissected and anatomized, Davis (alias Rat) and Letts were also left for execution; but West was reprieved before the Judge left Aylesbury.

Henry Gurney, for breaking into the house of Thomas Strange, of Edlesborough, and stealing thereout a quantity of wearing apparel; William Buckley, for stealing a fowl; Samuel Smith, for stealing two fitches of bacon, and sundry other articles, out of the bake-house of Thomas Smith, of Olney; and Robert Howard, for stealing a damask napkin, a table-cloth, & c. out of the dwelling house of John Fisher at Marlow common, were severally found guilty, and sentenced to be transported, the former for fourteen and the three latter for seven years.---Susannah Reynolds charged with the murder of her own child, was discharged by the court, it appearing that she was insane.—Thomas Redman, charged with horse-stealing; Richard Parker, senior,

Richard Parker, junior, and Sarah Parker, charged with robbing John Yeats in the parish of Chipping-Wycombe; Hannah Harman and George King, were acquitted; as was likewise. After a trial of six hours, and without calling up one third of his witnesses, Robert Markham a substantial farmer, charged with committing a rape on the body of Ann House.

Mon 24th March

READING

Mr. MOOR, Surgeon Dentist from Oxford, at Mr. ORSON's in the Forbury, attends for all Operations of the Teeth and Gums as usual, till- Thursday evening the 27th instant, and on the same evening will be at the Rose Inn, WOKINGHAM, till Sunday morning, and the same day returns to Oxford.

Mon 9th June

WOKINGHAM

Mrs. Trash, widow of the late Mr. Henry Trash, IRONMONGER, begs their friends and customers to accept her thanks for their favours and desires to inform them that the business is relinquished to Mr. WILLIAM CHAPLIN, of the same place.

All persons indebted to the late Henry Trash, are requested to pay it immediately to Mr. George Trash, Grocer, at Wokingham, who is authorised to receive the same; and those having any demands are desired to apply to the said George Trash.

WOKINGHAM, Berks

CHAPLIN, IRONMONGER, WORKING BRAZIER, and TIN-PLATE WORKS, at the Golden Reaphook, in the Market-Place, most respectfully returns his sincere thanks to his friends, and public in general, for their support since his commencing business, and humbly solicits a continuance of their favours which he shall always be anxious to merit by an unremitting attention.

He makes and sells, wholesale and retail, on the most reasonable terms, every article in the above branches, viz. Register, pantheon, Bath and forest stove-grates, steel fire-irons, steel pierced and green wire fenders, kitchen ranges, stewing stoves, table and desert knives and forks, japan and pontipool candlesticks, tea and knifetrays, waiters &c. copper, iron, and tin water boilers, turbot pans, soup pots, sauce and frying pans, pea boilers, &c.

Copper, brass, and iron goods tinned, with purified grain tin.

Sells every article of black ironmongery, such as nails, screws, locks, bolts, and hinges; and all kinds of smiths, carpenters, joiners and cabinet-makers tools, of the most approved makers.

SCYTHES, REAPING HOOKS, RUBBERS AND BATS

A neat assortment of hardware and cutlery goods.

Mon 16th June

Bush Inn, Market Place, Wokingham

T. Cole most respectfully begs permission to inform the public he has taken and engaged upon that, well known and long established house, the Bush Inn, in the Market-place, Wokingham; which is now considerably enlarged, and neatly fitted up, with every advantage for general reception and accommodation. He is induced to hope the careful selection of GENUINE WINES and FOREIGN SPIRITS; complete range of stabling; *London Morning and Evening Papers*; with an exertion of every

endeavour to give general satisfaction, will in some degree obtain a portion of public patronage, which will ever be his highest ambition to preserve.

N.B. Post-Chaise and Saddle Horses

Mon 14th July

ROSE INN
MARKET-PLACE, WOKINGHAM

Hannah Chaplin, most respectfully returns her sincere thanks to the nobility and public in general, for their kind support since the death of her late husband, and takes this opportunity of informing them, that she has, for the greatest convenience of business, removed from the NEW ROSE, to the OLD ROSE INN, in the MARKET-PLACE, where she humbly solicits a continuance of their favours, which she will be ever anxious to merit, by an unremitting attention, and the most reasonable charges.

N.B. Her assortment of neat and genuine wines, and choice spirits, is kept up as usual, and will, with the greatest care, duly attended to.

Neat Post Chaises, able horses and careful drivers.

Mon 21st July

To be Lett, an exceeding convenient House, for a small family, called Buckhurst Farm, pleasantly situated in Windsor Forest, and within four miles of the King's hunt, one mile and a half of Wokingham, and ten from Windsor, pleasing distance from a turnpike road, house and offices laid out very convenient, a spring some distance from the house, serves brewhouse, water closet, &c. now in the occupation of the Hon Capt. Bennett.—

The house and offices stand within a ring fence, and seventy three acres of land free from all forest laws, being in the county of Wilts. Further particulars enquire of Mr. Meaden, No. 14, Margaret-street, Cavendish-square, London, where a plan of the premises may be seen.

Mon 28th July

BERKS

To be LETT, furnished, for 21 years, and entered on immediately.

ARBORFIELD HOUSE and PARK

With the extensive MANOR and FISHERY, abounding with game and fish. The house is large with every convenient office; a walled kitchen garden, cloathed with the choicest fruit trees. The park close-paled, contains two hundred and twenty odd acres, mostly meadow and pasture; fish ponds, two coppices, preserving a hare warren, affording the most agreeable coursing. The River Loddon (not navigable) runs through the pleasure ground, a farmhouse, barn &c. at the extremity of the Park, admits (exempt from every inconvenience) the letting any part of the lands to an under tenant.

Arborfield House is situated on a gravelly soil, the roads remarkably good, a distant five miles from Reading. Four from Wokingham, 14 from Windsor, and Basingstoke, and thirty-six from London.

To be viewed on Wednesdays and Fridays, from ten o'clock till three, and the parties treated with by applying at Arborfield House, or to Messrs. Hodgson and Blandy, in Reading.

Mon 11th Aug

SHIP, near the CHURCH, WOKINGHAM
TO be SOLD by AUCTION

On Tuesday the 19th of August, 1788, and the following day. All the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Linen, China, belonging to the late Mr. JAMES BEAKHURST, deceased; consisting of four-post bedsteads with wheels and other furniture, goose and other feather beds, mattresses, blankets, large quilts, mahogany bureau, dining and tea tables, ditto, walnut-tree escritaires with plate-glass doors, pier and dressing glasses, an exceeding good eight-day repeating clock, a large quantity of very good quart, pint, half-pint pewter mugs, requisite kitchen furniture, 20 pair of sheets, table cloths, and napkins, a quantity of dry turves, peat, wood, and hoop chips, a fine large sow to pig and two store pigs &c. Also sundry articles of grocery.

To be viewed the day before and morning of sale, which will begin at eleven o'clock.---Catalogues to be had in due time at the place of sale, and of the Auctioneer, Wokingham.

N.B. The creditors of the said James Beakhurst are desired to send in accounts of their respective demands to Mr. John Stanaway, of Binfield, Berks, to the Executor, or to Mr. Lawrence, Attorney in Wokingham.

Mon 15th Sept

WOKINGHAM, Sept. 9, 1788

All people who are indebted to the late Mr. John Chaplin of the New Rose Inn, Wokingham, are desired to pay the same, on, or before, the 20th day of October next, to Mrs. Chaplin, at the Rose Inn, in the Market Place, Executrix, jointly with others to the will of her late husband, and who is thereby authorised to receive the same. And those who have any claim on the said Mr. John Chaplin, may receive their money by applying as above.

Mon 22nd Sept

TO JOURNEYMEN BRAZIERS

WANTED, a steady, sober, honest, WORKING BRAZIER, who fully understands his business and is a very good workman. If he knows the tin business the more agreeable.

A person so qualified may find constant employ and good wages, by applying to Mr. Chaplin, Working Brazier and Ironmonger, Market-place, Wokingham, Berks.

WOKINGHAM, BERKS

THE Public are hereby requested to take notice that the FAIR will be held in the Market-place on the 10th of October, (old Michaelmas day) to be continued yearly on that day for the sale of Cheese, all kinds of Merchandize, Cattle, &c, and also for the hiring of servants, and not on the 9th of October, as inserted in the lists of fairs.

N.B. The fair on the 21st of April will be held yearly, as usual.

Mon 13th Oct

FOREST ASSEMBLY

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 15th inst in the TOWN HALL, Wokingham
Subscribers tickets are ready to be delivered.

Mon 27th Oct

WOKINGHAM, October 25, 1788

STOLEN, on Wednesday night last, from the grounds at Mr. James Webb, an aged BLACK CART GELDING, about fourteen hands and an inch high, has two white legs behind, and lost the off eye.

At the same time was stolen off the common, a Black CROPPED MARE, seven years old, fourteen hands and an inch high, strained in the off leg behind, which has been blistered, and is now grizzled up to the hock, the hoof shrunk; and had on a pointed shoe.

Whoever will give intelligence so that the offenders may be convicted, shall receive a reward of Ten Guineas, of the above-named.

Mon 22nd Dec

BULL BAITING

This is to give notice, that on Monday next, (Sunday being St. Thomas's Day) TWO BULLS will be baited, in the MARKET-PLACE, WOKINGHAM, according to antient custom.

One Bull will be at the stake exactly at 11 o'clock.

HOUSES, &c.

To be sold, on the Banks of the Kennet, in the town of Reading, a commodious DWELLING HOUSE, with every conveniency and office for a genteel family: garden, walls well cloth'd with fruit trees, a large orchard, well stock'd and fenc'd, Dutch barn, stabling, coach-house, granary, and other out-buildings adjoining; a large malt-house and tenement, with seven other tenements well occupied and in good repair, on the Seven Bridges. Likewise to be sold, in Peak-street, Wokingham, Berks, three Tenements, a barn, gardens, &c. lett to Mrs. Chaplin, till Christmas; a field and barn adjoining to the town, close to Rose-street; three Tenements occupied, and two untenanted in Rose-street, with gardens, &c.---Further particulars a future week.

1789

Mon 19th January

READING

At the quarter sessions of the peace for this county, held on Tuesday last at our Townhall, John King, for stealing 14 fowls, the property of Edward Lane of Wokingham; and Joel Blackman, for destroying two timber trees, the property of James Colleton, esq; of Hurst, were severely sentenced to be imprisoned nine months; the three last of King's confinement, and the two last of Blackman's to be in a solitary cell.---Martha Martin for stealing 11 pigs, the property of Wm. Merredew, of Clewer, to be imprisoned six months in a solitary cell.---John Collins and John Spokes, for stealing 10 fowls, the property of Thomas Child, of Streatley, to be imprisoned three months, the first in a solitary cell.---James Douglas, for stealing two fowls, the property of John Caton, of Thatcham, to be imprisoned three months, the first in a solitary cell. He is also bound in a recognizance to keep the peace towards his prosecutor, himself in £20, and two sureties in £10, each, as he was heard to make use of threatening language after he was convicted.

In FOURTEEN HOURS from Bath to London

The MERCURY

ROYAL BLUE POST-COACH, with Four Horses, to carry Four Insides, from the Christopher and Shakespear and Greyhound Inns in Bath, at seven o'clock, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings; and from the Saracen's Head, Snow-hill,

and George and Blue Boar, Holborn, every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings at the same hour.

A POST COACH, every afternoon at Four o'Clock, from the above Inns in Bath, in Sixteen Hours.

A POST COACH every afternoon at Three o'Clock, from the above inns in London, to Bath, in the same time.

A DAY and a HALF POST COACH every morning as usual.

A COACH to and from the Pop's Head and Pelican, Bristol every day.

N.B. All the above Coaches inn at the Angel inn, Speenhamland.

Performed by POTTER and HODGES, Bath
TANNER, Speenhamland.
MOUNTAIN, London.

N.B. Mr. WILLIAMS having purchased one Half of the Stock, lately belonging to Mr. JACOB BROWN, begs leave to inform the public that the above Coaches all change Horses at his house, the CASTLE in CASTLE-STREET, READING, where Parcels are taken in and conveyed from with the utmost care.

A COACH may be taken full to London or Bath, any hour. Also at the Coach-Office, opposite the Maidenhead Inn at Speenhamland, where Parcels are booked.

The above Coaches all Book at the White Bear, Piccadilly.

Mon 26th Jan

LONDON

A very affecting case occurred at the sessions in the Old Bailey on Saturday last:--- Patrick Mac Donald, a miserable poor lad, was indicted for stealing a cloth jacket, value 14s. The evidence was quite clear; but the poor fellow urged in his defence, that he came over from America, and arriving in London, the ship returned without him, and he was left entirely destitute, and that hunger compelled him to commit the theft. One of the Jury asked him if he had eat anything that day, to which he answered, "No, Sir, nor a bit the day before either," he then burst into tears, which had such an effect, that the Sheriff brought him some silver, and the Jury, before they gave their verdict, gave him a shilling each; they then asked the Bench, whether such hunger could possibly plead his excuse in a court of Justice.

The learned Judge sympathized very pathetically with the Jury, but was bound, he said, to inform them, that no distress whatever could, in the case of the law, excuse the prisoner's offence. The Jury then found him guilty.

The judge then ordered, that when the boy should be able to find any person who would take care of him, he should be delivered up without punishment.

While this child of poverty and wretchedness was withdrawing, shillings from all parts of the court and gallery were thrown to him, which made the amount considerable.

Yesterday the sessions ended at the Old Bailey, when 18 convicts received judgement of death.

Mon 23rd Feb

WOKINGHAM TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION By Mr. COLLINS

On Tuesday the 3rd of March, 1789, at the Ship Inn. Wokingham, at two of the clock in the afternoon, in two lots.

LOT 1. A substantial Freehold well built brick Dwelling HOUSE, consisting of a Grocer's Shop, parlour, kitchen, and good bedchamber, with a large store cellar, outhouses and garden thereunto adjoining, situate area, the church, in Wokingham, and now in the occupation of Mrs. Beakhurst.

LOT 2. A leasehold Cottage or Tenement, with garden thereunto adjoining, situate and being in the Wiltshire part of the parish of Wokingham, and now in the occupation of William Hall.

Further particulars may be had by applying to Mr. Lawrence, attorney at law, or of the auctioneer, in Wokingham.

N.B. All persons indebted to the late James Beakhurst deceased, are desired to pay their respective debts to Mr. John Stanway, of Binfield, his executor, or the said Mr. Lawrence, or they will be sued for the same; and persons having demands on the estate and effects of the said James Beakhurst, are desired to send an account thereof, to the said Mr. Stanway, or Mr. Lawrence.

Mon 16th March

WOJKINGHAM, *March 14th, 1789*

MANY Gentlemen of this place/ having entered into an Half-Guinea Subscription for a DINNER at the TOWN-HALL, on Wednesday, the 18th instant, at Two o'clock, to celebrate the joyful event of his MAJESTY'S RECOVERY:

Notice is hereby given, that until Tuesday Noon further Subscriptions will be received by Mr. JOHN BENNETT, or EDWARD WISE, at Wokingham, from any Gentlemen in the Neighbourhood, who shall be disposed to honour the Meeting with their company.

JOHN BENNETT, ALDERMAN.

KING'S HEAD, WOKINGHAM, March 14, 1789

JOSEPH RUSHTON returns his sincere thanks to his Friends and the Public, for their kind favours since his residence at the above Inn; and as Wednesday next is appointed at this town for a PUBLIC DINNER, on account of the Restoration of his Majesty's Health, he informs them he will provide a good ENTERTAINMENT at One Shilling each, for such as please to favour him with their company on that day; by giving him previous notice on the Monday or Tuesday, of their intentions, will be gratefully acknowledged.

Dinner to be on the table at one o'clock.

Mon 23rd March

FOREST JUBILEE

At the meeting of the gentlemen of the Forest held on Wednesday last in Commemoration of his Majesty's recovery a subscription was opened for a BALL and SUPPER at the Town-hall, Wokingham, on Friday next the 27th instant. Subscriptions (half a guinea to admit a gentleman and two ladies) received by

Mr. ROBERTS, Steward

Mr. J. HORNE, Steward

READING

The whole of Windsor Forest has resounded with incessant acclamations in a participation of the general joy, no description of his Majesty's subjects felt or deplored more the ill effect of this unhappy indisposition, or have been more emulous in testifying the sincerity of their exultation at the fortunate events of his recovery.

Wednesday last was the day of celebration, when an elegant entertainment was provided in the Town-hall of Wokingham, attended by some of the first characters of the neighbourhood; and several public dinners for the accommodation of different denominations. Ringing of bells fireworks, illuminations, transparencies by an eminent artist from London, and firing of cannon by the Master Gunner of Cowes, in the Isle of Wight, continued till day light and closed a beautiful scene of loyalty and universal happiness.

Mon 13th April

READING

Saturday last the happy event of the recovery of his Majesty was celebrated at Luckley-house near Wokingham, on the verge of Windsor Forest, the seat of Charles Fysh Palmer, Esq. with every possible demonstration of loyalty and festivity. The gentlemen of the Corporation and others of the town and neighbourhood, were entertained in the most hospitable manner by the worthy owner of the mansion: Mrs. P. with her wonted affability, and several other ladies, honouring the company with their presence. And the next day (Sunday) the same gentleman very liberally and generously entertained the children of the Sunday schools in Wokingham, near 150, with plenty of beef, plum pudding, and each a glass of ale to drink his Majesty's health.

Among the many instances of loyalty shewn by the gentlemen in this neighbourhood, we are sorry to have omitted that of J. H. Addington, Esq. at Blount's-Court, who gave an elegant and plentiful entertainment to the gentlemen farmers and their families for several miles round, which was concluded with a handsome firework in the gardens, and a ball for the ladies; nor were the poor forgot on this occasion, as they were regaled with several hogheads of beer, and all ranks of people shewed themselves highly pleased with this noble instance of loyalty and hospitality.

Mon 1st June

NEW WESTERN ROAD

To BATH, BRISTOL, &c. thro' WINDSOR

To the Nobility, Gentry and Others, Travelling the Great Western Road, to Bath, Bristol, &c.

The King's Most Excellent Majesty, has been graciously pleased to make a road from Windsor over Cranbourn Chase, thro' Windsor Forest, leading to the rural villages of Winkfield, Warfield, and Binfield, to Reading; which is allowed to be the most delightful ride of any in this kingdom, from the many beautiful and picturesque views of noblemen and gentlemen's seats, and parks, the whole way.

The great annoyance generally complained of by persons travelling the other road, on account of the frequent passing of large droves of oxen, sheep, and other cattle, stage coaches, road wagons, and other carriage, is such, as to render it disagreeable, particularly at this season of the year.

The good accommodation that Windsor affords to travellers, is too well known to need any comment.

The saving of a very heavy turnpike, and bridge toll and the distance from Hyde Park Corner to Reading, being equally the same, it is hoped, that it will not be deemed presumptuous to recommending to the nobility, gentry, and others to give a preference to the road leading thro' Windsor.

NEW ROAD to READING THRO' WINDSOR

From Hyde Park Corner to Hounslow 10 miles
From Hounslow to Windsor, 12 miles
From Windsor to Reading 18 miles
May 25th 1789

Mon 22nd June

BUSH INN, WOKINGHAM

To be LETT, and entered upon immediately, the Bush Inn, in the Market-place, Wokingham.

Apply to Mr. John Sturdy, Reading.

Mon 6th July

READING, SATURDAY, July 4th

The Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain hath been pleased to appoint John Blagrove, of Speenhamland in this county, attorney at law to be one of the Masters Extraordinary of the High Court of Chancery.

*Routine of the Lord Bishop of Sarum's ensuing
visitations and confirmations*

Saturday, July 11, Confirm at Windsor
Monday, 13 Confirm and visit at Reading.
Tuesday 14 Confirm and visit at Newbury.
Wednesday, 15 Confirm at Wallingford.
Thursday, 16, Confirm and visit at Abingdon.
Friday, 17, Confirm at Farringdon.
Saturday 18, Confirm and visit at Marlborough.
Monday, 20, Confirm and visit at Chippingham
Tuesday, 21, Confirm and visit at Devizes.
Thursday, 23, Confirm and visit at Sarum
Friday, 24 “ “ “
Saturday, 25, Confirm at Hungerford.
Tuesday, 28, Confirm at Wantage.
Tuesday, Sept. 8, Confirm at Warminster.

By the new Act, “Hawkers are to cause to be written, painted, or printed in large legible Roman capitals, upon the most conspicuous part of every pack, box, bag, trunk, case, cart, or Waggon, or other vehicle, or conveyance, in which he or she shall carry his or her goods, and of very room or shop in which he or she shall to trade, and likewise upon every handbill or advertisement which he or she shall give out, distribute, or publish, the words, LICENCED HAWKERS, together with the number, name, or other mark or marks of distinction, written or printed upon his or her Licence; and every such person making default therein to forfeit £10.”----Unlicensed persons so marking their packs, &c. to forfeit £10.

The duties payable by Hawkens and Pedlars from the 1st of August 1789, are,---By every Hawker, Pedlar, &c. travelling on foot, the clear annual sum of £4.

By every person travelling with a horse, ass, or mule, or other beast bearing or drawing burthen, the sum of £4, yearly for each beast he or she shall so travel with, over and above the said first-mentioned duty of £4, making (for a one-horse licence) £8---For a licence with two horses, £12.

We hear the additional duty on newspapers and advertisements will take place on the second of August.

Mon 19th October/

LONDON, Thursday, Oct. 15

The Commons of Paris have sworn, in the name of the people in arms, to defend and protect the National Assembly during their stay in that city.

The Marquis de la Fayette has been appointed by the King commandant of all the troops within the circle of fifteen leagues from Paris.

The regiment of Flanders as well as the King's body guard, have taken the oath of allegiance to the nation, they now do duty in Paris, with the Parisian troops.

The King of France has, in the most unreserved manner, confirmed all the articles of constitution. Bread, since the last riots, is become much more plentiful at Paris. When the contest was at its greatest height, on Tuesday morning last, between the Paris militia and the life-guards at Versailles, a body of women, whom the voice of reason could not restrain, rushed in between the militia and the life-guards, for the purpose of falling with their own hands, on the life-guards.

The fury of the women was the preservation of the life-guards, against whom it was directed:---For just at that moment, the Parisian militia had drawn up their artillery, loaded with grape shot, and pointed it against their enemies. And in the very instant they were preparing to fire, the women rushed between them, to that the militia could not fire without killing them.

When the Parisian women attacked the King's body guards, a girl of eighteen years of age discharged a pistol at the head of one of the most violent of the soldiers, and killed him on the spot.

The women of Paris are formed into corps of militia, and actually mount guard day and night in the District of the Recollets, opposite St. Lawrence.

After the transaction at Versailles, the populous paraded the streets with the heads of these persons on spikes, and it was generally believed for some time, that they were those of the Dukes of Guiche, Chatelet, and Count de Lusignan; those noblemen, however, effected their escape, and the heads were those of the three soldiers killed in the first onset of the tumult by the women.

The national cockade has now received the addition of Liberty in the center, trampling on another figure, representing Absolute Monarchy.

A proclamation has been publicly read by the Heralds, to prevent the distribution of seditious papers, and to announce that the military will check any mobbing.

Several of the representatives, imagining that the National Assembly is on the eve of being deprived of its liberty, and that on its removal to Paris it will be dangerous to manifest opinions contrary to those of the multitude, have demanded its pass-ports.

It is generally believed by every well-informed person in France, that it was his Christian Majesty's intention to have escaped to Mets, if he had not been prevented by the Parisians.

Large quantities of bread and ammunition, provided on purpose for the Body Guards and the regiment de Flanders, which have been found at Versailles, add not little weight to this opinion

By a resolution of the National Assembly, the French King is hereafter not to be styled King of France, but King of the Franks, or freemen.

We learn from Madrid, that the King of Spain has ordered a nine-day's supplication to Heaven over all his dominions, praying that the Almighty would be pleased to

frustrate and confound all those counsels which tend to the humiliation of monarchical power in France.

It is said that the merchants of Great-Britain, on account of the president perilous situation of French credit, have just obtained an order for furnishing the whole Spanish Flota with woollens.

READING
FOREST ASSEMBLY

At the TOWN-HAL, Wokingham, will be on Thursday the 6th of November, 1789

Second Assembly, Wednesday-December 9,

Third “ Wednesday, January 6th 1790

Fourth, “ Wednesday, February 3rd

Fifth “ Wednesday, March 3rd

Sixth, “ Wednesday, April 7

Subscribers tickets are ready for delivery

TO be LETT, or SOLD; fit for the immediate reception of a family, A genteel FREEHOLD DWELLING-HOUSE, consisting of five rooms on a floor with convenient out-offices, and a large garden, situated in Rose-street, Wokingham, Berks.

For further particulars, apply to Mrs. Winder, at Mr. Bartlett's, Market-place, Wokingham.

Mon 2nd Nov

WOKINGHAM STAGE WAGGON

To be sold by private contract the WOKINGHAM old and well-established STAGE WAGGON, HORSES, HARNESSSES, STABLE UTENSILS, &C. The stock consists of one good six-inch wheel, and three and three narrow wheel wagons (one of which is almost new) one cart, one wheelbarrow, seven strong horses, with harness complete. For further particulars apply to Mr. Bennett, carpenter, Wokingham, or to Mr. Clinch, Pack Horse, Turnham Green, who will treat for the same.

1790

Mon 4th Jan

All persons who have demands on the late JOSEPH WALLEY, or the previous proprietors of the Wokingham Road Wagon are ordered to bring in their accounts to Mr. John Bennett, carpenter, at Wokingham; and those persons indebted to the said Proprietors, are desired forthwith to pay the same to the said Mr. John Bennett, who is fully empowered to settle

Mon 3rd May

READING

The ridiculous *rustic* custom of singing, (or rather gaping) for prizes of plate, seems nearly buried in oblivion; the meeting of this kind, at the Town-hall of Wokingham, on Tuesday last, being attended only, by the different *pitch pipe parties* of the surrounding parishes. This is the more to be lamented when the entertainment was so highly embellished with the “*Sublime and beautiful*” A (*volunteer*) love song, by a clown; two *hunting songs*, and a third, richly tinctured with the “*rites of Venus*,” by a lady, (for the punch ladle, without a competitor.) A trio of tenor, bass, and *unaccountable*, made highly discordant and entertaining by the effect of

unfashionable psalm singing *diffidence*, and the happy introduction of *General Wolfe's last song* of "How stands the glass around" by a Taylor; rendering the whole so great a burlesque upon *Minims, Crotchets and Semibreves*, that nothing but the salutary interpretation of "Sally in our alley" and a trio by Mr. Wyvill, junior, and his friends, could have dismissed the company tolerably reconciled to their accidental prostitution of time and pecuniary contribution.

We have the pleasure to hear, the long standing vacancies of the ancient Corporation of Wokingham, are now filled up, and the Members of that body, increased from *four* to *ten*; an elegant entertainment in the Town-hall, and a Ball for the Ladies are in early agitation upon the occasion.

Mon 10th May

READING, SATURDAY, May 8th

On Wednesday last died, the Rev. Mr. Woodward, rector of East Hendred, in this county.

The same day died, at his house at Wokingham, John Swarbeck, Esq.

Monday next the Berkshire regiment of militia will be embodied here, where they are to be trained and exercised for twenty-eight days.

Mon 13th Dec

WOKINGHAM POST-COACHES

A POST-COACH sets out from the King's Head Inn, at the Market-place, Wokingham, every morning (Saturdays excepted) at nine o'clock to the Hole-in-Tun, Inn, Fleet-street, London, and another Coach returns from thence every day at the same hour,---for conveniency of passengers, the Coaches stop at the Old White Horse Cellar and Black Bear, Piccadilly, going in and coming out.

Likewise, A POST-COACH will set out every Sunday morning at nine o'clock, from the King's Head Inn aforesaid. A family taking the whole coach may set out what hour they please, either from London or Wokingham.

No plates, money or jewels will be accounted for, if lost, unless entered and paid for as such.

The Proprietors humbly return thanks to their friends and the public for the kind encouragement they have met with, and hope for the continuance of their favours.

Performed by CLINCH, WEALE and Co.

The public may depend on every exertion being used to accommodate the passengers who travel by the said Coaches in the best manner.

Mon 20th Dec

BULL BAITING

The public are requested to take notice that St. Thomas's Day falling this year on a Tuesday (the Market-Day at Wokingham) the Bulls will not be baited till WEDNESDAY next, the 2nd instant.

A ROBBERY

Wokingham, December 18, 1790

Whereas, some person or persons unknown have several times within this month past, stolen and carried away from the Tan-Yard and Outhouses of Mr. James Bird of Wokingham, A quantity of LEATHER, and other Articles, viz. a light coloured great coat, the buttock part of a cropp'd hide, and the buttock part of a butt hide, the latter computed to be worth £1 1s. and was cut from the hide and taken away on the night of

the 13th instant, the aforesaid person or persons broke open a box and stole thereout a quantity of switch hair, about 30lv. Weight, which they left near the Bottle, about from the premises half a mile off. Therefore in order to bring the offender or offenders to justices, notice is hereby given, that a reward of TEN GUINEAS will be given to any person or persons (whether concerned or not) who will give information against the offender or offenders, so that he or they may be convicted, to be paid on his or their conviction,—Persons competent thereto, are desired to apply to the said Mr. Bird, or to Messrs, Horne and Roberts, Attornies, at Wokingham, who will pay the reward.

WOKINGHAM POST COACHES

A Post-Coach sets out from the King's Head Inn, in the Market-place, Wokingham, every morning (Saturdays excepted) at nine o'clock, to the Bolt-in-Tun Inn, Fleet-street, London; and another Coach returns from thence every day at the same hour.—for conveniency of passengers, the 'coaches stop at the Old White Horse Cellar and Black Bear, Piccadilly, going in and coming out.

Likewise, a POST-COACH will set out every Sunday morning at nine o'clock, from the King's Head Inn, aforesaid. A Family taking the whole Coach may set out what hour they please, either from London or Wokingham.

No plate, money, or jewels will be accounted for, if lost, unless entered or paid for as such.

The Proprietors humbly return thanks to their friends and the public for the kind encouragement they have met with, and hope for the continuance of their favours.

Performed by CLINCH, WEALE and Co.

The public may depend on every exertion being used to accommodate the passengers who travel by the said Coaches in the best manner.

1791

Mon 31st Jan

CROFT and SALMON

Importers of Wines and Dealers in Spirits

(Successors to the late Mr. Brookes, in Broad-street, WOKINGHAM, Berks)

Having purchased the above House and Stock in Trade, respectfully beg leave to inform the friends of the late Mr. Brookes, and the public in general, that the Business will in future be carried on by them at the same house, where they hope by a strict attention to the same, and by the best Wines and Spirits, to secure their future favours, and deserve those of the public in General.

Mon 21st Feb

The Proprietors of THE ANGEL COACHES

Beg leave to inform the public, that a COACH sets out every morning at six o'clock and will arrive in London at Eleven; and will return from the Bolt-in-Tun the same day at Twelve

Also a POST-COACH sets out from the Angel inn to Reading every day at 12 o'clock during the winter season.

Also a POST COACH sets out every morning from the Bolt-in-Tun at Ten o'clock, during the winter season.

A family taking the whole coach may set out at what hour they please.

SMITH
AND Proprietors
CLINCH

*** They will not be accountable for any parcel, &c, above five pounds value, if lost, unless catered and paid for accordingly.

WOKINGHAM POST-COACHES

A POST-COACH sets out from the King's Head Inn, in the Market-place, Wokingham, every morning (Saturdays excepted) at nine o'clock, to the Bolt-in-Tun Inn, Fleet-street, London; and another coach returns from thence every day at the same hour.---for conveniency of Passengers, the Coach stop at the Old White Horse Cellar and Black Bear, Piccadilly, going in and coming out.

Likewise, A POST-COACH will set out every Sunday morning at nine o'clock, from the King's Head Inn aforesaid. A family taking the whole Coach may set out what hour they please, either from London or Wokingham.

*** No plate, money, or jewels will be accounted for if lost, unless entered and paid for as such.

READING POST-COACHES

SET off every morning from the GEORGE INN
THE FOREST COACH

Will set off every morning at ten o'clock, goes through Binfield, Winkfield, and (by permission) through the Duke's Park, to the Black Lion Water-lane, Fleet-street, London; where passengers and parcels are carefully booked.

A COACH will return also from thence (the same road) every morning at eight o'clock.

Also, A Neat POST-COACH,

(to carry Four Inside Passengers only) Sets off every morning at seven o'clock, goes also, to the Black Lion, Water-lane, and returns from thence the same day at one.

A family taking the whole Post-Coach may set out any hour sooner or later.

They call at the New White Horse Cellar, Piccadilly, going in and coming out of London, for the convenience of passengers and parcels.

Passengers or parcels going to London, are booked at the George Inn, and at Mrs. Parish's, Perfumer, King-street.

N.B No parcel above £5 value will be accounted for if lost, unless entered and paid for as such.

MILLS, WILLIAMS, and ELMS,
Proprietors

Who returns thanks to their friends and the public for past favours, and humbly solicit their continuance.

Mon 28th Feb

FOREST ASSEMBLY

The next and last Assembly for this season will be on Wednesday, the 16th of March.

Wokingham, Feb. 26th, 1791.

Mon 14th March

On Friday, early in the morning, nine casks, filled with dollars, said not to be less than one million and several hundred thousand, were brought under a strong guard

from Dover, by the coach and delivered at the White-horse cellar. They are said to have arrived from France a few hours before 1 and to have been sent to England for the use of some great French personages. The casks were upwards of fifteen hundred weight, and the price of conveyance was 26 guineas.

John Wesley (1703-1791)

Yesterday morning the remains of Mr. John Wesley were deposited in a piece of ground near his Chapel, at the Foundry, Moorfields, amidst the tears and sighs of an innumerable company of his friends and admirers, who all appeared in deep mourning on the occasion. A sermon previous to the funeral was preached by the Rev, Dr, Whitehead, with suitable hymns etc.

Mr. Wesley was interred, as Whitfield was, in his gown and cassock, band, &C. Most of the chapels belonging to the Methodists are hung with black on this occasion.

About seven years ago Mr. Wesley caused a deed to be enrolled in Chancery by which the superintendence of his chapels and societies was committed to 100 travelling preachers, now in various parts of these kingdoms. One of these missionaries is the Rev. Dr. C. Cooke, now in America, whose mission is supposed to have increased the converts in the West India islands, and other parts of America, to near 50,000, since the conclusion of the war. A college called a Wesley's College, was founded by him in South Carolina, in 1789.

Mon 28th March

A gentleman of Bristol has received a letter from Quebec, giving an account of two severe engagements, between the Americans and the Indians, in the Shawnese country, which is within about four or five days march of one of our most valuable ports, (viz., Detroit) the first engagement happened the 16th of October last, and the second the 29th; the Americans were 2500 strong, being the main body of their army; the Indians about 800 in ambush, who in the first engagement killed 300 of the Americans, and in the second about 200; they first poured in a flight of arrows, and then began their tomahawks, making a most horrid slaughter; they would, it is said have made an end of 200 more that were hemm'd up in a swamp, had not one of their dreamers advised them to desist, in consequence of a dream he had the night before the last action; however, the accounts say, that the Indians have totally routed them, with very little loss on their side, having taken the principal part of their baggage, with some of their cannon; when the express came off with the account, they were still in pursuit of them; one Indian t is said tomahawk'd 30 himself. General Harmer commanded the defeated party, General St. Clair being behind with 500 more, tho' it does not appear that he was in the engagement. The Indians took the night before the first battle three American officers, who informed them it was their intention to attack Detroit in the Spring, they then put them to a cruel death.

Late accounts from the Mississippi positively mention, that the Spaniards have erected a fort at the Walnut-hills, and garrisoned it with a considerable number of troops; and that they are determined to oppose the settlement intended to be made there by Col. Holder, and a number of Kentuckians, under the auspices of the Georgians. That, in consequence of this, many of the Kentuckians are embodying, and intend marching down, shortly to dispossess them of that advantageous situation.

The commotions at Martinique have not in the least subsided. The last accounts from St. Pierre mention, that every thing there was in a state of the utmost confusion.

The severe shock of an earthquake was lately felt all over the island of Jamaica. It lasted about half minute but did no material damage

Mon 18th April

NOTICE to DEBTORS

Samuel Trash, late of Wokingham, in the county of Berks, linen draper, having quitted his shop and business there, desires all persons who stand indebted to him will pat their respective debts to Mr. John Roberts, of Wokingham, aforesaid, on or before the 31st day of May next , or they will immediately afterwards be sued for the same.

Mon 25th April

LONDON, THURSDAY, April 21
EAST INDIA INTELLIGENCE

Yesterday morning the Purser of the *Princess Amelia*, Capt. Millet, arrived at the East-India-house, with intelligence of the safe arrival of that ship on Tuesday, off the Isle of Wight, from Bengal.

She brings intelligence that a detachment from Gen. Meadows's army under the command of Colonel Floyd had engaged that of Tippoo Sultan, on the 13th and 14th of September last. The action took place on the Bowanni River; and the following are the particulars:--

On the morning of the 13th, the piquets went out to reconnoitre, and about ten miles from the camp, fell in with a patrole from Tippoo's grand guard, who had crossed the river with a large body of cavalry in the night. The piquets attacked the patrole, and drove them into the river.

Major Darley, with his regiment of cavalry, had been ordered to support the piquets, but from the close ground and high hedges, he was surrounded by 3,000 of Tippoo's horse before he was aware of their numbers. He took post in the angle of an inclosure, which covered his rear and flanks with impenetrable hedges.: in that situation he received and repelled repeated attacks for two hours, without the enemy being able to gain any material advantage; and whenever they attempted to break in upon him, they fell in such numbers, as to prevent their own rear from advancing. The line is now under arms, and Col. Floyd with the 19th regiment, and Major Stephenson, with the 3d of native cavalry, came up to Darley's support. Major S. resolutely cut his way through the angle, while Col. Floyd, with the dragoons, under cover of the dust, got round unperceived and charged the enemy's rear, who immediately fled, but were cut down in great numbers. The country was so close, that it was impossible for our cavalry to follow in line. The troops were however detached after them into the lanes, where they made a great slaughter, according to the most moderate calculation amounting to 400; several horses, and two standards marked with the name of the Prophet, were taken.

After this rout of the enemy's cavalry, Col. Floyd returned to camp, but he had scarcely dismounted before the enemy's line appeared close to our grand guard, and about ten o'clock they began firing across the river, and continued until dark.

Col. Floyd exposed himself during the whole day with the infantry; the elderly horses were killed by his side, and the Quarter-Master Croke, who attended the Colonel had his horse's head shot off close to him.

Tippoo's force consisted of 14,000 of his best cavalry, 20,000 infantry, and a formidable train of artillery of 30 guns. As it was impossible for so small a detachment as Col. Floyd's, not exceeding 4,000 men, to contend with such numbers

with the smallest hope of success, the Colonel resolved to retreat during the night, and ordered the Fort of Sattlungaluin, which was untenable, to be evacuated at ten o'clock; but from some delay, it was not effected till two o'clock.

At day break the detachment marched; the Colonel was obliged to spike and leave behind one eighteen-pounder, two twelve, and three six pounders, the axle trees being broke, and a number of bullocks killed; the detachment had got on about nine miles, when the enemy came up with great rapidity.

The enemy now thought the destruction of the detachment certain, and about four o'clock their cavalry headed by a very gallant leader, came down with shouts of victory in large columns, and made a furious attack on our infantry. They were, however, received by the 36th Regiment and Sepoys with the greatest coolness, who reserved their fire till they came within ten yards of the line, and then gave their discharge, which brought the front rank to the ground, and the dying men and horses came rolling on the points of the bayonets; the slaughter which followed from the grape and musquetry was immense. Their Sirdar, said to be the Bunar-ad-Cawn, brother-in-law to Tippoo, was killed, and a great number of officers.

Captain Hartley with the light infantry of the 36th now attempted to take possession of one of the enemy's guns, that was within two hundred yards of our lines. In this gallant attempt he unfortunately lost his life, and the company was obliged to fall back.

The detachment continued advancing till the country became more open, Col. Floyd formed the cavalry, as the enemy were again coming down to charge the infantry. The 19th and 5th regiments charged them down the line to the right, whilst the third regiment did the same to the left. The fate of the day was now decided, the enemy fled on every side and never again appeared. Tippoo was himself in the action, but not distinguished by any mark of distinction. The detachment marched in perfect order into the village of Shaon in the evening and on the 16th were joined by General Meadows at Veladdy, who had been marching without interruption to their support

The fatigue the detachment underwent was excessive; for three days the men and officers had nothing but two biscuits each, and the horses remained saddled for four days, and mounted upwards of sixteen hours each day.

The detachment lost the greatest part of their baggage, and the following is the return of the killed and wounded:--

Colonel Dear, of the Bengal artillery; Captain Hartley, and Lieut. Armstrong, of the 26th regiment, Mr. Morris, Surgeon, and Mr. Sutherland, Surgeon, 10th dragoons, killed. Capt. Sampson, Bengal artillery; Lieut. Vallancy, and Lieut. Macauley, 36th reg. dangerously wounded. Lieut. Winbelt, Bengal Artillery; Lieut. Purefoy, Lieut. Horseborough. Of the 36th reg. Lieut. Moyer and Colonel Forbes, slightly wounded. About 26 European rank and file killed, and 80 wounded; 120 native rank and file killed, and 140 wounded.

Lord Cornwallis was preparing to go to the coast, with a reinforcement of 3000 men, and was expected to sail in about twenty days. He was to go in the Vestal frigate, accompanied by Colonels Ross, Apsley, and Kyd, Doctor Fleming, and Mr. Cherry.

We further learn, that our troops, under the command of Lieut. Col. Stuart had possessed themselves of Palliacatcherry, on, the 22d of September last. That the fort of Sattimungulum had surrendered to Colonel Floyd, previous to the engagement; and the fort of Etrode to Lieut. Colonel Oldham.

On the other side, Darrapotam, which was in our possession, had been attacked by a large body of Tippoo's army, and had surrendered by an honourable capitulation; that

Tippoo treated the prisoners with the greatest liberality of sentiment, which was so little to be expected from his former conduct; he suffered the baggage to pass unmolested, and the garrison to proceed with a flag of truce to the grand army; he in one instance departed from the terms of capitulation, namely in obliging the garrison, consisting of about 1,200 in number, to sign an agreement not to take any part against him during the present war.

Col, Kelly died on the 23rd of September; the command of the centre army, therefore devolves on Lieut. Colonel Maxwell, a King's officer.

The following is the narration of what passed, after the junction of General Meadows and Colonel Floyd's armies, which includes the very latest date from India.

From the 29th of September to the 6th of October, our troops marched upon an average sixteen miles a day, in a remarkable hot sun; during which time the prisoners and defectors from Tippoo's army unanimously reported that the enemy were so intimidated by the severe havock which Col. Floyd's brave detachment had made amongst them that the Sultan had been dissuaded from risking any encounter with our united force, in the then irresolute temper of his troops, in consequence therefore of the Bowanni having suddenly risen on the 2nd ult. Which prevented his retreating towards the Ghauts, the Sultan had moved with his whole force to Errode, which place he plundered of all the arrack, and 3,000 bags of rice, which had been there deposited.

In consequence of the above intelligence, India's stock fell yesterday nearly three per cent.

Mon 18th July

WOKINGHAM POST-COACHES

A POST-COACH sets out from the King's Head Inn, in the Market-place, Wokingham, every morning (Saturdays excepted) at nine o'clock to the Bolt-in-Tun Inn, Fleet Street, London and another coach returns from thence every day at the same hour.---for convenience of passengers, the Coaches stop at the Old White Horse Cellar and Black Bear, Piccadilly, going in and coming out

Likewise a POST-COACH will set out every Sunday morning at nine o'clock, from the King's Head Inn aforesaid. A family taking the whole coach may set out what hour they please, either from London or Wokingham.

*** No plate, money or jewels will be accounted for if lost, unless entered and paid for in cash.

The Proprietors humbly return thanks to their friends and the public, for the kind encouragement they have met with, and hope for the continuance of their favors.

Performed by CLINCH and Co.

The public may depend upon every exertion being paid to accommodate the passengers who travel by the said Coaches in the best manner.

Mon 1st Aug

FEMALE EDUCATION

Mrs. Broom's Boarding School, at WOKINGHAM, opens again on Monday the 18th of July, for the reception of Young Ladies

Mr. Broom waits on young Ladies and Gentlemen in the vicinity of Wokingham, and instructs them in the Classics, Geography, with the Use of the Globes, Writing and Accounts, &c.

Mon 10th Oct

FAIR

The FAIR AT WOKINGHAM for Horses, Cows, Sheep, and different kinds of Merchandise, will be held (as last year) on Old Michaelmas Day, the 10th of October instant.

The Fair on the 21st of April, as usual.

WOKINGHAM POST-COACHES AND WAGGON

Removed from the King's Head to Mrs. Chaplin's
The Rose Inn, Market-Place

Will continue to set off every morning at nine o'clock (Sunday excepted) to the Bolt-in Tun, Fleet Street, London.

Also a Post-Coach will leave the Bolt-in Tun, Fleet Street, every morning at 10 o'clock, (Sundays excepted)

WAGGON as usual.

Every Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock to the Saracen's Head, Friday-street, London; returns from thence every Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock.

J. CLINCH and Co.

Call at the Old White Horse Cellar, and Black Bear, Piccadilly, for convenience of Parcels, and Passengers who reside at the west end of the town.

Mon 12th Dec

READING POST-COACHES

SET off every morning from the GEORGE INN
THE FOREST COACH

Will set off every morning at ten o'clock, goes through Binfield, Winkfield, and (by permission) through the Duke's Park, to the Black Lion Water-lane, Fleet-street, London; where passengers and parcels are carefully booked.

A COACH will return also from thence (the same road) every morning at eight o'clock.

Also, A Neat POST-COACH,

(to carry Four Inside Passengers only) Sets off every morning at seven o'clock, goes also, to the Black Lion, Water-lane, and returns from thence the same day at one.

A family taking the whole Post-Coach may set out any hour sooner or later.

They call at the New White Horse Cellar, Piccadilly, going in and coming out of London, for the convenience of passengers and parcels.

Passengers or parcels going to London, are booked at the George Inn, and at Mrs. Parish's, Perfumer, King-street.

N.B No parcel above £5 value will be accounted for if lost, unless entered and paid for as such.

MILLS, WILLIAMS, and ELMS, Proprietors

Who returns thanks to their friends and the public for past favours, and begs to inform them, that the PARTNERSHIP which subsisted between them and Messrs. SMITH and Co., Proprietors of the Coaches from the ANGEL INN, is now Dissolved; they therefore humbly solicit the future patronage of their friends and the public, which it will ever be their study to merit.

Mon 26th Dec

WOKINGHAM STAGE WAGON

Richard Creaker at the Ship, Wokingham, Wilts, begs leave to inform his friends, and the public in general, that he has purchased the above Waggon, which will continue to set out from the Ship every Tuesday morning at ten o'clock, to the Saracen's Head, Friday-street, London; from whence it returns every Wednesday morning at ten o'clock; and for the convenience of gentlemen who reside at Binfield, goods are taken in at the Stag and Hounds, the Jack of Newbury, and the Shoulder of Mutton; likewise calls at the Bull, Bracknall; and stops at the New White Horse Cellar, and at the Black Bear, Piccadilly, going in and coming out of London. Hopes by a strict attention to the above business to gain the patronage and approbation of his friends, and the public in general.

By their obedient humble servant.

RICHARD CREAKER

1792

Mon 12th March

By the Carteret Packet arrived at Falmouth from the Leeward Islands on Thursday last, we learn from St. Domingo, that the rebels on the 21st of January attacked the Cape, and for some time maintained a fort of regular siege. On the appearance of night, as they were endeavouring their retreat, the townsmen sallied, and an obstinate contest ensued. The victory, however, was obtained by the whites: 5,000 women and children were made prisoners; 23 pieces of ordnance taken, and a considerable sum of money. Nine of the principal rebels have been executed; among whom were a brother and a son of the celebrated Oge.--- Such have been the effects of this defeat, that the mulattoes and slaves have abandoned Le Dondon, St. Marc, and several other places they had possessed themselves of; and were either dispersed or retired to the mountains. Great numbers in the neighbourhood of Cape François had surrendered; and were, with a few exceptions, all pardoned.

Mon 23rd April

WOKINGHAM POST--COACH

Sets off from the Rose Inn every day (Sundays excepted) at nine o'clock in the morning, to the Bolt and Ton, Fleet-street, London; from whence another Coach returns, the same days, at ten o'clock in the morning.

Also a POST COACH sets off from the Rose Inn every Sunday, at one o'clock, during the summer season.

Also a POST COACH sets off every Sunday, from the Bolt and Ton, in Fleet-street, at eight o'clock.

They call at the Old White Horse Cellar and Black Bear, Piccadilly, going in and coming out of London, for the convenience of passengers and parcels.

N.B. No parcel above five pounds value will be accounted for, if lost, unless entered and paid for as such.

WEALE and Co, Proprietors,

Who return thanks to their friends and the public in general for their past favours, and hope for a continuance of the same, which it will be their study to merit.

Mon 18th June

WOKINGHAM ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION PINK MEETING

Will be held at the Roe Buck, on Friday 22d instant where subscriptions of 5s. each will be received till the day of showing. Each person to show ten whole blooms of ten different sorts; to prove on oath that they are from plants of their own property, being in their own possession from March last.

Tickets 2s. 6d. each, which will entitle the bearer to his dinner and 1s. worth of liquor.

Stewards Mr. Simons, sen.

Mr. Watts

A BANK

Will shortly be opened under the firm of *The WOKINGHAM and READING BANK* and the Bills will be payable at Reading, Wokingham, Wallingford, Windsor, Basingstoke, and London.

Bills will be discounted at Three and a Half per Cent, and business transacted with the utmost punctuality and strictest honour.

Mon 13th Aug

On Sunday morning a duel was fought in a field near Staines, between two officers belonging to a regiment encamped on Bagshot Heath, at which place the misunderstanding originated, in consequence of the one imputing to the other mismanagement in the direction of some military operations with their respective companies. They met, attended by their seconds, about six o'clock: the ground being measured, at the distance of twelve paces, each party took his station, and fired at the same instant, but without injury to either. The seconds interposing both parties left the ground, and returned to the encampment.

At the assizes for the county of Surrey, this week, that notorious villain, well-known by the name of Jumping Joe, for house-breaking, was capitally convicted, and received sentence of death, as were five others for divers offences.

Mon 10th Sept

THE STATUTE FAIR AT WOKINGHAM, for hiring Servants, buying and fetling Horses, Cows, Sheep, and different sorts of Merchandize, will be held as last year, on Old Michaelmas day, the 10th of October, 1792.

N.B. The Fair on the 21st of April, as usual.

WOKINGHAM, Sept. 1, 1792.

Mon 1st Oct

WOKINGHAM POST--COACH

Sets off every Sunday morning at ten o'clock, and every other morning at nine (Saturday excepted) from the Rose into the Bolt and Tun, Fleet-street, London, and returns from thence every morning precisely at ten o'clock.

Calls at the Gloucester Coffee-House, Old White Horse Cellar and Black Bear, Piccadilly, both going in and coming out of London, for the convenience of those who reside at the well end of the town.

N.B. No parcel above five pounds value will be accounted for, if lost, unless entered as such and paid for accordingly.

R. WEALE Proprietor returns thanks to his friends and the public for their past favours, and hopes for a continuance of them, which it will be his study to merit.

Mon 22nd Oct

An officer of the 64th regiment walked from New Geneva to Waterford, on Sunday last (distance near seven miles) in an hour and eight minutes, for a considerable wager.

A leash of woodcocks were shot last week, by a clergyman near Bridport.

A few days ago as a journeyman carpenter was pulling down an old house at Hendon, in Middlesex, he found within a wainscot 7000 guineas, the coin of George the first and second, and several bank notes. With this money he commenced business as a master in his profession, telling no person of his good luck except his *wife*: the foolish woman, had however nearly *spoiled all*, by disclosing the secret; for Mr. Bond, as Lord of the manor of Hendon, on hearing of the circumstance, laid claim to the money and notes, and summoned a jury to inquire into the circumstance, and to give him power to get all from the carpenter; but Chip had taken his precaution, for though had told his wife he had told no one else, and stoutly denied the fact before the jury, who informed Mr. Bond that as no proof had been adduced of the carpenter's finding the money on the manor, they could not award it to him

In consequence of an information being given, one of the magistrates went to a baker's in Dorset-street, Spital fields, with several of the police officers, and seized eighty quarter loaves, and eight half peck loaves; which, on being weighed, were found deficient in the whole 325 ounces. The magistrate distributed the bread among the poor, and the baker will be fined 5s. per ounce.

We have heard much lately of *fraudulent bakers*. Why is it not the excellent custom adopted in London of nailing such delinquents, for one hour, by their ears to their door posts, as practiced at Constantinople?

Mon 5th Nov

RESTORATION OF LIFE, IN CASES OF SUDDEN DEATH

For this benevolent purpose, DR. SIBLY'S REANIMATING SOLAR TINCTURE, supercedes every art and invention.—In all circumstances of suicide, or sudden death, whether by blows, fits, falls, suffocation, strangulation, drowning, apoplexy, thunder and lightning, assassination, duelling, &c. immediate recourse should be had to this medicine, which will not fail to restore life, provided the organs and juices are in a fit disposition for it., which they are undoubtedly are much oftener than is imagined.

Let me, therefore, entreat an anxious perseverance in this sublimest of all charities—the attempt to recover, perishing lives! Upon all such emergencies, Dr. Sibly will be ready to attend the meanest individual; in the interim he begs to call the-attention of all persons to this medicine, whole blood has been contaminated by hot climates, or scrophulous taints; whole juices are vitiated by intemperance or disease; whole muscles are debilitated, and nerves parched with consumptive fevers; or whole enfeebled constitutions require immediate aid. They will find it an INFALLIBLE, and almost *immediate* cure.

Sold in bottles at 6s. 6d. and 12s. each, (duty excluded,) with ample directions, by E. SIBLY, M.D. No. 17 Upper Titchfield-street, Cavendish-square; by Champante and Whitrow, Jewry-street, Aldgate; by Mr. Williams, perfumer to his Majesty, No.41, Pall Mall; at the British Directory-office, Ave-Maria-lane, St. Paul's; by the Printers of this paper; and by every bookseller in the country, who sells Dr. Sibly's Works.

Mon 10th Dec

WOKINGHAM

The Magistrates of this town, give notice, that a BUSHEL, and other Measures affixed conformable to the WINCHESTER STANDARD, will be immediately procured, and deposited with the Clerk of the Market, to whom all persons desirous of having their Measures made true and sealed according to the Statute, are desired to apply.

The above Magistrates, in concurrence with the resolution of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the county, acting for the Forest division at their last meeting, also give notice that after the last day of December instant, they will, in all instances, enforce the law respecting the use of the Winchester Standard Measure within this town and neighbourhood.

Wokingham, Dec. 6 1792.

Mon 31st Dec

Wanted immediately, a Journeyman PLUMBER and GLAZIER,--A sober steady man in the above business, who is a good workman, may meet with constant employ, by applying to Mr. James Haywood, Plumber, Glazier, and Painter in Wokingham.---Wages no object.

WOKINGHAM, Dec 14, 1792

At a Meeting of the Members of the Corporation and others, Inhabitants of this Town and Neighbourhood,

It is unanimously Resolved,

That, highly sensible of the many great blessings and advantages which the laws of this Kingdom insure to all ranks of people, we conceive it is our duty to wellwishers to the peace, happiness and prosperity of the nation, to declare our determination to hand forward, and use our utmost exertions to preserve inviolate our present happy Constitution, and to detect and bring to punishment all persons who shall by any means attempt to promote Sedition, or infringe the Laws and Liberties of the Country. And we do admonish all Publicans within our jurisdiction, not to suffer any Meetings in their respective houses to be held for seditious purposes, or for any other purposes, or for any other purpose which may tend to a Breach of the Peace and we do charge all our Officers to be very vigilant in apprehending all disturbances of the Peace that they may be punished as the law directs.

That these Resolutions be inserted in the next Reading Mercury; and that they be left at Mr. Robert's office for the signature of any gentleman or inhabitant of the neighbourhood.

At a Meeting of the Deputy Lieutenants and Magistrates of the County of BERKS, acting for the FOREST DIVISION, held at the Old Rose Inn, in WOKINGHAM, this 11th day of December 1792,

It was unanimously Resolved

That we will, to the utmost of our power, support our present happy Constitution as by Law establishes; both in Church and in State; and that we will exert our best endeavours to suppress all riotous, seditious, or unlawful Meetings, which may be held in our neighbourhood, and punish with the utmost severity of the law all persons who may be found assembling to disturb the Peace of the Country.

All Publicans harbouring any seditious persons, or suffering any unlawful Meetings to be held in their houses, will be punished as the law directs and refused any Licence in future; and all persons who may hear or know of any unlawful assembly to be held

for the purpose of disturbing the Public Peace, are requested to give immediate notice to the nearest Magistrate, who will put the laws in force for the Preservation of Peace, Liberty and Property.

That the Clerk do sign these Resolutions, and cause them to be inserted in the next Reading Mercury.

By order of the Meeting
JOHN ROBERTS, Clerk

1793

Mon 28th Jan

LONDON, Thursday, Jan. 24th

At two o'clock on Sunday morning, The National Convention after a very laborious discussion, pronounced the awful sentence, by a majority of thirty-eight only, That LOUIS The SIXTEENTH should be EXECUTED within Twenty-four hours.

EXECUTION OF LOUIS XVI

The following intelligence from Paris came by express to Ministers, dated Tuesday morning:

The unfortunate Louis is no more! He was beheaded yesterday morning at ten o'clock in the Place de Louis Quinze. He died with the most heroic fortitude.

The King left the Temple, agreeably to the instructions from the Provisionary Council, at eight o'clock in the morning of Monday. He had on a brown great coat, white waistcoat, black breeches and stockings. His hair was dressed. He was conducted from the Temple to the place which had been appointed for the execution, in the Mayor's carriage. His confessor and two Gendarmiere were in the same coach; the greatest silence was preserved during the procession, which passed slowly along the Boulevards which led from the Temple to the place of execution. All women were prohibited from appearing in the Streets, and all persons from being seen at their windows. A strong guard cleared the procession.

About half past nine, the king arrived at the place of execution, which was in the Place de Louis XV, between the pedestal which formerly supported the statue of his grandfather, and the promenade of the Elysian Fields. Louis mounted the scaffold with composure, and that modest intrepidity peculiar to oppressed innocence, the trumpets sounding and drums beating during the whole time.

He made a sign that he had something to say; the beating of drums and the clamour of the trumpets instantly ceased, his butchers, however, in a moment exclaimed, "No harangue," and the drums continued to beat, the trumpets to sound. Notwithstanding the clamour, these words were distinctly heard,-- "*I commend my soul to God, I pardon my enemies, I die innocent. I only functioned, upon compulsion, the Civil Constitution of the Clergy.*"—He said something more, but the beating of the drums drowned his voice. His executioners laid hold of him, and an instant after, his head was separated from his body; this was about a quarter past ten o'clock.

After the execution, the people threw their hats up in the air, and cried out, *Vive la Nation!*

Some of them endeavoured to seize the body, but it was removed by a strong guard to the Temple, and the lifeless remains of the King were exempted from those outrages which his Majesty had experienced during his life.

Louis made a will, all the particulars of which have not been transpired. He asked pardon of God, for having sanctioned the decree upon the Civil Constitution of the Clergy, although this sanction was extorted by violence; and was contrary to his solemn protest.

Mon 18th March

Kingston, Jan 26th

Tuesday evening his Majesty's ship Providence, Capt. Bligh, with the Assistance brig, Lieutenant Portlock, arrived here from Otaheite (Tahiti) with the bread-fruit plants. These vessels sailed from England the 2nd August 1791; arrived at Otaheite the 10th of April following, where they remained till the 19th of July, and having effected the object of their voyage, left the island in perfect health, and arrived at St. Helena the 17th of December, from whence they had only a passage of 27 days here.

This voyage has been so far completed in the short space of 18 months; and it must afford pleasure and satisfaction to the inhabitants of this part of the world, to learn that no less than 300 bread-fruit plants have been landed here, in excellent order, for the purpose of being distributed among the different islands; but our most grateful thanks and acknowledgments are particularly due to our most gracious and beloved Sovereign, ever mindful of the wants and necessities of his subjects, planned and directed this, to us, beneficial undertaking.

The remainder of the plants, amounting to an equal number, are intended for the island of Jamaica, whither Captain Bligh will proceed in a day or two, and from thence will return to England. Independent of the bread-fruit, a number of other valuable plants are brought by Capt. Bligh, some of the most delicious fruits.

Capt. Bligh has on board two men, natives of Otaheite, going to England with him.

Capt. Bligh went out and returned by the Cape of Good Hope. He also, in his return, called at Timor, and came through heretofore unexplored Strait between New Guinea and New Holland, which, has been named Providence Straits. This passage is mentioned to be extremely perilous, and, instead of being as was supposed and laid down, clear and open, was full of shoals, rocks and small islands, The Providence and the Assistance were repeatedly in the most imminent danger of being lost, and though the difference in good sea room might be run in a couple of days, so slow was their progress, that it took 21 to get through it.

At times they could not run more than five miles a day, and they lost some anchors. Some of the islands in this strait are inhabited, and a communication was had with the natives, who appeared friendly, but on a sudden a number of canoes put off, and approaching close to the Assistance, threw in a volley of arrows, by which one man was killed and two dangerously wounded. They, however, retired very precipitately, on the Providence firing at them and striking one of the canoes, by which some were killed.

It was in this Strait the Pandora frigate was lost: and it is conjectured that M. de le Peyrouse perished there.

There are on board the Providence part of the crew of the ship Matilda, a whaler, belonging to London, which was wrecked in the South Seas, and had got to Otaheite in their boats.—No account could be collected of the Bounty.

Only one man died of disease during the voyage. Indeed the healthy appearance of every person belonging to the two vessels is remarkable.

The Honourable Council and Assembly, which met on Wednesday, came to unanimous resolution, in consequence of the unparalleled sufferings of Captain Bligh in his first voyage, and his unwearied perseverance of the final accomplishment of his object, to present him with a piece of plate, of the value of 100 guineas, as a mark of the sense this island entertains for his distinguished merit.

Mon 25th March

The SMITHS in the Town and Neighbourhood of Wokingham, are desired to meet at the Sign of the Roe Buck, at Wokingham, on Monday the 25th of March inst. At 11 o'clock to consider of the propriety of altering the Price of Smiths Work, on account of the high Price of Iron and Coal.

WOKINGHAM MARKET

Notice is hereby given, that a Winchester Bushel, legally assized, is provided and left with Clerk of the Market for the public use and that buying and selling by that Standard will take place on Tuesday the 26th instant.

Mon 29th April

WOKINGHAM STAGE WAGGON

Richard Creaker, at the SHIP, WOKINGHAM, returns his sincere thanks to his friends and the public in general, for the many favours he has received, and hopes to merit a continuance of the same. The above wagon sets out as usual every Tuesday at ten o'clock in the morning, from the Ship, Wokingham, to the Saracen's Head, Friday-street; and returns from thence every Wednesday morning at the same hour. For the convenience of gentlemen who reside at Binfield, goods are taken in at the Stag and Hounds, Jack of Newbury, Shoulder of Mutton, and likewise calls at Mr. Slark's at the Bull, at Braknall

He pledges himself, by strict attention and assiduity, to merit the patronage of his friends.

Calls at the New White Horse Cellar and Black Bear, Piccadilly, both going in and coming out of London.

Performed by their most obedient humble servant.

RICHARD CREKER

Mon 6th May

CAPTAIN BLIGH

Kingston, Feb 9 Tuesday last anchored at Port Royal his Majesty's ship Providence, Capt. Bligh, and the companion of her voyage, the brig Alliance, Capt. Portlock, from the South Seas. They sailed from Otaheite on the 19th of July, passed through Endeavour Straits, which divide New Holland from New Guinea, touched at Timor, the Cape of Good Hope, St. Helena, and at St. Vincent's, in their course to this island.

Capt. Bligh could gain no intelligence of the mutineer Christian, and his accomplices, who were on board the Bounty. When they returned to Otaheite, after executing their infernal project, the natives, suspecting some mischief from the non appearance of the commander, and the gentlemen with him, laid a plan to seize the vessel and crew, but a favourite female of Christian's betrayed the design of her countrymen. He put to sea in the night, and next morning the ship was nearly out of sight. When Christian left Otaheite in the Bounty, we took with him seven women and twelve men, natives. The general opinion is, that he has gone to colonise some hitherto unsettled island.

Two of the natives of Otaheite are on board the Providence; one of them on his way to England, in order to be instructed in the art of shipbuilding; and the other is said to be desirous of staying here. To assist in the establishment and rearing of the plants of his native country.

Feb 16., In addition to the bread-fruit and the many other valuable plants sent to the botanical gardens, Dr. Dancer has lately received from the Society of Arts some seeds

of the new Guinea nutmeg, a spice little inferior to the nutmeg of the Moduccus. Should they succeed, they will prove a valuable article for cultivation in this island, as they are, on account of the high price of the common nutmegs, in great demand.

Mon 24th June

CAPTURE OF A FRENCH FRIGATE

Portsmouth, 'June 16,' This morning arrived the Nymph frigate, of 36 guns,-- Captain Pellew, with the Cleopatra French frigate, of 36 guns, which she captured yesterday morning off the Start, after a most severe action of 50 minutes.

The Cleopatra was a Commodore of five other frigates sent out to protect the trade of France, and had separated from the fleet, and on coming within hail o the Nymph, gave her three cheers, coming fairly and by consent into action.

The first broadside from the French frigate, cleared Captain Pellew's forecastle, and towards the close of the action the Cleopatra's wheel was shot away, when she fell on the Nymph's quarter, and the /English, with infinite gallantry and resolution, boarded the enemy, and cut everything before them. The killed, or irrecoverably wounded, in the French ship amount to 90---

The Chief Captain of the Cleopatra was mortally wounded early in the action, and did not live to see his colours struck. The second Captain is also said to have died of his wounds.

The Nymph also suffered severely, having the boatswain, four midshipmen, and 20 seamen killed, and the 2d lieutenant, and the lieutenant of marines, and 20 seamen and marines wounded.

The Cleopatra's mizzen mast was carried away about twelve feet from the deck, also her gib-boom; part of her bowsprit and head went into the water, and her sails and rigging were shot to pieces. The Cleopatra, though only rated 36, actually mounts 48 guns, 18 and 12 pounders; and the Nymph only 36, 12 and 9 pounders. It must, however, be admitted, that the French officers and men behaved with singular courage, and it is by no means is any sort of disparagement to them that they were under the necessity of lowering their colours to an English ship of war, commanded by a Pellew.

When Capt. Pellew landed this afternoon, he was received on the platform at the New Salay port with three cheers from the populace, collected in great numbers to receive him.

Mon 15th July

WOKINGHAM

Mrs. Broom embraces this opportunity of returning her sincere thanks to her friends for their past favours; and informs them and the public, that MONTAGUE HOUSE BOARDING SCHOOL, for the reception of YOUNG LADIES, will be opened again, after the vacation, on Monday the 22d of July instant.

Mon 26th Aug

DWELLING HOUSE WITH GARDENS TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION

By Mr. HAWKES

On Tuesday the 10th of September, at twelve o'clock, at the Rose Inn, Wokingham, Berks.

(in separate lots)

A very commodious and modern-built brick and lathed DWELLING HOUSE, with coach house, stable, and all suitable offices, plentifully supplied with the best water, a large walled garden, fully cropp'd, and cloathed with the choicest fruit trees, situate in Broad-street, Wokingham, held at a pepper corn rent, for an unexpired term of upwards of 1800 years, now in the occupation of the proprietor who will give immediate possession.

A small FREEHOLD DWELLING adjoin with a garden and offices, let to Mr. Job Head, at four pounds five shillings per annum.

Likewise FREEHOLD ORCHARD well stocked with fruit trees, contiguous to the same, of which instant possession may be had.

To be viewed with application on the premises, and further particulars may be had of Messrs. Hodgson and Blandy, and of Mr. Hawkes, Appraiser, Reading, who are empowered to treat by private contract for the same.

Mon 7th Oct

WOKINGHAM
To be SOLD by AUCTION
By Mr. COLLINS

On Wednesday, the 16th of October, 1793,---The household furniture, some framing utensils and live stock, belonging to Mr. Abraham Davis, leaving his house, in the Wiltshire part of the parish of Wokingham, comprising bedsteads with harateen furniture, very good feather beds, and bedding, chests of drawers, wainscot, oval dining tables, mahogany tea ditto, corner cupboards, chamber chair, small range, dresser and shelves, kitchen requisites, and about ten dozen wine bottles; very good brewing casks, mash tub etc., a quantity of fowls, fattening coops, very good oak-manger, 18 feet long, some sacks, good market cart, dung ditto, one small double tier ditto, and 38 healthy ewes and weather sheep.

To be viewed the day preceding and morning of sale, which will begin at eleven o'clock.

Mon 14th Oct

Wokingham Stage Waggon

Richard Creaker Proprietor of the said Waggon, hereby returns his sincere thanks to his friends and customers for their past favours and begs to inform them, that the said Waggon will set out, in future, from Wokingham precisely every Tuesday morning at seven o'clock, to the Saracen's Head, Friday-street, London, and for the convenience of the gentlemen of Binfield, Easthampstead, Warfield, and the adjoining neighbourhood, Goods will be taken up at the under-mentioned places, viz. Mr. Stannaway's Shoulder of Mutton, Jack of Newbury, and Stag and Hounds, at Binfield; at Mr. Slark's, at Bracknall; and at Mr. Bronsven at Sunninghill Wells.---By strict attention and assiduity, he hopes to merit the future favour and patronage of his friends and the public in general.

The Waggon calls at the New White Horse Cellar and Black Bear, in Piccadilly, going in and coming out of London.

The said Proprietor hereby gives notice that he will not be accountable for money, plate, jewels, or writings, unless entered and paid for accordingly.

Mon 28th Oct

WOKINGHAM COACH
From the Rose Inn

Sets out every morning at even o'clock, (Sundays excepted) and returns from the Bolt and Ton, Fleet-street, the same day, at one; calls at the Gloucester Coffee-House, and Black Bear, Piccadilly, both going in and coming out of London.

The Proprietors beg leave to assure the public that the utmost pains will be taken to accommodate them in every respect

JOSEPH GRAVE and Co., Proprietors

Mon 16th Dec

Wokingham Academy

Mr. Broom, after many years experience, as an Assistant in some of the first public and private Seminaries about the Metropolis, proposes to open a respectable Academy, for the reception of Young Gentlemen, immediately after the Christmas recess; and has engaged a house replete with every accommodation for the purpose, pleasantly situate in Broad-street, and lately in the occupation of George Whitelocke, Esq.

Here the pupils will be educated in every useful and polite branch of literature on an extensive and liberal plan; and one great object constantly in view at this Seminary, will be, to eradicate every growing evil, to form dispositions, to direct their tender minds to sound morality, and to inculcate principles of virtue, which must ultimately be productive of the happiest effect, by endearing them to those of their nearest connections, and rendering them worthy citizens, and valuable members of society.

Mr. Broom flatters himself that the system of education he means to adopt will give general satisfaction.

Wokingham, it may be said, is one of the best situations for health in the kingdom.

Mon 23rd Dec

DREADFUL CATASTROPHE

Leghorn, Nov 27.

Yesterday we witnessed one of the most dreadful catastrophes. The Scipio, a French ship of 74 guns, carrying 600 men, (one of those which surrendered at Toulon, and sent out for provisions) which was laying at anchor at this port with the British squadron under the command of Admiral Colby, became a prey to the flames. At three o'clock in the afternoon large volumes of black smoke rising from all parts of the ship, were the fore runners of the flames which began to break forth a few moments after. The crew who were almost all on board of her, and had not the smallest suspicion of any accident, finding they could not withstand the rage of the fire, mostly flung themselves through the flames into the sea, every one striving to escape with his life. Mean while a great number of the jolly boats belonging to the British, Swedish, and Neopolitan men of war, picked up many of the unfortunate sufferers, and a great number of dead bodies were afterwards taken up, suffocated and drowned.

The rest, being invalids, or willing to extinguish the flame, which began to spread in every part, fell victims.

About four o'clock all the rigging and masts were set on fire; the port holes of the cannon resembled so many furnaces issuing a fiery Java. The guns, loaded either with grape shot or ball, went off, and threatened to set fire to the rest of the shipping.

Rear Admiral Cosby finding the squadron of his Britannic Majesty too near the French ship, and exposed to the most imminent danger, immediately sailed from the harbour. Shortly after, the French ship bore away from her anchors, all on fire;

fortunately a strong gale from the land preserved the shipping in the harbour from destruction while the Scipio passed along, and that prevented greater misfortunes.

About eight o'clock in the evening the Scipio was four Italian miles from the port, when the great explosion took place in the store room, containing 300 barrels of gunpowder. The column of fire rose to the height of near 300 fathoms; a large smoke ensued, which appeared intersected with flames, and, during several minutes the whole horizon seemed to be on fire.

The explosion was so great that it resembled the effect of the most dreadful shock of an earthquake, and an immense number of window panes in the city burst. After the explosion of the store-room, the water rushed into the body of the hulk which began to sink.

About two o'clock in the morning no farther signs of fire appeared on the surface of the sea.

In the morning, a piece of the ship was still seen out of the water, full of coals and covered with dead corpses.

It is shocking to remark, that by a fire which lasted only a few hours, a ship was blown up, reckoned to be worth one million of piastres, besides two hundred men of the crew, including M. de Goy, the Captain, who would not quit her.

This dreadful accident is said to have been caused by a barrel of brandy being set on fire by a light which was burning near it.

To the above loss we must add that to a great quantity of live stock, and all kinds of provisions destined for Toulon.

1794

Mon 6th Jan

R. Creaker of the Ship Inn, Wokingham, gratefully returns his sincere thanks to his friends, and the public, for their past favors, and hopes for a continuance of the same; and begs to inform them that his STAGE WAGGON sets out from Wokingham every Tuesday morning at six o'clock, to the Belle Savage, Ludgate-Hill, and returns from thence every Wednesday morning at 12 o'clock. For the convenience of gentlemen residing at Binfield, Warfield, &c. goods are taken in at Mr. Stannaway's, the Shoulder of Mutton, and at the Stag and Hounds, and Jock of Newbury, at Binfield; Mr. Stark's, at the Bull at Bracknell; and Mr. Bronsvelt's, Sunninghill.

He pledges himself by strict attention and assiduity to merit the patronage of his friends and the public.

Calls at the White Horse Cellar, and Black Bear, Piccadilly, both going in and coming out of London

Will not be accountable for money, plate, watches, jewels or writings unless entered and paid for accordingly.

Mon 3rd March

WOKINGHAM, BERKS

On Monday, March 3 1794, will commence selling of, considerably under prime cost, the entire STOCK in TRADE of Mr. George Chase. Linen and Woollen Draper, Haberdasher, Mercer, Hosier, &c. under a commission of bankruptcy for the benefit of creditors; consisting of the very best Irish linens, muslins, sheetings, table linen, housewife linen, dowlas, dimities, printed linen, and calicoes; superfine broad cloths, second cloths, elastic veverets, thicksets, fustians, lustrings, modes, sarsenets, Persians, sewing silks, threads, tapes, baises, flannels; silk, cotton, and worsted hose, &c. &c.

Mon 24th March

WOKINGHAM, BERKS

Selling under a Commission of Bankruptcy, the STOCK in TRADE, of Mr. George Chase. Woollen and Linen-Draper, Haberdasher, Mercer, Hosier, &c. consisting of varied articles in the above branches, which will be disposed of at reduced prices, considerably under prime cost.

N.B. The House and Shop to be Lett.

BERKS

TO be SOLD AT AUCTION by MR. KING

At the King's Head Inn, in Wokingham, Berks, on Friday the 28th day of March, 1794, at two o'clock in the afternoon, (subject to conditions to be then and there produced.

A FREEHOLD ESTATE situate in the Market-place, Wokingham: comprising a good dwelling-house and good accustomed cooper's shop, barn, stable, cart-house, fuel-house, and other necessary outbuildings, large garden, outlet and yard, with a communication therefrom to the street by a gateway; now in the occupation of Mr. Robert Virmdell, cooper, for, the remainder of a term of years, which will expire at Midsummer, 1795 at a very low rent of £13 per annum.

Further particulars may be known by application to Mr. Raggett, attorney at law, or the Auctioneer, at Odiham, and the tenant will shew the premises.

Mon 28th April

WOKINGHAM, APRIL 19, 1794

Roach, Draper and Warehouseman, respectfully informs the ladies, gentlemen, and the public in general, that he has taken that well-known Shop (which, with the room adjoining, is fitting up as a warehouse), in the Market-place, late in the occupation of Mr. GEORGE CHASE, to be opened on Monday the 28th instant, with a large assortment of Drapery, Mercery, Hosiery, and other goods, to be found at the present reduced London prices. His intention of discounting the principal part of his goods, for the purpose of selling very low, puts it out of his power to credit. Those who are pleased to favour him with their custom, will soon be convinced of the advantage of ready money, as the quality and cheapness of his goods will be more than adequate to credit.

Mon 23rd June

LONDON, Tuesday, June 17
(Glorious 1st of June Naval battle)

The number of killed and wounded on board the six French ships brought by Lord Howe into port, greatly exceeds the whole number killed and wounded throughout the British fleet. When to this we add those sunk in the Vengeur and Jacobin, the latter alone probably near 1,000, with the killed and wounded in the ships which made their escape, the loss of lives, on the part of the French, appears to have been dreadful. Reckoning also the prisoners brought in, the late engagement, on a moderate computation from the circumstances already known, must have cost the enemy ten thousand men.

On board the Thunderer who, however, took a very conspicuous part in the engagement, not a man was hurt. She dismasted two ships in the late action, and in the first ran up along side of the Revolutionaire, who cried out "She had struck," and told

them to fend a boat out to take possession. She, thinking her certain, went on to secure another.

Capt. Montague was killed by a cannon ball, which severed his head from his shoulders.

When the *St. Juste*, a French seventy-four, was so disabled that she could not fire a gun, the Captain attempted to set fire to the magazine, but was prevented by his own people. The instant our men boarded her, he threw his sword into the sea. It is said that the officers of some of their ships were obliged to force the sailors with blows, &c. to keep to their guns.

The committee of American merchants had a conference with Mr. Pitt, on Saturday last, respecting the probability of a war with America when they received the most positive assurance that every measure which honour, policy, or justice can dictate, will be resorted to, for preserving peace with that country.

Lloyd's books of yesterday announced the capture of four West-India merchantmen, of very considerable value. Their names are the *Gordon*, the *Triton*, the *Active*, and the *Edward*. They were taken by the *Sans-Pareille* French man of war.

Portsmouth, June 13

This morning the conquering fleet, with their prizes, appeared in the offing. Crowds of people were soon collected on the ramparts, and when the *Queen Charlotte* dropped anchor at Spithead the guns on the batteries were fired. About thirty minutes past twelve. Earl Howe landed at the new Sally Port, when a second discharge of artillery took place. His Lordship was received with the-reiterated shouts of the people collected together in astonishing numbers; a Captain's guard of the Gloucester militia was drawn up on the lower end of the grand parade, with the band of the regiment playing, till his Lordship came up to them, *See, the conquering Hero comes!* The streets, tops of houses, balconies, windows, grand parade, and the ramparts from the Queen's battery to the main guard, were entirely crowded beyond all example, and their shouts rent the air.

As his Lordship passed to the Governor's house, when he could be heard, he repeatedly thanked the people for the great respect shewn him, observing that the brave British seamen did the business.

Admiral Paisley is just landed at Gosport, and carried up amidst the acclamations and huzzas of an immense number of people. We are happy in announcing that he looks much better than might be expected; and this noble hero waved his hand to the crowd as they cheered him.

Mon 14th July

WOKINGHAM ACADEMY

Mr. Broom respectfully informs his friends, and the public, that the academy opens again, after the present recess, Monday, July 21st.

The young gentlemen are educated in the English, Latin, Greek and French languages, Geography and History; in Penmanship, Arithmetic and Merchants Accounts, on a liberal plan; and one great object constantly in view at this Seminary, is, i.e. eradicate every growing evil, to form good dispositions, to direct their tender minds to sound morality, and to inculcate principles of virtue, which, it is presumed. Must be ultimately productive of the happiest effects by rendering them good citizens and valuable members of the community.

Terms 20 guineas per annum, including every extra charge of the School, Books only excepted.

Mon 15th Sept

WOKINGHAM, Sep, 3, 1794

Run away from his APPRENTICESHIP GEORGE JOHNSON, a thin lad, pale complexion sixteen years of age, a shoemaker by trade, had on a short black jacket, on a green coat with plated buttons, a blue waistcoat, fustian Breeches, and a pair of pumps with yellow buckles.

Mon 17th Nov

WOKINGHAM, Nov 12, 1794

WALTER DENDY, fellmonger, breeches-maker and glover, having taken to the Stock in Trade of the late Mr. Newbolt solicits the continuance of the favours of his friends and the public in general.

Wanted, A Journeyman Fellmonger

Mon 8th Dec

To DESERTERS from the LOYAL BERKSHIRE VOLUNTEERS

Commanded by Lieut.-Col., Sir Charles Marsh

Notice is hereby given to all Deserters from the said Corps, that a FREE PARDON will be extended to those who are willing to surrender themselves, and join at Reading, or give notice by letter to me of such their intention on or before Christmas Day next. And that after the expiation of that time all those who are absent will be advertised under full and particular descriptions, and a large reward for apprehending them, over and above Government allowance. To be paid by me,

Charles Marsh

Lieutenant-Colonel of the said Corps

Reading, Dec 8, 1794

1795

Mon 26th Jan

TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS

All persons having any claim or demand on the estate and effects of ROBERT VARDELL, of Wokingham, cooper, deceased are desired to meet Andrew Varndell, of Binfield, and James Varndell, of Bagshot, his creditors on Tuesday the 27th instant, and on the 3rd of February, between the hours of twelve and three each day, at the King's Head, Wokingham, in order to adjugment of the affairs of the deceased, otherwise they will be excluded all benefit therefrom.

All persons indebted to the said estate are desired to pay the same on or before the third of February, or they will be sued without notice.

Mon 9th Feb

WOKINGHAM, BERKS

TO BE SOLD AT AUCTION

By Mr. COLLINS

On Friday, the 27th of this instant February, 1795,

The HOUSEHOLD GOODS and FURNITURE

Of the late Mr. Wm. Newbolt

At his dwelling-house, situate in the Market-place of the town of Wokingham

And specifically at three o'clock in the afternoon will be sold by Auction his late FREEHOLD brick-built and sashed DWELLING-HOUSE, consisting of a shop and parlour in front, kitchen and other offices on the ground floor, four bed-chambers and

garrets, good cellar, yard, garden, stable, and other convenient out-buildings. The premises are elegantly situated for trade, or a residence for a small, private family, and immediate possession may be had.

Further particulars may be known by applying to Mr. Lawrence, attorney, or to the Auctioneer in Wokingham.

Mon 18th May

A BUTCHER'S SHOP

To be LETT, with immediate possession situate in Down-street, in the town of Wokingham, lately occupied by, Mr. John Hambleton successor to the late Mr. Harwood Starr, who has carried on a good butchers there some years past. A considerable sum of money has been lately expended in putting the dwelling house into perfect repair and rendering the premises commodious for the business.

The Utensils of the shop and Household Goods (if restated) may be taken at an appraisalment.

Particulars may be known of Mr. Roberts of Wokingham.

Mon 6th July

WOKINGHAM ACADEMY

Mr. Broom respectfully informs his friends and the public that the business of the school will commence again after the/ recess July the 20th.

Mon 13th July

Montague-House Boarding-School

Mrs. Broom begs leave to acquaint her friends and the public, that the SCHOOL will open again, for the reception of Young Ladies, Monday July 20th.

WOKINGHAM

Mon 3rd Aug

WOKINGHAM, BERKS

To be sold by AUCTION

By Mr. Collins

On Tuesday next the 4th instant, the HOUSEHOLD, FURNITURE and part of the STOCK in TRADE of a Person in the Grocery Line of Business, for conveniency of sale removed to a Warehouse at Bush-Inn Wokingham, consisting of good feather beds, blankets, quilts, and bedsteads furniture, chests of drawers, a thirty-hour clock, tables, chairs, kitchen articles, &c., 100 wt. of a quantity of men's hats, ditto of stone ware; 30 yards of pitch rope, corks, a pair of strong scales, Beam, and iron weights; scrubbing and other brushes, extraordinary good fowling piece, warranted, &c.

To be viewed the day before, and morning of sale, which will begin at twelve o'clock

Mon 12th Oct

BERKSHIRE MILITIA

Wanted, as Substitute for the Forest Division, TWO ABLE_BODIED MEN, between the age of 18 and 45 years, full five feet four inches high, and not more than one child born in wedlock. Any persons of the above description inclined to serve their King and Country, will receive a handsome bounty, together with the several privileges and exemptions granted by Parliament militia men, serving in the war, and as the militia

cannot be sent out of Great Britain the service seems little more than as an Academy to learn the use of arms, &c.

Apply to Mr. Roberts of Wokingham

1796

Mon 4th Jan

WOKINGHAM ACADEMY

Mr. Broom respectfully informs his friends, and the public, that he shall have vacancies for four pupils immediately after the recess.—Terms Twenty-five Guineas per annum.

The young gentlemen will meet again the 18th instant.

To be Sold on a Mortgage Title

A Substantial Brick DWELLING HOUSE, and another SMALL DWELLING HOUSE adjoining, situate in the centre of the Market-place, Wokingham, admirable adapted for business; also a SMALL FARM, in the parish of Finchampstead.

The mortgagee has been in possession upwards of 13 years past.

The rents altogether amount to about £29 per annum.—Apply to Mr. Roberts at Wokingham.

Mon 7th March

All persons who stand indebted to the late Mr. JAMES PITHER, of WOKINGHAM Inn-holder, are desired to pay their respective debts to MR. JAMES WEBB, Brewer (the Executor) on or before the 15th of April next, and those creditors who have not sent in their accounts, are requested to do it immediately.

Mon 4th July

EDUCATION

John Harris, Clerk of Wokingham Church at the Old School House, near the Church, returns thanks to those who have favoured him with their children and hopes for their continuance; likewise he informs his friends, and the public in general that the school is now open for the reception of children where they will be taught Spelling, Reading, Writing and Accounts; to speak with propriety, their voice raised to a proper pitch, and with a good tone. Those who chuse to favour him with their children it will be gratefully acknowledged.

NB short—terms easy—impediments helped--and mumblers cured.

Mon 15th Aug

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION

By FRANCIS COLLINS

On Monday the 2nd of August instant, at three o'clock at Mrs. Hannah Chaplin's the Rose Inn, Wokingham (unless previously disposed of by private contract)

A FREEHOLD substantial Brick and Tiled MESSUAGE, with Stable, Outhouses and garden, situate in PEAK-STREET, in the town of WOKINGHAM, in Berks, late in the occupation of Mrs. Eliz. Trash.

Particulars may be known, by applying to Mrs. Roberts, Attorney at law, Wokingham.

1797

Mon 2nd Jan

Deserted from a party of his Majesty's 82d Regiment of Foot, recruiting at Wokingham, Berks, on the 28th December, 1796.

SAMUEL MORTON, by trade a cutler, aged 25 years, 5 feet 7 inches and a qr. High, long dark brown hair, round in visage, hassle eyes, and remarkable short feet; was born at Sheffield, in the county of York; had on when he went off, either a dark brown coat with plated buttons, or a light coloured coat with yellow buttons; a light coloured linen waistcoat, and black or brown corduroy breeches.

Any person apprehending the said Deserter, and lodging him in any of his Majesty's gaols or guardhouses in this kingdom, shall receive One Guinea reward, (exclusive of his Majesty's bounty for apprehending deserters) by applying to Capt. Burnell, of the 82d Regiment, at Wokingham.

Mon 30th Jan

BERKSHIRE COUNTY CAVALRY

In performance of the Resolution of a General Meeting of Lieutenancy, of the County of Berks, holden at Reading the 11th instant, and of his Majesty's royal approbation thereof signified to the Lord Lieutenant, MUSTERS of all persons enrolled to serve in the Provisional Force of Cavalry for the said County, will be taken in their several and respective Sub-divisions, at the following places, and on the following days, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, viz.

MAIDENHEAD,—at Woolley-Green, Maidenhead Thicket

Monday, the 6th of February

WOKINGHAM—Market Place

Tuesday, the 7th of February

READING—Falcon at Theale,

Wednesday, the 8th of February

ABINGDON—Market Place,

Thursday, the 9th of February.

FARINGDON and WANTAGE, SUBSCRIPTIONS Market Place at Faringdon

Friday, the 10th of February,

NEWBURY—Hare and Hounds at Speen

Saturday, the 11th of February,

And the said persons are severally desired to attend accordingly, mounted on mares or geldings of 14 hands or upwards, with bridles and saddles in their present state, without incurring any expense thereon, it not yet being determined what sort of horse furniture shall be adopted.

And all persons concerned are hereby required to take notice hereof

By order of the EARL of RADNOR

Lord Lieutenant of the said County,

JAMES PAYN

Clerk at the General Meetings.

Maidenhead, 25th of January, 1797

Mon 11th Sept

SHIP, WOKINGHAM

RICHARD CREAKER begs leave to return thanks to his friends and the public in general, and to inform them his COMMON STAGE WAGGON continues to set out from Wokingham at eight o'clock every Tuesday morning, and returns on Thursday afternoon.

NB Takes up and sets down goods at the Shoulder of Mutton, Binfield; Ball and Hinds Head, Bracknell and Sunninghill Wells.

Mon 13th Nov

BERKSHIRE PROVISIONAL CAVALRY

In performance of a Resolution of a General Meeting of Lieutenancy, of the County of Berks, holden at the Town-hall, in Abingdon the 4th day of this inst., October, and of his Majesty's approbation signified to the Lord Lieutenant, MUSTERS of all persons enrolled to serve in the said cavalry will be taken in their several and respective Sub-divisions, at the following places, and on the following days, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, viz.

MAIDENHEAD,—on Woolley-Green, Maidenhead Thicket
Monday, the 13th of November

WOKINGHAM—At the Pheasant, King-street, near Wokingham
Tuesday, the 14th of November

READING—Tilehurst Common,
Wednesday, the 15th of November
ABINGDON—Kingslands near Odv.
Thursday, the 16th of November.

FARINGDON and WANTAGE—On the White Horse Hill, near Uffington,
Friday, the 17th of November,

NEWBURY—On Wickham Heath,
Saturday, the 18th of November,

And all persons concerned are hereby required to take notice hereof

By order of the EARL of RADNOR

Lord Lieutenant of the said County,
JAMES PAYN
Clerk of the General Meetings.

Maidenhead, Oct 23rd 1797

Mon 20th Nov

A BLACKSMITH'S SHOP

To be LETT, and entered on immediately. An old blacksmith shop with a convenient small Dwelling House (new-built) adjoining situate at the west end of the Town of Wokingham, Berks. Several tools and implements in the shop situate Berks. Inquire of Mr. Roberts, or Mr. Thomas Talmadge, at Wokingham.

Mon 11th Dec

WOKINGHAM MARKET

The Day for a Public Thanksgiving being fixed for Tuesday the 19th of December, the Market will be held on Monday.

1798

Mon 26th Feb

WOKINGHAM

At a meeting of the Corporation in the Council Chamber, it has been resolved that a Voluntary Contribution for the Defence of the Country is highly necessary:--In consequence, whereof, and at the request of several Gentlemen in the neighbourhood, Banks are open to receive Subscriptions of the Town, and its Vicinity, at the Office of the Town Clerk.

A General Meeting is requested in the Townhall on Tuesday next, the 27th instant at eleven o'clock.

JAMES WEBB, CHIEF MAGISTRATE

Mon 12th March

BERKSHIRE PROVISIONAL CAVALRY

In Obedience to His Majesty's Commands signified to the Lord Lieutenant, and in pursuance of the Resolution of a General Meeting of the Deputy Lieutenants and Justices assembled at Reading, the fifth day of March, 1798, MUSTERS of all persons enrolled to serve in the said Cavalry, will be taken in their several Subdivisions, at the following places, and on the following days, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, viz.

MAIDENHEAD—on Woolley Green, Maidenhead Thicket,

MONDAY, the 26th instant

WOKINGHAM—At the Pheasant, King-street, near Wokingham

TUESDAY, the 27th instant

READING—Tilehurst Common

WEDNESDAY, the 28th instant

ABINGDON—Kingslands near Ody

THURSDAY, the 29th instant,

FARINGDON and WANTAGE—On the White Horse Hill, above Uffington

FRIDAY, the 30th instant

NEWBURY—On Wickham Heath,

Saturday, the 31st instant

And all persons concerned are hereby required to take notice hereof.

By order of the Earl of Radnor, Lord Lieutenant of the said County.

JAMES PAYN

Clerk of the General Meetings

Maidenhead, March 7th, 1798

Mon 9th April

WOKINGHAM FLORIST FEAST

Will be held at the Old Rose Inn, on Monday the 23rd of April, 1798, when the person that shews six of the best Trusses of Auriculas, not less than six pips on a truss, will be entitled to a piece of plate. Also pieces of plate for the second and third best ditto.

Also three pieces of plate for the six first, second and third best blown trusses of Polyanthas, not less than nine pips on each truss.

Likewise three pieces of plate for the six first second and third best blown stalks of Hyacinths, twelve bells on each stalk.

Every person to prove on oath that the plants have been in his possession from December, 1797.

Dinner on the table precisely at one o'clock—Tickets 6d. each, which will entitle each person to his dinner and one shilling's worth of liquor.

Mon 13th June

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
LINEN AND WOOLLEN-DRAPERY
Mercery, Hosiery, Haberdashery, Hats, & c.
In the Market-place
WOKINGHAM, BERKS.
HEELAS, (*from LONDON*)

Returns his sincere thanks to his friends, and the public, for the liberal encouragement with which he has been honoured, assuring them it will ever be his utmost study to merit a continuance of their patronage and recommendation

Likewise takes this opportunity of informing them that he has lately made purchases of goods in a general way; consisting of India and British Muslins, printed and white cottons and Calicoes, Ginghams, Shawls, Dimities, Colerains and Lush Linens of all widths, Dowlastics, Sheetings, Bed Ticks, Checks, Stuffs, and Calimancos; Flannels, Blankets and Rugs; Mens, Womens and Childrens Hose of every kind; Hats of all prices; narrow and broad Coatings, Velveteens, Corduroys, Thicksets, &c., Modes, Persians, Red Cloaks, Silk Handkerchiefs, and Haberdashery of every description.

Wool bought and Funerals furnished,
N.B. Genteel Apartments to Lett, furnished.

Mon, 25th June

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
LINEN AND WOOLLEN-DRAPERY
Mercery, Hosiery, Haberdashery, Hats, & c.
In the Market-place
WOKINGHAM, BERKS.
HEELAS, (*from LONDON*)

Returns his sincere thanks to his friends, and the public, for the liberal encouragement with which he has been honoured, assuring them it will ever be his utmost study to merit a continuance of their patronage and recommendation

Likewise takes this opportunity of informing them that he has lately made purchases of goods in a general way; consisting of India and British Muslins, printed and white cottons and Calicoes, Ginghams, Shawls, Dimities, Colerains and Lush Linens of all widths, Dowlastics, Sheetings, Bed Ticks, Checks, Stuffs, and Calimancos; Flannels, Blankets and Rugs; Mens, Womens and Childrens Hose of every kind; Hats of all prices; narrow and broad Coatings, Velveteens, Corduroys, Thicksets, &c., Modes, Persians, Red Cloaks, Silk Handkerchiefs, and Haberdashery of every description.

Wool bought and Funerals furnished,
N.B. Genteel Apartments to Lett, furnished.

Mon 23rd July

MATTHEWS GREEN, WOKINGHAM
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION BY MR. YOUNG

At Garraway's Coffee House, Change Alley, Cornhill, on Thursday, 16th August, at 12 o'clock, A commodious FREEHOLD HOUSE, with coach-house and suitable offices, a garden, cottage and 44 acres of land, situate at Matthews Green, one mile from Wokingham, seven from Reading, 14 from Windsor, and 33 from London, let to Wm. Humphries, esq., and by him to J.M. Macarthur, esq., on lease, expiring at Michaelmas, 1798 when possession may be had at a improvable rent of

SIXTY EIGHT POUNDS

Printed particulars may be had at the New Rose, Wokingham, Rear, Reading; White Hart, Windsor; Bush, Staines; Kings Head, Hounslow; at Garraway's and of Mr. Young, 58 Chancery Lane.

Mon 8th Oct

READING, SATURDAY, 6th October

The rejoicing for this occasion [victory in the Battle of the Nile] by the inhabitants of Wokingham can vie with the foremost. On Thursday the bells continued ringing throughout the day, and in the afternoon the gentlemen of the Association paraded to the field. The promptitude and exactness of discipline displayed through their various evolutions would have done credit to a veteran corps. In their march from the field to the Market-place their motion was in perfect unison with the music that preceded them. After being drawn up in a line, they fired three excellent *feux-de-joye*, and then made up one grand discharge, which may be equalled, but not exceeded. A general illumination then took place, and several splendid emblematical decorations were exhibited; the fireworks were abundant and a large bon-fire. On its decrease, the gentlemen of the Association again formed in the Market-place, and whilst the music was playing Rule Britannia and God Save the King an enthusiastic ardor seemed to possess the minds of all present. Soon after the gentlemen of the town and the adjacent neighbourhood, adjourned to the Rose Inn, and concluded the evening with the greatest harmony and festivity. A handsome collection was made for the Widows and Orphans of these brave tars who fell in the conflict, and the subscription will be general

Mon 10th Dec

WOKINGHAM WAGON

R. Creaker, Ship Inn, Wokingham, gratefully retains his sincere thanks to his friends, and the public for their favours, and hopes for a continuance of the same and begs to inform them that his Stage Wagon sets out from the Ship, Wokingham, every Tuesday morning at seven o'clock, and arrives at the Bell Savage, Ludgate Hill, London, every Wednesday morning at four o'clock; returns from thence the same day at noon, and arrives at Wokingham every Thursday afternoon at four o'clock

For the convenience of gentlemen residing at Binfield, Warfield, &c., goods are taken in at Mrs. Slark's at the Hull, at Bracknell, and Mr. Marshall's at Sunninghill Wells, calls at the White Horse Cellar, and Black Bear, Piccadilly, going in and coming out of London.

He pledges himself by strict attention and assiduity to merit the patronage of his friends and the public. Will not be accountable for Money, Plate, Watches, Jewels, or Writings, unless entered and paid for accordingly.

A Wagon may be had to go to any distant place by giving a week's notice.

Mon 31st Dec

EDUCATION
JOHN HARRIS
CLERK OF WOKINGHAM CHURCH

Returns his Thanks to those Friends who have favoured him with, children, and hopes for their continuance; and hereby informs them and the public that his School will open on Monday January 6, 1799.

The children committed to his care will have every attention paid to their morals, and be taught to spell accurately; to distinguish between words of the same sound; to read with a proper emphasis; and speak with propriety. Likewise instructed in the improved mode of Writing and A counts.

N.B. The terms easy and vacations short.

Mon 31st Dec

HEELAS
LINEN AND WOOLLEN DRAPER, MERCER, HABERDASHER, HATTER. &c.
Market-Place, WOKINGHAM, Berks.

Returns thanks to his friends and the public for the generous encouragement he has already met with, and assures them it will be the utmost of his study to merit a continuance of their attention, and recommendation, by a careful selection of Goods of the most approved fabricks and manufacture.

Likewise begs leave to mention he has lately purchased a general assortment of Goods suitable to be present season particularly for this Winter. Prints, Stuffs, Calimancos, Wild boars, Bombazets, Bombazeens, Flannels, Bed Ticks, Blankets, Counterpanes, Sheetings, Dowlass, 4-4 and 7-8, Dish Cloths, 7-8 Colerains, Checks, Scarlet Cardinals, quilted Coats, Silk Handkerchiefs, Modes, Umbrellas,, Oil Covers; Men's, Womens, and Children's Hose, Ready-made Cloths, a variety of Fancy Waistcoatings, Cords for Breeches, Coating Cloths, with a large assortment of men's and Boys Hats.

Funerals generally furnished, and attended to any different part.

Wool bought.

1799

Mon 21st Jan

WOKINGHAM, Jan. 13, 1799

The Rev. John Wills respectfully informs his friends, his SCHOOL for Young Gentlemen recommences the 18th instant.

N.B. Mr. Will's number of Boarders are six only, and has a vacancy for two.

READING, SATURDAY, February 16th

Mon 18th Feb

The following Extract from a Voyage to the South Seas, lately published by Capt. Colnett, of the Royal Navy, is highly deserving of the attention of all Commanders of ships and others who get into hot climates, as it exhibits a successful mode of treating

the Yellow Fever, a disorder, which, alas! has so often baffled the skill of medical practitioners (Page 80)—

“The whole crew had been smote or less affected by the Yellow Fever, from which horrid disorder I was however so fortunate as to recover them, by adopting the method that I saw practised by the Natives of Spanish America, when I was a prisoner among them. On the first symptoms appearing, the fore part of the head was immediately shaved, and the temples and poll washed with vinegar and water. The whole body was then immersed in warm water, to give a free course to perspiration: some opening medicine was afterwards administered, and every four hours a *dose of ten grains of James’s Powders*. If the patient was thirsty, the drink was weak white wine and water, and a slice of bread to satisfy an inclination to eat. An increasing appetite was gratified by a small quantity of soup, made from the mucilaginous part of the turtle, with a little vinegar in it. I also gave the sick sweetmeats and other articles from my private stock, whenever they expressed a distant wish for any, which I could supply them with.—By this mode of treatment, the whole crew improved in their health, except the carpenter, who, though a very stout, robust man, was, at one time in such a state of delirium, and so much reduced that I gave him over, but he at length recovered.

A more judicious treatment of this disorder could not have been devised. The same good sense indeed, which directed the medical concerns (for there was no surgeon on board), seems to have prevailed upon every occasion of difficulty or danger, which required nautical skill, but of this we are the less surprised, when we find that Captain Colnett has served under that celebrated navigator, Captain Cook; to whose Works this Publication will no doubt be considered as a valuable Supplement.

Mon 25th Feb

TURNPIKE

Between Speenhamland and Reading.

Notice is hereby given, that the TOLLS arising at the Toll-gates at THATCHAM near Newbury in the county of Berks, will be LETT by AUCTION to the best Bidder, at the house of John Coultas, commonly called or known by the name or sign of the Globe situate in Newbury aforesaid, on Monday, the eleventh day of March next, between the hours of twelve and two, in the manner directed by an Act passed in the thirteenth year of the Reign of his present Majesty King George the Third, “For regulating the Turnpike Roads,” which Tolls were LETT the last year for the sum of six hundred and thirty-eight pounds, and will be put up at that sum.

Whoever happens to be the best bidder must, at the same time, give security, with sufficient securities, to the satisfaction of the Trustees of the said Turnpike Road, for payment of the rent agreed for, and at such times as they shall direct.

RICHARD TOWNSEND

Clerk to the said Trustees

READING, SATURDAY, April 6.

On Saturday last the workshop of a broom-maker in the parish of Wokingham, by some means took fire, and by the violence of the wind, the burning flakes were driven upwards, of 50 yards to the cottage of Thomas Shorter, an industrious poor man, which was instantly in a blaze and entirely consumed, with almost the whole of his furniture and apparel.

Mon 1st April

WOKINGHAM

ELIZABETH MARY TRASH, Widow of the late Nathaniel Trash, Plumbers, Painter and Glazier, deceased returns her thanks for the many favours of her late husband's friends, and begs leave to inform them that she has declined the above business in favour of Mr. JAMES HAYWOOD, of the same place, PLUMBER. PAINTER and GLAZIER, for whom she solicits their future favours.

N.B. All persons having demands on the late Mr. Trash, are re-directed to deliver, in their accounts to Mrs. Elizabeth Mary Trash; or to Mr. Wm. Chaplin of Wokingham, for their immediate discharge.

JAMES HAYWOOD, having many years carried on the business of a PLUMBER, PAINTER, and GLAZIER, in Wokingham, begs leave to inform his friends, the friends of the late NATHANIEL TRASH, and the public in general that he has taken up his Stock, in Trade and House, in Broad Street, where he will in future carry out the business in all its branches, and where he hopes for a continuance of their favours, which will be thankfully received, and executed with punctuality and dispatch
March 26, 1799.

Mon 29th July

WOKINGHAM
FREEHOLD LAND
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION
By Mr. SNOW

At the Rose Inn, Wokingham, on Tuesday the 6th day of August, at two o'clock precisely.

A desirable FREEHOLD ESTATE, containing about Six Acres more or less of valuable and improved Land, at the entrance of Coppid Beech Lane, by the side of and at a pleasing distance from the turnpike road, and within one mile of the town of Wokingham, on a fruitful soil, and occupied by Mr. John Lemman (as a nursery) on lease at 13 Guineas per annum. There is a substantial Dwelling House, and barn lately erected on the premises, which may be viewed and further particulars known by application to the Auctioneer, Windsor.

Mon 28th Oct

READING COACHES

The LONG COACH sets out every morning, Sundays excepted, from the upper Ship Inn, Reading, at six o'clock. And returns the same day from the Bolt-in-Tun, Fleet-street, London at half past twelve,—Fare inside 12s. Outside 7s.

A POST COACH every morning at seven o'clock from Mr. William's Coach-office, in King-street, at the Black Lion, Water-lane, Fleet-street and the inns from thence the same day, at one o'clock—Fare inside 14s. Outside 7s.

A POST COACH every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings, at nine o'clock (by permission through Windsor Park) to the Black Lion, Water Lane, Fleet-street; and A POST COACH from the Black Lion (the same road) every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, at eight o'clock.—Inside 14s. Outside 7s.

A POST COACH from the Upper Ship Inn, Reading, every day at twelve o'clock to the Bolt-in-Tun, Fleet-street; from whence another POST COACH sets off every morning At ten o'clock.—Fare inside 14s. Outside 7s.

A POST COACH also sets off from Reading every Sunday morning at half past nine o'clock; and another returns from the Black Lion, Water-lane, Fleet-street, the same morning at ten.—Fare inside 14s. Outside 7s.

A COACH (to carry six inside passengers) sets out every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning at nine o'clock from Mr. William's, in High-street, Reading; goes through Wokingham, Bracknell, and Sunninghill Wells, to the Bolt-in-Tun, Fleet-street, and Another COACH returns from thence every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday morning at eight o'clock.—Fare, from reading, inside 13s. Outside, 7s. From Wokingham, inside 11s. Outside 6s. From Bracknell, inside 10s. Outside 5s, 6d. From Sunninghill Wells, inside 9s. outside 5s.

The above Coaches call at the New White Horse Cellar, Piccadilly, going in and coming out of town?? For the convenience of passengers and parcels.

Passengers and Parcels are carefully booked at Mr. William's Coach-Office, in King-street, and at Mr. Whittle's Coach-Office, Butcher-Row, Reading, the Black Lion, and Bolt-in-Tun, Water-lane, and at the New White Horse Cellar, Piccadilly, London.

Parcels containing money, jewels, &c. above five pounds value, will not be accounted for if lost unless they are entered and paid for as such.

Performed by

MILLS, WILLIAMS, ELMES, WHITTLE & Co.

Who beg to return their most grateful thanks to their friends for the numerous favours they have been pleased to confer on them, and to inform them, that in consequence of the present very great advance in the price of corn, they are under the disagreeable necessity of raising the fares of passengers which they humbly hope will not be deemed unreasonable. Every attention will be used for the accommodation of their friends, whose patronage they will endeavour to render themselves deserving.

Mon 11th Nov

Wokingham—A Pound Breach

Whereas the Pound within the Parish of Wokingham was on Sunday night last, broke open, and a two-year-old Colt taken thereout: This is to give notice that a reward of Five Guineas will be paid to any person making discovery of the offenders, so that he or they may be convicted.

By order of the Lord of the Manor,

Nov. 8, 1799
Steward

JOHN ROBERTS,

Wokingham News from Reading Mercury (1800 to 1857)

NB Articles marked (BC) have been taken from the Berkshire Chronicle.

1800

1801

1802

Mon 5th April

Reading, Saturday, April 3rd

The arrival of the definitive Treaty of Peace (Treaty of Amiens signed 26th March) at Wokingham on Tuesday last, was received with universal joy. The assemblage of people from the circumjacent neighbourhood (it being market day) rendered the happy tidings more diffusive, while the harmony and satisfaction universally prevailed. On Wednesday afternoon the Associated Foresters formed in a line in the Market-place, and performed various evolutions with promptitude and precision. A grand *foi de joie* ensued, after which three excellent vollies were fired which would have obtained approbation from any veteran corps.

The band of music then struck up God save the King, and the surrounding multitude joined in the chorus expressively testifying their loyalty and heartfelt satisfaction on the happy occasion. Illuminations next succeeded, and notwithstanding the little notice for preparation many houses and windows were illuminated with great beauty and brilliancy, and several expressive devices were displayed with good effect. Fire works also were exhibited consisting of rockets and divers curious mutations and devices. The motley crowd of spectators shared in the general festivity taking large potations of the natural wholesome beverage of the country, good sound strong beer which was dispersed in the Market-place, being the generous benevolence of the worthy Captain of the Associated Foresters, James Webb Esq.

The Gentlemen of the Association, with many respectable Gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood, assembled in the Town-hall, and partook of an elegant cold collation provided by Capt. Webb. His Majesty's health was reiterated with enthusiastic plaudits, appropriate loyal toasts and songs gave infinite pleasure, and the evening was spent with conviviality and harmony highly gratifying to all.

Mon 10th May

Reading, Saturday, May 8.

On Tuesday last Peace was proclaimed at Wokingham, in proper form; after which Jas. Webb Esq., Commander of the Loyal Association, read the thanks of Parliament to his corps, and at the same time acknowledged his gratitude for the support and assistance he had upon every occasion received from them. They were then disembodied—an elegant supper was provided at the Rose-inn, where a very numerous company spent the evening with the utmost hilarity and cheerfulness.

Mon 2nd Aug

Reading July 31

On Wednesday last, James Webb, Esq., Captain Commandant of the late Wokingham Loyal Association was (at the request of the Corps, and the inhabitants of that town and parish) presented by Thomas Bunce, gent. The Chief Magistrate of the Corporation, and the Officers of the Corps, with an elegant three quart gilt tankard and cover, with the town crest engraved on one side and a suitable inscription on the other, as a lasting testimony of their approbation of his assiduity and the attention during the enrollment of that Corps.

Mon 9th Aug

Reading, Saturday, August 7

From the communication of a correspondent we feel justified to enlarge on a statement inserted last week from Wokingham, on the subject of a Silver Cup and Cover presented to James Webb Esq., late Captain Commandant of the Armed Association of that Town, conjointly by the late Corps and Inhabitants, as a testimony of the esteem entertained by everyone for his conduct as their Commanding Officer, and the other for the local protection and security afforded them, by the truly patriotic discharge of his duties as a Citizen and a Soldier.

--The Cup, which is an Urn or Vase is exquisite both in design and execution...contain a gallon of wine, and weighs upwards of an 100 ounces. The inside is richly-gilt, in the front is an inscription adapted to the occasion, encircled by wreaths of laurel and elegantly chased; on the reverse, an Acorn with leaves (the Crest of the Town) chased and encompassed with proper ornaments. A smaller crest forms the button on the cover, and is most beautifully chased. The whole is a superb piece of plate, and truly valuable from the sentiments which induced its donation.

1803

1804

Mon 11th June

KING'S BIRTHDAY (George III)

At Wokingham, in honour of his Majesty's birth-day, the inhabitants testified the most distinguished marks of heart-felt satisfaction. Every class united in genuine expressions of loyalty and fervent wishes for his future preservation. In the afternoon the Forest Volunteers assembled, and marching to a lawn, near the town, performed the customary evolutions with promptness and precision, to the gratification of their commanding officer, Major Webb, and the surrounding spectators. From thence they paraded to the Market-place, preceded by music, drums and fifes, and forming in martial array, after various manoeuvres, fired three excellent vollies. The scene that followed may be better conceived than expressed. When the music ceased playing God save the King, the plaudits from every individual of the numerous assemblage of persons, in three huzzas, rending the air, was extremely expressive, conveying the most decided and devoted affection for the beloved Monarch.

1805

1806

Mon 21st July

CRICKET

On Wednesday last a grand match of cricket was played at Chapel-Green, between the gentlemen of Wokingham, and the gentlemen of Finchampstead, which was won by the former, by 60 runs. The odds at the beginning of the game were six to four in favour of Finchampstead.

1807

1808

Mon 26th Sept

Last week a match at Cricket was played on Bull-marsh-heath, between the gentlemen of Wokingham and the gentlemen of Reading, which was won by the former, with eight wickets to go down. After which a foot race took place between a gentleman of Wokingham and a gentleman of Reading, which was won easy by the Forest pedestrian.

1809

TO THE PRINTER OF THE READING MERCURY

Sir,

Observing the account in your Paper of Dec. 26, of the disgraceful Bull-bait, at Wokingham, and upon the principles, that,

“A verse may catch him, who a sermon flies,”

And, that ridicule is often an auxiliary to virtue, the following is submitted for insertion, by a Constant Reader. He certainly has no personal aim, as he knows not a single creature in that village. The Editor is much to be commended for introducing Dr. Barry’s sermon on the subject, whose exertions in the cause of humanity to the dumb part of the creation, entitle him to honourable distinction in society.—I withhold my name because it would be no recommendation to a bagatelle, like the one here presented.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

INNOVATION!

Or, The NEW SAINT at WOKINGHAM

On St. Thomas’s-day, when some go to pray

Some others, of goodness brimful—

These *humane* devotees (though not on their knees)

Have agreed to worship *Saint* BULL.

I could wish Doctor Barry, a new sermon would carry,

And preach it in Wokingham Church,—

The old Saint to replace, who is now in disgrace;

Then leave Master BULL in the lurch!

W---d, June 2, 1809.

A Friend to OLD Saints

1810

Mon 7th May Loughton.

Mr. Henry Seymour, ironmonger and auctioneer, in the Market-place, Wokingham, is appointed deputy post-master, for the Wokingham District, on the resignation of Mr. Farr Loughton.

1811

1812

1813

1814

Mon 13th June

Lately died at Wokingham, Mrs. Bunce, wife of Mr. Bunce, grocer, in the Market-place.

Thursday two troops of the 9th Light Dragoons arrived in this town, from Coventry.

Mon 5th Sept

ROBERT TRICKEY
PLUMBER, GLAZIER, PRINTER, &c.
MARKET-PLACE, WOKINGHAM,

Solicits leave to inform the nobility, Gentry, and Public, in Wokingham and its Vicinity, that he has commenced business in the above branches, and hereby assuring them that he will pay the strictest attention to those who may chuse to favour him with their kind commands.

Mon 7th Nov

Thursday morning Joseph Budgett, a blacksmith of Wokingham, in a fit of insanity threw himself into the river and was drowned. It is much to be wished, that the persons in authority would use some exertions to obtain a writ to elect a Coroner for this division, as delay is a serious public inconvenience.

Mon 21st Nov

ROYAL HUNT

The Stag Hounds will meet at Salt Hill, on Monday morning, at half past eleven o'clock; and on Friday at Wokingham.

There is at this time an apple tree in full bloom in the garden of Mr. Frewen, White Hart, Broad-street.

Last week a person of Wokingham whilst sitting by the fire side, accidentally moved his hand within about an inch of the spout of a tea kettle at the moment of the extreme ebullition of the water bursting there from, and received the ignited contents all over his fingers, with no other sensation of feeling than what arose from the wet spreading round them at the instant, nor any thing painful or injurious since.

1815

Mon 30th Jan

Sunday died, at Wokingham, at the advanced age of eighty-two, Mr. Wm. Watts, shoemaker. Possessed of a comprehensive genius, by his ingenuity he obtained the credit of being the completest boot-maker in the kingdom; and as a florist, in the production of forward cucumbers, he bore the pain from all competitors. Calmly resigned to his humble portion in life, and wholly divested of all the horrid sin of pride, throughout his whole deportment he manifested the observation of the celebrated Pope.

“Honor and credit from no conditions rise,”

“Act well your part, there all honor lies,”

Mon 23rd Oct

Tuesday morning, between one and two o'clock, Mrs. Watkins, of the Ninepin and Bowl public-house, about a quarter of a mile from Wokingham, was awoke by a noise in the room, on looking up she perceived a man in a smock frock near the foot of her bed; terrified at the object she darted from the bed to the window, which was open, being the place where the robber had made his entrance. In her hasty descent she fell on the ground and was much bruised, but the fright enabled her to give the alarm to a neighbouring gentleman, who, with his family, immediately went to her assistance. It is supposed her precipitate escape caused the villain to decamp, without his prey, as he only took away about 9s. in silver from a table, which Mrs. Watkins had emptied from her pocket the preceding evening. Her husband was gone to the Quarter Sessions at Abingdon

1816

1817

Mon 31st March

DUEL EXTRAORDINARY

On Thursday a duel was fought in the Cock-Pit, Wokingham, between Mr. D. T—e, and Mr. T—p—n, both of that place. The combatants arrived on the Field, accompanied by their respective Seconds, about 10 o'clock, where an immense number of spectators had collected two hours before. The distance being marked (six paces) by the seconds, the opponents said a short prayer, and then took their station. The sounding of a trumpet was the signal to fire—it did so—and both pistols went off, but neither were wounded: determined to conquer or die, they agreed to have a second round; fired again and Mr. T. Fell, apparently dead. The successful adversary immediately took to his heels, and was out of sight in a second. A Surgeon was sent for, the Constables amanned, and the whole place exhibited a scene of uproar and confusion, that has seldom been witnessed.—The wounded man being carried to a neighbouring Public-house to have his wounds dressed; after an long examination, it was discovered that he was perfectly sound, and a few ounces of blood taken from him soon brought back his senses. Indeed, it has since been found out, that the pistols were only loaded by the Seconds, with powder. The conquering Mt. T---e, who thought he had the blood of his friend on his head, was found, after a long search, in a privy—where he heard the joyful news of the recovery of the dead man. The origin of the duel was a point of honour, who could eat the most Beef Steaks in the shortest time, so that when both the combatants had recovered from their fright, they adjourned to an Inn in the Town, where they settled the dispute in a more amicable manner, by one (the conqueror) eating 4½ pound of Steaks, and the other 5¼ pounds, with a proportionate quantity of vegetables, bread, &c.

Mon 2nd June

On Whit Tuesday (the anniversary of the establishment of the Wokingham Charity Schools on Dr. Bell's System,) an appropriate Sermon was preached in the parish Church, to a most crowded Congregation. Never was the Church so full, either on the like or any other occasion.

Nearly 200 Poor Children attended Divine Service and publicly reiterated the Catechism; after which they were regaled with a plentiful Dinner provided for them in the Town Hall.

These Schools are supported by the liberal Contributions of the Inhabitants, and the indefatigable attention of the ladies of Wokingham, has been the means (under the blessing of God) of bringing the Institution to a perfection, beyond the most sanguine expectations.

Mon 23rd June

Wednesday, a division of the Royal Horse Guards (blue) stationed at Wokingham, celebrated the anniversary of the battle of Waterloo, with a public dinner, consisting of good old British fare. The tables were tastefully and appropriately decorated, and the day was spent most convivially.

Mon 6th Oct

Saturday last, as Mr. Creaker's workmen were ploughing in a field near Wokingham, the ploughshare struck and broke an earthenware pot containing a thousand Roman Copper Coins, mostly in a state of good preservation. The name of the Emperor Constantine, who reigned upwards of fifteen hundred years since, is very perfect on several.

Mon 13th Oct

We noticed in our last Paper, that an earthenware jar containing a quantity of Roman Coin had been discovered in a field belonging to Mr. Creaker, near Wokingham, and it may be gratifying to some of our readers in that neighbourhood, who are not possessed of the antiquarian mania, to have a brief account of them, without the inconvenience of searching among the antiquated rust with which these reliques abound.

The greater part of them bear the head of the Emperor Constantius, and of the Usurper Magnentius, but there are some of the Emperor Constans and a few of Decentius, who was a brother of Magnentius and lived during his usurpation of the Imperial purple.—In Camden's *Britannia* an interesting account of these things may be found.—Constans and Constantius were the two younger sons of Constantine the Great, on whose death Britain devolved to his eldest son Constantine, who was slain by Constans,—and he, rendering himself odious to the soldiery was surprised and slain by Magnentius.—This Magnentius was the son of a Briton, born among the Laeti in Gaul, upon the death of Constans he assumed the Imperial purple in Gaul, and drew over Britain to his interest, and after several battles with Constantine, laid violent hand on himself, as did his brother Decentius, when Britain submitted wholly to Constantius, in whose person the Roman Empire which Constantine the Great had divided among his three sons, became united in the seventeenth year of his reign, and the 353^d after the birth of our Saviour.—Most of these coins are in an excellent state of preservation.

1818

Mon 17th Aug

HIGHWAY-ROBBERY

Wednesday the 5th inst. as Mr. Hibbert, butcher of Hurst, was returning from Wokingham, he was stopt about eleven o'clock at night, on the road leading to the Pheasant, by two men, disguised in great coats and crapes over their faces, who

robbed him of notes and cash to the amount of forty pounds. Notwithstanding the disguise Mr. Hibbert knew Joseph Bint to be one of the robbers, and told him so; John Houlton, the companion of Bint, was apprehended in Wokingham on Tuesday and immediately confessed that himself and Bint went out with the intention of stealing a horse, but finding it difficult to catch him; and having seen Mr. Hibbert telling his money in a public house, agreed to stop and rob him.

After which they went to London but the notes being of the Reading Bank, could not get them changed, they therefore set off for Oxford, where they bought watches and a variety of other articles.—Having returned to the neighbourhood of Wokingham, Houlton went out to reconnoitre, and finding his name had not been mentioned, he gave his share of the money to Bint, who was hid in a wood, to keep for him till his return, and then ventured into the town, and was immediately taken into custody. Bint not finding his companion return took alarm and escaped. Twenty guineas is offered for his apprehension. Houlton confessed they committed a highway robbery before, and at different periods have stolen poultry from nearly every farm in the neighbourhood. John Houlton is fully committed for trial, at the next assizes.

Mon 9th Nov

WOKINGHAM FAIR

The Fair at Wokingham on Monday last, exceeded every thing of the like kind in the remembrance of the oldest inhabitants. The novel scene of an ox roasted whole in the Market-place, excited general curiosity in the adjacent country to a wide extent, which exclusive of those, who attended on business brought a numerous influx of spectators to witness the unusual performance. The whole business was conducted by Messrs. Beechey, Baker, and Giles, butchers with singular judgment and propriety. In a brick erection about four feet high, in the centre of the Market-place, iron bars were placed, so as to have the effect of an extensive wide grate, and at four o'clock in the morning the animal was suspended on a piece of beech timber full three inches square, with a coach wheel fixed at each end, and continued roasting till eleven, when the managers began cutting off slices, in which they had full employment for four or five hours. The meat was well done, and all who partook thereof were amply gratified, and not an atom left.

There was a large shew of Welsh cattle, and others of the home-bred kind, with a great quantity of store pigs, which went off quick at something advanced prices.

Mon 23rd Nov

It is with peculiar satisfaction we record the establishing of another of those excellent Institutions the Savings' Banks, in this county. A meeting of the inhabitants of Wokingham was held in the Town Hall, on Thursday, for the above purpose; James Webb, esq. Alderman, in the chair, when it was unanimously resolved, that a Provident Institution, or Bank for Savings be established, under the title of "THE WOKINGHAM SAVINGS BANK." The High Steward of the town, Lord Braybrooke, was unanimously elected President, as were also the Hon. R. Neville, M.P. Chas. Dundas, esq. M.P. C.F. Palmer, esq. M.P. Sir W. Wynn, the Rev. G. Seeker, and G.J. Cholmondeley, esq. Vice Presidents.

Sir William Wynn addressed the meeting in an animated speech, congratulating the inhabitants on the establishment of such an excellent institution, and most ably and clearly pointed out the benefits derived from such Institutions in a political, moral, and religious point of view. The Rev. Georg Kemble Whatley, as well as the Alderman, bore testimony to the justness of Sir William's remarks. After the usual

votes of thanks had passed, the meeting was adjourned to Wednesday the 2nd Dec. To enable the committee in the mean time, to have the rules, & c. Printed and circulated.

1819

1820

Mon 10th Jan

BANKS FOR SAVINGS

We have much pleasure in stating, that at the second half-yearly meeting of the Forest Saving Bank, held in the Town Hall, Wokingham, on Monday last, it appeared that 99 persons had opened accounts, and made 214 deposits, amounting to £1707 11s. 4d. (out of which number 190 were in sums not exceeding £20) that £113 6s. had been repaid to different depositors; and that the sums of £40 6s. 7d. had been paid for interest. We think it right to add, that the Depositors in the Forest Saving Bank receive the full amount of the Interest due on their respective deposits, without any deduction, whatever—the cost of stationary, printing, advertising and every other expense, being wholly paid by the voluntary subscriptions of the Officers of the Institution.

Mon 17th Jan

PEDESTRIOUS FEAT

A young man named John Wellman, a native of Wokingham, aged 19, went on Monday, for a wager, from Hannican's Lodge to Wokingham, (a distance of 2½ miles and 51 poles) and back, ten times within twelve succeeding hours, making in the whole fifty three miles and nearly a quarter, which he accomplished with comparative ease twenty-five minutes within the given time, notwithstanding the ground is very hilly and slippery. In the course of the journey he had to open 3 gates 20 times each, making in all 60 times, and to climb over 6 stiles as many times, making in the whole 120, all of which he performed without being at all distressed, as he was able to pursue his occupation the following day.

Mon 19th June

WOKINGHAM BRANCH BIBLE SOCIETY AND LADIES' ASSOCIATION

The Anniversaries of the Wokingham Branch Bible Society and Ladies' Association (which were held on Thursday the 8th inst.) afforded a high gratification to numerous and respectable meetings of the inhabitants of that town and neighbourhood. The Chair was ably filled on both occasions by D.M. Kinnon Eq., and the Reports were calculated to encourage the friends of the Bible Society, to new and persevering exertions. From these it appeared, that 387 copies of the sacred Scriptures had been circulated by these Institutions since their establishment in the year 1817, and that the Associations had been enabled to devote £10 to assist in supplying Foreign Countries with the Book of God. The resolutions were moved and seconded by the Rev. G.R. Whatley, Rev. J. Anderson, C.S. Dudley, esq. Rev. J. Coles, Rev. J. Newbery, Mr. Haywood, Rev. T. Galland, Mr. Heelas, Rev. G. Hulme, and Rev. A. Douglas, several of them addressed the Meetings at considerable length. Allusions were made to the late attempts to spread infidelity and disloyalty through the land,—and facts of the most decisive nature were brought forward to prove how powerfully the extensive circulation of the Bible tended to counteract them. The prospects which are continually opening to the Parent Society in Russia, America, in the East Indies and

on the shores of the Mediterranean were stated to be of the most encouraging description; whilst the claims, which are day by day, made upon us, from countries almost or entirely destitute of the Holy Scriptures, loudly call upon every man, who professes to believe that those scriptures contain the revealed will of God, to lend his aid in making them known to the greatest possible extent. It was also forcibly urged that, computing the population of the world at one thousand millions of souls, not one fifth part of these, as yet professed Christianity, and of those, who did profess it, not above 17 millions could be supposed as yet to be in possession of a Bible. Under these circumstances it must be evident that the friends to the circulation of the Word of God must not relax either in their zeal or their exertions.

Mon 30th Oct

At the Justice Meeting at Wokingham, on Thursday last, James Marshall, a carter boy to Farmer Rushton, was convicted in the penalty of ten shillings, for riding in his master's cart upon the highway, without reins or anyone on foot, to guide the horse. Mr. and Mrs. Brigstock narrowly escaped a serious accident by the above negligence, and it is much to be wished that examples should be made of all persons observed to be guilty of such offences.

Mon 27th Nov

BANK NOTES LOST

In the Town of Wokingham, or between that place and the Pheasant, King Street, on Tuesday, Nov. 21, 1820.—A Twenty Pound Bank of England Note, No. 11358, dated August 26.—Two Ten Pound Notes of Messrs. Stephens and Co's Reading Bank, out of the following Numbers, 3225—3292—or, 9798, and a Ten Pound Note of the Bank of England.

Payment of all the above Notes being Stopped, they are of no use to any person, but the owner. Suspicion having fallen on certain persons of detaining the Notes, a long examination has taken place before the worthy and indefatigable Magistrates of Wokingham, from which there is good reason to suppose the money is detained under the expectation of a greater reward being offered, but as payment of the Notes is Stopped, and they are consequently useless, no greater sum will be given for the recovery of them than FIVE POUNDS.—Whoever returns the Notes to Mr. Creaker, Wokingham, or Messrs. Cowslade and Co., Reading, shall receive the reward.

P.S. Whoever detains any notes or other articles, having found the same, is subject to a prosecution for Felony.

1821

Mon 6th Aug

CORONATION BALL

A very elegant Ball was given last week in honor of the Coronation at Wokingham. It took place in the Town-Hall, the interior of which was tastefully decorated and brilliantly illuminated with a Crown of variegated lamps and a resplendent G.R. Through the polite attentions of the Stewards the entertainment, the evening passed off with considerable eclat, and the loyalty, which gave birth to it the greatly enhanced the festivity of the scene.

1822

Mon 18th March

TOUTLEY HALL FURNITURE TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION AND EFFECTS

Toutley Hall, Berks, by the side of the Forest Road, leading from King-street to Bill Hill, about a mile and a half from Wokingham. To be sold by auction by Mr. Creaker, on Friday, March 22nd, 1822 at eleven o'clock, on the premises.

All the genteel household furniture and Effects of a Gentleman leaving Toutley Hall.

Mon 22nd April

The Recordship of the ancient Town of Wokingham, in this county, having become vacant by the resignation of Giffin Wilson, esq. of Lincoln Inn, the Corporation on Friday last unanimously elected John Roberts, esq., to that highly respectable situation. This unsolicited appointment by a body of his fellow townsmen with whom he has been associated for forty years, must be gratifying to the feelings of the esteemed individual, who has been the object of their choice.

Mon 2nd Sept

Saturday morning last the Wokingham wagon was robbed between Egham and Virginia Water, of a hamper of wine, 2 boxes of candles, a mat of beds, and a large bundle of leather. Five fellows in two carts were observed to drive by the wagon, and the wheels were tracked into a field, where it is supposed they remained concealed till the wagon passed and then perpetrated the robbery. The villains were seen by a country boy in a field in Buckinghamshire the same morning drunk, quarrelling and throwing the empty bottles at each other.

Mon 2nd Dec

On Saturday last twelve men, widowers, all resident in the parish of Wokingham dined together at the sign of the Sedan Chair, whose united ages amounted to 867 years.

1823

1824

Mon 7th June

A Benefit Club is established at Hurst and Wokingham.

On Tuesday Inst. last at Wokingham, Lacy Hibbins, the toll collector, at Coppige Beach Lane Gate, in the Windsor Forest turnpike road; was convicted in the penalty of forty shillings before H. St. John, esq.,--Garth, esq.,--and Brown, esq., on the complaint of W.F.A. Dillane, esq., for taking a greater toll than the Local Act authorised, the extra half tolls, which should not have been collected on that road, after the 1st of January 1824, have thus been extracted from the public for the last five months, sanctioned by a board with a scale of tolls, put up at every gate on that road, by order of the Trustees, whose attention in their duty, and the objects of their trust, the public will duly appreciate.

Mon 30th Aug

Wednesday the 18th inst. Wm. Sexton, who for some years has travelled the country selling nets took up his abode for the night at a lodging house in Wokingham, he retired to rest about six o'clock in the evening; about nine two more trampers arrived, one of whom was put in the same bed with Sexton. This man says he recollects

Sexton's getting out of bed twice in the night, but did not hear him complain. In the morning he was awoke about six o'clock by his companion, who told him his bedfellow was dead; this so alarmed him, that he immediately jumped up and ran down the stairs in his shirt. A surgeon being sent for, examined the body, and gave it as his opinion that Sexton died of a rupture of a blood vessel in the heart.—Verdict accordingly.

Mon 18th Oct

On Friday, Sir Francis Burdett honoured the Alderman and Corporation of the town of Wokingham, with his company at a dinner at the Alderman's (Mr. Crabtree) residence, Waterloo Lodge, where great hospitality was shown, and the evening spent with the greatest conviviality. Many excellent songs were sung and loyal toasts given.

The Philanthropic Society of this town, ever alive to the wants of the sick and indigent took a benefit at the Circus of Messrs. Cooke and Bridges last evening, in aid of the funds of their laudable institution, when the company closed their Equestrian Performances, and left this town for Windsor, where we trust they will meet with that liberal encouragement they so justly merit. And we assure the public too much praise cannot be bestowed on them for their liberality in coming forward on two occasions to assist two valuable institutions during their short stay here.

1825

Mon 31st Jan

Our young Roscius has, this week, been performing at the Town-hall, Wokingham, to crowded and fashionable audiences. His astonishing talents display new beauties on every repetition, and we are happy to find his exertions are completely crowned with success. Tuesday and Wednesday next, he will perform at Wellingford. Stoves are fixed in the Town-hall, and every preparation made to accommodate the company. The Moveable Theatre attracts great notice. The scenery is new and it is altogether very magnificent, and does great credit both to the mechanist and artist.

One swallow certainly does not make a summer, for we are informed by a gentleman of veracity, that he observed one flying in the streets of this town this morning.

Mon 28th March

The Right Hon. Lord Braybrooke has accepted the office of High Steward of Wokingham.

A handsome piece of plate was lately presented to Mr. Robt. Eatwell of Wokingham, by the inhabitants of that town, in testimony of their approbation of his conduct as surveyor of the roads.

Mon 11th April

On Wednesday last, Paul Holton Esq. Was elected Alderman and Chief Magistrate of Wokingham, for the year ensuing, being the sixth time of his election to that office; and the same day, Robert Palmer, esq. the sole and respected Member for this County, honoured the Corporation of Wokingham with his company to dinner, at Waterloo Lodge, the residence of Mr. Crabtree, the late Alderman. The evening was spent in the greatest harmony and conviviality.

Mon 20th June
Advert

SILK MILLS AND MANUFACTORY
WOKINGHAM, BERKS
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION

By Mr. Creaker

Without reserve, at the Roe Buck Inn, Wokingham, on Tuesday, the 21st Day of June, 1825, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

The residue of the LEASE of a capital and desirable silk mill, situate in Peach-street in the town of Wokingham, Berks, comprising substantial brick building, of four floors, each seventy feet in length, with a steam engine, of six horse power.—Also a brick building in two tenements at a short distance from the Mill and adjoining Peach-street

The estate is held by a term of thirty-one years from 25th December 1807, at the rent of £45 per annum.

For further particulars, and to view the premises, apply to the auctioneer, Wokingham; if by letter, postage to be paid. Mon 27th June

We understand that it is in contemplation to establish a National School at Wokingham; and an advertisement announces the sale of Ladies' Fancy Work at the Town-hall, on Monday, July 4, which is likely to be attended by the principal families in the neighbourhood.

Mon 5th Sept

Mr. Bird was lecturing last week at Wokingham, on astronomy, and those who attended his lectures were much interested by his manner, which was very intelligible to the junior part of his audience. We do not remember to have witnessed any thing on the sublime science of astronomy, better calculated than Mr. Bird's lectures are, to excite in the youthful mind so lively and desirable impressions of the magnitude of the heavenly bodies, the order and immensity of the universe; and of the beauty, sublimity and utility of the mighty works of the creation.

The study of astronomy tends more than any other, to increase the force of the understanding. It may justly be considered the noblest privilege of our nature; for it is in the contemplation of the heavens that we discover the wonders of the Deity, see his wisdom in the works of creation, and follow his footsteps through the immense region of his boundless empire, where

“World beyond world, in infinite extent
Profusely scattered o'er the blue immense,”

Mr. Bird's splendid transparent orrery has a very grand and imposing effect; it exhibits all the planets and satellites as if they were suspended in space; it shews their respective revolutions round a resplendent scene, without any apparent cause; it gives the most brilliant and beautiful idea of the heavenly bodies, and shews in the clearest manner the appearances, laws, motions etc. of the whole of the planetary systems.

These lectures are evidently the production of a man of great ingenuity and study; for through the whole course, Mr. B. delights his audience by the charms of variety, and the impress of novelty, which he has by intense application been able to obtain from the inexhaustible treasures which are every where to be found in the minds of philosophy. We feel great pleasure in saying that Mr. B's lectures have given the highest satisfaction to every lover of literature and science. We understand the lecturer intends visiting this town, and then Abingdon.

1826

Mon 3 July

On Tuesday, the town of Wokingham was visited by a most dreadful storm of thunder and lightning. At the silk factory, several hundred squares of glass were broken, and most of the lights in the green-houses of John Roberts, esq. and other gentlemen destroyed. In the house of Mrs. Norris, near 50 panes were broken; as many in that of Mrs. Ifould, and six in the market room in the Bush. At the Roebuck, the room in which the ordinary was held, was flooded. And the company put to the rout. The hailstones were of unusual magnitude; and so violent and continuous were the torrents of rain, as to render the Market-house invisible from the Bush. Some of the streets were so completely inundated, that boats might have been navigated in them. The storm raged also with great fury at Bagshot, Blackwater, and Hartford-bridge.

1827

Mon 1st Jan

The town of Wokingham being entirely free from the old practice of bull-baiting by the strict attention and perseverance of the worthy Alderman, and Corporation of that ancient borough, whose charter bears a date previous to the reign of James I, on St. Thomas's day last, upwards of 400 poor families received bread, meat and some clothing, from the charities bequeathed to the above town and parish.

Mon 19th March

Advert

VALUABLE
SILK MILLS & PREMISES
WOKINGHAM AND READING
An improved rent of £307. Per *ANNUM*
By Mr. SHUTTLEWORTH

At the Auction Mart, in London, on Wednesday, March 21, 1827, at twelve o'clock, in three lots:

Lot 1.--A FREEHOLD ESTATE, advantageously situated in Peach-street, in the town of Wokingham, in the county of Berks; comprising a SILK MANUFACTORY, capable of containing 60 looms, with suitable Buildings and Appurtenances, Yards, Gardens, &c. As the same was late in the occupation of Mr. John Douglass, deceased.

Lot 2.—A FREEHOLD MESSUAGE or TENEMENT, situated in Rose-street, in that part of the town of Wokingham, which is in the county of Wilts, with the Out-houses, Gardens, and Appurtenances, to the same belonging, and the Out-house standing in the yard of the White Hart Inn, as the same were late in the occupation of the said Mr. John Douglass, and now partly of Mr. James Chappell.

Lot 3.—An improved RENT of £307. Per *ANNUM*, secured upon the Minster Mill, and extensive Premises now occupied as a Silk Mill, eligibly situated in the parish of St. Mary, in the town of Reading, Berks, in the occupation of Mr. James Douglass.

May be viewed, and particulars had on the respective premises; at the principal Inns in Wokingham and Reading; of Mr. James, solicitor, Bucklesbury; at the Matr; and of Mr. Shuttleworth, No. 28, Poultry, London.

Mon 29th Oct

Wokingham Fair will be held on Friday, Nov. 2, when there will be a fine ox roasted whole in the Market-place. The fair is expected to be unusually great, as there will be a variety of amusements. A very large show of cattle is expected.

1828

Mon 14th July

On Wednesday last the Corporation of Wokingham and several gentlemen of the neighbourhood, were entertained at Billingbear by Lord Braybrook, in celebration of his being elected to the office of High Steward of that ancient corporation.

Mon 20th Oct

This day fortnight, as the apprentice of Mr. Goodchild, butcher, Wokingham, was returning from Arborfield, he was overtaken by three men, one of whom asked for a lift, and was permitted to enter the cart, when he immediately presented a pistol to the breast of the young man, while the others held the head of the horse, and the one in the cart robbed him of £5. 12s.; on their going to make off, the young man complained of being left entirely without money; when it was said, Give him a shilling, which happily proved to be a sovereign.

Mon 1st Dec

At the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, for the county of Wilts, held, by adjournment, at Wokingham, on Wednesday last, before Sir Moris Ximenes, chairman, Timothy H. Altabon Earle, esq. Charles Fyshe Palmer, esq. M.P. and others, Justices of the said County, George Mitford, esq. of Shinfield, Philip Browne, esq. of Hurst Grove, and John Walter, esq. of Bear Wood, severally took the oaths, and duly qualified themselves to act as Justices of the peace for the county of Wilts.

1829

Mon 9th Feb

Some of our friends about Wokingham and Bracknell have too much reason to recollect a man, calling himself Stone, who, early in December last, established himself in a house belonging to Mr. Seckerson, of Shute End, Wokingham, and succeeded in obtaining goods with which he decamped. In this town, he gave some orders, which, however were not executed. A considerable order for furniture was given to Mr. Wargent; and *Mister* Stone being in immediate want of several articles, was permitted to take them in his cart. Something occurred to awaken Mr. W.'s suspicions. He made instant pursuit, and was fortunate enough to recover his property.

By the Essex Herald of last week, it appears that, under the name of Stevens, he has been pursuing the same iniquitous practices at Little Waltham, near Chelmsford, where he took a malt-house, and bargained for very large quantities of barley, some of which he re-sold. He also obtained furniture from four several persons, grocery, sacks, &c. Here, as at Wokingham, suspicion arose, and it was found that Stevens had decamped. His new place of abode was discovered at Selly-bridge, whither his followers proceeded, but the bird had again flown, and they possessed themselves of as much of the furniture, &c, as was found on the premises. On searching the granary, there were found 34 quarters of barley, which was removed. The van was also secured, and will remain under lock and key until claimed by the owner in person.

This house was hired in the name of John Allen; this was no other person than Steven's malting man, when at Waltham; but at Shelly, the case was altered:--Stevens there performed the character of Allen's man. In the house were four boards, which were affixed to the van in such rotation as best suited their purposes; upon one was William Stevens, Little Waltham—on another, John Allen, Shelly, Essex,—another, John Stone, Renton, Herts---another, John Stone—Hertford—another, John Stone, Penton, Hants—another, John Stone, Iver, Bucks.

We perceive by Mr. Allenby's advertisement that he is taking likenesses, and teaching writing at reduced prices, which cannot fail to give satisfaction.

Mon 27th April

On Monday last a ringing match for hats took place at the Pin and Bowl, Wokingham, on hand-bells, between the Reading, Winkfield, Binfield, and Wokingham youths, which was won in grand style by the Reading. The second prize was won by the Wokingham youths.

Mon 13th July

On Monday, the annual Pink Meeting was held at the Roebuck Inn, Wokingham, when the prizes were awarded as follow:--1st prize, to Mr. John Eatwell; 2^d, to John Love; 3^d, to Mr. John Batten, 4th, to Mr. Robert Chambers; 5th, to Mr. William Rixon; and 6th, to Mr. John Hopkins.

On Wednesday, the annual Pink Feast took place at the Bush Inn, Wokingham. The prizes were adjudged as follow:--1st, to Mr. J. Batten; 2^d, to Mr. Rixon; 3^d, to Mr. Love; 4th to Mr. J. Eatwell; 5th, to Mr. R. Chambers; and 6th, to Mr. John Hopkins. On this occasion, a numerous company dined together, and expressed themselves highly gratified with the arrangements, and attentions of the Misses Houton.

Mon 21st Sept

At Wokingham Market, Corn, which has hitherto been sold by sample, is to be pitched from the 29th inst.

On Monday last, the prize for ringing on the Egham church-bells was awarded to the Wokingham ringers, who won in superior style.

On Monday evening, shortly after the gas was lighted up, a daring robber went into the shop of Mr. Simonds, Baker, in Broad-street [Reading], and, no person being there, he reached over the counter, and stole the till, containing £31 10s. in gold and silver, and 15s. in copper. He threw the drawer away in the street, and effected his escape; but information being given to police-officers, they kept a look out; and Warburton, by means of disguise, succeeded in apprehending him the same evening in a lodging house in Hosier-street, together with one of his companions. The next day Warburton apprehended a boy who was in company with them, and from him he obtained information that two women (part of the gang) were gone to Wokingham, whence he pursued and took them into custody. They were examined on Wednesday, and all five remanded for further examination. There is no doubt but this party has been living wholly upon plunder, as a great number of different sorts of articles (supposed to be stolen) were found in their possession; and great credit is due to the officer for taking them. They said they came here from Abingdon.

1830

Mon 25th Jan

Notwithstanding the inclemency of the season the Wokingham Theatre was on the evening of Wednesday night crowded to excess, to witness the representation of *SPEED THE PLOUGH*, being by the desire and under the patronage of the worthy Alderman (Mr. Creaker). On which occasion the performers exerted themselves with their usual ability. The Comic Singing of our old favourite Mr. Morgan is too well appreciated to need comment, and the plaintive songs of Mrs. Randolph gave general satisfaction. The Farce of *NO SONG NO SUPPER* followed, on which the audience bestowed their well merited applause, and departed highly gratified with the evening's entertainment. The spirited Manager has since the commencement of the season produced several new pieces, and has others in reserve, for quick representation, one of which is the celebrated piece of *Black-eyed Susan*, which is now performing at the Surrey Theatre, and has been running upwards of 170 nights. We sincerely hope that his exertions will meet with that encouragement his merits so well deserve.

1831

1832

Mon 26th March
Advert

FREEHOLD ESTATES
WOKINGHAM BERKS AND WILTS
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION
By Mr. CREAKER

At the Rose Inn, Wokingham, on Friday, March 30th, 1932,
At three o'clock in the afternoon, in Two Lots,

Lot 1 Comprising all that Newly-erected and Substantial **BRICK BUILDING** of **THREE FLOORS**, with Slated Roof and well Timbered, extending nearly 100 Feet in length and 18 Feet in width, lately occupied as a **SILK FACTORY**; containing on the upper story, three weaving rooms; on the first story, five weaving rooms, all with excellent lights, capable of receiving together sixty looms; on the ground floor, eight apartments for the accommodation of mechanics, &c.; detached wood and coal sheds, &c.—The above premises are situate in Peach-street commanding a frontage of 100 feet, by 150 feet in depth, eligible for extending the manufactory, or for other building purposes.—Land tax redeemed.

Lot 2. Comprises a substantial Brick and Tiled **DWELLING HOUSE**, containing seven bed-rooms, two parlours, and other apartments; also a Brick and Tiled **TENEMENT**, adjoining, containing, two rooms, pantry, and bakehouses; with a yard, two-stall stable, shed and piggery, behind an excellent walled garden stocked and planted with fruit trees.

This lot is situate in Rose-street, near the Church, in the county of Wilts, and extends altogether 65 feet in front of Rose-street, by a depth and frontage towards the Lane adjoining, leading from Rose-street to Peach-street, of 145 feet. The purchaser of this Lot to take the Fixtures at a valuation.

May be viewed, and further particulars known, by applying to Messrs. Crowder and Meynard, solicitors, Mansion-house-place, London; Mr. Newberry, solicitor, Reading; Mr. Chas. Ford, solicitor, 35 Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, London; or to the auctioneer, Wokingham; if by letter, post paid.

1833

Mon 17th June

The first meeting of the East Berks Archery Club was held on Tuesday last, at Luckley House, near Wokingham, by permission of Chas. F. Palmer, Esq., The mansion being at present untenanted afforded excellent accommodation and the grounds surrounding it being extensive, were found particularly well adapted to the purpose of the meeting, although at a greater distance from the county town than the members had at first proposed. At one o'clock the Club began to assemble and notwithstanding the boisterous and threatening state of the weather, soon after that hour the rooms were filled with the members and their friends. As the wind was much too rough for the exercise of the sport which ostensibly brought the party together, they amused themselves in promenading the gardens or in coteries which were formed in the Rooms, a brass band being in attendance, and entertaining the assembly with the performance of the liveliest and most appropriate airs.

About three o'clock, the whole of the party sat down to an elegant cold collation which had been prepared under the direction of the Secretary, by Mr. Lalor, of Windsor, in excellent style. After the removal of the cloth, the health of the Duke of Wellington, who had in the kindest and most flattering manner accepted the office of President, was proposed by Sir F. Watson, and drunk with three times three. After which the health of C. F. Palmer, Esq., with thanks of the Meeting for the use of his house and grounds on the occasion was drunk with enthusiasm. The healths of Edward Golding, jun esq. And W. Merry, Esq the secretary, under whose active exertions the details have been carried into effect, were drunk with the warmth which their zeal and labour fully entitled them to. After dinner, the storm which had broken several large trees, having somewhat abated, the party reassembled on the lawn, but the gale was still too strong to allow of much exercise or display of skill; The amusement was however, continued throughout the afternoon with considerable emulation.

At eight o'clock dancing commenced in the rooms, to a very excellent Windsor band, and quadrilles and gallopades concluded the amusements of the day at a seasonable hour.

Mon 30th Sept

Friday last a very numerous and respectable party amongst whom were several members of the Corporation, dined at the Bush Inn, Wokingham; when an excellent entertainment was served up in Mr. Wise's usual style, consisting of venison, game, and every delicacy of the season. The chair was ably filled by Mr. Dalley, and on the removal of the cloth, the health of the King and other loyal toasts were drunk with enthusiasm; and the party were so well pleased that they determined it to be hereafter an annual meeting.

Mon 28th Oct

On Thursday last, the members of the Wokingham Glee Club dined together at the Crown Inn, and after partaking of a sumptuous repast, (for which the worthy host, Mr. Gale had the thanks of the whole company) singing commenced with the beautiful piece "Non nobis Domine" which was executed in a style that would have reflected credit on many of the metropolitan singers; after which the favourite trio, "Lecomi a te Gualterio," was performed in no less a masterly manner; in the course of the

evening were sung most of the popular glees of the day, in all which the performers admirably acquitted themselves.

Mon 23rd Dec

On Wednesday last, a meeting of the parishioners of Wokingham, was held at the vestry-room of the church, for the purpose of taking into consideration the best means of employing the labouring Poor, during the winter season. There were present, the Rev. Thos. Morres, the clergyman, J. Walter, esq, M.P., Mr. Hayward, Mr. Heelas, and most of the farmers of the parish. It was proposed by Mr. Hayward, that the churchwardens and overseers should in pursuance of the power contained in 59 Geo.3, cap. 12, s. 12, take a quantity of land, and employ the surplus labourers upon it at fair wages. This course was objected to by several persons present, who proposed instead thereof a fair division of the labourers among the inhabitants of the parish. Mr. Walter said he was willing to adopt either course; he was only desirous of acting upon some plan best calculated to promote the welfare of the poor, and at the same time, in the most comprehensive manner to meet the views of the parishioners.

The latter suggestion was, after some discussion, unanimously adopted; and it was determined immediately to take all the labourers into employ at fair wages, without considering whether they were married or single. By this means, not a single labourer throughout the whole of the three divisions of the parish, will be unemployed during the entire winter.

1834

Mon 26th May 1834

WOKINGHAM ASSOCIATION

FOR PROTECTION OF PROPERTY AND PROSECUTION OF FELONS, &c.

Notice is hereby given, that the ANNUAL MEETING for the general purposes of this Association, will be held at the Roe Buck Inn, Wokingham, on Friday, the Thirtieth of May instant, at Two o'Clock in the afternoon, and that a Dinner will be provided as usual at three o'clock.

By order of the Directors

J. I. & W. ROBERTS

Wokingham, May 20, 1834

1835

1836

Mon 21st March

THE NEW GROATS

The fourpenny silver pieces have been issued to the bankers, and are getting into circulation. The coin is neatly executed, and will be useful in preventing the incumbrance of halfpence. The obverse of the coin bears the head of his Majesty, and the reverse the figure of Britannia. The coin is certainly rather a handsome one, but if we were inclined to be critical, we should say that the figure of Britannia ought to be in the centre, which not being the case the effect is not so good.

1837

Sat 7th April (BC)

TO BE DISPOSED OF

The lease of a highly desirable TAN YARD and PREMISES, at Wokingham, Berks, in consequence of the decease, and by the order of the Executor of Mr. ROBERT JENKINS, the late proprietor. The Tan Yard is in full work, and capable of manufacturing from 80 to 100 hides a week. A large sum of money has lately been expended in enlarging the Tan Yard and erecting drying lofts, leather warehouse and sheds, bark kiln and bark mills, and barns capable of five hundred tons of bark. The Premises further comprise a comfortable dwelling house, with suitable offices, good stabling, commodious granary, very productive gardens, a small orchard, and 30 acres of excellent land adjoining, well watered and in a high state of cultivation, which may be had either with or without the above premises. The Farming and Tanning Utensils are very complete. The situation of the Tan Yard offers extraordinary advantages to the trade, being in the centre of a most productive bark country, within 30 miles of the London market, with Reading, Windsor, Staines, and other populous towns sufficiently contiguous to afford at all times an abundant supply of raw goods.—For particulars, apply to Messrs. Streatfield and Co., Leather Factors, London; or to Mr. J. Soames, 33 Great Winchester-street, Broad-street, London; or to Mr. Francis Soames, Solicitor, Wokingham.

Sat 26th May (BC)

BILL HILL MANSION & MANOR,

TO BE LET, *elegantly furnished for the term of*

Two or three years, with Immediate Possession

(in consequence of the Proprietor going abroad)

The above mansion, with or without the luxurious park of about 80 acres of very prime Grass Land, or, if preferred, with 20 acres of Grass Land in Paddocks, adjoining the premises. The Manor, in extent upwards of 2,000 acres, abounds with Game, on which is a well-stocked private Fishery, of near two miles in extent, with a Fishing Cottage.

There is excellent stabling, coach-houses, and all other convenient offices; excellent walled gardens, well-stocked with choice fruit trees, pleasure grounds, and conservatory, grapery and hot-house, and every other convenience that may be required. The whole is in the most perfect order, and enclosed in a ring-fence, with extensive gravel walks and pleasure grounds.

BILL HILL is situated on an elevation, upon a gravelly soil, with carriage drives through the beautifully ornamented Park of timber.

The estate is fit for the reception of a Nobleman or Gentleman of distinction, and is within an easy distance of Her Majesty's Hunt, and Sir John Cope's Fox Hounds. The estate is situated 30 miles from London; seven from Ascot Heath; eight from Reading; twelve from Windsor, and two from Wokingham from whence coaches pass daily to and from London.

To prevent unnecessary application, the rent of the Mansion and the whole of the Land and Premises, as above described, is 600 guineas per annum; and for the whole of the above described property, excepting the Park of 80 acres, 400 guineas per annum, the landlord paying all rates and taxes.

For further particulars, and to treat for the same, apply (if by letter, post, paid,) to Mr. Lewis Rose, White Waltham, near Maidenhead, Berks.

Sat 14th July (BC)

VICTORIA DEI GRATIA COIN

A proclamation appears in the Gazette of Friday night respecting the new coinage. The only novelty is the appearance of a new gold coin of the value of five pounds. The weight of the coin is to be twenty five pennyweights, sixteen grains, and thirty-seven hundredth parts of a grain troy weight of solid gold. Each piece shall have for the obverse impression Her Majesty's effigy, with the inscription "Victoria Dei Gratia," and the date of the year; and for the reverse the ensigns armorial of the United Kingdom, contained in a plain shield, surmounted by the Royal crown, and enriched with a laurel wreath with the inscription "Britanniarum Regina Fid. Def.," having the united rose, thistle, and the shamrock, placed under the shield, and upon the edge of the piece the words "Decus et Tutamen," and the words "Anno Regni," and the year of Her Majesty's reign.

REDUCED FARES

INSIDE 10s.—OUTSIDE 6s.

WILLIAM'S COACH OFFICE,
No. 7, KING-STREET, READING.

The public are respectfully informed that the Early Coach to LONDON leaves the above Office

On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & FRIDAY Mornings, at half-past Five o'clock

Through Oakingham, Bracknell, and Sunninghill; and returns from the Black Lion Water-lane, Fleet-street, London, on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, at half-past Twelve, and Hatchett's New White Horse Cellar, Piccadilly, at One o'clock.

The Nine o'clock Coach to London,

Every Morning (Sunday excepted).

Through Oakingham, Binfield, Bracknell, Warfield, Winkfield Church, and (by permission) Windsor Great Park; returns from the Black Lion, Water-lane, every Morning at half-past Nine, and Hatchett's Piccadilly, at Ten o'clock.

A very superior Fast Coach to London

Every Morning (Sunday Excepted), at $\frac{1}{4}$ before 12 o'clock

Through Oakingham, Bracknell and Sunninghill; and returns from the Black Lion, Water-lane, Fleet-street, London, daily at Three, and Hatchett's New White Horse Cellar, Piccadilly, at half-past Three precisely.

Samuel Williams, Sen)

AND Samuel Williams, Jun) Proprietors

Reading, July 2nd, 1838

Sat 11th Aug (BC)

HONE'S GENERAL COACH

AND

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY OFFICE

KING STREET, READING

The Public are respectfully informed that the following coaches will leave the above office until further notice:--

RAILWAY COACHES to the Maidenhead Station

MORNING

AFTERNOON

Seven o'clock

Three o'clock

penny has been gradually reduced much in bulk. In the days of the Republic it weighed from 2 pennyweights 10 grains, to 2 pennyweights 13 grains. In the reign of Emperor Trajan, it weighed barely 2 pennyweights 2 grains. The late Emperors reduced it nearly one half; and the earliest Saxon specimens weigh less than a pennyweight. The Penny of Edward IV was 15 grains; and of Henry VIII, 10 grains; and that of William IV, only 7 grains

1839

Sat 1st June

THE NEW PLAN OF POSTAGE

We yesterday stated that the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Tuesday night intimated that he should, in the course of a fortnight, propose a resolution to Parliament to give effect to Mr. Rowland Hill's plan of an uniform Penny Postage. In making this announcement, Mr. Spring Rice said, "he hoped to have it in his power to propose a resolution founded upon the report of the committee which sat last year." The reporters did not hear the explanation which the right honourable gentleman afterwards gave of the nature of the resolution he intended to propose, and some of our evening contemporaries have questioned the accuracy of our statement, We can, however, assure our readers, that the right honourable gentleman distinctly stated at the time to several members, who wished to have all doubts removed on the subject, that he really intended to give effect to Mr. Rowland Hill's plan of an uniform penny postage, and that it was merely in connexion with the subject of reduction in general, and not any specific reduction that he referred to the committee of last year. On our statement the fullest reliance may be placed. Mr. Rowland Hill's plan of an uniform penny postage is to be carried out to full effect.—*Morning Chronicle*, of Thursday.

Sat 13th July

THE WOKINGHAM ANNUAL PINK SHOW

The show took place at the sign of the Anchor, on the 8th instant, and the blooms produced were splendid specimens of that much admired flower. Perfect satisfaction was given to the shewers by the appointed umpires, who received thanks for their keen and impartial decision in awarding the prizes as follows:--Mr. Batten, of King-street, as usual in most cases when he shews, was awarded the head, or first prize; Mr. Knotts, of Sonning, 2nd; Mr. Hefford, of Wokingham, 3rd; Mr. Lewis, of Wokingham, 4th; and Mr. J. Lewis, 5th and last prize. It is due to Mr. Lewis, the landlord where the shew was held, to say, that he served the company, which was highly respectable and numerous, with a most excellent dinner, and a dessert of choice fruits; after which, Mr. Churchill, of Binfield, introduced for inspection and admiration, a most splendid seedling pink, which, for its beauty, elegance, and symmetry, was named Churchill's Victoria. After it had gone the round of admiration, the friends of Flora resumed their conviviality in perfect harmony.

Sat 31st Aug

PHOTOGENIC DRAWING

At the last sitting of the Paris Academy of Sciences, M. Daguerre made known his process of fixing the beautiful paintings which are formed by the camera obscura. The process is very long and complicated and may be briefly described as follows:--At the bottom of the camera is placed a sheet of copper plated with silver, which has been exposed to the vapour of iodine passing through a sheet of Gauze; the drawing or image is then thrown on this surface, and the plate afterwards is exposed to the vapour

of mercury heated to 167 degrees, and then washed in distilled water, when the impression is permanently fixed. The apparatus is to be purchased for 400 francs, and the price of each prepared sheet is three francs. The house of Giroux in the Rue du Coq, Paris, will have them soon on sale.

Sat 7th Sept

THE NEW POSTAGE PLAN

The Lords of the Treasury have offered a reward of £200 for the proposal which they may consider to be the best suited for carrying into effect the new plan of the Penny Postage, and £100, for the next best proposal. The Act is expected to take place on the 1st of January next. It is intended that stamped envelopes shall be sold at all Post Offices.

THE GALVANIC TELEGRAPH AT THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY

The space occupied by the case containing the machinery (which simply stands upon a table, and can be removed at pleasure to any part of the room) is little more than that required for a gentleman's hat box. The telegraph is worked by merely pressing small brass keys (similar to those of a keyed bugle), which acting (by means of galvanic power) upon various hands placed upon a dial-slate at the other end of the telegraphic line, as far as now opened, point not only to each letter of the alphabet (as each key may be struck or pressed), but the numerals are indicated by the same means, as well as the various points, from a comma to a colon, with notes of admiration and interjection. There is likewise a cross (x) upon the dial which indicates that when this key is struck a mistake has been made in some part of the sentence telegraphed, and that an "erasure" is intended. A question—such, for instance, as the following:—"How many passengers, started from Drayton by the ten o'clock train?" and the answer could be transmitted from the terminus to Drayton and back in less than two minutes. This was proved on Saturday se'nnight This mode of communication is as far as the West Drayton station. There are wires (as may be imagined) communicating with each end, thus far completed, passing through a hollow iron tube, not more than an inch and a half in. diameter, which is fixed about six inches above the ground, running parallel with the Railway, and about two or three feet distant from it.

TURNPIKE TOLLS TO LET—WINDSOR FOREST TURNPIKE

Notice is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the several Gates upon the Windsor Forest Turnpike Road, called or known by the names of the Loddon Bridge Gate, Coppid Beech Lane Gate, and Blacknest Gate, will be Let by Auction to the best bidder, at the house of John Wise, the Rose Inn, at Wokingham, in Berks, on Monday, the sixteenth day of September next between the hours of Twelve and Two in the afternoon, in the manner directed by the Act passed in the third year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Fourth, "For Regulating Turnpike Roads," which Tolls produced the last year the sum of One Thousand and Seventy-two Pounds, above the expenses of collecting them, and will be put up at that sum.

Whoever happens to be the best bidder, must at the same time pay one month in advance (if required) of the rent at which such Tolls may be let, and give security with sufficient sureties, to the satisfaction of the Trustees of the said Turnpike Road, for the payment of the rest of the money monthly, or in such other proportions as the said Trustees may then and there direct.

John L. Roberts,

Clerk to the Trustees of the said Turnpike Road'

Wokingham, 13th August, 1839

Sat 21st September

PENNY POSTAGE

Testimonial to Rowland Hill, Esq.—On Saturday, the piece of plate subscribed for in Wolverhampton, as a testimonial to Rowland Hill, Esq., for his exertions in establishing a general penny postage, was presented to that gentleman in the Assembly-room. The testimonial consists of an elegant candelabrum, weighing 174 ounces, convertible into an epergne, and which, when placed upon a plateau, produces an excellent effect. The base is divided into four compartments, one of which bears the arms of Mr. Hill, and another bears the inscription testifying the object of the donors. Mr. Hill was present, and thanked the company in an able speech for this mark of their approbation.

Sat 19th Oct

FIELD OF WATERLOO AT NOON AFTER THE DAY OF THE BATTLE

On the surface of two square miles it was ascertained that 50,000 man and horses were lying. The luxuriant crop of ripe grain which had covered the field of battle was reduced to litter, and beaten into the earth; and the surface, trodden down by the cavalry, and furrowed deeply by the cannon-wheels, strewn with many a relic of the fight—helmets and cuirasses; shattered firearms and broken swords; all the variety of military ornaments; lancer caps and highland bonnets; uniforms of every colour; plume and pennon; musical instruments, the apparatus of artillery, drums, bugles. But why dwell on the harrowing picture of a foughten field? Each and every ruinous display bore mute testimony to the misery of such a battle.

Could the melancholy appearance of this scene of death be heightened, it would be by witnessing the researches of the living, amidst its desolation, for the subjects of their love. Mothers, wives and children were occupied for days in that mournful duty; and the confusion of the corpses, friend and foe intermingled as they were, often rendered the attempt at recognising individuals difficult, and, in some cases, impossible.

In many places the dead lay four deep upon each other, marking the spot some British square had occupied, when exposed for hours to the murderous fire of a French battery. Outside, lancer and cuirassier were scattered thickly on the earth. Madly attempting to force the serried bayonets of the British, they had fallen, in the bootless essay, by the musketry of the inner files. Further on, you traced the spot where the cavalry of France and England had encountered. Chasseur and hussar were intermingled; and the heavy Norman horse of the Imperial Guard were interspersed with the grey chargers which had carried Albyn's chivalry. Here the highlander and tirailleur lay side by side, together; and the heavy dragoon with green Erin's badge upon his helmet, was grappling in death with the Polish lancer

On the summit of the ridge, where the ground was cumbered with dead, and trodden fetlock deep in mud and gore with the frequent rush of rival cavalry, the thick-strewn corpses of the Imperial Guard pointed out the spot where Napoleon had been defeated. Here, in column, that favoured corps, on whom his last chance rested, had been annihilated, and the advance and repulse of the Guard was traceable by a mass of fallen Frenchmen. In the hollow below, the last struggle of France had been vainly made; for there the Old Guard, where the middle battalion had been forced back,

attempted to meet the British, and afford time for their disorganised companions to rally. Here the British left, which had converged upon the French centre, had come up and here the bayonets closed the contest.

Murrell's Victories of the British Armies

Sat 26th Oct

WOKINGHAM STAGE WAGONS

T. Creaker most respectfully returns his best thanks to the Inhabitants of Wokingham, and its environs for the very liberal encouragement conferred on him and his late father for the last 48 years, as London Carriers, and begs leave to inform them he has DISPOSED of the above CONCERN to his Waggoner, ISAAC WICKENS, whom he strongly recommends to their notice, he having drove and managed the Business for upwards of 20 years, during which time he has conducted himself with the greatest propriety.

Wokingham, Oct. 1839

ISAAC WICKENS having taken to the above Concern hopes by strict attention and assiduity to Business to merit the same favours that have been so many years conferred on his Master, Mr. Creaker.

Sat 30th Nov

NEW INVENTIONS LAND SKATES

We have before us one of the most remarkable contrivances we have of late seen. It is a specimen of a pair of skates, invented by Mr. William Wallace, of Newtownards, watchmaker, and is in the highest degree creditable to that gentleman's scientific skill and perseverance. The machinery of this little locomotive is so arranged, that it is equally serviceable on ice or on a smooth footpath (a flagged footway, for instance). It consists of two perpendicular plates of iron. With pieces inserted between them, to allow a free rotary motion in three wheels, revolving along the extent covered by the foot. Three wheels revolve in the action of skating, and, with the addition of a horizontal plate of wood, elevate the sole of the foot above the surface. There is also a large wheel at the toe-end, with a ratchet or stick-wheel attached, on the outside of one of the perpendicular plates, for the purpose of keeping the one foot from retrograding, while the other is progressing forward. After having seen this machine, we are somewhat surprised that a mechanical idea of the same kind has not before suggested itself to some of our ingenious countrymen.

1840

Sat 11th Jan

LOST.—TEN SHILLINGS REWARD

The above reward will be given to any Person who will bring to Mr. Gotelee, Bookseller, Wokingham, a Black Silk BAG, containing a black silk purse, a pencil case, &c. It is supposed to have been dropped in the public road in Binfield, on the afternoon of Wednesday, January 8th, and contained a bank note, payment of which is stopped.

WOKINGHAM CLASSICAL AND COMMERCIAL ACADEMY

The duties of the Establishment, conducted by Mr. W.C. BEECHY and competent Assistants, will be resumed on MONDAY, 20th January instant

N.B. French Taught by a Parisian Gentleman.

Wokingham Academy, January 10th, 1840

Sat 25th Jan

THE PENNY POSTAGE

The reduction of the rate of postage has converted the postmen into carriers. Amongst the novel enclosures that have passed through the Post-office during this week, there was a bag of cork to Sir Robert Peel from Liverpool; a pair of gentleman's shoes from Northampton, the charge for which was 1s. 3d., and several pairs of stockings to a fair milliner from London. Some letters contained boxes of pills; and the falling-off in the revenue of stage and mail coaches from the carriage of small parcels has already been very considerable.

Sat 21st March

PENNY POSTAGE---ADHESIVE STAMPS

We have much pleasure in informing our readers that Mr. Wise of Rushmills, near this town, has obtained the order for the supply of the penny adhesive stamps. We have seen a sheet of the paper adopted by the Government. It is divided into three compartments, each containing two hundred and forty small water-mark crowns, under each of these will be a medallion of the Queen's head, and the price of the stamp. Although each sheet will contain seven hundred and twenty stamps, and when printed be equal in value to £3, still sufficient room is left that each penny stamp may be cut out. It is an ingenious yet simple invention.—*Northampton Herald*.

Sat 25th April

POSTAGE STAMPS

Postage stamps about to come into use on the 6th of May, will be purchasable at every Post-office in London, and of all licensed vendors of stamps. Stamps of two prices will be issued—penny and twopenny stamps. The penny stamps will be printed in *black*, the twopenny in *blue* ink. At each side of the covers directions respecting the rates of postage, the prices of stamps, &c., are given. The information about stamps is as follows:--

Prices of Stamps—

At a Post-office:--Labels 1d. and 2d. each

Covers, 1¼d. 2¼d. each

At a Stamp-distributor's, as above, or as follows:--Half-ream, or 240 penny covers, £1 2s. 4d., penny envelopes, £1 1s. 9d.—Quarter-ream, 120 twopenny covers, £1 1s. 4d., twopenny envelopes, £1 1s. 1d.

At the Stamp-offices in London, Dublin, and Edinburgh, as above, or as follows:--2 reams, or 960 penny covers, £4 7s. penny envelopes, £4 5s.—1 ream, or 480 twopenny covers, £4 3s. 6d., twopenny envelopes £4 2s. 6d.—Covers may be had at these prices, either in sheets or cut ready for use. Envelopes in sheets only, and consequently made up. No one, unless duly licensed, is authorised to sell postage stamps.—The penny stamp carries half an ounce (inland), the twopenny stamp one ounce. For weights exceeding one ounce use the proper number of labels, either alone or in combination with the stamps of the covers or envelopes.

THE MAILS

The mails will, on Thursday next, be transmitted by the Great Western Railway to the Reading terminus. The down mail will arrive at a quarter past ten p.m., and call at the mail office in West-street, and the up mail will arrive at the same place at three am.

Sat 2nd May

PENNY POSTAGE

National Tribute to Rowland Hill Esq.

We rejoice to find that a Penny Subscription is commenced in aid of a national tribute to Rowland Hill, Esq., the founder of the penny postage. This being one of the few new systems from which ALL derive equal benefit, we hope that all will contribute their pence to the fund in order that Mr. Hill may have some substantial proof of the gratitude of the people for his great exertions for founding and carrying into effect this highly beneficial measure.

Sat 16th May

REMOVAL OF THE REMAINS OF NAPOLEON

The following are the remarks of the *Courrier François* on the ministerial proposal to bring home to France the remains of Napoleon:—"In restoring the remains of Napoleon to France, the last wish of that great man is accomplished. The King has charged his son with the pious task. The Prince of Joinville will receive from the hands of England the precious deposit. The old companions of the Emperor's exile, Gourgaud, Bertrand, and Las Cases, will accompany him. A million of francs, voted by the Chamber, will raise up a tomb beneath the vaults of the Invalids. It was on the 5th of May, the anniversary of his death, that the French government ordered its ambassador at London to claim the ashes of Napoleon. Ere ten days had elapsed, M. Thiers learned by an official despatch from Lord Palmerston that England, without hesitating, and with generous haste, was ready to meet the wish of France. The minister read this despatch at the tribune, and it does the greatest honour to the government which dictated it.

The British cabinet hopes that the remains of that national hatred which so long divided France and England may be buried in the tomb of Napoleon. This noble wish shall not be disappointed. England and France have the one destiny to fulfil—no other than the advancement of civilization. Their discord must henceforth be a calamity to Europe, and a crime in whosoever would assume the responsibility of such a breach. The ministry may be proud of this great act of reparation.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

General Post Office, 7th May, 1840

In those cases where Adhesive Stamps are used, it is requested that they may be placed on the Front of the Letter, and upon the right hand corner on the upper side. Should this direction not be attended to, from the rapidity with which the duty must be performed, Letters which bear Stamps will frequently be taxed, while the Parties receiving them will be put to much trouble in obtaining a return of the Postage improperly charged. In all cases of complaint, whether of overcharge or of any other irregularity, the cover of the Letters must invariably be kept and sent to the Post Office, as affording the only means of investigating the complaint.

By Command, W. L. MABERLY, Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC AND INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL POSTMASTERS

GENERAL POST OFFICE, 28th of April, 1840

The Lords of the Treasury having fixed the 6th of May next for the issue of Postage Stamps; on and after that day, all Letters written on Stamped Paper or enclosed in Stamped Covers, or having Stamps affixed to them, the Stamps in every such case being equal in Value or Amount to the rates of Postage now chargeable on such

Letters if pre-paid, will pass free of Postage in whatever part of the United Kingdom they may be posted

In those cases where the Value of Stamps on the Letter is less than the Amount of the Postage to which it would be now liable, if pre-paid, the Letter will be charged Double the Amount of such difference on delivery. An Inland Letter, for example, weighing more than Half-an-Ounce, and not exceeding an Ounce, if bearing only a Penny Stamp, will be charged Two Pence on delivery.

The same Regulation applies to Letters pre-paid by Money, where the full and proper rates of Postage has not been paid in advance.

Stamps may be used for Printed Votes and Proceedings in Parliament, if the Stamps, however, should be less in value than the proper rate of Postage to which these documents are subject, only the difference, and not Double the difference is to be charged.

Stamps may also be used on Foreign, Colonial, and Ship Letters, &c., outwards. If any Letter, however, addressed to Places beyond Sea, shall bear an insufficient number of Stamps, it will be sent to the Dead Letter Office, to be returned in all practicable cases, to the writer. Stamps are not permitted to be used on Letters arriving in the United Kingdom *from the Colonies or Foreign Countries*. In such cases, therefore, Letters will be chargeable with the same rates as they would be if not bearing Stamps.

All these regulations will be applicable to Newspapers in those cases where they are liable to Postage.

It must be distinctly understood that it is optional with the Public either to use stamps, or to forward their Letters, &c. pre-paid or unpaid, as at present.

The Instructions issued in December and on the 4th of February last, remain in full force; the only alteration being, that the Stamps are permitted to be used in certain cases instead of the Postage being paid in Money.

By Command, W. L. Maberly, Secretary.

Sat 18th July

BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL, BROAD STREET, WOKINGHAM

Mr. Readwin respectfully informs the Inhabitants of Wokingham and its vicinity, that he has now made arrangements for the reception of Boarders; and he trusts, from a system of instruction based upon moral and religious principles, a long experience in the work of Tuition, and an unwearied diligence in promoting the solid advancement of Pupils in the various branches of a Professional and Commercial Education, together with many subjects of general information and science (but too frequently neglected) to realise the hopes of those who may confide this important charge to his care.

It will be a prominent feature of the establishment that the literary pursuits have a constant reference to future profession, whenever circumstances will admit of an early decision.

Terms:--Boarders, Thirty Guineas per annum. Day pupils, a Guinea and a Half per quarter; under ten years of age One Guinea. No extras, except for what is actually paid for the personal benefit of the pupils.

Reference is kindly allowed to be made to the Rev. R. K. Bedingfield, Wokingham, with whom Mr. R. has for some time been engaged.—A quarter's notice is requested prior to a removal

N.B.—School duties will commence on Monday the 27th instant.—Wokingham, July 16th, 1840.

1841

Sat 3rd April

Mr. W. Gotelee, Printer and Bookseller, of the Market-place, having accepted the agency for this Paper, for the Wokingham district, is in future authorised to receive advertisements, authenticated articles of intelligence, intended for insertion in our columns; and we particularly request our friends in the above neighbourhood to forward their communications through him, as early in the week as possible.

ACCIDENT

An accident occurred, last week to Mr. Samuel Day, of Manor Farm, near Wokingham. It appears that, whilst returning from hunting, his horse suddenly took fright, and Mr. Day was precipitated to the ground, and which he sustained serious injuries, having his skull fractured and hip bone broken: we are happy, however, to be enabled to state that, under the attentive care of our respected surgeon, Mr. Weight, he is doing well, and is likely to recover.

POST OFFICE

In consequence of the resignation of Mr. Bartlett, many years Postmaster of this town, canvass for the office was recently made by Mr. W. Gotelee, bookseller, who succeeded in obtaining some very respectable recommendations from the gentry and inhabitants of the town. Mr. G.'s exertions, however, proved unsuccessful, and Mr. Spence, of the Market-place, has received the appointment.

MARKET

We had a short supply of fowls on Tuesday last, and the price obtained was from 2s. 6d. to 4s. each; those who may have fowl to dispose of will do well by bringing them to this market.

Sat 24th April

A vestry was held at the church on Easter-Monday, when the accounts of the parochial-officers were examined and passed, and officers chosen for the year ensuing, after which the clergyman, gentlemen, and tradesmen of the town, met at the Bush Inn, where they sat down to a very excellent dinner, served up in the worthy host's, Mr. J. Lane, usual good style. The duties of the chair were ably filled by Mr. Joseph Holmes, builder, and the company felt that the enjoyment which ought to pervade such meetings, over a glass of good old wine, and they did not separate till a late hour.

BIBLE SOCIETY

A meeting was held at the Town Hall, on the 17th inst. of the Wokingham Branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society, when the Rev., Dr. Steinkopff, from the Parent Society, and several ministers attended, and addressed a very numerous assembly of the inhabitants, who were very much delighted with the pleasing information they had hears of the good efforts of the exertions of those who subscribe and collect to assist so good a cause. The chair was ably filled by Mr. Heelas senior. The collection made was equal to that of former meetings.

CRICKET

We are pleased to report it is the intention of the gentlemen of this town and neighbourhood to revive the cricket club this season, and we doubt not it will be carried on with great spirit. The ground for play offers many advantages, and it is expected that ere the month of May comes in cricketing will have commenced.

Last week Thomas Quentery Esq., was chosen Alderman and Chief Magistrate of the town for the year ensuing.

MARKET, APRIL 20.

The supply of fowls to-day was not large. The price obtained was from 3s. to 5s. each, and it is expected they will realise that price for some weeks.

Sat 3rd July

The Annual Horticultural Exhibition held at the sign of the Anchor, at Wokingham took place on Monday last at which was as usual a most splendid show of pinks, and to the entire satisfaction of the exhibitors. Their great exertion and attention to the flowers exhibited, were rewarded in a great measure through the kind patronage and subscriptions of the neighbouring gentry. The first prize was awarded to that indefatigable amateur Florist, Mr. J. Churchill, of Binfield, the next two shows were so intensely rich that it required the nicest discrimination to decide who should take the second prize, but the decision given was to that well deserving florist, Mr. Allaway, of Sonning; next followed Mr. Chas. Heiffer of Wokingham, for the third prize; Mr. Batten, of King's street, took the fourth; Mr. Stephen Lewis, the fifth; and Mr. J. Lewis, the sixth; both of Wokingham, the former landlord of the above inn, who to his credit furnished a most excellent and ample dinner to at least 25 persons; the hilarity of the evening in the extensive booth, was kept up without the slightest discord, many wishing for another show and another feast.

CRICKET MATCH

A match of Cricket was played in Langbro Cricket Ground on Wednesday last, between the 11 of Wokingham club and 11 of the Bramshill, Hants club, the former winning in one innings with 26 runs to spare. The weather, although dull in the morning, brightened at noon and gave a cheering prospect to all who had assembled to witness the skill of those versed in that truly excellent and scientific game, cricket. The return match will be played at Bramshill Park, on Friday, the 9th of July.

Sat 11th Sept

A dahlia show took place at the Anchor, on Monday, September 7, when a very fine assortment of blooms were displayed. The 1st prize was awarded to Mr. W. Heiffer, 2nd to Mr. C. Heiffer, 3rd to Mr. A. Lewis, 4th to Mr. F. Lewis, 5th to Mr. W. Lewis, 6th to Mr. W. White, and 7th to Mr. De Hay, after which the company partook of an excellent cold collation, which was provided by the worthy host. A large party assembled in the evening, and "passed a pleasant time, nor thought of care or woe," but enjoyed the song and glass, and wished that each succeeding year might not prove worse than the last.

On Thursday afternoon, the 26th ult., a public tea meeting was very held in the newly erected School-room at Wokingham, to celebrate the opening of a school on the British system of education. After tea the secretary read the report of the

Committee of Management, from which it appeared that the expenses of erecting the building, together with the purchase of an adjoining cottage, intended to be converted into a master's residence, had all been defrayed with the exception of about £70. Several ministers and gentlemen addressed the meeting on the advantages of education, and on the blessings this institute must confer on the town and neighbourhood of Wokingham, after which the meeting separated highly gratified with the liberal sentiments and Christian feeling manifested on this important and interesting occasion.

Sat 16th Oct

Monday being the Michaelmas Fair our town presented an unusual appearance of business; at an early hour nearly a thousand sheep were in the town, with a great many beasts, and the whole were nearly sold by two o'clock. The bidding was very brisk, the day proving auspicious the lads and lasses in great numbers flocked in at an early hour, and great part soon met masters; altogether the trade was very good; the show displayed by the drapers attracted great notice, particularly Mr. Crewe's, who decorated his front with banners, and his shop was crowded to overflow. The innkeepers fared well in the universal demand for Hayward's brown stout, and the evening presented many merry faces and careless hearts.

Sat 23rd Oct

The business of the market was somewhat dull this week, owing to the low price of chicken, there being a great many brought, The higglers being few, they took the advantage to agree together not to give more than 3s 2d per couple. Many baskets were taken back unsold, with hopes of more purchasers next week to evade the monopoly.

THE BRITISH SCHOOL

The opening of the British School in this town, has reduced the number of pupils at the National School materially. It is in contemplation to enlarge the chapel for the accommodation of the children to attend divine orders there.

Sat 13th Nov

NEW COIN

We have been enabled to examine a new "five-pound golden piece," the production of William Wyon, Esq., R.A., which, for chastity of design and beauty of execution, far exceeds anything that has been hitherto issued from her Majesty's Mint. The head of the "royal lady" is clear and carefully defined; and on the reverse Mr. Wyon has happily identified the exquisite fable of Una guiding the lion with our own Queen. The likeness is preserved in both face and figure. When the coin comes into circulation no cabinet of English coins can be without it. We sincerely congratulate Mr. Wyon on this chef-d'oeuvre of his art; his pure and classic taste is of great value to the country, and everything within his influence takes a high moral tone worthy of his occupation. We must bear in mind that, above all others, the medallist labours for posterity; his works are tests of the truth of history; they mark the period and semblance of the age. It is pleasant to think that such labours cannot fail of being "time-honoured."—*The Art-Union*.

1842

Sat 7th May

WOKINGHAM ASSOCIATION FOR THE DETECTION AND PROSECUTION OF FELONS

Notice is hereby given, that the ANNUAL MEETING for the general purposes of this Association will be held at the Roe Buck Inn, Wokingham, on THURSDAY the twelfth day of May instant, at two o'clock in the afternoon; and that a DINNER will be provided as usual at three o'clock.

Any persons wishing to become Members of this Association are requested to signify the same to the Meeting.

John L. Roberts, Solicitor to the Association
Wokingham, 2nd May, 1842.

Sat 14th May

DREADFUL STATE OF THE COLLIERIES

The Bishop of Norwich called the attention of the House of Lords last week to the terrible state of the children employed in the collieries in Lancashire, Cheshire, and York. His Lordship presented petitions signed by upwards of 800 females, which deposed the following:-- In some parts of those collieries the "seams" in which the coals were worked were not more than 18 to 20 inches in height, and through these the young females and boys were obliged to work in mud and water, and with chains around their bodies, by which chains they dragged the coal along in the baskets to the shaft or body of the pits. In this laborious and degrading employment they were kept from an early hour in the morning to a late time at night. This early association of such young persons was productive of habits of gross profligacy, so that their moral was much greater than even their physical degradation, and engendered habits of loathsome and disgusting demonality. The petitions stated that the lives of thousands and tens of thousands of children were sacrificed by this mode of employment. They prayed that some legislative enactment might be passed which should limit the labour of children to 10 hours each day.

Sat 4th June

BRANDING DESERTERS

A circular has been issued from the Horse Guards, recommending that the marking of deserters shall hereafter be conducted on an uniform system throughout the army, and directing attention to an instrument recently invented. This instrument, which is of brass, is shaped at the end into the form of the letter D from the outline of which is protruded, by means of a spring, a series of needle points, which are regulated by a screw at the end, and by turning which their length may be increased or diminished. By pulling back this nut, after the points are regulated, they recede into the box, when the instrument may be considered charged. A slight pressure on a small brass lever delivers the needle points, inflicting a puncture on the skin the exact shape of the instrument. These punctures on being rubbed with a marking fluid composed of a quarter of a pound of pulverised indigo, two sticks of Indian ink, and enough water to render it liquid, leave an indelible D upon the arm or hand of the deserter. This punishment is only to be administered on parade in the presence of the men; in the cavalry by the trumpet-major, and in the infantry by the bugle-major, who are to be instructed by the medical officer how to apply the instrument. It is moreover only to be inflicted in the presence of the surgeon. If marking deserters is considered indispensable, there is no possible means by which it can be accomplished with less pain and more certainty.—*United Service Gazette*

Sat 11th June

THE QUEEN ESCAPES ASSASSINATION

On Monday, the 6th inst., a meeting of the Corporation and other inhabitants, was held in the Town Hall, to address her Majesty on her providential escape from assassination. The Alderman having been called on to take the Chair, briefly stated the object of the meeting, which he had convened without the formality of a requisition, that he might give the inhabitants of this ancient town, situated so near the residence of Sovereign, an earlier opportunity of testifying their loyalty and attachment to her Majesty's person, and to offer their humble congratulations, on her happy deliverance from danger.

The Rev. Thomas Morres then proposed the following dutiful address:--

"To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty"

"We, your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Alderman, Burgesses, and other inhabitants of the Town of Wokingham, in the County of Berks, beg to approach your Majesty, with sincere and heartfelt expressions of our deep abhorrence at the late atrocious and treasonable attempt against your Majesty's person. By the merciful interposition of Divine Providence, your Majesty's life has again been preserved from the hand of the assassin, and in tendering our devoted congratulations to your Majesty, we cannot more effectually evince our gratitude than by offering, at the Throne of Grace, our humble thanks to Almighty God, for this instance of his goodness to this favoured nation; and our prayers that He, in whose hands are the issues of life and death, may extend, for a long period of years, your Majesty's happy reign, over a loyal and , united people.

Mr. Heelas, sen., briefly seconded the Address.

A resolution was then passed, proposed by Mr. Soames, and seconded by Mr. Creaker, "that the Address should be engrossed on vellum, and signed by the chief Magistrate, in the name of the meeting, and forthwith transmitted to the Right. Hon. Lord Braybrooke, the High Steward of the Town, requesting his Lordship to present it to her Majesty, at an early period."

Sat 25th June

THE COINAGE

The Lords of the Privy Council held a meeting on Wednesday morning in the office of the Comptroller-General of the Exchequer, for the trial of her Majesty's coins in the pix of the Mint. The Lord Chancellor charged the jury (composed of goldsmiths), relative to their assay of the specimens of the different coinages, gold and silver, deposited in the pix of the Mint since the last trial. At the conclusion of his address, his Lordship delivered the trial plates to the jury and appointed four o'clock, in the House of Lords, to receive their verdict, should they, by that time, have finished the assaying of all the coinages. At six o'clock the jury proceeded to the residence of the Lord Chancellor, in Great George Street, Hanover-square, and delivered the following verdict to his Lordship:--"That they, the jury, found in one or two instances slight deviation from the weight prescribed, but it was within the allowance made in the Mint indenture bearing date April 17." The Lord Chancellor then ordered the verdict of the jury to be recorded in the usual form. The foreman of the jury invited the Lord Chancellor and all the Privy Councillors present to dine with the Goldsmith's Company, in their hall, in the evening.

HALF FARTHINGS

A proclamation announcing the issue of a coin of a value unknown before, namely half-farthings, was published on Friday. To merchants eighths of a penny have long been familiar with their dealing; but how shopkeepers may like this new money is problematical. Hitherto a large proportionate profit has been made out of fractions, which never have been given in favour of the buyer and which will now be ended, and therefore by so much will it be beneficial to the poorer classes.

Sat 23rd July

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS, MANCHESTER UNITY

On Wednesday last, a Lodge of the above Order, to be called the "Royal Forest Lodge," was opened at the King's Head Inn, Wokingham, and, from the decided success which has attended its establishment, there can be no doubt of its prosperous continuance. A great number of the officers and brothers connected with the lodges at Windsor, Reading and the neighbouring districts, attended upon the occasion, and, we understand, that no less than seventeen individuals were proposed and elected members, while the names of several others were submitted for nomination at a future meeting. G. M. Webb, D.G.M. Church, and P.G. and S. Pook, from the Windsor District superintended the institution of the Order; after which the brothers partook of an excellent and substantial dinner, provided by Host Churchman, and served in a very creditable style. After meat, the usual loyal toasts were given from the chair, by G.M. Webb, who presided with great ability, and was ably supported by P.G. Pook, as vice-chairman; other toasts followed, and the healths of the respective officers of the Windsor district, as well as the members of the several lodges in the neighbourhood, were drunk with enthusiasm, and duly responded to; after which the company were addressed in a very eloquent and impressive manner by Mr. Dehay, an honorary member, by whom the benevolent objects of these friendly associations were ably described and eulogised; also some excellent speeches were made by Messrs. Bell, Webb, Pook, and others present, while the entertainments of the evening were agreeably varied by this convivial party who were pleased to sing on this occasion. The utmost hilarity prevailed till the close of the meeting, which did not arrive until a late hour, after which the company separated, highly delighted with the successful result of their endeavours.

Sat 24th Sept

REMOVAL OF MR. ROWLAND HILL

We have been informed that the individual to whom the country is indebted for the inestimable advantages of the cheap postage, has just been dismissed from his situation by the Government. Mr. Rowland Hill is no longer to have even a share in the working of his own plan. The dismissal of Mr. Hill, under such circumstances, is, as the act of a Government to a public benefactor, ungrateful and unjust. It has, however, an important bearing which cannot fail to excite alarm. Is the penny postage to be disturbed? Is the work of the last three years to be undone? Is the scheme left entirely to the mercy of its enemies as a preliminary to its destruction? -- *Chronicle*

Sat 8th Oct

WATCHING.---WOKINGHAM,---WANTED

An intelligent, active, able-bodied Man, to act as CHIEF CONSTABLE: and also two active able-bodied Men to act as ORDINARY CONSTABLES throughout the ensuing Winter. The Wages of the Chief Constable will be £1 5s. per week, and of the

Ordinary Constables 15s. each per week. Applicants must attend in person at the Town Hall, Wokingham, on Thursday, the 13th day of October instant, at Two o'clock in the Afternoon, and produce unexceptionable Testimonials as to character and fitness for the Situation.

Sat 22nd Oct.

DESIRABLE INVESTMENT WOKINGHAM

By Mr. CREAKER, at the Bush Inn, Wokingham, Berks. Sometime in the ensuing March (by order of the Division in Trust for Sale under the Will of the late Mr. Edward Goodchild) unless previously disposed of by Private Contract,

Lot 1—A compact and eligible FREEHOLD PROPERTY, situate in the Wiltshire part of the Parish of Wokingham, called “Wiltshire Farm,” consisting of Fifty-six acres of excellent Arable and Meadow Land, with good Dwelling-house, two barns, cow-house & piggeries.

The above property is close to the Market Town of Wokingham and is with the next Lot in the occupation of Thos. Quentery, Esq., at the yearly rent of £110.

Lot 2.—An excellent Parcel of ARABLE LAND, containing 7A.1R.25r., situate near the Subscription Stone, in the Parish of Wokingham, Wilts.

For further particulars and to treat for the purchase by Private Contract, apply to the Auctioneer, or to either of the Trustees, Mr. Thomas May, Mr. W. Ifould, and Mr. W. Wheeler, Solicitor, Wokingham, Berks.

Sat 29th Oct

On Thursday last, the 27th instant, the Jubilee of the Baptist Missionary Society was celebrated in Wokingham. In the morning at eleven o'clock the children of the British and Sunday Schools in the town were assembled in the British School Rooms, and thence marched to meet the children of the Sunday Schools from Sindlesham and Finchhampstead. After proceeding through the town, they returned to the school rooms, and partook of an excellent dinner, provided by them by voluntary contributions. In the afternoon they all assembled in the Baptist chapel, where they were suitably addressed by the Rev. Eustace Carey and the Rev. J.J. Hatch, of Wallingford. At half-past 4 about two hundred persons sat down to tea in the British School Rooms, after which a public meeting was held, J. Heelas, in the chair, when very powerful and deeply-interesting addresses were delivered to a large assembly by the Rev. Messrs. E.R. Cowie, of Wantage, J.B. Pike, of Newbury, J. Statham, of Reading, Eustace Carey, J.J. Hatch, of Wallingford, and Burnham, of Marlow. The collection amounted to more than £8, which with the proceeds of the tea meeting (the provisions for which had been given by friends), and other contributions, it is hoped will reach £25.

Sat 5th Nov

ALARMING FIRE AT BEAR WOOD, THE RESIDENCE OF J WALTER, ESQ. M.P.

It is with feelings of the deepest regret that we have on record the partial destruction of the beautiful mansion of JOHN WALTER, Esq., the honourable and esteemed Member for Nottingham, in the afternoon of Thursday last when this retired and peaceful habitation—the scene of so many pleasing festivities, and the honoured abode of so much kindly feeling and genuine English hospitality—was suddenly thrown into a state of confusion of the most painful and alarming character, by one of those distressing calamities, which, while they threaten, with awful aspect, the entire

ruin of vast extents of property, no matter how precious, tend, as it were in a moment, to annihilate, and bury in dismay, all the domestic comforts, the quiet privacy, and the normal enjoyments even of the happiest and wealthiest of homes.

Shortly after one o'clock (at which time we believe Mr. Walter and his family were from home), the flames were discovered in one of the rooms occupied by the servants, and forming the extremity of the left wing of the mansion, having originated, as it is supposed, in the kitchen flue. An alarm was instantly raised, and expresses were dispatched to Wokingham and Reading, without delay, to procure the assistance of the engines, the speedy progress of which, in the direction of Bear Wood, gave rise to the most intense consternation and excitement, and soon the roads leading to the park presented throngs of people, in vehicles and on foot hastening towards the spot with almost breathless anxiety and apprehension. We were not, ourselves, among the first to witness the roof and floorings of the buildings already described crumbling into ashes, and hourly threatening destruction to the splendid conservatory and mansion immediately adjacent; but the scene presented to us was still of the most terrific character, and were it not for the unabated exertions of those worthy men who, almost at the risk of their own lives, were engaged in cutting off the connexion between the burning timbers and the stately apartments in which the family resided, the entire ruin of the whole property must have been inevitable.

The whole of the elegant furniture, and Mr. Walter's celebrated collection of the most valuable paintings had, by this time, been carefully removed, while the carpeting, beds, &c., lay scattered on the lawn in front of the house, which, in a few hours, was completely stripped of its contents. We observed the members of Mr. Walter's family, and their friends, superintending these proceedings with as much calmness as could possibly be manifested under similar circumstances; and, although we fear some valuable property must have been lost or materially injured during and subsequent to their removal, we sincerely trust that this was not the case. A supply of water was rapidly obtained from the lake and conveyed through the medium of the engines (which were arranged in a line) to the flames, the progress of which were, after some time, effectually resisted, and the damage confined to the wing in which the fire originated. The engines in use were—one belonging to J. Simonds, Esq., of Sindlesham, (the first on the spot), one from Wokingham, and two from Reading, and all of them were brought into efficient play soon after their arrival.

By 7 o'clock the fire was completely suppressed, and no further danger was apprehended, although it will be some time before the mansion can again be rendered in a habitable condition. We rejoice to know that the mischief ended where it did, thanks to the united energies of the neighbouring peasantry and inhabitants, whose conduct on the occasion bore a striking contrast to that of some labourers who forced themselves into the ranks, and were repeatedly threatening to discontinue their labours unless supplied with beer, which they must have well known was not readily procurable in that neighbourhood and at such a moment.

We understand that a large party was to have been entertained at Bear Wood, in the evening, preparations for which were being made when the fire broke out.

Sat 24th Dec

VINE'S CONCERT

Mr. Vine's concert, on Wednesday, the 14th inst., although not so fully attended as we expected, went off in a style which highly delighted the audience, and must have been gratifying to the performers. Miss Towers, the principal vocalist, fully sustained our anticipations. She sang the beautiful ballad of Nelson—"I would I were a fairy,"

and "The Recluse" of "Dark-rolling Floods," (the latter of which was accompanied by herself) and in both songs of very opposite styles, she obtained a unanimous encore. She sang also Bishop's "Bid me discourse" in a manner, which, had Sir Henry Bishop been passing through Wokingham, he would have been pleased to have stayed to hear. It was heartily applauded. Two of the glees "Hark! 'tis the Indian drum," and "Hail smiling morn" in which she took a part, were warmly encored. Mr. Vines sang, "Friend of the Brave" and "The Sea," accompanied by Miss Towers at the Piano Forte (in the latter of which she was encored.) Mr. Burton presided at the Piano Forte with great ability; and the readiness with which he obliged the audience with the overtures (Figaro, Fra Diavolo and Don Giovanni) to relieve the voices was very delightful and formed a pleasing addition to the concert. The glees were all well sustained, the voices blending well together, and formed an harmonious combination. We were much pleased with the finale "God Save the Queen," of which Miss Towers sang the first verse as a solo. The last verse contains a new reading, and in these times of peace is a good substitution for the one which hurls anathemas upon the Queen's enemies, which happily, she has none.

Now peace has blest our Isle
Long may Victoria smile
Gladden each scene
Throughout her happy reign
May we in friendship's chain,
Exulting swell the strain
"God save the Queen."

CAUTION TO OVERSEERS

At the Petty Sessions, for the Forest Divisions of the County, held at the Rose Inn, Wokingham, on Tuesday last, the overseers of several parishes of the Wokingham Union were fined for having neglected to pay the treasurer of the Union, the contributions ordered by the Board of Guardians.

ACCIDENT

An unfortunate accident occurred on the Wokingham road near Bullbrook, this week: a poor woman and her daughter were walking by the side of Mr. Creaker's road wagon, when a stage coach coming up, the daughter endeavoured to cross the road to the foot path, too late, and was knocked down by the coach horses, and the wheel passing over her arm, it was fractured above the elbow, and her hand frightfully crushed. No blame is attached to the coachman who pulled up as soon as possible, and rendered every assistance in extricating the poor sufferer, and assisting in her removal. Medical aid was procured and she is going on favourably, but the straitened circumstances of the family rendered them worthy objects for the benevolence of the residents in Bracknell and its affluent neighbourhood.

1843

Sat 24th June (BC)

MILITARY PUNISHMENT AT WINDSOR

A court-martial was held a short time since upon a man named Hutchinson, a private in the 2nd Regiment of Life Guards, stationed at Windsor, who was charged with having been guilty of most disgusting conduct. He was found guilty and sentenced to receive 100 lashes. On the afternoon of Monday last the 12th inst., the

whole regiment was assembled in the riding school, drawn up in the form of a hollow square, to witness the infliction of the punishment, agreeable to his sentence. The man upon being ordered to strip, walked nimbly up to the halberds, took off his cap and jacket with the utmost coolness, throwing them on the ground, and said, in a firm, he was quite ready. The whole of the 100 lashes were then inflicted, which the man here with the greatest fortitude, never once, during the whole time, uttered a word. Upon being released, to be taken to the hospital, he turned round to the officer in command, and said: "I have now received my punishment, and I repeat, as I have said before, I am innocent."

After some 30 or 40 lashes had been administered, one of the officers fainted away, and was ordered immediate restoratives by the medical officer in attendance.

Sat 22nd July

"ROYAL FOREST LODGE" OF ODD FELLOWS

"Royal Forest Lodge" of Odd Fellows, L.O., M.U.—was the scene of much life and gaiety on Thursday last on the occasion of the first anniversary of the above Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The members mustered in good numbers at an early hour and were joined by many worthy brothers from other lodges in the district; a procession having been formed, accompanied by the admirable head of the 1st Life Guards (which, by the kind permission of the Captain of the regiment were allowed to stop at Wokingham on their return from Bristol where they had been engaged the previous day at the launch of the Great Britain), the members proceeded to the Parish Church in which an excellent and appropriate discourse was preached by the Rev. T. Morres from the 5th verse of the 12th of Romans. The procession then paraded the town with their splendid regalia, and colours flying, and, shortly after 3 o'clock began to assemble in the Town-hall where a substantial dinner was provided by host Churchman of the Red Lion. About 140 sat down in the Hall which, of course, was completely filled; a considerable number of the party having failed in their endeavours to procure comfortable seats adjourned to the Lodge House and partook of a hearty feast by themselves. The Chair in the Hall was ably filled by F. Soames, Esq who was supported by Mr. Dehay, the vice-president of the Lodge.

Among the guests who honoured the company with their presence, were John Walter Esq., of Bearwood, J. Tyns Esq., the Revd. T. Morres, W. J. Hayes, P. C. Marshall, &c. The ordinary toasts were given, and followed in quick succession pertaining more strictly to the object of the meeting; and some excellent and humorous speeches were made on the occasion by the Chairman, Mr. Walter, Rev. T. Morres, Mr. J. Tyns and others present. Nothing but good feeling and sociality prevailed throughout the evening; indeed the members only regretted that "anniversaries" of this kind were limited to once a year. We understand this Lodge has prospered well since its establishment, almost a year ago.

Our readers in this neighbourhood will probably recollect the circumstances of two men being apprehended at Wokingham some months ago, on a charge of horse-stealing. They were conveyed to Bristol, and there committed for trial, and on Wednesday se'nnight [week] the case was heard at the Bristol Quarter Sessions, as will be seen by the following notice of the trial:--James Stone, 61, and Francis Creech were indicted for stealing a gelding, the property of John Courtenay. Mr. Stone appeared for the prosecution and Mr. Prideaux for the prisoner Stone. The gelding was stolen from a field in St. Philip's and at half past two in the morning prisoners were seen riding along Cadbury Heath, the prisoner Stone upon the gelding and

Creech upon a mare, which formed the subject of a second indictment. The horse was traced to Wokingham, in Berks, where the prisoners were apprehended with the gelding in their possession. Guilty. Seven years transportation.

1844

Sat 6th January

NEW POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1844

In no department of the public revenue have so many improvements been made of late years as in that of the General Post Office, in consequence of the facilities afforded by the rapid progress of steam navigation and railways. To the commerce of this great mercantile country, the introduction of locomotive power since 1820 has proved of the greatest importance. Our well-built steamers now cross the wide Atlantic to America and the West Indies, Portugal, Spain, down the Mediterranean to Egypt, and the Indian seas; up the Baltic to St. Petersburg, to Hamburgh, Rotterdam, Antwerp, Ostend, Calais, Boulogne, Dieppe, and Havre de Grace and run daily like a trip to Gravesend; whilst by the means of railways we are conveyed in a few hours to inland towns of England and Scotland, which formerly occupied days and nights of dreary travelling.

An official list of Post-office arrangements for the present year, which came into operation on January 1, and the postage on foreign letters, has been published. Newspapers can be sent free of postage to all the British possessions in the West Indies and North America, Brazil and South America, France, Spain, Portugal, and India, via Southampton; Hamburgh, Sweden and Norway; to Holland, and countries through Holland, 1d.; the United States, 2d.; the Cape of Good Hope, Ceylon, South Australia, New South Wales, Van Dieman's Land, and New Zealand, 1d.; India, via France, 2d; closed mail, 3d.

Sat 20th Jan WOKINGHAM FRENCH AND ENGLISH ACADEMY conducted by Mr. W.C. Beechey, and assistants—The Young Gentlemen connected with this establishment, are expected to resume their studies on Monday the 22nd inst.—Wokingham Academy 2nd

WOKINGHAM

Mr. Readwin respectfully informs his Friends that the business of his SCHOOL, will recommence on TUESDAY the 23rd instant.
Wokingham, Jan. 20th 1844.

Sat 27th Jan (BC)

WINDSOR FOREST TURNPIKE

Notice is hereby given, That at the next Meeting of the Trustees or Commissioners acting under and by virtue of an Act of Parliament passed in the Third year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Fourth, entitled "An Act for more effectually repairing and improving the Road from a place called the Old Gallows, in the Parish of Sonning, otherwise Sunning, in the County of Berks, through Wokingham, New Bracknowl, and Sunninghill, to Virginia Water, in the Parish of Egham, in the County of Surrey," to be held at the House of John Wise, called the Rose Inn, at Wokingham in the said County of Berks, on Monday, the Twelfth day of February next, at the hour of Twelve at noon, the propriety of erecting a Toll Gate on the south side of the said Turnpike Road, at or near a place called Sunninghill Wells,

across a certain highway there, leading to Bagshot and opposite to Sunninghill Church Lane, will be taken into consideration.--Dated the 22d day of January, 1844.

John L. Roberts

Clerk to the said Trustees.

Sat 3rd Feb (BC)

THE PENNY POSTAGE

In the "Statistical Number" of the 6th inst., the Economist furnished? A table showing the increase in the number of letters passing through the post-offices in the United Kingdom, taken for one week in each month, from November 1839 to February, 1843. A reference to this table affords some idea of the enormous social and commercial importance which the postage measure must have been to the country, the number of letters having gradually and steadily increased since the first introduction of the system. In Nov. 1839, the whole number was 1,585,973 letters, and by February last it had reached 4,542,332, and, we believe, is steadily progressing. This increase of letters in proportion has been greatest in Scotland and least in Ireland. The comparison stands as follows:--

	Week Nov, 24 1839	same 1842
In England and Wales	1,252,977	3,282,021
Scotland	153,065	446,194
Ireland	179,931	474,031

There are some curious periodical fluctuations in the number of letters. In Easter week they shrink considerably, and in the valentine week there is a very perceptible increase. The difference in this week has been:--

	Letters
In England and Wales	275,000
Ireland	65,000
Scotland	48,500

So that the annual post for the postage alone of valentines appears to be £1,631.

Sat 3rd Feb

THE ROYAL MINT

This national establishment commenced on Monday last striking the new silver coinage which is to be issued by Government immediately after her Majesty's royal proclamation calling in the old silver coinage of George III. In 1816, George IV. In 1821, and William IV. in 1831, as the greater part of it is so defaced by wear and tear, and so deteriorated in weight, that many of the half-crowns are not worth more than 2s.; the shillings 3d.; and the sixpences 3d. The panic that was anticipated by the Bank of England in consequence of the royal proclamation of the 3rd of October last on the light gold currency having subsided in the public mind the old silver coinage will be called in soon after the assembling of Parliament, without any loss being sustained by the public, as the new coinage of 1844 will be given in exchange, without deduction, for the old currency.

Sat 10th Feb (BC)

FARMERS OF BERKS:

The Committee of the BERKS ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF BRITISH AGRICULTURE beg to announce that a Deputation will attend at the Town Hall,

WOKINGHAM

On Tuesday next, February 13th, 1844. The Chair to be taken at 2 o'clock; and at the Town Hall,

MAIDENHEAD

(by permission of his Worshipful, the Mayor)

On Wednesday next, February 14th, 1844, for the purpose of explaining the objects of the Association, and of urging the prompt cooperation of all who are interested in the Protection of British Agriculture.

The attendance of Agriculturists, and of all others friendly to the cause of Protection is earnestly requested.

Committee Room, Upper Ship Inn, Reading.

Feb. 3 1844

Sat 17th Feb (BC)

AT A MEETING OF THE BERKSHIRE ASSOCIATION for the PROTECTION of AGRICULTURE held at the Town Hall, Wokingham on Tuesday February 13th, 1844
H. St. John, Esq., in the chair.

The following resolutions were unanimously passed:--

Moved by Mr. Thomas Deane, and seconded by Mr. John Simonds, Jun.--

1. That this Meeting, impressed with the importance of supporting by every means the principle of Protection to the British Farmer, as well as to the other branches of Native Industry, pledged themselves to oppose the violent and unceasing attacks upon them by the Anti-Corn Law League, or by any other party acting in direct opposition to the real interests of British Agriculture.

Moved by Mr. C. Scarborough, and seconded by Mr. William Shackel, Sen.

2) That this meeting in anxious to co-operated with their brother farmers in supporting the County Association, formed for the Protection of Agriculture and other branches of Native Industry, believing that such means are necessary to watch and oppose the attempts that are now in operation. Against them, as well by direct as indirect means.

Moved by Mr. Allnatt, and seconded by Mr. Thos. Terry--

3) That a District Committee be formed, in conformity with Rule 5 of the Association. That the Committee shall consist of 13 members, with power to add to their numbers. Five of the Committee shall form a quorum.

The thanks of the Meeting were passed by acclamation to H. St. John, Esq., for his kindness in taking the Chair, and the ability and courtesy he had displayed in fulfilling the duties of the office; also to the Alderman and Corporation of Wokingham, for the use of the Town Hall on this occasion.

Sat 7th Sept (BC)

WOKINGHAM UNION

The Board of Guardians will receive Tenders at the Town Hall, Wokingham, on Tuesday the 17th September inst., at 10 o'clock, for the supply of all or any of the undermentioned Articles, from the 24th of September inst., to the 28th of September, 1845.

Clothing.—Men's fustian jackets, breeches, and waistcoats—boys' fustian jackets, trowsers, and waistcoats, at per suit—round frocks, at per frock—neckerchiefs,

women's bonnets, girls' bonnets, men's hats, and boys' leather caps, at per dozen—calico for shirts 80 inches wide, grogram, linsey wolsey, check (for aprons), and blue printed cotton, at per yard—English worsted, (three or four thread), black and coloured, at per lb.—thread, at per lb.—laces, at per doz—tape, at per piece.

Shoes.—Men's strong shoes tipped and nailed, with laces, boys' shoes, (progressive sizes), nailed, men's house shoes, women's strong shoes, girls' strong shoes, and women's house shoes, at per pair.

And for the supply of the undermentioned, from the 24th of September instnt to the 18th day of March, 1845.

Provisions, Grocery, &c.—Good home fed and home cured bacon, cheese, rice, moist sugar, oatmeal, yellow soap, Irish batter, congou tea, coffee, pepper, starch, blue, soda, and candles, each at per lb.—new milk, at per quart—split peas, salt, and onions, at per bushel—potatoes, at per cwt.—vinegar, at per gallon—Bath coals, at per ton—faggots, at per score—hair brooms, birch besoms and mops, at per dozen.

Bread, flour, and Meat.—Tenders will also be received at the same time for the supply, from the 24th September inst., to the 24th of December next, of the Workhouse and the two districts of the Union, either altogether or separately, with best seconds bread, at per 4lb. loaf, and best seconds flour, at per sack; and for supplying the Workhouse only, with good beef (without bones) of the following descriptions—viz., shoulder clods, sticking pieces (without neck), thick and thin flanks, chuck ribs, the tops of the briskets and the leg of mutton pieces, (to be delivered in equal proportions,) at per lb.—beef suet, at per lb.—beef suet, at per lb.—legs and shins of beef (to weigh 48lbs. per set) at per set--ox cheeks, each---mutton., viz., legs and fore-quarters, in equal proportions, at per lb.,--mutton suet, at per lb.

The articles to be delivered respectively at the Workhouse at Wargrave, and at such places within the Union, in such quantities and at such times as the Board of Guardians, or their Relieving Officers, or Governor of the Workhouse shall direct.

The Bread to be not less than 12 hours, nor more than 36 hours old at the time of delivery.

Each Contractor for Bread will be required to carry round a set of weights and scales (provided by the Union,) to the several stations where the out-paupers are relieved.

The Tenders must be accompanied by samples of such of the articles as can be sent, and the carriage must be paid, or they will not be received.

The payments for the Bread, Flour, and meat, will be made monthly and for the other articles quarterly, and the Contractor must give adequate security for the due performance of the contract.

Each Tender must have the signatures of the proposed sureties affixed to the foot thereof, and the contractors will be required to attend with their respective sureties at my Office on the following Friday, and execute the usual bond.

N.B. This advertisement will not be repeated.

By order of the Board.

Wokingham, Sept. 4th, 1844.

J.R. WHEELER, Clerk.

Sat 5th Oct (BC)

THE POLKA

“What is the Polka?” We have heard asked a thousand times within the last few months; and very few to whom it was addressed have been able to answer it. All may now find an answer in Mr. C. Mitchell's new edition of “The Guide to the Ball Room.” To that before popular work, the enterprising publisher has added an

“Illustrated Polka Lesson-book,” in which we find the best account of the dance we have met with, and a complete code of instruction for dancing it, the different positions being shown by well executed engravings. So necessary an accomplishment has dancing the Polka become, that we may anticipate every attendant of the ball-room will find Mr. C. Mitchell’s “Guide” indispensable. The Polka was originally a war-dance. “Polk” or “Pulk,” we are told, in a well-written account of the origin of the Polka, prefixed to the “Lesson-book,” is the name of a regiment of Cossacks, and is an old Scythian word, originally applied to a tribe. It, therefore included both the male and female members of a nomadic horde. This derivation accounts therefore for those remarkable features of the Polka, which distinguish it from every other dance. The spurs, the tapping of the ground with the heel, flourishing a battle-axe in the air, and other gestures of a warlike nature, are all the accompaniments of the Polka, when danced by the Servians, among whom it was first observed; though, subsequently, enquiries have found it equally practised in Hungary and Bohemia. It is also danced in Russia, and all parts of Germany; and by its introduction to the ball-room, having been divested of its ruder and more boisterous characteristics, but retaining all its original spirit, activity, variety, and grace, no wonder that it has become so popular. It has every prospect of maintaining that popularity, and we recommend “The Guide” to all our readers who wish to learn it. The work forms a perfect compendium of the etiquette of dancing, with the Figures of all the Quadrilles, Gallopades, Mazourkas, Polonaises, Polkas, &c. &c.

Sat 26th Oct (BC)

GENERAL POST OFFICE

Caution against illegally sending, collecting, conveying, or delivering Letters.

By the Act of the 1st VICTORIA, c.36, sec. 2, every person who despatches or sends, or causes to be sent, or tenders or delivers in order to be sent otherwise than by Post, a Letter not exempted from the exclusive privilege of the Postmaster General, forfeits *for every Letter Five Pounds*.

Every person who receives, takes up, or collects any Letter not exempted from the exclusive privilege of the Postmaster General, forfeits *for every Letter Five Pounds*.

Every person who conveys, otherwise than by Post, or delivers 1 letter not exempted from the exclusive privilege of the Postmaster General, forfeits *for every Letter Five Pounds*.

Every person who makes a collection of exempted Letters for the purpose of conveying or sending them otherwise than by Post, or even by the Post, forfeits for every *Letter Five Pounds*.

And every person who is in the practice of committing any of the above mentioned acts, forfeits for every week during the practice is continued *One hundred Pounds*

By the 18th section, pecuniary penalties incurred under the Post Office Acts, not exceeding £20 may be recovered in a summary way before a Justice of the Peace, by any person who will sue for the same; one moiety whereof will belong to the Crown, and the other moiety *with full costs of suit*, to the Person who informs and prosecutes.

Magistrates, Clerks of the Peace, and Town Clerks, are to pay over and remit the Crown’s share of the penalties in strict conformity to the directions of the 16th section.

The following letters are exempted from the exclusive privilege of the Postmaster General, viz.:

Letters sent by a private Friend in his way, journey, journey or travel, if delivered by such Friend to the party to whom they shall be directed;

Letters sent by a messenger on purpose; Commissions or returns thereof, and Affidavits and Writs, Process or Proceedings, or returns thereof, issuing out of a Court of Justice;

Letters sent out of the United Kingdom by a private Vessel;

Letters of Merchants, Owners of Vessels of Merchandise, or of the cargo or loading therein sent by such vessels, or in charge of any person employed by such Owners for the carriage of such Letters, according to their respective directions, and delivered to the respective persons to whom they shall be directed, without paying or receiving hire or reward, or other advantage or profit for the same.

Letters concerning goods or merchandise sent by common known Carriers to be delivered with the goods without hire or reward, or other profit, or advantage, for receiving or delivering such Letters.

But the following persons are expressly forbidden to carry a Letter, or to receive, or collect, or deliver a Letter although they shall not receive hire or reward for the same; viz.

Common known Carriers, their Servants or agents, except a Letter concerning goods in their carts or wagons, or to their pack horse, and Owners, Drivers, or Guards of Stage Coaches.

By Command,

W. L. MABERLY

Secretary.

THE ROSE
POSTING, FAMILY, AND COMMERCIAL INN,
WOKINGHAM, BERKS.

John Wise respectfully begs to inform the Nobility, Gentry, and Public of Wokingham and its neighbourhood, that for their better accommodation and comfort, he has REMOVED TO THE COMMODIOUS HOUSE OPPOSITE HIS LATE RESIDENCE, and trusts by care, attention, and moderate charges, to ensure a continuance of that patronage it has always been his study to merit, and will give satisfaction to those Families and Gentlemen who may honour him with their support.

Choice Wines and Spirits, Lock-up Coach-houses, and Stall Stabling.
Wokingham, Oct 22, 1844.

Sat 2nd Nov (BC)

Subscriptions for the National Testimonial to

Mr. ROWLAND HILL,

Author of the Penny Postage

WILL CLOSE ON THE 30TH NOVEMBER NEXT

Of all the sources of income stated in the recently published Quarterly Returns of the Public Revenue, none exhibit *so large* a proportionate increase as the *Post Office*. On the year a net revenue, the Customs have increased at the rate of about 10 per cent, the Excise 1½ per cent, the Property Tax 2 per cent, while the *Post Office revenue*, under its almost nominal rate of a penny, has increased above 13½ per cent, and the increase on the quarter has been even as much as 25 per cent.

These cheering results show that (though the plan of the Penny Postage is yet but imperfectly tried) the complete restoration of the Post Office Revenue to its amount before the Penny Postage was adopted is not an event far distant, if it be fully and honestly carried out; and the City of London Mercantile Committee on Postage desire to impress these satisfactory results most emphatically upon the Public, in announcing

the approaching close of the National Testimonial to Mr. Rowland Hill. All parties are unanimous upon the great moral and commercial advantages of the Penny Postage. Its expediency as a financial step has been the sole ground of question; but now, even this can scarcely be doubted; for let it be remembered, that the old Postage Revenue had been absolutely stationary for twenty years.—retrogressive, in fact, if we consider the increase of population, education, and commerce during the period. The change which Penny Postage has effected, is to make the Post Office Revenue the most buoyant source of National Income bidding fair to become more profitable than it has ever been. The Committee, therefore, call upon the Public to reward, with suitable gratitude, the author of this great and triumphant measure.

The Committee have the satisfaction to announce that the subscriptions, headed by the chiefs of political parties and of commercial wealth, already reach £10,000. But £10,000 cannot be held to be a sufficient national reward for such national services. The committee, therefore urge upon the nation at least to double this sum. If every letter writer, for only a single week, would pay a two-penny instead of a penny rate for his letters, the amount, and more would be raised. In proportion as the Public show their gratitude to Mr. Hill, so they strengthen the chances for the complete adoption of his plan, now but partially carried out. Its perfection will bring greatly increased convenience to themselves, and increased advantage to the Post Office Revenue.

Never have the services of any Public Benefactor been requited as Mr. Hill's have been. Quitting a permanent situation for a temporary public engagement to carry out his plan, Mr. Hill's services, whilst his plan was not yet carried out, were dispensed with, and he received the following acknowledgements of his merits, and--nothing more—

"I gladly avail myself," writes the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, "of the opportunity of expressing my sense of the satisfactory manner in which, during my tenure of office, you discharged the several duties which have been from time to time committed to you. I entertain," writes Sir Robert Peel (who has also subscribed £10 to the Testimonial) "a due sense of the motives by which your conduct, in respect of the Post Office arrangements has been actuated, and of the zeal and fidelity with which you have discharged the duties committed to you."--

Mr. Trevelyan, on behalf of the Lords of the Treasury, writes thus: "I am also commanded by their Lordships to take this opportunity of stating, that they consider it due to you, on the termination of your engagement with the government, to express to you the approbation with which they have regarded your zealous exertions in the execution of the duties which have been intrusted to you; and how materially the efficiency of the Post-office arrangements has been promoted by the care and intelligence evinced by you in the consideration of the various important questions which have been referred to you.

Under these circumstances the Committee call upon the public to come forward with due generosity, and reward Mr. Hill themselves, as the unrequited inventor of the great measure of Penny Postage,-- a measure which has opened the blessings of free correspondence to the Teacher of Religion, the Man of Science and Literature, the Merchant and Trader, and the whole British family, especially the poorest and most defenceless portion of it;--a measure which is the greatest boon conferred in modern times on all the social interests of the civilised world, for Penny Postage is spreading its influence throughout Europe, and reaching even Russia. The Committee rely on the gratitude of their countrymen, and feel sure that this, their last appeal, will not be made in vain.

(Signed) GEO. LARPENT, Chairman.
Subscription Cards, and every information, &c., may be obtained on application to the Secretary, Mr. GEORGE WANSEY, Solicitor, 3, Moorgate Street, London.

1845

Sat 18th Jan (BC)

WOKINGHAM

Information having reached this town in the course of Monday last that her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert would pass this way on their route from Windsor to Stratfieldsaye, the members of the Corporation were immediately convened by our worthy and highly respected Alderman Creaker. The several gentlemen present expressed the highest gratification at the pleasing announcement made to them by the Alderman with respect to her Majesty's intentions, and determined to adopt every means in their power for the purpose of giving for the purpose of giving her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert a becoming reception and exhibiting the loyalty and attachment of the inhabitants of this old corporate town towards her Majesty and her Royal Consort. A deputation from the Corporation consisting of the Alderman and two other gentlemen on the following morning waited at Windsor Castle, to express the feelings and wishes of the inhabitants and their desire to present a loyal and dutiful address to her Majesty and the Prince. The deputation was most politely received by Mr. Anson, secretary to his Royal Highness Prince Albert who promised to communicate to the Alderman and her Majesty and the Prince's commands; but stated it to be his opinion that her Majesty's convenience and arrangements would not admit of her receiving an address. On Wednesday morning a meeting of the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood, took place in the Town-hall, which was very numerously attended. The chair was taken by the Alderman, who was supported by J.L. Gower, Esq., James Hayward, Esq., the Rev. P.C. Marshall, Mr. J.R. Wheeler, the Rev. Mr. Harcourt, and many other gentlemen of influence residing in the town and neighbourhood. The meeting was addressed by several gentlemen, and feelings of joy and loyalty universally prevailed. A committee was formed and subscriptions set on foot for the purpose of providing the means of defraying the expenses to be incurred in making every suitable arrangement. The most perfect unanimity existed, and a considerable sum having been subscribed in the hall, and the thanks of the meeting having been voted to the chairman, the meeting separated.

Since the foregoing observations were written, her Majesty, to the great joy and gratification of the Corporation and inhabitants at large, has been graciously pleased to notify to the Alderman that she will condescend to receive an address on her arrival in the town on Monday next.

Sat 25th Jan (BC)

THE ROWLAND HILL TESTIMONIAL

As far as the accounts have been made up, it is expected that the receipts of this testimonial will realise between £14,000 and £15,000, the largest sum, we believe, that has ever been collected for the benefit of a private individual.

Sat 22nd March (BC)

EMPORIUM OF FASHION AND ECONOMY, MARKET PLACE, WOKINGHAM.
CREWE'S

Linen, Woollen Drapery, Silk Mercery, Haberdashery, Hat, and General Outfitting Establishment.

W.J. Crewe, ever grateful for the numerous favours conferred on his, begs to inform the Nobility, Clergy, and Public generally, that he has purchased the Premises for many years known as the Rose Inn, in the Market Place, Wokingham, and at considerable expense converted them in a manner every way calculated to afford the greatly increased comfort and accommodation so long needed, to which he intends to open on Tuesday, the 26th inst., with an entire New Stock, embracing an extensive assortment in each of the above branches.

W.J.C. takes this opportunity of tendering his most sincere thanks for the liberal and increasing share of public patronage so kindly bestowed on him during the last twelve years, and trusts that the extended Establishment and Stock he now submits to them, conducted with every intention and despatch, at the lowest remunerating prices will ensure him a continuance of that kind support which he confidently and respectfully solicits.

N.B. The whole of the Stock in the Old Establishment is now selling off at a very considerable sacrifice.

Purchasers availing themselves of an early call will find great advantage

Sat 3rd May (BC)

THE RAPID MAIL-CARRIER; THREE HUNDRED MILES PER HOUR

In the last number of the Mechanics' Magazine there is a notice of a new plan, invented by Mr. W.H. James for the rapid transmission of letters and light dispatches through tubular passages, at certain intervals, in which he proposes to place air-exhausting machines, which will establish a perpetual current of artificial hurricane,. By means of which spherically-shaped elastic vehicles, or bags, will be blown for station to station. The first cost is estimated by Mr. James at £2,000 per mile, and the working expenses at from £300 to £500 per annum for every 50 miles. This system will enable us to transmit documentary intelligence at the rate of 7,200 miles a day! Instead of one exchange of letters per day between Liverpool and London, there might be twelve exchanges.

Sat 17th May (BC)

STATE OF WOKINGHAM CHURCH

(From the Times of Wednesday)

To the Editor of the Times

Sir,--I have the honour to hold the office of churchwarden of this parish, and I enclose you the abstract of a petition which is about to be presented to both Houses of Parliament by my colleagues and myself, and we shall feel most grateful if you will give it a place in your columns. The practice of the House of Commons with regards to petitions prevents any hope of the facts of the case being known except through the medium of the press, since members are precluded not only from not entering into a debate on the presentations of petitions, but even from starting at length the facts contained in them. I earnestly entreat the attention of the public to the condition of this parish. It is calculated to give every member of the Church of England the deepest concern, to damp the energies and alienate the affections of the sober minded and well disposed, to convert the ardent and unreflecting into the ranks of radicalism, to arm dissent with the sharpest weapons, and to give weight to the attacks and add bitterness to the sneers of the deadliest enemies of the Established Church. We raise avowedly

for the maintenance of the Established Church upwards of £1,700 a year, and yet we have no suitable provision for a clergyman, no parsonage-house, and our Church is so dilapidated that the inhabitants cannot resort to it for the celebration of divine worship with comfort, nor indeed without danger. I have long lived upon terms of intimacy with the clergyman of the parish, and I should deeply regret saying a syllable calculated to give him pain. I can bear willing testimony to the benevolence of his character, but it is impossible for him, or any other human being, circumstanced as he is, to perform the cure of the parish in a proper manner. The wretched income appropriated for his benefit operation most prejudicially to his parishioners. He is compelled to hear the cry of poverty and distress which he cannot relieve, his energies become paralyzed, and his usefulness as a parish priest in a great measure destroyed. In the remoter parts of the parish many of the poor maintain themselves by cutting heath on the commons and making it into brooms, and, having no master to control them, and no minister capable of administering to their necessities and watching over their interests, they sink into a sort of sottish brutality, and it may be truly said of many of them, they eat, drink, and perish almost like the beasts of the field. Thus, in the midst of a Christian land, possessing a well-endowed establishment, this parish exhibits an example of practical infidelity which would be a disgrace to any Christian country.

I earnestly entreat your powerful aid on our behalf, and rest assured your talent and influence cannot be exerted in a more righteous cause.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,
FRANCIS SOAMES.

Sat 24th May (BC)

WOKINGHAM CHURCH

To the editor of the Times

Sir—It is undoubtedly true that the tithes of this parish are resolved by Mr. Jacob, the lessee of the Dean of Salisbury; nevertheless that circumstances does not absolve the Dean and his predecessors from responsibility. The Dean is rector of the parish, he received the emoluments of that office, and with its emoluments he must take his responsibilities. If the Dean be amenable to no human law, if there be no legal enactment which will meet the case, surely a strong moral obligation rests upon him to provide for the cure of this parish—an obligation, undoubtedly, of an imperfect nature, but, nevertheless, equally as binding and sacred as those duties which are defined and can be enforced by the law of the land. The value of the tithes has gone on increasing in proportion to the value of other property, and the fines paid by the lessee of the tithes for the renewals of the lease it may fairly be presumed have been raised so as to bear a relative proportion to the value of the tithe, but the stipend of the perpetual curate has remained fixed and unvaried. Surely the Dean and his predecessors might have provided for the cure of the parish without impoverishing themselves. This might easily have been accomplished if they had been content to lower their fines and to impose a higher rent upon the lessee. For example the last fine received was £2,200. What could have been easier, had the Dean been so disposed, than to have reduced his fine to £1,500, and to have increased the rent of his lessee from £26 18s. 4d. to £70 or £80 per annum, taking the fine himself and appropriating the increased rent towards the cure of the parish. Thus ample provision would eventually be made for the minister and the cure of the parish. It may be said that this plan would interfere with the patronage and property of the Dean. Undoubtedly it would, and, as I conceive, with perfect fairness. He enjoys the property and patronage

attached to the deanery, subject to certain obligations, both express and implied. By virtue of his deanery he is the rector of this parish, and I maintain that he is not warranted in receiving the emoluments which accrue to him as rector, and yet leaving the cure of the parish most inadequately provided for. An occasional windfall of £1,500 is not to be despised, even by a Dean of Salisbury, and a lessee of the tithes would willingly subscribe to any moderate conditions rather than incur the hazard of forfeiting his lessee.

The alleged report of Mr. Money with regard to the state of the church and chancel is directly in the teeth of the reports made to the churchwardens by their surveyors and the parties they have consulted. If the dean or his lessee had accepted the offer of the churchwardens, that a joint survey and report should be made by a surveyor appointed on each side, there would have been no room for “assertions” and “counter-assertions,” reports and counter-reports, on that point.

The representations made by the Dean in his letter are unfair and uncandid. I will not follow his example by saying they are “not true.” It is not fair for him to allege that he only receives “£100 per annum from the parish, when the interest of the fine and the rent of the lessee would provide an annuity of that amount for the Dean’s life, and leave him £2,000 to dispose of at his decease, and it is not candid on the part of the Dean to have omitted to state the fact, that the assertions of the churchwardens with respect to the chancel have been verified by reports obtained from Mr. Jacob’s own tradesmen, copies of which have been sent to the Dean; but the churchwardens have not been favoured with Mr. Money’s alleged report.

I have the honour to be, Sir

Your most obedient servant,

FRANCIS SOAMES

Wokingham, May 17

WOKINGHAM CHURCH

To the Editor of the Times

Sir,—My attention has been drawn to one of the leading articles in your journal of Wednesday last containing remarks upon a petition from the churchwardens of Wokingham, Berks which are so unjust and injurious to me as Dean of Salisbury, that I must request your early insertion of the following reply to your own misstatements and those of the churchwardens of Wokingham.

Notwithstanding the contradiction happily furnished both by yourself and your correspondent, you first broadly assert, in your leading article to which I refer, that “the Dean of Salisbury, enjoys the great tithes of that parish amounting to somewhat about £1,700 per annum.” Within a few lines of this false assertion you speak of the Dean’s lessee, and in the abstract of the churchwardens’ petition in the next page, to which you refer your readers, it is correctly stated, that “the tithes of the parish have been leased for very many years,” in fact, for centuries past, “upon leases/or lives, renewable upon payment of a fine, at an annual rent of £26 13s. 4d.” What then, Sir, becomes of your charge, that “the Dean of Salisbury enjoys the tithes of the parish, to the amount of £1,700 per annum?” It is obvious that the Dean and his lessee cannot both enjoy them; and it is clear from the churchwardens’ statement, that the annual reserved rent paid to the dean amounts only to £26 13s. 4d.

The churchwardens go on to assert, that the last fine received for the renewal of the lease was £3,000. This is not true. I have had the honour of holding the Deanery of Salisbury 22 years; and, in the course of that period, I have received, not £3,900, for adding a life to the lease, giving out of that sum, as correctly stated by the

churchwardens, £200, to meet a similar benefaction from the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty, to augment the perpetual curacy. This is the only fine which I have received; and when I add that the three existing lives in the lease are many years younger than myself, I need scarcely say, that the probability is strongly against my again renewing it. So much, Sir, for the truth of your assertion as to the enormous income derived by the Dean of Salisbury from the parish of Wokingham; which, instead of £1,700, turns out to be, upon an average up to this time, about £100 per annum.

The next point upon which I have to animadvert is the absurd and unfounded charge of yourself and the churchwardens, with regard to the alleged neglect of the dean as to the visitation of the parishes under his peculiar jurisdiction. The ancient place of visitation is the mother church at Sonning, as the centre of the district visited. To that place the minister and churchwardens of Wokingham have for ages been regularly summoned. Articles of inquiry respecting, among other points, the state of the parish church, have duly issued every year; and to those articles the churchwardens, up to the year 1843, invariably replied, "All well," neither they nor the minister having ever reported that the church was out of repair. In that year, however, the attention of the churchwardens was directed to the dilapidated state of the walls and nave of the church, by the Rv. Hugh Pearson, Vicar of Sonning, as my rural dean; and on his representation they very properly assembled a vestry of the inhabitants, who, much to their honour, consented to a rate for the rebuilding of it. But in writing to the dean to inform him of these facts they asserted that the chancel was in as dilapidated a state as the body of the church, This his lessee denied; and though the churchwardens have repeated the assertion in their petition, I have to state that Mr. Money, an eminent surveyor of Donnington, near Newbury, having carefully examined the chancel, reports that it is substantially in repair, and that an outlay of about £40 would render it perfectly so.

I have thought it due to myself thus to correct some of the gross misrepresentations contained in your own article of Wednesday, and in the petition of the churchwardens of Wokingham; but I do not consider it to be my duty to enter into any further details upon this subject in the columns of a newspaper, or to offer any justification of my conduct as rector and ordinary of that parish.

Not doubting that your sense of justice will induce you to insert this letter in your journal,

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

H. PEARSON, Dean of Salisbury.

7, Saville Row, May 16.

WOKINGHAM CHURCH

Petition presented by the Churchwardens to both Houses of Parliament, containing the Correspondence of the Dean of Salisbury, his Less, and Agent, with the Churchwardens, and the Opinion of Dr. Addams as to the Law of the Case. Sold by Longman and Co., Paternoster Row, London; Wm. Gotelee, Wokingham and Richard Watch, *Berkshire Chronicle* Office, Reading—pp. 50. Price 6d.

Sat 31st May (BC)

STATE OF WOKINGHAM CHURCH.—PUBLIC MEETING OF THE INHABITANTS

On Monday last, a public meeting of the inhabitants of the town and parish of Wokingham was held for the purpose of taking into consideration of the proposal

made by the Dean of Salisbury with regard to the restoration of the chancel of the parish church, and to determine what course ought to be adopted for repairing the fabric, and in order to obtain a more adequate provision for the cure of the parish. The meeting was called as a vestry one, but, being formally opened at the church, was immediately adjourned to the Town-hall, as affording the necessary accommodation for the unusually large attendance of the parishioners.

The Rev. T. Morres, perpetual curate of Wokingham, was called to the chair.

Mr. Soames, the town churchwarden, stated the object of the meeting. He commenced by referring to a previous meeting, at which the parish had voted their entire concurrence in the measures hitherto adopted by himself and his colleagues, and he trusted that by their subsequent conduct they had done nothing to forfeit that confidence. (Hear, hear). They had called the meeting today to consider what further steps it was expedient to take with regard to the repair of the church, as well as to determine whether it would not be possible to obtain a more adequate provision for the cure of the parish. It was the desire of the churchwardens, in bringing forward these questions, to avoid, as far as possible, anything calculated to give offence to, or wound the feelings of, any living being—they had no intention to attack the Dean of Salisbury unfairly, or to reflect unnecessarily on any individual connected with the parish. He would now proceed to read the resolution passed at their last meeting.

“That this meeting entirely coincides with the views of the churchwardens, as expressed in the correspondence which has taken place with respect to the restoration of the Parish Church, and cordially approves of their conduct, and the manner in which Mr. Soames has conducted the correspondence.”

“That the course adopted by the Very Rev. the Dean of Salisbury and his Lessee, is regarded by the meeting with feelings of the deepest regret, and it is feared will give rise to much excitement and discontent among the parishioners.”

“That a copy of the foregoing resolutions, together with a copy of Dr. Addams’s opinion and of the reports made to the Churchwardens by Mr. Strange and Mr. Hollis, with regard to the state of the Chancel, be forwarded by the Churchwardens to the very Rev. the Dean of Salisbury.”

On the 15th of March those resolutions and reports were forwarded to the Dean of Salisbury, accompanied by a letter from the churchwardens, offering in addition a copy of the case submitted to Dr. Addams.

Some correspondence had since passed between the Dean’s Agent and the Churchwardens, which had terminated in a letter from the Dean to the Rev. Thomas Morres, dated 12th May instant, alleging that, from a statement made in writing by Mr. Money, of Newbury. It appeared “that the church was substantially in repair, and that an outlay of about £40 would render it entirely so. That Mr. Jacob was ready at any moment to carry into effect the repairs of the Chancel as pointed out by Mr. Money, or if it should be so finally deemed expedient he was willing to contribute £100 towards another chancel, on the understanding that he was to be relieved from *future* charge. He (the Dean) was also willing to contribute £50 towards the same object, reserving his right as ordinary to refuse a faculty for taking down the present church, except upon shewing satisfactory cause for the necessity of that measure.”

Mr. Soames continued. Before proceeding any further, he would read some letters he had received from various influential persons with reference to this subject. Mr. Soames then read letters from Lord Normanby, Lord Burrington, M.P., Mr. Sergeant Murphy, M.P., Mr. Clive, and Mr. Leveson Gower, the two latter strongly concurring in the measures adopted by the churchwardens. Copies of the letters of Lord Normanby and Mr. Sergeant Murphy, M.P., are subjoined

Sat 11th Oct (BC)

DESTRUCTION OF A FRENCH BATTALION BY ABDEL-KADER

The Algiers journals of the 1st give an account of a disastrous affair which has just taken place near Djema Ghazaoual. Col. Montagnac, who commanded that post, being informed by a subjected Arab chief who had never before given any reason to doubt his fidelity, that Abdel-Kader, at the head of only a few men, had come to seek refuge in the environs, and was then in a spot where he might be easily surprised, set out with a small column of 450 men, composed of the 8th battalion of the Orleans Chasseurs, and two squadrons of Hussars. On arriving at the marabout of Sidi Brahira (four leagues from Djema Ghazaoual), he was suddenly surrounded by an enormous mass of horsemen and Kabyles of the country, and of the frontier of Morocco, whom he charged resolutely, with the intention of forcing a passage.

The melee was terrible, for in a moment officers and soldiers were stretched lifeless on the earth, with exception of 80 men of the Chasseurs, at the head of whom was Captain Goreaux, the only officer who had not been killed. Notwithstanding the efforts of the enemy, these 80 men got possession of a neighbouring marabout and shut themselves up in it.

Abdel-Kader in vain attempted to force the place. He was constantly received by a fire of musketry through the loop-holes which our soldiers had made in the walls with their swords and bayonets and the Emir was compelled to raise a siege which had cost him so many lives.

For two days our men were there pressing against each other, without sleep, provisions or water. Three times did Abdel-Kader call upon them to surrender, swearing that no harm should be done to them, for, said he, “you are humane towards Mussulman prisoners.” Although reduced to the last extremity our 80 brave men would not listen to any terms, and under these circumstances Abdel-Kader retired, leaving. However, a large force to blockade the marabout.

Scarcely was the bulk of the besieging force out of sight of the besieged, than they attempted a sortie, and penetrated with bayonets the line of natives who surrounded them, they directed their course towards Djema Ghazaoual. At a league from that place a host of Kabyles fell upon them. The captain was one of the first who fell, and his soldiers, in order that his body might not fall into the hands of the enemy, fell by the side of him. In the meantime the fusillade was heard at Djema Ghazaoual, where the alarm had besides been given by a Hussar, the only one who had escaped from the massacre of the two squadrons. When the garrison of this place reached the scene of the combat, only 12 men were standing. They were all easily disengaged and taken back to Djema Ghazaoual—in all 14 living out of 450!

From now on Reading Mercury

1846

Sat 3rd Jan

On Thursday, the harriers of the Messrs. St. John, had a fine run, the meet took place at Mr. Lane’s East Heath, and a hare was soon started from Luckley Park, which took the direction to East Heath, across to Bear Wood, Toutley Hall, and back to the Folly Farm, where all trace was lost, after an excellent run of an hour and a half without a check. The hounds soon after started another from an adjoining field, which also afforded an excellent run over nearly the same ground, which was killed after an hour’s run, near the place of starting, after affording famous sport to the numerous field, who were unanimous in praise of the staunch little park.

On Tuesday our fowl market was well supported, and better prices were obtained, as they made from 4s. to 8s. per couple, with a prospect of still further advance. Mr. Groves, of Sandhurst, sold some to be produced on next market day, at the price of 4s. 3d. each to Mr. Burgess of this place.

Sat 10th Jan

WINDSOR FOREST TURNPIKE

Notice is hereby given, That the GENERAL ANNUAL MEETING of the Trustees or Commissioners, acting under and by virtue of an Act of Parliament passed in the third year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Fourth, entitled "An act for more effectually "Repairing and improving the Road from a place called "The Old Gallows in the Parish of Sonning, otherwise "Sunning, in the County of Berks, through Wokingham, "New Bracknowl, and Sunning Hill, to Virginia Water, in the Parish of Egham, in the County of Surrey," will be held at the House of John Wise, called the Rose Inn, at Wokingham, in the said County of Berks, on Monday, the Twelfth day of January, at the hour of Twelve at noon.

Sat 17th Jan

The extreme mildness of the present season is exemplified in the garden of Mr. A Lewis of Rose-street, in this town, by the fact of there being young gooseberries (the second crop); they are now larger than peas: and also some very fine radishes, the produce of seed ripened in the autumn and half grown: both are in the open ground.

Our Market was fully supplied, fowls making from 2s. to 4s. each.

On Tuesday, at the office of Mr. E. Roberts, James Hayward, Esq., chairman, assisted by Le Merchant Thomas and J. Walter, Jun, Esqs.,--John Eddolds of Wokingham was summoned by Thomas Williams, for discharging him from his service (he being an hired servant). He was ordered again to receive him as his servant, and to pay expenses.

21st March

POST OFFICE, WOKINGHAM

Thomas Spencer, Chemist and Druggist in returning thanks for the very liberal support he has received from the Nobility, Gentry and inhabitants of Wokingham, and the Vicinity, begs to assure them his exertions will not be spared to merit a continuance of the name by the strictest attention, and in a selection of the most DRUGS & Chemicals. He at the same time begs to inform them that in consequence of Mr. PADBURY's declining business he has purchased his extensive stock of BRITISH WINES and he trusts he may receive that support which has been so liberally bestowed for his purchases will always be made from the best in London and none but those of the best will be ever offered for sale.

With very great pleasure we are called upon to notice the efforts that are made from time to time in our ancient town to improve the social condition and increase the pleasure of the population. In this instance we particularly refer to the novel introduction at the Town-hall on lectures on matters of Practical science. We have recently been delighted and edified by two lectures on Electricity by Mr. E.B. Sampson, illustrated by a series of brilliant experiments which gave the most unqualified satisfaction to numerous and attentive audiences, drawn together by their

attractive influences. Amongst the assembly were (as a matter of course) members of their families who are ever foremost in rendering their aid both pecuniary and personal towards the presentation of undertakings of public utility. Of the advantages resulting from information on the natural it would be superfluous to write, and we do most earnestly hope that this beginning of an obvious good will be followed up with spirit, and that not only those who were interested the other evening but others also will be roused from their apathy, and become partakers in the general pleasure. We understand Mr. Sampson is engaged for the beginning of April to give lectures on Galvanism and Chemistry. If it be so we would venture to suggest to the promoters (and we shrewdly suspect who they are) that the price of admission be fixed as low as possible in order to afford equal facility of attendance to the less opulent. We can only add that we wish such efforts every possible success

A running match will take place at Binfield on Monday next, March 23rd, between the “[Antelope” and the “Flying Bomb” of Binfield for £10 a side.

Sat 18th July

ODD FELLOWS

The anniversary meeting of the Loyal Forest Lodge of Odd Fellows will take place on Thursday next, at Host Churchman’s, the Kings Head Inn. The members will proceed to church, headed by the Amersham Band, and in the procession the splendid pieces of regalia will be borne, the brothers appearing in their sashes, aprons, &c., according to their degrees: a sermon will be preached in aid of the Widows’ and Orphans’ fund, and after service the town will be paraded.

At the dinner, John Walter, jun., esq., will preside, and a great number of the Order from different Lodges in the neighbourhood are expected to be present. Should the weather be favourable, a gay day for Wokingham may be anticipated.

CRICKET

On Friday evening, the 10th inst., a single-wicket match was played on Langborough cricket ground, Wokingham, by Messrs. Mersham, T. May, and Douglas, against Messrs. Goodchild, B. Dehay, and J. Chambers, which was won by the former, after some excellent play.

On Monday last, a match of cricket was played on Langborough ground, by eighteen tailors of this town, nine on each side. The following score was made:-- Fielder’s side, first innings 46; second ditto 125—total, 171. Groves’ side, first innings 41; second ditto 72—total 113. Some good play was exhibited on both sides. The game throughout afforded much amusement to the bystanders. The parties afterwards partook of an excellent supper at the Red Lion Inn, provided by Mr. Trickey.

A match will take place on Monday next, on Langborough cricket ground, between the Wokingham Albion and Blackwater clubs.

Sat 1st Aug

BEAR WOOD TEETOTAL FESTIVAL

On Thursday last, the Wokingham and Arborfield Temperance Societies held a tea meeting in Bear Wood Park, kindly granted for the occasion by J. Walter, Esq. The day being very fine a vast concourse of respectable people visited the park evidently delighted with the beauties of the place and Mr. Walter’s elegant mansion. The Reading Brass Band was in attendance and played several lively airs through the park.

At four o'clock nearly 300 persons sat down to tea, and after doing justice to what was set before them they sallied out again to parade the grounds.

At half-past six a meeting was held in the marquee, Mr. J. Warwick in the chair. The meeting was addressed by Mr. Thomas at considerable length. Mr. Donaldson from the National Temperance Association followed, depicting the evils of alcohol on the human frame. Mr. John Sale, Wokingham, also delivered a very argumentative address.

During the day Mr. Walter gratified the assemblage by appearing amongst them, and a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to that gentleman.

THE WOOL MARKETS

(From the Morning Chronicle of Friday July 31)

Our accounts from the wool market throughout the kingdom represent the article to be held at firmer prices by the farmers than dealers appear to have expected. The fact became very apparent during the last few days of the wool sales which concluded on Saturday, when the higher prices in proportion which were paying to the home grower for English wools caused a much greater demand for foreign wool, especially for such as proved to be in good condition, for which qualities decidedly higher prices were obtained during the last days at the sales than on the previous days. The whole quantity reached about 30,000 bales, the greater part of which was sold, only a very small proportion being bought in. The price of Australian wools, in good condition, was generally 1d. to 1½d., and in many cases 2d. per lb. higher on the last days of the sale than in the early part.

Sat 5th Sept

CRICKET

On Monday last a single wicket match was played at Langboro' Cricket Ground, Wokingham, between three yeomen of Yateley and Eversley and three members of the Wokingham Albion Club, which was decided by the first innings in favour of the latter. The play commenced at three o'clock, and continued till seven, when owing to the lateness of the hour, it was not played out. Score—Albions: T. May, 6; E.S. Towse, 5; W. Goodchild, 3; wide 5; and 2nd innings, 42: total, 1st innings, 19; second do., 42: with two wickets to go down. Yeoman—1st innings: W. South, 10; T. Hellis, 0; J. Hellis, 1; wide 1; no Balls, 2: total, 14.

The return match will be played at Eversley, on Monday next; wickets to be pitched at twelve o'clock

Sat 12th September

The inhabitants of this healthy and pretty little town have at length determined to remain no longer in the dark, or to be behind other towns in securing to themselves some of the advantages derivable from the adoption of modern useful improvements. At meetings held in the Town-hall, under the auspices of the worthy Alderman, W. Heelas, sen. Esq., it was resolved—"That a Gas Company should be established for the purpose of lighting the town, shops, and inns, with gas." The manner in which that resolution was carried into effect by the immediate filling up of the share list by the inhabitants, assisted by two or three gentlemen in the neighbourhood, reflects the highest credit upon them, and is an example worthy of imitation by other towns, that at night still continue to remain in darkness. The company was established, and the works are being constructed under the able superintendence of Mr. Culver, who has of late been very successful in establishing Gas Companies in various parts of England.

The works are, according to plans, approved by eminent engineers, and will be managed on such a principle as to prevent their being in any way a nuisance to persons living in their vicinity.

Mr. R.P. Spiec, of Fakenham, Norfolk, is the contractor, and it is expected that the works will be completed and the town lighted by next Christmas.

Sat 7th Nov

WOKINGHAM

On Saturday evening last, as Mr. Read, of Easthampstead, was returning home from Reading, on turning the corner of the road opposite the Star Inn, in this town, he was accidentally thrown from his cart. He was picked up in an insensible state and taken from the Star, and promptly attended by Mr. Wheeler, surgeon, under whose care he was sufficiently recovered to proceed home on the following day.

Sat 21st Nov

WOKINGHAM

On Friday, the 6th inst., a very interesting lecture was delivered in our Town Hall by Mr. Sampson of London on the Air, the Air Pump, &c. The lecturer in a remarkably clear and pleasing manner illustrated his subject as he proceeded with some experiments with the air pump, an air balloon &c. The audience, which was large and respectable, left much gratified. We understand this lecture is the first of a series to be given during the winter months in connection with a plan in contemplation for rendering the dull evenings in our country town instructive and amusing.

Sat 28th Nov

WOKINGHAM

On Thursday evening, the 19th inst., a lecture was given at our Town Hall by Mr. G.B. Sampson (who visited us the week before), on the "Chemical Properties of the Atmosphere. The subject was very clearly explained to an audience considerable larger than was present at the first lecture, and at the conclusion the lecturer announced that as a strong feeling existed in favour of an attempt to establish a Literary and Mechanics Institution, if parties favourable to the object and desirous of becoming members would signify the same to a committee which was nominated for the purpose, an early day would be named for a meeting to elect officers and embody the association, with a view to obtaining patronage and assistance from the resident and neighbouring gentry. We trust the attempt will be met with the success it deserves, as at present there is nothing of the sort in the town, and there surely be no reason why Wokingham should not possess a Mechanics' Institution as well as some other towns near us with no larger population.

1847

Sat 6th Feb

The Reading Rooms of our Literary Institution were opened on Monday, and it is most gratifying to find that our young men have now not only a comfortable place of evening resort, but also about 500 volumes of interesting works to peruse. We cannot but hope that such a desideratum will prosper, and that although there are already between 80 and 90 members, many more who have hitherto feared the establishment of such an institution to be an impossibility, will come forward and lend their willing aid in support of that, which cannot injure anyone, but which probably will benefit many.

Sat 13th Feb

On Friday, the 5th instant, at the Town-hall, Dr. Cowan gave us an intellectual feast in a brilliant address upon the opening of our Literary and Scientific Institution. To follow the talented doctor in a mere outline of his address would be entirely to impoverish the subject, and to give an appropriate report, would, under the circumstances, be inadmissible. It must suffice, then, to say that after successfully combating the undue amount of prejudice still found to exist against institutions of this character, exposing on the one hand certain prevalent fallacies, consequent upon a stated ignorance; and on the other hand, guarding the promoters of the undertaking against expecting the great assault from their praiseworthy labours, exhorting them all to unite as one man in its healthful operations; beautifully showing the advantages of literature and science, in their legitimate pursuit, cautioning all against the popular delusion, that a store of information was the ultimatum of a mortal's aim, proving beyond a doubt, that a knowledge of externals alone would never truly make a man either wiser or happier; elevating to its proper position, man's consideration of himself as a spiritual being and destined for an eternity of duration.

The learned Doctor concluded by asserting most emphatically, that with all the learning a man might acquire, unless he had some unvariable standard to which he could bring his acquirements, he would entirely be at sea, in a state of intellectual disquiet, his learning would alike be unstable and unsatisfactory, and without the shadow of a pretention to bring to its possession that peace, which at the period of dissolution, or at any time, every man must in his heart's desire, and it is needless to add, that the test to which he wisely referred, and the only true standard we possessed was the book of revealed truth, the Bible. In short, the whole was a masterpiece of thought and expression, such a one as has rarely been exhibited in our ancient town, and one which the numerous and attentive audience, who were privileged to hear, will remember for many and many a day to their individual delight and permanent benefit.

Sat 6th March

On Friday evening, the 19th ult., at our institution, one of the members gave an interesting lecture upon Chemical Change illustrating his subjects by reference in particular to the process of fermentation. The Reading-room was most clearly crowded and the audience seemed greatly pleased as well with the subject itself as with the unexpected source from whence the interest proceeded.

--On the 26th, Mr. Walker, of Windsor, kindly lent his talent in aid of our plan of Local Recreation, by giving a lecture at the Town-hall, which we understand gave very general satisfaction.

--On Friday, the 12th last, we are glad to find that our old friend, Mr. George B. Sampson, is engaged to visit us to lecture upon Galvanism and Electro-Magnetism, which he will illustrate by means of his extensive and elegant apparatus, and we learn that whenever there is no public lecture at the Town-hall on a Friday, the members of the institution are pledged among themselves to give half-an-hour's interesting reading at the Rooms, commencing precisely at 8 o'clock this mode of recreation in connection with the circulating library (which has already reached to upwards of 600 volumes) and the kind co-operation of our worthy and respected townsmen the Messrs. J. and E. Roberts, Soames and others, must have a beneficial tendency.

We are truly gratified to hear that Lord Barrington has liberally forwarded in aid of the funds £5; Robert Palmer, esq., £10; Philip P--, Esq., £10; John Houghton, Esq., £5; Henry J--, Esq., £5; Mr. Benjamin Smith, £5;; and that the Marquis of Downshire

has kindly allowed his name to be included amongst the patrons of our prospering Institution. We again most heartily wish it success.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION OF ETHER TO SURGICAL OPERATIONS

--On Friday, the 26th ultima, Mr. Weight of Wokingham, performed two operations on patients who had inhaled the vapour of Ether. The first one was that of a man who had a tumour in the forehead. He was etherised in about five minutes by means of Mr Smee's apparatus, as constructed by Ferguson, the Imperial Cutler to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Mr. Weight began his incisions about four minutes after the commencement of the inhalation, and the patient's sensibility though deadened was not completely annihilated, for he felt the knife, but in another minute he was completely narcotised and unconscious. During the process the pulse became very small, frequent and irregular, and for some time after his restoration to sensibility the patient trembled in every fibre, but a glass of wine perfectly restored him.

Sat 24th April

MECHANICS AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION

On Friday evening, the 16th instant, Mr. W.C. Beechy favoured the members of this institution with a lecture on Phonography. The object of the lecturer was to expose the many defects in our present elementary system of reading, writing and spelling; and showed that, by adopting phonography (a method of writing by or according to sound) the acquirement of these now difficult branches of education would be facilitated in a truly surprising degree.

We think that Mr. B., by his lucid and interesting exposition of his subject, with which he evinced an intimate acquaintance, succeeded in enlisting the sympathies of his audience on the side of Phonography.

Our sessions were holden in the Town Hall on Friday last, before H. Jeremy, esq., the recorder, and a full bench of the members of the Corporation, when J.L. Roberts, esq, was elected Alderman for the year ensuing; and in consequence of the death of T. Creaker and T. Quentery, esqrs., the vacancies in the corporation were filled by our respected neighbours Mr. F. Soames and Mr. E. Dalley, both of whom we sincerely hope may live many years to enjoy that share of honor and dignity they so justly deserve.

Sat 8th May

MECHANICS INSTITUTION

On Friday, the 23rd April, Mr. H.J. Lance, gave an interesting lecture upon Chemistry, in the course of which, he lucidly explained the Chemical and Mineral Structure of Soils, Rocks, and Plants, which gave very great satisfaction. The Hon. Secretary, on the 30th, gave his third lecture upon the Properties of Matter, which elicited the warm applause of the audience; and we are glad to see he announced his intention to address the inhabitants on Tuesday next, upon the propriety of establishing a society upon a very comprehensive scale, to be called the Wokingham General Provident and Benevolent Society; and from the features exhibited in the circulars we are induced to predict its ultimate success, and we can but hope that if proof be adduced of the soundness of the principles upon which it is professed to be based, that not only very many of our townsmen, but others from neighbouring places will immediately become members.

Sat 22nd May

LITERARY INSTITUTION

The members and their friends have been highly gratified, through the kindness of the Rev. J. Stoughton, of Kensington, who delivered two most interesting lectures within the last few days upon the Middle Ages. The subject was one calculated to create a peculiar interest, on account of the eccentric but important movements by which that agitating period was characterised, and the lecturer succeeded to admiration in holding in abeyance the guarded attention of his audience, some of whom, perhaps anticipating a particular bias, were most agreeably disappointed at finding amidst the lively anecdotes aptly illustrative of the rude manners, and, by contrast, the peculiar moral tone prevalent at that dark era, the most liberal views, expressed in language full of that rich and rare poetic elegance which wins the hearer as it flows, and leaves him a retainer of an elevating taste and a conquered prejudice.

The whole was an elaborate and talented review of the period referred to, and the members most cheerfully awarded the rev. gentleman their warm applause, and were not a little pleased, to hear him offer, unsolicited, a repetition of his visit when he had an opportunity.

SINGULAR ATTACHMENT

Mrs. May, of the Literary Institution, has a cat which has undertaken the singular responsibility of a breed of ducks, which she is as careful ever as if they were her own offspring.

Sat 12th June

MECHANIC' INSTITUTION

The members have lately had their attention drawn by Mr. Lance, of Bagshot, to the subject of Chemistry as applied to the Arts and Agriculture, in two interesting lectures at the Town-hall. He stated that the elements of matter were about 55, and that most of these entered into the combination of the surface of the globe. He explained the properties of air and water, and the mineral structure of soils, and traced their origin to the decomposed rocks of elevated districts deposited in vallies, and becoming fertile or otherwise in proportion to the admixture of earths, acids, alkalies, and metallic oxides. The germination of seeds, and the development of plants, were dilated on relative to its culture.

The growth of wheat was more particularly described, and some interesting facts quoted relative to its culture. He said that the heaviest and strongest wheats grow in the hottest summers, and hence the propriety of importing wheats from warmer climates. The quality of wheat depends upon the nature of the soil, and the food supplied to the plant: that a large supply of nitrogen is necessary for the structure of strong wheats, and that this, if wanting naturally in the soil, can be supplied by the ammonia of the market, from which he inferred that it was unnecessary to go to remote parts of the world for a fertiliser in the shape of guano, when we have an ample supply of the corn-forming principle at home. He said that wheat consisted of gluten and starch, and that an excess of gluten indicated strong wheat, and that where an excess of starch prevailed, bread from such flour would not "rise" well in the oven. The millers and bakers, he said, were well aware of this fact; for a sack of inferior flour of 280lbs., would generally make eighty 4lb. Loaves, the increase of weight being 40lbs.: whereas a sack of flour of strong wheat would make ninety-three, the increase of weight being 93lbs.; such increase being caused by the addition of salt and water, glutinous flour absorbing so much more water, that 3lbs. Of it would make a

4lb. Loaf. Mr. Lance exhibited a well-arranged collection of minerals, and made some interesting experiments in illustration, to the great satisfaction of his audience, to whom he promised a repetition of his visit at a future day.

Sat 7th Aug

Notice the alteration of Time from Paddington

WILLIAM'S OMNIBUS

FROM OAKINGHAM TO SLOUGH STATION

The above omnibus leaves the Bush Inn , Oakingham, every morning (Sunday excepted) at 20 min. past 7, for ½-past 7, punctually, Railway time; by the Stag and Hounds, Binfield, 20m. before 8; Bracknell, 10m. before 8; Horse Shoes, Warfield, at 8; White Hart and Crispin Inn, Warfield, at ½-past 8; and Windsor, to the Train which leaves the Slough Station to London at 20m, before 10; and will return to Oakingham daily, after the arrival of the Train at Slough, which leaves Paddington at twelve o'clock.

Fares—Inside....3s. 6d.; Outside.....2s. 6d.

Notice the alteration of Time from London

THE ORIGINAL FOREST COACH

Leaves the Office No. 7, Middle Row, Reading, Every Morning (Saturday excepted) at 9 o'clock; Rose Inn, Oakingham, at 10; Turnpike, Binfield, 10 min. past 10; Bracknell, ½-past 10; Warfield, ½-before 11; Winkfield Church, 11; (by permission) through Windsor Great Park, Englefield Circus, 30m. before 12; Egham, ½-before 12; and Staines, at 12; and will return from the Black Lion, White Friars-street (late Water-lane), Fleet Street, London, daily, at ½-past 2; and Hatchett's New White Horse Cellar, Piccadilly, at 3 o'clock.

Fares—Inside....8s.; Outside.....5s.

Parcels taken upon equal terms with any Conveyance.

SAMUEL WILLIAMS, (Proprietor)

Returns thanks for past favours, and respectfully solicits a continuance, trusting that alteration of time from London will meet approval,—enabling himself or Son to drive through to London and back without change of Coachman on the Head.—Aug 2nd 1827

Sat 30th Oct

POSTAGE REGULATIONS

The "Gazette" of last night contains a Treasury Warrant 'directing that for the future packages which in length, breadth, or width exceed 24 inches, shall not be forwarded by the post between any places within the United Kingdom, excepting, however, petitions or addresses to her Majesty, or petitions to either House of Parliament forwarded to any member of either house, or to printed votes or proceedings of Parliament, or to letters to or from any government offices or departments. It also directs that if any letter is sent, or delivered in order to be sent by post between places within the United Kingdom, that the package shall be prepaid in money, or the letter duly stamped. It further orders that all such letters of twenty-four or more inches in dimensions, or above four ounces in weight, may be detained and opened, at the option of the Postmaster-General, or shall be returned or given up, with a charge of double the amount of postage. This Warrant is dated the 22nd of October, 1847, and is signed Richard C. Wood and R.W. Bellew.

USEFUL IMPROVEMENTS IN POSTAGE-STAMPS

The Post-office stamps having to be detached, either by cutting or tearing them from each other, great inconvenience is felt, particularly by those of extensive correspondence. To provide a remedy for the inconvenience thus experienced, a plan has been invented, by the aid of a machine, by which more than double the number of stamp sheets that is now annually required, may be so minutely indented in the direction of the white lines, as to allow the stamp to be instantly detached from the sheet without the operation of cutting—perfect, too, in every respect. The contrivance will also enable purchasers to fold a sheet of stamps, or any less quantity, with unerring regularity, and in one tenth of the time that is at present consumed in the operation,

1848

Sat 29th July

NEW WORKHOUSE

The guardians of the Wokingham Union propose to build a new workhouse for the accommodation of the poor, instead of sending them to the Wargrave house; and we are informed that Mr. John Billing was appointed the architect at the meeting on Friday last, his designs having been preferred by the guardians and the Poor-law commissioners, to many others which were then presented to their notice.

CRICKET

A match will be played at Rhonde's ground, Waltham St. Lawrence, on Thursday, August 3rd between the Slough and Billingbear clubs, when some good play is expected.

INQUEST

On Tuesday last, an inquest was held before Rupert Clarke, Esq., at the Duke's Head, Wokingham, on the body of William Henry Sowman, son of Mr. Sowman, of the Gas Works. From the evidence of the mother, it appeared that, on the previous evening, near seven o'clock, she saw deceased, with her other children, playing in the yard, on her going to look for them, about ten minutes afterwards, the deceased was missing, and she discovered him in a little tub in the wash-house, in which a small quantity of water had been left, with his face and hands at the bottom, quite dead.

A surgeon was immediately sent for and applied the usual remedies, but without avail. The tub was used for washing the children, and the unfortunate deceased was very fond of being washed in it, and of playing with the water. Verdict, "Accidentally suffocated."

1849

Sat 30th June

THE NELSON MONUMENT

On Monday afternoon, about five o'clock, when the mould from Mr. Carew's noble design of the Death of Nelson, which is to occupy the principal face of the base of the column in Trafalgar-square, was completed, the molten bronze was most successfully applied to the various apertures, and in a few minutes the various portions of the principal figures of the composition were faithfully secured in enduring bronze. The metal was supplied to the founders, Messrs. Christy, Adams, and Hill, of Rotherhithe, from the Government stores at Woolwich, the chief portion of which consisted of guns

taken from the enemy's ships by the hero himself. The bas-relief is fourteen feet square, and is cast in three pieces, the greatest, the one now alluded to, being perhaps the largest sculptural bronze ever cast in this country. In a very short time it will be seen in its destination.

Sat 14th July

HEALTHINESS OF WOKINGHAM

We can justly refer as an instance of the healthiness of Wokingham and neighbourhood to the singular coincidence of a party of seven persons who assembled last week to enjoy the social beverage at one of our worthy and respected neighbours in the Market-place, whose united ages amount to 619 years being 75, 80, 89, 91, 92, 93 and 99; 99 and 93 are brother and sister.

REIGATE AND READING RAILWAY

On Wednesday, the 4th instant, this line was opened as far as Dorking, and a considerable number of the Reigate went up to see "the first train," which left the Reigate station for London about eight o'clock. The first train down, due about 28 minutes past 8, did not, however, arrive till nearly nine. About a quarter of a mile from the Reigate station there is a considerable incline, and here the engine "cowed" and positively refused to go a-head, so that the engine-driver was compelled to do what is sometimes done with sulky animals, that is, go back a bit, and went nearly to the Redhill station to get into a swing, and then she gallantly took it in good style.

The mail here crosses the turnpike-road on a level, and shortly afterwards descends by a considerable inclination, and passes through a deep cutting at the back of Mr. Whitbread's farm, and then over a considerable embankment, afterwards through a deep cutting at Buckland to the Betchworth station, a small but neat structure; upon leaving which you are whisked along on a high embankment about 50 feet, and a neat viaduct over the picturesque and winding Mole; then to the Dorking station, which is (although quite contrary to the wishes of the inhabitants) at the Western end of the town. The country on each side is very picturesque, with a beautiful uprising to the Murrey-hills on the right. There is abundance of good building stone at Reigate, and at Betchworth, on the stone-quarries of Mr. B. Brodie. There is likewise the famed Reigate and Dorking stone line. Judging from the very slight vibration or rocking of the last carriage, which was empty, the line appears to have been well-constructed and sound.

Sat 4th Aug

THE NEW TWO-SHILLING PIECE OR "FLORIN."

Last night's Gazette contains a proclamation, dated Osborne-house, July 30, directing that the new two-shilling piece "shall be current and lawful money of Great Britain and Ireland," This new coin is to be called a florin.

1850

Sat 26th Jan

WINE VAULTS, WOKINGHAM

W.H. Ferguson begs to return thanks to the Nobility, Clergy, Gentry and Public for the liberal patronage bestowed on him for the last ten years in the above business, and to inform them he has disposed of the same to Mr. H.T. Dunning who he confidently recommends to their notices as his successor.

Wokingham, Jan 3, 1850

H. TRICKEY DUNNING

Begs to inform the Nobility, Gentry, Clergy, and the Public in general, that he has taken the above Wine Vaults of Mr. Ferguson, and the whole of his stock-in-trade, and trusts by keeping wines and spirits of the best quality, to merit the patronage as liberally bestowed on his predecessor.

MARKET PLACE, WOKINGHAM
WOKINGHAM ESTABLISHMENT FOR YOUNG LADIES

The Misses Newnham and Targett beg to convey their grateful acknowledgments to their friends for the support they have received during the time they have conducted their Establishment for Young Ladies; and also to inform them that they have disposed of the School to the Misses Watts whom they can with pleasure recommend, as possessing those qualifications calculated to acquire confidence, and ensure success. They having had considerable experience in Schools of high repute, both in town and country.

Emma and Elizabeth Watts having purchased the Establishment for so many years conducted by the Misses Newnham and Targett, and their predecessors, beg most respectfully to solicit the continuance of their support; in doing so, they assure them that their great concern will ever be to qualify their pupils for the various stations they may be destined to fill. They purpose that the leading characteristics of their Establishment shall be such as shall prepare those entrusted to their care, for useful and intelligent society. They may add that the experience they have had in London and the country, inspires the hope that they shall not disappoint the expectations of those who may confide their children to their care. Both the educational and domestic arrangements will be under their own personal management.

They beg also to inform their friends that they have taken the premises lately occupied by Francis Soames, Esq., in Broad-street.

References are kindly permitted to Francis Soames, Esq., Wokingham; Mrs. Fletcher, Denmark Hill, Grammar School, Camberwell; the Rev. Joshua Russell, Blackheath Hill, Greenwich; and to James Baker, Esq., Andover, Hants. The duties of the School will commence on Tuesday, the 22nd last.

Wokingham, January 10th, 1850.

LADIES' SCHOOL
BROAD STREET, WOKINGHAM

Miss Bloomfield begs respectfully to inform the inhabitants of Wokingham and its vicinities, that she purposes opening a Ladies' School, on the 28th of January instant.

Terms may be had on application

Wokingham, Jan. 24th, 1850.

Sat 2nd Feb

BLACKWATER
Reading and Reigate Railway Stations

This line of railway, which is completed as far as the present terminus in the Forbury at Reading, exhibits, in its stations, many improvements, and in their elevations very pleasing and agreeable forms of style, the latter feature being confined to an approach to the Tudor, the projecting roofs and pointed gables of which presents very

picturesque subjects in combination with the scenery of a railroad; and the latter is by no means deficient upon this point, notwithstanding its linear character, acute banks, and its abrupt change from high embankment to deep cutting. The stations, signals, and other works on this line have been designed and built under the direction of Mr. J.S. Wood, architect, and it must be gratifying to that gentleman to find general public approval expressed on the completion of his labours.

The stations which have been built by him are those at Ashe, Farnborough, Blackwater, Wokingham and Reading. In alluding to the last, it is only just to observe that the directions were, to erect a temporary building in a brief space of time, the idea being then entertained (and possibly still indulged) that a junction with the Great Western would be the final result.

To construct this station piles of 24 feet in length were necessary; and it was surmised, from the rapid sinking of the pile when struck, that the site must originally have been the bed of a moat which might have been connected with the works of a military character which are to be found in that locality. During the erection of the station the embankment of the line was raised, and consequently, the bases of the columns were covered by tipping which was continued. The station, however, presents every convenience, which could be expected under the circumstances.

At Wokingham the station is very prettily placed and grouped with the public house in the rear carried up in the same Gothic style, gives a pleasing effect when viewed from the opposite side in the vicinity of the new Wokingham Union. A novel description of fence has been introduced here, combining extreme lightness with durability. The public house which was designed by the same architect has ten rooms, stabling for ten horses, coach houses, carriage shed, two large lofts and man's sleeping room, and was built for a sum not much exceeding £800.

The improvements in the stations to which we alluded consist of their possessing an upper story, which forms a dwelling with every requisite convenience, for the superintendent and his family, and obviates all necessity for his absence. This is carried out at Ashe, Blackwater and is highly beneficial in every point of view.

The Reading and Reigate Line passes beneath the South-Western line, at which point is sometimes presented the unusual spectacle of one railway train suspended over another. The signals on the Reigate have been constructed on the original telegraph principle, throwing out the horizontal arm, &c. The Farnborough Station was built under great disadvantage; at the time of the construction of the line, possession of a convenient site could not be obtained, and a hasty erection (a fortnight only being allowed) was made of wood, squeezed between rails and the company's fence.

We have reason to think that the traffic on this line will exhibit a gradual improvement.

Sat 3rd Aug

TOUTLEY HALL NEAR WOKINGHAM, BERKS

Mr. Weeks has received instructions to sell by auction, on Tuesday, August 6th, 1850, at two for three o'clock, at the Bush Inn, Wokingham, TOUTLEY HALL, together with upwards of twenty-one acres of freehold, arable and meadow land attached, and adjoining the forest Road leading from Reading to Windsor in four lots.

Sat 12th April

CONSECRATION

On Friday, the 4th instant, the Lord Bishop of Oxford attended for the purpose of consecrating the additional piece of ground lately added to the church-yard of Wokingham. The want of space in the old burying-ground having rendered it necessary, the church wardens have lately purchased about half an acre of land adjoining which is enclosed and now forms part of the church-yard. On arriving, his lordship was received by the clergy, the alderman, and corporation, the churchwardens, and considerable number of inhabitants, with whom, after robbing, he proceeded to the new ground where the petition for consecration was presented, and his lordship then read the usual service, after which Divine service was performed in the church, the Bishop preaching a most eloquent sermon to a large and attentive congregation.

SMASHING

Two men, named Popjoy and Whiting, were, on Monday last, brought before the alderman, charged with passing two counterfeit shillings to Mrs. Loader, of the "White Hart," Wokingham. The prisoners when apprehended, were searched when Popjoy was observed to drop a shilling which was counterfeit, and close to where Whiting stood, the constable found a box containing a bad half sovereign and several base silver coins, each coin being wrapped in paper to prevent its rubbing. The prisoners were remanded till Friday (Yesterday) in order that the evidence might be submitted to the solicitor of the Mint, who has intimated the intention of the authorities to prosecute the prisoners.

Sat 24th May

Mary Butler appeared to a summons for assaulting Elizabeth Pursey, at Wokingham. This was a quarrel of a slight nature between the parties, who are neighbours, and the defendant was fined in the penalty of 1s. and costs.

Thomas Rance and William Catlin were severally fined the sum of 7s. including costs, for playing at "tossing" on Sunday the 11th inst., during the hours of divine service, in Langborough. This information was laid by the direction of the authorities, who are resolved on putting an end to such improper pastimes on Sundays.

On the 21st inst., George Smith of Down Street, Wokingham, was charged before the Alderman, James Hayward, Esq., with being drunk and disorderly on the night of Saturday last, and fined 5s. and costs.

1852

Sat 5th June

The "Roebuck Inn" Friendly Society, held their annual meeting on Wednesday last, the dinner was got up by the host in very good style, and a numerous body of the members assembled, this being the sixth anniversary since its establishment. The list of loyal toasts was given and drunk, after which the healths of the honorary members, James Hayward, Esq., and James Twycross, were drunk with three times three; the Sunninghill band attended, and enlivened the proceedings of the day.

Sat 18th Dec

Messrs Weeks and Simmons held their first Agricultural Sale on Tuesday last: the morning was auspicious, and a very numerous company assembled together. There was a considerable quantity of live stock, of good quality, numbering upwards of 800 head, and some useful dead stock, a large part of which was sold, at fair prices. The place of sale being elevated, dry, and convenient, is admirably suited to the purpose. We understand it is intended to hold similar sales, periodically, an arrangement which promises to prove a convenience to the agriculturalists of the neighbourhood, and a very general satisfaction appears to be felt concerning it.

CAUTION

An attempt at imposition has been lately made by some swindler, upon respectable parties resident at Wokingham, who represented himself to have been a great loser by the late floods, that 80 sheep and other cattle had been swept away from pastures at Basildon. The party arrived on horseback and presented a petition, with a forged list of subscriptions, amongst which were the names of the Vicar and churchwardens of Basildon, and other respectable subscribers. Enquiries were, however, made before any relief was advanced, and the fabrication was soon detected. It is always advisable to institute similar enquiries, before any relief is given to these begging petitions.

1853

Sat 15th Jan

DINNER TO THE AGED POOR

On old Christmas day the aged poor of this town, were provided with a dinner and tea, by the liberality of Mr. Thomas A. Readwin, formerly resident here. More than fifty persons were invited, who, with a few exceptions, had all numbered 70 years and upwards, their united ages amounting to about four thousand years. At one o'clock a table was spread with the old Christmas fare—beef and plum pudding—in a room belonging to the Roe Buck Inn, kindly lent by Mr. Wigg, for the occasion; the Rev. W. Hirst, Assistant Curate of Wokingham, presiding. All those prevented by infirmity or other cause from attending personally, had their share of the dinner sent home. The afternoon was spent in cheerful conversation: tobacco and snuff were supplied to such as chose to enjoy themselves in that way.

At four o'clock all present partook of tea. The proceedings of the day were closed with an appropriate address from the Rev. W. Hirst, and at six o'clock the company separated much pleased with the treat, and thankful to Mr. Readwin, for his good cheer. The arrangements necessary for making the old people comfortable were well carried into effect by the assistance of several ladies to whom great credit is due.

SMASHING

On the 7th inst. two men called at the Shoulder of Mutton public house at Binfield, and attempted to pass a bad half-crown to the landlady, but it was returned to them. The occurrence was witnessed by Mr. R. Benning of Binfield, who, suspecting from their manner, that they were regular smashers, followed then to Wokingham, and reported the particulars to William Belson, one of the constables, who, in company with Mr. Benning, found two men at the Royal Exchange, in Down Street. Belson asked one of them for the half-crown they had tried to pass at Binfield, which he stated he had since passed, and on searching him the constable found in one pocket twelve half-crowns and ten shillings, all counterfeit. The coins were carefully wrapt in

rag and paper to prevent injury from rubbing. The other man attempted to escape, at the same time dropping a bad shilling.

The following day they were brought before James Hayward Esq. When they gave their names as Charles Goddard and James Barnett, and the depositions being taken, the prisoners were remanded in order that the Mint authorities might be informed of the case, and they have since intimated their intention to prosecute both prisoners

Sat 7th May

THE STAINES AND WOKINGHAM RAILWAY

The bill for this railway passed through Committee on Friday, the preamble being declared proved. The bill grants the right to run over that part of the south-Eastern line lying between Wokingham and Reading: this will open a direct communication between Reading and Waterloo-bridge, a convenience that will be widely and greatly appreciated. The particulars of this line are given under our Railway intelligence head, in another page. It is anticipated that the interests of the Great Western will be somewhat affected by this new access to the metropolis.

Sat 21st May

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRIENDLY SOCIETY

The anniversary of the friendly society held at the Roe Buck Inn, took place on Wednesday last. The members after walking in procession round the town accompanied by the Sunninghill band dined together a 2 o'clock, when the chair was taken by the alderman of the town, John L. Roberts, Esq., the medical officer of the club, Frederick Fellows, Esq., and several other friends of the Society attended. A most agreeable afternoon was spent and the arrangements of the host, Mr. Wigg, gave the most entire satisfaction to the whole party, numbering about one hundred and twenty.

On the 14th instant three tramps named William Webster, Charles Landsley, and John Robinson, were committed for 14 days imprisonment by Le Marchant Thomas, Esq., for refusing to pick one pound weight of oakum each in the Wokingham Union workhouse on that morning, being the prescribed task to be performed in return for their lodging and maintenance the previous night

Sat 5th Nov

FAIR

Our annual November pleasure Fair was held on Wednesday last, and was attended by a large number of shows, and stands, for the sale of fancy articles, &c, than usual, and the afternoon proving fine there was a considerable influx of visitors. Although, as on all such occasions, there was plenty of noise everything passed off in an orderly manner.

1854

Sat 11th March

LITERARY INSTITUTE

It is with much pleasure we again notice the proceedings of this institution, which for some time past, from a variety of causes, had been by no means in a flourishing state, still we are glad for the credit of the town to state that several of its old friends, and some of its supporters from its formation, feeling the same interest as of old in its proceedings, resolved if possible to restore its efficiency and usefulness as far as

practicable. A meeting was therefore called, and continued by adjournment until Tuesday last, under the presidency of the Alderman who has taken much interest in the affairs of the Institution, for the purpose of considering and adopting the best measures for the future regulation of the Society, and we are happy to state that the result has been to place the Institution on a permanent basis. The rules have been carefully revised and remodelled in accordance with the altered circumstances above noticed. The circulating library cannot be continued, but the reading room at the town-hall will in future be well supplied.

The tanks of the meeting were unanimously accorded to John Walter, Esq., M.P., who has liberally presented to the Institution a copy of the *Times*, which is placed on the table at ten o'clock every morning, also to the proprietors of the *Reading Mercury*, for gratuitously supplying that journal. Although this Institution may not pretend to vie with similar societies in some of the larger neighbouring towns, still we would remind the townspeople that the same cause which has rendered them to flourishing in other places (we mean the general support of all classes), will also enable the committee to extend the usefulness of our own Society; and as the rate of subscription places it, in a pecuniary view, open to all, we trust it will meet with increased patronage and success.

FOWL MARKET

There was a larger supply on Tuesday last than we have noticed for some time. Prices were high, two farmers in this parish having obtained 25s, a couple.

Sat 6th May

SUDDEN DEATH

An inquest was held before R. Clarke, Esq., at the Bush Inn, Wokingham, on Monday, the 1st instant, on the body of Mr. William Beechey, of that place, baker and confectioner, aged 67 years. The deceased attended church the previous morning, and appeared in good health till he went up stairs to bed, about half-past eight in the evening, when he was taken very ill. Mr. Wheeler was sent for, and he promptly attended, but Mr. Beechey died within a few minutes after his arrival. Mr. Wheeler having given evidence that he considered death resulted from an affection of the heart, the jury returned a verdict accordingly. The deceased was an old and respected inhabitant of Wokingham.

Sat 22nd July

CRICKET

On Wednesday last, a match of Cricket was played at Wokingham on Langboro' Cricket-ground between fourteen married gentlemen and fourteen single gentlemen; but the Benedicts proved themselves too superior for their single adversaries to contend against, the latter gentlemen being deficient of bowlers, but trust after more practice, and when they contend against each other again, to be more fortunate and able to retrieve their lost laurels. After the match had terminated, both parties adjourned to the Bush Inn, to partake of sumptuous repast, which was provided by the respected hostess in her usual style; it gave general satisfaction, and the parties did ample justice to it. The remainder of the evening was spent with song and harmony, conviviality and good feeling towards each other.—The following is the state of the game: Married, 1st innings, 133; 2nd do., 63: total, 196 runs. Single, 1st innings, 78; 2nd do., 54: total, 132 runs.

Sat 2nd Sept

FIRE

On Wednesday afternoon last, between four and five o'clock, the inhabitants of this town were alarmed by the report that a Fire had broken out in the rick-yard of Mr. James Weeks, auctioneer, at the back of his sale ground, situate at the entrance to this town, from Twyford. A large number of persons were soon on the spot with our two fire engines, and every exertion was used by those presents with untiring zeal to stay the progress of the flames but owing to the very short supply of water here, their efforts were in a great measure frustrated. The fire originated in some straw lying near the hay-ricks at the top of the yard which burnt with great rapidity and soon ignited some wood and a large pile of bavins, the great heat of which set fire to the hay-ricks, and two of them were very quickly consumed. The two other hay-ricks close by caught by caught, and the efforts of the bystanders were chiefly directed to the saving them, but as we before noticed, the supply of water being short their efforts were unavailing, and they too were nearly consumed, that portion which was saved being so damaged as to be almost worthless. Means were, we are glad to say, effectually taken to prevent the conflagration spreading to the buildings and a large wheat-rick near, and the wind favouring they were fortunately saved. The fire it is believed originated accidentally through some children playing in the loose straw with Lucifer matches. Mr. Weeks' loss we regret to say is only partially covered by insurance.

Sat 23rd Sept

CHOLERA

In our notice of this subject last week, our report only extended to Thursday, the 14th Instant, up to which time three deaths had occurred in Rose-street from this fearful epidemic. Since then we regret to say a number of other cases have occurred mostly in the same street, varying in intensity, and many of them yielding to prompt medical treatment; still the number of deaths amounts to eight, leaving several cases under treatment. A ward for the reception of patients was formed at the union workhouse, to which most of the sufferers were quickly removed, where every attention was paid them by the Medical Officer, E. Weight, Esq., and the efficient nurses provided, whilst other cases were attended to at the residences of the parties. Printed directions were issued to the public as to the best means of preserving health, and the course to be instantly adopted on the appearance of the disease; and a committee of the Guardians was formed, who visited the infected localities, and promptly caused the removal of nuisances, &c. where requisite; in fact, all other sanitary measures were adopted which the law permits, although we could wish that the powers given them were not of so limited a nature, and that they possessed the power to prevent the creation of those nuisances and other causes of disease' the temporary removal of which only they can now effect. The number of cases is rapidly now diminishing.

CHOLERA AND CASTOR OIL

The Medical Council of the General Board of Health appointed a committee to consider and report upon the treatment of cholera by castor oil. The committee consisted of Dr. Paris, Dr. Babington; Dr. Tweedie, Dr. Bayly, and Mr. Ward. A report of the committee has been received and approved by the council. From an abstract, the details of which have been carefully investigated by the committee, it appears that in 89 cases of cholera treated by fourteen different practitioners with castor oil, on the plan recommended by Dr. Johnson, 68 were fatal, recovery having occurred in only 15 cases, while the 6 remaining cases are still under treatment.

Sat 30th Sept

THE CHOLERA

This disease, we are sorry to say, has not quite left us, although the number of severe cases is much less than in the previous week. The last week's report shows that Mr. Weight, the District Medical Officer has had, under his care five cases of cholera, three of which recovered. One is, under treatment, the patient although 84 years of age is going on favourably, and one case terminated fatally. Diarrhoea is prevalent, and some severe cases have been under treatment, still of 88 cases received last week 53 are recovered. A committee of the Guardians, with their Clerk met daily, to receive reports from the inspector of nuisances, and house to house visitations have been made, and arrangements entered into to supply immediate medical attendance and medicines gratuitously at any hour on application. A subscription for the purpose of supplying efficient nurses where requisite, has been most successfully raised, in fact, the authorities have used every exertion, in their power, to check the progress of disease and render assistance where requisite, and we are thankful to say with the best results, the number of fresh cases rapidly lessening.

TURNPIKE TOLLS TO LET—WINDSOR FOREST TURNPIKE

Notice is hereby given, that the TOLLS arising at the several Gates upon the Windsor Forest Turnpike Road, called or known by the names of the Loddon Bridge Gate, Coppid Beech Lane Gate, and Blacknest Gate, will be LET BY AUCTION to the best bidder, at the house of William Churchman, the ROSE INN, at WOKINGHAM, in Berks, on WEDNESDAY, the eleventh day of October next between the hours of Twelve and Two in the afternoon, in the manner directed by the Act passed in the third year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Fourth, "For Regulating Turnpike Roads," which Tolls produced the last year the sum of six hundred pounds above the expenses of collecting them, and will be put up at that sum as the Trustees of the said Turnpike Road then present must agree upon, the said tolls having been this day, pursuant to due notice, put up at the said sum, and there appearing no bidder for the same..

Whoever happens to be the best bidder, must at the same time pay one month in advance (if required) of the rent at which such Tolls may be let, and give security with sufficient sureties, to the satisfaction of the Trustees of the said Turnpike Road, for the payment of the rest of the money monthly, or in such other proportions as the said Trustees may then and there direct.

John L. Roberts,

Clerk to the Trustees of the said Turnpike Road'

Wokingham, 18th September, 1854

Sat 7th Oct

It is with much satisfaction we are enabled to state that the severe visitation of disease with which this town has been attacked, may now, we sincerely trust, be said to have passed away. There has been no fresh case of cholera since the later part of last week, and the number of cases of diarrhoea is fast diminishing, whilst those under treatment are progressing favourably to convalesce. We feel bound, however, to notice the praiseworthy and prompt exertions of the authorities, which, under Providence, we believe, has done very much to check the further progress of the disease, and restore our town to its usual healthy condition. The medical attention bestowed has been unremitting, in fact, everything has been done that the most careful

attention could suggest to alleviate the suffering of the patients, and assist those belonging to them, where requisite, in which respect the townspeople have universally shown a most laudable desire to participate; in addition to this, on Sunday last, collections were made in our parish church after most excellent sermons for the same purpose. We also hope that the attention to sanitary improvements which has been shown will not be without lasting benefit to our town and neighbourhood.

Sat 14th October

CRICKET

The Members and Friends of the Wokingham Cricket Club mustered on the 15th instant at

Langborough Cricket Ground for the purpose of playing their final game this season. There was a very good attendance, the first having been previously arranged between the married and the single, when a capital day's play took place, although the game could not be played out. The single gentlemen claim the honour of winning, having headed their opponents 18 runs in the first innings; the second, however, as far as it proceeded, was rapidly changing the aspect of the game, the Benedicts having scored 99 runs with the loss of only three wickets. A most agreeable evening was spent at the Roe Buck Inn, thus winding up the first season of the new club in a most satisfactory manner. The following is the score:--- Married, first innings, 78; second ditto, 99, with seven wickets to go down. Single, first innings, 96.

Sat 2nd Dec

THE PATRIOTIC FUND

We have much pleasure in stating, that the Subscriptions of the town's people of Wokingham are now in course of collection. The Alderman, with the assistance of members of the Corporation visiting each house, and the success they have hitherto met with, leaves no doubt that a considerable sum will be raised, the inhabitants generally evincing their hearty sympathy with, and the approval of the noble object to which they contribute. It has been thought desirable that a list should be provided for those persons in the outlying portions of the parish, and in the neighbourhood on whom it may not be possible to call, but who may feel desirous of aiding this good work, and such list has accordingly been placed at Mr. Gotelee's Library, in the Market Place, where donations will be received.

The Board of Guardians of the Wokingham Union, at their weekly meeting on Tuesday last, anxious to testify their appreciation of the unremitting attention and kindness evinced by Mr. Weight, their respected medical officer towards the poor during the late prevalence of cholera, voluntarily and unanimously voted him an adequate amount of remuneration.

Sat 16th Dec

CONCERT IN AID OF THE PATRIOTIC FUND

It is with pleasure we have to record that an entertainment on behalf of this fund, took place on the evening of Wednesday last, in our Town Hall, and was attended with the most complete success. The project originated with one or two of the inhabitants, and being warmly entertained by the leading families of the town and neighbourhood, our Town Hall, on the occasion referred to, was filled by one of the most fashionable and numerous assemblies ever seen there. The performances, which consisted of both vocal and instrumental pieces, were given by amateurs, and their efforts throughout received the warmest demonstration of approval. Some slight

disappointment was felt by the receipt of a telegraphic message soon after the concert commenced, that, through some misadventure near Reigate, the 7.15 p.m. train was delayed, thus preventing the attendance of two of the principal vocalists, both amateurs from London; but the vacancies in the programme thus caused were instantly filled by the voluntary assistance of others—so that the whole passed off in the most satisfactory manner. This town is certainly much indebted to those ladies and gentleman who so kindly originated, and by the sacrifice of no slight amount of time and personal exertion, carried out the arrangements, by which, an opportunity was afforded of attending an entertainment of so attractive a character, and at the same time materially aiding the Patriotic Fund. We heartily congratulate them on their complete success, as evinced by the crowded attendance, and the unanimous expressions of satisfaction heard on all sides throughout the evening. We cannot close our notice without remarking the tasteful and elegant manner in which the hall was very appropriately decorated by a few ladies and gentlemen who took much interest in the arrangements, and thus most essentially added to the pleasing success of the concert. Among the instrumentalists were Mr. Venus, of Reading; Mr. Fellows and Mr. Clay; and the vocalists, Miss Stevens, Miss Phillips and Messrs. Syney, Smith, Mattocks, Sullivan, &c.

The performance of all parties gave great satisfaction and delight.

1855

Sat 3rd March

DEATH OF A VETERAN

We have to record the decease, in this his native town, of Henry Aldridge, one of the heroes of Waterloo, at the advanced age of 82 years. Deceased was born in the town of Wokingham, where he passed his early years; and he also resided here ever since his discharge from the army, and was therefore well known and generally respected. When very young (about 16 years of age) he entered the Royal Berks Militia, and after serving therein about twelve years, volunteered into the 40th Regiment of Foot, in which he was promoted to the rank of corporal. He proceeded with his regiment to the Peninsula in 1810, and from that time till after the battle of Waterloo in 1815, he was engaged in most of the battles and great enterprise of that eventful period; in fact, to attempt to mention more than a summary of them, would be to enter into a detailed history of the leading events of the Wellington campaigns of that period, as a glance at the subjoined list of engagements in which he actually took part will show.

In September, 1810, he was at that battle of Husscos; 1811, May, at the siege of Badajos, where he received a wound in his body; in this year he was also present at Campo Mayor; 1812, April 6th, at the storming of Badajos, where he was again wounded; May 16th, at Albuera ; July 18th and 22nd, at Salamanca; 1813, June 20th, at the great victory at Vittoria, and in October and November in the Pyrenees; 1814, February 27th, at Orthes, and April 10th, at Toulouse. He also assisted at the celebrated siege and capture of Ciudad Rodrigo, and the battles near Pampeluna, besides many other skirmishes and encounters, the dates and accurate names of which had escaped the old soldier's memory. And lastly, he was engaged in the crowning victory of Waterloo, which nobly ended his career of actual service, although he did not receive his discharge from the army for several years. He received the Waterloo medal, and no less than nine clasps for the following victories:--Besscos, Badajos, Albuera, Salamanca, Vittoria, the Pyrenees, Orthes, Toulouse, and Pampeluna. On leaving the army he received a pension of sevenpence a day, which a few years ago was increased

to tenpence, on a representation of his case being made to his old commander the late Duke of Wellington.

Sat 14th April

SUDDEN DEATH OF THE DOWAGER MARCHIONESS OF DOWNSHIRE

We regret to have to announce the death of the Dowager Marchioness of Downshire who died suddenly on Saturday at her house in Lower Grosvenor-street. The deceased lady, who was Maria, eldest daughter of the fifth Earl of Plymouth, was married in the year 1811 to the late Marquis of Downshire who died in the year 1845. She was a lady of most amiable disposition and kind manners, and much beloved and esteemed in a large and distinguished circle of relatives and friends.

ELECTION OF ALDERMAN

On Easter Wednesday, according to ancient custom, the corporation of this town attended divine service in our parish church, after which they proceeded to the Council Chamber of electing an alderman, in the room of W W Wheeler, Esq., whose term of office expired on the above day when William Heelas, Esq., jun. was unanimously chosen alderman for the ensuing year.

Sat 21st April

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION

On the evening of the 12th inst., a lecture in connexion with this Institution, was given in our Town-hall, by Mr. George Grossmith, on "Wit and Humour." As we have recently had occasion to notice in eulogistic terms Mr. Grossmith's feature on the same subject in Reading, we need not enter into a detailed account now, merely stating that Mr. Grossmith, by his humorous illustrations of his subject, and excellent mimicry, fully sustained his high reputation as a lecturer, and highly delighted his audience, which, we regret to say, except the members of the Institution, was small. We are sorry for this as we think the efforts of the Committee and Secretary of the Institute to provide the opportunity for the enjoyment of so pleasant an evening's instruction and amusement, deserving a more extended patronage at the hands of the town's people. The Institute, we are happy to say, is in a much more flourishing condition than formerly, which was the chief inducement for once more trying the success of a lecture, the committee having discontinued them for years past, on account of the loss to the funds of the institution, which they entailed from the want of more public support.

Sat 5th May

INTERMENT OF FRANCIS SOAMES

This town presented a solemn appearance on Wednesday last, the day appointed for the interment of the late FRANCIS SOAMES, Esq. for nearly 20 years past a highly respected inhabitant. From the commencement of the day, the shops were partially closed, and as the time appointed (half past one) arrived, business was suspended with scarcely an exception. The funeral which was conducted by Messrs. Heelas, was in accordance with the wish of the deceased, of a "plain and inexpensive" character, and consisted of a hearse and three mourning coaches conveying the family and the clerks of the establishment; a considerable number of the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood following on foot, in token, we are sure, of a most sincere esteem for the departed. The loss is evidently felt to be a severe one; the deceased having both as a private gentleman, and in his professional capacity as a lawyer, most deservedly

obtained almost universal respect and confidence. In the discharge of his professional duties, he was indefatigable, and evinced talents of no mean order; and those who employed him, whether rich or poor, soon found they had committed their concerns to one who "cared for them." The station in life of his clients was not a consideration with him; the humblest individual experienced his kindly sympathy, and equally with the nobleman, found his interests conscientiously and energetically attended to. That he should have acquired an extensive practice in his profession can, therefore, be no matter of surprise; but at the same time we regret to say that there can be no doubt that his laborious application to business, exhausted prematurely, his physical energies, and that, at the early age of 44, he has left a widow and six children to deplore his loss. His remains were deposited in a vault in Wokingham Church Yard. It is somewhat gratifying to learn, that the business will be continued for the benefit of the family, by a gentleman of high standing in the legal profession; and that the eldest son, Mr. Francis Larkin Soames, a young gentleman of considerable promise, is studying the law, with the intention ultimately of occupying the position from which death has removed, his highly esteemed and much lamented parent.

Sat 7th July

THE CORN MARKET

Now that this projected Market is fairly brought before the public, we are happy to say that it meets with increased favour and promises of support, not only in our town and neighbourhood, but from parties at a distance, and the assurances of support the committee continue to receive leave no doubt of its success.. Indeed the only wonder appears to be that no desirable and useful a scheme should have so long remained in abeyance. The committee are busily engaged in making the necessary arrangements under our Town Hall, for the convenience and comfort of those attending the market, and great credit is due to them for the excellent manner in which their plans are being executed. The expense is being defrayed by a public subscription, so that the market will be entirely toll free. The first market as will be seen by advertisement, will be held Tuesday next, at one o'clock, and we are trusting our next to be enabled to announce the successful opening of a Corn Market worthy of the countenance and support of the millers and dealers in corn, and we are sure that it only remains for these who have so well managed the preliminaries to continue their exertions in its support to ensure a successful result.

Sat 14th July

RE-OPENING OF THE CORN MARKET AT WOKINGHAM

According to the resolution of a Public Meeting, held in the Town Hall, Wokingham, a fortnight since, the re-opening of the Corn Market took place on Tuesday last, the 10th inst., and the interest excited by the undertaking, combined with the delightful weather which prevailed, was the means of drawing together a large number of persons thus causing the town to present a scene of animation and bustle rarely before witnessed. It is due to the committee to remark that during the interval, since the public meeting, they had exerted themselves in the most praiseworthy manner, and the accommodation provided for the millers and farmers under the Town Hall gave the greatest satisfaction. With respect to the market we have to report that there was a fair show of samples of almost every kind of corn on sale.

There were some who expected to see a much larger quantity on offer, but considering the fact of the prevalence of hay-making, and many farmers being busily employed, there was no real ground for disappointment. Of millers and dealers, there

was a tolerably good attendance, and altogether the re-commencement was such as to be highly encouraging. Precisely at one o'clock, the market bell rang and business at once began. The prices asked for wheat were generally very high, and this had the effect of checking purchases, the sellers continued firm, and the sales made must be reported at the full currencies of Reading market on Saturday last. Barley is now little sought after, and the quantity on offer was sufficient for the demand. The rates did not vary from those obtainable at other markets. In oats and peas there was little doing, but beans were in good request.

The following is a correct statement of the prices obtained:--Wheat from 73s. to 84s.; Barley, 32s. to 34s.; Oats, 28s. to 33s.; Beans, 48s. to 52s.; Peas, 44s. to 46s.

POULTRY MARKET

There was a good supply, and ready demand. Prices:--Fowls, 8s., and ducks, 5s., per couple.

CATTLE MARKET

There has hitherto been a cattle market held here, but this is also sought to be improved, and the supply was certainly large. Several dealers were present, and the prices realised were, for cows with calf, from £14 to £18; two-year old steers, £8 to £10; in-calf cows, £12 to £15. Lambs, sold at 20s. to 28s.; ewes at 25s. to 40s. and fat wether sheep at 44s. each. Fat calves, at 4s. 8d. to 5s. per stone of 8lbs. There was a good number of pigs penned, and for strong hogs, 33s. to 50s. were given; and 4 for stores 14s to 20s.

15th Sept

FALL OF SEBASTAPOL

Late on Monday night, the news of this great event reached a select few at Wokingham, but ninety-nine hundredths of its population awoke on Tuesday morning in ignorance of the important intelligence. Some few, remembering the former disappointment hesitated in believing it but the arrival of the London morning papers with the official announcements, and the circulation of a "fly leaf" from the printing office and news agent's, removed all doubt as to its authenticity. A subscription in aid of celebrating our great triumph was hastily effected by two patriotic tradesmen and the fruits soon appeared.

The air rang with the merry peals of the church bells, and triple bob major hinted something important to the ears of the surrounding neighbourhood. The town band took the field in full force and efficiency, raising the hearts and spirits of the elder as well as the more juvenile classes of the community. An individual of some notoriety in our town, voluntarily constituted himself drum-major, and bearing a flag, headed the perambulations of the band with such an excess of zeal and energy, that the more stirring incidents of the evening arrived, he was compelled to sleep off the effects of his labours and libations.

As soon as it was dark a procession of the band by torchlight was hastily arranged and the old town shone out in lurid glow. To this succeeded a large bonfire in the Market-place, faggots, tar barrels, sugar, hogsheads and other combustible materials readily contributed. A frequent *feu de joie* from small arms and fowling pieces was substituted for salvos of artillery. These rejoicings were kept up until midnight, the lighting up of the air by the torches and bonfire having brought in many persons from the neighbourhood, and all ended merrily and happily, no mishap of any kind

occurred to mar the pleasure of this little festivity, so rapidly got up and heartily responded to by all classes of our townspeople.

WOKINGHAM MARKET, TUESDAY, SEPT 11

There was a limited supply of both old and new Wheat; the demand was good, at a rise in prices of 1s. to 2s. per qr. From this day week. Wheat 78s. to 84s.; barley, 34s. to 37s.; oats, 26s. to 34s.; beams, 44s. to 52s.; peas, 42s. to 58s.; per quarter.

CATTLE MARKET

A good supply.

POULTRY MARKET

Fowls from 2s. to 6s. per couple.

1856

Mon 26th Jan

ORGANOPHONE CONCERT

Hoffman's Organophone Band gave a concert on Monday evening last, and by their extraordinary performance gave the utmost satisfaction to a large audience. Mr. Thurlow's clever ventriloquism highly amused the company between the first and second parts.

ACCIDENT TO J. L. GOWER, ESQ.

On Friday the 18th instant, an accident of a serious nature, we regret to say, befell J. Leveson Gower, Esq., whilst hunting with Mr. Garth's hounds. It appears that Mr. Gower, who was visiting at Garth's, at Haines Hill, was out with the hounds on the above day; towards the close of an excellent run, whilst jumping a fence near Perbright, Mr. Gower's horse fell with hi. Mr. Garth and others, who were near, went to the unfortunate gentleman's assistance, and found him much injured. A conveyance was arranged as soon as possible, and Mr. Gower was carefully taken back to Haines Hill suffering most acutely. Mr. G. May and Mr. Wheeler were sent for, and found on examination that Mr. Gower had broken two ribs, besides the collar bone being fractured, and a severe contusion to the forehead. The unfortunate accident has created the most lively sympathy in this neighbourhood where Mr. Gower has so long resided. We are gratified in being able to add that in answer to the numerous inquiries daily made, Mr. Gower is progressing as satisfactorily as can be expected from the serious nature of the injuries he has sustained.

Sat 8th March

CHURCH MISSIONS

On Sunday, the 9th instant, two sermons will be preached (D.V.) in the parish Church of Wokingham, on behalf of the Church Missionary Society, by the Rev. A.M. Christopher, M.A., Association Secretary, and formerly Principal of the Martinière, Calcutta.

FATAL ACCIDENT

An inquest was held on Wednesday at the "Wells," Sunninghill, before R. Clarke, Esq., on the body of John Pither, aged 22 years, a labourer, employed on the Staines and Wokingham Railway. It appeared that on Saturday afternoon, a little before six, the deceased was driving four horses, drawing three wagons heavily laden with bricks and iron rails; the horses were trotting, and deceased whipped the hinder one, which caused him to gallop and deceased, in endeavouring to stop him, fell, and the wheels

of the first wagon went over his body, causing frightful injuries and instantaneous death. Verdict, "Accidental death."

Sat 29th March

ELECTION OF ALDERMAN

On Easter Wednesday, pursuant to ancient custom, the members of our Corporation, after attending divine service at the Church, proceeded to the council Chamber, for the purpose of electing an Alderman and Chief Magistrate for the ensuing year, when William Heelas, Esq., was re-elected to the honourable office.

DEATH OF A STAG

On Wednesday last, a hunted stag made its way to the farm buildings of Mr. Ballard, at Beech Hill, and ran into one of the out-houses on the premises. The gentlemen attending the hunt arrived soon after and directed that the stag should be removed to a stable; this was accordingly done, and the door carefully locked. About an hour and a half afterwards, a farm servant entered the stable, and found the poor animal quite dead, but from what immediate cause, did not appear.

PIG STEALING

During the night of Tuesday, the 18th instant, of the following day, some thief managed to steal a dark store pig, the property of Messrs. Simonds, from Sindlesham Farm-yard. The Hurst Association has offered a reward of five pounds on conviction of the felon, but we believe hitherto, without obtaining any clue to the guilty party.

THE WELLINGTON COLLEGE AT SANDHURST

We hear from good authority that Her Majesty has graciously signalled her intention of laying the first stone of the above College on the 1st of May next; such is the present arrangement, but as Holy Thursday falls this year on the 1st of May, it may occasion some change. The site of this building is elevated, yet sheltered and possessing an extended view—as far as Stratfield Saye. The soil is a sandy gravel and exceedingly dry. On one part of the ground twenty acres will be excavated for an ornamental sheet of water. The re-opening of the Sandhurst Station cannot be much longer delayed.

Sat 5th April

PUBLIC PEACE REJOICINGS

The long expected intelligence that a treaty of peace has been signed on the previous day at Paris reached us here on Monday morning last, and caused no little amount of excitement. In a short time one or two active inhabitants set about collecting subscriptions, which were liberally given, in order that a public demonstration might be afforded of the universal feeling of satisfaction, which the happy news had excited amongst all ranks. In the afternoon the bells were set ringing, the town band paraded the streets playing patriotic tunes, and in the evening a burning of tar barrels, letting off fireworks, firearms & C., took place in the Market-place and streets. The corporation, by a donation to the funds, assisted towards the formation of a huge bonfire (which must have been visible at a great distance) in the Langborough Cricket Ground outside the town.

LECTURE

A lecture is announced to be delivered in our Town Hall, on Tuesday evening next, by that popular and talented divine, Dr. Cumming, which will doubtless attract a numerous audience.

Sat 10th May

THE WELLINGTON COLLEGE

The fine troop of the Royal Artillery, which entered our town on Thursday, the 1st instant, caused as much animation and gaiety during their stay, the band playing each evening in the Market Place where the guns and other carriages, &c., were well placed. They marched from here on Saturday morning last, to Aldershot, on receipt of the official information that the intended ceremonial was adjourned until June. The first notice of the postponement was received here on Friday morning, the 3rd instant, and the first very generally expressed opinion was that the very short notice would cause much disappointment, and in some instances loss to those by whom preparations had been made for the visitors; however, should the weather be fine on the day fixed, there will doubtless be a larger assemblage than would have been present last week, when the weather was so extensively cold and it is very probable that the attractions of the ceremony will then be increased by the presence of some of the Royal and distinguished personages shortly expected to visit the Court.

CRICKET

The opening game of the season, by the members of the Wokingham Club, announced for last Wednesday, we regret to say, was quite prevented by the very unsavoury weather, however, an excellent party dined together in the evening, at the Roe Buck Inn, presided over by E. Weight, Esq. the club is expected to be strong this season, several new members having enrolled themselves, and the new ground near the railway station is getting into excellent order for play, on which we shall doubtless, ere long, have the pleasure of witnessing (and also recording) the triumphs of the Wokingham Cricket Club.

Sat 7th June

PEACE REJOICING

In last week's Mercury it was stated that it had been resolved by the inhabitants of Wokingham that Monday, the 2nd instant, should be devoted to the celebration of Peace, with the intention that by such an arrangement numbers would be enabled to witness the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Wellington College, and the Review at Sandhurst, who might otherwise be unable to do so., and, as this proposal met with universal sanction, the shops were closed, and business, as far as practicable was suspended for the day. Early in the morning, the trumpets of the 3rd Light Dragoons, billeted in the town, roused many earlier than usual, and the assembling of the soldiers, with the continuous stream of visitors through the streets, all wending their way to Sandhurst, gave the town a most animated appearance, vehicles of all descriptions, with throngs of pedestrians passing through all morning.

A great many availed themselves of the railway to reach the scene of action, and when the first train for Sandhurst was due, a large number were waiting, but as the overladen trains arrived one after the other it was a considerable time before all could proceed. At length some carriages, which had taken troops to the ground, returned, and, thanks to the exertions and courteous attentions of Mr. Carter our station master, all were at last safely despatched in excellent time, and as safely brought back again.

On returning, some rejoicings of more local interest took place, and, although nothing had been done until the end of last week, a few earnest friends set to work and collected sufficient funds to provide tea for all the school children of the town, and, considering the short time for preparation, the treat was admirably carried out. The tea party took place in the Market-place, and afterwards the children walked through the streets in procession, carrying appropriate banners, and headed by an excellent band, the bells ringing a merry peal.

Later in the evening a dance in the Town Hall concluded most satisfactorily the amusements of the day—a day, which, we are sure, will long be remembered with pleasure by all who participated in its enjoyments.

Sat 27th July

CRICKET

We hear that a cricket match will be played on Monday next, at Mortimer, between the Wokingham and Mortimer Clubs.

WOKINGHAM AND NETTLEBED

The first match played on the “Wokingham Wellington Cricket Ground” took place on Thursday, July 17th, and proved a very easy victory for the Wokingham gentlemen. The Nettlebed eleven are acknowledged to be the best within miles of their neighbourhood; the result of this match therefore speaks volumes for the Wokingham Club. The following is the result of the game:--Wokingham: 1st innings, 113; second ditto, 238; total 351. Nettlebed: 1st innings, 33. The sun having gone down, prevented the Nettlebed gentlemen from having their 2nd innings; there were 318 runs for them to go in against.

FIRE

On Wednesday morning last, about nine o'clock, a fire broke out in the premises situate in Peach-street, in this town, formerly used as a silk factory, but now occupied by Mr. Wescott, and used as a steam saw mill. The fire is supposed to have originated from a spark from the chimney entering the roof of the building, which, on the alarm being first given, was burning very fiercely; however, in a few minutes, the town engines arrived, and were soon very efficiently set to work. The inhabitants using the utmost despatch in procuring water, and removing a large quantity of materials from the inside of the building, and by these means fortunately the flames were subdued before much injury was done. The loss, we hear, is covered by insurance in the Phoenix Office.

During the past three weeks our town has been much enlivened by the presence of several detachments of cavalry, which have arrived here en route to Aldershot. They consisted chiefly of the 4th Dragoons or Royal Irish, as they are more generally called, the 7th Hussars, and the 15th hussars, the last detachment of the latter Regiment having their band with them, which performed in the evening in the Market-place before the officers' quarters.

Some of our inn-keepers complain much of the frequency of these visits, whilst others think that the attraction of a narrative of Crimean dangers and glories told by those who participated therein, not infrequently brings customers together and thereby makes some amends for any loss from the billets.

Sat 2nd Aug

On Tuesday and Wednesday last, the remnant of that fine regiment, the Scots Greys, passed through our town from Aldershot en route to Ireland. They arrived in two detachments each of which was billeted here one night, the last detachment having with them the regimental band, which, in the evening played in the Market-place, to the great gratification of the townspeople, who assembled in large numbers to hear the performance. It is only about three years ago that a portion of this regiment passed through here on their way to the Camp at Chobham, and the contrast between their effective force at that time, and the diminished numbers now forming the strength of the regiment, affords a sad proof of the fearfully earnest part they took in the memorable charge at Balaklava, and on other occasions during the late war.

We regret to state that a melancholy interest attaches to this visit, from the unfortunate circumstances connected with the death of Private Robert Lockhart, on the Sandhurst Road, the details of which, as stated at the inquest, are given in another column, and which we need hardly say excited much interest here, great sympathy being felt for the unfortunate man, who bore an excellent character in the regiment, and who, after passing through the terrible events of the Crimean campaign with honour, met his death in so inglorious a manner; and we fear that the feeling engendered by the occurrence, is by no means calculated to raise in the public estimation a service which requires such rigour to enforce the necessary discipline in its ranks. But until the close of the inquiry before the coroner's jury, it would be premature to ascribe blame to anyone individually, as it may be found that the system only is responsible for the poor man's fate. We are pleased to hear that a subscription is being raised by the inhabitants to erect a memento over his grave.

On Monday a detachment of the Royal Artillery passed through, and we hear that the splendid corps, the 11th Hussars is expected.

INQUESTS BEFORE RUPERT CLARKE, ESQ.

Death of a soldier on March

On Thursday, an inquest was held before the above Coroner, at the Rose Inn, Wokingham, on the body of Robert Lockhart a private of the Scots Greys, who died the previous day, while on the march from Farnham to Wokingham. Considerable excitement was caused in the latter town, owing to a report that the unfortunate man's death had been accelerated by over-exertion forced upon him by the non-commissioned officer commanding him. Several witnesses were examined, from whose evidence we glean the following particulars:--

The regiment of Scots Greys had been quartered at Farnham for about three weeks, and, on Wednesday afternoon last, left for Wokingham. The deceased and five others, whose horses had sore backs, were placed under the command of Farrier Major Gray, and started a short time before the main body of the regiment, leading their horses. For the first three or four miles all went well, but shortly after that distance had been accomplished, Lockhart complained of fatigue very much, and told the officer that he had been up all night, with another man and two women, drinking. On passing Aldershot camp, he had a glass of ale, and when about six miles from Farnham, the troop were halted for about a quarter of an hour, or twenty minutes. While stopping, the deceased laid down upon the ground, and at this place drank, according to the evidence of two or three witnesses, nearly two quarts of water. After starting from this resting place, there does not appear to have been any general halt called, but the deceased laid down upon the road eight or nine times, and continued drinking

enormous quantities of water, some of which he obtained from cottagers on the road-side, and others from any stream or pond they passed. On arriving about 2½ miles from Wokingham, he laid down by the side of a stream, and took a large draught, and here the farrier-major observed him stagger. This officer had previously remarked the quantity of water he was drinking, and accused him of having some spirits concealed about him, but this deceased denied. After taking the last draught of water, he began talking in a wild and incoherent manner, about going back to look after the sergeant-major's horse, the sergeant-major, with his horse, being at the time in front. Deceased soon commenced vomiting, and tearing the grass, as if searching for something, and the farrier-major got two men to carry him into a by lane in a plantation, and then went on for the regimental surgeon, who, on arriving, found the man lying on his back, dead.

He was conveyed to the Duke's Head Inn, Wokingham, and on undressing him, it was found that he had on two woollen shirts, a cotton shirt, a stable jacket, and, over all, his regimental tunic, with a great number of articles stuffed into the breast of it. There was no one with the unfortunate man when he died. A *post mortem* examination of the body was made by Mr. Llewellyn, the regimental surgeon, who found the lungs gorged with blood, especially the left, so much so, that respiration must have been impossible. The chest and head were much swollen, and quite livid. The brain, as well as the membranes covering it, were in a highly congested state, and about a teaspoonful of serum was found in the ventricles of the brain. There was no unusual appearance about the remainder of the viscera. The left lung very closely adhered to the rib, and must have been affected by some old disease, Mr. Llewellyn considered the deceased died from suffocation, produced from the too free use of alcohol. The extreme heat must have increased the effect of the liquor. The deceased had not previously been under the care of the surgeon.

A soldier, a private in the same regiment, who walked with deceased from Farnham, deposed that when the latter laid down the last time, he asked him if he was going to leave him there? Witness offered to stop, but the farrier-major would not allow him to do so. Deceased did not appear ill or sick, but simply tired. He told witness that he and another man had slept in a stable the previous night. While on the road, Lockhart complained much of fatigued after the first few miles, and walked very slowly. He drank out of a foraging-cap some water which his comrades got for him out of a stream. This witness then proceeded to state that in the course of the march, Gray swore at Lockhart, and pushed his horse almost up against him; but that was done only once. They had not heavy duty to perform the day before.

The case at this stage was adjourned till the following day; and, on the court being re-opened.

Alexander MacDonald, a private of the Scots Greys, was called. He said, the regiment left Farnham between seven and eight o'clock on Wednesday morning. He led his horse, because it had a sore back, and Lockhart and several others did the same for a similar reason. Lockhart was on parade in good health in the morning. Witness then described the occurrences on the march, up to the time of Lockhart's falling down when near Wokingham. When he fell, witness went up to him, and spoke, and the deceased said he was not able to go on. Gray had been in the regiment eighteen or nineteen years, and as generally respected, particularly by the officers. During the journey, he heard Gray tell Lockhart, that if he did not get on, he should make him a prisoner when he got in, as he had been drinking. That was the only conversation he heard between them. Lockhart was quite sober when on parade on Wednesday

morning. He and witness slept the previous night in a hay loft; there were no women with them.

The Coroner: Now be careful, will you swear there were no females with you that night?—Witness: There were none. We went there about eleven o'clock. Our time for being in billet was eleven o'clock, but the door was shut, and we did not wish to disturb the people. We got up at four the next morning. We had no beer in the loft, nor any spirits.

Several questions were put by the jury, in reply to which, the witness said, he had seen Gray that day, and had some beer with him. He did not see Gray ride against deceased. After Lockhart fell, the men walked on, but soon afterwards halted for nearly half an hour, when Gray galloped up to them, and they all walked into town together. Witness rode his horse to Henley the next day, and Lockhart's horse was also ridden.

Corporal John Loader was then called, and said on Wednesday, he had charge of two prisoners, and did not march with the regiment. He was mounted, but the prisoners were on foot; two other men, mounted, were with him, forming a guard. There were two baggage wagons—one carrying the general baggage, and the other the saddler belonging to the led horses. Lockhart and MacDonald were on the parade ground that morning, and they appeared sober. Witness passed through Sandhurst, and on arriving about two miles and a half from Wokingham, he came up with Gray, who called to him, and he then saw some one lying on the ground. Gray told him to bring up the prisoners; they came and took up the body, and carried it into a bye-lane, and left him there. He was groaning at the time. He remonstrated with Gray on the impropriety of leaving the man there by himself.

This observation drew forth a marked expression of applause from several of the jury, much to the surprise of the Coroner, who told them, if such conduct be repeated, he should at once stop the proceedings, and commence anew. If they suffered their minds to be influenced by any bias, they were not fit to be on the jury.

Witness proceeded.—He told Gray it was improper to leave the man there, and asked him to put as much things off the baggage wagon, (which was then come up), as would make room for the man, and then send it on as fast as possible, while he (Gray), galloped after the surgeon, adding that he (witness) would remain with the baggage. Gray would not do so, but ordered witness to put him by the side of the road. He ordered one of the prisoners to take deceased medal, and give it to witness, and Gray galloped on, leaving the man quite alone. The next time he saw Gray was at his billet, when he called up to tell him that Lockhart was dead. Deceased was servant to the sergeant-major of the regiment. Mr. Donald was quite sober on Wednesday morning.

Some additional evidence was taken, and the enquiry was further adjourned until Monday.

Sat 9th Aug

THE ADJOURNED INQUEST ON THE CRIMEAN HERO

The inquest on Robert Lockhart, of the Scots Grays, was resumed on Monday, before Rupert Clarke, Esq., Coroner, when the following additional evidence was given:--

John Charles Thorn, of the Royal Military College band, stated he was at the Foresters' public house, and walked by the side of the Farrier-major's horse, and led his horse. He saw Lockhart take hold of the farrier-major's horse, and was dragged; he saw a man take some water in his forage-cap, and give it to one of the men, but

could not say who it was. Deceased sometimes held by the horse's tail, sometimes by the strap, and at other times he would walk on alone. Some time after, the farrier-major accused the deceased of drinking, or concealing in his clothes some liquor. The farrier-major told witness that deceased had been up drinking all night, and if he did not make him a prisoner, he should be made one himself for allowing him to get drunk on the march, which he really had not done. They were about three miles from Wokingham when Lockhart gave up, and he appeared to be wandering. He did not hear the farrier-major swear at him, nor did he see the farrier-major ride his horse against him.

Major George Sullivan, of the Scots Greys, stated that he marched the men with bad horses half an hour in advance of the main body, under the command of Farrier-Major Gray. Passed them about six miles from Wokingham. The farrier-major had been in the regiment upwards of twenty years, and it was his duty to get the men and horses along the road, and on no account to allow a sick horse to be ridden; he held the office of farrier-major quite a dozen years, and bore an irreproachable character. Witness saw Lockhart on parade, and should not have allowed him to march had he been drunk. The farrier-major was not allowed to put a man in the cart except under the circumstances of his being ill.

Bernard Coin, an officer's servant, said he was examined on Thursday last, and remembered stating that the farrier-major pushed his horse against Lockhart, about eight miles from where they started, and he (witness) was only a hundred yards from Gray, during the march, who dismounted, and pulling him up told him he would give him a rest upon condition that he cleaned his horse when he arrived in the town; he did not then complain of sickness. Coin was 30 yards from the farrier-major when he swore at Lockhart, and said he was "a d---- rascal."

Alexander MacDonald was recalled, and stated that when he last saw Lockhart he was lying down under the embankment on the road side, and that a short distance before he laid down he complained of being very tired, but he did not see him take hold of the tail of the farrier-major's horse.

John Loader was also recalled, and said that he had charge of two prisoners from Farnham to Wokingham, and had some drink with them on the roadside, for which the adjutant reprimanded him. Witness stated that he thought the verdict would be brought home on Friday afternoon, but did not remember saying "I hope to God the jury will bring in a verdict of manslaughter against the brute Gray," although he would not swear he did not use the expression.

Daniel Gray was re-examined, and stated that a cart came up the last time Lockhart laid down; and two prisoners, in charge of Corporal Loader, removed deceased, under the direction of witness; but he had no recollection of Loader suggesting that the cart should be emptied, and Lockhart put in it, although he had thought of putting him in, but being fearful that he might fall off and injure himself, he abandoned the idea. Witness held the horses belonging to the men in charge of the cart, whilst they tried to shake him up, so as to remove him and get him into the cart; whilst attempting to lift him, he threw himself up very much, and they were unable to lift him into the cart. He left Corporal Loader, Corporal Benrie, two men who drove the cart, and the two prisoners, with the deceased. He principally galloped after leaving Lockhart, until reaching Coin, who was taken sick near a gentleman's house, when two ladies came up and attended to him; it was about half an hour from the time he saw Lockhart, to the time of his arriving at Wokingham, where he saw the doctor and the colonel. The whole of the evidence having been gone through, the Coroner summed up, and the jury having deliberated for a considerable time, returned the following verdict:--

“Suffocation brought on by over-fatigue, being compelled by his superior officers to march a very long distance in a burning sun.”

Sat 23rd Aug

LAND AND ASSESSED TAXES

Tuesday next, at eleven o'clock, is fixed for hearing appeals against the assessment for the forest Divisions.

Sat 6th Sept

RAILWAY INTELLIGENCE STAINES, WOKINGHAM, AND WOKING

The half-yearly meeting of this Company was held on Friday at the London Tavern; Mr. J. Garrard in the chair.

The report stated that part of the line between Staines and Ascot was opened for passenger traffic on the 4th of June, and the remaining portion, from Ascot to Wokingham, on the 9th of July, and that the stations would soon be ready for goods and coal traffic. The directors were assured that the passenger traffic for a newly-opened line was satisfactory, and that as the goods traffic became developed they might expect a considerable increase in receipts. Temporary arrangement had been entered into with the London and South-Western Railway Company for working the line. No agreement had yet been made with the South-Eastern Railway Company as to running over their line from Wokingham to Reading; but the directors had the satisfaction of stating that they run their trains to Reading, and that they had every prospect of a friendly relationship with the South-Eastern Company. It would be remembered that the Staines, Wokingham and Woking Company applied to Parliament in 1855 for a junction at Reading with the narrow gauge of the Great Western Company, which bill was lost, being opposed by the Great Western and South-Eastern. The directors still look on this proposed junction as of the greatest importance to the line, and trust they will receive the cordial cooperation of the shareholders should they deem it necessary again to apply to Parliament for this purpose.

The capital account shows that £332,242 had been received to the 31st July, and £321,614 expended, leaving a balance of £3,428.

On the motion of the chairman the report was adopted.

Resolutions were passed appointing Mr. W. Prideaux an auditor of the company, in the room of Mr. T.M. Walford, resigned: re-electing Messrs. J. Garrard, R. Blanchard, R. Davis, A.T. Gordon, R.W. Kennard, and Colonel Salway, the retiring directors, and appointing a committee, consisting of Mr. J. Garrard, Mr. W. Mortimore, Mr. T. Lawrence, Mr. C.R. Colman, Mr. J.N. Smith and Mr. W. G. Taunton, to confer with the directors as to making arrangements with the Great Western Railway Company for a narrow gauge junction at Reading, and report thereon to a future meeting of the company.

On the motion of Mr. Arbuthnot, the best thanks of the meeting were voted to the chairman and director for the mode in which they had conducted the business of the company.

Sat 20th September

LIGHTING THE TOWN

We are happy to state that at the public meeting of the ratepayers held in the Town Hall, on the 12th inst, it was unanimously resolved to adopt the provisions of the Watching and Lighting Act, for the purpose of lighting only within the town, and the

requisite sum was voted for the purpose. Five inspectors have been appointed, who, we have no doubt, will carry out the details in a satisfactory manner.

MILITARY MOVEMENTS

On Friday and Saturday last, detachments of a Hussar Regiment, the “Queen’s Own” passed through our town, on the march from York to Aldershot. The last detachment comprised the headquarters of the regiment, with the band, which much delighted the inhabitants by playing into the town, and also on leaving on Monday morning. The band did not perform on Sunday, to the disappointment of numbers, who anticipated a musical treat.

CRICKET

The Wokingham cricketers brought their season to a close on Monday last, with a game between two elevens chosen from the members and their friends, including some of the veteran players, who, in days gone by, so well maintained the honour of the Wokingham Cricket Club. After an excellent game, the party supped at the Roe Buck Inn, and a most agreeable evening was spent. The club has had a very successful season, and we are pleased to say, the accounts bear a flourishing aspect for the next season.

Sat 11th Oct

LECTURE BY DR. CUMMING

We are gratified to announce that Dr. Cumming has consented to give a lecture in our Town Hall, on Wednesday evening next, at seven o'clock. Those who last winter had the pleasure of hearing this learned and eloquent divine, will doubtless be anxious to repeat the gratification then felt; whilst those who have not yet heard him will, we are sure, take this opportunity of listening to one of the most popular preachers of the present day in London. The Doctor's subject on this occasion is “The Bible;” and a collection (which we are confident, will be a liberal one) will be made at the close for the benefit of that most useful Institution, the Berks Reformatory School.

LITERARY INSTITUTE

The committee of the institution, we understand, are taking steps to provide lectures for the approaching season. The opening one will shortly be announced, and we trust their endeavours to provide instructive and interesting amusement occasionally during the winter evenings will be met by a liberal attendance of the inhabitants.

The Town Sessions will be held on Friday next, before the Recorder, George Clive, Esq., and the Town Justices, but at present there is no case for trial.

1857

Sat 10th Jan

LITERARY INSTITUTE

On Friday evening, the 2nd instant, Mrs. Balfour delivered a lecture to the members and their friends, in our Town Hall, on “The Most Remarkable Female Sovereigns,” and we are pleased so say that the hall was well filled and the lecture proved (as was

anticipated) an admirable one. It was delivered quite extemporally, in that graceful and expressive style for which Mrs. Balfour is so justly celebrated. Mrs. Balfour commenced by noticing the prejudice which, in ancient times, existed so strongly as to entirely exclude females from the throne, which rule being gradually relaxed was the means of showing that the reins of government could be safely entrusted to female keeping, and in some instances, as cited by the lecturer, countries had advanced more rapidly in greatness and power whilst under the sovereignty of females than at any other period. On this occasion Mrs. Balfour selected, as illustrations of her subject, James I, of Naples, Isabella of Castile, Elizabeth of England, and Mary of Scotland, giving a most interesting epitome of the principal events which marked the history of each of them, neither screening their faults nor unduly lavishing praise upon them. Mrs. B's remarks proved that she had carefully studied her subject, and evinced, throughout, much historical research. At the close of the lecture the President, J.L. Roberts, Esq., stated that this lecture was deemed by Mrs. Balfour to be only the first half of the subject, which she generally furnished in two lectures, whereupon the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Garrett, announced the wish of the Committee that Mrs. Balfour should favour the members of the institution, at her earliest convenience, with the concluding part.—a proposition which was received with the greatest enthusiasm by the audience, who are anxious to hear a continuance of such an interesting address.

Sat 21st Feb

PASSING A FORGED BANK NOTE

A man and a woman called at a grocer's shop in this town on Thursday, the 17th instant, and purchased goods to the amount of £3 7s., in payment of which they gave a Bank of England note for £5, receiving the change in money. The goods were sent to the railway station, and the parties left by the south Eastern train at 6.15 in the evening, in a first class carriage. The note, on being presented at a bank on the following Saturday, was at once detected to be forged, and is now in the possession of the Superintendent of Police here, who will be glad to hear any tidings of the delinquents who passed it. The man is about 45 years of age, tall, pale thin face, small dark whiskers, and agreeable in his manner. The woman wore a white straw bonnet, with black veil.

Sat 18th April

ELECTION OF ALDERMAN

On Easter Wednesday, according to ancient custom, the members of the Corporation attended divine service in our Parish Church, and then met in the Council Chamber, to choose an Alderman chief magistrate for the ensuing year, in the room of Mr. William Heelas, whose term of office expired on that day, when the unanimous choice of the Council fell on Mr. E. Dalley, who was thereupon elected to this honourable office.

TOWN SESSIONS

Our town sessions are appointed to be held on Friday next, the 24th inst., before George Clive, Esq., M.P., recorder, and the town justices; but we are pleased to say that at present the calendar is a blank, and therefore the business will be a mere matter of routine.

FOWL MARKET

We had a good supply of fowls on Tuesday last, for which very high prices were obtained, Mr. W. Lane, of Evendons Farm, Wokingham, sold one basket containing twelve fowls for 72s.—an average of 6s. per head.

Sat 20th June

ROBBERY AND INGRATITUDE FOR KINDNESS

About half-past five o'clock on the morning of Thursday night, as Police-constable Riddiford was passing near Bill Hill, he saw a man in a field changing his clothes. So unusual circumstance induced the constable to watch him, when the man observed that it was all right, and that he was changing his trowsers, as his others were too warm. The constable, after a few unsatisfactory answers, accompanied the man to the field gate, when he took to his heels, pursued by Riddiford, and after a sharp run across the country for a mile, the constable ran him down, and brought him to Wokingham.

He was wearing a pair of black cloth trowsers, and had with him three waistcoats, two handkerchiefs, a scarf, and a razor. These articles were soon identified as the property of Charles Dawkins of the "Anchor," at Wokingham, who had kindly kept the prisoner at his house for more than a week on account of his destitute condition. The prisoner having the previous night ascertained from Mrs. Dawkins that her husband would not be at home that night, took the things from the bedroom where he slept, and absconded, as Mrs. Dawkins discovered soon after five o'clock, on going to his room for the purpose of calling him up. Prisoner gave the name of Charles Neale, and was by the Alderman committed for trial at the next Sessions.

Sat 4th July

During the past week we have had two detachments of the Land Transport Corps billeted here, one night each, en route to the Camp at Aldershot. Each soldier had the charge of two horses; and the innkeeper complained, and not without reason, that so many horses should arrive at once, there not being adequate accommodation for them without much inconvenience, and in some cases expense.

FIRE

On Saturday afternoon last, about five o'clock, a shed belonging to T.R. Harman, Esq., situate a short distance from that gentleman's residence, was discovered to be on fire. Assistance was promptly rendered, and, with the help of the engine from Bear Wood, the fire was confined to the shed in which it originated, which was destroyed, as well as a quantity of hurdles, poles &c., near. A hayrick standing close by ignited, but by cutting away the burning part, the remainder was saved, although much damaged by the water. A little boy named Richard Cheeseman, having been seen to leave the shed just before the fire broke out, he was apprehended, and on Monday brought before J.E. Leveson Gower Esq., when he stated that his parents sent him for some lucifers, that he took some into the shed, struck one on a piece of wood, and threw it down on some furze there, which caught fire, when he was frightened, and ran home. The boy being scarcely eight years of age, and there being no doubt as to the truth of his narrative, he was dismissed, after the magistrate had suitably addressed him, pointing out the dangerous consequences that might have resulted from such heedless conduct; the father of the boy was also cautioned, for permitting so young a child to have access to such dangerous things as Lucifer matches.

Sat 25th July

ELEVEN MEMBERS OF THE WOKINGHAM CRICKET CLUB V. TWENTY-TWO

This interesting match was played on Thursday, July 16th, for the benefit of Mr. Rhoades, who has been a well-known cricketer in this part for a number of years, and who still enters into the game with as much spirit as ever. The day was fine, and there was a large company on the field to partake of a cold collation provided by Mr. Rhoades, while good many took tickets who were unable to attend. The eleven scored 115 in the first, and 113 in the second; the Twenty-two scored 77 in the first innings, and 15 in the second, with four wickets to go down, time not allowing the game to be entirely played out. Messrs. J. Lane, May, and Baldwin batted in their usual good style. These gentlemen this season have exhibited an improvement upon last year in their batting, and their number of runs has averaged about 20 an innings, at present there are others, however, who do not seem so well up to the mark as last year.

On the side of the Twenty-two, the names of Messrs. Dalley, Beechey, and H. Lane must be mentioned as being very promising players. Mr. H. Lane particularly distinguished himself as wicket keeper. At the conclusion of the game, the party retired to Mr. Rhoades where a very pleasant evening was spent.

CRICKET

The return match between the Wokingham Royal Forest and the Marlow Clubs, was played on the Wellington Ground, Wokingham, on Wednesday last, and proved a most interesting game, although time would not allow of its being played out, which was a subject of much regret. The Marlow gentlemen went first to the wickets, and succeeded in scoring 59 runs. The Wokingham Club obtained only 39 in their first innings. The Marlow Club, in their second innings, obtained 125 runs, this leaving the Wokingham Club 145 runs to obtain.

This, the latter commences doing in fine style until evening coming on, the stumps were drawn, the Wokingham gentlemen having run up a score of 68 runs, with the loss of only three wickets, and two of their best players well in; it being the general opinion at this time that the batting was rapidly getting the mastery of the bowling. True cricketing feeling was displayed throughout, and a general wish expressed that they might meet and fight the battle over again.

Sat 19th Sept

POST OFFICE

It may not be known to many of our readers that, by a very recent alteration in the conveyance of the mails from this place, a considerable extension of the time for the posting of London letters in the evening has been granted to the public; a matter to many of great convenience and importance. The bags for all places included in the Farnborough mail, close as before at 6 p.m., but the London letters are now taken to Reading, and the office is open until 7..20 free, and until 7.40 on payment of an extra penny, and all letters for the reading mail, if posted by the same time as the London letters mentioned above are despatched with them, and consequently reach their destination by the first delivery next morning, but those posted later in the evening are sent as formerly by the next morning's mail

CRICKET

The closing game of the season of the Wokingham Royal Forest Club is fixed for Wednesday, the 30th inst, when the members will play a match between the Town

against the Parish and District players; and an interesting contest is expected. In consequence of the shortness of the days, it has been resolved to pitch the wickets at half-past nine, the game to commence at ten o'clock precisely.

At seven o'clock the members and their friends will sup at the Bush Inn.

Sat 3rd Oct

THE INDIAN MUTINY

We have much pleasure in stating that, on the requisition of some of the chief inhabitants, the Alderman, Mr. Edward Dalley, has convened a public meeting to be held at the Town Hall, on Thursday next, at 12 o'clock, for the purpose of considering the best means of cooperating in this noble effort as general throughout the country, to relieve the terrible distress and misery caused by the Indian mutiny, and we are convinced that from the strong feeling of deep sympathy universally felt, the meeting will be well attended by our townspeople and neighbouring residents.

CRICKET

On Wednesday last, the Wokingham Royal Forest Cricket Club brought a highly successful season to a close with an excellent match amongst the members, the sides being divided into the Town Players, against the Parish and District. In the first innings the Town scored 71, whilst their opponents were able to mark 122; but in the second innings of the District players, the whole of their wickets were lowered for the trifling number of 26 runs; when darkness coming on this interesting game was unavoidably brought to conclusion.

At seven o'clock the members, to the number of 36, sat down to an excellent dinner at the Bush Inn, served up in Mrs. Lane's invariably good style. Edward Weight, Esq., the president of the club officiating as chairman, whilst the vice-president, T. Cooke, Esq., filled the vice-chair when, after the usual patriotic toasts, the secretary reported that the club continues in a flourishing state both as to numbers and finances, and that next year the club will, no doubt, be found in a condition to compete with almost any in the county.

Sat 10th Oct

THE FAST DAY

Wednesday last was very decorously observed in our town, the shops being entirely closed and all business suspended, whilst the church and various chapels were filled by attentive congregations, and suitable discourses were delivered. On Thursday, a public meeting was held in the Town Hall, presided over by the Alderman, Edward Dalley, Esq., when resolutions were unanimously adopted to carry out a house to house collection, by means of a committee appointed for the purpose, to raise funds in aid of the national subscriptions for the relief of the sufferers from our terrible mutinies, and several subscriptions were promptly announced. The amount to be realised, we are confident, will show the deep sympathy of our townspeople with their distressed fellow countrymen.

MARKET

For several weeks past our market for stock has shown a very considerable improvement. The supply being large with an excellent attendance of buyers and dealers. The supply of fat calves in particular has been very large lately, and on Tuesday last some prime calves realised 5s. a stone. The poultry market was also a scene of much animation; the large supply of geese as usual at this season being

rapidly bought up. Upon the whole the market for all kinds of stock has attained a much higher importance than was at first anticipated, and must, we are sure, be found of much utility to the whole neighbourhood.

Sat 31st Oct

THE INDIAN RELIEF FUND

The collections in aid of this fund in our town and neighbourhood are now nearly got in, and the committee being desirous of closing the account with as little delay as possible, trust that any intending to subscribe will at once pay the same. We shall probably be enabled in our next impression, to announce the total sum realised, which will, we are assured, evince the cordial sympathy of our town and neighbourhood with this truly benevolent and national undertaking, and prove a source of much satisfaction to those gentlemen who have so zealously laboured for its success.

LITERARY INSTITUTION

The committee are much gratified in announcing that the opening lecture of the present season will be delivered on the evening of Thursday next, at the town Hall, by Mr. J.G. Barford, of this town, surgeon, who has kindly responded to the request of the committee, by consenting to deliver a lecture for the benefit of the institution. Mr. Barford's subject is "Life," and we are convinced it will prove highly interesting to his auditory.

Sat 7th Nov

LITERARY INSTITUTION

The late period of the week (Thursday evening) fixed for the delivery of the lecture by Mr. J.G. Barford, on "Life," precludes us from giving a report in our present impression, but we hope in our next to notice more fully (as it deserves) the principal feature of this very interesting address.

Our annual November Pleasure Fair was held on Monday and Tuesday last, and on the first day, from the fineness of the weather, it was attended by a very numerous company; we observed a much larger number of shows and standings than usual, and we have no doubt they were well patronised. On the evening of Tuesday, a very heavy fall of rain quickly cleared the Market-place, thereby much damaging the prospects of the proprietors of the various amusements exhibited. Only two cases of robbery were reported, in one of which the thief was cleverly captured without the chance of securing his ill-gotten booty.

Wokingham News from the Reading Mercury

(1858 to 1938)

(All news from the Reading Mercury unless otherwise indicated)

1858

Sat 16th Jan

THE MARRIAGE OF THE PRINCESS ROYAL.

The celebration of this auspicious event, we are happy to state will be commemorated here on Monday, the 25th inst., in a manner befitting proverbial loyal character of our town. The matter has been taken in hand and the arrangements confided to the management of a committee selected from the most efficient and

reputable inhabitants. There will be an invitation ball in the Town-hall in the evening which we are sure will be fully attended, as the greatest care and taste will be exercised to render it in every respect worthy the occasion.

It is intended also to roast a fat ox whole in the Market-place, to be given away amongst the poor of the parish of Wokingham, and should the contributions prove sufficient, other proposals for adding to the amusements as well as the distribution of meat, will be carried out.

Sat 23rd Jan

THE ROYAL WEDDING

The preparations for celebrating the happy event in our town, we are pleased to say, are nearly completed, and Monday next will indeed be a day long to be remembered here. As we announced in our last, it is intended to roast a fat ox whole in our Market-place, the beef to be given to the poor, and the Committee intend issuing tickets, entitling the holder to receive a portion, and also a loaf of bread with it.

The cooking apparatus built in the centre of the Market-place, is an object of much curiosity, and has been erected and fitted up gratuitously by our patriotic tradesmen. The doomed ox gaily decorated with ribbons, was exhibited in the market on Tuesday last.

The arrangements for the ball are also perfected, and from the eager demand for the tickets our old Town-hall will, we are sure, be graced by one of the most loyal numerous assemblies of the votaries of Terpsichore ever congregated within its walls. We trust, as far as practicable, business will be suspended on the day, in order that as many as possible may participate in the enjoyment of the festivities provided.

Sat 23rd Jan

Annual meeting of the Literary Society.

Sat 20th Feb

WINDSOR FOREST TURNPIKE TRUST

At the last meeting of the Trustees of the Windsor Forest Turnpike Road we understand it was resolved at once to erect a new turnpike gate across the road near Martin's Heron in the parish of Winkfield about a mile from Bracknell towards Ascot.

Announcement of the annual meeting of the Wokingham Auxiliary Biblical Society to be held on Monday evening next at the Town Hall.

Sat 13th March

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER

We understand that several of the inhabitants of this town who regard the existing law which prohibits these marriages, as a source of much inconvenience and injustice, have prepared petitions to the Houses of Parliament, setting forth the grounds on which their objections are founded, and praying that such a measure may be passed as to legalise marriage under the circumstances, and for the reasons therein set forth, they have placed one of these petitions at Mr. Gotelee's library for signature, by those who entertain similar views on the subject. It is requested that it may be signed in the course of the ensuing week, in order that it may be presented the following week, when Viscount Bury intends to bring the subject under the consideration of the House of Commons.

Sat 13th March

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Sat 27th March

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER

The petition to the Legislature from this town, praying that the legality of these marriages might be secure by the authority of Parliament, which during the previous week had been very numerously signed, were on Monday last forwarded by the promoters for presentation; and they were much gratified at the result of the division on Tuesday evening, on Lord Bury's obtaining leave to introduce the Bill.

Sat 8th May

CRICKET

The Wokingham Club, mustered for the first time this season, on Wednesday last, on the Wellington Cricket-ground, and we were pleased to find so large a number present. An excellent game was played between two elevens of the club, and some very good play was shown, especially in the batting, which was acknowledged to be first-rate, and superior to the bowling. We hear that a match with the Henley Club is on the *tapis*; but let who will oppose the Wellington club this season, they will find they have undertaken no slight work.

In the evening there was a goodly muster (about 45) to partake of an excellent dinner at the Bush Inn, the party being ably presided over by Edward Weight, Esq., the president of the club. After paying due honour to the usual patriotic toasts Mr. Weight rose, and after paying a most justly deserved compliment to Mr. William Goodchild on behalf of the members of the club, begged to present him with a very handsome silver pint cup of elegant workmanship, as a token that the club heartily esteemed the favour of enjoying the gratuitous use of Mr. Goodchild's meadow, known as the Wellington-cricket ground, as well as the kind assistance invariably shown by Mr. Goodchild to the club. The cup bears an inscription, engraved in the centre to the same effect. Mr. Goodchild in feeling and suitable language assured the company how highly he prized their present and the kind feeling shown to him. The cup was at once brought into service and rapidly passed round filled with wine, each of the company heartily drinking to the health of Mr. Goodchild. Several excellent songs were sung, and a most pleasant evening was spent, thus inaugurating the cricketing campaign in a manner that will long be remembered with satisfaction by all who were present.

THE HIGH STEWARD

We have to announce that Lord Braybrooke, who has been elected High Steward, Wokingham, in the room of his late lamented father, will attend on Wednesday next, to take the oaths of office. His lordship is expected to arrive at the railway station soon after twelve o'clock when he will be met by the Aldermen, recorder, and corporation, who will conduct his lordship to the Town-hall, where the oaths will be administered. We understand that the Alderman (James Twycross, Esq.) will afterwards entertain his lordship and his colleagues in the corporation at a luncheon, at his private residence.

Sat 22nd May

PROPOSED REBUILDING OF THE TOWN HALL.

For some time past a project for re-building of the Town-hall has been under consideration, but we have abstained from publishing any particulars until the intentions of the projectors had assumed such a shape as to warrant our doing so. That, we are happy to say, is now the case and therefore present the following particulars to our readers, and heartily commend the subject to their consideration and support. The dilapidated condition of the present building has long been a source of much regret to the inhabitants, but the want of the necessary funds to rebuild was found to be such an impediment that it was feared no effectual remedy could be provided; and, on the Corporation consulting an experienced architect, his report showed that any effectual reparation was impracticable, and that to expend money for the purpose would be utterly useless.

For some time past the County Police Committee have been seeking for a suitable site, at Wokingham, on which to build a police-station for the Forest division, and it was suggested that a portion of the site of the present hall would be most suitable for the purpose. The Corporation accordingly negotiated with the police committee, with a view that an arrangement might be made for blending the two objects in one erection. At the last Quarter Sessions an offer of the police committee was confirmed, by which they proposed to give the sum of £200 on condition that suitable accommodation was provided in the new building for the police requirements. The corporation are naturally anxious not to lose so eligible an opportunity of rebuilding their hall, which can be accomplished for £1,500 in addition to the county grant.

The plan embraces excellent accommodation in every respect, including a commodious Town-hall, available for municipal purposes as well as for holding the sessions of the county magistrates, and public meetings, a council chamber, a news and reading room, and accommodation for persons attending the markets, &c. To accomplish this desirable end, the funds in the hands of the corporation will supply about one third of the amount, and they earnestly request the co-operation and the liberal assistance of their fellow-townsmen, and the residents in the neighbourhood, in raising the remaining portion of the amount.

The plans will be submitted to a public meeting, in the Town-hall, on Wednesday next, the 26th inst., at three o'clock in the afternoon, when we hope there will be a large attendance to lend a unanimous support to carry out an object of so much importance to our town; as the inconvenience of the present antiquated building has long been felt, whenever on public occasions it has been used, as the lowness of the ceiling, rendered it unfit for musical entertainments, and insufferable hot when many were present; whilst at balls, public dinners, sessions, and meetings the want of retiring rooms, and often necessary conveniences, has been always the subject of complaints and annoyance.

In the new building all these inconveniences, of course are obviated, whilst avoiding any unnecessary ornamentation, an erection of elegant design and taste will reflect much credit on Wokingham, and be found in keeping with the requirements of our increasing and improving town and neighbourhood. We will only add, at present, that communications may be addressed, and subscriptions remitted, to Mr. Edward Roberts, the town clerk

Sat 29th May

PROPOSED REBUILDING OF THE TOWN HALL

According to the announcement, a public meeting of the inhabitants was held in the afternoon, in the Town Hall, for the purpose of considering the propriety of adopting measures secure the rebuilding of the Town Hall in connexion with a County Police Station. There was a large number of persons present. Mr. Alderman Twycross presided. On the bench were Robert Gibson, Esq., Capt. L. Gower, R. Falconer, Esq., Messrs. W. Heelas, J.L. Roberts, W. Wheeler, T. Cooke and E. Dalley. There were in the room Mr. John Heelas, Mr. Weeks, Mr. T. Dunning, Mr. Barford, Mr. Baker, Mr. Goodchild, Mr. Watts, Mr. Meloy, &c., &c.

On the table was placed the design, prepared by Mr. J.B. Clacy, the county surveyor. It is in the Elizabethan style of architecture, and proposes to retain the old admired chimney. This, with the clock and bell turret, ninety feet in height, would have an effective and handsome appearance on entering the town from each direction. The place comprises on the ground floor, large space for covered market, room for mechanics and literary institution, fire engine house; also, guard room, cells for prisoners. Offices and yard for the county police. On the first floor are situate, the commodious Town-hall, with orchestra and suitable conveniences, the council chamber, room for Savings Bank, with strong room adjoining, and rooms and dormitories for the constabulary.

Mr. Alderman Twycross opened the proceedings of the meeting by saying, the dilapidated state of the Town Hall had long been a subject of deep concern to the Corporation, and an opportunity then presented itself of rebuilding that fabric in connexion with a County Police Station. On the state of the building being brought under the notice of the authorities they consulted an experienced architect, whose report, demonstrated that any effectual reparation was impracticable and that any outlay with that object would be quite nugatory. Soon after this report was obtained, it was made known to the corporation that the county intended to erect a police station in the town, for the Forest division, and it was suggested that if the site of the Town Hall, or a sufficient part of it, could be made available for the purpose, the corporation would, by acting in concert with the county, be enabled to secure the required accommodation at a much less cost by undertaking to rebuild the hall themselves. A negotiation with the police committee was accordingly entered into, with a view to carry out the objects of both parties, which resulted in the offer by the committee to procure a grant of £2,000 on condition that the site was properly conveyed to the county, and suitable accommodation provided for the police in the new building. This arrangement was confirmed at the last Quarter Sessions. The corporation are naturally anxious not to lose so eligible an opportunity of rebuilding the hall. They are advised that, without entrenching on the requirements of the police committee, they can accomplish that object at a cost of £1,500, in addition to the county grant. The sum would enable them to obtain a commodious hall, available as well for municipal purposes as for holding the Petty Sessions of the County Justices of the division, and also for public meetings, a council chamber, a news and reading room, and

accommodation for those attending the markets. The materials of the old building, together with funds at the command of the corporation, will supply one third of this amount, but they must understand that the corporation will dip their hands in their pockets to raise that one third, and they earnestly request the co-operation and assistance of their fellow townsmen and the residents in the district in raising the remaining portion for so desirable an object. The meeting was called for considering the subject, and raising subscriptions in aid of the required fund.

J.L. Roberts was called upon to move the first resolution. After a preamble about the High Steward, which had nothing to do with the Town Hall, he came to the principal object of the meeting. The circular issued by the corporation informed the town of the position in which they were placed as regarded that hall. It was not at all adapted for the increasing wants of the town. He proposed that it was desirable that the offer of the county to co-operate in rebuilding the Town Hall in connexion with the County Police Station be accepted. This was seconded by Mr. Weeks. The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried.

Mr. Heelas proposed "That a subscription list be forthwith opened to carry that object into effect." He said they had not begun without funds. The county had made a grant of £2,000; the Corporation had £200 at their command; the old materials would realise £200; in addition to that, they had got, or hoped to get, from the surplus fund of the Savings Bank £150; and their Lord High steward had that day given £100. (Applause). The Corporation, feeling themselves bound to do what they could, offered £100. Then their highly-respected county Member, R. Palmer Esq., had given them £50. (Applause). There was no doubt that the new building would be a great advantage to the town and neighbourhood. Mr. Dunning seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. Wheeler proposed the next resolution:- "That a committee, consisting of the corporation, and six other inhabitants of the town, with power to add to their number, be appointed to collect subscriptions. Mr. John Heelas seconded the motion, and it was agreed to. The committee for the town were: Messrs. Gotelee, Dunning, Weeks, W. Ifould, George and J. Heelas.

Mr. Dally proposed that the plans before the meeting be adopted. They had been looked through very carefully and found to embrace all that was wanted. Mr. T. Cooke seconded the proposition.

A little discussion took place as to whether it was not premature to adopt the plans without time being given for their inspection by the public. On the motion of the Rev. C.H. Harcourt, it was arranged to adjourn the meeting until Monday next, so that the plan, may, in the meantime, be inspected by the public.

The following subscriptions were given at the close of the meeting:-Robert Gibson £20; J.L. Gower £25; R. Falconer £10; Messrs Heelas & Son £50; Mr. T. Dunning £10; Mr. Goodchild £10; Messrs. Soames & Cooke £5; Messrs. Weight & Barford £5 5s. The subscriptions, including the munificent donation of £100, from the Lord High Steward, amounted to £400.

In the evening about 60 of the principal, professional gentlemen and tradesmen of the town met in the hall and enjoyed a few hours together in the most convivial manner.

Sat 29th May

INSTALLATION OF LORD BRAYBROOKE, AS HIGH STEWARD OF
WOKINGHAM

Wednesday last was quite a gala day at Wokingham, for, in addition to the interesting ceremony of the installation of Lord Braybrooke as the High Steward of the town, some of the clubs celebrated their anniversaries, and there was consequently a good number of holiday folks congregated together. In the early part of the week the weather was very wet and unfavourable, but on Tuesday night an agreeable change occurred, and the next morning was as fine and promising as could be desired..... Throughout the whole day the sun shone brilliantly, and gave a zest to the proceedings of the interesting occasion.

The newly-elected High Steward having intimated his intention of arriving by the mid-day train from London, the Corporation issued handbills, inviting the inhabitants to meet at the Railway Station, and join them in giving a cordial welcome to the Noble Lord. The cheerful weather exerted an influence upon the people, and long before noon, some hundreds had assembled in the station-yard.

Mr. Alderman Twycross, accompanied by members of the Corporation, wearing their robes of office, and preceded by the serjeant-at-mace, subsequently arrived, and took up their position on the platform. It was nearly half past twelve when the South-Western train reached the station. Lord Braybrooke, having alighted, was most cordially welcomed by the Alderman and Corporation, and the cheers proceeding from the crowd were thoroughly enthusiastic. A procession having been formed, it moved on towards the town in the following order:--

The Sunninghill Band
Members of the Roebuck Benefit Club
Superintendent Bostock
Privates of the County Police
Odd Fellows' Society, with their regalia
Sergeant at Mace
Alderman Twycross, Lord Braybrooke
And Hon. Mr. Neville
Members of the Corporation, and Clergy.
Inhabitants of the Town

In Broad-street, the children from the different schools, numbering upwards of 500 were arranged on either side of the road, bearing small banners and flags, and the procession passed between them. The cheers of welcome given by the juveniles were graciously acknowledged by his Lordship, who was the object of their attention. The procession reached the Town Hall a little before one o'clock, and then formalities connected with the installation were gone through. Seats in the upper part of the hall were occupied by the Alderman, Lord Braybrooke, the Corporation, the Hon. Mr. Neville, Robert Gibson Esq., the Rev. Thomas Morres, Rev. W. Hirst, Rev. Horace Roberts, Rev. S. Slocock, & c. &c.

(pages of long speeches followed)

The festive party broke up about three o'clock, and Lord Braybrooke having taken a farewell of the company, left for Reading to proceed by express train to town.

Sat 5th June

Ditto plus John Walter's contribution of £100.

Sat 12th June

REBUILDING OF THE TOWN HALL

We are happy to report that the committee appointed to carry out the re-building of our Town-hall, continue to receive such assurances of support as to render the success

of the scheme a certainty. Eight architects have been selected and applied to for designs to be sent in for the consideration and approval of the inhabitants from which to accept one for adoption. Since our last several handsome contributions have been received, including £50 from the Marquis of Downshire, T.C. Garth Esq., £50, the hon. P.P. Bouverie, M.P. £21, George Barker Esq., £21, Elliot Morres, Esq., Sir Edward Conroy, Bart., £10, Mr. Edward Lane £10. The committee have arranged that members of their body shall wait on every inhabitant in the town and parish to receive donations and we shall probably be able to publish in our next Paper the list of contributors showing how handsomely the public have come forward to secure the successful realisation of the desirable object in view.

Sat June 26th

BICYCLE RACE

A bicycle race, under the auspices of the Wokingham Cycling Club, took place on Wednesday evening, the course selected being from the "Two Poplars" Inn to the letter-box at Finchampstead and back, a distance of almost five miles. There were 15 starters, the racing being against time and handicapped, two leaving the starting point together. The three following were declared the winners:- F.J. Wells 1 (18 m 10s., allowed 2m.); R. Simmons 2 (18m 12s., allowed 1m); W. Scribbens 3 (17m 20s.). The quickest time made by the unsuccessful competitors was 16m 30s., and the longest 21m 35s. The first prize consisted of a silver-plated pint tankard; a pair of plated nut-crackers was the second, and the third was a pair of hair brushes and case.

The Rev. J.F. Llewelyn was judge; Mr. W. White starter, and Mr. H. Butler referee, and Messrs White, Rednall and Butler acted as handicappers. A smoking concert was afterwards held at the "Bush" Hotel, the Mayor (Ald. Heron) in the chair.

Sat 31st July

TOWN HALL AND COUNTY POLICE STATION

The committee appointed for the purpose of carrying out this scheme, having met with such flattering support from the public, in collecting the funds necessary for the object in view, have since been engaged in obtaining the most suitable plan for the building. For this purpose, seven architects were selected, who were invited to send in designs, and on the 16th instant these gentlemen delivered their drawings, and, taken as a whole they certainly reflect great credit on their authors' abilities, and show that much care and attention must have been bestowed on their production. The following are the names of the competitors:- Mr. J.B. Clacey, Mr. W. Brown, and Messrs. Poulton and Woodman, of Reading; Mr. Horace Jones, Mr. C. Fowler jnr., Mr. J. Turner, and Messrs. Judge and Winstanley of London. The drawings are all in sepia, and accompanied by block plans, and it is really surprising how excellently some of them succeed in the difficult task of harmonising the two dissimilar objects in the same design, so as to present an attractive exterior on all sides, a point of great importance, seeing that the building will be erected in the Market-place. The designs are arranged in the Town Hall for the inspection of the subscribers, and attracted much attention, the only regret expressed being that after so many beautiful designs had been prepared, only one could be accepted. However, after a careful examination, the committee have selected Messrs. Poulton and Woodman's plan, provisionally on its meeting with the sanction of the police committee, and that it can be carried out for the limited sum (£3,500) in hand, and it is a source of much satisfaction to the committee, to find that their choice is ratified by the approval of a large majority of the subscribers. The design presents a beautiful Gothic exterior, with a very light and elegant clock tower, and we are sure that it will not only a great ornament, but of great

utility from its admirable internal arrangements, comprising as it does all the requirements of the town, and also of the county police committee. We earnestly trust that no obstacle may occur to prevent the early commencement of the building, which, when completed, will form so great an ornament to our town.

Sat 11th Sept

TOWN HALL AND COUNTY POLICE STATION

The committee appointed to carry out this scheme, having as we announced some time since, selected the design of Messrs. Poulton and Woodman, architects of Reading, as the one best suited for the purposes required, resolved to invite offers from eight builders of repute, and they were invited to tender for the execution of the works, according to the working specifications of Messrs. Poulton and Woodman. Five tenders were delivered by the specified time; and on the 2nd instant, at a meeting of the committee, it was resolved unanimously that the tender of Mr. Woodroffe, builder, of Reading, (being the lowest in amount, and also within the sum at the committee's disposal) should be accepted, so that as soon as the contract is signed, the works will be at once proceeded with, and the present building given up to the contractor. It is believed, that in the course of the ensuing week, the pulling down of the old hall will be commenced, as it is intended the new building shall, if possible, be covered in by the end of the year, and the whole completed by the 1st of June next, so that it must be acknowledged no time will be lost in carrying out this very important and desirable object.

Sat 18th Sept

FAREWELL BALL

This entertainment which we noticed in our last as being got up as a farewell party in our old Town-hall previous to its demolition, took place on Monday evening last under the efficient management of the committee of the Wokingham Cricket Club. The hall contained many very tasteful decorations and the aspect of the room when dancing commenced was very pleasing. The company numbered about ninety of the principal inhabitants of the town with several officers of the 36th Regiment of Aldershot. Dancing was kept up with untiring enjoyment until 4.00 a.m. The excellent music and the sociability of the whole party rendered this final ball a scene to be remembered with satisfaction.

1859

Sat 1st Jan

Messrs Weight and Barford of Wokingham are appointed surgeons to Wellington College. Mr. Barford who was formerly demonstrator of Chemistry at St. Bartholomew's Hospital is also appointed to deliver an annual course of chemistry lectures to the college students.

Sat 29th Jan

Wellington College was opened for students on the 20th January.

Sat 5th Feb

Wellington College was opened by Queen Victoria. (P8)

Sat 2nd April

TOWN HALL ACCIDENT

On Thursday morning last, shortly before nine o'clock, an accident occurred on the works at the new Town-hall, which, fortunately was not attended with serious results as might have been anticipated. Five labourers had just reached the top platform on the inside, each carrying a hod full of bricks, when a portion of the scaffold gave way precipitating the poor men to the ground. Two were comparatively unhurt, but the other three were much contused and shaken. Singular to relate, one of the labourers who had assisted to take his unfortunate comrades to the surgeons, had scarcely returned to his work when he lost his footing, from the slippery state of the wall (from the frozen snow) on which he stood, and was thrown a considerable distance and much cut and bruised. Mr. Noad and Mr. Barford, surgeons who promptly attended to the sufferers, two of whom were conveyed in a fly to the hospital, but after being attended to were enabled to be brought home, and we are glad to report they are doing well.

Sat 4th June

PRESENTATION OF A SILVER INKSTAND TO W C BEECHEY

A dinner took place at the Rose Hotel, on Thursday last, on the occasion of the dissolution of the society of Oddfellows, to which Mr Beechey had been Honorary Secretary for 15 years. The late members of the society expressed their esteem for him, by presenting him with a silver inkstand with a suitable inscription on it. The Chair was occupied by Edward Weight, Esq., the late treasurer of the society, and the vice-chair by Mr. John Simmons, of Waterloo. Many of the late members were present, also, many gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood who were desirous of expressing their high esteem for Mr. Beechey.

After the usual toasts, the chairman, in proposing the toast of the evening alluded, in the most eulogistic terms, to the many excellent qualities and rare abilities of their guest, and the hearty response with which it was met must have been most gratifying to him. The chairman in presenting the inkstand in the name of the members of the society, expressed his own personal respect, and that of all present for Mr. Beechey, and hoped the small token of this esteem for him would be handed down to his children, and children's children as proof of his high character.

Mr. Beechey, who was almost overcome by the continued plaudits, expressed his sense of the great honour they had done him, and hoped ever to deserve the respect that had been shown to him on this occasion. The evening terminated most happily, and as Mr. Beechey observed for him, as a red letter day in his calendar

Sat 4th June

A presentation of inkstand to W C Beechey at the Rose Hotel on the occasion of the dissolution of the Society of Oddfellows to which Mr Beechey had been Honorary Secretary for 15 years. The Chair was occupied by Edward Weight.

HOFFMAN'S ORGANOPHONIC BAND

This company gave a concert here on Tuesday evening last, in our National School Room to a rather numerous audience, who seemed well pleased, both with the performance of the band, and also Mr. Thurton's clever ventriloquism, introduced between the first and second parts of the musical programme.

Sat 29th Oct

TOWN SESSIONS

The learned Recorder addressed the Grand Jury, congratulating them on the orderly state of the town, as evinced by the fact of there being no case for trial, and then on the fact of the near approach to completion of their new Town Hall, the beauty of which he much admired, whilst the arrangements of the interior, he felt assured would in every respect meet their requirements, as a convenient Court for the transaction of their Sessions business. We may also add that we expect very shortly to be enabled to announce the completion of the interior, and the time fixed for the opening ceremonial.

Sat 12th Nov

NEW TOWN HALL

The rapid approach to completion of our new Town Hall having necessarily brought to a termination the labours of the contractors' workmen, it was felt by many of the inhabitants that a mark of appreciation should be shown of the uniformly orderly conduct of the men during the progress of the works. Accordingly a subscription was set on foot, and being headed by the members of the Corporation, in a very short time sufficient was realised to provide a supper and evening's entertainment, and on Monday last the party assembled and were met by several visitors at the Bush Inn, where an excellent repast was served up. Mr. Dalley presided, and a most agreeable evening was spent, the treat being most thoroughly enjoyed by its recipients, and they all acknowledged with much feeling their grateful sense of the kindness shown them: and we have no doubt they will long remember with pleasure the completion of their part of the building of the Wokingham Town Hall.

1860

Sat 31st March

The preliminary steps for the formation of Wokingham Rifle Corps were taken –30 volunteers entered their names. The corps is part of Forest Division Rifles.

Sat 9th June *Berkshire Chronicle*

OPENING OF NEW TOWN HALL

6th June 1860

Wednesday, 6th June, was quite a gala day at Wokingham, the handsome and ornamental new Town-Hall, which is quite an important feature in the town, being formally opened on that day by the High Steward of the town, Richard Cornwallis Neville, 4th Lord Braybrooke.

The old building had become so dilapidated that it was felt indispensable to erect a new hall, in which to conduct the public business of Wokingham. The idea was taken up with much spirit by the leading inhabitants of the town, and the gentry of the neighbourhood gave a liberal support to the undertaking. Combined with the building is the station for the Wokingham division of the County Constabulary, and in consideration of the advantages to be derived from this connection the fund also received material aid from the county. Before recording the events of the opening ceremony we will state briefly the general features of the building.

The walls are built of black, red and white brick, harmoniously arranged, and with considerable effect; the patterns of black bricks in the cornices and arches are of an elegant design. A degree of prominence is given to the Town Hall by an increased decoration in the windows and archways. The roofs are covered by green slates.

Considerable variety in the outline is caused by the ornamental towers over the entrances at each end of the hall, and the clock turret rising from the centre of the hall roof. The most striking feature of the of the external part of the building is the admirable workmanship of the brickwork, and the taste displayed in the arrangement of the various ornamental details, which reflects the highest credit on the contractors, who have so successfully carried out the intentions of the architects.

The chief feature of interest internally is the hall—a room 45 feet in length, and 25 feet broad. The council chamber at the south end can be opened to the hall by sliding doors, under a pointed archway. The framework of the roof is visible inside the hall, and is ornamental, with spandrels and curved timbers, stained and varnished. Considerable effect is given to the ceiling (which is arranged in panels) by coloured fretwork. Pendant gasaliers from the roof light the hall by night. The interesting and valuable portraits from the old hall are suspended against the walls, and the Recorder has presented the corporation with a handsome looking-glass, which has been placed over one of the chimney pieces. The furniture of the council chamber has been designed by the architects and admirably executed by Mr. Parsons of Wokingham.

The buildings comprise the Town Hall, with the usual offices: savings bank, mechanics institution, large covered market under the hall, a county police station, with prisoners' cells, and accommodation for the superintendent and constables and fire engine station.

The cost of the works has been between £3,000 and £4,000. Messrs Poulton and Woodman, of Reading, were the architects, and Messrs Wheeler (masons), and Mr. Woodroffe (carpenter), the contractors. The pictures have been admirably restored, and framed by Mr. Butler, of Reading.

As we have previously stated, Wednesday last (6th) was fixed for the opening of the new building, and the town presented a very gay and lively appearance. The High Steward, attired in military uniform, arrived by rail at about a quarter to one o'clock, and was received by the Alderman, J. L. Roberts, Esq., the members of the Corporation, and a large number of the inhabitants of the town, the band playing the National Anthem, and the bells of the old church ringing out a merry peal.

A carriage was in waiting to receive his lordship, and accompanied by the Recorder, F. A. Carrington, Esq., he proceeded therein to the Alderman's residence, followed by the band, which played a number of popular airs. Then came the emblem of civic authority—the mace—which was borne before the members of the Corporation, and a large number of the principal inhabitants of the town formed the rear of the procession. The streets were thronged with spectators, and extending from the hall down Broad Street, a row of school children was formed on either side. The union-jack floated from the roof of the hall, and the windows of the neighbouring houses were filled with spectators.

After a short stay at the Alderman's house, Lord Braybrooke re-entered the carriage which proceeded to the Town Hall followed by the procession in the same order as on coming from the station. Having alighted, his lordship entered the building and proceeded upstairs to the hall. This had been enlarged for the occasion by throwing back the doors and so giving the additional room to be occupied by the corporation as a Council Chamber. At the end a raised dais had been erected, and after cordially recognising some of the ladies present, his Lordship took his seat in the centre chair, with the recorder on his right, and the Alderman on the left.

The hall was crowded with a very fashionable audience, there being a great many ladies present, who appeared to take considerable interest in the proceedings. The platform was filled and surrounded by a large number of the most influential country

residents, the members of the corporation, and other inhabitants of the town. Among those present we observed the High Sheriff of the county (Sir C. S. P. Hunter, Bart.), Sir E. Conroy, Bart., Sir E. Hulse, Bart., the Rev. Sir J. W. Hayes, Bart., Archdeacon Randall, The Rev. T. Morres (Corporation Chaplain), Captain L. Gower, R. Gibson, Esq., T.C. Garth, Esq., J. Walter, Esq., M.P. Charlton Esq., G. Barker, Esq., R. Palmer, Esq., E. Kinnersley, Esq., Major Court, W. C. King, Esq., J. Simonds, Esq., (Sindlesham), the Rev. A. A. Cameron, R. Garrard, Esq., Colonel Fraser, Rev. H. Roberts, Rev. E. W Benson, Rev. E. Parker (Waltham St. Lawrence) &c., &c.

The proceedings were opened by the reading of an appropriate prayer, by the Rev. T. Morres, invoking the Divine blessing on the building, on the magistracy who would have to dispense justice within its walls, and that it might be made a means for the moral and intellectual improvement of the inhabitants, while for all the greater gift of the knowledge of Christ was implored.

Speeches

The High Steward Richard Cornwallis Neville, 4th Lord Braybrooke then rose and said, "Ladies and gentlemen: it gives me very great pleasure to be able attend myself personally to discharge one of the duties of my hereditary office as High Steward of this ancient municipal corporation. I congratulate you on the day being finer than I could have hoped for at first, for it threatened on every side to have been a pouring wet day. I feel very much flattered by the welcome reception of so many ladies coming out to shed good omen on the opening of this hall. There are so many faces whom I ought to know from the associations of my earliest youth, when passed at Billingbear, in the days of my respected grandfather, that I feel quite at a loss to be able to put proper names to everybody's faces. But I recollect a great many of them, and I feel very highly honoured by their presence here—gentlemen as well as ladies (applause).

The office I hold is, as you are aware, an hereditary one, and it has been so since the days of King James the First. I have inherited it from many of my ancestors, who dwelt in this part of the country; and whatever unwillingness or modesty I may have in comparing myself with any of the good qualities of my ancestors, yet there is one quality in which I will I will not admit my inferiority, and that is in memory, which is equally hereditary with property and this office.

My memory carries me back to many days of my earliest youth, in which I remember many events which took place in my grandfather's time. Mr. Roberts was telling me the other day that he could recollect when in my grandfather's time, as long ago as 1798, there was a review on the terrace at Billingbear in the presence of George III., of some militia regiment. I cannot go back quite so far, but I remember that at the end of October 1824, I was on the terrace, and saw a review there of quite a different kind, although the troops were there, and in red coats. It was in the days of that respected baronet, Sir John Cope, then the gallant master of the hunt—(applause)—when I saw seven foxes paraded from the Warren copse to the other copse in my grandfather's presence (loud laughter).

If I were to mention all that I could recollect of the days of my earliest youth I should detain you a very long time, but I must now come to the point, which is to say that today this hall is opened (applause). It is a very great improvement on the ancient hall, for however picturesque the former Town Hall may have been this one is, I suppose, well adapted for the purpose, and comprises many different departments within its walls. I think it cannot fail to be opened under favourable auspices, with such a goodly company present, with the bright sun shining upon the scene; and

besides these—all the Berkshire roses have come out too (applause). I may only add that I myself have two very young buds with a maternal blossom (laughter and applause). I regret they are not present themselves. They have never been in Berkshire, but still, as being my wife and children, they are connected with Berkshire, and I have no doubt you would welcome them equally if they came, as I hope some day they will, to pay a visit to this town—(loud applause). I feel much obliged to all of you for all you have done for me in honouring me with your presence this day (loud applause).”

Recorder Mr F. A. Carrington said it was with pleasure and pride that he appeared in this hall for the first time as Recorder, and that he should be the first Recorder to appear in it. His connection with the town did not go back to the time of the old hall, although he knew that building, and certainly it was a very useful building to the Corporation and town for a good while. But like many good things it had worn out, and the steps that led up and down to the council chamber were so worn that he thought the first time he went down them, he should have went down head, foremost but luckily he was caught in time, and the accident did not happen (laughter).

The town of Wokingham had been an inhabited place for a great many centuries. The first mention he knew of the town was in the charter of Offa, King of the Mercians in 726, wherein he granted to his prefect—whether that was the alderman of Wokingham in those days he could not ascertain, because it was a Latin term, but probably it was the same—some rights appertaining to the church situate in the territory of the Wokings, which appeared to be a district inhabited by a Saxon tribe extending from Woking on the one side to Wokingham on the other.

The place seemed to have taken the same name, because as late as Queen Elizabeth’s charter, the town was called Wokingham, and as Wokingham was not a town, most probably this was the place mentioned previously. So far they traced the history of the town very far back, and in that state it seemed to have continued until the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and then there was an alderman under that name. Queen Elizabeth confirmed various privileges to the town which had existed from time immemorial—one of which was that her steward of the manor of Sonning was to administer the affairs of the town conjointly with the alderman. So things remained until the reign of James the First, when the town took a start very much in the right direction.

Through the influence at the court of James of an ancestor of their present High Steward—the then Lord Braybrooke, the present government charter was obtained. Then they had the Corporation exactly as they are now, with certainly as good as staff for the administration of the affairs of a town as could well be obtained. There was the Lord High Steward, and his duties were not defined by the charter, but it was easy to ascertain what they were. He was the medium of communication between the court at Windsor castle, the government and the town. These were duties not easily defined by charter but very well understood by persons acquainted with politics, either of that period or the present.

The next officer King James gave them was the Recorder, who he hoped was and had been of great use in the administration of justice, both civil and criminal, because he held sessions for the transaction of criminal business and also a local court for the adjudication in civil causes, not exceeding £50, so that if they required it, they could obtain a settlement of such cases there, and with the sessions they had not got many prisoners for trial at the assizes or elsewhere.

In addition Sir H. Neville gave them a local magistracy, which rendered it unnecessary for them to go to other places, and also granted the privilege of holding a

market and three fairs in the course of the year—which at one time were great marts for the transaction of business, but now in consequence of railway facilities they were not so much used. For these they were indebted to Sir H. Neville, and his influence with King James.

He found also that the corporation of Wokingham were jolly people—(laughter)—for within the last twelve month a list of healths to be drunk at the corporation dinner had been found, written on a piece of parchment, and they were much the same as are given at corporation dinners now, but there is one very peculiar feature in them. There are eight toasts in succession, and the ninth and tenth, or the two bottom ones, are the Royal Family and the Prince of Wales, and above them is put the Recorder. Now although he has heard and read that a living dog was better than a dead lion, yet they found here that a present “nobody and snob” was considered much better than absent royalty (laughter). But this did not turn out exactly to be so, because it would be seen, on reference to the list, that the royal toasts were put at a considerable distance from the others, as a supplementary addition or *addendum* and the humble suggestion he would give of the meaning was that, supposing the alderman was going to be very liberal with his wine, then he was to take these two toasts, and put them in their proper place, but if he was “scaly” or sparing of it, then they were to be omitted. But assuming as he did that a great deal of strong beer was drunk at corporation dinners, if every gentlemen had ten glasses of wine in addition put under his belt, the chances are that he would feel very comfortable (laughter). That was a specimen of the corporation of those days. They had not degenerated since (laughter), for he was happy to say from experience that the corporation dinners now were very good, and the hospitality excellent (laughter and applause).

Leaving James’ reign, he would observe with reference to the old hall, that he had been enabled to discover the date of the building within twelve years. In 1612, James the First gave the corporation the liberty and authority to build a hall, and in 1625, the corporation made a code of bye-laws, in which it was directed that all the corporation meetings were to be held in the Town Hall, and that every member of the corporation who did not attend in his black gown was to be fined 3s. 4d. for neglect. That was a fine he thought was never levied, for he believed they all came in their gowns, and looked very well, as he knew from experience (laughter and applause).

Later still they had a benefactor in the shape of a donor of pictures and there were some very beautiful paintings around the hall. There was some difficulty in ascertaining what many of them were, and greater difficulty to know by whom they were given. He should have ascribed them to Prince George of Denmark, the husband of Queen Anne, because he had taken the title of baron from their town; but the greatest evidence against this supposition was, that there was no portrait in the hall of Prince George. There were portraits of two of the Georges—George the First and George the Second—and that would lead them to suppose that some monarch gave the pictures, and if it were so, it would most probably be George the Second. But from all the information he was able to obtain, he could not discover who was the actual donor. Here, however, the pictures were in excellent condition and a great ornament to the Town Hall (applause). He believed he had now stated the most prominent features in the history of the town except one—viz., that they formerly had a mint or coinage there.

In the reign of Charles the Second a great many tradesmen in town used tokens. He had one which had been given him by Mr. Prince, grocer, of Reading, and bearing the name of William Anderson. This he had shown to many persons in the town acquainted with its former history, but no one knew such a person as William

Anderson, and thought it must have been coined somewhere else. However, from the researches of the clergyman in the parish register, it was found that William Anderson died in 1691, he being a person of great consideration, and from the inscription on the token it was also seen that he was an eminent grocer—so that beyond the other incidents he had enumerated, he had also given them credit for having a mint (applause).

The old hall stood well for 250 years. He hoped the career of the present building would not be so brief, because he had been in many halls of double the antiquity, and in quite good condition as when first erected. He thanked them for the attention they had given him, and congratulated them on having so handsome a building not only for municipal, but all other purposes (loud applause).

Alderman J. L. Roberts, said as the suggestion of rebuilding their town hall originated with himself, as he had taken great interest in the progress of the work, they would allow him to offer them a few words of congratulation on its final completion (hear hear and applause).

It was not to be supposed that they could have parted with their picturesque old building, which as the recorder had told them, was worn out, without a sigh (hear hear). But when they found out it was so worn out, and that it was impossible to make it adequate to the growing wants and interests of the town, then he thought that they should feel themselves highly benefited by the change effected (cheers). Some persons had raised an objection as to their having united with the county in the erection of this building; but when they considered that in the first place it afforded material aid to the funds—in the second place that it ensured the concentration of all the public business in the centre of the town (hear hear), and lastly, that it gave them the protection of the police—and as a magistrate of the town he might here observe that he could vouch for their most efficient and judicious care (hear hear)—then looking at these considerations it must be seen that the benefits accruing to them far outweigh the objection raised to that respect (hear hear); and looking at the advantages they had gained, they might dispense with all regret and objection (applause).

But there was one other objection to their proceeding with this building, and that was their funds, both public and private, being limited to a very narrow compass, they were therefore obliged to ask their neighbours to assist them in the undertaking. And it gave him very great pleasure to see present, not only his lordship, but so many other of the neighbouring gentlemen to had so kindly responded to their call, and he begged to express to them on the part of himself and the members of the corporation the deep sense they entertained of their kindness and liberality (loud applause).

He could only hope that they, as well as the magistrates of the town would find that hall adequate in all respects for the administration of justice; and he would also hope that the neighbouring gentry would continue to aid them in their endeavours to make that building conducive not only to the material prosperity of the town, but also to the moral and intellectual advancement of its inhabitants (loud and continued applause).

The High Sheriff, (Sir C. S. P Hunter, Bart.), then declared that the opening ceremony was concluded, and accompanied by the Recorder and Alderman and other gentlemen, proceeded to inspect the hall and other compartments of the building.

A large party then adjourned to the Alderman's house, where an elegant luncheon was provided; while the Grand Jury and others also sat down to luncheon at the Rose.

Although the morning was gloomy and threatening, yet the sun shone out brightly, and the weather was all that could be desired during the ceremony.

Sat 23rd June

NEW TOWN HALL

On Monday last the Savings Bank weekly meeting was held for the first time in the room in the new Town Hall, the use of which for bank purposes in the trustees' perpetuity. The room, which is in the corner of the new building facing the Rose Hotel, is large and in every way suited for the bank purposes and there the bank will be opened every Monday as usual from 12.00 till one o'clock.

Sat 30th June

NEW TOWN HALL

The looking glass presented by the Recorder Mr. Carrington, on the opening of the new Town Hall was a plate 21" by 91". It was supplied by Mr. Edward Foulkes, Russell Street, Covent Garden.

Sat 4th Aug

Death of F A Carrington Recorder

BAPTIST CHAPEL.

The work of demolition of this building was commenced on Tuesday last, and we hope the weather will prove more favourable for the erection of the new building than we have lately experienced. Mr. Wells of Reading has undertaken the contract. The Town-hall has been kindly given up for the purpose of holding their Sabbath morning and evening services; but although a spacious building it does not appear sufficient to accommodate the number of attendants.

EXCURSION TRAIN TO HASTINGS

The Special Excursion Train to Hastings on Tuesday last, was well patronised by our townfolk, in connection with the members of the Reading Philanthropic Institution. The weather was fortunately fine, and those who made up their minds for a holiday thoroughly enjoyed it.

Sat 18th Aug

THE LATE RECORDER

The late Frederick Augustus Carrington, Esq., F.A.B., Recorder of Wokingham, who died on the 30th ult, at the age of 58, was the only son of the late Rev. Caleb Carrington, formerly vicar of Berkeley, Gloucestershire, by Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Edward Rawlins, of Enford, Wilts. He was born in 1801, was called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1828, and for many years was a member of the Oxford circuit. He was appointed in 1858 to the Recordership of Wokingham, Berks, now vacant by his decease. We learn from the *County Families* that in 1858 he married Phillipina, only child and sole heiress of the late John Banning Esq. of Ogbourne St. George, and Burbage, Wilts.

The deceased gentleman was a Magistrate for Wiltshire, and a Deputy Lieutenant for Berkshire and represented an old Cheshire family of great respectability. His estates pass to the representative of his sister, Mary who was married in 1826 to John Marklove, Esq. Of Lullingworth House, Gloucestershire, but died in 1849—*Court News*

GAME LICENSES

W. Gotelee, bookseller, printer and stationer, Wokingham is authorised by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, Somerset House, to grant licenses to kill game

LITERARY INSTITUTE

The members have now taken possession of the commodious room at the north end of the Town Hall, on the ground floor facing Broad Street, which has been kindly granted them by the Corporation, the acceptance of which was resolved on at a meeting of the committee last week, and the thanks of the Institution duly accorded to the Corporate body for the very handsome offer. The Committee and Secretary are now furnishing it in a manner that will conduce very much to the comfort of the members frequenting the reading-room, and we trust that the Institution will long flourish in its new abode and that members will now increase now that the Institute is now brought to such an excellent and central situation.

Sat 1st Sept

THE WEEKLY HALF HOLIDAY MOVEMENT

The public meeting to which we alluded last week, was held on Monday last in the Town Hall, but was not very largely attended, still we noticed present the Alderman (J.L. Roberts Esq.) Captain Gower. The Rev. W. Hirst, Messrs W.W. Wheeler, F. Soames, J. Soames, J. Heelas, jun., J. Weeks, H. Ifould, W.W. Burr, W. Hollis, R. Briginshaw, and others.

The Alderman on taking the chair, explained the object of the meeting called in pursuance of the requisition to him; after which, Captain Gower, Mr. Weeks. Mr. F. Soames and Mr. W. Wheeler addressed the meeting, and the following resolutions were carried:- 1st. That it is desirable to set apart some time from business during each week, in order to afford to the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood, the means of recreation necessary for mental and physical improvement. 2nd. That a committee be formed for the purpose of waiting on those whose influence it is important to secure, as to the practicability of carrying out the foregoing resolution, and also what time in the week would be most convenient, and that the meeting be adjourned until Wednesday, the 12th of September to receive the report of the Committee.

It seemed the general opinion that although it might not be practicable to entirely suspend business at any particular period, still if it all would but earnestly second the movement, the opportunity could be easily afforded to everyone of availing themselves of a few hours of weekly recreation.

CRICKET

On Monday next, September 3rd, the Wokingham and Henley Clubs will play a match on the Wokingham ground, when some scientific play may be fully expected.

1861

Sat 5th Jan

J G Barford marries.

Sat 6th July

OPENING OF NEW BAPTIST CHAPEL

The increase which soon took place in the Baptist denomination in this town after the commencement of the ministry of the Rev. H.G. Scorey, together with the dilapidated state into which the old chapel had fallen, rendered it necessary to erect a new one. The corner stone was laid towards the close of last year, and the work having been recently completed, the sacred edifice was opened on Thursday last, by a series of services, which were attended by a very large number of persons many of whom came from the neighbouring towns and villages. The new buildings consisted of chapel 41½ feet wide and 51½ feet long, exclusive of lobbies; lecture room 32 feet by 20 feet, and a private vestry for the minister. The chapel is intended to seat 100 persons on the ground floor and 200 in a gallery over the entrance lobbies. The design is prepared to admit of side galleries being added when required when required. The style of the building is Italian, freely treated in the general arrangements and combination of the materials of which it is erected, viz. red and white bricks and stone, the white bricks being mostly in bands and arches. Stone being used to protect the projections of cornices, &c., and also as borders in the arches. All the windows have ornamental cast iron sashes glazed with ground glass. The interior of the building is very simple and chased. The baptistery is raised above the general level of the chapel, and is floored over, forming an extensive platform, upon which stands the minister's desk, a very beautiful piece of workmanship, and design, executed in pitch-pine, French polished. The platform is surmounted by an iron railing, painted in lavender colour and slightly relieved with gold. The floor of the chapel is made to incline from the entrance, by which plan the minister commands a view of the whole of the congregation. The seats are low with plain bench end, and are without doors. The most noticeable feature inside, is the segmental recessed termination behind the minister's platform with panelled and domed ceiling, designed, we are informed, not only to be ornamental, but useful acoustically. The centre part of the ceiling is painted, and slightly decorated with distempered lines and ornamental scrollwork at the intersections. The chapel is lighted by two elegant gasoliers, suspended from the ceiling, painted lavender colour, and relieved with gold. The whole of the wood-work internally is stained and varnished. The chapel is heated by Mr. Hadem's patent system with which is comprised a general plan for the ventilation. The grave-yard around has been re-arranged and the front fence removed, and four handsome piers erected in harmony with the style of the building. The total cost of the building, including heating, architect's commission, &c., will be about £1,600., and considering the size and the very substantial character of the work, it is one of the cheapest structures recently erected in this neighbourhood.

The design was prepared by Messrs. Poulton and Woodman, architects of Reading, and the works have been satisfactorily executed under their constant superintendence, by Mr. John Wells, of the Kings-road, in the same town, whose tender was accepted in a limited competition with the neighbouring builders.

The engagements of the day commenced with a prayer meeting at half-past six in the morning, and another was held from eleven to twelve o'clock. In the afternoon, service took place in the chapel, and there was a large congregation. The Rev. John Aldis, pastor of the Baptist Chapel, Reading, read a portion of the scripture, and offered up an earnest prayer, after which the Rev. W. Landels of the Diorama Chapel, Regent's Park, preached from the 12th v. of the 3rd ch. of Revelation, and his discourse, to use the words of a speaker at the evening meeting, "was marked by a power of illustration, purity of diction, loftiness of conception, and a sweep of thought which it was seldom the privilege of a congregation to listen to." The service having been concluded with a prayer by the Rev. T. Welsh, of Reading, the large

assemblance adjourned to a spacious marquee, upwards of 100 feet long, to partake of tea, and, despite the rain, which was at the time falling thickly, the company was so numerous that not only were all the seats filled, but every inch of standing ground was also occupied. The three tables which extended the entire length the tent, were loaded with an abundance of cake, &c., and a great number of vases of flowers were placed on them. The marquee itself was very tastefully decorated with evergreen and flowers, by ladies and others, and the gathering was altogether such as had not been witnessed in Wokingham for many years.

Further details follow....

Sat 6th April

ELECTION OF ALDERMAN

On Easter Wednesday, the Corporation attended Divine Service at our parish Church, and then assembled in the Council Chamber, to elect an alderman and chief magistrate for the coming year, when the Council unanimously chose Thomas Cooke Esq. To the honourable office, and then passed a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Ex-Alderman Roberts, for the able and hospitable style in which he has, for the last two years, filled the civic chair, and maintained the dignity of the office.

READING CHORAL SOCIETY'S CONCERT

We are happy to inform our fellow townsmen that a train will leave Reading for Wokingham, at about half past ten on the evening of the concert (Tuesday) for the convenience of visitors from Wokingham.

WOKINGHAM VOLUNTEERS

A meeting of the Sixth Berks Volunteers was held in the Town Hall, on Wednesday, for the purpose of electing officers, a company of sixty men now being enrolled. Captain Gower occupied the chair, and in opening the meeting, he said he came there to meet them in consequence of their having formed a company, a fact which must be very gratifying to every person in the town. The first thing they had to do now was to nominate another officer and some other corporals. He thought that as a general rule he could not do better than promote by seniority; and therefore lest they had any particular objection to any one of the corporals they had at present, he would promote them at once to sergeants, and leave them to select new corporals. (Corporal Kemp and Dalley were the members referred to.) He might say the same with regard to the officer, Mr. Soames, who had now become lieutenant, and they would have the goodness to recommend other gentlemen for ensign and non-commissioned officers. He did not intend that their appointments should be sinecures, for whenever an opportunity occurred, he would endeavour to teach them what their business was, and he hoped they would endeavour to perform those duties to the best of their abilities.

The company would be divided into two sub-divisions and four sections, and each sergeant would take care of his own section and see that they were thoroughly acquainted with the orders that would be issued from time to time. He read a letter from the Lord Lieutenant, informing him (Captain Gower) that Her Majesty had been graciously pleased to approve and accept the services of the Sixth Berks Rifle Volunteer Corps under his command. He concluded by stating that they could not elect any officer, but merely recommend; but he might say that that recommendation would be supported by him.—It was proposed and seconded that Mr. Cooke be appointed ensign. It was moved as an amendment that Mr. Benjamin Garrard be appointed, and that the amendment was put and carried by a large majority. The

following members were recommended as corporals:--Messrs. James Green, T.W.T. Dunning, Tindal Heelas, and Charles Barker. It was unanimously resolved, that the Rev. Robert James Donne, of the Wellington College be recommended as honorary chaplain to the corps.

—The chairman said, the next subject was that of the band. He dared say they all had talked the matter over before then. When it was first suggested he had opposed to it because of because of the expense, as he considered the less expense they incurred the more likely were they to last. He was not afraid of that corps breaking down, for he believed if the subscriptions were to fall off considerably, they would still keep together. He now thought that a band might be kept up, after the first cost had been raised. He did not know the expense of the instruments, but he did not think they could establish any sort of a band under £50. He then moved a number of propositions, which were carried, and were to the following effect: That a band be formed, consisting of ten musicians; that the instruments be four drums (including the big brass) four flutes, and two cornopeans, and that the members of the band should not perform publicly in uniform without the permission of the commanding officer; that one member of the corps be selected annually to superintend the band and collect subscriptions. In compliance with the last proposition Mr. George Brown was appointed. The chairman suggested that on Her Majesty's birth-day they should have a field day in honour of their Sovereign. This was unanimously agreed to, and after some formal business, the meeting was dissolved.

Sat 18th May

CONCERTS IN AID OF THE BAND FUND OF THE 6TH BERKS RIFLES

We beg to draw our readers' attention to the advertisement in another part of our Paper announcing the two grand concerts to be given in the Town Hall, Wokingham, on Friday next the 24th May. The concerts are under the immediate patronage of Captain Leveson Gower, and the other officers and members of the 6th Berks Rifles, the object being to aid the Band Fund of the corps. The conductor of the concerts is Mr. John Old, who has so successfully organised the Reading Choral Society, and it is by this society that the concert is mainly given, the members having very handsomely volunteered their valuable services for this object.

In addition we observe in the notice the name of Madame Goodhind who lately made so favourable an impression as a vocalist on the Reading audiences at the late concerts given by the society there, and the programme contains the names of other favourite amateurs well known in the musical world so that we shall expect very numerous audiences as the concerts themselves will prove a treat, the enjoyment of which is rarely afforded here, and when the object is remembered to which the profits are to be applied we feel assured they will receive a very large amount of patronage and support.

THE RIFLE CORPS

The return of more genial weather and the increased length of the days having again enabled our Rifle Corps to resume their evening parades, the public have the opportunity of seeing how largely the corps has not only increased in numbers during the winter, but also greatly improved in the steadiness and precision of their movements, from the constant drill which has never been suspended: the Thursday evening parade musters are watched by large numbers of interested spectators. We are happy to find such a liberal response has been made to the committee's appeal to the public to raise a band fund, that enough has already been subscribed to purchase the

instruments which arrived last week, and we find that the members will commence practising directly; still it must be borne in mind that there are very numerous experiences connected with the band, which will require the pecuniary aid of those anxious to increase its efficiency, and therefore we would here again urge public support to the concerts above notice in aid of that fund.

CIRCUS

The equestrian establishment of the Messrs Cooke is announced to visit our town on Monday next, and should the performances only equal the announcement given in the bills—and no doubt they will—s first-rate entertainment may be ensured by the numerous holiday amusement seekers, who on Whit Monday generally feel unusually ready to be amused and pleased.

1862

Sat 26th July

RESTORATION OF THE PARISH CHURCH

We are happy to find that the committee have now collected a sufficient sum towards this object to justify them in at once commencing the works, and that they have entered into an agreement with Messrs. J. And R. Lawrence, builders, of Waltham St. Lawrence, to carry out the undertaking. The experience Messrs. Lawrence have had in similar works is a sufficient guarantee that the contract will be efficiently carried out on their part. We understand that it is intended to commence in two or three weeks' time, and that arrangements are being made for holding Divine Service in the Town Hall during the period the repairs are being executed.

We may add that although the liberality evinced towards this cause has satisfied the committee in commencing their good work, a considerable sum will still have to be raised to enable them to complete their design; but doubtless this will be contributed by those who have at heart the desire to see this fine old structure restored,, so as to be an ornament to the town, as well as to provide suitable accommodation for an increasing congregation in future.

Sat 6th Sept.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF A NEW CHURCH.

On Tuesday the foundation stone of a new church, which has now been a short time commenced, on a well-chosen and elevated site--a piece of ground adjoining the road from Reading to Wokingham, and a short distance from the town--was laid by Mrs. Walter, the lady of John Walter, Esq. M.P., who, at his sole expense, is now erecting the building to meet a spiritual want which has long been felt in the parish. Wokingham is an improving town, the inhabitants have been for a length of time on the increase, and it has been found that the spiritual wants of its people have been far beyond what the parish church with its limited means could satisfy; and Mr. Walter, with that noble generosity which characterises all his public acts, has stepped forward to provide the means for the holy work. Mr. Walter now possesses a large amount of property in the parish and neighbourhood fully, and recognising fully, as few men do, that property has its responsibilities, he has erected schools in the parish of Sandhurst and at Finchampstead and supports them entirely at his own cost. In addition to this church, we believe he will erect schools in connection with it, endow the minister, and make provision for the schoolmaster. Such deeds as these speak for themselves, as

noble as they are disinterested; and the benefits which such a man, and such acts confer on the neighbourhood are incalculable. They are not confined to the present—for generations yet unborn will reap the advantages and have cause to remember Mr. Walter's name with heartfelt gratitude.

The church is designed to accommodate a congregation of between 500 and 600 persons. In plan it will consist of a chancel and nave, with north and south aisles to each, together with a vestry and organ chamber. There will be a lofty tower and spire, rising 166 feet from the ground, to the north-west angle of the nave, and the latter will be lighted by a clerestory. The arcades of the nave will be moulded, resting upon piers of a like kind, with carved and foliated caps. The chancel arch is to be richly moulded and also carved. A suitable recessed reredos, diapered and carved, will be erected at the east end of the chancel. The date of work chosen is the "2nd or middle pointed." The church is to be furnished with good pavements of encaustic tiles, and painted glass in the chancel and clerestory windows: and the tower will be filled with a peal of eight bells. The materials used for the external will be Bristol stone, with Bath stone dressings, and the walls inside will be of brick. Henry Woodyer Esq., of Grafham near Guildford, is the architect, and Messrs. Wheeler and Sons, of Reading, the builders – We understand that it is Mr. Walter's intention shortly to commence a new parsonage house in connexion with this new church, for which plans have already been prepared.

A service followed.

Sat 13th Sept

A BALLOON DESCENT

On Thursday afternoon between five and six o'clock our town was thrown into a state of excitement by the news of the near approach of Mr. Green's Balloon, which had ascended from Reading that afternoon. In a short time almost everyone turned out to watch with interest the huge aerial visitor and it soon became apparent that the travellers intended to affect a landing near.

They first reached *terra firma* in a clover field on the farm of Mr. Edward Allen, near the church, and were soon surrounded by a very numerous assemblage, when finding that it might occasion a good deal of damage to the crop the balloon was towed to a large meadow where plenty of assistance being rendered by the bystanders, Mr. Green and his fellow traveller alighted in safety and in a very short time the gas was allowed to escape and the unwieldy balloon, to the astonishment of those who had never before had an opportunity of seeing such a thing, was soon safely picked up with the car, and taken off in a cart without sustaining the least damage.

Sat 6th Dec

JAMES TWYCROSS DIES.

We regret to have this week to announce the death of James Twycross Esq., of the Brook, Wokingham, which event took place on Wednesday night last. The deceased gentleman, who was highly respected, had for many years been largely and successfully engaged both in mercantile and agricultural pursuits, and he employed a considerable number of hands in this town. Whilst his charitable disposition caused him to be regarded as a true friend to the poor, by whom he will be much missed. Mr. Twycross had for many years been a member of our Corporation and more than once filled the offices of alderman and chief magistrate with much dignity and a strict attention to his official duties; and his liberal entertainment, on the occasion of our late High Steward, will be fresh in the recollection of many.

1863

Sat 31st Jan

CHARITIES

We observe that W.D. Boase, Esq., one of the inspectors appointed under the Charity Commission, has appointed to attend at our Town Hall, on Thursday next, February 5th, at one o'clock to enquire into the endowed charities of Wokingham; when all persons interested are invited to meet him, in order that any suggestions or information concerning their management and disposal may be taken into consideration.

RIFLE CORPS

The announcement of the honour conferred on the Berkshire Volunteers, in being selected for duty at the approaching royal marriage at Windsor, which was communicated to them through Colonel Lindsay, has excited much enthusiasm amongst the Wokingham Corps, who are determined to exert themselves to the utmost to be able to muster in goodly numbers and efficient condition on so important an occasion, and they have recommenced drill with increased energy, in order to take their place with credit in the Battalion.

Sat 21st Feb

CELEBRATION OF THE MARRIAGE OF THE PRINCE OF WALES

As might be expected, preparations are in progress in all parts of the country to worthily celebrate this auspicious event. No wonder then, that Wokingham with its characteristic loyalty, should be anxious to take steps to render the day one of rejoicing. The Corporation on Thursday last, convened a meeting at the Town Clerk's Office, of some of the principal inhabitants of the town and parish, to consider the most suitable means of celebrating the event, when the Alderman (W.W. Wheeler, Esq.) took the chair, and having explained his reasons, for summoning them together, begged to hear the opinions of those present on the subject. After some discussion it was unanimously resolved that Tuesday, the 10th of March, should be observed as a general holiday; and consequently it became necessary to alter the market, which was fixed for the previous day (Monday). It was further resolved that a treat should be given to all the school and other children in the town and parish, and, if funds enabled the committee to do so, to treat the aged poor, also that a medal be given to each of the children to commemorate the happy day. It was also suggested that bands be engaged. Some are anxious to have a ball in the evening, while others desire a bonfire and fireworks. However the extent of the amusements must depend on the amount of funds the committee are able to procure and therefore the meeting was adjourned to Wednesday morning next, in order that, in the meantime, the members of the committee (who kindly volunteered their services) may make a house-to-house collection; and we shall hope to find that a sufficient sum is realised to allow the committee to carry out their programme to the fullest extent, and thus render the day one to be remembered by a future generation., as one of great hilarity and happiness.

Sat 14th March 1863

THE ROYAL WEDDING CELEBRATION

For the last two or three weeks, we have reported the various designs in progress for duly honouring the great event of last Tuesday, and now it becomes our pleasing task to record the successful realisation of the efforts made, and to announce that all that was attempted was performed to the satisfaction, we almost venture to assert, of

everybody indeed, from the universal expressions of approval heard from every person interested, the committee must feel that they have achieved the only object they had in view, of expending the funds so handsomely supplied them to the best advantage.

But we must now chronicle the events of the day in something like the order they occurred, and to do so, we must begin with an Irishism, by saying that before the day did begin a royal salute of, we can't say how many guns, pistols, and (small) cannons, awoke the inhabitants, and told them that some had already begun the day's rejoicings in their own way. Very clearly might be seen the faces of some who on this day were determined to see the 'peep o' day,' then the Rifle Volunteers mustered to start for the wedding, and the streets began to assume their holiday garb,--the decorations were rapidly completed on the houses, and triumphal arches sprang up with fairy-like quickness and elegance, whilst flags seemed to issue from every window, and evergreens were supplied in profusion. Union jacks were hoisted on the Town Hall, and the tents for the dinner were adorned with numerous flags and tasteful devices, to describe one half of which would exceed the space allotted to us, but they evinced the active exertions of the ladies, and were much and deservedly admired by all.

At ten, the school children assembled, and were supplied with medals, headed by the band and attended by their teachers, marched through the streets, carrying flags and wearing white rosettes and their medals. Returning to the Market place at twelve, they entered the tents, when dinner was served up, consisting of roast beef and mutton, with vegetables, followed by plum puddings (and capital puddings they were) and appreciated by the juveniles, as might be expected, however, there was plenty to satisfy them all, although they numbered about 800

At two o'clock the children were dismissed, and their places at the tables taken by the aged and other poor, to the number of more than 400, and another dinner of the same description as the former, was set on, with the addition of plenty of ale. Both dinners were hot, and were superbly cooked; the puddings were made and boiled by the residents near, indeed, everyone seemed anxious to help.

After dinner, rural sports commenced in Langborough, and were found to afford an immense amount of amusement to a very large assemblage. At night, a large bonfire and display of fireworks brought the proceedings to a most satisfactory close, and all passed off without the least disorder. And thus closed a day that will for ever be remembered in our local annals, as an occasion of rare festivity and joy. The universal enthusiasm and loyalty of our old town was never more heartily expressed, and we are sure the kindly feelings which this celebration has produced amongst us must have a good effect upon us all. The inmates of the Workhouse had a capital dinner provided them, and afterwards were allowed to come out and see the doings in the town.

FOX HUNTING EXTRAORDINARY

On Wednesday last, Mr. Garth's hounds met at Bear Wood, and soon found a fox, which made its way to Wokingham, and after running through the gardens in the rear of the houses in the Market Place, sought shelter in the back kitchen of Mrs. Dehay's house, and was dragged forth by the huntsmen from the pantry, a hiding place worthy the cunning of an old fox. Being a vixen she was turned loose, as she was likely to be the means of providing the worthy master and his pack with some cub hunting next season.

Sat 11th April

CORPORATION

On Wednesday, the members of the Corporation, according to the terms of their Charter, having first met at the residence of the out-going Alderman, attended Divine service in the Town Hall, and then adjourned to the Council Chamber to elect an Alderman for the ensuing year, when the choice fell on W. Heelas Esq., who was unanimously elected, and a cordial vote of thanks was awarded to the ex-Alderman W.W. Wheeler Esq., for the efficient manner in which he had discharged the duties and supported the dignity of the office during the past year.

CRICKET CLUB

The members of the Wokingham Club held their first meeting on Wednesday evening, for the purpose of appointing officers, electing new members, and making other arrangements for the coming season. The president, vice-president, treasurer, and committee were re-elected, and Mr. Cotterell was appointed honorary secretary, since Mr. E. Lane resigned. A number of new members were proposed, and it was arranged to play an opening match on Wednesday, 6th of May. The affairs of the club are in a prosperous state, and encouraged by the success of their last season and the present favourable weather, the members are anxious to be in the field again, and, with the matches in view, there is every prospect of a good season's play.

Sat 18th April

BALL

The Ball in our Town Hall on the evening of the 10th inst. was well attended by the principal county families in the neighbourhood, as a glance at the subjoined list will show:-- Capt. Hargreaves and party, T.C. Garth Esq., and party; Lord Hillsborough, Lord A. Hill, Lady Alice Hill and large party; Lady Mary Berkeley and party; W.C. King Esq., and party; C. Weguelin, Esq., and party; J.J. Bulkeley, Esq., and party; R. Garrard, Esq., and party; John Walter, jun., Esq., and Miss Walter; Mrs. Caswall and party; The Misses Powys; Mrs. Earle and party; C. Hulse, Esq., and party; Mrs. And Miss Sewell; A.G. Williams Esq., Rev. A. Barker; Rev. A. Buchanan; T.K Harman, Esq., and party; J. Garrard, Esq.; Capt. Haly, and numerous officers from Aldershot; the whole party numbering about one hundred.

The decorations from the Hunt Dinner were kindly left, and the ball presented a most animated and lively scene. The Ball was kept up with great spirit, excellent performance of Burnham's band greatly assisting to render this fashionable gathering as successful as its predecessors. The refreshment department in the hands of Mr. W. Chambers, as usual, deserved and received much praise. An officer of the Engineers found on the following morning that he had dropped a £5 note during the night, but it was fortunately discovered the next day, having doubtless been removed with the carpets and mats, and left where they were shaken, for some hours unnoticed.

Sat 19th Sept

LAUD'S CHARITY

This town, as is well known, largely participates in the charities founded by Archbishop Laud, and amongst the other directions of his Will, a fund was established for the purpose of apprenticing boys of the age of 14 years, born in the town of Wokingham, of parents being Members of the Church of England, and parishioners of the town, and a sum of £ 10 was to be paid by way of premium to the master with each boy elected. This sum in the days of the good Archbishop, there is no doubt, represented a very much larger value than it is now the case, and no doubt it was the means of securing good masters for respectable boys, but in the present times the

smallness of the premium renders it very difficult to find masters who were willing to take apprentices to good trades, and the charity has consequently ceased to be sought after by the class to whom it was originally a great boon.

The trustees have long been anxious to remedy this by an increase of the premiums but the strict terms of the donor's Will they felt precluded any voluntary departure from it on their part, and the fear of the costs deterred them from applying to the Court of Chancery. However, during the late visit of the Inspector of Charities, the wish of the trustees was brought under his notice, and at his suggestion a memorial has been forwarded to the Charity Commissioners who have sanctioned an alteration by which the trustee will be able to award two premiums of £21 each at their annual meeting at the Town Hall, on Monday, the 12th October next, a preference, as formerly, being given to masters resident in Wokingham, and they will be required to board and lodge their apprentices.

CRICKET MATCHES

A Match between the Wokingham and Hartley Row Clubs was played on the 9th inst., at Hartley-row, when the last-mentioned gained the victory. Score:-Hartley Row, 1st innings 95, 2nd innings, 101. Wokingham, 1st innings, 61.—The Second Eleven of Wokingham defeated "The Velocipedes" on the 11th inst., on the ground of the former. Score:--Wokingham, 1st innings, 97, 2nd innings, 36. The Velocipedes, 1st innings, 75; 2nd innings, 14.

A VORACIOUS PIKE

Last week, as H.R. Morres, Esq., was angling in the River Loddon at Swallowfield, his bait was taken by a large fish, which he succeeded in hooking, but which broke the line and escaped; Mr. Morres then put on a live gudgeon, and made a fresh cast, when his bait was immediately seized, and after some play, Mr. Morres succeeded in landing a fine pike with both hooks in its jaw. The fish weighed fourteen pounds, and was in fine condition.

Sat 10th Oct

GREAT PEDESTRIAN FEAT

On Monday week, John Elson, a Pedestrian of Nottingham, started to walk from Wokingham to Odiham and back, twice in one day—a distance of sixty miles, having undertaken to accomplish the distance for six successive days, and although he had to contend against bad roads, and at times very unfavourable weather, he manfully struggled on and accomplished his task at 9 o'clock on Saturday night when he was escorted into the town by a band of music. We understand Elson's only remuneration was a collection he made. He has undertaken to run ten miles within the hour, this day (Saturday) at Wokingham.

1864

Sat 23rd Jan

PENNY READINGS

The Town Hall, crowded to excess on Tuesday evening, afforded the best testimony that these "Readings" fully maintain their popularity, and the majority of the pieces were received in such an enthusiastic manner as to prove to the committee that their

selection of subjects was approved. One or two of the pieces struck us as being rather too lengthy, a matter easily rectified in future, whilst others were only imperfectly heard at the back of the hall, the readers probably not aware, on their first essays, the amount of vocal power required to make themselves distinctly heard in such a large room. We mention these little matters feeling assured that they are easily remedied, and being anxious for the continued success of this useful source of instruction and recreation.

The chair was taken by W.W. Wheeler Esq. The following was the programme:-- Mr. W.W. Wheeler, "Travelling 200 years ago," Macaulay; Mr. H. Kemp, "The Duke of Brunswick's Diamonds," Leighton; Mr. E. Weight, "A Mountain of Miseries," Addison; Mr. Farquarson, "Miss Keilmansegge's Courtship," Hood; Mr. Barford, "Extracts from the Life of James Watt," Smiles; Rev. W.F. Adams, "The Bells," Edgar A. Poe; Rev. W.O. Wilson, "Home Life of George III," Thackeray; Mr. R. Bunce, "The Chameleon,"; Mr. Sale, jun, "The Old Clock".

Sat 16th April

RE-OPENING OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT MARY, WOKINGHAM

The ceremony of re-opening this fine old church took place yesterday (Friday). Though from lapse of years and other causes the sacred edifice had fallen into a state of decay and was choked with most unsightly fittings it was still remarkable for the great dignity of its Nave and the noble proportions of its arcades. These are remarkably similar to those of the neighbouring church of Sonning, and furnish strong presumptive evidence of their having originally been the work of one mind, though both churches have undergone many alterations since.

A late clerestory was added to the earlier work at Wokingham of very inferior type, and, at the same time, the aisle roofs appear to have been constructed: these are peculiar and have been repeated in the restoration. In plan the church consisted of a portion only of an earlier chancel, north chancel aisle, nave with lean-to side aisles, and western tower and porch: the chancel arch and its piers were in a ruinous state, and the outer walls of the fabric generally were in a very dilapidated condition. The present restoration consists in an entire re-building of the chancel, with its north aisle and the addition of a south aisle and large vestry. The chancel arch also, and the arches to the north and south of it, have been rebuilt, as also the north and south aisles of the nave: the lower has been opened out to the rest of the church, but funds were wanting for the restoration so much needed for the tower generally: had these sufficed, it would have been put into thorough repair and heightened.

By the untiring exertions of Elliott Morres, Esq. of Matthews Green, against all opposition, and by his taking all the risk of the work upon himself, this just work has been accomplished thus far, and as a memorial of his exertions on their behalf it would be well if the parishioners would bestir themselves to raise funds to complete the tower, so that the reproach of the incomplete work may be removed.

Of the new work, in such portions as are restorations, or intimately connected with old features, the original state of the work has been altered to, but where as in the case of the Chancel, the building was new from the ground, middle pointed, or 14th century work has been adopted by the architect.

The new South Chapel, however, has received the old windows and doorway from the former aisle of later date The old Norman south door has been carefully restored and preserved, and a new porch erected over it; a simple form of reredos has been adopted over the Altar, and plain stone seat for sedalia and a credence niche, and the Chancel is further furnished with light iron girdles in the side arches, choir seats and

low wooden screen in the Chancel arch. The pavement is of Minton's tiles. The fittings in the Nave are simple and comm.??? Open sittings and the old Font has been re-fixed near the Tower Arch. Several painted windows have been presented to the Church: the most noteworthy of these is the west window in the chancel which is by Lardman of Birmingham and was presented by Elliott Morres, Esq. It is very handsome and exceedingly well executed. The central figure represents the Crucifixion, and on each side the Evangelists. Above is represented our Saviour in glory, taken from the first chapter of Revelations. On the left and right of this there are two figures representing the Resurrection and Ascension.

In the east of the south side aisle there is a memorial window, and facing the south another, presented by members of the Twycross family, who have otherwise subscribed very liberally towards the restoration of the Church. The former window has the following subjects: the Baptism, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord; under perpendicular canopies with pedestals and inscriptions relative to each subject, viz:--"Thou art my beloved Son;" "Truly this was the Son of God;" "I am the Resurrection;" "I ascend unto my Father." The inscription at the foot of the window is as follows:-- "To the Glory of God, and pious memory of James Twycross, who fell asleep 3rd December, 1862; also Mary his wife, 3rd December, 1837. This window is humbly dedicated by their sorrowing children."

The tracery contains devices of angels with crowns of glory, and palm branches: Two with sacred music, and two bearing scrolls with texts, "Hallelujah," and "Praise the Lord." The south window contains the subject of our Saviour raising Jairus's, daughter under a rich and appropriate canopy floriated ornament of the lily, emblem of purity, with angels bearing a scroll with the words, "She is not dead but sleepeth," and at the bottom are the words, "This window is humbly dedicated to the pious memory of Olivia, daughter of James and Mary Twycross who entered into her rest 9th December 1853." In the tracery are figures of faith, hope, charity, piety, prudence and devotion. These windows were designed and executed by Mr. W. Holland, of Warwick. The rich and splendid cloth which covered the altar, was worked by Miss Twycross and is worth, we understand, £36.

The old, solid chalk pillars still remain an object of interest. The stone carving in the new work has been beautifully executed by Nicholls. Upwards of 21 feet altogether have been added to the length of the edifice.

The gas standards adopted are exceedingly neat, and with the plain open seats, lend an elegant appearance to the whole internal structure. The Church has been carefully drained, and a heating apparatus applied to it, which was constructed by Mr. Potter, of South Molton-street. Mr. Woodyer of Grafham, was the architect; Messrs. Lawrence the contractor, and Mr. Edgington acted as Clerk of Works. The iron work was by Messrs. Filmer and Mason, of Guildford.

On the morning of Friday long before the inhabitants had finished their slumbers the bells from the old tower rang out a merry peal and continued to do so at intervals till eleven o'clock when the ceremony of re-opening commenced. The day appeared to be observed as a general holiday in the town, and a large number of strangers arrived by the different trains. Triumphal arches of evergreens were erected opposite the principal entrances to the church, and some time before the appointed hour arrived, the renovated structure was filled with a most respectable congregation, the admission being by ticket, and all who had not previously an opportunity of inspecting the sacred edifice was struck with its noble and beautiful appearance, especially contrasted with what it had been.

The Alderman of the town, Mr. W.H. Ferguson and the members of the Council entered the Church preceded by the mace bearer, and shortly afterwards the Bishop of Oxford, and about 60 or 70 of the clergy of the diocese followed, accompanied by the choir, attired in surplices, singing as they proceeded up the aisle.

There was a full choral service which was intoned by the Rev. F. Savery, of Binfield. The First Lesson was read by the Rev. – Adams, curate and the second by the Rev. A.P. Cust. The Rev. T.V. Fosbery read the Epistle, and the Rev. A.P. Cust the Gospel.

The sermon was preached by the Lord Bishop of Oxford, with selected for his text the 2nd chapter of the book of the Prophet Haggai, and part of the 9th verse—"The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former." Owing to a press of matter and the late period of the week at which the ceremony took place, we are unable to give a report of the sermon in this issue. His lordship concluded his eloquent and most able discourse by urging the congregation to give-denying offerings to clear off the debt which remains on the church and which, he said, amounted to £500. A collection was then made, which, we understand, amounted to about £134

The Communion was afterwards administered after which a large company numbering between two and three hundred assembled on Mrs. Earle's grounds at the Elms where, under Mr. Walter's large tent, a *recherché* luncheon was spread at the joint expense of Mr. Earle, Mr. E. Morres, and the Misses Powys.

The Bishop subsequently held a confirmation service, and the Rev. R. Milman, Vicar of Great Marlow preached in the evening.

Sat 23rd April

LECTURE

On the 14th inst., a lecture was delivered in the Town Hall, by H.W. Eve, Esq. of Wellington College, on "The Effects of the New Gold." The lecture proved highly interesting, and gave a clear history of our currency system, and explained the effect of the produce of the modern goldfields, as effecting the value of property, &c.

We were sorry to see so small an audience as the lecture was a most able one; but the chairman, F.L. Soames, Esq., explained the circumstances which had, doubtless, prevented a large audience that evening, and tendered the hearty thanks of the institute to Mr. Eve, a sentiment in which the company cordially joined.

Sat 28th May

THE NEW CHURCH

This very beautiful edifice, which has so rapidly risen near the side of the South-Eastern Railway, and conveniently near to the entrance of the town, is fast approaching its completion. As a specimen of ecclesiastical architecture, we think it may enter the lists with art of the numerous erections of the kind which have of late years so distinguished the county of Berks.

The light and graceful spire rising 100 feet above the richly decorated tower displays itself to a vast distance, the site of the church itself being elevated. The windows of the tower, 16 in number, which light the belfry and the lower storey, are beautiful in sculpture and chaste in style.

The body of the church is also lighted with equally decorated specimens of the same order, and the transept exhibits similar beauty. The whole of the building presents an aspect which must excite the admiration of even those who are deficient in architectural taste. It is decidedly the most ornamental, as we trust it will be one of the

most valued of the erection which of late has appeared within the precincts of this town.

The cost of this noble structure will be defrayed by one worthy County Member, John Walter, Esq., and it presents another instance of that admirable disposal of wealth, which his own immediate neighbourhood so fully illustrates. The new buildings erected in the neighbourhood, and others in progress, show that there will be ample scope for the ministrations which the above striking and commodious edifice will afford.

NATIONAL SCHOOL MEETING IN THE TOWN HALL

A meeting was held at the Town Hall on Thursday last for the purpose of considering the best means of providing national schools for St. Paul's, Wokingham. The chair was taken by the Rev. E.J. Selwyn, the incumbent. The meeting was well attended, and amongst those present we observed Mr. Faulconer, Mr. Skerritt, Mr. Soames, Mr. Weight, Mr. Cooke, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. J. Heelas jun., Mr. Hart, Mr. Dailey, Mr. Hulme, Mr. Clark and many more of the most influential inhabitants of the new parish.

The chairman opened the proceedings by strongly impressing upon the meeting the necessity for setting about the erection of schools with as little delay as possible. The building should include a residence for the master, and could not, he feared, be provided at much less cost than £1,000, but he had little doubt that the parish would be able to obtain from the Committee of Privy Council a grant in aid of the building fund. Mr. Walter M.P., had kindly offered a piece of land adjoining the Barkham Road as a site for the schools and this one difficulty had been got over.

The chairman concluded by expressing his earnest wish, on this and all future occasions, cordially to co-operate with his parishioners, and he stated that he had that morning had an interview with the Rev. T. Morres, the incumbent of the old parish, who had most kindly expressed his sympathy with the object of their meeting. Resolutions were then proposed and seconded by various gentlemen to the effect that it was desirable to provide schools for the new parish—to raise by public subscription a fund for defraying the cost of their erection, and to appoint a committee for the purpose of collecting funds, communicating with the Committee of Privy Council, and procuring plans and estimates for the new building. These resolutions were unanimously carried. A committee was appointed with power to add to their number, and a subscription list was opened in the room, in which the gentlemen present placed their names for sums amounting in the aggregate to about £220. The subscription list lies at Mr. Gotelee's Library.

Sat 16th July

BAPTIST CHAPEL MILTON ROAD

On Wednesday last, some interesting services were held in the above Chapel, in connection with the entire removal of the debt which was incurred in erecting it some three or four years since. The services commenced in the afternoon, when a sermon was preached by Rev. W. Brock, of London, founded on the words "Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it," John II 5th verse. This service being ended, the congregation, to the number of 350, partook of tea in a spacious tent, near the Chapel.

After tea they returned to the Chapel, when a paper was read by the Rev. R.G. Scorey the minister, giving a somewhat detailed history of the efforts which had been

put forth to erect and pay for the commodious house of prayer in which they were met, and expressive use of the earnest desire of its promoters that it might, from time to time, be filled with the Divine Glory, and that the Gospel of Christ in its purity and simplicity might ever be proclaimed within it. A statement of the finances was followed by addresses from the Revds. Stevenson and R. Bulmer, of Reading, immediately after which the evening service commenced, when the venerable Rev. J.H. Hinton preached from the 10th of John and 11th verse.

The Chapel was opened for divine worship just three years since; the entire cost of the building, warming apparatus, &c., together with a portion of the burial ground, having amounted altogether to £1,875., about £1,700 of this has been raised by the congregation and friends within a few miles of the place, and the remainder contributed by persons at a distance. The total extinction of so large a debt in so short a time has exceeded the most sanguine expectations of those concerned in the undertaking, and the efficacy of the voluntary principle has in this received another pleasing illustration. The weather being fine, added to the cheerfulness, and harmonised with the feelings of joy and gratitude which evidently animated all present.

Sat 30th July

FIRE

On the morning of Sunday last, about a quarter past four o'clock, flames were discovered burning very fiercely at the rear of a cottage at Shute End, Wokingham, in the occupation of Mrs. Arlott. The fire soon caught an outhouse and the skittle alley at the back of the "Hope and Anchor," public-house, and then seized upon the upper part of Mrs. Arlott's cottage, which being old, burnt with great rapidity. As soon as the alarm was given, Superintendent O'Neill arrived, and with the willing assistance of the neighbours the flames were prevented extending to the adjoining cottage, but that occupied by Mrs. Arlott was entirely burnt down. A portion of her furniture also, which could not be removed, was consumed.

Water was then poured on which was extinguished in a short time, but owing to the drought there was found very little water in the wells near, but fortunately a supply was obtained from a pond at the rear of the Rev. E.J. Selwyn's house opposite. The inmates of the cottage had to make a very hasty exit, and have sustained a considerable loss, we hear also, with regret, that the owner of the cottage was not insured. The damage to the "Hope and Anchor" premises is not very heavy; the skittle alley was burnt down, and the back of the house somewhat damaged, but it is covered by an insurance.

The origin of the fire cannot be traced with certainty, but no doubt is entertained that it was accidental. The short supply of water in our town has long been a source of anxiety to many of the inhabitants, who feel that if a fire of such magnitude should occur, the means of subduing it would be weak indeed, from this cause only.

Sat 6th Aug

WATERING OF WOKINGHAM STREETS

During the past week, through the energy of a few of our tradesmen, a capital improvement has been introduced in our town: we mean the partial watering of our streets. At present the water-cart only visits the Market-place, and a short distance down the adjoining streets, but when the inhabitants experience the benefit derived, we shall hope to see the improvement extended.

One or two previous attempts in former years have failed, the more credit is due to those who have successfully started the project new, and when it is seen that where all combine how small an individual weekly subscription is required to continue this present plan, it surely will not be discontinued, especially during the present dry and dusty summer.

Some complain that the supply of water is rather scanty, but they must bear in mind that the supply is in exact proportion to the subscription, and an increase in the latter item will at once secure an increase in the former.

Sat 15nd Oct

ENTERTAINMENT

On Tuesday evening last, an entertainment entitled "Odd Varieties" was given in our Town Hall, by Mrs Clara Macredy and Miss Blanche Lacy, and a very excellent evening's amusement it proved to be. Miss Lacy plays and sings very nicely and elicited more than one encore in the course of the evening, whilst Miss Macredy's impersonation of the various characters she portrayed showed that she is a clever actress and capital elocutionist. The large audience testified their approval by applause.

FAIR

Our Hiring Fair on Old Michaelmas day proved a very small affair indeed, as beyond a little increase in the market attendance, no sign of the fair could be detected. The practice of hiring servants at country fairs attended as it is with many objections is very nearly at an end.

Sat 22nd Oct

THE WOKINGHAM FIRE ENGINE

The larger engine which is kept at the Town Hall has lately undergone extensive alterations and repairs, and for this purpose Mr. Merryweather of the firm of Merryweather and Sons, (of Long Acre and Lambeth) attended to suggest what repairs and alterations were necessary. Mr. Alderman Ferguson ordered that these should be at once carried out, and consequently the engine was sent to Messrs. Merryweather's fire-engine works in London.

The engine has been mounted on springs which makes it travel much easier along the roads. The works have been thoroughly overhauled and repaired, and the firm have turned it out equal in power to those of their latest design. The engine is painted a bright red colour, and on each side in gold letters is written the word "Wokingham". Several new lengths of hose, fire buckets, &c., have also been provided, and in addition to those, a domestic fire pump, a small inexpensive article, which can be instantly set to work by a single person, and is invaluable in extinguishing fires when they have not obtained much hold on the place.

When the other engine is repaired, the townspeople may flatter themselves they have sufficient power to soon extinguish any fire that may occur.

LITERARY INSTITUTION

The introductory lecture of the present season will be delivered in the Town Hall, on Thursday evening by the head master of the Wellington College, the Rev. E.W. Benson, on "Self Education."

PENNY READINGS

These popular Readings will shortly be resumed by the Committee of the Institute, who are anxious to secure the services any gentleman willing to promote the success of these entertainments. Tuesday the 1st of November, will be the first night of the Readings, and they will be continued every Tuesday evening.

CHARITIES

On Wednesday, the Alderman and Corporation as Trustees of Archbishop Laud's Charity, met to award two apprenticeship premiums of £21 each, to boys born in the town of Wokingham, when Watkin William Wynn and Jan Taylor were elected. They afterwards distributed the charity of Mrs. Yarnold to blind persons when the sum of £35 ten shillings was divided amongst ten candidates.

Sat 12th Nov

POST OFFICE

It may not be generally known that considerable alterations have recently taken place in the dispatch of the mails from Wokingham. The box closes at 7.20 in the evening for the ordinary mail, and for the day mail at 12, at noon, and these two mails are the only ones made up, the early morning mail to Reading being discontinued, so that all letters for our own neighbourhood must now be posted by 7.20 p.m.

INCOME-TAX APPEALS

The Commissioners will sit to hear appeals at the Town Hall, Wokingham, on Friday next, for the following parishes, viz., Arborfield, Barkham, Binfield Easthampstead, Finchampstead, Winnersh, Wokingham Town (Berks and Wilts); the remainder of the parishes in the Forest Division being taken on Thursday, the 24th.

VESTRY MEETINGS

On Thursday last, one of the most numerous attended Vestry Meetings ever held in the parish took place in the Town-hall, to elect an assistant overseer for the parish of Wokingham. There were several candidates for the office, but they all withdrew but two, previous to the nomination when, on a show of hands being taken, Mr. Henry Ifould was elected by a large majority.

Sat 26th Nov

J L Roberts was chairman of the Literary Institution,

1865

Sat 11th Feb

WORKING MEN'S CLUB

This useful Institution is now, we are glad to say, in full operation; and the rooms are nightly filled by the members, who have joined in large numbers, and who seem to much enjoy and appreciate the comforts and social recreation provided. On Monday evening last the opening of the Club was celebrated by a social soiree to the members and their wives and friends. Tea was most abundantly served in the Town-hall, which was well filled; and during the evening addresses were delivered by the Chairman (P.L. Soames, Esq.) the Rev. Mr. Solly, secretary of the London Working Men's Institute, and other gentlemen. A number of glee and songs were given by a party of

amateur friends, who kindly volunteered their valuable services the entertainment, so diversified, was rendered all the more agreeable and entertaining. All seemed thoroughly to appreciate the treat provided for them. We trust the members will not slacken in their support of the Club, which is calculated not only to work much good, but also to prevent much evil, by placing at the disposal of all the means of profitably and happily spending their leisure hours.

Sat 8th April

BIBLE SOCIETY

The anniversary meeting of the Wokingham Auxiliary was held in our Town Hall on Monday evening, and was numerously attended. The chair was taken by John Heelas, Esq., and the meeting was addressed by the Revds. P.G. Scorey, J.D. Palm, and G. Jackson, also by the Rev. Philip Kent, the deputation from the Parent Society, who eloquently advocated its claims, and gave some highly interesting details of its operations, and the great success that had attended the efforts to circulate the Word of God in all parts of the earth.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

A few weeks ago we reported the proceedings of a meeting held here with a view to the adoption of this Act at Wokingham. A petition has since been forwarded to the Secretary of State, praying him to settle the boundaries of a district, comprising the whole town and part of the parish to be placed under the powers of the Act, and accordingly, notice has been given that on Wednesday, the 19th inst., at one o'clock, Robert Morgan, Esq., the Inspector, will attend at the Town Hall to enquire as to the genuineness of such petition, and the propriety of the boundaries proposed therein; when no doubt there will be a very full attendance of the inhabitants, to express their views on the subject. A very great diversity of opinion exists, and we therefore deem it best to at present abstain from expressing the views of either party in the interim.

Sat 15th April

THE PRINCE OF WALES WITH HIS MAJESTY'S STAGHOUNDS

On Friday morning His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, attended by Major Grey and Lt-Col Kingscote, the Prince's Master of the Hunt, travelled by the South Western Railway to Bracknell, by the Staines and Wokingham Railway. His royal Highness on entering the train was met by Prince Arthur, who, attended by Lt. Haig, had ridden over from Windsor Castle accompanied by the Earl of Besborough, the noble Master of the Buck hounds, Major-General Hood, and suite, the princes rode from the station to the meet at the Golden Ball Inn, Binfield, where a large field assembled, numbering some 200 equestrians, among whom were several ladies and officers of the Windsor garrison and from Aldershot. The veteran Queen's huntsman, Mr. Davis, was also in the field, as rode as smartly as ever. The animal selected for the chase was "Doctor", the celebrated stag, which in a late run, was captured in the kitchen of Mr. Linnell, the Prince of Wales' butcher at Windsor. The stag was uncarted a short distance from the Shoulder of Mutton Inn, and the pack was soon afterwards laid on.

Taking a course towards the South-Western Railway, the stag hung about the spot for some little time and then crossed the line, doubling round the Bracknell Station, and eventually making away for Swinley's, ??, the forest, and on to Cumberland Lodge. The chase was then again through Windsor Forest, across the Long Walk, and away to the Sheet-Street-road Gate, Windsor. Down this road, which leads to the

Castle and heart of the Royal borough the stag rattled, but was finally taken at 10 minutes past three o'clock, after a run of upwards of two hours, the Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred being present at the capture.. His royal highness the Prince of Wales at the close of the hunt returned to town by the 4.30 up train on the Great Western Railway from Windsor, while Prince Alfred rode to the castle.

Sat 8th July

John Balston Walter, son of John Walter III, has been Gazetted to a Lieutenancy in the Royal Berks Militia vice Baynham removed.

Sat 5th Aug

MILITARY

On Monday last, a detachment of the 2nd Dragoons (the Scots Greys,) accompanied by the head-quarters of the regiment and their splendid band, arrived here, and were billeted one night on their march from Aldershot to Manchester.

ACCIDENT

The particulars of an accident which should be regarded as a caution to all persons inexperienced in the treatment of horses, have reached us.

On the morning of Sunday last, a person residing in Reading, accompanied by his wife and three children, left town in a four-wheel chaise, intending to drive to Warfield. The horse was a perfectly strange one to the driver; still the party proceeded safely on their journey until they reached Bracknell, where the animal was fed. It appeared, however, to eat with difficulty, and the driver, desiring to free the horse's head removed the bridle, but no sooner had he done so than the animal, finding himself unrestrained, began kicking furiously, and although its head was held tightly, the horse started off, the lady and two of the children being still seated in the vehicle, greatly affrighted.

The husband seeing the danger to which his family was exposed, endeavoured to check the horse in its course along the road, running by its side for some distance until he was compelled from exhaustion to relinquish his hold. The animal went on until it swerved to the bank, and overturned the chaise, precipitating the lady and children into the ditch, the former being injured in her face and hip, and much shaken while the latter escaped unhurt.

Mr. Croft, surgeon, was sent for, and, having quickly attended, the lady was removed to the "Royal Oak" Inn, where she remained throughout the day, Mr. and Mrs. Ralley evincing the greatest possible kindness and attention. The vehicle was not much damaged, but one of the legs of the horse received a wound, and it was placed under the care of Mr. Gadaden, veterinary surgeon.

Sat 11th Nov

On Wednesday night a ball was held in the Town Hall under distinguished patronage and was numerous attended by the principal families resident at this end of the county together with numerous officers from Aldershot. The party numbered rather more than one hundred and the hall was very tastefully decorated by Mr. W. Chambers to whom was entrusted the refreshment department which, as usual, on those occasions gave the greatest satisfaction. Burnham's quadrille band performed a choice selection of music and the party did not separate until 4.00 on the following morning.

FAIR

The November fair was held on the 2nd and 3rd inst. but as the magistrates (under the recent order of Council) had prohibited any cattle being brought to the fair, the business transacted was very small. In the "pleasure" fair there were the usual stalls and amusements, but they were generally of a very mean order, Superintendent Millard with several constables were on duty, but nothing occurred to call for their interference.

WORKING MEN'S CLUB

This valuable society continues its career of usefulness and is very well supported by the class for whose especial benefit it was founded. The rooms are well attended, and no doubt the institution is silently working a great moral improvement in the town as well as being a source of instruction and intellectual amusement to many. It is intended on Thursday evening next, to hold a tea meeting of the members and friends of the society, in the Town Hall after which some interesting addresses and recitations will be delivered, interspersed with music, &c., so that a very pleasant evening may be relied on.

Sat 2nd Dec

MAGICAL ENTERTAINMENT

On Tuesday evening, Mr. Hambling, the "Wizard of the North," whose performance the previous week had been largely patronised, repeated his capital entertainment, on behalf of the funds of the Royal Berks Hospital, and a generous individual having offered to defray the attendant expenses, the entire proceeds were available for the charitable object in view. Unfortunately the weather proved very unfavourable, the rain falling heavily, which, doubtless prevented many from being present. Still, many were encouraged enough to face the weather and enjoy the very clever performance of Mr. Hambling, who was loudly applauded throughout. Nearly £12 will be realised for the hospital.

Sat 9th Dec

On Tuesday the Royal Forest Lodge of Oddfellows celebrated their first anniversary with a soiree in the Town Hall, in the arrangement of which the committee must have taken much pains, as a delightful evening's amusement was provided and enjoyed by a very large party. At five o'clock tea was partaken of by a thoroughly social gathering. At half-past seven the chair was taken by Mr. Alderman Heelas, who opened the proceedings with an address, in which he stated that having examined the rules, &c., of the Society of Oddfellows, he felt it was well worthy of the large and increasing success it had met with. The Grand Master of the District then gave a brief history of the origin and progressive success of the Order, and its present proud position, and also some valuable statistics of the benefits derived by its members, which information was received with much appreciation. The musical and elocutionary entertainment was then gone through.

The programme (for which we have not space) was filled with a choice selection of pieces, and most excellently were they rendered. Mrs. Freeman appeared for the first time before a Wokingham audience, and made a very favourable impression. The recitals and scenes were admirably rendered by various gentlemen, while the general comicality of Mr. Miller closed the performance with some "passing remarks," containing capital hits of the chief points of the programme, the audience, and the locality. The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the performers, who had so

handsomely volunteered their services and given such a capital evening's amusement, which was received with enthusiastic applause, after which a vote of thanks to the Alderman closed the proceedings.

The committee and a few friends afterwards entertained the performers (the members of the Reading Elocution Society) to a supper, when a very social hour was enjoyed. A wish for the recurrence of such an entertainment was expressed by all present. The hall was well filled, and the committee of the Oddfellows Society are certainly deserving of thanks for the way in which their anniversary meeting was commemorated.

Sat 16th Dec

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Christmas Day this year falling on Monday, the young men of this town, anxious to obtain the concession of an extra holiday to enable them to visit their friends at a distance, and enjoy a three days' furlough, got up a requisition last week to their employers, which was so favourably received, that a memorial signed by nearly all the respectable tradesmen of the town, was presented to the Alderman, asking him to announce that a general suspension of business might take place on Tuesday, the 26th instant. This the Alderman (John Heelas Esq., jun.) promptly acquiesced in, and he has issued a notice postponing the weekly market to the next day (Wednesday). It is announced that the weekly Savings Bank meeting will not be held. This early announcement will, it is hoped, obviate any little difficulty that might otherwise occur.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

This subject which since the official visit of the Government Inspector, in April last, has remained in abeyance, and by most of the inhabitants been forgotten, has been revived, and the necessary steps are being taken by its promoters, with a view to the adoption of the Act within the proposed district. The order has been received from the Secretary of State, defining the boundary of the district over which the Act shall extend (which boundary has been reduced considerably within that originally proposed) and a notice that the order and plan might be inspected at the Town Clerk's office for three weeks, was duly issued, and now a public meeting of the ratepayers within the district, as settled by the order, has been convened by the Alderman to be holden at eleven o'clock on Friday next, at the Town Hall, to decide finally as to the adoption of the Act.

Great diversity of opinion prevails as to the desirability of adopting the Act. At the public meeting this subject will be discussed, and the correct data and facts laid before the ratepayers to enable them to arrive at a decision in this highly important question.

PENNY READINGS

After two seasons enjoying these pleasant entertainments, much surprise has been expressed that no effort has been made this winter to renew them. The committee of the Literary Institute (who before arranged them), have not taken action in the matter; but the Working Men's Club have announced that the first of a series of Readings will be given in the Town Hall, on Tuesday evening. If they are judiciously arranged, they will doubtless be largely patronised, and be as popular as formerly.

Sat. 30th Dec

THE COMING OF AGE OF THE EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH.

On Tuesday night the hills on the farms held by the tenants of Castlereagh Estate were illuminated with tar barrels, bonfires etc. The Craighah Hill was rendered conspicuous by a grand display of fireworks consisting of several flights of rockets with various smaller pieces. For miles around the illuminations were visible several farm houses being brilliantly lighted.

1866

Sat 13th Jan

THE COMING OF AGE OF THE EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH

The festivities at Hillsborough Castle in celebration of the coming of age of the Earl of Hillsborough continues—

On Tuesday evening the tenants of the Kilmarlin Estate to the number of 600 partook of the hospitality of the Marquis of Downshire and amongst the enjoyments provided for them witnessed a private theatrical performance in an elegant little theatre expressly fitted up in the mansion. Other amusements are in contemplation.

Sat. 24th Feb

On Thursday last the Churchwardens and Overseers of Wokingham distributed nearly forty tons of coal amongst the poor parishioners from the funds realised from the fuel allotments--a most acceptable gift just now when the weather is colder, and from the long continued wet weather the poor have not been so fully employed as usual.

Sat 23rd June

GENERAL HOLIDAY

In the early part of the past week a requisition was set on foot by a number of the inhabitants who were desirous that a general holiday should be kept on the Coronation Day, which very quickly received the appeal of all the principal tradesmen of the town, and on Thursday it was presented to the Alderman, Mr James Skerritt, who promptly issued a hand bill, in which he recommended his fellow townsmen to carry out the proposal on Thursday next by closing their shops and suspending business as far as practicable.

We shall hope to see so reasonable request very generally complied with and thus enable the employer and employed to enjoy the rare treat of a day of recreation in this beautiful summer season, a boon, the value of which can only be realised by those whose duties tie them daily to the counter or desk.

REMOVAL OF NUISANCES

The authorities are taking measures of a precautionary nature, with a view to the sanitary improvement of the town and neighbourhood, the board of Guardians having recently appointed Supt. Millard, inspector of nuisances for the south district of the Wokingham Union and Mr. Edmond Herrington, of Twyford inspector for the north district. We trust all parties will endeavour to assist the inspectors in the discharge of their duties, as far as practicable by the removal of all causes of complaint and especially during the hot season and in the suppression of these evils which are the sure forerunners of disease.

Sat 7th July

The stoppage of the Town Clock during the past few weeks has been a source of inconvenience to many and it has also been complained very generally that lately the clock has not kept much correct time as formerly, a fact in no way surprising when we state that the clock when first placed in the Town Hall was an old one.

The alderman has since called to his aid a church and turret clock manufacturer of London who recommends the erection of a new clock having four faces which would cost but little more than the recent repairs to the present one.

The proposal to adopt the latter plan must strike everyone as being the best. The alderman has accordingly called a meeting of the inhabitants of the afternoon next when the specifications and estimations and measures taken we trust to raise the necessary funds to carry out the plan determined on.

Sat 11th Aug

THE TOWN CLOCK

We noticed a few weeks since the efforts which had been made for the purpose of erecting a new Clock on the Turret of our Town-hall. After the committee had decided on accepting the tender of Mr. Tucker of London, for the erection of the clock, and the funds necessary had been generously contributed by the inhabitants and their friends, a very strong desire was expressed by many of the inhabitants that the new clock should strike the quarter hours, and the estimate has consequently been amended by the addition of the necessary works to carry out what certainly appears to be a great improvement on the original design; and this, including three new bells, which are considered requisite, will altogether amount £100. Of the sum, we are glad to hear about £80, has been collected, and we trust that all intending subscribers will at once forward their donations.

WOKINGHAM VERSUS ABINGDON

This match was played on the 26th ult. On the Wokingham Ground. The Abingdon won the first innings. Score: Abingdon 142 and 77 Wokingham, 96 and 42. The highest scores were as follows: Abingdon, Mr. Bacon, 51; Mr. W. Athawes, 33; Mr. G. Greaves, 16. Wokingham Mr. A. Willats, 22; Mr. H. R. Morris, two 14s.

Sat 24th Nov

TOWN CLOCK

The completion of this much - improvement during the past week has afforded great satisfaction to the townspeople. The clock strikes the quarters, the hour faces have been painted black with gilt numerals and hands which enables the time to be observed at a much greater distance than formerly. The clock has been manufactured by Mr. E. Tucker, of Theobold Road, Grays Inn. The cost, including the new bells, has been upwards of £100 raised by voluntary subscriptions.

1867

Sat 2nd Feb

A new clock and bells have recently been erected in the Town Hall the changes attendant upon the same having been defrayed by public subscription collected under the superintendence of Mr. Alderman Skerritt. The clock shows the time upon four dials and strikes the quarters and hours upon bells weighing about 4 hundredweights cast by Messrs. Steinbank & Mears of Whitechapel. The clock itself has been

constructed by Mr. Tucker of Theobold Road, London on the horizontal bed principle and embraces all modern improvements.

Sat 27th June

WINDSOR FOREST TURNPIKE

The proposed abolition of this turnpike Trust is the source of considerable discussion in the parishes through which the road passes. The mortgage debt being nearly paid off; it is the wish of some of the trustees to abolish the trust, whilst others are of opinion that the time has not yet arrived to do so, and we hear that a resolution has been sent to the Home Secretary, asking him to omit the trust from the annual Turnpike Continuance Act, and also that a protest against that course has been forwarded. However, the Home Secretary wishes to ascertain the feelings of the several parishes on the subject, and vestry meetings are about being held for that purpose. While turnpikes are generally felt to be a nuisance, and their abolition is regarded as a public benefit—it must also be borne in mind that if the road is thrown open, the repairs will fall on the ratepayers, and as Wokingham Parish will have nearly four miles of road to keep repaired, many think the present system the fairest, of making those who travel on the road support it by the payment of a toll is preference to taxing ratepayers (the greater part of whom never use it), for the benefit of the travelling public.

Sat 13th July

TURNPIKE

The Vestry Meeting of the inhabitants of Wokingham called in accordance of the wish of the Secretary of State to ascertain whether the parishes on the line of the Windsor Forest Turnpike Road were in favour of the abolition of the Trust, was held in the Town Hall on the ??? inst. and was well attended. After considerable discussion a resolution was carried that it would be a hardship to the ratepayers if the maintenance of the road was thrown on the parishes, and if turnpikes were to be abolished provision ought to be made for their repair at the public expense; and as the question is now before Parliament, the meeting considered the act should be continued until the question had been finally determined.

Sat 27th July

ANCIENT ORDER OF FORESTERS

Court “Leo” in connection with the London United District, was opened on the 17th inst., by Brother Cotton, the District Chief Ranger, at the “Hope and Anchor” Inn, Wokingham, assisted by the Brothers Hancock, Herbert, House, Moultry, Aldridge &c. The favourable state of the weather enabled the Brothers and members of the new Court to march in procession through the streets, headed by the town band playing popular airs and halting at the residences of several gentlemen who promote the welfare of the Order. On their return everything was admirably arranged and the new Court was formally opened by the District Chief Ranger and Brothers when twenty-five members were made and ten propositions received after which Brother Cotton delivered an interesting address to the new members upon the principles of Forestry, its rise and progress, and its present position as compared with other societies,-its amalgamated number of Courts and members and its sound financial position. At the conclusion the room was thrown open and a large party assembled and spent a pleasant evening.

Sat 3rd Aug

A marriage has been arranged between Lady Alice Hill and Lord Kenlie, son of the Earl of Earl Bective.

Sat 19th Sept

REGISTRATION

The Revising Barristers will sit on Tuesday morning at nine o'clock, in the Town Hall, to revise the list of voters for the forest Division of the county, when it behoved those having business to transact to be punctual in their attendance.

FIRE

On Saturday afternoon a fire was discovered in the roof of a cottage forming part of three tenements at the rear of Mr. Fisher's house in Denmark-street. The house being very old the flames rapidly spread, but the neighbours worked energetically in passing buckets of water, and the engine was set to work. There being a good supply of water, the fire was subdued in the course of half-an-hour, but not until the roof had burnt out. The buildings were insured, but the cottagers have sustained considerable loss from the hasty removal of their goods and furniture, especially G. Popejoy, the occupier of the cottage burnt. The fire is believed to have originated in a beam which communicated with a flue.

Sat 12th Oct

SACRILEGE

During one night last week some thieves visited both the parish churches and stole the copper wire work affixed to preserve the stained glass windows from injury. They got clear off and at present have evaded detection. They went with their booty in the direction of London, as a piece of the wire work was found on the road to Bracknell.

At All Saints' Church one of the memorial windows was covered with galvanised iron wire, and this was not disturbed,--a fact which churchwardens should bear in mind in replacing the wire work. About two years ago a gang made a tour through various parts of the county, stripping off the copper wire work from church windows.

CHARITIES

On Wednesday next the Corporation will meet to distribute Mrs. Yarnold's very useful charity to the blind, and on Friday they will award two apprenticeship premiums of £21 each, from Archbishop Laud's Charity. Our Town Sessions will also be held on the latter day.

On Tuesday last Mr. Briginshaw, butcher, of the Market Place, exhibited a baron of beef, which attracted much attention. This noble joint was a prominent feature at the dinner given at Easthampstead Park on the following day on the occasion of the marriage of Lord Kenlis with the Lady Alice Hill, the only daughter of the Marquis of Downshire.

THEATRICALS

Mr. Tom Rogers, with his company, has commenced a short season at our Town Hall; and, as Mr. Rogers and his family are old favourites here, they may hope to be well supported.

Sat 19th Oct

BLIND CHARITY

On Wednesday the Corporation met at the Town Hall to distribute the charity of the late Mrs Sarah Yarnold who left £20 yearly to four blind persons-two men and two women-those residing in Hurst and Ruscombe to be preferred. There were numerous applications and the following were elected: William Alder of Hurst, Charles Waite of Reading, Lucy New of Woodley and Ann Mellet of Swyncombe, each receiving five pounds.

Sat 26th Oct

For some time past the good people of Wokingham (like the numerous letter writers to the London journals) have been vainly trying to ascertain the reason of the wide difference between the wholesale and retail price of meat. However, last Saturday evening the Town Crier announced that an enterprising West End butcher would sell any joints of beef for 6d per pound and a thriving trade he drove ere he closed his shutters he had sold out. He appears as well satisfied with the results that he announced his intention of repeating the experiment.

Sat 9th Nov

COUNTY BALL

On Wednesday evening our Town Hall presented a most animated scene on the occasion of this ball being held. The room had been very tastefully decorated and at ten o'clock dancing commenced to the music of Burnham's Band, and the party which numbered 20 was composed of the principle county families in this neighbourhood, and included a numerous sprinkling of officers from Aldershot. Everything passed off most satisfactorily. The refreshment department as usual in the hands of Mr. W. Chambers of the Market Place receiving the unqualified approval of the company.

THE LITERARY INSTITUTION

The "season" of this institution will be inaugurated on Thursday evening by an address from John Walter, Esq., who will also give particulars of his recent tour through the United States. The particulars are advertised elsewhere.

FAIR

This Annual November Pleasure Fair was held on Saturday and Monday last when there was the usual motley assemblage of shows, stalls and itinerant exhibitions, and as the weather was fine each day there was a large attendance, especially in the evening. Some of the inhabitants feared that as the fair extended over Sunday the usual quiet of the town on that day would be disturbed, but it was not so as a more orderly fair we do not recollect.

On Sunday afternoon the Rev. J. W. Charlton, the Incumbant of St. Sebastian's, held a special service in the Market Place, and delivered a most suitable address to an audience most exclusively of the fair people, who listened to the rev. gentleman with marked attention.

There was no case calling for the attention of the magistrates arising from the fair. The police keeping a close watch on the few suspicious characters observed.

Sat 1st Feb

On Saturday evening the town alarmed by the cry of "Fire". It appears that a shed in the yard of the Red Lion Inn, in the middle of the Market Place, is used by the landlord, Mr Mattingly as a carpenter shop, and the upper part as a skittle alley. About half past nine flames were discovered in this shed. Plenty of assistance being at hand the doors were kept closed and water poured in from the roof by which judicious means the flames were subdued before much damage was done although a quantity of tools were destroyed. The fire no doubt was the result of an accident.

Sat 28th March

VISIT OF THE PRINCE OF WALES

On Friday, the 20th inst. The meet of the Queen's staghounds was fixed for Wokingham and in the morning it was rumoured that we were to be honoured by the presence of the Prince of Wales, and this rumour was soon confirmed by the arrival of the Prince's horses. The hounds arrived in the Market Place shortly before the appointed time and were met by an immense field of horsemen estimated at upwards of three hundred besides many ladies and carriages.

Exactly at twelve o'clock the Prince, accompanied by his Equerry, Captain Ellis, arrived in a carriage and pair, and having alighted at the "Rose" Hotel, he mounted his favourite chestnut hunter and proceeded through the streets amidst the hearty but respectful greetings of the assemblage to a meadow below All Saints' Church, where the deer, the celebrated "Doctor," specially reserved for this occasion was uncartered.

The Prince looked remarkably well and repeatedly acknowledged the cheers of the assemblage. The "Doctor," directly he was at liberty, bounded off in the direction of Bracknell, but being headed he turned into the grounds at Buckhurst and from thence went on through Billingbear to Shottesbrooke Park at a great pace; at the last named place he got into a pond and a check ensued which was most welcome to such of the field as were still in the hunt.

The "Doctor" was safely taken near Taplow, after a good run. Three gentlemen only were up at the finish. The casualties were numerous, and the Prince had several falls—one soon after starting, his horse, owing to the giving-way of a rotten bank, falling with him. He was, however, immediately up and mounted again, with no worse result than a mark of Berkshire mud on his scarlet coat.

ENTERTAINMENT

On Tuesday evening Mr. Wade Clinton gave a farewell reading at the Town Hall, assisted by some musical friends, and a very excellent programme was issued. The attendance was not so large as at Mr. Clinton's previous readings, but those present were certainly well entertained and the musical pieces especially were rapturously applauded.

Sat 11th April

COUNTY BENCH 6TH APRIL

(Before John L. Gower, Esq.)

James Donnelly of Westminster, London, slipper maker, was brought up in the custody of Supt. Millard charged with feloniously stealing thirteen pieces of copper wire netting from the stained glass windows of St. Paul's Church, Wokingham, on the

night of the 1st February last, the property of the churchwardens. The prisoner and his brother have been, for a number of years, engaged in robbing the wire guard work from the exterior of illuminated windows and the prisoner was sentenced to four years penal servitude for this offence in January 1864. It will be remembered that on the morning of the 7th ult, two constables of the Reading Borough Police stopped two men near the Great Western Railway Station with a quantity of copper wire in their possession when one of them made his escape. The prisoner was apprehended by the superintendent of police at Wolverhampton in Staffordshire on the 3rd instant, and has been identified as the same man who then escaped. Supt. Millard applied for a remand until Wednesday, which was granted.

Sat 6th June

ODD-FELLOWS' FETE

On Whit-Monday the members of the new "Royal Forest" Lodge of Odd Fellows, No. 5066, celebrated their anniversary at Matthew's Green, near Wokingham, the seat of Captain Elliott Morres. A procession, headed by the Reading Saxe Horn Band, paraded the town, and then proceeded to the Park.

At one o'clock an excellent dinner was provided under a spacious tent, the caterer being Mr Newcombe, of the "Hope and Anchor" Inn, Wokingham. John Walter Esq., presided, and was supported by—Walter Esq., the Rev. T J Browne, the Rev. T Morres, Capt. Morres, Dr. Barford, Dr Waite, Mr Munden, Mr Westcott, &c.—After dinner the loyal toasts were proposed by the Chairman, and Captain Morres and Lieutenant Walter responded for the "Army and Navy". Mr Robert Blake, the secretary, then read the report from which it appeared that the Lodge was founded in 1862 with only thirteen members. The numbers have been gradually increased until this year they have reached 137. The receipts this year amounted to £4 10s and the expenditure to £3 2s.; but the total value now is £209 19s 8d., of which £190 2s. 11d. is in the Post Office Savings Bank. Eighteen members have been initiated during the present year.

The other toasts were — "The Bishop and Clergy," "Success to the New Royal Forest Lodge," &c. The Chairman said that if agreeable next year he should be happy to find a convenient place for the society at Bear Wood if they decided on paying him a visit. (Cheers.)

After dinner a variety of games were commenced and the festivities concluded with a ball at the "Hope and Anchor."

Sat 20th June

During the past week a movement has been set on foot in Wokingham to provide two or three hours of relaxation each week during the summer months for the assistants in the various business establishments to whom the enjoyment of the pleasant summer weather will be a boon much appreciated. It is arranged to close the shops at five o'clock every Wednesday (commencing next week) and from the unanimous feeling shown in favour of the scheme there is no doubt of its being generally adopted as the whole of the principal tradesmen have given their consent and it is especially gratifying to know that the plan originated with a few of the employers and not from the employed — a proof of kindness and consideration which will be truly valued.

The plan, we hear, has been adopted in various other places with the success and, where all join, the benefit is shared by all, and no one suffers in a business point of view.

Sat 4th July

The holiday on Coronation Day was kept here on Monday last when we were glad to see the shops all closed, and early in the morning numerous pleasure parties might be seen wending their way in various directions, all bent on enjoying their annual summer day's holiday. Many availed themselves of the excursion train to the seaside, a large party went to the fete at Whiteknights, some to the Crystal Palace, while others followed out their various ideas of pleasure in fishing parties, cricket matches, and other sources of amusement.

All returned home very tired, but very happy, and we have little doubt much the better for the enjoyment of the fresh air and the beautiful weather, to apply themselves with renewed energy to their business avocations, so rarely interrupted in so pleasant a manner.

Sat 5th Sept

TREAT TO WORKMEN

On Tuesday last the men employed by Mr Allaway, builder of Wokingham, had their usual excursion. The place chosen this year was the Crystal Palace on account of the Great Temperance Fete which took place on that day, most of the men being teetotallers.

Everything went off successfully and the men were well satisfied with their day out.

Sat 19th Sept

TOWN HALL

The Town Hall is now being thoroughly repaired and decorated by Mr Frith of this town and when completed will no doubt present a very nice appearance. The interior has not yet been renovated since the building was first completed.

Sat. 24th October

SANGER'S CIRCUS

This immense company paid a visit to this town last Saturday where their parade through the principal streets excited much interest and admiration. The camels and elephants were especially attractive. There were two performances during the day; that in the morning was pretty well patronised and in the evening the tent was thronged.

The performances were excellent throughout and the feats of the equestrians and acrobats, and the Arab troupe were particularly astonishing.

Sat 31st Oct

WINDSOR FOREST TURNPIKE

This Trust will expire tomorrow (Sunday) at twelve o'clock at which hour the gates will be thrown open, and no further tolls taken, and as soon as practicable, the toll houses, side bars, and other property of the trustees will be sold and cleared away. The future repair of the road will fall on the various parishes through which it passes.

Sat 7th Nov

PENNY READINGS

The Wokingham Working Men's Club have determined during next week to resume the Penny Readings. The committee have also arranged to hold a tea meeting at a moderate charge.

MAGISTRATE'S MEETING

On Tuesday last there was a very full attendance of the Country Justices at the Town Hall to consider whether it would be more convenient for the Bench to sit in future one hour earlier when a resolution moved by Sir Warwick Morehead and seconded by Dr. Bridges was unanimously adopted, fixing the hour of meeting for the future of Eleven instead of Twelve o'clock, the alteration to take effect from the present time.

FAIR

Our fair on Monday and Tuesday, owing probably to the fine weather was certainly the largest we have had for some years. The exhibition and stalls were of the usual description. Sangar's Wax Models and a Steam Roundabout evidently were the greatest attractions, the latter doing a thriving trade. The arrangement of the Alderman to prevent the fair people taking up their positions in the Town on the Saturday and Sunday by admitting them free of charge, with their cattle, into his meadow, was much appreciated by all, the Town being as quiet as usual on Sunday whilst the travellers were glad to find a turn out with excellent feed without charge. We are glad to say that not a single case arose during the fair requiring magisterial interference.

WINDSOR FOREST TURNPIKE

On Sunday last at midday this trust expired after an existence of upwards of a century and at a meeting of the Trustees on Wednesday last, arrangements were made for the sale by an auction of the toll houses, gates &c. The sites of the houses will be offered to the adjoining land owners and in a very short time all trace of the turnpikes will be gone.

Sat 12th Dec

GALE BLOWS DOWN ELM TREE

The terrific gale of Sunday night laid low an object of much local interest in the town – the fine old elm tree near the Roe Buck Inn, in the Market Place, which was regarded as a great ornament. The tree fell about half past one in the morning with a loud crash arousing many of those living near from their sleep. It was fortunate the disaster happened in the night when there was no one about and also that it fell towards the centre of the Market Place. Formerly there were several elms in Broad Street but they have disappeared one by one until the tree in the Market Place alone remained as a relic of past ages, and the theme of many a tale of hairbreadth escapes when on bull-baiting days our forefathers occasionally had to scramble into the friendly tree for safety.

1869

Sat 5th June

EARLY CLOSING

It is said that the practice adopted here last summer, of closing the shops at five o'clock on Wednesday evenings will be resumed on Wednesday, the 16th of June, and that it is likely to be as general as it was last year, as it was found to cause no inconvenience to any one, whilst to those closely engaged in business the extra hours of weekly relaxation was much appreciated.

ENTERTAINMENT

This week Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Morris have given two performances comprising of Music and Magic, in the Town Hall. Mrs. Morris' sleight of hand is very extraordinary, the various tricks being performed with much dexterity, whilst Mr. Morris's performance on the Orphonic Crystal, or Musical Glasses forms a very pleasing accompaniment. We regret that they were not more largely patronised. At the conclusion a novel feature was introduced in the distribution amongst the audience, by lottery, of some handsome presents of elegant and useful articles, which created much amusement, and appeared to send the audience home in good spirits.

Sat 19th June

EARLY CLOSING

The arrangement proposed for closing the shops at five o'clock on Wednesday afternoon was resumed for the present summer on Wednesday and we are glad to notice that the movement was gainfully adopted.

Sat 24th July

GAS COMPANY

At the anniversary meeting of the shareholders of this carefully managed company, the directors reported such a favourable state of affairs that a dividend of 6% was declared and a further reduction of sixpence per thousand in the price of gas was also resolved on. This is very satisfactory both to the shareholders and consumers of gas in the town. The retiring directors were re-elected unanimously.

Sat 21st Aug

FREE LIBRARY

On the evening of the 12th inst., a preliminary meeting was held in the Town Hall, presided over by the Alderman, to take into consideration the subject of establishing a "Free Library" in Wokingham, in consequence of the very liberal offer of the Hon. Auberon Herbert, in aid of the object. A discussion ensued, in which all heartily joined in the opinion that the hon. Gentleman's offer was most handsome, and that an effort ought to be made to enable our town to participate in the benefits which the foundation of a Free Library, on a large scale was likely to confer on the future education and improvement of the inhabitants, as no doubt the access to a carefully selected library might enable many a future student to follow the pursuit of literature, without which his progress would be almost impossible. We trust the project will commend itself to the support of the residents in the neighbourhood as its benefits would not be entirely local. We observe that the project has been taken up with much spirit at Windsor.

Sat 4 Sept

CATTLE DISEASE

We regret to state that the prevalent complaint called the Foot and Mouth disease, has broken out with considerable virulence in Wokingham and the neighbourhood. The complaint, we understand, is not dangerous to the life of the animals attacked, although it leaves them in a low and weak condition, but it is very infectious, much more so than rinderpest. The inspector under the new Contagious Diseases Act, Mr. J. Darling, veterinary surgeon, of Bracknell, has visited the various cases, and we trust that if the owners of the cattle attacked will but scrupulously isolate them from all others, the disease may soon be extinguished.

COTTAGE GARDENS

It has long been a matter of complaint here, like most other towns, that from the increasing value of land in the immediate vicinity of the town, very few of the cottagers are possessed of a garden, or at least so small a place as to be of little value for the supply of vegetables for the use of the family; and when we see in country places the well-stocked gardens attached to the cottages, it seems a great incentive to the industry of the poorer classes in towns is denied them. We are therefore glad to hear that want having been represented to John Walter, Esq., M.P., he has kindly directed that a large arable field in Star Lane, near the town, shall be let out to the poor in allotments of one quarter of an acre, no person to have more than one plot, and to use it for spade husbandry only, as a garden.

Sat. 23rd Oct

Mr. Thurton the Ventriloquist this weekend gave one of his entertaining performances at the Town Hall. He very aptly calls it a representation of "Odd Folks" and certainly he introduced his audience to some of the oddest specimens of humanity ever met with and by the aid of his superior ventriloquism kept everyone highly amused.

Sat 13th Nov

The brilliant meteor was observed in this neighbourhood on Saturday evening a few minutes before seven. One person particularly noticed the clear blue light observed after the disappearance of the meteor which he described as being equal to the light of the full moon being a clear soft though bright light lasting nearly ten minutes before it entirely faded away.

Sat 27th Nov

PENNY READINGS

The Working Men's Club commenced the series of their Penny Readings on the evening of the 18th inst. The chair was filled by Dr. Barford, a zealous friend to the club. The programme was gone through in a very creditable manner, but the audience was much less numerous as usual, owing probably to the increased charges for admission.

On Tuesday evening, the readings were resumed, at the old prices of admission, when the hall was well filled. Mr. H. Simmons took the chair, and the songs and readings were well received; the glee by members of the club being especially applauded.

BARRETTI'S TROUPE OF CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS.

Last week they gave two concerts in our Town Hall, which were tolerably well attended, although there have recently been so many similar entertainments given in the town. Some of the performers were decidedly above the average merit, particularly the performances on the cornet of H. Barretti, leader; the dancing of Bob Deller, and the tambourine player.

Sat 18th Dec

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

The tradesmen of Wokingham, in accordance with the practice resolved on in most towns, have agreed to close their establishments on Monday week, the 27th inst. So as

to enable their assistants (and also themselves to enjoy of three consecutive days, and thereby doubtless enabling many a happy Christmas party to be more complete than it otherwise would be.—The Wokingham Savings Bank will be open on Tuesday, the 24th, so as to cause as little inconvenience to the public as possible.

1870

Sat 29th Jan

In consequence of the intended opening of the Electric Telegraph at the Post office it was found that the accommodation at the late office was much too restricted. Mr. Spencer, the Postmaster, has therefore fitted up the house adjoining the late office for the combined offices for the Telegraph and Post, by which the public convenience will doubtless be much increased.

On Monday evening Signor Bosco gave an entertainment in the Town Hall, consisting of magical illusions and Sleight of hand performances. The Signor proved himself an adept at his art.

Sat 19th Feb

The long-continued frost has, we fear, been productive of much distress and suffering among the poor, as out-door labour has been almost entirely suspended. Last week there was a large distribution of coals, and on Tuesday the Trustees of Bromley's Charity distributed 435 gallons of bread amongst the poor parishioners of this town; still it must be remembered that there are many not entitled to share in these gifts, and by these especially aid is much needed. We are glad to learn that much has been done by the kindness of the benevolent to stave off the evil effects of the present severe season. To many the frost is a source of pleasure, and the lovers of skating have had a rare treat during the past ten days.

Sat 2nd April

ACCIDENT

On Wednesday evening last, soon after eight o'clock, a horse attached to a dog-cart, belonging to Mr. Gough, of Bracknell, ran away from that town, and at full speed galloped along the road to Wokingham, a distance of between three and four miles. Passing safely up Peach-street, it dashed across the Market-place into the shop-window of Mrs Gardener, demolishing the lower part. The affrighted animal then ran up the Market-place, and in turning the corner of the Town Hall, opposite Messrs. Heelas', fell and broke the shaft of the cart. The animal was then secured, and although much out, is believed not to be seriously injured. It is wonderful that it should have gone so far without doing greater injury.

Sat 14th May

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE NEW WESLEYAN CHAPEL

On Wednesday the foundation stone of the new Wesleyan Chapel was laid in this town on the site of the old building which was erected fifteen years ago by the Rev. J Waterhouse. The new chapel will be built by Mr. Whiting of Reading from plans prepared by Mr. T.S. Lansdowne, architect, of Swindon.

The shape of the building is a parallelogram and will be composed of red brick with Bathstone dressings. The roof will be open timber boldly built diagonally, boarded,

stained and varnished. The seats will be massive and open and will also be stained and varnished.

The style is the 14th century Gothic and the street front will contain three gables with centre porch and the roof will be supported on stone corbels. The dimensions are 51 feet by 33 feet and there will be accommodation for 350. The cost is about £1,000.

Sat 23rd July

The marriage of the Marquis of Downshire and Miss Balfour, eldest daughter of Mr. And Lady Georgina Balfour of Balbernie Fifeshire is appointed to take place on Tuesday next at St. George's, Hanover Square.

Sat 20th Aug

DEATH OF JAMES CHAMBERS OF BROAD STREET.

The deceased was one of the oldest traders of the town and he also held the offices of Sergeant-at-Mace; Toll Collector and Hall Keeper of the Corporation which offices have been held by the family for the last century.

Sat 10th Sept

THE SICK AND WOUNDED

Notice has been given that collections will be made here tomorrow after divine service in aid of the fund for the sick and wounded in the war when it is hoped a liberal sum may be contributed to this good cause the need of which is so apparent to all who peruse the harrowing but graphic details contained in the letters recently published from the society's agents on the continent.

Sat 19th Nov

On Monday evening last a meeting was held in our Town Hall with the view of forming in Wokingham a sub-division to the 10th Berks Rifles, usually known as the Winkfield Corps. Alderman Goodchild presided and introduced Captain Carter, Adjutant of the Berkshire Battalion, who addressed the meeting and was followed by Lieut. Cave, the Rev. C. Tidd Pratt and other gentlemen, and after several names of volunteers had been received an adjournment of a fortnight was made in order to make the necessary arrangements. We heartily wish the movement success as surely our town and neighbourhood ought to furnish enough recruits to make up the 10th Berks to a company.

DEATH OF JOHN BALSTON WALTER

John Balston Walter, the eldest son of John Walter III, died on the evening of Christmas Eve whilst skating on one of the lakes of the Bearwood Estate with some relatives. The ice gave way and two of his brothers and a cousin fell into the water and were in danger of drowning. John went to the rescue, but almost immediately the sudden shock of the icy water stopped his heart.

1871

Sat 18th Feb

THE QUEEN'S HOUNDS

The meet of the Royal Pack on Friday last was the Market Place, Wokingham, where a numerous field assembled. At twelve o'clock the noble master of the

Buckhounds, the Earl of Cork, gave orders to have the deer uncarted near All Saint's church. The "Doctor" on being let out, bounded off over the meadows by Stokes farm and Marchfield to Binfield church, and then turned to the right to Warfield where he was taken. A second deer was uncarted near the "Thee Frogs," and after a sharp run was captured at Newland.

Sat 25th Feb

THE EDUCATION QUESTION

A meeting was held in the Town Hall, on Wednesday afternoon, of members of the committees of various parochial schools and others, to consider the financial condition of the several schools in the Parish of Wokingham, with reference to "Elementary Education Act, 1870" at which there were present Mr. Alderman Goodchild, the Revs. J.T. Brown, W.T. Henham, T.P. Brandram, F. Robinson, and H.R. Morres, and P.G. Scorey; Capt. Walter, Messrs. J.L. Roberts, E. Morres, C.M. Viall, T. Cooke, E. Roberts, E. Weight, J.S. Kerritt, T. May, S. Hankey, W. Gibson, E. Frankum, E. Dalley, E. Butler. G. Jameson, T.S. Brown, T.M. Wescot, and J. Heald. Mr. A.L. Goodchild having been declared chairman, the Rev J.T. Brown gave a lucid epitome of the new Education Act, and a discussion ensued on its provisions and the regulations of the Council of Education, and the condition, financially and otherwise, of the schools.

It was then proposed by the Rev. W.T. Henham, seconded by Mr. J.L. Roberts and resolved, "That the schools of the parish be carried on the voluntary principle at present." It was proposed by Capt. Walter, seconded by Mr. May, and resolved "That application be made to all the owners and occupiers I the parish for aid towards the maintenance of the schools."

FIRE

On Saturday afternoon about half-past three, much consternation was caused by the discovery of a fire at the residence of Mr. H. Trickey Dunning, wine and spirit merchant, in the Market-place. The fire was first discovered in a bedroom at the back of the house by the smoke issuing from a closet containing clothes, and an alarm was instantly raised, but as the premises are very old and contain much timber the fire rapidly made progress between the ceilings and the roof. In a few minutes plenty of willing hands set to work, and the Wokingham fire engine being close to the spot was got to work without delay, but as the flames were under the roof it was impossible for some time to get at the fire, although dense volumes of smoke poured out of the windows and through the roof.

By pulling off the tiles an entrance was affected but the smoke was so great that it was difficult to ascertain precisely where to direct the water, but one or two, regardless of danger got in with the hose, and after about half an hour succeeded in subduing the flames, indeed, when it could be got to bear on the fire so great was the force of water from the engine that it seemed to beat out the fire directly and to the fact that our fire engine being in such an excellent condition we attribute the escape of the town from a sad calamity as buildings all round are very old, and the stock-in-trade of course of a very inflammable nature.

Indeed so great did the danger appear at one time that the engines from Reading were telegraphed for, and within an hour the "County" engine arrived, but it was not used as all danger then had ceased. The cause of the fire was found to be an old flue, (the existence of which was not known), and which after the fire was discovered behind the paper of the bedroom.

Much damage was caused by the water and the hasty removal of the furniture, &c., but we find the house was insured in the "County" office, although through an inadvertence from Mr. Dunning having changed his residence recently, the insurance on the furniture had not been kept up, so that he will be a considerable loser.

Sat 8th July

VESTRY MEETING WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE PROBLEMS

Last week a meeting was held in our Town Hall which was very largely attended and excited much interest to consider the position in which the Town of Wokingham and its suburbs are placed with reference to the adoption of the Sewage Utilization Act. In order to explain the present aspect of the question, it is necessary to state that in 1866, after much opposition and a poll of the parish, it was resolved by a majority to place a district then defined under the provisions of the Sewage Utilization Act, and a committee was then formed to carry out the act. After one or two meetings of the committee the subject was abandoned and it has been in abeyance ever since.

In the interim the Highway Surveyors, on complaint of the Inspector of Nuisances, have expended a considerable amount on the drainage of the district, and the works executed by them were approved and sanctioned by the Vestry. However at Lady Day last, a ratepayer appealed against the allowance of the Surveyor's accounts, on the ground that the sums charged therein on account of the drainage had been illegally expended, because of the vote of 1866 the sewer authority then created, was the only body legally enabled to execute such works. In this view the appellant stated that he was fortified by the opinion of the Secretary of State; and thus affairs have come to a deadlock, the Surveyors naturally feeling indisposed to act.

At the meeting Mr Alderman Wheeler having been elected chairman, Mt. Edward Roberts ably and clearly laid before the Vestry the present position of affairs when a proposal to appoint a fresh committee under the Sewage Act was met by an amendment to postpone the matter for twelve months, but this was negatived, and ultimately an adjournment until the 20th July was carried. In the meantime it will be well for the ratepayers to carefully consider the whole subject as matters cannot remain in their present state; and if we do not keep control of the local drainage in the hands of our own elected committee it is possible Government may step in, and then the ratepayers may find themselves powerless to prevent an expenditure which they now have the power of controlling.

Sat 29th July

THE SEWAGE QUESTION

Since the Vestry meeting held last week at which a large majority refused to appoint a commission to act under the powers of the Sewage Utilisation Act which it is considered was adopted here between four or five years ago much attention has been given to the subject and a memorial to the Home secretary is being prepared and will and will at once presented. We may therefore expect an official inquiry into the sanitary state of the town and its suburbs an inquiry which viewed with very different feelings by the two opposing parties, the one stating that we have nothing to fear from the improvements recently effected on the public drains whilst the others contend that in many places the drainage is wholly inadequate to remove the sewage that the water supply is insufficient and often impure and that only under the compulsory powers of the Act can the evils they depict effectually be remedied.

We shall watch the result with much interest as the future position of the town will be greatly affected by the result.

POTATO DISEASE

We regret to hear from various places in this neighbourhood that the disease has shown itself, and fears are entertained for the safety of the crop, which otherwise promises to be unusually heavy. The early date at which the blight has been developed and the showery weather which favours its extension causes much anxiety for the safety of the crop, still dry and warm weather would rapidly ripen it, and by raising the potatoes early the greater part it is hoped may be preserved.

Sat 16th Sept

THE CAMP

During the past week our town has maintained its wonted quietude notwithstanding various rumours of attack, siege, night surprise, and other military operations; indeed, the belief begins to be entertained that after all we may not even be invaded at all.

Many persons have paid visits to Hartford Bridge Flats, and have been much interested in the scenes of camp life there, and have inspected the Cavalry Brigade at Bramshill and Hasely Heath, the beautiful condition of their horses and the equipment of the various regiments being much admired. The exercises of the past week have been chiefly directed to inure the troops to out-door life, and bring the various branches of the service into contact with each other, preparatory to the real work of the mimic campaign of next week, when the manoeuvres of the whole force will take place, and a grand display of military tactics practiced never before seen in England.

It is extremely difficult to obtain reliable information beforehand of the intended movements, it being necessary to avoid too great an assemblage of sightseers at one point, which might interfere with the perfect action of the forces, and them perhaps near the effect of the day's plan.

Among the officers of the Reserve Forces who have received certificates of proficiency in their duties after examination by Boards of Examiners appointed by the Secretary of State for War was Ensign Fry, 7th Berkshire (Sandhurst) Rifles.

POST OFFICE

After holding the office for nearly thirty years, Mr. Spencer has resigned the Postmastership, and the appointment has been given to Mrs. Barford, of the Market-place. We trust that increased accommodation will be afforded the public in the new office, as it has long been a matter of complaint that the old office was much too small for the increasing business of the Post Office and the telegraphic services combined.

Sat 11th Nov

FAIR

The annual November pleasure fair was held on the 2nd and 3rd inst, when, fortunately, the weather was beautifully fine. There was, as usual, a large attendance of stalls, shows, shooting galleries, roundabouts, & c. The roundabouts (two driven by steam) especially seemed to attract a large share of patronage. Superintendent Millard and several constables kept such a vigilant eye on the few suspicious characters present that we heard of no robbery or disturbance, and it is a subject of

congratulation that not even a charge of drunkenness was preferred arising out of the fair.

Some of the inhabitants expressed a wish that the recent Act of Parliament of the Abolition of Fairs might be put in force here, whilst others are favourable to the continuance of the old custom.

ENTERTAINMENT

The committee of the "Leigh Hunt" Club, recently established here, gave an excellent entertainment in the Town Hall last Monday evening, when, with the able assistance kindly rendered them by some friends from Reading and the neighbourhood, a pleasing programme of readings and music, both vocal and instrumental, was gone through. It was regretted that the attendance was not larger.

POST OFFICE

We would remind the public, especially business men, that the letter-box closes now for the evening mail at 7 o'clock instead of 7.30 as formerly. Letters with an additional stamp are still received up to 7.15, when the box closes. It certainly seems strange that situated as Wokingham is so near London and Reading where the letters are despatched, that advantage cannot be taken of one of the later trains, and the hours for posting extended instead of restricted. It is hoped that before very long greater postal facilities will be accorded to this town

Sat 30th Dec

THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

The holiday was duly observed in this town, and the following day (Tuesday) was also kept as a general holiday, nearly all the shops being closed. A large number of persons attended the meet of the Royal Stag Hounds near the "Roe Buck," Binfield. The inmates of the Union Workhouse were not forgotten; by the liberality of the Guardians they were regaled on Christmas Day with a dinner of hot meat, plum pudding, and ale. On Tuesday evening the inmates were much amused by an entertainment consisting of vocal and instrumental music, charades, &c., capitably rendered by Mr. Norry and family, assisted by several friends.

During the usual interval in the programme, each of the audience received an orange, piece of cake, and a glass of home-made wine, and on separating were loud in their expressions of gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Norry, the master and mistress, for their kindness.

1872

Sat Jan 13th

THE SEWAGE QUESTION

As we anticipated the Local Government Board being wholly unable to reconcile memorials sent up, have directed an official enquiry to be made and have notified that I.T. Harrison Esq, the inspector appointed for the purpose, will proceed with his enquiry on Tuesday next at eleven o'clock, at the Town Hall when he will be prepared to receive the evidence of all persons entitled to be heard upon this important subject.

Sat. Feb 10th

RAILWAY FARES

The London & South West Railway Company have announced in their time tables this month that they carry third-class passengers by every train. This is a boon to the poorer class of travellers and a concession to the public wants most honourable to the Board of Directors as the inconvenient hours at which the third-class passengers are compelled to travel on most of our railways is a serious hardship on those whose circumstances compel them to avail themselves of cheap fares.

Sat 9th March

THE SANITARY CONDITION OF THE TOWN

We lately reported at considerable length the proceedings at an inquiry held by J.T. Harrison, Esq., the inspector appointed by the Local Government Board to inquire into the sanitary state of this town, in consequence of a petition presented to the Board complaining of the defective drainage, and the alleged insufficiency and impurity of the water supply. Evidence of a most conflicting nature was adduced, and at the close the Inspector took with him four specimens of water for analysis, which he had selected from different parts of the town. The report of the inspector has been looked for with much curiosity and anxiety, as it was felt that the future interests of the town would be much affected by the nature of the report, and the steps requisite to remedy any defects that might be found. This report has now arrived, and it has been deposited with the Assistant-overseer for inspection. A Vestry meeting is summoned for Thursday next at three o'clock, in the Town-hall to take the document into consideration. The following is a copy of the report. It demands the serious and attentive consideration of the inhabitants:--

Copy:

Local Government Board, Whitehall, S.W.
29th February 1872

Sir,--I am directed by the Local Government Board to forward herewith to the Vestry, as the Sewer Authority of Wokingham, for their information; a copy (enclosed) of Mr. Harrison's Reports on the Inquiry held by him at Wokingham on the 16th and 30th days of January last, in pursuance of the petition from inhabitants, ratepayers and owners of property in the district, alleging default on the part of the Sewer Authority, in respect of the water supply and sewerage thereof.

I am to call the attention of the Vestry to the 49th Section of the Sanitary Act, 1866, and to the duty thereby upon the Local Government Board when complaint is made of default by a Sewer Authority.

I am to request that the Vestry will, forthwith, show cause why an Order should not issue on the matter, in pursuance of the Petition and of the 49th Section of the Sanitary Act, 1866.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(Signed) T. Taylor

To the Clerk of the Vestry, Wokingham, Berkshire.

SANITARY ACT 1866 Wokingham, Berkshire

Report on a Petition presented by certain Inhabitants, Ratepayers and Owners of Property in the Special Drainage District, comprising the Town and part of the Parish

of Wokingham, in the County of Berks, complaining that the Vestry, as the Sewer Authority, have made default in providing the District with proper Sewerage and Water supply.

Local Government Act Office
21st February 1872

To the Right Honourable James Stansfeld M.P.

President of the Local Government Board

Sir,

I have the honour to report that a Petition (No. 5932) was received on the 1st of December last from certain inhabitants, ratepayers and owners of property of the Special Drainage District, comprising the Town and part of the Parish of Wokingham, complaining that the Vestry, as the Sewer Authority, have made default in providing the district with proper sewage and water supply; the danger arises to the health of the inhabitants from the insufficiency and unwholesomeness of the existing supply of water; and that a proper supply can be got at a reasonable cost. A copy of this Petition was forwarded to the Sewer Authority for their observations upon it, and their reply accompanied by a letter from Mr. J. L. Roberts (No. 6295) was received on the 1st January 1872. The Vestry state, in this reply, that the supply of water is good, that their town is one of the best drained and one of the healthiest in the kingdom; and that they consider a very great injustice has been done to the town and parish at large by those who made the complaint.

This reply was not deemed satisfactory and an Inquiry was ordered; this inquiry I held at the Town Hall on the 16th January and by adjournment at the request of the Vestry, on the 30th January 1872. Mr. Soames appeared for the petitioners; neither Mr. Roberts nor anyone else appeared to represent the Sewer Authority; but Mr. Frankum represented the counter memorialists who signed the reply above referred to—considered the reply of the Vestry. It appears that this Special Drainage District was duly formed in 1866, and that the Vestry appointed a committee for one year, that the committee met once, but there is no record of that meeting, and nothing has been done by the Sewer Authority up to the present time. Mr Soames, who was a member of the committee, apologised for this inactivity by saying that there is a complication of authorities in the town which paralysed the action of the Sewer Authority. This is, however, no sufficient excuse; the powers of the Sewer Authority are well defined and ample.

SEWERAGE

The greater part of the existing town drainage was constructed about 30 years ago; some of it before that date. These old drains have been taken up in some places and relaid at a greater depth below the surface, and about two years ago, three of the main outfalls were extended for the purpose of remedying the nuisance arising from sewage stagnating in the open ditches; with these exceptions, nothing has been done to the town drainage for 30 years.

The existing drains were constructed by, and are now under the control of, the Highway Surveyors; they were intended to carry off surface water only, but they are now used for a very different purpose; the contents of many water closets are discharged into them, and they carry off much slop water and the overflow from cesspools. It appears that the inclination of these drains is insufficient to prevent their being choked up. These drains are unquestionably made to carry off surface water only and they should have been used for this purpose alone. They now discharge

sewage into water courses which it is the duty of the sewer authority to protect from pollution. The sewer authority should obtain a plan and estimate for a system of town sewerage, by which, if possible all the sewage should be brought to one outfall, and then purified before being discharged into running water.

There are many houses which have no connection with the existing drains. The sewage from these is thrown into cesspools. The contents of some of the water closets is also discharged into cesspools. It appears that some of these cesspools are emptied out only once a year, and even then their contents are not removed for agricultural purposes, but thrown into a sump within a few yards of the cesspool.

The subsoil is a free gravel and sand, can any system be conceived better calculated to pollute the water below the surface? The drains, constructed 30 years ago are almost certain to be open-jointed so that through them also the subsoil water is in all probability polluted.

WATER SUPPLY

There is no public water supply. There is, however, an abundant supply from wells in all parts of the town, with the exception of about 27 houses occupied by 100 persons, who are obliged to purchase water from the Emm Brook. One witness said there were 280 wells within the town, and he knew of no town better supplied from natural springs.

It is unnecessary, however, to make any further remarks on the quality of water at command within the town, as its quality is so unquestionably abominable. I took four samples of water when I visited Wokingham on the 16th January. Two of them from wells which I expected to find were polluted (Nos. 67 and 25), one from a pump at the Police-station at the Town Hall (No. 68), and one from Mr. Cooke's garden (No. 66), which I selected as the water least liable to pollution. Of these samples of water Dr. Frankland reports that they all "are entirely unfit for human consumption, and, in the interest of the health of Wokingham, all the wells supplying them ought to be closed at once. Nos. 67, 25 and 68 might be used with advantage for the fertilization of land. No. 25 is one of the worst waters I have ever met with; it has more than twice the manure value of average London sewage."

There were two privies used by 37 people, and a sump within 10 yards of the well from which sample No. 25 was taken; there was also a privy for the children (111 in number) attending a school within a very short distance. The first two mentioned privies had not been cleaned out for more than a year, and when cleaned out the contents were thrown into the sump close to them.

There was a sink and four privies very close to No. 67. There was a common water closet close to the Police-station pump, from which sample 68 was taken. Mr. Cooke's pump is far from any houses, but one of the gentlemen present when the sample was taken remarked that it was near the site of an old hedge and ditch which used to be foul before Mr. Cooke enclosed his garden. The result of Dr. Frankland's analysis fully confirms the evidence of Mr. J.G. Barford, Professor of Chemistry at Wellington College, who had tested several samples of water taken from wells in different parts of the town. One sample contained 90 grains of solid matter in a gallon; another 180 grains; a third 190 grains; a fourth 80 grains; a fifth 40 grains; a sixth 190 grains. With such evidence of the impurity of the water used in the town, it is not surprising that in 1854 cholera was very severe in Wokingham, or that there have been two serious outbreaks of typhoid fever since. Mr. Wright says that the cases were scattered all over the town in 1870. The same cause, pollution of water by sewage, produced the same effects everywhere. The fever was more severe among the

poor, and was aggravated by overcrowding, but to the water both Mr. Barford and Mr. Wright attribute these outbreaks. These gentlemen, with Dr. Noad and Dr. Reid, who signed the petition but did not give evidence, are the only medical men in the district.

Mr. Frankum did not endeavour to rebut the testimony of the medical witnesses, and said that his clients were prepared to be bound by the result of the analysis of samples of water submitted to Dr. Frankland.

This result is sufficiently conclusive and there cannot be a doubt as to urgent necessity for closing the polluted wells without delay, and further, for the sewer authority to obtain a sufficient and wholesome supply of water for the inhabitants, as there exists evident danger to their health from the water at present used by them for domestic purposes.

On this point Mr. Barford stated that there was an area of six acres, called Langborough, which belongs to the town, and is vested in the highway surveyors, where water can be obtained at a depth of 30 feet in abundance. This area is situated about 300 or 400 yards from the town, and is surrounded by 50 or 60 acres of land, clear of houses. Mr. Barford has not tested the water, but he thought it would be found of good quality.

I am not prepared to endorse this opinion without more exact information, and I fear the sewer authority must go further afield to obtain a supply free from suspicion of pollution. Wokingham is built almost entirely upon a detached patch of the "Lower Bagshot Band" formation, which immediately overlies the London clay. The ground is somewhat elevated and falls in every direction. This patch of Bagshot sand is edged with pink and ? on the accompanying plan Mr. Barford of the Wokingham Special Drainage District. Langborough, the area referred to by Mr. Barford is coloured dark pink. The area of the patch of Bagshot sand is about 350 acres, of which about 150 acres are covered more or less with houses. Langborough lies towards the south-east of it, and there are abundant springs where the gravel crops out in this direction. Now the rain falling upon this patch of Bagshot sand, is the sole source of supply to the wells below; in dry seasons, the water stands below the surface in different parts of the town at depths varying from three or four feet to upwards of 30 feet; in wet seasons the water rises very generally within a few feet of the surface; the patch of sand thus forms an inverted reservoir, the water being upheld by capillary attraction between the interstices of the fine sand; this reservoir is filled by the rain falling uniformly over the surface. It is emptied partly by water drawn from the wells, and chiefly by that issuing from springs situated towards the south-east.

The water found at Langborough must, therefore, consist to a great extent of that which fell as rain on the part covered with houses, the least polluted water would, I think, be found towards the north and north-west of the town, but it would probably be less abundant than that to be obtained from Langborough. I little consideration will explain how the well water is polluted to the degree shown by Dr. Frankland's analysis. The 280 wells are all centres of attraction for water percolating the sand bed. The water will always stand at a lower level in the wells than in the sand adjoining, the water level in each case forming an inverted cone, the well forming the apex. By this operation all the polluted water within a certain area of the well must gravitate towards it.

When the water stands high in the well this area will be comparatively small and the amount of dilution great, but when the water is low in the wells, and a heavy rainfall occurs, the surface polluted water will be drawn in abundantly to the well and being then slightly diluted is at such times most dangerous. I must further draw attention to the fact that the subsoil for a considerable distance around some, if not all of the

Wokingham wells must from the many years of saturation with sewage matter be in a very dangerous condition; and that if every precaution were taken in future to prevent further pollution by removing all foul liquids by a thoroughly good sewerage system, and establishing a proper system of privies and ashpits from which extraneous liquid was carefully excluded, it would probably be a very long time before the water in many parts of the wells would be sufficiently pure to be used for domestic purposes.

At the same time I see no reason why if such precautions were taken the well water should not, in the course of time, afford a wholesome supply. Sewer authorities have no power at present to close the private wells, however impure water may be. The case of Wokingham shows very strongly the necessity for granting such powers. In the absence of such powers it is clearly the duty of the Wokingham Sewer Authority to test the well water in use from time to time, and to exert their moral influence for the purpose of closing every well which yields impure water. This will probably lead to the closing of many wells, and some immediate provision will be requisite for the supply of water to those persons who are thus deprived of the water they now use.

I would suggest that the sewer authority should carefully select spots of ground as far removed as possible from sources of pollution, and then put down Morton's Abyssinian screw pumps for public use keeping at the same time an anxious eye on the purity of the water thus obtained.

Should they fail to procure in this manner water of sufficient purity there seems to be no alternative but to establish Waterworks and bring from a distance a good supply for the use of the town. Many of the inhabitants seem to think that Wokingham is one of the healthiest towns in the kingdom but it appears from Mr. Barford's evidence that the rate of mortality from August 1869 to August 1870 was 29 per 1,000 and in the same period 1870/71 it was 25 per 1,000. This is extremely high for a small town situated as Wokingham is. It is Mr. Barford's opinion, which I believe is correct, that but for the impure water used in the town Wokingham would be one of the healthiest towns in the kingdom, and the sewer authority should never rest till they brought it to this condition.

I recommend that an order be made on the Sewer Authority of the special drainage district comprising the town and part of the parish of Wokingham requiring them to commence a system of main sewerage within one month of the date of the order and to take immediate steps for having the condition of the ashpits and privies improved. Further that they commence the works necessary for affording the inhabitants of their districts a supply of wholesome water within one month of date of order. I recommend that the Sewer Authority be urged to exercise their utmost influence to prevent the use of impure water throughout the town.

I remain, Sir

Your obedient Servant

(Signed) JOHN THORNHILL HARRISON

Sat 6th July

ALARMING FIRE

On the night of Monday last, one of the most serious conflagrations witnessed for many years in this neighbourhood, broke out in the extensive timber yard and saw mills of Mr. Thomas M. Wescott, in Peach-street, in this town, which in a few hours entirely destroyed the mills with the costly machinery therein, and the large and valuable stock of timber and building materials stored in the sheds and piles around.

The premises were closed about half-past six in the evening, when all was apparently safe. About a quarter to ten o'clock flames and smoke were discovered on the ground floor of the mill, which in a short time spread over the whole of the premises. The building was of great height, having been built many years ago, and used as a silk factory. Mr. Wescott on purchasing the property fitted it up as corn and seed mills, and the business having rapidly extended, fresh machinery and new buildings had been from time to time added, until it became, we believe, the largest business establishment in that trade in the country.

There was a staircase from the basement to the top of the building, and the flames rushed up and spread from floor to floor with incredible rapidity. In less than half an hour the mill was one mass of flames, presenting a grand, but sad spectacle. The engine belonging to the town was soon on the spot, and Supt. Millard with his men, directed their attention first to cut off the communication from the burning buildings with the street. With great celerity the adjacent buildings were emptied of their contents and pulled down, the engine also was kept continually playing on them, and thus by great exertions the fire was prevented reaching the houses on the east side of Peach-street, which frequently were in great danger, owing to the intense heat. In fact the buildings repeatedly caught fire, but the flames were as often extinguished. The fire, aided by a rather strong westerly breeze rapidly seized on the long timber sheds and adjoining the mill, which were filled with foreign timber recently converted, and as these burst with great fury, the flames illuminated the county for miles around.

And a great crowd of people assembled. Many from Reading even arrived at the scene, and heartily set to work to remove the timber from danger; but so rapidly did the flames spread that much which had been removed at an early period of the fire to what was thought a safe distance was caught by the flames and destroyed.

For about three hours the fire burned furiously and as the roofs of the building fell many of those who were rendering assistance were placed in danger from the falling walls, but happily no one sustained personal injury.

It is difficult as yet to ascertain the exact amount of damage done, but it has been estimated at about five thousand pounds, and we regret to learn that Mr. Wescott is only partially insured in the Phoenix Office, so that he will sustain a heavy loss by this disastrous event. The scene at the ruins has been visited by a large number of persons and it will be a long time before the mass of brickwork and rubbish can be removed. The heat was very great even on Wednesday evening. The origin of the disaster cannot be distinctly traced, but Mr. Wescott attributes it to the heat and friction of the machinery. The fire most probably had been smouldering for some hours, and must have burst into a flame after the mill was closed.

Sat 13th July

THE LATE FIRE

We are requested to state that subscriptions are being raised on behalf of the men who lost their tools on this occasion. Mr. T. Skerritt, of Wokingham, has kindly consented to act as treasurer, to whom subscriptions may be sent. A list of contributions already received will be found in our advertising columns.

BURGLARIES

On the night of Tuesday last no less than three houses in Wokingham were broken into and one or two more visited by the burglars, but through the watchfulness of a dog, in one instance at least, their designs were frustrated.

At Shute End, the residence of Mr. Weight, surgeon, an entrance was affected by opening a window on the ground floor at the back of the house. The thieves ransacked three rooms down stairs, and carried off silver plate to the amount of upwards of thirty pounds. They were evidently experienced hands, as they carefully examined the whole, and left behind them the plated articles. They decamped without alarming the inmates, and the robbery was first discovered by the servants in the morning.

The burglars then visited the house of Mr. Gadd in Rose Street, and got into the garden from the back fields; they then opened a sliding window at the back, and entered and left the house without the knowledge of the inmates, but their booty was more confined to a sum of fifteen shillings.

They also got into the house of Mr. C. Higgs, a few doors below Mr. Gadd's in a similar manner, but it is supposed that they were disturbed as nothing was missed.

A few doors off the inmates of the house were alarmed by the furious barking of the yard dog, which doubtless caused the thieves to decamp. No trace of the men has yet been discovered, although the police are actively pursuing their enquiries. These robbers following so quickly on similar ones during the spring have raised a feeling of insecurity amongst the townspeople who feel that they are insufficiently protected and that the police force stationed there, however efficient, is inadequate for the surveillance of this largely increasing town and its suburbs.

Sat 20th July

THE LATE BURGLARIES

The authors of the late robberies still remain undetected, although a close inquiry has been instituted by the police. At the request of many of the inhabitants, the Alderman convened a meeting of the Corporation which was held in the Council Chamber on the 12th inst., when the subject was fully discussed, and the opinion expressed, that looking at the increase of our town and its suburbs, the police force permanently stationed at Wokingham is insufficient to efficiently protect and patrol so large an area, and the Alderman was requested to communicate with the Chief Constable of the County this view, and express the feelings of uneasiness which prevail, with the hope that he may be able to increase the police force; so as to remove cause for further alarm. It will be well if householders will carefully inspect the fastenings of their premises, especially at the rear, and also aid the police in the suppression of vagrancy by refusing to relieve tramps who merely make calls in the day time to enable them to more easily carry out their depredations at night.

Sat 10th Aug

THE BANK HOLIDAY

Last Monday was more generally observed as a holiday in this town than on any previous occasion. The persistent downfall of rain during the greater part of the day, however, sadly marred the enjoyment of the pleasure-seekers. Mander's excellent menagerie was liberally patronised.

THE LATE BURGLARIES

It is some satisfaction to know that the perpetrator of these outrages has been traced, and still more so to know that he is now in safe custody.

In last week's Mercury we gave an account of the capture of a ruffian named Thomas Williams who fired several times at the night-watchman at Wycombe Abbey on the previous Sunday morning

On his person was found a purse, which had been identified by Mr. Weight's servants as stolen from that gentleman's house when it was broken into about a month ago, and a small tortoise shell-handled knife, also found on him, has been identified as having been stolen at the same time. The instrument he had in his possession evidently for forcing open windows has been found to correspond exactly with the marks left on the premises he visited here. Williams was a tailor, and there is no doubt that whilst working here a short time ago he made himself acquainted with the premises he subsequently visited.

MILITARY MOVEMENTS

A number of troops have passed through the town this week on their way to attend the manoeuvres on Salisbury Plain. On Tuesday a detachment of the Army Service Corps was billeted here for the night followed on Wednesday by the Headquarters of the 12th Lancers with their band, and on Thursday by a detachment of the 10th Hussars.

Sat 14th Sept

THE SEWAGE QUESTION

This important subject has again come before the ratepayers in consequence of the passing of "The Public Health Act, 1872," which has transferred the power from one Authority to another. In order to explain matters, it is necessary to refer to what has been done since we published the Report of Mr. Harrison, the Government Inspector, in which he strongly condemned the want of drainage, and also the quality of the water.

Shortly after that report was made public, the ratepayers within the Special Drainage District elected a committee of nine members, under the provisions of the Sewage Utilization Act. The Committee directly set to work, and inspected the town and suburbs, and caused the removal of nuisances which were found to exist, and also framed a set of bye-laws to be set in force in the district, ordering the removal of all refuse, with stringent clauses, giving powers to the Inspector and Justices summarily to convict any one guilty of a breach of these rules. These bye-laws they submitted to the Local Government Board for confirmation. The Committee also obtained from Messrs. Ripley and Simmonds a very complete and, as they believe, effective plan for the thorough drainage of the town and disposal of the sewage, including a supply of water for flushing purposes.

After many meetings and careful attention to the subject, the Committee has been superseded by the provisions of the new act, which transforms us into a Rural Sanitary District, and places us under the control of the Board of Guardians to whom have been delivered all the plans of estimates and papers obtained. It being the opinion of many that the sanitary government of the town can scarcely be adequately attended to by the Guardians, a meeting was held in the Town Hall on the 5th inst. To consider the matter, when some were anxious to form the District into a Local Government Board, but as the subject requires much consideration, and will probably have an important influence on the future well-being of the town, it was decided to adjourn the meeting for a fortnight, and it will be well for the ratepayers, in the meantime, to ponder well the matter before Thursday next.

Sat 18th January

The marriage of Lord Arthur Hill on Thursday at St. Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, second son and late brother of the present Marquis of Downshire with Annie Lysander Mary, only daughter of Lieut. Col. And Mrs Cookes.

The report notices the improvements effected in paving and channelling during the past year, and concludes by congratulating the town on favourable return as to its exceptional freedom from zymotic disease.

Sat 1st March

THE QUEEN'S HOUNDS

On Friday, the 21st ult., His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales hunted with the Royal Staghounds for the first time since his late illness. The meet was at the Warren House, Wokingham, and at 12 o'clock, His Royal Highness, accompanied by Colonel Ellis, arrived in a char-a-banc and four horses from Windsor. He was met by the noble Master of the Buckhounds, the Earl of Cork, and an immense assemblage of horsemen and pedestrians.

The Price, who looked remarkably well, having mounted his hunter, the deer, "Little Lady" was uncarted, but after an indifferent run through Tipping's Wood by Bill Hill to Hurst, and down near the Loddon she was left, and "The Quaker" was turned out near the "Shoulder of Mutton" at Binfield. He led the field a good run by Pockets Copse, Bean Oak, and Waterloo into Wokingham, where he ran into Messrs. Lush's Coach Factory, and was safely secured.

The Prince of Wales and Lord Cork left the field near Buckhurst in time to catch the five o'clock train at Bracknell, and returned to town.

Sat 19th April

On Wednesday, in the Easter week, the Alderman and Corporation attended service at All Saints' Church, when an appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev.-Bird, the curate. They afterwards met at the Council Chamber and transacted the ordinary business, viz., the election of an Alderman and Chief Magistrate for the ensuing year. The unanimous choice of the Council fell on Mr. John Heelas, jun., who was thereupon sworn into office. A cordial vote of thanks was carried to the retiring Alderman, Mr. J.L. Roberts, for the efficient performance of his duties during the past year.

On Easter Monday, the usual election of Church Wardens took place, when Messrs William Goodchild, Thomas May, and Elliott Morres were re-elected for All Saints' Parish, and Messrs. T. Cooke and J. Skerritt for St. Paul's. The annual parochial dinner afterwards took place at the Bush Hotel, when about thirty sat down to an excellent repast, and spent a very agreeable afternoon. The new Rector of All Saints' was present, and was heartily welcomed. The day was kept as a holiday in the town, and, being beautifully fine, the numerous pleasure-seekers thoroughly enjoyed their Bank Holiday.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

We lately stated that a petition very numerously signed by the ratepayers had been sent to the Local Government Board, asking for the formation of a district, comprising the town and its suburb to be called "The District of Wokingham," under the Local Government Act, instead of continuing merely a portion of a Rural Sanitary District under the management of the Board of Guardians, it being naturally felt that such an

important work as the drainage of the town would be more efficiently managed by a Local Board chosen from the inhabitants of the district.

The Board have accordingly given notice that their inspector (J.T. Harrison, Esq., C.E.) will attend at the Town Hall, on Monday, the 28th April, to receive the evidence of any persons interested in the inquiry.

Sat 7th June

ST. PAUL'S PARISH CHURCH

On Whit Sunday the new south aisle of St. Paul's Church was opened. The Church was consecrated in 1864, having been built, as is well known, at the sole expense of Mr. Walter MP. Towards this new aisle the parishioners have contributed £250, and the rest of the expense, which has been large, has been borne by the patron, with his accustomed liberality. By this enlargement further accommodation for 98 adults, and about 40 children have been provided. It is a token of the good feeling which prevails in this parish that the appropriated sittings in front of the pulpit were given up in order that all that part of the church might be free. The holders of those sittings accepted others allotted to them in the new aisle. We understand that Mr. Walter does not consider the church yet finished. The aisle on the north side is at once to be commenced, and it is hoped that the close of the year will see the Church completed and inferior to none in the neighbourhood in beauty and accommodation. The work has been carried out under the superintendence of Mr. Deacon, from plans prepared by Mr. Woodyer.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

On Thursday afternoon last an important vestry meeting of the Parish of Wokingham was held, to determine whether or not the Local Government Act should be adopted within the entire parish. The Local Government Board require the decision of this question before they will entertain any application to allow the Act to be adopted within a smaller district, comprising the town and its suburbs as desired by many of its inhabitants. There were about fifty ratepayers present, and the Rev. Edward Sturges was unanimously chosen chairman. The requisition of the ratepayers to the churchwardens, and the notice by the latter convening the meeting having been produced and read, Mr. J.L. Roberts, at the request of the chairman, briefly explained the present position of the question and stated what had transpired since the last vestry meeting. He also read a correspondence with the Local Government Board, which had resulted in the calling of the present meeting. The chairman then explained that in compliance with the conditions of the Act it became his duty to propose to the meeting "That the Local Government Act be adopted within the Town and Parish of Wokingham," and then invited an expression of opinion from all those present. The meeting was subsequently addressed by Mr. Wheeler, the Rev. J T Brown, r Dunning, Mr T May, Mr S Sale, Mr E Morres, Mr E Lane, Mr H Lane, and others.

Great diversity of opinion seemed to prevail as to the effect in a pecuniary view of the adoption of the Act by the whole parish, instead of a more restricted area. An amendment was put and lost for the adjournment of the meeting, when the chairman put the original resolution for the adoption of the Act in the entire parish, when there appeared 21 in favour of it, and six against it, whereupon the chairman declared the resolution carried. Mr. Henry Lane having demanded a poll it was resolved to take the votes in the manner prescribed by the Act, that is, by means of voting papers, and it was stated the votes would be declared on Thursday, the 26th inst.

A cordial vote of thanks to the chairman closed one of the best conducted vestry meetings on this much vexed question.

Sat 27th Sept

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Another step is about to be taken, although apparently of a retrograde nature. We mentioned a fortnight ago that after the vote of the vestry in favour of the adoption of the Act, by a large majority, for the entire parish, a memorial was presented to the Local Government Board praying for the exclusion of certain parts of the parish from the operation of the Act. This memorial having been supported by local influence of much weight, the Board resolved to hold an inquiry as to the propriety of the proposed alteration, and accordingly have arranged that Major Ponsonby Cox R.E., one of the inspectors of the Board, shall attend for the purpose at the Town Hall, on Tuesday afternoon, the 7th of October, to hear the evidence of the persons interested in the matter, so that if the Board, on their Inspector's report, should think fit not to confirm the vote of the parish, all that has already been done will be negatory, and we shall have to commence again *de novo*, to endeavour to adopt the Act within a more restricted area.

MILITARY MOVEMENTS

During the past week the town has been enlivened by visits from detachments of the Royal Engineers and the Army Service Corps, en route to winter quarters at Aldershot after taking part in the Autumn Manoeuvres. It was noticed that the long journey and the rough weather they have experienced had told unfavourably on the Appearance of the horses since they passed through on their way to Cannock Chase.

Sat 11th Oct

UNWHOLESOME COTTAGES

A summons respecting the dilapidated and unwholesome condition of fourteen cottages in Rose Street called Chubbs Row was, upon application of Supt. Millard, the Inspector of Nuisances, adjourned for a fortnight to give the owners time to complete the work v necessary to be done to make them safe and inhabitable.

Sat 25th Oct

WOKINGHAM BRITISH SCHOOL

The 33rd anniversary of the Wokingham British School was celebrated in the Town Hall

Sat 1st Nov

THE ARMY SCRIPTURE READERS AND SOLDIERS FRIEND SOCIETY

On Monday evening an address was delivered in the Town Hall, by Colonel Sandwith, a member of the committee, and an earnest supporter of the Society, and on Tuesday afternoon a meeting was held at the same place, presided over by Captain Cobham, at which most interesting details were given of the good work undertaken by the Society's Agents amongst our soldiers in all parts in promoting their spiritual improvement.

Very encouraging reports were given of their successful endeavours to enlist the attention of our soldiers to the great truths so earnestly inculcated through the agents of the Society, both in the camp at home and in foreign stations.

THE PROPOSED DRAINAGE OF THE TOWN GOVERNMENT INQUIRY

On Thursday an enquiry as to the desirability of excluding certain outlying parts of the parish of Wokingham from the district proposed to be formed under the Local Government Act, was held at the Town Hall, before Major Cox, Inspector appointed by the Local Government Board. Amongst those present were the Rev. J. Brown, the Rev. E. Sturges, John Walter Esq., M.P., Messrs. W. Goodchild, W.W. Wheeler, W. Lane, sen., Dunning, Heelas, Frankum, Cook, Brown, Baker, Carrington &c.

The inspector said he attended there for the purpose of conducting an enquiry with reference to a Petition presented to the Local Government Board, by ratepayers residing in a part of the parish of Wokingham, situated beyond the boundary of the town, asking that they may be excluded from the operation of the Act. He had no doubt that most of those present were familiar with what had taken place in the town on this matter.

It appeared that in 1864, a petition was presented to the Secretary of State to settle the boundaries of the district for the adoption of the Local Government Act. That petition was acted upon and finally settled as shown upon the plan produced. A meeting was afterwards held, to take the sense of the ratepayers as to whether they would adopt the Act or not, and they refused to adopt it. Then the matter appeared to have remained in abeyance for some years, and after the passing of the Public Health Act, 1872, a disposition was evinced by the ratepayers to avail themselves of the powers of the Act. Some little doubt was expressed in a letter in reply to the position to the Local Government Board as to whether or not the order made in 1864 or 1865 was then in force, and whether that doubt was finally cleared up, he did not know. He believed that if it was found that it would be necessary to settle the district again, and in the meantime it was observed that inasmuch as the district as settled by the Secretary of State in 1865 was included in the parish of Wokingham, it was not competent for a small district to declare for the adoption of the Act until the larger district had refused to adopt it. The sense of the ratepayers in the larger district was then taken—this was on the 26th June 1873, and there was a majority of 227 in favour of adopting the Act. The numbers were—for the adoption of the Act, 516, against it 289. A resolution in favour of the adoption of the Act was declared to have been carried. Having got so far, a petition was presented to the Local Government Board, duly signed and enclosing a map showing the area and praying that that area should be excluded from the operation of the Act. It was at this stage of the proceedings that they had arrived that day. He would be glad to hear a statement by any gentleman present.

A discussion then followed. Most present, mainly the owners of land outside Wokingham were against people living outside the town having to contribute to the drainage of the town.

Sat 8th Nov

POST OFFICE

This week some alterations have been made in our postal service, which will be found of much importance to the public. The dispatch of the midnight mail has been discontinued, and in lieu thereof letters of London are dispatched at 10.15 a.m., and another mail to London and all parts is made up at 1.30 p.m. An inward mail is delivered in the town at 6.40 in the evening, which will be found a great convenience, although it would have been much more so if it could have been arranged one hour

earlier, so as to enable persons to send a reply by the ordinary evening mail, which will close at the absurdly early hour of 7.17 p.m. The other mails remain unaltered.

FAIR

Our annual November pleasure fair was held on Monday and Tuesday last, when we had the usual motley collection of shows and stalls; the chief attraction for the youngsters evidently being the steam roundabouts, which had the lion's share of patronage. Fortunately the weather was beautifully fine overhead, although the mud from the previous rains made a visit to the fair anything but agreeable, and it certainly was a relief on Wednesday to see the streets and Market Place clear of the itinerant class who contrive to make a living by attending fairs.

Sat 6th Dec

BROADMOOR ESCAPES

The Marquis of Downshire has written to the *Times* calling the attention of the Government to the alarming fact that within the last six months three of the most dangerous of the criminal lunatics have made their escape from Broadmoor Asylum only one of which has been recaptured. His lordship points out the danger which residents in the neighbourhood of the asylum incur and the alarm naturally felt lest one of these ruffians should encounter any of the inhabitants and calls on the authorities to take effective steps to prevent the recurrence of such escapes. The subject has been the cause of much anxiety to residents in the neighbourhood.

Sat 27th Dec

LONGEVITY

A singular coincidence occurred last week in the deaths of three old ladies in Rose Street who resided within one hundred yards of each other. They were aged respectively 77, 78 and 79; a satisfactory testimony to the healthy state of the town.

1874

Sat 24th Jan

The death of Lady Arthur Hill at the Marquis of Downshire's mansion in Belgrave Square on Friday. She was the daughter of Col. Cooke.

Sat 28th Feb

Marquis of Downshire is seriously ill.

Sat 21st March

RECORDER OF WOKINGHAM

The Recorder of Wokingham, George Russell Esq. Who for the past eight years has ably filled the office of Judge of the Derbyshire County Court Circuit has been translated to the Kent Circuit, in the room of W.C. Scott Esq., deceased. The high estimation in which Mr. Russell is deservedly held by the profession was shewn on the occasion of his last Court held at Derby.

Sat 4th April

DEATH OF THE MARQUIS OF DOWNSHIRE

With great regret we have to announce the death, on Tuesday night, at his seat, Easthampstead Park, of the fifth Marquis of Downshire. He had long been in declining health, but he was only 29 years of age, and it was hoped almost to the end of last year that he might regain strength. The deceased Arthur Wills Blundell Trumbull Sandys Hill, Marquis of Downshire, Earl of Hillsborough, Viscount Hillsborough and Kilwarlin, and Beron Hill of Kilwarlin, county Down, in the peerage of Ireland, also Earl of Hillsborough, Viscount Fairford, county Gloucester, and Lord Harwich, Baron of Harwich, Essex, in that of Great Britain, Hereditary Constable of Hillsborough Fort, was born December 24, 1844, and succeeded to the marquissate on the death of his father, August 6, 1868.

The late lord entered the army as cornet and sub-lieutenant in the 1st Life Guards in 1866, and retired from the regiment in 1868. The late marquis married on July 26, 1870, Georgiana Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr. J Balfour of Balbirnie, county Fife, by his wife Lady Georgiana, daughter of the Earl of Cawdor. He is succeeded in the marquissate and honours by his son, born in July 1871.

The *Post* says the death of Lord Downshire was hastened, it is feared, by the shock sustained on hearing that the fall of his horse, Harlequin, had caused the injuries which proved fatal to Lord Rosemore. All knowledge of the sad occurrence was kept from the noble marquis as long as possible, as it was naturally feared that the shock would prove serious to him in his weakened condition.

THE GOOD TEMPLARS

On Tuesday evening a Good Templar entertainment was given in the Town Hall, when the society engaged the assistance of Mr. W. Dunn and Miss Lizzie Dunn. The programme consisted of vocal and instrumental pieces interspersed with anecdotes suitable to the Templar cause, entitled "Happy moments, or a night in Sober-land." The audience appeared much pleased with the entertainment.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

At length the Local Government Board have announced their decision on the memorial addressed to them by a portion of the ratepayers, praying that the outlying parts of the parish of Wokingham might be excluded from the district proposed to be constituted under the Local Government Act. By an order issued by the Board they assent to such request, and order that the district shall be limited to the boundaries set out under the Sewage Utilization Act—that is the town and its suburbs. The order further states that the Act shall come into force within the said district on the 6th April, and appoints Mr. Edward Frankum to be the summoning Officer to take the necessary steps for conducting the next election of a Local Board for the new district.

It will thus be seen that this long-protracted business is now decided, and the future management of the local affairs of the town will vest in the board now to be elected.

Sat 11th April

FUNERAL OF THE MARQUIS OF DOWNSHIRE

On Sunday morning the remains of the Marquis of Downshire arrived at Hillsborough Castle, County Down, from Easthampstead Park. They were taken across from Fleetwood in the steamer *Thomas Dugdale*, which reached Belfast at seven o'clock. The coffin was in a hearse which was immediately brought ashore, and, four horses having been yoked to it, proceeded for Hillsborough, which is distant about eleven miles. Amongst those who accompanied the remains, was Lord Arthur

William Hill, brother of the deceased marquis. A large number of people assembled at the Donegal quay awaiting the arrival of the vessel, and during the day the cross-channel steamers in harbour kept their flags half-mast high.

Lord Downshire is the fourth Ulster nobleman who has been interred within a comparatively limited period, the other three have been the Marquis of Londonderry, Lord de Ros, and Lord Rossmore. The remains of the late Marquis were interred in the family vault at Hillsborough Castle on Tuesday. The chief mourners were Viscount Comber ere, Lord George Hill, the Marquis of Hertford, the Earl of Bective, Lord Arthur Hill, Lord Greville, Lord Edward Hill Trevor, Mr. Hill Trevor, Captain Hill, Mr. Balfour, Captain Balfour, Mr. T.R.J. Balfour, and Captain Hood. The religious rites were performed by the Rev. Dr. Knox, Bishop of Down and Connor, assisted by Archdeacon Gibbs and the Rev. H. St. George.

Sat 18th April

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In pursuance of the order of the Local Government Board the summoning officer has convened a meeting of the ratepayers within the district for Thursday next, at three o'clock, at the Town Hall, to determine the number of members the Board shall consist of. The election of those members will have to be carried out afterwards, but it is necessary first of all for the Vestry to fix the number, As the Board's order is silent on the point.

FAIR

The *Gazette* of last Tuesday contains the official notice from the Secretary of State for the Home Department, that a representation having been made to him that the annual November Fair held at Wokingham, might be abolished with advantage to the public, he will, on the 13th of May next take the same into consideration, and that all persons are to intimate to him before that day any objection they may desire to offer to the abolition of the Fair. If no sufficient cause be shown in the meantime, we apprehend that at the above date the secretary will issue his order abolishing the Fair for ever.

EARLY CLOSING

On Wednesday afternoon last the tradesmen of Wokingham resumed the excellent practice they have adopted the last few years of closing earlier every Wednesday during the summer months. This year they close at four o'clock, and we are glad to observe the movement very generally followed in our business establishments. The boon is much appreciated by those who receive the benefit, and, as the public are aware of the custom, but little inconvenience can result.

FIRE

About half past eight in the evening of Friday, the 10th instant, part of a stack of hay near Sandhurst Rectory, property of the Rev. Henry Parsons, was discovered to be on fire. An alarm being given, a number of willing hands were soon on the spot, who succeeded in preventing the fire extending to the adjoining ricks, one of which was within six feet of the burning stack. It is feared the fire was the act of an incendiary, as it is difficult to find any reasonable accidental cause. The quantity of hay consumed was about five tons, and we are happy to hear Mr. Parsons is insured.

Sat 6th June

THE ABOLITION OF THE WOKINGHAM FAIR

The Home Secretary has announced his decision in this matter. On Tuesday last official notice appeared in this London Gazette (declaring the abolition of this Fair in future). A communication to this effect has already been received by the Town Hall.

Sat 26th Sept

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF ALL SAINTS' SCHOOLS

The ceremony of laying the memorial stone of All Saints' Church Schools, Wokingham, took place on Thursday. The new buildings are being erected by Mr. Maynard, builder, from plans by Mr. Joseph Morris, architect, Reading. The schools will be capable of accommodating 400 boys, girls, and infants. The total cost, including a teacher's residence, is estimated at £2,000. Of this, £1,300 must be raised by voluntary contributions, and the rest will be obtained under a scheme of the Charity Commissioners, by the sale of property belonging to a local endowment for educational purposes, known as "Martha Palmer's Charity." Contributions amounting to about £830 have already been promised. The site of the new schools is on land situated between All Saints' Church and the new parsonage house. On Thursday afternoon a large number of people assembled to witness the ceremony of laying the stone. Amongst others we noticed the Rector (the Rev. E. Sturges), John Walter, Esq., Mrs. Walter, Miss Walter, Capt. Morres, R.N., Rev. A.P. Purey-Cust, Rural Dean, Rev. Sir John Hayes, Bart., Rev J.T. Brown, Rev. E. Morres, Rev. H. S.N. Lenny, Rev. H. Parsons, Rev. E.C. Cope, Rev. A. Roberts, Rev. A. Bonney, Miss Morres, Mrs. Redmond Morres, Rev. G. de Vitré, Mrs. Tucker, Rev. H.G. Bird, J.L. Leveson-Gower, Esq., Alderman Goodchild, Mr. H. Lane, Mr. H. May, &c. The children of the school walked in procession to the building, and the clergy and surpliced choir occupied a platform near to where the stone was laid. The ceremony commenced by the children alone singing the hymn "Gracious Saviour, gentle Shepherd."

The prayers appointed for the service were then read by the Rector.

At the conclusion of the prayers the stone was lowered, and Mrs. Walter, after spreading the mortar, and gently hammering the stone with a mallet said,--In the faith of Jesus Christ we place this foundation stone, in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. Amen.

A hymn was then sung followed by speeches.

Sat 7th Nov

THE FAIR

In consequence in the abolition of the Fair which was annually in the first week in November, the streets in this town have this week been as quiet as at ordinary times, but the supporters of the Fair have not been deprived of their annual holiday, as a meadow opposite the Gas Works, and beyond the town boundary was engaged, and there a fair was held, and was attended by the usual motley gathering. The weather was fine, and a great many people visited the Fair, which certainly was conducted in a very orderly manner.

COFFEE HOUSE AND TEMPERANCE CLUB ROOM

We some time since referred to this institution when it was first projected, and it is gratifying to notice that the energies of the committee have ensured a successful result, as the house is now open to the public. It is well situated, being in the Market-place, and will no doubt be found a great boon to many of the working classes who

wish to pass a pleasant evening with reading and rational amusement, without any inducement to spend their earnings on intoxicating liquors.

1875

Sat 16th Jan

THE SANITARY CONDITION OF WOKINGHAM

At the last meeting of the members of the local board, after the transmission of the usual business, the medical officer, Dr. Shea, presented his annual report, which he had prepared for the Local Government Board, and the reading of which created much interest. It commenced by stating that as the Board had only been in existence about six months, time had been wanting to initiate large and important measures, still some very useful preliminary work had been accomplished. It was very satisfactory to find from the statistics that in the last nine months of the year there were only 33 deaths in the district, which gave the very low average of 14.6 per thousand. There was not a single case of death from contagious or infectious disease, and of the 33 deaths no less than seven were of persons over 80 years of age.

The report then noticed the very satisfactory work that had been done as to the removal of nuisance, and referred to on the state of the slaughter-house &c., and the absence of noxious trades, but pointed out there were many cottages still requiring improvement. Dr. Shea then made some valuable suggestions as to the future drainage and water supply, and gave the particulars of the analysis of several samples of well water from the different parts of the town, observing, that from the sandy nature of the subsoil the water is peculiarly liable to contamination from proximity to drains, cesspools, &c., and that as the height of the water in the wells rises and falls considerably at various seasons of the year, so the quality of the water in the same well may vary at different times, but the supply being derived from only a moderated depth, it behoved the inhabitants to be very vigilant that all chances of pollution be carefully avoided and quickly removed. The report concluded with much valuable information as to the drainage and water supply of the district.

HIGHWAY BOARD

On Wednesday last there was a very full attendance at the Board Meeting in the Town Hall on the occasion of the election of the Surveyor to the Board. All the Waywardens attended and nearly all the ex-officio members. John Walter Esq., chairman presided and read the list of applicants for the office, fifteen in number, and the very numerous testimonials of the several candidates.

At the final decision the choice fell on Mr. Thomas May of Wokingham (who filled very satisfactorily the post of surveyor to the Windsor Forest Turnpike Trust for fifteen years) by the narrow margin of one vote. The extent of roads within the district is about 100 miles and the surveyor's salary is fixed at £100 a year.

Sat 4th Dec

ENTERTAINMENT

The second of a series of popular entertainment in aid of the Working Men's Club and British Workmen took place in the Town Hall on Wednesday evening, Sir Lumley Graham, Bart. in the chair.

The principal performers were Mr and Mrs Rippon and Mr. Cole whose instrumental pieces were much admired; Mrs. Truman; the Rev. G.E.D. De Vitre; Mr. Sale, and the Old Church Choir. The four-part song "The Forester" by the choir was very creditably given and in response to a hearty encore they repeated the last verse.

Mr. Sale's reading from "Mrs. Brown" was productive of much amusement. The entertainment closed with the National Anthem.

Sat 25th Dec

SUPPER TO WORKMEN

Messrs. Heelas & Sons and Co. who have lately made extensive additions to their business premises, on Friday 17th, invited the whole of the workmen employed on the new buildings to a capital supper laid out in the new premises. Between 50 and 60 sat down, including the firm and assistants, who did their utmost to make their guests comfortable and happy.

The chair was occupied by Mr. J. Brant and the vice by Mr. J. Heelas jun. After supper, the Chairman proposed the health of Mr J. Heelas sen., late the head of the firm, and the toast was received with handsome applause. Mr. J. Heelas jun. acknowledged the toast on behalf of his father, who was unable to be present. He concluded by proposing the health of the architect, Mr. Charles Smith of reading, and the builder, Mr. Pither of Sunningdale. Other toasts and songs followed.

1876

Sat 5th Feb

PROPOSED FORMATION OF A RIFLE CORPS

An energetic attempt is being made to revive Rifle Corps in this town, the members to form a contingent to the Bracknell Company. Several recruits have been enrolled and preliminary drills held in the Old National School, in Rose-street.

ENTERTAINMENT

The sixth of the series of popular entertainments in connection with the Working Men's Club and British Workmen, was given in the Town Hall on Wednesday—Capt. J.E. Leveson Gower in the chair. The following took part in the programme which was efficiently carried out:--Mr. and Mrs. Brant, Mr. Carroll, Rev. A. Bonny, Mr. W.M. Fairbairn, Rev. M.T. Friend, Miss Boyle, Master Frank Barford, and Mr. Newberry.

Sat 12th Feb

LOCAL BOARD

At the last monthly meeting of the Board, after transaction of the usual routine business, the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Shea) presented his annual report, which was read and considered and as its contents are of material interest to the inhabitants it was ordered that it be printed for distribution. We are glad to find that its tenor is very favourable and that the death rate being only 16 in the thousand, contrasts far with other localities, whilst the great age of many whose deaths are recorded is the best evidence that the proverbial healthiness of Wokingham is a fact not to be controverted.

Sat 22nd April

CHURCHWARDENS' DINNER

This annual dinner took place on Monday evening, at the Rose Hotel, under the presidency of Mr. W. Goodchild. The toasts given were "The Queen," "Prince of Wales and Royal Family," "The Bishop of the Diocese and the Clergy," "The Army

and Navy,” and the “local Church wardens.” Afterwards several songs were sung, and a pleasant evening was passed.

THE HUNT

Mr. Garth’s hounds met as usual on Easter Monday at Luckley (Chapel Green). A very fair day’s sport was enjoyed.

BANK HOLIDAY

Easter Monday was observed as a general holiday throughout the town.

On Easter Wednesday the members of the Corporation attended divine service, according to ancient custom, at All Saints’ Church, where an appropriate sermon was preached by the Rector, Rev. E. Sturges. After service, the annual election of an alderman and chief magistrate for the ensuing year took place when the unanimous choice of the Council fell on Mr. John Heelas, sen., who was declared elected and duly sworn into office. A cordial vote of thanks was passed to Mr. J. Weeks, the retiring alderman, for the efficient discharge of his duties during the past year.

Sat 13th May

EXPLOSIVES ACT 1875

By virtue of this statute, the Justice in Petty Sessions have appointed Supt. Millard, for the Wokingham Division, Inspector of Premises, where fireworks of other explosives are made or kept.

Sat 3rd June

GIRLS’ FRIENDLY SOCIETY

On Monday last, the annual gathering of the associates and members of the branch of this society which has been formed for the deanery of Sonning took place at Wokingham. The day was very fine and the meeting in every way a great success. The party consisting of about 100 servant girls, with the ladies and friends who have interested themselves in this good work, assembled in the Rectory garden at three o’clock, and after an hour spent in amusement and consultation, they proceeded to the parish church, where a short service of prayer and praise was held, and a practical address was delivered by the Vicar of Wargrave

Tea was provided in the Palmer Schools which were tastefully ornamented and prepared by kind friends, and a very happy afternoon was spent by all. The Rector addressed the girls and spoke to them of the great value of such associations. He said that young servants were guilty of faults and got into trouble from mere thoughtlessness, and it would be the greater help and encouragement to them to feel that they belonged to a society, and could always look to a kind lady as a friend and advisor. It was well known how young people who had not much experience of life were helped by a society. The Rector spoke in terms of warm commendation of the labours of Miss Bart, who had established the society and conducted its affairs with so much efficiency and success. He added he could not perceive a more useful and practical way of helping a class that greatly needed sympathy and assistance, and he hoped that branches would be established in every deanery in the kingdom.

Sat 29th July

WOKINGHAM SAVINGS BANK

The annual meeting of the trustees and managers of this bank was held on Monday last, when the accounts for the year ending May 30th last, after being duly audited

were laid before the meeting by the secretary. From the report it is gratifying to learn that the bank fully retains the confidence of the investing public as shown by the fact that the capital of the bank has somewhat increased during the past year, the capital now amounting to upwards of £20,000, invested with the National Debt Commissioners.

GAS COMPANY

A meeting of the shareholders of the Gas Company were held on Monday last to consider the propriety of increasing the capital of the company in order to enable the directors to lay down new mains and increase the works, and to enable the company to meet the increased demand for gas in the town. A carefully prepared specification and estimate drawn up by Mr. E. Baker, of Reading, was laid before the meeting and considered, when it was resolved that the company's capital be increased by the sum of £1,500, to be raised by additional shares of £10 each, each share, in accordance with the company's trust deed, to be first offered to existing shareholders, and if not all taken up by them, the remainder to be then offered for public competition

Sat 5th Aug

SIGNIFICANT OF THE TIMES

At the meeting of the Guardians of Wokingham Union, on the 1st inst. The master of the house reported there were no able-bodied inmates—a circumstance which has never been known before; and obtained permission to engage paid labour to perform the necessary domestic duties of the establishment.

Sat 23rd Sept

FIRE

On Thursday, about 2 pm, much alarm was caused by the news that a fire had broken out at Pike's Farm, in the occupation of Captain J E Leveson-Gower, and numbers of the inhabitants hastened to the scene to render assistance. It was found that a large wheat rick standing in the stock-yard and in close contiguity to the farm buildings, was in flames and burning fiercely. Many of those residing near set to work to endeavour to keep the surrounding stacks from igniting until the arrival of the engines, and in this they succeeded.

The Wokingham engine was soon on the spot and at work, under Supt. Millard and his assistants, and was found to be in excellent working order. The Twyford engine, with their Fire Brigade, under Mr. L Davis, arrived shortly afterwards, and, there being a good supply of water, the flames were almost entirely confined to the rick in which the fire originated, although the adjoining stacks caught fire several times. The fire burnt all night, but was kept within bounds by the unremitting exertions of willing helpers. The cause of the outbreak is believed to have been a spark from a locomotive engine (which had arrived for the purpose of thrashing) falling on the thatch of the rick. Fortunately, the wind was calm. Capt. Leveson-Gower, we hear, is insured in the "Phoenix" Office.

Sat 7th Oct

WOKINGHAM FIRE BRIGADE

(From an advertisement on another page).

At a meeting held in the Town Hall, Wokingham, on Friday, the 29th September (Capt. Gower in the chair), it was decided to form a volunteer fire brigade for the Town and surrounding neighbourhood, towards which the inhabitants and others are invited to subscribe.

Subscriptions may be paid to Messrs. Simonds, Bankers, Reading and Wokingham, or to the Secretary, Mr. Edmund W. Roberts, Wokingham.

Sat 28th Oct

INQUIRY INTO THE CONDITION OF THE CORPORATION OF WOKINGHAM

In an advertisement which appears in another column, notice is given by the Commissioners appointed by her Majesty to inquire into the existing condition of unreformed corporations, to the effect that all persons having any information respecting the Corporation of Oakingham (now called Wokingham) which they desire to communicate to the Commission, are requested to write to the Secretary, at 2, Victoria-street, Westminster, on or before the 8th of November.

Sat 18th Nov

THE CORPORATION

The Commission for enquiring into these Corporations which are not subject to the provisions of the Municipal Corporations Act held a meeting at their offices, 2, Victoria-street, Westminster, on Tuesday last, Sir John Karelake in the chair, when evidence was taken relative to the Corporation of Wokingham. The Town Clerk, Mr. Edward Frankum, was examined at considerable length, and gave every information required as to the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Corporation and their officials. He also produced the charters, sessions' records, minutes, and accounts, all of which were duly examined.

BALL

A ball, under distinguished patronage, will take place at the Town Hall, Wokingham, on Thursday evening next.

WINTER ENTERTAINMENT

The first of the entertainments which are usually held during the winter took place at the Town Hall, on Tuesday evening, C.T. Murdoch, of Buckhurst, in the chair, when, through the kindness of some of the clergy and ladies in the town a very pleasant evening was passed. These entertainments have been held for a few years past, and have been found useful in giving healthful amusement to the townspeople. The profits are divided between the Working Men's and British Workmen Clubs,

1877

Sat 17th March

Marriage of Lord Arthur Hill and Miss Fortesque Harrison on Wednesday at St. Stephen's, South Kensington.

Sat 5th May

INTERESTING DISCOVERY

Last week while a decayed post, which for many years, had formed part of an old out-house, on the premises of Mrs. Ludlow, Rose Street, was being broken up, eighteen gold coins of the reign of Richard II, in an excellent state of preservation were discovered, carefully wrapped in coarse canvas, and concealed in a deep mortise.

Sat 2nd June

FIRE BRIGADE

The members of the recently formed Wokingham Fire Brigade had a public drill in the Market-place on Wednesday evening inst.

1878

Sat 23rd March

VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

On Thursday last the Wokingham Voluntary Fire Brigade met in the grounds of St. Paul's Rectory (by permission of the Rev. J.T. Brown) to test their new manual fire engine recently ordered of Messrs. Merryweather. The engine was purchased at a cost of £170 including some hose, ladders &c. It is a very powerful one being capable of throwing 136 gallons of water a minute to a height of 130 feet. It is fitted with a pair of 7-inch pumps, worked by thirty men and it will carry effectually through a thousand feet of hose if required. The experiments that were witnessed by a large number of persons were highly satisfactory.

The Wokingham Voluntary Rifles kept the ground and the band of the corps played a selection of music at intervals.

Sat 1st June 1878

PROPOSED WATERWORKS FOR WOKINGHAM

A meeting was held on Tuesday last at the Town Hall, Wokingham, to consider the proposed scheme of the Wokingham District Water (Company) Limited, for a supply of pure water to the town. Alderman J.L. Roberts presided, and there were also present the Rev. J.T. Brown, the Rev. G de Vitre, Mr. Barford, Mr. W.L. Beale, Mr. T. Cooke, Mr. William Goodchild, Mr. Weeks, Mr. T.M. Wescott, Mr. R.R. Briginshaw, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Watts, Mr. Frankum, and others.

A letter was read from the Rector (the Rev. E Sturges) regretting his unavoidable absence, and other influential residents were prevented attending.

The Chairman having introduced the subject in a few appropriate remarks requested Mr. J.W. Grover CE, the engineer of the company to explain the nature of the scheme.

Mr. Grover stated that the Company had been duly registered and had obtained the provisional order of the Board of Trade. The sanction of Parliament to the order was now being obtained. The town was at present without any water supply, and not only suffered from the extreme bad quality of the surface water supply, but often had an insufficient quantity even of this. The proposal was to sink a well to the chalk water-bearing strata, from which an abundant supply of good water would be obtained. He estimated the depth of the chalk from the surface in the low ground near the town at about 350 feet and it would be necessary to sink perhaps 30 feet further into the chalk when reached. The sinking and pumping station would be in a field acquired by the Company near the Pin and Bowl Inn, on the Finchampstead road and the reservoir would be constructed in a field purchased by the Company of Mr. C.T. Murdoch at Windmill Hill, Binfield. The reservoir would serve the whole district, which includes Wokingham, Binfield, Warfield, Easthampstead, Finchampstead and Sandhurst. The calculation of the depth of boring, he said, was made from data afforded by the sinking at Bearwood and Wellington College and Mr. Grover read a letter upon the subject from Mr. Whitaker, of the Geological Survey which reported his calculations.

The cost of the works, including the main piping for Wokingham, he estimated would be £12,000. Mr. Grover then contrasted the cost of the water supply of many towns of varying size with the cost of the proposed supply for Wokingham, especially mentioning Chichester and Newbury, in which the works had lately been opened. The cost of the waterworks per head of the population at Chichester was £1 13s 6d; in Swindon, £3 10s, and in other towns an average of £2 10s per head, while the proposed Company's Works for Wokingham would only cost about £1 10s per head on the population of the district.

Having referred to the importance of obtaining a supply of water from the chalk, Mr. Grover said a well managed Company could expect an income of from 4s to 5s per head, or about £1 2s 6d per house, either of which tests would represent in this district £10 per cent, on the whole capital after a fair allowance for working expenses. The maximum charge for supply was fixed by the Company's provisional order at a rate of about 1s 6d in the pound on the annual rack rent or value of premises supplied and he thought the Company deserved the support of the town in its endeavour to supply a great and pressing public need.

Mr. F.L. Soames, solicitor, explained that the Company was limited, having a capital of £20,000 in 2,000 shares of £10 each, the whole of which need not of course be called up.

Mr. Grover having replied to questions asked by the meeting as to the cost of the piping and sinking.

Mr. W.L. Beale proposed—"That this meeting having heard an explanation of the objects of the Wokingham District Water Company, expresses its approval of the scheme, and its confidence in the benefit to the town and district.

Mr. Goodchild in seconding the resolution alluded to the value of the supply in case of fire as well as from the sanitary and public utility points of view.

The resolution was carried unanimously, many of those present expressing a desire to take shares.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the meeting.

Sat 22nd June

WOKINGHAM DISTRICT WATER COMPANY

In another column of today's mercury is advertised the prospectus of this newly-formed Company, the capital of which of £20,000, in 2,000 shares of £10 each. The order of the Board of Trade, which has been confirmed by Parliament, and received the Royal assent on the 17th inst., empowers the company to establish waterworks for the supply of the district comprising the town and parish of Wokingham, and the parishes of Binfield, Warfield, Easthampstead and Sandhurst. The well and pumping station will be placed on a site near the Finchampstead road, between the brook and the SE Railway, and the reservoir on Windmill Hill.

The engineer (Mr. JW Grover), and Mr. Whitaker, one of the geologists of the Geological Survey, are of opinion that an ample supply of pure chalk water will be obtained at a depth of about 400 feet; it will be pumped up to the reservoir, which is at an elevation sufficient to supply nearly the whole district, the population of which is estimated at a total of over 13,000 persons, occupying nearly 2,400 houses. Mr. Landsdowne-Beale is one of the Directors of the Company to which Mr. James Watts is the secretary.

Sat 2nd Nov

ALTERATION TO POST OFFICE REGULATIONS

The despatch of letters at 1.30 has been abolished and in lieu thereof a letter bag is made up at 3 pm for London and all parts (Reading Excepted). Letters for Sandhurst and Wellington College should be posted before 9.30 pm.

Sat 28th Dec

AMATEUR BAND

On Christmas Eve the Amateur Band went around the town playing the well-known Christmas hymns and carols. The music sounded very sweet in the still frosty night air and harmonised with the thoughts of persons at this happy season. In the ordinary case bands of music follow up their performances by ringing bells of different houses and making a request for money but the members of the Wokingham Band gladly gave their services in order to usher in the festival amongst the townspeople in a suitable manner. They were led by Mr. Breacher who set the tunes expressly for the various instruments.

1879

Sat 1st Feb

ENTERTAINMENT ON THE ICE

On Thursday the 23rd Ult., Mr. Goodchild, the ex-Alderman invited his fellow townspeople to spend an evening on the ice on the ornamental water on his property at Waterloo. The large space was well lighted by burning tar barrels, Chinese lanterns and torches. Between 300 and 400 people assembled and all appeared to heartily enjoy themselves. Messrs. L and T Carroll, Messrs. H and H Roberts and others formed themselves into a glee party and sang some part-songs and glees.

The handbell ringers were also in attendance, and much enlivened the proceedings. A large fire was kept burning on the centre island from whence a display of fireworks took place. Mr. W. Chambers supplied the refreshments.

Sat 8th Feb

THE HEALTH OF WOKINGHAM

The annual report of Dr. Shea, the Medical Officer of Health, which has just been presented to the Local Board, deserves a careful perusal. We glean from the report that in the year 1878 there were 98 births in the district, and 60 deaths. Of the births 48 were males, and 50 females; of the deaths, 29 were males, and 31 females. Out of the 60 deaths, 17 took place in the Union Workhouse, and of these 12 belonged to the rural district, leaving 58 to be credited to the town, giving a death-rate of 18.7 per 1,000. This an increase on the rate for 1877, which was abnormally low. The year 1878 was, however, characterised by a high death-rate throughout this country. The report contains many details as to ages and the various causes of death. A statement is also shown of the work done by the Inspector of Nuisances, from which it will be seen that 110 cases of nuisance have been remedied, and that much has been accomplished in improving the sanitary states of spots which have long been deemed sources of danger to health. The report notices the improvements effected in paving and channelling during the past year, and concludes by congratulating the town on the favourable return as to its exceptional freedom from zymotic disease.

ENTERTAINMENT

An advertisement announces that an entertainment will be given by Mr. Frank Attwells, in the Town Hall, next Thursday evening. The entertainment will include a short lecture upon the Paris Exhibition, illustrated by dioramic dissolving views, exhibited by means of oxy-hydrogen lime light. Selections of vocal and instrumental music will also be given during the evening.

WINTER ENTERTAINMENT

There was a crowded audience at the Town Hall on Tuesday, on the occasion of one of the fortnightly entertainments. The performers were Miss Carroll, Miss Easton, Miss Gates, Misses Mary and Edith Brown, Misses Laura and Florence Walter, Messrs Henderson, Harvey, J.E. Carroll, E.R. Carroll, and Allen, Mr. Elwin, and the Rev. Joseph T. Brown. After the programme was gone through, Mr. Elwin, in addition to the songs which he had given in the most admirable manner, favoured the audience with his wonderful powers as an amateur ventriloquist. The company separated at 10, highly delighted with their evening's entertainment. The chair was well filled by Mr. Murdoch, of Buckhurst.

The Corporation have had two handsome lamps placed over each entrance door. They were lighted for the first time on that night, and proved a great convenience to the public.

Sat 22nd March

FIRE

Yesterday at 3 a. m., the town was alarmed by the bugle call of the Fire Brigade, a fire having been discovered in a back room at the Welcome Inn, Peach-street, occupied by Mr. Richard Herring. The brigade was promptly on the spot with their powerful engine, and when a supply of water was obtained soon extinguished the flames. The room in which the fire broke out was destroyed, but the rest of the house was saved. The fire originated through an old beam in the chimney igniting. The property is insured. Had it not been for the prompt exertions of the brigade much damage must have ensued, as the property on fire was situated in a row of houses of very ancient construction.

Sat 26th April

THE ROYAL DISTRICT BICYCLE CLUB

This club had their opening run on Easter Monday.

Sat 2nd Aug

GAS AND COKE COMPANY

The annual meeting of the shareholders in this company was held in the Town Hall on Thursday afternoon. Mr. J.L. Roberts was unanimously elected chairman, and, before submitting the report of the directors, congratulated the meeting on the improved position of the company as contrasted with former reports he had laid before them. The Secretary, (Mr. W. Ifould) then read the following report:-

The Directors in submitting the statement of accounts for the half-year ending 30th June last, have the satisfaction to report that the business of the Company has been conducted and has progressed entirely to their satisfaction during the said period. The make of gas per ton of coal has been greater and the percentage of loss by waste &c., less than has been previously recorded. The reports of Mr. Baker as to the illuminating power and the purity of the gas supplied have also been quite satisfactory. The ordinary business of the company has been conducted to the entire

satisfaction of the directors. Under these circumstances, and seeing there is a balance of profit amounting to £254 19s 3d, and a sum of £?? 11s 9d due to the company on the 30th June last to be collected during the current quarter, the directors feel fully justified in recommending a dividend for the half-year at the rate of 6? per cent, per annum, to be paid to the shareholders on the first day of September next, and that the remaining £?? 19s 3d of the profit be added to the reserve fund. The directors retiring by rotation are Messrs. Wheeler, Goodchild and Frankum, who are eligible and offer themselves for re-election. In consequence of Mr. Wanalow's appointment as accountant to the Company, his retirement from the office of auditor becomes necessary, and another auditor will have to be elected I his place by the shareholders.

This report was unanimously adopted, and Messrs. William W. Wheeler, Edward Frankum and William Goodchild were re-elected directors, and Mr. Roberts was unanimously requested to resume the position of Chairman of Directors, which he has held for so many years filled to the satisfaction, not only of his co-directors, but also of the shareholders.

Mr. Robert Bradley, of Reading, was elected auditor, in the room of Mr. Hanslow, and the meeting concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Sat 15th Nov

LOCAL BOARD

The monthly meeting of this Board was held on the afternoon of Thursday, the 6th inst. The members present were, Mr. Thomas Cooke, chairman; and Messrs. Goodchild, Westcott, Briginshaw, Dalley, Chambers, Watts, Moorcock, Heron, Martin and Evans. A rate of one shilling in the pound was ordered. Mr. G. Evans drew attention to the exceedingly high price of gas in the town, and pointed out that every public lamp in Wokingham cost 13s per annum more than they did at Blackwater; he had also ascertained that at Reading gas was supplied at 3s per 1,000 ft., while at Wokingham the cost for the same quantity was 5s. Mr. W. Goodchild, one of the directors of the Gas Company, said he should like to see the Gas Works placed under the authority of the Local Board. Dr. Shea was appointed gas tester to the Board.

A proposition that the southern side of the Market Place, extending from Goodchild's lane to Mr. Bennett's, should be paved with York stone, was, after some opposition, carried by a majority of 7 to 3.

1880

Sat 24th April

WOKINGHAM WATER COMPANY

It is satisfactory to be in a position to state that on Wednesday last a stratum of chalk was reached at a depth of 340 feet from the surface, thus placing beyond doubt that an abundant supply of pure water will soon be available. It is a matter of congratulation to the inhabitants of Wokingham and of the large district embraced in the company's scheme, where the water supply has not only been insufficient, but the water of very objectionable quality that henceforth a pure supply from the chalk, in practically unlimited quantities, will be brought to the house of every inhabitant desiring it. It at the same time makes it incumbent on the Local Board of Health to close all deleterious springs both in private and present public supply. Binfield, Barkham, Sandhurst, Bracknell and all the neighbourhood, are embraced in the water company's district. The shareholders may also be congratulated on the success of this enterprise, which in the first instance did not appear very promising, but which now

offers a clear inducement for investment, as water companies generally afford a good return for capital investment.

Sat 15th May

VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

The Volunteer Fire Brigade under the command of Mr. J. Briginshaw, the captain, underwent a very useful drill in the Market place on Wednesday evening. The new fire-escape was placed against a high window and the members of the brigade went through a course of instruction (practically illustrated) of the means to be employed in the rescue-immediate treatment of insensible persons found on burning premises.

Sat 5th June

THE WOKINGHAM WATER SUPPLY

The *Times* gives the following description of the deep well now being sunk for supplying the district with water. In the year 1878 an Act of Parliament was obtained, incorporating a company for the purpose of supplying this district and the neighbourhood with spring water. Acting on the report of Mr. J.W. Grover, the engineer, which showed that the chalk might probably be reached at a depth of about 350 ft., and that water would probably be struck at about 400 ft., the company proceeded about 12 months ago to commence their well, and the results of their operations has been to confirm these anticipations in a very remarkable way, for the chalk has been reached at 345 ft. depth, and a very fine chalk spring has been struck at 405 feet. This satisfactory result was obtained last week, when after passing through about 60 ft. of chalk which was comparatively dry, the water suddenly burst up with great violence through the bore pipe, filling the well shaft to within 30 ft. of the surface, and yielding some 360,000 gallons a day at a depth of 70 ft. from the top.

The water is very pure and clear, as is generally the case with that derived from chalk; but attempts which have hitherto been made in this district to obtain water from the chalk have not generally proved very successful, so that the discovery of such a fine copious spring is a subject for congratulation, as it will enable a large range of country to be provided with one of the first necessities of life. The well consists of a brick shaft 200 ft. deep and 6 ft. diameter, at the bottom of which comes the artesian boring down to the chalk. The formations passed through are the London clays and the reading sands. The water in the chalk is supposed to be derived from the chalk hills to the north of Twyford. It will now be pumped by suitable machinery to a high-level reservoir, situated half way between Wokingham and Bracknell, whence it will be conveyed by pipes to the consumers, who are estimated to amount to over 13,000 persons, occupying some 2,364 houses, and to whom it is proposed to give a constant service. The contractors for the works are Messrs. T.M. Quelch & Co.

A number of curious fossils were discovered in the sinking, the most important of which was the *Nautilus Imperialis* which showed that this district once formed the bed of tropical seas.

CRICKET

The Guildford and Wokingham Cricket Clubs met for their first contest on Wednesday on the ground of the latter club. The match terminated in a victory for the Wokingham club by 14 runs in the first innings. The scores were:- Wokingham, first innings, 43, and second innings (with 4 wickets down), 48. Guildford, first innings, 29, and, second innings, 119. For the former club H. Baldwin was the only contributor of double figures, making 18 runs. Neither of the Guildford club scored double

figures. R. Baldwin and Gater shared the bowling in the first innings of the visitors with singular effect. Baldwin sending up eight overs for 19 runs, whilst Gater bowled eight overs for eight runs, taking three wickets.

Sat 11th Sept.

THE WOKINGHAM FIRE BRIGADE

The periodical entitled "The Fireman" for this month has an article on provincial fire brigades to which, with reference to the Wokingham Fire Brigade. It says:-

"The Volunteer Fire Brigade to Wokingham was established on the 1st March 1877, by Mr. John W. Briginshaw and some fellow townsmen, under the auspices of the Wokingham Local Board. Before that time the parish engine was in the possession of the police, and the work of attending to it and working it at fires being only a secondary part of their duties. It had for some time been felt that an independent organisation was advisable and even necessary. Accordingly a meeting of the ratepayers was convened, and after some discussion it was resolved to establish the brigade and to request the Local Board to hand over their fire engine an old Merryweather manual, dating from 1840 and appliances to its keeping. This was readily agreed upon by the Board: and the brigade next started a subscription list to provide funds for the purpose of obtaining a new engine and some new hose; they also wished to repair the old engine, to clothe and accoutre the firemen, and to build an engine house.

It is much to the credit of Wokingham that all these objects were accomplished in a remarkably short space of time; in 1879 the brigade had affected its purposes and was out of debt. The engine purchased was a London brigade pattern manual with 7 in pumps, two deliveries, double folding pumping levers, and with all the most modern appliances; the whole being supplied to them by the Long Acre firm. In addition to this the Royal Society for the Protection of Life has repeatedly granted the brigade an escape, and a suitable enclosure has been erected for the same alongside the engine house, beneath the Town Hall, and in the most central part of the town. The brigade is now, therefore, fully equipped and consists of a very reliable body of men.

Sat 18th September

FIRE BRIGADE COMPETITION

The members of the Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade competed for prizes at Weybridge on Thursday last. In the six-man drill eight brigades competed, and Wokingham took the fourth place. In the four-man drill, nine brigades competed, Wokingham scored sixth. In ambulance drill, hand pump and foot race, Wokingham took second position in each contest.

Sat 23rd Oct

MUSICAL SOCIETY

A meeting was held at the Town Hall on Wednesday evening for the purpose of establishing a musical Society for Wokingham. Mr. Ald. Heelas presided, and was supported by the Rev. J.T. Brown, Mr. C.T. Murdoch, The Rev. J.F. Llewellyn, Mr. H. Roberts, Mr. Watts, the Rev. E.G. Coppleston, Mr. J.W. Briginshaw, Mr. Henderson, Mr. T.S. Brown, Mr. Heron, Mr. Harvey & c.

Mr. Murdoch proposed, and the Rev. J.T. Brown seconded, in able speeches, "That a Musical Society be established in Wokingham during the winter months." The resolution was carried unanimously. A committee was formed, to consist of Mr. T.S. Brown, Mr. Watts, Mr. J.W. Briginshaw, the Rev. E.G. Coppleston, Mr. Henderson,

The Rev. J.F. Llewellyn and Mr. H. Roberts. Mr. Murdoch was chosen president, and the Rev. J.T. Brown vice-president, and Mr. Heron secretary. A full report of the proceedings was prepared, but in consequence of the space occupied by the Berkshire Sessions and other reports, it is unavoidably omitted.

THE PHONOGRAPH

On Tuesday evening a lecture on the phonograph was given in the Town Hall. There was a small audience, but the experiments were very successfully made, and afforded much interest to those present.

Sat 30th Oct

WOKINGHAM VOLUNTARY FIRE BRIGADE

The Wokingham Voluntary Fire Brigade have been invited by the Lord Mayor of the City of London to take part with other Provincial Brigades representing the Wokingham Voluntary Fire brigade in the grand civic procession of the 9th proxime.

1881

Sat 22nd Jan

The annual ball given by Mr. J. Walter M.P. to his tradespeople which was to have taken place on Tuesday, and the Volunteer Ball, which had been arranged for Wednesday last in the Town Hall have both been postponed in consequence of the snow storm.

Sat 29th Jan

THE STATE OF THE POOR

A public meeting was convened in the Town Hall at noon on Thursday, by the Alderman, to take into consideration the best means of relieving the stress existing amongst the labouring classes in the town, consequent upon the severe weather lately experienced. A committee composed of the clergy and ministers of all denominations, several of the neighbouring gentry, and some of the principal inhabitants of the town, was formed to solicit subscriptions and distribute, in the most feasible manner, the results amongst the needy and destitute. Subscriptions to a large amount were promised in the room.

VOLUNTEER BALL

The annual ball of the L detachment of Berks Rifle Volunteers, which was postponed from the 19th inst, on account of the inclement weather, took place in the Town Hall last Thursday evening. The hall was very tastefully decorated for the occasion. Mr. W. Chambers, of the Market-place, supplied the refreshments. An efficient band from Reading was engaged, dancing commenced soon after 9 p.m.

THE WOKINGHAM INSTITUTE

The annual meeting of the members of this institution took place on Monday, the 17th inst., Mr. T.S. Brown in the chair. From the report it appeared that the income for the year 1880 (including the balance of £11 10s 4d. on December 31st, 1879), was £48 15s 1d., and the expenditure for the same period £36 7s. 10d., leaving a present balance of £12 7s 3d. Mr. D.N. Heron, who for several years has filled the post of

hon. Secretary, having resigned, Mr. T.S. Brown was elected to the office, and a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Mr. Heron for his services.

BERKS FRIENDLY SOCIETY

The annual meeting of the Wokingham Branch of this society was held in the Church-room in Rose-street, on Tuesday evening—S.A. Hankey, Esq., in the chair. Letters were received from several hon. Members, stating their inability to attend. The committee (with the addition of the Rev. E.G. Copleston) the chairman and the agent, were unanimously elected. Mr. A. Barrett was elected a representative member, in succession to Mr. H Hibbert. The society is in a prosperous condition. Considering the weather there was a good attendance.

THE LATE FROST

The frost broke up on Wednesday night. Through the exertions of Mr. E. Lane, surveyor, the streets have been partially cleared of the snow, although in the Market-place and on the sides of the streets snow is still piled many feet high. Some of the residents, taking advantage of the snow, commenced running sleighs. On Monday evening, with the permission of Mr. Goodchild, a pleasant evening was spent on ice at Waterloo. A bonfire was lighted, and the lake was illuminated by a number of naphtha lamps.

Mr. W. Chambers of the Market-place, supplied the refreshments. The Wokingham Brass Band attended, and played a good selection of music, and dancing on the ice, to the strains of the band, went on merrily till past ten.

Sat 19th March

WATER WORKS

The Water Works Company have now their works in full working order, and the task of laying on the water, which is of excellent quality, is being proceeded with. It was been proposed to have some demonstration to celebrate the completion of the undertaking.

THE SUNDAY CLOSING MOVEMENT

A public meeting in favour of closing public houses on Sundays was held in the Town Hall on Friday evening. Mr. E. Nicholson of *Oaklands* presided and was supported on the platform by Mr. Whitwell, the deputation; The Rev. J.S. Woodrow, Mr. J. Weeks, Mr. J. Briginshaw, Dr. Noad and others. The meeting was opened with prayer, and the chairman in a short speech introduced Mr. Whitwell, who read the resolution, and in a lengthy speech stated that considerable good had been affected in different parts of the country by the partial closing of public houses on Sundays; landlords themselves were, he said, generally in favour of the movement, as they were saddled with twice as many working hours per week as any other working men. A canvas taken in different populous manufacturing localities was, he stated, wholly in favour of Sunday closing, and he urged the audience to exert their influence on County Members when the Bill came on in the House.

The speech met with frequent opposition and interruption from several parts of the hall. The resolution was seconded by the Rev. J.S. Woodrow. A stranger present proposed an amendment that no alteration was required in Wokingham. This was seconded by Mr. H. Kemp, but on being put to the meeting was declared to be lost. The original resolution was carried.

Sat 23rd April

THE WOKINGHAM WATER WORKS
OPENING BY MR. WALTER, M.P.

The works, constructed by the Wokingham District Water Company (Limited), were opened on Tuesday by Mr. Walter M.P., and the proceedings were of a very successful character. The works consist of a well and pumping station near the Finchampstead Road, between the brook and the South Eastern railway, and a reservoir at Buckhurst, on a site high enough to supply water by gravitation to Wokingham and nearly all the surrounding district.

The well is 408 feet deep, 260 feet being a brick and cement shaft, and the remainder a 16-inch artesian boring. It passes through 270 feet of clay, and then through the Woolwich and Reading sands, until the upper chalk is reached, and the boring penetrates this 68 feet. Wokingham is on a great basin in the chalk, and there can be no doubt that a practically unbounded supply of water will be assured from this boring.

The water has been analysed by Dr. Shea (Public Analyst of Reading and Newbury) and found to be soft, although from the chalk, and very free from any other organic matter. The softness of the water's great advantage to housewives – is due to the mixture of the water from the sands immediately above the chalk, which finds its way down to the fissures in the upper chalk, and also to the fact that the water contains a considerable portion of alkaline chlorides.

A 20-horse power engine, by Grover & Co., of Westminster, is erected, and has been pumping regularly for some time, at the rate of 10,000 gallons per hour; while if necessary almost double work could be got out of it.

The reservoir (covered) at Buckhurst holds 100,000 gallons, and thus a continuous supply, day and night, will be afforded. To test the supply, the engine has been pumping, at the rate of 10,000 gallons per hour, day and night for three or four days; and the lowest to which the water level has been reduced below the surface by this severe test was 50 feet; while, should any emergency require it, the company can pump another 350 feet below this level. There are facilities for doubling both the pumping power and the storage accommodation at Buckhurst.

An 8-inch main has been laid from the pumping-station to the reservoir, and from Buckhurst to the centre of the town, the various streets being supplied by 6-inch, 4-inch, and smaller mains. The pipes have also been taken to Bracknell and Binfield; and the district over which the company has powers also includes Broadmoor, Wellington College, and York Town. We understand that the governors of Wellington College, the Royal Military College, and of Broadmoor, have asked on what terms water can be supplied to those institutions; and a considerable number of consumers have already had the water laid on.

The works, which are very satisfactory, have been carried out by Mr. T.M. Quill, C.E., of Hammersmith, the engineer being Mr. J.W. Grover, C.E., of Westminster. The total outlay up to the present has been between £12,000 and £13,000, and the capital of the company, £20,000 (of which about £14,000 has already been subscribed) allows plenty of margin to extend the works as may be found necessary.

A large company assembled on Tuesday at one o'clock, at the pumping station, and viewed the engine and pumps at work, and a fountain jet showing the pressure from the reservoir; and also inspected a section of the well, with illustrations of fossils found in the sinking, and a plan of the district within the company's powers. At a quarter past one a jet of water about 100 feet in height was raised from an hydrant at the railway station; and at 1.30 members of the Volunteer Fire Brigade took hose up

to the roofs of houses in the Market-place and also to the top of the Town Hall to show the dead pressure. From the roof of the hall, the dead pressure from the reservoir threw a considerable jet, showing a height of 75 feet; and when it is remembered that the hall stands on ground higher by 40 feet than some parts of the town, it will be seen that the pressure is all that could be desired for extinguishing fires and for every other purpose.

At two o'clock about 80 gentlemen sat down to luncheon in the Town Hall, Mr. W. Landsdowne Beale the chairman of the company presiding.....

Sat 25th June

NEW DRINKING FOUNTAIN

A handsome new drinking fountain of polished Peterhead granite, with troughs for cattle and dogs, the gift of the Rev. G.E.D. De Vitre, has this week been erected against the Town Hall opposite the Bush Hotel. In consequence of some misunderstanding as to the supply of water, however, it cannot, at present, be used.

Sat 3rd Sept

THE PROPOSED NEW DRILL HALL

The tender of Mr. Wescott, builder, Wokingham, for the erection of the new Drill Hall and Cottage proposed to be erected under the instructions of Captain Walter has been accepted. The amount of the estimation is £2,350 and the architects for the work are Messrs Brown and Albury of Reading.

Sat 10th Dec

NEW CLUB FOR WORKING MEN

On Monday last the new rooms of the Wokingham Working Men's Club were opened by the Rector of this parish. The rooms have been built behind the Coffee Tavern in Peach-street, and comprise a room for games, a reading room, and a third room for dressing, while the Coffee Tavern adjacent supplies refreshments in its own rooms and some excellent beds for those who require lodging. Already 70 members have joined the club.

At the opening of the rooms, the Rector (the Rev. E. Sturges), having referred to the pleasure with which the clergy had worked with the committee, composed chiefly of working men, and the additional means of friendly intercourse which he hoped the rooms would afford them for many years to come, said it was right that it should be stated by what means the Club came into possession of those capital premises. They were indebted to the Rector of St. Paul's, to Col. Newdigate, to Mr. Nicholson, and other friends for valuable contributions and presents. But they could not have been in a position to avail themselves of these if it had not been for the generosity and kindness of his good friends and parishioners—the Rev. G.E.D. De Vitre and Mr. Wescott. To them the credit was due of having selected the site for the Coffee Tavern, and at their own expense fitted it up for the purpose.

The appropriation of the spare ground for club-rooms was an afterthought, but it was the outcome and extension of the work which they had begun single-handed. Having declared the rooms open, he said that before the proceedings closed he should propose a vote of thanks to the Rev. J.T. Brown, the Rector of St. Paul's, for his generous gift of the furniture of the rooms. After some words from the Rev. J.T. Brown, Mr. Nicholson, and Mr. Wescott, the company separated to the different tables for games and reading.

Sat 28th Jan

THE WOKINGHAM VOLUNTEERS
OPENING OF THE NEW DRILL HALL

A ceremony of much interest and of great importance to the town and neighbourhood of Wokingham took place on Wednesday evening when the new Drill Hall, built at the expense of Captain A.F. Walter, for the use of the Wokingham Company of the Berks. Volunteers, was opened by Col. Sir R. Loyd Lindsay, V.C., M.P., at a dinner given by Captain Walter.

The Hall is built on a spacious site in Denmark-street, and is a very handsome and fine building—by far the best room in Wokingham. It is divided into seven bays, and is 70 ft. long by 33 ft. wide, the height to the ridge being 30 ft.; it is entered by a nice porch, and has an armoury and stores at the back, with separate entrances. The material used is red brick, relieved with bands of yellow and grey brick, and with bands of “diaper work” on the exterior. There is a double floor, the top being of pitch pine. A dado of pitch pine runs around the walls, and the roof is finished with an ornamental cornice of the same wood. The roof is of wood and iron, and is extremely well lighted from the top, Rendall’s patent glazing being used; and the ventilation is also excellent. Artificial light is well supplied by means of three Sugg’s 100-candle burners. The Hall is furnished with a moveable platform so that it can be used for other purposes such as lectures and entertainments, which will be of great value to the town as the Hall will accommodate about 500 persons.

The Hall is approached from Denmark-street by an archway between four cottages which have been built in a style corresponding with the hall. There is also a spacious courtyard in which the men can be drilled in fine weather.

Mr. F.W. Albury, of Reading, was the architect and the building has been well carried out by Mr. T.M. Wescott, of Wokingham.

Sat 4th Feb

VOLUNTEER BALL

The annual ball of the L Company 1st Berks Rifles took place in the New Drill Hall on Thursday evening. The arrangements for the ball and the accommodation of those invited were excellently carried out by the committee which consisted of Colour-Sergt. Hunton, Sergt.-Instructor McEwan, Sergts: Wix and Smale, Corps: Brant, Dowsett, Chambers, and Shrimpton. Privates: Henderson and Lush, and Sergt. Harvey, secretary. The music was supplied by a quadrille band selected from the band of the regiment, under the conductorship of Bandmaster H. Roberts. Dancing commenced soon after nine o’clock. The proceeds, after payment of expenses, will be devoted to the Volunteer Prize Fund.

BERKS FRIENDLY SOCIETY

The annual meeting of the Wokingham branch of this society was held on Monday evening. Mr. S.A. Hankey occupied the chair, and there were also present the Rev. E. Sturges, Rev. G.E.D. De Vitre, and Mr. E. Nicholson (hon. members); Mr. A. Burrett (representative member); the local agent, and many of the assurance and deposit members. The accounts for last year showed the society to be in a satisfactory condition and increasing in numbers. The same committee and officers were

unanimously re-elected for the present year. Owing chiefly to the increase of members, the honorary funds were found insufficient by £2 13s. 2d to discharge the expenses for which they were intended. This deficiency was generously paid by Mr. Hankey, the chairman of the branch.

ENTERTAINMENT

The "Wokingham Blackbirds" gave an entertainment in the new Drill Hall on Monday evening, in aid of the Volunteer Prize Fund. The fact of this being the first public entertainment given in the new hall, combined with the well-deserved popularity of the troupe, brought together a large and appreciative audience. The programme mainly consisted of songs, &c., given at previous entertainments, but the old favourites were heartily welcomed and applauded. Captain A.F. Walter and other resident gentry of the neighbourhood who take an interest in the volunteer corps were present.

SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army continue their services in the Barracks, Rose Street. The processions through the streets have of late been almost dispensed with.

WOKINGHAM LOCAL BOARD

The monthly meeting of this board was held on Thursday, when there were present Messrs. T.B. Martin, Moorcock, Goodchild, Knight, Clark, Chambers and Watts. Dr. Shea, the medical officer of health, and Mr. Lane, the surveyor, also attended the meeting. Mr. Martin having been elected chairman, the treasurer's accounts were produced, showing that he had received £95, and that the balance in hand amounted to £138 17s. 1d. The usual monthly accounts were presented and allowed. Dr. Shea then laid before the board his annual statement as to the health of the town during the past year. Among a number of other statistics the interesting fact was recorded that the death-rate of the town had stood at the low average of 15 per thousand. The thanks of the Board were passed to Dr. Shea for his able report, which was ordered to be circulated. The following officers of the Board, viz., Mr. Edward Frankum; clerk; Mr. Edward Lane; surveyor; Dr. Shea, medical officer of health and gas examiner; Mr. T.S. Brown, collector; and Mr. W. Simonds, treasurer, were unanimously re-appointed. A long discussion ensued as to the proposed new roadway into Langborough and the drainage scheme, after which the proceedings terminated.

Sat 9th Sept

LOCAL BOARD

A meeting of this board was held on Thursday. Present:--Mr W. Goodchild, chairman, and Messrs. Martin, Moorcock, Sale, Clark, Chambers, and Knight. A correspondence was read between the guardians of the Union and the Local Government Board in London as to the erection of an infectious hospital near the workhouse. Mr. J. Bottrill, of Reading, attended and entered into a contract to execute a portion of the drainage works for the sum of £190. The works will be commenced the beginning of next week. Several bills were passed for payment.

THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL

The tender of Mr. Partlow for the erection of a new Infectious Diseases Hospital, at a cost of £473, has been accepted. There were in all twelve tenders, the figures ranging from £905 down to the above amount.

CRICKET

An interesting match came off on the Club Ground, on Wednesday, between the Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade and the local company of Volunteers. The afternoon was fine, and a large number of spectators witnessed the play, which was carried out in a thoroughly good humoured manner. The Volunteers were victorious by 26 runs, the score being: Volunteers, 54 and 35; Fire Brigade, 43 and 18, Sergt. Small (25) and Mr. Cocksedge (18) batted well for the Volunteers in the first innings, and in the same innings for the Brigade Mr. W. Goodchild (20) and Mr. Brant (12) were the highest and almost only scores. In the evening the two elevens and their friends met at the Rose Hotel, where an excellent supper was served

1883

Sat 3rd Feb

VOLUNTEER BALL

By permission of Captain A.F. Walter, the Wokingham Company of Berkshire Volunteers held their annual ball in the Drill Hall on Wednesday, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion. Upwards of 150 tickets were taken, and amongst the company were Captain A.F. Walter and Mrs. Walter, Captain E. Walter and Miss Laura Walter, Captain Carter, Adjutant of the Regiment, and Mrs. Carter, DR. Hicks, several of the Royal Berks Yeomanry Cavalry, and most of the non-commissioned officers and men of the Wokingham Company. The quadrille band of the regiment attended.

WOKINGHAM LOCAL BOARD

At the meeting of this board on Thursday there were present Mr. W. Goodchild (chairman), Messrs. Moorcock, Martin, Sale, Wescott, Evans, Ifould, Watts, and Knight. The treasurer's account, which was presented, showed a balance in hand of £147 17s. 5d. The usual monthly accounts were passed, and bills allowed to the amount of nearly £200. The officers of the board were all re-appointed for the ensuing year.

Dr. Shea's annual report was presented and read. It dealt in an able manner with the various sanitary works that had been carried on during the past year, and furnished comparative statistics of the death rate of the district for the last seven years. The rate during the past year was stated to have been lower than in any of the previous seven years, with one exception. During the year upwards of 150 cases of nuisance had been abated. It was reported that the new sewage works, by which it is hoped that the health of the district will be greatly improved, are now almost completed. A vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Dr. Shea for his report, which was ordered to be printed and circulated.

Sat 14th July

THE CORPORATION

The Act for dealing with unreformed corporations, introduced by the Government on the first day of the present session of Parliament, after various amendments in committee, has passed both Houses, and having received the Royal assent on the 29th of June last, it has been printed and issued. The main features of the Act have already been mentioned in the Mercury. The next step to be taken will probably be that the Privy Council will issue notice that a public inquiry will be held at Wokingham into

the expediency of advising her Majesty to grant a charter, extending the Municipal Corporations Act to the town of Wokingham, and whether it is expedient that any adjoining district should be included if a charter of incorporation be granted. At the inquiry an opportunity will be afforded to the inhabitants to state their views to the Commissioners. In the event of no charter being granted, the future management of the town will be vested in the Local Board, and the magisterial business carried on by the county justices. In the meantime the Corporation property cannot be dealt with by sale, but the charities vested in the Corporation will continue to be administered heretofore until a fresh scheme is prepared by the Charity Commissioners.

Sat 4th Aug

LOCAL BOARD MEETING

The surveyor was instructed to lay down stone crossings at the junctions of Broad-street and Shute End; Peach-street and the Market-place; and Denmark-street and the Market-place. The Board then further considered the question of naming the streets and numbering the houses and also a report presentation by the Survey Committee upon the subject when it was resolved to affix the names of the streets and highways on enamelled plates.

Sat 25th Aug

SUCCESS OF THE WOKINGHAM VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

Under the auspices of the Chiswick Volunteer Fire Brigade, a competition for gold and silver medals was held in Sutton Park on Thursday. Brigades from Acton, Brighton, Chiswick, Colnbrook, Croydon, Ealing, Edenbridge, Hampton Court Palace, Hanwell, Leyton, Putton Sutton, Twickenham, Uxbridge, Watford, Willesden,, and Wokingham, took part in the contest. The Wokingham Brigade travelled to Sutton by train on Thursday morning. At the Wokingham Station, before the departure of the Brigade, the excellent physique and cleanly equipment of the men was favourably commented on, and during the day they fully earned the eulogies passed upon them.

Out of four competitions for medals, the Wokingham Brigade came off victorious in three, losing the fourth (the four men drill) by less than a second. The following were the prizes won:-Single-man drill, gold medal, Mr. C. Brant; two-men drill, two gold and silver medals, Mr. C. Brant and Mr. Aiger; six-men drill (with officer), 7 silver medals, Messrs. Ifould, Brant, Caiger, Green, Chambers, Hatton and Hall.

CRICKET

The return match between Chertsey and Wokingham was played at the former place on the 16th inst., and resulted in favour of Wokingham, who scored 144 in one innings, against 37 and 39 by their opponents. For the winners Cotterell made 16, Hutson 28, Gater 14, Vandyke 32, and Skelton 20. For Chertsey, Lowell made 15 and 3.

Sat 8th Sept.

LOCAL BOARD MEETING

Patterns of blue enamelled plates for the names of the streets were produced and one was selected the letters of which were three inches long.

Sat 15th Sept

THE DRILL HALL

There is now being added to this fine building (at the expense of Captain A.F. Walter, Wokingham Volunteers) a new room and offices at a cost of nearly £500. The room will be 26 feet by 40 feet and is in design and material in harmony with the main building. It will be found very useful at County balls and other gatherings.

Sat 3rd Nov

THE DRILL HALL

Captain A.F. Walter has accepted the tender of Mr. W.H. Wernham, Builder, Reading, for the erection of a new room and offices adjoining the Drill Hall. Work at a cost of £487 10s. Messrs. Brown & Albury are the architects.

Sat 10th Nov

IMPROVED RAILWAY ACCOMMODATION

We understand that, at an interview between the General Manager of the South Western Railway Company and Mr. Dill of Wokingham that the former undertook at Mr. Dill's request to consider the question of building a new station at Wokingham on the site now used as a fairground.

Sat 24th Nov

THE LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY

The London and South-Western Railway Company have given notice of their intention to apply to Parliament in the ensuing session for leave to bring in a Bill authorising the execution of a number of works on various parts of their system. Among other improvements for which power will be asked is the stopping up and deviation of this path over the railway near Wokingham Junction, known as Tanglely or Langborough Crossing, leading from Tanglely to Langborough-lane and Gipsy-lane, and the construction of a footbridge in lieu of the crossing.

It is also proposed to construct at Basingstoke a bridge over Bunnian-place, at a point about a chain south of the southern end of the existing bridge bearing an additional line or additional lines of rails.

Sat 1st Dec

SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY

This company has just erected a wooden footbridge over the dangerous crossing at Langborough where the unfortunate child, Lottie Martin, was killed last summer. All the materials being in readiness and the necessary preparations made, the bridge was securely fixed on Sunday last, the immunity from train service on that day giving the men the necessary time to complete the work.

The South Eastern Company has at last determined to give proper accommodation by erecting a new station, and throwing a bridge over the crossing close by, the total cost being £15,000.

1884

Sat 12th Jan

NOTICES

Privy Council Office'
January 4th, 1884

Notice is hereby given, that a PETITION has been addressed to her Majesty In Counsell by certain inhabitant householders of the district of the Local Board of Wokingham, in the parish of Wokingham, in the county of Berks, PRAYING that a CHARTER may be GRANTED to that district whereby the powers and provisions of the Municipal Corporations Act may be extended to the inhabitants thereof; and NOTICE is hereby further given, that the said Petition will be taken into consideration by a Committee of the Lords of her Majesty's most honourable Privy Council on the Fourteenth day of February, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-Four.

Sat 23rd Feb

<p>TOWN OF WOKINGHAM, IN THE COUNTY OF BERKS.</p> <p>PROPOSED NEW CHARTER OF INCORPORATION.</p> <p>NOTICE is hereby given that the Hon. T. H. W. Pelham, the Commissioner appointed by the Lords of Her Majesty's Privy Council, will OPEN AN INQUIRY at the TOWN HALL, WOKINGHAM, on Friday, the 7th day of March, 1884, at Twelve o'clock at noon, and proceed to take evidence in reference to the Petition for the Grant of a New Charter of Incorporation to the Town of Wokingham, according to the provisions of "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1882," and "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1883." And further, all persons interested in the inquiry, and who may wish to give evidence before the said Commissioner, must then and there attend, and they will be heard.</p> <p>Dated this 21st day of February, 1884.</p> <p>This notice is published by direction of the said Commissioner.</p> <p>EDWARD FRANKUM, Town Clerk of Wokingham.</p>
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Sat 3rd May

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT OF THE THOROUGHFARE

Most of the freehold property in the Market-place and elsewhere belonging to the late Mr. J. Heelas is advertised to be sold by public auction. Amongst this property are the premises in the occupation of Mr. Webster, grocer, stretching from the Market-place along the whole length of Roe-lane, which connects the former place with Rose-street. This lane is extremely narrow to those who are compelled to use it. The trustees under the will having intimated their willingness to favourably consider an offer from the Town for the purchase of the premises in question for the purpose of demolition, with a view to the widening of the thoroughfare, the Alderman convening a public meeting, which was held in the Town Hall on Wednesday evening, for the purpose of considering the matter. There was a good attendance, among those present being Mr. Alderman Goodchild, Mr. Frankum (Town Clerk), the Rector of Wokingham, and Messrs. Dill, Roberts, T.W.T. Cooke, Gibson, Brant, Briginshaw, Ifould, Heron, Sergeant, Watts, Weeks, Powell, Churchman, Martin &c.

The following resolution was proposed by Mr. C.G. Dill, and seconded by Mr. W.B. Mower:- "That this meeting approves of the proposed purchase of property in Roe Lane, for the purpose of widening the lane, and recommends the appointment of a committee of five (with power to add to their number) to negotiate with the owners for the purchase of the property for that purpose, by voluntary subscriptions." After an animated discussion, in which the proposed improvement was strongly advocated, the resolution was carried unanimously, and the following committee was formed:- Mr. Alderman Goodchild, and Messrs. C.G. Dill, T. Gibson, W.B. Mower, and W. White.

Sat 10th May

The premises required for the improvement of Roe-lane have been purchased by Mr. Tyndale Heelas. At a meeting of the Committee on Thursday morning Mr. Heelas attended and stated that he wished to meet the wishes of the town and would as early as possible plans of the contemplated improvements.

Sat 17th May

SALE OF THE LATE JOHN HEELAS'S PROPERTY

The sale of the household property in the town and neighbourhood took place in the Rose Hotel on Wednesday afternoon. There was a large attendance. The confectionery premises in the Market-place were purchased by William Chambers, the occupant for £800; the house tenanted by Mr. E. Frankum and the adjoining house were purchased by Mr. Alderman Goodchild for £800; the two dwelling houses close by fetched £500; a piece of building land 4½ acres abutting on the Langborough-road was bought by [G P??] for £730; and a small piece opposite fetched £185. The other lots at a greater distance from the town were disposed of at far prices. Several lots had been previously disposed of by private treaty.

5th July Berkshire Chronicle

SERIOUS FIRE AT WOKINGHAM

The largest and most serious fire which has occurred here since the destruction of Mr T.M. Wescott's premises in Peach Street 12 years ago took place on Thursday last, resulting in the total demolition of the paper mills in King Street, near Emmbrook, the property of Messrs Wescott & Sons. About 12.45 a.m. on Thursday morning P.C. Mason, who was in Wokingham, saw flames bursting forth in the direction of Reading. He immediately gave the alarm at the Fire Brigade Station, and, proceeding in the direction of the lurid light, met a messenger hastening to summon aid. The Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade, under the command of Captain E. Ifould, with admirable promptitude, was soon on the spot, and at once discerning that all efforts to subdue the fierce conflagration already raging in the mill would be simply futile, they confined their efforts to prevent the flames attacking the engine house (the engine in which is valued at £1,200) and Mr Wescott's residence, situate only 15 yards from the fire.

It is entirely owing to their strenuous exertions and admirably disciplined work that these two places have not met the unfortunate fate of the mill itself. By daylight the mill was entirely gutted. The charred masses of paper, &c., buried in the ruins continued to smoulder throughout Thursday, and about 9 p.m. gave such ominous symptoms of again bursting forth that the brigade - some of whom had retired to rest to make up the loss of the previous night's rest - were again summoned and succeeded in preventing further damage.

The fire was first discovered by the night watchman. No cause can at present be assigned for the outbreak. The damage, which cannot yet be precisely estimated, will amount to several thousand pounds. The property is insured in the Liverpool, London and Globe Insurance Company. We are glad to state that no serious personal accident resulted. Fireman Chambers, however, received a slight bruise on the face from a falling brick. The workmanship-like manner in which the brigade handled their engine and efficiently carried out the orders of their captain does them infinite credit and deserves the warmest thanks of those upon whom the loss of valuable property, saved by their skill and application, would have fallen.

Sat 23rd Aug

THE VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

The Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance office has appreciated the exertions of the Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade at the recent fire at Messrs. Wescott's Paper Mill, by which much valuable machinery was saved, by liberally presenting the

members with a sum amounting to nearly double the claim they tendered. On Monday the brigade had an excursion to Portsmouth and Ryde, spending a very pleasant holiday in the Isle of Wight. During the afternoon some malicious or thoughtless person in Wokingham put into circulation an unfounded rumour that two of the party had been drowned, and thereby caused much needless anxiety to the friends of those referred to, at whose houses constant enquiries were made after the rumour had been set afloat.

Sat 20th Dec

SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY STATION

During the last few months the South Eastern Railway Station, which for a long time past had been in a most dilapidated condition, has been undergoing thorough renovation, and is now, as far as cleanliness and decency are concerned, in an efficient state. Most of the old defects of accommodation have, however, unfortunately been retained, especially noticeable being the compulsory crossing of the metals by all passengers from one platform to the other, and the exceedingly dangerous level crossing over the Barkham-road.

That no fatal accident has ere this happened on this spot seems (remarks a correspondent) a direct interposition of Providence, as on any day from 30 to 40 children and others may be seen waiting to continue their road over the line to or from school. It is often remarked by strangers who notice the danger, that the inhabitants are to blame for allowing the continuance of such a state of affairs. The dwarf wall, surmounted by a low palisade, lately erected by Mr. Walter, M.P., and stretching from the station to St. Paul's Rectory, will, when the road has been widened, for which provision is made, be an immense improvement to the entrance to the town.

BULLOCK TURNS ON BOY

On Thursday afternoon a bullock from the Marchioness of Downshire's farm was being driven to Mr. Briginshaw's butcher, and when in Peach-street it turned at a boy named Collyer, who narrowly escaped, the animal's horns grazing the skin off one of his fingers. Its horns came in contact with Mr. Evans' window, only a few inches below the plate-glass. The animal, which was nearly exhausted, was with difficulty removed.

1885

Sat 4th April

STREET IMPROVEMENT

A meeting of the committee appointed to carry out the contemplated improvement in Broad-street and Roe-lane was held in the Town Hall on Tuesday evening. Alderman Goodchild presided, and there were also present Messrs. W. Gibson, J. Gadd, W. White, J.F. Sergeant, W. B. Mower, and M.G.C. Dill. It was unanimously resolved to accept the offer of Mr. Tyndale Heelas for carrying out the alterations by removing and rebuilding the premises occupied by Mr. Webster, grocer, & c., leaving a thoroughfare of not less than 20 feet in width in Roe-lane. The committee then adjourned till the 9th. Inst. In the meantime a list of subscriptions will be prepared and, in due course, advertised.

Sat 1st Aug

THE BOROUGH CHARTER

The new Charter of Incorporation creating the Borough of Wokingham has at length been issued from the Privy Council Office, and duly received in the town. By its provisions 12 Councillors will have to be elected on Monday, the 2nd November next, and on the 9th November the first Mayor will be chosen. By the scheme of the Charter the boundary of the new Borough is a co-extensive with the limits of the present Local Board, whose functions and duties will merge in the new Corporation in November, although we believe, the present Board will continue in existence until the 25th of March next. We can but hope that the new dignity attained by the town will tend to increase its importance and prosperity, and that the enlarged powers and duties conferred may be judiciously carried out, so that the Borough of Wokingham, which is beyond doubt one of the oldest chartered Corporations in the Country, may long continue to flourish.

THE RECORDERSHIP

We understand that the learned Recorder of Wokingham, Sir George Russell, Bart., having been adopted as the Conservative candidate for the County, to fill the vacancy caused by the elevation of Sir R. Loyd Lindsay to the Peerage, has resigned from the Recordership, lest it might be thought that the office gave any political advantage. Although appreciating the sense of honour which has prompted Sir George's resignation, many of the inhabitants would have wished that he had continued in office until the dissolution of the old Corporation in November next when the office would have come to an end with the other old Corporate offices. The new Corporation has no separate Commission of the Peace, but if it should petition for that privilege a new Recorder would have to be found.

Sat 22nd Aug

FIRE BRIGADE COMPETITION

Four members of the Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade, Messrs. Ifould, Brant, Green and Caiger attended the Grand Competition at Shoreham, under the auspices of the Brighton Fire Brigade, on Monday last when 28 brigades from different parts of the country competed. In the two-man drill Messrs. Caiger and Brant obtained the first place performing the work in the exceedingly short space of 43 $\frac{2}{5}$ seconds. In the four-man drill the Wokingham Brigade obtained the fourth prize, their time being 45 $\frac{4}{5}$ seconds.

26th September

DEATH OF MR. EDWARD NICHOLSON

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Edward Nicholson which took place on Friday morning.

Sat 3rd Oct

THE NEW CHARTER

The municipal election on the 2nd of November is causing considerable excitement in Wokingham. We understand that about 25 candidates have already been nominated. The members of the Local Board have been nominated in a body by ten of the Burgesses. The time in which nominations can be handed in closes this (Saturday) afternoon. Great satisfaction is expressed at Wokingham being chosen as the place of nomination of Parliamentary candidates for the Wokingham Division of Berkshire.

Sat 10th Oct

WOKINGHAM NEW CHARTER OF INCORPORATION

The following is a summary of the Charter that was read out during the meeting:-

The Charter, for which a petition was presented in December 1883, is granted under the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882.

So much of the Parish of Wokingham as is within the limits of the existing Local Government District of Wokingham is created a Municipal Borough, by the name of the "Borough of Wokingham," the inhabitants to be one body politic and corporate by the name of the "Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Wokingham, who may assume armorial bearings, and take and hold lands vested in them, or occupy lands or buildings necessary for their use, and shall have the powers and privileges usually invested by law in the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of Municipal Borough."

The number of Alderman to be four, and the number of Councillors to be twelve.

Henry Trower Roberts, solicitor, of Wokingham, or, in case of his death, refusal, or inability, John Frederick Sergeant, is to perform the duty of Town Clerk, and William Goodchild, of Wokingham, or, in default of him, Jas. Weeks is to perform the duties of mayor until the first election.

The first election is to take place on the 2nd November next (Nov. 1st being Sunday), and the first meeting of the Council is to be held on the 9th of November.

The first schedule defines the boundary of the Borough, which is the same as the area under the jurisdiction of the Local Board.

The second schedule states that one-third of the Councillors, the four who are elected by the smallest number of votes, shall go out of office on Nov. 1st, 1886, another third, the four who received the next-smallest number of votes, on Nov. 1st, 1887, and the remaining third on Nov. 1st 1888. The two Aldermen who shall be elected by the smallest number votes to go out of office on Nov. 9th, 1888, and the remaining two on Nov 9th 1891.

Sat 31st Oct

It is proposed to celebrate the election of the first Mayor of Wokingham on the 9th Nov. by a display of fireworks.

Sat 31st Oct

THE TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION

Mr. W. Goodchild, acting as Mayor for the Borough of Wokingham for the purpose of the first election of Town Councillors, sat in the Town Hall on Monday to hear objections against the nominations of some candidates. There were 29 nominations for the 12 seats, but some persons were nominated twice over and some nomination papers were thrown out, on account of a slight irregularity in filling in the forms. In the end the number of candidates duly nominated was reduced to 21, the names and descriptions being as follows:

C. Brant, butcher; H. Butler, grocer; G. Evans, saddler; W. Goodchild, gentleman; W.J. Goatlee, stationer; H.E. Hall, stationer; T.W. Heelas, draper; D.N. Heron, wine merchant; E. Ifould, butcher; F. Johnson, accountant; S. Knight, plumber; T.P. Major, gentleman; T.B. Martin, gentleman; W. Moorcock, gentleman; W.B. Mower, corn dealer; G.T. Phillips, timber merchant; G. Pigg, baker; G. Sale, furniture dealer; J. Watts, auctioneer; J. Wicks, gentleman; and T.M. Wescott, gentleman. The polling takes place on Monday.

Sat 14th Nov

THE OLD CORPORATION

On Saturday a special meeting of this body was held for the purpose of balancing the accounts to be handed over to the new Corporation on the following Monday. The Town Clerk (Mr. Frankum) produced the accounts which showed the sum of £600 invested in consols, £100 6s. 6d. at the bankers', and £? 9s. 1d. in the hands of the Town Clerk, which sums, after paying the cost of obtaining the new Charter became vested in the new Corporation on the 9th inst. They were accordingly ordered to be paid over to the new Borough treasurer when appointed. A resolution was proposed and unanimously agreed upon that the members of the old Corporation on their dissolution begged to record their high opinion of the valuable and efficient services of their Town Clerk, Mr. Edward Frankum, in all matters relating to the office, and the accurate and satisfactory manner in which he had kept the accounts relating to Corporation property, for which they tendered him their best thanks.

THE ELECTION OF THE FIRST MAYOR

On Monday evening, following the meeting of the newly-elected Town Council, the Mayor (Mr. T.M. Wescott) provided a banquet in the Town Hall, invitations being limited to the members of the Corporation and of the old Local Board. At 7 pm people from the town and district began to assemble in large numbers in the Market-place, where the Wokingham Brass Band was in attendance, and indulged in the letting off of fireworks and other entertainments. At 8 pm a torchlight procession passed, preceded by the band, most of the torchbearers being decked out in grotesque fashion. Afterwards there was a bonfire on Langborough Recreation Ground where also a display of fireworks was given by Messrs. Robini. Messrs H. Marlow and his committee deserve much praise for their efforts to provide amusement on the occasion. Over 2,000 people assembled.

VACANCIES IN THE TOWN COUNCIL

A second election will be held on the 23rd inst. To choose four Councillors to fill the places of Messrs. Wescott, Goodchild, Moorcock and Martin who have been elected Aldermen. Seven of the unsuccessful candidates on the 9th inst. will be again nominated, and a number of new aspirants are expected to enter the field.

Sat 21st Nov

VACANCIES IN THE TOWN COUNCIL

The appointment of Messrs. Martin, Wescott, Goodchild and Moorcock to the office of Alderman leaves four vacancies in the Wokingham Town Council which will be filled up on Monday next. Eleven candidates were nominated but two of these withdrew their candidature leaving nine who will go to the poll.

APPOINTMENT OF TOWN CLERK

Mr. H.T. Roberts was appointed Town Clerk at the first council meeting on the 9th November.

Sat 28th Nov

TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION

The Municipal Election to fill the four vacancies in the Town Council caused by the appointment of four of its members to the position of Alderman took place on Monday, at the Town Hall between the hours of 9 am and 4 pm. There were nine

candidates. The polling went on steadily throughout the day, but little excitement was exhibited in the town. Elected were: Daniel Norton Heron (202); Robert Henderson (174); George Sale (167); Frederick Johnson (153).

Sat 12th Dec

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

It was resolved to invite John Walter III to be High Steward of the Borough. Mr. Ducrocq was appointed assistant Treasurer at a salary of £10. The Town Clerk's salary was fixed at £75 per annum.

1886

Sat 9th Jan

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S TREATS AT THE WOKINGHAM UNION

Christmas Day at the Wokingham Union is always looked forward to by the inmates with unusual enthusiasm, Mr. and Mrs. Treverton, the respected master and matron, doing their utmost to promote the comfort of those in their charge. This year they seemed to have excelled their previous efforts to provide seasonable entertainment. Early in the morning Christmas cards, kindly sent by Mrs. Knox, of Sonning Grove, and addressed by name, were distributed to each inmate and to the officers. Instead of the ordinary diet for breakfast, tea and bread and butter was served to all. At 10.30 Divine service was conducted in the chapel by the Rev. B.R. Body, the chaplain. The company then met in the dining hall, which was beautifully decorated with festooned evergreens, mottoes and designs, and partook of a bountiful dinner, consisting of roast beef, baked potatoes, and plum pudding, with a pint of beer to each adult and milk for the children. After dinner oranges, apples, figs, sweets, nuts, tobacco and snuff, were served. In the evening tea, with bread and butter and cake in ample quantity, was provided for all. Before retiring, the inmates gave three cheers for the guardians, who had so liberally entertained them.

On New-year's day the inmates of the Union were again enabled, by the kind permission of the Guardians and through the energy of the master and matron, to enjoy a very pleasant evening. An excellent tea was served in the dining hall, at one end of which a large platform was erected, covered with crimson baize, on which was staged a splendid collection of palms and other stove plants, lent and arranged by Mr. Williamson, gardener to Sir Edward Walter. The visitors included the Countess Desart, the Hon. O. Cuffe, Sir Edward Walter, Lady and Miss Walter, Mr. and Miss Murdoch, Mrs. De Vitre, the Rev. J.T. Brown, Mrs. Gray, Dr. and Mrs. Hicks, the Rev. B.R. Body, Mr. and Mrs. Ducrocq, and the Mayor of Wokingham (Mr. T.M. Wescott.) The Mayor who is one of the guardians, presented each of the inmates with a threepenny piece.

In the centre of the hall a table was provided for the visitors, which was served by Mrs. Treverton, the matron. Mrs. Webster, of Broad Street, kindly sent her piano for the occasion, and Mr. J.W. Moss, organist of All Saints' Church, Wokingham, played choice selections during tea. After the repast the inmates retired to their wards for a short time, while the seats were arranged for an entertainment. This was carried out with great satisfaction to all present.

Programme

During an interval, the master and matron distributed among the inmates tobacco, oranges, apples and sweets, and a cask of biscuits, which was kindly sent by W.I.

Palmer, of Reading. The performers were also entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Treverton, after which the Glee Party sang several songs, and shortly after ten o'clock the inmates retired to bed, much pleased and gratified. The master deserves great praise for his efforts in arranging such a tea and entertainment for the old people. At the close of the proceedings a vote of thanks was accorded, with musical honours, to the master and matron for their kindness, and similar compliments were paid to others who had assisted materially to make every one happy.

Sat 27th Feb

DISCOVERY OF ANCIENT POTTERY

During last week, whilst the men in the employ of the Wokingham Corporation were digging gravel on the Glebe land, small quantities of broken Roman or other ancient pottery were discovered at a depth of about four feet. Later on a plain earthen urn about 12 inches high was obtained almost complete, broken only round the upper rim. It is now in the possession of the Rector. The pits are situated only a few yards from the Rectory garden.

Sat 3rd April

THE MARKET QUESTION

Mr. H. Hutt, of Reading, attended the council meeting and stated that he was willing to rent the Market for the sole right of sale by auction at a rental of £10, per annum for three years, at the end of which time, if he desired it, the agreement to be extended for four years.

It was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Watts, seconded by Mr. Henderson, that Mr. Hutt's proposal for the exclusive right for selling live and agricultural stock for three years, with option for renewal for a further term of four years, be accepted on condition that Mr. Hutt provide a permanent rail for beasts and rows (to become the property of the Corporation) and portable hurdles for sheep and pigs; no rent to be charged for the first year, afterwards a rental of £10 per annum; the clearing of the market and removal of hurdles to devolve on Mr. Hutt; the agreement to be cancelled if no market be held for three months; and the council to have power to cancel the agreement should they have reasons for doing so on payment to Mr. Hutt a penalty of £50.

Mr. Hutt accepted these terms.

Sat 24th April

THE NEW MARKET

In accordance to the agreement entered into between the Wokingham Corporation and Mr. Henry Hutt, the new Fortnightly Auction Market was opened with every prospect of success, on Tuesday. There was a good supply of cattle, sheep, pigs, and fowls, together with several horses. Some mangolds sent by the Mayor fetched 25s. per ton. Among these who sent stock were Lord Braybrook, Lady Shute, Mr. S.A. Hankey, Mr. C.E. Prime, Mr. Russell, and Mr. Bulkeley. Altogether about 200 animals were penned, including 60 horned stock and calves, 80 sheep and lambs, 60 pigs, and 8 horses. The total of the sales amounted to nearly £800.

The Mayor, in opening the market and introducing Mr. Hutt, said he hoped they would all support the Wokingham Cattle Market and endeavour to make it a great success. Mr. Watts (of Messrs. Weeks and Watts) said it might be thought that as a local auctioneer he would not like the idea of a stranger coming to conduct an auction market in the town; but such was not the case; the proposal as to accepting Mr. Hutt's

application was made by him, and he would lend all his influence to make the market successful.

Mr. Hutt thanked the Mayor and Mr. Watts for their kind expressions, and alluded to his experience at markets in Reading and other towns. Wokingham had now got a Mayor and Corporation, and they were going to have a cattle market, and he would spare no effort to make it a success.

Sat 9th Oct

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL LIGHTING OF THE TOWN

A special meeting was held on Monday to consider the letter received from the Gas Company, in answer to that of the Council on the question of public lighting. The letter stated that the Gas Company could not, without injury to the shareholders, reduce their terms of below £2. 10s. per annum per lamp, this representing a lump sum of £189 per annum. It was proposed by Mr. Watts and seconded by Mr. Brant, that the offer of the Gas Company be accepted. After considerable discussion, the matter was adjourned until the following Thursday.

At the Council meeting on Thursday there were present the Mayor, Alderman Goodchild, Martin, and Moorcock, and councillors Heron, Sale, Johnson, Knight, Mower, Hall, Brant, and Watts. After transacting some business relating to finance and instructions to the Medical Officer, Mr. Johnson said he considered that a fair amount payable for lighting the borough with gas would be £175 per annum. Mr. Hall considered that this estimate would be very much too high. He thought £25, was too much per annum for a man to attend to the lamps, and argued that £28 10s. was sufficient for this purpose. Mr. Sale complained that the letter from the directors of the Gas Company had not been handed to the Gas Committee. The original proposition, proposed at the special meeting on Monday by Mr. Watts, was then read by the Mayor, viz., that the offer of the Gas Company to light the 75 lamps of the borough for £2. 10s. each be accepted. Mr. Hall proposed, and Ald. Moorcock seconded, that in consequence of the Gas Company charging more than 5s. per 1,000 feet for their gas, the town be illuminated with oil for one year. On being put to the Council, these voted for the amendment: Ald. Moorcock and Martin, and Councillors Hall, Mower, Sale, and Heron. Against: Councillors Watts, Brant and Johnson; those members interested in the Gas Company did not vote.

Sat 11th Dec

WOKINGHAM VOLUNTARY FIRE BRIGADE

The members of the Wokingham Voluntary Fire Brigade, assisted by a number of friends gave a successful entertainment in the Drill Hall on Wednesday evening. Mr. C.T. Murdoch M.P. presided and there was a large attendance. The programme, which included in the latter part, a practical delineation of a fireman's duty, followed by ambulance drill was efficiently carried out. Miss Murdoch, Miss Laird, Mr. Medcalf and Mr. H.G. Powell were warmly applauded in their songs as was also Mr. F. Bartlett in his excellent recital of "The Fireman's Love." It is gratifying to learn that the financial result of the entertainment will place a substantial balance at the disposal of the deserving body for which it was inaugurated. Mr. W.J. Allan acted as accompanist and also kindly lent a piano for the occasion.

Sat 18th Dec

RECOGNITION OF SERVICES AT A FIRE

The Lancashire insurance Company has presented Mr. Caiger, Engineer of the Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade with a cheque for £5 together with their thanks, for his courageous conduct in entering a burning room some weeks ago at North Court, Finchampstead, the residence of Mr. A.F. Walter, and extinguishing the fire, which, but for his timely exertions, would in all probability, have destroyed the mansion.

THE FIRE BRIGADE ENTERTAINMENT

From the proceeds of the entertainment given on the 8th inst. the Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade have been enabled to carry the sum of £12 8s. 3d. to their funds. The result is most satisfactory, and shows the esteem in which the voluntary services of the Brigade are held in the neighbourhood.

1887

Sat 1st Jan

THE SNOWSTORM

Wokingham was, like other towns in the neighbourhood, visited with a severe snowstorm which commenced Sunday evening shortly after five o'clock. The snow lay very thick on the ground making locomotion very difficult and many tradesmen complained that the Town Council did not take the necessary steps for cleaning the thoroughfares. Owing to the violence of the storm a large number of trees in the parks nearby were blown down while many of the telegraph poles and wires for a considerable distance were broken. Up to Thursday night telegraph communication was seriously impeded and the trains were very late. Fortunately little or no damage was experienced in the town and no casualties were reported from neighbouring villages. Great praise is directed to Mr. Trewren the energetic station master for the way in which he manipulated the traffic considering the difficulties he encountered with regard to signalling and no telegraphic communications except for Earley.

Sat 8th Jan

THE WEATHER

Another heavy fall of snow took place on Monday night and Tuesday morning; a thaw then set in, followed by a frost in the evening. It was freezing nearly all day on Wednesday, and the streets and pavements were in a dangerous condition. Telegraphic communication, which has been interrupted since Sunday week between Reading, Wokingham and other stations on the S.W.R. was not re-established till noon on Thursday last.

ENTERTAINMENT

The Ramsdale troupe of minstrels have given several entertainments in the Town Hall, Wokingham, during the past week and have been well patronised. On Monday evening the entertainment was under the patronage of the mayor, Aldermen and Town Council.

SOUP KITCHEN

In consequence of the severity of the weather, work in the Wokingham district is scarce, and considerable distress is prevalent. Under the able superintendence of Miss

Roberts a soup kitchen has been started at the "British Workman." On Tuesday, a large quantity of soup was distributed, and the recipients expressed grateful thanks for the nourishing food which the kind thoughtfulness of the charitable, through Miss Roberts, had provided for them. There are distributions on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, and subscribers to the fund have the privilege of presenting tickets to deserving persons.

WOKINGHAM STOCK MARKET

This market on Tuesday last, considering the weather, was well supplied with fat beasts, sheep, calves, hogs and porkers, all of which sold well. Mr. Goodchild and Mr. Goddard were the largest buyers for fat beasts and sheep, and Mr. Tew for calves, and Mr. Morris of Reading, bought 20 nice quality fat hogs. Poultry made 6s. per couple. The business was conducted by Mr. Henry Hutt, the appointed auctioneer.

Thursday 14th April The Times

WRECK OF A CHANNEL STEAMER

This morning news was received at Dieppe that the London, Brighton, and South Coast Company's steamer Victoria, commanded by Captain Clarke, with 200 passengers on board, had run on the rocks under the lighthouse at Varengeville, nine miles from Dieppe. I proceeded on a tricycle at once to the spot, and on my way met a seaman, who told me that 50 persons had been drowned by rushing into the boats immediately after the vessel struck. Proceeding to the lighthouse I saw the Victoria lying about half a mile from the shore, stern on the rocks, with her bows under water. I met the Commissary of Marine and Mr. Lee Jortin, Vice Consul, who had been searching round the villages for news. At present the number of those drowned cannot be ascertained. I can see as I write, a table and some chairs floating out of the ship. Captain Clarke has just left her in a boat for Dieppe.

LATER

Captain Clarke, who commanded the Victoria, states that the vessel left Newhaven last night with 94 passengers on board. On their nearing the French coast at about 3 a.m. a heavy fog settled down. At 4 he saw a "dark shade," and ordered the engineers to move astern at full speed. The ship's head was to the north-west. She stopped, ported, went ahead, and immediately struck her bows going under. He first heard the foghorn an hour later.

He begged the passengers to be quiet, and ordered the boats to be lowered. The ladies got into the first boat, but some gentlemen jumped in also. As it was being lowered a lady's shawl fouled the block, the boat capsized, and four only of those in her were saved. The second boat filled, swamped, and drifted to leeward. The third boat disappeared in the fog with those placed in her, and the fourth boat took off the remainder. The passengers were panic-stricken

The captain attributes the accident to the fog, and to the fact that no foghorn was being sounded, as it usually is. He is unable to give the number of those drowned. The crew did all they could to allay the panic, and the captain remained on board until all the passengers had left. He has been in service for 28 years and has never had an accident before.

The bodies of three women and one child have been picked up. A Mrs. Smith and three of her children have been drowned, and the fourth child is in charge of the Vice-Consul here. They were going to Geneva. A Miss Hunter has also been drowned. At the lowest computation 20 have perished, but their names are not yet obtainable. They are mostly of French nationality

The missing boats were found, with 37 passengers on board of one, 20 miles down the coast.

(Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Brown, members of St. Paul's Church, Wokingham were on board.)

Sat 16th April 1887 Berkshire Chronicle

THE WRECK OF THE VICTORIA

It is believed that Mr. Towers Brown, the eldest son of the Rev. J.T. Brown, St. Paul's Rectory, with his wife, to whom he was only recently married, were on board the steamship Victoria, which was wrecked near Cape D'Ailly on Wednesday last. No tidings have been received at Wokingham of or from them. The Rev. J.T. Brown proceeded to London on Thursday afternoon to prosecute enquiries, and subsequently crossed the channel in furtherance of the same object. Up till now (Friday afternoon) no information has been obtained.

Sat 30th April 1887 Berkshire Chronicle

THE LATE MR. & MRS. W. TOWERS BROWN.

Nothing further has been heard of those unfortunate young people. On Sunday the services at St. Paul's Church, of which the Rev. J.T. Brown is rector, were made appropriate to the occasion, and very large congregations assembled both morning and evening. Most able and eloquent services were preached by the Rev. A Peile from the Isle of Wight, a relative of Mr. Brown's family. A muffled peal was rung out in the evening.

Sat 28th May

FUNERAL OF MR. & MRS. WILLIAM TOWERS BROWN, AT WOKINGHAM

It will be remembered that in the wreck of the steamer Victoria, on April 13th, the life of Mrs. Towers Brown was lost through the accident to the first boat, and her husband, with noble self-devotion, flung himself into the sea with a view to save her and also died. No traces of the bodies were found, although a vigilant watch was kept along the coast, till Friday evening in last week, when that of Mrs. Brown was recovered at Verangeville, and a few hours later on her husband's was found at Quiverville, both places being near Dieppe. There was no doubt of their identity, from the watches and rings and other effects which were on their persons. The Rev. H.F. Wolley, the vicar of Shortlands, Kent, a great friend of the family, instantly started to superintend the removal of their remains. The greatest care was shown by Mons. Marcellet, the resident superintendent at Dieppe of the London and Brighton Railway; with his own hands he tended the bodies, and gave the utmost attendance to the arrangements for their transport to England; indeed too much praise and gratitude cannot be given to the French officials at the above-mentioned places, and to the proprietors and secretary and servants of the Hotel Royal, Dieppe, and to all employed under the Railway Company.

It was a very effecting sight, and one which will be long remembered by all who were present, when the remains of the husband and wife were deposited in the same grave in St. Paul's Churchyard, Wokingham, on Wednesday afternoon, the two plain coffins of foreign shape telling the tale of their death in the waters on the French coast. The coffins bore the inscriptions (added after their arrival):--

“WILLIAM TOWERS BROWN, died April 13th, 1887, aged 28,”

and

“GUNHILDA MARY BROWN, died April 13th, 1887, aged 22.”

The church and churchyard were filled with persons who were desirous to show their sympathy with the two families of the deceased; and we may add the veneration and love in which the Rev. J.T. Brown is held by all classes; indeed, it is not too much to say that seldom has a funeral which was not a public one been attended by large numbers, or with greater interest. The opening sentences at the gate were said by the Rev. J. Franklin Llewellyn, curate of the parish. The Lesson was read by the Rector of Wokingham, and the committal to the grave was taken by the Rev. H.F. Wolley.

A service followed.

THE VICTORIA ALMSHOUSES, WOKINGHAM

The erection of the Victoria Almshouses in Wokingham as a memorial of the Queen's Jubilee, is progressing rapidly. The roof has been on some time, the interior work is being pushed forward, and there is little doubt that the Almshouses will be ready for the opening ceremony on the 21st of June. It is understood that there have already been numerous applications from “all sorts and conditions of men, “with a view to securing occupation of the houses when they are ready.

On Friday evening, the 20th inst., the Mayor (Mr. T. M. Wescott), who is superintending the erection of the Almshouses, invited the builders and the *employees* to meet him at supper at the Ship Inn, Peach Street, where an excellent repast was provided by Mrs. Lush. About 20 sat down, the Mayor being in the chair, and Mr. Neal occupying the vice-chair.

The Mayor proposed “The health of the Queen and Royal Family.” He said that while all ought to be thankful for fifty years of such a reign as our gracious Queen's, those like himself, who could remember her Majesty's coronation, ought to be even more thankful that they had been allowed to live to see the accomplishment of her Jubilee.

The toast was heartily responded to and the National Anthem was sung.

Mr. Neal proposed the health of the Chairman,” who he said had honourably won his present position as Mayor, and of whom the town generally was proud. It was entirely owing to his determination and energy that these almshouses, which had provided work for many, had been built. In the name of all present, he also thanked him for his generous entertainment that evening.

The toast was drunk enthusiastically with musical honours.

The Mayor, in responding, thanked the company for so warmly drinking his health. He had been 32 years in the town, and he trusted he should spend the remainder of his days in it. During the whole of that time he had never missed an opportunity of bringing work into the town, and whatever position he occupied he would always work heartily to the same end.

Mr. C. Brooker proposed “the trade and prosperity of Wokingham,” coupled with the names of Mr. Neal and Mr. Gray.” He remarked that the fact of the Mayor, who had the superintendences of the building operations at the Almshouses, having inviting all concerned to meet him there that night was a proof that the contract was being carried out by Mr. Neal to his entire satisfaction.

Mr. Neal suitably responded.

The Mayor, in proposing the toast of “the Ladies,” complimented Mrs. Lush on the efficient manner in which she had catered.

Songs were sung, and a very pleasant evening spent, the proceedings closing with the National Anthem.

Sat 24th Sept.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT WARREN FARM, BINFIELD

One of the most serious and destructive fires which has occurred in the neighbourhood of Wokingham since 1872 when Mr. T.M. Wescott's timber premises in Peach Street were burnt to the ground, took place on Tuesday night at Old Warren farm, the property of Lord Braybrooke, situated about midway between Bill Hill and Billingbear and the town of Wokingham. There seems but little doubt that the fire was the work of some incendiary, who must have watched his opportunity when favoured by darkness and wind, to ensure the widest destruction and his own personal safety in flight. It is understood that a suspicious individual was seen in the neighbourhood of the fire the same evening.

It appears that Mr. Edward Benning, the bailiff under Mr. Groves (Lord Braybrooke's steward), saw the premises all safe about 8.30 p.m. Not more than a quarter of an hour afterwards he was called out by John Johnson, a shepherd in the service of Mr. Gilbert King, residing about a quarter of a mile off, who stated that Miss Sarah King had seen a rick on fire, and sent him to give the alarm. Proceeding to the rick yard they saw a straw rick in the extreme corner from the house rising into full blaze, the fresh N.E. wind blowing the flames directly over the rick yard, buildings, and dwelling house. About the same time Mr. Groves was aroused by the continuous barking of his dog, and on coming out saw the blaze, but was prevented by the intervening birch wood from seeing the exact spot. He, however, hurried forward and soon found it was the Old Warren Farm. There are two ponds in the vicinity, but in consequence of the long drought both were dry, and the three wells, from the same cause, were exceedingly low. Mr. Groves saw at once that under the adverse circumstances the services of the fire engine were superfluous, and he and a number of people already coming in from the district, who willingly assisted, devoted their energies to cutting a drift way between the barns and other buildings by the removal of a portion of the cow sheds.

The Wokingham Fire Brigade was summoned by Supt. Atkin immediately the extent and close proximity of the fire were discovered. At this time the flames were raging furiously and threw quite a lurid glare over the town, but the exact locality or distance was unknown or variously estimated. With praiseworthy promptitude the Brigade assembled under the command of Mr. Ifould (the captain), and in a few minutes from the alarm, had horsed their engine from the Railway Hotel, and were en route in the direction of the conflagration. On arrival their total powerlessness to subdue the flames was apparent, and after playing for a few minutes on the flames nearest the driftway they lent valuable assistance towards rendering that space more effective. While engaged in this work, through the tilting of a rafter, Firemen Caiger and Hathaway were precipitated with considerable force to the ground from a height of 14 or 15 feet. The latter was happily uninjured, but Caiger fell heavily on his head and side, and it was deemed advisable to convey him home at once and call in Dr. Hicks. Fortunately no bones were broken, but he was severely shaken and bruised, his helmet, which was much dented, probably saving him from more serious injuries. The Maiden Erlegh engine arrived some time after the Wokingham one, but its services could not be utilised and it was taken back again. The Wokingham Brigade returned about 1.30 a.m. There were in the rick-yard at the time—two wheat ricks, one of barley, one of vetches, one straw, one hay, and one of beans, besides which the large barn (70 feet long) and rick houses were crammed with unthreshed oats, peas and barley (off 50 acres and an excellent crop). With the exception of the small bean rick, which was saved by removal, the whole of the above was one volume of flame, rising

high in the air, visible for many miles around. The cattle were, fortunately, all turned out at the time, and the pigs were safely driven across the yard.

Crowds of people congregated, many from long distances, attracted by the blaze, but all were orderly, and Superintendent Atkin, who, with one or two constables was promptly on the spot, had little or no difficulty with them. The fire was burning during the greater part of Wednesday and gradually burnt itself out.

The damage is roughly estimated at about £1,000. The buildings are ensured in the Sun Office, and the corn was declared some weeks ago.

Sat 19th Nov

NEW LAMP

A splendid new lamp has been erected by the Drill Hall in Denmark-street. It was lighted with gas for the first time on Thursday evening on the occasion of the County Ball.

Sat 24th Dec

CHRISTMAS SHOW OF MEAT

The butchers of the town have had during the week excellent shows of Christmas meat. Messrs Goodchild and Ifould, in the Market-place, exhibited some splendid beef from animals bred and fed by Mr. Garth, Major Allfrey, and Mr. Best, Binfield; a quantity of Exmoor and Down mutton, and a large and varied display of game. Mr. Medcalf, also of the Market-place, had on view beef of excellent quality fed by this Marchioness of Downshire and Mr. J. Linders, Bridgewater. Mr. Hollis and Mr. Brant, Broad-street, Mr. Lainsbury, Peach-street, and Painter, Denmark-street, also showed a large quantity of prime meat.

1888

Sat 7th Jan

THE LIGHTING OF WOKINGHAM STORMY MEETING AT THE TOWN COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Wokingham Town Council was held on Thursday evening. There were present the Deputy Mayor (Ald. T.M. Wescott), in the chair: Alderman Martin and Moorcock; and Councillors White, Knight, Cheeseman, Evans, Hall, Brant, Sale, Watts and Heelas.

Ald. Wescott said he had been asked to explain the item of £268 8s. 2½d. appearing in the balance sheet for lighting the town for the 10 months to September 29th, 1887. He disputed a statement of Councillor Hall that there had been 1,800 hours more light in the 10½ months than they had under the Gas Company. He said that from May 9th the lamps were lighted from dusk to daylight, and, taking an average lighting of 10½ hours per night during the 144 nights, this would give only 1,512 hours, reckoning the whole time. The item of £268 8s 2½d. was made up as follows:- Oil from Nov. 20th, 1886 to Sept. 29th, 1887, £49 15s. 2d.; labour, £48 5s. 2d.; sundries, wicks, glasses, &c, £3 15s 4d; lamp-post, lanterns, and experiments, £100 17s 2d; balance due to gas company to Nov. 9th 1886, £65 15s 4½d.—total, £268 8s. 2½d. He (Ald. Wescott) had to report that from November 3 to December 30th, there had been expended for oil £18 19s. 6d., and for wages, £11 16s. 10d. – total 30 16s. 7d for two months, or £92 9s. 9d. for six months for oil and labour only, exclusive of wicks, glasses, and other items. As to their future lighting, Councillor Hall had promised, owing to complaints

of the bad lighting, to put in larger burners, and three larger ones had been put in. Councillor Hall had reported that the cost of oil would be 1s. 2d. per week, and for 80 lamps for 12 months this would amount to £232 13s. 4d. Labour, wicks, glasses, &c. would cost at least £110 a year more. Half the lamps were cleaned and filled only every alternate day, and he did not wonder at the bad light, as half the town was in half darkness every alternate night. If the new burners were not kept cleaned and trimmed every day they would be as bad as the old ones. He moved a resolution that the lighting of the town by oil was most expensive and unsatisfactory, detrimental to the business and general welfare of the town, and a disgrace to the council.

Councillor Hall questioned the accuracy of Ald. Wescott's figures, and said the cost of 1s. 2d. for oil was during only one half of the year. He (Mr. Hall) had been taunted with stating that he could light the town with oil for £90 a year; so he could, if the original hours had been adhered to. Ald. Wescott had not given him a chance of meeting this report. The treasurer's book showed £101 for oil last year; he himself put it at £102. He maintained that the best system was to let the lighting. As to the bad lighting in January, it was for the outside public, if they had any complaint, to complain in a proper manner.

Councillor Sale and Ald. Moorcock, as members of the Lighting Committee, protested against the way the committee had been treated, and asked for a vote of confidence.

After a heated discussion,

Ald. Martin proposed and Councillor Heelas seconded a motion expressing confidence in the Lighting Committee, and requesting them to continue their duties till the end of the year. This was carried unanimously.

The council afterwards transacted some formal business.

The proceedings during the discussion of the lighting question were very stormy, several members at times speaking loudly together, and personal remarks being freely interchanged.

Sat 4th Feb

FIRE BRIGADE SUPPER

The annual supper of the Wokingham Voluntary Fire Brigade was held at the Rose Hotel on Monday evening. Mr. Ifould (the Captain) took the chair and in addition to the other members of the brigade there were also present the Mayor of Wokingham, the ex-Mayor, Mr. S. Watts, and Mr. White.

Sat 18th Feb.

SIR EDWARD WALTER AND THE COMMISSIONAIRES

Sir Edward Walter commanding the Corps of Commissionaires, who for the last four months has been travelling through Northern India in connection with his schemes for providing employment for old soldiers, left Calcutta for Madras last Sunday. He will proceed thence to Australia. I understand, (says the Calcutta correspondent of the Times) that his enquiries are likely to have a most useful result and if he succeed in opening a prospect of work for time-expired soldiers in Australia he will have conferred a distinct benefit upon the British Army in India.

DEATH OF MISS FLORENCE WALTER

We learn with regret that a telegram has been received from Colombo to the effect that Miss Florence Walter, third daughter of Captain Sir Edward Walter, died after a short illness on board the P. and O. steamer, *Robilla*, on the voyage from Calcutta to

Ceylon. It will be remembered that Sir Edward and Lady Walter and their daughters sailed from England in the P. and O. steamer Victoria on the 1st of October for the purpose of visiting India and Australia.

SERVICE OF SONG

In Wednesday a service of song was given in the Wesleyan Schoolroom, Wokingham in aid of the fund for a new organ for the chapel. The service was entitled the "Wonderful Waxwork." The attendance was good.

BALL

The annual ball in aid of the Wokingham Langboro' Cricket Club was held in the Town Hall on Monday evening. The weather was unpropitious and the attendance was somewhat below the average, about 60 or 70 persons being present. The Broadmoor Quadrille Band was engaged. Refreshments were supplied by Mr. Herring of the "Welcome." Mr. James Taylor, hon. secretary, efficiently carried out the general arrangements.

WOKINGHAM STOCK MARKET

The market on Tuesday was well supplied with horned stock, most of which was good beef, and all was sold, indicating that the beef trade is a little better. There were buyers from Windsor, Maidenhead, Aldershot, Frimley, Reading, and Wokingham. The supply of sheep was rather short, and not equal to the demand, and the competition throughout was good.

Sat 2nd June

GRAVE OF WILLIAM AND GUNHILDA BROWN

In the churchyard of St. Paul's, Wokingham, a cross has been erected over the grave of the late William Towers Brown and Gunhilda Mary, his wife. It was designed by Mr. S.S. Stallwood, of Reading, and executed by Messrs. Wheeler. It has a hexagonal base consisting of three well-proportioned solid steps and a moulded pedestal from which springs the cross, which runs to a height of over eight feet. The material is Sicilian marble, and the design (the details of which accord with English work of the late 15th century) is marked by a simplicity of treatment which serves to bring the good proportions into pleasing prominence. The inscriptions are as follows:-

On the panel in front:-"In loving memory of WILLIAM TOWERS BROWN, aged 28, and of GUNHILDA MARY, his wife, aged 22. Married Jan. 20th, 1887. Lost in the wreck of the S.S. Victoria off Dieppe, early in the morning of April 13, 1887."

On the left panel:-"In the fourth watch of the night, Jesus came unto them."

On the right panel:-"In thy presence is fullness of joy."

On the panel at the back:-"The sea gave them up within a few hours of each other on the evening of May 20, and the morning of the next day, and they were laid to rest here May 25, 1887."

SALE OF THE ROSE HOTEL

The old established and well known Wokingham hotel, named the "Rose," was disposed of by auction on Tuesday, the auctioneer being Mr. James Watts. As explained by the auctioneer this old hostelry, which has been frequently patronised by Royalty, has been in the family of the proprietors for many years, and has had the reputation of being well conducted. Besides the spacious hotel, there is a large range of stabling, and other outbuildings, an excellent walled-in garden, and a plot of garden

ground in the rear. The whole was put up in one lot. The biddings started at £1,300, and after a brisk competition, Mr. H.T. Roberts, solicitor, purchased the property for Mr. William Churchman, (one of the proprietors) for £8,300 which was considered a very good price. Two other properties in Broad-street and Barkham-road, Wokingham, were offered for sale, but as they did not reach the reserve price they were not sold. There was a large company present including many brewers.

Sat 7th July 1888

PRESENTATION TO THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF WOKINGHAM

A presentation of an interesting nature took place on Thursday afternoon, June 28th, at Wokingham, when the inhabitants testified their esteem and respect for this late Mayor and Mayoress of that ancient borough by presenting them with memorials of their work during Mr. Wescott's Mayoralty of 1886-87. Alderman Wescott was unanimously chosen the first Mayor of Wokingham under the new Charter of Incorporation, and during his two years' tenure of office he won golden opinions for his conspicuous generosity and largess of heart with regard to all persons of every shade and political opinion. His second year of office was memorable as the Jubilee year of Her Majesty's Accession to the Throne and right royally did he celebrate the auspicious event. The admirable arrangements on Jubilee day were due to a large extent to the indefatigable efforts of the Mayor, who was also instrumental in providing two new almshouses and in making the great improvement to Rose Street, to commemorate Her Majesty's Jubilee.

The presentation took the form of a three-quarter picture of Ald. Wescott, painted in oil by Mr. B. S. Marks of Fitzroy Square, London, and an excellent likeness; the gift to Mrs. Wescott was a massive gold bracelet, set in diamonds, which was supplied by Mrs. Player, of Wokingham.

Sat 22nd Sept

DESCENT OF A BALLOON

A large balloon "Olympia" from the Irish exhibition in London was brought to the ground in the Nine Mile Ride on Thursday evening. The balloon contained two gentlemen and Leon Dare, who, it is said hangs by her teeth to a trapeze attached to the balloon. On Tuesday the same balloon passed at a very low altitude over the same spot and after the occupants had inquired the name of the locality it again rose, and was taken in the direction of Southampton.

Sat 20th Oct

PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF THE CHURCHYARD

The available burial space in the churchyard attached to the Parish Church (All Saints') has become exceedingly small, and it is supposed to again enlarge it. The "Parish Magazine" for October says that the Rector and Churchwardens have been most kindly met by General Crutchley, the owner of the adjoining property, and that there is every probability of the requisite land being obtained.

ARCHBISHOP LAUD'S CHARITY

The trustees met in the Town Hall on Thursday to elect two Wokingham boys to receive apprentice premiums of 21*l.* each from this charity. There were several applicants. The candidates chosen were, Ernest Cousins, Rose-street, and G. Adams, Oxford-road.

SUPPOSED INCENDIARY FIRE

On Thursday evening, about 8.30, as Mr. Wheeler, baker, was passing up Star-lane he discovered that a hayrick standing close to the road, in a meadow late the allotment fields, the property of Mr. W. Medcalf, of Sandford Mills, Woodley, was on fire. He hurried to the Volunteer fire station in the Market-lace and gave an alarm. The Brigade was promptly on the spot, Corp. Caiger being the first to put in an appearance, and that within two minutes of the call. The Brigade, under the Captain (Mr. Ifould) proceeded to the spot, and although they possess upwards of 1,300 feet of hose nothing could be done to extinguish the flames, as the nearest water available was 800 yards distant. By this time a valuable rick of 1887 hay, standing beside the other, and worth about £7 per ton, had caught, and both ricks burned fiercely, the flames being discernible for miles around, attracting to the spot a large number of people.

The ricks together comprised upwards of 40 tons, and they were insured in the Royal Farmers' Insurance Office, through Mr. Goatley's agency. The position from which the fire started undoubtedly marks it as the work of an incendiary. A reward of £10 has been offered by Mr. Medcalf for the discovery of the offender, or offenders. The total value of the two ricks exceeded £200. Yesterday, at mid-day, they were still burning.

Sat 17th Nov

WOKINGHAM INSTITUTE

A successful concert was given in the Town Hall on Wednesday, under the management of a sub committee of the Institute. An excellent programme of the instrumental and vocal music was provided. Miss Nellie Heron and Miss Ada Roberts were encored for their songs, as were also the Apollo (Reading) Quartet. Mr. Ferdinand Ripon played a violin solo with mush skill, and joined with Miss Churchman in a duet (piano and violin). The latter also played a piano duet with Miss Cave. Among others who took part in the programme were Miss Daisy Churchman (who accompanied throughout), and Messrs. Bilson, J.C. Allen, A.W. Knill, and H. Minchin.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE

On Tuesday night, Mrs. Baker's Brewery at Wokingham was completely destroyed by fire. The outbreak was discovered by Miss Davis, a barmaid to Mrs. Baker, as she was closing the back door at 111 pm. After shutting up the bar. She saw flames issuing from the brewery, a tall building some distance up the yard, and immediately called the Manager, who had gone to bed. He came down at once and gave an alarm, and the Fire Brigade were soon in attendance. After some little difficulty they got to work, and eventually succeeded in confining the fire to the brewery portion of the premises, but they were unable to entirely subdue the flames till the contents, and the upper wooden walls of the four rooms, one above the other, constituted the brewery, were completely destroyed.

The fire is supposed to have been caused by a spark from a boiler, or from the over-heating of a flue. Mr. O'Connor, Inland Revenue officer was on the premises at 6.30 pm. The workmen had then gone home and all appeared safe, and nobody is known to have afterwards visited the premises. The buildings are insured in the County Fire Office.

FIRE BRIGADE DINNER

On Monday evening the members of the Wokingham Volunteer Fire brigade and the Honorary Town Constables, with a few friends, were entertained by the Mayor at dinner at the Bush hotel.

Sat 24th Nov

THE WELLINGTON BREWERY

This property was submitted by auction at the Mart?? London, on Wednesday, by Mr. Tabor, of Reading. There was a large attendance of brewers and others. Biddings commenced at £10,000, and after a spirited competition the property was purchased by Mr. Frederick Headington at £16,150.

1889

Sat 16th Feb

SHIPWRECK AND MIRACULOUS ESCAPE

A correspondent forwards us an account of the adventures of Mr. Morres, a grandson of a former Rector of Wokingham, who was wrecked in the Sir Walter Raleigh off the French coast about 12 days ago. The ship, a full-rigged one of 1,500 tons, with a full cargo of wool, tallow and copper ore, was bound from Sydney. N.S.W., for London, and her crew consisted of 27 hands. Their ship was caught in a gale off the French coast near Boulogne, and was wrecked off the rocks at Andresellas. As soon as she struck, the decks began to break up. Morres was sent ashore by the life-saving rocket apparatus, and in his passage by the "cradle" he was immersed over four minutes, and reached the shore just alive, but inheriting the good constitution of his family, he rallied, and is now at Wokingham with his faithful dog. The ship remained high and dry at low tide—a perfect wreck, in time to be broken up by the force of the waves.

Sat 16th March

FORMATION OF A CYCLING CLUB

It has been decided to form a Cycling Club for Wokingham. The members intend to arrange runs on Wednesday evenings during the summer. Mr. L.C. Ducrocq, was elected Hon. Secretary pro tem.

Sat 15th June

FIRE BRIGADE CONTEST

The members of the Wokingham Voluntary Fire Brigade competed in a contest with 37 other fire brigades on the Leytonstone Cricket Ground at Leyton, Essex, on Monday. The men who were under the command of Mr. E. Ifould, Captain, acquitted themselves very creditably, obtaining three third prizes, viz, in the single-man competition (Corporal Caiger), in the four-man drill, and in the six-man drill. In the four-man drill the work was done in 35 seconds, 2½ seconds, under any other brigade in the ground; but five seconds were added for two loose clips.

Sat 6th July

LUCAS HOSPITAL-CHAPEL GREEN

The Rev. James Stratton M.A. of Worcester College, Oxford has been appointed master of this institution, in succession to the Rev. E. Harwood, deceased.

Sat 20th July

FIRE BRIGADE CONTEST

Several members of the Wokingham Voluntary Fire Brigade competed in the contest open to all England, at Southampton on Monday. Nearly 30 brigades entered for the competition. Corporal Caiger took the second prize in the one-man drill. In the three-man drill Wokingham stood fourth, and in the six-man drill 5th, the latter drill in consequence of an accident, not taking place till after 9 p.m. Considering several of the Wokingham team were young members who had never taken part in any competitions before, the success of the Brigade does them credit.

Sat 17th Aug

WOKINGHAM CYCLIST CLUB

This club held their first illuminated ride on Wednesday last, when notwithstanding, the unfavourable weather, twenty machines met at the Rose Hotel and paraded the principal streets captained by Mr. A. Heelas. The machines were all decked out with Chinese lanterns and fairy lights &c., and some of the devices were extremely good. A large number of people assembled in the streets to see the procession and it was considered a great success.

The members and friends adjourned at the closing of the ride to the Rose Hotel, where a short smoking concert took place. Great credit is due to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. L.C. Ducrocq, who carried out the arrangements.

Sat 7th Sept

Captain Henry Allfrey married Kathleen, second daughter of Mr. Sydney Hankey of Heathlands.

THE LIGHTING OF THE TOWN

The monthly meeting of the Town Council was held at Wokingham on Thursday evening, Ald. Wescott presiding. The chief business related to the town's lighting. A letter was read from the Gas Company, offering to supply gas for public lighting for £2 7s 6d, per lamp per annum, including gas, lighting and cleaning; all lamps to be alight in winter from dusk till midnight, and 17 also to daylight; in summer 17 lamps to burn from dusk till daylight. After some discussion, in the course of which the Deputy Mayor remarked that a favourable opportunity presented itself of doing away with the ill-feeling the lighting question had caused, the letter was referred to the Lighting Committee to report to a special Council meeting. Tenders for the supply of 70 barrels of oil were opened, and were as follows:-A.E. Hussey, at 7d. a gallon; M. Drake 6³/₄d., Barnes & Son 7¹/₂., R. Herring 6³/₄d., and W. Howard 7¹/₂., per gallon. These were also referred to the Lighting Committee to report on at the same time.

CRICKET AT BUCKHURST

Matches were played at Buckhurst on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday. At the first match the score was-Excelsior Club-47 and 34. Buckhurst, 36 and 48. On Monday the Reading Police played Buckhurst, the scores being-Police, 82 and 45. Buckhurst, 209, E.F. Chapman making 54, and W. Maurice 53 (not out). On Tuesday the Oxford City Club was easily defeated, Buckhurst scoring 200, and the Oxford club 93. Prince

Christian Victor played for Buckhurst, scoring 36, and P. Pope made 34, and P. Dougal 30.

BERKS FRIENDLY SOCIETY ANNUAL FETE

The annual fete of the local branch of the Berks Friendly Society was held on August 28th, in a large meadow abutting on the Finchampstead-road, which was lent by Mr. T.M. Wescott (Deputy Mayor), the energetic Chairman of the Society. The members assembled at their club-room at noon, and after parading the town, led by the Wokingham Town Band, proceeded to the meadow. The amusements consisted of races and other athletic competitions for numerous prizes in kind, by the tradesmen of the town and friends of the Society; shooting galleries, steam circus, &c. One of the competitions which evoked much interest was the tug-of-war in which the members eventually succeeded in worsting their opponents, the visitors. Dancing was provided for and extensively patronised, Mr. A. Burrett proving a genial and efficient M.C.

The afternoon was beautifully fine, and a very large number of visitors passed the gate, the fete altogether being one of the most successful of its kind held in the locality this season. The prizes won in the athletic sports were distributed by Mr. Wescott in the evening. The committee consisted of Mr. H.D. Wigg (hon. Sec) and Messrs. Butler, Collyer, Cordrey, Hamilton, and Burrett, and they deserve great credit for their efficient arrangements and excellent management.

THUNDERSTORM AND NARROW ESCAPE

In common with most places in the centre and southern counties Wokingham was visited with a severe thunderstorm on Saturday, the 24th August. The thunder which was accompanied with heavy rain and vivid lightning, was heaviest between 4 and 5 p.m. But little serious damage appears to have been done in the neighbourhood except to a house in the Waterloo-road, the property of Mr. James Searle, and tenanted by himself and family. Mrs. Searle had a narrow escape; she was standing at the back door when a neighbour, Mrs. Clacy, came in and the two went into the kitchen together. Whilst there a flash of lightning apparently struck the chimney, casting down a number of bricks, and taking off several of the ridge tiles. The electric current passed down the chimney, dislodging the kettle and fire irons, passed through the doorway and across the kitchen, over the very spot where Mrs. Searle had been standing a few moments before, and found its way out through a brick wall near the corner of the room. In its course it also damaged a bath, the water pipe and the brickwork. It appears that same or a prior flash also struck the bedroom above, doing considerable damage and breaking two panes of glass; it also destroyed some tools and paper in a shed against the wall. The shock to the nerves of both women who witnessed the catastrophe and so narrowly escaped injury was severe, and although they evinced considerable presence of mind, it was some time before they recovered from the shock.

Sat 14th Sept

THE LIGHTING QUESTION

A special meeting of the Wokingham Town Council, to consider a report of the Lighting Committee, and other matters, was held on Thursday (12th Sept.), at the Council Chamber. There were present Ald. Wescott, the Ex-Mayor, who presided; Ald. Moorcock, councillors Sale Heron, Churchman, Watts, Evans, Mower, Hall, White, and Stone.

LIGHTING COMMITTEE'S REPORT

This committee reported that they had most carefully considered the offer of the Gas Company, and as a result desired to place before the Council the following figures. The Gas Company's offer was to supply 91 lamps, at 47s. 6d. per lamp, per year, amounting to £216 2s. 6d., all to be lighted, and 74 to be kept up to midnight only, and the other 17 to be left burning till daylight during October, November, December, January, February, and March, and 17 to be lighted and to be left burning till daylight during the summer months. That meant an average loss of six hours per night on 74 lamps for the six winter months. One penny per lamp per night meant 6s. 2d. per day, or for the six months £55 10s. For the summer months the offer of the Gas Company, for 17 lamps, from sunset to sunrise, are compared with the present system, showed a marked deficiency, which meant a loss of £20 5s. on the six months. The amount, considering all things, in favour of the present mode of lighting they estimated at £117 5s. 10d. In the face of these figures the committee could do no other than recommend a continuance of the oil lighting, and they proposed that Mr. Herring's tender for oil should be accepted.

Mr. Watts remarked that he calculated the difference between the cost of a gas lamp, and the cost of an oil lamp was 8s. 9d. It was the opinion of a large number of owners of property and consumers of gas in the town, that the streets were better lighted by gas than by oil, and though it cost more they would prefer to have that system.

Mr. Hall (chairman of the committee) said it was an error to suppose there was only a difference of 8s. 9d. in the two lamps, as the Gas Company proposed to light the lamps a less number of hours than was the case at present. He maintained that under the present system they saved £100 a year.

The Ex-Mayor said he was sure the share-holders of the Gas Company would meet the town fairly in this matter. A great deal of ill-feeling had been caused over this question, and he would do all in his power to get it settled.

Mr. Watts moved and Mr. Churchman seconded the following resolution:-“That an enquiry be made of the Gas Company whether they will light the present lamps of the town for the same number of hours, as during the past year, as mentioned in the Lighting Committee's report, for the sum of £216 2s. 6d., and that their reply be sent in by Saturday morning next (the 14th inst.) In the event of non-compliance or non-acceptance by the Gas Committee, to promptly close the contract for oil.

The proposition was carried, seven voting for, and two (Ald. Moorcock and Mr. Sale) against it.

Sat 28th Sep

THE LIGHTING OF THE TOWN

At a special meeting of the Wokingham Town Council on Thursday, the Lighting Committee presented a report which stated that a letter had been received from the Gas Company offering to light the lamps on the terms of the proposal by the resolution passed at the council meeting on the 12th inst. The report was unanimously adopted.

Other matters relating to the main roads and finance were discussed but the report must be deferred.

Sat 2nd Nov

NEW TRAIN

A new train from Reading, calling at all stations, to Aldershot Camp has been put on the South Eastern Railway. This train, which commenced running on the 1st of this month leaves Reading at 10.30.

Sat 16th Nov

A SWIMMING BATH FOR WOKINGHAM

At the Mayor's Banquet on Saturday evening, the Mayor was pressed to take up the matter of providing a swimming bath for Wokingham during his year of office. His promise to consider the matter has been received with pleasure, and the inhabitants, especially those of the younger generation, are looking forward with eagerness to the time when the long talked of Swimming-bath shall be a reality in the town. The present Mayor has shown his energy in many other ways, and there is no doubt that in any effort he may make to facilitate the practice of the useful art of swimming, he would have the cordial sympathy and assistance of the townspeople.

Sat 7th Dec. 1889

FORMATION OF A SPARROW CLUB

At a well-attended meeting of agriculturalists and others held last week at the Rose Hotel, Wokingham, under the presiding of Mr. H. Lane, Evendons, it was decided to form a Sparrow Club for the neighbourhood in the interests of agriculture generally. It was resolved to offer 4½d. per dozen during the ensuing winter for sparrows and other birds destructive to crops.

1890

Sat 4th Jan

DEATH OF EX-SUPERINTENDENT MILLARD

Mr. Millard, who was for about twelve years Superintendent of Police at Wokingham, and who retired on a pension two years ago died at Paiswick, Gloucestershire, his native village, on Friday December the 27th at the age of sixty-six. Mr. Millard was twice married, the second time to Mrs. Drewett, the widow of Sergeant Drewett of the Berks. Constabulary, who was murdered near Hungerford in 1879. He leaves a large family.

Sat 8th Feb

WOKINGHAM MARKET

At the Wokingham Market on Tuesday, in consequence of the restrictions as to the removal of beasts from Hants, there was a scanty supply of beef. Everything in the shape of beasts, hogs, porkers, and calves, changed hands.

VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE ENTERTAINMENT

The annual entertainment in aid of the funds of the Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade was given in the Drill Hall on Wednesday evening. Mr. C.T. Murdoch, M.P., was to have presided, but was unfortunately unable to be present on account of the illness of his daughter, Miss Evelyn Murdoch. His place was, however, well filled by his son, Mr. E. Murdoch. The large room was crowded, the audience including the Marchioness of Downshire, Mrs. Wilkie, Misses Murdoch, Misses Ellison, Mrs. Gower, Major Thompson, Misses Rickman, Mr., Mrs., and Misses Garrard, Captain

Gregory, Rev. E. Sturges, Rev. A. and Mrs Carr, Mr. and Mrs. Cammell, Miss Campbell, Rev. G.E. De Vitre, the Mayor of Wokingham, Ald. T.M. Wescott, & c.

The programme was one of the best of its kind provided in the town for some years, and every item was efficiently executed. Mrs. Clare Wright's fine voice was modulated with great effect, her efforts being received with warm applause. Mr. Eustace Ponsonby's musical sketches caused great merriment, and it was generally hoped that this would not be his last appearance in the town. Mr. Izard's clever piano solos gained well-earned and hearty recognition. Mr. H.G. Powell and Mr. E.H. Moss in the comic element were also well received. Miss Daisy Churchman acted as accompanist. Before the last piece the Chairman, in proposing a vote of thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who had assisted, enlarged the efficiency of the Wokingham Fire Brigade, and contended that the splendid gathering was an acknowledgment of their worth and merit. The Captain (Mr. E. Ifould) thanked the Chairman and the company for the hearty support they had rendered his Brigade. We are glad to say that the entertainment will, financially, be a great success. The following was the full programme:-

Piano and violin duet, "Reverie" Mrs. Wilkie and Miss Violet Murdoch,	
Song, "The Messago" (Blumenthal)	Mr. W. Bonny,
Song, "A Lover and his Lass"	Mrs. Angel Smith,
Song (humorous)	Mr. E.H. Moss,
Piano solo, "Andante and Rondo Capriccio	Mr. Alfred E. Izard A.R.A.M.,
Song, "My Switzer Love" (Eckert),	Mrs. Clare Wright R.A.M.,
Song, "The Star of Bethlehem" (S. Adams),	Mr. S. Isom,
Song, "The Two Marionettes" Miss Gertrude Stead,	
Cornet solo, "The Lost Chord," Mr. Scott, 1st Vol. Batt. Royal Fusiliers,	
Recitation (in character), "The C'rrect Card"-A racing Lyric, Mr. H.G. Powell,	
Musical sketch	Mr. Eustace Ponsonby,
Song, "A Bunch of Cowslips" (Wakefield), Mrs. Clare Wright,	
Song, "My Sweetheart When a Boy" (Morgan),	Mr. Bonny,
Piano solo "Rigoletto" (F. Liszt), Mr. A.E. Izard A.R.A.M.,	
Recitation (humorous)	Mr. R.H. Moss,
Song, "The Old and the Young Marie" (Cowen),	Mr. Sydney Isom,
Song, "Two Spoons" (A.J. Caldicott),	Miss Gertrude Stead,
Cornet solo, "When Other Lips" (Balfe)	Mr. Scott,
Song "My Love has gone a Sailing"	Mrs. Angel Smith,
	"God Save the Queen."

Sat 15th Feb

WOKINGHAM VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

The excellent entertainment given by the members of the Brigade on the 5th inst. which was so well patronised has been the means of adding £17 to the Accidental Insurance Fund. Unfortunately the Brigade has this week sustained a severe loss in the sad death of Mr. Albert Burrett one of its youngest and most promising members. He was 24 years of age.

Sat 14th June

THE GARDENS AT BEARWOOD

Owing to the kindness of Mr. Walter, the public have again the privilege of inspecting the beautiful gardens at Bearwood, and many persons have taken advantage of the opportunity afforded of seeing some of the best-kept grounds in this part of the country. The recent rains have added materially to the appearance of the

place, which is now in the pink of perfection. Bearwood at any time of the year is a source of attraction, but never perhaps has Mr. Walter's beautiful demesne looked more charming than at the present time. Immense clumps of rhododendrons, of various colours, are in full bloom, while other flowers too numerous to mention are looking lovely, the rare and stately trees being most attractive. The kalmias (following on the rhododendrons), the chief feature of the pleasure grounds, will be at their best next week. As usual the realistic fernery, with its waterfall, &c., is very beautiful, and has been greatly admired by numerous visitors. The condition of the lawns, grounds, and gardens reflects the highest credit upon Mr. Tegg, the head gardener.

On Saturday evening the grounds of St. Paul's Rectory were by kind permission of the Re. J.T. Brown thrown open to the public. The Wokingham Town Band, under Mr. W.J. Allen, was in attendance.

Sat 27th June

Saturday last being the anniversary of the accession of her Majesty, flags floated from the Town Hall and Drill Hall, and other places in the town.

Sat 23rd July

VOLUNTEER PARADE

The annual Church Parade of the Wokingham Company, Berks Volunteers, took place on Sunday. Headed by the All Saints' parish band, and accompanied by the Mayor (Mr. T. Heelas), the Corporation, and the 1st Wokingham Boys' Brigade, the Volunteers marched to the Parish Church, where an excellent sermon was preached by the Rector of Wokingham. Capt. Walter was in command of the Company.

WOKINGHAM CYCLING CLUB

The members and friends of the Wokingham Cycling Club had a social tea at the "George and Dragon," Wargrave, on Wednesday. Lady friends and non-riding members drove down in breaks, and the contingent on wheels numbered 18. Under the able management of the Secretary, Mr. E.C. Ducrocq, and the Captain, Mr. J. Seward, everything went off well.

Sat 9th Aug.

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

The House Numbering Committee presented its report and a discussion followed as to the better plan of numbering houses consecutively and ignoring divisions into terraces and villas &c., or numbering the various terraces, places &c., separately. It was decided to invite the opinion of the Postmaster-in-charge (Mr. Lush) in the matter.

Sat 6th Sept

RE-OPENING OF THE BAPTIST CHAPEL

The Milton Road Baptist Chapel, after being closed since June 15th for repairs, & c was re-opened on Sunday last., when the Rev. J. Cave, the pastor, preached both morning and evening. A public meeting was held in the chapel on Wednesday evening, preceded by a tea in the lecture room, to which about a 130 sat down. The tea having been given, there was a profit on it amounting to £4. 2s. After tea an organ recital was given by Mr. C.T. Dee, F.C.O., organist of All Saints' Church, and was much appreciated. The programme consisted of a march (Sinart), Vesper Bells

(Spinney), Allegro (Hest), bell rondo (Moranti), allegretto, Op. 11 (Merket) and postlude (Sinart.)

Sat 4th Oct.

EASTHAMPSTEAD PARK

The Marchioness of Downshire and her son have returned to Easthampstead Park from Ireland. The young Marquis's health is, we are glad to hear, much improved, but he will leave England for New Zealand at the end of this present month as it is thought a long sea voyage will be very beneficial to him. Lord and Lady Arthur Hill are now residing at Hillsborough, county Down.

THE LIGHTING QUESTION

Much of the town has been lighted with gas during the week. The light is exceedingly good and appears to give general satisfaction.

A SAD BEREAVEMENT

Mr. R. Kemp, of Finchampstead, the well-known Martini Henry Volunteer marksman, has sustained a very sad bereavement, having lost both his wife and daughter after only a few days' illness from diphtheria. Mrs. Kemp was buried on Thursday, and the daughter died the same day whilst the mother's funeral was taking place.

THE ALLOTMENTS QUESTION

Mr. Hall said that the allotments question has been on hand for seven months and no progress appeared to have been made. Many of the labourers had now been turned out of their allotments, and it was a serious matter for them if other land could not be soon obtained.

Mr. Sale said land was obtainable on both sides of the town, and if the rent was not so prohibitive steps should be taken to obtain it.

It was stated that the rent asked for suitable land near the town was £4 per acre.

Mr. Hall said Mr. H. Lane had offered land near Luckley-park for £2 per acre, but it was a long distance off, especially for those the opposite side of the town. They had made efforts to obtain suitable ground and had failed, and the sooner the applicants were made aware of the fact the better. They could then move in the matter themselves.

Eventually the following resolution moved by Mr. Sale, and seconded by Mr. Hall, was unanimously carried:-"That the efforts of the Council to obtain land for allotments near the town at a moderate rental proving ineffectual, the applicants be informed of the fact.

1891

Sat 3rd Jan

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL THE PROPOSED MAYOR'S CHAIN

The question of purchasing a chain of office for the Mayor was freely discussed and it was agreed that subscriptions should be obtained towards that object and that a

committee, consisting of members of the Council in favour of the idea should be formed in order to carry out the wish of the majority of the Council.

Sat 18th April

THE NEW STEAM FIRE ENGINE

The new steam fire engine expressly built for the Wokingham Voluntary Fire Brigade by Merryweather & Son, of London will arrive her next Tuesday, and the Rev. J. T. Brown has kindly placed the grounds of St. Paul's Rectory at the disposal of the brigade and its subscribers. Mrs. C.T. Murdoch will name the new steamer.

Sat 25th April

THE NEW STEAM FIRE ENGINE

Through the kindness of the Rev. J.T. Brown, the members of the local Volunteer Fire Brigade were enabled to test the actual working of the new steam fire engine. In the presence of the subscribers and friends at the beautiful grounds of St. Paul's Rectory. The cost of the new engine complete is £433. The whole of which sum was entirely raised by public subscription the gentry of the neighbourhood contributing in most cases liberally towards it. In addition to the purchase of the steamer, about 600 feet of additional hose (making over 2,000 feet belonging to the brigade) was purchased and considerable alterations and improvements were affected at the engine-house.

Wokingham now possesses a large and powerful fire engine capable of throwing water 150 feet high, and of thirty horse power, the working pressure being 100 lbs. Four distinct hose jets can be used, as was shown at the trial of the engine on Tuesday, with the new steamer.

There is also the large manual engine, built in 1878, by Messrs. Merryweather and Sons, at the cost of £170, and the old manual which was formerly under the control of the police, and which might render useful service. Previous to the christening of the new steamer some friendly competitions upon the large manual engine were gone through, viz., "One man drill," "Two men dry drill," and "Four men dry drill." Two sets of each were gone through by members of the local brigade.

The engine was christened by Mrs. Murdoch, wife of the member for Reading, the operation being performed by means of a bottle of champagne suspended from the footboard and which when swung broke upon the splinter bar. Mr. E. Murdoch, on behalf of his mother, spoke of the honour and pleasure it gave Mrs. Murdoch to name the engine and alluded in flattering terms to the usefulness, etc., of the local brigade and said that now they possessed the large and powerful steamer, their former actions would even be surpassed. (Cheers.) The covering of the name-plate upon the footboard was removed and showed the name "Alert," which caused great cheering. A bouquet, the gift of Mrs. Heffer of the Terrace, to the brigade for the purpose was presented to Mrs. Murdoch by Miss Lilian Ifould, youngest daughter of the captain of the brigade.

The capabilities of the engine were tested and gave every satisfaction, and the full working power of the engine (100 lbs.), was raised in exactly eight minutes after the fire was lighted. The various trials lasted for more than half an hour and were witnessed by a large company including the *élite* of the neighbourhood, and the pond in the Rectory grounds was used to supply the water. The height of the jets thrown exceeded that of the tallest elm and other trees in the grounds.

At the conclusion of the trials the company assembled upon the lawn, and Mr. S.A. Hankey thanked the Rector of St. Paul's and Mrs. Brown for throwing the grounds

open to the subscribers and the Fire Brigade. (cheers)-. The Rev. J.T. Brown, on behalf of Mrs. Brown and himself expressed the pleasure it afforded him to welcome the company present.

The Mayor of Wokingham (Ald. D. N. Heron), proposed a vote of thanks to the members of the brigade, and Mr. E. Ifould, the captain, replied.

Mr. H. E. Hall (hon.sec. of the brigade) thanked Mrs. Murdoch for her attendance and the naming of the new steam engine. Three cheers were given for the Rev. J. T. and Mrs. Brown, for the Wokingham Fire Brigade, and a similar compliment was paid to Mrs. Murdoch. The Rev. J.T. Brown kindly provided refreshments in the house for subscribers and friends. The Wokingham Town Band (under Mr. W.J. Allen) played selections on the lawn during the evening, and also headed the procession of engines which paraded the town during the afternoon.

The new steam engine is capable of delivering 300 gallons per minute, and is fitted with all the latest improvements. It has a very smart appearance, and on the woodwork is painted the name of the brigade.

The Maiden Erlegh Brigade (under Mr. Stallworthy) and the Frimley, Camberley, and York Town Brigade (under the command of Mr. J. Moss), were present during the trials of the new engine.

Engineer Caiger will act as engineer of the new engine, and Fireman Seward and Hughes as deputy-engineers. The engineer sent from Messrs. Merryweather and Sons, the makers, remained this week in order to give practical instruction.

Sat 20th June

AMERICAN FAIR

A sale of goods and work, styled an "American Fair," took place at Highfield, Milton-road, the residence of Commissioner Gregorie, on Wednesday afternoon. The grounds were crowded, and owing to the cheapness of the goods offered for sale, and the business tact of the ladies offering them, nearly everything was disposed of, the crowds being greatest perhaps round the clothing and tea stalls. The proceeds of the sale will be devoted towards defraying the debt on the Palmer Schools. Among those present during the evening were the Mayor of Wokingham (Ald. Heron), Mrs. Heron and Mrs. Lawrence, Ald Wescott, the Revs. E. Sturges, J.T. Brown and H. Lusty, Mrs. De Vitre, and Miss Pitman, the Misses Eden, Mrs. Nicholson, and Miss Smith, Captain Thompson, Mrs. And Miss Ellison, Miss J. Roberts, Mrs. H.T. Roberts, Miss Gower, Miss Errington, Cllr. Drake, &c.

The ladies in charge of the various stalls ere as follows:--The Misses Sturges, Miss C. Gregorie, Miss Hill, Mrs. Gregorie, Mrs. Pearman, Misses Pearman, Miss L. Shorter, Mrs. Heelas, Miss A. Heelas, Miss Whiting, Miss Love. Messrs. E. Lane and J. Nichols, Mrs. A.J. Nicholson. Mr. James Seaward took charge of the entrance gate. During the evening the All Saints' Parish Band played a nice selection of music, under Mr. Thorne's conductorship. The proceeds amounted to over £47, and 1,100 people paid for admission.

ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday, the anniversary service in connection with the Milton Road Sunday School took place at the Baptist Chapel. In the afternoon good conduct prizes and certificates won at the recent examination in connection with the East Berks Sunday School Union, were distributed by the Rev. J. Cave, who conducted the services throughout the day. Mr. J. Watts presided at the organ.

CRICKET

On Saturday last a match was played upon the ground of the Wokingham club, between the Excelsior and Binfield elevens. The home team were victorious by 30 runs upon the first innings, making 74, and Binfield 44. Time was called before the second innings was finished.

OUTING

By the kindness of Ald. Wescott and Mrs. J. Benham, the inmates of the almshouses were taken to Sonning on Tuesday, where a dinner was provided by Mr. Wescott, and after a short stay the old people returned home, much pleased with the treat. Mr. Benham provided the conveyance free of charge.

BICYCLE RACE

A bicycle race, under the auspices of the Wokingham Cycling Club, took place on Wednesday evening, the course selected being from the "Two Poplars" Inn to the letter-box at Finchampstead and back, a distance of almost five miles. There were 15 starters, the racing being against time and handicapped, two leaving the starting point together. The three following were declared the winners. F.J. Wells 1 (18m. 10s., allowed 2m); R. Simmons 2 (18m. 12s., allowed 1m.); W. Scribbens 3 (17m. 20s.). The quickest time made by the unsuccessful competitors was 10m. 30s., and the longest 21m. 35s. The first prize consisted of a silver-plated pint tankard; a pair of plated nut-crackers was the second and the third was a pair of hair brushes and case. The Rev. J.F. Llewelyn was judge; Mr. W. White starter, and Mr. H. Butler referee and Messrs. White, Rednall and Butler acted as handicappers. A smoking concert was afterwards held at the "Bush" Hotel, the Mayor (Ald. Heron) in the chair.

Sat 27th June

Saturday last being the anniversary of the accession of her Majesty, flags floated from the Town Hall and Drill Hall, and other places in the town.

FIRE AT BEARWOOD

On Tuesday morning, between five and six, the Volunteer Fire Brigade received a telephonic message from Bearwood mansion asking them to attend as a fire had been discovered. The new steam engine was got out and the men were in readiness to start, when another message was received by telephone saying that their services would not be required. The engine was put back, the horses were unharnessed, and some of the firemen had gone away, when a third message arrived asking the brigade to come as quickly as possible. On arriving at Bearwood they found that the engine shed, adjoining the mansion, was on fire at the upper part. The steamer soon however extinguished the flames, and the fire was confined to the building which was brick built and slated, and contained a quantity of coal, which had probably become heated, causing spontaneous combustion. Mr. Walter and family were away from Bearwood at the time.

This is the first call the brigade has received since the new steamer has been purchased, and the members were highly pleased with the working of it. The mansion at Bearwood has telephonic communication with the Wokingham Post Office, as a great saving of time was affected in sending the message. The various fire extinguishing appliances used by the employees previous to the arrival of the brigade proved, it is said, useless.

Sat 23rd July

VOLUNTEER PARADE

The annual Church Parade of the Wokingham Company, Berks Volunteers, took place on Sunday. Headed by the All Saints' parish band, and accompanied by the Mayor (Mr. T. Heelas), the Corporation, and the 1st Wokingham Boys' Brigade, the Volunteers marched to the Parish Church, where an excellent sermon was preached by the Rector of Wokingham. Capt. Walter was in command of the Company.

WOKINGHAM CYCLING CLUB

The members and friends of the Wokingham Cycling Club had a social tea at the "George and Dragon," Wargrave, on Wednesday. Lady friends and non-riding members drove down in breaks, and the contingent on wheels numbered 18. Under the able management of the Secretary, Mr. E.C. Ducrocq, and the Captain, Mr. J. Seward, everything went off well.

Sat 5th Sept

FIRE AT WEST COURT

On Monday morning about 2.25 am alarm was given at the Volunteer Fire Brigade station that a fire had broken out at West Court, Finchampstead, the residence of the Rev. Alan Buchanan. On the arrival of the Brigade, it was found that the library, also used as a smoking room, was in flames, but by the efforts of the brigade the fire was soon got out. Unfortunately a valuable panelled oak mantel piece, worth about £250 (£750??) was destroyed, the wall panelling, floor, and carpet, partly burned, and the fixtures seriously injured by the heat and smoke. The furniture was saved, the police and the men servants removing some of it before the arrival of the fire brigade.

The building, which is the property of the Rev. E. St. John, Rector of Finchampstead, is insured in the Atlas Fire Office and the furniture in the Sun Office. The brigade reached home at half past six.

THE CORPORATION PICTURES

Councillor Powell stated that the pictures sent to Messrs. Ryman & Co. Oxford for cleaning and renovation had been returned.

Sat 19th Sept

PROMENADE CONCERT

The second illuminated promenade concert in connection with the Wokingham Town Band took place at the "Woodlands" near the Reading Road on Wednesday by permission of Mr. R. Sanderson. The grounds were well illuminated especially the tennis court where the dancing took place and there was a good number of visitors. The lighting was under the management of Mr. R. Herring and the band which was under the direction of Mr. Allen, played selections during the evenings. Mr. Mills was Master of ceremonies of the dancing.

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Sat 30th Jan

THR HUNTING OF TAME DEER

The following memorial is being signed in Reading, praying that the "Royal Buck Hounds" may be abolished, and the funds devoted to their support, may be otherwise applied:--

To Her Most Gracious Majesty QUEEN VICTORIA,

The memorial of the undersigned, your Majesty's loyal subjects sheweth:-

That your Majesty's Memorialists view with regret the State maintenance in your Majesty's name of a sport known as the "Queen's Hunt," in the course of which great suffering is entailed upon the deer employed as quarry.

That the deer so hunted are practically domesticated animals having been reared and tended in Windsor Park.

That your Majesty's memorialists humbly regard the hunting of these animals as cruel, and calculated to make the community unfeeling towards dumb creatures.

Your Majesty's memorialists therefore most humbly pray that the hunt may cease to receive your Majesty's countenance, and that the funds devoted to its support may be otherwise applied.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, it is understood, are taking the subject into consideration.

Sat 13th Feb

CYCLISTS' CLUB

A musical evening in connection with this club was held in their Club House, Peach-street on Thursday evening. Mr. F. Wells was responsible for the programme, in which Messrs. Bacon, Breach, Day, Corfery, Goodwin, C.A. Brant, Brant senr., Scribbins, A. Heelas, Taylor and George took part and a very pleasant evening was spent. Mr. E.C. Ducrocq was the accompanist.

Sat 20th February

SATURDAY EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

The usual entertainment took place at the Church Room, Wokingham on Saturday evening. Cllr. Seaward presided, and a good programme was carried out.

FABIAN SOCIETY

A lecture in connection with this Society was given in the Town Hall on Monday evening by Mr. Geo Palmer, of London, on the subject of "The Return of the Poor Laws." There was a small attendance.

WOKINGHAM TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY

This Society held a soiree in the British Schoolroom, Milton-road, on Wednesday. There was a large company present. Music was supplied by the band in connection with the Society, and the various songs and recitations were given. A very amusing feature was a "Spelling Bee," conducted by Mr. J. Watts. The Rev. J. Cave presided.

C.E.T.S.

The monthly meeting of this Society held at the Church Room, on Tuesday, was unusually attractive, and there was a large attendance. The chairman was the Rev. H. Last. Mrs. Nicholson's "Biglophone" band created much amusement, and was heartily applauded. Captain Thompson contributed a reading, Mr. W. Deane two songs, and Miss Barron a recitation. At the conclusion several pledges were taken.

THE INFLUENZA

Handbills have been posted throughout the town, by order of the Town Council, giving directions and instructions as to the treatment of the prevailing epidemic.

ENTERTAINMENT AT THE WORKHOUSE

The annual tea and entertainment to the inmates of the Union Workhouse, which had been postponed from last month, took place on Thursday. An enjoyable vocal and instrumental concert, with recitations, was given, particulars of which are unavoidably held over.

Sat 5th March

WOKINGHAM CYCLISTS CLUB

The members of the Wokingham Cyclists Club held their annual dinner at the Rose Hotel on Wednesday last week. A large company assembled under the presidency of Mr. C.E. Murdoch, son of the Member for Reading, and among those present were: The Mayor of Wokingham (Ald. Heelas), Ald. Wescott, Rev. J.F. Llewelyn, Messrs. A. Heelas, E.P. Silver (Capt. Reading C.C.) S.T. Warren (Hon. Sec. Reading C.C.), C.H. Martin-George, Berry, E. Ifould (Capt. Wokingham Fire Brigade), Childs, Terrington, Craig (Camberley), Palmer, Wells, Seward (Hon. Sec. W. C.C.), Cllr. White (Capt. W.C.C.), Cordery, Caiger, Taylor, Feltham, T.B. Seaward, Brant, senr. and junr., & c.

The usual toasts which were interspersed with songs, &c., were duly honoured. Mr. Ducrocq (Hon Sec) mentioned that the club had increased by 25 members during the past year, and the club house was also a great success.—Cllr. White (ex-captain) read the report of the club for the past year, after which Mr. C.E. Murdoch proposed the toast of the “Mayor and Corporation,” which was musically honoured, and the Mayor and Ald. Wescott suitably replied.

Sat 26th March

CYCLISTS CLUB

A special general meeting of the members was held in the Club Rooms, Peach-street, on Thursday evening, to consider a letter which had been received from the landlord stating notice to the club to quit the premises. The Hon. Sec. (Mr. S.C. Ducrocq) read the correspondence between the landlord (the Rev. E. Sturges) and himself, and reported that the Club Committee had decided to accept the notice subject to the approval of the members. A vote of confidence in the committee and the approval of this action were proposed by Mr. H. Goswell and seconded by Mr. W. Scribbins, and carried unanimously. It was also decided to send a formal reply to the Rev. E. Sturges informing him of the decision of the committee. The Rev. H. Last, at the urgent wish of the members, took the chair.

Sat 23rd July

BAND CONTEST

A Grand Band Contest took place on Wednesday, under the distinguished patronage of Lord and Lady Arthur Hill, Sir Arthur and Lady Hayter, Sir George Russell, Bart., M.P., Mr. and Mrs. Murdoch and other ladies and gentlemen. Mrs. Nicholson kindly permitted the contest to take place in Matthew’s Green Park. The Wokingham Town Band took this means of celebrating their 21st anniversary. Prizes to the amount of £40 were offered to competing Bands, and eight Bands entered. For various reasons four of the bands were unable to compete, and the contest took place between: 1, Redhill

Town Band (24 performers), conducted by Mr. W. Bashford; 2, Crowthorne Band (16 performers), conducted by Mr. T. Taylor; 3, Staines Town Band (18 performers), conducted by Mr. J. Fane; 4, Reading Temperance Band (24 performers), conducted by Mr. W. Farr. This test piece was "The Champion," overture by Hartmann.

The judge was Mr. Warwick Williams, conductor of the London Military Band. The proceedings commenced in the Market-place with a Quickstep Contest. The 1st prize was awarded to the Reading Temperance Band, and the 2nd to Crowthorne Band. For the Grand Contest, the 1st prize of £8 10s. in money and a cornet, specially made for the contest, was awarded to the Reading Temperance Band. The second prize of £2 10s. in money and a trombone fell to the Staines Town Band. Crowthorne Band secured the third prize of £5 5s. The prizes were distributed on the lawn at Matthew's Green by Lady Russell. Votes of thanks were proposed by the Mayor (Mr. T.W. Heelas), to Lady Russell and to Mrs. Nicholson.

Dancing was indulged in after the contest. Mrs. Nicholson entertained a large number of friends on the lawn.

MR. JOHN MORRES

Mr. John Morres, 2nd son of Mr. Charles Morres, and grandson of the late Rector of Wokingham, has just won his appointment in the Indian Civil Engineering Service, having come out 4th in the final examination at the Royal Engineering College, Cooper's Hill.

VOLUNTEER PARADE

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Sat 10th Sept

WOKINGHAM CYCLING CLUB

The annual illuminated ride took place on Wednesday evening, and proved as usual, a great attraction. Starting from the Drill Hall, and headed by a band, the cyclists paraded the principal streets of the town. At 8 p.m., a promenade concert took place in the Drill Hall, under the management of Mr. C.H. Martin. There was a large audience. The following took part in the programme:--Mr. Bellinger (Whistling solo); Mr. Bruce Jones (comic song); Mr. Clark (piccolo solo); Mr. Kettley (comic songs), and Mr. Claude Martin (song).

Sat 1st Oct

TOWN LIGHTING

The lighting of the town will after this week be undertaken by the Corporation, Mr. Hall's tender having expired. A petition has been numerously signed by the ratepayers

protesting against the action of the Council with regard to the tender for oil used in the lighting of the town lamps.

THE 1ST WOKINGHAM COMPANY BOYS' BRIGADE

A meeting in connection with this Brigade was held in the Town Hall, Wokingham, on Monday evening, by kind permission of the Mayor (Mr. T. Heelas). Amongst those present were the Rev. J.T. Brown, Rural Dean and President of the Brigade, in the chair, the Mayor, Alderman D.N. Heron, Councillor Binnie, Mr. C.S.S. Brown, Mr. W. J. Gotelee, Capt. Penton Thompson, R.A. &c. The company included several ladies.

Capt. The Rev. E.C. Leslie gave some account of the Brigade and its work. He said the company was inaugurated in the Terrace Room on August 10th, 1891, at a meeting for boys only, when the object of the Brigade was explained and 80 recruits joined. In accordance with the rules six preliminary drills were held. The numbers soon increased, and reached on the occasion of the sixth drill 84. Application was then made to headquarters to enrol the company, and on the 14th the company was duly enrolled as the 1st Wokingham. An annual subscription of 1s. per boy had the effect of reducing the company to more manageable proportions. Its full strength was 50. The numbers at present were 44, and there were nine recruits under instruction. Caps and belts were served out on November 2nd, and the company was soon able to appear in public. Its progress had been very marked during the present year, and Capt. J.H. Cooper, of the 1st V.B. Royal Berks Regiment, who kindly acted as inspecting officer in June, expressed himself highly pleased with the drill, discipline and appearance of the boys when on parade. This excellent result was due to the careful teaching of the Instructor, Mr. James McEwan, who has taken a deep interest in the movement from its commencement. Officers and boys united in regretting that he no longer resided in Wokingham, but would be glad to know that he still retains his connection with the company as Lieutenant. They were fortunate in having secured a capital successor in Mr. H. Harvey, Col-Sergt. Of 1st V.B. Royal Berks Regiment, L Company. The present officers of the 1st Wokingham Boys' Brigade were—President, Rev. J.T. Brown; Captain, Rev. E.C. Leslie; Lieutenant, Capt Penton Thompson, R.A.; Messrs E.D. Heelas, J. McEwan, and H. Harvey.

The objects of the Brigade were the advancement of Christ's Kingdom amongst boys and the promotion of habits of reverence and discipline, self-respect, and all which tends towards true Christian manliness. Opportunities had not been lost of imparting good advice, and there had been several church parades at St. Paul's Church, and one at All Saints' in conjunction with the Volunteers. Valuable instruction had been given in a selected class in the shape of lectures on "First Aid to the Wounded," by Mr. Ernest Ward, M.R.C.S., who hoped that his pupils would shortly be fit for examination and obtain the privilege of wearing the badges of the St. John Ambulance Association. The friends of the Brigade were many, and the company had paraded at the Beeches, St. Paul's Rectory, and Matthew's Green by invitation. There had been several interesting gatherings during the past season, including an entertainment by conjuring, &c., by Professor Besoni, on February 9th, an entertainment at the Town Hall on March 1st, when a select squad performed some musical drills, and on September 1st an excursion in a steam launch to Cookham. The kindness of their many friends reached its climax at the Grand Jumble Sale held in the grounds of the Holt (by kind permission of the Mayor of Reading), when, owing to the indefatigable exertions of Mrs. Gotelee, a large staff of ladies, the sum of £45 was

realised, which enabled them to present a satisfactory balance sheet adjusted by the kindness of Mr. E. Stephenson, and showed a surplus of £26.

The President then presented a pair of framed photographs to Mr. McEwan of the boys in their uniforms, the photographs being the gifts of the boys.

Mr. McEwan suitably acknowledged the gift.

The applause of the boys testified to the popularity of their late instructor.

A vote of thanks was proposed to the Captain for his interest in the Brigade, to Mr. Ernest Ward for his lectures, and to the Mayor for the use of the Town Hall. After the singing of a hymn the boys were drilled in the body of the hall by Mr. H. Harvey.

Major A.F. Walter has kindly granted the use of the Drill Hall to the Company during the coming season.

SERIOUS MAIL CART ACCIDENT

The horses belonging to Mr. Targett, of Reading, attached to the mail cart which runs between Bracknell and Reading bolted early on Monday morning from the Wokingham Post Office. On reaching the end of Broad-street they dashed into the iron railings in front of the house occupied by Miss Morres. One of the horses was pierced by a piece of iron which when withdrawn measured upwards of two feet in length. The poor animal died a very short time afterwards. The other horse was only slightly injured in the head. The pole of the cart pierced the wall, and the end was visible in the sitting-room of the house.

Sat 8th Oct

TOWN COUNCIL

Ald. Heron stated that he had about £75 in hand towards purchasing a chain for the Mayor.

SCIENCE & ART CLASSES

The Science and Art Classes arranged by the Corporation commenced at the Terrace Room on Tuesday evening. About 20 students have joined.

ENTERTAINMENT IN CHURCH ROOM

Mr. Seward commenced his Saturday night entertainments on Oct. 1st. There was a good attendance, and a varied programme was listened to with evident interest. Mr. Seward took the chair.

HORSE ACCIDENTS

A young horse belonging to Mr. Palmer bolted in the Station-road on Tuesday afternoon. A lamppost was knocked down and the railings near the railway gates were smashed. Both horse and cart were turned over.

Frederick Fielder, a horse dealer, met with a serious accident in the Market-place on Tuesday. The horse, which he was riding, reared and fell with him. He received a severe cut in the temple, and was conveyed in an insensible state to the police-station, and was attended by Dr. Thomas. He was subsequently taken to the hospital at Reading.

Sat 26th Nov

BOYS' BRIGADE

The boys of this excellent institution are now equipped with rifles and are making rapid progress with their drills. At the parade on Monday night Sergeant W. Priest was promoted to the rank of Colour-Sergeant of the Wokingham Company.

Sat 3rd Dec

THE ROYAL STAG HUNT

Her Majesty's Buck-hounds met in the Market-place on Friday morning in last week. The County Ball having been held on the previous night, there was a large number of followers present. The deer was uncartered in a meadow belonging to Mr. R. Green, and made at once for the direction Binfield. Eventually it turned and ran back to Wokingham, and crossing the playground St. Paul's Schools made for the Station and was eventually captured near the Market-place. During the hunt Mr. Garrard, of the White House, was thrown from the horse and sustained a broken collar bone and a bruised shoulder.

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Council met on Thursday when the reports of the Lighting and Survey Committees were adopted.

Dr. Ashby, the medical officer, in his report suggested proceedings should be taken against the owners of properties in the Market-place (No. 14) and Rose-street (Nos. 60 and 62) to compel them to close polluted wells, and this was agreed to.

A motion was brought forward approving the suggestion to hold a Dairy School at Wokingham after Christmas in accordance with a letter received from the secretary of the Berkshire Dairy Schools. A fuller account of the proceedings is reserved for next week.

Sat 3rd Dec

SOIRÉE

A most successful soiree was held in the Town Hall on Wednesday in aid of the British School funds. It was opened by the Mayor of Wokingham (Mr. W. White), who was supported by the Rev. James Cave. At frequent intervals vocal and instrumental music and handbell ringing were given, and Mr. H.G. Powell gave a musical sketch entitled, "Hypnotism," with illustrations on a subject (Mr. G. Belcher), which created great amusement. In the ante-chamber two sets of effective *tableaux vivante* were given at intervals. Light refreshments were supplied at moderate prices. There was a special attraction in the Bank Room. Mr. G. T. Phillips (member of the British Ornithologists' Union) very kindly lent and personally superintended his valuable collection of 5,000 eggs of local interest. The rooms were crowded, and the arrangements were carried out in an admirable manner.

Sat 10th Dec

WOKINGHAM CLUB

The Wokingham Club with which is amalgamated the Cyclists' Club and the Working Men's Club, opened their new Club Rooms on Monday. Mr. C.T. Murdoch, of Buckhurst, declared the club opened, and the Mayor (Mr. W. White) then presented Mr. Murdoch, on behalf of the club, with his photograph enlarged. Mr. Murdoch suitably replied. The Mayor then presented an enlarged photograph of Mr. L.G. Ducrocq, the energetic hon. Secretary, to Mrs. Ducrocq, the former being absent through illness. At the request of Mrs. Ducrocq the Rev. J. Franklen-Llewelyn returned thanks in an excellent speech. The rev. gentleman also read an extract from a

letter he had received from Mr. Ducrocq thanking them for the present and re-calling the history of the club since its foundation nearly three years ago. Their membership this year was 114 and they were supplied with 22 papers and magazines. Mr. Ducrocq thanked Mr. Faltham for his ably assistance and management and also the donors. During the evening refreshments were served by Mrs. Chambers. A game of billiards was played between the Mayor and Mr. Murdoch, the latter winning by 7 points.

Sat 17th Dec

DEATH OF THE REV. G.E.D. DE VITRÉ

We regret to record the death of the Rev. G.E.D. De Vitré of Keephatch, Wokingham, which occurred on Saturday afternoon. The reverend gentleman was well-known for his neighbourliness, his geniality and generosity

The funeral took place at All saints' Parish Church on Wednesday afternoon.

Sat 24th Dec

MRS. JOHN HEELAS

The funeral of Mrs. John Heelas, wife of Mr. John Heelas of Reading, took place on Saturday afternoon in the family vault in St. Paul's Churchyard. The service in the church was read by the Rector of the Parish, the Rev. J.T. Brown and that at the grave by the Rev. Franklin Llewellyn. A large number of the inhabitants of the town drew their blinds as a mark of respect, Mr. John Heelas being a Native of Wokingham.

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Sat 14th Jan

DEATH OF WILLIAM CHAMBERS

Mr. William Chambers, confectioner, of the Market-place died on Tuesday from a complication of diseases after a long and painful illness. He was Sergeant-at-Mace for 25 years and it is worthy of note that this office has been held by one or other of the same family for upwards of a hundred years. He was also hall keeper and toll collector.

Sat 28th Jan

WOKINGHAM FIRE BRIGADE

We are pleased to learn that the Marquis of Downshire has become a member of the Wokingham Fire Brigade.

Sat 4th Feb

WILLIAM CHAMBERS' DUTIES

The Mayor stated that he had received several letters with regard to the election of hall keeper etc which he had not opened. Councillors Powell and Ifould were of the opinion that applications should be invited by advertisement. An amendment was proposed by Cllr. Phillips that an advertisement be put in the local paper announcing the vacancy for a Hall Keeper and Collector of Market Tolls and that the office of Mace Bearer be the gift of the Mayor for the time being. This was agreed.

Sat 4th March

Alderman Heron procured a chain for the Mayor and that a robe had been ordered.

Sat 11th March

RAILWAY IMPROVEMENT

A railway signalling box is in course of erection at the station (S.E.R.) when the signals will be worked upon improved principles.

Sat 18th March

BERKSHIRE DAIRY SCHOOLS

A Dairy School under the auspices of the Royal counties Agricultural Society, will be opened in the Drill Hall, Wokingham on Monday next, the first course of lessons to last ten days. Particulars are advertised.

Sat 25th March

OPENING OF A DAIRY SCHOOL

Under the auspices of the technical committee of the Berks. County Council a dairy school for Wokingham and the neighbourhood was started under very favourable circumstances in every respect. Mr. T.M. Wescott, the popular and energetic representative of Wokingham on the County Council, took the matter in hand, and with the kind co-operation of Mr. Alderman Walter, of Bearwood, made excellent arrangements. Mr. Arthur F. Walter having kindly granted the use of the Drill Hall for the purpose, and a more suitable building could not have been found

The full complement of ten students—eight females and two males—formed the class on Monday morning, when all the various appliances which have been used at the other dairy schools in the county were placed in position, the art of butter-making being demonstrated in a very lucid and practical way by Miss Walsh, who has conducted the other schools in so able a manner.

Mr. E. Simmons was present as representing the Berks County Council, and there was no formal opening. Each day the proceedings have been watched with much interest by many ladies and gentlemen of the district, and Mr. Wescott has filled the duties of local steward to satisfaction. On the last day of the school there will be a special prize competition, open to students who have attended an entire course. There will be a second course of instruction commencing on Friday, April 14th, for which there are already several entries.

Sat 27th May

INTERESTING MUNICIPAL FUNCTION

(Presentation of Mayor's Chain)

Some four years ago an attempt, which at that time met with anything but an encouraging reception, was made to provide a Mayoral chain for the Borough of Wokingham. The matter fell into abeyance for a time, but the promoters—who felt that such insignia were necessary to the maintenance of civic dignity, pretty well every other Corporation in the Kingdom owning a chain of office for its chief magistrate—stirred the question from time to time, and at last Ald. Heron took upon himself to collect the necessary fund, which he quickly succeeded in doing, the High Steward (Mr. John Walter), Sir George Russell, M.P., the Rector of Wokingham, the Rev. J.T. Brown, Mr. Murdoch, Mr. D. Heelas (deputy-Mayor of Reading), and other gentlemen being amongst the first and most liberal of the subscribers. A committee was then formed, and, ultimately a very handsome chain was manufactured to their order by Messrs. Garrard & Co., of the Haymarket, while out of the surplus fund Messrs. Earle & Co., of Chancery-lane supplied a fitting robe of office for the Mayor. The chain is of silver-gilt, of very handsome design, and has as a pendant a fine

badge, bearing the arms of Queen Elizabeth, King James II., and Queen Victoria (the three Sovereigns who have granted charters to Wokingham), and of the Borough. Everything thus brought to a happy conclusion, it was arranged to present the chain and robe of office at a public dinner, which was accordingly held in the Town Hall on Thursday evening last.

The hall looked specially bright and attractive, not only by reason of the pretty style in which the tables were decorated, but particularly owing to the fine lot historic oil painting hanging on the walls having been beautifully cleaned and restored by Mt. F. Ryman Hall, of Oxford, under the direction of a committee of which Councillor H.G. Powell was the leading spirit. A capital repast was placed on the tables by Mr. Churchman of the Rose Hotel.

Sat 15th April

MARQUIS OF DOWNSHIRE TO MARRY

The marriage of the Marquis of Downshire to Miss Katherine Hare will take place on the 22nd of June.

Sat 6th May

OFFER TO PURCHASE GAS WORKS

The town clerk has been instructed to write offering to purchase the Gas Works & Co. at a valuation subject to the sanction of the local Government Board to borrow money for the purpose.

Sat 13th May

DEATH OF DOWAGER MARCHIONESS OF DOWNSHIRE

Caroline, grandmother of the present Marquis of Downshire died at 4 o' clock on Wednesday.

Sat 1st July

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY

The annual festival of the rural-deanery branch was held in St. Paul's Church on Wednesday afternoon. The sermon was preached by the Rev. T. G. Davy, curate-in-charge of St. Alban's, Sunninghill. The offerings (£2 8s. 10d.) were divided between the Wokingham branch and St. Mary's (Battersea) affiliated branch. On the kind invitation of Mrs. Nicholson the members visited Matthew's Green.

MUNIFICENT GIFT BY MR. WALTER

The High-Steward of the Borough (Mr. John Walter of Bearwood) with his usual generosity has had a magnificent illuminated clock erected in a tower attached to St. Paul's Schools, where he is making extensive enlargements and which will shortly be opened. The clock, which is the work of Messrs Gillett and Johnston, of Croydon, has two faces, the opal dials of which measure 4f. 6 ins. And are lighted by an automatic gas arrangement, nine burners being attached to each dial. The hours are struck on a fine toned bell weighing 7 hundredweights. The whole works are made of fine gun metal, and solid steel cut pinions. The clock was started on Saturday, June 24th. The work has successfully been carried out by Mr. Rateholder, representing Messrs Gillett and Johnston.

Sat 22nd July

THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Market Committee reported that Mr. Beningfield had arranged to assign the Market lease to Messrs. Cottrell & Simmons, auctioneers, of Reading, and requested a license for the purpose. The application having been considered, it was agreed to recommend that such license be granted. Instructions were given to prepare a license similar to that granted on a former occasion.

PROPOSED PURCHASE OF GAS WORKS

The Lighting Committee reported that a meeting was held to consider a letter from the Gas Company's solicitors enclosing a copy of the resolutions passed at a meeting of the shareholders, accepting the offer by the Town Council to purchase the Gas Works &c., at a valuation as stated, and authorising the directors to enter into an agreement for sale on condition that the Town council agrees to pay the fees of the valuer appointed by the company, should the Council be unable to complete the purchase. The Town Clerk was instructed to acknowledge the letter and to communicate with the Local Government Board on the subject of the purchase. The reply of the Local Government Board stated that it would be necessary to obtain a provisional order for the purpose of giving effect to the scheme. The committee would now proceed to take the necessary steps as formerly authorised by the council.

Sat 12th Aug

DEATH OF MR. S. SPENCER

By the death of Mr. S. Spencer, Chemist, which took place on Wednesday evening at an advanced age, Wokingham loses one of its oldest inhabitants. For many years the deceased held the office of local post-master. He was a native of Windsor and was present at the Jubilee of George III in 1810. He came to reside in Wokingham in 1837 but retired from active business life some years ago. He was very reticent about his age but the general opinion was that he was nearly a centenarian. (A later article states that not all details were true but no further details submitted.)

Sat 11th Nov

Mr. W. Chambers was appointed Mace Bearer.

1894

Sat 12th May

BOROUGH RATE COLLECTOR

Applications for the appointment of the Borough Rate Collector were received. Mr. H.E. Hall was appointed.

Sat 23rd June

FORTHCOMING LOCAL ENQUIRY

A local enquiry will be held on Thursday next at the Wokingham Town Hall, under the provisions of the Local Government Act of 1894, to consider the question of the parish of Wokingham, which is at present situated partly in the Urban Sanitary District and partly in the Rural Sanitary District of Wokingham. Mr. H. Lane, Mr. J. Walter and Mr. T.M. Wescott are the gentlemen appointed by the Unitary Council to hold the enquiry.

LAWN TENNIS TOURNAMENT AND DANCE

The third annual invitation lawn tennis tournament took place on the Cricket Ground, Wokingham, on the 11th and three days following. The matches were played on the American system throughout, all competitors being handicapped. The first day was devoted to mixed doubles in which there were 61 entries. The gentlemen's singled occupied the second day, while the third was set aside for the ladies' singles. The finals were all decided on the last day, in the presence of a large company and in summerlike weather. Mr. Churchman of the Rose Hotel, supplied the refreshments.

The tournament was followed by a ball in the Drill Hall on the following evening, at which a large number of the competitors with their friends were present. The band was supplied by Mr. Martin of Yorktown, and the supper was satisfactorily served by Mr. Chambers, of the Market-place. The arrangements for the tournament and dance were carried out by Mr. F.E. Tomlinson, assisted by a committee of gentlemen in Wokingham and the neighbourhood.

Sat 30th June

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

On Thursday last a special meeting was held, when there were present the Mayor (Councillor Mower), Aldermen Heelas, Heron and Wescott, Councillors White, Knight, Phillips, G. Sale, P. Sale and Seaward. The Town Clerk read a petition against the Thames Conservancy Bill, 1894, to which the Corporate Seal was affixed. A letter was read from the Thames Conservators with reference to the Sewage Farm, which was considered, and the question was referred to the Survey Committee. The Surveyor was instructed to proceed with the new drain to carry off the surface water from the Station-road and Barkham-road. Instructions were also given for an inspection of shop window blinds with a view to require them to be raised to the prescribed height.

A RUNAWAY COW

Some commotion was caused on Wednesday evening by a Jersey cow escaping from one of the railway trucks at the station. After an exciting chase down the line and over various fences the runaway was captured and led with halters into a shed belonging to Mr. Smith, and on Thursday was taken to Binfield.

Sat 14th July

THE WATER SUPPLY

Another special notice has been issued by the Water Company during the week to consumers stating that, "Owing to the present drought the directors find it necessary to cut off the supply during the hours from twelve at noon till six o'clock in the morning. The reduction began on Monday, 9th. The directors state they will if possible reduce the number of hours (18 out of the 24) during which the water will be cut off from time to time.

Sat 28th July

FORESTERS FETE

The Ancient Order of Foresters, Court "Leo" (5078), Wokingham held their annual rural Fete on Wednesday, July 25th in a meadow in the Wellington-road, kindly lent by Mr. W.T. Martin. The members of the club started in procession from the Court House and paraded the town at midday, headed by the Town Band. Athletic sports

commenced at 2.30, and suitable prizes were given for the various races. Dancing commenced at four o'clock, an efficient quadrille band being in attendance. Bro. J. Taylor acted as M.C. Fruit and fancy good stalls were provided, as well as a steam circus, swings, shooting galleries, cocoanuts &c. Prizes were distributed by Ald. Wescott. Refreshments were provided by Mr. Partridge of the "Roebuck."

MILITARY

On Monday a squadron of the 9th Lancers passed through the town on their way to Aldershot, under the command of Col. MacKenzie consisting of 97 men and 100 horses. The men were entertained at Matthews Green by Mrs. Nicholson. The Wokingham Town Band played a selection of dance music. The grounds were open to the public, and a large company assembled.

Another squadron visited the town on Wednesday. The troopers were entertained to tea in the rooms at the rear of the Working Men's Club, Peach-street.

Sat 1st Sept

CRICKET

A match was played on the Wokingham ground on Saturday, between Wokingham and Yately. The following was the score—Wokingham 109; Yately 103.

THE WOKINGHAM CLUB

On Wednesday a Fancy Fair and Jumble Sale were held at "The Holt" (by permission of Mr D. Heelas) in aid of the Wokingham Club.

The proceedings commenced at 2.30 with a Jumble Sale, and very quickly the large assortment of articles displayed were bought by eager purchasers. A Clown Cricket match followed, and caused much merriment. Flat, sack and obstacle races produced keen competition. A large marquee was at various times filled with an appreciative audience, and capital concerts and variety entertainments were given by well-known local amateurs and others. Members of the Aldershot Gymnastic Staff (prize winners at the Royal Military Tournament gave a display in the grounds. Their feats being loudly applauded. The Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade went through a series of drills, fire calls, &c. The grounds at dusk were tastefully illuminated, and dancing freely indulged in. Mr. C.H. Martin's string band played a selection of music in the evening.

The energetic committee and their friends are to be congratulated on providing such a capital and varied programme of amusements. Where all did their best it would be invidious to mention names, but exception may be made in the case of Mr. Arthur T. Heelas, the energetic Hon. Secretary. There was a large attendance of visitors both in the afternoon and evening.

Sat 8th Sept

TOWN COUNCIL

At the monthly meeting on Thursday the Mayor stated that the Local Government Board had received a deputation respecting the extension of the time (20 years) for the repayment of the loan for the purchase of the Gas Works and that the board had promised to consider the matter carefully.

Sat 15th Sept

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Town Council was held on Thursday last week in the Council Chamber, Wokingham, the Mayor (Mr. W.B. Mower) in the chair. There were also present the ex-Mayor (Councillor White), Aldermen Wescott, Phillips, Sale, Seaward, P. Sale and E. Ifould.

In answer to Coun. P. Sale who enquired what the Lighting Sub-Committee had done with regard to the extension of time for repayment of the loan. The Mayor stated that they had received a mass of correspondence from the Local Government Board, who agreed that a deputation should be received from the Town Council. The Sub-Committee with Mr. Jones, the valuer, had waited on the Board. Mr. Jones pointed out the injustice of such a short time being allowed for repayment of the loan for the purchase of the Gas Works, and also laid a written statement before the Board explaining why extra time for repayment should be granted. The deputation was very courteously received, and the Local Government Board promised to consider the matter carefully. He (the Mayor) believed that the reason why the time of repayment had been put at so short a time (20 years) was that the existing works were old and the Local Government Board probably thought the Town Council might build a new gas works instead. As the Council did not wish to do that, he was quite sanguine that the time of repayment would be extended.

Sat 8th Dec

GAS WORKS

In the Gas Works Committee report the chief point was that the Local Government Board had agreed to sanction at once the borrowing of the £6,444 required for the purchase of the Gas Works. There was some discussion on the arrangements for the purchase; the appointment of a manager and certain steps taken by the company. The report was adopted.

1895

Sat 5th Jan

SOUP KITCHEN

A handbill has been issued by the Mayoress stating that good soup can be obtained at the Coffee Tavern two days in the week at a nominal sum during the cold weather.

TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor offered to present new dials and the necessary apparatus for illuminating the Town Hall Clock, provided the Corporation would undertake the future lighting. The offer was unanimously accepted.

(N.B. A plate recording the mayor's generosity was later fixed to the clock.)

Sat 16th Feb

THE SEVERE FROST AND THE PREVAILING DISTRESS

The Mayor of Wokingham has opened a fund for the relief of the poor of the parish who are in distress owing to the continuance of the severe weather. He will be grateful for subscriptions.

Sat 13th April

THE MAYOR'S GIFT TO THE TOWN

The illuminated dials, the gift of Mr. Councillor Phillips have been affixed to the Town Hall clock and have been in use this week. The work has been successfully carried out by Messrs. Bracher and Sydenham, of Reading.

Sat 20th July

PROMENADE CONCERT

The Wokingham All Saints' Parish Band gave their third promenade concert on Monday evening at "The Brook" by permission of Colonel Gordon Young. The grounds and lake were illuminated and there was a good attendance of visitors. Unfortunately two persons were immersed in the lake through the upsetting of a boat, but they escaped with a wetting.

AGRICULTURE AND GENERAL WORKERS' UNION

A lively meeting was held on Monday evening, in the Market-place, of members of this society. An address was delivered by Mr. Quelch on should Trade Unionists support the Tory, Liberal or Socialist Party?"

AN INFURIATED COW

Traffic through the town was at a standstill on Saturday afternoon, caused by the vagaries of a cow being driven through the town. All attempts at capture were futile. Two men, named Wise and Ilsley, were injured, the former somewhat seriously in the wrist. The borough water cart was backed towards the animal, and the water turned on, but the cart was charged again and again. Other cows were brought, and the infuriated animal joined the herd, and was eventually placed in a meadow near the town.

Sat 30th Nov

TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY

A public meeting in connection with this society was held in the Town Hall on Monday evening, when an address was given by Alderman C. Clements, of Henley. Recitations, music, &c., were given by Mrs. Clements, Miss Kirk, and others. The Rev. J. Cave presided. A social evening was held on Wednesday at the Church Room. A debate was introduced by Counc. P. Sale, who moved "That it is the duty of every Temperance elector to refuse to support any candidate who will not pledge himself to Temperance legislation." Opposition was led by Mr. F. Hawkins, jun., and a discussion ensued.

DANCE AT THE DRILL HALL

A very successful dance was held in the Drill Hall, o Monday evening when about 140 persons assembled.

ENTERTAINMENT AT THE WORKHOUSE

Councillor Seaward provided a long and varied entertainment of music, &c., on Wednesday Evening for the inmates of the Workhouse.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

An examination was held on Wednesday, in St. Paul's Schools, by H.M. Inspector, for the purpose of granting Labour Certificates to children between the ages of 11 and 13. Over sixty children were examined.

ALARMING FIRE IN FINCHAMPSTEAD ROAD

Great alarm was caused in Wokingham on Sunday evening when it became known that a large storehouse belonging to Messrs. Isaiah Gadd and Co., Limited, in the Finchampstead Road, was on fire. The Brigade was called at 7 p.m. by a man named Sadler, many of the firemen being either at church or chapel. They were, however, promptly on the spot, and their united efforts subdued what appeared at first sight to be a most alarming fire, as the storehouse was in close proximity to the Corporation Gas Works and a long row of cottages. A very strong wind was blowing at the time, and fortunately carried the flames and sparks away from the Gas Works. Carey Cottage adjoining was soon in a blaze, and few articles of the householder's furniture (uninsured) were rescued. The storehouse being filled with oilcake, hay, straw, corn, and implements, burnt with great fury, and the wooden sheds adjoining were quickly in flames, and for a long time the greatest excitement prevailed.

At 10 p.m. the fire was subdued, but the members of the Brigade were not able to leave until 1 a.m., when three of their number were left in charge of the smouldering debris. At 1 o'clock on Monday, the Brigade left the scene of the fire. The sight from the S. W. Railway line presents a melancholy spectacle. There was plenty of water available from the main, the pumping engine at the water works being in motion. It is understood that the property of Messrs. Gadd and Co. was insured.

Sat 21st Dec

WOKINGHAM MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

The first season of the present season was brought to a close with a "Coffee Supper" and entertainment on Wednesday evening at the Wesleyan schoolroom, in Rose Street. There was a good attendance and the musical programme was much enjoyed. Those taking part were Misses Spear, Godwin, Lewis, Gadd and Durdle, and Messrs: Lunn, Paul and Hawkins. Votes of thanks to the President (Mr. Grey), the ladies for the preparation of the refreshments, and to the performers, were heartily carried.

VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

Messrs. Gadd and Co. Limited, have written to the Secretary of the Volunteer Fire Brigade thanking the Brigade for their services at the late fire, and enclosing a cheque for two guineas as a donation to the funds of the Brigade.

SATURDAY EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

The usual Saturday evening entertainment was again a great success, and Mr. Seaward's efforts in this direction are greatly appreciated. Songs were contributed by Misses Ifould and Hallaway, Messrs Lunn, Jeynes, Maynard, Cooper and Webb. Mr. Thorpe, of Reading, sang songs which were much appreciated. The Misses Player and Ifould played pianoforte solos, and Mrs. Day and Miss Davis contributed recitations, and Miss Carter performed a graceful dance. The accompanists were the Misses Ifould and Pigg. The room was crowded.

1896

Sat 25th Jan

SATURDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

Councillor Seaward's usual Saturday night entertainment was held in the Church Room, and was well attended. Most of the performers who have given their services on previous occasions again contributed to the evening's enjoyment.

FOOTBALL

Two Oxfordshire clubs visited Wokingham on Saturday. Caversham met Wokingham Town and retired defeated by two goals to none. The Magpies in their match with Emmer Green on Langborough, were not so successful, the match ending in a draw of two goals each.

THE PROPOSED NEW RAILWAY FROM WOKINGHAM TO BASINGSTOKE

The unanimous resolutions passed at the meetings of both the Basingstoke and Wokingham Urban District Councils conclusively prove the popularity, of this project for joining Basingstoke and Wokingham by a direct line of railway which will not only form the connecting link between the main line of the London and South Western Railway and their Staines and Wokingham Branch, but will also be of very great advantage to the intermediate district, which is now badly provided with railway accommodation.

The excellent markets at Reading, Basingstoke and Wokingham will be opened up to the tenant farmers, who will be able thereby to sell their produce to the best advantage without having to cart long distances by road.

Between Staines and Wokingham there is a large residential district requiring a considerable quantity of farm produce, such as hay, straw and oats, which can be easily supplied from the district opened up by the proposed railway.

There is also a considerable amount of woodland, and the owners would no doubt get a much better price for their timber if they had convenient stations close at hand where it could be put on the railway trucks.

Improved facilities for communication invariably tend to the prosperity of the district served and having regard to the charming nature of the country and the large area of land suitable for building purposes, important residential properties will spring up, and thereby benefit the three market towns most directly interested.

For some time past *The Times* has led the way in advocating the better opening up of the country by improving the railway communication and here is a projected line, a little over 14 miles in length, which will probably do more good than any other of a similar length in the South of England.

Those interested in the prosperity of the district would do well to give the new line their cordial support and we hope the large business firms for which Reading is famous will do all in their power to help on a local undertaking which must prove highly beneficial to the whole district.

Sat 20th June

SACRILEGE AT ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

During last week the Church of St. Paul was entered through the Vestry window. The two padlocks on the almsbox were broken and the iron safe in the Vestry was much damaged. At present no arrests have been made.

Sat 15th Aug

CHETWOOD SOLD

Chetwood near Wokingham has been successfully disposed of through the agency of Messrs. William R. Nicholas and Company of Reading and London. The price obtained is said to be a satisfactory one.

Sat 22nd Aug

THE NEW SEWAGE SYSTEM

The following are the particulars of the sewage system adopted by the Town Council at their last meeting, as recorded in the Mercury. The sewage in the Finchampstead-road is not at present connected with the outfall of the sewers, as it is necessary to remove it by lifting it into the sewer at Wellington-road—a height of 38ft. This will be divided into two portions. The sewage is to be lifted from near the “Pin and Bowl” into a lift at the end of Carey-road, whence it will be forced with the sewage of the upper portion to the outfall of the sewer. To do this the necessary pressure is to be obtained by taking from the present outfall if the sewer near the “Duke’s Head” a volume of sewage and carrying it into the top of a tower to be erected at the sewage farm. The difference in the level between the sewer near the “Duke’s Head” and the bottom of the tower on the farm will be 35ft. The low-level sewage at the two points mentioned gravitates into cast-iron cylinders, which are connected by rising mains with the outfall of the sewer, and from the cylinder air-pipes are carried into the tower on the sewage farm. These are connected with an air-cylinder from which the air is forced through the air-pipe by the pressure obtained from the sewage in the top of the tower. The sewage is discharged by means of an automatic flush tank down a pressure pipe into the air-cylinders, the weight of this column of liquid giving the pressure necessary to lift the sewage from the Finchampstead-road. To make the apparatus automatic, a plain siphon is fitted to the air-cylinder, which at the end of each discharge is automatically set in action and withdrawn. The apparatus has been working satisfactorily in Great Grimsby for eight months.

Sat 5th Dec

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL STRONG ROOM COMMITTEE

This Committee reported that a meeting was held on Nov. 26th, when tenders were produced for work in connection with the strong room. It was agreed to recommend that Mr. Seaward’s tender for £35 be accepted. It was also agreed to recommend that the sum of £30 be allowed for the purchase of an iron door. A meeting was held on the 30th Nov. when certain alterations in the size of the room were considered and approved, which do not affect the above tender. It was agreed to recommend that about £5 be allowed for shelves or fittings.

Ald. Heron proposed and Ald. White seconded and it was carried that the report be adopted.

Sat 26th December

MOTOR CAR

Wokingham was aroused on Tuesday morning by the appearance of a motor car which was driven through the town from the direction of Bracknell towards Reading.

1897

Sat 7th March

STRONG ROOM COMMITTEE

A meeting was held on the 16th of March when the account for fitting up the room including the cost of the door was approved and recommended for payment. The specifications of further work of painting, papering & c. in connection with the room were read and tenders opened. It was agreed to recommend that the tender of Mr. Dearlove for £15.15s. be accepted.

Sat 3rd April 1897

SATURDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENTS

Councillor Seaward's efforts have again been much appreciated for arranging these popular entertainments during the past winter. The last and a very successful entertainment was given in the Town Hall on Saturday evening, the usual friends contributing to the programme.

Sat 29th May

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

To celebrate the Diamond Jubilee the members of the volunteer fire brigade have arranged to roast an ox generously presented by the captain of the brigade (Counc Ifould) in the Market-place on Jubilee Day – the meat afterwards to be distributed to the needy inhabitants of Wokingham. The brigade are appealing to the public for subscriptions and help in order to extend the scheme.

Sat 7th Aug

ODD FELLOWS FETE

On Bank Holiday the Wokingham Lodge of Odd Fellows held their annual fete in a meadow in the Easthampstead-road, lent by Messrs. Lush. The Wokingham Town Band headed a procession of the members with their banners through the streets of the town. Sports were provided, prizes being given by tradesmen of the town. Various competitions of singing, dancing &c., were held. There was a large attendance of visitors, and plenty of amusement was provided

ALL SAINTS' BAND

This band, by permission of Commander and Mrs. Gregorie, gave a promenade concert and dance at Highfield on Monday evening.

STORMY WEATHER

In tropical weather thunder was heard in Wokingham district on Thursday. At 1.45 p.m. the lightning struck a new chimney stack at Johnson's Farm, King Street, adjoining the Reading-road. A hole was made in the chimney pot and the electric current then split the stack from top to base and dislodged some tiles. The house has lately undergone considerable repair. Some workmen employed on the building were lying down close to the struck building, but no one was hurt.

ANGLING

Mr. W.J. Davis, of the Reading and District Angling association, whilst fishing with

light roach tackle in the Loddon, on July 29th, accompanied by Mr. Smale, of Wokingham, caught and landed a fine tench weighing four pounds.

Sat 21st Aug

OUT-DOOR FETE

An open-air fete was held at the Rectory grounds by permission of Canon and Mrs. Sturges, on Wednesday in aid of the funds of the Church of England Temperance Society, the Magpie C.C., and the Parish Church organ fund. The weather sadly interfered with the success of the undertaking, the rain descended at intervals all through the day. In the afternoon the Band of the Gordon Boys' Home paraded the streets of the town and proceeded to the Rectory where a jumble sale managed by Miss Sturges was held and resulted in a profit of £13. Physical exercises, drills, etc. were performed by a squad of boys from the Gordon Home, and a concert was given by ladies and gentlemen in the Rectory. The band performed at intervals during the afternoon and evening, whilst out-door games were provided in a meadow close by. Considering the inclement weather a good number of persons were present including Mrs. Sturges, the Misses Ellisons, Miss Maitland, Capt. And Miss Gregorie, Mr and Miss Hatherall, M. and Mme Marcuard de Montet, Rev. R. von Muller Nixon, Rev. and Mrs. Page, Mrs. Ward, Rev. Lawson, Councillor P. Sale, etc.

THE MAYOR'S WATER PARTY

On the invitation of the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham, the members of the Town Council and their wives enjoyed a water picnic on the Thames on Monday. The party, numbering about 80 left Wokingham by an early train, and on arriving at Reading were conveyed to Caversham-bridge, where they embarked on Mr. Bona's splendid steam-launch "Fashion," and at once proceeded down the river. The day was gloriously fine, and everybody on board thoroughly enjoyed the trip, which extended as far as Cookham. Luncheon was served in the saloon by Mr. Chambers of the Market-place, Wokingham, and on the return journey tea was also provided. Caversham was reached in the evening about 7.30, enabling the party to get to Wokingham about 8.0'clock.

The excursion was duly appreciated by those who were able to be present, and, as in 1895, this outing will be pleasantly remembered for a very long time in connection with Counc. Phillips' occupancy of the Mayoral chair.

Sat 28th Aug

FATAL EXPLOSION OF AN OIL LAMP AT THE WALTER ARMS INN, BEARWOOD

A very sad incident happened on Sunday evening at the Walter Arms Inn, Bearwood. Mrs. Ellen Cook, wife of the landlord, was carrying a lamp upstairs when it exploded, and she was so severely burnt that she died on Monday evening. At the inquest, held by Mr. W. Weedon, coroner, at the "Walter Arms" on Wednesday, the following evidence was given:-

John Cook, landlord of the house, said deceased was his wife, and she was 40. On Sunday evening, about 10, when closing the house, witness walked outside with David Lyddiatt. In a minute or so he heard a scream and rushed back into the house. He saw flames at the bottom of the stairs and his wife lying there. Witness called for help did the best he could to put out the flames. When they had previously gone out of the house his wife met them in the passage. She had no lamp. When they found her the bottom of the lamp was on the stairs and the remainder scattered about. It was a

lamp he had used for a considerable time in the bar-parlour. He asked deceased how it happened, and she said the lamp burst in her hand. They bought the lamp second hand in the village about 18 months before. On finding his wife he sent for a doctor at once. She died on Monday evening.

John Edward Allnatt, who keeps Sindlesham Stores, said he had seen the exploded lamp, which was a very unsafe one. Witness discontinued selling them some years ago on that account. There was a very little space between the reservoir and the wick and the glass reservoir was objectionable. Witness had sold oil to the last witness for five or six years and never had a complaint. It was "Tea Rose."

David Lyddiatt, a carpenter, confirmed the landlord's evidence.

Ethel Newport, wife of a farm labourer, said she was called to deceased on Sunday night, about 10.30 and remained with her till 3 the next morning. Her body was very much burnt. All was done for her that could be.

The jury returned a verdict of "Died from shock arising from burns owing to the accidental explosion of an oil lamp."

CRICKET MATCH

The butchers and bakers of the town played a cricket match on Wednesday on the ground of Wokingham Cricket Club. The game terminated in a win for the butchers by three runs.

WOKINGHAM CATTLE MARKET

Messrs Cottrell, Simmons and Goodchild held their usual sale of stock on Tuesday. There was a large supply of calves, and a very good attendance of buyers. Fat calves made from £3 18s. to £4 16s.; sucklers, 11s. to 33s.

CRICKET

A match was played on the Wokingham ground on Friday between the servants of W. Simonds, of Woodbury, Farley Hill and Mr. A.J. Nicholson of Glebelands, resulting in a win by 28 runs for the former. Play was commenced at 11.30 in showery weather, but the day improved, and it was quite fine until just at the close of the game. Mr. Nicholson's side, winning the toss, went in first, but only made 24, Woodbury following with 51. In the second innings, Mr. Nicholson's team made 79 against 80 of Mr. Simond's. A. Shorter and S. Milum bowled extremely well for Mr. Nicholson and D. Marchum and S. P. Simonds for Woodbury. J. Bushell for the winning side played an excellent innings of 50, going in first and carrying his bat.

Sat 9th Oct

FIRE AT A FARM

The Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade were called at 4.30 a.m. on Tuesday to a fire at Blagrove's Farm, East Heath, owned by and in the occupation of their captain, Mr. E. Ifould, ex-Mayor of Wokingham. The captain, Lieut. Brant, and all but two of the members turned out so smartly that they had covered the mile and a half distance between the fire station and the farm, and had the engine at work within the half hour. It was impossible to prevent the destruction of a newly-built and thatched rick containing 50 or 60 quarters of valuable oats, which had been fired; but the efforts of the brigade saved a large and lately repaired barn standing within 12 feet of the rick, and other thatched farm buildings in the immediate neighbourhood. The water was obtained from a pond. The brigade returned at 9.45 a.m. There is practically no doubt that the conflagration was the work of an incendiary; and in many respect it resembles

the fire about a year ago on an adjoining farm of Mr. Ifould's. The rick was valued at £70 and was insured.

Sat 23rd Oct

CYCLISTS CARNIVAL

In connection with the Wokingham Club a most successful cyclists' carnival took place on Wednesday evening. The Committee consisted of the following members of the club. :- Messrs. W.H. Howard (captain, Belcher, Hussey, Harvey, Harries, C.H. Martin, Taylor, Watts, Tebbitt, Mooray and Heelas (hon. Sec.) had arranged the programme well. The procession formed outside the Drill Hall shortly after 6 p.m. and consisted of cyclists in various costumes, decorated cars, and the usual type of masqueraders. Considerable taste was shown in many of the characters portrayed and the judges consisting of the Rev. H.M. Walter, Messrs De Vitre (President of the Club), and Watts, Drs. Heasman and Ward, and Commander Gregorie R.N. had some difficulty in allocating the prizes which were offered by the Club. The success of the parade was enhanced by the attendance of the Town Band, the All Saints' Parish Band, and the members of the Boys' Brigade, who acted as lantern and torch bearers, and the Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade on their engine Alert, under the command of Mr. Ifould (captain). A feature of the procession was several cars illustrating Britannia (awarded first prize), "Father Time," and the Royal County Cycling Works, the latter drawn by a powerful road engine. After parading the streets of the town, which were thronged with sightseers, the procession dispersed in the Market-place. A variety concerts was afterwards given in the Drill Hall, and among the contributors to the programme were Messrs. W.F. Cheeseman, W.J. Hodgson, Harry Russell, Claud Martin, Ben Lawes, and F. Wigley. Mr. C.H. Martin, organist at the Royal Military College, was the accompanist. During the carnival a large quantity of confetti was thrown.

Sat 20th Nov

DR. BARNARDO'S HOMES

A meeting in aid of these Homes was held in the Town Hall on Wednesday evening, when Major Evered Poole gave an illustrated lecture on the rescue and training of destitute children through Dr. Bernardo's Homes and the special work of the Young Helpers' League. The Chair was taken by Mr. D. Heelas. It is stated that 75 children from Berks have been admitted to the House during the last five years. There was a very good attendance. The Major expressed his sympathy with the work of Dr. Bernardo. Miss Alice Heelas in hon. Sec. of the Young Helpers' League.

ACCIDENTS IN SHUTE END

A horse attached to a trap belonging to Mr. Coston was being driven into the town from the Station-road, on Thursday, shortly before 1 o'clock, when it bolted, being frightened by a traction engine, and rushed into the chains and posts surrounding the trees opposite St. Paul's Rectory, and dislodging three of the posts. Beatrice Kirby, Bowden, Dean Charlotte Taylor, and Florence Groves, children of St. Paul's Schools, were playing on the Green and were injured. Beatrice Kirby sustained a broken arm and other injuries, and was conveyed to the Reading Hospital. The other children received cuts and bruises, Drs. Ward and Barford promptly attended to the injured little ones. The shafts of the trap were broken, and the driver was thrown violently out. The children are progressing favourably.

Sat 4th Dec

MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Mr. Hawkins presided at the weekly meeting on Wednesday evening, in the Wesleyan School-room, Rose Street. Mr. Councillor Baker gave a successful lantern entertainment, illustrative of "Egypt and the Pyramids." Mr. Wesley Baker efficiently manipulated the lantern. Some excellent views were thrown upon the screen, and at the close of the entertainment, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Messrs. Baker. There were 60 persons present.

SALE OF A FREEHOLD PUBLIC HOUSE

Messrs Cottrell, Simmons and Goodchild sold at the Queen's Hotel on Friday, the 26th November, the freehold fully-licensed inn, known as the "Rifleman," close to Wokingham. There was a large attendance of buyers, and biddings were brisk, starting at £1,500; eventually the property was sold to Messrs. Nicholson and Sons, of Maidenhead for £3,200. Messrs Cooke, Coper, and Barry, Wokingham were solicitors for the vendor.

WOKINGHAM CATTLE MARKET

Messrs. Cottrell, Simmons and Goodchild held their usual sale of stock on Tuesday. There was a fair supply and a good attendance of buyers. Fat calves made from £4 to £4 16s.; sucklers, 15s. to 36s.; sheep, 25s. 6d.; pigs, 20s. to 70s.

1898

Sat 15th Jan.

Mr. and Mrs. Murdoch's house party for the Garth Hunt Ball and the following meet (reported else where) included H.R.H. Prince Christian (attended by Major Martin) the Earl of Coventry, Mr. George, Lady and Miss Russell, Miss Emerson Tennant, and Mr. Ambrose Lethbridge.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT TO MR. HOWARD PALMER IN THE HUNTING FIELD

We regret to say that on Monday a serious accident happened to Mr. Howard Palmer, of "Heathlands," while hunting with Mr. Garth's Foxhounds. The meet was at Billingbear, and when near Hawthorn Hill Mr. Palmer's horse swerved at a blind fence, and pitched the rider over its head, the result being a broken collar bone and severe shock. Dr. Heasman, of Wokingham, who was in the field, at once attended to Mr. Palmer, and the sufferer was taken to his home in Mrs. Henderson's carriage. Mr. Palmer is going on well under Dr. Heasman's treatment.

FIRE BRIGADE FANCY DRESS BALL.

The Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade held a very successful fancy dress ball in the Drill Hall on Wednesday. The dance was in aid of the Accident Insurance Fund, which costs the brigade about £22 annually, and took the place of the concert which has generally been held in former years on behalf of the fund. Encouraged by the success of Wednesday evening's departure from the usual entertainment the brigade propose to make the ball an annual institution. The furnishing of the hall and ante-

rooms was undertaken with considerable taste by Messrs. Heelas and Co. of Reading, and Mr. R. herring of the Bush Hotel, Wokingham, catered for the refreshments. About 150 invitations were issued and most of them accepted. Dancing was from 9 o'clock till 3 a.m., the music being played by a string band, supplied by Mr. C.H. Martin, of the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. The members of the brigade were in uniform, and a large number of the guests wore fancy costumes of various styles and periods. The masters of ceremonies, who efficiently carried out the programme arrangements, were Mr. E. Ifould (the captain of the brigade), Mr. A. Goswell (hon. Secretary), and Mr. Metcalf. The other members present, under the command of Mr. Brant (the lieutenant), were Engineer Caiger and Firemen W. Martin, F. Martin, Seaward, Knight and Mower.

CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE TOWN HALL

The children attending the British School and the Baptist Sunday School had a Christmas tree in the Town Hall on Wednesday evening.

Sat 26th March

DONATION OF PAINTING FROM REV. PENNY

The Mayor read a letter which he had received from Miss Penny on behalf of her brother, the Rev. C. W. Penny announcing that an oil painting belonging to him should be presented to the Corporation for the Town Hall and also an extract from Mr. Penny's note book on Wokingham. It was resolved to accept the painting and the following resolution was unanimously agreed upon:- That this Council gratefully accept and appreciate the generous gift from the Rev. C.W. Penny of the oil painting portrait of Prince George of Denmark and regard it as a valuable addition to their collection. They wish to assure him of their very deep regret with which they hear of his serious illness.

Sat 23rd July

ILLUMINATED DANCE

A successful meeting in aid of the Town Band was held on Monday evening at Clare Court (late Glebelands) by kind permission of Mrs. Hatharall. The band, under Mr. Surman, played a capital selection, and dancing was followed with vigour from 7 till 19 o'clock. Mrs. W. White ably-managed the refreshment stall, and the grounds were prettily illuminated.

EXCURSIONS

The 10th annual excursion of the Saw Mills Excursion Club was held on Saturday, the special train leaving Wokingham at 5.23 a.m. and reaching Ramsgate about 8.30. Mr. G.T. Phillips was with the party, and the Borough employees also were included. Margate was visited by many, and a pleasant day's outing closed at midnight with the arrival home. About 600 tickets were issued. On Monday several journeyed to Hastings by the National Deposit Friendly Society's excursion.

MILITARY

Each day during the week a small detachment of the Royal Engineers, with pontoon and store wagons has made a mid-day halt at the "Hope and Anchor," and on Friday a large body of some 130 men, etc., bivouacked near the town, resuming the march on Saturday morning. Each party was on route from Aldershot to Henley for pontoon practice, and thence they go to the manoeuvres near Salisbury.

Sat 30th July

AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

A meeting of the Wokingham Agricultural Association was held last week at the Rose Hotel. Mr. Henry Lane, a vice-president of the Association occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance of members of the committee. It was decided to offer prizes for poultry, eggs and butter, in addition to those usually offered. The hon. Secretary reported that the entries for the cultivation of root crops were considerably above the average.

TRAMPS AT WOKINGHAM

Before the Mayor (Mr. D.N. Heron) last week, Wm. Green was sent to prison for refusing to break stones at the Workhouse; and a like penalty imposed on John Smith, another vagrant, for begging in the Easthampstead-road.

ACCIDENT

Mr. Henry Bowyer, of Murrell Green Farm, Hurst, was driving with his wife down the hill by St. Paul's Schools on Tuesday afternoon, the horse fell, and Mr. and Mrs. Bowyer were both thrown out of the cart over the horse. Mrs. Bowyer was badly cur about the face, and was taken to a house near. After being seen by a doctor she was able to proceed home in a fly. Mr. Bowyer, who escaped serious injury, drove home. The horse was not much injured.

A HORSE KILLED

A serious accident occurred on Wednesday on the Langborough Recreation Ground, resulting in the death of one of the horses belonging to the Corporation. Harnessed to a mowing machine, two horses were cutting the grass on Langboro, when, frightened, probably from the noise of the machine, they became restive and bolted. One animal had its leg so badly cut with the knives that it had to be destroyed. One wheel had to be smashed before the leg of one of the horses could be released, and the gearing etc., was much damaged.

Sat 6th Aug

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL COST OF MILITARY BILLETING

Councillor Phillips moved, and Councillor J. Seaward seconded. "That this Corporation begs to draw the attention of the Right Hon. Secretary of State for War to the fact that Her Majesty's soldiers and horses cannot be billeted in the town they halt in, when marching, at the present schedule prices, and they respectfully ask that such steps may be taken as may be necessary to raise the prices so that ratepayers may not lose money by providing accommodation for man and beast; and that a copy of the resolution be sent to the Secretary of State for War and to the Member for the Division, Captain Oliver Young.

The ex-Mayor pointed out the very low prices at which the men and horses had to be billeted, and said this meant a serious loss to small licensed houses. On an average he thought they lost 1s. a night on each man and each horse.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Sat 17th Sept

FOOTBALL CLUB

The “Magpies” have been asked by the Wokingham Football Club to take over the management of the club, and they have decided to do so. In future they will be known as the Wokingham Football Club. At a general meeting held at the Rose Hotel on Sept. 8th, Mr. C.H. Martin in the chair, the following officers were elected:-Captain, Mr. James Parker; sub. Captain, Mr. A. Binnie; committee, Messrs Harries, Coston, Clark, Hutt, Martin, Dearlove, Challis, and Spring, with Mr. Jones as secretary and Mr. J. May as treasurer. A large number of members were present.

FIRE AT A FARM

Between four and five am on Tuesday a cart shed of Matthews Green Farm which had just been vacated by Mr. George Whitfield who is removing to Woodcote was found to be on fire. Members of the Wokingham Voluntary Fire Brigade took the engine over but found no water in the pond from the drought. The shed with a trap and a number of farm implements left over from the sale was completely destroyed. It will be remembered that the farmhouse was burned out at the beginning of the year.

Sat 1st Oct

THE QUEEN’S REIGN

On Friday the Queen’s reign exceeded that of King George III by exactly two years her Majesty having reigned for sixteen years and thirty-one days from June 29 1837.

Sat 10th Dec

ENTERTAINMENT AT EMBROOK

A very successful entertainment was given in the Mission Room at Embrook, on Tuesday evening, the proceeds being devoted to the Mission Room Fund. Among those who took part were the Rev. H.M. Walter, rector, and Mrs. Walter, Miss Walter, Miss Barron, Rev. R. von Muller-Nixon, Mr. J. Breach, Mr. Harvey—members of the Boys’ Brigade, and a number of school children. In spite of the inclement weather the room was crowded.

ROBBERY AT THE ROEBUCK INN

A daring robbery was affected during Monday night at the “roebuck,” Market-place, when money and property to the value of about £70 were taken from the premises. It appears that at about 9.40 p.m. a supposed “commercial traveller” drove up to the inn in a pony trap, and asked for accommodation for the night. On Tuesday morning the man ordered breakfast, and stated that he had business at the Post-office, and should be returning in a few minutes. As he failed to do so, suspicion was aroused, and it was found that he had decamped. It appears that the man booked to Bracknell station by the 9.58 train, but did not go by rail, but hired a fly at the railway Hotel, and drove to Reading, and in consequence no trace of him up to the present has been found.

The pony and trap were left at the inn and have since been claimed by their rightful owner. The stolen property includes a considerable sum in gold, bank notes etc. besides jewellery.

1899

Sat 21st Jan

FIRE IN PEACH STREET

The fire brigade were called to Mr. Newsome’s house on Monday afternoon where a fire had broken out in an upstairs room in which were empty packing cases and

surplus furniture. Happily the efforts of the fire brigade were successful in putting out the flames before much damaged had been done. Fireman Knight was unfortunately cut on the hand by broken glass. Fireman Martin also received a cut finger. It is understood that Mr. Newsome is insured.

Sat 25th Feb

SMOKING CONCERT

A successful 'smoker' was held at the Club House on Monday evening under the Chairmanship of the Mayor (Alderman White) amongst those taking part were Messrs. Powell, Richmond, Smith, Thaxter, Day, Kirkham, Harvey, Deane, S. Adams, White, Hussey, Baker and C.H. Martin. Upwards of 66 members were present.

Sat April 15th

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

A very handsomely designed Oak Font Cover has been placed in St. Paul's Church by the family of the late Canon J. T. Brown in memory of the late Canon and Mrs. Brown. It is the work of Mr. Nutt, architect of Windsor and is in keeping with the other beautiful work in the church.

Sat 11th Nov

GRAND PATRIOTIC CONCERT

A grand patriotic concert, under the patronage of Prince and Princess Christian in aid of the Widows and Orphans of our Soldiers and Sailors killed in the War; is announced to be given in the Drill Hall, Wokingham, on Tuesday next, which it is hoped will be well patronised. Capt. Arthur Hill M.P. will preside. The lowest price for seats will be 2s.

1900

Sat 3rd Feb

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FRONT

Twenty-two members of the L Wokingham Company of Berkshire Volunteers went to Reading on Thursday for examination as for fitness to go to the front.

Sat 10th Feb

LIGHTING COMMITTEE

At a meeting held on 15th Jan. it was recommended that all the public lamps be cleaned and repaired where necessary and that 5ft burners be used throughout the town. At a meeting held on the 25th Jan it was agreed to recommend that, as an experiment six Walsbach incandescent burners be obtained and placed in the lamps in Broad-street with three new complete lanterns, the three remaining burners to be used with the lanterns now in use which are to be adapted for the purpose. It was reported that the cleaning and repairing had been attended to and that 5ft burners are used in all the public lamps.

Councillor Evans proposed and Councillor Seaward seconded the adoption of the report which was carried.

Sat 3rd March

RELIEF OF LADYSMITH

The news of the Relief of Ladysmith was received with great enthusiasm on Thursday morning and in a very short time the town was decorated with flags and banners. A peal was rung on the bells of All Saints Church and a salute of twenty-one fog signals was fired at the Railway Station. At night there was a torchlight procession in which the town band, the Volunteer Band, the Fire Brigade and Boys' Brigade took part.

Sat 12th May

THE WAR
ANOTHER SEND OFF OF VOLUNTEERS

On Monday evening Privates Clacy, Musto and Gough, members of the L Company of the Royal Berkshire Volunteers had a hearty "send off" by their comrades and townspeople. Sergt. Benstead organised a smoking concert at the Bush Hotel, at which Dr. Hessman presided, and a large company attended. Mrs. Alfrey presented the three members with a pocket compass, and the past and present members of the company gave them each a watch. The Volunteer band playing patriotic airs, headed a large procession to the Station at 11.15 p.m. hearty cheers were given as the train moved out of the Station.

Sat 26th May

RELIEF OF MAFEKING

This long looked for and happy event was celebrated on Monday evening. The Mayor issued a handbill announcing a torchlight procession and inviting the inhabitants to decorate and illuminate their houses. Flags, buntings and Chinese lanterns were displayed from practically every house in the Borough. The procession was timed to start at 0 pm but long before that time the streets were crowded with people, and a great number of fireworks were discharged. The Mayor addressed the crowd and called for cheers for the Queen and the Generals at the front. Capt. A. Hill M.P. (who has recently returned to Wokingham from Natal) made a particularly happy speech, and was loudly applauded. The Wokingham Town Band, and the Volunteer Band joined the procession and played patriotic airs.

The members of the Corporation and the members of the 1st. Wokingham Company of the Boys' Brigade, also took part in the procession. Those employed at the Wellington Brewery (Messrs. J. Headington and Son) joined with a nicely decorated van. The greatest amusement was caused by an effigy of President Kruger, the white flag being conspicuous. After the procession a bonfire was lighted in the Market-place, and the effigy was consigned to the flames. The large crowd was particularly orderly and the police had no trouble. The festivities were continued until the early hours of the morning.

The sum of £11 15s 6d was collected towards the expenses of the celebration of the Relief of Mafeking held at Wokingham on Monday. Any surplus will be handed over to Lady Georgina Curzon's Fund for the Mafeking sufferers. The following sums have already been received:- Miss E. Wescott and the Misses Heelas collection, £1; Miss Fountain and Miss Skerry's collection: £2 1s. 5½d.; Miss F. Culver's collection: 11s. 9d.

Sat 2nd June

PAY PAY PAY

The sum of £4 was handed to Mrs. Boddington, the wife of Mr. J.O. Boddington who is serving at the front as the result of a street collection made on Saturday

evening by the Volunteer Band of whom Mr. Boddington is a member. Two children have died since the father departed and Mrs. Boddington and another child are unfortunately ill at the present time. The kindly action of the Band is much appreciated by Mrs. Boddington.

Sat 9th June

THE POST OFFICE

On and after Monday next, we are informed, a mail bag will be made up for all correspondence for London, Reading and the West at midnight, catching the G.W.R. train from Reading between 2 and 3 a.m.

Sat 16th June

THE SUPPLY OF INTOXICANTS TO CHILDREN

At a meeting of the Wokingham Board of Guardians, on Monday, a resolution, which had been forwarded by the Richmond Board of Guardians, was, on the proposition of Mr. C. Clements, seconded by Colonel Powlett, confirmed with two dissentients:- requesting Her Majesty's Government to promote legislation making it illegal to supply children under the age of 16, with intoxicating liquor for consumption on or off the premises and are arranging to prepare a petition for the purpose.

Sat 30th June

PROPERTY SALE

On Tuesday afternoon Messrs Buckland and Sons conducted a sale of property at the Rose Hotel, Wokingham. The 1st lot offered was the freehold dwelling house, Grosvenor House, Broad Street, Nos. 1,3 and 3a The Terrace and Nos. 2 and 4, Hilton Road, and was knocked down to Mr. H.E. Hall for £1,500. The 2nd. lot comprised No. 5 The Terrace, a semi-detached house let at £20 a year, and this was purchased by Mr. Mark Brown for £470. The 3rd lot submitted, consisting of Nos. 7 and 9 The Terrace, two old-fashioned cottage residences producing a combined rent of £38 10s. a year, was withdrawn.

Sat 13th Oct

RIFLE CLUB

The committee have secured a capital room in Station-road as the headquarters of the Rifle Club which was opened on Monday. It is proposed to open the room on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7.30 to 9.30 pm and on Wednesday afternoon from 3 to 5. Competent instructors will eventually be approached.

1901

Sat 2nd Feb.

PROCLAMATION OF KING EDWARD VII

It was decided to make the Proclamation on the following Monday. Long before the time appointed for the reading of the Proclamation and in spite of the inclement weather, a large crowd of people filled the Market-place. A platform had been erected outside the Town Hall and from here the Mayor, Councillor E.C. Hughes, in his robes and wearing his chain of office, read the Proclamation.

The High Steward (Mr. Walter of Bear Wood) was present as well as the Aldermen, Councillors, Honorary Constables, borough officials, Rector of St. Paul's (Rev. H.M. Walter). The Wokingham Company of Volunteers under the command of Lieuts. Cave and Simonds as well as the 1st Wokingham Company of Boys' Brigade under the command of their Captain (Rev. R. Nixon).

The children of the elementary schools stood close to the platform and at the conclusion of the reading of the Proclamation, sang the National Anthem accompanied by the Town Band.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the Mayor entertained the Corporation, the officials, the volunteers and the Boys' Brigade in the Town Hall where the health of the King was loyally drunk. The members of the Volunteer Fire Brigade acted as escort to the Mayor.

Sat 4th May

At a meeting held on the 18th April it was agreed that Messrs Buckmaster be asked to meet the committee to consider the best means of lighting the town hall. The committee decided that the lamplighters were their employees and under their sole control. At a meeting held on the 23rd April Mr. Wood of Buckmaster and Wood submitted a proposal for lighting the Town Hall. It was agreed the meeting be adjourned in order that specimens of the lights recommended might be tested.

Complaints had been received of lamps having been damaged in Havelock-road near the Railway Station. It was agreed that the police be instructed to investigate the matter with a view to prosecuting the offenders.

Sat 11th May

FROM SOUTH AFRICA

The Volunteer Band met Private Pauline (Reserves) on Tuesday night at the Railway Station and, accompanied by a large crowd, of people played him to his home. Private Pauline has returned from South Africa.

20th July

A NEW CHURCH HOUSE FOR WOKINGHAM

On Thursday Afternoon, the 11th inst., in most perfect weather, Mrs. W. Howard Palmer laid the foundation stone of the new Church House for All Saints Parish, Wokingham. The ceremony was a brilliant one and among those present were the Rev. Canon Sturges and family, The Rev. E.G. Norris (St. Bartholomew's, Reading), the Rev. R. de M Nixon and A.P. Carn, the Rev. the Hon. A.G. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Melville, Colonel Walker and family, Major Barker and family, Mr. and Mrs. H.B. Blandy, Lady Katharine Eustace, Colonel and Mrs. Ford, Mr. and Mrs. S.A. Hankey, the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham, Surgeon-General E.E. Lloyd and family, Mr. and Mrs. C.H. Rose, Mr. W. Howard Palmer, Mrs. Nixon, Mr. Mylne, Mr. and Mrs. E. Ward, Miss Fuller, Miss F. Simmons, Miss Shorter, the Misses Pearman, Mr. and Mrs. Chandler, Mr. and Mrs. Ducroq etc.

A special form of service had been prepared. After an introductory address the Rector handed the trowel to Mrs Palmer, who laid the stone. Special prayers were then said

After which the Rector invited Mrs. Palmer's acceptance of the trowel. The contractor (Mr. Hughes) presenting in addition a mallet and spirit level.

Mr. Melville, one of the churchwardens, thanked the contributors, and Mr. W.B. Mower also a churchwarden, expressed the desire of the meeting for the successful completion of the undertaking.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the large party, at the invitation of Canon Sturges, adjourned to the Rectory garden, where an "at home" was held by Canon and Mrs. Sturges.

We learn from an official circular that the buildings proposed to be erected are from the designs of Messrs. Morris and Sons, architects of Reading and will include a main hall 45 feet by 30 feet, to seat 300, a committee room 24 feet by 16 feet, a store-room, tea-kitchen, cloak room and offices. The hall will be available for mission services, Sunday-schools etc. and the various meetings connected with the parish and diocese, while the smaller room will accommodate committees, clubs etc. The store-room will receive the various parish property now kept at the Rectory and elsewhere. The cost will amount to £1,600 of which all but £500 is now promised. The Rector has very generously guaranteed the amount needed.

The "raison d'être" for the scheme will be evident when it is stated that the increase in the population of All Saints' Parish for the past ten years is 618, and that 141 houses were built in that period, most of them in actual proximity to the new rooms. It is hoped that the scheme and the building may alike be completed in time, in the words of the circular, "to secure to the parish as a Christmas gift for 1901 a Church House complete, in full use, and free from debt."

The treasurers of the scheme, who form the executive committee, are the Rector and churchwardens, the bankers Messrs J. and C. Simonds and Co., and Mr. H. Benstead the hon. Secretary. The general committee includes the whole of the church and parish officers, also the following:- Mr. and Mrs. Arnold, the Rev. the Hon. A.G. Campbell, Lady K. Eustace, Col. And Mrs. Ford, Mr. T.C. Garth, Mr. W.T. Hosler, Mrs. Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd, Mrs. Melville, Mrs. Mylne, Mrs. Murdoch, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson, Mrs. Nixon, Mr. and Mrs. Rose, Mrs. Ward, Mr. T.M. Wescott, Mr and Mrs. Weston.

The brilliant weather on Thursday contributed in no small degree to the pronounced success of the gathering.

Sat 26th Oct

DEATH OF A WOKINGHAM VOLUNTEER IN SOUTH AFRICA

We are sorry to announce the death from enteric in South Africa, of Mr. T.W. Walker, late a member of the Wokingham Company of Volunteers. The deceased, before volunteering for South Africa, was employed in Wokingham Post Office.

Sat 2nd Nov

PRESENTATION TO THE BERKS VOLUNTEERS AT WOKINGHAM

In the Wokingham Town Hall on Wednesday evening the Active Service members of the L. Co. Royal Berks Volunteers were presented with travelling clocks as a recognition of their service in South Africa. Among those present were the Mayor and Mrs Hughes, Alderman and Mrs. Wescott, Canon Sturges, Commander Gregorie, R.N., the Rev. R. Tomlinson, Mr. councillor Phillips, Mr. councillor Ifould, the members of the Volunteer Fire Brigade., &c. The Active Service members present included Sergt. Binnie, Sergt. Barker, Privates Batt, Clay, Gough, Harrison, Hawkins, Macbeth, Milam and Webb. The parents of Private Walker, who died at the front, were also presented with a clock.

The Mayor said the Committee intended to present every member of the L. Co. of the Berkshire Volunteers who had served in South Africa with a memento, but the inhabitants of Ascot had formed a separate committee and presented the men with a sum of money. They had done their utmost to come to terms with the Ascot people but had not succeeded. He was sure the memento would be appreciated with much more than a gift of money.

Canon Sturges said that the men had left country, family, and home to represent their country in the struggle for liberty and, he believed, for the benefit of all the inhabitants of South Africa. They would treasure the presents, but he thought the memory of the hardships and trials through which they had gone would be their greatest treasures. The training they had gone through would be a great service to them. No training at home could be anything like it. He agreed with the Mayor that it was far better to receive a present which they could preserve than to go away with a couple of sovereigns in their pockets. In conclusion, he hoped they would experience many happy and prosperous years.

After a few remarks from Captain Gregorie, the Mayor made the presentations, and said that Wokingham ought to be proud of the men when the size of the town was taken into consideration. He believed that altogether 53 men went out. Only one had died, and a clock had been purchased for his relatives. Wokingham was exceedingly proud of the men who had served their country, and thankful that they had returned in such good health.

After the presentations, Sergt. Binnie, on behalf of himself and the men, returned thanks for the presents and the kind words that were spoken.

Votes of thanks to the Mayor and others who had taken part in the movements terminated the interesting proceedings.

Sat 16th Nov

THE MAYORAL BANQUET

It was mentioned that the main hall had recently been renovated with new lighting arrangements.

1902

Sat 19th April

Major Henry William Barker late of the 50th (now the 1st Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment) who died on Saturday at Chetwood, Wokingham aged sixty-five served in New Zealand from 1863 to 1866 and took part in many actions.

Sat 14th June

PEACE CELEBRATIONS

On Wednesday evening the people of Wokingham celebrated the conclusion of the peace by a torchlight procession through the streets. A large bonfire lighted by the Mayoress and fireworks on Langborough. The Volunteer Band played in the evening and headed the procession.

Sat 28th June

WOKINGHAM AND THE CORONATION

THE NEWS OF THE KING'S ILLNESS

Universal sorrow was manifested in Wokingham when it became known that the king was so seriously ill, and all preparations for the celebration of the Coronation were immediately suspended. The Press Association telegram, distributed from the *Reading Mercury Office*, was posted in prominent places, and a large number of people waited in the Market-place till a late hour for further news.

A meeting of the General Committee was called on Tuesday evening, but nothing definite was arranged. A further meeting was held in the Town Hall on Wednesday morning at 10 a.m., when it was decided, in accordance with the King's wish, to give dinner on Thursday at 1 p.m. to the poor and the children's tea on the same day at 5 p.m., in a quiet manner. All the festivities are definitely postponed.

Services, it was decided, should be held in both Parish Churches on Thursday evening. –Being Bank Holiday the shops would close on Thursday, but open again on Friday.

DINNER IN THE MARKET PLACE TEA TO THE CHILDREN

In deference to his Majesty's wish that the arrangements for the Coronation should be carried out in spite of his serious illness, upwards of 700 persons sat down to dinner in the Market-place at Wokingham at one o'clock on Thursday. Grace was said by Canon Sturges., The dinner consisted of cold joints, hot potatoes, salad, plum pudding, beer and mineral waters being supplied. The meat was cooked by Mr. Alfred Clarke in 100 joints, and members of the Volunteer Fire Brigade cooked the potatoes in the Market-place.

The Market-place was filled with visitors during the afternoon. Cheers were given for the King, and the National Anthem was sung. When the persons who had received invitations had finished their meal all comers were served until the food was exhausted.

At five o'clock the children of the parish of Wokingham were entertained to tea in the tents erected in the Market-place, Mr. Chambers undertaking the catering. Upwards of 1,200 children has a bountiful tea, and were presented by the Mayor and Mayoress with a Coronation mug. At the conclusion of the tea the children marched to the end of Broad-street where the National Anthem was sung, and hearty cheers were given for the King and Queen and the Mayor and Mayoress.

Sat 22nd Nov

PRESENTATION

Mr. J Cook, manager of the Railway bookstall, Wokingham has this week been presented by many of the influential residents with a purse of money. Mr. Cook has removed to Basingstoke.

1903

Sat 3rd Jan

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL NEED FOR INCREASED POSTAL FACILITIES

Mr. Evans moved that the Council petition his Majesty's Secretary of the Post Office for an additional delivery of letters in Wokingham at about 4 p.m., and further call the Postal Authorities' attention to the fact that though the number of letters

received at the Wokingham Post Office is largely on the increase, the three daily deliveries are the same as they were when there were not nearly so many inhabitants-27 years ago.

The resolution was seconded and unanimously carried, the Mayor undertaking to write to the Member for the Division (Mr. Ernest Gardner) regarding the matter.

A NEW ROAD HORSE BRUSH

Mr. Evans moved that a new road horse brush be purchased, and that the Surveyor be instructed to have it used as often as necessary to remove mud, or rubbish from the roads and streets in the borough, and to hire extra horsepower if required at any time.

Mr. White seconded, and the Mayor remarked that the initial cost would be about £40, and the upkeep about £60 a year.

Others having supported the motion, it was unanimously carried.

Sat 7th Feb

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH BELLS

The following are the inscriptions found on the six old bells of All Saints' Church, Wokingham:-

Treble: T. Mears, London; fecit 1814. 2nd: S.K., 1704. 3rd: S.K., 1703 (tracings of oak leaves and acorn). 4th: T. Mears, London: fecit 1814. 5th:S.K., John Hawes, Robert Hunt, C.W., 1704 (figure of a man). Tenor: Samuel Knight made this, pele; John Hawes, Robert Hunt, C.W., 1703. This bell also bears tracings of oak leaves and acorns.

It has been decided to re-cast No. 2 and 3 bells, which are out of tune, to quarter turn the other four, and to add two new trebles. The whole peal will be re-hung on a wrought iron frame on steel girders with a new floor between the bells. The work has been entrusted to Messrs. Webb and Bennett, and the cost is £328 17s. The contractors assure the completion of the work by next Easter-day.

EMMBROOK

Mr. Peters, of Bill Hill, has generously given a portable Iron Room to be placed at the disposal of the Rector and churchwardens of St. Paul's and to be used for the benefit of the members of the Emmbrook Men's Club. This will enable the members to have a separate room for reading.

The Emmbrook Sunday School children were entertained to tea in the Mission Room on Wednesday evening. The Rev. H.M. Walter presided, and prizes were distributed by Mrs. Henry Walter. After tea the children were entertained with a magic lantern, kindly provided by Mr. T. E. Ellison.

THE UNEMPLOYED

A large body of unemployed men from London marched through the town on Tuesday afternoon, begging en route.

SOCIAL DANCE

A successful dance was held in the Town Hall on Monday night, when nearly 100 persons were present. The dance was arranged by Mrs. Bromley, Mrs. Buckmaster, and Mrs. Chambers. Breach's band supplied the music, and Mr. W. Chambers managed the refreshments. Messrs. Liseaman, Chambers and Craig acted as M.C.'s.

Sat 11th April

FIRE BRIGADE

Captain A. Hill M.P. has generously presented the Fire Brigade with a pair of massive "Salisbury Flario" lamps of 200 candlepower for use on the steam (fire engine) "Alert". Captain Hill's present is much appreciated by the members of the brigade.

Sat 2nd May

We understand that the County Authorities have recently had under consideration the subject of improved police accommodation at Wokingham. There is room for improvement in this respect, the present buildings being inadequate and unsuitable, and unworthy of the centre of the important Forest Division. Negotiations for the acquisition of a site for the buildings are said to be proceeding. The proposed site is the ground belonging to Mr. P. Sale, and used as a nursery garden in the Rectory and Milton-roads. If report be correct, the new buildings will be extensive, and will comprise officers' quarters, stables, cells, offices, and magistrates' clerk's office, and court room.

Sat 8th Aug

We understand that the offer of the Town Council of £1,500 for the purchase of their interest in the Police and Municipal buildings has been accepted by the Standing Joint Committee.

RESULT OF SALE

The property and business belonging to the late Mr. H. Barringer Hollis advertised for sale in last week's Mercury has been sold by Mr. James Watts to Mr. J.B. Pither of Swallowfield by private treaty.

Sat 15th Aug

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The committee considered the question of improving the Terrace, and the surveyor was instructed to prepare comparative estimates of the cost. It was agreed to recommend that the central opening to the Terrace be closed for vehicular traffic, and a flight of steps constructed at that point; that the points be removed from the water table in Reading-road, and the road surface be made level; and that the lower chain to the whole of the posts and chain fence be removed. The surveyor produced comparative estimates of the cost of repairing and improving in various ways the Terrace-road. It was agreed to recommend that the road be gravelled and made up.

The Town Clerk read a letter from the Chief Constable of Berks. (Major Poulton), stating that the standing Joint Committee of the County Council had approved of the recommendation of the sub-committee that the offer of this Council of the sum of £1,500 to purchase their interest in the Police and Municipal Buildings should be accepted.

The Town clerk read a letter from the Board of Trade, in reply pointing out that the Board had no power to call upon the South Eastern and Chatham and Dover Railway Company to erect a bridge at the level crossing, and calling the Council's attention to the offer contained in the letter from the Company of Feb. 28th. It was agreed to recommend that a copy of the letter from the Railway Company, promising procedure with the erection of a bridge, be forwarded to the Board, and also that the attention of

the Board be called to the unsatisfactory method of opening and closing the gates by which unnecessary delay was caused.

Sat 3rd Oct

ST. PAUL'S PARISH CHURCH

A handsome marble cross has been erected in St. Paul's Churchyard to the memory of Mrs. Eades as a tribute to her faithful service as caretaker and attendant for many years.

Sat 7th Nov

THE NEW POLICE STATION

The County Police Committee have purchased from Mr. P. Sale the site at the corner of the Milton and Rectory-roads, including trees and redemption of land tax, for £1,124. Plans have been prepared, and have been passed by H.M Commissioners of Prisons. Accommodation will be provided in the new buildings for one married superintendent, one married sergeant, two married constables, and four single constables. A magistrate's room, court-room, and a suitable number of police cells, will also be provided. Against the proposed outlay is to set the sale of the interest in the Municipal Buildings of Wokingham, for which the Urban District Council have agreed to pay £1,500.

Sat 14th Nov

The Mace Bearer William Chambers was re-elected together with Honorary Constables Messrs Butler, Boshier, Higgs and Hawkins.

Sat 21st Nov

A MOTORIST FINED

The Marquis of Downshire, of Easthampstead Park, was fined £3 at West London Police Court on Thursday for driving a motor car at greater speed than twelve miles per hour.

1904

Sat 9th Jan

MAYOR IN ACCIDENT

Mr. E.C. Hughes met with an accident on Wednesday. A motor car coming round a bend in the road near Arborfield Hall frightened the horse which Mr. Hughes was driving and he was thrown from his trap and severely shaken.

Sat 5th March

DEATH AND FUNERAL OF SIR EDWARD WALTER

We announce with regret that Captain Sir Edward Walter, K.C.B., the well-known founder of the Corps of Commissionaires, died on Friday, at Branksome, Bournemouth, in his 81st year. Sir Edward was the third son of Mr. John Walter II, M.P. of Bear Wood (who died in 1847), and the youngest brother of John Walter III, who died in 1894. He was born in 1823 and, like his brother was educated at Eton and at Exeter College, Oxford. In 1843 he entered the 44th Regiment as ensign, and served in it till 1847, in which year he exchanged into the 8th Hussars as captain.

In 1853 he married Mary, daughter of the late Mr. J.C. Athorpe, of Dinnington-hall, Yorkshire, who survives him, after celebrating last year, their golden wedding, and he

leaves one son, who now commands the 7th Hussars at Krugersdorp, and three daughters. Sir Edward lived for some years at Tangle, Wokingham.

Captain Walter's connection with the Army had impressed on him the disadvantage under which discharged soldiers laboured in obtaining civil employment after completing their period of service, and he determined to form a society which should assist deserving soldiers. With that end in view he established in 1859 what afterwards developed into the Corps of Commissionaires, of which he became the first commanding officer. Beginning with but eight men—of whom only one now survives—the numbers gradually increased, and hundreds of thousands of men who otherwise have been nearly destitute or absolutely in need have been able as members of the corps to obtain a respectable living.

The strength of the corps at the last annual meeting and inspection was 2,828, 1,818 of whom were comprised in the London division. He continued to be commanding officer of the Corps to the date of his death. It is pleasant to remember that in 1884 the Duke of Cambridge, the then Commander-in-Chief, presided at a great meeting of naval and military officers at the United Service Institution, when a silver service subscribed for by some 600 officers was presented to him, and further that his work and merits were recognised by Queen Victoria, who conferred a knighthood upon him in 1885, and at the time of her Jubilee in 1887, created him a K.C.B.

A tribute even more personally gratifying was bestowed on him by the men of the Corps, who subscribed to a portrait of him painted by Mrs. Way for presentation to Lady Walter.

Sir Edward Walter's nephew, Major F.E. Walter, who has long been associated with him in his work, and is now acting commanding officer of the Corps of Commissionaires, has addressed to the corps a letter announcing the death of its founder, giving a sketch of his labours in its interest, and concluding: "He is gone, and it now remains for those to whom are committed the interests of the great institution which he founded to see that the principles on which its organisation is based are strictly observed, and for all its members to prove themselves in the future, as they have done in the past, worthy representatives of the noble professions in which they have served."

Sat 9th April

At the Wokingham Town Hall on Thursday morning an enquiry was held by col. W. Langton Coke, an inspector of the Local Government Board with reference to the application of the Town Council for powers to borrow £1,500 for the purchase of the Berkshire County interest in the Municipal buildings at Wokingham and £350 for the purchase of the borough stores, which are at present on lease. There was no opposition for the application.

Sat 30th April

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Rev. Bertram Long accepted the rectory of Wokingham.

Sat 11th June

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

For a long time the weather-cock on the spire of St. Paul's Church has become fixed and the rod bent. During this week steeplejacks have carried out the necessary repairs, their movements being keenly watched by the inhabitants.

Sat 17th Sept

LADY ARTHUR HILL COMPOSES A MARCH

Lady Arthur Hill presented the Town Band with a march of her own composing, fully scored for military bands, in appreciation of the Band's rendering of music at Binfield Sports, recently held.

Sat 15th Oct

FOOTBALL

The Wokingham Athletic Club opened their league programme on Saturday with a match against Old Bracknell Wanderers. The Bracknell Club however, were no match for the home club and the Athletes won very easily by seven goals to nil.

The Embrook F.C. went to Sunningdale to meet the local team in the same competition and were beaten by six goals to nil. Wokingham played a "friendly" with Broadmoor at Broadmoor, the match ending up in a draw of three goals.

WESLEYAN BAND OF HOPE

A meeting was held in the Wesleyan Schoolroom on Monday, when there was a good attendance. Among those who contributed to the programme were Mrs. Webb, Misses Drinkwater, Archer, Key, Hawkins and Gadd.

FIRE BRIGADE

On Wednesday evening at a meeting of the members of the Fire Brigade, Mr. J. Caiger was elected to the lieutenantancy in the place of the late Mr. C. Brant.

1905

Sat 7th Jan

THE FURNISHING OF THE TOWN HALL

Mr. Manley moved that a committee comprising about one half of the Council be appointed, and that a corresponding number of representative persons outside the council be invited to consider and submit proposals for the proper furnishing of the Town Hall. He did not think it very creditable for them to have a Town Hall and then furnish it badly. At Wargrave they possessed an inexpensive Town Hall which was splendidly furnished and a credit to the village.

No one seconded the motion and it fell to the ground.

Sat 14th Jan

CHURCH HOUSE

A popular entertainment was given on Saturday evening in the Church House the programme being arranged by the Misses Daniell and Cooper. The Rev. B. Long presided, and songs were sung by Messrs. Jay and W. Funnell. Mr. Bassett's gramophone was appreciated, as was Mr. Walker's lecture on "Coal and Coal Mining," the lantern being manipulated by the Rector. Mr. H.G. Powell gave two recitations, "The Midnight Charge" and "The Charge of the Light Brigade." Miss Fielder contributed a pianoforte solo and with her sister, a duet. Misses Funnell and Fielder were the accompanists.

CHRISTMAS TREES

The annual Christmas-trees for the children of the Palmer Schools were given—to the infants on Saturday and to the children of the mixed school on Monday. Two fine fir trees were presented and both were loaded with presents, which had been subscribed for by various friends of the School. Mr. Foy, as usual, presented a box of oranges.

THE CHAPELS

In continuance of the week of special united prayer meetings at the Nonconformist places of worship in the town, a united communion service was held at the Milton-road Baptist Chapel on Sunday evening.

MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

A musical and social programme was provided by the members on Wednesday evening at the re-opening of the second session of the evening. Mr. P. Sale presided and Messrs. Bodle and E.J. Taylor (vice-presidents), and Mr. Hay (the hon. Secretary) were also present. The programme was carried out by Miss Fielder and Messrs. Shore, Holloway, T.W. Hawkins and W.E. Whittingham.

GROSVENOR SCHOOL, WOKINGHAM

Miss E.M. Gammon, pupil of Miss Baker, has passed the Trinity Theory Examination, Intermediate Division. The school will re-open on Thursday next, January 19, boarders returning on the previous day.

WOKINGHAM CLUB

At the recent billiard handicap held at the Club House, Denmark-street, Mr. T. Morres was the winner of the first prize, Mr. A.T. Jones being second.

TOWN BAND

The annual meeting of the Town Band was held in the Committee Room of the Town Hall on the 6th inst. The Mayor of Wokingham (Mr. H.C. Mylne) presided. A very successful season, with increased engagements, &c., was reported, and there was a balance in hand of over £9.

Sat 10th June

HOSPITAL SUNDAY

The annual parade and collection on behalf of the funds of the Royal Berkshire Hospital, organised by the local Friendly Societies, was held on Sunday, when the weather was fine and the parade a great success. The various bodies assembled in the Market-place at 1.30, an early collection having been made on the outskirts of the town. The procession was divided into two parts, marshalled by Mr. W. Cansdale and Mr. W. Parker. The bands taking part included the Town Band, Bugle Band of the 1st. Wokingham Company Boys' Brigade, Reading Headquarters Bugle Band, and the L Company Volunteer Band. The full procession proceeded by way of Broad-street and Rose-street to All Saints' Church. The Mayor (Councillor H.C. Mylne) was present at the service, and Ald. Wescott and Heron, Councillors Culver, Ellison, Martin, Manley, Evans and Powell were also present. The Rev. B Long preached an appropriate sermon from St Mark ii,3. The total collections throughout the day amounted to £45 14 11¾d. The bands played selections of music in the Market-place during the evening, when a large crowd assembled.

PROPOSED NEW BY-LAW

The Wokingham Town Council have made, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, a new by-law with reference to the regulation of steam organs, roundabouts etc. which may visit the Borough from time to time. Copies of the proposed by-law are deposited at the Town Clerk's office for the inspection of any ratepayer who is interested in the matter. An advertisement on the subject appears on the first page of today's Mercury.

NEW POLICE BUILDINGS

These buildings, which were used last week for the transaction of business, are well situated at the corner of Rectory-road and Milton-road. The chief entrance to the court is under a picturesque tower, with bold stone arches and buttresses, covered by a spiral tiled roof, terminating with a weather vane in the shape of the country arms, with the stag under a tree. The court room is 40 ft. by 20 ft. with open timbered roof and lofty mullioned windows, fitted with leaded lights and iron casements. The walls are faced internally with fair brickwork, with a dado of pale green dull glazed glass tiles. The floor is pitch pine blocks, and the fittings are of oak, fumed and waxed. The walls externally of the whole building are faced with bricks of two tints, worked in panels and relieved by Bath stone in courses and dressings. The roofs are covered with brown tiles, and the broken outlines and many gables yield a pleasing and picturesque effect to the large group of buildings.

The court room and cells are warmed with by hot water upon the plan prepared and carried out by Renton, Gibbs and Co., of Liverpool and Reading. The building had been erected in a very creditable manner by Mr. E.C. Hughes, builder of Wokingham, under the direction of the architects, Messrs. Joseph Morris and Son, of Broadway Buildings, Reading. The magistrates' chairs and the furniture of the magistrates' room have been supplied by Messrs. Heelas, Sons and Co. The bricks and tiles, which are of excellent quality, came from the Ruscombe Kilns.

Sat 29th July

HUNT CRICKET MATCH AT HEATHLANDS

That popular annual event, the cricket match, between the Garth and the South Berks Hunts as advertised, will take place at Heathlands on Thursday next, when Mr. Howard Palmer will be pleased to see the farmers of both hunts in the afternoon.

A SERIOUS ACCIDENT

About 5.30 on Monday afternoon, an accident occurred at the premises of Messrs. Lush Bros., coach builders, Peach-street. It appears that the head of a 'bus had been brought to the stores in Peach-street, and was being unloaded from the firm's own van, the horse being held by a lad in their employ. Messrs. Walter and Charles Lush were below in the van, and Messrs Frank Lush and J. Hopkins were at the pulley rope above. The head weighing several hundredweight, had been raised a few feet in the air, when the horse moved on and overpowering the lad, bolted. The two men in the van were thrown violently out, and both lay unconscious until picked up, which was not for some time, as all who could have rendered assistance were in pursuit of the runaway horse.

A Mrs. Hull, who was passing, pluckily helped to relieve the weight by holding up the load, which was proving a great strain on the muscles of the two men in the loft. Mr. C. Lush was in a most dangerous position, being immediately beneath the

suspended weight. The shouts of the men presently brought some assistance, and Mr. Lush being removed, the heavy 'bus head was lowered to the ground, and both the injured men were assisted to their houses.

Dr. Ward was called, and Mr. W. Lush was found to have several ribs broken, and was cut about the head. Mr. C. Lush, although outwardly not much hurt, seems to have received injury, it is feared, of rather a grave character. Great sympathy is expressed for the injured members of the firm.

Sat 19th Aug

POLICE AT CRICKET

On Monday the Wokingham Division Police C.C. journeyed by bicycle to Windsor and engaged in a very pleasant game of cricket. The total scores were: Windsor 67; Wokingham 70.

Mr & Mrs. Makepiece owned The Elms.

Sat 11th Nov. 1905

November 1905 the following were re-appointed:

Mace Bearer: W. Chambers; Honorary Constables: G. Buller, J. Boshier, W. Higgs, E. Hawkins. Town Crier: J. Taylor.

Sat 9th Dec

WOKINGHAM AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Prince Christian has presented to the Wokingham Agricultural Association a prize boar for the use of the members of the Association and of the farmers of the Garth Hunt with a view to preserving the breed of pigs in the district. One of the boar's offspring won a second prize at the Smithfield Cattle Show this year. The boar is at Mr. E.M. Sturge's Farm at Barkham.

LODGE OF THE GOOD TEMPLARS

A pleasant entertainment was given by the Wokingham Lodge of Good Templars on Monday, in the Primitive Methodist Schoolroom, Mr. W. Bodle presided in the absence of Mr. P. Sale. The members of the Bracknell Lodge visited and provided a portion of the programme. The Chairman gave an interesting and helpful address.

EMBROOK HOUSE WOKINGHAM

Last week Messrs. Simmons and Sons, of Henley, Reading, and Basingstoke, held a three days' sale for the executors of the late Mr. C.M. Vials. On the first day the furniture was disposed of at highly satisfactory prices. The second days' sale comprised the books, china plate, pictures and wine, bringing buyers in very large numbers from London, Bath, Bristol, Swindon, Oxford, Reading, Guildford, Maidenhead, Camberley and Wokingham.

Sat 25th Nov Reading Observer

TEMPERANCE MEETING

Under the auspices of the Milton-road Christian Endeavour Society, an "open" meeting was held in the Lecture Room, Milton-road, on Thursday evening. Invitations had been extended to the various temperance workers of the town, and there was a good muster. The Rev. E.E. Smith presided. Solos were sung by Mrs. Manley and

Miss Kent; Miss Walden and Miss Cordery acting as accompanists. An excellent address was given by Mr. H. Stransom, of Reading, and other speakers were Messrs. T.W. Hawkins and M. Blake. The innovation on the part of the C.E. Society was considered a success, and will doubtless be repeated.

A NEW CLUB

There has been recently formed, and is now in good working order, a new club for Wokingham, under the auspices of the Wokingham Athletic Football Club, to be known as "The Athenaeum." The object of the club, which is to be of a social and literary character, is "to bring the members and friends (i.e. of the W.A.F.C.) together in the evening to hold debates, concerts, boxing, and later on, perhaps, gymnastics." The old wool stores, No. 1, Rose-street, have been taken by the management, and have been transformed into an effective suite of rooms for club purposes. There is a reading room and table tennis court on the ground floor, while above is a long room 100 feet by 20 feet, available for meetings, also a billiard room, 35 feet by 20 feet. A fine billiard table has been purchased, also a semi-grand piano. Several gentlemen of the neighbourhood have subscribed liberally to start the club, and Mr. E. Ifould has kindly consented to be the president.

The officers of the club have been selected as follows: Hon. treasurer, Mr. H.E. Hall; hon. sec., Mr. A.G. Hall; hon. assistant secretary, Mr. E.J. Ifould; committee, Messrs. S.J. Butler, L. Butler, E.J. Chase, A.C. Hughes, W.H. Howard, M. Grove, E.H. Perkins and H. Watts. There are already 62 members.

1906

Sat 13th Jan

NEW COUNCIL SCHOOL AT WOKINGHAM.

On Monday afternoon the Wescott-road Council School, Wokingham, was opened by Mrs. Murdoch in the presence of a large and representative company. The Mayor (Mr. H.C. Mylne) presided, and there were also present: Mrs. Murdoch, Mr. H.G. Willink, Mr. C.A. Ferard, Miss F.M. Wyld (members of the Education Committee), Mr. T.E. Ellison, the Rev. H.M. and Mrs. Walter, Commander and Mrs. Gregorie, the Rev. P.H. and Mrs. Ditchfield, the Rev. A.P. Carr, the Rev. E.E. and Mrs. Smith, The Rev. J and Mrs. Stratton, Miss Cave, Mr. and Mrs. Denis de Vitre, Mr. and Mrs. W. Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. W. Boshier, Mr. and Mrs. E. Barry, Mr. and Mrs. P. Sale, Mr. and Mrs. H. Butler, Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Evans (managers of schools in Wokingham, Mr. Murray-Spey, Mr. and Mrs. H. Goswell, Mr. and Mrs. A. Elliott, Mr. and Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Baker, Mrs. Knight, Mr. and Mrs. Powell, Mr. W.O.F. Anderson (Secretary to the Berkshire Education Committee), Mr. A. Shirley (assistant secretary), and the following officials:-- Mr. T.O. Willson, Mr. Wallace Sergeant, Mr. W. Challenor, Mr. H.F. Kearsy, Mr. E.L. Slade, Mr. E. Fisher (architect), Mr. W. Watson (contractor), and the teachers of the district.

The Mayor said that at present there were 1,007 children attending school at Wokingham; there were on the books 496 at Palmer School, 288 at St. Paul's and lately at the British 223. The Managers of the British School found themselves unable to comply with the requirements of the Board of Education and the school had been closed. The accommodation for the district served had therefore fallen short of what was required, hence the erection by the County Council of that magnificent building. When that school was opened there would be accommodation in Wokingham for

1,281 children, namely, 515 in Palmer School and 366 in St. Paul's, the Council School taking 400. The new school would in all probability be sufficient for the wants of Wokingham for many years. Wokingham had reason to be proud of the educational machinery it now possessed, namely three large schools all thoroughly equipped and having the approval of the Inspector of the Board of Education. Let them hope that it might be part of that new school to send out its scholars thoroughly equipped to bear their part in the battle life, and in whatsoever part of the battlefield their place might be. (Applause.)

Mr. W.C.F. Anderson (the Secretary of the Berks Education Committee) read several letters of apology at non-attendance. That building, he said, represented the latest views of the Board of Education on school architecture. It was admirably lighted and sub-divided into class-rooms requisite to a good-sized class, but not too large. The Board of Education laid very great stress on the point that classes should not be too large. The staff was practically the same as at the old British School. With regard to the management of the school, the County Education Committee had nominated four managers, and there were also representatives of St. Paul's and Palmer School. The Education Committee regarded it of the utmost importance that the school should work in the greatest possible harmony with the other schools. So far as the County Committee was concerned it made no difference which school a child attended. In planning the school the committee took into consideration that the country and the people of Wokingham would be paying off the cost for 30 years, and they arranged it so that no more buildings would be wanted for the next ten years. One room would be specially devoted to evening classes, more particularly in regard to art, so that a need much felt in Wokingham would be supplied.

Mrs. Murdoch then declared the school open.

(more speeches followed)

Sat 3rd Feb

The town hall was to be altered to include the office of the borough surveyor.

Sat 26th May Reading Observer

EMPIRE DAY

Thursday last, being Empire Day, the children of the elementary schools of the town were given a holiday. Flags were hoisted on the Municipal and other buildings. Special reference was made in the schools to the life and work of Queen Victoria, and the progress of the Empire during her long and prosperous reign.

BAND "SOCIAL"

On Wednesday, another successful Volunteer Band "social" was held in the church House. In addition to the band, the following contributed to the evening's programme:-Misses Holloway and Golds and Messrs. Funnell and Golds, Mrs. S. Butler and Mrs. Hewett were in charge of the refreshments. A pleasant evening was spent.

Sat 14th July

BAND OF HOPE OUTING

The members of the Wokingham Band of Hope had a pleasant outing on Wednesday afternoon. Assembling at the British School a start was made about four

o'clock, and the party, some 42 in number, with their officers, were conveyed in vans to Shepperlands Farm, Finchampstead, where, by kind permission of Mr. J. Loader, the occupier, a very pleasant time was spent. Tea was served in a meadow to the children, the visitors sitting down to tea in the barn.

Games, etc., were indulged in, and Mr. J. Godfrey, of Reading, showed a van load of very clever working railway models. Among the officers and friends of the Band of Hope present were: Mr. J. Bodle (hon. secretary), Mr. J.J. Evans, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Bodle, Messrs. T. Butler, R.D. Ayers, C. Green, S. Drake (Finchampstead), Misses Cordery, Kirkby and Maynard. An enjoyable ride home concluded a very happy outing.

Sat 28th July Reading Observer

VOLUNTEER ORDERS

The annual church parade will take place on Sunday next, at All Saints Church. Fall In at the Drill Hall at 10.30 a.m. Dress—Tunic, blue trousers, helmets, and side arms.—By order, D.F. Denis de Vitre, Capt.

MOTOR ACCIDENT

At midnight, on Sunday, an accident befell Charles Hooton, chauffeur to Capt. Arthur Hill. It appears that Hooton had driven a car to Barkham with some ladies, whom he left at their home, and was returning alone. When descending Barkham-hill, one of the lamps went out, and the machine by some cause swerved to the side of the road. In the attempt to right it the motor ran up the bank and turned a complete somersault, with Hooton pinned down beneath it. He seems to have lost consciousness for a little time, and some three-quarters of an hour elapsed before he could extricate himself. With assistance requisitioned from some cottagers living at the top of the hill, the car eventually righted, and Hooton subsequently drove it to the Rose Hotel, Wokingham, where he is staying with Capt. Hill.

In addition to the shock and bruises, the unfortunate chauffeur is suffering from the effect of the escaping petrol upon his eyes, which since the accident have required to be bandaged. Fortunately, on the car overturning, the lamps were extinguished.

A CHAPTER OF ACCIDENTS

Early on Thursday morning a carter, named Charles Smith, employed by Mr. T.W. Shefford, of Norreys Barn Farm, Wokingham, was riding in an empty coal cart down Shute End, when the horse stumbled, throwing Smith forward out of the cart. The horse struggled to its feet and Smith was unfortunately run over by one of the wheels, severely bruising his left leg above the knee. Assistance was at hand and the injured man was conveyed to his home in Wiltshire-road. Medical aid was called in, and he will be laid up for a week or two.

The same afternoon in the Wellington-road, the driver of the S.E. and C.R. station goods delivery van, Charles Hawkins, was thrown from his "dicky" with some violence on to the road, near the small gate leading into the cricket ground, owing to the shifting of a large box forming a part of the load of empties with which he was returning to the station. The horse ran away, but was stopped near the level crossing. Hawkins was picked up unconscious and conveyed by Mr. S. Withers, who was passing, to his lodgings in Havelock-road. He sustained injuries to his shoulder, upon which he fell, and also to his head.

CARRIAGE ACCIDENT

At East Heath, on Wednesday afternoon, an accident of an alarming character occurred, with results that might easily have been far more serious. It appears that Mrs. Garrard, of East Heath Lodge, and her two daughters, had been driven in a carriage and pair by her coachman (Evans) to the Finchampstead flower show, at Northcourt, the residence of Sir John Watson. The party were returning, and when near the Finchampstead old police station, the horses, alarmed by a motor car, became frightened, and bolted in the direction of their home. They proceeded at a terrific pace, and unfortunately the coupling strap of the double reins broke, thus depriving the coachman of the control of the most restive of the two animals. Continuing, the horses traversed the two and a half miles to *The Poplars*, East Heath, in a very few minutes. Here they turned to the right, and instead of proceeding down the hill and under the S.W.R. bridge, dashed with great force into the wooden fence of Mr. Wescott's meadow. One horse seems to have jumped over the obstruction, while the other dashed into the rails. A post in the centre held firm, and the horses were thus brought to a standstill, one on each side of the fence, with the vehicle behind them. Evans was pitched clean over the horses' heads into the meadow. He picked himself up, and assistance quickly arriving, the ladies left the carriage, while the coachman was able to walk to his home near at hand. He was later seen by Dr. Ward and his injuries attended to. Mrs. Garrard and her daughters were naturally much alarmed, but fortunately escaped injury. The horses were considerably cut about. The coachman Evans was subsequently found to be suffering from a dislocated thigh bone.

Sat 8th Sept Reading Observer

ALARMING FIRE

On Sunday morning, about 9.30, on the S.W. railway just above the Tanglely footbridge, the grass beside the track became ignited, presumably by a spark from a passing engine. The fire was soon put out by a couple of lads. Two hours later a more serious blaze took place. This time the grass in the field as well as that on the embankment caught alight, spreading to neighbouring fences, hedges, and even to the trees in Gipsy-lane. Crossing the lane, it set the hedge alight surrounding the garden of Brace's Cottage, in the occupation of Mrs. Aldridge. The flames were at one time so close to the cottage that some creepers growing on the walls were burnt.

Several members of the Wokingham Fire Brigade, including Lieut. F. Caiger, and Fireman A.T. Heelas and F.G. Martin, were present, but were, from lack of water supply, obliged to confine their efforts to removing different objects from the course of the fire, and to beating it down with branches. A ganger's shed on the embankment containing a barrel of tar and numerous sleepers was burnt out. The planks covering a stack of bricks belonging to Messrs. Stimson and Sons were also badly burnt. The safety of some pigs in a sty belonging to a Mr. Langley, was for some time in doubt but the animals were safely removed. Numbers of people were drawn to the scene by the sight of the smoke and flames.

Sat 29th Sept 1906 Reading Observer

TERMINATION OF OFFICE OF W. CHAMBERS

With the termination of Mr. W. Chamber's tenure of office today (Saturday) as Town Hall Keeper and Collector of Tolls for the Municipality of Wokingham, an interesting family collection with the civic life and history of Wokingham become a closed chapter. The name of Chambers and Wokingham municipal affairs have for wellnigh two centuries been inseparable. A. Chambers has carried the mace, "cried"

through the town, collected the market tolls and proclaimed royal proclamations for a period extending far back beyond the time of any living Wokinghamites. Father, grandfather and great-uncles of Mr. Wm. Chambers have for long years sustained an honourable position under the present Corporation and its predecessor, the Wokingham Local Board. In quaint costume and with equally quaint character, one Tom Chambers still lingers in the memories of "the oldest inhabitants" as town crier, sexton and general town's official. "The old order changeth, giving place to the new."

May the town still flourish under the new regime as it has done under the old.

The Wokingham Town Band played a selection of music on Sunday afternoon (Mr. W. Farr conducting), when a collection was taken in aid of the funds of the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

FOOTBALL

On Saturday last Wokingham Athletic opened their season on the Wiltshire-road ground by entertaining Reading Y.M.C.A. before about 100 spectators. The game resulted in an overwhelming victory for the Athletics, who led by 7-0 at half-time, and 14-0 at full time. It was sufficient, however, to show that the locals have secured two splendid new men in Drake and Hope. The goals were secured by Phippe (10), Thatcher (2), and Jarvis (2).

RIFLE CLUB

The cup challenge competition was brought to a close with a shoot at the range on Wednesday afternoon. The winner was Mr. A.G. Hall, with a score of 95 points. He becomes the holder of the cup for the year, a replica being presented to him. The monthly spoon shoot was held at the same place, Mr. A.G. Hall being the winner of the "skilled shot" badge with 95 points, Mr. T.E. Ellison winning the club spoon with 98 points (15 added). Mr. P.W. Teague won the second spoon with some 95 points (five added.)

Sat Nov 17th

James May was elected town clerk.

1907

Sat 12th Jan Reading Observer

TWO FINE PIKE

Two fine pike were successfully landed on Monday from the Loddon by Mr. W. Reynolds, assisted by Mr. Holloway, of Wokingham. One weighed 12 lb. and the other 10½. Strange to say both were caught in the same place and within a quarter of an hour of each other.

Sat 19th Jan Reading Observer

THE MAYOR'S CHILDREN'S PARTY

On Friday afternoon in last week, the Mayor (Mr. W.T. Martin) and Mayoress gave an invitation party to a large number of the children of the Borough. The party was held in the Town Hall, from 4.30 to 8.30 p.m. The guests were received in the Council Chamber by the Mayor and Mayoress, the latter being presented by Miss Wescott

with a splendid basket of exotics, daintily tied with salmon pink satin. The red and white draping of the doorways, combined with the flags festooned above, and the foliage on the bandstand, fireplaces and elsewhere, making a very effective display. The floor was covered with red baize with the exception of a large square in the centre, reserved and prepared for dancing. Refreshments were laid in the Council Chamber, and also in the ante-room at the other end of the hall. Lounges and small tables arranged around the dancing area afforded excellent opportunity for watching the dancing or for social intercourse. Mr. W. Chambers was entrusted with the catering, the upholstering was done by Messrs. Gadd and Co., the floral decorations were supplied by Mr. G.F. Pontin, the floor coverings and the hangings by Mr. R. Yalden, while Mr. A. Fox prepared a splendid floor for the dancing.

The young visitors were entertained in a variety of forms, their host and hostess, with a number of their friends, doing all in their power to make them happy. Mr. Alan, Stainer of London, gave a capital legerdemain and ventriloquial performance. Mr. C.H. Martin a "Father Christmas," assisted by Master Clode (a goblin) distributed bon-bons amid much merriment. Members of the Royal Military College Band, Sandhurst, discoursed some excellent music for the various dances.

The proceedings terminated with a "friendship's chain" of the whole company to the strains of "Auld Lang Syne." Three cheers were heartily accorded the Mayor and Mayoress for their kindness, and the large party dispersed expressing many thanks for their hospitality. After an interval of half-an-hour, a large number of guests assembled for a dance, which was continued until midnight. (all participants listed)

Sat 2nd Feb Reading Observer

EMMBROOK MISSION ROOM

A successful entertainment was held on Wednesday evening in the Emmbrook Mission Room, in aid of the Emmbrook Young Men's Club. The Rector (the Rev. H.M. Walter) presided. The Misses Long contributed a Japanese duet in costume and Mr. R.T. Butler gave an excellent exhibition of conjuring tricks, etc. several other performers also delighted the audience.

WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION

A successful meeting of the East Berks. Women's Liberal Association (Wokingham Branch) was held on Tuesday evening. The meeting, which was conducted and carried through by one of the members, proved very interesting. An excellent address on current politics was given by Mr. C.H. Baker of Reading. Mr. W. Ford (Maidenhead) was also present. It was arranged that on February 13th Sir Berry Cusack-Smith, the prospective Liberal candidate for the division, should open a debate on "The Taxation of Land Values." A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Baker for his address.

WOKINGHAM MAGPIES CRICKET CLUB

The annual general meeting of the Wokingham Magpies Cricket Club was held on Saturday at the Working Men's Club Room, Peach-street, by kind permission. The members attended in good numbers, Mr. W. Langley presiding. The hon. sec. Mr. A.E. Jones, presented the balance sheet, which showed a small deficit balance of £1 5s. 4d., due merely to heavy expenditure of rent and expenses of re-laying the ground, the Club possessing valuable assets as an efficient set-off. The balance sheet was adopted amid expressions of satisfaction. The officers and committee were then elected. Canon Sturges was unanimously re-elected president. The vice-presidents

were re-elected en bloc. The post of hon. treasurer, vacant by the removal of the Rev. A.P. Carr, was left unfilled, the Club deciding to wait and to offer the post to the rev. gentleman's successor when he arrives. Mr. A.H. Jones was re-elected hon. secretary, and was also elected captain, with Mr. R. Challis as vice-captain.

Mr. H. Frith was chosen captain and Mr. E.T. Huckings sub-captain of the 2nd XI.

On the proposition of Mr. J. Goddard, seconded by Mr. R. Challis, it was decided that the Club's first eleven enter the first division of the Reading and District Cricket League. It was also decided to enter the second eleven in the second division of the League. It was resolved to continue to rent the football ground for matches and practice at £4 a year.

The Chairman proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the hon. sec. This and a similar vote to the outgoing officers brought a very successful meeting to a close.

The record of the Club for 1906 was a good one. The 1st XI played eleven league matches, winning five and losing six. The team secured fourth place on the league table. The 2nd XI played nine friendly games, winning five and losing four. Mr. J. Webb secured a century playing in a league match on the home ground against Reading Excelsior. He also headed the list of batting honours with 180 runs for seven completed innings, an average of 22.8. Mr. E. Cousins was a good second, with 134 runs for eleven completed innings. Mr. Jones headed the bowlers with 17 wickets for 46 runs, Messrs. E. Cousins and J. Webb following close with 30 wickets for 112 and 21 for 94 respectively. The club recognised its indebtedness to Messrs. Mitchell, F. and S. Berry, R. Challis, Sharp and Martin for various services rendered.

Sat 9th Feb Reading Observer

FREE SOUP

The Mayoress, Mrs. W.T. Martin, is very kindly making and distributing twice weekly some 25 gallons of well-made soup to a number of recipients who greatly appreciate her generosity.

MINIATURE RIFLE RANGE

Yesterday Col. Arthur Walter opened and fired the first shot at the miniature rifle range which has been provided at the expense of Mr. Cllr. Ellison. The Colonel was present with the Mayor and Corporation, General Sir John Watson and several military officers.

Sat 16th Feb Reading Observer

THE NEW MINIATURE RIFLE RANGE

Mr. T.E. Ellison's public spirit and patriotism with regard to shooting has led him to build at his own expense a miniature rifle range, and the same was formally opened on Friday afternoon in last week. The boys of St. Paul's School cadet corps, which body owes its formation to the keen interest of Mr. Ellison, were present as a guard of honour. Mr. T.W. Hawkins was in command. The salute was given to General Sir John Watson, V.C., G.C.B., and also to Col. A.F. Walter, upon their entrance. Each gentleman showed a kindly interest in the guard and inspected them. Mr. Ellison presented two of the lads, who had made excellent attendance at the drills, with a splendid knife. The lads thus honoured were Samuel Green (Corporal) and Henry Rowe.

The range occupies the site of the terrace room and ground in the rear. The existing buildings have been adapted for the purpose by Messrs. Lewis and son, of Wokingham. The old terrace room provides a commodious drill hall for the Cadet

Corps. In the rear of this room is another smaller one, through which the range itself is reached, via a courtyard and flight of steps. The range proper is admirably adapted for the purpose, full advantage having been taken of the natural rise in the ground. The targets lie at the further end, where a wall of double thickness ensures the safe stoppage of all shots. The targets and markers occupy a pit, the markers having on each side a substantial mound of earth and batten behind which to shelter. A few feet nearer the firing station is a trench constructed and arranged for "running man" and "disappearing" targets. The whole building is 144 feet in length, with a width of 24 feet, and is admirably lighted, ventilated and warmed, with every appliance for target practice, including an inclined platform for the prone position when firing.

Sat 2nd March Reading Observer

ANGLING

Fishing in the Loddon, on Tuesday, Mr. E. Holloway, of Wokingham, successfully landed a pike, in good condition, weighing 14½ lbs. Also a smaller one, which turned the scales at 4½ lbs.

MAGPIES CRICKET CLUB

The Rev. A.P. Carr has been presented by the members of this club with a solid silver cigarette case, beautifully engraved, and with initials on the front, as a slight recognition of the valuable services he has rendered the club for the past eight years. Mr. A.H. Jones (the hon. sec.), has received a very nice letter from Mr. Carr who wishes the club every success.

FIRE

A fire occurred on Tuesday morning in the centre of the town at premises occupied by Mrs. K. Pigg, confectioner, etc. It seems that the attention of an employee of Mrs. Pigg's was called by a passer by to smoke issuing from the roof of a building (the bake-house) in Rose-street. It was soon discovered that a fire had broken out in a room above the bake-house used as a drying room. The fire brigade were summoned, and, quickly arriving at the spot, they put in some prompt and excellent work, the hose being connected with one of the street hydrants. The flames at one time broke through the roof, but were very soon subdued. The damage was fortunately confined to the building in which the outbreak started. This was a fortunate circumstance, as the building is directly attached to the house itself, and outbuildings are also clustered thickly around. The damage is, we understand, covered by insurance. The oven was not damaged. Mr. G.A. Pigg, it may be mentioned, is himself a member of the Wokingham Fire Brigade.

Sat 16th March Reading Observer

MARQUIS OF DOWNSHIRE ENGAGEMENT

The Marquis of Downshire was engaged to Miss Evelyn Foster daughter of Mr. Edmund Foster of Clewes Manor, Windsor. On Thursday the 16th of May they married.

Sat 2nd Nov Reading Observer

Elected: Hon Constables: E. Hawkins, G. Butler, W. Higgs and J. Boshier. Town Crier was J. Taylor.

Sat 9th Nov Reading Observer

Marriage of Miss Lillian Ann Ifould, youngest daughter of Edwin Ifould, was married on Wednesday to Mr. Young Phillip son of Mr. and Mrs Phillip of Southsea.

Sat 16th Nov Reading Observer
Sergt.-At-Mace was W. Chambers.

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Sat 4th Jan

CHRISTMAS-TREE

On Saturday Miss Ellison gave a Christmas-tree in St. Paul's Parish Room to the girls of her sewing class. Tea was served and gifts from the tree were afterwards distributed.

FOR THE POOR

The offertories on Christmas day at All Saints' Church for the sick and needy amounted to £27 4s. 4d., and at St. Paul's to £9 8s. 4d.

DINNER AT THE ROSE HOTEL

Mrs. Churchman, proprietress of the Rose Hotel, gave her annual dinner in commemoration of her birthday on Friday, Dec 27th, when she invited a few friends to meet the members of the local Fire Brigade. Mr. Ernest Gardner, M.P. for East Berks, presided, supported by the Marquis of Downshire, Ald. D.N. Heron, Mr. W. T. Martin (deputy Mayor), Mr. Kington, Mr. James May (Town Clerk), Captain Barry, and Messrs. E.C. Hughes, T.H. Bokenham, H.E. Hall, E.W. Collis, &c., and the vice-chair was filled by Mr. Edwin Ifould (capt. and hon. treasurer of the Fire Brigade), the company numbering altogether 57. The function was, as usual, a most pleasant and successful one.

The Chairman having proposed "The King," Mr. Hughes gave the toast of the "Fire Brigade," saying they were a fine body of men, and a credit to the town; and Captain Ifould, responding, expressed pleasure that the services of the body under his command were so recognised and appreciated. Among their number was a Fireman—the Marquis of Downshire—who was not only a nobleman, but an ornament to the Brigade, of which he was an efficient member.

Lieut. Caiger also returned thanks, Mr. Gardner, M.P., in proposing Mrs. Churchman's health, thanked her in the name of all her guests for her kind invitation that evening. He said he first met Mrs. Churchman some years ago as a politician; but since then he had ample opportunity of observing and appreciating her kindness of heart, and he was sure all associated with her were of the same opinion. There was always associated with her the feeling of old-fashioned friendly English life, and a truly British hospitality marked everything she did. They all trusted she would be long spared as hostess of "The Rose," and wished her "Many happy returns of the Day." The toast was drunk with musical honours, and acknowledged on Mrs. Churchman's behalf by Mr. Kington.

The Chairman then presented Mrs. Churchman, on behalf of those present, with a silver hot-water jug of Queen Anne pattern, as a slight token of their appreciation; and the hostess was heartily cheered when she said a few appropriate words in reply.

The health of the Chairman having been toasted on the call of the deputy-Mayor, Mr. Gardner, M.P., expressed the pleasure it had given him to preside that evening,

and said he was sorry to have to leave to catch the train. He always felt welcomed when at the Rose Hotel, and he hoped that, although that was his first attendance at that pleasant gathering, it would not be the last.

The ex-Mayor then took the chair, and the rest of the evening was spent in harmony. Capt. Barry and Mr. A. Hall recited, and capital songs were given by Capt. Ifould, Ald. Heron, Mr. Sid Butler, Mr. Sharp, Mr. Collis, Mr. C.H. Martin, Mr. Thorp, Mr. May, Mr. Perry, Mr. Sharp and others; and Mr. Reginald T. Butler performed some clever tricks of legerdemain. The National Anthem and "Auld Lang Syne" brought an altogether enjoyable evening to a close.

Sat 4th Jan

ACCIDENT TO A MOTOR CYCLIST

On Boxing-day morning, whilst Mr. Arthur T. Heelas, of "Oakleigh," Wokingham, was out for a ride on his motor-cycle near Finchampstead, he met with a somewhat severe accident. He was proceeding round a corner from the Wokingham-road towards the "Queen's Head" at Finchampstead, and sounded his horn several times. Apparently the high hedges at the spot prevented the occupants of an approaching motor-car from hearing the blasts, and on Mr. Heelas getting into the main road a collision occurred owing to the narrowness of the road. The motor-car—a large one—containing the two sons of the Rev. Dr. Warre, late Headmaster of Eton, and the one presented to Dr. Warre by old Etonians on his retirement; crashed into the side of the motor-cycle, practically stripping everything off it. Mr. Heelas was thrown to the ground with the cycle on top of him. He managed to wriggle himself free and to lift the machine up.

Meanwhile the motor-car had been pulled up a few yards away and Dr. Warre's sons returned and rendered Mr. Heelas every assistance. Lifting him into the car they drove him to his home at Wokingham, where he was attended by Dr. E. Ward, who found him suffering from severe contusions of the right knee and thigh and bruises on the arm, which was badly scraped. Mr. Heelas's many friends in Wokingham and Reading will be glad to know that he is progressing as favourably as can be expected, but he will be confined to his house for at least six weeks.

Sat 25th Jan

CHURCH OF ENGLAND TEMPERANCE SOCIETY

The members of the Wokingham branch of the (C.E.T.S.) held its meeting in the Church House on Tuesday evening. Tea was provided followed by a business meeting, presided over by the Rev. Turner, rector of All Saints', who was supported by the Rev. G. Dangerfield and Mr. D. Dent. The Rev. D. Dangerfield was re-elected hon. secretary, and Mr. D. Dent, hon. treasurer, and a representative committee was chosen. The balance sheet, which was presented, showed a satisfactory balance in hand. Songs were contributed during the evening.

BAPTIST CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR

The members of the Wokingham Baptist Christian Endeavour on Wednesday evening gave a tea and entertainment to a number of aged people, a kindness which was greatly appreciated.

PALMER SCHOOL TREAT

The annual Christmas treat was enjoyed on Saturday by the scholars of the Palmer (Upper) Schools. Two fine Christmas trees were kindly given by Mr. T.M. Wescott,

one for boys and one for girls. Mr. R. Herring and Mr. Foy gave boxes of oranges, while dolls were dressed by several ladies. A large number of the friends and supporters of the school were present, and ladies assisted in distributing the gifts. Hearty cheers were given to Captain Gregorie, the kind correspondent of the school; the Master, the teachers, and others. Buns and oranges were distributed amongst the children before leaving.

THE CLUB—ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the members of the Club was held in the Club House on Friday evening, Mr. Howard Palmer, president, occupying the chair. The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and adopted. The secretary presented the balance sheet and statement of accounts, which showed the Club to be in a satisfactory position. The president, treasurer, secretary, librarian and auditors were re-elected. Nine names were nominated for seven places on the committee, and election followed. Votes of thanks terminated the meeting.

Sat 7th Nov. Reading Observer

At the Diversity Club on Tuesday evening the Rev F.R. Sheehan gave a thoughtful paper on "The Modern Novel," which was followed by an interesting discussion. Mr. P. Sale presided.

LECTURE

At the usual meeting of the Wesleyan Mutual Improvement Association on Wednesday evening, Mr. E.J. Taylor of Bracknell, gave an interesting lecture, entitled, "The romance of the electric Telegraph." There was a large attendance.

GUN ACCIDENT

Charles Henry Simmonds, a little boy of three, living in King-street, Wokingham, was taken on Sunday to the Royal Berks Hospital suffering from a gunshot wound in the leg. It appears that the lad was walking with his father who was carrying a loaded gun. Quite unexpectedly the gun went off. Favourable progress is being made.

THE FAIR

On Monday and Tuesday, the annual pleasure fair was held in a meadow off the London-road. The number of stalls, etc., seemed to be considerably above the average. The fair was extensively patronised, and the scholars of the elementary schools received a half-holiday on Tuesday afternoon. On Sunday an open-air service was held in the fair ground by the workers of All Saints' Parish. The Rev. E.W. Moberley gave an address, and the singing was led by the All Saints' Band.

1909

[No entries]

1910

Sat 15th Jan

DANIEL HEELAS

Daniel Heelas died on Sunday aged 80.

Sat 5th Feb

WESLEYAN ENTERTAINMENT

With the object of reducing a debt of £190 on the renovation and new organ (balance) fund an entertainment was given in the Wesleyan Schoolroom on Wednesday evening. Mr. W.G. Jeffries presided, and there was a large attendance. The programme was arranged by Mr. F. Burland and the Chairman. Refreshments were provided, and the proceeds of a silver collection were devoted to the debt fund.

TOWN BAND DANCE

The Town Band held their annual dance on Wednesday evening in the Town Hall. The Band, conducted by Mr. F. Farr, played a good selection of dance music. Mr. A. Bird made an efficient secretary.

MAGPIES CRICKET CLUB

The annual general meeting of this cricket club was held on Saturday evening, at the Bank room, Town Hall. There was a good attendance of members, and Mr. S.A. Griffin was voted to the chair. The report presented by Mr. A.H. Jones showed a very successful season. A balance in hand was reported of £1 12s. 2d., and the report and balance-sheet were adopted. The Rev. B. Long was re-elected president, and Mr. A.H. Jones was re-elected hon. secretary. The Club again decided to enter its teams for the Reading and District Cricket League in Divisions I and II respectively. Practice nights were fixed for Tuesdays and Thursdays during the season. Votes of thanks concluded the meeting.

WOKINGHAM CLUB

The annual meeting of this club was held in the Club House, Denmark-street, on Friday evening in last week, under the presidency of Mr. W. Howard Palmer. A large number of members were present, and the Secretary's accounts showed a balance in hand of about £25. The officers were re-elected, Mr. A.H. Jones taking Mr. Craig's place on the committee. The W. Howard Palmer Cup was presented in replica to Mr. A.H. Jones, who suitably acknowledged the gift. Mr. Cook was the recipient of a silver-mounted pipe, tobacco, and pouch, for the interest he had taken in the billiard room. Hearty votes of thanks concluded the meeting.

SOCIAL MEETING

An enjoyable "social" was held in St. Paul's Parish Room on Wednesday, arranged by the following committee- Mrs. Targett, Mrs Laumann, Misses Walden, Howard and Goddard. The proceedings included a whist drive, the ladies first prize being won by Miss Webb (Hurst) and the gentlemen's first prize by Mr. R. Sergeant. Refreshments were provided and dancing followed till 2 a.m.

Sat 26th Feb.

DEATH OF MR. WALTER OF BEAR WOOD

With very sincere regret we have to announce that Berkshire has this week lost yet another of its well-known and representative men, who was also one of the largest land-owners. After but a few days' illness, Mr. Arthur Fraser Walter expired on the evening of Tuesday last at his stately residence, Bear Wood, near Wokingham. The tidings of his death has called forth a deep feeling of sorrow as well as sympathy with his widow and family; and a keen sense of loss is felt throughout the county, especially in his own neighbourhood. Less than three weeks ago Mr. Walter was taken ill with an attack of influenza but he apparently did not realise the gravity of the

attack, and when feeling and looking far from well he was out shooting with friends. Whether he then took a chill, or thereby aggravated the attack, is not known; however from some cause pneumonia supervened, followed by complications, and notwithstanding the best of nursing and the most careful medical treatment his condition became very serious and he fell into a comatose state in which condition he remained for several days, until he passed peacefully away shortly after nine o'clock on Tuesday evening at the age of 64.

Though Mr. Walter did not take any very prominent part in county affairs, beyond those which generally fall to the lot of a country gentleman and an owner of a large estate, yet the Walter family have for so many years been honourably and prominently connected with Berkshire that it was only natural that a keen sense of sorrow should be felt at the tidings of his unexpected death.

Mr. Arthur Fraser Walter was a County Magistrate for Berkshire, also a Deputy Lieutenant of the County. High Steward of the town of Wokingham and a member of the Berks County Council. He was also formerly Lieut.-Colonel and Hon. Colonel Commandant of the 1st. Volunteer Battalion Royal Berks Regiment in which he served for several years. He was also a member of the Berkshire Territorial Force Association from its commencement. In his younger days he took very great interest in the Volunteer Movement, and for many years regularly attended the Annual Camp of its battalion. The town of Wokingham is indebted to him for the splendid Drill Hall and Armoury, which he erected there when he commanded the Wokingham Company, with which his name will ever be associated. He also did all in his power to encourage a high standard of rifle shooting amongst his men by attending their practices and shooting with them.

Mr. Arthur Fraser Walter was the second and eldest surviving son of Mr. John Walter, of Bear Wood, for several years M.P. for Berkshire. He was born at Waterloo House, near Wokingham on September 12th 1846. He was educated at Eton and at Christ Church, Oxford, where he graduated B.A. in 1870 and M.A. in 1875. He took a first class in Classical Moderations, but was only placed in the Third Class in the Final Classical School, partly because he had no great inclination for the studies and subjects which gain distinction in that school and possibly also because he was devoted to cricket.

Mr. Walter played for Eton against Harrow in 1865. He also got his Blue for cricket at Oxford and in the 1869 match bowled affectively.

Mr. Walter married in 1872 Henrietta Maria eldest daughter of the Rev. T.A. Anson, of Langford Rectory, Derbyshire. His widow and four children—two sons and two daughters—survive him. He is succeeded by his elder son John, who was born in 1873, and married in 1903 Charlotte Hilda, daughter of Colonel C. E. Foster, of Buckley Hall.

The Walter family have always been closely connected with *The Times* newspaper, which was founded by the first John Walter in 1785 as the *Daily Universal Register* and renamed *The Times* at the beginning of 1788. Mr. Arthur Walter on the death of his father in 1894, became manager and chief proprietor of *The Times*. About two years ago a limited company was formed and at the time of his death Mr. Walter was Chairman of *The Times* Publishing Company (Limited).

As the second son it was understood that Arthur Walter would adopt a definite profession. But the idea was abandoned when his elder brother, John Balston Walter, was drowned in the lake at Bear Wood on Christmas-eve, 1870, while attempting to rescue one of his brothers and a cousin, who had fallen through the ice. By the untimely death of his brother, young Arthur Walter became, while he was still an

undergraduate at Oxford, the destined successor of his father in the management and chief proprietorship of *The Times*—a position that had always been held by the head of the family.

Sat 5th March

THE LATE MR. WALTER OF BEAR WOOD

Muffled peals were rung on Sunday, as a token of regard and esteem for the late Mr. Walter (Arthur Fraser), from the towers of the Parish Church and of St. Paul's, Wokingham. The preacher at St. Paul's on Sunday morning was the Rev. C.A. Whittock, a former rector of Bear Wood, and now Vicar of St. Mary's, Oxford. In the course of his sermon he made feeling reference to the lamented death of Mr. Walter and to the conscientious manner in which he carried out the various duties devolving upon him as the owner of a large estate and in the position of a very great responsibility. He said Mr. Walter combined with a singular independence of judgment a remarkable intensity of purpose; and yet in all his tastes he was a perfectly simple and true-hearted man. At the close of the service the organist played the "Dead March" in *Saul*, the congregation standing.

THE GARTH HUNT AT CUMBERLAND LODGE

H.R.H. Prince Christian entertained the members of the Garth Hunt at dinner at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Park, on Tuesday, the 22nd February. Some of the gentlemen invited remained at Cumberland Lodge as the guests of the Prince for the night, and on the following (Wednesday) morning a hunt breakfast was given previous to the meet of the Garth Hunt. The *Daily Graphic* of Friday, February 25th, contained an excellent photo illustration of a group of members of the Hunt taken after the Hunt breakfast at Cumberland Lodge. The group included Prince Christian, Sir Robert Wilmot, General Leir Carleton, Captain Rickman, Mr. John Simonds, Mr. Howard Palmer, and Major Evan Martin.

MISSION TO SEAMEN

The Rev. G.F. Wilson Organizing Secretary to the Missions to Seamen, preached on Sunday morning at All Saints' Church, on behalf of the missions, and in the afternoon addressed the men's meeting.

CHURCH HISTORY LECTURE

A Church History Lecture was given at St. Paul's Parish Room, on Wednesday afternoon, by the Rev. O.S.E. Clarendon, on "The Life of S. Francis of Assisi."

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

A concert and lecture meeting were given in the Drill Hall on Saturday evening, in connection with the Co-operative Society. The members of the Reading Co-operative Choir were responsible for the musical programme, and an address was given by Mr. J.T. Brownlie parliamentary Labour Candidate for Govan, Glasgow; the subject being "Co-operation and its Benefits." Mr. B. Russell was chairman.

WILLIAM BARNARD MOWER

Mr. William Barnard Mower who some 35 years ago was a well-known corn merchant, &c., in Rose Street, died last week at his residence 63, Peach-street, after a long illness. He was much respected, and formerly held a prominent position in public affairs. He was one of the first Town Councillors on the granting of the charter in

1885, and served continuously till 1903, when, owing to ill-health, he retired. He was Mayor in 1893-4. As Secretary of the Starr-Bowkett Societies of Wokingham and Bracknell, he was still more widely known. For many years in succession, he was chosen Rector's Warden of All Saints', which position he relinquished at Easter, 1909, on account of illness. He was twice married. He leaves a widow, a son (Mr. Frank Mower), and two daughters Mrs. J.H. Byard (Wokingham), and Mrs. Slade (Caversham), for whom general sympathy has been expressed. The funeral took place at All Saints' Church on Monday, the Rector (the Rev. B. Long) officiating. The Mayor (Alderman D.N. Heron), with members and officials of the Corporation, attended.

Sat 16th April

SIDNEY HALL

Mr. Sidney Hall, second son of H.E. Hall, Wokingham, an officer in the Royal Mail steamship, Corinthia, of the White Star line has been appointed sub-lieut. of the Royal Naval Reserve.

TOWN HALL TOILET

The town council surveyor submitted a plan for the installation of a public toilet in a municipal building.

Sat 23rd April

A VERY STRANGE AFFAIR

An extraordinary occurrence, resulting in serious injury to one man, a slight damage to another is reported from "The Rifle Volunteer," an inn about a mile from Wokingham. On Wednesday evening, a man named John Thomas Baker, employed at a travelling Show located at Hurst, entered the "Rifle Volunteer" with a companion, also engaged at the same Show, and called for drinks. The landlord was executing the order when he was startled by a loud explosion. Baker exclaimed "that was something I had in my hand." The landlord saw that Baker's hand was injured, and it was found that one finger was blown away and the tips of the others, while the thumb and palm of the hand were badly torn. The injuries were caused by some explosive which Baker had held in his hand. Dr. Bokenham was summoned by the landlord, and the injured man was sent to the Royal Berkshire Hospital, while the police were also informed of the occurrence. Baker declined to make any explanation as to what caused the explosion, and his companion professed ignorance. There were several persons in the house at the time and a good deal of consternation was caused.

THUNDERSTORM

A very heavy thunderstorm passed over Wokingham and the district around on Saturday, between 12 and one o'clock. A peculiar darkness overspread the district-just previous to the storm, when an unusually severe hailstorm also swept over the district, accompanied by very vivid flashes of lightning and deafening peals of thunder. The peculiarity of the hail-storm was that the hail-stones were softer than those in ordinary winter hail-storms and more resembled pellets of frozen snow, many of which were almost as large as marbles. Had they been of the usual hardness much damage would have been done to glass houses. So intense was the storm that in a few minutes the ground was white with the hail-stones. In the district around some trees were struck and considerable alarm was caused. The storm lasted about an hour, and the afternoon was wet and stormy.

Sat 14th May

DEATH OF THE KING

The sad news of the King's death cast a gloom over the whole borough and neighbourhood. Flags floated at half-mast over the Municipal Buildings on Saturday morning and throughout the week, and a short muffled peal was rung on the bells of All Saints' Church on Saturday evening. On Sunday muffled peals were rung at both churches and sympathetic references were made in the sermons to the Nation's loss.

The National Anthem was sung at both churches and the Dead March was played on the organ.

In reply to a telegram sent by the Mayor (Mr. D.N. Heron) the following reply was received:- "Buckingham Palace, The King sincerely thanks you and the inhabitants of the Borough of Wokingham for kind sympathy and loyal message.—Equerry."

Sat 14th May

ROBINS'S NEST IN A WATER CAN

Recently a robin built her nest in a small water can hanging on a brick wall at the back of the "Three Brewers" public house in the Barkham-road. Here she laid six eggs and sat contentedly on the nest until they were hatched, notwithstanding that the landlord (Mr. Albert Surman) carried the can about the house to show customers. The six young birds appear very comfortable in their queer abode.

THE KING PROCLAIMED AT WOKINGHAM

Residents of the ancient and loyal Borough of Wokingham assembled in large numbers outside the Town Hall at noon on Thursday, to hear the proclamation of his Majesty King George V. A platform, covered with red baize, had been erected in the Market-place near the building, and as the Mayor, Ald. D.N. Heron (wearing his chain of office) with the members of the Corporation, emerged from the Town Hall, the Boys' Brigade and the Cadet Corps drawn up outside gave a general salute. A general salute by the Boys' Brigade followed, after which the Town Crier (J. Taylor) rang the bell and shouted: "Oyez! Oyez! Oyez! Let all persons keep silence while his Majesty is proclaimed."

Before reading the Proclamation the Mayor said:

"The honour has fallen upon me as Mayor to publicly proclaim in this loyal Borough of Wokingham, in the Royal County of Berks, the accession to the Throne of this great Empire of his Majesty King George V., and while I do so with all loyalty to his person, I feel that none of us can obliterate from our minds the overwhelming sorrow that has so suddenly and prematurely come upon the people of this Realm by the untimely death of our late universally beloved King, his Majesty King Edward VIII., whose beneficent and too short reign has been the wonder and admiration of the civilised world. "

The Mayor then read the Proclamation in a tone which everyone present could hear.

A Royal salute by the buglers followed, and the Wokingham Town Band, under Mr. Farr, played the National Anthem. At the request of the Mayor the school children present sang "God save the King."

The proceedings, which lasted only five minutes, were most impressive, all the men present standing with uncovered heads.

Sat 21st May

The Mayor issued a handbill requesting the shopkeepers to close on Friday on the occasion of the funeral of King Edward.

Sat 28th May

Mrs. Walter has left Bear Wood and is settled at 35, Courtfield gardens, SW. All communications for her to be addressed to Mrs. Arthur F. Walter.

Mr. & Mrs. Walter have left Bear Wood and have arrived at Lancaster-gate-terrace, W.

Sat 16th July

ALDERMAN CREAKER'S PORTRAIT

The Town Clerk read a letter from Mr. S.C. Goodchild of St. Leonard's-on-Sea in advice that Miss Ann Creaker has bequeathed to the council an oil painting of the late Mr. Thomas Creaker who was several times Alderman of Wokingham in the Corporation with a request that the portrait may be placed in the town hall. It was recommended that the bequest be accepted and that thanks of the council be conveyed to the relatives.

Sat 23rd July

THE MARQUIS OF DOWNSHIRE

Congratulations are due to the Marquis of Downshire (in the peerage of Ireland), of Easthampstead Park, Wokingham, on the recent completion of his 39th year. Born on July 3rd 1871, he is the sixth holder of the title, to which he succeeded when three years of age on the death of his father in 1874. The marquis is also Earl of Hillsborough in the peerage of Great Britain, and as such has a seat in the House of Lords. He is a deputy-lieutenant of co. Down, a captain in the Berks Yeomanry, and the Hereditary High Constable of Hillsborough Fort, co. Down. He married in 1907, as his second wife, Evelyn Grace May, daughter of Mr. Edmund B. Foster, of Clewes Manor.

BUCKHURST GARDENS

Mrs Murdoch has kindly thrown open her gardens at Buckhurst on Wednesdays until September 1st.

JUMBLE SALE

A successful Jumble Sale was held in Church House on Wednesday afternoon, and realised upwards of £20, which will be divided between the 1st Wokingham Boys' Brigade and the Palmer School Cadet Corps.

BAPTIST TREAT

The summer treat to the children of the Milton-road Sunday School was given in the Holt meadow, by permission of the family of the late Mr. D. Heelas, on Wednesday. Tea and various amusements were supplied on the ground. The Town Band again played a selection in the meadow and led the scholars home. Slight showers somewhat marred the proceedings.

MILITARY

The 25th Co. A.S.C. arrived in the town on Tuesday afternoon from Hounslow, and were billeted there for the night, departing next morning for Bath.

HOSPITAL PARADE AT WOKINGHAM THE RED CROSS BAND

The annual parade of the Royal Berkshire Hospital organised by the Red Cross Band was held in Wokingham on Saturday. Assembling at the headquarters in Rose-street, of the Red Cross Band, a procession paraded the town during the evening. The bands parading included the Wokingham Red Cross Band (Mr. S. Butler conductor) the Ascot Band (Mr. Morton), the Windlesham Band (Mr. Cree), and the Pipers of the St. Giles Company, Reading; Church Lads Brigade (Sergt. Griffiths).

Two sections of the procession were formed, and the whole district was thoroughly canvassed. The result of the day's collection amounted to £21 2s. 11¼d., and of a number of outstanding £4 11s. 0½d. making altogether a total of £25 13s. 11¾. In aid of the Hospital Fund.

Sat 1st October

NEW CLUB PREMISES AT WOKINGHAM

Opening ceremony

The new Wokingham Club was opened on Wednesday afternoon, some 200 guests assembling. The Mayor and Mayoress, Mr and Mrs. W. Howard Palmer, and Mr. and Mrs. D.F. De Vitre were on the platform, and little Miss Doria Allan presented to Mrs. Palmer a bouquet of pink carnations and lilies of the valley.

The Mayor in his remarks expressed the deep debt of gratitude that the town and that Club owed to Mr. Howard Palmer for his very generous action with regard to the promotion of the Club. The name of Palmer in Reading and adjoining towns was proverbial for its generosity and liberality. Reading was said to be absorbing Wokingham, but they were glad to see Wokingham absorbing a little of Reading in exchange. As a town and Club they were pleased to have Mr. Palmer to reside in the neighbourhood. He had not sought his own interest in any way in purchasing those premises and in making those beautiful additions, but he had acted entirely with a view to benefit Wokingham. (Applause.) Mr. De Vitre had been a good friend to the Club and had acted as President. Mr. Palmer had accepted that position, and had shown very great attention and energy in assisting the Club in its removal from the old to the new premises. The Club thanked him for all his energy and work. (Cheers.)

Mr. De Vitre remarked that the whole Club congratulated itself on having the Mayor as one of its members. As to Mr. Palmer's kindness they were all agreed. In deference to a wish of some of its members, Mr. De Vitre gave an outline of the Club's history. The Club, he said, was not only indebted to Mr. Palmer, but also to Mrs. Palmer, for the most handsome billiard table she had given them (applause), which would not only prove an addition but a source of income to the Club. The decorations had been satisfactorily carried out, and the membership had increased from 90 to 200. Once more he thanked Mr. and Mrs. Palmer and expressed his own sincere wishes for the future prosperity of the Club.

There followed a speech by Mr. Howard Palmer which ended with him declaring that the Club was open to the members of the Wokingham Club.

Mr. William Palmer then presented Mrs. Howard Palmer with a handsome silver fruit dish, subscribed for by the members of the Club, and Mr. Palmer with a handsome set of pipes in a case.

Mr. Howard Palmer expressed his great surprise at the presentation, for which he heartily thanked the members. His wife and he would prize them as long as they lived.

A smoking concert presided over by Mr. H.E. Hall was held in the evening.

1911

Sat 11th March

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL BUILDING AND PARISH ROOM

We have the pleasure to announce that owing to the extreme kind and generous liberality of our Parish Churchwarden, Mr. T.E. Ellison, these buildings have been purchased and handed over to the Rector and Churchwardens of St. Paul's. Thus all further anxiety of making appeals to the parishioners has been saved. Henceforth they will be in the care of the Rector, Churchwardens and Trustees, dating from March 25th, 1911. We shall look with confidence to the parishioners to enable us by their annual subscriptions to keep these excellent buildings in good repair and maintain their general state of efficiency in all things required in the best interests of the School. – "Wokingham Parish Magazine."

THE BEAR WOOD ESTATE SALE

The particulars and plans of the 124 lots of Freehold Properties comprising the outlying portions of the Bear Wood Estate, are now being issued and can be obtained from the offices of the Auctioneers, Messrs Trollope 14, Mount-street, Grosvenor Square, and other places mentioned in the auction announcement on the 5th page of today's *Mercury*. The particulars of each day's sale are published in three separate (large folio) books, with plans attached; price 1/- each, or the complete set 2s. 6d. The dates of the sale have been fixed for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, March 28th, 29th and 30th at the Drill Hall, Hall Wokingham, and the lots comprise properties in the parishes of Wokingham, Arborfield, Barkham, Newland, Finchampstead, Sandhurst, Winnersh, and Yateley extending in all to about 3,240 acres. As mentioned last week some of the lots have been withdrawn from the auction, having been dealt with privately; and Messrs Trollope are still open to offers for purchase by private treaty previous to the auction.

WESLEYAN HOME MISSIONS

Sermons were preached on Sunday in aid of the Wesleyan Home Missions by Mr. J.W. Spargo in the morning and by the Rev. J.W. Clegg in the evening. A children's service was held in the afternoon. Collections were taken for the Connexional Home Mission Fund.

LAWN MOWERS

For lowest prices and best makes of the most reliable Mowers apply ATTRIDE BROS., The Duke's Ride, Wellington College Station, Berks.

CORPORATION OF WOKINGHAM (extract)

The Corporation of Wokingham having applied to the Local Government Board for sanction to borrow £445 for the provision of a public convenience on the south-western side of the Municipal Buildings, and sums amounting to £3,130 for works of street improvement, Mr. R.H. Bicknall M. Inst. C.E., an inspector of that authority, attended at the Municipal Offices on Wednesday to hold a public Inquiry into the subject-matter of the applications. There was no opposition, and the proceedings were

quite formal. Those attending were the Mayor (Councillor H.C. Mylne, the Deputy-Mayor (Ald. D.N. Heron), Councillors: E.C. Hughes, T. Dowsett, and H. Hammond, the Town Clerk (Mr. James May), and the Borough Surveyor (Mr. C.W. Marks).

The Town Clerk informed the inspector that the population of Wokingham at the last census was 3,551, and the present estimated population nearly 5,000. In 1909 the Medical Officer estimated that the parish immediately surrounding the Borough contained a population of 3,830. The assessable value of Wokingham was £20,688, and the balance on outstanding loan £1,464. There was no loan sanctioned but not raised. The area was 557 acres. The general district rate last half-year totalled 1s. 1½d., there was a special school rate which averaged 2¼d. and the last Borough rate for urban purposes was 1s. 8d.

At the present time there was only one public convenience in the Borough which was much complained of both as to its condition and position. Certain outbuildings adjoining the Municipal Buildings could be adapted to the purpose being now used as stores.

Sat 25th March

EMPIRE DAY

Wednesday saw flags flying at the Church of All Saints', the Municipal Buildings and private homes. Special lessons were given in the elementary schools while the National Anthem and patriotic songs were sung. A parade of all the lads' organisations was held as usual in the cricket field in the Wellington-road.

OPENING OF THE NEW ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

The new R.C. Church at Shute End, Wokingham, was opened with the customary ceremony on Sunday, having been privately "blessed" the previous day. At 11.45 on Sunday morning High Mass was celebrated by the resident priest, Father J. Doran, Father Galton, S.J., being deacon and Father Joseph, sub-deacon. Mr. W.J. Cusack was thurifer and there were two acolytes. The choir was composed of monks for Farnborough with one of the order at the American organ. There was a large congregation including sisters from the Convent, the school children, and visitors from other Churches. Father Galton preached in the morning and Father J. Doran in the evening, the latter giving a short history of the mission in Wokingham.

WESLEYAN CHAPEL

Sunday was the Anniversary of the chapel. Sermons were preached in the morning and evening by Mr. Percy W. Pocock. A Meeting was held on Wednesday evening over which Mr. Dunnett, of Hartley Whitney, presided. The speaker was the Rev. T. Caddy, of the same place. Mrs Cusden, of Ascot, was the soloist. Mr. Franklin, the Steward, read the report which was very satisfactory.

ACCIDENT

On Monday a horse attached to a laundry van was frightened by a traction engine and bolted. The van damaged the two large lamps of Messrs. Nelson's shop in Peach Street.

CORONATION FESTIVITIES OFFICIAL DETAILS

The Carnival Committee are in want of more funds for additional prizes, which will include the best tableaux representing some episode in local history or the best group of Dickens' characters.

The Side-shows Committee have arranged to have bursting the bladder, penalty goal-kicking, striking the ham, bowling for a pig, hoopla, cocoanut shies, bran tubs. It has been arranged for the school children to each have one free dip in the bran tubs. Mr. T.E. Ellison has generously offered to bear the expense of this, as regards St. Paul's and the Palmer Schools, and some members of the Wokingham Club are paying the extra cost so as to include the Council, St. Sebastian's, and Convent school children. In addition the committee are giving all the school children a free ticket for all save two of the side shows. Helpers are asked for in order to carry out this programme.

Three hundred more Coronation plates are wanted-a matter of £8 only-in order that the public who do not come under the old age claim may participate in the feast. It is hoped that this amount will be contributed to the funds within a few hours of the issue of this appeal.

ROASTING THE OX

The Fire Brigade, assisted by a large committee, are busy working out details for successfully carrying out the roasting and distribution of the ox, which is to be given by Lord Downshire. The Mayor has lent the banqueting table, but the loan of other tables and trestles is asked. Various friends have promised donations, etc., in kind.

"My alter ego," as the chicken said when it saw Mackintosh's Egg and Milk Toffee

Sat 24th June

CORONATION FESTIVITIES AT WOKINGHAM ROASTING AN OX IN THE MARKET PLACE

Very full and elaborate preparation had been made at Wokingham for the loyal and enthusiastic celebration of Coronation Day, and with the principal traders closing their shops on Thursday and Friday the inhabitants generally gave themselves up to merry-making. The proceedings in connection with the festivities commenced at 7.30 a.m. and continued without intermission until 12 p.m. The weather was showery, but nevertheless large crowds assembled at the various functions. The arrangements which proved most successful, were made and carried out under the direction of various committees. Mr. Arthur T. Heelas was the principal organising hon. secretary doing the lion's share of the work.

The town was lavishly decorated for the event and several of the houses and shops of the principal residents and tradesmen were most effective. The Decoration Committee, in order to induce the inhabitants to decorate their houses and thereby add to the general gaiety, offered special prizes for the best decorated and illuminated house or premises and for the best decorated and luminous cottage.

Flags and streamers and 60 fir trees placed in tubs, draped with the Coronation colours-red, white and blue-formed the scheme of decoration arranged by the Committee for the Market-place. In the hands of members of the Fire Brigade was placed the control of the decorations of the Fire Station and the concert stage erected near. Mr. A.W. Poppy provided the fir trees.

At 7.30 the morning was heralded by merry peals from the bells of All Saints' and St. Paul's Churches, and at 10.15 there were special services at both churches, the Rectors (the Rev. Bertram Long and the Rev. H.M. Walter) respectively officiating. The Mayor (Mr. H.C. Mylne) with members of the Corporation and the various

Corporation Committees attended All Saints' Church. The service, according to the form issued by the Archbishop corresponded as closely as possible, but in a shortened form, to that used in Westminster Abbey, and included a shortened Litany, the recital of the solemnities of the Coronation, the Common Service and the "Te Deum," the whole lasting about an hour and a quarter. The collection taken at All Saints' Church will be given to the King Edward Memorial Ward at the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

At 10.30 to 12.30 p.m. selections of music were played by the Wokingham Town Band, under Mr. W. Farr, in the Market-place.

THE ROASTING OF THE OX

The Coronation festivities were started at 10.30 o'clock on the eve of the Coronation Day by Miss Mylne, daughter of the Mayor, in the absence of the Marquis of Downshire, of Easthampstead Park, lighting the specially-prepared in the Market-place to roast the large ox, weighing 90 stone, which had been given by the Marquis of Downshire. The ox, on the spit, preceded by the Town Band arrived about eight o'clock via Easthampstead-road, and was paraded through the town before it was put down to the fire. The roasting was continued throughout the night under the superintendence of the Fire Brigade and a strong committee of experienced helpers. On such a great and important occasion of rejoicing as the Coronation of a Monarch the roasting of an ox whole appeals forcibly to the British ideas of celebrating the event, as in the olden time

DINNER TO AGED PEOPLE

The carving of the ox commenced about 11 o'clock on Thursday, and the dinner to the old people was served in the Large Town Hall half an hour later. At one p.m. dinner to a second party was served, making a total of between 600 and 700 people fed off the huge ox. Each of the diners received a souvenir Coronation plate, whilst owing to the liberality of the following brewers, each was supplied with a glass of beer of aeriated water, from Messrs. Brakspeare (Henley), J. Headington (Wokingham), H.G. Powell (Wokingham), and Wethered and Sons (Marlow) through Mr. Boyton.

LOYAL DEMONSTRATION

At noon there was a general assembly of the Mayor and Corporation, the Berks Imperial Yeomanry, Boys' Brigade, Cadet Corps, and various public bodies in the Market-place. The Union Jack was unfurled from the east flagstaff of the Town Hall, while the Drum and Fife and the Bugle Bands of the Boys' Brigade and the Cadet Corps played. Accompanied by the Town Band all then joined in singing the *National Anthem*.

The Mayor subsequently entertained the members of the Corporation, officials and committees in the Town Hall to light refreshments. At the close the Mayor proposed the health of the King and Queen, which was enthusiastically honoured, and Ald. D.N. Heron proposed the health of the Mayor.

GALA FETE AND SPORTS

At 2.30 the children from the schools in the Borough assembled in the Market-place, where they sang the National Anthem and then went in procession to a large field in the Easthampstead-road, which was lent by Mr. W. Howard Palmer, and here was a gala fete on a large scale, under the direction of a committee and stewards.

During the afternoon a programme of sports for the children was arranged on a reserved track, whilst morris dances were carried out by a number of children from the Palmer School, and fancy marching and Coronation quadrilles by children from St. Paul's School. Tea was provided for 1,200 children, the catering being undertaken

by Mr. G. A. Pigg. Coronation medals generally provided by the Mayor (Mr. H.C. Mylne) were presented to the children.

In the same field was arranged an excellent programme of Old English sports and a gymkhana consisting of cycling events, comic sports, animal races, Scouts' Marathon, greasy pole, and various competitions, including military sports by the Berks Imperial Yeomanry, Victoria Cross race, Balaclava m  le  , wrestling on horseback, section jumping etc.

Owing to the frequent showers of rain the other events on the programme could not be decided, and they will be carried out later.

The prizes were distributed to the successful competitors by the Mayoress (Mrs. Mylne.)

During the afternoon the Wokingham Town Band played an enjoyable programme of music, and refreshments were served by Mr. W. Chambers, of the Market-place. Stage performances were given at intervals during the afternoon and evening by the London Pierrot Team. There were a number of side shows.

At 5 p.m. a display was given by the Wokingham Fire Brigade, the items being of an amusing and exciting nature. Later in the evening there was dancing in a reserved enclosure, music being supplied by Mr. C Ayres Wokingham Orchestra. The day's proceedings closed with a most successful carnival and procession of illuminated and decorated cars, cycles, etc. for which prizes were offered. The list must be given next week.

Sat 15th July

Miss Hilda Heelas, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tyndale Heelas, of Weston House, Wokingham, married George Powell of Oxford

Sat 12th Aug

The Marquis of Downshire has accepted the office of High Steward of the Borough of Wokingham in succession to the late Mr. Arthur Fraser Walter of Bear Wood.

Sat 9th Sept

TERRITORIALS AT THE RANGE

A shooting match, the H (Wokingham) co. 4th Batt. Royal Berks. Regt. V, the Camberley Rifle Club, was shot off on Wednesday at Wokingham. Lce. Sergt. A.C. Hughes was the top scorer with 98, and the Wokingham Co. won by 22 points. Scores: Wokingham H Co., 672; Camberley R.C. 650.

FIRE AT A FARM

An outbreak of fire at Britton's Farm, opposite "The White Horse" Easthampstead-road, on Sunday night about ten o'clock, was responsible for some serious damage, a barn, two calves, some poultry, farm implements and about 20 sacks of wheat were destroyed. An engine had been at work on the Saturday threshing wheat, and it is possible a spark may have caused the damage. Mr. Darvill is the tenant under the Marquis of Downshire, and it is understood he is insured. The Wokingham Fire Brigade on being called, made a quick turn-out, and by their efforts succeeded in saving the dwelling house.

1912

Sat 3rd Feb

An engagement is announced between Captain Edward Hills Nicholson, Royal Fusiliers, eldest son of the late Alfred James Nicholson of Wokingham and Ethel Frances Henry, daughter of the late Cecil Henry, of Drumlamph, County Derry. "Morning Post."

Sat 10th Feb

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

It was recommended that a clock be obtained and fixed in the large town hall and that the Borough Surveyor prepare a report on some improved means of ventilation by the windows of the hall.

Sat 16th March

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

At All Saints' Church on Sunday morning and at St. Paul's Church on Sunday evening, special sermons were preached and collections taken on behalf of the National Society.

GARTH HUNT POINT-TO-POINT

This popular fixture is again announced to be held at Lordlands Farm, Hawthorn Hill on Tuesday, the 2nd April. The Hon. Secretary is Mr. E.M. Sturges, of Barkham Square, Wokingham, to whom entries close on the 26th inst. Tea and light refreshments will be provided for all farmers within the limits of the Hunt.

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES

Under the auspices of this Union a meeting was held on Monday, at the Studio, Great Mead, Wokingham, kindly lent by Mr. F. Garry, who took the chair. The Chairman expressed himself as very pleased to welcome all present to the consideration of the great question of the Enfranchisement of Women. He himself was as yet only a student of the subject. He put before his hearers the two points- of the wild, lawless conduct of the members of the Women's Social and Political Union, and of the earnest and devoted work of the far larger number of peaceful law-abiding Suffragists.

A resolution condemning the recent outrages of militant Suffragists was proposed by Mrs. Robie Uniacke, President of the East Berks Societies, and seconded by Mrs. Keeble, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby, a member of the Executive Committee of the National Union, then proposed a resolution calling upon Members of Parliament who support the principle of the Enfranchisement of Women to vote for the reading of the Conciliation Bill on March 22nd, on the ground that the patient and constitutional work of a vast number of earnest women and men should not suffer through the rash action of a small section of women.

All the speakers condemned physical violence as a means of political propaganda and emphasised the point that the women who were employing violent methods formed only one-tenth of the women organised into societies asking for the vote, and an infinitesimal proportion of those who would be enfranchised by the Household

Suffrage Bill. They further pointed out that the justice and expediency of a cause cannot be affected by the unwisdom of some of its advocates, and instanced the destructive tactics of the South Wales miners and the Liverpool strike rioters, which had never elicited the suggestion of anyone that all men, or any class of men, should be denied a vote.

This second resolution was carried with three dissentients.

Sat 6th July

The final payment to the contractors of £90 for work on public conveniences.

Sat 13th July

NATIONAL FIRE BRIGADES' UNION GREAT COMPETITIONS AT WOKINGHAM

On Wednesday, when the weather fortunately proved quite propitious, although the heat was somewhat oppressive, the general competition of the South Midland District of the National Fire Brigades Union, and general sports in connection therewith, were held in a spacious field off the Easthampstead-road, Wokingham (lent by Mr. Howard Palmer), and the gathering was most successful. The National Union is divided into two districts, there being 80 brigaded affiliated to the South Midland District, and of these 46 brigades actually competed, the number of entries being the record one of 178, and the meeting the most successful yet held. All the profits, it was arranged, should be divided between the Firemen's Widows and Orphans' Fund and the Royal Berkshire Hospital. The Local Committee of whom a list is given below, threw themselves into the matter with great enthusiasm, the moving spirit being the Marquis of Downshire, who is the Captain of the Wokingham Fire Brigade, and they were ably backed by the honorary secretaries, and also by the Mayor and Corporation of Wokingham, who presented a ten-guinea prize to be won outright. Speaking generally the arrangements were excellent, and the provision made for the comfort of the spectators appeared to be appreciated by the 5,000 to 6,000 persons who made their way to the ground to witness a demonstration new to the neighbourhood.

Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein is the President of the Executive Committee of the South Midland District, of which the Marquis of Downshire, Lord Amphill, and Mr. J.F. Mason, M.P., are Vice-Presidents, the Chairman Chief Officer Lewis Evans, and Supt. Stanley W. Thorpe, St. Albans, the hon. secretary.

Sat 3rd Aug

TOWN COUNCIL

At the quarterly meeting of the Wokingham Town Council held on Thursday evening, a letter was read from Ald. T.M. Wescott, the senior member of the Council and the first Mayor of the borough, resigning his seat owing to ill-health. The resignation was received with deep regret and it was decided to confer the honorary freedom of the borough on Mr. Wescott. A report with reference to the extension of the borough boundaries was adopted. A full report is unavoidably held over.

FOOTBALL

The annual meeting of the Wokingham Wednesday F.C. was held at the Victoria studio on Tuesday evening. Mr. A. Woolliams presided, and there was a representative gathering. After discussion, it was agreed to play on Langborough Recreation ground. The Rev. P.W. Saules was re-elected president, Mr. R. Clarke

secretary, Mr. J. Ledaham captain, Mr. A. Woolliams sub-captain, treasurer Mr. G.A. Brant.

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOLS

On Monday afternoon, Mr. T.E. Ellison distributed the medals, bars and clasps provided by the County Council for regularity of attendance of children in elementary schools, and also awarded prizes provided by the same authority, and which are given for regular and punctual attendance, cleanliness, attention to lessons and general good behaviour.

TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

The annual meeting was held in the Bank Room at the Town Hall on Friday evening. In the absence of the Rev. B. Long, Mr. A.C. Hughes was voted to the chair. The balance sheet showed a credit balance of over £7. The report dealing with the season's work was presented by the hon. secretary (Mr. A. H. Jones), the following being mentioned) and thanked for their services:- Messrs. H. Chipp and Hurdwell (linesmen), R.H. Challis (gateman), the hon. members, Mr. J. May (hon. treasurer and auditor). The balance sheet and report was adopted on the proposition of Mr. E.H. Thatcher, seconded by Mr. H. Berry. The officers were then re-elected, viz.: President: Rev. B. Long; hon. treasurer and auditor, Mr. J. May; hon. secretary, Mr. A.H. Jones; captain 1st XL, Mr. J. Houlton; sub-captain, Mr. E.R. Thatcher; captain 2nd XL, Mr. W.W. Stewart; sub-captain, Mr. M. Hewitt. The hon. secretary reported he had entered the Club for both divisions of the Ascot and District League, Camberley Hospital Cup, Berks and Bucks Junior Cup and Reading Town Cup Senior and Junior. A discussion followed as to the Club entering the Temperance League and the Camberley Hospital Cup, and it was decided that the entrance to various cup ties and leagues be decided in April, where the committee will report to the general meeting of the Club.

Sat 10th Aug

FIRE BRIGADE

The Earl of Hillsborough who has taken a keen interest in the Wokingham Fire Brigade has been effected a fireman. He is the eldest son of the Marquis of Downshire and was born in 1894.

Sat 7th Sept

TOWN HALL

Mr. E.O. Hughes was elected Alderman in place of Mr. T.M. Wescott who resigned because of ill health.

Sat. 14th Sept

TOWN CLERK SUMMONED FOR INDECENT ASSAULT

A painful sensation was caused to Wokingham this week when it became known that Mr. James May, the Town Clerk, would be summoned for an indecent assault upon Mary Elizabeth Griffin, a domestic servant, of 23 Wescott-road, Wokingham.

The case was heard yesterday (Friday) before Mr. G.A. Watson and Mr. E.D. Mansfield.

The Hon. R. Coventry, instructed by Messrs. Brain and Brain of Reading, appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Cecil Walsh, instructed by Mr. E.T. Hatt, of Reading, was briefed for the defendant.

Mr. Coventry said there were two charges of indecent assault upon which the prosecution proposed to rely. In regard to the charge of rape, that was entirely owing to a misunderstanding. The view of the prosecution was that the girl in her innocence had misled them in believing something more had taken place than was actually the case.

Miss Elizabeth Griffin, aged 19, said she had been in Mr. May's service for two years and ten months. He employed a housekeeper, Mrs. Lunn. On Aug 18, a Sunday, it was witness's duty to wait upon Mr. May at supper, and she waited upon him about 9.45 p.m. After supper Mr. May said "Mary Come here, I want you a minute." She did not know what he wanted and went to him. He took hold of her hand, sat her on his knee and behaved indecently. She struggled and asked him to let her go, and he replied, "Wait a minute." When she got away he said "Goodnight." He kissed her. She was not willing that he should act like that. Mrs Lunn had gone to bed, complaining of being unwell. Witness went to her bedroom and locked the door. The next morning Mrs. Lunn called at her room and found the door locked. She let her in and made a complaint. On the following Sunday she laid the supper for Mr. May. Mrs Lunn came into the dining room and said, "No doubt you will be surprised for me to come in Mr. May. I have come to say what has happened to Mary this last week-not only today but last Sunday as well, you have been very rude to her, and I have told her to tell her mother. I have heard a good deal about you, but I have always taken your part, but now I will screen you in no way at all. A man in your position should be downright ashamed of himself. It is quite time that Mary and I both made a change. I thought I could not rest until I had it out with you tonight."

Mr. May replied, "I don't think I have done Mary any harm." Witness complained to her mother on Sunday, August 25, and on the following day her father took her away.

(much more)

Sat 2nd Nov

Miss Ellen J. Heron, daughter of Alderman Heron, married Mr. A.W. Gallaway of Hastings.

Sat 21st Dec

As Mr. T.M. Wescott was being driven into the Market-place on Tuesday his horse fell and expired.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The children of the Palmer Schools were presented with their County Council prizes on Thursday afternoon by the Mayor and Mrs. W.T. Martin, who, afterwards, attended the gathering of the children of St. Paul's Sunday School in the Parish Room and distributed book prizes to the deserving scholars. Tea was prepared for the children, and Mr. T.E. Ellison provided a lantern entertainment. The scholars of St. Paul's Day Schools had their annual winter treat yesterday (Friday). Presents of toys, buns, and oranges were given, and a pleasant time was spent. Miss Dodge (the headmistress of the infants' department) was the recipient of handsome presents from the managers, teachers, and the children on the occasion of her forthcoming marriage.

STRANGE DISAPPEARANCE OF MR. W.C. MAY

Mr. William C. May, recently appointed Deputy Town Clerk of Wokingham, disappeared in a mysterious way on Tuesday. He left his office unfastened, and, his parents, who are also much respected, have been unable to trace his whereabouts, although they have received postcards from various places, including one from Brighton yesterday (Friday). It is supposed that a lapse of memory, following worry and overwork, may be the cause of his disappearance. The police have circulated a description of the missing man.

Sat 28th Dec

MR WILLIAM MAY

Mr. William C. May, acting town clerk, was on Monday night restored to his home and friends, and is now being cared for by his parents. He was seen in the neighbourhood of London by a friend, who telegraphed the address to Mr. May, senr. with the result that he was brought home by the midnight train. Mr. William May, who is suffering from the effects of overwork and nervous worry, is still much depressed.

SAD ACCIDENT TO AN OLD MAN

As an elderly "man on the road" was passing along Broad-street about 11 o'clock on Tuesday morning, he met with somewhat serious injury, through the collapse of the hoarding in front of the site of the new Picture Theatre. The old buildings have been razed to the ground, and the hoarding was left, the poles being set in tubs, in readiness for the erection of the new structure. This was caught by a gust of wind and blown down bodily, knocking the man into the gutter, and severely hurting him. The poor old man who gave his name as William Hammond was quickly extricated by a number of persons who were near at the time, and was taken on the police ambulance to the surgery of Drs. Ward and Bokenham, where it was found that he had sustained a fractured femur and some slight injuries to the head.

1913

Sat 4th Jan

THE TOWN CLERKSHIP

A meeting of Wokingham Town Council was held on Thursday when the General Purposes Committee recommended that Mr. H.E. Clifton, solicitor, of Llandrindod, Wales be appointed Town Clerk and Borough Accountant at a salary of £100 for the first year rising to £200. An office to be provided for his use for Borough business only, and that he undertake that a competent person to be left in charge during his absence for private business.

Sat 1st March

The Wokingham Picture Palace will be formally opened on Tuesday afternoon next and invitations have been sent to the leading residents of the district. A charge will be made for admissions and a share of the proceeds will be given to the Crowthorne & District Nursing Association. The Directors will provide light refreshments. The first public performance will take place the same evening.

Sat 15th March

ELECTRIC THEATRE (WOKINGHAM PICTURE PALACE)

The opening of this place of amusement took place on Monday afternoon. The Mayor (Councillor W. T. Martin) opened the proceedings and switched on the first film. Mr. Vince, a director, thanked the Mayor for his kindness. A selection of films was then exhibited. The theatre was filled at the evening performance

Sat. 24th May

Miss Anne Heelas died, age 82, at the Terrace. Daughter of the late John Heelas of the Holt.

1914

Sat 17th Jan

Fire Brigade Wedding-At St. Paul's Church on Monday, Mr Weston B Martin, son of Mr & Mrs H Martin of Denmark Street was wedded to Miss Margaret Emily Smallbone of St. Leonard's, Wokingham, only daughter of Mr S Smallbone. The bride was attended by Master Joey Dearlove who acted as page dressed in fireman's uniform.

The bridegroom was driven to the church in a fire engine accompanied by the brigade including the Marquis of Downshire who acted as driver and Lord Hillsborough. Mr Martin has been a member of the brigade for 23 years and that body presented him with a clock. A reception was afterwards held at Fernleigh, home of the bridegroom's brother.

Sat 14th Feb

Alderman Heron's wife died Thursday last week at 22 Market Place.

Sat 9th May

MOTOR FIRE ENGINE FOR WOKINGHAM LADY DOWNSHIRE OPENS BAZAAR

The Marchioness of Downshire, in the presence of a large company of residents of the town and district on Wednesday afternoon formally opened a grand bazaar in the Drill Hall, Wokingham in aid of a new motor fire engine, which it is proposed to purchase for the borough. The Wokingham Fire Brigade, which has been in existence nearly 40 years, has done valuable and efficient work in the past with their horse manual but it was felt that it should become more up to date and secure a motor fire engine, which will enable the brigade to cope more thoroughly with any outbreak which may occur in the town and ever increasing populous district of Wokingham Without.

The Marquis of Downshire, who is High Steward of the Borough and also Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade, started a subscription list with £100, and of the £725 required upwards of £644 had been raised by private subscription before Wednesday's final effort to secure another £100.

So excellent was the response to the appeal made by a committee of the Brigade, that a Dennis patent turbine motor fire engine was ordered from the makers at Guildford, and this will soon be delivered. The engine is from 40 to 45 horsepower, has a current of from 200 to 250, with 1,200 feet of hose and a 60 feet jet, and is capable of travelling 30 miles an hour. As stated the price is £725.

On Wednesday a new sister engine belonging to the Farnborough Fire Brigade was brought over by Chief Officer Collins, and it was on view in the Drill Hall yard.

Previous to the opening of the bazaar members of the Wokingham Brigade were taken round the town on it in charge of the Captain (Lord Downshire).

The following are the members of the Wokingham Fire Brigade all of whom were present in their brass helmets and smart uniforms:—

Chief Officer, The Marquis of Downshire; Deputy Chief Officer, F. Caiger; Lieutenant, A. Goswell; hon. Surgeon, Dr. T.B. Bokenham; engineers, F.G. Martin, W.B. Martin, and F. Knight; firemen, W.R. Brant, F. Dearlove, G.A. Brown, H.J. Painter, R. Herring, E. Hawkins, and the Earl of Hillsborough; hon. Secretary, Fireman Harold Watts, 7 Broad Street, Wokingham.

The opening ceremony took place at two o'clock, and among those present were: The Marquis and Marchioness of Downshire, the hon. Mrs and Miss Peel, Major W.K. Bunting (chief officer of the Camberley Fire Brigade), Lieut. Colonel Fox (chief officer of London Salvage Corps), Miss Gregorie, Mr. P. Sale, C.C., the Rev. H.M. Walter, the Rev. J. Stratton, Mr. E. Watts, Fireman Harold Watts (hon. secretary), Chief Officer Collins (Farnborough Fire Brigade), Dr. T.B. Bokenham, Mr. A.J.S. Kennett (Reading, etc).

The members of the Wokingham and Farnborough Fire Brigades were lined up on each side of the gaily-decorated platform.

Fireman Harold Watts announced apologies, with wishes of success to the bazaar, from the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham (Mr. And Mrs. H. Mylne), Lord Londesborough (President of the National Fire Brigades Union), Mr. Sydney A. Hankey, Mr. And Mrs. Howard Palmer, Lady Bective, Mr. John Walter, Mr. S. B. Joel, Captain Godsall, Colonel Seabrook (Chairman of the Council of the National Fire Brigades Union), Chief Officer Halls (Windsor Fire Brigade), Mr. And Mrs. E.M. Sturges, and the Deputy-Mayoress (Mrs. W.T. Martin). Mr. Watts announced that £644 of the £725 required had been subscribed, and they were hoping that as a result of that bazaar the remaining sum of £100 or more would be realised. (Applause.)

The Marquis of Downshire said he was there in two capacities—as High Steward of the Borough of Wokingham and as Captain of the Fire Brigade,—and he was very proud to hold both those positions, and he hoped he would always be able to serve the true interests of the inhabitants. (Applause.) He wished to most cordially thank all the organisers, including the stallholders and helpers, and all those who had subscribed to the stalls for that bazaar: the residents of Wokingham, Wokingham Without, and those in the surrounding villages for their subscriptions and help to the motor fire engine fund; to those in charge of the refreshment stall, particularly Miss Cooper and Miss Rose; to Mr. Medcalf and his committee for organising the side shows; to Mr. Maidment and the teachers of the Palmer Schools for arranging the morris dances; to Mrs. H.B. Hall and party and Mr. F Ayers and party for arranging the concerts; to Mrs. S. Butler (conductor) and the members of the Wokingham Red Cross Prize Band; and to all those who had assisted in any way. He could only hope that they would be able to get sufficient money to pay for their new motor fire engine, and then the members of the Brigade would endeavour to make themselves proficient with the gift that had been kindly provided. He wished to thank Colonel Fox for kindly volunteering to come there that day in his smart Brigade uniform. He should also like to thank the Captain of the Farnborough Fire Brigade for kindly coming over with his men and showing the Wokingham people the kind of engine the local Brigade shortly hoped to have. (Applause). He took that opportunity on behalf of the Brigade, of thanking for all the great kindness and help they had rendered them. (Applause.)

Mr. P. Sale said that as County Councillor for that borough, and also as a member of the Wokingham Town Council, it gave him great pleasure to be present that

afternoon. He had known the Brigade since its formation, now nearly 40 years ago and he was very pleased to see what a great step forward it had made. (Applause.) When they came to think of it, it was rather out of date when they received a call from some five miles or so in the country to have to hunt about in order to find horses. He was sure they were all pleased to know that a good portion of the sum had already been provided, which would enable the motor engine to be purchased, and so enable the Brigade to become more and more efficient when called to a fire. The men certainly ought to be efficient under such an excellent Chief Officer, and he was sure the town had reason to be proud of the Brigade. (Applause).

He remembered that when the Brigade was first formed under their old friend, Mr. John Briginshaw, who he was glad to know was still alive, they went to Chiswick and created surprise by carrying off the chief honours at the competition there. The inhabitants of Wokingham most cordially sympathised with the Brigade in the efforts they were making to secure the new motor engine, and he should like to acknowledge the debt which the townspeople owed to the members who gave up their business and pleasure at the call of duty. (Applause.) They set them all an excellent example, and he wished the Brigade every success. (Applause.)

Deputy Chief Officer F. Caiger and Lieutenant A. Goswell, on behalf of the members of the Brigade, tendered their grateful thanks to Lord Downshire for all the kindness he had shown them in the past, and for the great assistance he had rendered in raising a fund for their new motor engine. The latter remarked that Lord Downshire's household had contributed £160 to the fund. They knew that when their Captain took the matter up it was bound to be a success. (Applause.)

Little Miss and Master Bokenham having presented to the Marchioness of Downshire a choice bouquet of orchids, supplied by Messrs. E.H. Davidson and Co., of Twyford.

The Marchioness said she felt it a great honour to have been asked to open that bazaar. She hoped it would be a great success, because she knew how earnestly and thoroughly they had all worked to try and make it so, and what a splendid cause it was for. She had great pleasure in declaring the bazaar open. (Applause.)

Colonel Fox, Chief Officer of the London Salvage Corps, in thanking Lady Downshire for opening the bazaar, said he thought Wokingham was a very lucky town. They possessed a smart Brigade and were very fortunate to have such charming ladies, headed by the Marchioness of Downshire, to assist at a bazaar of that kind on behalf of funds for a new motor engine. Of course it was for the good of the townspeople generally to have as efficient Brigade, and they were extremely fortunate in having as the Chief Officer the Marquis of Downshire, who not only knew his work, but did it well. (Applause.)

He was recognised in the National Fire Brigade Union as an officer who took a very great interest in the work. (Hear, hear.) Colonel Fox also paid a tribute to the efficiency of the Brigade and thanked Fireman Harold Watts (the hon. Secretary) for all he had done.

The sale then commenced. Concerts took place during the afternoon and evening and the total takings of the whole event amounted to £124 1s 3½d.

Sat 6th June

Mr W Chambers, Sergeant-at-Mace died in Australia. (Sydney Daily Telegraph 28th April) Taralga. William Chambers who arrived recently from England died suddenly at the Goodbron Hospital today. The late Mr W Chambers was well-known as a caterer at Wokingham and Wellington College. He served in the Volunteers and

retired with the rank of sergeant. He was, for about 20 years a Sergeant at Mace and Sidesman at St. Paul's Church. He had advised his friends of his intention of returning home.

Sat. 22nd Aug

APPEAL FOR RECRUITS

On Thursday night a meeting was held in the Town Hall, Wokingham, when Colonel Colebrooke Carter explained the object of Lord Kitchener's scheme. The Mayor of Wokingham was in the chair, supported by Lord Haversham, Colonel Jones, Major Adam, Mr. E.M. Sturges, and Mr. S.A. Hankey.

The Mayor said the meeting was to enable Colonel Carter to give some information as to the calling up of the extra men.

Colonel Carter said they were engaged in a great conflict and Lord Kitchener had asked for more men. It was the duty of every man and woman to do all that was possible to enable him to have a force at his disposal. It was of vital importance to get a second Army together, drilled and ready to fight. It was arranged that a recruiting committee should be formed to assist the Recruiting Officer. In Wokingham a sub-committee would be focussed. It was proposed to have a house-to-house call, and so find out all those men who were eligible for service. All who were physically fit were eligible. Men must be between the ages of 19 and 30. Separation allowance would be made for wives. Lord Kitchener had made up his mind to get a second army together strong to protect us in all difficulties. It was a way of life and death, and under these circumstances the nation could not refuse to respond to this appeal. (Applause.)

Lord Haversham said that, thanks to our splendid Navy, the expeditionary force had been successfully landed to assist our allies. The Territorials and Yeomanry had been of great assistance to our Regular troops. The Territorial ranks were full, so those who wished to join Kitchener's force must be quick about it. Mr. de Vitre had come forward to take names of recruits at the Drill Hall,

Admiral Eustace referred to Oliver Cromwell's well-trained body of men, and said Lord Kitchener wanted to get a body of men together like that. It was the duty of all to come forward.

Colonel Jones said they were fighting an aristocratic clique of bullies who bullied their men.

The present was a just war.

Councillor Sale, in proposing a vote of thanks to the speakers, said they lived in a land of liberty. They were undertaking a gigantic task in the interest of peace. The Germans were not a liberty people. They were excellent people, and those he had met did not want to be at war with England but they were not at liberty. The Government were acting in defence of liberty. He regarded the call to arms as a most sacred call, and all had, he considered, a certain obligation to obey. He hoped the County of Berkshire would answer the call.

THE WOKINGHAM PATRIOTIC FUND

In view of the present war crisis, a short account of this local fund should prove interesting to many, especially to those who subscribed. The latter have a right to know how the three trustees have carried out their trust during the past thirteen years, and as I am the only trustee left in the town it is obviously my duty to enlighten both subscribers and the public on the subject.

The fund was started in October, 1899, by the late Captain Arthur Hill M.P., and a Committee consisting of the Mayor (Alderman W. White), Rev. R. de Muller Nixon,

Messrs. G.A. Belcher, E. Garrard, E. Ifould, F. Martin, G.T. Phillips, H.G. Powell, with Messrs A.T. Heelas and F.P. Hatt as Hon. Secretaries.

The first step taken was to start a fund to assist local widows and orphans of our soldiers and sailors who lost their lives in the Transvaal War. Feeling in the town at the time was strongly against so much money being collected and sent away to the large national funds, so this local fund was started to give immediate assistance to those living amongst us who did not appear to be satisfactorily covered by the other funds. The idea proved a popular one, especially among the poorer classes, as was proved by the generous way in which they supported it through the medium of collection boxes, etc. On November 14th, 1899, a grand patriotic concert was given in the Drill Hall in aid of the fund. H.R.H. Prince Christian, who was also a subscriber, supported by all the gentry of the neighbourhood, was present, and the concert proved a great success financially. Private subscriptions were raised to defray the expenses of the concert in order that the whole of the profits might be given to the fund. In addition, about fifty collection boxes and a few subscription lists were distributed, and when the fund was closed in 1901 there was a balance in the bank of £201 8s. 4d., all the accounts being duly audited by Mr. J.J. Evans in October 22nd of that year.

It so happened that our married local soldiers and sailors came through the war well, and there was not a single claim on the fund. Then arose the question as to its disposal. Seeing the money was collected conditionally for the distribution to local widows and orphans, the Committee did not feel justified in handing it over to any outside fund, as it would have been lost to the town, and at the same time would not have fulfilled the conditions given at the time of collection.

It was then decided to appoint three trustees: Messrs Ifould, G.T. Phillips and A.T. Heelas, to manage the fund, with Mr. James May as honorary legal advisor. The money was promptly withdrawn from the bank and invested with the result that we now have a fund starting at £334 0s. 0d., which I trust will be utilised for relieving the families of our brave soldiers and sailors who are gallantly fighting for their King and Country. A meeting will be shortly held to elect a new trustee in the place of Mr. E. Ifould, who has resigned, and to make arrangements for the distribution of the fund.

(Signed) Arthur T. Heelas.

Aug. 12th 1914.

Sat 29th Aug

CIVIL GUARDS

At a meeting held in Friday of last week, the Mayor presiding, the movement of enrolling "loyal citizens and inhabitants" so as to guard life and property was carried a stage further. Members had given in their names as being willing to act as a special police reserve. The Mayor was supported by Admiral Eustace and General Fasken. He pointed out the need of home defence in the matter of spies and spoke of the value of drill. He had asked General Fasken to take command. General Fasken who said he had served for forty years and had again volunteered-(Applause)-accepted the position. He said the special police reserve were not sworn in until they were wanted. Mr. Garry enquired if the men were to drill and prepare as a kind of irregular force. Admiral Eustace said their duty would be to assist the police. It was decided to hold the first drill on Langborough Recreation Ground on Wednesday afternoon.

BREAD GIFT

On Monday the bread tickets under Bromley's Charity were distributed by the trustees. The usual St. Bartholomew's Day sermon was preached at All Saint's Church in connection with this charity.

NEW MOTOR FIRE ENGINE

The fete fixed for Wednesday last week has been postponed. The new motor fire engine is expected to arrive at one o'clock on Monday.

THE AGRICULTURAL SHOW CANCELLED

It is advertised that the annual show of the Wokingham and District Agricultural Association, which was to take place at Hines Hill on the 7th October, is for this year abandoned.

Sat 5th Sept

ST. PAUL'S

The Bishop has licensed the Rev. Ernest George Drummond, M.A., to the curacy of St. Paul, Wokingham.

THE HARVEST

Wheat is the crop of the year here, and spring oats, where sown early, are good, but on heavy land, and where late sown, a failure. Barley a fair crop and yield very good but very indifferent sample. Roots are a good plant, and, if rain should come, will be a good crop. Most farms have finished harvest, having had bad seed weather. The hay crop is light but of good quality.

TO AID THE BELGIANS

Through the kindness of Mr. Cusack, Shute End House, has been lent for Belgian refugees. Furniture has been lent by a number of the residents of Wokingham, and the house has been thoroughly cleaned by a band of willing woman helpers. The carting of the furniture also has been kindly undertaken by Messrs. Osgood, Laird, Herring, Bullock and Ayers. The following ladies are serving on the Committees:-Miss Hankey, Miss Sturges, Lady Haversham, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Eustace, Mrs. Durbridge, Mrs. Ardizzone, with Misses Handy and Barry as joint secretaries. Mdlle. Luitzen is managing the household.

RIFLE SHOOTING

The Miniature Range is crowded on Monday and Thursday evenings with men who are learning to shoot while the Terrace Room is used for drill, which is being enthusiastically taken up. On Monday night 700 rounds of ammunition were used.

Sat 26th Sept

Lady Eustace died.

Lt. Frederick de Vere Allfrey, 9th Lancers, only son of Frederick Vere Allfrey and grandson of Mrs Bruce of Arborfield Court, was killed aged 22. He was shot by a wounded German after he had dismounted to extract a lance from a wounded comrade's leg.

Sat 17th Oct

PATRIOTIC CONCERT

The Drill Hall was crowded on Wednesday evening, when an excellent concert was given in aid of the local patriotic fund. Throughout the greatest interest was maintained by the crowded audience and appreciation for the excellent numbers presented was shown by loud applause.

The programme was as follows:-

March, Selection, The Wokingham Orchestra: Song and Chorus, "England's Battle Hymn" (F. Sydney Smith); Dr. Nash: Song, "Queen of Nations,"; Miss Olive Crowe: Piano Solo, "Chanson Triste" (Tchaikovsky); Major Adam: Songs, (a) "The Two Grenadiers" (in French) and (b) "I'll Sing Thee Songs of Araby" (Fred Clay); Mr. Sydney Barraclough: Recitation, "Lasca" (Frank Desprez); Miss Nora Butler: Songs (a) "See, Love, I Bring Thee Flowers" (Frank Lambert), and (b) "Now Sleeps the Crimson Petal" (Roger Quinter); Mr. E. Croft: Song "Mother Machree"; Madame Ellen Heron: Violin Solo, "Mazurka" (Mlynarski); Miss Marjorie Bower: Song "Up From Somerset" (Sanderson); Mr. C. Powell Eastbury: Song "Awake Spring" (Montague Phillips); Miss Dorothy Wescott: Song "Tis Jolly to Hunt" (Sterndale Bennett); Dr. Nash: Monologue; Mr. C. Powell Eastbury: "Your King and Country Need You" (Paul Rubens);

Madame Ellen Heron: An amusing one-act farce "Blatherwick's Diplomacy" by J.B. Trenwith, was produced under the direction of Mr. Sydney Barraclough. The characters were:-

Adolphus Blatherwick, an aspiring but impecunious dramatist	Major Adam
Mrs. Eliza Blatherwick, his wife	Mrs. H.B. Hall
Gertrude, their daughter, a suffragette	Miss Crowe
Arthur Chetwynd, her suitor	Mr. McEwan
Gwendoline Mary, the cook	Miss Olive Crowe
John Henry Stubbs, a broker's man	Mr. Ernest Targett
Aunt Matilda (a little deaf)	Miss Dorothy Sale
Edmund Fitzclarence, manager of the Thespian Theatre	Mr. E. Croft

The scene: A morning room in Blatherwick's house.

"God Save the King" was sung by Madame Ellen heron, the well-known local favourite. Mr. Staniland gratuitously printed the programmes and advertised the concert and Mr. P. Sale very kindly sent plants for decoration.

MEETING OF SPECIAL CONSTABLES

On Monday evening a meeting of special constables was held in the county Police Station. Supt. Goddard explained that it was proposed to swear in special constables for the county this year, and not for the Borough of Wokingham alone. Admiral Eustace said that the county had responded with a large number of special police reserves. An Act had now been passed which enabled them to swear in special constables, and the County Council had decided to swear in 2,000 to act anywhere. They had heard from the War Office that Wokingham was one of the proclaimed areas, which, although it did not mean it was under Martial Law, it was getting on that way. Bridge guarding was most important. They did not want soldiers to do what they could do themselves. There were 50 or 60 Germans in Wokingham and district, and they must be ready.

FIRE CALL

On Sunday afternoon the Fire Brigade received a call from Everseley and within 14 minutes were at the scene of the fire. A store in the occupation of Mr. Dearlove was burnt down, but the efforts of the brigade prevented other damage.

Sat 24th Oct

THE WOKINGHAM PICTURE PALACE

A matinee was given at the above theatre on Tuesday in aid of the Belgian refugees. The well-known bass, Mr. Berry, sang "The Battle Hymn," assisted by a chorus, and later the "Bugle Call". The directors have much pleasure in handing over £5 to the fund.

HELP FOR BELGIAN REFUGEES

The East Berks Women's Liberal Association have made and sent to the Belgian Relief Fund 125 under-garments, and a large bale of warm clothing. The Hon. secretary, Miss L. Kemp, has received the following message from M. Navaux, secretary of the fund: "Please convey my sincere and heartfelt thanks to all the members of your Association who have contributed towards this gift. My countrymen, I am sure, will always feel the deepest gratitude for all that has been done for them in this time of trouble, by the British public.

BERKS REGIMENT TOBACCO FUND

A social evening and whist drive was held in the Drill Hall on Wednesday evening in aid of the Tobacco fund for the 1st and 2nd Battn. Royal Berks Regiment at the front. There was a good attendance. Eighteen tables were occupied and the prize-winners were: Ladies: Miss Taylor, Miss Smith and Miss Belcher; Gentlemen: Messrs Stacey, Spencer and Hebbes. The prizes and refreshments were supplied by a committee of ladies.

1915

Sat 23rd Jan

MILITARY

This week-end Wokingham will be full of troops, for on Saturday the 10th Northumberland Fusiliers will move from Aldershot to be billeted in various parts of the town, and at Embrook, in order to go through battalion training. Provision has been made to accommodate 1,156 non-commissioned officers and men, with 34 officers. On the same day 37 officers and 1,160 non-commissioned officers and men will move in, belonging to the 13th Durham Light Infantry. These men will find billets in the town and at the Tannery.

DEATH OF MR. GOTELEE

We have to record with regret the death at the age of 80 of Mr Gotelee the well-known stationer and bookseller of the Market-place which occurred on Wednesday morning. The deceased who was blind had been in failing health for the last three years. He was a good chess player and was noted for his kindness and generosity and will be greatly missed. The funeral is arranged for today (Saturday) at St. Paul's Church.

LEAGUE OF HONOUR

At a meeting held in the Town Hall on Wednesday evening, Miss Talbot gave an earnest address to the large number of women present. A musical programme followed, contributed to by Miss Locke, Mrs. Bousfield, and Mrs. Roberts, violin solo; and Miss Sturges, reading.

Sat 13th Feb

OUTBREAK OF FIRE

On Sunday morning a fire broke out at the office at the Saw Mills, destroying several piles of documents, spoiling a typewriter, burning a large portion of wainscoting, and cracking nearly every window pane. It is supposed that a wooden box of cinders inadvertently placed under a table became ignited, and a foreman coming to see to his horses, noticed the flames, which were soon subdued.

DEPARTURE OF TROOPS

Large numbers of townspeople assembled on Tuesday to give a hearty "send off" to the 10th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers and the Durham Light Infantry, who left their local billets for Aldershot. The Colonel of the Durhams called for three cheers from his men for "the kindly people of Wokingham," and at the call of the Rector, the Rev. B. Long, cheers were given for the troops. On the previous evening at the St. Paul's Parish Room, the 7th and 8th platoons of the 10th Batt. Northumberland Fusiliers presented the Rev. E. G. Drummond with a pipe, in case, and tobacco, and Mr. W.T. Martin with a silver-mounted walking stick, as a token of appreciation of what these gentlemen had done on their behalf. Cheers were given for Miss G. Simmons and the ladies who had helped her with the teas. At the Wesleyan Church, where provision had also been made for the men, a similar meeting was held. The Rector, the Rev. B. Long, and the Mayor, Ald. H.C. Mylne, as well as Councillor W.T. Martin, wished the men God-speed and a safe return at a gathering held at the Town Hall.

Sat 27th Feb

A PRECAUTION

Public lamps in the borough are now being darkened at the top as a precaution in the case of air raids by the Germans.

Miss Elizabeth Dalley of the Terrace died on Saturday. She was a daughter of the late Mr. E. Dalley.

Sat 27th March

5th BATTALION ROYAL BERKS AT WOKINGHAM

On Saturday afternoon, amid some excitement, upwards of 2,000 men, with 60 officers, of the 5th Berks and the 7th Norfolks marched into the town to their billets, which they will occupy for ten days. The men looked particularly fit after their march from Aldershot and their skirmishing from Eversley. The "cease fire" sounded at "Hagville." After a short rest with "packs off" the two battalions marched into the town, the 5th Berks leading, headed by their capital band (drums and fifes, the gift of the county). They were greeted with a cheer as they entered Denmark Street. The church parade on Sunday morning attracted attention. The Drill Hall with its capital arrangements is still going strong, under the direction of the deputy-mayor (Mr. W.T. Martin), as are also the club rooms at Montague House and the Wesleyan schoolroom. There is considerable talent among the men of the Norfolks, and the entertainments at

the Drill Hall have been of particular interest, and the large hall has been packed every evening.

RECRUITING MEETING

On Friday evening in last week Mr. A.C. White, a representative of the joint Parliamentary Recruiting Committee, held a meeting in the Market Place, and spoke to a large gathering on "The War." The speaker arrived in an armoured motor-car, and spoke from it. The Mayor (Alderman H.C. Mylne) introduced the speaker in a few well-chosen words. Mr. White gave a masterly address, and emphasised Lord Kitchener's request for "more men, and still more men." Married men had well responded to the call, which should appeal to every man. The time has gone for talking about the causes of the war: everything must be done to bring it to a successful issue for the Allies. To save our land from Belgium's fate, to crush the Prussian Junkerism, and to restore the rights of small States, men, and still more men, were required. The enemy to be got and kept "on the run," required great forces, which must be kept at strength. The conditions of service were such as would enable dependents to be provided for. A vote of thanks was passed to the speaker on to the motion of the Mayor. Names were taken of volunteers for the army at the close of the meeting. The Boys' Brigade, 1st Wokingham Co., under Captain the Rev. J.W. Blencoe, and the Scouts, under Assistant Scoutmaster W. Seaward, kept the ground around the armoured car.

Sat 17th April

5th BATTALION ROYAL BERKS AT WOKINGHAM

On Saturday afternoon, amid some excitement, upwards of 2,000 men, with 60 officers

Members of the local fire brigade met on Monday evening and presented Fireman Lord Hillsborough with a firemen's axe of silver steel (chased) with an ebony handle suitably inscribed on the occasion of his Lordship attaining his majority. Deputy Captain Caiger made the presentation.

Sat 22nd May

EGGS FOR THE WOUNDED

Mrs. Dunne, wife of Major Dunne of Toutley Hall, has organised a scheme for the collection of eggs in the district for the use of the wounded at the front. 38-40 dozen per week are being sent but more are needed.

Sat 5th June

COLLECTION IN AID OF RECREATION TENTS

The collection on Whit Sunday for the recreation tents for soldiers at Windsor Great Park camp and military works at Didcot, etc. realised £28.

G.F.S.

The annual festival of the Sonning Deanery branch of the Girls' Friendly Society was held at Wokingham on Wednesday afternoon. A large number of members from various places in the deanery met at The Holt, by permission of the representatives of the Heelas family, for tea. Evensong was said at St. Paul's Church at 7 p.m., when an address was given by the Rev. Percy Nott (rector of Bear Wood). The offertory was divided between the sick funds of Battersea and local branches.

MILITARY

On Friday afternoon the 75th Brigade of the 25th Division, consisting of the South Wales Borderers, South Lancashires, and 10th and 11th Cheshires, marched into the town to the number of upwards of 4,000, from Basingstoke, some of the men proceeding to Billingbear and Bear Wood. After church parade on Sunday General Woodward, Brigadier Commandant of the Brigade, inspected the Cheshires in Broad Street. Full use was made of the Soldiers' Club (Montague House), the Drill Hall, and other rooms provided for the benefit of the men. Changing the guard was carried out in full military style at the Town Hall, where defaulters were confined, and this was witnessed each evening by a large gathering of townspeople. The troops left for Aldershot on Wednesday morning, after a much shorter stay than was anticipated.

Sat 19th June

CLEVER FLYING

Great interest was shown in the clever flying of a pilot in an army biplane on Saturday who went through a magnificent series of evolutions over the Town Hall and Police-station. The same airman was again in evidence on Tuesday afternoon and his flying was keenly watched by a large number of people. Rumour has it that the airman was Pilot Bishop, son of Mr. Bishop, formerly steward at Bear Wood Farm.

Saturday 26th June

On Tuesday the Fire Brigade received a call to a Heath Fire at Crowthorne. Within a few minutes of the alarm the firemen were off in the new motor fire engine, and were soon at the scene of the outbreak which they were able to cope with successfully.

Sat 3rd July

RECRUITING MARCH AT WOKINGHAM

On Monday the town was visited by a detachment of the 4th and 9th Battalions Royal Berkshire Regiment under the command of Major Tennyson D'Eyncourt. They were met at the borough boundary, Easthampstead Road, by Major Denis de Vitre (local recruiting officer) and the Mayor of Wokingham (Alderman H.C. Mylne) accompanied by the Town Clerk (Mr. Clifton) and the sergeant-at-mace. The party then marched to the Drill Hall, headed by their band playing martial airs. The officers and men were then entertained to tea, the arrangements being under the superintendence of the Deputy Mayor (Mr. Councillor Martin) assisted by the following ladies: Miss Simmons, Mrs. Stephenson Barry, Miss Beaumont, and others. After tea the Mayor gave a short address of welcome to the troops. The Deputy-Mayor also spoke, and called for three cheers for the ladies who had assisted in the arrangements, which were heartily given. Major D'Eyncourt then asked for three cheers for Mayor

In the evening the detachment paraded the town headed by their band, concluding their march at the Market Place, where a large number of people were assembled. A big motor lorry was also there, in which were the Mayor of Wokingham, Mr. Councillor Sale, the Rev. B. Long, Major Denis de Vitre, Major D'Eyncourt, and Mr. Bryan O'Donnell, M.A. The Mayor introduced the speakers. Capital addresses were given by Major D'Eyncourt, Mr. O'Donnell M.A. (Parliamentary Recruiting Committee), and Lieutenant Thompson. The rector (the Rev. B. Long) said that he felt sure all those who were soon going back to the front again would go back much more heartily if they thought everyone in England who could go was following them out. He thanked the speakers for coming and addressed the people. Mr. Councillor Sale

said that everyone must think very seriously about enlisting, and urged all who could to join. At the conclusion several recruits came forward.

Sat 10th July

WOKINGHAM MAN KILLED IN ACTION

Deep regret is felt at the death of Corporal H. Cooper, 6th Somerset Light Infantry, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Cooper of Seaford Road, Wokingham who was killed in action on June 25th. He had only been at the front a few weeks and was a very promising young soldier. His death cast a gloom over all his company and sincere sympathy is felt with his parents.

Saturday 24th July

The members of the local Fire Brigade have appointed Lieut. A Goswell Hon. Sec., and appointed Mr. E V Robinson the Hon. Treasurer in place of Sergeant H Watts, who is now serving in the Berks Yeomanry.

Sat 7th Aug

ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION OF WAR

Wednesday last being the Anniversary of the Declaration of War, special services were held at All Saints Church. The eight o'clock evening service was well attended. The Mayor and members of the Corporation and officials were present.

BELGIAN BABIES FUND

After the services on the last two Sundays a Belgian Red Cross nurse has, by kind permission of the Rector stationed herself at the door of All Saints Church with a box, collecting for the Belgian Babies Fund. She has collected the satisfactory sum of £10 11s.

Sat 21st Aug

PHOTOGRAPH FOUND ON THE BATTLEFIELD

Miss A. Paice of Goodchild Road, Wokingham has just had her photograph which was found on the battlefield, returned to her. It was enclosed by the Censor in a letter from Private Palmer to his wife at London Road, Wokingham, and a note was appended by the Censor asking Mrs. Palmer to forward the photograph to its owner, whose address was written on the back. The photograph was given to a private in the 7th Norfolks when he was billeted in Wokingham and who is reported missing.

Sat 4th Sept

The funeral was reported of Mr. Frederick William Allfrey of Stanbury, Spencers Wood who died at the age of 97. He was buried in Grazely Churchyard.

Sat 25th Sept

DEATH AND FUNERAL OF MR. T.E. ELLISON I.C.S.

Very widespread regret was experienced in Wokingham and district when it became known that Mr. Thomas Edward Ellison, I.C.S., of "The Elms," Wokingham had passed away. The deceased gentleman, who was 72 years of age, was the eldest son of the late Mr. George Thomas Ellison, a well-known solicitor, of Seymour Street, London, W. Educated at Bradfield College, and afterwards prepared for his distinguished career by private tuition, Mr. Ellison took a very high place in his first attempt to enter the Indian Civil Service, from which he retired as a judge, many years

ago. He came to live at Wokingham, where he was always most highly respected and esteemed. He became one of the foundation managers of St. Paul's parochial schools, of which for several years past he had acted as corresponding manager. He some years back generously purchased the whole of the St. Paul's school building and playground, together with the parish rooms and premises adjoining, and vested them in the Rector and trustees in March, 1911—a tablet on the clock-tower of the school commemorating this.

N.B. In May 1911 the parishioners presented Mr. Ellison with a solid silver casket, now known as the Ellison Casket. The casket, approximately 12 inches long, 5 inches wide and 2 inches deep was presented to Mr. Ellison by subscription of parishioners of St. Paul's in gratitude and appreciation for presenting the Parish Rooms and School together with the land. There are small enamel or porcelain miniatures of St. Paul's Church on one side and the Parish Room on the other. Some of the ornate decoration seems to be the oak leaves of Wokingham. It contains an illuminated scroll listing the names of the subscribers, and their sincere appreciation. The casket is now kept in the town hall and is displayed with items of the town silver on special occasions.

A whole-hearted son of the church, Mr. Ellison did much else for the parish he so loved, being a generous subscriber to the various church funds and institutions, and making handsome contributions towards the restoration of the roof and other improvements, and giving largely to the parochial institutions and to the Nurses' Fund, etc. He was the parish warden for many years.

He was a member of the Wokingham Town Council from 1902-1910, giving his services as Mayor's auditor and rendering valuable help in the management of the affairs of the town, his expert knowledge of administration and finance being highly appreciated by his colleagues. He, more than once, declined to accept the chief magistracy. He held the position of lieutenant in the Boys Brigade, in which he was most interested, and he did good work indeed when he acquired the old St. Paul's Parish Room on The Terrace (where the art classes used to be held) and in the long garden at the rear fitted up a miniature rifle range, which has proved of so much service to the members of the Rifle Club.

The funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon, the internment being in a new brick grave, which was very beautifully lined with bright-coloured flowers by the gardener. Muffled peals were rung both before and after the service.

Sat 13th Nov

J. Taylor was re-elected Town Crier; C. Sparkes Mace Bearer; Hon. Constables: W.H. Wilson, A.J. Rodgers, R. Turner and E. Jeffrey.

1916

Sat 1st Jan

THE NATIONAL EGG COLLECTION

One thousand one hundred and sixty-four new-laid eggs in addition to the weekly collection were sent on December 21st from the Wokingham District Depot as a Christmas gift and gratitude to our wounded soldiers.

Sat 8th Jan

Dr T B Bokenham of Broad Street has been elected by the Committee of St. Paul's school managers as one of the foundation managers in place of the late Mr T E Ellison.

Sat 8th April

The Earl of Hillsborough, elder son of and heir of the Marquis of Downshire entered his 23rd year yesterday having been born on April 7th 1894. His Lordship held a commission for a short time as 2nd Lieut. In the Berks. Yeomanry but recently resigned on account of delicate health.

Sat 22nd April

Miss Vera Allfrey only daughter of Mr & Mrs Vere Allfrey of Ashridgewood married Capt. Francis Anderson of Little Harle Tower, Northumberland.

Sat 6th May

THE NATIONAL EGG COLLECTION

From Wokingham and District Depot 102 dozen eggs have been sent this Easter to the above. The following churches have contributed: St. Paul's, Wokingham 83; Barkham 107; and 2s. 6d. (spent on eggs); All Saints', Binfield, 140; St. Marks, Binfield, 19; Hurst Church and Hurst collection 180. The weekly collection is well supported. Eggs are sent every Tuesday morning, and are gratefully received any time on Monday by Mrs. Dunne, controller, Toutley Hall, Wokingham.

WOMEN AND WORK ON THE LAND

A lecture on woman and work on the land was given in the Town Hall, Wokingham, by Miss Pott, one of the party of Berkshire ladies who went to France to study the work of the French women. Mr. P. Sale occupied the chair. Miss Pott gave an interesting and instructive account of her visit to France, and illustrated it with lantern slides. She urged all the women who could to do everything that is possible to increase the production of vegetables, etc., and also to enter their names on a register so that the farmers may know who is willing to undertake such work. Miss Cruttwell, of "Wroxton," South Drive, Wokingham, has charge of the register.

THE TRIBUNAL

The local tribunal for the Borough of Wokingham was held in the Town Hall on Monday. Present: The Mayor, in the chair, Sir Henry Kirk, Alderman Sale, Councillors Blake and Hammond, Mr. George Beale, with Mr. Vincent Craig (military representative), and Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton (clerk and Town Clerk).

The Home and Colonial Stores, Ltd. applied for exemption for their local manager, Mr. W.J. Ivory, and were represented by one of the chief district superintendents, who gave evidence that his firm had given every facility for their employees to join the Army or Navy, and even now were only making applications in respect of their branch managers.—Conditional exemption was allowed.

Frederick David Ayres married, of Langborough Road, Wokingham, upholster, etc. claimed exemption on business grounds, as if he were taken it would mean losing all his trade, his only support—Three months' exemption.

Sat 29th July

Mr. and Mrs. Mead, of Broad Street, have received news of the death of their son Lieut. Mead, killed in action. Deceased, who came over with the first Canadian Contingent, was a promising soldier and had seen much service at the front. Some time ago he was promoted to Lieutenant, and had recently transferred to the R.F.A.

WOKINGHAM WAR SAVINGS ASSOCIATION

An association, called the Wokingham War Savings Association, has recently been started for the purpose of purchasing War Savings Certificates. An investor may pay in each week any number of sixpences he pleases and when 15s. 6d. has been paid in he will be allotted a certificate worth £1 in five years (Government security). The committee consists of the Mayor (chairman), the Rev. B. Long, Miss C.F.M. Burnaby Dyott, Mr. H.A. Hammond, Mr. J.H. Byard (treasurer), and the Rev. Nichols (secretary).

DR. BARNARDO'S BOYS AT WOKINGHAM

Dr. Barnardo's Musical Boys, under Mr. A.J. Mayers (deputation secretary), gave an interesting entertainment at the Electric Cinema (kindly lent by the directors) on Friday last week. The theatre was open at 4.15 for young people, and at 7.30, when the Mayor, Alderman H.C. Mylne, took the chair. The boys gave a unique presentation of the National Anthem of the Allies, and selections were played by Highland pipers in full dress. A special show of animated pictures was given, including "Tiny Tots at work and play," "Sports," "Girls' Drill," "Emigrants off to Canada," "Training in the Workshops," "At sea; man overboard; the rescue," "Heroes from Canada," etc.

WOKINGHAM LOCAL TRIBUNAL

Mr. W.H. Wheeler of 54 Peach Street, bootmaker and repairer, applied for a renewal of his certificate and was granted exemption to November 1.

Mr. Robert Kirkby, 15, Oxford Road, grocer and provision merchant—November 1.

Mr. Arthur Smalley, Forest Road, Binfield, brewer's drayman.—November 1.

Mr. White, of Markham House, applied for exemption for Joseph Pocock, chauffeur and gardener.—No exemption.

Mr. Albert Charman, of Oakleigh Cottage, Wiltshire Road, butler, was granted was granted exemption from combatant service and from non-combatant also, provided he takes work of national importance.

Sat 12th August

TRIBUNAL

At the Wokingham Borough Tribunal on Tuesday there were present: The Mayor (Alderman H.C. Mylne), Sir Henry Kirk, Alderman Sale, Councillor Blake and Mr. G. Beald; Mr. V. Craig (military representative) and Mr. Clifton (clerk). E. Stevens, Barkham Road, hairdresser etc., was granted exemption until October 8th on business grounds.

On Wednesday the choirboys of All Saints' Church were given an outing. Accompanied by the Rev. P.R.S. Nicholls and Mr. H.R. Eady (organist) they went by water from reading to Henley, where they visited Friar Park.

The scholars at the Palmer School, by contributions limited to one penny in each case, have been able to send parcels to two "old boys" who are prisoners in Germany—Privates Arthur Gasson and William Band.

CASUALTIES

Private Harold Street of the Royal Berkshire Regiment who was killed in action on July 24th was, prior to the war, employed at Star Mead, Wokingham. He was 18 years of age. His parents, who live in Wescott Road, have received letters of sympathy from the officers, stating that deceased was killed while carrying bombs to trenches recently captured from the enemy.

The parents of Private Robert Brooks, of the Kings Royal Rifles, who live at Plough Lane, have received intimation that he has again been wounded at the front. Private Brooks enlisted at the commencement of the war, and was shot through the chest in January, 1915. Mr. and Mrs. Brooks have another son serving.

Lieut. S.E. Sale—On August 4th Lieut. S.E. Sale, Royal Garrison Artillery, was admitted to hospital suffering from shell shock, and he is now at Osborne. He had a narrow escape, being almost buried by the explosion, but his injuries apart from shock are slight. His battery has been engaged in the Somme advance from the commencement of the British offensive.

LETTER OF THANKS

The directors of the Electric Theatre have received a letter from the secretary to Dr. Barnardo's Homes, heartily thanking them for the use of the theatre on the occasion of the boys' recent visit to Wokingham, which resulted in £11 16s. 5d. being collected.

CHOIRBOYS' GATHERING

The choirboys of St. Paul's were 'at home' on Wednesday on the Wokingham cricket ground, where they entertained the choirboys of St. Peter's, Earley, who were in charge of Mr. G. Waite. A cricket match had been arranged, with tea and sports, and the boys spent a most enjoyable time. Mr. Durbridge, the organist, and Mr. Waite were responsible for the arrangements, and Mrs. Durbridge, Mrs. Waite, and other ladies assisted with the tea. The cricket match was easily won by the Earley boys by an innings and 45 runs. The prizes were distributed in the evening.

LOCAL CRICKETER'S NARROW ESCAPE

Private W. Langley, Royal Fusiliers, a well-known London Road Club cricketer, known as "Fatty," in a letter to a friend at Embrook relates his marvellous escape from death when he was recently wounded. He says: "I have only got to thank my spoon and pay-book for not being killed. It cut my pay-book through, and my spoon was bent in two. I am keeping my spoon for a souvenir, and I shall keep my pay-book if they will let me. I saw several Wokingham boys in the hospital, all wounded, All our boys went for it like 'Boys of the Old Brigade.' They stepped out and charged across as if going to a church parade. It was a treat to see the way they went across. Private Langley has a medal from the London Road C.C. awaiting his return, and has also distinguished himself in sports in France. He has won a medal for boxing, and another for flat racing. He was treated at a hospital in France. He received a severe injury to the ribs.

Sat 9th Sept

The popular manager of the Electric Theatre (Mr A P Stevens) having been called to the colours, the directors have appointed Mr F S Perkins of Wokingham to fill the vacancy.

Sat 21st Oct

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

The adopted war prisoner, Corporal A.C. Langley, having been transferred to Switzerland, parcels are now sent to another war prisoner viz. J.P. Griffiths, Stendal-Sachen, Germany. Parcels of food and tobacco have been sent out.

Sat 18th Nov

The following were elected:

Town Crier: Mr J Taylor; Sgt at Mace: C. Sparkes

Honorary Constables: R W Turner, W H Wilson, W Pearce, A Jervis. (A. J. Rodgers and E. Jeffrey are on active service.)

Medals and a bar were presented to three members of the Fire Brigade:

Eng F G Martin for 20 years' service

Eng F Knight for 20 years' service.

Eng. W B Martin who already received a medal for 20 years, received a bar representing five years.

1917

Sat 10th Feb

The Wokingham Platoon V.T.C. paraded on Sunday morning at 10.30 a.m. under the command of Lt. Brodie and Sergeant-Instructor Hands. The platoon, about thirty strong, marched to Langborough recreation Ground where they were inspected by Adjutant Kingham of Reading.

Sat 31st March

Appeals in support of National Service were made from the pulpits in the various places of worship on Sunday.

VEGETABLE CULTIVATION IN WAR-TIME

The fourth lecture on Wednesday, in the Town Hall by Mr. Jones, was of the usual interesting and instructive character, and was well attended. Advice was given on the sowing of carrots, turnips, broccoli etc., but the lecturer strongly advised all present to concentrate their principal efforts upon providing food for winter use. The lectures are proving very popular, and the numerous questions at the close is evidence of the lively interest taken in them. The advice and instruction given should prove of the utmost value to the district.

THE WAR

The friends of Corporal Reginald Potter (Royal Berks) who was injured accidentally at the front, will be grieved to hear that it has been found necessary to amputate the injured leg. He was a chorister at St. Paul's. Deep sympathy is felt for him and the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Potter who live at Embrook. Another son, Petty Officer George

Potter, of H.M.S. Liverpool, has recently died of enteric, and one was lost in H.M.S. Hampshire. Percy Potter, another son, who was badly wounded, is still in hospital.

CONCERT

The staff at Miss Baker's (Grosvenor House School) gave an excellent concert in the Schoolroom on Wednesday afternoon, in aid of huts for women munition workers. Several of the scholars assisted, and the room was crowded. The various items on the programme were well sustained, and all those taking part are to be highly commended for the performance. A sum of £3 will be handed over to the fund.

NATIONAL SERVICE

A public meeting, presided over by the Mayor, was held in the Town Hall on Thursday evening. The speaker was Mr. J. Farnworth, representing the headquarters of the movement. There was a good attendance. The speaker said there were two questions every citizen must ask himself in connection with the scheme of National Service. The first was, what is my individual responsibility to the State in times of national danger? And the second was, what is the State's relationship to me in time of national danger? He proceeded to drive home very forcibly the necessity for all to do their utmost in the interests of the State. The National Service movement was entirely a new and direct appeal for service, and was made principally to the middle-aged man who stood outside the fighting age. There was no excuse for such men to hold back, and the appeal was as direct as that made to the young men to go to the recruiting station. It was made to all such men to enrol and it was pleasing to note the Church of England had set an example by releasing the clergy, and the same applied to the Nonconformist ministry. If all followed the example there would be a magnificent response to the appeal, and he urged all present to take the matter to heart. Every worker was wanted, and if enrolled there would be the opportunity of appeal to determine in what capacity he would be best serving the State. Agriculture and other essential occupations would naturally be assisted; but if he were asked "Should such workers enrol?" his reply was "Yes." It was an enormous task we had in hand, and one in which all could do his or her part.

Sat 14th April

DISTRIBUTION OF POTATOES

By permission of the Mayor the surveyor (Mr. Marks) was able to arrange on Thursday last week for the distribution of a large proportion of the seed potatoes ordered by residents through the County Council. In view of the holiday season the distributing was most opportune, and the purchasers who were fortunate enough to receive the potatoes were very grateful for the arrangements made to have them delivered.

During Mr. Salmon's absence on military service, Mr. D.M. Stevenson has been appointed by the Ministry of Labour as local agent for Unemployment Insurance and Employment Exchange work. Mr. Stevenson has already considerable experience in such work, having acted as deputy to the local agent for some time past. The address of the local office will be Denton Chambers, The Terrace, Wokingham.

EASTER

The services at the places of worship were well attended. The anthem at All Saints' was "The Hallelujah Chorus," and at St. Paul's "The have taken away my Lord" (Stainer).

GARDEN LECTURE BY MR. E.R. JANES

Mr. E.R. Janes, F.R.H.S., of University College, Reading, gave, on Wednesday evening in the Town Hall, his 5th lecture on vegetable cultivation in war-time, and dealt with sowing early dwarf beans and running beans in boxes, globe beet, carrots, and successional peas, planting main crop potatoes, and methods of supporting runner beans. The Mayor presided.

TEA TO WOUNDED SOLDIERS

In connection with the Wokingham Women's Meeting a tea and social was given in the schoolroom of the Wesleyan Church Wednesday to 50 wounded Canadian Soldiers from Bear Wood Hospital. A gramophone kindly lent by Mr. Councillor W. Bodle, greatly added to the pleasure of the tea. Councillor extended a very hearty welcome to the soldiers and expressed the warm appreciation at the way they had come from over the seas in response to the country's call. The programme was sustained by Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Anderson, Miss D. Sale, Miss E. Yalden, Miss M. Boshier, Miss M. Webb, Mr. T.M. Welch, Mr. W. G. Jeffries, Mr. J. Baverstock, Trooper Curle and Pastor W.D. Elphick.

During the interval refreshments and cigarettes were supplied to the soldiers. At the close the President of the Women's Meeting, Mrs. Bennett, said they appreciated all the soldiers were doing for them and proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman and all who had helped. She also read some lines composed for the occasion by the wife of Councillor Bodle. Two of the soldiers responded.

THE NATIONAL EGG COLLECTION

In connection with the Wokingham and District Depot, 108 dozen eggs were sent to the Central Depot of the base hospitals this week. Contributions were received from the following most of whom are regular weekly contributors:- St. Paul's Church: Miss Annesley, Mrs. Bailey, the Misses Cobham, Mr. C. Bowyer, Mr. C. Bowyer (who collected £2 0s. 8d. in money) the Misses Campbell, Mrs. Coston, Lady Cunningham, Miss Ellison, Mrs. Paley, the Misses Simonds, the Misses Tatham, Mr. Tebbitt, Mrs. F. A. Simonds, Mrs. Cornish, Mrs Mansfield, Captain W. Godsall, Mrs Edlmann, Mrs. Hobbs, Mrs C. Hobbs, Mrs. Farrington-Evans, Mr. Parsons, Mrs. F. Heelas, Miss Philbrick, Mrs. Monkton-Brown, Miss Deane, Mr. Vlasto, Mrs. Whitaker, Mrs West, Mrs. Vere Allfrey, and others.

In addition to these 34 eggs were received from the Binfield Churches, 135 from Hurst Church and 19 from Hurst School children. Barkham sent 50 eggs from the Sunday School Children, who, instead of buying sweets during Lent saved their pennies for this purpose. Mr. Barker, the Binfield carrier continues to give his services free. Mrs. Terence Dunne is the controller.

N.B. Dr. T B Bokenham was sidesman at St. Paul's Church.

Sat 21st April

F W Saulez of Wixenford was appointed to the vacancy at Lucas Hospital caused by the death of Rev J Stratton.

Sat 5th May

LOCAL BOROUGH TRIBUNAL

At a meeting held on Monday, Mr. J.A. Aldridge of Gipsy Lane applied for further exemption, and was granted till June 30 on domestic grounds.--The military applied for the withdrawal of conditional exemption given to Mr. A.R. Griffith, ironmonger, of Broad Street. Two month's exemption was granted.—R.G. Nicholls, of Wescott Road, licensed hawker, made an application for further exemption. No further time was allowed.

THE FOOD PRODUCTION ASSOCIATION

This association with the Mayor (Alderman H.C. Mylne) as Chairman, Mr. F.W. Maddox, hon. secretary, and Mr. V. Craig hon. treasurer, has done excellent service in providing seed potatoes, also expert advice upon gardening matters. The hon. secretary and the committee of expert gardeners, as well as voluntary canvassers, have earned the gratitude of many who would otherwise have found serious difficulty in obtaining seed potatoes.

NATIONAL WAR SAVINGS – GOOD RESULTS

Excellent results are shown from the recent audit of accounts of associations affiliated to the National Committee through the Local Committee. Thirteen associations have been affiliated in the borough during the past six or seven weeks, comprising about 550 members. For those working Scheme £5, 7,920 6d. coupons have been applied for to date. Nine associations are working this scheme, three are working 2A and one 2B. The number of 15s 5d. certificated purchased exceeds 750. In one school (Wescott Road), there are 122 members, and over 200 certificates have been purchased. At the request of the Food Controller, the local committee are giving serious attention to the Food Economy Campaign and have appointed Mr. F.W. Finch as local correspondent in connection with this work.

Sat 2nd June

A horse attached to a milk cart, in Murdoch Road, took fright and bolted on Whit Monday afternoon. It was fortunately stopped at the junction of Fair View Road with Langborough Road, before any mischief was done.

The usual Whitsuntide Children's Flower Service was held at St. Paul's Church on Sunday afternoon. Large numbers of flowers were brought by the Sunday School Children, and these were sent to various London and other hospitals.

Sat 14th July

Mr C Trill, motor-car proprietor of Peach Street received news on Tuesday that his eldest son Clarence had been killed on the 7th inst in an explosion. He had attended the council schools and on leaving there was employed by Messrs Sales & Son. He had only joined up in the Royal Navy five months previously.

The consignment of 400 dozen fruit-preserving bottles purchased by the Town Council has been delivered and purchasers have been busy during the week removing them from the Town Hall premises. About 250 dozen have already been disposed of. It is satisfactory to note that the number of breakages during transit was very small.

Sat 21st July

On Saturday morning, between 10 and 11, a leveret made its way via the main streets from west to east amid considerable excitement.

A swarm of bees found a most unusual resting place in the town on Saturday about noon, finally settling on a lamp-post in the Market Place. They were removed during the afternoon by Mr. W. Martin.

About 25 names were taken in the Market Place after an address by Councillor L.E. Quelch, of Reading, who advocated the formation of a local branch of the National Union of General Workers.

LOCAL SCHOOLMASTER WINS MILITARY MEDAL

Lance-Corporal Arthur Myatt, City of London Regiment, Civil Service Rifles, has just been awarded the Military Medal for an act of great gallantry. On a night in June his company was holding a front trench. On being relieved Lance-Corporal Myatt and his chum were the only fit men left. All night, with their Lewis gun, they had held off the enemy, beside attending to the wounded. Mr. Myatt is a well-known local schoolmaster, and was educated at Palmer School and Culham College.

DEATH IN THE HANDS OF THE TURKS

The parents of Driver Frank Treacher, Royal Field Artillery, residing at Embrook Lodge, Wokingham, have just received official notice of his death while a prisoner in the hands of the Turks. He was captured with General Townsend's forces at Kut on August 28th, 1916. His parents had not seen him for nine years. When war broke out he was in India with his battery, within a month of coming home time expired. He was sent to Mesopotamia, with the sad result as above. Mr. and Mrs. W. Treacher have two other sons serving in H.M. Forces. Much sympathy is felt for them in their bereavement. The deceased soldier was well known as a lad in Wokingham, where he attended Palmer School.

WOUNDED SOLDIERS REGALED

Some forty to fifty wounded soldiers from the Bear Wood and Easthampstead Road War Hospitals were entertained to tea and a concert on Wednesday in the Baptist Sunday School. The hostesses were the Wesleyan Women's Meeting, and but for the weather, the function would have been held in Alderman Sale's garden, Easthampstead Road. A bounteous tea was provided. Mrs. A.J. Bennett (president) and Mrs. Tucker (secretary) carried out the arrangements. Following tea a capital programme was carried out by Misses D. Sale and M. Boshier, Mrs. Trowell, Sergeant Steer, Sergeant Minhinnick, Private Foreman, and others. Miss Wakefield accompanied on the piano. The Rev. T. W. Beck, of reading presided.

Sat 4th August

Extract from Palmer School annual treat article—The members of the Wokingham Fire Brigade attended as usual with their engine for the purpose of boiling the water required for the tea.

Sat 18th Aug

SUB-LIEUT. VICTOR H. NICHOLSON KILLED IN ACTION

News was received on the 11th inst. that Sub-Lieut. Victor Hill Nicholson, youngest son of the late Mr. A.J. Nicholson and of Mrs. Nicholson of Chetwood, Wokingham, was killed in action at sea on August 9. He was 20 years of age. Educated at Wixenford School, Wokingham, he then proceeded to the Royal Naval College Osborne, and Dartmouth. Since the commencement of hostilities he had been continuously at sea, and was present at the Battle of Jutland, May 31-June 1, 1916. Mr. Nicholson and family are well known among the leading families in the neighbourhood and much sympathy is felt for them in their bereavement. The three brothers of the deceased lieutenant are serving as officers in HM Forces. A memorial service is to be held at All Saints' Church on Tuesday.

CASUALTIES

Private H.W. Day, 6 Queen's Terrace, Wokingham, Grenadier Guards, is reported as having been killed in action on July 31. He was 23 years of age. An officer, writing to his parents says—"Your son was excellent, brave and frequently cheering his comrades on until he fell. He carried out his duty in every way." Before joining the Colours two years ago he was employed at the Wokingham Saw Mills. Two more brothers are now serving on the Western Front.

Private A. Hallworth, Rose Street, Wokingham, killed in action, July 31, aged 20. Before joining up last October he assisted his father in his business as baker and corn factor. These two men were well known to each other, and were together but a short time before both meeting their fate on the same day.

Sat 15th Sept

Potato growers are advised to carefully watch their stored potatoes, especially those grown in low-lying districts, with a view to removing any showing signs of disease.

OUTBREAK OF FIRE

The Fire Brigade received a call about 2.30 p.m. on Friday last week when it was discovered that the outbuildings in the occupation of Mr. Harris at Embrook were on fire. Within ten minutes of the call the members of the brigade, with their motor engine, were on the spot, and by their promptness were able to save the house adjoining, which was in danger of destruction, the thatched roof having already caught.

CANADIAN PRISONERS WELCOMED

A very hearty welcome was accorded to about forty of our Canadian soldiers when they arrived at Wokingham on Thursday evening en route for Bear Wood to recuperate, having been prisoners in Germany and exchanged. All the people in the town appeared to have turned out to welcome them, although the notice was very short, and upon their arrival by the six o'clock train they were received with loud cheers. In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy-Mayor, Coun. W.T. Martin and members of the council were present, together with the fire brigade, and the children from all the schools in the town. The Boys' Brigade drums and bugles, the Palmer School Cadet Corps drum and fife, and the band from the Depot, Royal Berks Regiment, enlivened the proceedings during the time of waiting. The Deputy-Mayor, in a short speech, said how glad the townspeople were to see the men. He thanked them for their services, and hoped they would soon recover from the hardships they had undergone. A procession was formed under the direction of Supt. Goddard and his staff, and proceeded round Wellington Road to the Market Place and home to Bear

Wood through Broad Street. Loud cheers greeted the men all along the route. About 400 of the convalescent soldiers from Bear Wood were present, and the Cycle Corps, with gaily decorated cycles. The cars conveying the returned warriors were decked with flags and ribbons, and at a great many houses along the route the Union Jack was flying.

Sat 17th Nov

CASUALTY

Mrs Ballard of 5, Gipsy Lane has received news that her son, Private, W.E. Ballard (Canadians) has been wounded in action. Mrs. Ballard has three sons serving, and one has been killed at the front.

Private Arthur Strange, Grenadier Guards, has been wounded for the second time. Towards the end of October he was shot through both thighs by an enemy sniper. He is now in hospital in England.

MILITARY MEDAL WON

The Military Medal has been awarded to Sergt. Robert Brooks, Kings' Royal Rifles (son of Mr. and Mrs. Brooks), of Plough Lane, for conspicuous bravery near Ypres. Sergt. Brooks enlisted soon after the outbreak of the war and has been wounded three times. He was recently promoted to sergeant.

TOWN HALL WORKING PARTY

A sale of work for the benefit of the Town Hall Working Party will be held on Wednesday and Thursday next week. This organisation, which is under the supervision of the Mayoress, is recognised by the War Office; it is greatly in need of funds and it is doing, and has done, very valuable work in providing garments for our soldiers and sailors.

The sale will be opened by Mr. Ernest Gardner. Contributions will be gratefully received by the Mayoress, Mrs. Hammond, Miss Ellison, Miss Blandy, Mrs. Barry, Miss Amyatt and Miss Cooper

“OUR DAY”

“Our Day” effort on Saturday in aid of hospitals for our wounded sailors and soldiers, through the Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem proved a great success, thanks to the untiring efforts of the flag sellers. The collection amounted to £25 18s. 3d., made up as under Mr. T Darbourn, £3 18s. 9d.; Sister Shepherd, £3 10s. 3d; Miss E. Fielder, £3 4s. 7d.; Mrs. H. Blake, £2 11s. 7³/₄d., made up by her to £3; Mr. T. Bow, £2 7s. 6d.; Miss Boddington, £2 5s. 9d.; Miss Hurdwell, £1 13s. 8d.; Mrs. R. Anderson, £1 0s. 9d.; Mrs W. Alexander, £1 0s. 3d.; Mrs. G. White, 19s. 5d.; Mr. T. Douglas, 18s.; Master Lush, 15s.; Mrs. H. Butler, 13s. 10; Miss E. Butler, 10s.; Town Hall box, 6d.; Total: £25 18s. 3d. A collection at All Saints' Church at the morning service, attended by the Mayor on Sunday, amounted to £10 15s. 9d., making the total £36 14s. The Mayor at the counting on Saturday, at which were present also Councillor Hammond, Messrs C. Lush, G. Darbourn, G. Bale, and T. Douglas, thanked the flag sellers for their efforts, also all others who had assisted. The money was for the Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, who were doing noble work. Mr. Darbourn said he had been asked to say that £35 had been sent up from Pinewood Sanatorium for the Red Cross work.

DEATH OF LIEUT COCKRELL

Lieut. William Archer Cockrell, adjutant at the No. 4 Remount Depot, Arborfield, died suddenly on Saturday night, at his residence, Sirinhari, Park Road, Wokingham. He apparently retired in his usual health, but during the night passed away from an attack of heart trouble. Much sympathy is felt for Mrs. Cockrell, it being only a month ago that their only daughter, aged 13, passed away after but a very short illness.

The funeral, a military one, took place on Wednesday, at St. Paul's Church, Wokingham, where deceased had been in the habit of worshipping during his residence in Wokingham.

A gun-carriage, drawn by six splendid black horses, with a mounted sergeant in charge, conveying the remains on their last journey. A firing party was supplied by the Middlesex Regiment, and some 100 non-commissioned officers and men were present from the No. 1 Remount Depot. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and eight sergeants acted as bearers.

At the close of the graveside service three volleys rang out. The soldiers acted as escort and lined the pathway.

The solemn ceremony was witnessed by large crowds of people. Police and specials, under Supt. Goddard, kept the ground.

Sat 24th Nov

DEATH OF MISS J. ROBERTS

Miss Julian Roberts, a well-known inhabitant of Wokingham, died suddenly on Wednesday at 5, The Terrace, Wokingham, where she had resided for some time past. She was 80 years of age, and the eldest daughter of Mr. John Roberts, of Wokingham. Her brother was for some years Town Clerk of Wokingham, and her father was alderman of the old Wokingham Local Board. The deceased was for some time hon. secretary of the Wokingham Habitation of the Primrose League. She was buried at All Saints on the following Saturday. Two of the mourners were Mrs Basnett and Miss Helen Roberts, sisters.

MAYORESS WORKING PARTY, TWO DAYS' SALE

The Town Hall presented a pretty scene on Wednesday and Thursday on the occasion of the two-days' sale, held by the Mayoress' Working Party (recognised by the War Office). Stalls were arranged around the hall in an artistic manner, and were exceedingly well managed by the ladies in charge.

At eleven o'clock on Wednesday Mrs. Ernest Gardner opened the sale in a short but very appropriate speech. Introduced by the Mayor (Alderman H.C. Mylne), Mrs Gardner said the Mayor and Mayoress had kindly asked her to come and open the sale. The Mayoress' Working Party had been working well in Wokingham, and in nine months had sent up to headquarters 4,000 garments. She thought that was really magnificent, and she had great pleasure in opening the sale, and hoped it would bring in a large sum of money with which to purchase materials.

Among those present at the opening were the Rev. B. Long, the Rev. H.M. Walter, Mrs. Murdoch, Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Long, Mrs. Walter, Lieut.-Col. J.B. Walker, and Miss Walker, while, during the two days, large numbers of the residents visited the Town Hall, and a capital result was obtained. Among the articles for sale were a number of beautifully made net bags, the work of some of the blinded soldiers.

The competitions, held in the council chamber, were: One-minute pin sticking, putting marbles into jar with chop sticks, scent guessing, weight competition of cake and apple, and drawing a pig with closed eyes. The stalls and stallholders

Provisions—Mrs. Mylne and Miss Mylne, assisted by Mrs. Pither, Mrs. Clifton, and Mrs. Frank Heelas.

Soldiers' and sailors' comforts—Mrs Hammond, assisted by Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Dyke Marsh, Mrs. Player, Mrs. Harwood, Miss Bromley, and Miss Mercer.

“White Elephant.”—Miss Blandy, assisted by Mrs. Farrington Evans, Miss F. Simmonds, Mrs. Fryer, and Miss Newman.

1s. and 6d. Stall.—Mrs. Barry, assisted by Mrs. Kimber and Miss Kimber, Miss Bankhead Brown, Mrs. Gorely, Mrs. Graham Bell, Mrs. Walter, and Miss Leadbetter.

Fancy and Plain Articles.—Miss M. Ellison, assisted by Mrs. Dixon, Mrs. E.E. Smith, Miss S. Lloyd, Miss Barry and Mrs. Watts.

Ration Tea.—Miss Cooper, the Misses Kimber (2), Miss Long, the Misses Caiger (2), Miss Dandridge, Miss Voss, Mrs. Tee, and Miss Letchford.

Competitions.—Miss Amyatt, assisted by Mrs. Simpson, Miss Maunsell, Miss Cornish, Miss Godwin Austen, Miss Headington, and Miss Walker.

Hon. secretary, Miss Blandy.

The total result is not yet available, but it is well over £100. On both days there were excellent attendances, and buying was brisk. On Wednesday evening several articles were put up for sale by auction, including a fowl which was eventually sold to the Mayor for £3. The result must be most gratifying to the members of the War Working Party and other helpers who have worked so hard for the success.

1918

Sat 25th May

CSM Alfred Jeffcock Rifle Brigade was killed in action on the 25th of March at the age of 21 years. He was the youngest son of Mrs Jeffcock of 21, Easthampstead Road. His rapid promotion was noted. His brother is wounded and his father died a few months ago.

Sat 3rd Aug

Lieut. Allan H. Perkins, Pioneer Battalion, Australia Forces (Queensland) youngest son of H.H. Perkins of the retreat married Miss Elsie Adelene Pither youngest daughter of Mr. & Mrs. T.B. Pither of Broad Street. Her sister Daisy attended.

Sat 7th Sept

WOKINGHAM CADETS

A well-attended meeting was held on Wednesday evening at the Town Hall, the Mayor in the chair, and was addressed by Major Vaughan-Williams, the County Commandant, and Major Porter, secretary of the Berks Territorial Association. It was resolved to raise a company at Wokingham and the Mayor, Major Dunne, Major de Vitre, Lieut. Brodie and Sergt.-Major Martin were elected a committee to organise the company and raise funds for its equipment, club and sports. It is hoped that the movement will be enthusiastically supported.

WOKINGHAM COLONEL HONOURED

Among those who attended at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday an investiture by H.M. the King, was Lieutenant-Colonel Hills Nicholson, son of the late Mr. A.J. and Mrs. Nicholson, of Chetwood, Wokingham. The gallant colonel was some time since notified of the award of the D.S.O. His military career is as follows: He received his

commission in the Royal Fusiliers in August 1900, and served in the South African War, 1900-1902, for which he obtained the King's and Queen's Medal with two bars. He served subsequently two separate terms in India, and spent two years in Mauritius. At the beginning of the great war he was Adjutant of Volunteers in India. Ordered home he went to France in 1915, and thence, with his battalion to Salonika, where he remained for upwards of two years, after which, with his battalion, he again proceeded to France. For a time he was in command of a battalion of the East Surreys. Later he was transferred to the command of a battalion of his own regiment, the Royal Fusiliers. His qualities of organisation, decision and powers of leadership have won for him recognition in the form of a D.S.O. Lieutenant-colonel Nicholson is one of four brothers, all of whom have given their services and two, their lives, for their country's cause. The two latter are Lieut. Bruce Nicholson and Lieut. Victor Nicholson, R.N.

DEATH AND FUNERAL OF MR. D.N. HERON

We regret to record the death of Ex-Alderman Daniel Norton Heron, who passed peacefully away at his residence, 22, Market Place, Wokingham, early on Sunday morning, at the ripe age of 82 years. He leaves five daughters to mourn his loss. He was a native of Uxbridge, and purchased a wine and spirit business in Wokingham about 50 years ago, carrying it on until the last. By his death the town loses a resident whose interest in the welfare of the place of his adoption was most conspicuous; this has been amply proved by his long devotion to public work, dating back to the days before the town was granted a charter in 1885. In 1890 he was elected he was elected an alderman which position he held till 1915, and advancing years compelled him to retire from public life, but his interest remained till the end. Ex-Alderman Heron occupied the Mayor Chair with dignity and success in 1891, 1898, 1909, 1910 and his ripe experience has always been readily at the disposal of his successor.

In early days his fame as a vocalist always proved a draw at local concerts, at which the late Mrs. Heron played her husband's accompaniments. In later years he was occasionally prevailed upon to sing at private functions such delightful old ballads such as "Where are the friends of my youth," and "My Pretty Jane," the memories of which will be long associated with his name. He was a prominent Freemason, being W.M. of the Greyfriars Lodge, which he joined in 1888, in successive years, 1900 and 1901. He was a founder and P.M of the Downshire Lodge, a founder of the Leopold Mark Lodge, a member of the Berkshire Masters' Lodge, and P.P.S.G.W. for the Province of Berks.

The deceased was a staunch Conservative and a member of the Wellington Club, Reading.

In him St. Paul's parish loses a good friend and active worker. He was a manager of the schools, and sidesman at the church, and for a long period had audited the accounts. On Sunday morning the Rector, the Rev. H.M. Walter, spoke from the pulpit of the loss the church had sustained and paid a tribute to his sterling qualities and expressed sympathy to the bereaved relatives.

He was buried on Wednesday afternoon in St. Paul's Churchyard.

Sat 12th Oct

THE EGG DEPOT

The Wokingham and district depot continues to send 30 dozen new-laid eggs every week. The total number of new-laid eggs sent from this depot since April, 1915, is

70,652. The need for eggs is very urgent. Gifts of eggs, also money to buy them, are gladly welcomed by Mrs. Dunne.

DEATH OF SERGT. NASH

Sergt. Nash, of Waterloo Road, is reported killed in action on September 14th. In a letter to the widow an officer writes: "I assure you I feel this loss in my platoon. He was loved and respected by all men under him, and on the 14th he had fought bravely, and principally through his efforts we were able to gain our objective. When we were about to enjoy a well-earned halt he fell in battle. I am confident it will comfort you to know your dear one died a noble death, fighting to the very last. On behalf of my company commander, and every man of our company, I assure you of our deep, heartfelt sympathy in this the hour of your trial and sorrow.

DEATH OF COL. NICHOLSON, D.S.O.

Deep regret is felt at the death of Lieut.-Colonel Hills Nicholson, who has been killed in action in France. The deceased officer was the eldest son of the late Mr. A.J. Nicholson and Mrs. Nicholson of Chetwood, and was one of four brothers who are serving or have served with the forces. Two of them—Captain Bruce Nicholson and Lieutenant Victor Nicholson—have also given their lives in the service of their country. Colonel Nicholson possesses a full record of military service receiving his commission in August, 1900, when he was attached to the Royal Fusiliers. He took part in the South African War and received the King's and Queen's Medals with five bars. He afterwards saw two separate terms of service in India, followed by two years in the Mauritius. He was adjutant to Volunteers in India at the outbreak of the present war, and was ordered home in 1915, proceeding at once to France. He was given the command of a battalion—the East Surreys and afterwards transferred to the command of a battalion of his old regiment—the Royal Fusiliers. The distinguished officer, who was home on leave a month ago, was presented by the King with the D.S.O., at Buckingham Palace, on September 4th.

CHURCH HOUSE, AUXILIARY HOSPITAL, WOKINGHAM

Regular gifts have been received during the past month from the following: Dairy produce, Mrs. Anderdon Weston, Mrs. Lomax, Mrs. Howard Palmer, Mrs. Wescott; vegetables, Marquis of Downshire, Mr. V. Allfrey, Mr. Craig, Mr. Howard Palmer, Captain J. Ogilvy Dalgleish, Mrs. Patheral, Mrs. Paley, Mrs. Leveson Gower; cakes, Miss Ellison; Mr. Mercer, Mr. Palmer.

While thanking the above mentioned most heartily for their very generous support, we wish also to express our thanks to the numerous other kind friends who have brought us gifts of jam, honey, cakes, fruit, etc. We are very grateful for their kind support, which has been the greatest help to us.—F. Mylne, Commandant, V.A.D., Berks, 28.

Sat 16th Nov

TOWN HALL WORKING PARTY

The sale of work in the Town Hall on Wednesday and Thursday was a great success. There were many attractive stalls, including provision and household requisites (the Mayoress) soldiers' comforts and pin cushions (Mrs. Hammond), fancy and plain articles (Miss M. Ellison), glass and china (Mrs. Barry), "B" stall, bags, boxes, etc. (Miss Blandy), weighing machine and competitions (Miss A.K. Walker and Miss V. Robinson), bran pie (Grosvenor House School), recitations etc. (Miss

Butler), ration tea (Miss Cooper). Mrs. Murdoch who was accompanied by the Mayor and Mayoress declared the sale open.

During the afternoon goods were put up for auction by wounded soldiers, and made good prices. The admission receipts were even better than last year. The result was £215 6s. 8½, which exceeds the total of any former year.

WOKINGHAM AND THE ARMISTICE

The prolonged blast of the hooter at the Saw Mills intimated to the neighbourhood that the armistice had been signed. Flags appeared at windows immediately and soon the town was ablaze with bunting and streamers were hung across the streets. The trains as they passed kept up a ceaseless whistling, while from Reading and all round hooters and whistles could be heard. People crowded the streets, children and parents bearing flags and wearing the national colours.

The Mayor a little later announced the fact from the balcony of the Town Hall and the news was posted on the doors. The National Anthem was sung. Thanksgiving services were held in all the churches. Albeit a dull day with drizzling rain, the crowds filled the streets.

A body of Canadian convalescent soldiers with drums and bugles and flags marched to St. Paul's Church and joined in the thanksgiving services held there at four o'clock. Proceeding later into the town they were greeted with much enthusiasm, and the Mayor addressed them from the balcony of the Town Hall. He expressed appreciation of their bravery and assisting in winning the war, and satisfaction at its happy conclusion. Significant of the changed conditions was the fact that on Tuesday the Borough workmen were replacing the shaded street lanterns with the ordinary kind of clear glass.

French and Belgian residents were especially delighted, and throughout the day at the Convent, Easthampstead Road the "Marseillaise" was sung and cheering indulged in.

W T Martin appointed Deputy Mayor

The following were elected:

C. Sparkes Sgt at Mace

J Taylor Town Crier

Honorary Constables: A J Rodgers, E Jefferies, N W Turner and W H Wilson.

1919

Sat 8th March

The Town Hall accepted the portrait of Alderman Wescott from his widow.

Sat 5th April

At a meeting of the town council held on Thursday the General Purposes Committee reported the receipt of a communication from the authorities offering a German howitzer as a war trophy for the town.

Sat 24th May

Mr Cathrow Martin has recently been admitted a Freeman of the City of London

Sat 31st May

The captured gun presented to the town arrived on Tuesday. It is a 120mm German howitzer and presents a very battered appearance. The gun was captured by the 12th Division on the 27th July 1917 and claimed by the 5th Royal Berks. Regiment. Tithe Barn is the residence of Col. Leslie Wilson GMG DSO MP.

Sat 7th June

The Borough Surveyor reported that a 120 mm howitzer had been received from the War Department and was temporarily stored in the Town Hall yard. The question of the provision of a site was deferred for further consideration.

Sat 26th July

Armistice Celebrations

On Saturday, Wokingham duly celebrated the peace. The proceedings commenced at 7 a.m., when peals were rung on the church bells. At 10 a.m. the town band commenced to play in the Market Place. The officers and men who had been invited to send in their names and had received a card of invitation from the Mayor, assembled in Rectory Road and at 11.30 commenced a triumphal march through the principal streets of the town under command of Admiral J.B. Eustace, assisted by Colour-Sergeant H. Harvey, 4th Royal Berks. Retired, the only man who wore the old red volunteer uniform, and acted as chief marshal. Headed by the Wokingham Military Band the procession proceeded through Broad Street, which had been extensively decorated, the trees and lamp posts being bedecked with national colours, evergreens etc. A large wreath in the centre of the street, "Our bold and brave heroes, 1914-18," was saluted by the column.

A triumphal arch had been erected by the corporation from the London and County Bank to Mr. T.M. Welch's premises, bearing the words "We thank you." Rose Street was also very gaily hung with flags and streamers, with the motto "Welcome Home" suspended across the street. As the procession emerged from Rose Street against All Saints' Church the bells rung a peal of welcome. Marching up Peach Street, the procession entered the Market Place through an arch similar to that in Broad Street, but bearing the words "Well done boys." The Church Lads' Brigade bugle band were in the centre of the procession and took turns with the military band in providing music.

The wounded and disabled who were accommodated in two wagons immediately behind the leading band everywhere most heartily greeted.

Upon a draped and coloured dais in the Market Place, facing Denmark Street stood the Mayor in his robes attended by the Town Clerk, the mace bearer (Sergeant Sparkes), the town crier (Mr. J. Taylor) and the four honorary constables. There were also upon the platform the Mayoress, the Rev. B. Long, the Rev. H. M. Walter, the Rev. A.P. Carr and Rev. J. Conolly, Aldermen Hughes and Sale. Councillors Hammond, Martin, Blake, Whaley, Priest, Brant, Bodle and Headington. Mr. C.W. Marks (surveyor), Colonel Walker, Mayor Hanbury O.B.E., Mrs. Murdoch, Mr and Mrs. W. Howard Palmer, Mrs. H. Walter, Mrs. Eustace, Mrs. Hanbury, Miss Hanbury, Mrs. T.W. Heelas, Miss Sturges, Miss Gregorie, Mr. A Rasey and Mr. William Palmer.

The cadet band KRR sounded the Royal salute. The Mayor (Alderman Mylne) announced that he had received from H.M. the King, a message to all magistrates and lord lieutenants of counties. The National Anthem was then sung, led by the band, Mr. Yould conducting.

The Mayor then said, "Officers and men from the Navy, Army and the Air Force, it is my privilege as Mayor and speaking for all the people of Wokingham to bid you all welcome here today and to render to you our unstinted thanks for all you have done, all you have suffered and all you have gone through in these last few years. We rejoice that it is at last possible for us to meet so many of you after all the hardships you have gone through, since that day in which each one of you took his part in the magnificent response which you made to your country's call in its hour of need.

Some of you have been in the navy or army since the beginning of the war. Some of you were in that first army that went to Belgium—an army which I have heard has been called 'a contemptible little army': small it certainly was, but there is not a man in the world today, least of all in Germany, who would venture to call it contemptible.

Others of you who took part, leaving all in that mighty rush of men which changed the British Army from being reckoned in thousands to being reckoned in by millions. You, who have been through it, know what the sacrifices have been. You know even how thin a line, once and again, there was that there was all there was left to withstand the German onrush. You know, too, how indispensable it was that H M Navy should keep a ceaseless and sleepless watch throughout all the time.

What would our position have been today if that thin line had given way or that ceaseless watch failed for one hour? What sort of peace should we have had today? What would have been our condition? Some of you have been in France and Belgium and you know and can answer that question. But that ceaseless watch was maintained till the last hour and that this line never broke, and when today we are celebrating peace, it is that great and glorious victory, brought about in the providence of God through the valour of the sailors, soldiers and airmen of the British Empire. But in the midst of our rejoicings let us not forget the sacrifices that have been made. Let us not forget that there are some hearts in the Empire today because of those, who, to gain that victory and to win this peace laid down their lives and their names live for ever more. And when we have celebrated this peace today, which we hope will soon spread the world over, let us all stand united as we have done in those dreadful days of war in the last five years, and each in his own part, do whatsoever in him lies, to promote the common good and to bring back with peace prosperity to our native land build up a greater, more honourable and a more powerful Britain than the world had ever known before so that the victories of peace will be no less worthy of celebration than the victories of war. And now we ask you to accept our hospitality and entertainment and we hope that for you and to all of us it may be a happy and a memorable day." (applause).

"Land of Hope and Glory" was then sung, the sole being taken in unison by some 20 choirboys, the assembly led by the band joining in the chorus. Miss Edna Martin presented a lovely bouquet to the Mayoress. The Rev. B Long called for "three cheers for the boys," which were heartily given also "three more for their wives."

THE MEN ENTERTAINED.

Headed by the town band the procession then marched via Denmark Street and Langborough Road, both well decorated, to Langborough Recreation Ground, near the entrance to which was a festoon of flags with the words "We thank you all who have saved our land." A line of 16 tables had been prepared on the promenade under the trees across the ground and were very prettily decorated with flowers, etc. The Mayor's table stood next the entrance, presided over by the Mayoress, assisted by Mrs. Hammond and Miss Powell. The remaining tables were in the charge of: Mesdames Martin and Bolton (plus many other names) and a large staff of helpers.

The Wokingham Fire Brigade with their engine cooked the vegetables. The meal comprised cold meat, meat pies, salad, pickles, fruit tarts, jam tarts, jellies, cheese, etc. with beer and lemonade in abundance. Mr A T Heelas made the round of the tables with the usual military formula "any complaints," and was received with cheers. Grace was said by the Rev. H M Walter. By the kindness of the Guardians and Mr and Mrs Cooper, the committee were relieved of the responsibility of cooking the whole of the meat provided at the luncheon. The fire brigade boiled the water, etc. in their engine.

SPORTS AND GYMKHANA.

A fine list of events for the sports programme took up the afternoon. The events and prize winners were as follows:

Tent pegging on cycles

Greasy pole

Black and white tournament

Wheelbarrow race

Half-mile flat race for service or ex-service men.

Slow bicycle race (ladies)

Slow bicycle race (men)

Bun and treacle race

Threading the needle

Three-legged race

(The list goes on)

THE TEA

About a thousand wives of service and ex-servicemen, and the widows of the fallen, who numbered in Wokingham about 200, were entertained to tea at the luncheon table in a marquee. Both the sports and tea were very successful despite the rain which fell during the afternoon.

The invitation card bore the white ensign and Union Jack, with laurel leaves in colours, and the word "Victory" in gold letters.

A GRAND CARNIVAL

The evening carnival was a great success
(Address to the Mayor) ...The Food Control, the organisation of War Savings Associations and the establishment of War Relief Funds.

The organisation of these many schemes was due mainly to your initiation, superintendence and encouragement without which they would not have attained that success which we gladly recognise was achieved.

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When it is borne in mind that these multifarious demands on your time and personal engagements have been superimposed on the arduous duties of the mayoralty and your responsibilities as Justice of the Peace, we feel that it is only your due that some public recognition, some cordial and formal acknowledgement of your valuable and self-sacrificing services, should form a part of our rejoicing at this auspicious time, and in fulfilment of that obligation we beg to tender to you, on behalf of the inhabitants of the borough and parish of Wokingham, our thanks, in gratitude for all that you have done for the benefit and honour of the town and to offer for your acceptance this silver tray as a token of our esteem.

We also take this opportunity of asking the Mayoress to accept this silver cake basket as some recognition of our appreciation of her untiring efforts on behalf of the community.”

The Mayor, who it could be seen, was deeply affected said the presentation came to him as a complete surprise. He felt he could say very little in return for all their kindness but for himself and the Mayoress he thanked them very much. The gifts are the outcome of a proposal which emanated from the council, to which residents were invited to subscribe and the secret has religiously been kept from the Mayor and Mayoress. The subscribers numbered about 200.

The prizes were then distributed to the successful competitors a capital open-air concert, arranged by Mr. Yould following, this being kept up till midnight on an illuminated stage in the Market Place, and consisting of songs, dances, recitations, glees by the united choirs, etc. At the same time a very spirited company had assembled for the carnival ball in the Drill Hall. For such an occasion, however, even this commodious building was found far too small, and an overflow dance was quickly arranged in the Town Hall. A considerable number of houses were illuminated and midnight brought to a close a memorable day “never to be forgotten.”

The carnival prizes were then distributed for the following competitions:

- Most effective motor car.
- Trade car
- Novelty on wheels
- Decorated cycle
- Men’s fancy costume
- Ladies’ fancy costume
- Grotesque costume
- Decorated pram
- Tableau car

Sat 2nd Aug

PRESENTATION

On Thursday evening in last week, at the Fire Brigade Station, Dr. T.B. Bokenham, for 17 years hon. surgeon to the Wokingham Fire Brigade, was presented by the members with a case of pipes on his leaving the town. Chief Officer Caiger introduced the object of the assembly. There were present: The Mayor, the Deputy-Mayor, and Mr. A.T. Heelas. The Mayor spoke in terms of appreciation of Dr. Bokenham’s work, and regretted the reason of his leaving the town, namely, the state of his health.

CHILDREN’S PEACE CELEBRATION DAY

The Peace celebrations for the children were attended with great success on July 23rd. The children from the town and district assembled at their respective schools and marched to the Market Place with their flags and banners where they were received by the Mayor who was stationed on the platform in his robes accompanied by members of the town council, officials, and other leading residents of the town. With the Town Band accompanying, the National Anthem was sung and the Mayor, addressing the children, said:

“On the 11th November last year the Armistice was signed, following the most terrible war in history, and on the 28th of last month Peace was signed—the event you are celebrating today. This is an event you should remember all your lives. You children are the men and women of the future race and what that race is to be must

depend on you and other children. It is Goodwill that brings Peace in its train and that is what we should all strive for.”

Following three lusty cheers for the Mayor, called by the rector, the children sang very nice, “Land of Hope and Glory,” accompanied by the band, conducted by Mr. Yould. Marching via Denmark Street and Langborough Road to Langborough they presented a sight seldom seen in Wokingham. Sports of all kinds took place in the afternoon, and amusements, including Punch and Judy, roundabouts, joy wheel, etc., were well patronised. Tea had been arranged for half-past four to which 1,510 children sat down. Considerable enjoyment was given by members of the fire brigade and friends, dressed as clowns, who paraded the ground and held concerts. Although the weather looked very threatening at times it fortunately kept fine and the children spent a day they will never forget.

To make such arrangements and provide tea for so many at such short notice speaks well for the committee and their work, and great praise is due to one and all for all their efforts. A very attractive souvenir programme, with the whole of the celebration arrangements was on sale. Langborough has seldom held such crowds as those of Wednesday evening, and to the music of the Town Band hundreds of people indulged in dancing.

Numerous side shows proved a great attraction, and the children above all, will have good cause to remember Peace Celebration Day and the arrangements made for their enjoyment.

Peace Medals

All the children have been presented with medals to commemorate the peace. Other children from three to five and those who have left school in 1919 are also to receive a medal. The medals are of large size and carry a figure of Peace, with dove above, and on either side a sailor and soldier, with ship and gun in background, “Victory and Peace” is the wording beneath. On the obverse is a laurel wreath. The medal is of a white metal.

Open-Air Concert

The peace celebrations concluded with a capital open-air concert in the Market Place on Thursday evening, July 23rd arranged by Mr. Cathrow Martin. Mr. R. Brant accompanied, and songs were given by Mr. Will Hives and Mr. Sid Callaghan, of Reading, and dances by Miss Edna Martin and her pupils. Others contributing to the programme were the Jazz Band, Mr. L. Falkman (violin, from the Vaudville, Reading), Mrs. Plumridge, Mrs. White, Messrs. G. H. Breach, H. G. Powell (some fine recitations), J. Wilson, D. Goddard, E. Brant (flute solo and banjo solo), G. W. Lay, W. S. Medcalf, J. Taylor and R. Turner. The Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, and Mr. A. T. Heelas were present during the evening, and the collection realised £10.

Peace Masquerade Ball

A capital masquerade ball was held on Thursday in last week in the Drill Hall. Music was supplied by Miss M. Webb (piano), Mr. Hale (violin) and Mr. C. Ayers (bass). Admiral Eustace and Mr. A. T. Heelas acted as judges. There was a very fine parade of fancy dress dancers.

Sat 20th Sept

Notification has just been received from the military authorities by Mr & Mrs Treacher of The Lodge, Embrook House, late of Keep Hatch, Wokingham that their son, the late Driver Frank Treacher, R.F.A. who died a prisoner of war is buried in the prisoner of war cemetery at Baghdad, Asia Minor 20 miles NN.W. of Aleppo.

Sat 15th Nov

C Sparkes was re-elected Sgt at Mace.

Sat 6th Dec

The late Alderman Heron's wine and spirit business of 40 years has been re-opened after extensive alterations as Heron's Wine Vaults by Messrs Fergusons Ltd of Reading.

Sat 13th Dec

Mr A T Heelas has been elected a foundation manager of St. Paul's Schools in place of Dr Bokenham.

1920

Sat 7th Feb

MEMORIAL TABLET IN WESLEYAN CHURCH (ISAIAH GADD)

On Sunday afternoon, at a service presided over by the Rev. C.E. Swansborough, of Reading. Mr. H.H. Perkins unveiled a memorial tablet to the late Mr. Isaiah Gadd. Both he and the chairman eulogised the devoted services rendered by the deceased to Methodism. The inscription reads thus: "In memory of Isaiah Gadd, died November 27th, 1913 aged 73, aged 71. One of the original trustees of the church, and for 53 years Superintendent of the Sunday school. He held most of the church offices open to laymen, and was generously concerned in the welfare of aged ministers. Also of Mary Isabella, wife of the above, died January 29th, 1890, aged 41, organist of this church from the age of 13 until her death. Erected by their loving daughter".

EMBROOK CRICKET CLUB

A whist drive was held in the Embrook Mission Room on Wednesday last week. At the conclusion Mrs. F.G. Harman presented the prizes as follows: Ladies: 1, Mrs. W. Wilson; 2, Miss E. Garrett; 3, Mrs. Callimore. Gentlemen: 1, Mr. Day; 2, Mr. F.E. Street; 3, Mr. Stanley. Mystery prize for lady sitting at one table the longest time: Miss Jeffery.

Mr. F. Bowyer kindly gave a prize for a guessing competition: this was won by Miss H. Knapp, after cutting with Mr. Paine. The proceeds of the drive were given to the Embrook Cricket Club, now restarting.

NONCONFORMIST BURIAL GROUND

On Monday evening a meeting was held in the Wesleyan Chapel, Rose Street, to receive the reports of various committee meetings with regard to a Nonconformist burial ground for Wokingham.

Alderman P. Sale presided. There were also present the Rev. R.G. Fairbairn (Reading), Mr. Vaughan, Mr. Mead and Mr. W. S. Medcalf.

The chairman spoke of the need for a Nonconformist burial ground which they did not at present possess, the only one being that attached to the Baptist Chapel, and that was now full. Of course Nonconformists could be buried at the ground of the Established Church, but they felt it needful to possess a ground of their own. The matter had been brought to a point by Mr. Mead. A plot of ground had been found at an ideal spot near Skew Bridge in the Borough of Wokingham. They had contracted for it, and now wanted to raise £450 to pay for it, and they must all make an effort to

do this. Mr. Sale then called upon the Rev. R.G. Fairbairn, whom he looked upon as “the Bishop of Nonconformists.”

The Rev. R.G. Fairbairn remarked that all were united in a common danger. The Church never had as many enemies as at present. One of the reasons for a burial ground of their own was that all could be buried side by side without distinction of class or creed. God smiled at “consecrated” or “unconsecrated” ground; all ground that He had made was sacred. They desired the consecration of God and no other. They had gathered together to make an inspiration for the men and women of tomorrow, so that they could lie where their children could see that they were not ashamed of the religion they had followed.

The chairman said where their dead lay all felt to be something sacred. It was much nicer to have a burial ground of their own and not the worst part of a public cemetery. The piece of ground they were acquiring ran from Reading Road to Oxford Road. It was proposed to lay out the upper portion for immediate use and let the lower part for pasture land and extend when required. Trustees would be required, say 12—three Wesleyan, three Baptist and six other residents. A deposit had been paid, and the balance would be required by March 25th 1920. Over £100 had been promised. The price included the timber, and the plot was nearly five acres.

Sat 28th Feb

THE FIRE BRIGADE

By way of a surprise return for his hospitality of a few weeks since, the Wokingham Fire Brigade invited their C.O., Mr. F. Caiger, and his family to a social in the Town Hall on Monday evening. The friends of the members were also present, and the party numbered about 50.

Splendid lantern views shown by Engineer F. Knight and explained by Lieut. Goswell illustrated the work of the brigade at various fires since 1877. These were from photos taken by members. A whist drive filled a portion of the time, prizes being won as under:-Gentlemen:1. Mr. C. Martin; 2. Mr. F. Dearlove; mystery, Mr. G. Cope. Ladies: 1. Mr. D. Herring (who played as a lady); 2. Mrs. Sugden: mystery, Mrs. Hawkins. Refreshments were provided.

The C.O., thanking his men for their hospitality, said he was proud to be here, but still prouder was he to take them to Reading.

WOKINGHAM CRICKET CLUB

After a lapse of five years this old-established institution is being revived during the coming season. The cricket field is receiving attention and a capital list of fixtures has been arranged.

Sat 8th May

Duke of Connaught's daughter died.

Sat 6th Nov

The General Purposes Committee recommended that the shell presented to the War Savings Committee be placed in the corridor of the town hall, Alderman Hughes having kindly offered to supply a base.

Sat 18th Dec

PRESENTATION TO SUPT. GODDARD Col. Poulton and the Special Constables

On Wednesday evening a special parade of the special constables of the Wokingham Sub-Division Berks police, Special reserves, was held at the Wokingham Drill Hall, for the purpose of the presentation of medals and certificates to the men, and also a presentation to Superintendent Goddard.

The men were under the command of Major-General Sir Walter Cayley, and also present were: the Chief Constable of Berkshire (Lieut.-Colonel A.F. Poulton), Colonel F.C. Ricardo (Commandant Berks Police Special Reserve), Vice-Admiral J.B. Eustace (Wokingham Divisional Officer), the Marquis of Downshire, Major Barnes (late Commandant), the Rev. B. Long, Mr. F.N.A. Garry, Mr. W.T. Martin, Supt. Goddard and Inspector Haddrell. There were 76 men on parade. Altogether there were 41 medal ribbons and 95 certificates for presentation.

The Chief Constable said he wished to express to them, as he had done before, but he never could do enough, his great gratitude for all the help they gave him during the Great War. He would never forget it, but would always be proud to be Chief Constable of such a county, where he had had such wonderful response. He remembered when he had started the movement that in less than a month he had 4,000 names. That was a record of which anyone might be proud. After referring to the usefulness of a police training to those who later joined the army, the Chief Constable said that having got a good thing, he wanted to keep it. He had something like 2,000 men now in the county, and he particularly wanted to ask all young men who had been in the army and had come back to rejoin that excellent movement. We lived in funny times. He was no pessimist, but we did live in disturbed times. We could not look across to Ireland without being shocked at what was happening there. They did not mind fighting in the open, but when people were shot down from behind hedges that was not good enough. We had, unfortunately, unrest in this country and he was not out, as a policeman, to make any quarrels. That was not their business. Their business was the preservation of the peace and the protection of life and property, and those were the two things he asked them most seriously to consider. They were all very proud of the county and glad that they had no serious crimes. He was very anxious to keep the county quiet. They had a small force and they did not want to increase it. As they did not want more trouble and expense. He would only call them out in case of necessity and only in their own locality. He knew them all as personal friends and he knew they would help him. He was very proud indeed that they could get people like General Sir Walter Cayley to interest themselves in that movement. He had served an honoured career in the Army and was now helping them with that work. For that he was most grateful. It only showed that they had a real good movement.

After personally decorating Admiral Eustace, Mr. Garry, the Marquis of Downshire (who also received the ribbon of his father, the late Marquis) and the Mayor (Alderman P. Sale), the Chief Constable deputed Admiral Eustace to distribute the ribbons, after which the certificates were handed out by Colonel Poulton.

Major-General Sir Walter Cayley, on behalf of the special constables, thanked the Chief Constable for distributing the ribbons and certificates.

The Chief Constable said he did not want any thanks; he was proud to see the success of the movement.

Mr. F.N.A. Garry, in making the presentation to Supt. Goddard, said he had helped them in all manners and put them right when going astray. As a fitting tribute to the way in which he carried out his work, the special constables had subscribed to give him an arm-chair and an illuminated address. He was Supt. Goddard who had taught and drilled them and had set a splendid example to them all.

Mr. Garry then unveiled the illuminated address, which was covered with the Union Jack and read as follows:- "Presented with the accompanying easy-chair to Supt. Goddard, by the officers and men of the Wokingham Sub-Division Special Police Reserve, as a mark of esteem and appreciation of his courtesy during our work together in the Great War, 1914-1919."

Supt. Goddard thanked them for the presentation, and said that if he lived to retire he hoped to enjoy the easy chair, but they did not at the present time keep a superintendent to sit in a chair. (Laughter.) It seemed rather contrary that they should reward him; he should really have rewarded them for the splendid way in which they had done their duty. Supt. Goddard also referred to the excellent work done by Admiral Eustace and Major Barnes. All the leaders had been splendid.

1921

Sat 15th Jan

SCHOOL CLOSED

In consequence of an epidemic of measles, attended in some cases with pneumonia, the mixed and infants departments of St. Paul's Schools remain closed until Monday, January 24th.

HOCKEY

The Wokingham Hockey Club visited Aldershot on Saturday to play a match with the army school of physical training. The game resulted in a very decisive win for Wokingham by 11 to one. Goals were scored by the visitors by the Rev. F.M.C. Hare (centre forward), who netted no less than eight; A.E. Allnatt (centre half), two; and W. Denton (outside right), one. It was a better game than the score suggests. For the first time this season, S.E. Sale appeared for Wokingham, and it is hoped he will soon be quite fit again after his long illness.

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC OPENED AT WOKINGHAM

A Work which should be Supported

Of the discoveries and advances of science for which the recent war was responsible, none is more remarkable than the tremendous and wonderful advances in the surgeon's art. To say that the war actually did a considerable amount of real good might seem strange but such is the case where surgery is concerned. The experience gained by the cleverest of the country's surgeons whilst in the Army Medical Services has been of a most important and far-reaching kind. Today, when the war is over, this wonderful experience and new treatments discovered during the past five years are being communicated to the country, and already many are benefiting by these wonderful new methods.

It is not so well-known as it might be that in Wokingham recently. An orthopaedic clinic has been set up, so that there the knowledge and skill gained by the war experiences is at the service of the deformed. Almost three months ago this great work was started by a committee formed from the Red Cross Society, with Lady Caley as secretary and Admiral Eustace as treasurer. The committee have the voluntary services of Captain G.R. Girdlestone, in charge of the Headington Orthopaedic Hospital, Oxford, and also the voluntary services of nurses and an after-care sister, trained at Headington. Here is no charge for the services and treatment given.

The object, of course, of the clinic is to carry out the long and tedious treatment necessary in cases of deformity, and also to prevent further deformities. The war experience of surgeons now shows that it is quite possible to cure children suffering from various deformities such as lameness, crooked back and cases of infantile paralysis. As is pointed out by Dr. Ernest Ward, a member of the committee of the Wokingham clinic, a large number of the deformities at present seen in children could have been prevented had not the parents wearied of the expense and time taken in visits to the hospital and also the discouragement at the very slow process of the cure. Now, however, the parents need have no such worries and discouragements, for the treatment is brought to the door of the patient, and if proper attention is given, the rate of progress will, no doubt, as it has already done in some cases, prove astounding. Great results are confidently expected, and already remarkable progress has been made. It is expected that in time the presence of a crippled child will be considered a disgrace to the town.

The clinic have several interesting cases in hand. A boy is being treated for a useless (up to now) arm. This limb used to hang in a bent position by his side, the fingers hanging down uncontrolled. Indeed, the child could not use the arm at all. Treatment has been applied with success, and now the boy is able to slightly bend his arm backwards and forwards, an act of which he was utterly incapable before. By continual treatment the muscles will be built up again and he will again be able to use that arm as freely as the other. After that has been achieved, attention will be directed to the fingers, which also, it is hoped to put right again, so that the child will regain complete control of arm and hand.

All the doctors in the town can bring their own patients. Captain Girdlestone attends the Town Hall once a month, but Dr. Ward and his able assistants are there every Saturday. Dr. C.J. Nicholson attends to the X-rays, and members of the V.A.D. also assist. An after-care sister also visits the patients at home. Nurse Hessey and Nurse Neve (the district nurse) are giving their services, and three other ladies, Miss Robinson, Miss Gambler Parry and Miss A.T. Scott are assisting as masseuses.

A great deal of expense is entailed in this great work, but no one will deny that it is a needy cause and one which deserves wholehearted support. At present there are funds to carry on for the immediate future, but the surgical instruments are so costly that more money is required to enable the work to be carried on and even extended. An appeal is, therefore, made to the residents of Wokingham to assist such a laudable object, in which we feel sure they will not be found wanting.

Saturday Jan 22nd

The trustees for the Nonconformist burial ground have been appointed by the Mayor.

Saturday Feb 5th

An inscription has been fitted to the shell presented to the War Savings Committee. The timber for the stand that was provided by Alderman Hughes came from an 800-year-old elm tree.

Saturday Feb 26th

FREE CHURCH BURIAL GROUND

The new Free Church burial ground, Reading Road, Wokingham, was dedicated in the presence of a large congregation on Wednesday afternoon. The short service was conducted by the Rev. T.N. Philips (superintendent minister of the Reading Wesleyan Circuit), and the Rev. C. Colin Dawson (Baptist minister).

(details of service)

Tea was provided in the Town Hall, the Mayor (Ald. P. Sale) presided.

The Mayor said they had felt that this was a bit of work that needed doing and they had set to work and they had worked in harmony and worked successfully, (hear, hear). Many had worked to bring about that result but he thought the first plot should be given to Mr. Mead, (applause). Mr C.W. Marks had placed his professional skill at their disposal. Mr. Medcalf had been treasurer and Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton had drawn up the trust deed, free gratis and for nothing. (applause).

Amongst a host of others he could mention, Messrs. Lush, Welch, Hopkins, Bennett, Prouton, Misses Kedge, Jeffries and Tucker, and also the assistance received that day from the Rev. R.G. Fairbairn and the Rev. T.N. Phillipson

A vote of thanks to the ladies who prepared and served tea was passed on the motion of Mr. W.P. Tucker

The Mayor said that it was desired to sell the frontage to Oxford Road for building sites.

The deed was then signed, the trustees being: the Mayor and Messrs. A.J Bennett, T.H. Bennett, H.E. Bennett, Cooper, S. Brant, Sidney Brown, F.F. Burland, George Ford, John Hopkins, F.E. Hall, W.G. Jeffries, W. Mead, C.W. Marks, W.S. Medcalf, A. Prouten, .W.R. Tucker and T.M. Welch.

The plot of ground is over three acres in extent and is situated between the Reading and Oxford Roads.

Sat 9th April

C B Middleton & Co. has taken over the mill of Mr. F. C. Heelas and established a knitting factory. The factory began on Tuesday. There are handknitting machines and a large winder operated by water turbine.

Sat 28th May

EMPIRE DAY AT WOKINGHAM

Mayor Inspects Boy Scouts and Girl Guides

Empire Day was celebrated at the schools of Wokingham on Tuesday, and also in the evening the local Boy Scouts and Girl Guides combined in a special parade and were inspected by the Mayor of Wokingham. The children at the Palmer School joined in a special ceremony which was both impressive and picturesque. At the other schools Empire Day was celebrated as usual.

At The Palmer School

In the playground of the Palmer School, and with a picturesque background, the children were formed into a square on Tuesday morning and a guard of honour, composed of the school Cadet Corps with their band, was present in uniform. Amongst the large number of spectators present were Commander Gregorie R.N., Mr. C. Gregorie, Mr. H. Farrington Evans, the Rector (the Rev. B. Long), Mrs. Long, Dr. Ward, Miss Piggott, Miss E.M. Sturges, Miss Blandy, Mr. F.E. Chapman, Mrs. J.B. Eustace, Mr. F.W. Finch, Mr. C.L.C. Locke and Councillor F.J. Barratt.

The proceedings were opened by prayers offered by the Rector after which the children sang "The Children's Song (Rudyard Kipling). Mr. Barratt gave an address and said how proud he was to come back to his old school and he thanked them for the honour of giving that address. He referred to the war, and that ready response of men in distant parts of the Empire to come to fight in a war which, as they thought, was to end war. Referring to his own schooldays, Mr. Barratt said he had had a lack of appreciation at that time, and he hoped that the children present at that school with

such excellent teachers, would more readily realise that they were having the best time of their lives. Concluding, the speaker, in a happy manner, emphasised the truth of the motto that, "What was worth doing was worth doing well."

The children sang "There's a Land," (Allitsen), after which the flag was hoisted and the salute given. Three cheers were given for the King, and the National Anthem was sung. The ceremony concluded with the march-past and salute. The proceedings were very picturesque, the playground being gaily decorated with flags of various nations.

PARADE AND INSPECTION

The local Boy Scouts and Girl Guides paraded in Rectory Road and proceeded to the Recreation Ground, where they were drawn up for inspection by the Mayor (Ald. P. Sale). The following were on parade: The Band of the Wokingham Lone Scouts under Patrol Leader Grove; the remainder of the Lone scouts under Scout Cooney; the Wokingham Wolf Cubs under Scout Culver; the Wokingham Brownies under Brown-Owl Miss Smith, Lieut. Miss Finch, and Patrol Leader Powsford; No. 3 Wokingham Company Girl Guides under Capt. Mrs. Welch and Lieut. Miss Harris; and No. 4 Company under Capt. Miss Spiers and Lieut. Miss Evans. The whole parade was commanded by Troop Leader H.A. Byard.

The parade was inspected by the Mayor in the presence of a large company and Ald. Sale also gave an address. He expressed his pleasure to see such a business-like appearance and said he liked to see boys and girls voluntarily put themselves under discipline, because the first thing they had to learn was to obey. If they did not learn to obey they would never command properly. He liked the movement of Girl Guides and Boy Scouts, because they aimed at doing something really useful, and not only useful to themselves but to other people. The Boy Scouts aimed at doing one good action every day. He hoped they did a good many more than that but he hoped they did one at any rate, because as they did that they benefited themselves as well as other people. After all, the great thing to be proud of in being citizens of this great country was in the character they were building up. We might have the biggest army in the world and the most powerful navy (and, he was going to say, the most money, but we had not got that now), but if we had not got the character which had made the name of Great Britain respected all over the world, we were going to leave our country much poorer than it had ever been before. One of the finest things ever said about this country was that an Englishman's word was his bond. If they gave their word they must keep it, no matter whether it was profitable or unprofitable to them, whether they gained or lost by it. That was one of the things that made the name of this country respected throughout the world. As long as our national character stood high—and after all our national character depended on those young people—we need not mind, although we had not so much money. Money was one of the last of the things to be considered. He was sure he wished them every success and hoped that next year would see a great many more Boy Scouts than were there that day. He thought their scoutmaster had too much to do and not enough people to help him. He hoped some of the young men would come forward and help him and some friends would be found to find anything they needed. He urged them to attend their weekly meetings regularly, to do their drills smartly and not to forget that one good deed a day.

The "General Salute" was given, followed by three cheers for the King, one for the Queen, and three for the Mayor of Wokingham.

The parade marched back to the Market Place and was dismissed.

Sat 25th June

BAND DANCE

The town Band held a successful open-air dance on Wednesday at "Highfield," Milton Road, by kind permission of Commander Gregorie, R.N. in aid of the band funds.

BAND AT RECTORY

By the kindness of the Rev. B. Long, the rector, the Wokingham Military Band, under Mr. E. Farrar played for dancing in the grounds of All Saints' Rectory on Monday evening.

A REMARKABLE ACCIDENT

A singular accident occurred at Wokingham on Monday, when two horses attached to a large van bolted and one fell down the area at the front of a house in Marsham Place.

The horses were drawing a large pantehnicon, loaded with furniture, belonging to Messrs. E.W. Reeves and Co., of Wokingham, and were driven by George Bishop of 53, Peach Street, Wokingham. When about to turn into Carey Road the near side horse suddenly jumped, getting one leg over the centre-pole. Both horses at once became restless and the driver and another employee named Cairns tried to release the near horse. The second animal then swerved round and bolted with the van down the hill. Jumping the railings in front of one of the houses and breaking the harness the horse fell down into a deep and narrow area where it became firmly lodged. Cairns hung on to the horse trying to release it until it jumped the railings and he was almost dragged over himself. Police assistance was sent for and a veterinary surgeon was also summoned. A set of ropes and pulleys was obtained and was fixed to the upper window of the house. By this means the animal was hauled bodily out of the area and then deposited on the road where it lay exhausted. Great difficulty was experienced in hauling it up as the horse kicked and struggled and damaged the front of the house. None of the three windows of the house, however, were broken. After a time the horse recovered and was taken to its stable, apparently little the worse for its fall.

'BUS RUNS INTO COWSHED

An accident occurred at the foot of Buckhurst Hill, London Road, Wokingham, on Friday last week, when one of the Thames Valley Company's 'buses plying between Reading and Sunningdale ran off the road into a cow-shed in a meadow.

About 5.45 p.m., Arthur Gregory, of 54, Highgrove Street, Reading, was driving the 'bus from Sunningdale back to Reading, and on reaching the foot of the hill felt a bump. The steering gear was knocked out of his hands, and the 'bus swerved across the path, went through the hedge, and ran into the side of a cow-shed in a meadow belonging to Mr. Alfred Lane. The side of the shed was demolished, and the occupants of the 'bus received a shaking, but no one was injured. It appears that when the driver felt the shock a car driven by Mr. T. Baldwin, of The Vine Hotel, Reading, collided with the 'bus. The driver of the latter said he heard no warning signal of anyone wanting to pass him.

Sat 2nd July

WOKINGHAM ALL SAINTS' WAR MEMORIAL

The war memorial erected to commemorate the services of the men of All Saints' Parish, Wokingham, who fell in the Great War, was unveiled and dedicated on Monday evening with impressive ceremony and in the presence of a very large

concourse of the townspeople. The service was noteworthy from its being representative of practically every section of the townspeople and the assembly of all the public bodies and religious denominations. The weather favoured the function and in the triangle of the junction of London Road and Peach Street a very large crowd assembled and witnessed the unveiling by Major-General Sir Reginald Stephens, K.C.B., C.M.G., the Commandant of the Royal Military College at Sandhurst, and the dedication by the Bishop of Oxford.

The service on Monday evening was in two portions—inside the church and at the cross. The church was completely filled. A procession was formed at the Town Hall, headed by the Wokingham Town Band, and consisting of police and Special Constables, under Supt. Goddard, and the Wokingham Fire Brigade, under Captain Caiger. The Voluntary Aid Detachment also paraded, and marched to the church under Lady Cayley and Miss C.F. Johnson R.R.C. (sister-in-charge of the Church House Hospital during the war). The service was also attended by his Worship the Mayor of Wokingham (Alderman P. Sale, J.P., C.C.), preceded by the four honorary constables and the mace-bearer (Sergt. Sparkes) and other members of the Corporation and dignitaries

A description of the service is given followed by the list of names on the memorial.

Sat 9th July

FIRE BRIGADE

The fire brigade on Tuesday evening entertained four of their confreres from the Hungerford Brigade, who were visiting the town en route to London on brigade business.

CHOIR EXCURSION

A very pleasant time was spent on Thursday last week by members St. Paul's choir, who, by the generosity of numerous subscribers and the proceeds of a recent concert, were enabled to take a charabanc trip to Southsea, Portsmouth Harbour, etc. The party were conveyed in two charabancs. The party included the rector (the Rev. H.M. Walter), the Rev. C. Nightingale and Mr. A.H. Lusty (organist), while in the second vehicle a number of friends travelled as ordinary passengers. The journeys, through lovely scenery, were much enjoyed. A visit was paid to Nelson's old flagship, "The Victory," observations made on the spot entirely belying the report that she is becoming derelict. The choirboys were entertained to tea.

WOKINGHAM WAR MEMORIAL JOINT SCHEME ADOPTED

On Tuesday evening a further meeting was held in the Town Hall to consider the report of the committee appointed by the last public meeting held to consider the question of a town war memorial. The Mayor occupied the chair and informed the meeting that the committee had chosen two schemes for final consideration, the clinic and the Comrades' Club.

On behalf of the Comrades, now the British Legion, Major-Gen. Sir Walter Calley said both projects would be welcomed. Their aims were not selfish. The club would be a social centre for the whole of Wokingham, and would lead in every kind of entertainment and sports. They now numbered some 250 ex-service men in Wokingham. Replying to questions by Dr. Ward and Mr. F. Powell, Sir Walter said the British Legion included a women's auxiliary with the same service qualification as the men, and that the club would provide a bar. The Legion already had acquired

premises, but only sufficient for the bare necessities of the club. They wanted a hall on the present premises which would enable them to carry on their scheme in its entirety. The club would welcome those not eligible by service as honorary members, and they would include all the surrounding villages as well as the town.

Dr. Ward referred to women's work in the war, and said they of the clinic would be pleased for the two things, the club and the clinic to be combined. The possibilities of the clinic were great; maternity and child welfare could be added had they but a suitable building. They were taking over the only available building, and it would cost a great deal, and there was the expertise of carrying on the work, as many people required special treatment. If the money were divided between the two funds they could not have a more worthy memorial.

Mr. Barnaby remarked that future ex-service men could join the club, as well as the British Legion, and so provide for the future carrying on of the club.

After prolonged discussion it was proposed and seconded by Supt. Goddard and Mr. Barnaby respectively that the report of the committee be accepted. This was carried, and then on the proposition of Supt. Goddard, the dual scheme for club and clinic was adopted by a large majority.

The Mayor was thanked for presiding. The details of the scheme were left to the committee previously appointed.

Sat 20th Aug

RAIN

On Tuesday, about midnight, rain commenced to fall in considerable volume, and this continued well into Wednesday. Pastures and gardens already show improvement, while the quantity that fell was sufficient to fill the hollows in road and field with water.

WOKINGHAM WAR MEMORIAL AN APPEAL BY THE MAYOR

This week the Mayor of Wokingham (Alderman P. Sale) has issued an appeal for support of the Wokingham Town War Memorial, which, it is gratifying to note, has already met with success.

The scheme is for a town memorial, as apart from the various church and chapel memorials, is the outcome of a town's meeting called by his Worship some little time ago. At that meeting a committee was appointed to deal with the suggestions for a war memorial and to recommend the most suitable for approval. Many were the suggestions put forward, and eventually the committee, who had a great difficulty in binding itself to one suggestion (so great were the merits of several), came to a decision to support the suggestion both for helping the clinic and also the one for assisting the ex-service men in acquiring a Comrades' Club. Since then, however, Major-General Sir Walter Cayley, on behalf of the British Legion, informed the Mayor that it was not thought right to accept the help of the town in such a project, and that, therefore, the ex-Servicemen desired to withdraw from the scheme in favour of the clinic. After that decision the committee proceeded to formulate a scheme for the one object, that of assisting the clinic.

Premises have been found in the disused chapel in Denmark Street, and this building the committee propose to purchase and equip for the work of a clinic. The building is admirably suited for such a purpose, and it is not expected that, after purchase, any money (or, at any rate, very much) will have to be spent on alterations. It is a most favourable place. It is suggested a stone tablet be placed outside on the front of the

building, to the effect that it was purchased and handed over as the town's war memorial, and, also that bronze tablets, suitably inscribed, and containing names of all who died in the Great War, be erected on the wall of the Town Hall at the side of the Town Clerk's chambers.

The object is a most worthy one, and needs no recommendation. The wonderful work accomplished by Captain Girdlestone of Oxford, is known not only in Wokingham, but in all the surrounding villages. From a small start with cases in Wokingham the work has developed until now 50 cases from various parts of the district are dealt with each Saturday. It is interesting to note that the town memorial is to be to assist in the work which is now being carried out as the result of experience and knowledge gained in the war. The skill to which the surgeons attained during the war was remarkable and it is this skill and experience which is the means of affecting the remarkable cures and treatments of Captain Girdlestone. It is, therefore, a point of next appeal, and the whole object and scheme most worthy.

The Mayor's appeal has already produced several handsome donations, but £2,000 is expected to be necessary, and, the Mayor appeals for help in the raising of that sum. Wokingham people will, no doubt, respond to a call calculated to be the means of working great and everlasting benefits to the unhappily deformed and afflicted children.

Sat 12th Nov

Councillor Blake was appointed Mayor with Alderman Sale as Deputy Mayor.

Also elected were:

Sgt. C. Sparkes as Sergeant-at-Mace

E Jeffries, W Pearce, A Jarvis and H Dyer as Honorary Constables.

James Taylor as Town Crier.

Sat 17th Dec

UNEMPLOYMENT AND EMIGRATION

The Unemployment Committee of the Town Council arranged a meeting at the Town Hall on Friday last week to consider the possibilities in respect of emigration to Australia.

The chair was taken by the Mayor (Alderman Blake) who was supported by the Deputy-Mayor (Alderman Sale) and Councillors Cheeseman, Sturges and Ward.

The Mayor, after referring to what had been done in Wokingham for unemployment, stated that the meeting had been called to give prospective emigrants to Australia an opportunity of having the true conditions put before them by Mr. Barnes, the industrial advisor to the Commonwealth of Australia, an ex-Minister of the Australian Assembly.

Mr. Barnes stated that he was due that evening to speak to a large meeting of 5,000 at Chelsea, but at the last moment had been urged to come to Wokingham, the only corporation in England that had invited a representative of the Commonwealth to address a meeting in their town on the question of emigration. Mr. Barnes dealt with the life and openings in Australia particularly from the point of view of agricultural workers and the advantages emigrants were likely to reap if they went out determined to live a thrifty life until they were well started on their career. He emphasised strongly the fact that Australia only wanted workers, and anyone emigrating to Australia must be prepared to work, and to work hard. Up to December 31st applications can be received for an assisted passage to Australia. The British Government will pay the passages of accepted emigrants and on their arrival in

Australia they would go straight to their jobs. No special clothes were required; any clothes they might have by them were sufficient. The money required was a sum of £3 which had to be deposited in England and was handed to the emigrant when he landed.

Many questions were put to Mr. Barnes by intending emigrants and others, which he answered fully, and it was not difficult to see that he made a considerable impression on his hearers.

Councillor Barrett proposed a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Barnes, which was seconded by the Mayor and on being put was carried with much applause.

Mr. Barnes in reply stated that if any boy from Wokingham were near his residence in Australia he should be pleased to see him, and he would do what he could to give him any assistance locally.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Mayor on the proposition of the lecturer.

1922

Sat 28th Jan

THE UNEMPLOYED

The streets of Wokingham on Tuesday resounded to the unusual strains of "The Red Flag," while a red banner, followed by a drum and bugle band, was borne aloft. The occasion was a visit of the Reading unemployed to give the local men a lead in the parade to the Board Room of the Guardians and District Council, to whom the local men wished to send a deputation. The visitors marched from Reading. An escort of local police received the column at the boundary, and escorted it thither again in the afternoon. The Board of Guardians received a deputation, as reported elsewhere.

ST PAUL'S WAR MEMORIAL

The unveiling and dedication of the war memorial tablet at St. Paul's Church, in honour of the men of that parish who fell in the Great War, was impressively carried out on Sunday afternoon. There was a very large congregation, among whom were the Mayor of Wokingham (Alderman M. Blake) and many relatives of the men commemorated. The Rector (the Rev. H.M. Walter) officiated, assisted by the Rev. C. Nightingale. The service commenced with the hymn "O God our help in ages past." Mr. A. H. Lusty, A.R.C.O., was at the organ. Psalm xxiii was chanted, and the lesson St. John v. 21-25, was read. The Archdeacon of Berks, with the clergy and choir then proceeded to the memorial tablet at the west-end of the church. The unveiling was performed by Lieut.-Colonel C.H. Villiers, L.D. (H.M. Bodyguard, late Royal Horse Guards), who released the Union Jack with which the tablet had been draped.

Colonel Villiers said he felt it a very great honour to be asked to unveil that memorial. He did so with great sympathy for the relatives of the men who were commemorated. He should never forget when in 1914 he received orders to march with his regiment the first night out of London, they slept in a field at Bear Wood, within sight of the church wherein they were now assembled; a regiment of young Englishmen drawn from every station in life, full of hope and eagerness to see service for their country. Many of them became officers, many of them laid down their lives for their country. None remained behind, and they were all of the same type as those Wokingham lads whose memory they and their children would honour for all time. The task undertaken by these young men could never be ended as long as the British

Empire endured. It was for them and their children to maintain the greatness of their dear country, with its love of justice, freedom and law. There could be no doubt that if the necessity again rose, and the call was made upon the manhood of the country, the young men of St. Paul's Parish would again come forward.

The Ven. Archdeacon of Berkshire then dedicated the memorial, and prayers were said.

Mrs. Potter, who of six sons in the war, lost three then laid a laurel wreath beneath the tablet. Another wreath was placed by Miss Finer in memory of "Six lads of my Bible Class," and Mrs. Stokes placed a sheaf of lilies in memory of her son.

The Archdeacon then delivered a thoughtful, sympathetic and earnest address from the words, "Their name liveth for evermore" and "They rest from their labours, and their works do follow them."

The hymn "Jesus Lives" was followed by the Benediction and a verse of the National Anthem. "Onward, Christian Soldiers," was sung as a recessional, after which Mr. Lusty played, "King of Glory" (Barnby)

The memorial is an alabaster tablet, framed in green marble, 4ft. 6 in. by 2ft. 8 in. In gilt letters on a surmounting are rising from the top edge are the words "To the Glory of God," and a white cross is enclosed. Sixty-one names are inscribed on the tablet, and underneath the two columns of names are the words "In manus tuas Domine".

Public subscriptions of parishioners and friends raised £160. A thank offering taken at the door on leaving was placed to the credit of the organ restoration fund, which still required some £40.

Sat 1st April

SUMMER TIME

The usual number of humerous incidents owing to neglecting the alteration of the time were observed on Sunday morning.

UNIVERSITIES' MISSION

Canon Coleridge (Vicar of Crowthorne) presided over a well-attended meeting held under the auspices of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa at the Church House on Wednesday. An interesting and informative address on the work of the mission was given by Miss Abdy, and at the close a sale of African curios was promoted.

WHIST DRIVE AND DANCE

On Wednesday a fairly large number of members of the Wokingham Club participated in the fortnightly whist drive and dance. The successful card players were—Ladies: 1. Mrs Bennett 2. Mrs. Carter. Gentlemen: 1. Mr. Tillier 2 Mr. F. F. Finch. Mr. C.W. Law officiated as M.C. for the whist, and Mr. H. Drinkwater for the dancing which followed.

SANGER'S CIRCUS

The visit of Sanger's celebrated Circus on Saturday roused the juvenile population to a great pitch of excitement, and the two excellent performances given were very well attended, the evening house being crowded. The aerobic performers and the horses, seals and elephants were worthy of the highest praise. The arrival and departure were witnessed by crowds of children who were much interested in the elephants, which wore large rubber "boots."

YOUNG MEN'S CLUB

The St. Paul's Young Men's Club was brought to a close on Friday last week after a successful session. The club was instituted by a committee of St. Paul's parishioners and was carried on by Mr. O.R. Tarrant with the help of Mrs. Houlton to whom many thanks are due. Through the kindness of the treasurer of the club. (Mr. A.T. Scott) the members were supplied with a billiard table. The Rector The Rev. H. M. Walter) and the Rev. C. Nightingale gave valuable support.

CYCLING ACCIDENT

A collision between a motor-cyclist, happily without very serious injuries, occurred on Wednesday morning. Mr. Owen R. Piggott, of the Old House, was riding his motorcycle in Broad Street in the direction of the Market Place, when he collided with Mr. H. Hogburn, Plough Lane, who was also proceeding towards the Market Place from Rose Street. Both riders were thrown to the ground, and Mr. Hogburn was taken by P.C. Foster to Dr. Darling's surgery, where it was found that he had received a badly cut tongue and was suffering from shock, but subsequently able to proceed to his home. Mr. Piggott was uninjured. Both machines were slightly damaged.

Sat 8th July

WOKINGHAM ST. PAUL'S GARDEN FETE AT THE ELMS

At the last annual meeting of St. Paul's Parochial Church Council an adverse balance on the churchwarden's accounts was announced, and since that time matters financial have claimed the serious attention of the members. Ways and means of liquidating the deficit and establishing a credit balance were discussed, and eventually it was agreed to promote a fete and gala on a larger scale than had hitherto been attempted.

The committee were fortunate in having the large and picturesque grounds of The Elms, Wokingham, placed at their disposal by the kindness of the Misses Ellison and Mr. E. Boshier, and all that was necessary for complete success was fine weather, but in this respect the promoters the promoters were not favoured. Supporters, however, were not to be denied and there was a large attendance.

The fete was gracefully declared open by Lady Victoria Villiers, who was presented with a bouquet. A variety of well-stocked stalls had been erected on the grounds, and in addition numerous competitive amusements were provided for the entertainment of the visitors. Those in charge of the stalls were:--Fancy stall, Mrs. H. Walter, assisted by Mesdames Watson, Stead, Haye, Gregorie, Dunne, Harwood, Melville-Anderson, C. Henlé, Misses Kimber, Tarrant, Benson, Curl and Ellison; sweet stall: Miss White and Miss Goswell; refreshment stall: Mrs. Heelas and Mrs. F. Henlé; fruit, vegetables and flowers, Miss Barrow and friend; bran tub, Lady Hamilton and Miss Cornish; racket stall: Miss Deane and Miss Marlow. The games and competitions were arranged by Commander and Mrs. C. Gregorie as follows:--Shooting gallery, Mr. R. Hosler; hoop-la (kindly lent by Miss Sale), Misses Wescott, Finch and Holmes; musical chairs, Miss Eileen West; deck quoits, Mr. R. Haye; clock golf, Mrs Bolton and Mr. G. Moore; hat-trimming, Mr. Cathrow Martin; guessing competitions: cake (given by Mrs. Abbott), Miss Mannsell: coins; Mrs. Bolton: forest leaves; , Mrs. Dyke Marsh; birds, beasts and fishes. Miss Johnson; and buried treasure, Nurse Shuth and Miss Toe.

Bowling for a pig was presided over by Mr. A.H. Jones assisted by Messrs. H Lee and E. Wakefield. Donkey rides for the children were supervised by Miss West and

Miss De Vitre. The provision of light refreshments proved to be a lucrative branch of the show, all the refreshments being the gifts of members of the congregations and of the members of other denominations. Mrs. Collis and Mrs. Hollis were in charge, and they were assisted by Mesdames Onslow, Barry, R.H. Watts, W. Smith, Misses Desbois and Walter.

Throughout the afternoon and evening a succession of concerts and entertainments were presented. Had the weather been propitious these would have taken place on the lawn, but by the kindness of Miss Ellison rooms in the house were placed at the disposal of the committee. In the afternoon children of King Arthur Schools, who were present by permission of Misses Dillon Clark, gave an excellent rendering of "Cophetua and the Beggar Maid." This was followed by prettily presented maypole dances by infants of St. Paul's Schools, under the direction of Miss Liddiard, and folk dances by Wokingham ladies who are members of the Reading Folk Dance Society.

After tea a performance of "Mechanical Jane" was played by Misses De Vitre and Miss Gregorie, and in the evening an excellent concert arranged by Mr. A. Lusty (organist at St. Paul's Church), took place in the Drill Hall. There was a large attendance and the well-varied programme was much enjoyed. Items were contributed by Miss Plumridge (contralto), Miss Rummig (violin), Mr. F. Burkett (comedian), and Mr. Turner (tenor). Incidental music was played by an instrumental quartet, comprising Mr. Henlé (piano), Miss Gregorie (violin), Mr. H Maudment (violin), Mr. C Gregorie (flute), and Mr. Mavois ('cello). The quartet also played at intervals during the afternoon.

The evening concluded with a dance at the Drill Hall, music being provided by the Town Band.

It is hoped to make the effort an annual one. Mr. H.T. Scott carried out the arduous duties of hon. secretary, and the social committee which was responsible for the arrangements comprised Messrs. White, Adams, Udell, Barratt, Moore, Pocock and Tarrant; and the advertising committee consisted of the Rev. C Nightingale, Messrs. H. T. Scott and Mr. T. Hawkins.

GARDEN CONCERT

By the invitation of the Rector (the Rev. H.M. Walter), the Town Band played for dancing on the St. Paul's Rectory lawn on Monday evening.

TENNIS

Owing to a misunderstanding the result of a lawn tennis match between the Town and Milton Road Clubs reported last week, was stated to have been a victory for the former club. The match was won by the Milton Road Club.

TERRITORIALS

Local Territorials held a week-end camp at Finchampstead, from Saturday till Monday, when 91 ranks, including the band, attended under command of Captain A.C. Hughes. Despite unfavourable weather an enjoyable time was spent and considerable useful musketry work accomplished. A prize of 10s., offered by Captain Hughes for distance judging, was won by Lance-Corporal F.H. Beezeley

WHIST DRIVE

With a view of augmenting the funds of the Military Band, a successful whist drive and dance was held in the Drill Hall on Wednesday evening. There was a very large attendance, and prizes for the whist were presented by Mrs. Fallar to the following

players:-Ladies: 1, Miss Gould; 2, Mrs. Bailey. Gentlemen:- 1, Mr. Reed; 2, Mr. Andrews. Mr. L. Blackman was the M.C. for the whist drive and Mr. E. Langley for the dancing, music for which was provided by the Military Band.

Sat 22nd July

WOKINGHAM WAR MEMORIAL GIFT TO THE CLINIC

On Tuesday afternoon those interested in the Wokingham Clinic assembled in the Town Hall to witness the official handing over of the title deeds of the new headquarters in Denmark Street. The Mayor (Alderman M. Blake) presided, and there were also present the Major-General Sir Walter Cayley, D.S.O., K.C.M.G., and Lady Cayley, Admiral and Mrs. Eustace, Miss Burns, Miss Sturges, Miss Blandy, Mrs. F. Piggott, the Misses Ellison, (2), Mr. G.J. Brodie, Councillors Barrett, Cheeseman, Fryer and Whaley, Mrs. Fryer, Mrs. Melville Anderson, Mrs. And Miss Lloyd, Mr. J.H. Ellison Clifton, Mr. H. Farrington Evans, Mrs. Blake, Miss D. Sale, Mr. and Mrs. E.V. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Newman, Mr. and Mrs. C. Scragg, and others.

The Mayor said they met on that interesting occasion to reap the benefit of the success which had attended the efforts of the War Memorial Committee. During the Great War the town of Wokingham lost many of its best. Some time ago a meeting was held, when it was agreed to raise money in order that their memories might be perpetuated in the form of a war memorial, and as a result they met that day to witness the handing over of the title deeds of a building to the Orthopaedic Clinic. He was sure that hospitals and hospital work claimed their thoughts and support, and that they realised that there were a large number of their fellow creatures who were unable to benefit by medical science which could be brought to their assistance through the hospitals. To such there must be times of disappointment and despair because of the handicaps under which they lived. It was here that the clinic came to their aid, and endeavoured to remove that disappointment and to bring a ray of sunshine into their lives. The work was going forward daily in their midst. The accommodation at the Town Hall had become insufficient to meet their demands, and today, by Mr. Sale, the title deeds of a more adequate building would be handed to the clinic. There had been little in the town with Mr. Sale had not been connected, and to him, to his committee, and to those generous supporters of their appeal he desired to pay grateful tribute. (Applause).

Alderman Sale, speaking on behalf of the War Memorial Committee, said that, while he did not intend to go over the ground which they had travelled so many times, an occasion such as that, which celebrated the completion of a task, could not be passed over without a backward glance. The scheme was launched from a feeling of gratitude for work unselfishly done, (Applause.) To some that work meant simple service, to others it meant the giving of lives, and thus it was thought fitting that the memorial should take the form of assistance to a kindred work. He said kindred, because the work of the clinic was a task done unselfishly for others. Reference had been made to the value of that work and to the enormous benefits it was conferring and would confer on those who were afflicted. It was a work of prevention, which gave to those it aided a better start in life. War was a terrible hellish thing, which could not be painted in too lurid colours, but there was nothing without redeeming rays of light. Thus the war brought out unselfishness of character and deeds which thrilled them, and here in Wokingham much work war accomplished. He would like to refer to the work of their late Mayor (the late Mr. Mylne)—(Here, here)—and to what was accomplished by the ladies at the hospitals—(applause)—in connection

with which he always thought of the work of Miss Johnson. When the tablet was erected in that hall, he would press for the name of Mr. Mylne to be inscribed thereon, for his work during the war had undoubtedly hastened his end. He had pleasure and honour in handing the deeds of the building purchased with the free-will gifts of grateful hearts of the people of Wokingham, to Admiral Eustace, the treasurer of the Orthopaedic Clinic. They hoped and prayed that God's blessing would rest on their labours. (Applause.)

Admiral Eustace said the committee of the Orthopaedic Clinic desired him on their behalf to accept this splendid gift which they offered, and to tender to them and to all those who had generously provided the means their most hearty thanks for what they had done. The war had taught many useful lessons; perhaps the most valuable was that the keystone of civilisation was fellowship. Upon the high seas and in the trenches our sailors and soldiers—whether they were duke's son or cook's son—did their bit side by side with never a thought of earthly reward. They fought in that truly Christian spirit of fellowship which sharing a common trial always begets. To commemorate those noble lives it was felt that some sort of memorial was required. Much time and patience was exhausted in discussions—some preferred an everlasting witness in stone, others an object of utility, while the majority liked a scheme that would remove some of the suffering at our doors. But whatever might be their opinions as to what constituted an adequate or inadequate war memorial, he prayed that they might no longer clash and that all Wokingham would unite in the spirit of good fellowship to reduce the suffering in their midst. That day they had on the books of the clinic 77 cripples, and their care was a task of which they might be proud (Applause.)

The Mayor read a letter from Alderman W.T. Martin, who addressed his disappointment in being unable to be present. He felt sure that the memorial was such as those in whose memory the building would stand would desire. He hoped a strong appeal would be made to raise the money to execute the repairs and alterations required, and enclosed ten guineas from himself and his wife. Commander Gregorie wrote enclosing a cheque for £5 with wishes for the success of the undertaking, and a letter was read from Miss Furley enclosing a cheque for £3.

Dr. Ward in proposing a vote of thanks to Ald. Sale and the War Memorial Committee, spoke of the success of the Orthopaedic Clinic during the past two years. He also paid tribute to the services of the V.A.D.s who were following up excellent war work with assistance at the clinic.

Councillor Barrett seconded the vote of thanks, which was carried with acclamation.

Subsequently those present visited and inspected the building, and during the evening several donations were received towards the cost of the alterations and repairs.

GARDEN CONCERT

By the invitation of the Rector (the Rev. H.M. Walter), the Town Band played for dancing on St. Paul's Rectory lawn on Monday evening.

TENNIS

Sat 23rd Sept

Dorothy Dearlove elder daughter of Mr & Mrs G J Dearlove died suddenly aged 25.

Sat 30th Sept

A CRICKET RECORD

With the retirement of Mr. A.E. Priest from the hon. secretaryship of the Wokingham Town Cricket Club an almost unique record of service is brought to an end, as for nearly fifty years members of the staff and firm of Messrs. Cooke, Cooper and Barry, solicitors, have filled this office. In 1877 Mr. F. Bartlett was appointed and held the position for ten years, he was succeeded by Mr. Barry, who remained in office for 25 years, and lastly Mr. A.E. Priest rendered valuable services as hon. secretary for ten years.

WESLEYAN GIRL GUIDES

On Wednesday the 3rd Wokingham Coy. Of Girl Guides (Wesleyan) gave a concert and entertainment in the Wesleyan schoolroom in aid of the renovation fund of the church. Captain R. Smith (2nd Coy.) presided, and other local companies assisting were 1st Coy. (All Saints') and 2nd Coy. (Grosvenor School). A sale of work was held, and other attractions included hoop-la, art gallery, refreshments, flower stall, etc. The Rev. G.H. Morris and Mrs. Morris were present. Lady Victoria Villiers (District Commissioner, Girl Guides) also graced the proceedings with her presence.

THE TANNERY OFFERED

"The Tannery," in Barkham Road for many years in the occupation of Messrs Philbrick and latterly Harry Grace Ltd was offered for sale by auction on Tuesday at the Rose Hotel, by Messrs. Ayres and Richards, auctioneers, Reading. There was a large company present. The bidding opened at £1,400, and, after advancing by sums of £100 to £1,900, the bidding dropped to £50 and ceased at £2,300, after which the auctioneer announced that he must bid on behalf of the vendors; this he did and the property was bought in at £2,500. It seemed from such a large company present that there should be no difficulty in disposing of this lot. "Loddon Bridge House" and works near Loddon Bridge, Earley, with over 7 acres, attracted much attention. The bidding started at £700 and immediately jumped to £1,000. After much competition the property was knocked down at £1,800.

Saturday 9th Dec.

Vacancies in the fire brigade have been filled by E P Osmond, W W Stewart, C F Mason and R Maddams.

Sat 16th Dec.

FLYING TOO LOW. AIRMAN FINED AT WOKINGHAM

An interesting case was heard at the Wokingham County Police Court on Tuesday when an airman was fined for flying at too low an altitude over the town. A summons for trick-flying over the town was dismissed. The proceedings the first of their kind for Berkshire were taken under the Air Navigation Orders.

The defendant, Sidney Frank Woods, a young airman with considerable war experience in various parts of the world, was stated to be now in the employ of the Berkshire Aviation Company which arranged for a series of passenger flights and air tricks during the past week at Wokingham. His address was given as "Hillside" Lilleshall, Salop and he was summoned for breaches of Air Navigation Orders by reason of the low altitude was the cause of unnecessary danger to persons below and also with carrying out trick-flying over a town area both on December 6th. He pleaded not guilty and Mr. A F Clark (Reading) defended.

Mr Clark asked for the names of the persons to whom danger was caused. Supt. C Goddard said danger must have been caused to hundreds of people but he would give the names of himself and four constables.

Supt. Goddard produced the Order which stated that trick-flying must not be carried out over any city or town area or any populous district, nor must aeroplanes be flown at such a low altitude as to cause unnecessary danger to persons or property. At 2.30 pm on Wednesday, November 8th, he said, he was in the police station, when an aeroplane went over at such a low altitude that it seemed to skim Mr Barry's house. It made a tremendous noise and had there been a timid horse in the street it was more than probable that it would have been alarmed. He had heard that some sort of trick-flying was to be carried out having seen bills to that effect in shop windows. He went towards the meadow where he understood the landing was to be, and at All Saints Church he noticed that another flight was taking place. The aeroplane came over him and was lower than the tower of All Saints' Church. Finding that the meadow was rather further away than he thought he turned back to send a constable on a bicycle. He returned to the Market Place at 3.00 pm and again heard a tremendous noise and looking up he saw the aeroplane come over Barclay's Bank. Until it came over those premises he could not see it. It turned and after rising a little nosed down into a vertical position and turning again returned in the direction from which it came, namely Buckhurst Farm. Later it returned over Broad Street at an exceedingly low altitude and when it had travelled over a shop he could not see it. At the time when it was over Palmer Schools the children were dispersing and had it crashed two or three hundred children would have been in danger.

Cross-examined by Mr. Clark Supt. Goddard would not agree that it was a difficult matter to estimate the height at which an aeroplane was flying

. Defendant was flying at the height of the weather vane at the top of the Town Hall. He did not know that defendant was carrying an altimeter neither has he asked to inspect it. Defendant was unable to show his licence but he was not charged with that.

Mr. John B Holmes, a director of the company, who was commissioned as a pilot during the war in 1918 said he was with the Defendant on December 6th. His company had been taking the public for flights during the past four years. The defendant did not perform any trick-flying that afternoon but had turned vertically or "banked" – a necessary operation. It was extremely difficult to judge the height of an operation but they were carrying an altimeter which never registered below 1,600 feet a height at which, should the engine fail, it would give ample scope to reach a safe landing.

The chairman said that the Bench were of the opinion that there was no trick-flying and that the case would therefore be dismissed. The Bench thought, however, that the defendant was flying too low and the punishment which could be inflicted for that offence was a fine of £200 and six months imprisonment. For this the defendant would be fined £1.

1923

Sat 24th March

DEATH OF MR. HOWARD PALMER

It is with the greatest regret that we have to record the death of Mr. W. Howard Palmer, which took place at his residence, Heathlands, Wokingham, on Saturday. He had been ill for a considerable period, and last week he took a turn for the worse, when it became known that he could not last many days.

Born on November 3rd, 1865, he was the third son of the late Mr. Samuel Palmer of Northcourt, Hampstead, the second of the three brothers who founded, in conjunction with their cousin, the late Mr. Thomas Huntley, the great firm of Messrs. Huntley and Palmers, Ltd. His brothers are Sir S. Ernest Palmer, Bart., a director of the Great Western Railway, Mr. C. H. Palmer, of Bozodown, Whitchurch, and Lieut.-Colonel A.J. Palmer, D.S.O., who served with distinction in the war in Palestine. Educated at Highgate School, Mr. Howard Palmer later studied finance in Brussels and commerce in London.

Mr. Howard Palmer had been long connected with the Biscuit Factory, where his marked ability and energy singled him out for a prominent career with the firm. It was in 1906 that he succeeded his cousin, the Right. Hon. George William Palmer, as chairman of the company. During the war his energies as head of the firm were taxed to the utmost capacity. At the outbreak, in 1914, he lost for some years the help of three of the directors of the company and several of the skilled managers, in addition to some 1,800 of the workmen who joined the forces. At the same time, war service of extreme importance was proceeding at the Reading Biscuit Factory.

There can be little doubt that the very heavy work and the responsibility and the terrible anxieties of this period, impaired the health of a man who never spared himself, and who devoted himself to a solution of the innumerable difficulties which confronted him with an amount of energy and determination which many younger men might have envied.

At this time also, labour problems became more and more insistent, and before Whitley Councils had been thought of Huntley and Palmers, Ltd., under the guidance of Mr. Howard Palmer, inaugurated a scheme within their factory by which the workers elected a little parliament of their own, consisting of 66 members—one for every complete hundred of workpeople—who meet in the firm's time for the discussion of any matters affecting their welfare, and whose executive officers always have access to the Board of Directors. To these workers the death of Mr. Palmer has come as a great sorrow, for his intercourse with them had gained for him their confidence and respect.

Never content with a superficial examination of any problem, he gave great thought to every question that presented itself, and whilst very tenacious of his own views, he never failed to afford others ample opportunities of expressing their own opinions. He was straightforward and outspoken in the expression of his own convictions and he never failed to fulfil a promise that he had once given.

The Great War and the desire of Government departments at that time to confer with industries as a whole, instead of with individual manufacturers, led to the formation of the National Association of Biscuit Manufacturers, and of this association Mr. Howard Palmer was elected president.

The welfare of the workers in the biscuit trade became one of the first objects of this association, and the working week was reduced from 51 to 48 hours, at the same time that great boons were extended to the workers in the form of increased rates of wages, and annual holidays with full pay.

Service to Agriculture

Mr. Howard Palmer always took a great interest in agriculture, especially in the breeding of pigs, in which he was very successful. His stock at Stokes Farm, Wokingham, had earned a name for itself at every show of note in England. Mr. Palmer reared many remarkable Berkshire pigs, and probably won more prizes with his animals than any other Berkshire pig breeder. The famous "Murrell" breed is known in every quarter where pedigree stock are reared. To mention only a few

animals which Mr. Howard Palmer has reared, "Murrell Prince" was considered to be one of the finest boars in the world, and had a long list of show successes, while other first prize pigs bred on the farm include "Murrell Betka", "Murrell Sunshine", "Murrell Sunshade", "Murrell Mistress", "Murrell Lassie", and "Murrell Annie". In 1920 Mr. Palmer was awarded the Berkshire Challenge Cup, presented by the British Berkshire Society to the owner whose combined entries of Berkshire pigs obtained most points at shows held by the Royal Agricultural Society of England. He also reared some remarkable Shire horses, his most successful animals including "Monks Green Melody", "Stokes' Victor", and "Stokes' Coming Queen", the last named mare taking many prizes at various shows.

Although he always refused to come forward as a candidate for Parliamentary honours, Mr. Howard Palmer took an active part in county affairs. He was a keen supporter of the Conservative cause, and had presided at meetings in Reading, while he was always greatly interested in the Conservative cause in Wokingham and district. He was chairman for nearly 20 years, from 1900, of the Wokingham Conservative Association. In 1898 he became J.P. for the County, and in 190? Was the High Sheriff. He was a vice president of the Royal Berkshire Hospital, and a governor of Reading University College, to both of which institutions he and his firm were such generous subscribers. He was also a valued member of the Berkshire Territorial Force Association, and vice-chairman of the Bear Wood Management of Broadmoor Asylum

In 1920 Mr. Howard Palmer accepted the presidency of the Royal Counties Agricultural Society, whose show was held in Reading that year. He had been a member of the council of the society for some years. Mr. Palmer was deservedly popular with agriculturists, and he discharged the duties which fell on him as president with dignity and geniality. He was also more than once president of the Wokingham and District Agricultural Association.

It is impossible to appraise all that Mr. Howard Palmer did for the Reading Athletic Club. When, about the year 1888, he became captain of the club there was a deficit balance, but this position of affairs was soon altered, and as was stated in one of the old reports, "the prosperity and progress of the R.A.C. from the time of Mr. Palmer's acceptance of office.

On the death of the president, Sir George Russell, Bart., M.P., in 1898, there was only one possible person as his successor, the choice being absolutely unanimous.

Mr. Howard Palmer was keenly interested in the Berkshire County Cricket Club and since he purchased the ground in Kensington R., Reading, it has always been at the disposal of the club. He himself at one time captained the Biscuit Factory Cricket Club, and made some excellent scores. He was also a good half back at football. He was chairman of the committee of the Garth Hunt, and was a keen rider to hounds. When the meets were at Heathlands he generously entertained the followers. He was also fond of shooting and lawn tennis. A great lover of flowers—as shown by the beautifully kept grounds of Heathlands—he was especially successful with the cultivation of orchids. Mr. Howard Palmer was president of the Pinewood United Football Club, and a vice-president of the Reading Imperials Football Club. In the former's match with Valley End in the Ascot League on Saturday, the players, as a token of respect to their president, wore black armlets.

Mr. Howard Palmer married in 1890 Miss Ada Morgan, daughter of Mr. William Reed, of Onslow Gardens, S.W., and she and one son, Mr. Reginald H.R. Palmer, M.C., survive him.

War Memorial Hall

As a thank-offering to God for the safe return of their son from the war, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Palmer made a generous gift of a war memorial hall to the parish of St. Sebastian's, Wokingham. Erected according to the design of Mr. S. Phillips Dale, F.S.A. the hall is a very picturesque structure, consisting of a main hall, with a well-appointed stage, with a moveable partition to divide the hall into two sections should the occasion arise. A finely equipped billiard room adjoins the main hall. This whole building was substantially and comfortably furnished by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Palmer. A memorial window bears an inscription and the names of the fallen of the parish. Mr. Reginald H.R. Palmer served in the Grenadier Guards during the war, and was awarded the M.C.

The Funeral

Extreme simplicity was the keynote of the funeral service which took place at St. Sebastian's Church, near Wokingham, on Tuesday, when the mortal remains of Mr. Palmer were laid to rest in a moss and primrose-lined grave in the peaceful churchyard of the little village church on the outskirts of the old Windsor Forest.

The coffin upon which rested three beautiful wreaths, was drawn, upon a bier by four of the oldest employees of the Heathlands Estate through the private walk to the church. Behind it walked the two nearest relatives.

(Funeral details)

Sat 21st April

WOKINGHAM WAR MEMORIAL NEW CLINIC BUILDING OPENING

Sacrifice is the keynote of the building, for its acquisition was made possible not only by large subscriptions from residents in the district, but by a large number of smaller amounts, whilst the work of adapting the hall for its purpose was carried out by men of the town who, after completing their day's work, gave their leisure hours to the completing of the alterations required. The majority of the fittings to the interior of the building were the gifts of the tradesmen in the neighbourhood.

The building which is situated in Denmark Street, comprises of two large halls, one of which is fitted as an examination and reception room, and several smaller rooms. A tablet affixed to the front of the building bears the inscription:--

The Wokingham Memorial Clinic

The people of Wokingham have given
This building to be used as an Orthopaedic
Clinic in memory of the men who gave
their lives for their country in the Great
War of 1914-1918, and in thankfulness
To Almighty God for those who came
Back in safety, confident that the memory
Of their service and sacrifice can best be
Honoured in the fight against disease and
deformity

The Opening Ceremony

A large number of people assembled outside the building for the opening ceremony, members of the local detachment of the V.A.D., who assisted in the local hospitals

during the war and are now identified with the work of the clinic under Lady Cayley, forming a guard of honour at the entrance hall.

When the Marchioness of Downshire, who was accompanied by the Marquis, arrived she was received by the Mayor of Wokingham (Alderman M. Blake). As mayor of the borough and chairman of the Orthopaedic Committee, he had, he said, great pleasure in expressing to the Marchioness of Downshire their thanks for her acceptance of the invitation to open the building. It was but further evidence of her kindly interest in the borough of Wokingham.

The Mayor then presented her Ladyship with the key with which she opened the building.

A second ceremony was held within the building, when the Marchioness of Downshire presided and was supported by the Mayor and Admiral J.B. Eustace. Also present were many dignitaries and speeches followed.

Lady Downshire was presented with a bouquet of carnations by little Miss Burkett who was a patient of the clinic.

Sat 18th Aug

TOWN HALL

We noticed a few weeks ago the efforts made for the purpose of erecting a new clock on the turret of our Town Hall. After the committee had decided upon accepting the tender of Mr Tucker of London for the erection of the clock and the funds necessary had been generously contributed by the inhabitants and their friends a strong desire was expressed by many of them that the new clock should strike the quarter hours. The estimate has consequently been amended by the addition of the necessary works to carry out what certainly appears to be a great improvement on the original and this includes three bells which are considered requisite. It will alter the amount to £100 and has been collected. We trust that all intending subscribers will at once forward their donations.

FIRE BRIGADE LONG SERVICE

A presentation was made to two chief officers of the Wokingham Fire Brigade each receiving a silver bar, denoting five years' service. This makes the fifth of these bars gained by Captain F. Caiger he having now put in 46 years of service, having joined in 1877. He is the only one of the original brigade now actively serving. Lieut. A. Goswell received his third silver bar and has put in 35 years' service.

Sat 10th Nov

SUNDAY MUSIC

The concert given in the Drill Hall on Sunday by the band of the 4th Batt. Royal Berkshire Regt. (T) was greatly appreciated by a large audience.

EMMBROOK RACING PIGEON CLUB

The recent show of the above club held at The Thatched Cottage Inn, Embrook, proved very successful. The promoters extend many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Hexman for their assistance. There were three classes, and the awards were as under:--Class I. (members): 1, Mr. A. Goble; 2 and res., Mr. F.W. Miles; 3. Mr. J.C. Cloke. The prizes in Class I, were given by Mr. MacPherson. Class II. (members only): 1, Mr. A. Goble (and special prize given by Mr. Barker for best bird in the show); 2. Mr. V. Challis; 3. Mr. C. Hambleton; res., Mr. H. Smale. Class III (open to competitors within 1½ miles of Embrook); and res., Capt. Hawkes; 2. Mr. F. Trinder; 3. Mr. P. Palmer. Mr. F.W. Miles of Matthews Green, is the secretary and treasurer of the club.

GIRL GUIDES

The annual meeting of the local association of the Wokingham Girl Guides was held at the Church House. Miss St. Quintin, the district commissioner for Bracknell, was introduced by Miss Cordes (county commissioner). The former is acting commissioner for Wokingham vice the Lady Victoria Villiers, resigned, owing to the new division of the county. Miss C. Robinson accepted the position of hon. treasurer, and Mrs. Smith was appointed vice-chairman of the association. Financial, district and company reports of a satisfactory nature were presented. It was noted that, owing to lack of facilities, guides were unable to obtain first-class badges because they had no opportunity to learn to swim. A resolution was passed strongly urging that facilities for learning to swim should be provided for the town.

FIRE AT BILL HILL

Damage estimated at over £600

A serious outbreak of fire occurred on Sunday afternoon on the premises of Mrs. Leveson Gower at Pikes Farm, Bill Hill, Wokingham, a moderate estimate of the damage being £600. Three large hay ricks were completely destroyed and a shed partly filled with hay was gutted. The outbreak was discovered by Ernest George Simmons, of Forest Ride, Wokingham, who at 3.15 p.m. was walking past the farm when he noticed flames emerging from the hay shed. He at once informed Mr. Fifield, and the Wokingham Fire Brigade were summoned. The brigade received the call at 3.25 p.m., and within four minutes their motor fire engine was on its way to Bill Hill, but on arrival they found that the fire had obtained a firm hold. A strong wind was blowing, and flames were carried from one rick to another, until all three were ablaze, and when night fell the glow of the flames was discernible for miles around. The brigade were somewhat hampered through lack of water, the only supply available being from a small pond near the rick yard., and this was husbanded in order to preserve the farmhouse, which was so near to the flames that tar on the woodwork melted and ran. Had the wind been in the opposite direction the house would have been in a precarious position. The brigade remained on duty all night and for the greater part of Monday, but towards the evening Captain F. Caiger considered it necessary to return to headquarters in case the engine should be required locally. Guy Fawkes' nights, he remarked to our representative sometimes yielded a crop of outbreaks. Two firemen were left on duty, and the ricks smouldered for some days.

Estimates of the amount of hay destroyed vary between 100 and 150 tons. The hay was the property of Mr. W.A. Fifield and was insured with the Eagle and British Dominion Insurance Co.

Sat 1st Dec

ROYAL VISIT TO WOKINGHAM

The visit of Her Highness Princess Helena Victoria G.B.E. to Wokingham on Wednesday, was of a two-fold nature. In the first place Her Highness in the Lady President of the League of Mercy for Berks and North Wilts, Bucks, Hants and Oxon; and it was on behalf of the funds of this organisation that the entertainment was held. Secondly she is the president of the Wokingham Choral and Orchestral Society whose members, under their conductor, Mr. A. Yould, F.R.C.O., A.R.C.M., were responsible for the programme presented to the large and representative audience which assembled.

Her Highness was received at the entrance to the Drill Hall by the Mayor of Wokingham (Admiral J.B. Eustace), a guard of honour being formed in the courtyard by members of the Luckley School Troop of Girl Guides and the band of the East Hampstead Troop of Rovers, the Royal salute being given. When Princess Helena Victoria entered the hall the National Anthem was played, and the Mayor extended to her a welcome on behalf of the audience.

The concert arranged by Mr. A Yould was an excellent one, the main item being the presentation of Sir Sterndale Bennett's "The May Queen." The second half of the programme was devoted to Edward German's "Merrie England."

During an interval the Mayor referred to the welcome visit of Princess Helena Victoria and also extended a welcome to Mrs. Murdoch. Quoting from the report he said that during Her Highness's term of office some £35,000 had been collected on behalf of the League of Mercy, and added that though the contributory scheme in Berkshire deserved and was receiving the fullest support the needs of the hospitals further afield should not be forgotten.

1924

Sat 5th Jan

OLD PHEASANT INN WOKINGHAM

The annual share-out of the Old Pheasant Inn Slate Club, Wokingham Road, took place on December 21st, each member received £1. 8s. 2d. A vote of thanks to the host and Hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Bartholomew for the use of room and attendance during the year was passed.

POOR LAW INSTITUTION

A successful concert was given by the Reading Men's Wesley Guild Concert Party at the above Institution. Every item in the programme was much appreciated by a very large audience consisting of the inmates, officers and their friends. Votes of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. J. Hinton and the Concert Party was enthusiastically given.

SUPT. C. GODDARD.

AWARD OF THE KING'S POLICE MEDAL

Residents in the wide area of the Wokingham Police Division will endorse the cordial congratulations which have already been expressed to Supt. Charles Goddard upon the inclusion of his name in the New Year's list of awards of the King's Police Medal, one of the highest honours which can be accorded to members of the police service, which has been made to him for his distinguished record in the administrative branches of the service, for his success in organising the Police Force, and for special services to Royalty and heads of State.

This year Mr. Goddard celebrates his "coming of age" as superintendent of the Wokingham Division, and his courtesy, tact and attention to duty during that lengthy period have gained for him many close friends and the esteem of all. He joined the Berkshire Constabulary 43 years ago, but was supernumerary until April 1st, 1883, when he was sworn, a full member of the Force and was stationed, as are all members of the constabulary, at headquarters Reading, until July 6th of that year, when he was transferred to Maidenhead. In the same year he was on duty at the historic great review of the United Kingdom Volunteer Force in Windsor Park. His first case of importance was the finding of the body of a baby in Bray Lock, and although at the

inquest the jury returned an open verdict, he was directed to continue his inquiries, which resulted a week later in the arrest of the child's mother.

In August, 1885, he was transferred to Sandhurst, at that time a rough "beat," owing, in some degree, to the number of unemployed who at that period lived in the district. Difficult work and lively assaults were part of his lot whilst he was in Sandhurst, but with the building of a police station and the construction of new roads, and, not the least important, the obtaining of the assistance of P.C. (now Inspector) Haddrell, the district settled into its present peaceful condition.

During Supt. Goddard's service, he has been on duty at all the important functions in the area. Ascot, with its world-renowned race meeting, falls within his district, and his experiences include investigations of the woman murder at Windsor and extensive burglaries at Ascot. He was also detailed with a staff of constables to organise new beats for the better protection of the neighbourhood, and assisted in making the arrangements for the last visit of her late Majesty Queen Victoria to Wellington College on Mafeking Day. In July 1901, Mr. Goddard first came to Wokingham as inspector, being promoted to his present rank two years later. During the past twenty years it has fallen to his lot to make the police arrangements for a great number of Royal visits to the Royal Military College and Wellington College, and on many occasions has been complimented for their efficiency. He recalls with considerable interest an occasion when, during a visit of King Edward VII to Wellington, he "corrected" his Majesty, who was keeping Queen Alexandria, the Duke of Connaught, and other members of the Royal family, ready posed for the photographer, waiting. Mr. Goddard has a copy of the photograph, the group including the present Bishop of Norwich, then Master of Wellington.

Supt. Goddard has carried through much successful detective work, and arrested and brought into custody a long list of notorious criminals. During the war he enlisted and trained a strong force of Special Constables. In this connection he has compiled and has published an interesting and well-produced brochure entitled "Berkshire Special Constables (Wokingham Division): A Short History from 1911 to 1921" – a comprehensive survey not only of the activities and accomplishments of the Force, but of their history, which is far less modern than is generally believed.

WOKINGHAM BRITISH LEGION CHILDREN ENTERTAINED

On New Year's Day the members of the Wokingham British Legion Club gave their annual entertainment to the orphans and children of ex-Service men in the town and no effort was spared to ensure that each of the 140 little guests should thoroughly enjoy the afternoon. Mr. C.W. Law was the hon. secretary of the entertainment committee, and was assisted by Mr. D. Goddard and a committee of club members, who gaily decorated the Church House, where the entertainment was held.

Many good things were provided for the tea, with which the proceedings commenced, and afterwards games were organised by Mrs. Marks and Miss Blackman. Before the left each was presented with a gift taken from a giant Christmas tree by Santa Claus in the person of Mr. G. Townsend. The Mayor (Admiral J.B. Eustace) visited the hall, and on behalf of the guests thanked the members of the club for the entertainment, and Mr. Law, Mr. Goddard and the helpers were thanked at the instance of Mr. C.H. Andrews, the general secretary of the local branch of the Legion. The Mayor was accompanied by General Sir Walter D.S. Cayley (vice-chairman of the club), and General Wilkinson.

Ladies who helped were Mrs. W. Webb, Mrs. G. Hope, Mrs. Budd, Mrs. H. Berry, Mrs. F. Hallett, Mrs. Fidler, Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Paxman. The entertainment was provided from a fund subscribed to by members and friends of the Legion Club.

Later a large number of members of the club, with their friends, participated in a social evening, when a programme of games, music and dancing was enjoyed.

Sat 2nd Feb

FIRE AT WOKINGHAM SHOP AND STORES GUTTED

A serious fire broke out at Wokingham on Saturday, and in just over an hour a double story building used by Mr. W. Denton as a warehouse and showroom for furniture manufactured by the Forest Furnishing Company, and by Mr. Osborne as a tailor's and outfitter's shop, were completely destroyed. The outbreak was first discovered about midnight by Mr. C.E. Dowdswell, who was motoring past, and noticing smoke issuing from the building he immediately gave the alarm. Mt. Frank Lush, who was cycling from Reading, broke the alarm at the fire station. The Wokingham Fire Brigade were on the scene with their customary promptitude, but in the short space of time which had elapsed between the giving of the alarm and the arrival of the brigade, the fire had obtained a firm hold, the building being enveloped in flames. The brigade's activities were somewhat hampered owing to lack of water, but additional pressure was put on at the waterworks, and energies were concentrated on saving the six cottages in South Place which run at right angles from Peach Street and adjoin Mr. Denton's premises. Firemen mounted the roof of the cottages, and by keeping the exterior of the end cottage drenched with water were successful in preventing the fire from spreading. Ultimately the roof of the building crashed down, carrying with it, the floor of the upper storey, and a great volume of sparks and flames ascended, creating some danger to the premises near the Easthampstead Road. The heat was so great that the firemen only carried out their task with great difficulty. It was impossible to stand on the opposite side of the road, where paint on the shop fronts was blistered and scorched, and the windows of Mr. Price's shops were cracked. The precaution of moving all the furniture from Mr. E. Green's house in South Place was taken, whilst on one occasion the fire engine had to be moved further from the flames. The premises were entirely burnt out by one o'clock, but continued to smoulder for many hours afterwards.

We understand that the buildings, furniture, etc. owned by Denton were insured, whilst Mr. Osborne, who only recently commenced his business in the premises, was insured with the Royal Insurance Company.

There is nothing to show how the fire started, Mr. Osborne having seen that everything was safe at 9.15 p.m., and passers-by shortly before midnight noticed nothing unusual. It is thought, however, that the conflagration must have started at the rear of the building.

The fire brigade deserve warm commendation for the scientific manner in which they handled the outbreak, and although they were unable to save the building they certainly prevented the fire from spreading. Captain Caiger was in command, Lieut. Goswell was in charge of the left-hand delivery, and Engineer Martin on the right. Afterwards to our representative Captain Caiger said the work of the brigade would have been considerably facilitated had they had three-way hydrants at their disposal. He had been urging that these should be installed for the past ten years.

Mr. Denton has been somewhat unfortunate in the matter of fires. The Forest Furniture Factory was burned down on October 27th 1921, and on October 20th, 1920,

the services of the fire brigade were requisitioned to quell a minor outbreak at Mr. Denton's private residence.

Sat 9th Feb

A LIBRARY PROPOSAL

The Mayor reported that a sub-committee had met Mr. Cooper, the County Librarian, and discussed the proposed scheme for opening a branch of the County Council's library in Wokingham, it being suggested that the Bank Room should be used for the purpose. This report was adopted.

Sat 16th Feb

WOKINGHAM WAR MEMORIAL

"Lest We Forget"

SIR DOVETON STURDEE'S SPEECH

In clear black lettering and enclosed in panelling of oak are inscribed the names of the men of Wokingham who, in response to the call of humanity, fought and died. No ranks or corps are recorded, for in the magnitude of their sacrifice all were equal, and the list, two hundred and seventeen in all, is striking testimony of the part played by the Borough of Wokingham in the greatest war in history. The unveiling of the memorial tablet on Sunday afternoon marks the completion of the town's memorial scheme which included the acquisition and converting of a building in Denmark Street for the use of the Wokingham Orthopaedic Clinic and, despite the delay and the many suggestions considered, the project has received general approbation in that not only does it fittingly perpetuate the memory of the fallen, but serves also the living. The memorial tablet is erected in the annexe of the Town Hall and is carried out in handsomely carved oak, the emblem of the sword of sacrifice being inlaid on either side. It bears the inscription:--

IN GLORIOUS MEMORY.

1914-1919.

To the honour of the men of Wokingham, who gave their lives in the Great War. The Orthopaedic Clinic Buildings in Denmark Street were also acquired by the town as a grateful tribute to their gallant memory, and to the untiring devotion of Henry Charles Mylne, Mayor

1913-19. Died October 21, 1919

The names are inscribed in black ornate lettering on white panels. The memorial was designed by Mr. Vincent Craig.

The unveiling ceremony was performed by Admiral of the Fleet, Sir F.C. Doveton Sturdee, Bart., G.C.B., K.C.M.G., who was the commander in the famous action off the Falkland Isles, 1914, and received his K.C. M.G. for the Battle of Jutland Bay.

Seats were reserved for the relatives of the fallen, of whom there was a large number present. Admiral Sturdee was accompanied by Lady Sturdee, and there were at the hall the Rev. H.W. Blackburne, D.S.O., M.C. (assistant chaplain general during the war), Lady Cayley, the Mayor of Wokingham (Admiral J.B. Eustace), the Rev. B. Long, the Rev. Martin Harvey, Aldermen M. Blake and P. Sale. Councillors F.E. Chapman, G.M.E. Fryer, J.G. Jefferies, W.J. Cheeseman, A.E. Priest, F.J. Barratt, E.W. Reeves and W.S. Medcalfe, Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton (Town Clerk) and Mr. C.W. Marks (Borough Surveyor).

The Mayor stated that they were gathered there to pay their tribute of respect to those gallant men who gave their lives for their King and Empire during the Great War. The Town Council had given the best position on the walls of the Town Hall for

the memorial tablet. Where all could see the names of those they loved, upon the roll of honour. Mr. Sale on whose shoulders rested much of the organisation, would make a statement on the subject.

The History of the Memorial

Mr. Sale said it was a source of great satisfaction to him that he was allowed to take part in the ceremony to bring to completion the project which he had much at heart. He would always have some little pride in bearing a part in helping to bring it to a successful conclusion. There was almost an apology due for the lateness of the date on which the memorial was to be unveiled. They were now in the tenth year since the commencement of the Great War, and it was almost six years since the Armistice. The explanation was that when their late honoured and revered Mayor, Mr. H.C. Mylne, whose labours throughout the war undoubtedly shortened his days, called a public meeting to consider what form the memorial should take, counsels were divided. Some said "Let us have nothing but a monumental memorial"; others said "Let us have something is of practical utility to the living." That resulted in the delay of the whole scheme, and meanwhile other memorials were started and carried out. Memorial were erected in the Parish Church, St. Paul's, the Baptist and Wesleyan Churches and the Drill Hall. There should, however, be some memorial for the men of Wokingham as such, belonging to no section or no one body, but belonging to them all—men of Wokingham. Consequently in 1921 they began again, and this time plans were decided upon. The work of the Orthopaedic Clinic had been started, and had appealed to the imaginations of the people of Wokingham and to their hearts in a manner surpassed in regard to no other object. The ideal, the cure of affliction and turning helpless cripples into useful members of society appealed to everyone, and consequently it was decided to raise a fund to purchase a present to the Clinic a building in which that work could be carried on, and at the same time to erect a memorial to those who fell in the war. Notwithstanding the four or five other memorials which had been carried out, the response to their appeal was, on the whole, good. They had a total amount given in subscriptions of £567, subscriptions varying from £50 down to 1d. but probably those small sums entailed an equality of sacrifice with the larger amounts. So the Clinic building was purchased at a cost of £425 and handed over to the Clinic Committee and the work was being successfully carried out. Then they all set about the present memorial, which, he thought they would agree was a worthy specimen of the craftsmanship of Wokingham men. The money collected was sufficient, and they had a small balance in hand. Willingly, if they could, would they have included the name of every one who gave his services, but space would not allow. They hoped that when future generations read the inscription on the Clinic building and looked at the list of names it would inspire them with a passion for service and sacrifice. If that was not the effect then their efforts would have been in vain. The only hope for the future was that they would, as members of one body be willing to serve not only for their own good, but for the good of the whole community.

The Mayor, introducing Sir Doveton Sturdee, said the distinguished officer who had honoured them with his presence that day had held many high positions by his ability, and had done great service during the war.

Sat 8th March

BANK MANAGER RETIRES

Mr. Robert McEwan, the well-known and respected manager of the London and Westminster Bank's branch at Broad Street, Wokingham retired on Friday last week

after some fifty years' service. He joined the bank in 1875, and served in Aylesbury, Rosslyn, Reading, Southend and Catford before coming to Wokingham to open a branch in 1905. Before that, 34 years ago, he first opened a sub-branch in the Market Place, coming out for that purpose from Reading one day a week.

Mr. McEwan married in 1912 Miss Jessie Stott, second daughter of Mrs. Stott, of Aberdeen. Mr. McEwan has, during his stay in Wokingham made many friends, who are sorry to lose him from among them. He was always most attentive to business and to the interests of the bank's clients.

The successor to Mr. R. McEwan is Mr. H. C. Ingle, who comes from the Oxford branch of the London and Westminster Bank.

FORMATION OF LIBERAL ASSOCIATION

The newly-formed Liberal Association met in the Town Hall on Saturday for the purpose of adopting rules and electing officers. The temporary committee held a meeting before the larger gathering, Mr. W.P. Tucker presiding. He also occupied the chair for the large meeting. It was decided to name the association "The Wokingham and District Branch of the South Berks Liberal Association." Mr. W.P. Tucker was unanimously elected president of the association on the proposition of Mr. T.W. Hawkins, seconded by Mr. H. Goswell. It was decided to have 20 vice-presidents, including Mr. Harold Stranger M.P., and Mrs. Stranger. Mr. George Cheeseman was elected treasurer, and Miss Griffin and Mr. G. Hall hon. secretaries. An executive committee and two hon. auditors were also elected. An address was then given by the Rev. David Pughe, of Reading.

Sat 15th March

THE DEMOLITION OF BILLINGBEAR MANSION

The famous Billingbear Mansion is now in the hands of the house-breakers. (1) Oak and walnut fireplace in hall (early 18th century) (2) Main entrance to Billingbear built in 1569 (3) Lead rainwater pipe head with coat of arms, 1725 (4) Main staircase in oak (early 18th century) (5) Turret clock by John Davis of Windsor dated 1756, maker of the clock in Windsor Curfew Tower.

Sat 12th April

FIRE BRIGADE

Dr. H.F. Curl has accepted the position of hon. surgeon to the Wokingham Fire Brigade.

Sat 19th April

THE FIRE BRIGADE

A subscription list under the name of Wokingham Fire Brigade Recognition fund has been opened in Wokingham for the purchase of a light motor fire engine, and the expenses of the celebration. For many years the brigade has rendered invaluable service to the town and district.

Sat 17th May

DEATH OF MAJOR DE VITRE

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death (early on Tuesday morning), of Major Denis F. De Vitre, of Keep Hatch, Wokingham, who has been in failing health for some time. Major De Vitre was the only son of the late Rev. G.E. Denis De Vitre, who built Keep Hatch, and then lived there for some years. Major De

Vitre was educated at Eton, and, later at Cambridge, and studied law, and was called to the Bar, but he never practised. He married his cousin, Miss Blanche De Vitre, daughter of General De Vitre.

For 28 years the deceased gentleman was a Volunteer or Territorial officer, and was for a long period in command of the Wokingham Company of the 4th Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment, retiring with the rank of Major. On the outbreak of war in 1914 he was appointed recruiting officer at Wokingham, which appointment he held throughout the war.

He served on the Berkshire County Council as member of the Wokingham Without, taking the place of the late Mr. A.F. Walter, but in 1919, on seeking re-election, he was defeated by Mr. George Ford.

In November, 1912, he was elected on the Wokingham Royal District Council and Board of Guardians, vice the late Alderman T.M. Wescott. These positions he held until 1919, being vice-chairman of the two bodies, and chairman of the Finance Committee. In 1919 he was defeated at the election by Mr. H.E. Bennett.

He was a member of the Wokingham (Without) Parish Council, since its formation in 1894, was vice-chairman, and then chairman, which latter office he has held for a long period.

As Parish Council representative, he served on the Committee of Managers of St. Paul's Schools, Wokingham. He has also for many years acted as Rector's Churchwarden of St. Paul's Church, which he has attended regularly.

He was director and chairman of the Board of the Wokingham District Water Company.

Politically the deceased gentleman was a staunch Conservative, and was for many years chairman of the Wokingham Conservative and Unionist Association, being succeeded in that office quite recently by Mr. J.M.H. Upfil.

Mr. De Vitre was one of the trustees of Wokingham United Charities, was a member of the Garth Hunt, and of the Ball Committee of that hunt.

Sat 24th May

MIDLAND BANK ADDITIONAL BANKING FACILITIES

The Midland Bank announces the opening of a new branch at 2, 4 and 6, Broad Street, Wokingham, under the management of Mr. G.C. Wilson. The hours of business at this office are from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Wednesday and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on other days. The subscribed capital of the bank is £39,221,703, the paid-up capital £11,965,452, the reserve fund £11,965,452, and on December 31st last the current deposit and other accounts exceeded £360,000,000. At the present time the bank has over 1,760 offices in England and Wales, and, in addition, controls the Belfast Banking Co., Ltd., with over 90 offices in Ireland, the Clydesdale Bank Ltd., and the North of Scotland Bank, Ltd., with upwards of 180 and 150 offices respectively in Scotland, and the London City and Midland Executor and trustee Co., Ltd.

Sat 19th July

A VISIT TO WEMBLEY

About 50 scholars of St. Paul's School's with Mr. H. Bagley, head master, and teachers visited Wembley on Wednesday.

POLICE TUG-OF-WAR SUCCESS

The police tug-of-war team visited the British Legion sports on Saturday at Camberley, and succeeded in retaining the championship cup, defeating the team of the West Surrey Regiment, who were runners-up to the R.E. in the Army Championship at Olympia.

ST. PAUL'S FETE

Upwards of £150 was taken at the successful parochial fete, of St. Paul's, held last week. It was expected that the proceeds for parochial funds will reach £125. The hon. secretaries, Mr. A.T. Scott and the Rev. C. Nightingale, and all concerned are to be congratulated upon such a splendid result.

DANGER OF MODERN FARMING

Haymaking, under ideal conditions, had taken place a Manor Farm (Mr. Reginald Palmer's) and on Tuesday morning men were busy just before 8 o'clock, and were nearing the completion of the building of a 50-ton rick of fine hay, when the motor of a petrol-driven elevator back-fired, setting the rick on fire. Men on the rick jumped quickly to safety. The whole rick blazed furiously, and a barn and some stables also caught fire, and all were destroyed. The Wokingham Fire Brigade promptly answered the call, and obtaining water from a pond a quarter of a mile away, soon had the outbreak within bounds, saving many other sheds and stables. The loss is covered by insurance.

YOUNG IMPERIALISTS

The Junior Imperial League has as its object the teaching of imperial ideas and principles to the youth of the Empire. The Hon. Mrs. Whitefoord kindly placed her grounds of East Brook, Finchampstead Road, at the disposal of those who desired to form for Wokingham a branch of the Junior Imperial League. The guests, who were numerous, first enjoyed a stroll around the garden. Then followed a capital concert on the lawn by the Spare Parts Concert Party, who ably maintained their reputation. Mr. Garmeston, vice-chairman of the league, gave an address, after which enrolment of members took place. The numbers enrolled were very satisfactory. Dancing on the lawn, with Mr. Boddington as pianist and Mr. D. Goddard as M.C. followed. The Hon. Mrs. Whitefoord was cordially thanked for her hospitality, as was Miss Powell, who obtained refreshments.

Sat 6th Sept

TOWN HALL LIBRARY

It was reported that the librarian, Miss Harwood, had received the first consignment of books from the Berkshire County Library and that the shelves in the cupboard of the Bank Room had been cleared for their reception. It was arranged that the library be opened forthwith and in the future would be opened on Friday in every week between the hours of 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Sat 15th Nov

The following were appointed:

Sergt. At Mace: Charles Sparks

Hon. Constables: W. Pearce, Jeffries, A.H. Jones, H. Dyer.

Town Crier: Mr. Banks

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Sat 24th Jan

ST. PAUL'S WOKINGHAM

The authorities of St. Paul's church, Wokingham, have been offered for £100 the field adjoining the churchyard on the western side, as an addition to the burial ground. A generous donor has offered £50 conditional on the rest of the money being raised by voluntary subscriptions.

A memorial tablet to the late Major de Vitre, rector's churchwarden for many years of St. Paul's, Wokingham, has been erected in tablet form on the interior south wall of the church. An alabaster slab over green marble has a white marble centre, on which is inscribed the following: "In ever-loving memory of Denis Frederick Denis De Vitre, only son of the Rev. G.E. Denis De Vitre; born March 18th, 1867, at Weston Vicarage, Herts; died May 13th, 1924 at Keep Hatch, Wokingham, where he lived for 50 years. 'The gift of God is eternal life.'" His ashes lie around the adjacent buttress outside.

At a recent meeting of St. Paul's Parochial Church Council it was approved that application be made for a faculty for the erection of a memorial plate in the church to the memory of the late Sir Edward Walter K.C.B. (founder of the Corps of Commissionaires), and Marianne, his wife who from 1867 till 1887 were worshippers at this church.

Sat 7th March

WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS

Her majesty the Queen has purchased four of the water-colour drawings of South African gardens painted by Miss Elizabeth Drake, of Wokingham. These drawings have been reproduced by A. and C. Black Ltd. to illustrate the book on "South African Gardens," by Miss Dorothea Fairbridge. The subjects selected by her Majesty are: "Bougainvillea at Welgelegen, Cape,"; "Pergola at De Grendel, Tjiggerberg,"; "Hydrangeas by the Water, Bishops court, Cape" and "Hydrangeas on the Stoep, Paradise, Cape."

EMIGRATION CINEMA LECTURE ON CANADA.

At the Wokingham Cinema, Broad Street, on Friday evening, under the auspices of the Canadian Pacific Railway, a cinematograph display and illustrated lecture was given by Major W.H. Hayward (late member of the Legislature of British Columbia), entitled "Your Chance in Canada." There was a large attendance, and the lecture was followed with much interest, new films featuring agriculture, dairying, fruit raising and cattle ranching in operation, while there were also views of the mountain scenery and the well-equipped railroad cars and ocean liners of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

Sat 30th May

TERRITORIAL WEEKEND

"D" Company spent Saturday night under canvas at the Finchampstead range and on Sunday morning carried out a portion of their training in which they practised the company attack. Met by their band on Sunday morning they marched back to the Drill Hall, where they arrived about 12.15 p.m. The men were in full marching kit with rifles. Captain A.C. Hughes commanded and Lieuts R. Hays and E.S. Ford, D.F.C.,

were also present, while Bandmaster A. Bradshaw was in charge of the band. In addition to the officers, 75 of other ranks took part in the operation.

GIRL GUIDES CHURCH PARADES

The 1st, 2nd, and 5th Companies of Girl guides, the Brownie pack and the little boys of the Wokingham Wolf Cubs attended Divine service at All Saints on Sunday morning (Empire Day). The bodies assembled in the Market Place and marched with their colours to the church. The Rev. B. M. Niblett preached an appropriate sermon. During the service the colours, which had been dedicated, were placed within the sanctuary. No. 3 Company (Wesleyan) attended Divine service at their own church, Rose Street, having completed arrangements before receiving the order for general church parade.

A SKIDDING BUS

Passengers in the Thames Valley 'bus, which arrived around 10 p.m. on Saturday night in Wokingham, had a somewhat alarming experience. In the middle of Broad Street the 'bus skidded as the driver attempted, we understand, to avoid a woman in the road. The 'bus crashed into and felled a lamp-post in the centre of the street, and this wrenched the driving wheel out of his hands, so that the 'bus swerved and crashed into the large iron railings of Markham House (General Wilkinson's residence). About 18 feet of the railings were flattened, and the stone pedestals supporting them were torn from their position, iron standards were broken, and the containing wall of the area was damaged. Fortunately the 'bus stopped on the pavement, whence it was subsequently driven away. The passengers were a good deal shaken. Some two years ago an exactly similar accident occurred at the same lamp-post, when a private motor car crashed into the railings of Markham House.

MASQUE BY GIRL GUIDES

As an Empire Day celebration the Girl Guides of Wokingham gave in the Town Hall on Saturday evening an excellent entertainment, styled, "Follow On," a masque for Empire Day, adapted and arranged by Miss R.C. Smith, and produced by Miss D.M. Finch; both ladies hold the rank of captain of the Girl Guides of Wokingham. "Land of Hope and Glory" was sung. Patrol Leader G. Welch recited "Victory and the Soldier" (Rupert Brooke), in capital style, and Miss N. Tanner gave with dramatic force, "England, a Garden," A performance for children was given in the afternoon. There was a large attendance, and the Masque, which was well staged and capitally performed, gave every satisfaction. Hiawatha and the Red Indians were especially well done. Canada and her productions received ample and effective treatment. India was a charming display, while New Zealand and Australia were graphically represented, specially effective being the Maori dance. The tousle-headed African girls, with their quaintly-told story of the sun, wind and moon, met with enthusiastic reception. The patron saints of the United Kingdom were accorded dignified and impressive treatment, while Miss De Vitre as "England," gave a noble rendering of "This Royal Throne of Kings," etc., from Shakespeare's Richard II. Mr. E. Knight ably worked the lime-light effects.

Admiral Eustace (the Mayor of Wokingham) contributed a happy speech, and said that parents were well advised in putting their boys and girls in the Guides or Scouts.

Sat 20th June

THE KING PASSES THROUGH WOKINGHAM

The King passed through Wokingham twice on Friday in last week on the occasion of H.M. visit to the Dairy Research Institute at Shinfield. The flags were flown on the Town Hall and several of the residents also expressed their loyalty in similar fashion. The scholars of Grosvenor School in Broad Street lined the frontage of the premises and displayed the Union Jack. The King graciously acknowledged the salutes and cheers of the residents.

HONOUR FOR WOKINGHAM MAN

His many friends in Wokingham congratulate Mr. William Alexander Elder (Alec), younger son of Mr. John Elder, late of Matthews Green, Wokingham, upon his receiving from the King the distinction of O.B.E., announced in the recent Birthday Honours List. Mr. W.A. Elder is Principal Veterinary Officer for Swaziland, South Africa. It will be remembered that some four or five years since Mr. J. Elder and family emigrated to South Africa, where Mrs. Elder has since died.

ANOTHER ACCIDENT IN PEACH STREET

About 4.45 P.M. on Friday, last week, Mrs. Kathleen Pearce, of 26, Maresfield Gardens, Hampstead, was driving a motor car along Peach Street, near Easthampstead Road Corner, from the direction of Ascot, when a little boy, John West of 11, Easthampstead Road, Wokingham, is said to have run out from behind a van. He was knocked down by the lady's car, which, it is stated, was travelling about five miles an hour. Mrs Pearce at once stopped, the lad was picked up and taken in the car to Dr. Ward, who advised the boy's removal to the Royal Berkshire Hospital, at Reading, which was done in the same car. Mrs. Pearce was so affected by the accident that she handed over the steering wheel to a friend, a gentleman travelling in the car. The little boy was severely injured in one knee, and received cuts upon the head, but no bones were broken. He will be detained in hospital for some weeks.

Sat 15th Aug

BANK HOLIDAY FETE

The balloon competition at All Saints' Fete, on Bank Holiday, again proved a great attraction, and about 120 balloons were sent up. So far, about 50 postcards have been returned, 10 balloons having crossed the water into Belgium. One balloon was picked up in the sea off Dunkerque Lighthouse, another at Poplar Docks. Most of the balloons appear to have left these shores off Sheppey Isle. The final result will be announced on August 20th. It is estimated that the attendance at the fete reached over 8,000.

FIRE AT BRICKYARD

About 1.40 a.m. on Saturday morning a young man cycled into Wokingham in such haste as to be without his boots or coat, and stated that a fire had broken out at Amen Corner, at the premises of the Brick and Tile Company. Capt. Caiger and the brigade made a quick turn out. The staff had, however, subdued the fire which had originated by spontaneous combustion in a heap of "slag" coal. This had set light to the corner of an outbuilding. There are many buildings in close proximity, and a grave danger was averted by the labours of men with buckets of water.

PRESENTATION TO MR. HENRY BOWYER

At the presentation of prizes at the All Saints Fete on August Bank holiday, Mrs. Murdoch, on behalf of the fete committee, presented to Mr. Henry Bowyer a

handsome clock, on, which was inscribed "Presented to Mr. Henry Bowyer in grateful appreciation of his many kindnesses in connection with the All Saints', Wokingham, Parochial Fetes 1920-1925." The rector (the Rev. B. Long) on behalf of the committee, said how very grateful they all were to Mr. Bowyer for his generosity in lending the field each year, catering, providing hospitality to all who came to help in the various displays and sports and for many other kindnesses too numerous to mention, which he and his family so willingly rendered. I was not too much to say that without Mr. Bowyer's help and generosity the fetes for the six years would not have been so successful or so well carried out as they had been. Mr. Bowyer, in acknowledging the presentation, was accorded musical honours.

Sat 5th September

BOYS' SCHOOL

It will be of interest to the district to hear that the residence and lands in Southlands Road, Wokingham (formerly "Battenhurst"), have been acquired (through the agency of J. Watts and Son) by Major A. F. St. Clair Stapleton, who is proposing to open a day school for boys from 7 to 15 years of age, under the name of "Kilwarlin," Wokingham. Major Stapleton has been engaged in educational work for over 26 years in preparatory schools and as a private teacher. He holds the highest testimonials. The school is situate in the convenient part of Wokingham, with grounds of over four acres, with excellent playing fields. This institution will no doubt be readily welcomed by the inhabitants.

AEROPLANE DOWN

Shortly before noon on Monday an aeroplane 'flew' very low over Wixenford, then turned and crossed the railway, and in Waterloo Road somewhat scared the residents who feared for their roofs. Eventually it came to earth in Mr. Colebrook's large meadow off the London Road. The machine was in charge of flying Officer F.O. Bassett, R.A.F., who was alone. It was a bomber on its way for delivery to the R.A.F. and came down owing to a burst radiator and water joint. An R.A.F. lorry with a squad of airmen was soon in attendance and a new radiator was delivered the next day. The machine itself and the repairing operations were watched with interest by some hundreds of people during its stay in the meadow.

Sat 24th October

On Wednesday General and Mrs. Clifton Brown made a number of visits in Wokingham, including the Poor Law Institution and the Nursing Homes.

ANCIENT DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE

A "find" of considerable antiquity has been made at the Bush Hotel during recent operations of the workmen in the installation of the electric light to this old-world hostelry, the first in the town to adapt the modern system of electric lighting. Removing an old wood panelling in the bar, a fine antique stone chimney piece was discovered. The stone jambs stand some four feet high and support a stone lintel, which is carved with five large circles connected with double horizontal bands, and in each circle is the Tudor Rose. Masonry marks give the date as some 450-480 years back. We understand that the Rev. P.H. Ditchford, Rector of Barkham, has seen the find, in which he is very interested. There appears to be no doubt as to its antiquity. Above the mantel piece is an old brick archway.

Sat 21st Nov.

ALARM OF FIRE

On Wednesday morning Mrs. Jenkins was sitting at her window in Peach Street, when she saw some children opposite in South Place light a fire among the tarpaulin, cloths, and etc., that, with a G.P.O. linesman's truck, were standing on a waste piece of ground. The fire blazed up, and an alarm was given. The fire brigade turned up and the outbreak was quickly extinguished, or valuable tools, etc., might have been destroyed.

WOKINGHAM MAN ON THE M.1.

Rumours were rife that four Wokingham men had lost their lives in the disaster last week to Submarine M1. Fortunately this estimate proved incorrect as regards three of the men whose names were mentioned, but every sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jewell, of 33, Rose Street, in the loss of their son. Henry George Jewell, A.B., who went down with the ill-fated vessel. He only returned from leave the Monday previous to the Thursday's disaster. He joined the Navy as a lad in 1916, and had been on the Submarine M1 for two years. He served in the Great War on H.M.S. Barham. He had been living recently at Shepperton with his wife and two children, one a girl of nine years and the younger a little girl of five months old. Mrs. Jewell, his mother, attended the memorial service at Portland.

George Spratley, A.B., of East Heath, had a narrow escape, as he came off the M1 only four days before the disaster. He is now at home, on leave, and speaks with deep regret of having seen from one of H.M. ships the sinking of the M1, of whose reserve crew he was a member.

Able seaman Abraham Turner, now of Silchester, and brother to Mr. Charles Turner, of 25, Oxford Road, Wokingham, is serving on the Submarine L71. He at one time lived at Embrook, Wokingham. Rumour was busy with the names both of Seaman Spratley (who is not the Percy Spratley who perished with the vessel) and Turner.

Mr. and Mrs. Manning of Rose Street, have no son in the Navy.

1926

Sat 20th March

TENDERS

The Wokingham Board of Guardians have placed contracts as follows: Bread, Mr. A.T. Clements, Wokingham; groceries, Messrs. Colebrook and Co., Wokingham; drapery, Messrs. Mills and Co., London; haircutting, Mr. E. Stevens, Wokingham.

WORKERS EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

At a meeting of the local branch, Mr. W. Foster, hon. secretary gave a satisfactory report of the Study Circle terminal course. Mr. F.E. Pollard, the lecturer, is to be invited to take a year's course of 21 lessons on general economics, to commence in October.

HOSPITAL COMMITTEE

The annual meeting was held in the Committee Room, Town Hall. Mr. M. Norris was elected chairman, and Mr. W. C. Fullbrook vice-chairman, Mr. A.H. Jones hon.

treasurer, and Mr. A. Halfacre hon. secretary. It was reported that £155 was collected last year for the Royal Berks Hospital, the result of a number of varied activities. The current year's events were fixed as under Hospital Sunday, June 6th; Flower Day, Saturday, August 21st.

WOKINGHAM CONSERVATIVE GLEE SOCIETY'S GATHERING

The first social gathering organised by the above was held in St. Paul's Parish Room on Saturday. A party of over 40 spent a very pleasant evening, with games, dancing and music. Songs were sung by Miss E. Holland, Miss K. Newman, Miss Janes, Mrs Plumridge and Mr. House, while clarinet solos by Mr. Butler made a little variety. Mrs. W. Allan and Miss L. Webb shared the duties of accompanists, and for the dancing the whole party joined in "Sir Roger," which closed the proceedings. It is hoped to hold another gathering at an early date.

WOKINGHAM'S VICTORY

Wokingham F.C. qualified to meet Marlow in the final of the Henley Hospital Cup competition by their 3-2 victory over Thame on Saturday. For the greater part of the first half Wokingham enjoyed more of the play, Thame only occasionally making a break-away and at half-time they were leading 1-0. The second half was practically a repetition of the first, Wokingham having the better of the exchanges and, scoring two goals to their opponents' one, ran out winners by the odd goal in five. Wokingham were represented by the following eleven: Reed, Jones and Collins; Eymor, I. Kennedy and White; H. Kennedy; Trill, Hawkins, Potter and Sandford.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT

With a view to assisting the organ renovation fund, the Young People's fellowship of Milton Road Baptist Church carried through an interesting programme at the Milton Road Schoolroom on Thursday evening last week. The programme included dainty dances by Miss Denton and Miss M. Denton, both pupils of Miss Vera White, of Reading. Miss Mary Jackson ably accompanying at the piano. All dances were given with much grace and artistic feeling. Miss Jackson opened the concert with a piano solo, a pastoral from "Nell Gwynn" (Edward German); Mrs. Denton sang "Give and Take" in her usual accomplished style; Miss Shearn sang sweetly "The Market" and "The Haven of Rest called Home"; Miss N. Butler gave much pleasure with recitations. Master Alan Griffith played two violin solos in good style, Mr. A.J. Griffith accompanying at the piano.

Sat 17th April

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS AGO

From the "Reading Mercury," April 15th 1776

A very large seizure of French brandy was, we are informed, last week, made in Surrey. The information was given by the landlady of a public house, to whom the smugglers had promised half a puncheon, but broke their word.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

From the "Reading Mercury," April 17th 1826

On Wednesday evening last the extensive paper mills of Mr. William and Joseph Wright, situated near the town of Great Marlow, were totally consumed by fire, together with the most extensive stock of paper which they perhaps ever contained.

A LINK WITH WOKINGHAM OF THE PAST

Another link with the life of old Wokingham was severed on Easter Sunday by the death at a nursing home of Mrs. Elizabeth Harriet Basnett, widow of Thomas Basnett, who died in 1892. She was the third daughter of the late John Lamplow Roberts, who resided at one time at Montague House, Broad Street, Wokingham, a well-known and much respected county and civic magnate. Mrs. Basnett had reached the advanced age of 83 years. The funeral took place at All saints', Wokingham, the Rev. B. Long, the rector, officiating. The mourners were the two daughters, while others present included (list of names etc.)

Sat. 29th May

ANOTHER WHITE LINE WANTED?

On Sunday afternoon, a blue Renault car, belonging to Captain Mancet Jules of "Firwood," Camberley, and being driven by M. D'Eapery, Instructor at the R.M.C., Sandhurst, came into collision at the entrance of Milton Road, with a Ford car, owned by Mr. C. Wise, of 20, New Street, Henley, and driven by Mr. W. Berry, 76, Northfield Road, Henley. The five occupants of the Ford, including the driver were thrown into the road. Captain Jules' car was also considerably damaged in the front, and a child passenger in it sustained severe bruises on the face.

The question has been raised as to the necessity for a white line indication on this spot, as at Peach Street, Station Road, and elsewhere in the town.

BRITISH LEGION AND THE STRIKE

On Friday evening last week the local branch of the British Legion held a meeting at the headquarters in Station Road, convened by rumours as to alleged expressions of disloyalty by some of its members during the recent crisis. The chairman, Admiral J.B. Eustace, J.P., said that when faced by the stern realities of life one pushed aside the wild talk of extremists on both sides. They needed no Bolshies, Fascists, Ku Klux Klan or any other secret society to rule and govern England. Ex-service men of every shade of political opinion had played their part in the general strike to obtain and maintain the daily bread in their homes. They said thank God the sailors, soldiers, airmen and police forces did their duty and were "true to their salt." They were deeply grateful also to the volunteers, who saw to it that all should be fed-strikers as well as others. Trade unions, employers-all were under the laws of the land, and under the British constitution there was even justice for all. He urged them as members of the British Legion to carry out their headquarters orders namely: to help the state in the preservation of law and order, and in protecting the lives and property of their fellow countrymen from all aggression. He felt sure they had all tried to do that and in no way to bring discredit to their comrades of the Wokingham branch of the British Legion.

After a short discussion, initiated by General Wilkinson, the hon. secretary said he had not personally heard any rumour nor had the name of any member been given him, but he considered the matter should be disposed of by the branch. He submitted a resolution "that the members of the Wokingham branch of the British Legion reaffirm its pledge of loyalty to their King and country. Mr. F.A. Street seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

Sat 12th June

HOSPITAL COLLECTION

Since the counting, reported elsewhere, other boxes (out for a year), have been opened, as follows: Royal Exchange, 5s 0½d.; Mr. F. Langley, £1 6s. 7d.; Messrs. Heelas and Co. (Wokingham), £1 1s. 7½d.; while the Mayor kindly gave a donation of 10s. to make the amount up to £90, so that £100 0s. 5d. has been paid into the bank,-a most satisfactory result.

GIRLS FRIENDLY SOCIETY ANNUAL SALE

The G.F.S. annual sale, arranged to be held on Thursday afternoon at the "Old House," the Terrace, by kind permission of Mrs. F. Piggott, was, owing to the weather, held in the clubroom. The opening ceremony was gracefully performed by Lady Liddell, introduced by the president, Miss E.M. Sturges, who welcomed her on taking part for the first time in the activities of their branch. Lady Liddell expressed pleasure at being able to come among so many old friends, and to help in some measure that most excellent society. She had heard much of the splendid branch at Wokingham. Among others present were the Mayoress of Wokingham, Mrs. Murdoch, Mrs. Simpson, Miss Annyatt, Mrs. Wescott, Mrs. And Miss Robinson, Mrs. G. Haye, Mrs. F.E. Chapman, Miss P.O. Watson, Miss Copley, Miss M.I. Ellison, the Lady Victoria Villiers, Mrs. T.W. Martin, etc. Doris Fowler handed a bouquet to Lady Liddell.

TRIBUTE TO RAILWAYMEN

The following address was, on Monday, presented to the stationmaster and certain men of the Southern Railway, by Admiral Eustace (Mayor of Wokingham), Brig.-Gen. Grant Wilkinson, Mr. Heelas and Mr. T.B. Pither, the Mayor reading the address: "to those men of the Southern Railway at Wokingham, who remained loyally at their work during the General strike in May 1926. The credit for the peaceful ending of the General Strike is largely due, among other causes, to the steadfast loyalty of some few brave men on our railway systems, who, despite much pressure and bad treatment, and attempts to boycott their wives and families, remained true to their salt, and refused to follow the leadership of certain seditious persons who tried to destroy England and her constitution. By remaining at their posts they gave their misguided comrades time to realise how serious it is to break a legal contract as well as to stop the daily bread of their own homes. We residents of Wokingham who have signed this letter are glad to show our admiration of those who were loyal to their homes. Loyal to their King, loyal to their country."

Sat 26th June

JOEL PARK

On Sunday the Wokingham Town Band (conductor, Mr. M.C. Bretler), played a capital selection of music in the evening at Joel Park, their first visit to this admirable addition to the town's open spaces.

PAGEANT OF EMPIRE

Through the kindness of Mrs. Hatherall, the summer meeting of the Wokingham and district branch of the League of Nations Union was held at Clare Court on Wednesday. A feature of the occasion was a Pageant of Empire display of children from Arborfield School, under Mr. W.J. Verrall (headmaster), Messrs. C.F. Meadowcroft and F.V. Randall (pianists), and Miss O.A. Barnfield, who trained them, Glee by the Wokingham Conservative Glee Party, conducted by Mr. S.C. Butler,

were also enjoyed. Mr. Shelton's orchestra played selections. The Mayor stated that the membership of the branch was 250. Mr. A.G. Macdonell gave an address.

LABOUR PARTY MEETING

Mr. Drew (member of the Reading Board of Guardians) presided on Saturday evening over a Labour meeting, held in the Market Place, Wokingham. Dr. Somerville Hastings, ex-M.P. for Reading, was unavoidably absent. Mr. Wilson (Ruskin College, Oxford) and three other students were also present. The chairman announced the object of the meeting was to raise funds for the relief of the miners and their families, and the police had sanctioned a collection being taken for that purpose. Mr. Wilson advised his hearers to "take no notice of silly talk in the papers about red gold coming into England" in connection with the mining industry. The Labour Party supported the principle that all men were brothers. The Trade Union movement was international and that was why the Russian Trade Unions were helping the miners of Britain, as the British Trade Unions had helped German strikers in Hamburg some years ago.

Sat 3rd July

LABOUR OUTING

The women's section of the Wokingham Labour Party arranged an outing for members and friends on June 24th. Cookham was reached via Windsor Park and Maidenhead in time for tea at the Clivedon Beach Hotel. Afterwards some of the party explored the beautiful gardens, while others went on the river.

DEATH OF MRS. STANILAND

Much sympathy is felt for Mr. F. Staniland, editor of the "Berkshire Gazette" in the death of his wife Mrs Annie Maria Staniland aged 74 years who passed away on Sunday evening at Kamakura, Gipsy Lane. Mrs. Staniland had been ill for almost a year. The funeral will take place at Wallingford Cemetery this (Friday) afternoon.

BOYS' CRICKET

Wescott Road Council School and St. Paul's School met on June 22nd and 29th. In the first match Wescott Road scored 29 and then dismissed St. Paul's for 16. G. Routledge and R. Lewis shared the wickets. In the return match Wescott Road, through the good innings of A. Trulock, captain (33), ran up 65 for five wickets and declared. St. Paul's were dismissed for 11, Lewis taking five wickets for two runs and Routledge five for eight. The fielding and catching of the Wescott Road boys was a feature of both games.

TENNIS FOR GIRLS

On Monday the girls of Wescott Road were introduced to the pleasures of a tennis tournament on a hard court in a playground. Through the kindness of Miss M. Kent, three couples from the Milton Road Tennis Club played three couples from the school. The scores at the finish were six sets to three and 49 to 36 games in favour of the Milton Road club. Those taking part were: Milton Road Club, Mrs. O. Sale, Miss Lunn, Miss Brown, Miss Rogers, Miss Davies and Miss Whitlock: Wescott Road School, Misses M. Kent, M. Claydon, I. Hayes, D. Newberry, D. Blake and M. Mason. Refreshments were provided by the school.

ST. PAUL'S PAROCHIAL CHURCH FETE

There were varied attractions at St. Paul's parochial Church Fete, held on Wednesday at "Beches," by permission of Mr. H. Pearson, and opened by Mrs. Martin Sutton. Plays, handbell ringing, glee singing, etc., were all included.

The stall holders were as follows:-

Fancy stall: Mrs H. M. Walter and Mrs. Dunne. Helpers: Mrs. Henlé, Mrs. Edward Heelas, Mrs. Haye, Mrs. Hewitt, Mrs. Wakelam, Miss Tatham, Miss Curl, Miss Barry, Miss M. Ellison, Miss E. Barry, Miss B. Ellison, Miss Benson and Mrs. Noyes.

Sweet stall: Mrs. P.O. Watson. Helpers: Miss Cornish and Mrs. Warmsley.

Flower stall: Mrs. Frank Heelas. Helpers: Mrs. Teague, Mrs. Kimber, Miss Brant, And Miss Heelas.

Basket stall: Mrs. And Miss Harwood.

Sixpenny stall: Mrs. W. Lee and Mrs. Yalden.

Bran tub: Mrs. Bolton and Mrs. Martin.

Teas: Mrs. Mrs. Anslow, Miss Desbois and helpers.

Refreshment stall: The Lady Victoria Villiers. Helpers: Miss Villiers, Mrs. Barker, Mrs. Garrett and Mr. Youdell.

Sat 24th July

HEATHLANDS GARDENS OPEN

The privilege of visiting the beautiful gardens at Heathlands, Wokingham is again extended to the people by Mrs. Howard Palmer, who announces that they will be open on six successive Wednesdays, commencing next week, on July 28th.

FUNERAL OF MRS. GEORGE HALL

On Sunday Mrs. Alice Charlotte Hall, widow of Mr. George Hall, of 78 Peach Street, passed away after a short illness, aged 62 years. She was a daughter of the late Mr. William Burrett, member of an old Wokingham family, and some 50 years ago the well-known blacksmith, of Peach Street, Wokingham. The funeral took place on Wednesday, the first portion of the service being conducted by the Rev. R. Martin Harvey (pastor) at the Milton Road Baptist Church. The internment was in the free Church Cemetery.

The mourners were Mr. Albert G. Hall (son), Miss Dorothy hall (daughter), Mrs. A.E. Ayers, Mr. W. E. Hall, Mrs. A.G. Hall.

COUNCIL SCHOOL JOURNEY

On Saturday some sixty senior boys and girls of the Wescott Road Council School enjoyed a trip to Oxford by char-a-banc, accompanied by Mr. E.E. Browne (headmaster) and several of their teachers. A guide with a description of the journey was handed to each scholar on starting. A very informing and well-filled day was greatly enjoyed by all. The journey commenced at 9 a.m., being accomplished via Reading, Pangbourne, Streatley, Wallingford and Dorchester. At the last named place a halt was made for an inspection of the famous abbey, the party being conducted round by the vicar's wife. At Oxford the party divided into groups for an inspection of the city, assembling again at 4.30 p.m. for tea. Leaving the Martyr's Memorial at 6.30 p.m., the return journey was made by Nettlebed, Henley, Wargrave and Twyford.

GIRL GUIDES' ENTERTAINMENT

By permission of the Misses Ellison, the local Girl Guides gave a delightful display on the lawn of The Elms, Broad Street, on Tuesday. Mrs Allan, at the piano,

accompanied the songs and dances. Recitations were given by D. Fletcher and J. Fairs, while Freda Palmer contributed a song. A country play was given by Guide officers and members. The characters were taken by Miss Finch, Miss Palsford, P.L. M. Cooper, P.L.E. Wilson, Guide P. love and Guide E. Band. The staging gave excellent scope for some well-executed old English dances. The visitors included Mrs. F. Pigott, Mrs. Dyke Marsh, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. De Vitre, Miss Robinson, Mrs. W. Irving, Miss Speers, Mr. and Mrs. Canning, Rev. H. Farington Evans, Miss Fletcher, Mrs Benito, Rev. W.H. Wright, the Misses Ellison, Mrs. W.G. Jefferies, etc.

PALMER SCHOOLS

The annual distribution of certificates at the Palmer Schools, Wokingham took place last week. Among the visitors were the Rector and Mrs. Long, the Mayor (Admiral Eustace), Mr. F.E. Chapman and Commander and Mrs. Greenfield. Mr. Chapman read a letter from Mrs. Murdoch, in which she expressed her regret at being absent, and at the same time thanked Mr. Maidment and Miss Jones for their splendid care of the children. Songs were sung by the scholars and Mrs. Greenfield who has recently been appointed one of the managers, presented the certificates. The Rector, on behalf of the managers, said they were proud of their school, and congratulated the staff and scholars on their recent successes. Mr. Maidment (the headmaster) referred to the loyal and willing service of the staff, and in this connection particularly thanked Miss Jones and her staff for the excellent preparatory work done in the infants' department. He also expressed his appreciation of the work rendered so cheerfully by the school caretaker, Mr. Wheeler. On Saturday a party of 70 children and friends of the Palmer Schools visited Bognor.

Sat 25th Sept.

BAPTIST S.S. JUMBLE SALE

Organised by the teachers, a jumble sale was carried out on Wednesday in the Baptist Sunday School Room, Milton Road, and realised close upon £20 for the Sunday School funds.

EVENING CLASSES

The local committee for evening classes have again arranged a comprehensive curriculum of subjects for evening classes, which include woodwork, English, commercial arithmetic, shorthand, book-keeping, elementary business practice, building construction and household cookery. The instructors will be respectively Mr. Heath, Miss Cole, Mr. E.E. Browne, Mr. H.M. Leurs and Miss Whitmarsh. Mr. E.E. Brown, Wokingham Council School, is the superintendent.

CONSERVATIVE OPEN-AIR MEETING

Under the auspices of the Wokingham Conservative and Unionist Association a well-attended and successful open-air meeting was held in the Market Place on Tuesday evening. Mr. C. Mansfield was in the chair and the speaker was Mr. B. Billcliffe, whose address was received with much interest by the large assembly. On the "platform" was also Mrs. Watts (local hon. secretary). The chairman introduced the speaker who gave a resumé of the coal situation based upon the report of the Royal Commission, a copy of which he produced, and from which he quoted. The questions which were put to him and the occasional heckling to which he was subjected showed a real interest in the subject.

THE TERRITORIALS

The annual prize meeting of "D" Company, 4th Royal Berks. was held on the Finchampstead range, some 50 members taking part. The results were: Company cup and first prize, Sergt. Byde; 2. Lce.-Cpl. Eamer; 3. Sergt. Wickham; 4. Lce.-Cpl. Hurdwell; 5. Pte. R.G. Taylor. The Godsall cup for recruits was won by Pte. Kew, closely followed by Ptes. Ellis and A. Gibbs. The Lewis gun cup had been previously won by Lce.-Cpl. Houlton, but Colonel Battcock's prize for the Lewis gun competition was won by Cpl. Marriner after shooting off a tie with Pte. Challis. The next three places were taken by Lce.-Cpl. Houlton, Cpl. Dance and Sgt. May. The silver table, dessert and teaspoons awarded for the best shoots on handicap in the company cup shoot were won by Ptes. Hobley, Watts and Knight.

Sat 16th Oct

FOR THE BLIND

Special appeals for the National Institute for the Blind were made at St. Paul's on Sunday by the deputation, the Rev. H.E.C. Lewis, M.A., F.R.C.O., who is himself blind.

SPLIT TELEPHONE POLE

Telephone communication in some parts of Wokingham was interrupted on Thursday morning by a pole carrying wires at the corner of Gipsy Lane and Murdoch Road being damaged by a motor-car. Mrs Harris, of Hurst, who was driving a four-seater car with passengers down Easthampstead Road from the town, swerved to avoid William Peckham, who was cycling out of the side entrance to the residence of Mr. F.A. Simonds. The car struck the telephone post with such force that the top gear of wires, cups and traverses fell, splitting the pole down for about ten feet. The driver and other ladies in the car escaped injury, but Peckham was thrown from his bicycle and sustained injuries, which are not regarded as serious.

FRIENDSHIP WITH FRANCE

Captain Townroe (correspondent to "The Times") gave a lecture on Tuesday on "Our Friendship with France," a large audience assembling in the Town Hall, under the auspices of the Wokingham Conservative and Unionist Association. Mr. C. Mansfield presided. Captain Townroe, whose lecture was illustrated with lantern slides, said many of his audience had in the Great War fought side by side with French comrades, and admired the patriotism, patience and courage of the French troops. Leading men of both countries were warm friends. Without France and England being on terms together peace in Europe would not come about. Towards that end Sir Austen Chamberlain and the Conservative Government were striving. Mr. S. Hooper proposed and Mr. W.J. Cheeseman seconded, a vote of thanks to the lecturer, who kindly bore the expense of his visit. Mr. Mansfield thanked Mr. Whaley for his loan of the lantern and Mr. F. Knight for his expert operating of it.

DEATH OF COMMANDER G.W. GREGORIE, R.N.

On Saturday evening there passed away at his residence, "Highfield," Milton Road, Wokingham, one who had figured prominently and with honour in the public life of Wokingham. He was Commander George Wayne Gregorie, R.N., one of the oldest of the links with Wokingham.

The gallant commander, whose tall, commanding figure up to a few years ago was familiar to all, was born on March 25th 1836. He was son of Mr. Gregorie stipendiary

for Westminster. His acquaintance with the sea began in 1849, when he received his first appointment as naval cadet. No training ships existed in those days, and he went direct from school to join the Navy. Those were the days of sailing ships only. In 1858 he took part in one of the picturesque movements of history, when on May 2nd. Of that year, serving as lieutenant in H.M.S. Juno, he was detailed to conduct the migration of the descendants of the mutineers of the Bounty (descendants of John Adams and his companions) from Pitcairn Island to Norfolk Island in the South Pacific, the population having outgrown the smaller island. During this voyage, Arthur Quintal, descendant of Matthew Quintal—one of the original mutineers—wrote to Admiral Moresby:--

“The emigration is conducted by Acting Lieutenant Gregorie of H.M.S. Juno, whose untiring kindness and strict attention to our wants have recently endeared him to us. He is most indefatigable in his exertions to promote our welfare.” (This quotation is from the book “Pitcairn,” by the Rev. Boyles Murray, M.A., published in 1857.)

It is within the memory of many that in 1897 the late Commander Gregorie was visited by two of the Norfolk Islanders, tall, fine soldiers, who came over to take part in the military pageant of Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee. To them he gave the Bible of John Adams, with its records of the population of Pitcairn Island from its settlement.

The gallant commander’s service in the Royal Navy covered the period of transition from sailing ship to steam-propelled vessels. He served in H.M.S.’s Juno, Indefatigable, Hannibal and Arrogant. In 1872, on account of failing health, he retired with the rank of commander. He then proceeded to keep his terms at Oxford, where he graduated B.A. with second class honours in law and history, and later entered as student in the Inner Temple, passing the qualifying examination for barrister, but the state of his health caused him to pass the rest of his days, which were many, in the privacy of country life.

Commander Gregorie married in January, 1860, Miss Harwood, only daughter of Mr. Harwood, of Deane, near Whitchurch, Southampton, and they celebrated their golden wedding in 1910. Mrs Gregorie predeceased him on September 18th, 1915. In a quiet way Commander Gregorie filled important positions and did excellent work in the religious, educational and philanthropic life of Wokingham. A devoted churchman, he filled many years the office of sidesman at All Saints. For 30years he was correspondent for the Palmer Schools, where his keen interest secured several enlargements and greatly conduced to its present efficiency, and he promoted the formation and training of the school cadet corps and its band, both attaining remarkable efficiency. His house and grounds were ever open to any popular function to promote the general happiness, while his annual entertainment of the two local bands will long survive in grateful memory.

THE FUNERAL

The funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon at All Saints’ Church. The coffin of plain oak was draped with the Union Jack in accordance with the late Commander’s wish.

(Details follow)

1927

Sat 8th Jan

THE NEW FIRE ENGINE

The new up to date fire engine was delivered on Wednesday by the makers, Dennis Bros. of Guildford.

THE FIRE BRIGADE BUSY

The Fire Brigade, under their new Chief Officer, Captain W.B. Martin, received during December an exceptional number of calls, eight in all. These included an attendance at "Mertonford," the residence of Mr. Eric Simonds, and another at Shinfield grange; in each case a chimney had caught fire. There was a fire at Arborfield Manor, and a serious outbreak at the Angora Rabbit Farm, and a call was received to the Co-operative Stores, Market Place, Wokingham, where a joist under a hearth was alight. Other occasions included a fire in a motor garage at Mr. King's, baker, Binfield; a chimney on fire at "Russley," Finchampstead Road, while a petrol pump and a motor lorry burst into flames at the premises of the Gush Transport Co. premises at Yateley.

BRITISH LEGION'S CHILDREN'S PARTY

The sixth annual tea and party to war orphans and members' children was given by the local branch of the British Legion in their new hall on Saturday. There was a large attendance, some 160 children being present. The arrangements were in the hands of the sports committee, of which General M. Grant Wilkinson is the popular chairman and Mr. A. Andrews the hon. secretary. Mrs M. Webb was in charge of the tea, and there were numerous helpers. The hall was prettily decorated. The tea was a bountiful one, while crackers were provided. Games, etc., followed the tea, these being led by Mr. D. Goddard. Others who assisted with songs, etc., were Mr. Gerald Webb, Mr. "Wiffles" Westlake, Mr. P.H. Fuller, etc. Miss Edna Worrall's child songs and dances were greatly admired. A Christmas tree, given by the Marquis of Downshire and loaded with presents, completed the bill of fare, General and Mrs. Wilkinson superintending the distribution of the presents. Among those present were the Mayor and Mayoress (Admiral J.B. Eustace), J.P., and Mrs. Eustace), General A.H. Eustace, Miss Tatham, Miss Wakelow, Miss D. Sale, the committee and their friends. Later in the evening the annual members' social was held. Games and dancing were indulged in, and a capital programme was sustained by the artistes already named, also by Messrs. C. Thatcher, W. Sear and D. Goddard, the accompaniments being shared by Mrs. Sear, Miss M. Webb and Mr. P.H. Fuller.

FESTIVITIES AT WOKINGHAM

During the Christmas season the employees of Messrs. Sale and Son, the well-known seedsmen of Wokingham took part in two very enjoyable events organised by the directors. On Saturday, December 24th, a cross-country paper chase was run, about 20 of the staff and their friends turning out. Messrs. S.E. and O.R.C. Sale went out as "hares," and the trail was taken up at an interval of five minutes by the ladies and five minutes later by the men. The course taken by the "hares" was an arduous one over rough country and through woods, approximately six miles being covered. With two exceptions all the runners finished the course. Tea awaited them on their return to Messrs. Sales Market Place premises. The winners were:-Ladies: 1, Miss W. Kennedy; 2, Miss E. Kennedy; 3, Miss D. Allan. Gentlemen: 1, Mr. W. Eggleton; 2, Mr. Kennedy; 3, Mr. D. Holland.

Sat 19th Feb

EMBROOK WHIST DRIVE

On behalf of the funds of the Embrook Tennis club a successful whist drive was held on Tuesday. About 30 visitors attended. Mr. Herbert Knapp made a capable M.C. Prizes were won as follows—Ladies: 1, Miss K. Newman; 2, Mrs. Brown; 3, Mrs. G. Reed; consolation, Mrs. Evans. Gentlemen: 1, Mr. Newman; 2, Mr. Knapp; 3, Mr. Soper; consolation, Mr. Turner. Mrs. Shave presented the prizes. Refreshments were ably managed by the committee of ladies.

WOKINGHAM (WITHOUT) PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Parish Council of Wokingham (Without) was held under the presidency of Mr. H. Goswell (chairman). There was also present Councillor A. Rasey (vice-chairman), Councillors H.E. Bennett, C. Bowyer, J. Chutter and E. Vass, and the clerk (Mr. A.E. Hall). A lengthy discussion arose upon the proposed diversion of the footpath from Barkham Road to Sandy Bottom. A resolution was carried strongly protesting upon the proposal, the protest to be sent to the Rural District Council. The appointment was made of the salary of the assistant overseer between the Rural District Council and the Wokingham (Without) Parish Council. This was done by resolution: £190 by the Rural District Council and £10 from the Parish Council of Wokingham (Without).

RESULTS OF CHRISTMAS GOODWILL

Members and former members of all Saints' Choir, Wokingham, performed a most kindly action on Saturday Afternoon by entertaining to tea and an entertainment 101 children in the Concert Hall of the Wokingham Club. The entertainment had during the Christmas season sung carols, and as one result of their efforts had presented the local Clinic with the handsome sum of £25. With a balance, they decided upon the treat to the children. Ladies who assisted at the tables were Mesdames T. May, G. Holloway, G.H. Breach, J. Liddiard and J. Liddiard, jun., and the Misses House. Members of the carol party were Messrs. T. May, G.H. Breach, F.W. Evans, G. Holloway, J. Liddiard, S. berry and W. House. Miss C. Breach, A.T.L.C. played pianoforte selections during tea. Each child was given a paper cap on entering the hall, and on leaving received an orange and a coloured balloon. Mr. Leonard H. Webb, of Three Mile Cross, gave a splendid entertainment of conjuring and ventriloquism.

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES HUCKINGS

Much regret is felt at the death of Mr. Charles Huckings at his residence, 14, Langborough Road, Wokingham, on Wednesday, at the advanced age of 86 years. Some 50 years back the late Mr. Huckings came to Wokingham from Camberley, and was for ten years in the employ of the late Mr. Thomas Manley Wescott at the Saw Mills, Peach Street. He was a skilled carpenter and joiner. He married the daughter of the proprietor of the glass and china store, 39, Market Place, where he resided for several years. In his younger days he was a local preacher for the Wesleyans. He did not take further part in public life except that for some years he was (in the company with the present Captain Caiger) a member of the Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade. During the past few years he had retired from active work, and his familiar figure will be much missed. Mrs. Huckings survives him, with their complete family of two sons and four daughters. The funeral is to take place on Tuesday at All saints.

Sat 2nd April

MOTOR CLUB FORMED

Motorists of Wokingham decided at a meeting held at Bush Hotel to organise themselves and formed the Wokingham and District Motor club, with the Bush Hotel as headquarters. Mr. Alan Perkins was elected chairman; Mr. Ganson, hon. treasurer; Mr. T.A. Hatfield, hon. secretary; and Mr. J. Lewis, captain. The subscriptions were fixed at members, 10s 6d.; associates, 5s.; and cars, £1 1s. A further meeting is to be held.

THE CAGE BIRD SOCIETY

The second annual jumble sale and concert of the above was held on Saturday. The goods found ready purchasers—a credit to the ladies committee of the society. Mr. F.W. Mattingley, the hon. secretary was very busy as the organiser of the variety concert which followed the sale. Mr. P. Fuller at the piano both entertained the audience and acted as accompanist, the latter duty being shared with Mrs. Lear. The artistes were popular local performers and included Messrs. D. Goddard, B. Dicker, Westlake, Townsend and E.R. Thatcher in songs and monologues, Messrs. Thatcher and Goodeve in sketches, and Miss Marjorie Sharp, etc.

Sat 23rd April

AIR CRASH AT WOKINGHAM

Narrow Escapes

A MOTHER'S ANXIETY

A mother's anxiety for her son's safety led to her arrival on the scene just after the aeroplane bearing him crashed to earth at Homefield, Wokingham, on Saturday.

The mother, Mrs. Garland, a well-known horsewoman, of Barkham Manor, was riding on horseback to Wokingham, when she had a feeling that her son, who was taking part in the local "Air Week," would meet with an accident. After she had ridden a short distance her presentiment was confirmed by passers-by, who stopped her and told her that the machine had crashed. She hurried on, and on arriving at the flying field she saw the wrecked aeroplane lying on its back on the grass. Mrs. Garland found her son, Mr. Victor Garland, in The Three Frogs Inn, Wokingham, in a dazed condition, but otherwise unhurt.

Mr. Garland, fortunately, had a remarkable escape from injury, as did also the pilot of the machine, Mr. Leslie H. Lewis, and another passenger, Mr. Albert Twitchin, of The Three Frogs, Wokingham.

The plane, and Avro pleasure machine, had come to Wokingham for the Easter holidays, was giving circular flights at 5s. each, and had just started on the first trip when the mishap occurred.

Snapped in Two Pieces

The machine had taken off well and had ascended to a height of about 40 feet when the engine suddenly stopped. As a result the plane crashed to earth, turned a complete somersault flinging the occupants out of their seats, and snapped in two pieces.

Spectators at once rushed to the wrecked plane to extricate the men, who were partially stunned. On the handbills advertising the flights, which were headed "Safety flying for all," it was announced that Mr. Garland, who was described as a film actor, would walk along the wings of the machine when in full flight.

Mrs. Garland was strongly opposed to her son's proposal to perform such feats, and was most anxious for him. So great was her fear that he would be hurt that she set out in fact for the scene of the flight.

Petition of Protest

Flights were to have been made in the aeroplane on Good Friday, but in response to a petition organised by the local branch of the C.E.M.S. and signed by a large number of Wokingham residents, protesting against the proposal, Mr. Lewis refrained from so doing. A large number of people who visited Wokingham during the weekend to take advantage of the flights returned disappointed.

Sat 30th April

THE TERRITORIALS

Sergt.-instructor T. T. Tanner, of the 1st. Batt. Royal Berkshire Regiment, in Germany, is the new sergeant-instructor of "D" Company, Berks. Territorials, Wokingham. He holds 32 trophies for athletics.

NEW FIRE ENGINE FIRST USED

On Saturday, the new motor fire engine, "Reliance," was used for the first time at a call of fire, by the Wokingham Fire Brigade, who, with Engineer F. Knight in charge, responded to a call at the residence of Lieut.-Colonel Harris St. John, D.S.O., J.P., at Finchampstead. The outbreak was a heath fire, and as no water was near and a broad road lay between the house and the blaze, the brigade did not get to work at pumping. It is a coincidence that the first call in which the predecessor of the "Reliance"-the "Swift"- was first used should have been within half a mile of the same place.

"THE IMPS" AND THE CLINIC

A successful dance was given in the Drill Hall in aid of the Wokingham Clinic. The organising committee consisted of the Misses V. Wilkinson and K. Blackman, Messrs. F. Moles, G. Plaster and G. Ballard, and Miss C. Dearlove (hon. secretary). The band of the 17, 21st. Lancers was in attendance. Over 100 dancers took part. Mesdames Stoneman, Langley, Atkins, Pearce and Brazier managed the refreshments. Those taking tickets and attending included General Sir Walter Cayley and Lady Cayley, Brigadier-General M. Grant Wilkinson, Mrs. Wilkinson and Miss Wilkinson, Miss Blakeney, the Misses Greenfield, and Mr. H.S. Hooper (president).

BRIGADIER-GENERAL WILKINSON

The king has appointed Brigadier-General Sir Smith Hill Child, Bart., to be a gentleman usher in ordinary in the room of Brigadier-General Montagu Grant Wilkinson, resigned; and Brigadier-General Montagu Grant Wilkinson to be an extra gentleman usher to his Majesty. Brigadier-General M. Grant Wilkinson has resided now for some years at Markham House, Broad Street, Wokingham, and has made himself very popular in the district as a first class amateur actor, ever ready to place his talents at the disposal of worthy causes, to wit the Orthopaedic Clinic, British Legion, etc., of which last named he is an active, efficient and energetic member.

Sat 4th June

LABOUR MEETING

Arranged by the local Labour Party, an open-air meeting was held in the Market Place on Saturday evening. The chairman was Mr. L. Bryce (secretary of the University Labour Association). Mr. F.A. Broad, Labour M.P. for Edmonton, was the speaker, who expounded the Socialist agricultural programme.

ILL-LUCK OF AIRMAN

Mr. A.L. Lewis, pilot of "The Jake." (the flying machine which crashed at Wokingham on April 16th), after the machine had been reconstructed at The Three Frogs, Wokingham, again took to the air on Tuesday, but was once more the victim of unfortunate circumstances. Ascending in the afternoon from Mr. Colebrook's meadow, London Road, he circled round, then took off in the direction of Bill Hill. When it had travelled a mile and reached a height of 200 feet, observers saw that the machine was descending. The machine tore through a five-strand wire fence, tearing up or breaking off five of the posts, finally coming to rest in the middle of a chicken-run at Cantley, the residence of Mr. P.O. Watson. Not a fowl was injured, and the pilot and his two passengers, Mr. Percy Ashdown and Mr. Collier, beyond a shaking, escaped injury. The propeller had one arm broken off, the wings were damaged by the wire, and the under part of the machine was broken.

Sat 23rd July

THE FIRE BRIGADE

The Fire Brigade are issuing an appeal with a view to clearing off the last £100 due upon the new engine.

MOTHERS' UNION OUTING

Members of the Wokingham branch of the Mothers' Union travelled in two char-a-bancs to London on Monday, and visited Mary Sumner House, the headquarters of the Mothers' Union, also the zoo and other sights of London. The party was accompanied by Mrs. J.B. Eustace.

PROPOSED NEW BOWLING CLUB AND GREEN

A meeting was held on Monday to consider the advisability of forming a Bowling club for Wokingham and district. Mr. E. C. Hughes presided. Mr. G. Jenkins outlined a scheme, and stated that Mr. Hughes had a piece of land which he was willing to part with on reasonable terms. A committee was formed to go into the matter. Mr. Jenkins said he had received promises of about £200 towards the laying out of the ground.

Sat 30th July

NEW POSTMASTER

Mr. W.C. Lucas, recently postmaster at Abingdon has been appointed postmaster at Wokingham.

A SCHOOL JOURNEY

On Saturday the upper scholars of the Wescott Road Council School enjoyed the pleasure of a school journey with the intention of furthering their knowledge and appreciation of the history and geography of our country. Mr. E.E. Browne, the popular headmaster, was in charge, and some 60 scholars with their teachers made the tour in char-a-bancs. A neat itinerary with time-table and map was supplied. A start was made from the school at 8.30 a.m., the route taken being Basingstoke, Winchester, Romsey, Salisbury (where tea was served) and Stonehenge. The trip afforded great pleasure to all.

Sat 10th Sept

WOKINGHAM FATALITY Popular Sportsman killed COLLISION WITH HORSE

A well-known Wokingham sportsman, Mr. Reginald Howard Mattingley, aged 26, of 18, Easthampstead Road, Wokingham, received fatal injuries in a motor-cycle accident on Saturday evening. He was travelling from Reading to Wokingham with a pillion passenger, and in approaching the railway bridge near St. Paul's Church he appears to have collided with a horse, which resulted in he and his companion being thrown off. The pillion rider only received minor injuries, but Mattingley received severe fracture of the skull, from which he died about three hours later in the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

Mr. Reginald Mattingley was the third son of the late Mr. Frederick Mattingley, the well-known football referee. He was a devotee of motor-cycling, and rode a Scott machine. A well-known figure in Wokingham, he was a grocer's assistant the local branch of the Reading Co-operative Society, and was greatly respected by the manager and his colleagues, and by the management at Reading. He was a member of the British Legion Club, Wokingham, of the Wokingham Lawn Tennis club, and of the Peach Street Boys' Club. His brother, Mr. F.W. Mattingley, is the efficient secretary of the Wokingham Cage Bird Society.

Sat 24th September

TROOPS IN WOKINGHAM

Dorsets Beat "The Retreat."

INHABITANTS WELCOME THE TROOPS

The sudden cessation of the military manoeuvres on account of bad weather, and the decision of the authorities that Bill Hill camp, Wokingham, being on clay soil and waterlogged, occupied an untenable site for night camping, had the effect of converting Wokingham to all intents and purposes into a garrison station. Promptly upon the order "Back to Aldershot" the homeward movement began, and Friday last week saw its commencement, with men, horses and guns, tanks and service wagons, passing daily in unending stream through the town. The tanks, never-failing objects of interest to the thronging crowds, passed via Oxford Road and Wellington Road, and thus avoided the streets, but all the other forces journeyed via Broad Street and Denmark Street to Finchampstead Road. The mud freely plastered on men, horses and wheels afforded eloquent testimony of the discomforts of the "battle" area, and some of the earlier arrivals, whether human or equine, showed evident signs of fatigue.

On Saturday the 4th Infantry Brigade marched through the town from Nettlebed and continued their way to Aldershot, completing the long march in the day. The military stream abated not on the Sunday, the morning being taken up with the passage of horse traffic. During the afternoon the 6th Infantry Brigade arrived from Nettlebed. Accommodation for these was provided in the town and in adjacent farms, etc. Children of the Baptist Sunday School, Milton Road, found the gates of their school closed to them, the building being occupied by a company of the Royal West Kent Regiment. The school books, etc., were carried off by the scholars to the lecture room opposite, to make room for the visitors.

The troops were billeted in the British Legion Hall, where a cordial welcome awaited them, in the Town Hall, Drill Hall, Church House, and in the outbuildings attached to private residences. On Monday the 5th Infantry Brigade arrived in the afternoon, and after a dinner halt only at Bill Hill camp, this smart brigade was entertained in the same manner as its predecessors. A battalion occupied Keep Hatch and adjacent farms. Many soldiers found quarters in the open shelter shed at the Palmer School playground, and on "Reveille" being sounded on Tuesday morning, a nearby cottage resident supplied them all with a cup of tea each – a typical illustration

of the kindly spirit animating the inhabitants towards the soldiers. The unusual spectacle of the billeted troops drew large crowds of residents into the Market Place, where field cookers, orderly room, guard, Q. M. S.'s stores and other military establishments were to be seen in every-day operation. Officers on Sunday were quartered in the Wokingham Club, and on Monday "The Bush" was occupied by the General in command and his staff.

On Monday evening a thrilling and (for Wokingham) unusual spectacle was provided when the drums, fifes and bugles of the Dorset Regiment beat "The Retreat" in Broad Street. This fine, spacious thoroughfare in the centre of the town was closed at each end by Supt. Goddard, and kept by military police, providing an admirable parade ground. The band marched and counter-marched with full military display and with the most impressive effect concluding with the National Anthem, followed by the salute.

The sounding of the "Reveille" at 5.34 a.m. and of the "Last post" at 10 p.m. daily added to the military aspect of the town.

The martial sights and bands (especially the music of the bands) were followed with delight by the whole population.

The town's war memorial, the Clinic, in Denmark Street, was placed at the disposal of the military, and was used as a route station each day.

Sat 8th Oct

THE EXTENDED BOROUGH

The sight of the Union Jack, in company with the municipal flag, flying mast high from the Town Hall buildings on Saturday morning indicated that the Borough of Wokingham had attained de facto its extension. The "appointed day" under the provisional order had arrived, and Wokingham had annexed five times its then area, and an increase of 59 per cent in population. The amenities of urban life will be ensured, at first in the added area by means of a vacuum tank until drainage schemes shall be completed. Candidates for the ten vacancies to be filled on the enlarged Council are doubtless busily employed upon their election addresses. The day of the nomination will probably be the 22nd or 24th next, with polling (if necessary) as usual on November 1st.

Sat 12 Nov

VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY

The Victoria County History books were completed.

FIRE BRIGADE, NEW OFFICERS

At a recent meeting of the Wokingham Fire Brigade Captain Weston B. Martin (with 37 years' service) was elected Captain, vice captain Caiger deceased, and engineer F. Knight (32½ years' service) was appointed in each case unanimously. Firemen H.J. Painter and E.P. Osmond were appointed to be engineers.

TOWN HALL

Elected: Honorary Constables: E. Jeffrey, W.J. Pearce, and H. Dyer. Town Crier: H. Banks. Sergt.-at-Mace: C. Sparkes.

Sat 3rd Dec

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL GIFT OF OLD DOCUMENT

Alderman P. Sale announced that the town clerk had recently received from a Miss Eagan-he did not know whether she was an old resident of the town, or the relative of a resident-an interesting document printed on silk, giving a programme of a ploughing match held by the Wokingham Agricultural Association in Holybush Meadow, Barkham Road, in the first week in October, 1836. Even in those days there were prizes for the improvement of agricultural labourers and servants in the parish of Wokingham, Finchampstead, Barkham, Arborfield, Swallowfield, Hurst and Ruscombe, a very considerable area. The document stated that the patron of the association was His Most Glorious Majesty King William IV. Although it was so long ago as ninety years, yet the amount of the prizes or premiums as they were termed, was not really very different from those offered today. The amount for a first prize was £2. In those days apparently agricultural labourers or servants were not trusted with the cash for the prize-winners received clothing to the value of the amount awarded. (laughter). He did not see that the association gave prizes in those young days for anything else other than the various operations in animal husbandry, for which men, boys and females employed as agricultural servants competed. There was apparently no root show in those days.

He thought it was very good of Miss Eagan, who, so far as he knew had no connection with Wokingham, to send them such an interesting old document, and he proposed the gift be accepted with the best thanks of the council.

This was agreed to.

Replying to Councillor Chapman the Mayor said the document would be added to the archives of the town.

Alderman Martin said he hoped that some day they would have a room which they could use as a museum and display their treasures and other interesting documents.

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Sat 7th Jan

WOKINGHAM TOWN F.C.

The Ground Secured

TRIBUTE TO MR. A.H. JONES

The Wokingham Town Football Club has acquired its ground. The matter was referred to at this meeting of the Wokingham Town Council on Thursday.

A Cordial Resolution

Councillor F.S. Perkins moved the following resolution:--“The Town Council, representing the inhabitants of this borough of Wokingham, congratulates and expresses its gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Arthur H. Jones for his successful and arduous efforts in acquiring the Wokingham Town Football Club ground in Finchampstead Road, Wokingham, for the use of this ground for sport for this and future generations.” In moving the resolution Councillor Perkins mentioned that football was played on the ground over 50 years ago. Mr. Jones had been intimately associated with the ground for over 38 years. In September, 1924, the football club were informed that its ground was to be sold, and Mr. Jones, who was secretary, thought out a scheme for purchasing the ground, and a contract was signed for £900. Mr. Jones then had to go to hospital, where for six months he was ill, and during a part of that period seriously ill. On leaving the hospital he again attacked the problem, and between March, 1925, and last Christmas he raised the whole amount necessary by means of subscriptions, whist drives, concerts and collecting pennies from people

week by week. In face of many discouragements and limitations he carried the scheme through from start to finish, and was a public benefactor and a great citizen. (Hear, hear). The value of the field as an additional playing space for perpetuity need not be emphasised, and as time went by its value as an asset to the town would increase. The satisfaction Mr. Jones obtained from his work was the fact that the ground would be appreciated by all the young men of this and future generations who would be enabled to indulge in healthy sport, ensuring greater entertainment of mind as fellow citizens of the borough, and an improvement in their physique as subjects of their King and Empire. (Hear, hear).

Councillor Chapman's Plea

Councillor Chapman, in seconding the motion, said he was keenly interested in the playing fields movement, and he wanted to see that everyone who wished to play a game should at least have a ground upon which he could play. He wished people would take a personal interest in the doings of the younger generation and in their games. No only had a football ground been secured for the generations to come, but they had a cricket ground also. The football ground had been used for 50 years, but the cricket ground had been used for that game for over 100 years. It would be a short-sighted policy if the people of Wokingham ever allowed that ground to be built over. Mr. Jones was a keen supporter of all that was of interest to the younger people of the town, particularly of football and cricket.

Alderman Hughes, as president of the football club, endorsed all that had been said. Mr. Jones deserved the hearty congratulations and thanks of all for the great service he had rendered.

Sat 25th Feb

LECTURE SOCIETY

In the Town Hall on Wednesday, a lecture was given by Miss Mabel Steedman, F.R.G.S., on "Cowboy Trails from Pike's Peak to Mexico." The lecture was illustrated with lantern slides. Major-Gen. Sir Walter Cayley, K.C.M.G., presided.

FOOTBALL CLUB

A successful whist drive and dance was held on Wednesday, under the auspices of the Wokingham London Road Football club. The M.C.'s were Mr. A. Brant for the whist and Sgt.-Major G. Saunders for the dancing. The prizes for the whist were subscribed for by supporters of the club. The Syncopated Savannah Dance Orchestra supplied the music.

THE TOWN BAND

The adjourned annual meeting of the Wokingham Town Band was held on Tuesday, Mr. W.J. White presiding. A re-organisation scheme was adopted, which it is believed will lead to greater efficiency. Officers elected were: Hon. treasurer, Mr. A. Harrison; hon. secretary, Mr. F. Every; committee, Messrs. F. Woods, W.J. White, F. Pierce and Weeks; deputy bandmaster, Mr. R. Milsom.

CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST ASSOCIATION

--Another interesting discussion took place on Monday Evening in the Small Town Hall. Capt. C.R.P. Henderson gave an instructive address on the Empire, and several members of the audience joined in the discussion which followed. The chairman, Mr. C. Mansfield, said he thought such meetings did a lot of good, and hoped that more members would join in the discussions.

TERRITORIAL DANCE

The Saturday night dances of the local Territorial Company are now an established feature of the town, and the attendances show an increase at almost every dance. On Saturday no less than 160 people were present, this being a record for a Saturday night, and included Major Hughes, the O.C. of the company, and Lieut. G.S. Ford, D.F.C., one of its officers. The new grand piano recently purchased by the company is a decided acquisition.

FURNITURE SALE

Messrs J. Watts and Son, Auctioneers, opened their new sale room at 12, Milton Road, Wokingham, recently erected by them to enable better facilities to be given for display of lots and convenience of buyers, and attracted a large and representative number of buyers at their sale on Feb. 17th, when 360 lots of furniture were disposed of. red Chinese lacquer cabinet realised £20, a mahogany china cabinet £7, a mahogany Chippendale chair £6, a pair of ebonised cabinets £21, a library table £10 10s., Ironstone dinner service £12 10s., a Sheraton bookcase £26 and other lots at equally good prices.. These new sale rooms which accommodate a considerable amount of furniture, were designed by Mr. Donovan Watts, and built by Mr. F. Langman.

Sat 17th March

FELLING A TREE

An unusual sight was witnessed on Saturday when a large chimney stack was felled at the site of the old saw mills. Mr. Denton who is developing the grounds as a building site and has laid out Denton Road connecting Easthampstead Road with Sturges Road directed a group of his own workmen in the operation. The stack consisted of 125 [?] courses of bricks and its height was approximately 57 feet.

Sat 28th July

DEATH OF FORMER RESIDENT

Mrs. T. Morris (née Fennell) at one time a well-known and respected resident of Wokingham, recently died of cancer, in Australia.

A RARE BIRD

A male specimen of the Hoopoe recently arrived at Mr. F.W. Mattingley's, the prominent bird fancier's, in Reading Road. Owing to the delicacy of its nature the bird was not sent by water, but made the trip from Hamburg by air to Croydon, thence by rail. It is believed to have been the first of its kind in captivity in this country. The Hoopoe has since died.

THE FIRE BRIGADE

The Fire Brigade has been very busy recently. On July 19th a call was answered to Blue Mountain Farm at Binfield, where some outbuildings were burnt down. The following day, about 7.10 p.m., the brigade went to the Wellington Hotel, where rubbish in the stokehole had caught alight and had set fire to laths and rafters. At 12.5 a.m. on Monday a call was responded to from Moss End, Warfield, where two sheds used by cottagers near were discovered alight. A motor-cycle, two pedal bicycles and some tools were destroyed.

PALMER SCHOOL TREAT

By the kindness of Mr. C. Mansfield, Mr. Garnett and Mr. Wallis the Palmers School treat was held on Wednesday at the playing fields at Wixenford. The Fire Brigade under Captain W.B. Martin boiled the water for tea with their engine. Friends of the school who sent conveyances included Mr. R.H.R. Palmer (2), Mr. E.C. Hughes (2), Mr. Collingbourne, Mr. Colgate, Mr. H. Bowyer, Mr. C. Bowyer, Messrs. Herring Bros., the Wokingham Laundry Co., Messrs Minchin Bros., Mr. W.G. Jeffries and Mr. E.W. Reeves. Wokingham Town Band, as usual, played the school home in the evening. Upwards of 400 children took part. Under Mr. H.F. Maidment, Miss Jones and the staff a capital sports programme was carried out.

WOKINGHAM GIRL IN AIR RACE

Miss Winifred Spooner, the only woman pilot in the King's Cup air race, who won the J.D. Siddeley trophy for club members of various flying clubs, and was third in the race for the King's Cup, lives at Wokingham. The Siddeley trophy carries with it an award of £150, and the third prize in the King's Cup in £50 (presented by the Blackpool Tower Company).

Miss Spooner was warmly congratulated by everyone on her success. She had a very difficult time, like the other pilots, during the night in getting over the hills from Newcastle to Glasgow. She led the competitors over the first three obstacles in the second circuit, but between Bristol and Lympne she dropped to second place, and from the last-named place to Brooklands Motor track, the finishing point, she was overtaken by the runner-up. Her total flying time was 13 hours 9 minutes 15 seconds, and her average speed 83½ miles an hour.

A member of the London Flying Club, Miss Spooner has also joined the newly-formed Berks, Bucks and Oxon, Aeroplane Club. She has held a pilot's certificate about a year, and has done nearly 200 hours solo flying.

Sat 4th August

ST. PAUL'S DAY SCHOOL TREAT

Scholars of St. Paul's Day School were given their annual summer treat last Friday week. Tea was served in the school after which the scholars, led by the Town Band (who had played during tea) under Mr. S.A. Griffin, marched to the rectory lawn where sports and games were played. There were also daylight fireworks.

SUCCESSFUL CHURCH FETE

At a special meeting of St. Paul's Parochial Church Council, the proceeds of the recent fete were apportioned to various funds. The profit was £131 8s. 0d and was disposed of as under:- Churchwarden's fund, £25; Additional Curate fund £25; Diocesan fund, £15; lesser grants, £10 and £5. A balance of £22 8s. 0d. was placed in the Rector's General Purpose fund. The Rector thanked Mr. A.E. Priest, the hon. secretary for his services.

GOLDEN WEDDING

Fifty years ago, on August 1st, 1878, Mr. Devonshire Penrose Hawkes was married to Miss Sarah Popham Horsford at Timoleague Church, Co. Cork, Ireland. There were 200 guests, and the whole population kept holiday. Mr. and Mrs. Hawkes on Wednesday quietly celebrated their golden wedding at their home, Embrook House, Wokingham. They received several gifts, also numerous congratulatory telegrams.

Mr. Hawkes is now approaching his 80th birthday. They have two sons and two daughters.

ANOTHER COLLISION WITH BROAD STREET LAMP

On Monday evening Mr. N.A. Sharp, of Swallowfield, when driving a car along Broad Street towards the Town Hall collided with the central street lamp opposite the residence of Mr. E.H. Perkins. The front part of the chassis, the wing and front axle were damaged, and Miss Ivy Bryant, of Tilehurst, a passenger, received injuries which included concussion and injury to the left eye and leg. The injured lady was taken to Mr. Perkins' residence, and Dr. Chapman, who was called, attended her injuries. She was later conveyed home, and is progressing favourably.

Sat 25th Aug

THE FIRE BRIGADE

The fire brigade have just purchased twelve 50 ft. lengths of new hose pipe at a cost of £70.

OUTING

On Wednesday the staff of Mr. Jefferies, coal merchant of Wokingham and Crowthorne, accompanied by their wives were taken for an outing to Southsea. After a pleasant tour of Southsea and the Dock yards, where Navy Week is being observed, the party, numbering 19, were entertained to tea by Mr. and Mrs. Jefferies at the Corner House Café, Portsmouth.

LIMELIGHT DANCE FOR HOSPITAL

The limelight dance held on Saturday night in the Drill Hall by the Wokingham Hospital Committee was a pronounced success, and reached the record for the dances organised by this committee. The profit is estimated at £8. The M.C.s were Messrs. G.W. Ballard (chairman) and Mr. F. Moles, while the hon. secretary is Mr. G. Gough of Embrook. The Territorial authorities lent the hall free of charge.

WOKINGHAM TERRITORIALS IN CAMP

"D" (Wokingham) Co., 4th Batt. The Royal Berkshire Regiment, under Brevet Major A.C. Hughes, T.D. Lieut. J.S. Ford, D.F.C., second Lieut. C.W. Booth and Second Lieut. C.F. Watson, returned to Wokingham from annual training at Swanage on Sunday.

The company was favoured with the weather during camp, and though some found the going rather heavy, most agreed, after excellent night operations on a most realistic scale on Friday night last week, when D Co., in conjunction with the rest of the battalion and brigade, scaled the heights of Ballard Down, which were taken by a gallant bayonet charge at dawn, that on the whole had been a most enjoyable camp.

Bathing and the usual delights of a seaside resort were indulged in on the beautiful Dorset coast, and the tanned and bronzed faces of all ranks, as they marched, with band playing from Wokingham Station to the Drill Hall, testifies to that most beneficial of all holidays, where work and play are so happily blended—a Territorial camp.

Before leaving camp the Company bade farewell to Colonel Battock, C.B.E., T.D., who retires this year, with three hearty cheers and musical honours. The Colonel has endeared himself to all by his great personality, energy and consideration during his

long command, and it was a touching moment when the band struck up "Auld Lang Syne" as "C" and "D" Companies marched off.

It seemed a day of leave-takings, for Major Hughes, who has held every rank from private to major, is shortly leaving "D" Co. to take over the position of second in command, and there was nothing staged or rehearsed about the cheers (called for by Mr. Ford) which greeted him on his dismissing the Company for the last time at the Drill Hall on Sunday evening.

Throughout camp "D" Co. maintained its usual high standard of efficiency both on the parade ground and in the field winning the prize for the best-kept mess tent, and a considerable amount of praise from the brigade commander. The crowds which lined the streets and station yard on the Company's return showed the interest taken by the ancient town of Wokingham in its Territorials, an interest which is greatly appreciated.

"D" Co. was fortunate in having with it in camp this year C.S.M. Brant who though on the retired list, has taken a new lease of life and has come back again.

Sat 1st Sept

DEATH OF OCTOGENARIAN

Mr. Samuel Smallbone, a resident, passed away on Saturday at the advanced age of 84 years, at No. 27, Denmark Street, the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. Weston B. Martin, captain of the Wokingham Fire Brigade. Mrs. W.B. Martin is the only child of Mr. Smallbone, who for 25 years was at Pike's Farm, the Home Farm of the Bill Hill Estate, under the late Mr. and Mrs. Leveson-Gower. He retired some years back, and residing in the town was a well-known member of the Wokingham Club, and of St. Paul's Church. The funeral took place on Wednesday at St. Paul's Church, the rector, the Rev. H.M. Walter, officiating.

Sat 8th Sept

FIRE IN DENMARK STREET

At the early hour of 2.20 a.m. on Tuesday, the fire brigade received a call, and with prompt response were, within five minutes, at work on a fire in a top room of No. 19, Denmark Street, recently occupied by Mr. Hopkinson, greengrocer, who had moved out only the previous day. The fire broke out in a top bedroom and had burned through the floor, and had also, through the ceiling, reached the roof. In about an hour's time the fire was extinguished. The first-aid fire appliances carried on the engine again proved invaluable, the brigade being able to start operations while connecting the engine up with the hydrants. Some damage by water was done to the stock on the premises, in addition to the injury by fire to the building.

DEATH OF A WELL-KNOWN AUTHORESS

Miss Arabella Maud Hopkinson, a well-known literary lady of repute, died on Sunday at her residence. "The Glebe," Rectory Road, Wokingham, at the advanced age of 85 years. Miss Hopkinson, some years ago, was a well-known and appreciated authoress, her works including "Sweet Christopher," "Pardon," "The Soldier's Inheritance," "Waiting, and others. She was a well-known contributor to "The Church Times and "Cassell's." She had previously resided at West Court, and at Wyse Hill, Finchampstead, and came to live in Wokingham almost two years ago. She was the seventh child of the late Mr. Charles and Mrs. Hopkinson, of Eccleston Square,

London. The funeral was at All Saints' on Wednesday, the Rev. B. Long (rector) officiating.

Sat 29th Sept

DANCING: SERGT. AND MRS. TANNER IN FINAL

A gala dance was held on Monday in the Drill Hall. Mr. E. Pearce, with his Jolly Quintette Dance Orchestra, was in attendance. In the eliminating contest for the Southern Counties' Waltzing Championship Cup, Sergt.-Instructor T.T. Tanner and Mrs. Tanner came out on top of the 11 couples competing, and therefore qualified for the final, to be held in Reading. The judges were Mr. and Mrs. H. Drewett and Mr. Len Charmaine, who also acted as M.C.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Harvest festival for the two churches were held on Wednesday. At St. Paul's teachers and scholars of the day schools attended the 11.30 a.m. service, conducted by the rector, Rev. H.M. Walter, at which the Rev. A.P. Carr, Vicar of St. Sebastian's, gave the address. The united service for both churches were held in the evening at All Saints'. The anthem was "Thou visited the earth" (Green), and the special preacher was the Rev. G.S. Long, Rector of Aldington, Kent.

CATHOLIC SALE OF WORK

In aid of the funds of the Catholic Church of Corpus Christi, the Terrace, a sale of work was successfully held at the Presbytery, Station Road, on Wednesday last week. Stalls were arranged around the garden and were managed as follows:-Fancy stall: Mrs. and the Misses Ashton. Second-hand stall: the Misses Woodward. Sixpenny stall: Miss Tornito Bernito. Fruit and vegetables: Misses Ellis and Walpole and Mr. O'Connor. Tea on the lawn was served by a number of ladies.

MOTORING ACCIDENT

About 6.40 p.m. on Sunday, a collision between a motor-car and a motor-cycle occurred at Handpost Corner, Finchampstead Road. The motor-cycle owned and driven by Mr. Charles Sully, of Maidenhead, also carried a pillion passenger, Pte. Mallett, of the 2nd. Batt. Royal Tank Corps, stationed at Farnborough. At the turning into Finchampstead Road, an open touring car driven by Mr. Percy Norris, of Clapham, London, collided from the rear with the cycle as the driver, Mr. Sully, was slowing down to take the turning. Both the riders of the cycle sustained injuries-cuts, bruises and shock, and damaged clothing.

SPOON SHOOT REVIVED

Before the war, "D" Company of the 4th Royal Berks held spoon shoots regularly during the summer, and on Sunday this custom was revived. Five rounds with a sighter were fired at 200, 500 and 600 yards.. For the Class A (Marksmen) Spoon, Lce.-Cpl. Hurdwell was first, Major Hughes second, and Sgt. Marriner third. In the Class B Spoon, Lce.-Cpl. Woodley and Pte. Knight shot off after a tie, resulting in a win for Pte. Knight. The Recruits' Spoon was won by Pte. Bickmore. During the morning the ties for the Company Cup, and the Lewis Gun Cup were shot off, the Company Cup being won by Lce.-Cpl. Kew with C.Q.M.S. Longhurst second, and Cpl. Cleeton third. The Lewis Gun cup was won by Pte Bole, with Lce.-Cpl. Woodley second.

Sat 3rd Nov

NEW LONDON ROAD POST OFFICE

The efforts of Councillor Chutter to secure increased postal facilities for the London Road district have met with success, a sub-post office having been opened on Monday, at the shop of Mr. Gale, grocer, at the Corner of London Road and Seaford Road, for the sale of stamps, postal orders and money orders, also for old age pensions, national savings and other business. This will undoubtedly prove a great convenience to the residents in the immediate vicinity. A pillar-box has been erected and telephone calls will also be taken.

Sat 10th Nov

FLYING CLUB'S CONCERT

In aid of the funds of the newly-formed North Road Flying Club of Wokingham, the Cheerio Concert Party gave a capital entertainment to a full house in the Town Hall on Monday.

GUY FAWKES' DAY

The renaissance of Guy Fawkes celebrations all over country was fully shared by Wokingham on Monday. For many years there has not been such a general exhibition of bonfires, nor such continuous detonations of fireworks, which last, on this occasion, were of considerably heavier calibre than usual, and aroused memories of war-time air raids.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

It was announced at the recent prize-giving of the local Territorials ("D" Company, 4th Royal Berks) that Captain and Brevet Major A.C. Hughes, T.D., would be relinquishing command of the Company on October 31st, and that Lieut. S.G. Ford, D.F.C., would assume command. It is satisfactory to note that the Company will again be commanded by an officer with considerable local interests.

1929

Sat 2nd Feb

DEATH OF MR. E.S. BARRY

The death occurred at his residence, 33 Broad Street, Wokingham, on Wednesday night, from heart trouble, of Mr. E. Stephenson Barry, the well-known Wokingham solicitor, after a few days' illness. Mr. Barry, who was a churchwarden at St. Paul's Church, Wokingham, was a partner in the old firm of Cooke Cooper and Barry, Solicitors, of Wokingham, who have been for many years solicitors to the Bear Wood Estate.

TOWN BAND

The Town Band made their usual monthly visit to the men's meeting at St. Paul's School on Sunday, the assistant bandmaster, Mr. R. Milsom, conducting.

At a meeting of the band on Monday it was decided to purchase six more new instruments if terms could be arranged with Messrs. Boosey and Co. This will put the band instrumentally on a similar footing to other bands in the Reading district. Some

of the old instruments are in a deplorable condition and must be renewed. The band is now settling down to steady practice under Mr. Coppuck, of Reading.

Sat 23rd Feb

FLYING CLUB CONCERT

In aid of the funds of the Wokingham North Road Flying Club, a very successful concert was given in the British Legion Hall on Monday by the "Koko Knuts and K[??]," whose services the promoters were fortunate in securing. The programme, an entirely new one, the fourth introduced by the party, gave great satisfaction, especially the skit, entitled "House Hunting."

ILLNESS

There has been a considerable amount of illness in the borough recently, and among the deaths during the past week were those of Mr. C.T. Swadling, builder, of 24 Howard Road, Mr. Andrew Maclean, of 35, London Road, and Mr. G. Fowler, 35, The Terrace; the last named was for 25 years caretaker of St. Paul's Schools, Wokingham, and was well-known to several generations of teachers and scholars who will remember him as an old friend, while the organists of St. Paul's will remember his long and faithful services as an organ blower.

STATION LIGHTED BY CANDLES

On Friday night last week, on account of the extremely severe weather, the supply of gas to the Southern Railway Station completely failed. The only readily available means of illumination was found to be candles, and by this means the booking office, waiting rooms and signal boxes were enabled to carry on. Trouble with gas and water pipes has been general and bursts of the latter frequent. At Shute End House, after a bathroom burst, the running water and spray froze down the outside stack pipe and produced a remarkable effect.

LECTURE SOCIETY

The Lecture Society were favoured on Wednesday in the Town Hall, with a most interesting lantern lecture by Judge Alexander, entitled "A Magistrate in the South Seas." The lecturer, who is the author of "From the Middle Temple to the South Seas," after practising at the English Bar, went out to Fiji to take up the post of Chief Magistrate. In Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, the New Hebrides and the Solomon Islands, he gathered much information as to the native life and character, and he has a wide fund of humorous anecdotes. Subsequently he was appointed Judge of the High Court of Tanganyika. Colonel Sir Leslie Wilson, G.C.I.E., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., presided and the lecturer was heartily thanked for his most interesting lecture.

Sat 9th March

WOKINGHAM GAS WORKS SALE

£35,000 Offer by Yorktown Company

If the Bill at present before Parliament, to authorise the sale of the Wokingham Gas Works to the York Town and Blackwater Gas and Electricity Co., can be got through before the election, the company will probably take over the works in the early autumn of this year. At present the Bill is before the House of Lords, and has passed its second reading; it now enters the Committee stage.

The Wokingham Council recently agreed to sell their gas works to the company, and the sum of about £35,000 will be paid by the company to the Corporation, and this money will operate towards the relief of the rates.

An important clause has been inserted in the Bill that all employees at the Wokingham works of two years' standing and over will be retained on the same rates of pay by the company. As far as the higher officials are concerned provision is made in the Bill for their compensation if they do not continue in their posts. No difference in price is expected.

Sat 4th May

MILITARY BAND SUNDAY CONCERT

The Wokingham Military Band gave a capital free concert on Sunday evening in the Drill Hall under Bandmaster E.J. Newman. The programme met with hearty appreciation.

POLITICAL MEETINGS

The local political parties are getting busy in view of the coming General Election. On Wednesday evening the "Imps" held a meeting in the Town Hall, over which Captain B.J. Fuller presided, and Captain Rex Davies was the speaker. On the same evening in the Drill Hall a meeting was held by the Liberals with a special view to the new women voters. Mrs Stocks, of Reading, was in the chair, and the speaker was Miss Hester Holland.

INDUSTRIAL SUNDAY

The institution known as Industrial Sunday was observed in the town on Sunday, both at All Saints' and at the Baptist church. At All Saints' the evening preacher was the Rev. G.E. Jenkins, of All Saints' Reading. The Mayor (Councillor E.S. Whaley), wearing his chain of office, and accompanied by several members of the council, attended the service, and a number of employers and employees were present. At the Baptist Church Rev. R. Martin Harvey, the pastor, took for his subject "The Lord's Prayer."

TOWN BAND

The Town Band, under Bandmaster Mr. Coppuck, played a capital selection of music in the Market Place on Saturday evening. The cornet solo by Mr. R. Milsom and the trombone solo by Mr. L. Coppuck were outstanding features. The following was the programme:-March, "The Defender"; waltz, "Sweet Memories"; overture, "Windermere"; cornet solo, "Londonderry Air," soloist R. Milsom; foxtrot, "All by Yourself in the Moonlight"; trombone solo, "Drink to me only," soloist L. Coppuck; foxtrot, "I can't give you anything but love"; march, "Irwell Springs." Mr. F. Every is the hon. secretary.

Sat 8th June

BACK FROM AUSTRALIA

Their many friends have just had the pleasure of welcoming home Mr. and Mrs. F.E. Chapman, who have been to Australia, etc., watching the fortunes of their noted son, Mr. A.P.F. Chapman, captain of the English Test Team.

LOCAL IRONMONGER'S SUCCESS

Mr. E. Hole, assistant to Messrs. E.A. Hussey and Son, ironmongers, of the Market Place, has been awarded the diploma of the Incorporated Ironmongers Federation. Mr. Hole obtained a third place for the British Isles. The examination was very comprehensive.

GAS WORKS EMPLOYEES' OUTING

On Saturday the employees of the Corporation Gas Works held, with their friends, their annual outing, travelling in a 20-seater motor-coach to Southsea. The party included Mr. W.P. Tucker (manager), Mr. C.T. May (accountant), Mr. J. Liddiard and Mr. G. Marshall. The party dined together at one of the Southsea Hotels. Some of the members took a sea trip to Ryde (I.O.W.), while others preferred the attractions of beach and pier.

UNUSUAL MOTOR ACCIDENT

On Saturday night, about 10 p.m., Mr. Edwin O. Capon, of "Charfield," Sonning, who was accompanied by his wife, was driving down Shute End, in the direction of Reading, when he saw a man and girl lying on the road in front of his car, with the man's motor-cycle a little distance off. Putting on his brakes to avoid running over them, Mr. Capon's car skidded, and became jammed between the lamp-post and the iron railings of St. Paul's School playground. The car sustained considerable damage to its wings, windscreen and running board. The police, on being called to the spot, found the car jammed between the lamp-post and the school railings, which were much damaged. There were skid marks on the road, which was damp from recent rain. The motor-cyclist and the girl had left the spot. They had not given their names and addresses.

Sat 15th June

SUCCESSFUL SALE

Messrs Cottrell and Butler were successful at their sale on Tuesday last in disposing of the whole of the properties of Mr. John Frith, deceased, and also of the land in Easthampstead Road and Seaford Road, Wokingham.

ACCIDENT

Mr. Edwin O. Capon, of "Charfield," Sonning, writes in regard to the accident in which he was involved on June 1st at Shute End, that the driver of the motor-cycle, Mr. P. Mills, of Windlesham, gave his name and address when asked. Mr. Mills assured him that neither he nor his passenger were injured, and did not leave the scene until he had satisfied himself that neither Mr. Capon nor his wife were injured.

OPPORTUNITIES OF VISITING AMERICA

A holiday visit to Canada and the U.S.A., providing a delightful week each way on board a great Atlantic floating palace with heaps of fun, jolly games, and healthful ozone, and a week or even longer sightseeing, is now possible. The Canadian Pacific have this year inaugurated a number of specially conducted parties at an inclusive fare, relieving members of all worries and responsibility, thereby making it very easy for anyone to take one of these trips. A special representative of the Canadian Pacific will be in attendance at the offices of their local agent, Mr. H.J. Fear, 14a, Broad Street, Wokingham, on Monday and Tuesday, June 17th and 18th, between the hours of 10.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m.

D. C. O. (WOKINGHAM TERRITORIALS)

Weekend Camp

There was a good muster of 60 for the first week-end camp at the usual camping ground in Wiltshire Road (by kind permission of Mr. E.C. Hughes), on Saturday and Sunday. The company was under its company commander (Lieut. Spencer G. Ford, D.F.C., Second Lieut. C. W. Booth, Second Lieut. C.R. Watson, C.S.M. Brant and C.Q.M.S. Longhurst. A large number of those present attended the usual Saturday night dance at the Drill Hall.

On Sunday the company devoted a considerable amount of time to elementary machine-gun training. Colonel Field (C.O.) and Captain Johnson (adjutant) visited the camp on Sunday morning and expressed themselves very pleased at the progress made in so short a time. The company has only recently become a machine-gun company, under the new establishment, and a lot of hard work has been put in by officers, N.C.O.s and men during this winter and spring, in order to become proficient in the handling of this new arm.

The 2nd Battalion now at Aldershot, have given every assistance in their power, and both officers and N.C.O.s have greatly profited by recent courses of instruction there.

On Sunday night an enjoyable concert was held at the Drill Hall, run by the Wokingham Military Band, under the direction of Mr. E.J. Newman, late bandmaster R.A., Woolwich. This band is closely connected with the company. Programme:- All Saints' Glee Party; Cpl. Carter and C.S.M. Brant, songs; Mr. H. Langley, clarinet solo; Miss M. Webb, accompanist.

There are six vacancies for six more recruits before camp, which is being held at Whittington, near Cheltenham, in August.

Sat 6th July

BAND IN JOEL PARK

The Wokingham Military Band, under Mr. R.J. Newman, played a programme of music in Joel Park on Sunday.

VISIT TO THE ZOO

The annual excursion of the Wokingham Corporation employees was held on Saturday, when the Zoological Gardens, London were visited.

INFIRMARY BEAUTY SPOT

The grounds of the Wokingham Infirmary are now looking at their best and are ablaze with hundreds of roses, delphiniums, antirrhinums and geraniums.

LOCAL HISTORY

Mr. A.T. Heelas, member of the Berkshire Archaeological Society, visited the Palmer School and gave the senior scholars an interesting address on "The Historical associations of Wokingham." Mr. H.F. Maidment (head master) thanked Mr. Heelas.

INMATES OUTING

At a meeting of the Wokingham Board of Guardians on Tuesday, the chairman (Mr. E.M. Sturges) thanked two members—Miss Sturges and Mrs. Eustace—for entertaining the women inmates to a tea party and motor drive. The old ladies, he said, thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

DISAPPOINTED SCOUTS AND GUIDES

For their postponed sports meeting (Empire Day being wet) the Scout and Guides of Wokingham assembled on Tuesday evening at "Glebelands," where they had been invited by Sir Leslie and Lady Wilson. The weather again proved unpropitious, rain falling steadily, in consequence of which the meeting was finally abandoned for this year. The band of the R.M.S.O., Bear Wood (under Bandmaster E. Elwood), formed up in the drive, and headed the march on to the lawn, followed by the R.M.S.O. Sea Scouts (Assistant Scoutmaster Green), the Mayor's Own 1st Wokingham Troop of Boy Scouts, the Rovers, the 1st Wokingham Cubs, 2nd Wokingham Cubs; Girl Guides, under District Commissioner Miss De Vitre included, 1st Wokingham Brownies, 3rd Wokingham Brownies, 4th Wokingham Girl Guides (Bear Wood); 3rd Wokingham Wesleyan, 2nd Wokingham Girl Guides, Grosvenor School, and the British Legion children (Mr. A. Andrews). Sir Leslie Wilson and Lady Wilson gave a hearty welcome to the visitors, and Sir Leslie invited them to lemonade and cakes. Mr. A. Andrews thanked Sir Leslie and Lady Wilson for their kind reception. The band of the R.M.S.O. played selections.

A WOKINGHAM FETE Successful Venture for St. Paul's MANY HELPERS

In ideal weather the eighth annual parochial fete of St. Paul's Church, Wokingham was held in the lovely grounds of "Beches," Reading Road, by the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Pountney. The grounds were bedecked with flags and decorations, to which the many coloured stalls and their contents added further variety. The unavoidable absence of Lady Wilson led to a slight modification of the programme, the opening being performed by the Hon. Mrs. Corfield, who was introduced by the Rector, the Rev. H.M. Walter, Mrs. Corfield expressed her regret at Lady Wilson's absence. Church work today was not easy, she said. The clergy needed help. Men and women were slack to seize opportunities. The Church was not a failure, but was tackling problems with courage and faith. People might be failing but not the Church.

Little Miss Phyllis Garrett then presented Mrs. Cornfield with a handsome bouquet.

The opening ceremony took place on the Terrace, after which and during the fete the capital band of the Royal Merchant Seaman's Orphanage, Bear Wood, under Bandmaster E. Elwood (by permission of the governor, Capt. Armitage) played a selection of music.

The stalls and stallholders were as follows:-Fancy stall: Mrs. Walter, assisted by Mrs. De Vitre, Mrs. Pountney, Mrs. Hewitt, Mrs. Henlé, Mrs Harwood, Misses B. and M. Ellison, Tatham, Benson and Henlé; Sweet stall: Mrs. P.O. Watson, Mrs. Nicholson and family, Miss Watson, Fruit, flower and vegetable stall: The Lady Victoria Villiers, Miss Angela Villiers, Miss Isobel Villiers; Basket stall:- Mrs. and Miss Harwood, Miss Hill, Miss Heelas; Miscellaneous stall:-Mrs. Newberry and Mrs. Hyde Parker; Bran tub:-Mrs. Martin and Mrs. E.J. Girdler; Teas:-Miss Desbois, Mrs. Harman, Mrs. Priest, Mrs Houlton, Mrs. Orpen; Mrs. Grant; Mrs. Teakle, Misses Deane, Green, Cox, Gregory, Laumann, Crook, Priest, Tebbitt, Mr. Teakle, Mr. Eamery; Refreshment stall:-Mrs. Houlton, Miss Hermon, Miss E.M. Death, Miss Holloway, Miss Webb; Ices:- Mrs. W. Irving, Mrs. A.E. Bullock, Mrs. E.W. Reeves.

The great feature of the fete was the successful baby show, held in the garden house and in charge of Miss Benson. Dr. Rose was the able judge, while Head Section Leader Miss Cornish and Miss Woodward, of the 28th Berks V.A.D., took charge of the infants.

Miss Curl distributed the prizes, the winners being—Class 1, girls under 1 year: 1, Barbara Phelps; 2, Edna Potter; 3, Vera Woods; h.c.; Phyllis Baker and Phyllis Watts; special for twins, Celia Mead and Alma Mead.

Boys under 1 year:-1, Eric Trendle; 2, Roy Marshall; 3, Stanley White; h.c., Cyril Ford.

Boys and girls under 2:-1, Gordon Brown; 2, Brian Colyer; 3, Ronald Miles; h.c., Kenneth Eamer and Kathleen Hearn.

Boys and girls under 3 years:-1, Cecil Lusted; 2, Allan Sherwood.

The dancing demonstration (in costume) by scholars of St. Paul's Schools, under Miss Butler, was greatly admired, as were the maypole and other performances by the infants of St. Paul's, under Miss Liddiard.

The gentlemen's hat trimming competition, arranged by Mr. H.B. Noyes, provided much amusement, the winners being Mr. Newberry and Mr. Pountney.

In paper-hat making (ladies) the first prize deservedly went to Miss Harwood and the second to Mrs. Sharpe. Mrs. F. Heelas took charge of this very charming competition. Threading the needle race (Mrs. Noyes in charge) was won by: Mrs. Fuller; 2, Miss Cowdery. Other side-shows were nail-driving (in charge, Rev. A.F. Sheffield), won by Mr. Newberry and Mr. Slyfield); and the ladies' section by Mrs. Griffith and Mrs. Sharpe. Bowling (gentlemen) was in charge of Mr. A.H. Jones and Mr. H. May, the winners being Mr. Steele and Mrs. Banks; and the ladies' section, Miss Newman and Miss Collett. Ladies' bowling was in charge of Miss Sargeant and Mrs. Browne. Cake weight guessing was won by Miss E. Ward (whose guess was quite correct) and Mr. Noyes. Potting the cockerel (Messrs Grant and Vass), winner Miss Pountney; 2, Miss Earle, Candle-lighting: (Mrs. Harbour), won by Mrs. Pinkney and Mrs. Boddington; Cork spearing (Mrs. Inglis), won by Mr. Newport and Miss Chivers; cocoanut shies: (Messrs White and Pocock); ball and bucket (Misses Green and Marlow): 1, Mrs. Banks; 2, Mrs. Walker; pony and donkey rides for children, Miss West and helpers; rifle shooting, Mr. E.W. Youdell (winners: 1, Mr. Sadler; 2, Mr. West); quoits (Mr. H.R. Noyes), winners, Mr. Goddard, Mr. P.L. Strange.

The Mayor's Own 1st Wokingham Rover Scouts, under R.M. Cyril Wilson, did excellent service. Little Joan and Pat Nicholson with their sweet trays did a good trade, as did little Miss Noyes with the cake-weight guessing competition.

A capital concert programme, arranged by Mr. A.H. Lusty, A.R.C.O., organist of St. Paul's, was given on the lawn in the evening. Miss D.M. Griffin played a couple of pianoforte solos in excellent style. Mrs. Horne (who as Miss Ricketts has frequently delighted St. Paul's congregation with her sweet singing) sang "Mountain Lovers" and "Bird of love divine."

A male quartet party, Messrs. R. Hosler, J. Orpin, F. Vass and J. Wright, gave several pleasing part songs. "Dr. Foster," "The Joke," "The Sailor's Song," etc., in good style. Mr. R.E. Burkett was as usual a favourite, as was Mr. F.W. Manning in his bass solos. The laughable sketch, "Jackets," was ably acted by the Misses. B. Monger, G. Taylor, T. Rickards and G. Bolton. Miss Barbara Fellows contributed some very pretty solo dances.

The proceedings concluded with a dance in the Drill Hall. Music was supplied by Mr. Ayers' Dance Band, and Mr. Eric Langley was M.C. Refreshments were supplied by the ladies of the fete refreshment stall. Prizes for dancing were won by Miss Newberry and Mr. Burcham, Miss Howard and Mr. Cook.

Upwards of 1,000 visitors patronised the event. Mr. A.E. Priest, hon. secretary of St. Paul's Parochial Church Council and of the fete committee and his hardworking helpers, deserve every congratulation upon their very successful efforts.

The financial result broke all previous records, the profit being over £135.

Sat 14th Sept

ALL-DAY REVELS AT WOKINGHAM CARNIVAL
Huge Crowds Make Merry On Wednesday
MAYOR BUMPED AT BEATING OF THE BOUNDS

The spirit of carnival was held captive for just eighteen hours at Wokingham on Wednesday, when one of the greatest carnivals in the history of the borough was held in aid of a number of local charities.

Everyone for the mayor (Councillor E.S. Whaley) down to the humblest citizen had worked hard, under the direction of that wonderful organiser, Councillor F.S. Perkins, to whom everyone accords praise for the remarkable work he did in making all the arrangements. Everything proceeded smoothly, and there was not a hitch at any time.

Years have passed since Wokingham presented such scenes of gaiety. Everyone and everything seemed decorated. The first to appear were collectors in a variety of fancy dresses, who from the early hours worked with the usual persistency of their kind and continually extracted money from not only the people in Wokingham, but also all who passed through..

As the day wore on the merriment increased. The more serious business of beating the bounds having been done, the town let itself go. Streets were thronged with people intent on extracting the maximum fun from the carnival.

Many wore fancy dress, and, disguised as Zulus, a trio of young men with blackened bodies and only a loin cloth for clothing, held up an astonished and rather embarrassed policeman, while a prehistoric golfer wrapped in furs and with bare legs and spats trudged through the streets with his solitary club on his shoulder.

It was in the evening, however, when the revels reached their highest peak. After a wonderful procession of decorated cars and fancy dresses, nearly two miles long had passed, and darkness had fallen, the whole town was illuminated. A jolly, carefree crowd thronged the streets, through which impromptu bands marched playing popular airs. At Langborough a fair attracted hundreds of people, who stayed until midnight patronising the roundabouts and other amusements. The dances and concerts were highly popular.

Beating the Bounds

As eight o'clock struck in the old tower of the Wokingham Town Hall a bugle call was heard. It was the signal for the day's revels to start. Collectors from all parts arrived and set out to find their prey. Along the main and side roads they ranged, holding up all who passed along the way. Thus the day started in wonderful weather.

The beating of the bounds of the enlarged borough was carried out for the first time. No one can remember when the bounds of Wokingham were beaten before, and it was a large crowd that gathered at the Town Hall to hear the town crier announce that the bounds were to be "well and truly" beaten, and that it should be well impressed on the minds of the younger generation.

Birching and Bumping

A start was made at Toutley Cottages, where two boys were birched by Dr. E. Ward. They bent over the boundary mark while the chastisement was in progress, but an examination afterwards disclosed that they had placed cardboard under their coats. As the strokes were administered the people shouted the words, "This-is-the-borough-boundary."

The same sentence greeted the bumping of the mayor and Mayoress, Supt. Goddard and the heaviest aldermen and councillors upon whom hands could be laid. Dr. Ward stood by with his stethoscope handy in case anyone should be overcome by the method of impressing the boundary marks upon the minds by way of the bodies. The schoolboys' turn came later when they saw their schoolmaster bumped.

After each post had been properly observed a brass plaque was affixed, signalling that the bounds had been beaten in 1929 while Councillor Whaley was Mayor. At many of the posts short speeches were made and Ald. W.T. Martin took advantage of the occasion to tell the children all about the ceremony and to express the hope that the youngsters would grow into councillors in time to come. To express their appreciation the listeners thoroughly bumped the alderman on a post. At one part the Embrook had to be crossed and a boy was held up by his heels and his head ducked into the water. On many posts girls were placed and kissed, there being considerable competition on the part of the males to perform this part of the ceremony.

It was too much to expect the beating party to cover the whole of the twelve miles over which the boundary extended, so the party was split into three. The first, led by Mr. F.W. Stokes and with Mr. H.W. Grummett as guide, went from Toutley through Bear Wood—where the fern and other growth was at times higher than the heads of the beaters—skirting Barkham and out to the Finchampstead Road, near Hand Post Corner. Here they were met by a second party which had started from London Road, near The Plough, under the direction of Mr. A.E. Hall, and with the borough surveyor (Mr. C.W. Marks) as path-finder. They had worked southwards until they reached the railway at Waterloo crossing, and continued by the line to the footbridge at the bottom of Langborough where they turned left and followed the Embrook to Woodcree Farm and thence to Hand Post Corner. The third party took the boundary from Toutley to The Plough, Mr. Harold Watts being the leader and Mr. R. Hunt having the map. Their journey was north of the town and they had to pass through the Embrook on their way.

Alderman P. Sale was the organiser of the ceremony of the beating of the bounds. He appeared in hunting kit and, mounted on a horse, accompanied the party from Toutley to Hand Post Corner. "It is some years since I have been on a horse and I feel jolly sore," he told a "Mercury" representative. "The whole thing was carried through in perfect temper and a thoroughly sporting spirit. We gave all the people, especially the ladies, a good bumping, and I don't think they will forget it for the rest of their lives," he added.

Comic Cricket

There was a cricket match in costume on the Wokingham cricket ground, the teams being the ladies of the Wokingham Lawn Tennis Club and the members of the Wokingham Cricket Club. The cricket club appeared on paper to be a strong team as A.P.F. Chapman was in the unusual position of being reserve. They were handicapped, however, by having to bat with various "utensils," ranging from a beer bottle to a frying pan, and bowl with the wrong arm. The ladies batted first, and after a somewhat strenuous innings, in which there were the minimum number of "faults," managed to score 65. The opening pair for the cricket club, a pair of twins, had to be wheeled to the wicket, and there were cries of dismay when one was given "out." The methods of the players, although being very entertaining, were rather unorthodox, as several players had to be got out several times before they would leave. Other batsmen would insist on taking the ball with them, and on these occasion scenes reminiscent of a Rugby football match would ensue, the batsmen being tackled in true Rugby manner. One member of the cricket-club's side used an umbrella as a bat and

this proved highly effective until it met with misfortune. The men's innings came to an abrupt conclusion when a beer bottle which was being utilised as a bat smashed, and the player was forced to retire, the match ended in a "tie."

For an hour during the afternoon the "Neveravebeens" played the "Neverwillbes" in a comic football match. All players wore costumes reminiscent of Joseph's coat and soon forgot which side they belonged to. Nobody quite knew who won, but one "lady" got so hot that she caught fire and had to be undressed on the field. There were no fights, but all enjoyed themselves.

Wokingham Win the Ankle Competition

Reading ladies skidded badly when they accepted the challenge of the Wokingham ladies to an ankle competition. Fifty-four pairs of ankles were marshalled by the organiser, Mr. Donovan Watts, for judging at the Drill Hall in the afternoon, and Reading could not get in the first three. So good were the Wokingham ankles that as the evening wore on more and more of the legs possessing such shapely ankles were shown. Now the reading ladies are thinking out a campaign for revenge.

Brig.-General M.G. Wilkinson was the judge of the preliminary heat, but it was more than a mere man dare do to decide on the prettiest ankles in the show and expect to get out alive. So Mrs. Long, full of courage, made the final decision from among those who survived the eliminating process. The ladies appeared in fours on a platform behind a screen, which allowed a view of the ankles and lower part of the legs only. The competitors were turned each way so that the ankles could be thoroughly viewed. The best of the quartet had a card put in her shoe and she competed again. A good crowd of interested women--and a few men--viewed the proceedings.

At last the result was made known thus: 1, Mrs. Reed (Wokingham); 2, Mrs. Saunders (Wokingham); 3, Miss Smith (Bracknell).

Fire Brigade Display

The cricket match was followed by a fire brigade display, organised by the Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade, the brigade and lady members of Messrs. Heelas, Sons and Co., Ltd., taking part. The ladies gave exhibitions of hydrant drill--wet and dry--some people finding it very wet. The brigade started their exhibition with showing --very strenuously--the old method of fire fighting, using one of their first fine fire engines, which bears the date 1878. They followed this up by showing the new style of fire fighting, the six man motor drill. The brigade concluded by giving an exhibition of Davy drill, several members of the public descending' from a height by means of .the escape "to) see what it is like."

The Procession

The spectacle of the day was the carnival procession through the streets in the evening. It took half an hour to pass, and Wokingham had never seen anything like it before. Carts, motor-vans, cycles, fire engines, bands, platoons of collectors, all passed before the eyes—a moving picture of pageantry, with all the colours of the spectrum moving in a well-ordered throng.

Leading came Wokingham's first fire fighters—in top hats and with one man carrying a hand pump a little larger than the kind generally used to squirt water on the garden. Wokingham's first engine, a decrepit affair, labelled "1865," followed, and then engines of 1878 to the present day. Next was a tableau of Wokingham's Borough insignia, the acorn, with archers standing beneath the oak leaves.

Chained together came a band of "convicts" making strong music with curious instruments. On top of a lorry was a motley gang with "animals" of peculiar appearance inside; it was "Barmy and Balamb's Menagerie." The oldest motor car

emitting steam, came coughing slowly along, its number being B.C.1. "Misery Farm" was just what it looked. In the rear was Wokingham's flying squad complete with "big four" and finger print department, all in a hansom cab. This – caricature of the police had a wireless aerial and an inspector telephoning frantically. All those who were not teetotallers recognised the decorated, "My favourite flower."

As against the comic, side were some picturesque tableaux, including, "Hiawatha's Wedding," hospital scene, fairyland, "the old woman who lived in a shoe." The prize children in the baby competition looked rather bored from their mother's knees as they went by in a lorry. One car showed the stork's first public visit to Wokingham, with the bird, nurses and babies. Apart from cars there were some original and picturesque dresses; they ranged from a feathered fowl to Red Cross nurse to a bear. As night fell many of the cars were illuminated, and with the lights of the shops and Chinese lanterns the scene was one of animated beauty and joviality.

Dances and Concerts

At the Drill Hall there was a grand carnival ball which continued, until two o'clock in the morning. Balloons and streamers, together with the colourful effect of the dresses, made a wonderful scene as the dancers moved to the strains of the Cabaret Dance Band. The number of tickets issued was strictly limited and there was great competition to secure them. The Mayor and Mayoress and most of the prominent townfolk attended.

Another dance was held at the Town Hall the musicians being the Harmony Orchestra. Here also many people had to be turned away because there was not sufficient room. For those who preferred a concert the "Cheerio" and "Koko Knuts" parties presented an excellent entertainment, which was well-attended.

It was estimated that about 25,000 people were in Wokingham during the day. Everything, however, passed off quite smoothly. There were no accidents and the ambulance men on duty had an easy time. The police, under Supt. Goddard, had no trouble and no one was taken into custody during the day.

Mayor's Satisfaction

The Mayor of Wokingham, discussing the carnival with a "Reading Mercury" representative said: "It was undoubtedly the best Wokingham has ever known. Both the Mayoress and myself thought it wonderful, particularly the carnival procession. Everyone in Wokingham has worked remarkably hard; every sect; club; society, and organisation in the town has helped and worked together for the town's good."

It was authoritatively stated last night that at least £300 would be available for charity as the result of the carnival. There is still some money to come in and all expenses have not yet been dealt with. Very possibly, it was said, £350 or £400 would be realised.

Prize Winners

Prize winners in the various events were as follows:-

Carnival procession.—Decorated motor-cycle.—1, Mrs. Elder; 2, Mr. Giles.

Decorated bicycle.—1, Mr. Eales.

Historical tableaux on wheels.—1, Palmer School (Viking Ship); 2, St. Paul's School (Hiawatha's Wedding); 3, Palmer School (Elfland); 4, Messrs. Froud and Barratt (Messrs. Barmy and Balamb).

Trade demonstration.—1, Messrs. Drake and Mount; 2, Messrs. W.G. Jefferies; 3, Mr. R. Osler; 4, Messrs Sale and Son.

Ladies' costume.—1, Mrs. Carter; 2, Mrs. C. May; 3, Miss Harwood.

Pedestrian's costume.—1, W. Hawkins; 2, T. Lawrence; 3, W. Brant.

Children under 14.—1, Dorothy Gater; 2, Barrie Nicholls; 3, Irene Hutchings.

Decorated pram or Fairy cycle.—1,2 and 3 (tied), Webber, Smith and Heath; 4, L. Millard; 5 and 6 (tied), Osmond and Palmer.

The judges were the Rev. B. Long, Capt. P. Washington, Capt. Woodford, Dr. C.J. Nicholson, Admiral J.B. Eustace, Brig.-General M.G. Wilkinson, Mrs. Howard Palmer, Alderman P. Sale, Major T.W. Greenstreet, Capt. Hart, Mrs. Tee, Mrs. H. M. Wallis, Mrs Shaw, Mr. C. Mansfield, the Misses S. and M. Finch, the Lady Victoria Villiers, Dr. E. Ward, Mr. L.H. Luddington, Lady Hambleton, and the Mayoress.

Hose and shop decorations.—Houses: 1, Mr. Giles, 79 Gipsy Lane; 2, Mr. G. Townsend, Peach Street; 3, Mrs. Band, Rose Street. Shops: 1, Messrs. Foy, Market Place; 2, London Central Meat Co., Peach Street; 3, Messrs. R. Nelson, Broad Street.

The following were successful in the class, Best decorated vehicles: 1, Mr. and Mrs. Donovan Watts; 2, Mr. W.E. Giles; 3, Mr G. Townsend.—the holder of the lucky programme was Mr. F. Clarke, with No. 251.

Clock competition.--Miss Lewington.'

The_ result of a whist drive held in the British Legion Hall was as follows:--
Ladies: 1, Miss Brow; 2, Mrs. Green; 3, Mrs. Martin. Gentlemen: 1, Mr. Griffin; 2, Master P.R. Herring; 3, Mr. Shorter. The M.C. was Mr. A. Sherwood.

“Acorn,” the mystery man of the carnival, was correctly challenged by Miss Elsie Fry, to whom the prize was awarded.

Baby Show

There were 120 entries in the baby show, the results of which were as follows:--

Under one year.—1, Betty Hamblin; 2, Lionel Potter; 3, Beryl Busby; 4, Bridget Withers.

Under two years.—1, Kenneth Willis; 2, Vivienne Leigh; 3, Ronald Chouler; 4, Yvonne Coleman.

Under three years.—1, Peter Jones; 2, Pat Hancock; 3, Robert Proud; 4, Phil Hall.

Under four years.—1, Joan Brackley; 2, Mary Austin; 3, Donald Walker.

Twins.—Alice and Elsie Lawrence.

Motor-Cycle Gymkhana.

An exciting motor-cycle gymkhana on the Town Football ground yielded the following results:--

Musical chairs.—1, Humphries and Slyfield; 2, F. Moulard and Miss Webber.

Musical stalls.—1, B. Wakefield; 2, C. Matthews; 3, R. Halls.

Tilting the bucket.--1, F. Townson; 2, R. Halls

Obstacle race.—1, F. Moreland; 2, F. Townson; 3, C. Morse.

The Side-shows.

The side-shows took place in the Market Square- and round the Town Hall, and aroused great interest.

Those responsible for the side-shows were:--Chairman, Mr. L. S. Parsons; secretary, Mrs. L.S. Parsons; bowling for a pig, Mr. J. Liddiard; bowling for a lady's umbrella, Mrs. Fowler; hoop-la, Mrs. Morris; wheel of fortune, Mrs. F. Jones; Aunt Sally, Mrs. Butcher; guessing stall, Mrs. Arnold; card darts, Miss Rogers; electric board, Miss E. Deane; hidden treasure, Mrs. Grant; penny on squares, Mrs. Brookman; balls in pipes, Mrs. Reynolds; bucket and balls, Mrs. F. Lush; dabbing corks, Miss Youlden; carnival novelties, Miss M. Brown; refreshment stall, Mrs. Webb.

Where the Money Will Go

The proceeds of the day will be devoted to:--

The Royal Berkshire Hospital (Tin Foil Fund for Wokingham Cot).

Wokingham Clinic.

Wokingham Child Welfare Centre.

All Saints' Nursing fund.
St. Paul's Nursing Fund.
Local Detachment of the British Red Cross Society.
British Legion (Wokingham branch) for special cases of distress in Wokingham.
Any other charity approved by executive committee.
Fund for promoting similar day for 1030.

The allocation committee will consist of:

The Rev. B. Long, R.D., Rev. H.M. Walter, Rev. Father Connolly, Rev. R. Martin Harvey, Rev. W. Bird, Dr. E. Ward, Dr. H.F. Curl, Dr. C.J. Nicholson, Dr. E.F. Chapman, Dr. Rose, with the Mayor, Deputy-Mayor, Alderman P. Sale, and hon. joint secretaries.

The Patrons

The list of patrons included the following:--

The Mayor (Councillor E.S. Whaley, Miss Bailey, Mr. A.F.H. Beale, Mr. F.E. Chapman, the Hon. Mrs. Corfield, Mrs. Ogilvy Dalgleish, Mr. L.E. Froud, Captain B.J. Fuller, Colonel Harris St. John, Captain C.R.P. Henderson, Rev. B. Long, M.A., R.D., Colonel H. McConaghey, Mrs. Moseley, Mrs. Howard Palmer, Mr. F.A. Simonds, Mr. F. Swann, Dr. E. Ward, Rt. Hon. Sir Leslie Wilson, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.

The Officers

The officers and committee consisted of the following:-- President and chairman, The mayor; joint hon. secretaries, Councillor F. Stanley Perkins, Councillor G.C. Wilson; hon. treasurer, Councillor G.C. Wilson; executive committee, Mr. J.H. Ellison Clifton, Alderman W.T. Martin, Councillor E.W. Reeves, and chairmen of the following: Carnival, Mr. B. F. Tee; entertainments, Mr. A. Andrews; decorations, publicity and advertising, Councillor F.J. Barrett; music, Bandmaster F. Every; rag, Mr. E.W. Maris; sports, Mr. E.W. Goodchild; refreshments, Mr. A. Staniforth; sideshows, Mr. L.S. Parsons; beating the bounds, Alderman P. Sale; hospital, Mr. G. Gough; baby show, Mrs. J. Webb; Wokingham Fire Brigade, Captain W. Martin.

In addition to the above, the following rendered valuable service:--

Rag secretary, Mr. G. Gough.

House and shop decorations secretary, Miss Spanton; judges of the house and shop decorations, Mr. H. Hall and Mr. E. E. Summers.

Cricket match in costume; Organisers, Mrs. P. Brown, Mr. Leslie Kennedy, Miss Olive Allright, Mr. W. Denton; umpires, Mr. Garnet Hall, Mr. C.W. Fullbrook; stewards, Mr. I.J. Foy, Mr. C.T. Pell and Mr. W.E. Exton.

Ankle competition: Organiser, Mr. Donovan Watts; judges, Dr. C.B. Baxter, B.C.E., surgeon Royal Berkshire Hospital, Brig.-General M.G. Wilkinson, C.B., C.M.G., M.V.O.; steward, Mr. L.G. Wimbleton.

Baby show: organiser, Mrs. J. Webb; judges, Councillor H.F. Curl, Nurse Sandcroft.

Football match in costume: Secretary, Mr. Arthur H. Jones; referee, Mr. Harold Lee, R.A., linesmen, Messrs A.H. Jones and A. Brant; trainer, Mr. H. Frith; stewards, Messrs. E.C. Clarke and R. Hawkins.

Fire brigade display: secretary Mr. C.W. Rawlings.

Motor-cycle events: Secretary, Mr. S. Collins.

The carnival: secretary, Mr. E.C. Pounds; chief marshal, Mr. B.R. Tee; deputy chief marshal, Mr. H. Haddrell.

Carnival ball, Town Hall: Organiser, Councillor Webb; stewards, Messrs A. Prince and P. Dodd.

Carnival ball, Drill Hall: Organiser, Councillor Perkins; M.C.s Councillor Reeves and Mr. Alan H. Perkins; stewards, Messrs. Haddrell, Bowers and G. Gough.

Concert, Church House: stewards, Messrs. B. Smith, F. Reeves and T. Herring.
Whist drive: Organiser, Mr. A. Andrews.
Carnival mystery: Organiser, Mr. G. Webb.
Weight of coal, given by Mr. W.G. Jefferies.
Clock competition, clock presented by Mr. A.E. Crew.

Sat 9th Nov.

DEATH AND FUNERAL OF MRS. A.J. NICHOLSON

Her many friends in Wokingham received with deep regret the news that Mrs. Letitia Marian Nicholson, widow of Mr. Alfred James Nicholson, of "Glebelands," and "High Close," Wokingham, and who herself had resided also at "Chetwood," Wokingham, passed away at her residence, 1, Iverna Gardens, London, aged 73. Her body was cremated, and the ashes were on Saturday brought in a polished wood casket to All Saints', Wokingham with which Mrs. Nicholson had for many years been closely associated. Her three sons, lost in the war since her husband's decease, are commemorated in the roll of honour of All Saints' Church.

The funeral service was conducted by the rector, the Rev. B. Long (R.D.), and Mr. A Yould, F.R.C.O., was at the organ.

(mourners listed)

INTERESTING DISCOVERIES AT SHUTE END

To those who appreciate objects of antiquity, the recent discoveries at Shute End, Wokingham, where the old Grosvenor House School premises are in course of renovation, will prove of exceptional interest. The facings of the building, which looked so solid, have proved, now that the outer covering has been removed, to have been of lath and plaster, both inside and out. The framework, however, is of old oak ship timber, such as is to be seen in many ancient buildings near to the banks of the Thames. The curved shapes of many of these bulky beams tell their own story. There is much of this timber in and around Wokingham; and there is a quantity of it in the building of the old Grosvenor House School at Shute End.

While removing the plaster surfaces of the house front, the men uncovered some interesting carvings, which, at one time, embellished the cabins of the captains and officers of old time men-of-war. In a back room, where the plaster covered up the walls, there have been discovered portions of a Tudor period fire place. The stones are broken, and not any of the fragments are of large size, but it is almost certain that they formed part of the archway of a Tudor fire place of centuries ago. Upon them are carved the Tudor Roses. In this same room, also beneath the modern planked flooring, there has been found the original brick flooring, which was laid when the original house was built. The whole building will be a quaint and picturesque specimen of mediaeval architecture when Messrs. Brown and Son, the builders, who have the work in hand, have completed their operations.

Sat 16th Nov

THE TOWN BAND

The annual meeting of the Town Band was held: on Thursday last week in St. Paul's Parish Room. The president (the Mayor, Councillor E. S. Whaley) presided. The statement of accounts read by the secretary, Mr. F. Avery, showed a satisfactory balance, an increase in income of £40 9s. 6d. above the year 1928, and £48 18s. 2d. above 1927. The Mayor congratulated the band on its progress.

Officials for the coming year were elected as follows: Chairman; Mr. R. Millson; hon. treasurer, Mr. A. Harrison; hon. secretary, Mr. F. Avery; assistant hon. secretary, Mr. H. C. Lewis; collector, Mr. L. Wicks; librarian, Mr. W. Brown; committee, Messrs. F. Woods, E. Culley, W. House and L. Wicks; assistant bandmaster, Mr. R. Millson.

The Mayor made an interesting presentation to Mr. P. Hewett in the shape of a silver-plated cornet in case, given by Messrs. Boosey and Co., the well-known musical instrument makers. Mr. Hewett lost one foot as the result of an accident, and will now be obliged under medical advice to have the other amputated. On Messrs. Boosey being made aware of this fact they immediately made Mr. Hewett a present of the cornet he was playing in the band, in the hope that, it would be a means of assisting him in the future. The hon. secretary was instructed to write and thank Messrs. Boosey on behalf of the Mayor, Mr. Hewett and the members.

It was decided that the band should make a determined attempt to compete at the Crystal Palace. Votes of thanks were accorded the officers for their services.

It may be noted that the band have given their services during –tee past year as follows: To tee_ hospital committees of Wokingham and Binfield at their parades; the British Legion banner dedication service; Wokingham v. Pinewood Sanatorium cricket match; Wokingham Carnival in the evening, and several members afternoon also; and the Mayor's church parade. The band have paid £38 for instruments, while a balance of more than £100 still remains. The band expressed their thanks to their supporters for the generous help given in Joel Park and in the Market Place, and also for private donations.

FIRE CALL

The fire brigade, on Monday evening at 8.28, received a call to a fire at Sindlesham Mills (Messrs. Over Bros.), and in six minutes were at the scene of the outbreak, where they found the engine house and a lean-to attached well alight. Sonning Fire Brigade had also received a call and arrived a few minutes after the Wokingham brigade. Four jets were soon at work, and the fire was extinguished within 20 minutes and all danger was averted. The Wokingham Brigade, who were commanded by Captain W.B. Martin, arrived back at 10 minutes to 12, midnight. The roof of the engine house was burnt off, but the machinery escaped damage.

HERO OF "MARY ROSE."

Mr. Walter Webb, of 2, Wiltshire Road, at- one time P.O. Walter Webb, R.N., of the "Mary Rose" T.B.D.-famous for her gallant action in the North Sea on October 17th, 1917, with two German light cruisers, each of superior strength, in defence of a merchant convoy--was honoured last week with an invitation to the "setting of the model of the fourth 'Mary Rose'" (the gift of Clements Langford, of Riversmount, Melbourne, Australia), in the Cathedral Church of Portsmouth. Mr. Webb wore his five medals, one a decoration from H.M. the King of Rumania, in respect of the "Vth Mary Rose" action in the War, when he was mentioned in despatches for his gallant conduct in cheering the eleven survivors of the 98 crew of the sunk vessel till rescued. Mr. Webb is now steward of the Wokingham British Legion Club and his comrades and town are proud of him.

POPPY DAY

Armistice Day was observed with the usual solemnity, services being held at the churches and wreaths being placed on the various war memorials. The Silence was

again impressively observed. Poppy Day arrangements locally were in the hands of Mrs. J.B. Eustace, assisted by the Hon. Mrs. Corfield and Mrs. Murray (chairman of the local women's section of the British Legion) and Mr. A. Andrews (secretary, men's section). The result was, in view of the severe weather, intensely satisfactory, the sum total of the effort reaching £148 3s. 2d., against £149 1s. 3d. last year. The weather was most boisterous, and collectors had frequently to resort to shelter from the heavy rain and fierce wind, the latter tearing flags to shreds on the Town Hall and All Saints' Church. Flags on the Town Hall parted from their attachments and were not recovered for some hours.

1930

Sat 4th Jan

THRILLING FIRE RESCUES
Girls trapped at Old Wokingham Inn
FUMES AND GAS
Plucky Constable's Fall From Ladder

Thrilling rescues were made at Wokingham early on Thursday morning by the police and firemen when a fire occurred at The Queen's Head, an old inn situated on the Terrace, Reading Road, Wokingham.

In the house were the landlord, Mr. Alfred Dyer, his wife, their four daughters, Hilda, Vera, Eileen and Edna, and Mrs. Dyer's father, Mr. George Brooks, who is 87 years of age. The outbreak occurred in the tap room downstairs, a beam in the chimney taking fire and burning its way into a cupboard by the side of the fireplace. By this cupboard was the gas meter, and as the heat increased the pipes of the meter melted and the gas started to escape.

Probably the beam had been smouldering for some time. When Mr. Dyer awoke he smelt smoke, and at once aroused the rest of the household. The smoke was now increasing in volume, and, together with the gas fumes, made it impossible to get down the stairs. The alarm was given from the window, and the police informed. They at once called the Wokingham Fire Brigade.

POLICEMAN'S PLUCK

P.C. Surman, a young member of the force, was one of the first on the scene, and seeing the people at the windows he rushed to their aid with a ladder. Taking one of the girls—all of whom were in their night attire—in his arms, he was bringing her down the ladder when, while about half-way to the ground, the ladder slipped, and he fell with the girl on top of him. Neither was injured, but although shaken the constable again used the ladder to rescue another girl. Other policemen also ran to the scene and gave assistance.

Within three minutes of receiving the alarm the Wokingham Fire Brigade, under Second Officer F. Knight, were at the fire with their motor pump and escape. Bringing the escape into immediate action the firemen carried down the remaining womenfolk and Mr. Brooks. Mr. Dyer managed to get out by himself. One fireman dashed into the house and prevented the possibility of a gas explosion by turning off the gas at the main.

Dr. F. Curl, who is the hon. surgeon to the brigade, attended the rescued people, but beyond shock and being dazed they were not hurt.

When it was thought that everyone was saved the firemen were suddenly told that one girl was left inside. A fireman put on a smoke helmet and was about to enter the house when the girl appeared from among some neighbours.

TERRIBLE TRAGEDY AVERTED

A graphic account of the outbreak was given to the "Reading Mercury" by Second Officer Knight, who said: "It was just a matter of minutes, or there would have been a terrible tragedy. As we got the people out the flames were just coming through the floor. The smoke was dense—in fact there was far more smoke than flames, but the chief danger was the gas. The people were hanging out of the windows in despair. In another few seconds they would have fallen back inside, and it would have been extraordinarily difficult to get to them. It was all over very quickly, but while it was going on there were some thrilling moments."

WOKINGHAM CHILDREN'S PARTY

Fancy Dress Competition

Many Wokingham children spent a happy evening at the Town Hall on Wednesday, when the second annual children's fancy dress party, organised by the Wokingham Conservative and Unionist Association, was held, the arrangements having been made by the entertainment sub-committee of the association, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Chapman.

The Council Chamber of the Hall, underwent a delightful transformation for this event. The lights were shaded, and multi-coloured streamers hung down from the ceiling. In the work of decoration the committee had the help of three members of the Fire Brigade—Messrs. Maddams, Hawkins and Davis.

Dancing and games occupied the time, and to add to the fun crackers were distributed. The music was provided by the Harmony Dance Band, of Wokingham. Among those who visited the gathering were Captain Henderson (chairman of the association), Mr. Lyddington, the Misses Finch, Miss Curl, Mrs. Watts, and Sir Leslie Wilson, the last-named expressing in a brief speech thanks to all helpers.

The M.C.s were Mr. E. Maris (organising secretary) and Mr. L.S. Parsons. The winning costumes in the fancy dress competition were as follows:-

Boys (under 7 years): 1, Indian; 2, Drummer; 3, John Bull.

Girls (under 7): 1, Dutch Girl; 2, Penguin; 3, White Rose.

Boys (7 to 10): 1, Nigger; 2, Pirate; 3, Red Indian; consolation Huntsman.

Girls (7 to 10): 1, Victorian; 2, Umbrella; 3, Pierette; consolation, Fairy.

Boys (10 to 14): 1, Crusader; 2, Red Indian; 3, Page.

Girls (10 to 14): 1, Egyptian (green veil); 2, "Help yourself"; 3, Cracker; consolation Spanish Girl.

The judging was done by Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Hooper and Mrs. Coston, and the prizes were distributed by Mrs. Chapman. Refreshments were served by a committee of ladies, under the management of Mrs. Pither, and at the conclusion each child was handed a gift of fruit.

Sat 18th Jan

DAMAGE TO A PUBLIC HOUSE AT WOKINGHAM

Reading Man buried in Debris

While the gale on Sunday night was at its height, at about 8.30, two chimney stacks at the Dog and Duck public house, Embrook, near Wokingham, were blown down, and considerable damage done to the house, and a man who was in the kitchen was hurt.

Both chimney stacks were at the back of the house, and were exposed to the full force of the gale. Apparently one about 12 feet in height fell and struck the other chimney, which was about eight feet away, and knocked it down also. The roof of the kitchen, which is situated in a single storeyed part of the house, was completely smashed in, and a large part of the glass roof of a greenhouse was smashed. There was a strong smell of gas, but owing to the large quantity of debris it was impossible to find out where the actual escape was. However, P.C. Wheeler, who was called to the scene, got to the gas meter and turned off the gas.

Mr. Charles Shepperd, of 39, Pitcroft Avenue, Reading, who was hurt, said "There was suddenly a crash and the roof fell on top of me. My head was knocked against the kitchen door, and I was nearly buried. Mr. Aldridge (the licensee) helped me out, and I found, that I had hurt my head and one shoulder and leg

After examination by Dr. Smith, of Wokingham, Mr. Shepperd was able to go home.

Mr. George Aldridge, the licensee, told a "Mercury" reporter that he was in the kitchen at the time and was on the point of going into the garden. "I heard a rumbling, and as I dashed into the garden the kitchen ceiling crashed in."

Mrs. Aldridge said her husband had a narrow escape. She said that they were frightened to go to bed that night as they did not know if any other part of the house had been loosened by the fall of the chimney stacks.

Many roads around Wokingham were blocked for some time owing to the gale.

SOLDIER HIT BY GLASS.

A curious incident occurred in Peach Street, Wokingham. A soldier was passing through the street when he was struck in the chest by a flying pane of glass. He was not hurt, and it could not be discovered where the pane of glass came from, but apparently it had been blown out of a window.

Overthrown trees blocked both Wiltshire Road, Wokingham, and the road to Hurst. At 59, Peach Street, one of the historical gabled houses with projecting upper storey, a row of ridge tiles was blown off its bedding of mortar with a crash into the street, while a similar mishap occurred at the waterworks, Finchampstead Road.

Sat 25th Jan

R.100

The sound of its mighty engines and the appearance of its lines of shimmering beauty attracted general attention at Wokingham on Monday about mid-day when the R.100, the giant airship, circled slowly and majestically over the town for about an hour.

SKELETON OF BABY IN MONTAGU HOUSE

Workmen engaged in repairs at Montagu House, Broad Street, made on Tuesday a gruesome find. Above the ceiling plaster in an attic, between that and the joists, they discovered the skeleton of a baby. Medical examination was unable to disclose whether the child had ever breathed or, if so, what had been the manner of its death. The house is an old one, and very large, with long ranges of rooms. Within the past 60 years it has been occupied as a residence by a clerk to the magistrates, a lady of title, used as a large girls' school, also as a hostel for soldiers billeted in the district during the war

Sat 29th March

DEATH OF MR. ERNEST JEFFREY

The sudden death of Mr. Ernest Jeffrey, late of 52, Langborough Road and of Denmark Street, Wokingham, at his residence in Caversham on Sunday at the age of 46 years came as a great blow to his many friends in Wokingham where he was well respected as an old resident.

He had been for nearly thirty years in the employ of Mr. W.T. Martin both at Wokingham and Reading. Mr. Martin as Mayor in 1912 appointed him one of the four Honorary Constables of the Borough, a position which he had occupied continuously since. He served in the war and was a member of the Wokingham branch of the British Legion.

The funeral service was held at the Wesleyan Church in Rose Street and he was interred in the Free Church burial ground, Reading Road.

MRS. SOPHIA MURDOCH OF BUCKHURST



Mrs. Sophia Murdoch of Buckhurst, Wokingham, is the widow of Mr. Charles Townsend Murdoch D.L., J.P., who, from 1885 to 1892, and again from 1895 to the time of his death in 1898, was Conservative Member of Parliament for Reading.

Daughter of Captain T.H. Speke, who in 1863 discovered the source of the Nile, Mrs. Murdoch's long public service is well known. She has always taken a very keen interest in, and rendered valuable assistance to, the cause of Conservatism in the country, and has been President of the Reading Women's Conservative Association. She was for some time a member of the Grand Council of the Primrose League and President of the Wokingham Women's Conservative Association. During the war and immediately after, Mrs. Murdoch devoted herself with great zeal and public spirit to several causes. She was honorary private secretary to H.R.H. Princess Christian in connection with the Soldiers' and sailors' Help Society in Berkshire, and later became honorary private H.R.H. Princess Helena Victoria, President of the League of Mercy, of which Mrs. Murdoch is a lady vice-president, and in which she takes a particular interest. With the assistance of her friends she was able to raise £3,600 for the provision of six cottage houses for disabled ex-Service men at Wantage. Mrs. Murdoch also acted as President of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association for Berks. She is a life president of the Berkshire operatic club, of which Princess Helena Victoria is Royal Patroness and keenly supports that organisation's efforts to help the hospitals. She is also secretary for the Waifs and Strays Society, the Women's House Mission and other charities, and is president of both the Reading and Wokingham branches of the Needlework Guild Society.

Her beautiful house at Wokingham has often been placed at the disposal of various deserving objects for the furtherance of their work.

Sat 12th April (extract)

LADY WINS AIR RACE
Miss Spooner's Success at Woodley
STUNT FLYING
Opening of Aero Club's Headquarters

The opening of the new club house of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Aero Club .at Woodley Aerodrome near Reading, was made the occasion of an air pageant on Saturday, when between 3,000 and 4,000 spectators watched air races and thrilling stunts by some of the best-known pilots of the day. The clerk of the weather did his best to spoil the event, a morning's rain not having improved the state of the ground nor made flying conditions admirable. Fog over London also prevented the No.600 Auxiliary Squadron of the Royal Air Force from putting in an appearance, while Mr. John Tranium, the intrepid Parachutist, who was to have descended from a Desoutter air taxi, was unable to get across from the continent in time to put in an appearance. Despite these handicaps, the Pageant was carried through with success.

Air Vice-Marshal Sir Sefton Brancker, A.F.C., the Director of Civil Aviation, was to have visited the pageant by air, but he was prevented from flying by the weather, and he made the journey by road. Other distinguished visitors included Lieut.-Colonel the Right Hon. Sir Leslie Wilson, Captain the Right Hon. F. E. Guest (formerly Secretary of State for Air), Lord Wyfold, Miss Diana Guest, Miss Ariel Lee, Miss Beatrix Thompson, Colonel Thwaites, of the Air League, Sir Charles Russell, Mr. Arthur Russell, Col. A.F. Poulton (Chief Constable of Berkshire), Mr. T. A. Burrows (Chief Constable of Reading), Mr. W.J. Fryer, Mr. L. Noel Sutton, Miss "Toby" Cribb (hon. secretary of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Aero Club), etc.

The new club house was formally opened by Sir Leslie Wilson. The club house has been well built to suit the needs of the club members. It contains an up-to-date lounge, dining room, bar, dressing rooms, and residential accommodation with an excellent standard of catering. The provision of tennis courts and other social amenities at the club will naturally depend upon the extent of the membership. At the present rate of progress these additional attractions will soon be forthcoming, and will have a particular appeal to the non-flying members.

LADY WINS FIRST RACE

Miss Winifred Spooner, of Wokingham, the intrepid airwoman who has competed in the Air Derby for the King's Cup, won the first race, which was open to all private aircraft owners in Berks, Bucks and Oxon, and a trophy for which was presented by Sir Charles Russell. There were twelve entries altogether, and four competitors appeared in the final—Miss Spooner in a Gipsy Moth, Mr. M. Bainbridge and Mr. A. Jacksman, also in Gipsy Moths, and Mr. H.H. Leach, flying a Martlet. The four competitors taxied across the ground, and Miss Spooner was the first to take off. She increased her lead with every lap of six miles, and finished the 30 miles course in 18 mins. 38 secs., 11 seconds before the next competitor, Mr. M. Bainbridge. Her "ground" speed was 106½ miles an hour, while that of Mr. Bainbridge was 105½ m.p.h. Mr. A. Jacksman finished third, and Mr. H.H. Leach brought up the tail end.

Sat 19th July

SUCCESSFUL FETE

The fete held at High Close to raise funds for the purchase of cottages adjacent to All Saints' Church, to be acquired by the parochial council, proved highly satisfactory. The takings amounted to £268 7s. 4d., while expenses were £34 14s. 3d., so that there was a satisfactory profit of £233 13s. 1d.

PALMER SCHOOL OUTING

On Friday last week a party of 150 scholars and teachers from the Palmer School (with Mr. H.F. Maidment, head master, in charge) journeyed to London in seven

motor-coaches and visited St. Paul's, Westminster Abbey and the Zoo, where they had tea. All arrangements worked smoothly.

TEST MATCH BY TELEVISION

On Saturday All Saints choir members, with Mr. A. Yould in charge, journeyed by motor-coaches to Brighton. The Rev. K. St. C. Thomas accompanied the party. Cricket enthusiasts of the party spent a long time in enjoyment of the television screen, which presented the Test match to an audience of some thousands.

SINGULAR ACCIDENT TO HORSE AND MAN

On Tuesday afternoon a workman was engaged in building up a manhole at a depth of 12 feet in Finchampstead Road, when suddenly the light at the top was blocked and a falling body descended upon him. The intruder was a carthorse, which became wedged in the hole. Fortunately the man escaped serious injury, but was cut about the face. He crawled out from the horse's legs, mounted its back and emerged from the hole. The horse was cut about the head, but not badly. Attached to a cart, with a man seated in the cart driving, it seems to have walked into the hole, breaking the shafts. The horse was extricated by filling in the hole until the animal was able to step out at the top.

Sat 6th Sept

THUNDERSTORM

Wokingham experienced an unusually severe thunderstorm on Friday night last week. Commencing about 10 p.m., it continued until past one in the morning. The lightning was of intense brilliance, while the flashes continued with the briefest of intervals throughout. The thunder was very loud. Rain fell heavily. Belated pedestrians enveloped in nerve-trying forked lightning, were in an unenviable position. The storm appears to have done no damage.

DOCTOR'S CAR ABLAZE

Driving his large Rover Six saloon motor-car near Ashridgewood, about seven o'clock on Friday evening last week, Dr. E.F. Smith, of Wokingham, became aware of trouble with the rear petrol tank, which burst into flames. The Wokingham Fire Brigade was called but were hampered by there being no adequate water supply available. The car burnt out by the roadside and a number of the doctor's professional instruments were also destroyed. Dr. Smith, fortunately, escaped injury.

NEW FIRE-FIGHTING APPLIANCE

On the leading Wokingham fire engine at the Carnival procession was one fireman of the Wokingham Brigade, who was equipped with new peroxide rescue apparatus, recently acquired by the brigade. This appliance enables its wearer safely to enter gas, smoke or poison fumes and is therefore, invaluable for rescue work in sewers and chemical works. When fitted and charged the apparatus, which is constructed of rubber, is as impervious to the outer air as a diving suit and this condition will continue for an hour ensuring perfect safety to the wearer.

A release of peppermint when approaching exhaustion of the peroxide, warns the wearer to give the signal for recall or to retire from his post for re-charge. The apparatus enables the wearer to submerge in water or liquid with perfect safety. The Wokingham Brigade has acquired one of three outfits at a cost of £14.

CHARITY CARNIVAL AT WOKINGHAM

Town Given Up to Whole-Hearted Gaiety

PROCESSION, SPORTS, GAY COSTUMES, AND BABY SHOW.

Carnival reigned at Wokingham on Wednesday, when for a day and a night the townspeople and thousands of visitors who went to join in the fun, put aside all thought of work and sleep, and gave themselves up to revelry.

Wokingham had its first carnival last year, for local charities, and so successful and enjoyable the venture that it was decided to hold another Carnival this year, and to provide more amusements than ever. The programme for eighteen hours revelry was drawn up with such ingenuity that the Carnival was proclaimed even more enjoyable than last year. The whole town entered into the happy spirit of the occasion. All day and all night long the town was full of laughing, care-free people, and the Carnival was a credit to Wokingham.

ARREST OF MRS. GRUNDY IN MARKET PLACE

The fun began at 8 a.m., and when the hour struck a bugler heralded the opening of the carnival from the Town Hall. It was the signal for a small army of gay garbed collectors to get busy extracting by tact or torment as much money as they could from motorists and pedestrians. At 8.30 a.m. the diverting business of beating the bounds was gone through, and the crowded day of revelry included a beauty show, a baby show, games and sports, aerobatic display, carnival concerts, carnival dancing, carnival singing, carnival procession—carnival all the way. The streets were thronged with care-free people, while hundreds went to the carnival ground, a large field lent by the Misses Ellison and Mr. Halworth, to be delighted and amused by a succession of attractions such as Wokingham has never known before, not even last year, for the 1930 carnival was bigger and better and more breathless than the last.



The sun l... when the business of beating
the bound... hundreds of people, included
excited school children, were given a day's holiday, gathered at the town Hall at the
ringing of the bell and the stentorian "O-yez, Oyez" of the town crier. The "bumpers"
set off in parties to encircle the boundaries, the Mayor (Ald A.E. Priest) and other
members of the Corporation going to the boundary stone in Reading Road, followed
by motor-coach loads of singing school children. The Mayor donned his chain of
office, and after speaking of the meaning of the ceremony, he was seized by four men,
spreadeagled over the boundary stone, and duly "bumped" with the words, "This is
the Borough boundary," his captors giving him a bump for each word, in order to
impress the fact upon him. For the benefit of photographers, the Mayor was handled
in this undignified manner three times, and then the Deputy Mayor (Councillor E.S.
Whaley) was caught and bumped. More bumping followed, after which the Mayor

took it out of a schoolboy by birching him over the boundary stone. The C'lect Erbs Band, arranged by Mr. E. Maris came along in their motor-lorry and entertained the company with a rip-roaring version of "The Stein Song," and parties were formed and set out right and left to traverse the boundary. The boys in the party which passed over the Emm Brook were ducked in the stream.

At the other end of the town another party was performing the bumping ceremony near the Plough Inn, with Ald. P. Sale as leader, and they divided and struck out in the opposite directions to meet the other two parties. One party met two policemen cycling into the town and duly bumped them. The whole boundary was traversed, and the "bumpers" arrived back in Wokingham about mid-day after jolly cross-country tramps on an invigorating September morning.

TRIAL OF MRS. GRUNDY

Wokingham has no place for Mrs. Grundy and she was roughly handled and severely dealt with when she imposed her gloomy presence on the bright young people of the town. She appeared near Carnival house in Reading Road about 2 p.m. and was immediately beset by a bevy of scantily clad young ladies who chased and harassed her, knocking off her absurd little bonnet and disarranging her black voluminous clothes and big umbrella. The "police" were informed of her presence in the town and she was immediately arrested, taken to the Market Square for trial before the Mayor and a jury of young people

The Mayor presided over the court. The prisoner, Mrs. Grundy, was impersonated by Mr. A. Rogers. Mr. C. Pell was the prosecuting counsel and Mr. Garnett Hall defended.

Mrs. Grundy was charged with causing a disturbance in the streets of Wokingham on Carnival Day, and with making herself a public nuisance. She adopted a hostile and defiant attitude throughout the trial, while the crowd hurled imprecations at her.

A "constable" gave evidence that he saw the troublesome woman causing a disturbance among the carnival workers at Carnival House and finding fault with spectators. She had admitted to being a secret drinker and to having consumed large quantities of beer; she had stolen carnival decorations and sent the fire engine to quell an imaginary fire at Barkham Docks. "She has been a nuisance all her life," said the "constable." "The old camel ought to be thrashed and I ought to be promoted for getting rid of her."

Defending counsel said Mrs. Grundy was one of the most respectable citizens of Wokingham and she had been shocked and horrified to see a number of ladies in bathing costumes, "and they could not have been going to bathe," added counsel, "because there was no bathing place in Wokingham.

Mrs. Grundy did not give evidence herself, but called two half-naked negroes, who testified that the lady had been upset by the sight of the bathing beauties.

Prosecuting counsel urged that the evidence of such people might be accepted in such outlandish places as Barkham and Arborfield, but it could not be accepted for a moment in such highly civilised and "refined" place as Wokingham.

The jury found the prisoner guilty without a moment's hesitation, and before sentencing her the Mayor told her that Wokingham could not tolerate such people. The punishment of the court was that Mrs. Grundy should publicly beg pardon at the feet of the Carnival Queen and take part in the carnival procession, accompanied by two "policemen." She collapsed on hearing the sentence and was carried out of court unconscious.

Then a fairy or something equally feisty took the stage and heralded the approach of the Carnival Queen (Miss Cynthia Potter, aged 11). She arrived with her retinue of

bright young people and was crowned by the Mayoress, after which she drove away with the Mayoress and her retinue in open carriages drawn by horses to the carnival ground in Finchampstead Road, where hundreds of people had gathered for the afternoon's proceedings. The merriment was also continued in the streets of the town, and Wokingham Band played outside the Town Hall.

THE SPORTS

The sportsmen of the town took charge of the afternoon's proceedings and entertained a large number of people in the large meadow at the corner of Finchampstead Road and Wellington Road. There were amusing events of all descriptions, while many found the side-shows and the air very attractive, chairplanes, flying cockerels and a cakewalk proving particularly popular.

The comic football match was organised by the Wokingham Town Football Club, and was said to have been a representation of the great cup final at Wembley. It was certainly a cup final, judging by the vigour displayed by those taking part, but those who wish to see a real football match are still advised to go to Wembley. Whether the fact that the players were in fancy costume prevented them from telling for which side they were playing, it is difficult to say, but, at any rate, it did not seem to matter into which goal the ball went. Neither were their methods stopping opponents according to F.A. rules, but they were none the less effective. Hockey sticks seemed to be in frequent use, while one player found his umbrella extremely useful for stopping the ball. Whatever the result, it was thoroughly enjoyed by players and spectators alike.

THE BEAUTY SHOW

Then came the chief event of the afternoon—the great beauty show. The beauty show was open to both ladies and gentlemen, but they seemed to be all strong, silent men at Wokingham, and rather frightened of the limelight. The ladies, however, determined to show how brave the weaker sex can be on occasions, and there was a bevy of beautiful lasses to be judged. The judges were Councillor Major Greenstreet and Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton, and they made their awards as under: 1, Grace Gudgeon; 2, Eileen Lailey; 3, Mrs. J.A. Walker. The programme stated that Wokingham has always been famous as the home of feminine beauty. Those who saw the beauty show were unanimous in this opinion, including Mr. Donovan Watts, the organiser.

VISIT OF THE "ALL BLACKS."

Having beaten the M.C.C. at cricket, the Wokingham Cricket Club have become so proud of themselves that many of the members have had to buy new hats. These were displayed at the carnival when the club challenged the famous "All Blacks" at Rugger. The term "All Blacks" was rightly used, although the application of a little water might have made a big difference. However, the "All Blacks" proceeded to show the lads of Wokingham how Rugger should be played, and won a hard-fought match by several tries—jolly good tries, in fact. It was a hard-fought match in the sense that both teams turned out in sacks, and the object of the game was not so much to propel the ball towards goal as to disrobe one's opponents or whoever happened to be standing nearby. In fact, according to the rules of the game, which were quite definitely given in the carnival programme, it was stated that the side which lost all its clothing first would be the winners. It was, therefore, quite a judicious warning to spectators not to trespass on the pitch. After the sacks and other articles of clothing had been removed the players settled down to serious play, but it was fairly obvious that the rules of the game had been "slightly" amended for this particular match. It was jolly good fun, however, and the players entered into the spirit of the thing with

zeal. One player wore a straw hat, which suffered a rather untimely fate, while another found a "topper" rather awkward to negotiate in the scrum.

Further fun was provided by the comic obstacle race, the competitors having to go through a tank of water, crawl under a tarpaulin smothered in red ochre, and then burst a bag of flour, not to mention emptying a sack of feathers. This had to be done twice, and a number of the competitors were glad to get into the water afterwards to remove some of their "red skin." The winner of this event was I. Murphy, R. Dunn being second and I. Smith third. A five-miles marathon race was also run and this was won by T. Step, a veteran of over 40 years, second place being gained by E. Watts and third by G. Jones. One competitor started a quarter of an hour late and would have won, for he finished in a faster time than the winner. Seven competitors took part in the race.

Then to complete the programme of sports events, half an hour of thrills was provided by the aerobatic display organised by Messrs. Phillips and Powis Aircraft (Reading), Ltd. Four machines came over and performed a number of stunts, including stalling, banking, spinning, looping the loop and nose diving. Then there was a bombing display' a moving motor car, driven by Mr. Kennedy, in the centre of the arena, being the target. The car was struck on one occasion by the intrepid flyers, who also "bombed" one section of the public thereby causing much amusement. It was a very clever display, and greatly appreciated.

BABY SHOW

The infant section of the population was brought out in full force in the afternoon for the baby show, and 81 sturdy mites kicked and struggled on the scales and made quite as much noise as the carnival revellers in the streets of the town. No fewer than 56?? Of these youngsters were under one year old, and they had the Orthopaedic Clinic all to themselves, the older children being judged at the Town Hall.

Mrs. E.S. Whaley organised the baby show, and the judges were Nurse Sanderoff, Wokingham, and Nurses Derrick, Jeffs and Eustace, of Reading. Members of the local V.A.D. also assisted at the show.

The winning babies were as follows:-

Under one year.-1, Barbara Button; 2, Joan Ann Rogers; 3, Cora Vera McLean; 4, Yvonne Griffiths; 5, Raymond Trevor Bristow.

Under two years.-1, Diana Keeling; 2, Roy Herbert Graves; 3, David Jones.

Under three years:-1, Molly King; 2, Audrey Burt; 2, Kenneth Willis.

Under four years:-1, Cyril Band.

Special prizes for twins.-1, Gilbert and Gwendoline Matthews; 2, Brian and Jean Watts.

CARNIVAL PROCESSION

The carnival reached its climax with the procession in the early evening. All the bizarre characters who had capered around the town during the day were there, and were joined by many others who donned weird and wonderful costumes for the night's revelry. Scores of children were ingeniously dressed for the occasion, and decorated vehicles and tableaux on wheels were a splendid feature of the procession. One of the tableaux represented "Wokingham's Lido, with apologies to Heath Robinson and Wokingham Town Council. Bathing beauties reclined outside the bath, and a tar boiler, towed behind the lorry, was brought into use as a Turkish bath. Another vehicle contained all the characters in "Widdicombe Fair" astride the old grey mare; there were ferocious motor-bandits with bags of gold on the radiator of their car, the skull and crossbones emblazoned on the paintwork and the dread word "blud" aloft on their pennant. A group of carnival spirits walked with a replica of the

town clock, on the face of which were the words "Carnival Time" in place of the numerals. There were a number of ingeniously decorated cycles, including a tricycle cleverly built up with large quantities of heather to represent a small saloon motor car, and in the tableau demonstration of trade. There was nothing better than Mr. Giles' lorry representing painting and sign writing.

Well known ladies and gentlemen in the district acted as judges and marshals, and the prize winners were as follows:-

Decorated vehicle 1, Messrs. Jefferies; 2, Messrs Froude and Barrett; 3, Mr. D. Waite.

Decorated bicycle or tricycle:- 1, Miss Yalden,; 2, Mrs. Davis

Tableau on wheels:- 1. Mr. Thorne

Ladies demonstration of trade:- 1, Mr. Giles; 2, Messrs. Hussey.

Farmer or traders' turnout:- 1, Mr. Loader.

Pedestrian costume ladies:- 1, Mrs. Valleley; 2, Mrs. Cox; 3, Miss Ravening; h.c., Mrs. Carter. Gentlemen:- 1, Messrs Glead; 2, Mr. Barker; 3, Mr. Eales. Boys:- 1, H. Reed; 2, Donald Abraham; 3, Bobby Simmonds; h.c., K. Pester. Girls: 1, Cissie Douglas; 2, Flossie Brant; 3, F. Hopkins; h.c., M. Heasman.

Children's' paper costumes:- 1, Joyce Collyer; 2, Horace Simmonds; 3, Elsie Slade.

Pram or fairy cycle:- (children):- 1, L. Millard; 2, Elsie Chandler.

Open class:- 1, Messrs. Hare and Webb; 2, Mr. Trill.

The Wokingham Town and British Military Bands were in the procession with the Wokingham and Hartley Wintney Fire Brigades and the local ambulance and V.A.D. representatives, and near the head of the procession the Carnival Queen drove in her carriage with a maid of honour, while her other attendants followed in the Mayor's car.

BATTLE OF CONFETTI

After parading the town the procession assembled in the Market Square, where confetti fell like snow among a dense crowd of people. The Mayoress presented the carnival prizes, and later when darkness fell and the town was lit up with coloured lights there was hearty community singing. People continued the revelries in the streets until a late hour, while others enjoyed themselves at the carnival fair. Hundreds more attended the carnival whist drive at the British Legion Hall and the carnival dances at the Town Hall, where the Harmony Orchestra played, and the Drill Hall, where the Cabaret Dance Band played. At the Drill Hall a demonstration dance was given by Miss H. Dyer and Mr. I. Carter. Dancing was continued until 2 a.m.

CARNIVAL POSERS

One incident of the day was the search for Mr. and Mrs. Carnival Spirit, who were reported missing from their home at 1 p.m. A description was posted outside the Town Hall and a reward was offered for the persons who correctly challenged them. It was helpful to the searchers to know that Mr. Carnival Spirit had a liking for treacle tart, Omar Khayyam and the ladies, while his wife was partial to spaghetti and "googly" bowlers. Scores of people were challenged as being the missing persons, and the competition developed into a very amusing affair. Many people also joined in a search for a pirate's hoard of gold, the hiding place of which was known only to a dashing detective named Dinky Doo. To locate the spot it was necessary to solve a coded sentence, and many people spent a long time hovering round the spot where they thought the treasure lay, trying to solve the riddle. Another treasure competition was held on the carnival ground where "Klondyke claims" were staked.

The biggest lump of coal ever seen in Wokingham was offered for the best guess at its weight. This was given by Mr. G.J. Jeffries, and it was large enough to keep a household fire going for many weeks.

There was also a competition for a clock, given by Mr. A.E. Crew. The clock was wound up by the Mayor on the morning of the carnival, and it will be presented to the person guessing the correct or nearest time of stopping.

Guineas were given for lucky number programmes, and the winners are the holders of programmes numbered 1,885, 3,930 and 287.

The clock competition was won by Mr. E. Langley. Mrs. Eales, the Terrace, Wokingham, won the coal competition. The lump of coal weighed 17 cwts. 50 lbs., and Mrs. Eales guessed within seven pounds of the correct weight. The winning Klondyke claims were 63 and 13, and some adventurer found and carried off the pirate's treasure (a voucher), which has not yet been presented.

PRIZE DECORATIONS

The request of the Decorations Committee that tradespeople and householders should decorate the outside of their premises was readily acceded to. The prize-winners were :-

Decorated shop or window.-1, London Central Meat Co.; 2, Foy's Stores; 3, Misses Berry, Broad Street.

Decorated house.-1, G. Townsend, Peach Street; 2, Mrs Harwood, Rose Street.

Decorated cottage.-1, Mrs. Bass, Denmark Street; 2, Mrs. Band.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

(listed)

Sat 22nd Nov.



Mrs. E.S. Whaley
of Crescent Road, Wokingham.

Mrs. Whaley is the wife of Councillor E.S. Whaley, the Deputy Mayor of Wokingham. She was the Mayoress during the year 1928-29.

During her year of office, the Wokingham Maternity and Child Welfare was formed for Wokingham and the neighbouring district. She is keenly interested in that work and is the hon. secretary of the centre. At the present time there are over 100 children who, from time to time, attend the branch and receive medical attention.

Sat 29th Nov

WOKINGHAM FIRE BRIGADE

Fancy dress Ball

The third annual dress ball of the Wokingham Fire Brigade was held in the Drill Hall, on Monday. The sub-committee of the Brigade, with Engineer E.P. Osmond, its efficient hon., secretary, are to be congratulated upon a brilliant success. The ball was

placed under a typical fire brigade scheme of decoration. Behind the band platform was a striking painting, a replica of the Fire Station, Town Hall; with arch, buttresses, and red doors with fire station and lamp above so marked. Within, behind the glass, was depicted the latest motor engine and escape. Six fine hand-painted panels representing various houses-Dutch, Chinese, Grecian, English, Swiss and Hindoo graced the walls. This artistic work was all done by Fireman R. Giles. Streamers in the national colours, badges of the National Fire Brigade Association, the colours of the Wokingham Brigade (blue and gold), with box lanterns and frieze (kindly loaned by Mr. Cathrow Martin), with evergreens and special lighting made an ideal ballroom, in which trophies of firemen's helmets, and fire-fighting appliances glittered and shone. Music for dancing was supplied by Frank Dyer's Symphonic Dance Orchestra, from Oxford, while Messrs. Perkins Bros. lent a gramophone. The furnishing was done by Mr. T. M. Welch, and the catering by Mr. E.P. Osmond, caterer, of Peach Street. Ex-Insp. Haddrell undertook duty at the door.

The attendance was very large and included the Mayor and Mayoress (Alderman and Mrs. Priest), a very representative gathering of the townspeople, also visitors from Maidenhead Fire Brigade (in uniform) under Third Officer E. Blay, and parties from Hartley Wintney, etc. The costumes were not very numerous, but were of a high order of merit. Very noticeable and beautiful were the ball costumes of ladies not in fancy dress, the vogue of ankle-length skirts predominating. At midnight, Fireman R. Giles introduced into the darkened hall his "Boneyard Blues," in which ghostly skeletons in luminous paint appeared with weird and thrilling effect.

Prizes were won as under:-Most original fancy dress costume in hall, Mrs. E.H. Perkins, "Midget Golf"; best home-made costume, Miss Harwood, "Cleopatra"; ditto gentlemen's, Mr. G. Gough, "Spaniard"; best hired costume (1) Miss A. Miller, "Victorian Lady," (2) Miss K. Miller, "17th Century"; consolation prize, little Moirs Maddams, "Pineapple."

Other notable costumes were Miss M. Palmer, "Carnival"; Miss Clements, "oranges and Lemons"; Mrs. Orchard, "Spanish Lady"; Mr. Carpenter, "Mexican"; Mr. E.J. Ward, "Russian."

Prizes were given by Mrs. Berry, Mr. and Mrs. Crawley, Alderman W.T. Martin, J.P., Dr. H.F. Curl, Supt. Goddard, Mr. H. Spencer, "A Well-wisher," the Fire Brigade, Mr. Orchard, Mr. Bassett, Mr. F. Hatfield, Mr. H. Bowyer, and Mr. A. E. Crew.

Lady Wilson (with whom was Sir Leslie Wilson) distributed the prizes.

Captain W.B. Martin thanked Lady Wilson and Sir Leslie Wilson for their interest and presence. He also expressed thanks on behalf of the brigade to all who had worked and contributed to the success of the ball.

Sir Leslie Wilson replying, expressed the pleasure of Lady Wilson and himself to be there. The brigade were deserving of every support, and he hoped those who had not yet commenced to support the brigade would hurry up and do so. (Applause.)

Sat 27th Dec

WOKINGHAM'S WELCOME
Civic reception for Miss Spooner
MAYOR'S TRIBUTE

Cheers for "Daring and Plucky Lady."

The people of Wokingham, summoned at short notice by the town crier, came to the Market Place on Monday to honour Miss Spooner, the famous airwoman. On four previous occasions arrangements had been completed to welcome her, but weather

conditions had prevented her from flying from Paris to Wokingham, as she had intended, and eventually she had to travel by train and boat during the week-end, arriving in Wokingham on Sunday, after receiving a great welcome in London at Victoria Station.

With Flying Officer E.C.T. Edwards she was attempting to fly from Croydon to Cape Town, when their machine fell into the sea off Southern Italy and she swam ashore and obtained assistance for her companion.

SEATED ON THE FIRE ENGINE



Miss Spooner made the journey to the Town Hall on the Wokingham fire engine, seated beside the driver and accompanied by Miss D. Wescott, the senior lady member of the council, and with the firemen standing, on the side. Cheers from the crowd announced her arrival, and she had to face a squad of photographers and cinematograph operators.

The Mayor (Ald. A. E. Priest,) in his scarlet robes and holding, his cocked hat, in his hand, advanced to meet her at the Town Hall steps and shook Miss Spooner by the hand, The background was filled by aldermen and councillors, the sergeant at-mace carrying the mace of the borough, and the Town Clerk (Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton, all wearing their robes. Room was also found for Mr. Arthur T. Heelas; who was mainly responsible for the welcome. Miss Spooner all smiles, received a large and beautiful bouquet of red carnations tied with scarlet ribbon.

The town crier having called for silence, the Mayor stepped forward to give, in the name of the town, the welcome which had been arranged. The Mayor said:-

“The pleasure we have to-day has been long delayed, but we have now the opportunity to honour our fellow citizen, Miss Winifred Spooner. It is with pride and gratification we welcome one who has been rightly described a world’s heroine, and a wonderful aviator. Miss Spooner’s name is a household word not only in our land, but also in other parts of the world, and people in other lands have done what we are doing today, but ours is the greater pleasure in giving this honour, because she is one of us and a resident of Wokingham.

SHEER PLUCK AND ENDURANCE

In her recent great attempt to beat the world record flight from Croydon to Cape Town, it was certainly no fault of hers she was unsuccessful, but Miss Spooner

accomplished something even greater, when in the performance of a deed of valour and by sheer pluck and endurance she made such a gallant effort secure help to save the life of her companion. Such an effort, knowing the circumstances as we do calls for the highest admiration and praise, and we are proud to say she belongs to Wokingham. In any further flying attempt or attempts she may make we offer her our sincerest good wishes, and wish her the best of luck and good fortune. Moving spirits have been actively engaged during the past week, endeavouring to bring this about, and determined if anyhow possible that a welcome should be given.

Throughout the land, men, women and children have read the recent story of courage and grit displayed by Miss Spooner, and the town of Wokingham, I have found, wished to pay tribute to one whose bravery and daring have thrilled the world.

Can we picture to ourselves the scene, when the aeroplane carrying this gallant lady and her companion crashed into the sea, the long waiting for help, and then, risking all dangers, the decision to swim for assistance? Truly an act of supreme bravery.

Wokingham can proudly claim its share of heroes and heroines—in more ways than one—of those who have been closely associated with our town. We think of Mr. A.P.F. Chapman, that great English cricket captain, Miss Joan Fry, that great tennis player, and now in a more serious direction, Miss Winifred Spooner. My only hope is that for anything I have said today, Miss Spooner will not be kind enough to invite me to take a flight, as I am not at all keen on taking to the air.

Ladies and gentlemen, may I ask you to join with me in true English fashion in three hearty cheers for the daring and plucky lady we are honouring today?" Led by the Mayor, resounding cheers were given.



MISS SPOONER ON HER FAILURE

Replying, Miss Spooner said: "I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your marvellous welcome and for all the extraordinarily nice and complimentary things which the Mayor has said about me, which I feel that I do not in the least deserve. I am afraid I look on my recent effort as a failure as I did not accomplish what I set out to do, and all these remarks which you have made make me feel somewhat of an imposter, especially as there was no actual decision on my part to swim ashore. Fate decreed that I should come to the surface before the plane, and as there was nothing to cling to there was nothing else for me to do but swim to the shore. However I do really thank you for your welcome."

At an informal gathering in the Council Chamber, Miss Spooner, who was accompanied by her brother, Capt. F.V. Spooner, had the members of the council and the fire brigade presented to her by the Mayor. At the Mayor's call Miss Spooner's

health was drunk, Alderman Priest remarking: "Better luck next time, and we wish you all the best of luck."

Thus was Miss Spooner welcomed back to Wokingham.

NO PLANS FOR FUTURE FLIGHTS

Miss Spooner afterwards told a representative of this paper that she had no plans for future flights at present. Regarding the rumours which were circulated that Miss Spooner was a passenger on the ill-fated R 101, she said: "I cannot understand how that should come to be said. I have heard of many enquiries asking if I am still alive. Perhaps this official welcome will establish the fact that I am really alive."

It was revealed, however, that Miss Spooner took Sir Sefton Brancker from Ipswich to Cardington by air for him to join the airship, and she was one of the last to speak to him before the vessel left. She was a personal friend of Sir Sefton and had frequently piloted 'planes in which he made journeys.

1931

Sat 17th Jan

MISS WINIFRED SPOONER FINED

Why She Likes Flying

The air-woman, Miss Winifred Evelyn Spooner, of 4, South Drive, Wokingham was summoned at the Reading Borough Bench on Wednesday for leaving her car longer than necessary, and also for having no front of rear lights. She admitted all three offences.

P.C. Seager said he saw the car standing in Broad Street, Reading, at four o'clock. At 4.30 it was still there and he placed a warning notice in it. The lights were not switched on, and lighting-up time was nine minutes previous to this. Defendant did not return to the car until 5.45. When she was told that she would be reported Miss Spooner replied, "I have been reported here before for the same offence. I suppose you must report me, I am used to it."

Miss Spooner apologised for the offence and said she was doing business and forgot the time.

Supt. Osborne said there were no previous motoring offences recorded against Miss Spooner in Reading.

The chairman, E.O. Farrer, Esq. "And none in the air?"

Miss Spooner, "There were no policemen in the air. That's why I like it."

She was fined 30s. on the first summons and 8s. for having no lights.

Sat 7th Feb.

DEATH OF THE REV. H.M. WALTER

35 Years at Wokingham.

RURAL DEAN'S GLOWING TRIBUTE

The Rector of St. Paul's, Wokingham, the Rev. Henry Major Walter, M.A., a son of the late John Walter, of Bear Wood, passed away on Saturday morning at 11.30, having succumbed to an attack of bronchitis. On the preceding Sunday week he officiated at his church and preached. A few days later he was laid aside with the illness that proved fatal. He was 81 years of age having been born on January 15th, 1850. He was educated at Eton and Oriel College, Oxford. He was ordained priest in 1878, and, after serving at Ramsgate and St. George's, Hanover Square, he was appointed Rector of Bear Wood in 1891. In 1896 he became Rector of St. Paul's, Wokingham, where he faithfully served for 35 years. He married in 1876 Charlotte Isabella Anson, who, with their son and two daughters, survive him.

At Eton he won distinction at cricket, and years back at Wokingham and district, he frequently enjoyed the national game as a member of the Wokingham cricket Club and the Wokingham Excelsior C.C.

He found time in the midst of his earnest and faithful parish work to act as a member of the Wokingham Police Court Mission, the Wokingham Charity Trustee Board, the local Education Committee of the Berkshire County Council (evening classes), etc. He will be greatly missed for his quiet, unobtrusive generosity, his wonderful voice as a reader, and his true devotion to and friendship with his flock.

Sat 14th Feb

FURTHER POST OFFICE FACILITIES

A public telephone call office and a kiosk for use when the post office is closed have been opened at the Langborough Road Sub-Post Office

PORTRAIT UNVEILED

The Wesleyan Sunday School was crowded on Sunday afternoon with scholars, teachers, parents and friends on the occasion of the unveiling of a large portrait of the late Mr. W.G. Jeffries, who for ten years was the beloved superintendent of the school. The Rev. T. Martin in the presence of Mr. E.H. Perkins, the present superintendent, Mr. H. Brown and other visitors, unveiled the portrait, and spoke of the earnest work and consistent life of the late superintendent. Miss Dorothy Blake received a medal for ten years' perfect attendance.

Sat 21st Feb (extract)

WOKINGHAM CLUB A Gratifying Balance Sheet NEW BOWLING GREEN Generosity of Mrs. Howard Palmer

Mr. R.H.R. Palmer (President) presided at the annual meeting of the Wokingham Club, held in the Concert Hall on Friday last week. There was a good attendance of Members.

The balance sheet, produced by the secretary, Mr. W. Deane, indicated a substantial increase in the bar takings, showing a profit of £271 4s. 3d., an increase of £80 18s. 2d. upon last year's returns. The revenue account showed a balance of £145 11s. in favour of income, after allowing for the deficit last year of £7 15s. 3d. Subscriptions had increased by £16, billiards receipts by £14, and the income from sports and games by £44.

BOWLING GREEN GIFT

The secretary in his report stated that the executive committee had spent £31 in re-laying about two-thirds of the present bowling green with new turves. The lengthening of the green was carried out by some of the members, for which the executive committee was grateful. As the members were aware their president and Mrs. Howard Palmer had kindly provided the club with a new bowling green, and they were defraying all costs in connection with its preparation and laying down. The green was to be named the Howard Palmer bowling green (attached to the Wokingham club). The sincere thanks of the club were due to them for their generosity. The president had also provided for the Concert Hall a kitchen and ladies' cloakroom, which would prove a source of more income to the club. He thanked the bowls and billiards committee for running whist drives, etc., which had brought in considerable income. Great help was afforded to the sports committee by a ladies'

committee, which had rendered much assistance in making the whist drives, etc., a great success. The thanks of the club were due to the president, Mr. R. Palmer, the hon. Auditor, Mr. T.W. Park, the bar stocktaker, Mr. A.J. Cainan, and the librarian, Mr. C. Brant. It was with regret that the committee had to record the death of Mr. William Palmer, a very old member and once a trustee of the club.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

On the proposition of Mr. A. E. Moreland, Mr. R.H.R. Palmer was unanimously re-elected president, Alderman A.E. Priest seconded.

Mr. Palmer, in returning thanks, said he felt it a great honour to be president of the club. It was one of the five organisations in Wokingham, and he liked being president of the club. He also happened to be landlord of the club, but he hoped he did not in any way influence them to elect him president. He had the affairs of the club very much at heart. During the last two or three years the club had really gone ahead; it was very gratifying to all those present, He wanted it clearly understood that he was not giving the bowling green. They had for years been looking for a suitable piece of land near the club, but until recently none had been in the market. He had recently been able to purchase a suitable piece, for which he was charging the club a right and proper rent. The gift was from his mother, who was laying down the bowling green free of charge in memory of his father, Mr. Howard Palmer.

Sat 7th March

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

With regard to the municipal buildings, the borough surveyor reported that the work of redecorating the bank room, committee room and the auctioneer's room had been carried out, the material having been given by Alderman Hughes. It was agreed that the thanks of the council be tendered to Alderman Hughes for his generosity. The borough surveyor reported that the lowest tender, that of Mr. C.K. Foy, for the electric lighting of the Town Hall, had been accepted, and that the work of wiring had been commenced.

Sat 18th April

WOKINGHAM FIRE BRIGADE

Efficiency of the Fire Fighters

A happy evening was spent at Wokingham Town Hall on Tuesday, when the Wokingham Fire Brigade held their annual dinner, the honorary surgeon, Dr. H.F. Curl, presiding over a large gathering. The Mayor (Alderman A.E. Priest) presented a medal for 20 years' service to Engineer Painter and five years' service bars to Capt. Martin, Lt. Knight and Fireman Dearlove. Other brigades represented at the dinner were Reading, Aldershot, Bracknell and Ascot.

Sat 25th April

CHANGE-OVER AT POST OFFICE

At the Post Office on Wednesday, the change-over from the old telephone system and services to the new was made, thus completing the coming into full action of the new Post Office Buildings at the rear of the present public part of the Post Office. The number of subscribers taken over is 460. The new building is strongly built of brick with massive iron girders, is some 90 feet long by 36 feet wide, and covers an area of 3,240 square feet. The ground floor is taken up with a large sorting room. In addition there are two rooms for the use of the P.O. engineers and linesmen. The upper floor is taken up mainly with the telephone system.

The growth of the telephone service necessitated by the rapid expansion of the town and neighbourhood has rendered necessary the provision of a new exchange and the opportunity has been taken to install a new type of equipment known as the "Central Battery." Under this system, the removal by the subscriber of the receiver from its rest calls the exchange and its replacement gives a clearing signal. This new exchange has a capacity to accommodate a maximum of 1,500 subscriber lines.

Messrs. E.C. Hughes and Co., Wokingham, were the builders, their works foreman, Mr. W. Band, of Wokingham, putting in excellent work. The removal of the old exchange will enable the demolition of the remaining old premises to be proceeded with when a new building for public use will be erected in the street front.

Electric lighting has been installed by the Yorktown (Camberley) and District Gas and Electricity Company. The Post Master has invited subscribers to inspect, by arrangement with him, the new premises.

Sat 30th May

MEMORIAL BOWLING GREEN
Handsome Gift to Wokingham Club
OPENING BY MRS. HOWARD PALMER

The opening of the Howard Palmer Bowling Green (attached to the Wokingham Club) was performed on Wednesday by-Mrs. Howard Palmer, widow of the former president of the club. The need for a full-sized bowling green for the club has long been felt, and the necessary ground was purchased by the president of the club, Mr. R.H.R. Palmer, and the cost of laying it down defrayed by his mother, Mrs. Howard Palmer.

Among those present at the opening ceremony were the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham (Ald. And Mrs. A.E. Priest), Sir Leslie Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. R.H.R. Palmer, Mr. G.H. Dowty (chairman of the Executive Committee), Mrs. F.A. Simonds, Mr. and Mrs. Cronshaw, Mr. Noel Sutton, Mr. S. Beale, the Rev. H. Collier, Admiral J.B. Eustace, Mr. J. H. Elliston Clifton, Dr. H.F. Curl, Ald. M. Blake, Mr. Swann, Mr. W. Dimpleby, Mr. F. Palmer, Mr. H. Watts, Mr. C.A. Bullett, Mr. A.E. Hall and many others. Mrs. Howard Palmer was introduced to the members of the executive and bowling committees.

Mr. Howard Palmer's Example

Mr. Dowty extended a welcome to all those present, and Sir Leslie Wilson then formally invited Mrs. Palmer to declare the green open. In doing so, he said they were essentially a very friendly town, and there was no one who did more to promote the social amenities of the town and district than the late Mr. Howard Palmer. He gave a great deal of time in assisting the town and district, and no more striking example was to be found than that club. He purchased the present club premises, and, as president, added a billiards room and concert hall. One of their desires was to have a bowling green, and for that purpose Mr. R.H.R. Palmer purchased the ground, while Mrs. Howard Palmer was responsible for the laying out of it.

Mrs. Howard Palmer then declared the green open and bowled the first wood.

Mr. Dowty thanked Mrs. Palmer for opening the green and for all she had done. He expressed thanks to Mr. R.H.R. Palmer and congratulated him upon his appointment as joint Master of the Garth Hunt. He also thanked Sir Leslie Wilson and Mr. Frank Palmer and his men for the work they had done in erecting the pavilion.

A SURPRISE

Miss Eileen Watts then emerged from a large coloured ball on the green and presented mounted silver jacks to Mrs. Howard Palmer and Mr. R.H.R. Palmer.

Sat 23rd May

READING AERO CLUB (Extract)

Opening of New Headquarters.

A Ladies' Race.

Director of Civil Aviation at Woodley.

Reading's new aero club at Woodley was opened on Saturday by the Director of Civil Aviation (Lieut.-Col F.C. Shelmerdine) in heavy rain. Lieut.-Col Shelmerdine, who flew with Mrs. Shelmerdine from Heston, Middlesex, in a Puss moth, made one of his first official public appearances. A large club-house has been erected by Messrs. Phillips and Powis, and already the club has a good membership.

Lt.-Col and Mrs. Shelmerdine were met by the president of the club, Lord Northesk, who was accompanied by Lady Northesk and the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading, Councillor and Mrs. F.G. Sainsbury. Lieut. Col. Shelmerdine and his wife were made life members of the club.

Over 40 machines arrived, and following the opening there was a programme of aerobatics and stunt flying.

Ladies' Race.

Miss Amy Johnson, Miss Winifred Spooner and Miss Gower (daughter of Sir Robert Gower, M.P.) were among those who entered for the ladies' handicap race for the president's cup. The race was flown in two heats, and the course was from the aerodrome to St. Paul's Church, Wokingham, on to Twyford station and back to the starting place. The competitors had to fly the course one in the heats and twice in the final. The results were: Heat 1: Miss Amy Johnson, 88.5 m.p.h.; 2, Miss Aitken, 87.5 m.p.h.; Miss Crossley, 86 m.p.h. Heat 2: 1, Miss Burr, 78.5 m.p.h.; 2, Miss Gower, 93 m.p.h.; 3, Miss Spooner, 106 m.p.h.; 4, Miss Slade, 93 m.p.h.; 5, Mrs. Young, 90 m.p.h. Final: 1, Miss Aitken, 97.5 m.p.h.; 2, Miss Gower, 95.5 m.p.h.; 3, Miss Amy Johnson, 98.5 m.p.h.; 4, Miss Burr, 79 m.p.h.

Sat 30th May

NO CARNIVAL THIS YEAR

The Mayor of Wokingham presided over a moderately attended meeting of the townspeople to consider the possibility of holding a carnival again this year. Among those present were Councillor Barrett and Councillor Wilson, supporting the Mayor on the platform, councillors E.S. Whaley, F.S. Perkins and W.C. Fullbrook, Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton, Mr. G. Gough (hon. secretary, Wokingham Hospital Committee), Mr. F. Butler (assistant hon. secretary, ditto) and many of the members of that committee, Mr. T. Maris, Mr. F. Every (Town Band), Mr. S. Ayers and a number of ladies.

The Mayor said the object of the meeting was to inquire what help would be forthcoming in the event of a carnival being again held. The promise of £800 to be raised for the Royal Berkshire Hospital through the local committee was a big thing, and one proposal was to have a day set apart to assist that object. The question of a usual carnival in face of that was a difficult matter.

By a considerable majority the meeting decided that a carnival be not held, especially in view of the forthcoming big effort for the hospital.

Sat 13th June

OPENING OF NEW GREEN

Wokingham Bowling Club
GIFT TO THE MAYOR

The official opening of the Wokingham Bowling Club green, Reading Road, took place on Wednesday in the presence of a representative company. The president, Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton, and his committee, with Mr. T.W. Park, hon. secretary and treasurer must have been pleased with the large attendance, which included the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham, Alderman A. E. and Mrs. Priest, Mr. T. Campbell Dykes (president), and following members of the Berks County Bowling Association Executive: Messrs. R. Crosby, T. Tickle, H.V. Bull, P.J. Drew, N. Butler, H.A. Farley, S. Brown, H. Johns, F.T. Thorpe, E. Shuttle, H.Y. Lawrence, W.S. Medcalf, G.E. Hawes, H.E. Bartlett and W.E. Cumming (who later played a game with the home club team). Councillors E.S. Whaley, F.J. Barrett, G.C. Wilson, Dr. Ward, H.E. Bennett, Dr. Curl, Councillor (Mrs.) Griffith, Mr. J. Rolt, K.C., Messrs R.H. Shipp, H. watts, G. Marshall, H. Bowyer, G.S. Reed, W. Wiskson, G. Jenkins, F.W. Cordery, A.J. Briden, S. Burrows, H.G. Breach, C.W. Marks, C. Sparkes, W.J. Breach, Rev. H. Collier, Messrs. W.P. Tucker, H. Painter, H.M. Lewis, T. Payne, F.H.J. Crocker, Shearn, E.J. Scrivener, W.H. Martin, A.J. Priest, etc., and a large number of ladies.

The well-appointed green, with its surrounding trees and flowering shrubs, together with the comfortable pavilion, evoked much commendation.

Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton said he had been asked to invite the Mayor to declare the green open. Mr. Clifton called attention to the excellence of the green admirably laid by the contractors, Messrs Wood and Son, of Taplow, despite enormous difficulties of level etc. He drew attention to the pavilion admirably designed, the architect being their chairman, Mr. H.E. Bennett, who had been indefatigable, and erected by Messrs. Marfell and Co. They thanked Mr. Garnet Hall of his suggested gift of a sun dial. Mr. H.E. Bennett and Mr. T.W. Park, their secretary, had done admirable work and deserved their best thanks. The financial position showed that subscriptions and proceeds of whist drive amounted to £150. The bank had given them the large credit of £600. He welcomed Mr. Campbell Dykes and the visiting team. He was proud indeed that they had come over to open their green. (Applause).

The Mayor said a year ago it was very difficult to say where and how a bowling green could be provided for Wokingham, but the generosity and public spirit of local residents triumphed. Mr. Clifton's help and sympathy had been a very great support and he (the Mayor) endorsed all that had been said about Mr. Bennett and Mr. Park, and the members of the executive. On behalf of the town he thanked all who had worked so hard. The bowling green was not only a great asset to the town in finding pleasure for residents, but it was an attraction to visitors. Mr. Clifton had given a handsome donation and the legal advice necessary as well as generous terms as to the payment of the rent. (Applause).

Gift for the Mayor

Mr. Clifton presented the Mayor with a handsome "jack" on a turned stand, the former bearing a silver plate inscribed: "Wokingham Bowling Club, Opened June 10th 1931. To be used not on this green but for himself because of our personal regard, respect and esteem we have for him." The Mayor suitably acknowledged the gift.

Dr. Curl, in a humorous speech in which he indicated some of the uses to which the gift might not be put, introduced Mr. Campbell Dykes, who presented Mr. Clifton with a similar trophy to the Mayor's. Mr. Dykes remarked that it was the first green he had had the chance of opening. He felt a greater pride in handing the gift to their president (whom he had known many years) on behalf of the Wokingham Bowling

Club. He hoped it would ever remind him of the club's sense of the deep debt it owed to him, and which they could never repay.

Mr. Clifton responded.

Miss Perk then presented the Mayoress with a beautiful circular mirror, with porcelain floral frame, remarking: "The ladies of the committee present the Mayoress with a memento of the opening of the green."

The Mayor then sent down the first wood after which the game v. Berks County Bowling Association proceeded.

Sat 25th July

WOKINGHAM ALL SAINTS
Queen Mary's Delightful Gift
SUCCESSFUL FETE

Varied "Lots" From Notable Donors Auctioned

The annual parochial church fete of All Saints' (Rev. Canon Long, Rural Dean and Rector), under the title of "Fancy Fayre and Fete," was held on Wednesday on the lawn and in the meadow of "High Close" Wiltshire Road, by kind permission of the Hon. Mrs. Corfield, O.B.E. The fete was arranged by the Parochial Church Council and proceeds are to be devoted to parish funds. Mr. T.W. Park is the council and fete hon. secretary.

There was a sale of various articles that had been given. Mrs. Corfield had taken the greatest interest in obtaining gifts from leading people and had been eminently successful.

H.M. the queen graciously sent a gift, which was accompanied by the following letter:-

Sandringham, May 25th, 1931.

Dear Mrs Corfield,-Many thanks for your letter and the Queen commands me to send you at once this little lace cover as a gift for the bazaar on July 22nd for All Saints' Church, Wokingham.

Her Majesty hopes you will be able to sell it.

Yours sincerely,
(Lady) BERTHA DAWKINS,
QUEEN'S GIFT AUCTIONED

At 3.30 p.m., the auction at the various articles of interest was carried out on the lawn by Mr. Harold Watts, bidding being brisk. The Rector (Canon Long) introduced (and thanked) Mr. Watts.

The drawn thread lawn and lace cover, sent by H.M. the Queen, and accompanying letter were first put up to "shilling bids, all paid in," which realised £2 1s. 0d. Then, put up for actual auction, it was secured by Miss E.M. Greenside at £5, that lady promptly handed it back to Mr. Watts for re-auction, when, after spirited bidding, the Hon. Mrs. Corfield secured it for £5, thus the total realised by Her Majesty's gracious gift was £12 1s. 0d.

A play bill, (date 1840) of a London Opera, printed on silk, and book of words, German and English, surmounted by crown; book reputed to have been used by H.M. Queen Victoria at a performance of "Don Juan" by German Artistes was knocked down to Supt. Goddard for 12s.

A delightful picture of a garden scene, worked in silk by the Hon. Mrs. Corfield, was secured for 18s. by Mrs. F.E. Chapman.

Framed signed photographs of the Archbishop of Canterbury and of the Rt. Hon. Stanley Baldwin sold well.

Mrs Corfield had invited other party leaders to send autographed photographs, but Mr. Baldwin alone had responded.

Other "lots" included a live Chinchilla kitten, a tray made and presented by Mr. Houlton, a Georgian fish slice, vases, etc.

Following the auction, infants of Palmer School were responsible for some very pretty and dainty dances, while girls of the R.M.S.O., Bear Wood (with Miss Webb at the piano) danced in costume with marked skill and grace. This brought the proceedings to the tea interval.

THE STALLHOLDERS

Mrs. Corfield acted as general hon. secretary for stalls, and stallholders, which were as follows: Household: The Hon. Mrs. Corfield and Mrs. Eustace; china and glass: Mrs. Simmonds and Mrs. Rolt; utility: Mothers' Union; "Curiosity": Mrs. Greenfield and Mrs. Palmer; provisions: Miss A.M. Jones and staff of Palmer School; vegetables and fruits: Mrs. T.B. Pither; samples: Miss Hussey; flowers: Miss Long and Mrs. Rodwell; "Beauty": Miss Corfield and Miss Mansfield; "Surprise": Mrs. Chapman and Mrs. Whaley; art gallery: Mrs Palmer; "Superior Jumble": Mr. F.E. Chapman and C.E.M.S.; sweets: Mrs. R.H. Watts and Mrs. Park; ices, minerals and cigarettes: Mothers' Union; bran tub: Miss Feltham; teas and refreshments: Mrs. Long, Mrs. Pigott, Mrs. Breach and Mrs. Harwood; general secretary of stalls: The Hon Mrs. Corfield.

Mr F. Langley was in charge of bowling (men) for pig, given by Mr. Henry Bowyer, and (women) for pig or £1, the gift of Mr. Frank Bowyer. Coker-nut shies, hoop-la, etc., were further attractions.

The evening's programme was carried out in the meadow, and provided keen contests and much appreciated spectacles.

The elementary schools relay race was won by Palmer School with St. Paul's as runners-up.

The "spectacular" relay race by the Girl Guides aroused great interest.

For the "Pearson" Cup, the elementary schools' tug-of-war proved even more exciting than usual. Two teams, St. Paul's and Palmer (holders), competed. The teams were well matched and the tugs were strongly contested. St. Paul's were winners by 2-0. It is five years since St. Paul's last won this cup.

English folk dances performed by a company under Miss Evans, of "Aberfoyle," Wokingham were followed with great interest.

The Rev. K. St. C. Thomas, with megaphone, made an excellent announcer.

The Wokingham Town Band (under Mr. W.J. Tugwell, of Reading), enlivened the proceedings.

The Mayor (Alderman Priest), who was accompanied by the Mayoress, presented the prizes. Results are expected to be very satisfactory. During the day, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides rendered willing and useful service.

Sat 22nd Aug

THE CINEMA NEW PROPRIETOR

The Wokingham Electric Theatre, Broad Street, has changed hands having been purchased by Mr. Andrews, proprietor of the Basingstoke Cinema. It is to be re-opened in the near future and talkies are to be presented.

Sat 26th Sept

EMBROOK CRICKET CLUB

Celebration Dinner

In celebration of the winning of the Maker cricket cup this year, the Embrook Cricket Club held a dinner at the Bush Hotel, Wokingham, on Wednesday. The Mayor of Wokingham, Ald. A.E. Priest, presided and was supported by Councillors C. Wilson, F.S. Perkins, F.J. Barrett, W.C. Fullbrook and Mr. S. Collins (captain).

After the loyal toast the Mayor proposed "The Embrook Cricket Club." He congratulated the club on winning the Maker cup and said they must have had a good side to have beaten the teams they did. They played three matches in the competition. In the first match they beat Wokingham London Road by five wickets, in the semi-final they ousted Newbury by four wickets, and in the final defeated Colebrook's, Reading, by five runs.

ALD. MARTIN'S GARDEN

A Wokingham Beauty Spot

NOVEL FEATURES

Folk Dance Party in Lovely Setting

Under the auspices of the Wokingham centre of the English Folk Dance Society the annual summer party was held by the permission of Alderman W.T. Martin in his delightful garden at Wokingham. Miss B. Bishop is the local hon. secretary and Miss M. Grenside the manager of the branch. Visitors were present from Windsor, Maidenhead and Reading. A capital programme of folk dances was carried out by the Wokingham Committee, for which Miss E. Yalden supplied sufficient piano accompaniment. Miss Bishop thanked Alderman Martin for his kindness in allowing the use of his grounds.

A TRANSFORMATION

The kindly thought of Alderman Martin in allowing the use of his garden to the Wokingham Centre of the English Folk Dance Society provides fitting opportunity for a brief review of this beauty spot. Some few years back the site, lying between Reading Road and Milton Road, was mainly a piece of rough meadow land, with a belt of trees abutting on Milton Road. Acquired by Mr. Martin, the land was laid out by him on a most picturesque and striking plan (the design of his son, Mr. Cathrow Martin) as a beauty spot, and has been the admiration of the hundreds of visitors who, attracted by its fame, have come from far and near to see it.

At the side of his residence, "Fernleigh House," Reading Road, Mr. Martin had a garage built. This, of concrete, carries a flat roof, upon which has been established a "hanging garden," which, in addition to shrubs and flowering plants, actually carries a couple of growing beech trees. Rockery, fountain and lily pond, with some three dozen blooms, form a continuation of the garden, while a cascade and rocky vault, with quaint approaching paths between large boulders, provide an atmosphere of coolness on the sunniest day. A feature is the rock bridge spanning a deep gorge. A small pond, at one time containing goldfish, has been robbed of its inhabitants by the depredation of a kingfisher.

THE ITALIAN GARDEN

Next comes an Italian garden with shaped fish pond in which goldfish and other varieties besport themselves, the larger varieties being perfectly harmless as regards their brilliant companions. These fish are all so tame that at a signal (a stamp on the stone wall of the basin) they swim out in a body to be fed. Quaint statuettes, in recumbent pose, add to the air of peace. A balustrade of old-time red bricks provides a venerable appearance, and seats, also of brick, are built at intervals.

The English garden, which succeeds, is in spring a riot of colour from thousands of bulbs, and in summer the roses, etc., are a pure delight. Lining the main avenues and subsidiary walks are numbers of fine cupressus macrocarpa, alternated with laburnum. A large swimming pool, a sunk water and rock garden, and a belt of forest trees complete a very charming scene of natural decoration assisted by art.

Mr. Martin, to whom the formation and care of the garden is a pleasant and interesting hobby, very generously shares his pleasure with the public, who are invited to walk round it. A box is in evidence, the contents of which benefit the Wokingham War Memorial Clinic.

In addition to the beauties of the garden itself, the view from its mount of St. Paul's Church, etc., is very striking.

Sat 7th Nov

DEATH OF MRS. E.J. GOTELEE

Probably the oldest inhabitant of Wokingham at the time of her decease, Mrs. Emily Jane Gotelee, passed away on Wednesday, aged 96, in fact within a few weeks only of her 97th birthday. She had been ill for several years and had exhibited remarkable patience in suffering. The eldest daughter of the late James Collingwood, of London, she was married in 1881, to William Joseph Gotelee, the well-known stationer, of Market Place, Wokingham, and who, notwithstanding his affliction of blindness, was a noted chess player. He died in 1915. Mrs. Gotelee was of very kindly disposition and courteous character albeit holding her own views very strongly. She was until illness prevented, a devoted worker of St. Paul's, Wokingham, a district visitor, and was the founder of the Mothers' Meeting, which still flourishes in that parish. In politics she was a staunch Conservative.

The funeral is fixed for today (Saturday) at St. Paul's, Wokingham, at 2.30 p.m.

Sat 14th Nov

Re-elected--Hon. Constables: W.J. Pearce, A.H. Jones, H. Dyer and S.J. Callan.

Sergeant-at-Mace: Mr. Sparkes.

Town crier: H. Banks.

Sat 21st Nov

ADDITIONAL POSTAL FACILITIES

Commencing on November 23rd, a day mail delivery of letters and parcels, starting at 11 a.m., will be made at the houses in and adjacent to the Finchampstead Road as far as the Hand Post Corner Post Office. In conjunction with the delivery a collection of letters and parcels from the Hand Post Corner Post Office will be made at 12.30 p.m., and the letter boxes en route to the post office will also be cleared shortly after that hour. The collections will secure same day delivery in Reading and in Wokingham town and rural districts.

Sat 19th Dec.

AIR CRASH AT WOODLEY

Flying Officer Seriously Hurt

A well-known officer in the Royal Air Force, Pilot Officer Douglas Robert Stewart Bader, was severely injured when the machine which he was flying crashed at Reading Aerodrome, Woodley, on Monday. Bader, who was flying a service single-seater bull-dog fighter, had come from Kenley Aerodrome, Surrey. After the smash he was quickly extracted from his machine, and was taken to the Royal Berkshire

Hospital, Reading, with severe injuries. Later in the evening, his right leg had to be amputated. His condition at the time of going to Press was stated to be critical.

An eye-witness of the occurrence, Captain R.L. Bateman, who is chief instructor at the aerodrome, told a "Mercury" reporter: "I was in the club house when I heard the machine flying overhead. I looked out and saw that the pilot was about 200 feet above the ground. At the time his machine was going into a slow roll, and I was rather surprised at such a thing with the machine at that height. I do not think that the pilot realised he was so low. At any rate, as he came off his back he lost height and speed and 'pancaked' to the ground. The engine came away from the machine, whilst the machine itself rolled over for some distance. The pilot was extricated within a couple of minutes of his machine touching the ground.

Captain Bateman added: "We did not know the pilot at Woodley and we have no idea why he came here."

A KEEN SPORTSMAN

Pilot Officer Bader is a well-known sportsman. Although only 21 years of age he is considered one of the finest acrobatic flyers in the R.A.F. and he took a prominent part in the aerobatics event at Hendon Air Pageant last June. He is a fine rugby football player having played for the R.A.F. and the Harlequins, as well as the Surrey XV and the Combined Services XV. He figured at stand-off half-back for the last-named against the Springboks. He has also played cricket for the R.A.F. and has taken part in cross-country races and boxing competitions.

1932

Sat 16th Jan

HOSPITAL AID FILM

The Town Hall was filled to overflowing on Friday last week, when the film, "Never Again," was shown by Captain Flear, local organising secretary, Royal Berkshire Hospital contributor scheme. Mr. A. Prouten presided. The film introduced a love story and the scenes and incidents were "shot" locally. The idea was educational and illustrative of the benefits of the scheme. Mrs. B. Hurlle, the local hon. secretary to the scheme, made efficient arrangements, and Messrs. Perkins Bros. Lent their fine radio-gramophone. Captain Flear and the chairman were thanked for their services.

A collection made to defray expenses, yielded a satisfactory sum.

THE TOWN BAND

The annual meeting of the Wokingham Town Band was held on January 7th, the Mayor (Alderman A.E. Priest, J.P.), who is president of the band, being in the chair. The Mayor expressed pleasure at meeting the band again and seeing a good number present. He had noted that the various concerts, etc., arranged by the band were very sparsely attended by the general public. This showed the necessity for members of the band to be more energetic in the selling of tickets.

The hon. secretary read the statement of accounts for the past year which showed a decrease in income from all sources except the Whit-Monday fete, which revealed an increase of £5 1s. 0½d., the net decrease on the previous year being £9 4s. 9½d. the total income was £76 8s. 0½d., as compared with £85 12s. 10d. the previous year. In 1927, the year before Mr. Every took over the duties of hon. secretary, the income

was £25 17s. 8½d., since then the figures have been--1928 (nine months only), £38 17s. 4d.; 1929, £85 19s. 3½d; 1930, £85 12s. 10d.; 1931, £76 8s. 0½d.

Mr. R. Millson was re-elected chairman and deputy bandmaster; Mr. F. Every did not seek re-election as hon. secretary, and Mr. P. Woods was appointed to that position. Mr. E. Culley and Mr. L. Wicks were chosen as hon. assistant secretaries. Mr. A. Harrison was re-elected treasurer, and Messrs. E. Cully, A. Harrison and L. Wicks were appointed trustees. The hon. secretary was thanked for the way he had kept the accounts and done his work under trying conditions. Mr. White proposed and Mr. Brown seconded a hearty vote of thanks to the Mayor for his attendance and support. This was carried with acclamation.

NEW RECTOR OF ST. PAUL'S. INSTITUTION AND INDUCTION

In the presence of a very large congregation, fully representative, not only of St. Paul's parish, but including large numbers of members from All Saints' and other parishes, Bishop Shaw performed the impressive ceremony of the institution of the new rector, the Rev. T.W. Sergeant, followed by that of induction, in which latter the Archdeacon of Berks. Officiated.

The dual ceremony concluded, the Bishop addressed the large congregation. He referred with thankfulness to the long and honoured connection with the church of their late rector, the Rev. H.M. Walter, who continued his duties till long past the age at which retirement would have been admissible such was his devotion to duty. The way in which the church had kept together and carried on, all working for the common good, was worthy of all praise, and the Bishop expressed thanks to the churchwardens and officers, the members, and to him who had officiated as priest-in-charge during the long time of waiting.

There was toleration and great freedom in the Church of England, yet behind it all those diversities was a common bond, by which all claimed union with the historic Holy Catholic Church, from which the Church of England had never separated, taking its views from no modern leader of school of thought, but from the historic faith. The bond of union was the Lord Jesus Christ.

The organist of the church, Mr. A.H. Lusty, A.R.C.O., A.T.C.L., played suitable voluntaries and the choir was present and, with the organ, led the singing of the hymns, "Thy hand, O God, has guided," "Come, Holy Ghost," and "As with gladness."

The robed clergy present were Canon G.F. Coleridge, Canon W.H. Whiting, Revs. A.P. Carr, W.T. Stubbs, C.H. Donne? Wyndham Lewis, H. Harrington Harris and J. Knight Law.

The churchwardens, Messrs. A.H. Newberry and A.E. Priest, preceded the clerical processions and, assisted by sidesmen, arranged the heating of the congregation.

After the service, the parochial church councillors and sidesmen, by invitation of the churchwardens, met the new rector in the Parish Room.

Sat 27th Feb.

DEATH OF ALD. E. C. HUGHES Valuable Work For Wokingham NOTABLE PUBLIC SERVICE

The news of the death of Alderman Edwin Cecil Hughes, "father" of the Wokingham Town Council and one of the leading business men of the town, was received on Sunday night with deep and widespread regret. Mr. Hughes had suffered

for a long time from a severe and painful illness, but it was only during the last fortnight that his condition had become critical. He passed away at 8.45 p.m. on Sunday.

The late Mr. Hughes had resided in Wokingham for some fifty years. He had, by energy and skill, built up the large business carried on at Albion Works, Wiltshire Road. He was known and respected over a wide area, and the many important works carried out by him included churches, schools, public buildings and good class residences. Latterly he had purchased land in large quantity in Wokingham, and it is to his energy and foresight that much of the development of the town has been due.

Work for Extension.

Of keen foresight, as long ago as 1913 he propounded and introduced a scheme for the extension of the borough, which scheme, though apparently premature, was actually accomplished 14 years later.

Mr. Hughes' municipal career began in 1899, when, at his first bid, he headed the poll. Till 1911 he served continuously as councillor. In that year he was made alderman, which position he held till the time of his decease. He was for three successive years (1900, 1901 and 1902) Mayor. His insight and experience were of vast service to the council on the various committees on which he served, notably the Gas Committee.

Varied Activities.

He was chairman of the Rating Committee, chairman of the Old Age Pensions Urban Sub-committee, also chairman of the Charity Trustees of Wokingham, conducting the business most efficiently and expeditiously, and managing director of the Wokingham and District Water Company. Years ago he took great interest in the Albion Works Football Club and the Wokingham Athletic Club.

He was a leading Freemason; he was P.W.M. of the Downshire Lodge, also P.P.L. of the Downshire Chapter and Preceptor of the Wokingham Lodge of Instruction. He was at one time a member, and always a generous supporter, of the Wokingham Fire Brigade. His son, Major A.C. Hughes, was a member of the Wokingham (M.G.) "D" Coy., 4th Battalion Royal Berks Regiment. (T.), and rose from private to second in command of the battalion. Alderman Hughes thus became closely associated with the Territorial movement, and proved a kind friend to the company, providing grounds for week-end camps, and prizes, under his own name, for shooting competitions.

He leaves a widow, one son, Major A.C. Hughes (T.D.), (assistant county surveyor for Hampshire), and two daughters

The late Alderman Hughes was a vice-president of the Reading and District Ironmongers', Assistants' Association, and at a meeting of the association on Tuesday, those present stood in silence as a tribute to his memory.

Sat 9th April

PRESENTATION TO SERGEANT-INSTRUCTOR TANNER

To mark the esteem in which he is held, upon his leaving the Territorial Company, Sergt.-Instructor T.T. Tanner has been presented by the Territorial Club with a Westminster chiming clock.

CHILDREN'S HOME AND ORPHANAGE

The annual effort for the National Children's Home and Orphanage was made recently in Wokingham. Mrs. W.P. Tucker, Langborough Road, was the organiser. The house-to-house collection realised £16 12s. 11d. and the Daily Day collection £7 18s. 1d., total £24 11s.

RARE VISITOR OR ESCAPED PET

A correspondent write:-On Saturday afternoon a local resident cycling in gipsy Lane, a secluded, deep-cut roadway, saw, near "Aberfoyle," a remarkable bird, apparently of the order of thrushes. Its body was of a bronze shade, and tail was bright yellow in colour. It spread its tail when perching, after the manner of a blackbird, which, in size, it also resembled. The question arises: Was this a rare visitor or an escaped pet?

"GIVE AND TAKE" SALE.

A "Give and Take" sale, organised by Miss Mary Corfield, was held at High Close, Wokingham, on March 31st. People were asked to bring something costing one shilling, and to buy something for the same price. Those who helped to sell were Miss Sybil Mansfield, Miss Nora de Vitre, the Misses Finch, Miss Anne Locke, the Misses Hardy, Mr. Mark Mansfield was at the door, and the tea was arranged by Miss Cooper and Mrs. Barry. The proceeds amounted to £15 5s. 8d., which Miss Mary Corfield paid over to the Church of England Society for Waifs and Strays, for which society she is hon. secretary for the Deanery of Sonning.

DEATH OF OLD RESIDENT

There passed away on Tuesday, at his residence, 22, Oxford Road, Wokingham, Mr. W. Breach, an old resident, aged 85. Mr. Breach was the first bandmaster of the Wokingham Town Band, formed from the choirmen of St. Paul's, Wokingham, in the early 'seventies'. Some forty years ago, Breach's String Band, of which Mr. Breach was founder and conductor, was a musical combination whose concerts were greatly appreciated. Mr. Breach was one of the earliest members of the Wokingham Volunteer Corps. He leaves a family of three sons and three daughters, who are all well-known and respected in the district, as was their father.

Sat 7th May

CONVENT SCHOOL CONCERT

An excellently rendered programme was given by pupils of the Convent School, Easthampstead Road, in the Gymnasium on Saturday afternoon, in aid of funds of La Touraine, the home for delicate children attached to the convent. The singing of the pupils was remarkably good, as heard in "The Music Makers," "Shining Stars," a three-part song, "les Petit bébés," the last named a very attractive item by small children in costume. "Queen Margaret and the Outlaws," as a dramatised recitation, received excellent treatment, Master Raki Robieson, a New Zealander, being especially good as the King. The French play, "Madame Choufleurette," given in French by English pupils, who proved apt both in the language and deportment, caused much amusement, Betty Raeside, as hostess, gave a capital presentation, while Maria Stevens, Anna Mitchell and others, as guests, cleverly sustained their parts. Mr. Readcliffe remarked upon the excellent tone that pervaded the school

MR. F. WHITE IN MOTOR ACCIDENT.

Mr. Frank White, the well-known cattle dealer and slaughterer, of Seaford Road, Wokingham, met with a singular motor accident in the small hours of Wednesday morning. He was driving his motor lorry with a load of meat en route for London, and when near the Wheatsheaf Hotel, Virginia Water, a lorry and trailer, the property of

Messrs. Fairclough, carrying a load of some nine-and-a-half tons of meat collided with him from the rear. The force of the impact was such that both lorries were overturned and the contents scattered over the road. The trailer swung round and knocked the body clean off Mr. White's chassis, literally smashing it into matchwood, and the rear off-wheel of the latter became detached and rolled almost to the front door of the hotel. Much of the lorries' contents was rendered unfit for sale, being covered with oil and grease and splinters of wood. Mr. White sustained cuts and bruises and suffered from shock. It was at first feared he had broken his collar bone, but examination proved this was not so. The driver's mate of the large lorry was injured and taken to Englefield Green Hospital. Messrs. Richardson and Starr, of London Road, Wokingham, were telephoned for, and with their breakdown equipment salvaged the remnants of Mr. White's lorry, which they brought to Wokingham.

Sat 28th May

EMPIRE DAY CELEBRATIONS.

A large combined Empire Day celebration was held at the cricket ground, Wellington Road, on Monday evening at six o'clock, under the auspices of the Wokingham branch of the British Legion (Capt. D. Ward). Others taking part were the Boy Scouts (District Commissioner Colonel H.I.E. Palmer, Scoutmaster D. Goodson and the Rev. A.P. Carr), Girl Guides (District Commissioner Miss S. Denis de Vitre), also Cubs and Brownies and Legion children (Miss Gore Booth). Among those present to witness the parade were Admiral J.B. Eustace, Mrs. Eustace, Mrs. And the Misses West, Mrs. H. Bowyer, etc.

The Mayor (Alderman A.E. Priest) inspected the parade and afterwards took the salute, following which a hollow square was formed, when, in a happy address the Mayor expressed his pleasure at being incited to their Empire Day celebration. To buy British was very fine, but he would further urge them to think British, to speak British and to act British. (Hear, hear). When they remembered the heritage they enjoyed, they would be likely to do so. More was being done for boys and girls now than ever before and he hoped gatherings like this would indeed help them to remember that they were British subjects. He wished them good health and prosperity throughout their lives. (Applause).

Three cheers were then given for the Empire and for the Mayor.

The Town and British Legion Band, conducted by Mr. R. Millson, played a selection of pieces.

A very well contested programme of children's sports followed, after which the Mayoress, Mrs. A.E. Priest, distributed the prizes.

GIRLS' RACES.

75 yards flat race (ages 7-9).-1, D. Heath; 2, V. Seymour.

75 yards flat race (ages 9-11).-1, D. Wells; 2, J. Turner.

100 yards flat race (ages 11-14).-1, C. Potter; 2, J. Berry.

100 yards flat race (over 14).-1, G. Carter; 2, P. Anderson.

High jump (ages 11-13).-1, J. Yardley; 2, J. Berry.

High jump (over 13).-1, G. Carter; 2, P. Anderson.

Team of six in 80 yards relay race. 2nd Wokingham Company.

BOYS' RACES.

75 yards (7-9).-1, C. Sandroff; 2, E. Calvin.

75 yards (9-11).-1, H. Reed; 2, G. Brant.

100 yards (11-14).-1, G. Smith; 2, G. Andrews.

100 yards (over 14).-1, C. Hell; 2, H. Chaney.

80 yards relay (six each team).-1, British Legion team; 2, 2nd Wokingham Cubs.

High jump (13-15).-1, C. Smith; 2, G. Andrews.

High jump (11-13).1, G. Hall; 2,-. Hagley.

Band race.-Bandsman Dance.

The officials were:-Starters, Captain Ward and Mr. G. Hope; judges, General Molloy and Captain H.I.E. Palmer; hon. secretary, Mr. A. Andrews.

SCHOOLS' EMPIRE CELEBRATION.

The usual Empire Day ceremony at the Palmer School was witnessed by a large number of friends of the school, including Mr. F.E. Chapman, Mrs Greenfield and Councillor F.J. Barrett (managers), Miss Greenfield, Mrs. F. Piggott, Miss Swainson, Mrs. And Miss Grenside, Admiral J.B. Eustace, Miss Robinson, Miss V. Robinson, Fraulein L. Ratts, Miss Long, Miss Pearman, etc.

After prayers said by Canon Long, patriotic songs, including "Jerusalem," Kipling's "Children's Song," and "Empire Hymn," (Dr. J.S. Bridges), were sung by the children, Miss Goodship being at the piano. Hoisting the flag, followed by march past and salute, formed a fitting close to the very interesting proceedings.

Lieut.-General P. Molloy, R.M., gave an excellent address. Mr. F.E. Chapman then announced his awards as to the Empire essays, for which he generously gives a cup each to the top boy and girl, and the teachers give ten medals. Mr. Chapman gave the number on the essay, and Mr. Maidment (head master) announced the name of the essayist, (his name not being known to Mr. Chapman. The awards were:-Cups: Girl, Dorothy Hatchings; boy, W. Worner. Medals: Elsie Coombs, A. Shorter, J. Jones, Aileen Longhurst, Joan Exton, Pauline Laily, Kathleen Saunders, J. Harris, May Reader, L. Lane. Mrs. Chapman presented the medals.

St. Paul's School

The Senior School of St. Paul's assembled on Tuesday, and among other interesting functions was a flower service, such as formerly was held in the church on Whit Sunday. The Rector, the Rev. T.W. Sergeant, was present, also Mr. E.E. Summers (manager) and Miss M.I. Ellison, as well as Mr. R. Bagley (head master), who gave an address, and the teaching staff.

Mr. Bagley said they were sending flowers to hospitals in London. Speaking of kindly interest for others, Mr. Bagley referred to a letter he had received from a former pupil, now a wireless operator on board a ship, away in China or elsewhere.

The Rev. T.W. Sergeant then presented 24 C.c. certificates and a large number of special grants to Standard VII scholars for perfect attendance and merit.

Miss Ellison then received gifts of flowers, which were very numerous and beautiful. They will be packed and sent to London hospitals.

The children sang "Jerusalem," "Here, Lord, we offer Thee" and "Vesper," Miss Dennison being at the school organ.

Sat 9th July

WOKINGHAM WOMAN AVIATOR

Miss Spooner Competing in Big Air Race

Miss Winifred Spooner, the well-known airwoman, who lives at Wokingham, is one of the two women pilots who have entered for the King's Cup Air Race, which is being flown in two stages, commencing yesterday (Friday) and finishing today. The machine Miss Spooner is flying is a De Havilland Moth (G-AAYL) and her handicap is 2 hrs. 36 mins. 36 secs.

Brooklands is the starting and finishing point on both days. Yesterday the route was:-Brooklands, Abington, Shoreham, Portsmouth, Bristol, Birmingham, Hooton (Liverpool), Woodford, Leicester, Ipswich, Northampton, Brooklands. Today's route is:- Brooklands, Bristol Northampton, Brooklands, Shoreham, Portsmouth, Bristol, Brooklands.

Yesterday the route passed south-west of Reading on the portion Abington-Shoreham, while the outward and homeward flights to and from Bristol flights to and from Bristol in today's route pass in the vicinity of Wokingham.

Sat 16th July

LARGE BOMBER LANDS

A large bomber of the "K" class, after circling in the district for some time, made a successful landing in Mr. Colebrook's field about 4.15 p.m. on Wednesday. A large number of people crowded into the field and London Road adjacent, and were greatly interested in the machine. The crew numbered five, and, we understand, heavy clouds at low altitude rendered further flying unsafe, hence the descent. Towards evening conditions had changed for the better, and the crew awaited weather reports before re-starting.

A fine ascent was made at nine o'clock, and the machine left in the direction of Salisbury.

Sat 30th July

WOKINGHAM TOWN F.C.

Good Prospects For Next Season.

The annual meeting of the Wokingham Town Football Club was held on Monday, when some 60 members and players attended. The committee room of the Town Hall was not spacious enough and the meeting was transferred to the large hall.

Mr. W.H. Lee read the balance sheet, which showed a balance of approximately £11, with the new pavilion fund at £158, and also a substantial amount in the motor mower fund. The sale of programmes (Mr. J.L. Langley, secretary) was a record one, and Mr. Langley was congratulated on selling well over 2,000 during the season.

The secretary (Mr. H. Hawkins) reported that the club was not so successful last season from the playing point of view, but if that meeting and the number of players wanting to sign on were any guide, then they were in for a very good season.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Dr. H.F. Smith was elected president, and, in reply, regretted that it was necessary to elect a new president through the death of Mr. E.C. Hughes, who had not only been a great friend of the club but of Wokingham as a whole. Continuing, Dr. Smith considered that Wokingham should have a much better team than at present, and urged all the players present to play the game, to do their best for the club, and to raise the standard of play in Wokingham. This season a Wednesday section had been arranged and would run two teams.

Mr. A.H. Jones was elected hon. secretary and treasurer, and other appointments were: Captain, 1st XI, Mr. R. Hawkins; vice-captain ditto, Mr. J. Cooper; captain, 2nd XI, Mr. H. Hawkins; vice-captain ditto, Mr. E. Brooker; hon. secretary and treasurer Wednesday section, Mr. R. Riseley; captain Wednesday 1st XL, Mr. P. Tanner.

Mr. Huckings read the balance sheet of the Peach Street Social Club, which showed a credit of approximately £4 10s. after considerable expenses which would not occur next season. Mr. Huckings and Mr. Boshier were re-elected joint. Hon. secretaries of this club.

Sat 17 Sep

WOKINGHAM CHARITY CARNIVAL

Town's Revels For Local Institutions.

A FULL DAY OF FUN.

Big Procession a Climax to a Lively Effort.

Wokingham threw off its usual air of solemnity and demureness on Wednesday when it held its third charity carnival. The inhabitants and residents from the surrounding district entered into the spirit of the occasion. The carnival was easily the most successful ever run in the town, and the Mayor (Ald. A.E. Priest), who took part in everything that was going on, described it as being a "truly wonderful day."

There were the usual entertaining events, but the big feature was the procession, which easily surpassed anything which had been done before. In fact it was such that it would have done credit to any town.

Various new features were introduced this year and proved highly successful.

CROWNING OF THE CARNIVAL QUEEN

The town seems to have remained more or less immune from the disease of the Yo-Yo, for the entries did not come up to expectations by a long way. Some of the young competitors apparently lost their form when confronted by the crowd, while others made their Yo-Yo's behave, the competitor held hers in her mouth, and no surprise would have been occasioned had someone else dangled theirs from their feet. Mr. F.A. Lyon, the secretary of the Royal Berks Hospital, judged the contest, while the Mayor watched the competitors closely. Afterwards Mr. Lyon and the Mayor were to be seen in the Market Place experimenting with a couple of Yo-Yo's.

Apparently the majority of the inhabitants considered the horticultural show was not in keeping with the spirit of the carnival, for the entries were disappointingly small. The features of this were a beautiful floral display by Messrs. Sale and Son, Ltd. and the tremendous size of some of the apples entered for competition. Mr. Goddard of Bear Wood, had the duty of judging the entries.

CARNIVAL QUEEN CROWNED

The crowning of the Carnival queen, Miss May Staniforth, took place in the Market Place in the early afternoon, the ceremony being performed by the Mayoress. The queen was accompanied by her lady-in-waiting and trainbearers and was greeted by the Mayor and Mayoress. Dressed in white, she made a charming figure, and it seems that no better choice could have been made. After bouquets had been handed out, the queen departed for her flower-bedecked lorry, and the Mayor received his Royal Highness, the Rajah of Muckabout, his wives and some of his forty thieves. After some incoherent babblings these visitors also left, three worthies from Embrook arrived to demand the freedom of that distinguished river-side resort. The arguments of one Monty Brooks, who was apparently worried by his womenfolk, Emma and Cissie Brooks, were not particularly lucid, but he announced that Embrook's inhabitants would no longer be subservient to anyone. The arrival of a somewhat human mare, designated the Mayor-elect of Embrook, apparently influenced the Mayor of Wokingham, for he granted them their charter of freedom. The mare (or Mayor-elect) seemed overjoyed at the result of the negotiations, and the formation of Embrook's corporation will be looked for with lively anticipation.

The Carnival queen and the Mayor and Mayoress then left for the carnival field, where a comic football match was staged. The football was of the "all-in" type, and, in fact, one of the forwards was heard to complain that he had been bitten in several places by an opposing back. Hockey sticks and umbrellas came in useful, but no one seemed to be greatly concerned about the ball. The contestants wore weird garbs,

parts of which they shed as they raced around the field, sometimes chasing the ball and sometimes the unfortunate referee. The referee soon met with an untimely end and was removed in an improvised coffin. The final result seemed to be in doubt, and although no prizes were given, the players received sundry hard knocks and bruises.

The first release of racing pigeons ever held in the district took place from the carnival field, and when 227 birds were liberated they presented a fine spectacle. Thrills and amusement were provided by the Wokingham Motor Club.

COMIC CRICKET

The programme on the Wokingham cricket ground commenced with a cricket match between the girls and lads of Wokingham. The game was the outcome of a long-standing account which the ladies of the Wokingham Tennis Club had to settle with members of the cricket club, and in view of the nature of the struggle carnival day was chosen for the fixture.

The ladies opened the game, and with the first ball one of the batswomen sent an easy catch for a fielder to fumble. Play continued with weapons ranging from frying pans to besoms, one enterprising Jewish gentleman scoring easy runs by catching the ball in a net fixed in a hole in a bat. Umpires there were, but the position was purely honorary, all disputes being settled in good old English style. When there were any balls hit in the long field the spectators were forced to return them, for, after all, a ball is not really essential for a robust game of cricket. After a hard (literally) tussle the girls scored a magnificent victory by half a dozen runs over the lads, who made 43.

Greyhound racing was the next attraction, but the unlooked for climax came when the "hare"—two rabbit-skins on a length of cord—which had been slowed down to cause the dogs to stop, was captured by one of the angry pursuers and hauled away—tow-line as well—to the shelter of the Punch and Judy show. Other racing was brought to an untimely end by the public straying over the course.

First in popularity was the display of the Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade. A car enveloped in smoke made its rumbling way around the arena until its occupant, finding the heat a little unpleasant, attempted in vain to douse the fire with soda water. No more successful were the efforts of a village ancient with perambulator, trelliswork ladder and cow-bell, who assisted in the good work of breaking up the vehicle. At last stalwarts of the Wokingham brigade arrived, and in one glorious deluge settled all differences. Some of the spectators thought the display a "wash-out," however.

THE PROCESSION

The carnival procession in the evening was thought to be the most successful ever held, large crowds thronged the route. Fellow [fold in the page] and members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, who were in a lorry [fold in the page] Mr. R.J. Ward, came the Mayor [fold in the page] in a decorated car. The Carnival Queen, with her retinue followed, while the Orthopaedic Clinic staged a tableau representing the work of the clinic. The winner of the class for the decorated motor-cycle combination had transformed his machine into a realistic representation of an old-world cottage, complete with garden. A tableau entitled "Wokingham Welfare babies" created much amusement, and the children were certainly a healthy-looking lot. A truly rural touch was provided by a tableau called "Hurst—Past and Present." The huntsman, the parson, a "sot" sitting on a pair of stocks, a hale and hearty squire and other characters in village life were all represented. The members of the Town Council found themselves "duplicated" by a number of citizens in robes of office, and preceded by a pompous-looking mace bearer.

NEW 'BUS COMPANY.

Music of a sort was provided by a scavenger's band, and they were followed by a number of people wearing gigantic heads. An ancient-looking vehicle, bearing the inscription "The Sloazel Bust Coy., caused more amusement, and so popular did they prove that shares in the concern are reported to have soared. A gruesome scene was depicted in "Prof. Killem and Coy.'s Hospital," which also advertised the efficaciousness of Wokingham's 100 per cent, pills. Although the pills might have been worth a guinea a box, no one seemed to have the courage to try them.

Whether Embrook likes it or not, Wokingham seems to have taken that village under its maternal wing, and another tableau proclaimed this fact. A placard announced "M. Brook. Wokingham's adopted." What will Embrook have to say about this? A temperance tableau was provided by the local members of the Independent Order of the True Templars.

An unusual item was "Ye Olde Michaelmas Fayre." A lorry had been converted into a pen, in which were a number of very live geese, watched by a farmer's boy. A very modern touch was given by a car converted into a tank, complete with armed bandits and a machine gun.

School children provided a number of charming tableaux, including patriotic, Japanese and rural scenes. They also appeared in a number of striking costumes. "Miss England IV" was a "motor boat" on wheels, and containing a very juvenile "speed king."

The following fire brigades also took part: Wokingham, Windlesham, Hartley Wintney, Bracknell, Wargrave, Pangbourne, Egham, and Frimley and Camberley. One of the Royal Berkshire Hospital ambulances also participated. The bands taking part were the Wokingham Town and British Legion Band., St. Sebastian's Band, and the band of the R.M.S.O.

THE EVENING PROCEEDINGS

During the evening the Mayor distributed the prizes and awards from the platform in the Market Place, and afterwards Mr. Harold Watts auctioned a model bungalow adaptable for a children's doll's house, made and given by Messrs. C. Lunn and Sons, of Wokingham. The bungalow fetched £5.10s. at the first sale, and it was put up five times afterwards, the final price being £1. The total proceeds from the sale were £12 17s. 6d.

There was afterwards community singing in the Market Place conducted by Mr. A. Lemoine (bandmaster, 12th Royal Lancers), and led by Mr. B. Dicker.

There was a fancy dress ball at the Drill Hall, a dance in the Town Hall, a whist drive at the Legion Hall, and a concert at the Church House. The Mayor and hon. organising secretary, (Mr. D. Goddard) made a tour of these functions, and found each one crowded.

THE SECRETARIAL DUTIES

The duties of hon. secretary have this year been carried out by Mr. Goddard, and it is to his efforts that the success of the carnival can be in no small measure attributed. He was ably supported by an enthusiastic committee and a large body of helpers. Carnival House proved very successful, and the room for this and a car for the secretary were loaned by Mr. W.E. Hall.

THE RESULTS

PROCESSION WINNERS

(long list)

Sat 24th Sep.

WOKINGHAM POST OFFICE

Opened by the Mayor

The completion of the newly-built Post Office, Wokingham, and its opening to the public was formally celebrated at 8 a.m. on Saturday.

A considerable number of the leading residents assembled on the pavement outside the fine new building in Broad Street. These included the Mayor (Alderman A.E. Priest) and Mayoress, Miss Robinson, Mr. W.C. Lucas (head postmaster) Mr. F. Stokes, his second, Alderman R.S. Whaley, Councillors G.C. Wilson and Major T.W.



(Reading Mercury)

Greenstreet, Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton (Town Clerk), Mr. C. W. Marks (surveyor), Mrs. F.E. Chapman, Supt. Goddard, Mrs. Whaley, Miss N. Butler, Miss L. Butler, Mr. C. Sparkes (sergeant-at-mace), Mr. W. Thatcher etc.

Mr. Lucas, on behalf of the Post Office apologised for the unavoidable absence of Mr. Grierson (surveyor) and Mr. Dyke (chief architect). Mr. Lucas mentioned that the back portion of the premises (comprising the sorting offices and telephone exchange etc.) was built by the late Alderman Hughes, whose memory they all revered, and the front building, the public office, by Mr. W.A. James, of Maidenhead. The work, with certain delays, had occupied about three years during which time the Post Office business had to be carried on without interruption, and there had never been a hitch of any kind. It was hard for outsiders to realise all the difficulties which had to be overcome—such as trenches across the road when the mails were arriving and leaving. The Post Office felt greatly indebted to the contractors and foremen for willing co-operation. The building was a credit to their skill and labour. It was in the late Georgian style of multi-coloured bricks with Portland stone facings. It had been the aim that the architectural view should agree as much as possible with the principal buildings in that wide street. It had cost £20,000. The woodwork inside consisted of the choicest English oak and the counters of Empire mahogany. The carpentry work had been done by a Wokingham man throughout, and they were very proud of it. The counter screens and the whole of the accessory fittings were in the very latest style.

The Mayor then drew stamps from the outside slot machines, and posted two letters in the new posting box.

Mr. Lucas then handed the Mayor the key of the large front door, receiving which his Worship said he felt it a very great pleasure and pride to have been asked to open that very handsome new Post Office. He and his colleagues of the Town Council very much appreciated the very great privilege that had been given them. Wokingham felt entitled to good things, and in that very handsome new Post Office they had something they could well be proud of. With the demolition of the old Post Office they were to see the retirement of their old postmaster, Mr. Lucas, which they all

regretted. They offered him their hearty good wishes. His successor would receive a cordial welcome and they trusted he would prove a true friend as Mr. Lucas had done.

His Worship then unlocked and opened the door, and business began.

Sat 8th Oct

ELECTRIC THEATRE

The public of Wokingham and district are fortunate in having such an up-to-date cinema as the electric Theatre as a centre of entertainment. The theatre opened a year ago with the presentation of sound pictures and it has proved so popular that the management have felt justified in making many improvements. The theatre has just been redecorated and refurnished for the comfort of the public at a considerable expense, and it is intended to continue with the policy of showing only the best pictures. Next week by special request, "The Desert Song," and "Good Night Vienna" will be seen. Full particulars are advertised.

Sat 29th Oct

PAINTED FABRICS AT WOKINGHAM

Mrs. Howard Palmer has consented to declare open the exhibition of painted fabrics, the work of severely disabled ex-service men, which is being held in the Drill Hall, Wokingham, on Thursday and Friday, November 3rd and 4th. The Mayor of Wokingham will preside at the ceremony. Reference will be found elsewhere in this issue to the exhibition which was at Ascot this week.

Sat 3rd Dec

THE LECTURE SOCIETY

Colonel F.G. Barker presided at the Town Hall on Wednesday, when an American soldier, author and explorer, Colonel C. Wellington Furlong, gave an illustrated lecture, entitled "Adventuring in Patagonia." A vote of thanks was proposed by Sir H. Watson.

YOUNG MAN TO ADDRESS "IMPS."

A meeting and entertainment under the auspices of the Junior Imperial League, Wokingham branch, will be held on Thursday, December 8th. Mr. J.A. Boyd-Carpenter (son of Sir A. Boyd-Carpenter, M.P.), who took his degree in 1930, will be the chief speaker.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION

A meeting, arranged by Mrs. Harwood, local hon. sec. was held on Tuesday in the Methodist Schoolroom, under the auspices of the Wesley Guild. Mr. Newport presided. The chairman gave a cordial welcome to Lieut.-Colonel G.M.M. Crichton, the regional secretary for the Union, who gave an interesting address, dealing with several aspects of the work of the League of Nations. The Rev. F. Wesley Clifford thanked Colonel Crichton for his address, and Mr. T.M. Welch thanked the chairman. A quartette, "Lest we forget," was capitally sung by the Misses E. and K. Wilson, Mr. T.M. Welch and Mr. E.H. Perkins.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION AT THE CINEMA

The Wokingham Electric Theatre was full on Thursday, at the showing of the League of Nations Union film, "Lest We Forget," the gathering having been arranged by Mrs. Harwood, hon. secretary, local branch of the League of Nations Union. The League film was preceded by two others, one a news film "The eyes and ears of the world," the other "Songs of Old Donegal." The Rev. Canon B. Long, Rural Dean, presided, and the speaker was the Rev. F. Wesley Clifford, of Reading. The chairman announced apologies from the Mayor and Mayoress. Lieut.-Colonel G.M.M. Crichton thanked Captain Wingfield, and Mr. Hayward, the manager, for his kindness in granting the use of the cinema.

10th Dec 1932

BRITISH LEGION

The sum realised at the British Legion (women's section) sale of work on Wednesday, November 30th, was £46 6s. 8d.

THE ESKIMO AND THE FROZEN NORTH

In connection with the S.P.G. two meetings were held in the Church House on Monday. In the afternoon the Rural Dean presided and an address was given by the Ven. A.L. Fleming, Archdeacon of the Arctic, who for twenty-three years has worked in the Arctic regions among the Eskimos. In the evening the address, entitled "Across Arctic Canada," was illustrated with slides.

HUT FOR UNEMPLOYED

The Unemployed Association of Wokingham occupied on Monday the hut lent them by the Town Council in Wellington Road. The hut will be open daily from 2 p.m. till 8.30 p.m., and will be closed at least two days in the week to allow of the men spending some time during the week at their homes. A resolution affiliating the Wokingham Unemployed Association to the Trades Council (formed by delegates from each of the Trade unions) was passed. Councillor E.A. Scott presided.

THE ELECTRIC THEATRE

Edgar Allan Poe's weird story, "Murders in the Rue Morgue," will be screened on the first three days of the week. It tells of a crazy doctor's fiendish experiments. Sidney Fox, Leon Waycoff and Bela Lugosi, who played Dracula and Frankenstein, are in the cast. The supporting picture will be "Sunset Trail," a popular story of Western Adventure, starring Ken Maynard and "Tarzan,"

"Murder on the Second Floor," will be the feature picture on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. A British production, Florence Desmond appears as Lucy, the housemaid, with John Longden, Pat Paterson and Amy Veness. Joe E. Brown figures as the hero in a comedy of college sports, "Local Boy Makes Good."

SUPERINTENDENT BUTLER

Superintendent Butler, who took over the Wokingham Division of the Berks Constabulary on December 1st, served for six years at Ascot as an inspector, and two years in his present rank. Since he joined the Force in 1906 he has always done his work well and has succeeded in gaining the confidence of the public. The late Chief Constable (Colonel A.F. Poulton) had a great respect for his abilities. When he went to Ascot his capabilities were soon felt, and he handled many difficult and serious cases of crime in an efficient manner. In connection with Ascot Races he has been responsible for the lodging and feeding of about two hundred men, and the

management of traffic, and he has proved himself a capable organiser. In these duties he was ably assisted by Inspector Braby, who has taken up duties at Ascot.

1933

Sat 21st Jan

THE LATE MISS SPOONER
Former Resident of Wokingham
A FAMOUS PILOT

Frequent Visitor to the Reading Aero Club.

Residents in the locality learnt with regret of the death of Miss Winifred Spooner, which occurred at Ratcliffe Aerodrome, Leicester, at the early age of 32. Miss Spooner's death was the more surprising as she had only been ill two days, and had never been ill before.

No alarm was occasioned until the day she died, when a specialist was sent for from Nottingham. Her symptoms were those of influenza, but heart trouble supervened, and she died two hours after the arrival of the specialist.

Miss Spooner, who was famous for her flying exploits, was born at Woolwich, where her father, the late Major W.B. Spooner, was a veterinary surgeon to the 14th Hussars. Her brother, Capt. F.V. Spooner, who was with her before she died, used to reside at Wokingham, and for some time Miss Spooner also made her home there. She was a frequent visitor to the Reading Aero Club, where she was one of the most popular members, and it is interesting to note that Mr. C.O. Powis purchased one of her machines when the aerodrome was started.

Among Miss Spooner's exploits, one of her most notable was when attempting to fly from Croydon to Cape Town with Flying Officer E.C.T. Edwards in 1930. It will be recalled that their machine fell into the sea off Southern Italy, and Miss Spooner swam ashore to obtain assistance for her companion. It was after this that she was given a civic welcome by the Mayor and Corporation of Wokingham, and remarkable tributes were paid to her courage and ability.

A WORLD CHAMPION

Miss Spooner was acknowledged to be one of the greatest women pilots, and she participated in races, competitions and ordinary cross-country flying. She took part in all the King's Cup races from 1928 to last year, and on one occasion she only failed to win by the narrowest of margins. It was in 1927 that she learned to fly, and in 1930 she was acclaimed the world champion woman aviator, being awarded the women's trophy of the International League of Aviators. One of the few women pilots to hold a commercial pilot's licence, she was the only woman in this country at the time of her death who was earning a living as a personal pilot to an owner of private aeroplanes. For nearly two years she had been air chauffeur to Mr. Lindsay Everard, M.P. for the Melton Division of Leicestershire, prior to which she managed her own air-taxi service at Stag's Lane Aerodrome.

Miss Spooner was one of the last people to speak to the late Sir Sefton Brancker before he left this country in the ill-fated, R101, having flown him from Ipswich to Cardington for him to join the vessel. After the airship had crashed, incorrect rumours were circulated that Miss Spooner had been a passenger in it.

The funeral took place at Hinton Parva, near Swindon, on Tuesday, a memorial service being held the following day at St. Peter's, Eaton Square, London

EMBROOK CLUB OPENED

The opening ceremony of the new Social Club at Embrook was performed by the Mayor. There was a crowded audience. Mr. E.B. Skinner is the first president of the club, Councillor F.J. Barrett chairman of the committee, and Mr. P.F. Butler secretary. Many well-known public men were present and apologies for absence were read from many others. The Mayor referred to the inception and carrying through of the scheme, which included the adaptation of the old Mission Room into suitable club premises by voluntary workers. Councillor Barrett expressed satisfaction at the large attendance, and thanked especially the rector and churchwardens of St. Paul's for handing over the Mission Room on a 21 year's lease of 25s a year. A concert was sustained by Mrs. J.W. Strange. Miss D. Fidler, Mr. D. Goddard, Mr. "Curly" Thatcher (songs), Mr. A. Andrews, jun. (xylophone solos). Miss Webb and Mr. Andrews jun., acted as accompanists. A retiring collection realised £1 16s. for the repair fund.

Sat 8th April

THE ELECTRIC THEATRE

At the beginning of next week John Barrymore is appearing with Helen Twelvetrees and William Boyd in "Cardigan's Last Case". There will be no performance on Friday, but for Thursday and Saturday Boris Karloff and Charles Laughton appear in a thriller entitled "The Old Dark House". The management are offering a reward to any lady who will see the picture alone at midnight.

Sat 1st July

DEATH OF MISS L. CLAY

The funeral of Miss Louisa Clay who passed away on Friday last week took place at St. Paul's Church, Wokingham, on Monday. The Rev. T.W. Sergeant officiated. Owing to deceased weighing some 38 stone, it was necessary to rig a derrick over the grave in order that the coffin could be lowered. Messrs Heelas and Sons, Wokingham, represented by Mr. D.H. Dowty, were the undertakers.

Sat 5th Aug

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor announced that Mr. Arthur Heelas had presented to the council to keep with their records, a book—"The History of the Crutwell Family." The family had many associations with Wokingham dating back over two centuries. Mr. Heelas had also given them a copy of "The Windsor Forest Turnpike". It was decided to send the donor an official letter of thanks.

Sat 16th Sept

CANON LONG'S FAREWELL

Following upon a farewell letter in the Parish Magazine for September, Canon B. Long on Sunday preached both morning and evening and took leave of the congregation of All Saints', to whom he had faithfully ministered for the past 29 years. He referred to their long and happy association, thanked the parishioners for their loyal co-operation and expressed his best wishes for the future of the church. On Thursday next Canon Long's institution and induction to the benefice of Whitchurch is to take place, and he and Mrs. Long have said they would be pleased to see at Whitchurch Rectory those friends from Wokingham who might be able to come over. The Rev. Mr. Goldthorpe, of "Grendahr," London Road, Wokingham, has undertaken for three months the pastoral charge of the parish.

DEATH OF MR. A. G. DANCE

Much sympathy is felt for the widow and other relatives of Mr. Arthur George Dance, whose death occurred on Tuesday evening at his residence, Winnersh, after a long and painful illness, which involved the amputation of both legs. He was 32, the younger son of the late Mr. William Dance and Mrs. Dance, of 13, Easthampstead Road, Wokingham. After leaving school he was continuously in the employ of Mr. George Haye and Son, solicitors, Shute End, and had attained the responsible position of chief clerk. He was greatly esteemed by his firm and was generally respected. A well-known sportsman, he was a member of the Wokingham Club, where he was a billiard player of repute and on one occasion was the winner of the Howard Palmer Cup. He was a keen member of Bear Wood and Hurst Bowling Club and had also played for the Howard Palmer Club, Wokingham. He was winner last year of the Bear Wood Club's handicap. Mr. Dance was, during his illness, elected vice-captain of Bear Wood Bowling Club for the current season. He was one of the trustees of the Wokingham Town Football in respect of their ground at the time of its purchase, a position he occupied till his death. The funeral is to take place at All Saints', Wokingham, today, (Saturday), at 11 o'clock.

DAY OF CARNIVAL AT WOKINGHAM

Town's Fourth Annual Event for Charities

CROWNING OF THE QUEEN

Over Sixty Decorated Vehicles in the Procession

Travellers passing through Wokingham on Wednesday might have thought that they had arrived in a strange country, for men and women in ordinary garb were conspicuous mainly through their absence. In fact, practically all the citizens of Wokingham thought the occasion one on which to turn out in fancy dress, there being quite as many in "glad rags" as in ordinary clothes.

The carnival spirit was abroad everywhere, and even the rain of the previous day and of the morning could not damp the ardour of those participating. As if in sympathy with the objects of the carnival, King Sol did his best by driving off the rain soon after midday, and providing a bright afternoon and evening for the citizens and visitors alike to enjoy themselves.

This was the fourth carnival that Wokingham had had, and, from the point of view of jollity, was quite as successful as the others.

Of course, the rain had an effect on the collections made for various charitable objects, but so brisk was the work done by the collectors when the sun did shine, that the financial result will doubtless prove a satisfactory one.

MAYORS OF NEIGHBOURING TOWNS PRESENT

Householders throughout the borough vied with one another in effectively decorating their premises, and some very pretty designs were to be seen. The dazzling brilliance of many of these was added in the evening by many coloured lights. The Town Hall was one of the most pleasingly decorated buildings, the artistic use of lights making it indeed attractive in the evening. Flags, festoons and garlands were to be found everywhere. One house was decorated as the Wokingham Zoo, and looked very effective with the animals and fish. The Southern Railway Station was another attractively decorated building, and the stationmaster (Mr. J.A. Gloldeen?) and his staff must have worked hard to obtain such effect. The results of the decorated shops and houses competitions will be found below.

The Rag Collectors seemed determined to exceed themselves this year. They were out at an early hour despite the rain, holding up motorists, cyclists and pedestrians to ransom, which, in most cases, was willingly forfeited. As has already been stated, there were fancy costumes everywhere. Some of the collectors went back to Victorian days for their dresses, others appeared to have come from every country in the world, whilst others must have looked very far ahead, for they were extremely futuristic attire. The band of the Gordon Boys' Home and the Dagenham Girl Pipers paraded the streets throughout the day.



Dagenham Girl Pipers

MEANS OF COLLECTING MONEY

Various means of extorting the nimble copper were resorted to, among them being Signoretta Collectum's barrel organ and jazz and nigger bands, whilst one company of collectors carried a tarpaulin around with them, so that those who watched from the upper rooms should not escape paying tribute. "Bonzo," a fine Great Dane belonging to Mrs. R.M. Mainprize, was one of the most enthusiastic collectors of all.

There was no more strenuous worker for the carnival than the Mayor of Wokingham (Alderman A.E. Priest), who set a fine example to the rest of the citizens by his numerous acts on behalf of the carnival funds. His first official act was to release a gas-filled balloon from the Market Place. From that moment until late in the evening balloons were being sent up in connection with a competition organised by Mr. Norman Lawrence, a prize of a guinea being offered for the label returned from the furthest spot.

WELCOME TO MAYORS

A feature of the carnival this year was the visit of a number of chief magistrates from the various boroughs of Berkshire and Oxfordshire. The visitors included the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading (Councillor and Mrs. A W Tudor), the Mayor of Abingdon (Councillor A.E. Tombs), the Mayor and Mayoress of Wallingford (Alderman and Mrs. L. Shepperd), the Mayor and Mayoress of Henley (Councillor and Mrs. W. Lee), and the Constable of Hungerford (Dr. T.G Starkey-Smith). Apologies for inability to attend were received from the Mayors of Maidenhead, Newbury and Windsor.

The visitors were welcomed by the Mayor of Wokingham, who occupied a decorated platform erected in the Market Place. Supporting him were Alderman W.T. Martin, Alderman P. Sale, Alderman E.S. Whaley, Councillor F.J. Barrett, Councillor C Goddard etc.

Alderman Priest, in expressing a welcome to the visitors, said there were two objects to the carnival, one being that they should have a very happy day, and the other being that they should do their best to lend a helping hand to various institutions. He hoped that every minute the visitors spent in the town would be enjoyed, and that they would carry away happy memories of Wokingham's 1933 Carnival.

The Mayor of Reading, in responding, said Wokingham had a great aim in supporting the efforts of the Mayor and of the secretary and treasurer of the carnival. Reading was particularly interested in the carnival because a part of the proceeds would doubtless find its way to the Royal Berkshire Hospital. Reading and Wokingham were good neighbours, and they were all proud of their towns. On behalf of Reading he wished Wokingham every success in their carnival.

Good wishes were also expressed by the Mayors of Abingdon, Henley-on-Thames and Wallingford, and the Constable of Hungerford.

This part of the proceedings closed with three cheers being given for the civic visitors.

CROWNING THE QUEEN FARM CART TURNED INTO COACH

There followed the ceremony of crowning the Carnival Queen. This year's choice fell on Miss Edith Bowyer, the daughter of Mr. Henry Bowyer, of Ashridge Wood Farm. Miss Bowyer arrived on the scene in the official motor-car, and looked resplendent in her robe of ermine-trimmed scarlet. She mounted the platform and knelt in front of the Mayor, who placed a jewelled crown on her head. The Queen was attended by a page dressed in Victorian costume, and three child attendants, who wore long white dresses, and caps, and carried Victorian posies. After the crowning ceremony, the Queen was presented with a bouquet of red carnations, whilst the Mayoress received a bouquet of pink carnations.

The ceremony over, the Queen left for the carnival field. She rode in one of her father's farm carts, which had been turned into a regal coach with garlands and flowers, and with a throne of white and gold. She was followed by the Mayor of Wokingham and the various civic visitors. "Her Majesty" toured the fair ground, and, with the Mayor of Wokingham, occupied a horse for the first ride on the roundabouts. A number of the other mayors accompanied her on this ride.

FOOTBALLER INJURED

This was the signal for the fun in the carnival field to commence. The proceedings started with a six-a-side football tournament, which was organised by the Wokingham Town Football Club, with Mr. Harold Lee as the secretary of the tournament. The Mayor of Wokingham kicked-off for the first match. Four teams entered, the results of the first round being Sandhurst, 5 goals; Wokingham Wednesday, nil. Wokingham Rovers, 6 goals; Wokingham Territorials, nil. In the final, Sandhurst were victorious over Wokingham Rovers by 4 goals and a corner to nil.

The tournament was marred by a serious injury to Scott, one of the Sandhurst players, who collided with one of the Wokingham Wednesday players and received an internal injury. A doctor was summoned, and Scott was later taken to the Royal Berkshire Hospital, where he was detained. On Thursday the hospital reported that Scott had had a fairly good night, and his condition was slightly better. Frederick Fry, of Wokingham, was also injured and attended the hospital, but was able to go home after treatment.

The "arena" was next occupied by Roman gladiators and chariots. The latter were three in number, and were drawn respectively by a van horse, a cart horse, and a

donkey who sported a straw hat and who was encouraged along by a bunch of carrots, tied to a stick. The carrots were a sufficient inducement to enable the donkey to win every chariot race. Afterwards the victor gave rides to children at a penny a time. A fight between the gladiators followed, when there were some realistic "knockouts" with swords, pikes, and a mallet.

FIRE BRIGADE DISPLAY

Following the football matches Wokingham's Volunteer Fire Brigade were seen in action. Their display included drill to show the latest type of foam extinguisher in use, the value of breathing apparatus, rescue work, first aid, and the use of the first-aid tank. There was also a grand turn-out by the two motor pumps. The serious work over, some members of the brigade indulged in a burlesque under the title of "Twisted Hose." This allowed the discovery of a house on fire by the housewife, who at first attempted to extinguish it with a toy watering can. She then summoned the fire brigade, which consisted of an aged and bearded fireman with a handcart. The rustic fire-fighter's efforts added to the conflagration rather than hinder it. The crowd was kept in fits of laughter by this episode.

SPORTS AND PIPERS

CARNIVAL QUEEN PRESENTS PRIZES

The spirit of carnival was rife in the cricket ground throughout the afternoon. The droll costumes of some of the officials and many of the spectators, and the sparkling plaids of the Dagenham Girl Pipers, who gave a display, contrived to make the scene one of the most brilliant of the day. Most of the time was taken by the children's sports, which had been arranged by a sub-committee of local school masters.

During an interval the Girl Pipers gave a programme of pipe music and dancing. This included popular Scotch marches, the "Keel Row," "Sword Dance" and "Highland Fling." The clever way in the girls kept in perfect time in the dances, although not close to or facing one another, won the admiration of the spectators quite as much as the stirring way in which they played. It is interesting to note that the Pipers started among young working girls in Dagenham, and they have proved such a success that there are now more demands for their services than they can fulfil. Recently they toured Belgium, and were congratulated by a member of the Belgian royal family. They have also appeared in the Lord Mayor's Show, and at Olympia.

A release of a large number of racing pigeons from all parts of the county was made on the ground by Mr. C.W. Luckock, local organiser of the Berks County Flying Club. The Wokingham members of the club have also given the proceeds from the Rugby race on July 29th to the carnival funds.

At the end of the sports the Carnival Queen presented the sports prizes.

A CAR FOR £5

Following the prize distribution, a large number of articles were auctioned by Mr. Harold Watts and Mr. Garnet Hall, who gave their services free of cost. The lots included a five-seater saloon car, which was sold for £5, and a five-valve wireless set, which realised £2 5s.

The open-air proceedings concluded with community singing, which was led by Mr. Bert Dicker, of the Cheerio Concert Party, and accompanied by the Wokingham Town and British Legion Band. A whist drive was held in the Town Hall, and dances took place at the Drill Hall and the British Legion Hall. The Drill Hall dance was organised by "D" (Machine Gun) Company of the 4th Royal Berkshire Regiment. Mr. Jack Webb was responsible for the dance in the British legion Hall, assisted by the entertainment committee, with Mr. A. Andrews as chairman, and Mr. A. Andrews, jun., as hon. secretary. Fred Hare's Harmony Five supplied the music. The proceeds

of the dance held at the Legion Hall on September 9th and 16th, and organised by Mr. A. Andrews jun., were also handed over for the Carnival funds.

Sat 14th October

NEW BURIAL GROUND AT WOKINGHAM

On Thursday afternoon the Bishop of Oxford consecrated an addition to the burial ground at All Saints' Church, Wokingham, in the presence of a large congregation. The addition was one which was badly needed, at it is hoped that it will render a town cemetery unnecessary for a further twenty years.

The new burial ground was purchased (one acre in extent) when the land of Mr. Crutchley came into the market some years ago. It may be recalled that the churchyard was first extended in 1912, when the then added portion was consecrated by the late Bishop Gore.

Clergy present included the Archdeacon of Berkshire, Canon J.A. Anderson (Rural Dean), Canon G.F. Coleridge, Canon B. Long, Canon W.H. Whiting, the Revs. A. P. Carr, W.H. Bayley, W.T. Stubbs, R.D. Weller, L.R. Majendie, F.L. Sugget, T.W. Sergeant, C.H. Donne, W.H. Wright, C. Mansfield, K. St. C. Thomas (Bishop's Chaplain)

(plus many others)

Sat 28th Oct

WOMEN LEGIONARIES

The annual General meeting of the women's section of the British Legion took place in the Legion Hall, Wokingham. Lady Victoria Villiers (president) gave a short address on the care that was taken of all the cemeteries in France, which she had lately visited. The Hon. Mrs. Cornfield, vice-president, spoke on the character of Lord Nelson in connection with the anniversary of Trafalgar Day, and Mrs. Eustace, vice-president, spoke on Armistice Day and Poppy Day.

A WOODEN "POLICEMAN"

Since Thursday last week a wooden, truncated cone, bearing the words "Keep Left," has replaced the policeman on traffic control duty at the junction of Market Street and Broad Street. The device was met with much criticism. It certainly slows down traffic, east and west, but there is still very obviously the lack of intelligent direction as to cross track turning, and for vehicles requiring a wide sweep. It is understood that the innovation is in the nature of an experiment.

Sat 18th Nov

EMBROOK TENNIS CLUB

The Embrook Tennis Club held a dinner and dance at the Rose Hotel, Wokingham, on Monday, when Mr. N.C. Lawrence presided. He distributed the cups which had been won during the past season as follows: Ladies' singles, Mrs. Lawrence; men's singles, Mr. F. Carpenter; mixed doubles, Mrs. Lawrence and Mr. Carpenter.

ARMISTICE DANCE

Arranged by Councillor C. Goddard, Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Thatcher and others, a successful Armistice dance was held in the drill hall on Monday in the aid of the funds of the Police Court Mission, the Nurse Fund, and other charities. Music was supplied by the dance band of the R.M.C., Sandhurst. The bar was managed by Mr. J.B. Crawley, of the Bush Hotel, while Mrs. Crawley was equally successful with the refreshments.

THE ELECTRIC THEATRE

Dorothy Jordan and Marjorie Rambeau appear at the beginning of the week in "Strictly Personal," the supporting film being "Pick Up," with Sylvia Sydney and George Raft. John Stuart and Mary Glynne are in "The Lost Chord," at the end of the week. On the same days a travel film, "Wanderlust," will be shown. It depicts a journey beyond Victoria Falls, and shows many wild animals in their natural surroundings.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION

The Wokingham branch of the League of Nations Union (Mrs. S.M. Harwood, hon. secretary) held a successful meeting on Wednesday evening. The Mayor (Councillor C. Mansfield) presided, and, in an introductory speech, said peace was difficult to attain, but peace was what all wanted and was the ideal to pursue. The League of Nations was the constituted body to work towards that ideal. That the League existed was in itself a triumph, and he earnestly appealed for it. (Applause). Dr. J.J. Paterson, M.O.H., then gave an interesting account of his visit to Poland under the auspices of the Health Section of the League of Nations to inspect and assist that nation in health, legislation and work.

WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL CLASSES

An effort is being made to establish in Wokingham, a branch of the Workers' Educational Association. A meeting was held on November 6th, and Mr. Marcus Lower, the organiser for Berks, Bucks and Oxon, attended and gave an address on the work and aims of the association. It was decided to begin with a series of six lectures on the "History of Industry in England during the last 100 years." Mr. C.W. Bishop, B.A., of Reading, has been chosen as the lecturer, and an introductory address will be given by him in the Bank Room, Wokingham Town Hall, on Monday next, at 7.30 p.m. Mr. S.J. Miles will be chairman for, the introductory meeting. The lectures will be followed by discussions and will be non-political. Everyone interested is invited to attend and enrol for the course. If the course is successful arrangements will be made for lectures and debates throughout the winter, and it is hoped to organise social events during the season.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE HAYE.

The death of Mr. George Haye, the well-known and respected solicitor, of Wokingham, which occurred suddenly at his residence, 3, Park Avenue, about 2 p.m. on Monday, came as a shock to the residents, and much sympathy is extended to Mrs. Haye and family. Mr. Haye, who was 66, was the son of Mr. James Haye, of Fowey, Cornwall, and was admitted as a solicitor, in June, 1890. The same year he commenced to practice in Wokingham with the late Mr. J.F. Sergeant, succeeding his great-uncle, Mr. W.W. Wheeler. He was clerk to the Wokingham Old Age Pensions Committee, while from about 1893 until 1920 he was assistant clerk to the Wokingham Guardians. As a member of St. Paul's Church, Wokingham, he was deeply interested in its welfare, and was four years rector's Churchwarden with the late Rev. H.M. Walter. He had been a member of the church council, of which he acted a lay vice-chairman. His loss to the church will be sincerely felt by all. He leaves a widow with two sons and one daughter. Mr. Ronald Haye (son) is the surviving partner in the firm of Haye and Son.

The funeral service was held at St. Paul's Church, Wokingham, on Thursday, the rector officiating.

Sat 25th Nov

MR. PRIEST'S FOUR YEARS' MAYORALITY

Gift from Wokingham Sportsmen

At the Wokingham Club on Friday evening last week a large gathering assembled to make a presentation to the late Mayor of Wokingham, Alderman A.E. Priest.

Dr. H.F. Curl, who presided, said the idea originated with Councillor G.C. Wilson, the energetic hon. secretary of the Wokingham Cricket Club. People hardly realised what Councillor Wilson had done and was doing for the town of Wokingham in the interests of sport. They were making this presentation to the best sporting Mayor Wokingham had ever had. The subscription list was open to all, the minimum subscription being 1s. Sportsmen of the town had nobly come forward, and the donations included those from the unemployed, who had added their little homage as they could. Speaking as a councillor, he had served for four years under Alderman Priest. The period could be divided into four parts. For three years as peaceful working during which he earned appreciation and respect for the way in which he carried out his duties, impartially and with tact. He only carried on the fourth year at their request; that year had been a stormy one. By his conduct in the chair during that year he added to the appreciation and respect of the aldermen and councillors. He had tackled difficult problems with determination and grit. He was a little fellow, but a great Mayor.

The Ex-Mayor's Versatility

Councillor G.C. Wilson said they all knew of the great debt of gratitude they owed to Alderman Priest. He was always ready to help in the cause of sport—he would play in a cricket match, kick off at football. Bully off at hockey, play bowls, and could even throw a good dart. (Laughter). If a boxing tournament was held in the town, he believed he would start proceedings by hitting both men on the jaw! As cricketers they all knew he had been batting on a very bad wicket during the last 12 months against bad bowling.

Mr. G.H. Dowty (chairman of the Wokingham Club) said that Alderman Priest had always been willing to assist the club; he had taken a great interest in bowls, and had presented the ladies' challenge cup.

Mr. T.W. Park (Wokingham Bowling Club) associated himself with the remarks of the previous speakers.

Tribute from the Unemployed

Mr. W. Watts, representing the unemployed, thanked the Mayor for his support to the Wokingham Rovers Football Club, better known perhaps as the Unemployed Football Club. Without his assistance and support they would not have been able to carry on. During his four years of office he had looked after the unemployed, for which he (the speaker) extended their grateful thanks.

Mr. W.H. Lee (Wokingham Town Football Club) and Mr. J.L. Langley (third eleven, Wokingham Cricket Club) added their tributes.

Dr. Curl then asked the late Mayor to accept a solid silver cricket bat, mounted on a massive plinth, on which was a silver plate inscribed: "Presented to Alderman A.E. Priest, J.P., by the sportsmen of his native town as a token of appreciation of a sportsman's innings as Mayor of Wokingham, 1929-33."

Alderman A.E. Priest said he really felt that instead of receiving such kindness, he ought to be presenting a testimonial to the townspeople. Everybody had shown him unbounded kindness, and he wondered what he had done to deserve such recognition. He should treasure their gift as long as he lived. He had many friends in Wokingham four years ago. Today he had a much larger circle of friends. They could not have chosen a better gift. From a boy he had been associated with sport of the town; he was secretary of St. Paul's boys' cricket Club, and until a few years ago was connected with the cricket club. He had played on many occasions as centre forward for Wokingham Town F.C. He was pleased to be connected with the social life of the town. He was deeply touched that the members of the unemployed had contributed. He would continue to do all he could on their behalf.

Rough Time During the Last Year

References had been made to the rough time of his last year of office, and to his boxing abilities; there had been times when he would have clearly loved to exercise that art. It had been a great experience for one's patience. He hoped that no Mayor would ever be called upon to do what he had to do.

Musical honours were accorded to Mr. Priest, and cheers for the late Mayoress.

Mr. Moore thanked Dr. Curl for the able way in which he had presided.

1934

Sat 6th Jan.

STRAY PIGS

At the Wokingham Borough Bench on Tuesday, Frank White of Model Farm, Wokingham, was fined 5s. for allowing two pigs to stray on the highway.

MIDNIGHT RINGING

The Old Year was "toll'd out" and the New Year "rung in" on the bells of All Saints', the ringing band included three local ladies, the Misses J. Blackman, A. Baker and G. Baker.

FOR N.S.P.C.C.

Arranged by Miss Joyce Fry, hon. secretary of the Wokingham (Junior) Branch, N.S.P.C.C., a capital New Year's Day dance was held (by permission of Miss R.C. Smith, principal) in the hall of Grosvenor School. A sum of £3 6s. 6d. was realised.

FOR THE WAIFS AND STRAYS

The "red bag" collection in connection with the Christmas tree in All saints' church, realised the very satisfactory sum of £9 3s; the amount has been forwarded to the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society.

CAROL SERVICES

On Sunday evening, carol services were held in the churches in the town—at All Saints' (Mr. A. Yould, F.R.C.O., organist), St. Paul's (Mr. F.A. Burgess), and at the Baptist Church, Milton Road (Mr. F.C. Griffin, A.R.C.O.). In each case the singing of the carols was a delight to the large congregation. The Methodist congregation (Rose Street), by invitation, attended the Baptist service.

UNEMPLOYED ENTERTAINED

On Thursday last week fifty unemployed men and women were invited to a Christmas dinner at the Sturges Road Citadel. The function was made possible by a donation from General Higgins, head of the Salvation Army, and the arrangements were made by the local Corps under Captain Boyd. The Mayor (the Rev. C. Mansfield) attended and in the course of his good wishes expressed the hope for better things in the New Year. An entertainment was provided by Captain Boyd and Lieut. Estill, a sketch by Bro. And Sister Arnold, a Nativity play by the children, a cornet solo by Bro. Bird and selections by the songsters.

Reading Mercury Sat 13th Jan

FIREMAN INJURED ON DUTY

Wokingham Fire Brigade were called on January 4th to the assistance of Mr. Rushbrooke "Woodbury," Farley Hill where they found a chimney on fire. Danger from a wooden beam was anticipated but after three hours of work all was rendered safe. Cranking up the motor engine prior to the return journey, Fireman H. Hawkins sustained a broken wrist, through a back-kick of the lever.

Sat 20th Jan

POULTRY PRODUCERS

A meeting of over 100 poultry producers in the district was held at the Wokingham Town Hall; Mr. J.F. Wood, who convened the meeting, took the chair. He explained that the scheme for the proper marketing of eggs under the Agricultural Marketing Act might be expected shortly, and that now was the time for poultry producers to co-operate and organise their business so that mutual advantage to both producer and consumer might follow. Mr. V.S. Ellis, from the Ministry of Agriculture, gave a lucid statement of difficulties that might be expected to arise, and the means to overcome them. He explained matters of detail. Mr. Maer spoke of the benefits arising from purchases in connection with the S.P.B.A. food purchase scheme. The meeting decided to apply to become a district branch of the S.P.B.A. A temporary committee of nine was the nominated, and asked to formulate rules and regulations to govern a district packing station which it was decided to set up. These rules and regulations will be discussed at a further meeting to be held in the Wokingham Town Hall, on Friday, January 26th, particulars of which are advertised under the heading of "Poultry."

WOKINGHAM TO ENDOW A HOSPITAL BED

All Classes Co-operate in Raising the Money

ONE THOUSAND POUNDS

Civic Ceremony and Dedication to be Arranged

Wokingham is justly proud of the fact that it has raised a sufficient sum to endow a bed in the Royal Berkshire Hospital. It is to be known as the "Wokingham Hospital Committee Bed." All classes have loyally co-operated to secure this handsome and gratifying result.

It has been agreed to arrange a ceremony in Wokingham at which the endowment will be accepted by the Hospital authorities in the presence of the civic representatives and donors to the fund. There will also be a dedication ceremony at the bedside in the ward at the hospital in the presence of members of the Wokingham Hospital Committee. Canon Long is to be asked to perform the dedication ceremony.

A presentation has been made to Alderman A.E. Priest, and Mrs. Priest by the Wokingham Hospital Committee in recognition of their splendid services to the committee, especially during Mr. Priest's four years' Mayoralty.

BOROUGH COAT OF ARMS OVER THE BED

The meeting of the Wokingham Hospital Committee was held in the Committee Room of the Wokingham Town Hall on Tuesday evening, and was largely attended

Expressing pleasure at having their president (Alderman Priest) with them, Counc. W.C. Fullbrook, the chairman said: "We intend to tell him what we think of him." (Laughter). He remarked that to have secured the hospital bed would have been, but for the wonderful help of Alderman Priest, impossible for at least several years. They could not let his work pass without presenting him with something "to keep and remember us by in the future." (Applause). He would ask their oldest member, Mr. G.R. Frift, to make the presentation, but would first allow time for any remarks from members.

Mr. W.H. Lee expressed deep appreciation of the wonderful work their president had done for the committee in the last four years. He had stood by them, working men, and by his loyalty, leadership and comradeship, had gained, he might say, their love. The older-members felt more than they could express. To the younger ones Alderman Priest had set an example and had given a lead as how to go through life, and fight for the right end. Other members who spoke with similar strain were Mr. G. Gough (hon. secretary), who thanked Alderman Priest for his help on many occasions, and Mr. F. Mole, (vice-chairman).

GIFTS FOR ALDERMAN AND MRS. PRIEST

The chairman then produced a handsome silver-mounted walking-stick, inscribed "Presented to Alderman A. E. Priest, Mayor of Wokingham, 1929-1933, by the Wokingham Hospital Committee." The gift was accompanied by an autographed book of names. Mr. Frift made the presentation.

Alderman Priest was obviously much moved by the tribute, and said he found it difficult to speak. They had sprung a surprise on him. The pleasure of being associated with them in the work for the hospital was one of the greatest which had come to him during his four years of Mayoralty. No president could have had greater loyalty shown him than he had received from members of that committee, and it had now been crowned by this great act of more than friendship. They had kept the secret well. He should treasure their beautiful gift all his life, and, still more, the words of their chairman and others that evening. "I hope it will be my great privilege to count every one of you my friends as long as I live," he added. (Applause).

SERVICES OF MRS. PRIEST.

The chairman paid a graceful tribute to Mrs. Priest, who had so loyally helped Alderman Priest, and asked him to convey their gift to her (a handsome silver cake tray), wishing her long life and happiness. (Applause).

Mr. A.H. Jones (hon. treasurer) remarked that but for the magnificent work of Alderman Priest the completion of the bed scheme would have been much longer delayed. (Hear, hear and applause). The good people of Wokingham and the carnival Committee were deserving of thanks, but the foundation was laid years ago by the Wokingham Hospital Committee. He had been asked to hand the gift to Alderman Priest and ask him to present it to Mrs. Priest on their behalf. (Loud applause).

Alderman Priest expressed thanks on Mrs. Priest's behalf, and he and his wife would treasure the gifts all their lives. The autograph album they would look upon as one of the greatest treasures in their home.

The chairman then handed certain prizes to Mr. J. Langley and to little Miss Gough.

ACCEPTING THE ENDOWMENT.

At 8.15 p.m. Alderman Priest (president) succeeded Councillor Fullbrook in the chair, and a meeting was held to consider the special agenda, viz., suggestions from the Royal Berkshire Hospital authorities as to the Wokingham bed endowment. The hospital authorities stated:--

It is the desire of the Board of Management that as many as possible of those who have contributed to the endowment should be present at the inauguration of the Wokingham bed.

Accommodation within the ward is naturally restricted, and the following suggestions are put forward as alternative methods of giving effect to the Board's wishes.

1. To defer the inauguration of the bed until the early summer, when a large number of guests could be gathered together in the grounds outside the ward and the dedication ceremony relayed to them by amplifiers.
2. To arrange a ceremony in, say, the Town Hall in Wokingham at which the endowment would be accepted by the highest hospital authorities in the presence of the civic dignitaries and all donors to the fund who wish to be present; and to hold the dedication ceremony at the bedside in the ward of the hospital in the presence only of the members of the Wokingham Hospital Committee.

There were present, in addition to the officers and members of the committee, the following: The Mayor (Councillor, the Rev. C. Mansfield), Alderman Admiral J.B. Eustace, Dr. Ward, councillors Barrett, Fullbrook and D. Goddard, and later Mr. F.A. Lyon, secretary of the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

“THERE IS OUR BED.”

Alderman Priest his presence in the chair as being due to the fact that he did not vacate until the annual meeting in March, of the Hospital Committee. The chairman said they had every reason to feel happy and proud that the object they had set out to achieve—viz., to get a bed endowed in the name of Wokingham in the Royal Berkshire Hospital—had been realised. Inaugurated a few years ago, they had been able to do a great deal in the last four years, and, thanks to the loyal co-operation of the Wokingham Hospital Committee and the generous support of their good friends in Wokingham, they would soon be able to say, “There is our own bed in the Royal Berkshire Hospital.” He hoped that beds would be provided from other districts in the county, because it would help a worthy institution that was doing such a tremendous lot of good. They had before them two suggested alternatives for the commemoration of the event. The Wokingham arms would, he said, be placed over the bed, and the usual ceremony of dedication would take place.

CIVIC CEREMONY FOR WOKINGHAM.

Mr. F. Moles then proposed that the second alternative suggested by the hospital authorities be adopted, advancing that as many Wokingham people had contributed (some of limited means), it would secure that the greater number of the subscribers would be present, and it seemed fitting that this ceremony should be a civic one for Wokingham.

After some discussion both suggestions were accepted. It was agreed that the proposed tablet to be fixed over the hospital bed would be of oxidised bronze, with lettering in white enamel. It would show the Wokingham Borough arms and state "Wokingham Bed."

Sat 10th Feb

HONOUR FOR ALD. A.E. PRIEST

At their meeting held on Tuesday the board of management of the Royal Berkshire Hospital unanimously appointed as honorary life governor of the hospital Alderman A.E. Priest, J.P., in recognition of his work as president of the Wokingham Hospital Committee, who have completed the endowment of a bed in the Royal Berkshire Hospital. The letter to Mr. Priest in which the announcement is made speaks highly of his leadership and enthusiasm. Naturally Mr. Priest is immensely gratified that such an honour should be conferred on him, and which he considers his colleagues on the Wokingham Hospital Committee are entitled to no small share.

Sat 24th Feb

WOKINGHAM'S ENDOWMENT FOR ROYAL BERKS HOSPITAL. LORD LIEUTENANT RECEIVES TOWN'S GIFT AT A PUBLIC CEREMONY CHEQUE FOR ONE THOUSAND POUNDS

First Borough Arms to be Placed Over a Bed; A Fine Example to Others.

The coping stone of successful endeavour was placed upon the magnificent scheme of Wokingham's Bed in the Royal Berkshire Hospital at a large and enthusiastic gathering in the Town Hall on Sunday afternoon, when, on his first official visit to Wokingham, the Lord Lieutenant of the County, Mr. J. Herbert Benyon, president of the Royal Berkshire Hospital, accepted, in the name of its Governors, the tablet and endowment of the Wokingham Hospital Committee bed from Alderman A.E. Priest, President of the Wokingham Hospital Committee, through the Mayor of Wokingham, Councillor the Rev. Charles Mansfield.

The presence of Mr. Benyon was highly appreciated by the people of Wokingham, who felt that there was no one who more fittingly could have accepted the tangible expression of their zealous exertions. High tributes to Mr. Benyon's great public services were made during the proceedings.

FUND OPENED AT TOWN HALL FIVE YEARS AGO

The Mayor wore his robes of office and the mace lay before him on the table. The Councillors, fully robed, were also on the platform, also Mr. F.A. Lyon, secretary of the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

The other members of the Council present were Alderman W.T. Martin, J.B. Eustace, E.S. Whaley, M. Blake, P. Sale and A.E. Priest, Councillors H.F. Curl, Miss D. Wescott, S.L. Bowyer, F.J. Barrett, D. Goddard, G.A. Cheeseman, C.R.P. Henderson, D.E. Ward, E. Ward, C. Goddard and W.C. Fullbrook, with Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton (Town Clerk).

In the hall were the following officers of the Wokingham Hospital Committee: Messrs. F. Moles (vice-chairman), G. Gough (hon. secretary), F. Carpenter (hon. assistant secretary), G. Ballard, (ex-chairman), G.R. Frift, S. Gater, T. Douglas, G. Clements, O. Jefferies (the oldest members), and the members of the committee, also members of the ladies' committee: The Hon. Mrs. Corfield, Mrs. Priest, Mrs. Thorpe, Miss Benson, Miss Curl, Mrs. H. Stewart, Miss West, Mrs. G. Haye, Mrs. Henlé and Miss Fletcher; Mr. C.W. Marks (borough surveyor), Mr. C. Sparkes (sergeant-at-mace), Mr. R. Hosler and Mr. W. White.

Messrs G.R. Frift, G. Hand, M. Norris and H. Powell (of the Wokingham Hospital Committee) acted as stewards.

THE MAYOR'S WELCOME

The Mayor said he had the honour to welcome Mr. Benyon to Wokingham, and that in a dual capacity, first as Lord Lieutenant of the County of Berkshire—the representative of H.M. the King (applause)—and secondly as the highest administrator of the Royal Berkshire Hospital under his Majesty, who is its president. He felt it a great honour that Mr. Benyon had come personally to accept at their hands the fruits of the labours of the Wokingham Hospital Committee. Mr. Benyon had been president of the Royal Berkshire Hospital for 24 years. (Applause). Not only that but his family had always from the very beginning, about 75 years ago, interested themselves in the work of the hospital.

He called on Alderman Priest to give them an account of the work of the Hospital Committee.

Alderman Priest said they had seen that Sunday described as “an important day” in Wokingham. They who had followed the work of the Hospital Committee in Wokingham knew just what that meant. Their meeting that day successfully proved it an important one, and further proved that volunteer effort for good was still going strong, and in few places stronger than in Wokingham. (Hear, hear, and applause). He had been entrusted with a very great privilege and honour, for it was his very great pleasure, on behalf of the citizens of Wokingham, to ask their Lord Lieutenant, who was also president of the Royal Berkshire Hospital to receive from them the endowment of their Wokingham bed. They were glad to have him there to accept their tribute of thanksgiving. It was with a peculiar sense of thankfulness they were met that day, knowing that their efforts had been successful. Many interesting events had taken place in their Town Hall, but never one similar to the present. Everyone present would like to know that other districts would try to emulate Wokingham's example. (Applause). What Wokingham had accomplished, others could, and no more worthy purpose could be served than doing all in their power to assist in helping sickness and suffering. It might, perhaps, be said of other districts that they had their own hospitals to attend to, but he would remind those who said that they in Wokingham had their own War Memorial Clinic, and all knew how very successfully that had been carried on. (Applause).

EFFICIENT HOSPITAL COMMITTEE NECESSARY.

So other places could accomplish what Wokingham had done. The centre of such work was a good and efficient Hospital Committee such as they had in Wokingham. He had the privilege of being associated with them for the past four years, as president, to work with them and to see the work they were doing. He knew how devoted they were to that work, year in, year out, and in all weathers. Some of them had grown old in that service, but age had not interfered with their efficiency, and they had kept going right up to the present time. In addition, they had not allowed any special efforts to interfere, in any way, with their ordinary activities on behalf of the Royal Berkshire Hospital. He expressed the grateful thanks of the committee to “all our citizens who have come along so generously to help us in our efforts, from the widow's mite and the child's farthing to the more substantial cheques and notes.” (Hear, hear and applause).

The fund was started when, some five years ago, one evening at a meeting of the Town Council, a letter was read from the local Hospital Committee asking permission to put outside the Town Hall a box for the collection of tin foil and farthings. That formed the foundation of what had grown to be the endowed bed in the Royal

Berkshire Hospital—surely a tedious and arduous task, but a labour of love. As time went on the committee realised it would take a long time to accomplish what they had set themselves to do. So other efforts followed, until last year the balance of the £1,000 was secured. His list contained 637 names, with contributions ranging from a farthing upwards. There were very few people in Wokingham who had not in one or another way contributed. Those who did not, he would venture to say, were a little bit sorry for themselves that afternoon.

To the Wokingham Carnival Committee they owed a deep debt of gratitude; also to Mr. Lyons the Royal Berkshire Hospital secretary, with his unfailing kindness and help upon all possible occasions. (Applause). His help and encouragement had been a wonderful inspiration all through.

THE PRESENTATION.

Mr. Priest then handed the tablet to the Mayor, and asked Mr. Benyon's acceptance of the endowment of the Wokingham bed. He added: "We know Wokingham will remember this day for many years to come, and we hope and trust that the success of our efforts may result in bringing relief to many a sufferer, and that those who use our bed may, by God's blessing, be restored to health and strength again."

The Mayor then handed the tablet to Mr. Benyon.

The tablet consists of solid oak, 24 ins. By 15 ins., bearing in white lettering, with the arms of Wokingham to the left of the inscription, "Wokingham Hospital Committee Bed, 1933."

Speech from Mr. Benyon during which Mr. Priest was made an honorary life governor of the hospital.

(more speeches.)

Arrangements announced that Canon Long would dedicate the bed on Sunday 4th March.

MISS ROSEMARY VILLIERS

Daughter of Lieut.-Col. C.H. Villiers and Lady Victoria Villiers, of Folly Court, Wokingham. Her engagement to Mr. Archibald Adam Gordon Black, son of Mr. Adam Black, was recently announced.



Rosemary Villiers

Sat 10th March

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL CONCERT

A capital concert, arranged by Miss D.E. Jerman, L.R.A.M., was given on behalf of the funds of the Baptist Sunday School summer treat.

THE ELECTRIC THEATRE

“Friday the Thirteenth,” the outstanding British picture, with dialogue by Emyln Williams, will be shown on the first three days of next week. The film reveals the private lives of a number of people involved in a ‘bus crash. Jessie Matthews, Sonnie Hale, Gordon Harker, and Edmund Gwenn, are well cast. “Gold Diggers of 1933” will be the attraction at the end of the week. The players include Joan Blondell and Ginger Rogers, and a large chorus.

MEMENTO

As a memento of a most successful effort, Alderman Priest, president for the last four years of the Wokingham Hospital Committee, has presented every member with a folded card, autographed, “With the best wishes of the president, A.E. Priest, 4th March,” and containing a fine photographic reproduction of the tablet which has been placed above the bed in the Royal Berkshire Hospital. A dozen cars were lent to convey the visitors to Sunday’s ceremony, which is reported elsewhere.

NO WOKINGHAM CARNIVAL

A meeting of the executive committee of the Wokingham Carnival was recently held to discuss the question of holding a carnival this year. After prolonged thought and careful discussion it was thought advisable to postpone for this year the event, and to hold the next carnival in 1935. This was the unanimous decision of the committee.

The dart tournament will, however, be held this year, as the rules of the tournament state that it shall be an annual event. Councillor D. Goddard has agreed to act as hon. secretary for the tournament.

Sat 31st March

WOKINGHAM’S NEW LIDO

Alderman W.T. Martin’s Enterprise

It has long been the hope of Alderman W.T. Martin that Wokingham should have its own swimming pool. For thirty years he has urged the Wokingham Town council to provide such facilities but largely on the grounds of expense the proposal has not got very far. So at last Mr. Martin, with the assistance of his son, Mr. Cathrow Martin, has taken the matter in his own hands, with the result that this summer there will be at Wokingham one of the finest lidos in the south of England. Alderman Martin’s gardens at Fernleigh house, Shute End, Wokingham, have always been a popular rendezvous for people in the district, and with a splendid swimming pool added at the rear, they are likely to make an appeal to a wider area still.

The new swimming pool is the design of Mr. Cathrow Martin himself. It will be 110 feet long, 40 feet wide, and 9 feet deep at its greatest depth. The water will fall over a glass cascade, which will be illuminated from underneath. It will then run down a series of stone steps into the pool. Underwater lighting has been provided for the pool itself, giving a sort of perpetual moonlight. No lights at all will be apparent to the eyes. The swimming bath is constructed of concrete with a snowcrete facing, and many tons of steel have been used for reinforcement. At the end of the pool opposite the steps will be a Venetian bridge with three diving boards, two six feet and one twelve feet in height. A curtain of water will be permanently falling from under the bridge. The whole pool will be found to have been designed on most artistic lines.

SPECIAL POOL FOR CHILDREN

In addition to the main swimming pool, there is a circular pool, 2ft. 6 ins. deep for children. This should prove not the least appreciated of the facilities provided, for swimmers will not find the larger pool crowded with children, who will not be allowed to use the big pool until they can swim. Parents may with safety leave their children at this smaller pool whilst they themselves are swimming. The children's pool will have its own illuminated cascade.

A novel system of dressing huts is being installed, with a locker for each swimmer. These are entirely hidden from the pool itself, and in no way interfere with the splendid view which is to be obtained at this, perhaps the most picturesque corner of Wokingham. There are also attractive huts from which teas and light refreshments will be served. The filtration plant is also entirely hidden from sight, and is of the latest pattern, purifying the water to a very marked degree. The water from the pools passes through this filtration plant every seven hours. An aeration plant is also being installed; this has been built to the special design of Mr. Cathrow Martin, who has patented the system.

An entrance is being provided from the Milton Road, and there will be an extensive car park. It is hoped that the work will be finished in time to open the "lido" by Whitsuntide. By putting this work in hand last year, Alderman Martin may be said to have done much towards solving the unemployment problem in Wokingham. The excavations and shifting of soil, etc., have naturally meant that much money has been spent on labour and all local men have been employed. Some twenty or more men have thus been provided with a job since last September. The contractors for the building of the pool are Messrs. Froud and Barrett, of Wokingham.

Sat 26th May

SWIMMING POOL AT WOKINGHAM Alderman Martin's Enterprise



The New swimming pool which has been constructed at "Fernleigh," Wokingham, by Ald. W.T. Martin and his son, Mr. Cathrow Martin, Was officially opened on Saturday, in the presence of a large company. There included the Mayor of Wokingham (the Rev. C. Mansfield), Lady Victoria Villiers, Ald P. sale, Mr. W.M. Colebrook, General Grant Wilkinson, Captain Evans, Mr. E.S. Whaley, Alderman A.F. Clark (Reading), Mr. L.L. Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. F.E. Chapman, Dr. Ward, Dr. Curl, Alderman M. Blake, the Rev. A.P. Carr, the Rev. G. Kenworthy, the Rev. T.W. Sergeant, Mrs. Pigott, Mr. A.T. Heelas, Mr. C. Goddard, Supt. Butler, Mr. Elliston Clifton, Mr. C.W. Marks.

Alderman W.T. Martin, in introducing the Mayor, said for over thirty years he had been trying his utmost to get a swimming pool for the Borough of Wokingham. When he went on the council 34 years ago it was one of the planks of his election address that they should try to do something to teach the children to swim. They had gone on from year to year, but all their schemes had fallen through. So he had now endeavoured to find something off his own bat. He hoped they had succeeded in producing a bathing place acceptable to all. (applause). They had taken a good deal of trouble to find out the very best. They had the purest water for them to bathe in, so that they could come here and feel absolutely safe. They had adopted one of the finest water purifiers they were able to find. The whole of the designs had been got out by his son. (Applause). They had found a very able man as contractor in Mr. Barrett, who had spared no efforts to carry out the last letter everything so that they would have a swimming pool that would be hard to surpass. Through the construction of the pool they were able to find work for a large number of men, who had worked willingly. They had put their backs into the job, and no hours had been too long in order to get it finished by that day. He felt very proud of the whole of the workmen who had been engaged on the job. (Hear, hear).

1.100 Tons Excavated

Mr. F.J. Barrett, the contractor, expressed his thanks to Alderman Martin for giving such a swimming pool to Wokingham. He was very proud of the job, and he thought he had some reason to be. He also thanked Mr. Cathrow Martin for his designing of the pool, which had made his work so much better, and for the very happy way in which they had been able to work together. He also desired to thank his own employees for the good work they had put into the job and the goodwill with which they had carried it out. They had worked long hours to get the job completed, so that at two o'clock that day he was able to say that the job was finished. Actually 1,100 tons of soil had been excavated, and although they could not see it, this was still in the garden. This was due to Mr. Martin's excellent designing. The amount of shingle, sand and gravel used was 650 tons. Other quantities included 110 tons of cement and twelve tons of reinforcements. If the electrician's wire used was measured it would probably amount to the same mileage as that which they had covered in running round looking at various swimming pools in the country.

Mr. Barrett then presented Mr. Martin with an inscribed silver-mounted ebony walking stick on behalf of himself and the workmen. Mrs. Martin was handed a bouquet of carnations.

A Man of Enterprise

The Mayor of Wokingham said the idea of a swimming pool had been a pet scheme of Alderman Martin's for many years, and as he could not get the council to spend the money to put the matter in hand, he had, with great enterprise, undertaken the work himself. (Applause). Alderman Martin was a man who had the best interests of the town of Wokingham at heart, and they now saw one of the results of that interest. They had a contractor in Mr. Barrett who had put his whole heart into the job, and it was due to his energy and good management that the pool was ready to be opened that day. The workmen, too, had carried out their job well. In designing such a pretty pool, Mr. Cathrow Martin had done excellent work. He hoped the whole town and, indeed, the neighbourhood, would take advantage of this provision for the health and welfare of the district. The best sign of their gratitude would be for them to make as best use of the swimming pool as they possibly could.

On behalf of Ald. Martin the Mayor then presented a packet of money, to each of the workmen.

The opening ceremony was followed by a swimming display. The opening splash was given by lady members of the Reading Swimming Club, and this was followed by a diving display by Miss L.L. Culium (champion of Hampshire) and Miss K. Culium. Exhibitions of various strokes were given by Mr. S. Bell (Windsor Swimming Club), ex-champion of England, Miss J. Edminson (Reading Swimming Club), champion of Berks, and Miss L.L. Culium. Polo matches were played between Reading ladies and Hounslow ladies, and Reading men and Windsor men. The display concluded with an aquatic exhibition by members of the Reading Swimming Club, and by the Four Lucraties of the Highgate Swimming Club.



The swimming pool is 110 feet long, 40 feet wide, and 9 feet deep at its greatest depth. The water at one end falls over a glass cascade, which is illuminated from underneath. It then runs down a series of stone steps into the pool. Underwater lighting has been provided for the pool itself, so that no lights will be apparent to the eyes. The swimming pool is constructed of concrete, with a snowcrete facing, which gives it a pure white appearance. At the end of the pool opposite to the steps is a Venetian bridge, with three diving boards, two six feet and one twelve feet in height. In addition to the main swimming pool, there is a circular pool, 2 ft. 6 in. deep, for the children. This pool has its own illuminated cascade.

The pools are in charge of ex- Chief Petty Officer W. Gunnee, R.N., who has been instructor to the Royal Navy at Portsmouth for twelve years. He is the holder of the bronze medallion and bar, and the award of merit of the Royal Life Saving Society of which he is a first-class instructor and examiner.

Sat 9th June

THE MAYOR'S DEPARTURE

The Mayor of Wokingham (the Rev. C. Mansfield) has accepted the vicariate of Dunsford, near Exeter, and will be leaving Wokingham later in the year.

Sat 21st July

OPENING OF EGG PACKING STATION

A national Mark Egg Packing Station was opened at Wokingham on Saturday by Alderman A.E. Priest, the Deputy-Mayor, in the absence through illness of the Mayor (the Rev. C. Mansfield). It has been started by the Berks Co-operative Poultry Producers Ltd., of which Mr. J.F. Wood, "Birchdene," Finchampstead Road, Wokingham is chairman and secretary, and the following directors were present:-

Messrs. C.T. Barlow, A. Colombe, H.N. Jones, A.G. Lindfield, C.A. Mack and H.J. Holmes (vice-chairman). The attendance numbered about 150.

Mr. J.F. Wood said their activities would not be restricted to Berkshire. They would go into any area where they were demanded. They had several members from Oxford. He further described the fattening, which he said would be in operation shortly. Here 400 birds could be fattened at one time under the expert judgment of Mrs. And Miss Taylor, who carried off first and second prizes at the Smithfield Show in May. These ladies were taking charge at once. The firm owned the 1½ acres of freehold land upon which the station stood, and they had secured their market. At first they sent 80% of their eggs to London and sold only 20%, locally, but now those percentages were reversed.

Alderman Priest, after referring to the absence of the Mayor, said the aim of the organisation seemed to be to bring something of the very best to the tables of the public. He congratulated Mr. Wood and his friends who had been enterprising enough to start the station.

Colin Hodgson, a little boy of 2½ years handed a bouquet to Mrs. Priest.

Alderman Priest then hammered home the last of eight nails in a silvered horse-shoe over the front door of the station. The horse-shoe was taken from a depth of 4½ ft. when excavating for the electric supply cable to the station.

Alderman Priest then opened the door with a special key and the company entered the spacious building and inspected the plant, including “candling” (almost equivalent to X-raying, by which defects, if any, are detected), also weighing and the subsequent packing. Collection and distribution are made by the firm’s motor.

Figures supplied by Mr. Wood show that the membership of the berks Co-operative Poultry Producers, Ltd., is 95, and capital subscribed is nearly £400. Four thousand dozen eggs pass through the station weekly, and at the end of August, when contracts expire, this will be increased to 6,000 dozen.

Sat 28th July

MISS FRANCES HENLEY CURL



Only daughter of Dr. H.F. Curl and the late Mrs. Curl of Wokingham. Her marriage to Mr. Hugh St. Clair Stewart, older son of the Rev. M.J. Stewart and Mrs. Stewart at Manuden Vicarage, Bishops Stortford, will take place quietly at St. Jude’s Church, S.W. on Tuesday.

Sat 24th September

RENOVATING WOKINGHAM’S CLOCK TOWER

How a Local Firm Set About the Task



Recently, the Wokingham Town Council approved a scheme to renovate and decorate the clock tower, weather vane, and roof of the Town Hall. The lowest tender, by Messrs. Lowe and Son, of Wellington Road, was accepted, and operations commenced on the morning of Thursday last week. As the clock tower with vane reaches a height of 80 feet, the question of scaffolding, both with regard to stability and construction, became an important one. The local firm sub-let the scaffolding for the work to an expert London firm, Messrs. F. Parker and Co., of West End Lane, Kilburn, who specialises in tubular steel scaffolding. By this method, scaffold poles, and the necessary cording by which they are secured are

entirely dispensed with, the material used being lengths of tubular steel, which combine great strength with economy of space. These are stamped and bolted together, as the form of the framework requires, the various portions slipping one into the other. The method is very expeditious. The whole of the scaffolding required was fitted up by a foreman and four men, between 11 a.m. on the Thursday and 5.30 p.m. on the next day. A few planks only were used for footings, and the three platforms. This is the first occasion on which the method has been seen in Wokingham, and great public interest was aroused in it.

Messrs Lowe and Son have been praised for the provision of this scaffolding, which reduces risk of collapse to a negligible quantity.

Sat 6th Oct

BLACKSHIRTS BUSY

Blackshirt protagonists were busy on Friday evening last week, in open air and other methods of propaganda.

Sat 13th Oct

ST. PAUL'S RENOVATED ORGAN

The renovation of St. Paul's organ, necessary on account of the severe ravages of woodworm, has been successfully accomplished by the contractors, Messrs. P.G. Phipps and Sons, organ builders of Oxford. An electrical blower has been installed. The instrument has been brought several feet forward, and is now adjacent to the stalls of the choirmen. This has remedied certain acoustic disadvantages in the church, by closing the arched opening of the one-time organ chamber which absorbed much of the tone. While a considerable quantity of the wood and metal has been retained, the parts affected have been removed and replaced. The registration has not been greatly interfered with, but a few of the original sets have been taken out, viz., the trumpet on the swell organ, replaced by a beautiful horn, and the mixed sesquialters on the great organ. Further new stops include the tromulant, vox celeste, and sulcional on the swell organ; clarinet, claribella, and twelfth on the great. The pedals are enriched with bass flute, while additional couplers, and six (instead of four) combination pistons give scope for fuller tone, range, and greater variety of expression. Mr. F.A. Burgess, the organist, shows a fine command of the organ, and its added resources. During Sunday, owing to atmospheric conditions, including marked variations of temperature and moisture, eccentricities became apparent, which the mellowing effect of time will eradicate.

Sat 17th Nov

NEW RECTOR FOR ST. PAUL'S, WOKINGHAM

He Bishop of Oxford has approved the induction of the Rev. Viscount Mountmorres to be Rector of St. Paul's Parish, Wokingham. The Viscount was curate at All Saints', Ryde, vicar of Swindon (Lancs), vicar of St. Mark's, South Farnborough, and curate at St. Barnabas, Oxford.

1935

Sat 19th Jan

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL TREAT

The scholars of the Baptist Sunday School were regaled at their winter treat in the school room, Milton Road, on Wednesday. A beautiful tea was served and fancy caps were distributed. The Pastor and Mrs. Guyton, Mr. W. Foster (superintendent), and the teachers were present. Games (organised by Mr. Billen), items given by Miss Knight's class, and an interesting turn by Mr. A. Oakley, entertainer, occupied the evening.

A NEW PARISH MAGAZINE

With the coming of the new rector of St. Paul's, the Rev. Viscount Mountmorres, a drastic change is to be made in respect of the Wokingham Parish Magazine. Almost from the time of the formation of the Ecclesiastical parish of St. Paul's there has been a dual journal monthly for the parishes of All Saints' and St. Paul's. There is to be now a new venture. "The St. Paul's Review," edited by the Rev. Viscount Montmorres.

THE POLICE BALL

The annual ball of the Forest Division of the Berkshire Constabulary was held in the Drill Hall on Wednesday. Visitors numbered three hundred. The M.C.'s were Sergeant Crombie and P.C Huckins. The music was ably supplied by "The Rhythmicians," of Sandhurst. (Mr. George Rowley, conductor). Catering was efficiently carried out by Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Crawley, of the Bush Hotel. Among the visitors were the Chief Constable, Superintendents Sellwood, Butler and Braby and ex-superintendent C. Goddard, Sub-Divisional Officer A.T. Heelas (Specials), Councillor S.L. Bowyer, Mr. H. Bowyer, Dr. Kempthorne and others

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

INDUCTION OF THE REV. VISCOUNT MOUNTMORRES

For the second time in three years, St. Paul's church and parish witnessed an induction to its rectory, when, on Wednesday afternoon, the rector-elect, the rev. Viscount Mountmorres, was instituted and inducted. The proceedings were of an impressive character.

The Lord Bishop of Oxford officiated at the ceremony, and was attended by the Archdeacon of Berks and the Rural Dean of Sonning.

Following the hymns, "Lord, pour Thy Spirit from on high," "Come Holy Ghost," and prayers, the Bishop, seated in a chair at the chancel entrance, received the presentation by the patron, Mr. John Walter, of the rector-elect who then made the usual declarations.

The Bishop then instituted the new rector in the accustomed form.

The rector, accompanied by the Bishop, the Archdeacon, the Rural Dean and the churchwardens, proceeded to the church door, where, the mandate of induction in hand, the Archdeacon performed the induction, after which the usual ceremonies were followed by an address by the Bishop, from the pulpit, followed by a closing hymn.

List of civic dignitaries

Following the service, a large number of parishioners assembled at the Parish Room, where tea had been prepared by the social committee of the parochial council, to meet the Bishop, the new rector and Lady Mountmorres.

Peals were rung from the belfry, both before and after, the service.

Sat 9th Feb

THE MAYOR OF WOKINGHAM'S DISTRESS FUND

Although little money remains in the above fund, the committee is still assisting a number of local cases. A dance, organised by the dance committee, of which Mr. Alan Perkins is the hon. secretary, will be held at the Drill Hall on Monday, February 18th. Donations, large and small towards the fund, will be gratefully acknowledged by the Mayor.

THE 1935 CARNIVAL

A well-attended public meeting to consider the question of a carnival this year was held at the Town Hall, Wokingham, on Friday last week, the Deputy Mayor, Alderman A.E. Priest, occupying the chair pro tem. The chairman expressed his pleasure at the representative attendance. It was unanimously decided that a carnival be held, and thereupon, the Mayor, Councillor Dr. H. F. Curl, was elected the president, and chairman, and occupied the chair forthwith.

The past executive committee was unanimously re-elected and the following appointments were also made:--Vice-president, the Deputy Mayor; hon. treasurer, councillor G. C. Wilson, and hon. secretary, Councillor D. Goddard.

Wednesday, September 11th, was the date fixed and the enthusiasm shown promised well for the continued successes of the Wokingham Carnivals, which in the past have produced £1,410 for the local charities.

The hon. secretary will be pleased to receive the names of those not present who are willing to assist in any way.

THE LAUNDRY COMPANY'S SOCIAL

The annual staff social of the Wokingham Laundry Company, Ltd. (Mr. A. Andrews, managing director), was held on Monday evening in the British Legion Hall, Station Road.

There was a large attendance, and among those present were:- Miss Curl (Mayoress), Alderman A.E. Priest (Deputy Mayor), Mrs. Priest, the Rev. R.F. Guyton, Mrs. Guyton, Mr. Sidney Brown, Mr. and Mrs. J. Webb, Mr. G. Webb, Mrs. C. Lunn, Mr. and Mrs. W. Lunn, Mr. and Mrs. Beasley (Maidenhead), Miss Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Fidler, Mr. Miller, etc.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrews, with the members of their family, did all in their power, and very successfully, to give them a most pleasant evening.

The programme included community games, dancing, songs by Miss D. Sale, monologues by Mrs. Rolf, and recitations by little Eileen Beasley. Mrs Hare played for dancing and Miss M. Webb acted as accompanist, and both were very efficient

performers. Mr. Andrews and Mr. A. Andrews, jun., were most capable M.C.s. Refreshments on a bounteous scale were provided.

“The King,” proposed by Mr. Andrews, was musically honoured, after which he gave “Their Visitors,” expressing satisfaction that the Corporation was represented. Alderman Priest, not for the first time, being present. Some 29 years ago the laundry was started and had shown a steady increase year by year. He paid a tribute to the staff, some of whom had been with them 20 years, two starting on leaving school. With an average increase of £130 yearly, last year showed the biggest increase £560. (Applause.) For that result they were very grateful indeed to their staff, all of whom he thanked for their very loyal service.

Alderman Priest, responding, expressed regret that the Mayor (Dr. Curl) was unable to be present. Alderman Priest said he was not surprised at the employees serving a long time, and added: “Happy feeling between employer and employed makes a happy land.” (Hear, hear.) He thanked Mr. and Mrs. Andrews for their hospitality (applause)—and wished them and all the staff the best of good luck.

The rev. R.F. Guyton in a witty speech associated himself with the remarks of the Deputy-Mayor. There was truth in the old saying, “Cleanliness is next to godliness,” and while he himself would do his utmost to promote the latter in Wokingham, he felt sure of the co-operation of Mr. and Mrs. Andrews in their section.

Mr George Bowers, on behalf of the staff, thanked Mr. and Mrs. Andrews and their family, for whom three hearty cheers were given.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrews briefly responded.

Sat 23rd Feb

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CARAVAN

On Wednesday, a visit was made to Wokingham by Miss Eva Hasell, in the interests of the Western Canada Sunday School Caravan Fund. In the afternoon, by invitation of Mrs. Moseley, Miss Hasell M.B.E., spoke at a drawing room meeting at Clare Court, the Rev. G. Kenworthy in the chair, a generous response being made to her appeal, while in the evening she gave a lantern lecture on, “By Caravan and Camera in Canada.”

REMARKABLE FEAT BY A YOUNG LADY

On Sunday afternoon Miss Doris Mewes accompanied the steeplejack who is employed upon the chimney of Messrs. Lawrence’s brickyard, to the top of the shaft, a height of 140 ft. The ladder is erected perpendicular to the ground, and Miss Mewes accomplished both climb and descent unaided. She did not once lose her nerve, and, at the summit, had “a good look round” at the beautiful landscape. With the exception of aching muscles due to strain, Miss Mewes has felt no ill-effects for her adventure. Capt W.B. Martin, C.O. Wokingham Fire Brigade, witnessed her achievement.

THE CARNIVAL

The hon. secretary informs us that arrangements are proceeding satisfactorily, and the help promised augurs well for the future. Inquiries have been received from Fair proprietors, and doubtless, shortly, a Fair will be booked. It is hoped, with the permission from the borough council, to affix to the Town Hall a notice case giving details of the arrangements. All matters pertaining to the carnival must be first placed before, and approved by, the carnival executive committee, and after the next meeting, which will be held on the 1st March, many more details will be available for

the next publication. The Dagenham Girl Pipers have been definitely booked. Suggestions towards the events, and proposals leading to the success of the carnival, will be gratefully received by the hon. secretary, Councillor D. Goddard, 39, Oxford Road.

SUCCESSFUL BALL AT WOKINGHAM

In Aid of the Mayor's Distress Fund

A ball in aid of the Mayor's Distress Fund, held in the Drill Hall, Wokingham, on Monday, was sold out. Mr. Alan Perkins was the very able hon. secretary, and the organisation was exceptionally well carried out. The dancing area was crowded.

The hall, with decorations kindly left from the recent Territorial Ball, was well suited. Music was supplied by Harry Hook's Piccadilly Dance Band, from Reading, while N. Blake's band, "The Bohemians," acted as relief for the supper dances. Mr. Gordon Reeves was M.C., and Mr. F. Stanley Perkins was announcer. The proceedings went with a capital swing and Mr. Hook's band presented excellent tempo and tone. The Mayor (Dr. H.F. Curl) and the Mayoress (Miss Curl) were present, and the assembly was most representative. The Mayor's Fund received a substantial increment. Councillor Miss Wescott organised the refreshments, her committee comprising: Mrs. R. Rose, Mrs. E.S. Whaley, Mrs. Winlove, Mrs. A.H. Perkins and Miss Finch. Mrs. George Townsend loaned decorations, etc. Miss I.F. Daldorph organised "sweeps" and prizes; Mr. G. Gough gave appreciated assistance with the decorating, and Mr. C. Scragg loaned decorative plants.

There were numerous donors of prizes. The Yorktown (Camberley) Gas and Electricity Company heated the refreshment room while many friends loaned goods or gave their services. Prizes were given by Mr. F. Moore, Messrs. Colebrook and Co., Mr. W.E. Exton, Mr. Goldsack (the Rose Hotel), Miss Daldorph,, Councillor G.C. Wilson, Mr. Morgan (Wokingham Electric Theatre), Mr. A. Andrews, Messrs. Sale and Son (Wokingham), Ltd. and Mrs. C. Lee.

"Belisha Beacons" Introduced

The dances, numerous and varied, included "Belisha Beacons," a most amusing item, in which the "pedestrian crossing" had to be cleared by two "policemen" every time the music ceased. The "Sergeant-Major's Dance," in which Sergt. Major J. Weaver instructed the dancers by megaphone to break up into line, reform and perform various other evolutions caused much fun. Prize-winners were Mr. J. Langley, Miss Reeves, Mr. C.H. Patrick, Major-General M. Grant Wilkinson, DR. Chapman, Mr. Humphreys, Mr. P. Grantham,, Miss Canning and Mr. J. Buckle.

A number of sidelines brought in considerable sums. Miss Daldorph's raffle realised £5 10s.

The cloakroom attendants gave 15s. (half their takings) to the fund. Mr. Wilson's "tote" made £1 1s.

The mayoress presented the prizes to the winners, amid applause, and Mr. H. Watts auctioned and re-auctioned a basket of fruit and other gifts, by which means the Mayor's Fund was augmented to the extent of £2 9s.

The Mayor expressed his thanks to all who had assisted to make the ball such a success. Mr. Alan Perkins thanked the Mayoress for presenting the prizes, also Mr. H. Watts for auctioning the various articles.

A spirit of whole-hearted pleasure prevailed, and it is expected that the total financial results will well exceed those of any previous ball of this description.

Mr. C.G. Wilson is the hon. treasurer.

Sat 6th April

The annual bowling match between the Wokingham Bowling Club and Wokingham Town Council will take place on May 1st.

ST. PAUL'S

Considerable interest has been evoked in the advanced ritual recently introduced into the parish by the new incumbent (the Rev. Viscount Mountmorres), who refers in the current number of St. Paul's Review to the fact that a protest was made by Lady Victoria Villiers, who wished her action to be recorded on the minutes, against the use of the word "Mass," and that several members spoke on the subject

CURATE FOR ST. PAUL'S

The rector (the Rev. Viscount Mountmorres) announces that the Rev. R.W. Tuesday has accepted the position of assistant curate in the parish. He comes from Carlisle, where, since his ordination three years ago, he has been working on a large and highly organised parish, and is a graduate of Durham University, St. Chad's College, and has studied at Dorchester Theological College. The new curate and his wife hope to come to the parish about the middle of May.

Sat 4th May

WOKINGHAM

During a quarter of a century's reign of His Majesty many and great changes have taken place in Wokingham. Notably among the changes have been the breaking up of large estates and residences, including Bearwood and Billingbear, while Buckhurst, Glebelands and other residences have long stood unoccupied. A large number of smaller dwellings have been erected so that London Road, Reading Road, Finchampstead Road, Matthews Green Road and others present a far different aspect from what they did in 1910.

The Town Council have not been behindhand in the matter of housing and they now own 78 houses. In 1927 the borough was extended to five times its former area and shortly afterwards a big drainage scheme, costing £71,000, was carried out, the sale of the gasworks in 1929 providing a capital sum of £86,000, interest on which meets the principal and interest on the necessary loans over a long period of years. The cost of the scheme was greatly reduced by Government grants in respect of the employment of men from distressed areas. No part of the cost has fallen on the rates.

The new Catholic Church of Corpus Christi was built in 1910. Many business premises have been re-fronted during the past 25 years, changing the appearance of the main streets. 'Bus and motor-coach facilities have been developed from the late Mr. M. Blake's one-horse venture daily to very fine services through the town to all parts.

The War Memorial Clinic and the V.A.D.s have come into being within the period under review. The Holt County Council Girls' School marks an educational advance for Wokingham.

Many familiar and honoured people have passed away during the period. These include Alderman E.C. Hughes, H.C. Mylne, D.N. Heron, M. Blake and G.T. Phillips, each of whom had filled the Mayoral chair. Alderman J. Seaward, Councillors E.W. Collis, T. Dowsett, G. Fryer, W.J. Cheeseman, H.A. Hammond, W.H. Goss, C. Baker, W.G. Jefferies, J.S. Goadby, and Major T.W. Greenstreet, while the Marquis of Downshire (first president Wokingham Fire Brigade, Mrs. Murdoch of Buckhurst, the Rev. H.M. Walter, Rector, for 35 years of St. Paul's, Mr. Isaiah Gadd, Mr. H.

Farrington Evans, Mr. Samuel Walden, the Butler Brothers (Messrs Tom, Edwin and Henry), Mr. H.T. Martin, the Rev. E.E. Smith (Baptist Pastor), Major Terence Dunne, Captain F. Caiger (Wokingham Fire Brigade) and many others have fallen out after having served well their day and generation.

The four successful carnivals of 1929, 1930, 1932 and 1933, the Wokingham Hospital Bed at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, and many other social and philanthropic movements will be recalled and the general and unmistakable must be that the town has made progress.

29th June

NEW TELEPHONE CALL OFFICE

A new Telephone Call office has been opened at California Sub Post Office.

Sat 13th July

LABOUR EXCURSION

On Sunday, members of the Wokingham Labour Party joined an excursion arranged by the Reading Labour Party and journeyed to Brighton by the Southern Railway.

THE MAYOR OF WOKINGHAM'S LIST

In connection with the Mayor's list towards the Berkshire Fund of the King George's Jubilee Trust, the following additional donations have been received :- Palmer School gift, £1 2s.; anonymous, 2s.; N.M. and F.M., 10s.; Miss Constance Sale, Rectory Road, 5s. Total to date: £203 6s. 5d.

ALL SAINTS' CHOIR AND RINGERS' OUTING

On Saturday Southsea was visited. Starting from Wokingham at 8 a.m., the party travelled by motor-coach, and arrived at 11 a.m. The organist, Mr. A. Yould, was in charge of the party, which was accompanied by the Rector, the rev. G. Kenworthy. Lunch and tea were partaken of at "The Canoe Lake Café." The return journey commenced at 6.30 p.m.

PRESENTATION TO REV. C.L. VINSON

The closing meeting of the session of the Wokingham Women's Meeting was held on Tuesday in the Schoolroom, Methodist Church, Rose Street. The rev. C.L. Vinson gave a fine address on superstition, etc. He expressed his regret at having to leave the circuit. Mrs. W.P. Tucker, the hon. sec., presented him with a set of books: "Studies in Literature. Series I: The art of writing. Series II: Adventures in criticism; with expressions of appreciation and regret from the members.

The usual annual circular tour by motor-coach was taken, the route being to Bucklebury Common, via Barkham, Arborfield, Shinfield, etc. The return journey including Reading. Seventy people took part. On Tuesday the annual outing to Brighton will take place.

WOKINGHAM ST. PAUL'S

Successful fete

MAYOR PERFORMS OPENING CEREMONY

The Annual parochial fete of St. Paul's, Wokingham (to augment the Parish and Diocesan Funds), was held on Wednesday at "The Elms," Broad Street, by permission

of Miss Ellison. The day was delightfully fine. Mr. A.E. Jennings was the able fete secretary and a great deal of work was put in by himself and numerous helpers.

The proceedings were opened by the Mayor, Dr. H.F. Curl, and the Rector, the Rev. Viscount Mountmorres, who introduced His Worship, was supported on the platform by the Mayoress (Miss Curl), Viscountess Mountmorres, the Misses Ellison (two) and Mr. A.E. Jennings (fete secretary).

The Rector said the number of tickets sold this year was twice as many as before. It was very kind of His Worship to come and open their fete, and he (the Rector) also thanked him for his Jubilee souvenir, presented to every baby in the show. (Applause).

The Mayor expressed his great pleasure in coming to open the fete. It was the first time he had ever opened the fete in his life. The fete was held in order to raise funds for St. Paul's and he knew the immense amount of good the church rendered the community in illness and in trouble. He asked all those present to give generously. Many in the parish had helped (Applause). He thanked the Misses Ellison for the loan of their beautiful garden. The Mayor expressed his great personal interest in the baby show. "Miss Benson," he added, "is the best show producer since Barnum." (Laughter).

Mr. Jennings thanked the Mayor for opening the fete and for his further kindness and also thanked the Misses Ellison and all the people who are supporting the fete. (Applause).

Among those present were: The Baroness Von Biel, the Rev. G. Kenworthy, the Rev. R.W. Tuesday (assistant curate of St. Paul's), the Hon. Mrs. A. Weston, Mrs. Eustace, Mr. F.E. Chapman, Mr. E.H. Perkins, Mrs. King Salter, and Superintendent S.F. Butler.

The following is the list of stalls and those in charge:-Fancy: Mrs. Henlé and the Misses Ellison; Sweet: Mrs. Watson; fruit, flowers and vegetables: Mrs. Rowles, Mrs. Elliott and helpers; Bran tub: Mrs. Willey; Refreshments and ices: Viscountess Mountmorres and Baroness Von Biel; White elephant: Nurse Struth; Teas (served on the lawn): Mrs. Hyde Parker, Mrs. Newberry and helpers.

The competitions included:-Buried treasure: Miss P. Beck and Miss V. Morley; Bowling for leg of mutton (gentlemen): Mr. Canning; Bowling for silk umbrella (ladies); Miss Annis; Darts: Miss M. Adams; Clock golf: Mr. J. Goddard; Hoop-la: Miss Canning; Coin in bucket: Miss Wootten.

The Baby Show

Ably organised by Miss Benson, the baby show provided a record entry for St. Paul's fete, the number being 125. Lieut.-Col H. Greany, I.M.S., acted as judge. The infants were prepared for the various tests by members of the 28th Berks. V.A.D., to whom Miss Benson expresses her very grateful thanks.

At 4.0 and 5.30 p.m. graceful exhibitions of dancing were given by the teachers and pupils of the Mortimer School of Dancing, Camberley. The excellent programme included Spanish dances in costume, dainty Gipsy dances, duet dancing and many fancy exhibitions, closing with a ballet. All were sympathetically and efficiently accompanied by Miss Milestone, M.O.A.D. (cello), and Miss Collins, L.R.A.M. (piano).

The Concert

At 7.15 p.m. a concert, arranged by Mr. F.A. Burgess, the organist of the church, was given in the enclosure by several well-known local artistes, including Mrs. W.J. Strange, Messrs. P. Fuller, W. Westlake, A.J. Hawkins, C. Culver, E. Thatcher

(solos); W. Westlake and C. Culver (duet); P. Fuller and E. Thatcher (duet), Miss Webb an Miss Blackman accompanied at the piano.

Messrs. E.W. Mundy, W.J. Willey, C. Bowers and E.E. Summers were "on the gate," and Scoutmaster Wilson (2nd Wokingham) was in charge of the programme selling.

The total takings were about £120.

Sat 27th July

NET PROCEEDS OF ST. PAUL'S FETE

Mr. A.E. Jennings, fete hon. secretary, announces the gross takings as £144 10s. 5d., with expenses £17 1s. 7d., the net profit for the funds being £127 8s. 10d.

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL ANNUAL TRIP

Scholars of St. Paul's went by motor on Friday last week to London for their annual trip. Mr. R. Bagley (head master) was with the party, who visited South Kensington Museum and The Zoo.

KING GEORGE'S JUBILEE TRUST

The Mayor of Wokingham has received the following additional donations: Flag day collection, £19 3s. 4d.; Staff and girls of the "Holt" County School, £6; Miss Eccles, £1; total received to date, £229 9s. 9d.

ST. PAUL'S CHOIR EXCURSION

The annual choir excursion of St. Paul's took place on Saturday. The venue being Worthing. Mr. F.A. Burgess accompanied the party. Tea was partaken of at "The Mu Dor" café. Mr. A.E. Priest, churchwarden, presented each choirboy with a shilling to spend.

PALMER SCHOOL OUTING

Scholars of the Palmer School took part in their annual outing on Friday last week, when they journeyed by motor-coach to London, the itinerary comprising the Science museum, South Kensington, St. Paul's Cathedral and The Zoo. Mr. H.F. Maidment (head master) accompanied the large party, and the outing was greatly appreciated.

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTING

Scholars of the Baptist School participated in their annual treat on Saturday, when a party, with Mr. G. Hall in charge, journeyed by S.R. to Bognor, on a half-day excursion, leaving Wokingham at 11 a.m. and arriving at 1.30 p.m.. Home was reached at 9.15 p.m. Tea was partaken of at "The Highbury" Tea Gardens, Bognor. The sea was too rough for trips, but the afternoon was fine till past tea time.

Sat 14th Sept

THE LATE MR. JAMES MOSS

Former Wokingham Head Master

There passed away at his residence, 1, Crescent Road, Wokingham, on Friday last week, a well-known and respected resident of Wokingham Mr. James Moss, who, on May 28th 1885, came to Wokingham (from East Hagbourne School) as head master of St. Paul's Church of England School, a position he held with distinguished ability for 36 years till his retirement at Christmas, 1931. He succeeded Mr. Babbage, and his

successor is Mr. R. Bagley, the present head master. He was a "Culham man"—1877-1878.

Of original and humorous disposition, Mr. Moss's memory is cherished by several generations of grateful pupils. He was an educationist of considerable ability, and his published book dealing with spelling was widely circulated in the district, the then H.M.I. expressing great appreciation of it.

The late Mr. Moss was for many years secretary of the local Lodge of Oddfellows. He was a staunch Conservative, and an active member of the local association. He was also a member of the Wokingham Club.

A Fellow of the Guild of Organists, he was a very capable musician and voice trainer, and frequently, for the school services and full church services, officiated at the organ. The school at this time was noted for its singing, and the concerts and operettas arranged by him will long be remembered, particularly "Little Snow White," given in the Drill Hall, and "Lacemakers."

Mr. Moss was, a well-instructed and consistent churchman, very keen on religious education in the elementary school. Members of his school staff generally remained for several years with him.

For many years Mr. Moss was Wokingham correspondent for the "Reading Mercury."

Mr. Moss and his wife (who was Miss Napper, of Hagbourne), celebrated their golden Wedding on December 26th, 1933.

Mr. Moss, who had attained the age of 77, had suffered much in a long illness, during the last few months of which he had been devotedly attended by Mrs. G. Turner, whose services were greatly appreciated both by Mrs. Moss and himself.

The Funeral

The funeral took place at St. Paul's on Tuesday. The officiating clergy were the Rev. G. Kenworthy (Rector of All Saints), and the Rev. G.W. Tuesday (curate of St. Paul's, Wokingham).

The mourners were—long list.

Sat 12th Oct

REST HOME FOR CINEMA TRADE

Sir William Jury's Gift of Glebelands, Wokingham

The magnificent country residence, "Glebelands," Wokingham, with its twelve acres of beautiful grounds, has been presented, free of all costs, to the Cinematograph Trade Benevolent Fund, by Sir William F. Jury, of Sherwood House, Bath Road, Reading, who is president of the fund. The house was formerly the residence of Colonel the Hon. Sir Leslie Wilson, at the time when he represented Reading in Parliament.

It is intended to use the premises as a convalescent and rest home, and also as a permanent residence for pensioners of the fund. The building is in excellent condition, and will require only small internal alterations before it is ready for sixty persons, which is considered its maximum accommodation.

The ground floor comprises a lounge hall, large sitting room, dining and recreation rooms, kitchen, pantry and domestic offices. On the first and second floors are the bedrooms, bathrooms, etc. The building is centrally heated and electrically lighted. There are also outbuildings—a coach house, garage, etc.—which will doubtless be put to a good use. There is room, when necessary, to augment the present capacity.

An appeal is being made to the cinema trade for the establishment of Endowment and Maintenance Funds, for which promises of £7,000 have already been made. It is estimated that the new home will involve an expenditure of £3,000 per annum.

Sat 9th Nov

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Jubilee Lime Trees To Be Planted

The Town Clerk submitted a letter from Miss R.C. Smith, District Captain of the Wokingham Girl Guides, stating that the Guides were asked to plant trees this year to celebrate the King's Silver Jubilee, and that this district would like to plant three limes if the council would indicate a suitable site. It was agreed that the matter be left in the hands of Alderman Sale and the Borough Surveyor to arrange for sites.

Alderman Sale announced that the three lime trees given by the Girl Guides in celebration of the Silver Jubilee would be planted in Barkham Road Recreation Ground on November 23rd, when the Rector would attend.

Sat 16th Nov

Elected: Town Crier, Mr. H. Banks; Sergeant-at-Mace, Sergt. C. Sparkes; Special Constables, W.D. Pearce, T. Douglas, W.H. Wilson and S.J. Callan.

1936

4th Jan 1936

JUBILEE TREE AVENUE

DUKE OF CONNAUGHT AVENUE

The Town Clerk had received a letter from the secretary to the High Steward (the Duke of Connaught) in which he wrote, "I am directed by His Royal Highness to say that he will be pleased to have the two trees that are to be placed at the entrance of the Silver Jubilee Avenue planted in his name. His Royal Highness also approves of the proposed avenue being named after him."

Sat 11th Jan

CINEMA HOME AT WOKINGHAM

To be Opened in April

Generous support has been given the fund which is being raised for "Glebelands," Wokingham, the Cinema Trade Benevolent Fund Home, which was given by Sir William Jury. Cheques and promises received to date amount to approximately £23,000, much of which is spread over a period of five years, and will be largely required as capital expenditure. It is estimated that a further sum of £100,000 will be needed to produce sufficient income to endow the home permanently.

Workmen have been busy for some time adapting the house to its new use, and it is anticipated that it will be ready for opening about the middle of April. "Glebelands" contains 18 bedrooms, rest room, dining room, recreation room and reception room. It will be centrally heated, and when completed there will be 45 beds and 25 cubicles.

A scheme has been prepared in connection with subscriptions, whereby donors of £2,500 will qualify to name a room, and of £1,000 to name a bed or cubicle. Gifts of smaller sums will give the donor certain titles, and also voting rights. All subscribers up to January 1st. 1937 will be founder members.

Sat 18th Jan

WOKINGHAM'S WELCOME
New Postmaster Honoured
"REMOVING ALOOFNESS"

Wokingham's new postmaster, Mr. J.T. Golothan, received a cordial welcome on Saturday evening, when the staff organised a social gathering at Wokingham Town Hall. The arrangements were in the hands of the social committee, with Mr. F.W. Stokes as chairman. Mr. Stokes, who presided at Saturday evening's function, was supported by the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham (Alderman F.J. Barrett and Mrs. Barrett), Alderman P. Sale, Mr. J.R. Jay (surveyor for the South Midland District), Mr. R.K. Shipp (manager of Westminster Bank, Wokingham), the Rev. A.P. Carr (Vicar of St. Sebastian's), the Rev. R.F. Guyton (Baptist Minister, Wokingham), Dr. Kempton, Dr. E.F. Smith, Mr. F.E. Chapman, Miss Beryl Stokes, Councillors C. Goddard, S. Bowyer, Miss Wescott, and S. Sale, Mr. S.J. Bilham, Mr. Charles Bowyer, Miss Maggie Jackson (Wokingham Carnival Queen), and others.

After supper apologies were read from General Clifton Brown M.P., the Marquis of Downshire, and Mr. W. Marks (Borough Surveyor).

The loyal toast was given by the chairman, who also proposed "The Head Postmaster."

Mr. Stokes said the invitations that had been issued had given the staff a tremendous amount of pleasure, and they were pleased to have the public with them in their leisure.

Welfare of the Staff

They welcomed their new Head Postmaster (Mr Golothan) and hoped that he would spend many years with them. Mr. Golothan, who was installed in November, made his first concern the welfare of the staff. The staff responded by arranging that reception, for he, Mr. Stokes, was sure that when Mr. Golothan left Wokingham there would be no cause for celebration. They regretted that Mrs. Golothan was unable to attend through the illness of their son, to whom they wished a speedy recovery.

Mr. Golothan, who was accorded musical honours, said it was usual for a postmaster to be welcomed in that way. He had heard of them being kicked out. (Laughter). He thanked them for their good wishes and hoped that the good feeling that had been manifested would continue during his stay in Wokingham. He would always do what he could for the staff. "As long as each member is treated as a personality there will be no complaints," he added. It was more than a compliment to receive that welcome, he concluded.

"The Visitors" was submitted by Mr. S.J. Bilham, who said he was sorry so many had been turned away that evening. It was a good augury that the public should be able to join with them. A function of that kind would improve the relations between the Post Office and the public.

The Town Council's Welcome

The Mayor, in reply, said he was also in an unusual position, being a visitor in his own parcel. (Laughter). The Town Council and the townspeople welcomed their new Head Postmaster and hoped that his stay would be a long one. He would have the support of the Council, which had always been afforded previous Postmasters, and he (Alderman Barrett) was sure that Mr. Golothan would receive consideration from the public. He, for one, had been sorry for the poor fellows who had been delivering letters during last month, which was the wettest he could remember.

Handwriting a Perfect Disgrace

In a witty speech, Mr. F.E. Chapman proposed the health of the "Post Office Staff," and in complimentary terms referred to the efficiency of the Wokingham staff. After remarking on the officials' knowledge, intelligence and patience, the speaker added, "There are some people in this town whose handwriting is a perfect disgrace."

Responding, Mr. J.R. Jay said the Post Office received numerous letters of complaint, but few commendations. However, when these did arrive they made very pleasant reading. The Post Office staff comprised 200,000 people, who were doing their best for the public. They were trying to remove that aloofness, and the P.O. intended to take the public into their confidence more in the future.

An excellent programme was contributed by Mr. Gilbert Savigor (songs), Mr. P.J. Silbrett (conjuring), and Mr. Golothan gave a humorous monologue.

Afterwards the room was cleared for dancing, music being supplied by the Bohemian Dance Orchestra.

Sat 25th Jan

EDWARD VIII IS PROCLAIMED KING

At noon on Wednesday amid full civic pomp and dignity, the Mayor Alderman F.J. Barrett read the Proclamation of his Majesty King Edward VIII to a crowded audience in the Market Place. A large platform had been erected, facing Denmark Street, and upon this were, in addition to His Worship, the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. F.J. Curr, the Town Clerk Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton; Aldermen F.B. Eustace (admiral, wearing his decorations); A.E. Priest, F. Sale and E.S. Whaley (Alderman W.T. Martin was absent through illness), Councillors A.H.L. Beale, S.L. Bowyer, G.A. Cheeseman, C. Goddard, H. Goddard, F.S. Perkins, E.W. Reeves, S.E. Sale, J.E. Thorpe, E. Ward, Miss D. Wescott and G.C. Wilson, with the Borough Surveyor Mr. C.W. Marks; also Sergt. C. Sparkes with the mace draped; the Town Crier, Mr. H. Banks; the four Honorary Constables, their historic staves draped; the Marquis of Downshire, the Hon.. Mrs. Corfield, C.C. the Major J.H. Passmore C.O. D. (S) Company, 4th Battalion Royal Berks. Regiment (T), Mr. A. Andrews, with draped standard, representing the Wokingham Branch of the British Legion, the Rev. G. Kenworthy, Rector of Wokingham, the Rev. Viscount Mountmorres (St. Paul's), the Rev. A.F. Carr (St. Sebastian's), the Rev. J. Conolly (Baptist), the Rev. E.F. Rolls (Methodist), the Mayoress (Mrs. F.J. Barrett), and Mrs. Eustace.

The Town Crier, in his picturesque uniform rang his bell and cried, "Silence for the Mayor."

His Worship then read the Proclamation in clear audible tones.

Representative local bodies formed his interested audience. Children from the following schools were present with their teachers: The Palmer Schools, St. Paul's School, the Wescott Road Council School, Wokingham County Council Girls' School, the Convent School, Luckley School, Grosvenor School. Others present were Colonel H.I.E. Palmer (representing Wokingham Boy Scouts), Miss Denis De Vitre (Girl Guides), C.O. W.B. Martin (Wokingham Fire Brigade), who, with his stalwart men had formed this guard of honour for the Mayor from the Town Hall to the Market Place platform, Sgt. Major [Wenyer?], Instructor of D (S) Company 4th Battalion Royal Berks Regiment (T) was also present in his uniform.

Following the reading of the Proclamation, prayers were offered by the Rev. G. Kenworthy after which "Oh God Our Help in ages past" was sung led by Mr. A. Yould, F.R.C.O.

Sat 8th Feb

AIR RAID CONFERENCE

At the recent conference concerning Air Raid Precautions, Wokingham Town Council was represented by Alderman J.B. Eustace, Councillors C. Goddard, Beale and Miss D. Wescott.

Sat 14th March

The Mayor of Wokingham was in bed on Thursday with a slight cold.

THE MAYOR'S DISTRESS FUND ALLOCATION OF SEED POTATOES, ETC.

As in past years, a limited allocation of seed potatoes will be made to applicants who have been unemployed for considerable periods during the past year. Applications should be made in writing to the hon. secretary of the fund, before the end of the present month, giving the following details: name and address; position and size of garden or allotment, and if an allotment, the number; length of unemployment during the past year; quantity and kind of potatoes requested (only a limited kind are available); if in lieu of a portion of potatoes, other garden seeds are desired, and, if so, what are requested. It should be noted that no applicant will receive more than 56 lbs. of potatoes, or the equivalent, and allocations in quantity will be made according to the discretion of the committee. It is anticipated that this will be the last allocation of potatoes from the fund.

TOWN COUNCIL

The Estates Sub-committee reported—

The question of the provision of accommodation for the Mayor and the council committees in the Town Hall, referred to your sub-committee by the General Purposes Committee, was considered, and it was agreed to recommend: (a) That the bank room be re-decorated and fitted with cupboards; (b) that the committee room be re-decorated and fitted up for use as a committee room; (c) that the Council Chamber be re-decorated and used as the Mayor's Parlour. It was further agreed to recommend that the borough surveyor be instructed to submit estimates for each room separately and that the work be carried out as funds allow, and that new curtains be provided for the Council Chamber: Paragraphs (a) (b) and (c) were referred back by the Estates Committee for further consideration.

Sat 25th April

Mrs. Catherine Maude Denis De Vitre, of the Manor Gore, died aged 76.

Sat 2nd May

NEW POLICE CHIEF

Supt. E.J. Braby, of Wantage, commences his work as Superintendent of the Wokingham Division at the end of this week. Supt. S.F. Butler is making good progress after his recent serious illness.

A KIND THOUGHT

It was a kind thought on the part of the management of the Savoy Electric Theatre, Wokingham, to entertain about 150 poor and blind people from the locality at the theatre on Tuesday. At a matinee performance of "On Wings of Song," in which

Grace Moore takes the leading role, they were given free seats. The Mayor of Wokingham (Alderman F.J. Barrett) assisted in sending out invitations.

POLICE AND CORPORATION IN SHOOTING MATCH

Considerable interest is being taken in the shooting match, which takes place on Thursday next week, between the Wokingham Corporation and the Wokingham Police. The Mayor (Alderman F.J. Barrett) has given a cup to be competed for by the police, and a medal for the runner-up has been offered by Councillor S. Bowyer. After next week's shooting match, the Mayor will present the awards.

MINISTER'S DEPARTURE

The Rev. Eric F. Rolls, M.A., the popular Methodist minister at Wokingham, is leaving towards the end of the summer. He is eventually taking up a missionary appointment in India. Mr. Rolls, who came to Wokingham from Cambridge in September last year, has done a tremendous amount of work during his short stay, and his powerful sermons have been a source of inspiration. A keen worker among young people, Mr. Rolls' departure will be regretted by a wide circle of friends.

Sat 9th May

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Honour for Alderman P. Sale

TO BE FIRST FREEMAN OF THE BOROUGH

Alderman Philip Sale J.P., is to be Wokingham's first freeman of the borough. This announcement by the Mayor (Alderman F.J. Barrett) at Thursday's meeting of the Council was greeted with applause.

The Mayor said it was the most important thing the council had had before them for many years. "I think I am right in saying that we have never had a Freeman of the Borough," declared the Mayor. A committee was formed to go into the matter, and by unanimous vote it was decided at the General Purposes Committee meeting that Ald. Sale, their senior alderman, "father" of the council, and almost "father" of the town, should be their first Freeman. It was hoped that the honour would be conferred upon him in the near future. Ald. Sale's services to the town had extended for a lifetime.

BEATING THE BOUNDS

In St. Paul's Parish, it is hoped that the ancient custom of "beating the bounds" will be observed at Whitsuntide.

WOKINGHAM WHEELERS

Wokingham Wheelers had a very good run on Sunday, when they visited Watlington, via Henley and the Chilterns. A different route was chosen for the return journey.

BRITISH LEGION WHIST DRIVE

Winners at Saturday's British Legion whist drive were:- Ladies: 1, Mrs. Blackman; 2, Mrs. Smith. Gentlemen: 1, Mr. Griffin; 2, Mr. Smith. Mr. H. Andrews was the M.C.

THE WALTER MEMORIAL

The Walter memorial, a very beautiful tablet, is now in position in St. Paul's Church, and when the decoration of the vestry is completed it is hoped to hold a dedication ceremony.

BATHING IN FULL SWING

Many bathers have taken advantage of the advent of real summerlike weather this week and had their first dip at Martin's Bathing Pool, Wokingham, which was opened on Monday.

LABOUR PARTY

Wokingham Labour Party held their May Day celebrations in the Market Place, when there was an open-air meeting. Speakers included Mr. E.S. Scott (chairman of the South Berks Labour Party), Mr. N.C. Lawrence (president of the Wokingham Labour Party) and Mr. S.J. Miles (hon. Secretary).

POLICE CHANGES

P.C. Trollope (Theale) has been transferred to Wokingham. P.S. Shand, one of Wokingham's most popular officers, retired last week after 26 years' service with the force. At one time he was associated with the mounted section and had been stationed at Reading, Maidenhead and Mortimer before proceeding to Wokingham in 1934. In his retirement he will reside at Maiden Erlegh.

CRICKET

Wokingham Police have had a very successful week at cricket. On Saturday they defeated the Reading Division by 68 runs. It was a personal triumph for P.C. Moon (Wokingham), who, in addition to scoring 69 not out, took five wickets for 19 runs. The totals were: Wokingham 131, Reading Police 63. On Wednesday they inflicted a heavy defeat on Abington Police. The Wokingham total was again 131 (P.S. Frazer 34. P.C. Woodridge 24. P.C. Poulter 24). For Abingdon, P.S. Coombe took five wickets for 53 runs. Thanks to the excellent bowling of P.C. Moon, who took six for eight, Abingdon were dismissed for 39.

FIRE BRIGADE'S HEAVY WEEK

Just after 1 a.m. on Monday, the Wokingham Fire Brigade, under Captain W.B. Martin, made a quick response to a call from Winnersh. On arriving at 12, South View Crescent, they found the house well alight. It appears the fire originated in the conservatory, where the heat melted the gas meter and the gas had become ignited. The main tap was turned off, but it was found that the fire had reached the drawing room adjoining the conservatory. After a hard fight the fire was extinguished. The conservatory was destroyed.

On Tuesday they were called to a small fire in Barkham Ride, where a quantity of gorse and undergrowth had become ignited.

WELCOME TO SUPERINTENDENT BRABY

At Wokingham Borough Police Court on Tuesday, the Mayor (Alderman F.J. Barrett) said he felt it his duty and privilege, on behalf of the burgesses, to welcome Superintendent Braby. There had always been a friendly state of affairs between the

police and local residents, and he hoped it would still continue. They wished him a very successful stay in Wokingham, and hoped he would be blessed with good health. They were pleased to know that Superintendent Butler had practically recovered, and it was hoped that he would be spared for many years of good health in his retirement. Superintendent said he would endeavour to follow Superintendents Butler and Goddard.

Sat 16th May

DEATH OF MR. HUGH GODSAL



We regret to record the death of Mr. Hugh Godsal, of Queen's Arbour, Hurst, which occurred somewhat suddenly at his home on Monday. He had been in poor health since November, but bore his illness with great cheerfulness and fortitude. He was the elder and only surviving son of the late Mr. Edward Hugh Godsal, of Ruscombe Down, and of Mrs. Godsal.

Born at Otakeho, New Zealand, on May 29th 1893, he was educated at Oundle School and Trinity College, Cambridge. In 1914, he was commissioned to the Royal Field Artillery, and in the autumn of that year went to Flanders with the 7th Division. He was mentioned in despatches, and in August of 1918 he was wounded. This necessitated his leaving the army, and for a time he was one of the wireless demonstrators in the Marconi Company.

Later Mr. Godsal took up farming on the estate of his uncle, Captain W.C. Godsal, of Haines Hill, and he was the next in succession to the Haines Hill Estate. He took a great interest in local affairs, and had for some time represented the Ruscombe district on the Wokingham rural District Council. In January 1925, he married Violet, daughter of the late Sir Anthony and the Hon. Lady Abdy. He now leaves a widow and one son.

Coffin on Farm Cart

The funeral took place on Thursday at Ruscombe Parish Church, the coffin, which was draped with a Union Jack, being conveyed on a farm wagon. Tenant farmers on the Haines Hill Estate and employees walked alongside and behind the wagon.

(long list of mourners)

The officiating clergy were the Rev. F.M.Dowland (vicar of Ruscombe), Canon E.J. Norris and the Rev. J.C.F. Wimberley (vicar of Hurst).

The internment was in a grave adjoining that of his father.

Sat 4th July

DEATH OF PILOT OFFICER SPENCER

The Funeral

Further information has come to hand concerning the death, near Aden, last week, of Pilot Officer Eric W. Spencer, of Wokingham. P.O. Spencer, who was a member of No. 12 Bomber Squadron, was only 20.

He was one of the youngest to attain this rank, and had a promising future. Only a few days before his death he had deputised on a flight for his Flight Commander.

When his machine was reported missing on June 24th, an extensive search was carried out. Later the same night, as a result of a discovery by a native a further search was made, and during the early hours of the next morning the wrecked aeroplane was located by a flying boat at a point 25 miles north-east of Aden, 150 yards from the shore. The body of Spencer was found on the beach about three miles from the place of the accident and there was, the Air ministry state, every indication that death had been instantaneous.

The funeral took place with full Royal Air Force honours at 7 a.m. (local time) on June 26th. It was attended by large numbers representing the three services and the Civil Administration at Aden.

Sat 11th July

Alderman Philip Sale, J.P., senior member and "father" of the council, received the Freedom of the borough of Wokingham at a special meeting of the Town Council on Thursday evening.

LORD MAYOR VISITS WOKINGHAM

Official Opening of Cinema Trade Home

SIR WILLIAM JURY'S LAVISH GENEROSITY

Many figures famous in this film world were present on Thursday afternoon, when the Lord Mayor of London (Sir Percy Vincent) opened "Glebelands," Wokingham, as the convalescent and rest home of the Cinematograph Trade and Benevolent Fund.

The mansion, together with charming grounds of some 19 acres, has been given by Sir William Jury, the president of the fund, and to date the trade has subscribed about £28,000 towards a special maintenance fund of £100,000.

The Lord Mayor was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, and by Colonel and Sheriff J.D. Laurie and Colonel and Sheriff J.D. Waldron, and among others present were Mr. Reginald C. Bromhead (chairman of the fund). Mrs Bromhead, Lieut. Colonel and Mrs. A.C. Bromhead, the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading (Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Bale), the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham (Alderman and Mrs. Barrett); members of Wokingham Town Council, Alderman George Ford (chairman of Wokingham R.D.C.) and Mrs. Ford, Mr. Arthur Jarrat (representing the Cinematograph Trade Provident Institution) and members of the council of the fund.

Those who accepted invitations to be present also included: Julius Hagen, Robert Garrett, Victor Saville, Walter Mycroft, Major Bell, J.C. Square, E.H. Lundy, Cecil Hepworth, Captain Alfred Davies, Roy Simmonds, Ernest Verity, John Sutre, T.N. France, R.H. Gillespie, Sinclair Hill, Sidney Bernstein, Cecil Bernstein Will Fyffe, Margaret Scott, Edward G. Robinson, Jane Carr, and Gibb-McLaughlin.

Bouquets were presented to the ladies by the Misses Farth Brook (daughters of Mr. Clive Brook), Patricia Hamilton (daughter of Mr. Neil Hamilton, and Barbara, Gabrielle and Isobel Bromhead.

Sir William's Generosity

Introducing the Lord Mayor, Mr. R.C. Bromhead said that their objective in starting the fund and the Provident Institution was to grapple with cases of unemployment, distress and sickness in the industry. They invited Sir William to be president of the fund, and he immediately responded with a donation of £1,000.

They began in a small way; in fact, in the first year they spent a mere £350 in relief. Applications increased rapidly and last year they disbursed over £8,300 for relief, and since the fund was founded, over 3,000 individual cases had been dealt with. Today they had 80 life pensioners.

From the first, Sir William threw himself whole-heartedly into their endeavours. Apart from the mansion and grounds, he had recently agreed to purchase the lodge, and kitchen gardens and another plot of land, thus rounding off the property into one complete entity. (Applause). The decoration and furnishing had cost over £4,300.

The calls on the fund were numerous, but the council were determined that the responsibility of "Glebelands" should not interfere in any way with the general work of the fund. The industry had raised more money for charitable institutions than probably any other trade or profession, and he felt confident in appealing to the trade for its own charity.

Mr. Bromhead then invited the Lord Mayor to declare the building open, and handed him a golden key in appreciation of his kindness.

"Peace and rest"

The Lord Mayor said the very name of the home suggested peace and rest among natural beauty. It was by the lavish generosity of Sir William that he was able to unlock the door. (Applause).

The Lord Mayor, the Lady Mayoress and the sheriffs were thanked on the proposition of Mr. T.H. Fligelstone (president, Cinematograph Exhibitors' Association), seconded by Mr. F.W. Baker (past president Kinematograph Renters' Society).

The garden party arranged was marred by the rain, but a large party stayed to inspect the house and take tea. Music was by the Reading Temperance Military Band.

The Lord Mayor and his party had been met at Twyford Station by Mr. George Ford, chairman of the Wokingham Rural District Council and not by the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading as previously believed.

Sat 29th Aug

APPEAL FOR NEW FIRE ENGINE

An appeal has been issued by the Wokingham Fire Brigade, under the auspices of Lord Downshire (president), Dr. H.F. Curl (hon. surgeon), Mr. W.H. Martin (C.O.), Mr. E. Hawkins (Second Officer), and Mr. C.W. Rawlings (hon. secretary), inviting subscriptions with a view to the purchase of a new motor fire engine, with the necessary fitments, the total cost of which would be £1,000.

The appeal is rendered necessary by the fact that the first motor fire engine, acquired mainly by public subscription in 1914, has recently needed frequent repairs, while the enormous increase in the number of houses in the brigade's area, with its consequent increased risk of fires, makes first-class machines and equipment a necessity. A voluntary brigade, all monies received from attendance at fires is kept entirely apart from annual subscriptions and general expenses, and from this nest egg about £200 can be taken for the new engine. The appeal points out the advantage to property owners and householders of the difference in cost to them of a voluntary fire brigade and one provided by a public authority. Donations may be sent either to

Barclays Bank or the hon. secretary, Mr. C.W. Rawlings, 23, Market Place, Wokingham.

Sat 3rd Oct

THE FIRE BRIGADE: NEW ENGINE FUND

The Duke of Connaught, High Steward of Wokingham, has sent a substantial cheque to the Fire Brigade New Engine Fund. The total subscriptions to date reach £360; £1,000 is aimed at.

ALARMING EXPERIENCE OF WELL-KNOWN TEACHER

At 10.10 p.m. on Friday last week, during a heavy thunderstorm, an alarming experience was shared by residents of Oxford Road. No. 93, occupied by Miss Cole, a member of the teaching staff of Wescott Road School, and her sister, received the full force of the electric current, which literally split the chimney stack in twain sending showers of bricks flying. Between one and two hundred tiles were displaced from the roof, and the grate in one of the upper rooms was hurled into the room. A mantel clock was turned face upwards without further displacement. Beyond shock, the residents escaped unhurt. Mr. Green, a near neighbour, handling his bicycle at the time of the flash, received a severe shock, which prevented him from going as he intended to the R.M.N.S. at Bear Wood as usual.

PRESENTATION TO EX-SUPT. BUTLER

At a parade of the Wokingham Police Division, at Wokingham, on Wednesday, Ex-Supt. Butler was presented with a chiming oak grandmother clock, subscribed for by the officers and men of the Wokingham Division. Inspector Bennett, the senior inspector, in making the presentation, spoke in high praise of Supt. Butler, who, he said, had always been most helpful to everyone, always ready to advise, and never lost his temper. He hoped Mr. Butler would be spared many years to hear the clock chime, and enjoy good health and the rest he had earned. They were all gratified to know that he was restored to health after his serious illness. Ex-Supt. Butler, in reply, thanked the officers and men for their gift. He said he was proud to have been their superintendent, and at the same time to have gained their esteem. He was glad to be with them once again, and wished them all good luck in their future police careers.

Sat 17th October

“BRING AND BUY” SALE

At High Close on Wednesday, the Hon. Mrs. Corfield held a “bring and buy” sale, in aid of the Deanery Moral Welfare Board. A large quantity of produce changed owners and a substantial sum (including the sale of tea tickets) is expected. The attendance included the Rural Dean, Canon Anderson.

NEW FIRE ENGINE

On October 24th Wokingham residents are making a big drive to realise a large sum towards the purchase of a new fire engine. On that date a flag day is being held. The Dennis engine, “Swift,” which has given yeoman service in the extensive area since 1914, is being replaced by a modern vehicle. The sum of £1,000 is needed for the new engine and accessories.

PRECAUTIONS FOR AIR RAIDS

Wokingham Scheme Indicated

COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSALS

A largely attended meeting was held in the Town Hall, Wokingham, on Monday, convened by the Wokingham Town Council Sub-committee to inaugurate a scheme for the protection of the public in the event of air raids with chemicals, gas and fire.

The Mayor (Alderman F.J. Barrett) presided, and said H.M. Government had advised them to formulate schemes for their own area. Berkshire had a scheme embracing different areas of the county. They were linked so that co-operation between adjoining areas could be made in the event of any work being required in one district or another. Wokingham Borough Council had had a committee running for three or four months now and mostly concerned with linking up with the adjoining areas in the county scheme. The time, they felt, had come when practical work should be done with their own borough. This had been accomplished under the chairmanship of Alderman Eustace, whose absence through illness, they regretted, and they hoped that soon he would be better. They had been very fortunate in getting Dr. Smith to come forward to talk to them. (Applause.)

A Very Important District

Dr. E.F. Smith said he would be the last person in the world to take any but a serious view of this matter, but they must not get into a panic. Should we get involved in a war, it was most unlikely that the enemy would say: "We don't like Wokingham and its inhabitants, we are going to knock it down." But the town was in the centre of a district well worth any enemy destroying—a very important district, including Slough, Farnborough and Aldershot. The bomber, though more expert than his father was 20 years ago, did not always aim at what he hit! One always liked to get rid of one's load. Quite likely, Wokingham might get hit in that way.

Dr. Smith proceeded to describe the three types of bombs—high explosive, incendiary and gas. The incendiary was the most persistent. It did not burn out quickly; water would not extinguish it. The gas bomb contained a heavy fluid which gave off vapour. This, in a short time deprived a person of his senses of smell and taste, so that he might walk again into the gas without being cognisant of it—a great danger. Another danger—the fumes might lurk in a sheltered place for days. It would be the task of the authorities to see that people were duly warned about it. An X 100 lb. Gas bomb would spray an area as large as Wokingham Market Place.

Room to which Family could Retire

The Government laid stress on the necessity of having a room in the home to which the family could retire in a raid. Masks could be kept in store, but it would be better to get in a sheltered place. First-aid hospitals—one for men, one for women, with say, 12 beds each would be necessary at first; later 70 hospitals in all. People were asked whether they would be willing to earmark a bed for those hospitals. Bedding, etc., would be needed, so as to be used if and when required. A de-contamination centre had already been reserved for the town—the old malthouse, now the indoor bowling green in the Reading Road—offered to the council by the authorities last year. People's clothing and property would be decontaminated there from gas.

As it would be necessary to have people who could deal with casualties, St. John Ambulance classes were being held weekly, and it was hoped they would be well attended. Women volunteers, who would attend lectures on first-aid in chemical and gas warfare, were also required.

Dr. Smith dealt with the covering of crevices and apertures so as to make a room gas-proof; and also referred to the necessity of sanitary arrangements. The cellar was difficult to get out from; a room on the second floor was preferable.

Appeal for Volunteers

He hoped that volunteers would come forward in preparation for emergency, and referred to the necessity for all to take part in the preparation, as in the event of war., the younger men would be serving as soldiers, and it would be a relief to them to know that those left at home would be able to deal with emergency.

The arrangements had to be made and the materials provided voluntarily, until Government should take over and organise the national work.

It was announced that Miss A. Bland Hill is the administrative head of the organisation. Miss Grenside, assistant commandant, 28th Berks V.A.D, in the absence of Miss Cornish (Commandant) has undertaken the training of the nursing dept. of the hospitals, for which volunteers are invited as nurses. Miss Hessay, Welfare sister, will undertake equipment and its collection, and Mr. F.S. Perkins, the transport.

There will be a demonstration of the working of the scheme later in the year.

Dr. Ward thanked Dr. Smith for his services. (Applause.)

Sat 14th Nov

FIRE BRIGADE NEW ENGINE FUND

The amount received by the brigade for the New Engine Fund has reached £800.

CONCERT BY ST. SEBASTIAN'S BAND

As a result of the above concert a profit of £4 5s. 4d. has been handed to the treasurer, towards the New Engine Fund.

FIRE BRIGADE BALL

The Fire Brigade annual ball was held in the Drill Hall on Monday. Patrons numbered about 250. Several neighbouring brigades were represented. Fireman F.J. Collins was hon. secretary. The hall was decorated in blue and yellow, the Fire Brigade colours. Music was supplied by the Aces Band, and the catering was carried out by Mr. Rands, of the Duke's Head.

ILLNESS OF VISCOUNT MOUNTMORRES

Last week-end a bulletin was affixed to the church door of St. Paul's with regard to the illness of the Rector, the Rev. Viscount Mountmorres. The announcement ran: "The Rector's illness has taken a turn for the worse, and he is in a serious condition. He is putting up a good resistance, and the doctors hope that he may pull through after a long struggle." Viscount Mountmorrees is in Greenlands, Reading. Viscount Montmorres had a comfortable day on Thursday, and there was a slight improvement in his condition. On enquiry yesterday, we were informed that his condition was unchanged.

ARMISTICE DAY

The Mayor and Mayoress attended the Remembrance service at All Saints', Wokingham, on Armistice Day, and among the congregation was the children of the Palmer School. The rector, who conducted the service, was assisted by the Rev. A.G.G. Thurlow. The rector placed a wreath on the Roll of Honour in memory of the fallen of the parish. There was also a service at the war memorial. The Rev. R.W. Tuesday (curate) conducted a service in St. Paul's Church. The sum of £165 10s. was realised from the sale of poppies in Wokingham and Bear Wood on Armistice Day. The collection was organised by Mr. A. Andrews, hon. secretary of the local branch of the British Legion. The collectors numbered 74, and included the Mayoress. Mrs.

Eustace, at the Town Hall, was assisted by General P. Molloy and others. The counting was carried out by Gen. Molloy, Messrs. A. Andrews, J.W. Potter, F.W. Martin, W.G. Fidler, and Miss Hessay. There was an increase of £10 over last year.

Sat 5th Dec

DEATH OF VISCOUNT MOUNTMORRES

Rector of St. Paul's, Wokingham
HIS DISTINGUISHED CAREER

We deeply regret to record the death of the Rev. Viscount Mountmorres, Rector of St. Paul's, Wokingham, which occurred at Greenlands Nursing Home, Reading, on Wednesday morning.

Viscount Mountmorres accepted the living of St. Paul's in the latter part of 1934. He had a distinguished career as a clergyman, explorer and journalist. Few men had travelled so widely, and he was an authority on agriculture in Africa, and ethnography.

Although his views on Church practice were not readily accepted by many of his congregation, he did much to interest the young people of his church. During the short time Viscount Mountmorres was at Wokingham he endeared himself to the people of the borough and took a keen interest in public affairs.

It was after he returned from his vacation this year that he became ill, and about a month ago his removal to Greenlands Nursing Home was ordered. Early this week his condition became critical, and, despite the efforts of specialists, the Viscount passed away. Lady Mountmorres was at the bedside when he died.

MARRIED TWICE

The Rev. William Geoffrey Bouchard de Montmorency was born in 1872 and was the son of the fifth Viscount and Harriet, daughter of George Broadrick, of Hamphall Stubbs, Yorks. He succeeded his father in 1880. In 1893 he married Louise, daughter of Sampson Taylor Rowe, of Trecarrel, Redruth, by whom he had one daughter, who married Mr. R.B. Hulton, son of Sir William Hulton, Bart., of Hulton Park, near Bolton. In 1934 Viscount Mountmorres married a daughter of Charles F. Cross, The Hermitage, Isle of Wight.

Viscount Mountmorres was educated at Dunkerque, Radley, Balliol College, Oxford, Paris, and Cuddesdon Theological College. He had visited America, the West Indies, Egypt, Morocco, the Sahara and Asia Minor and had covered 10,000 miles in Central and West Africa and the Congo Free State, etc.

He represented Mile End on the London County Council from 1895 to 1898, and took up administrative duties, being Metropolitan and provincial secretary to the Primrose League, and assistant secretary to the Women's Memorial to Queen Victoria. He was Director of the Tropical Institute at Liverpool University from 1905-1908. He acted as hon. A.D.C. to the Governor of Jamaica at the time of the Kingston earthquake of 1907, and received the thanks of the Jamaican Government for his services.

HIS CLERICAL APPOINTMENTS

Viscount Mountmorres returned to England and was ordained deacon in 1913 and priest in the following year. He was assistant curate of All Saints', Ryde, from 1913-1917, and among his later appointments were those of chaplain to the Winchester Diocesan Deaconesses' Institute; vicar of Swinton, Lancs.; and chaplain to Manchester Poor Law Guardians. He was vicar of South Farnborough from 1925-1933, and afterwards became curate of St. Barnabas' Oxford, and licensed preacher in

the diocese of Guildford, for which Diocese he was Proctor in Convocation. He was also chaplain to the Royal naval Volunteer Reserve.

The Viscount was the holder of the Society of Arts silver medal, awarded in 1905 for contributions to Ethnography, and the Lagos Government gold medal for agricultural lectures, 1906.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO LITERATURE

He contributed much to the Press and lectured extensively. His publications included the following: "The Congo Independent State" (1906), "Maize, Cocoa and Rubber; Hints on their Production in West Africa" (1907), "Some Ignored Factors in International Economics" (1905), "The Races of the Unknown Heart of Africa" (Society of Arts, 1905), "The Commercial Possibilities of West Africa" (1907), "Notes on the Jamaica Earthquake" (Tropical Institute, 1907), "intercessions in Time of War" (1914), "National Mission Plain Tracts" (1916) and various papers and monographs on tropical agriculture and commerce.

Viscount Mountmorres served as a lieutenant in R.N.V.R.

THE NEW VISCOUNT

The new Viscount is in the Church, having been Rector of St. Modoc's, Doune, Perthshire, since 1922 and an Hon. C.F. He was born in 1879 and he is a son of the late Hon. Arthur Hill Trevor de Montmorency, M.D., who was a son of the fourth Viscount. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and gained a medal and two clasps for his services as a trooper in the Boer War. He was ordained in 1907 and held curacies in Ireland until 1914, when he became rector of Omeath. Interested in local government work, he was Bailie of the Borough of Doune in 1927, and was a parish councillor for Kilmadock from 1928-30. He is married and has two daughters.

THE FUNERAL

The funeral service at St. Marks, South Farnborough, on Friday morning, was preceded by a celebration of High Mass, the vicar, the Rev. C.R. de Lyons-Pike, being the celebrant, assisted by the Rev. H.C. Hukin and W.G. Sanderson. The internment followed in Farnborough Cemetery.

(Long list of mourners)

Sat 19th Dec

GEORGE VI IS PROCLAIMED KING

At noon on Monday, the Mayor of Wokingham, Alderman F.J. Barrett, who was accompanied by his Mayoress, the aldermen, councillors and officials, the clergy and representatives of public bodies, read the Royal Proclamation from a specially erected platform in the Market Place. The civic party included: the Deputy Mayor.

The Mayor was attended by the Sergeant-at-Mace (Sergt. C. Sparkes), Special Constables, under Captain Tutte "kept square" in the Market Place, the centre of which was occupied by the band of the R.M.N.S., with Mr. J. Preston in charge, Mr. Green, bandmaster, being unavoidably absent

The Mayor, having read the Proclamation, said, "Citizens of Wokingham, I am sure that whatever regret we may have had over the happenings of last week, one thing stands out of it, over which we may well be pleased – the way in which the whole of the Royal Family have acted in this crisis has been splendid. We Wokingham people will give our loyalty unstintedly, to the new King and Queen." The R.M.N.S. band then played the National Anthem. The Mayor then said, "I call upon you to give three cheers for His Majesty King George and the Queen and one cheer for the Royal Family". These were given most heartily.

The V.A.D. were called to attend to a woman in the crowd who had fainted.

The Wokingham Fire Brigade were on duty at a rick fire at Folly Court so were unable to be present but were represented by their Chief Officer.

1937

Sat 6th Feb

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Gift Of An Old Print

At Thursday's meeting of Wokingham Town Council it was decided to thank Mr. A.T. Heelas for his offer of a print of the Market Place, showing the Old Town Hall and the old Rose Inn at Wokingham. The print is dated about 1750. The Mayor (Alderman F.J. Barrett) presided.

Sat 6th March

The Mayoress of Wokingham (Mrs. F.J. Barrett) is the first to wear the chain of office which was presented at Thursday evening's meeting of Wokingham Town Council by Councillor Miss Dorothy Wescott.

The Mayor (Ald. F.J. Barrett) said that this year a national event of great importance, the Coronation, was taking place. Fifty years ago Wokingham, with the rest of the country, was celebrating the golden jubilee of Queen Victoria. At that time there was no chain of office, and the then Mayor (Ald. T.M. Wescott), to remember the year, had a medallion made. In December last Councillor Miss Wescott expressed the wish that she would like to present the medallion to the borough, and it was thought that it would be a good emblem to be worn by the Mayoress of Wokingham. Miss Wescott offered to give a chain. The hard work of Miss Wescott on the council was well known. She was blessed with a large amount of public spirit, and in giving that chain and medallion she was showing that spirit to the full.

Sat 13th March

WOKINGHAM COUNTY GIRLS' SCHOOL

A spacious assembly hall, science laboratory and classroom at Wokingham County Girls' School, were formally opened by Dr. T. Franklin Sibly (Vice-Chancellor of Reading University), prior to the school's first speech day on Wednesday.

PARISH CHURCH RECORDS

Records of the parish church have been compiled in book form by Canon B. Long, who was Rector of the parish from 1904 to 1933. It contains three parts—"Historical Notices," starting from pre-Norman times, "The Parish Church," with a description of its main features, and records of many monuments of interest, and thirdly, "Church Officers," with a list of incumbents, assistant curates, churchwardens and other officials. It contains 13 illustrations. The appendices give copies in Latin and English of thirteenth century inventories and other documents. A full reference index is provided.

GIFTS TO SCHOOL

The daughters of the late Mr. Henry Butler have presented to the Wescott School Council School the following interesting local collection, with the inscription on a brass plate upon the cabinet containing them, as follows: "Local British butterflies. Collected between 1870 and 1890 by Mr. Henry Butler, secretary of the British

School at Wokingham from 1869-1911, and manager of the Wescott Road Council School from 1906-1932. Presented in his memory by his daughters." The collection is in a cabinet with a tier of sliding trays, each with a handle, and the collection contains many large and beautiful specimens.

Sat 20th March

INQUEST ON LADY MOUNTMORRES

Death at Farnham

The inquest on Tempe Irene Viscountess Mountmorres, who was found dead in her garage, was held by the Coroner for west Surrey, (Mr. G. Wills Taylor) at the Court House, Farnham, on Wednesday morning.

Mr. F.C. Cross, of "Highways," Farnham, gave evidence that he last saw his daughter alive soon after 11 o' clock on Saturday night. She was then very well physically, but her husband's death on December 2nd last year had been a great blow to her. When he was awakened at about 2.30 on Sunday morning by the dog barking, witness made investigations and, going towards the garage, heard the engine of the car running. "I opened the door, which was not locked," Mr. Cross continued, "I went in and found my daughter sitting at the wheel of the car. I caught hold of her and pulled her into the open."

Mr. Cross said he thought Lady Mountmorres had intended going for a walk with the dog and as it was raining she went into the garage, sat in the car and started up the engine to go for a little run round with him. He could see no reason for its being other than an accident. She had been suffering from sleeplessness.

P.C. Cox stated that behind the car he found an 18 foot length of corrugated rubber tubing and the condition of dust on the floor was consistent with the tubing having been drawn through it. The tubing had been cut away from a tap used for washing down cars. The cut was a fresh one. For 18 inches at one end the tube was covered with a sooty substance consistent with its having been placed in the exhaust pipe of the car. He searched the garage to try to find an instrument capable of cutting the hose, but could not find anything. Subsequently Mr. Cross produced a bread-knife, which he found in a pocket of the car.

Dr. Eric Gardiner gave evidence that Lady Mountmorres' death was due to carbon monoxide poisoning.

The coroner returned a verdict of "Found Dead," the cause of death being carbon monoxide poisoning from the fumes of the car

Sat 3rd April

WOKINGHAM VESTRIES

St. Paul's Difficult Year

PROTEST AGAINST SERVICES

The newly appointed Rector of St. Paul's, Wokingham, the Rev. the Hon. Patrick J. Hepburn-Scott, attended the annual vestry and parochial church meeting at St. Paul's School room on Thursday evening. The Rev. R.W. Tuesday (curate and priest-in-charge) presided.

The priest-in-charge welcomed the new rector and announced that the Walter memorial would be unveiled by the Bishop of Buckingham on Monday next at 3 p.m.

Overdraft of £170

Mr. R. Haye (church treasurer) presented the balance sheet which showed that the year commenced with a balance in hand of £94 10s. 9d., and concluded with an overdraft of £170 16s. 3d. The available income totalled £855 12s. 7d. and the

expenditure of the parish, £1080 1s. 3d. Church collections amounted to £216 17s. 11d., free-will offerings and the Duplex Scheme, £177 6s. 8d. Donations and subscriptions totalled £307 4s. 3d.

The report was adopted.

The following were the elections:- Ruridecanal Conference representatives: Miss A. Berendt, Miss M.I. Ellison, Mr. T.W. Hawkins, Miss M.V. Houlding, Mrs. Hyde Parker, Mr. A.E. Jennings, Mr. E.W. Mundy, Mrs. Newberry and Mr. A.H. Newberry and Mr. W.J. Willey. Parochial Church Council: Miss M. Berendt, Mr. R.A. Canning, Mrs. R. Henle, Miss H. Price and Mr. E.R. Thatcher (elected for three years).

Captain King-Salter was re-elected auditor.

Mr. Mundy moved a resolution asking that meeting to cancel a resolution of 1935 electing members of the church council for three years, one third being elected each year. He said the members should be elected each year for one year only. This was seconded by Mr. R. Willey and carried, 34 voting for and four against.

Mr. W. White said it grieved him to see the choir stalls empty and the fact that the bells, one of the most beautiful peals in the district were never heard. "It is a disgrace and I am one of those people in this room who would like to see the services moderated so that people can come to church," declared Mr. White. "They have been driven away and the choir have been driven away. When the new rector comes I hope that something will be done to get these people back again. We go to church to worship God and not material."

MR. CATHROW W. MARTIN MARRIED
Ceremony at Wokingham
DESIGNED BRIDE'S AND BRIDESMAID'S DRESSES



Mr. Cathrow William Martin, son of Alderman W.T. Martin, J.P., and Mrs. Martin of Fernleigh, Wokingham, was married to Miss Eileen Betty Makison on Easter Saturday at St. Paul's Church, Wokingham. The service was conducted by the Rev. W.G. Pritchard M.A., B.Sc. of St. Mary's Church, Gloucester, who is a friend of the bridegroom, and he was assisted by the Rev. R.W. Tuesday, of Wokingham. The beautiful dresses worn by the bride and bridesmaids were designed by the bridegroom, who has gained a wide reputation as a dress designer, and is principal of the Revill Fashion School.

Sat 15th May

WOKINGHAM'S FESTIVITIES FOR THE CORONATION OF KING GEORGE VI Children Play an Important Part

The pealing of church bells heralded Coronation Day at Wokingham, and the inhabitants had spared no pains to make the little town its brightest. The spirit of gaiety was abroad and everyone seemed determined to make the best of a most ambitious and full day's programme.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham (Alderman and Mrs. F.J. Barrett) were among the busiest people, and they joined in the fun in a wholehearted manner. Outstanding among the decorations in the town was the Town Hall and entrance to the Fire Station, which was looking most attractive with bunting etc., relieved by evergreens, making the whole layout distinctive and original. Owing to the rain in the evening, the dancing in the Market Place had to be cancelled.

Councillor and Mrs. E.F. Smith offered to give a Savings Certificate to each baby born in the borough during Coronation Week, and Coronation souvenirs were given to babies born between May 1st and May 12th, and any babies born on Coronation Day.

CORONATION BABY

Wokingham's Coronation baby was a boy, born to Mrs. Cane, of 3, Woosehill Lane, Wokingham, and he will be called George Edward.

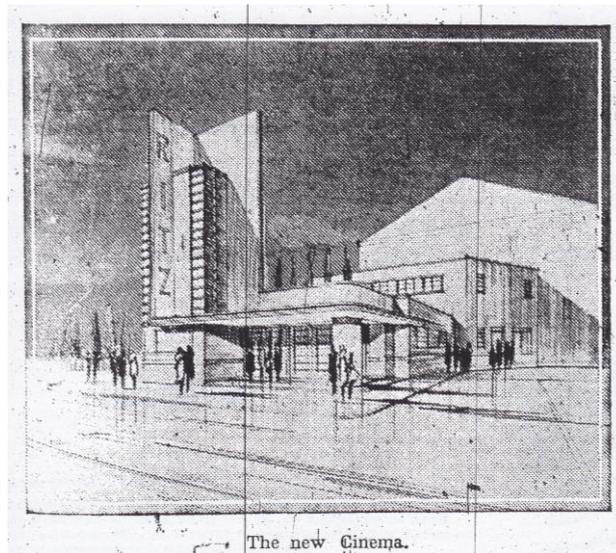
The smooth working of the celebrations was a tribute to the labours of the various committees who were responsible for the arrangements. It can be said that everything went off without a hitch, and the schedule was generally well observed. The principal committee was the General Executive Committee, which comprised: The Mayor (chairman) the Deputy Mayor (Councillor Dr. H.F. Curl) and Councillor S.L. Bowyer (representing the General Entertainment Committee), the Rev. J. Conolly and Councillor G.E. Thorpe (representing the Sports Committee), Alderman Philip Sale and Councillor A.H.L. Beale (representing the Planting Committee), Councillor G.C. Wilson and Alderman E.S. Whaley (representing the Decorations Committee), the Mayoress (Mrs. Barrett) and Miss D. Sale (representing the Senior Tea Committee), the Deputy Mayoress (Miss E.E. Curl) and Councillor Miss D. Wescott (representing the Children's Tea Committee), the Rev. G. Kenworthy (representing the Service Committee, the Town Clerk (Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton) the Borough Surveyor (Mr. C.W. Marks), Mr. H.W. Leaver (hon. treasurer) and Miss Harwood (hon. secretary).

Other committees were: General Entertainment Committee: the Deputy Mayor (chairman), the Mayor, Aldermen: J.B. Eustace and Whaley, Councillors Bowyer, W.C. Fullbrook, D. Goddard, S.J. Miles, Miss Wescott and Wilson, Messrs Bagley, Browne and Maidment, Chief Officer W.B. Martin, Supt. E.J. Braby, Major E. Denley, the Hon. Mrs. Corfield, Mr. J. Langley and Major J.B. Passmore.

Sports Committee: the Rev. J. Conolly (chairman), the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Alderman A.E. Priest and sale, Councillors Beale, H. Lush, F.S. Perkins, S. Sale, E. F. Smith and Thorpe, Mrs Petersen, Messrs. Bagley, Browne and Maidment, Colonel H. I.E. Palmer, Misses Finch, M. Goddard and R. Smith, Messrs H. Brooker, J. Goddard, Meacham, Moles and Wilkins and Scoutmaster Wilson.

Sat 29th May

WOKINGHAM'S NEW CINEMA Mayor to Perform Opening Ceremony



Today (Saturday) "Union Cinemas' Ritz" will be opened to the public, and the Mayor of Wokingham (Alderman F.J. Barrett) J.P. will preside at the opening ceremony, which will take place at 2.30 p.m.

Union Cinemas have set a unique standard in the furnishing and equipping of their theatre, incorporating the most modern ideas in design, combined with the ideal comfort for patrons.

The new "Union Cinema' Ritz, Wokingham has been erected and equipped under the direction of Mr. J.H. Lundy of Union Cinemas Ltd., the architect being Norman Bailey; F.R.I.B.A. who has worked in consultation with Mr. Eric F. Tully L.R.L.B.A. the company's staff architect.

The new cinema is the most imposing building and occupies a commanding position a short distance down Easthampstead Road after turning out of Peach Street, the main thoroughfare of Wokingham. It affords a new car park with separate entrance and exit doorways and an exit into Denton Road for pedestrians

The main elevation to Easthampstead Road is carried out in red sand-faced bricks with stone dressings and is of light modern design. The entrance doors are featured on the corner facing towards the main street and are surmounted by a broad canopy, lighted on the underside by Neon tube lighting, whilst the opposite corner runs upwards in the form of an imposing tower and is in turn featured by tall projecting vanes to the front and side. These vanes serve the purpose of displaying the theatre name and are picked out in Neon lighting.

The auditorium seats are all set radially thus affording a perfect vision of the screen from all positions and are served by gangways of generous proportions leading to exits at the front and rear.

The interior scheme is in a light decorative trend and much use has been made of Spray texture on which the varying tones of colour give a very pleasing effect, whilst leading the vision to the main decorative feature on the anti-proscenium walls. Excellent effect has been given by the two ornate grills set on either side of a large vertical cove, draped with silk and satin materials and artistically lighted.

The main auditorium lighting is by means of chandeliers of exceptional beauty and decorative dome lighting far in advance of the usual type of lighting schemes usually associated with the modern cinema.

Altogether the new "Union Cinemas Ritz," Wokingham regarded in detail or as a homogeneous whole must take its place as an important, as well as an imposing structure in the architecture of modern entertainment.

Latest Sound System

In the projection department many thousands of pounds have been spent on the finest equipment obtainable. The famous B.T.H. Sound Reproducing apparatus has been installed together with the latest high intensity arcs and powerful modern projectors

It is incredible what an important part electricity plays in a modern super cinema, and the new "Union Cinemas' Ritz" is perfect in this respect.

Electricity is called upon to serve patrons from the moment it delivers tickets at the paybox. It lights warms and ventilates the building; works the clocks; operates the curtains; projects the films; reproduces the sound—and a hundred and one other details.

"Manufactured Weather!"

The wonderful air conditioning plant which has been installed is another of the most important features in the "Union Cinema Ritz". It literally manufactures weather conditions, for, by its means, the air is washed as it enters the building and every patron is served with a specific quantity of purified air, warmed or cooled to suit varying external conditions. When it is hot outside the building the patrons will find it beautifully cool inside and on the other hand when it is freezing outside the auditorium will be comfortable, warm and cosy.

It is gratifying to know that the new "Union Cinemas Ritz" has been built by local labour and local materials have been used as far as ever possible

The finishing touches are now being put to the new Union Cinemas Ritz, Wokingham, which will be opened to the public today (Saturday), at 2.30 pm and the programme that has been arranged for the opening ceremony and for the next week includes "Girls' Dormitory," starring Simone Simon. This film was especially selected to introduce Simone Simon to the screen, and she is surrounded by an impressive cast, which includes Herbert Marshall and Ruth Chatterton. "Girls Dormitory" is supported by "Three Married Men," a sparkling clever and true-to-life domestic comedy. Monday brings, for three days, "This'll Make You Whistle". This gay musical film has proved Jack Buchanan's greatest laughter maker. As in the play, Elsie Randolph plays opposite him, while Jean Gillie, who is gradually paving the way to stardom, plays another important role. For the same three days is "Parole," gangster drama, which stars Henry Hunter, Ann Preston and Allan Dinehart.

On Thursday, for three days, Shirley Temple appears in "Dimples." Replete with laughter, romance and drama, "Dimples" tells the story of a lovable little street minstrel, and her incorrigible but irresistibly funny guardian, Frank Morgan. This film is supported by "Star for a Night," which features Claire Trevor and Arline Judge.

Sat 5th June

CINEMA PROGRAMMES

On the first three days of the week at the Ritz, "Ramona" is showing, photographed entirely in colour. Loretta Young has the title role, with Don Ameche as her Indian lover, and the pathetic love story and natural beauty of the scenery provide interest for all. The supporting film is "Back to Nature." At the week-end "The General Died at Dawn" is the chief feature. Gary Cooper is cast as a soldier of fortune, and Madeleine Carroll as an adventuress who plots against him and later falls in love with him in this exciting tale of Chinese bandits. The second feature is "Come Closer, Folks."

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, "Millions," with Gordon Harker, is the featured film at the Savoy. The story deals with the efforts of a self-made financial power to break into society in spite of the efforts of his snobbish business rival. The second film, "Two in a Crowd," is a romance starring Joan Bennett. The clever satirical comedy, "My Man Godfrey," in which William Powell portrays a down-and-out who becomes butler to a rich, but mad, family, is showing during the second part of the week. Carole Lombard is the daughter who causes the most trouble and finishes up as Godfrey's wife. Also in the programme is "Crash Donovan," starring Jack Holt.

Sat 19th June

CHUMS' CLUB

Last Saturday close on 500 happy children were enrolled as members of the Union Cinemas Ritz, "Chums Club". A glorious time was spent by the youngsters, a special programme being provided for them which included comedies, cartoons and cowboy films. The Union Cinemas Chums' Club meets every Saturday morning at 10 am and membership and badges are free. The president of the club is Shirley Temple. Every week the youngsters will enjoy community singing, and prizes will be awarded for various competitions amongst them.

Sat 10th July

CHOIR OUTING

All Saints choir and bell-ringers held their annual outing on Saturday, when a pleasant time was spent at Bournemouth. Mr. A. Yould accompanied the party. Scholarship successes

UNDER ESCORT!

Considerable interest was shown by Wokingham people when the cashier and commissionaire of the Union Cinema Ritz, in full uniform, were escorted through the town by a battalion of soldiers (Wokingham Territorials) to Union cinema's Savoy, where papers in connection with the film, "O.H.M.S.," were picked up. The ceremony was performed in real military style; one of the officers made a full inspection of the guard. Full sentry guard was stationed round the theatre, complete with machine guns, etc. Traffic was held up for a considerable time during the march and changing of the guard, owing to the street being blocked by hundreds of sightseers.

UNION CINEMA RITZ

"Romeo and Juliet," starring Norma Shearer and Leslie Howard, was a film of superb acting. "Without Orders," a thrilling story of the air is showing today, and features Robert Armstrong. The supporting film is an exceedingly funny one, "Country Bumpkins," with Stuart Erwin in the chief role.—On Monday, "More Than a

Secretary” presents George Brent as the very serious-minded editor of a health magazine, who practises what he preaches. Jean Arthur is the prim proprietress of a secretarial school, who is forced to take a job as the editor’s secretary because there is no suitable pupil available. When the editor becomes ill she fulfils his duties, and makes the magazine much more human and infinitely more alluring. The editor’s anger melts when his chief approves the innovations, and much later he discovers his love for his secretary. Difficulty and misunderstanding arise before a satisfactory solution is reached. The second feature is “Alibi For Murder,” with William Gargan in the leading role. On Thursday “The beloved Vagabond” is being shown, with Maurice Chevalier as W.J. Lock’s hero, Paragot, in a gesture of self-sacrifice, surrenders his English sweetheart to a crafty rival, and adopts an urchin, whom he takes on a Continental walking tour. Desmond Tester is the boy and Betty Stockfeld the lady. “Longest Night” is the second feature, starring Florence Rice and Robert Young.

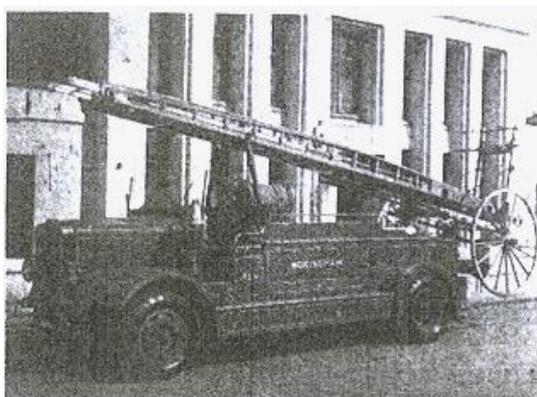
UNION CINEMA SAVOY

Mae West’s entertaining film, “Go West Young Man,” was the chief film at the early part of the week. “Secret Patrol” was in support. “Champagne Waltz,” with Jack Oakie is showing today and it is a film which includes some delightful music. The supporting film is “Postal Inspector,” starring Ricardo Costes—“Men Are Not Gods,” which is showing on Monday has an unusual plot. Ann Williams is secretary to the most famous dramatic critic in London. One night London is presented with a new production of “Othello,” with a newcomer Edmond Davey, in the title role, and when at night the famous critic returns to his office and dictates to his secretary his criticism of the production, it is a scathing attack on the young actor. Just after the critic has left Ann receives a visit from Barbara, wife of Davey, who appears in the play as Desdemona. Responding to her impassioned plea, Ann re-writes the criticism as a hymn of praise for Davey. Later the grateful Barbara invites Ann to her home to meet Davey, and unwittingly Ann and Davey are attracted to each other. There is a startling climax in which one woman saves the life of the other and loses the man they both love. Miriam Hopkins, Gertrude Lawrence and Sebastian Shaw are the three central figures. “Gangster’s Bride” is the supporting film. “NO Exit” is showing on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, featuring Billy Milton and Leslie Perrins. A British melodrama of two men playing a game of murder, the supporting film is “Captain’s Kid,” featuring Guy Kibbee.

Sat 24th July

FIRE ENGINE

Wokingham’s new fire engine which was delivered on Wednesday.



Sat 11th Sept.

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE VISIT WOKINGHAM FOR TOWN'S CORONATION CARNIVAL

Day Of Revelry To Raise Funds For Charity
PROCESSION OVER A MILE LONG

Programme OF Events From Early Morning Till Late At Night

The Coronation year of 1937 has been one of magnificent functions in Berkshire, but none of its many towns and hamlets can successfully challenge the claim of Wokingham, which boasts of the finest carnival of the year.

Wednesday's effort, the Coronation carnival, will go down in the town's history as one of the finest ever held there.

Thousands came into Wokingham on Wednesday to watch the proceedings and there was not a dull moment from eight o'clock in the morning until an early hour on Thursday. They thronged in the Market Place in the afternoon to see the Mayoress (Mrs. F.J. Barrett) crown the Carnival Queen (Miss Joan Grist) and, after watching the other events, came back to line the streets to see a memorable carnival procession for a small town. It was, in fact, about 1½ miles long, full of interest and originality, several of the entries being thoughtful and cleverly staged.

The carnival spirit was in the air, and everyone, old and young, participated in a most memorable and delightful programme of events.

A NEW FINANCIAL RECORD?

The tranquil everyday life of Wokingham vanished in a night. On Tuesday evening townspeople worked up to a late hour making their house and premises as bright and colourful as possible.

When the final balance sheet is made public it is quite possible that Wokingham will have a new financial record.

One can trace the gradual popularity and purpose of Wokingham Carnival from 1929. Up to Wednesday five carnivals had been held, resulting in total gross proceeds of £?,838 5s., and of this sum £600 has been passed to the Royal Berkshire Hospital through its local committee. The remainder has been devoted to numerous other deserving charities. The committee make a point of spending every possible penny of the expenses of the carnivals in Wokingham, and a large proportion of the amount allocated has again been circulated in the town.

Practically everyone in the town has an interest in the carnival, which is always an eagerly awaited event.

This year the executive committee could not have selected a more popular president and chairman than the Wokingham-born Mayor of the town, Alderman F.J. Barrett, who has thrown himself heart and soul into the preliminary arrangements. He has had an able deputy in Councillor H.F. Curl (deputy mayor), who, Much to the public's regret, was unable to be present at the 1935 carnival held during his year of office owing to ill-health.

PICTURESQUE DECORATIONS

Wokingham prides itself on the splendid and colourful decorations during Carnival Day. A reporter of this paper made a tour of the town on Tuesday evening in order to see the interest that people took in making Wokingham worthy of the occasion. They certainly made a good job of it. Most people made use of their effective Coronation decorations. The Town Hall lost most of its drabness because the brickwork had been covered with shrubs, bunting and flags. The police had also done their best to decorate their station with flags and bunting. Wokingham's new flower baskets in Broad Street gave the decorations an added brilliance. Business premises were a feature of the

decorations. Practically all the larger shops had attractive window displays. Fairy lights twinkled everywhere, and everyone had caught the carnival epidemic.

The sun was shining brightly on Wednesday morning, when, soon after 7.30, the "Rag" collectors assembled at the Town Hall to receive their collecting boxes. At eight they went into the highways and byways to try to break their previous collection for a carnival "rag," the splendid sum of £107 13s. 1d. raised at the 1935 carnival.

DISTRICT TOURED SUCESSFULLY

Mention must be made of the fact that before Carnival Day they toured the district for several nights. They sold several hundred programmes in Reading, where their appeal was met with a ready response. The collectors even "went to the dogs," and there in one night 94 programmes were disposed of. It is stated that nearly 2,000 programmes were sold before Carnival day, into the area covered by the collectors, and this included visits to Camberley, Windsor, Crowthorne, Sandhurst, Binfield and Bracknell. The "rag" collectors certainly brightened up the proceedings with their activities. Over 125 boxes were taken on Carnival Day. Mr. C.G. Gough, of Embrook, carried out the duties of "rag" secretary, and the chairman of the "rag" committee was Mr. G. Rogers. No-one could refuse them, and those who travelled in motor-cars were held up to ransom gave generously. The collectors appeared in a variety of costumes—highwaymen, pierrots, golliwogs, etc.

A HUGE LUMP OF COAL

Miners at Cannock and Rugeley Colliery were responsible for getting to Wokingham the largest lump of coal ever seen in the district. The lump was given for competition by Messrs. G.W. Talbot and Son Ltd., and guessing its weight was conducted under the supervision of Mr. F. Miles (district manager) and Mr. E. Kelsey (local manager). A crane had to be used in order to get the coal from the truck to their lorry. It occupied the whole of the lorry, and was surrounded with miners' lanterns.

Mrs. Lee and Sons, of Denmark Street, gave an iced cake for a lucky ticket competition, the organiser being Mr. Percy Fry.

A novel competition was organised by Messrs. Stewart and Wimbleton, of Broad Street. People were invited to estimate the number of parts of a bicycle, which was awarded to the successful competitor.

Mrs. A. Andrews and her lady helpers 2,877 golden apples in connection with the 1935 carnival, and this competition again proved to be very popular. Messrs. C.H. Smith, of Friday Street, Henley, presented the paper bags for the event.

EVENTS FOR THE CHILDREN

The children had a splendid morning's fun. Girls from eleven to fourteen had a tennis ball competition, and those under eleven participated in a skipping competition. Younger boys had great difficulty in making attempts to eat treacle buns, for they found there were as many wasps as buns, but the wasps did not retard their eagerness. The older boys joined in a seek, find and answer race, which was very amusing.

The bandsmen of the Gordon Boys' Home, Woking, were warmly received as they took their places on the stage in the Market Place. The band, which is a valuable "nursery" for Army bands, was conducted By Mr. G.D. Herniman, L.R.A.M. (bandmaster), and gave frequent selections during the day.

Children found in the Punch and Judy show, given by Messrs. James Portland, an amusing and interesting diversion.

Soon after 11 a.m. the first balloons shot into the air in a south-easterly direction. They had been released by the Mayor and his party. An effort was made to beat the result of the 1935 carnival, when 442 balloons were released, and the winning balloon

travelled to Partington, near Hull. Mr. Norman C. Lawrence and helpers supervised the releasing of balloons.

Mr. George Mead, resident manager of Messrs. Toomer, R and Co., Ltd., organised and was in charge of guessing the weight of a lorry load of coal.

A full week's supply of bread was offered as a prize in a competition organised by Mr. A.C. Hambleton, The Market Place.

Lucky dips proved most popular with the revellers, and Mrs. L. Ralph, who had charge of the arrangements, and her helpers were kept extremely active.

The fun was kept at a high pitch, when, from the stage, surrounded by children, the Mayor threw oranges into the crowd, who scrambled for them.

CROWNING OF THE QUEEN THE MAYOR'S WARM TRIBUTE

Just before two o'clock, a car carrying the Carnival Queen, preceded by a police car as an escort, arrived at the Market Place. Surmounting the car was a floral crown. The crowd watched eagerly as Miss Grist was assisted from her car. She was welcomed by the Mayor and Mayoress, who had been awaiting her arrival on the stage. The Mayoress was presented with a bouquet of red carnations and maidenhair fern, and Miss Grist received one composed of pink carnations and maidenhair fern. She looked radiantly happy, and smiled to the large crowd. Attired in a white moiré taffeta gown, cut on Elizabethan style, with a Medici collar, Miss Grist made a charming Queen. Her attendants, Misses Mary Smith, Edna Worrall, Ena Purchase and Jean Weight, were becomingly dressed in lavender moiré taffeta, and Juliet caps.

The Mayor said it was his pleasing duty to welcome to the town the Carnival Queen for 1937. "We have always been very fortunate in Wokingham with our Carnival Queens," Alderman Barrett continued, "and I know you will agree with me that today we are still very fortunate in having such a Carnival Queen and her attendants. If I may say so, I think she makes a beautiful and dignified Queen, and she is fortunate in her attendants. We wish our Carnival Queen a happy and successful reign, and I know you will do all you can to make it a happy one for her and her attendants."

The Mayoress then took the crown from off a mauve cushion, the Queen knelt down and Mrs. Barrett performed the ceremony in a graceful manner.

Speaking through a microphone, Miss Grist replied, "I wish to thank you very much for your warm reception. I hope you will have a very happy day, and do not forget that the carnival funds require your generous gifts."

HON. MRS. CORFIELD'S TELEGRAM

The Mayor said he had received a telegram from the Hon. Mrs. Corfield, who is on holiday in Scotland. It read, "I wish you and your committee a successful and happy carnival tomorrow and good weather."

After the ceremony, the Queen and her attendants chatted with the Mayor and Mayoress. To a fanfare of music they re-entered the car amid cheers, and drove though Denmark Street to the Carnival Field. Here the Carnival Queen and her attendants, the Mayor and Mayoress were received by Mr. Whittle, and the Mayor declared Messrs. Whittle monster fun-fair open. Together with the Gordon Boys' Band, who had provided music during the route, they toured the fair and rode on various roundabouts.

DIDCOT WIN FIRE BRIGADE CONTEST

Considerable interest was taken in the inter-fire brigade competition, which took place on the Carnival Field in the afternoon. It is over 25 years ago that Wokingham was favoured with such a competition. Six teams competed, and the times registered were very good. The officials were: Judges, Messrs. C.A. Edwards (Sonning), F.J.

Jordan (Bracknell), and W.B. Martin (Wokingham); starter, Second Officer Batchford (Reading); steward, Mr. E. Hawkins (Wokingham); timekeeper, Mr. E. Farr (Maidenhead). The competition was organised by the Wokingham Fire Brigade, under Chief Officer W.B. Martin and Mr. C.W. Rawlings (secretary).

Brigades were required to couple three lengths of hose and hit a target.

The Harry Vincent Challenge Cup, valued at a hundred guineas, was won by Didcot with the extraordinary good time of 34 $\frac{3}{5}$ secs. Goring (the holders) were second with 35 $\frac{2}{5}$ secs. The other places were: 3, Wargrave, 36 $\frac{2}{5}$ secs.; 4, Pressed Steel Works, 37 $\frac{4}{5}$ secs; 5, Windsor, 39 $\frac{3}{5}$ secs.; Pangbourne, 40 $\frac{1}{5}$ secs.

In the Cricket Field a display and demonstration was given by members of the Berkshire branches of the Women's League of Health and Beauty, under the directions of Mrs. A.H. Finch (county organiser). Interspersed with the display was an exhibition of dancing by Miss Sybil Bennett, of the Sybil School of Dancing, Maidenhead.

Over 250 children paraded for the children's fancy dress competitions in the cricket field. Their costumes were judged by Dr. E. Ward, Mrs. Croker, Mrs. G.A. Cheeseman, Mrs. Ratcliffe, Mrs. E.J. Braby, Mrs. Lawrence and Miss Chakirian, who had as stewards Mrs. Wimbleton and her helpers. The Carnival Queen presented the prizes to the children at the conclusion of the parade.

A RECORD PROCESSION STRIKING FEATURES

People were very early in securing good positions in the streets for the carnival procession, in which there was an increase of 14 entries on the 1935 carnival. The entry was a record, and the procession will not be forgotten for some time. It took between a quarter and half an hour to pass at various points, and was about a mile and a half in length.

Heading the procession was a car, decorated in Coronation colours, driven by Councillor G.C. Wilson, and in which were seated the Mayor and Mayoress. Following them was the Carnival Queen and her retinue in a coach which had been artistically designed by Mr. Dick Giles, of Wokingham. The coach was built on rather unusual lines, and the raised throne was backed with a bat-like rear. The coach was drawn by two magnificent and well-groomed Suffolk horses, lent by Mr. Henry Bowyer. Incidentally, they were awarded a prize for the best decorated horses, because of their ornamentations arranged to give a colourful display of Coronation colours. It is impossible to give a full description of all the vehicles, and the costumes of other entrants, but a reporter who inspected the procession before it commenced its journey through the town, writes his impressions of the most striking entries. Several Wokingham children combined to give a mounted tableau of a fairy queen, together with her retinue and herald, depicted in a brilliant setting of evergreens. The Wokingham St. John Ambulance Brigade had rather a good show with one of their members sitting on a donkey, bound up after a supposed accident. It gave an idea of the work the brigade do as "Good Samaritans," the title of their entry, which won a prize. Just like "the good old days" was the hansom cab of the gay "nineties" which had received a good polishing before leaving the coach-house. Fearsome-looking pirates, who in everyday life are scholars at Palmer School, were on board the galley, "Dragon of the Sea." Their craft was made by the teachers, and scholars, and the girls were responsible for the making of costumes.

Wokingham Peace Pledge Group had an interesting tableau denouncing war.

Of course, Will Hay and his boys could not be forgotten. They were present in a limited space, but room was given for scholastic duties and recreation—card-playing.

THOSE FLOWER BASKETS

In the pedestrian section were several outstanding characters. Members of Wokingham Corporation might have gained food for thought from the gentleman on stilts, who claimed to be the Corporation gardener and lamplighter. Writing of gardens and lamps, one entrant had a clever skit on the hanging baskets of Wokingham. He pushed through the streets a portable lamp-post complete with flower baskets, just like those in Broad Street, and with him he had his stepladder and watering can, all ready for the job of tending the geraniums.

Humpty-Dumpty sitting on top of the wall caused much amusement among the young and old, particularly the former. To the lilting music of accordion and guitar trooped a party of Hawaiian girls and presumably their boy friends. It was a great pity that they had no rivals in their section.

Attired as chief of the Tini Zulu tribe was another prize-winner, looking really tough, and beside him were a pair of Red Indians with their war paint—a colourful combination. Two other pedestrians, dressed as a scarecrow and traffic lights respectively, deserved their places in the prize list, as did the charming highwayman. Another entrant had a really good get-up as a tramp.

Wokingham seems to have been invaded by several pearly kings, for apart from one who assisted in the “rag” with a barrel organ, were two others who took part in the procession with their laden coster barrow. “O.K. for Sound” was a very apt inscription on the 1902 Peugeot car driven by Mr. P. Goodey, of Twyford. The vehicle, which goes exceedingly well, figured in the play, “Wild Violets,” at Drury Lane, and in the A.A. film, “This Motoring.”

The carpenter’s job has changed out of all knowledge during the last hundred years, according to the interesting trade exhibit of Mr. D.A. Slyfield, of Bracknell. On one side of the lorry could be seen bearded gentlemen in queer hats and swallowtail coats doing the work with axes, and beside them were the modern methods of the circular saw. A familiar entrant at several south of England carnivals is Mr. W.G. Boyce, of Odiham, who travelled all the way to Wokingham in order to win a prize, and, of course, show people his wonderful illustration of how the old woman and her tiresome children lived in the shoe, of fairy-tale fame. His enterprise was deservedly rewarded. The Embrook Women’s Institute had a tableau depicting women through the ages, and one could recognise Britannia, Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth, Amy Johnson, Elizabeth Fry, Dorothy Round, Grace Darling, Christabel Pankhurst and the Women’s Institute member.

TOMMY FARR AND JOE LOUIS

Revellers who had forgotten that last week there was a world’s title at stake in the boxing ring, had the painful reminder given by two youngsters, one as Joe Louis, and the other as Tommy Farr, at a Yankee stadium in New York. A tableau that earned its place in the prize list was that arranged by Mr. A.T. Cox, of Binfield, entitled “Binfield Belles,” complete with pierrots and imaginary seaside.

The old-world spirit was captured in a scene in an old-time bar of a village inn, complete with a cheery crowd of country folk. Another well-designed entry was the L.N.E.R. Coronation express engine, “Dominion of Canada,” which had been thoughtfully constructed.

The changes in bathing attire during the last hundred years gave scope to the staff of Wokingham Poor Law Institution, who staged a tableau recalling the death of Mrs. Grundy. Another enterprising prize-winner succeeded in bringing the Nine-Mile-Ride, or part of it, into Wokingham, and right well he deserved his prize. Originality scored easily. His car was covered with ferns and other plants which grew on the Ride.

A local brick firm served a double purpose. They persuaded people to be bricks and give generously, and, at the same time, showed how bricks were made. A pleasure yacht, named "Sale and Sun," was an attractive exhibit. Sammy, the Bracknell trotter, caused some amusement, but its antics did not perturb the youthful driver. An aviary full of budgerigars, and canaries in cages, constituted the instructive trade exhibit staged by Messrs. Henry Bowyer and Son.

Also in the procession were the St. Sebastian's Parish Band, Sandhurst Silver Prize Band, Spring Gardens Prize Band, Waltham St. Lawrence Prize Band, Wokingham Town and British Legion Band, and the Gordon Boys' Band. Wokingham Fire Brigade were represented by two engines (including the new Leyland), and other brigades in the procession were Twyford, Didcot, Sonning, Hartley Wintney, Windlesham, Goring, Bracknell, Wargrave, and Pangbourne, together with an engine loaned by the Leyland Motor Co., for the contest in the afternoon.

Sat 6th Nov 1937

ALL SAINTS PATRONAL FESTIVAL

On Monday the Patronal Festival at All saints' was celebrated by a number of celebrations of Holy Communion. Evensong included Te Deum and procession, and the special preacher was the Rev. P.J. Hepburn Scott, Rector of St. Paul's, Wokingham.

ST PAUL'S JUMBLE SALE

On Wednesday the annual jumble sale, in aid of St. Paul's Parish Funds, was held. Stalls were as under:--Men's wear: Mrs. Newberry and Miss Deane. Women's dresses, etc.: Mrs. Barry and Mrs. Hyde-Parker. Hats: Miss E. Deane. Fancy: Miss A.C. Hill and helper. Teas: Mrs. Grant, Miss Grant, Mrs. Eamer and Mrs. Munday. Hardware: Mr. E. Eamer. Mrs Hyde-Parker arranged the sale. The rector looked in during the proceedings.

BAZAAR FOR ST. MARTIN'S HOME

In aid of the funds of St. Martin's Home, Sturges Road, where convalescent children from London are received, a bazaar was held on Saturday at the Convent, Easthampstead Road. The Mother Superior and sisters, with the help of the Convent School pupils, carried out the programme. There were various stalls, and tea was also provided. A feature was a programme carried out by pupils of the school, which introduced a play, "The Bad Temper Bureau." The Rev. J. Connolly thanked patrons for their attendance and help.

CONSTITUENCY WHIST DRIVE

The Wokingham branch of the South Berks Conservative Association held their qualifying whist drive for the divisional whist championship on Thursday last week in the Wokingham Club. The M.C. was Mr. Frank Moles. The following qualified to take part in the final drive:--Ladies: 1, Mrs. Mead; 2, Miss K. Lindley; 3, Mrs. Winfield; 4, Mrs. Street; 5, Miss Scragg; 6, Mrs. Carter; 7, Mrs. Herbert; 8, Mrs. Garrett, Reserves: Mrs. White, Mrs. Steedon, Mrs. Stevens and Mrs. K. Smith. Gentlemen: 1, Mr. Boss; 2, Dr. Ward; 3, Mr. R.L. Arthur; 4, Mr. A. Russell; 5, Mr. E. Andrews; 6, Mr. Woolliams; 7, Mrs. Thorne, 8, Miss Jones. Reserves: Mrs. Plumridge, Mr. Knott, Mr. S. Collins and Mr. Bennett.

WOMEN'S MEETING

The 22nd anniversary of the Wokingham Women's Meeting was celebrated on Sunday at the Methodist Church, Rose Street. The preacher was the resident minister, the Rev. W.H. Brackenbury. A special meeting was held in the afternoon when Mrs. Edgar Newbery was chairman and the speaker was Mrs. M Bird, of Windsor. Miss D.M. Drake, of Reading, was the soloist. On Tuesday, in the Town Hall, the annual concert was held. The Mayor of Wokingham Alderman F.J. Barrett, presided, and the Mayoress was also present. Mr. Harrison Slater (of Derby) was in excellent form with his dramatic recitals and impersonations, and well-deserved applause marked the conclusion of his recital. Miss A.G. Lake and Mr. L.E. Lake (of Slough) contributed excellent vocal items. Miss M. Webb was the accompanist. Mr R.C. Wright, of Reading, mystified with his conjuring.

UNION CINEMA, RITZ

Bette Davis, supported by George Brent, appears in "The Golden Arrow," showing today. The supporting film is "Clarence." On Monday, Ritz patrons will be stirred by the great film, "The Charge of the Light Brigade." This film took 18 months to plan and produce, and has been described as the picture of the year. Errol Flynn and Olivia De Havilland head a grand cast of British players. The story concerns two brothers who are in love with the same girl. She is betrothed to one and admires his courage, but her heart is really with the other. Not until the eve of the Crimea is the problem solved. In the distinguished cast are: Henry Stephenson, Nigel Bruce, Donald Crisp, David Niven, C. Henry Gordon and G.P. Huntley. For the latter part of the week "Hideaway Girl" is being shown. It is a delightful comedy of mistaken identity, with a bride wrongly suspected as a criminal. The supporting film is "Let Them Live."

Sat 18th Dec

St. PAUL'S BAZAAR

The receipts at St. Paul's Church bazaar were close upon £200—a very successful result. There are a few accounts to be settled.

THE TOWN HALL CLOCK

After a silence and rest for some weeks, for repairs and reconditioning, the Town Hall clock on Thursday, at mid-day recommenced to function.

ALL SAINTS' CHRISTMAS CLUB

The annual share-out took place on Thursday at the Church House. The chairman of the committee and treasurer, the Rev. G. Kenworthy (rector), sent apologies for unavoidable absence. The members of the committee, Messrs. W.J. Brooks, F. Lindsay, W. Loader, A. Buckle, P. House, W. Martin and F. Moles (hon. secretary), arranged the evening's distribution. The statement of accounts showed total receipts to be £2,038 6s. 11d., and £2013 13s. 9d. was distributed to 1,595 members at £1 5s. 3d. each.

CONFIRMATION AT ST. PAUL'S

On Thursday the Bishop of Buckingham performed the rite of Confirmation at St. Paul's Church. The Rev. A.G.G. Thurlow acted as Bishop's Chaplain. The candidates numbered 61 in all, viz.: From St. Paul's. 9 girls, 7 boys. All Saints, 10 girls, 10 boys; Luckley, 8 girls; St. Sebastian's, 4 girls, 1 boy; Barkham, 5 girls, 3 boys. Two married couples completed the total of 61. The respective clergy attended their own

candidates. Mr. A. Yould, R.C.M. (hon.), was at the organ. In his address, his lordship spoke of the seriousness of the day to the candidates.

THE RITZ

“The Last of Mrs. Cheyney,” showing today, features William Powell, Joan Crawford and Robert Montgomery in the screen version of Frederick Lonsdale’s play. The supporting film is “The Gap.”

The Ritz Chums’ Club, held every Saturday morning, will see “The Great Barrier” today. On Monday, “San Quentin,” the chief feature, is a swiftly-moving melodrama, dealing with the lives of prisoners in this famous penitentiary. Many scenes were taken in a San Francisco night club, where Ann Sheridan, who supplies the romance, is a singer, who falls in love with Pat O’Brian, an ex-army officer just appointed captain of the yard at San Francisco. The cast also included Humphrey Bogart, Barton MacLane, Joseph Sawyer and Veda Ann Borg. “Penrod and Sam” is the second feature. On Thursday “pluck of the Irish,” featuring James Cagney and Mae Clarke, is being screened. Johnny Cave (Cagney), a two-fisted young man, becomes chief deputy of the department of weights and measures. He is “advised” to join in with a gang operating a short-weight racket, but ignores their threats, and, in spite of brutal intimidation, discovers the identity of the secret leader of the gang. Cagney eventually exposes and arrests the culprit, thereby earning promotion and Janet’s (Mae Clarke) approbation. The supporting film is “Hats Off.”

THE CARNIVAL: FINAL EFFORT

In spite of the inclement weather, good numbers attended the final event of the Wokingham 1937 Carnival at The Convent of the Presentation on Monday, where, by permission of the Reverend Mother Superior, a gymnastic and dancing display was presented by the scholars. Each item of the programme was much appreciated, and the production reflects great credit upon Miss Joan Morton, who had been responsible for the training of the scholars. Amongst the audience were: the Mayor and Mayoress and family, the carnival president, Alderman F.J. Barrett, and Mrs. Barrett and family, Councillor Miss Wescott, Father Connolly, etc. The Mayoress was presented with a bouquet by the head scholar. The president proposed a vote of thanks to the Reverend Mother for her kind help and practical interest, and this was supported by the Mayor. The external arrangements were in the hands of the carnival honorary secretary, Councillor D. Goddard. Over £4 was realised.

1938

Sat 29th Jan

“WOKINGHAM”

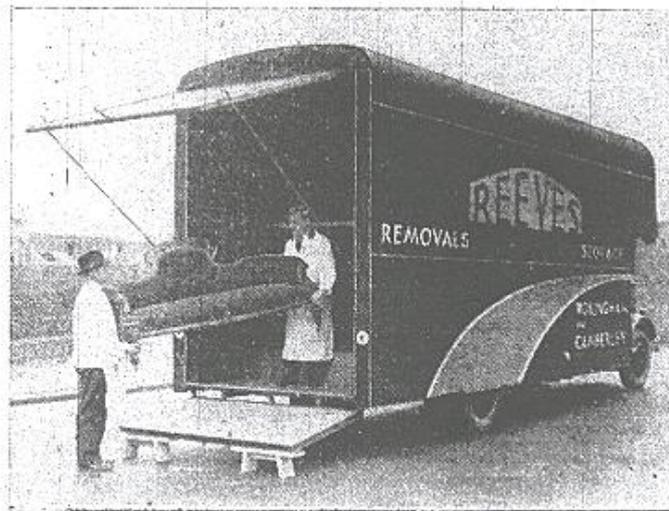
A thoroughfare by old and red buildings flanked
(Old tried and solid structures free from sham),
A path above a rising roadway banked
--That’s Wokingham!

A row of ancient dwellings gay with paint

Whose bright blue doors 'twere sacrilege to slam,
 An inn with courtyard full of corners quaint
 --That's Wokingham!
 A little town with church on either end,
 A stream where once ('tis said) the crayfish swam,
 And narrow streets, that twist and dodge and bend,
 --That's Wokingham!

And if, bewildered by life's rush, my mind
 With pleasant, peaceful thoughts I'd crowd and cram,
 Such peace, such pleasantness, such thoughts, I'd find,
 --At Wokingham!

S. E. Collins.



A UNIQUE PANTECHNICON, designed and made by Messrs. Perkins Brothers, Wokingham, for E. W. Reeves and Co., of Wokingham. A special tailboard enables furniture to be carried straight into the van: a canopy protects furniture and loaders. Despite its vast capacity (1,100 c. ft.) the pantechnicon can travel at a legal speed of 30 miles per hour.

Sat 26th March

LABOUR PARTY SOCIAL

The local Labour Party held a social at the British Legion Hall on Saturday. Mr. Gibson was M.C., Mrs. Bird (Bracknell), Mr. Wilkinson (Hurst), and Mrs. Mattingley and Mr. F. Graves contributed to the programme. There were various competitions, and the ladies' committee (Mrs. J. Gibson, Mrs. Douglas, Mrs. Graves, Mrs. Smith and Miss Trowbridge) supervised the catering.

COTTAGE FIRE

At 3.45 p.m. on Saturday Wokingham Fire Brigade received a call to three cottages at Forest Road, near the school. On arrival they found the roof of the centre cottage was alight, due probably to overheating from the chimney. The brigade, under Second Officer E. Hawkins, were able to prevent what might have been a serious outbreak, and after two hours were able to leave. The cottages belong to Mr. R.H.R. Palmer. The large fire escape ladder of the new engine proved most useful as it stretched in a long span from the road to the top of the affected roof, enabling the firemen to deal at once with the outbreak at its source.

TALK OF SOUTH AFRICA

At the branch meeting of the British Legion (women's section) on Wednesday, Mrs. P.G. Murrey (chairman) presided, and was supported by Mrs. Edgar Earnbart (hon. secretary) and the speaker (Miss M. Fedden). The chairman referred to the satisfactory progress of the branch, and noted the value of honorary members, who in the branch, did a great deal of good. The Purse Fund, in preparation for April 27th, was growing towards the £5 required, it was revealed. Miss Fedden lectured on "My travels in South Africa." A vote of thanks to the speaker was proposed by Miss Young, and carried with acclamation. Prior to the usual tea being served, Mrs. Petersen (28th Berks V.A.D.) gave a talk on air raid precautions, with reference to the Mayor's circular letter.

THE RITZ

"Exclusive," featuring Charles Ruggles and Lloyd Nolan, is showing today (Saturday). The supporting film is "Circus Girl," a drama of the "Big Top," starring Bob Livingstone and June Travis. On Monday, the spectacular musical film, "Let's Make a Night of It," is being screened. Buddy Rogers, June Clyde, Fred Emery and Iris Hoey are the leading players, whilst in addition, there are Claire Luce, Brian Michie, Afrique, Dan Donovan, and a host of screen and radio stars. Irene Dunne and Randolph Scott head the cast in "High, Wide and Handsome," which is the chief film showing at the latter part of the week. It is a spectacular melodrama with, music, and the story concerns the discovery of oil in Pennsylvania. Also in the cast are such favourites as Dorothy Lamour and Charles Bickford.

WOKINGHAM AND AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS

Wokingham is going right ahead with the scheme for air raid precautions and every householder has received the Mayor's letter and enrolment form.

The Mayor has been anxious to impress upon everyone that it is far better to complete the form and not be required than to fail to send in the form and find that they were wanted. Everyone is urged to offer their services as the number and kind of volunteers is bound to vary and increase as time goes on and the record of volunteers will be a most valuable start.

Every volunteer will be invited to attend a meeting within a few days of the completion of the lists and the County Officer (Major Paget) will attend. This meeting will be called to give fullest information to everybody and enable every volunteer to ask questions.

The various classes will be formed at once and arrangements are now well in hand to ensure that instruction is given and the requirements of each section are met. The scheme will then be well in hand and will be completed with the least possible delay in such a way that Wokingham will be in possession of an organisation of which she will be very proud and feel far more secure should the occasion arise to put these measures into operation. In addition to the instruction every volunteer accepted will have a booklet clearly defining his or her work.

Sat 14th May

GAS-PROOF ROOM ON VIEW

The demonstration room recently opened for public inspection and instruction at Linfield House, 18, Broad Street, was arranged under the supervision of Dr. E.F. Smith (qualified A.R.P. instructor), the details having been carried out by the 28

Berks V.A.D. (Mrs. Beale and Miss Finch), and Supt. T. Sadler, St. John Ambulance Association. Although visited by many interested residents, the attendances should have been larger.

AUCTION SALE

At the Rose Hotel, Wokingham, on Tuesday, Messrs. Nicholas, of Friar Street, Reading, conducted an auction sale of land on the Oakfield Estate, Barkham Road, Wokingham, two of the ten lots being sold. One was 220 ft. of building land with a frontage to Molly Millars Lane, and realised £230. The other of accommodation meadow land of 4½ acres, also with a frontage to Molly Millars Lane, realised £200.

RED CROSS FLAG DAY

The Red Cross Flag Day, held in the district on Saturday, resulted in £45 19s. 1d. being raised, which was augmented by a further £2 10s. in donations. The area included Wokingham, Bearwood, Winnersh and Finchampstead. Admiral J.B. Eustace is the district secretary, and Mrs. Howard Palmer and Mrs. Oliver Young represent different areas. Fifty per cent of the subscribed amount is allocated to the nursing organisations within the contributory area.

REV. W.H. BRACKENBURY LEAVING

The Rev. W.H. Brackenbury, resident Methodist minister for the past 18 months, preached his farewell sermon on Sunday evening, as he has been appointed to Bolton, Lancashire, to fill the place of the Methodist minister there, who has had a breakdown. There are four large churches in the district which will be under Mr. Brackenbury's supervision. The Rev. W.H. Brackenbury has done good and faithful work during his short stay in Wokingham.

DEATH OF MRS. W.T. MARTIN

Widespread sympathy is felt for Alderman W.T. Martin in the death of his wife, Mrs. Mary Ann Emma Martin, which occurred on Tuesday at a Reading nursing home. She had been ailing for some time and passed away at the age of 66.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin were married on June 6th 1892, at the Baptist Chapel, Wokingham. Mr. Martin started his business at the age of 16, and his wife-to-be, while still at school, was his constant and ready helper. In his public career and activities she was his inspiration. In the four years of his Mayoralty of Wokingham, 1907, 1912, 1913 and 1920, Mrs. Martin won golden opinions as social hostess. Quiet and unobtrusive, from her writing desk she was the working power behind the scenes in the 14 years' efforts of the family on behalf of the Wokingham Clinic, during which time she arranged and brought to success a long series of efforts for that institution.

During the war Mrs. Martin's care was for the children, for whom three times weekly she ran soup-kitchens. This and much kind thought was given to the soldiers billeted in the district, were at her own initiative.

In municipal matters, one of her treasured possessions was a spade, inscribed: "This spade was used by Mrs. W.T. Martin as Mayoress to cut the first sod in the Borough Housing Scheme, July 1920." Another spade recorded that Mrs. Martin "planted a tree and gave a seat round it in the New Recreation Ground, Barkham Road." The tree was given by a friend.

Very many patrons of the swimming pool will remember their talks with Mrs. Martin.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Martin leaves her son, Mr. Cathrow Martin, and her daughter, Mrs. Edna Girdler, to mourn her loss.

The funeral will be at St. Paul's, Wokingham, today (Saturday), at 2.30 p.m.

Sat 18th June

FILM STARS AT WOKINGHAM
Garden Party At Glebelands
THE CINEMA IN THE EARLY DAYS

A garden party which, in the words of the organisers, was designed to "show Glebelands to the subscribers," was held on Saturday at this charming Wokingham country house, now the convalescent and rest home of the Cinematograph Trade Benevolent Fund. It will be remembered that Sir William Jury, a resident of Reading and president of the fund, bought Glebelands for this purpose two years ago.

Miss Gracie Fields did not attend, contrary to expectation, but, other stars present were Gene Gerrard, the comedian, Gibb McLaughlin, Graham Moffat and Moore Marriott—in the garb they wore in Will Hay's "Oh, Mr. Porter," Binkie Stuart, the British Shirley Temple, and Joan Gardner.

Among those present were: the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham (Councillor and Mrs. F.S. Perkins), the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading (Councillor and Mrs. E.E. Langston) Sir William Jury, Lieut.-Col A.C. Bromhead (trustee) and Mr. R.C. Bromhead (chairman).

Mr. R.C.O. Viveash, secretary to the fund, told a representative of this paper, "Glebelands is steadily fulfilling the function for which it was donated by Sir William Jury, and the number of permanent resident guests is steadily growing. It is not intended by the Fund Council that the general relief that is extended in response to various appeals from different parts of the country should be curtailed through the upkeep of Glebelands, which makes the support of the Cinematograph industry all the more essential.

Glebelands costs nearly £5,000 to keep up, and last year the fund expended generally—in addition to Glebelands—about £10,000. We have over 100 pensioners depending upon the fund, some of them pioneers of the industry, and others incapacitated by sickness or old age, as well as widows and children. There are people here who helped build the technique of the industry 40 years ago".

A programme of sports was carried through during the afternoon, and there were good entries, especially in the ladies' events. A number of employees of various film companies took part, such as Paramount, County Cinemas and National Screen Services Ltd.

A Veteran's Collapse

One elderly man collapsed in the veteran's race after running only a few yards. He was all right after a rest, however, and the ambulance men had nothing to do. The veterans of the 1903 Society—those who have been members of the fund since it was formed in that year—had a race on their own, and this was won by Mr. C.W. Perry.

Mr. T.A. Welsh, appeals organiser to the fund, is one of the 'pioneers of the industry who is taking a hand in the work of Glebelands and of the fund generally. He is appeals organiser to the Benevolent Fund. Snatching a brief interval from his work as a sports official, he mentioned something of the work of the early days when he was associated with Colonel Bromhead—a trustee of the fund, with Sir William Jury and Mr. John Maxwell—in Gaumont. At that time the now famous concern was just a branch of a French film agency.

“The cinema in the early days,” said Mr. Welsh, “was regarded as a scientific toy, rather than a form of entertainment. It is due to many of the pioneers, who began to realise its value as an entertainment medium, that this great industry of today has evolved.

In those days films were about 60 ft. in length; now, of course, they run into thousands of feet. I was Colonel Bromhead’s assistant and then became general manager when Gaumont was made a company.

I left it in 1916 to undertake official Government work in France. After that I formed a film production company, which made ‘The Better ‘Ole.’ I introduced Betty Balfour to the screen—she became one of the foremost names in this country.

Later I was co-producer of ‘Journey’s End’ with Michael Balcon, now of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, ‘The Good Companions,’ and other films.

The cinema is certainly the most popular entertainment in the world—it is, in a way, a sort of safety valve, a national safety valve, in times of crisis. It is due to the generosity of Sir William Jury that this beautiful place is devoted to the work of the fund, and provides a home of rest for those who are in need of convalescence, or who are getting on in years.”

Sat 2nd July

A MOCK AIR RAID

An unexpected test for the annual inspection of the 28th Berks V.A.D.—in the form of a mock air raid—took place at Wokingham on Wednesday. The inspecting officer for the most comprehensive test was Lieut.-Col. Dunbar, and the proceedings were watched by a large crowd. The V.A.D.’s were under the command of Miss Cornish (commandant), Scouts and other lads represented the casualties.

The Mayor (Councillor F. Stanley Perkins) and Mayoress were present, and others included Sir. Archibald Campbell (Berks. County A.R.P. control officer), Miss Waltham (county secretary), Mrs. Harman (county assistant secretary, British Red Cross), Dr. Richmond (county medical officer of health), Admiral J.B. Eustace (chairman Wokingham Borough A.R.P. Committee, and Hon. secretary, Wokingham Clinic), Dr. Ward.

The clinic rooms had been fitted as a gas-proof first aid and hospital station. The “victims” were given first aid and then placed on stretchers and carried by the V.A.D.’s to the station.

At the close Colonel Dunbar said: ”In the time I have had to see you working, I have found you extraordinary smart. I tried on you several test questions and I had got the right answer in each case. I think your gas attack was very well planned, and I was surprised to see the way in which you handled stretchers. You appear to have some really good idea of de-contamination, and I think you are the best I have seen now for some time.”

Sir Archibald Campbell mentioned them as the very best detachments in Berkshire. The detachment had achieved very many successes, and all were doing their best to maintain that tradition. He knew the work of their clinic and how the centre was appreciated in that part of the county, and had conferred great benefits upon the people of the town. He asked them to consider seriously whether they could not all of them become mobile members of the detachments, as great demands might be made upon him for the county. He spoke of the advantage of their taking up training in military hospitals.

On the same day in Wokingham there was a demonstration of a public address unit mounted on a small motor-cycle, the first experiment of that kind ever made. Having

only three components-microphone, transformer and speaker-the unit is worked from an ordinary six-volt accumulator, and it can be used either when the motor-cycle is stationary or when travelling at from 15 to 20 miles per hour.

The man responsible for the demonstration was Mr. John Goswell, electrical engineer, of Waterloo Road, Wokingham. He has fitted the speaker on to the handlebars of the machine. The transformer is clamped unobtrusively to the frame, close to the accumulator, and the microphone hangs by a loop around his neck. The range of the speaker is about a quarter of a mile by day and nearly half a mile at night. Mr. Goswell has spent a good deal of time and money in perfecting this apparatus for use on a motor-cycle, and he thinks it will be invaluable for A.R.P. work. He will submit it to the police and A.R.P. organisation in the district for an exhaustive test in the near future.

Sat 1st Oct

WOKINGHAM PREPARES Distribution Of Respirators

The organisation set up for the distribution of gas masks in the Wokingham area has proved fully equal to the task suddenly imposed on it by the swift turn of events this week. So well have wardens conducted their house-to-house visits that almost everyone in the borough has already been measured for masks. Distribution started on Tuesday, and, for those people who had not been measured by then, an assembly room for fitting was set up next to the Post Office.

Special enquires were made by a representative of this paper as to the possibility of public shelters being constructed for use in the event of air attack. The information was given that it had not been decided to provide any such shelters at present, but that the matter was still under consideration. The A.R.P. [Air Raid Protection] Controller for Wokingham is Mr. J.H Titherington, with whom contact can be established at the Town Hall, Wokingham.

AN A.R.P. PUBLICATION

“The A.B.C. of A.R.P.,” is being published by Jordan and Sons, Limited, 116, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2., on and after October 3rd, at the price of 6d. By means of diagrams, plans and pictures, this book shows clearly what precautions members of the public can take to protect themselves against attack from the air by high explosive, incendiary bombs, and gas. The instructions, together with the pictures, make it possible for men and women to obtain quick and inexpensive protection.

In addition, there are included information and pictures of vital interest to A.R.P. personnel. As much of the text matter is presented in tabular form it should be of assistance to those in training. A.R.P. wardens will also find the diagrams of particular interest when imparting information to the public

Sat 22nd Oct

SOCIAL AND SALE OF WORK

A sale of work, which realised £10, was held in Forest Road School, Wokingham, on Saturday in aid of the school and the proposed mission church.

G.F.S. SALE

The annual sale of the Wokingham branch, Girls Friendly Society, was held on Wednesday in the Club House, in aid of the branch funds, and proved very successful. Stalls included: Household, (Miss Fowler and members of the committee), work (members and associates of G.F.S.), cake stall (cakes made and given), cafeteria (the committee). A silk quilt made by G.F.S. candidates, found a ready purchaser. Miss Grenside and Miss D.E. Smith were the organisers.

METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL CAMPAIGN

A meeting in connection with the Methodist Sunday School campaign was held in the Methodist Church on Tuesday, Mr. E.H. Perkins presiding, supported by Dr. H.W. Perkins, M.A., D.D., resident minister. The chairman introduced the Rev. W. Briggs, who said the present generation wanted action. The cinema could be used with advantage in Sunday School work. Mrs. Joy (Whitley Hall) also spoke of her own Sunday School work. Dr. Perkins thanked the speakers.

POSTMASTER'S DEPARTURE

The Head Post-master of Wokingham, Mr. J.T. Golothan, who has for the past three years occupied that position, is leaving to take up a similar post at High Wycombe. A social was arranged and held at the Railway Hotel on Saturday. Mr. N.C. Lawrence, assistant district auditor, union of Post Office Workers, was in the chair, and Mr. F.W. Stokes (second in command at Wokingham Post Office) presented Mr. Golothan with a repeating clock as a mark of esteem from the Wokingham and district Post Office staff. Mr. Golothan suitably responded. During the evening a musical programme was given by "Wiffles" Westlake and Mr. E. Thatcher.

THE RITZ

Today (Saturday) "Bluebeard's Eighth Wife," co-starring Gary Cooper and Claudette Colbert, is the chief attraction. "That Navy Spirit," featuring Lew Ayres and John Howard, is the supporting film. Joan Crawford and Spencer Tracy are co-starred in "Mannequin," the story of two people seeking happiness in trying surroundings, which comes to the Ritz for the early part of the week. "Partners in Crime" is the second feature. "The Hurricane," is showing for the latter part of the week. The high point of the picture is the amazing spectacle which gives the story its climax and its name. "The Hurricane" introduces an important new star in Jon Hall; Dorothy Lamour appears opposite him as the South Sea belle.

Sat 5th Nov

JUMBLE SALE

The sum of £5 was raised at a jumble sale, held in the Methodist Schoolroom in aid of the Sunday School funds.

LADIES' HOCKEY

Reading University second eleven journeyed to Wokingham on Saturday, and were defeated 4—1. R. Mellor completed a hat-trick for Wokingham for the second time this season. J Taylor was the other home team scorer.

BUILDING ACCIDENT

Harry Cole (19), of Goodchild Road, while at work in Rance's Lane on Saturday, fell from a platform 10 feet up and struck his head on some scaffolding. He was taken

unconscious to the Royal Berkshire Hospital where it was found that he had sustained an injured wrist, but his head injuries were not serious.

WHIST DRIVE AT GLEBELANDS

During the weekend an invitation whist drive was held at Glebelands. The prize-winners were: Ladies, Mrs. Stokes, Miss A. Scragg, Mrs. R. Cook; Gents, Mr. J. Wright, Mr. P. Thorne, Mr. Deans; also Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Raper, Mr. Exton and Mr. R.A. McLaughlan. The prizes were distributed by Miss F.G. Munro, the matron. The drive was arranged by Capt. F.G. Munro, and Mr. Wood Winstanley was M.C.

THE RITZ

“Just Like a Woman,” featuring John Lodge and Gertrude Michael, is showing today (Saturday) at the Ritz Cinema, Wokingham. “Telephone Operator,” with Judith Allen and Grant Withers, is the picture in support. Caesar Romero, cast as an orchestra leader who, with his companion, Don Ameché, flies across the Atlantic, stars in the musical, “Happy Landing,” showing for the early part of next week. “Fugitive Lady,” with Evelyn Venable and Reed Hadley, is the supporting film. Laughter will reign at the end of the week at the Ritz where “Merrily We Live” will be screened as the principal film. The supporting film is “Change of Heart,” starring Gloria Stuart and Michael Whalen.

CARNIVAL DARTS TOURNAMENT

The Wokingham Carnival Darts Tournament, which will be held at the Drill Hall on Wednesday, November 16th, has attracted an entry of 33 teams, which represent 231 players. The entries are as follows: Four teams each from The Plough and the Redan; three teams from The Rising Sun and the Red Lion; two teams each from The Victoria Arms, The Duke’s Head, The Three Brewers, The Metropolitan, The White Horse, The Dog and Duck and The Lord Raglan: whilst The Thatched Cottage, The Territorial Club, The Crispin, The Queen’s Head and the Wokingham Cricket Club have entered one team. The entry equals the previous record last year. The Victoria Arms are the present holders of the Challenge Cup. The sum of £100 10s. 7d. has been cleared from the past six events.

BAZAAR AT THE CONVENT

A sale of work etc. was held at the Convent, Easthamstead Road, on Saturday, in aid of the funds of St. Martin’s Home, Sturges Road, for convalescent children from London. The Rev. Mother and the Community of the Presentation made the arrangements. The stalls included needlework, beautifully executed by the Sisters; grocery, handicraft, general, sweets, vegetables, stamps. Teas were arranged for in the various classrooms. A concert by the pupils formed a varied and attractive feature of the afternoon. Songs were sung with sweet tone, balance and feeling, and “The Old Woman in the Shoe” was a delightful sketch by the “transitionals” of the school. The kindergarten percussion band, with their singers, gave a good account of themselves. The dances, “Ballet from Coppelia” and “Blue Danube,” were admirably performed by J. Plessis. The abridged play, “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs,” was a realistic and captivating performance. Father Conolly, at the close, thanked the Community for their interest in the London children.

Sat 24th Dec

WOKINGHAM HEAD MASTER RETIRES

Praise For Mr. H. F. Maidment's Work
PRESENTATIONS FROM PAST AND PRESENT PUPILS

A former pupil at Palmer School, Wokingham, drove 200 miles through snow and over frozen roads to attend a ceremony arranged at the school on Wednesday, marking the retirement of Mr. H.F. Maidment, the head master.

Mr. Maidment had been head master for 29 years, and his devotion to his work, unflagging interest in the welfare of the school and valuable encouragement given to every boy and girl who came under his jurisdiction have made him one of Wokingham's most respected figures. There was a very large attendance to see presentations made to him on behalf of managers, subscribers, staff, parents and former pupils.

The Rev. Gordon Kenworthy, chairman of managers, presided at the ceremony, and among those present were: Alderman F.J. Barrett, deputy-mayor—and a former pupil,—Mr. W.F. Herbert, secretary to Berks Education Committee, Mr. F.E. Chapman (correspondent), Alderman and Mrs. J.B. Eustace, Councillor D. Goddard—a former pupil—Councillor Miss D. Wescott, Mr. C. Maisey, head master of Bracknell School, the Rev. A.G.G. Thurlow, Comdr. B.L.H. Greenfield and Mr. Ernest Ward.

Mr. Kenworthy said Mr. Maidment had maintained the great tradition of the school, and, under his devoted and able care, the school had prospered and had established a record of which they were all very proud. Mr. Maidment had completely won the confidence, loyalty and affection of the staff and pupils, the managers and the parents. His retirement was a sad occasion, but it would be no little comfort to Mr. Maidment to be able to look back on a work so conscientiously and splendidly done.

Mr. Herbert said Mr. Maidment had had a career which had been self-sacrificing and one which had meant a great deal to the children who had passed through the school in the past 29 years. The records of the school and the reports which had been issued from time to time by H.M. inspector would testify to the remarkably high standard of the work that had been carried out. Nevertheless it was not merely the standard of work which was so important a feature of Mr. Maidment's control. It was in the wider matters of character formation, development of background and encouragement in the formation of independent judgment that Mr. Maidment had been so successful. Mr. Herbert also referred to those who had been trained on the staff under Mr. Maidment and of the progress they had subsequently made in their calling.

The Presentations

Mr. Chapman said it was originally intended to buy Mr. Maidment a silver tea service, but so many people had asked to be included in the subscription that there was a great deal of money left over. With that surplus they had bought, in addition, a silver tray and other articles, and there would be a framed list of all who had contributed. The presentations from the managers and subscribers were made by Mr. Kenworthy.

Handing to Mr. Maidment a wireless set on behalf of the members of the staff, Mr. Jack Goddard said they had received from the head master all the assistance one could possibly have obtained.

Mr. Hugh Allen, who had driven from Stockport to attend the ceremony, presented Mr. Maidment with an armchair and cheque on behalf of past pupils of the school. He

declared that the education given under Mr. Maidment had been of secondary school standard.

Councillor D. Goddard gave Mr. Maidment an album containing 299 names of past pupils and parents who had subscribed to the presentation and he paid a tribute to the value of his work.

Alderman Barrett said he had been a manager of the school for 19 years, and he had always looked on Mr. Maidment as an upright, good living and sound man in every way. He mentioned that the children of the school had made their presentation of a chair to their head master earlier in the day, and he said it was a tribute to the affection in which he was held by the children that the boys and girls had subscribed nearly £6 by their own efforts. That sum was made up entirely of pennies. Alderman Barrett thanked Councillor Goddard and members of the staff who carried out the work of gathering subscriptions from past and present pupils.

Replying, Mr. Maidment spoke of his younger days, and confessed that he originally intended to be an engineer. He changed his mind when, at the request of his father—who was head master of a council school in Sheffield—he took a class for one day. He then decided to become a teacher. “I have had a happy time at Palmer School,” he said, “and nobody could wish to serve under a finer body of managers. From everyone I have had nothing but courtesy and consideration. My staff have been most loyal and willing, and the parents have been kind. I am particularly pleased about my relations with the parents because no head master could get on without their co-operation.”

Mr. Maidment's Career

Mr. Maidment was trained at Chatham College. Previous to his appointment at Palmer School he taught at the Sharrow Lane School, Sheffield, under the late Sir James Yoxall, M.P., the well-known educationalist and former secretary of the National Union of Teachers; at the Higher Grade School, Ryde, under Colonel C.D. Crisp, the present chairman of directors of Chelsea Football Club; and at Addison Gardens L.C.C. School, W. Kensington, a school distinguished for its scholastic successes and musical interests.

In his early days, Mr. Maidment was a keen footballer and cricketer, and, as centre forward, he was chosen to play for Oxfordshire, Hampshire and Middlesex. On taking up his appointment at Wokingham, he joined Wokingham Cricket Club, and, for some years acted as treasurer. He was also treasurer for All Saints' Freewill Offering Scheme, and member of the Reading University Court.

The following articles have been taken from the Reading Mercury and the Wokingham Times

1939 - 1941

NB Articles dated Friday indicate Wokingham Times articles. Those dated Saturday are from the Reading Mercury.

1939

Fri 3rd Feb

WOKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT

A.R.P. Preparations

In view of the times we are living in, and due to the many rumours that are being circulated it might not be out of place if a few details regarding the activities that are

taking place, with regard to A.R.P. in the Wokingham Rural District, were explained to those interested.

Prior to September of last year, very little progress was made with reference to A.R.P. in the Wokingham Rural District, but since that date a fair margin of success has been attained in the organisation of the District, into Head Wardens' areas and Posts, also with regard to the Medical Services. Considerable strides regarding the personnel for such duties, and their training, have also been made.

To take the above in order, it should be explained that the Wokingham Rural, 70 square miles in extent, has been divided into 14 areas, each under the jurisdiction of a Head Warden. Such areas roughly correspond with Parish boundaries, but in one or two instances have been joined under one Head Warden.

The full complement of Head Wardens has been enrolled and trained, and in most cases their deputies have been nominated. Those areas have been subdivided into Senior Wardens' Posts, of which there are 70 in the district, each under the supervision of Senior Wardens, and each of the latter has under him the necessary number of wardens who look after the interests of the small area allotted to him.

The number of Wardens who have been enrolled in the Wokingham Rural District, is approximately 400, whilst the number required with reliefs, in case of emergency, is 350. It will be noted therefore, that we are already working towards a potential reserve.

Of the above Wardens the following are the figures regarding training:-

Trained	260
In training	85
Untrained	46

Now turn to the medical services, each Head Warden's area is provided with a certain number of First Aid Points, ie a place where minor injuries can be attended by personnel which has been trained in First Aid and Anti-gas.

Of these First Aid Points, there are 35 in the District. In addition to these Points a First Aid Post is being established at Earley, also 6 First Aid Parties will be stationed at Earley, and 2 at Twyford. These Parties will be utilised for removing casualties from the Streets to First Aid Posts or Hospitals.

The personnel at present enrolled with reference to the Medical side of the A.R.P. in the Wokingham Rural District is nearly 350, and our total requirements for these services, together with reliefs, is approximately 450, so it will be noted that at least 100 more volunteers for First Aid duties are required.

Volunteers in First Aid for A.R.P. undergo training in both First Aid and Anti-gas, which consists of a minimum of 6 lectures in each, with a week's interval between each lecture, and a small examination on both subjects. It will be seen therefore, that to complete the training for First Aid, the minimum time required is three months. All persons enrolled for A.R.P. First Aid, in this district, are undergoing training. In addition, many who are unable to join the A.R.P. for various reasons, are attending the lectures, thus obtaining knowledge which may be invaluable in time of crisis.

In addition to the above, the Wardens are carrying out a census of the accommodation available in the district, with respect to refugees from the danger areas in times of stress.

Over 22,000 gas respirators have been issued to the public. The remaining 4,000 which will complete the protection of the total population (other than babies) will be issued in the course of the next fortnight.

It will be seen from this, that a considerable amount has been accomplished in the area, although so far, the work has been carried out systematically without publicity.

The question of protection from gas is being fully explained, through Head Wardens, and all Head Wardens have been issued with the Home Office specification of a trench for protection against splinters and blast. The further question of communal shelters, in such places as Earley and Woodley, is also having due consideration.

Sat 4th Feb

METHODIST OVERSEAS MISSIONS

The recent overseas missions, auxiliary services realised a total of £53 4s. 7d.

LANTERN LECTURES

Two lantern lectures on the subject of Constantinople were given by the Rev. A.G.G. Thurlow, in the Church House, on Thursday last week. The rector, the Rev. G. Kenworthy, was chairman in the afternoon, while the Hon. Mrs. Corfield presided in the evening.

THE RITZ

Ginger Rogers and James Stewart give a fine performance in "Vivacious Lady," showing today (Saturday). "The Marines Are Here," featuring Gordon Oliver is in support. Hailed as one of the most spectacular films ever made, "In Old Chicago" is showing for the first three days next week. Thousands of pounds were spent in the making of this film, which tells the story of Chicago in the 'sixties. Those taking part include Alice Faye, Tyrone Power and Don Ameche. "Hey! Hey! USA," the principal film for the latter part of the week, features Will Hay in another entertaining picture. "Under Suspicion," featuring Jack Holt, is the supporting picture.

Sat 11th Feb

WOKINGHAM CLUB ANNUAL DINNER

Protection of the Townspeople

FLOURISHING POSITION REVEALED

That the Wokingham Club has been earmarked to play an important part in the protection of the townspeople during the crisis and should an emergency arise it would be utilised to serve more purposes than it did at present, was stated by Ald. A.E. Priest, at the Wokingham Club annual dinner, which was held at the club on Tuesday evening. Attached to the Wokingham Club is the Howard Palmer Bowling Club and the dinner served a double purpose in that it was the annual gathering of the bowling section.

In proposing the toast of "The President," Dr. H.F. Curl expressed how much the members of the club appreciated what their president, Mr. H.R.H. Palmer, did for the club. He added that the members fully appreciated the president's benevolence towards them and they all enjoyed the amenities of the club.

Dr. Curl said they would remember, when the club was in a poor financial state, that the daughters and wives of members had come forward to help them and they had offered the ladies their old green. He wondered if it could be possible for the ladies to be allowed occasionally to play once or twice a week on one or two rinks of the clubs' greens.

Responding, Mr. Palmer said he felt greatly privileged to be president of the club. He felt proud to be connected with an organisation which was in such a flourishing

position. Referring to Dr. Curl's suggestion, the president said that it would be dealt with in the right quarter.

"The Visitors" was proposed by Mr. Davy, who coupled with his toast the names of the Mayor of Wokingham and Mr. P.J. Drew (captain of the County Bowling association). Any game was a safety valve, he said, and sport was something that assisted people in their daily work. In sport one had to learn a sense of tolerance and consideration, both of which was greatly needed in the world at the present day, he concluded.

The Mayor (Cllr. J.E. Thorpe) suitably responded.

Touring Team's Visit

Mr. J.F. Thomas (secretary of the County Bowling association) in proposing "The Club," said such a gathering indicated that the club must be in a very flourishing position. He thanked the bowling section for allowing a county match to be played on their greens last year and added that this year Berkshire would meet Hampshire on their greens on Saturday, September 9th. Mr. Thomas continued that they had added Glamorgan and the Isle of Wight to their list of county matches this year. An interesting tour of East Anglia had been arranged for the Berkshire county team and this year for the first time a touring team would visit Berkshire. The touring team would be Somerset, who would make their headquarters at Reading. In conclusion Mr. Thomas thanked the Howard Palmer Bowling Club for all they had done in forwarding bowls in the district.

The chairman of the club, Ald. A.E. Priest, said that all the facilities offered by the club were being used to the fullest extent, but he wondered if the members fully appreciated all the amenities they were allowed to enjoy. There could be no question about the popularity of the club, their membership being 207. He considered the club was a great asset to the town, and something they would be lost without. He wondered how many of them realised how the club would be utilised to serve more purposes than it did at the moment should a national emergency arise. During the crisis it had been earmarked to play an important part in the protection of the townspeople. That went to show the importance of central premises.

Trophies won during 1938, were presented by the president to the following:--Rink competition winners, E. Child, S.A. Pither, C. Cox and F. Powell; runners up, A.W. Smith, A.T. Ilott, J. Liddiard and A.W. Sherwood. Pairs competition winners, E.J. Ward, and J.T. Perrier; runner-up, C.T. May. Novice competition winner, E.T. Huckings; runner-up, W.C. Fullbrook. Billiards championship, P.W. Tanner; runner-up, T.R. Symonds. Billiards handicap, P.W. Tanner; runner-up, E.J. Ward. Darts handicap, M. Huckings.

WOKINGHAM CRICKET CLUB CRISIS

In Danger Of Being Wound Up

For about 120 years cricket has been played on the cricket ground on Wellington Road, Wokingham. At the present time the club runs three elevens, and has a fixture list which compares very well with any club in the county. Wokingham Cricket Week, held in August each year, is one of the very few "Weeks" still running in this part of the country. From time to time during the history of the club as with all cricket clubs, crises have occurred, and those responsible for the management have been obliged to make a decision as to whether the club should continue to function or not. Such a crisis has now arisen, and such a decision has now to be made

At the beginning of the 1938 season Mr. G.C. Wilson, who has served as both secretary and treasurer for 12 years, was obliged to resign owing to his leaving the town. His place as hon. secretary was taken by Mr. H.R. Wells, but, unfortunately,

Mr. Wells is unable to continue, as he has not sufficient spare time to give to the work.

If the club is to continue, it is essential that an enthusiast shall be found, who, for the sake of keeping the old game going in Wokingham, will be willing to undertake the job of hon. secretary. The work demands the sacrifice of a certain amount of spare time, particularly during the summer months, and the officers of the club realise that probably few people have this time to spare, but feel that there must be someone in the town—perhaps retired—who, remembering his own happy cricketing days, would be prepared to undertake this task.

Additional Support Necessary

As regards the financial position of the club, additional support is necessary, but this is not the first essential. Five or six years ago there was a debt of £120, but this has been reduced to about £26, and probably one more successful season would see this paid off. Financial assistance is, therefore, very necessary, but not so urgently as personal assistance. Members do much voluntary work on the ground, which is in excellent condition, and the club have a very keen and efficient groundsman.

The committee feel, however, that unless a capable hon. secretary can be found, it would be advisable, to wind up the club now, rather than allow it to drift into obscurity. This will undoubtedly mean the disappearance of the old Wokingham Cricket Club, and no doubt the sale of the ground, for building purposes. The committee are sure that no Wokingham resident with the best interests of the town at heart would care to see this happen, and therefore make this appeal, confident that support will be forthcoming.

The offer of personal or financial help for the 1939 season should be sent to H.R. Wells, Hill Rise, Reading Road, Wokingham, on or before Wednesday.

LECTURES ON GREECE

On Wednesday, the Rev. A.G.G. Thurlow gave two lectures on Greece, in the Church House, Wokingham.

WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILD

How milk dishes could be simply and economically made was shown by Miss Rust, of the National Milk Publicity Council, at a cooking demonstration to members of the Wokingham Co-operative Guild, on Thursday. In order to make sure that the necessary proteins, fats, sugars, minerals and vitamins were obtained from our diet, she said, everybody should at least have one pint of milk a day.

THE RITZ

Will Hay has been seen at the Ritz Cinema, Wokingham, this week in, "Hey! Hay! U.S.A!" "Under Suspicion," starring Jack Holt, is the picture in support. Excellent fun is always assured with Laurel and Hardy in combination, and the Hal Roach production, "Swiss Miss," is to be presented for the early part of the week. The supporting film, "Go Chase Yourself," features Joe Penner and Lucille Ball. The chief attraction for the end of the week is "Always Goodbye," a drama, in which Barbara Stanwyck, Herbert Marshall and Ian Hunter portray the leading figures. In complete contrast is "Wide Open Faces," starring Joe E. Brown.

POST OFFICE DANCE

Flight-Lieutenant Tommy Rose, the noted airman, and Freddie Fox, the well-known jockey, were among the 250 people who attended a dance held at the Drill Hall, Wokingham, on Wednesday, under the auspices of Wokingham Post Office Staff. Proceeds of the dance were for the Royal Berkshire Hospital Centenary Appeals Fund and the venture was a success in every way.

Cllr. and Mrs. J. Egerton Thorpe (Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham) gave the dance civic recognition, Mrs. Thorpe presenting the prizes won in various competitions. The secretary, Mr. S. Lawrence, and the organising committee were thanked for their efforts by Major C.B. Crabbe and Major F. Cozens, of the Hospital Appeals Committee, their remarks being endorsed by the Hon. Mrs. Corfield, who was also present. Music was played by the Queries Band, the M.C. being Mr. N.C. Lawrence.

Sat 25th Feb

AIR RAID SHELTER FOR WOKINGHAM
Erected by Mr. W.T. Martin
STATEMENT AT FIRE BRIGADE DINNER
“A GREAT PIECE OF WORK”

A splinter-proof air raid shelter, large enough to accommodate 200 people, has been built by Alderman W. T. Martin close to his swimming pool at Wokingham. This was announced for the first time by the Mayor of Wokingham (Councillor J. Egerton Thorpe) at the annual dinner of the Wokingham Fire Brigade on Tuesday, and Alderman Martin was thanked by the Mayor for his public-spirited action.

The Mayor presided over the dinner, and there were also present Chief Officer W.B. Martin, Captain Edwards, Dr. H.F. Curl, hon. surgeon, Chief Officer A.F. Edwards (Sonning), Aldermen E. S. Whaley, F. J. Barrett and A.E. Priest, Councillors A.H. Beale and J.H. Titterington, the Rev. Mr. Connolly, Mr. J. H. Elliston Clifton, Mr. A. Morland, Dr. R. Rose, Mr. H.W. Leaver, Mr. C.H. Davey, Mr. Whittington-Moe, and Second Officer E. Hawkins.

Dr. H.F. Curl proposed the toast of “The Mayor and Corporation,” and referred to the fact that he himself had sat in the chair occupied by the Mayor and had served on the council for a number of years. He thus knew the difficulties which the Mayor faced. He knew many of the members of the council well, continued the doctor, and, he could say without fear of contradiction that there was not one man there who was not doing his best to steer their little ship of state safely into harbour. Things were altering considerably. The railway had been electrified and Woodley was becoming a town. The council would have difficulty in maintaining the personality of Wokingham and yet at the same time bring them their share of the prosperity surrounding them.

TRIBUTE TO ALDERMAN MARTIN

About the time of the crisis, continued the Mayor, the Government issued a statement that the town councils would have to provide shelters or dug-outs for 10 per cent of the population. That meant some 800 people in Wokingham. They had dug a little trench in Denmark Street and it was quite a costly thing to do. Since that time the Government had decided to spend £20 millions to provide little dug-outs to be put up in back gardens. He did not think they would get any in Wokingham because he believed it was regarded as a safe area.

While they were awaiting instructions from the Government, however, Alderman Martin had built a splinter-proof safety chamber of reinforced concrete by the side of his swimming pool. It was quite commodious hidden in a bank and had an entrance at

either end in case one was blocked by a bomb explosion. "I have not seen this announced before," said Mr. Thorpe, "and I think it is my duty to make it known, as it is of great public interest. The shelter will accommodate at least 200 people and it is a great piece of work on the part of Alderman Martin. I would like to thank Alderman Martin on behalf of the town for his public-spirited action. We all hope the shelter will not be needed but the people in the vicinity may live to thank Mr. Martin very much indeed."

"It is remarkable," continued the Mayor, "how the name Martin figures in the life of the town, and that three of the men I have mentioned tonight should be brothers. Think of the public service these three men have given to the town. Wokingham owes a great debt of gratitude to the Martin family."

Sat 18th March

WOKINGHAM CRICKET CLUB MEETING

Demonstration Of Loyalty From Members

In recent months there has been a persistent and plausible rumour that Wokingham Cricket Club would pass into extinction. Statements have been made regarding money troubles and the impossibility of overcoming them.

A club like this, however, has an asset which never appears on the balance sheet but it is worth more than any financial or material holding. That is the asset of loyalty and tradition. It is that asset that has not only saved the club but has launched it on a new career full of hope and promise.

At the annual meeting of the club on Friday last week, Mr. G.C. Wilson, retiring hon. treasurer, said there was a small credit balance at the bank, but immediate liabilities totalled £45 9s. 3d. He mentioned that a recent appeal from the club brought in £14 17s., and he had put that in a separate account to be used if the club carried on. If it closed down, he intended to return the money to the donors.

In less than one minute members at the meeting had offered enough money to enable the outstanding liabilities to be met. It was a remarkable demonstration of loyalty to a club, which has done so much to improve the standard of cricket in East Berks. And that was not the full complement. Mr. Wilson, who bought a mower on behalf of the club some time ago, said that there was still £48 outstanding on the purchase price, but he intended to wipe that off as a parting gift. It was announced that the Marquess of Downshire had given the club one debenture and five ordinary shares in Wokingham Sports Ground, Ltd., and it was further announced that the club's Entertainments Committee would guarantee to raise £20 this year.

President's Appeal

Dr. E.F. Smith, president, who was in the chair, urged that the time had come for every member to pull his weight to justify the support given to the club. Mr. Wilson's report stated that the last season had been started with an overdraft of £34 5s. 3d. The year's receipts totalled £111 2s. 3d., and they had cleared the overdraft to leave a credit balance of £3 11s. 10d. Immediate liabilities were £40 for ground rent and smaller bills, totalling £5 9s. 3d.

The report of the hon. secretary (Mr. H.R. Wells) stated that the club had played 52 games last season, won 26 and lost 25, one being a draw. Nobody had scored a century. Mr. Wells said he would have to resign office owing to pressure of business.

There was some discussion concerning subscriptions, and it was eventually agreed to let them remain at 15s. for playing members, 7s. 6d. for junior members and 2s. 6d. for honorary members.

The following officers were elected: President, Dr. E.F. Smith; hon. secretary, Mr. J. Bidwell; assistant hon. secretary, Mr. A.E. Jennings; team secretary, Mr. G.E. Reeves; club captain, Mr. F.J.P. Shaw; vice-captain, Mr. E.L. Kennedy; Wednesday captain, Mr. E.E. Knapp; vice-captain, Mr. E.W.S. Mundy; second XI captain, Mr. R. Bosher; vice-captain, Mr. V. Jones; groundsman, Mr. H. Knapp.

The appointment of an hon. treasurer to succeed Mr. Wilson will be made, subject to an invitation being accepted. It was unanimously agreed to make Mr. Wilson the club's second honorary life member. Mr. J.H. Titterington was added to the vice-presidents, and the general committee was re-elected. Reference was made to the work of Mr. F. Carpenter on behalf of the club, and it was decided that a letter of thanks should be sent to him.

Sat 25th March

NATIONAL SERVICE RALLY

The Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, Mr. A.T. Loyd, will attend a National Service rally at the Market Place, Wokingham, on Wednesday evening, when all A.R.P. services in the district will be represented. It is expected that there will be two bands in the assembly which is due to meet at 6 p.m.

UNUSUAL ACCIDENT TO CYCLIST

Mr. Ernest Dodd, a carpenter, of 40, Barkham Road, was cycling home from work on his pedal-cycle on Saturday, carrying his bag of tools on the handlebar. It appears that when and the frame snapped at the "head." Mr. Dodd was thrown forward and sustained concussion. He lay where he fell for 2¼ hours before being discovered. A doctor was summoned and he was removed to his home. He was crossing the rails of the old shunt line in Molly Miller's Lane, the machine jolted and the frame snapped at the "head." Mr. Dodd was thrown forward and sustained concussion. He lay where he fell for 2½ hours before being discovered. A doctor was summoned and he was removed to his home.

FOR CHILD REFUGEES

The concert, in aid of Spanish child refugees, given in the Town Hall on Wednesday, provided excellent entertainment for a large audience. The items included choruses, dances, action songs, etc., by the Barque children; songs by Mr. J.H. Clark; entertainment at the piano by Mr. P. Fuller; a sketch by Mrs. Rolfe and Mrs. Longhurst; entertainment by The Gymblers and physical training display by the juvenile section of Health and Strength Club. During the interval the Mayoress thanked all who had helped in any way. Cllr. W.E.C. McIlroy (Mayor of Reading) told of the service done for the children and appealed for funds. Members of the Junior Sports and Social Club acted as stewards and door keepers.

Sat 1st April

NATIONAL SERVICE RALLY

Lord Lieutenant At Wokingham

ENCOURAGING RESPONSE TO APPEAL

"I am going to put a simple question to you. I will count three, and then I want your answer. Now then, you people of Wokingham and district—will you help? One...."

But the sound of the Lord Lieutenant's voice was drowned by a tremendous "Yes!" roared by the biggest assembly seen in the Market Place, Wokingham, for years. It was a remarkable response to the first National Service rally staged in Berkshire, excluding reading.

On Wednesday, at 5.50 p.m., a time when the majority of Wokingham men and women are usually having their tea, crowds began to gather near the Town Hall. At the "old" church and at the A.R.P. headquarters, Territorials, special constables, members of the V.A.D.S., the Women's Territorial Auxiliary, Women's Voluntary Services and other organisations were paraded and ready to move off.

One contingent was headed by the band of the Royal Merchant Navy School, with colour party, and the other by the Wokingham Town and British Legion Band.

Tea was forgotten as the processions marched through the main streets and joined forces in the Market Place. Men, women and children of all ages crowded around a platform to learn how they could do their share to strengthen the voluntary defences of the country.

On the platform were the Mayor of Wokingham (Cllr. J. Egerton Thorpe), the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire (Mr. A. T. Loyd, president of the County National Service Committee), Mr. H. A. Benyon (chairman of the committee), Captain R.W. Phillips (deputy-chairman), Mr. R. W. Snailum (secretary), the Chief Constable of Berkshire (Comdr. The Hon. Humphry Legge), Mrs. H.A. Benyon (County Director of the V.A.D.), Miss Collins (Chief Commandant, Berks. Auxiliary Territorial Service), Cllr. F.S. Perkins (Deputy Mayor of Wokingham), Cllr. J. H. Titterington (Wokingham's A.R.P. controller) and Ald. F.J. Barrett (Wokingham's representative on the County National Service Committees)

The Mayor, who introduced the Lord Lieutenant, thanked everyone who had taken part in the rally, and he mentioned that Wokingham had already enrolled 400 volunteers before the National service handbook had been issued.

A cue from sirens

The Lord Lieutenant moved to the microphone as air raid sirens wailed, and he took his cue from them. "The sound of those sirens is a signal that we are met at times of peace, tranquillity and security so far as Wokingham is concerned," he said. "Listen to them and think under what different circumstances you might listen to that note of warning."

"First I must congratulate the organisations on the splendid display. It was thoroughly businesslike and efficient. This is no beauty show. It is not to turn out people looking smart and well-dressed. It is, alas, to show people in the kits they might have to wear under very grave and serious circumstances,

"I want to ask you to think with me about the whole question of National Service. We are a thoroughly sound race of people, but we are rather lazy. We realise that difficulties exist, but we comfort ourselves with the belief that all will be well in the end. Here is a case where I want you to make certain that all will be well at the beginning. Do not wait for people to come to you to find out if you will volunteer. We want you to come forward and say what you want to do."

Mr. Loyd urged his audience to ask themselves if they were doing their share and their duty. Volunteers were needed in all kinds of activity, and it was certain that a job could be found for everyone. If an emergency did arise the untrained man or woman would not be of much use.

Thanks were expressed to Mr. Loyd by Mr. Benyon and Captain Phillips. The rally was organised under the County Committee by Ald. Barrett, the Mayor, and Cllr. Titterington. Police Superintendent E.J. Braby was in charge of the assembly in the Market Place; Cllr. Titterington in charge of that at the A.R.P. headquarters, and S.M. Cleaver that at the church.

The organisations taking part (in addition to those already mentioned) were: Men's and women's sections of Wokingham branch of the British Legion, the headquarters

A.R.P. staff and representatives of all A.R.P. units in the borough, St. John Ambulance Brigade, Fire Brigade and Auxiliary Police, Scouts and Girl Guides.

Advisory Panel Established

Speaking to the Mayor and Alderman Barrett after the assembly had dispersed, a representative of this paper was told that Wokingham wanted volunteers for all branches of national service. Ald. Barrett stated that a National Service Advisory Panel had been set up in Wokingham, to assist people to select the work for which they were best suited. The members of the panel are: Ald Barrett, Mr. Bird (manager of the Employment exchange), Miss D. Finch, Colonel Palmer, Cllr. E.W. Reeves, Mr. H. Watts and Cllr. Miss H. D. Wescott. All these will be willing to have volunteers call on them at their homes between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. every evening excepting Saturdays, at the A.R.P. headquarters or at the Employment Exchange.

Sat 15th April

BAPTIST INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION

Profits made at the recent Baptist Industrial Exhibition amounted to £13 1s. 6d.

DEATH OF MRS. FRANK DEARLOVE

Much sympathy is felt for Mr. Frank Dearlove, of 24, Denmark Street, Wokingham, a well-known member of the Wokingham Fire Brigade, whose wife, Mrs. Ada Dearlove, aged 73, passed suddenly away on Monday. For the past 50 years she had resided in Wokingham, and had been married for 39 years. She leaves her husband, one son and one daughter.

DEATH OF MR. EDWIN MOORE

The death occurred on Tuesday of Mr. Edwin Moore, aged 60, who for the past ten years had carried on the business of confectioner, tobacconist, and circulating library at 13, Market Place. For some years he was captain of the Wokingham Bowling Club. He played for the county on a number of occasions. He leaves a widow and two daughters. The funeral took place yesterday (Friday) at All Saints' Church, Wokingham.

VILLAGE BAND CONCERT

In aid of the funds of the St. Sebastian Village Band, a concert was held in the Memorial Hall on Wednesday. The vicar, who is president of the band, presided. The programme included songs by Mrs. Williams (accompanied by Miss E. Yalden) and Mr. W. Williams (Mrs. Williams, accompanist). Mr. C. Jones gave dancing displays and five of his pupils also entertained. The St. Sebastian Band, under Mr. F. Hodges (bandmaster), gave selections.

Sat 22nd April

WOKINGHAM A.R.P. EXERCISE

An exercise on a more comprehensive scale than those previously attempted in the borough was carried out during the afternoon of Sunday with the object of testing the communications and co-ordination of the A.R.P. services. It was evident that the A.R.P. services in Wokingham have reached a stage of efficiency. The personnel taking part were the Controller, Mr. J.H. Titterton, with his deputy, Major A.S.C. Trench; staff and messengers of the report centre and control room; the wardens of the six inner posts in Wokingham; the Fire Brigade and Auxiliary Fire Services under Captain Martin; the first aid party under Mr. W. Burden; first-aid post, under Dr. F.H. Curl; the demolition squad, under Mr. Sears; Mr. Ernest Reeves and Miss Finch were

in charge of the transport; the police and the Special constables, with Captain Washington and Mr. Beale, the A.R.P. Liaison Officers also co-operated.

The exercise was arranged and directed by Mr. H.C.B. Mitchell, who was assisted by Mr. C. Wintour, the Area A.R.P. Officer, Sergt. Huckins, of the Berks Constabulary, and some 20 wardens drawn from the other wardens' posts in Wokingham.

The exercise was carried out by staging thirteen separate incidents in various parts of the borough. Smoke candles were used to indicate the fall of bombs, and notices were posted to indicate the damage done. Craters were indicated with white powder and the casualties were labelled. The Controller and the services received a thorough test.

Fri 19th May

THE MAYOR OF WOKINGHAM INSPECTS THE TERRITORIALS

National Service Recruiting Campaign at the Ritz

Great excitement was caused on Monday evening when the Mayor of Wokingham (Cllr. J.E. Thorpe) took part in a National Service recruiting effort which the management of the Ritz Cinema, the D (S) Coy., 4th Royal Berkshire Regiment and local civil defence units made possible by their splendid cooperation. The evening was showery, but this did not damp the enthusiasm of all those who took part in this unique display. Advantage was taken of the fact that the Government film, "The Warning" was being shown at the cinema and by the efforts of all concerned the foyer of the house was filled with guns, first aid equipment, A.R.P. appliances, Scouts' handiwork, a model aerodrome and also for the convenience of those members of the public who wished to enrol for National Service, there were recruiting offices.

At 7 p.m. a unit of the local Territorials marched from the Drill Hall through the town to the Ritz, when it was met by the Mayor, who inspected the ranks and also the Guard of the Boy Scouts. Captain H.C.L. Mason was in charge of the parade.

The film, "The Warning" was then witnessed and afterwards when the lights went up the aisles were seen to be filled with soldiers and scouts.

The manager of the cinema, Mr. G.B. Dale, introducing the Mayor, spoke of the kindness of the local tradespeople who had helped with this display, and he also thanked Captain Mason for the display of arms.

Mr. Dale also mentioned that the display in the vestibule was really to advertise two outstanding films, one "The Warning" which had just been seen and "Dawn Patrol" which would be shown next week.

The Mayor said that this was the third occasion upon which he had addressed the people of Wokingham on the subject of National Defence, and, things don't seem to be getting any better. He spoke of the film which had just been witnessed, rightly called "The Warning" he observed. "How many people realised what they had seen might happen in Wokingham. The film was made so that the public might understand this."

He himself was no alarmist, but when power to make war rested in the hands of one man, one might consider the state of affairs with grave concern. The fact that the Government was apprehensive and the remembrance of the happenings of the last few weeks, should make the public think. This year's budget allowed £600M for defence and £25M had so far been spent on shelters. Everyone had a gas mask. Conscription had come. He spoke of the many men in Wokingham who had uniforms already to put on if emergency arose. There was indeed grave danger.

Sat 27th May

EMPIRE DAY FETE AT WOKINGHAM
"Mr. Penny" Performs The Opening Ceremony
Effort for the Hospital

Wearing a suit of the deepest black, and carrying a slender, gold knobbed cane, Mr. Richard Goolden, better known as "Mr. Penny," advanced to the platform erected in the grounds of Tithe Barn, Wokingham, on Wednesday, to the applause of the large assembly gathered there on the occasion of the Empire Day Fete.

"Mr. Penny" acknowledged the applause with the deprecating smile so well known to cinema audiences, and he made a speech with that cheerfully-indulgent voice which has captured wireless listeners all over the country.

The speech was a hilarious affair which happily rambled through a network of incidentals. "Mr. Penny" apologised for the absence of "Annie," who, he said, was otherwise occupied at Epsom. He described in detail an unfortunate mistake he had made while dressing that morning and he recounted his experiences while crowning a May Queen in Surrey. Bringing his remarks to a close he made a determined effort to be business-like, and said, "I have the greatest pleasure in declaring this building well and truly laid."

The fete was held to assist the Centenary Appeals Fund of the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, and it was held at Tithe Barn, by the courtesy of the Hon. Mrs. Corfield. The stalls had been attractively arranged in the large and beautiful gardens, and the organising committee had spared no effort to arrange a programme which would attract and satisfy the people of the district.

£1,600 In Two Years

Ald. F.J. Barrett, chairman of the local Hospital committee, presided at the opening ceremony, and said the committee was grateful to the people of Wokingham for the support they had always given. The appeals fund had been running for about two years, but they made no apology for asking for money for such a well-known and worthy cause. About £1,600 had been raised in Wokingham for the appeals fund, and that was a remarkable achievement. Nevertheless, it had to be remembered that the everyday work for the hospital still had to go on, for such work was entirely independent of special appeals. Mr. Barrett thanked the Hon. Mrs. Corfield for placing the grounds of Tithe Barn at their disposal, and he also thanked all others who had helped in organising the fete, among whom were the Mayor and Mayoress.

The Mayor, Cllr. J.E. Thorpe, mentioned that some £5M had been contributed to hospitals in the British Isles last year. That was a huge sum but it was £500,000 less than the total in 1937. There were many and increasing demands on the generosity of the public but he commended to the people of the district the appeal which was being made by the Royal Berkshire Hospital. The Hon. Mrs. Corfield had set herself to raise £3,000 in the district in three years. That was an amazing sum of money to try to collect in such a district as theirs, but he was sure that if anyone could do it, that someone was the Hon. Mrs. Corfield. The Mayor thanked Mr. Goolden for opening the fete and he also expressed thanks to the organising committee.

Mrs. Corfield said it was the first time she had been able to invite the committee to hold the fete at Tithe Barn, and she said she was very pleased to do so. She was also please that the fete was held on Empire Day because it gave the younger generation a chance to take part in the celebration of such an important day. It was particularly appropriate that the fete should be held on Empire Day because it was the birthday of Queen Victoria, and Queen Victoria became patron of the Royal Berkshire Hospital in 1837, the year of her accession to the throne.

The attractions during the day included performances by Leon Volpre's circus of 12 highly-trained ponies and dogs. There was an Empire Day tableau by Palmer Park School infants, and a May Day scene given by pupils of Wescott Road Council School and Palmer C. of E. School. The crowning of the May Queen was carried out by the Mayoress and the Hon. Mrs. Corfield. In the evening there were demonstrations by Mr. W. Brant's Alsatian dogs and dancing on the green. Mrs. D. Finch was in charge of the side-shows, and the stalls were in charge of the following: China and cut-glass, the Hon. Mrs. Corfield; sweets, Miss Corfield; "Things new and old" and fish pond; Mrs. Eustace, ices; Mrs. F. Bowyer and Mrs. Radcliffe; buffet, staff of Tithe Barn.

Sat 17th June

FILM STARS AT GARDEN PARTY
Charity Event At Wokingham
ATTENDANCE SETS A NEW RECORD

There was a record attendance at Saturday's annual garden party arranged by the Council of the Cinematic Trade Benevolent Fund, and held at "Glebelands," Wokingham, which is the convalescent and rest home of the fund. Among those who patronised the garden party were: Sir William Jury (president of the fund), Lieut.-Col. A.C. Bromhead (trustee), Mr. Reginald C. Bromhead (chairman), Mr. R.C.O. Viveash (secretary), the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham (Cllr. and Mrs. J. Egerton Thorpe), and the following film stars: Mr. Naunton Wayne, Miss Linden Travers, Mr. Moore Marriott, Mr. Graham Moffat, Mr. Wally Patch, Mr. Frank Formby (a brother of Mr. George Formby), Mr. Gibb McLaughlin and Mr. Basil Radford. Mr. Moffat and Mr. Marriott superintended a darts-throwing side show. Needless to say, autograph hunters reaped a harvest, and signed portraits of the stars were sold very quickly. About a thousand attended the party to join in the festivities and to try their luck at the various side shows, which were supervised by members of all branches of the film industry: the clerical staff, technicians from the studios and heads of departments in Wardour Street. They were able to inspect "Glebelands" and its delightful surroundings, which has received a record number of convalescent and permanent guests during the past year.

In the afternoon there was a long programme of sports, in which members of the staffs of film companies took part. The prizes for the events were distributed by Miss Linden Travers. The prize winners were introduced by Mr. Naunton Wayne. Two of the afternoon's events were filmed.

Sat 24th June

WOKINGHAM FETE
Effort For St. Paul's
BABY SHOW A POPULAR FEATURE

The gardens of "The Elms," Broad Street, Wokingham, were placed at the disposal of the St. Paul's Fete Committee on Wednesday, by permission of the Misses Ellison. The opening ceremony was prudently held in the Drill Hall, as was the tea. The remainder of the attractions, including the baby show, took place in the gardens.

The opening ceremony was presided over by the Rector, the Rev. P.J.H. Scott, who thanked the Misses Ellison for the loan of their garden; also the stall-holders and workers for their efforts; and those who had come from outside the parish to assist. He further thanked the chairman of the fete committee, Mr. W.J. Willey, and Mr. A.

Hyde Parker (secretary), who had done an incredible amount of work for the fete. (applause).

The Rector then introduced the Mayoress (Mrs. J.E. Thorpe) who declared the fete open.

The full programme of attractions included dainty tunes by Major Ellershaw's Happy Elves; dances by Miss Liddiard's infants of St. Paul's School; also country dances by pupils of the mixed school, St. Paul's.

The baby show was a bigger draw than ever. Dr. Curl and Dr. Phyllis Pigott were the judges, and Miss Benson was again the very capable organiser, and Mrs. Cornish also assisted. In addition to the class prizes every baby entered received a special souvenir while a super-prize for "the most popular baby in the show" was awarded by a show of hands by the public. The winner of the popular vote was Lorna Higgs.

With the permission of Colonel H.I.E. Palmer, District Commissioner, the Boy Scouts of Wokingham gave a popular demonstration. The Gymblers (Messrs. W. Billen and T. Castell) presented a fine exhibition of gymnastics. A fancy dress competition for boys and girls was organised by Mr. C. Jones and Mrs. Hall. This, with its resultant "parade of competitors," aroused great interest. Mrs. Hyde Parker ably organised a table decorations competition.

The stall-holders were: Misses Ellison, Mrs. Henlé and helpers, Mrs. King Salter, Mrs. Croker, Mrs. Palliser, Mrs. Newberry and helpers, Mr. and Mrs. Willey and helpers, St. Paul's Communicants Guild, Miss Grenside, Sunday School teachers, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Thatcher and helpers, Miss Knight-Law and Miss Price, r. and Mrs. Inman, Mrs. Harold Smith and Miss Hamilton, Miss Lawrence, Mr. Gilbert and Mrs. Street, Miss Chamberlain and Miss Yarrow, Mr. Hawkins.

A flannel dance in the Drill Hall concluded the event.

Music by the Reading Spring Gardens Band during the afternoon and evening was very popular.

One 123 entries were received for the baby show and 56 prizes were awarded. Mrs. Hugh Stewart, Dr. Curl's daughter presented the prizes. The prize-winners were:--

(long list)

Sat 1st July

WALTER MEMORIAL CHAPEL AT WOKINGHAM

The Bishop of Buckingham dedicated on Saturday afternoon the Walter Memorial Chapel in St. Paul's Church, Wokingham. The chapel was formerly the pew of the Walters, of Bear Wood, and Mrs. John Walter gave permission for the conversion of the pew to complete the memorial to the Rev. Henry Walter and to commemorate other members of the Walter family who have been benefactors to the church.

The rector (the Rev. P.J.H. Scott) expressed his indebtedness to Mrs. Henry Walter and the trustees of the Walter Memorial Fund for devoting the balance to the conversion fund.

The chapel will be used for week-day celebrations of Holy Communion, and private prayer.

Among those present were: Mr. John Walter, Mrs. Henry Walter, Mrs. Henle, the Misses Walter (Wokingham), Miss M.I. Walter, Mr. Elwyn Walter, Miss Constance Walter, Mr. and Mrs. Nevile Henle, Mr. and Mrs. John Hill, Mrs. Francis Walker, Mrs. Egerton Corfield and the Rev. G. Kenworthy.

In an address after the dedication the Bishop stated that, in answer to those who queried the use of a chapel in the House of God, it would serve the purpose of emphasising fellowship. With a scattered congregation the daily Eucharist lost the

sense of fellowship, which was evident in a more restricted space, and was such a help in worship. It would also serve as a memorial to the memory of the family which had done so much for the spiritual welfare of that part of the town.

Fri 21st July

A.R.P. EXERCISES

Winnersh and Part of Wokingham Affected

A section of the Borough of Wokingham and the whole of Winnersh took part in an exercise on Sunday night. The weather was fine and all arrangements went off according to plan. Aeroplanes from Woodley paid visits to the practices, and added to the realism.

In Wokingham the warning signal sounded soon after nine and then a formation of enemy bombers passed over Section 'B' from North-East to South-West and dropped (supposed) high explosive and incendiary bombs.

No. 36 Sturges Road was hit by a high explosive bomb and collapsed, trapping casualties alive in the debris; there were two other casualties. Another high explosive bomb was supposed to have fallen in the centre of Sturges Road at the junction with Murdoch Road, but to have failed to explode.

The casualties at 36 Sturges Road were dealt with in the appropriate rescue and first aid parties. Two casualties were treated for burns when incendiary bombs fell in Howard Road, setting fire to two houses. High explosive also brought down the fronts of 2 houses in Norton Road and the casualties were treated.

Incendiary bombs in Gipsy Lane and also a high explosive bomb in the same place were dealt with.

West Lodge, Luckley Road was supposed to have been hit by a high explosive bomb and to have collapsed. Casualties here were trapped alive, rescued and treated.

Incendiary bombs on Eastheath Avenue and Finchampstead Road were dealt with and there was a petrol fire when H.E. hit Wimbleton's garage at Handpost Corner.

After various other "damage" had been done the raiders passed and the signal sounded.

As an exercise this was an improvement on the previous work. Excellent cooperation was found and all services appeared to work well together. In Winnersh much good work was done, aeroplanes from Woodley making the raid more realistic.

Sat 29th July

WOKINGHAM A.R.P. Exercise For Fire Service BLAZE IN CONDEMNED HOUSE Town's Biggest "Free Show"

Watched by nearly 1,000 people, Wokingham staged its biggest free show on Wednesday evening, when a house in Cross Street was purposely destroyed by fire. The house, a double-storey building, was about 100 years old and was condemned as unfit for habitation. It stood by itself in a cleared site which provided an admirable view for the spectators.

The decision to burn the house down was made in order to serve the double purpose of getting rid of it and of giving useful practical experience to the auxiliary fire service attached to the borough Fire Brigade. There was a slight hitch at the beginning when the house refused to burn owing to dampness caused by the recent heavy rains. That difficulty was soon attended to. Large quantities of petrol and oil were poured over floors and walls.

The roof collapsed with a roar, tiles splintered and flew in all directions, there were clouds of smoke and a great deal of heat. Chief Officer, W.B. Martin, of the Wokingham Brigade, revelled in the unusual experience of letting the fire do its worst. Towards the end he directed a party of men in the work of demolishing some parts of the wall which were in a dangerous condition. Then he gave the official "alarm" to A.F.S. members lurking in adjacent streets, and they rushed enthusiastically to their duty.

They had the fire out in next to no time, four lines of hose being used. It seemed a pity to have gone to the trouble of dressing up in oilskins and of running-out the hose for such short work so, simultaneously, they all turned the hoses on each other. The battle waged furiously to the hilarious delight of the children who were looking on—well out of range.

To conclude a most entertaining evening, the A.R.P. demolition squad, under Mr. L.R. Sears and Mr. W. Holton, pulled down part of a nearby block of 300-years-old houses in preparation for an even bigger and better fire in about a month's time.

Fri 1st Sept.

THE GOVERNMENT'S EVACUATION SCHEME PAYMENTS TO HOUSEHOLDERS

A circular issued by Women's Voluntary Services for Civil Defence gives full particulars to house-holders, regarding the Evacuation Scheme which covers the following classes of persons:-

- (a) School children with their teachers.
- (b) Children under five accompanied by their mother or other responsible adult.
- (c) Expectant mothers.
- (d) Adult blind and crippled so far as removal is feasible.

BILLETS.

The Government carried out the Billeting Survey in order to ascertain what accommodation there was available and which householders would be willing to take charge of unaccompanied children, but those not able to offer for this service may be required by the Government to take others who would normally be children under five accompanied by an adult, as these persons would not require the same attention as unaccompanied children.

BEDDING AND BLANKETS.

Children will not be bringing any bedding with them. Arrangements are being made locally to store sufficient to supply those who have already intimated that they would require: additional bedding and blankets. If stores are inadequate at first, householders who are not receiving evacuated persons may be asked by the Local Authority to lend blankets and spare bedding.

PAYMENT.

In the case of unaccompanied children, householders will receive 10s. 6d. a week where one child is taken and 8s. 6d for each child, where more than one child is taken.

This payment is intended to cover full board, lodging and all the care that would be given to the child in its own home. It is not intended to cover the cost of clothes or medical expenses.

For children under school age, accompanied by their mother or other responsible adult, householders will be asked to provide lodgings, access to water and sanitary arrangements, and it is hoped, cooking facilities. In this case, a payment of 5s. a week for each adult and 3s. a week per child will be made.

Householders providing lodging only for a teacher or helper accompanying a party of schoolchildren will be paid at the rate of 5s. a week for each adult and 3s. a week.

The Billeting Officer will leave the householder a form to be presented for payment at the local Post Office. Payment will be made weekly in advance.

CLOTHES.

The children will bring hand luggage, and their parents will be asked to send them with their gas masks, a change of underclothing, night clothes, house shoes or plimsolls, spare stockings or socks, a tooth-brush, comb, towel and handkerchiefs, and a warm coat or mackintosh. Some parents will no doubt be unable to supply their children with all these articles, but the householder will be under no obligation to supply extra clothes or equipment. The teachers who come with the children would be able to say whether the parents were likely to be able to send further clothes or money to buy them, and in cases where the clothes or boots and shoes need replenishing and the parents have not sent further supplies, the matter should be reported to the Local Welfare Committee in order that steps may be taken to remedy these deficiencies through other sources.

MENDING AND WASHING.

It is hoped that volunteers in the reception areas will be forthcoming to help householders who find difficulty with the mending and washing of the children's clothes.

MEDICAL AND NURSING EXPENSES.

The local Doctor or the District Nurse should be called in in the ordinary way if the child's health seems to require it. It is not intended that house holders should have to pay any expenses in connection with medical or nursing services that the children may require. The Local Authority will arrange for payment. Volunteers are now being enrolled and trained as Nursing Auxiliaries in order to supplement the local nursing staff, which may also be augmented by other trained personnel. It is anticipated that extra isolation accommodation will be provided in the district to take infectious cases and special houses may be set aside as sick bays if the hospital facilities already available are inadequate.

Sat 9th Sept

BERKSHIRE AND ADJOINING COUNTIES HEAR AIR RAID RIREN

People in Berkshire and adjoining counties heard their first air raid warning since the declaration of war, on Wednesday morning.

EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEK

Busy, yet not perturbed, is an apt description of the attitude of Wokingham citizens during the fateful happenings of Sunday and subsequent days. On Friday last week the Evacuation Committee received some 150 children, teachers and helpers, who arrived by train, while the officials of the Rural District Council dealt with 450 evacuees. These were dealt with during the day, supplied with refreshments, and before evening billeted in their new homes.

Saturday and Sunday brought similar scenes, in which mothers, expectant mothers and small children formed the evacuees. Speaking generally, all are settling down in their new quarters, and hosts of new friendships are now in process of formation. Schools have been open for registration only, but study will commence next week.

The Mayor (Cllr. J.E. Thorpe) is chairman, Cllr. H. Lush is evacuation officer, and Miss Harwood secretary, of the Wokingham Evacuation Committee, the members of which are all acting in an honorary capacity.

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Ald.Martin And His A.R.P. Shelters
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

An invitation to the public of Wokingham to use the air raid shelters he has constructed in his grounds was made by Ald. W.T. Martin at the meeting of the Wokingham Town Council on Thursday evening. After the air raid warning on Wednesday, Ald. Martin said, there was a good deal of questioning as to whether the general public could use his shelters. "They are open day and night," he continued, "for any of the public to come in free of charge providing they do not bring cats and dogs. The other morning we had one or two cats and dogs and they caused a certain amount of annoyance. The shelter in Milton Road, at the bottom of the car park, will accommodate from two to three hundred, while the one opposite my front door will take about 400 people, so there is ample room for everybody. There we think they will be safe from anything except a direct hit."

The Mayor, (Cllr. J. Egerton Thorpe), in thanking Ald. Martin, said he had arranged for two special constables to go on duty at the shelters as soon as the siren was blown, and take charge.

At the council meeting on Food Control, Committee was appointed to serve for one year. It is composed of the following:-- Ordinary members: The Mayor (Cllr. J. Egerton Thorpe), Alds. Priest and Whaley, Cllrs. Fullbrook, Lawrence, Sale, Dr. Smith and Miss Wescott, Mrs. A.M. Bland, Mr. C.W. Marks; trade members: Messrs. S.A. Pither, J.H. Bristow, F.J. Searle, H.C. Salmon and E.C. Peggs.

At the beginning of the meeting the Mayor said that as it was the first council meeting since war had been declared, he would like to take that opportunity of saying how grateful they were to the Town Clerk, the billeting officer and all those who had assisted him in the successful reception of the evacuated children. Thanks were also due to the people in Wokingham who had taken in those refugees and were making them as happy as possible in the circumstances. "I should like to impress that what we are experiencing at present is not a war, but just a lull in the war. The Germans are at present busy mopping up the Poles and then they will proceed to deal with us."

Dr. Smith said there was another person who should be thanked in connection with the evacuation and that was the Mayor, while Miss Wescott said the Mayoress should also receive their thanks.

Sat 16th Sept

THE EVACUATION SCHEME

Local scholars are now attending their respective schools in the morning and the evacuees in the afternoon, each section occupying 3½ hours.

BRITISH LEGION

The Winnersh (Wokingham) branch is holding its usual Monday night whist drives, and arrangements are to be made to provide amusements and games for evacuees in the district.

THE WRONG PURPOSE

Residents have complained about the dumping of rubbish outside the public dug-out shelter on the corner of Denmark Street and Langborough Road. As recently as Wednesday, pieces of timber were placed across the entrance in such a manner that serious accident might have been caused to persons using the shelter in an emergency.

THE RITZ

For the first three days of next week the Ritz presents Paramount's new discovery, Patricia Morison, in an exciting story of American gangsters, entitled, "Persons in Hiding." The second film, "Girl Downstairs," stars Franciska Gaal and Franchot Tone. For the latter part of the week "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," starring Mickey Rooney, is the chief film. The story deals with Huckleberry's attempt to run away from his cruel, drunken father. "Bulldog Drummond's Secret Police" is the title of the second film, and the story is full of action, as can be expected. John Howard, Heather Angel and H.B. Warner are the chief stars.

HOSPITAL SUPPLY DEPOT

The Hon. Mrs. Corfield, O.B.E., is organising a depot for hospital supply in Wokingham. There are 30 of these in the county of Berks; the address of the Wokingham Depot is No. 3a, The Terrace. Bandages, operation towels and aprons, shirts, bed jackets and similar garments will be made by the members. One or two of the depots where there are facilities are specialising in making surgical dressings. For the present, each depot is endeavouring to raise its own funds, but it is hoped that later there will be a grant from the Lord Mayor's Fund. The Personal Service League help with the material, etc. Mrs. Mosley and Mrs. L.H. Luddington are running the Wokingham branch, and many of the P.S.L. members are helping. The articles made will be for military and civil use. The Red Cross and the Order of St. John will be in charge of the actual distribution. Mrs. Corfield in the last war had experience of this kind of work, when she ran one of these depots at Taunton.

Sat 30th Sept

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY REST ROOM

The club room of the G.F.S., The Terrace, is now open as a rest room for evacuees and their friends, on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 10a.m. to 12 noon, Sundays 10 a.m. till 6 p.m.

SCHOOL FOOTBALL IN WAR-TIME

The Committee of the Wokingham and District Elementary School Football Association met on Friday last week. It was decided that all fixtures be suspended pro. Tem, until circumstances permitted a restart. The clubs of the association will arrange friendly matches in their own vicinity.

Sat 14th Oct

WOKINGHAM RURAL COUNCIL

Meeting Of Food Control Committee

The first meeting of the Food Control Committee of the Wokingham Rural District Council for executive purposes was held at the Board Room, Barkham Road, Wokingham, on Monday. Mr. G. Ford (chairman) presided.

Mr. G. Heath (Food Executive Officer) stated that Mr. A Ockenden (Woodley Labour Party), who was nominated as a trade member of the committee, was not eligible to serve, as he was a member of a trade association. It was agreed that a suitable representative be selected to fill the vacant position.

The Food Executive Officer said that it was the first meeting of the committee. "The Food Control Order became effective on October 9th—today," he stated. "From this date no person should, in effect, retail foodstuffs without being licensed by this committee."

Although between 150 and 200 forms had been received from the authorities, this number had not been sufficient to meet all the demands. Extra copies were sent for, and these were received on Saturday, thus the officer was unable to present the full number of applications on Monday. Mr. Heath asked for authority to grant these licences when the applications were received. This was granted.

Sat 21st Oct

DEATH OF MR. H.E. HALL
Founder of a Wokingham Business
AN ACTIVE PUBLIC LIFE

We regret to record the death on Monday of one of the best-known and most-respected residents of Wokingham in Mr. Henry Edgar Hall, of "Warneford," Wellington Road, who passed away in his 88th year. The deepest sympathy is felt for the aged widow and the members of the family.

Mr. Hall, who was a native of London, celebrated his diamond wedding on March 14th, 1938, when a telegram of congratulation was received from the King and Queen; there were other messages from the Mayor and Corporation of Wokingham, Postmaster and staff etc.

From the first, during his residence in Wokingham, Mr. Hall was actively connected with its public and civil life. In the same year as his marriage he commenced business as a bookseller, stationer etc., at the premises opposite the drill Hall in Denmark Street. Later removing to the Market Place, now Messrs. Boots' chemists, he embarked with success upon photography. Subsequently he became income tax assessor and rate collector for the whole of the parish, and registration clerk. He was also clerk to the Wokingham (without) Parish Council.

He founded the business of auctioneer, house and estate agent (now H.E. Hall and Sons), with which he was connected for upwards of fifty years. Other offices he filled included chairman of the Wokingham Water Company, since absorbed into the Wessex Water Company, and secretary to the Wokingham Fire Brigade. He was Liberal Agent for East Berks for several years, and acted at the contest of 1892.

In 1885, upon the granting of the Town Charter, Mr. Hall became one of the twelve members of the first Wokingham Borough Council, of which he was at his death the sole survivor. Re-elected in 1886 to establish the rota, he retired before his period was up, and in protest against the then high gas charges lit the town with oils lamps. For upwards of fifty years Mr Hall was a member of the Wokingham Club, being the oldest member. He was a keen supporter of the Reading Football Club.

There are three sons living. Mr. A.E. Hall carries on his father's local government appointments, and Mr. A.G. Hall the auctioneer's and house agency business. Commander Sydney Hall R.N., who is retired, settled in New Zealand; on the occasion of his parents' diamond wedding he sent over a large wedding cake. Mr. and Mrs. Hall's daughter, Mrs. A.C. Hughes, is the wife of Brigadier-General Hughes, formerly commanding the 4th Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment. One son lost his life during the war of 1914-18.

Fri 3rd Nov

HOW TO MEND THE MUDDLE OF EVACUATION

Now that the Evacuation Scheme of Children and Teachers with all its muddling-has been in practice, it is apparent that its many mistakes must be corrected.

We have little fault to find with the scheme itself; all schemes and plans have their weaknesses and loopholes, but what is needed now that these rents have become apparent, is to mend them effectively.

Dr. J. J. Paterson has been quite out-spoken from the medical side, and this is an aspect which must be considered. Every thoughtful person is asking himself why the L.C.C. allowed many of the scholars in its charge to become in the state they were. Please note we use the past tense as now they are clean and healed of their diseases.

Again, what have the L.C.C. teachers been doing to allow such a state to become general? Have they nothing else to do but to draw their salaries? Then again, why have we such a superabundance of teachers to look after the children? They seem to be in for a good time and a comfortable holiday.

One clear fact emerges from all the problems that private billeting of children has fallen short in meeting the need and, although there are many individual cases where the advent of the strange child in the strange home has worked splendidly the results, on the whole, show the scheme has failed.

We cannot blame those who planned it, for they were at great pains to preserve the home atmosphere and influence for the children, but the strain upon housewives who have several evacuees, is tremendous and many are at breaking point. This is natural, as women have striven in every possible way to make things happy and comfortable for their charges, but it has been found difficult to understand the mentality of the children who, despite all that is done for them, miss their home and not all the material comforts of a strange house will compensate them for the loss of the maternal bosom,

Again, what child can pour out its troubles (and even the smallest is great to the one who bears them) to a strange woman? Whereas the mother would, without hesitation be the recipient of its woes.

Another aspect of the case is that many mothers are willing to send their children away for their safety, but they would rather they lived in a place run on boarding school lines. There all the children would be treated alike, and the personal influences would be abstract, as against the nice house with "home atmosphere" which children might come to prefer to their own home, or with "temporary parents" who, quite unconsciously, might alienate youthful affection from the real parents.

Billeting officers and social workers have come to the decision that the best way out is to stop all billeting at private houses, and to arrange for the children to live as school units on communal lines in hotels, large houses, institutions, camps and convalescent homes. Schools could be grouped as colonies and run on school lines, private householders would be relieved of worry and trouble and the children could be adequately supervised as in a boarding school.

Whilst this is a practical scheme and the only one likely to succeed, it will lighten the burden of the housewives and give some of the helpers something useful to do.

Sat 11th Nov

MORE EVACUEES

On Friday last week a further contingent of evacuees (from Battersea and Stockwell) arrived in Wokingham. A number of helpers accompanied them. The Mayor and the Mayoress and Miss Harwood (secretary to the evacuation committee) received the children who were provided with refreshments in the Baptist School Room, under the superintendence of Mrs. Guyton. Homes were soon found.

RE-OPENING OF EVENING INSTITUTION

Now that adequate air-raid protection has been provided for students, and steps have been taken to ensure observance of the lighting restrictions in the buildings, the Wokingham local committee has decided to re-open the Evening Institute at the Wescott Road Council School. On Monday and Tuesday, November 20th and 21st, the Institute will be open from 7-9 p.m., and it is most important that intending students should enrol on one or other of those evenings. If a sufficient demand is found to exist, classes will be formed for arithmetic, art, book-keeping, building, construction, commercial geography, English, French, German, shorthand, type-writing and woodwork.

Sat 25th Nov

THE CLOSING OF SHOPS

A meeting of tradesmen was held at the Town Hall on Thursday, convened by the Mayor, to discuss the hours of closing shops in the town. The meeting was representative and after full discussion it was decided by 21 votes to 19 that a recommendation be made that shops be shut at 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 1 p.m. on Wednesday, and 7.30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. The matter will be raised at the meeting of the Town Council next Thursday.

WOKINGHAM ANIMAL A.R.P.

Those who are interested in the work of the Wokingham Animal A.R.P. will be pleased to hear that the first-aid post at Simonside, London Road, is now ready. The equipment comprises a humane killer, a lethal chamber for small dogs, and a smaller box for cats, the last-named a gift from the R.S.P.C.A. A cat-catcher, stretcher, blankets, drugs and dressings have also been prepared for emergencies. Miss Carr will be pleased to show the post to anyone interested.

Sat 30th Dec

FOR DR. BARNARDO'S

Members of the Barnardo Helpers' League and Watchtower Society were unable to go carol-singing, due to black-out conditions. A collection was made at houses where carols are usually sung, and this amounted to £3 9s. This, with other donations, bringing the total to £4 9s., has been sent to Dr. Barnardo's Homes, also a parcel of clothes and toys.

THE RITZ

A drama of thwarted love and family hatred is unfolded in, "Wuthering Heights," which is showing for the first three days at the Ritz Cinema, Wokingham, next week. "Arf A Mo', Hitler" is the title of the second film. P.C. Wren's well-known novel, "Beau Geste," is being screened for the latter end of the week. Gary Cooper takes the title role, and Heather Thatcher is cast as the aunt and guardian of the three Geste brothers. When a famous jewel, which is left in her care, disappears, the three brothers join the Foreign Legion, and their adventures make a thrilling picture. Brian Donlevy is powerful and realistic as a brutal sergeant, whilst Ray Milland and Robert Preston appear as the other two Geste brothers. There is a full supporting programme.

EVACUEES ENTERTAINED

On Boxing Day the Town Hall was filled when evacuee children were the guests of the Mayor (Cllr. E.W. Reeves). A varied programme was arranged by Mr. Percy Fuller and the Mayor and Mayoress were present with their granddaughter, Julie. Mr.

Fuller entertained and also organised competitions. The pupils of Mr. C. Jones gave first-class exhibitions of combined dancing, and a tiny performer came and danced "Little Bo-Peep." Mrs. Hall accompanied at the piano. Cllr. F.S. Perkins acted as compere. C.O. W.B. Martin and two firemen, two St. John Ambulance Brigade members and two Boy Scouts were also in attendance. Prizes were presented by the Mayor, with a special prize by the Mayoress. The Mayor expressed thanks to Mr. Fuller, and little Freddie Kemp handed a bouquet to the Mayoress. Florence Collins, one of the evacuees, expressed their thanks to the Mayor and Mayoress. Father Christmas (Cllr. S.L. Bowyer) presented each child with a packet of sweets from the Mayor.

OLD FOLKS' PARTY

On Wednesday the annual old folks' party was given by the Wokingham Wesley Guild in the schoolroom of the Methodist Church, Rose Street. The Mayor and Mayoress, Dr. and Mrs. Perkins and Mrs. Shaw were present. A programme of music and recitations, interspersed with community singing, went off with zest. Recitations were given by Miss Head and Mr. T.M. Welch, and a song by Mr. G. Butler.

The attendance, for obvious reasons, was smaller than usual. The room was decorated with festoons and greenery, while small Christmas trees adorned the tables.

Dr. Perkins welcomed the guests and greeted the visitors. The Mayor expressed sympathy with the effort and extended the season's wishes to all. Tea followed.

Mr. J.D. Trowel, A.R.C.M., acted as accompanist at the piano, and Mr. B. Butler compered the programme. At the close Dr. Perkins thanked Mr. Welch and all those who had arranged the party, also Messrs. B. and G. Butler and Mrs. Trowell. A number of presents were bestowed upon the visitors.

1940

Sat 6th Jan

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL Employees And War Service

At a meeting of Wokingham Town Council, presided over by the Mayor (Cllr. E.W. Reeves) on Thursday, it was agreed that married men on the permanent staff who undertake war service shall have their wages made up to the full amount, and single men shall have theirs made to 75%.

With reference to employees of the council who cease to serve in their civil capacity on or after January 1st 1940, in order to undertake war service, the following recommendations were made concerning all employees who were in permanent employ on Sept. 1st 1939, and who on or after that date ceased or will cease to serve in their civil capacity in order to undertake war service:--Married employee, to be paid a sum equal to the full civil pay which he would have received had he continue to serve in his civil capacity, less his war service pay; single employee (including a widower without dependants), to be paid a sum equal to 75% of the civil pay which he would have received had he continued to serve in his civil capacity, less his war service pay. Cases of hardship should be considered and dealt with upon their merits. War service pay includes marriage, family and similar allowances.

Cllr. S.J. Miles moved the reference back of the recommendation, saying it was unfair to distinguish between married and single men in this case when no distinction was made between them in other respects. "We must assume that we have paid each man according to his ability and to the work he has to perform," he said.

Seconding, Cllr. N. Lawrence said he also thought it was not right that single men would have to be put through a form of means test in cases of hardship.

Cllr J.H. Titterington, Ald. E.S. Whaley, Ald. P. Sale and Ald. A.E. Priest spoke in favour of the recommendation, but Cllr. D. Goddard said he supported the reference back because few single men would be affected.—The recommendation was carried, only three members voting against.

The Borough Surveyor reported that his junior clerk, Mr. D. Hawkins had volunteered for, and had been accepted by the Royal Air Force, and it was agreed that the council make up his salary and that his appointment be kept open. It was further agreed that the appointment of a temporary clerk in his place be left to the small sub-committee appointed to deal with the proposed appointment of a temporary clerk in connection with the Fuel and Lighting Order.

Fri 12th Jan

ALLOTMENTS FOR HEALTH FROM PLOT TO POT

Did you eat your own sprouts and potatoes with your Christmas dinner this year? Possibly you had a choice also of your own leeks or winter greens, or even cooked beetroot or turnip. Gathered from your plot in the morning of the day you ate them. Those vegetables must have made the turkey, the beef or the ham taste even better.

The freshness of food is not the least of the many advantages of a plot. There is rapid deterioration of vegetables in transit, in markets and in the shops, and the gardener has the good fortune to enjoy vegetables at their very best for nutrition and health

But this stream of health from plot to pot is no one-way traffic. Happy and healthy is the man who can get away to the plot for fresh air and exercise and satisfy the natural instinct to produce something.

Cultivation of a plot can benefit all members of the community. It benefits the man who is merely a cog in the industrial machine, spending most of his working hours amid the soul-destroying monotony of repetition work. It brings health and pleasure to the man whose calling necessitates spending his time in artificial or unhealthy surroundings, and to the black-coated worker in shop and office.

A fine tribute has been paid to the virtues of allotments in the area of unemployment. School-masters in these areas say they can quite easily pick out the children of allotment holders from their other scholars because they are invariably better clothed and fed and are more alert and attentive.

The fact that the children are better clothed leads to a consideration of the economic side of vegetable gardening. It has been proved that produce to the value {in peace time, let alone war time) of £5 to £10 can be grown on a ten-rod plot of 300 square yards. In fact these figures are often exceeded by experienced allotment holders.

What does this mean in terms of the family budget? Well, an average family of three will require, say 3/- worth of home grown vegetables a week, which amounts to an expenditure of £7 16s. a year, so the plot of 300 square yards will meet this requirement. Of course it does not mean that it will cover the requirements for the whole year; some portion will have to be bought from the shops and this will include produce brought from overseas at certain times of the year, but it is our wartime duty to do all we can to avoid reliance on bought-in supplies of overseas origin.

Gardeners and allotment holders would do well to study carefully the cropping plan laid down in the Growmore Bulletin No. 1 of the Ministry of Agriculture which gives a rotation of crops for the plot designed to spread production as far as possible over

the year. The more we depend on our own gardens and allotments the less demand shall we make on shipping and transport and on the men who are employed in these occupations. That is one way in which we can all "Dig for Victory."

Sat 13th Jan

PALMER SCHOOL (INFANTS) TREAT

Arranged and carried out by Miss A.M. Jones and many helpers, the annual treat to the Palmer School Infants was given in the Infants School. Infants (evacuees) from St. Agnes C. of E. School, Kennington, took part. The Rector, Mrs. Greenfield, Admiral Eustace, the Hon. Mrs. Corfield (managers), the school staff and friends were also present and assisted.

ALL SAINTS' S.S. TREAT

Children of the Infants' Department of All Saints' Sunday School (including a number of evacuees who have become attached to the department) were entertained on Wednesday to the annual winter treat, the function taking place in the Town Hall. The party numbered some 70 children, and Miss Lloyd and the teachers waited upon them. A capital tea, a conjuring entertainment, singing and other items formed the programme. The Rector, the Rev. O'Brian Hamilton were also present.

DEATH AND FUNERAL OF MR. HARRY DYER (SNR)

Mr. Harry Dyer passed away on Saturday at his home, 23, London Road, Wokingham. He was 77 and leaves a widow (his second wife) and one son. The late Mr. Dyer was well known as one of the town's four honorary constables. He was appointed to the position by Ald. P. Sale, then Mayor in 1920. Years ago he was a keen gardener, taking many prizes at local shows. The funeral took place at All Saints' on Tuesday, the curate, the Rev. O'Brian Hamilton, officiating.

(list of mourners)

Sat 27th Jan

PATIENTS ENTERTAINED

On Wednesday last week the patients of the Wokingham Public Assistance Institution were entertained to a display of operatic and tap dancing, performed by Miss Nina Kempson-Hanke and her pupils. Miss Nina Kempson-Hanke contributed to the programme by pianoforte solos, which were applauded. Those taking part in the programme were: Winnie Dennett, Joan Yapp, Marie Little, Pamela Cox, Joyce Martin, Edna Rickard, Daphne Weekes, Doreen Hargraves, Betty Cooper, Sylvia Nash, and Miss Nina Kempson-Hanke, accompanist.

MISS A.H. WALKER LECTURES ON BIRDS

The first of a series of three lantern lectures on English birds was given by Miss A.H. Walker in the Town Hall, by permission, to some 160 invited evacuee children, on Friday last week. The lecture met with great appreciation. Many of the slides were made from photographs which Miss Walker had taken. Miss Walker, who is a keen observer and expert ornithologist, described in very interesting manner the habitat, habits and peculiarities of many of our English birds, which were shown on beautiful coloured slides. The lecture closed with a capital gramophone record of the song of the nightingale.

THE RITZ CINEMA

A vigorous melodrama, "Union Pacific" heads the programme at the Ritz Cinema, Wokingham, for the first three days of next week. With Barbara Stanwyck and Joel McCrea in the leading roles, it is a story of the pioneering days in America, telling of the building of the Union Pacific railroad and its race to beat the Central Pacific. There is a full supporting programme. During the latter part of the week, "Jamaica Inn" is the principal feature. Starring Charles Laughton, it depicts the misdeeds of a gang of smugglers and wreckers on the Cornish coast. In support is "Girl From Nowhere."

Sat 3rd Feb

A WOKINGHAM CENTENARIAN

Death of Miss Harriott Trench

We regret to record the death which took place on Thursday last week at St. Margaret's Park, Wokingham, of Miss Harriott Trench who celebrated her 100th birthday on August 4th 1939. For the last few years she has made her home with her niece, Miss Gore-Booth, at St. Margaret's, Wokingham.

Miss Trench was the eldest and only surviving child of the late Mr. Henry Trench, of Cangort Park, Shinrone, Ireland, and the late Hon. Mrs. Trench. Miss Trench has outlived her three brothers and four sisters. Of charming personality and kindly disposition, she has, from early youth, shown sympathy and kindness to those around her.

In the beginning of that movement, her interest in a Dorcas Society among the people on her father's estate was very keen, and in later life she was actively interested in the School of Art Needlework and charities in aid of distressed Irish ladies.

An accomplished pianist, music was her great pleasure, and, with her sisters, she arranged numerous concerts for the entertainment of neighbours and friends. Right up to 1938 Miss Trench retained her ability for pianoforte playing. In church music also she took great delight, frequently acting as organist at the parish church of her own home.

During her residence in Wokingham, Miss Trench has, until recently, attended St. Paul's Church. It is only during the past two years that she has been unable to go for walks.

The Funeral

The funeral was held at St. Paul's Church, Wokingham, on Monday. In the absence of the Rev. M. Mullineux, M.C., from Marhan, Norfolk, who had been engaged to take the service, but was unable, owing to weather conditions, to be present, the rector, the Rev. P.J.H. Scott, officiated.

(List of mourners)

H.M.S. EXMOUTH VICTIM

A relative of the late Miss Harriott Trench, the Wokingham centenarian, whose death is reported elsewhere, Sub-Lieut. Brian Gore-Booth was lost on H.M.S. Exmouth. He was the third son of Sir Josslyn and Lady Gore-Booth, of Sarsadell, Ireland.

Sat 10th Feb

PRESENTATION TO REV. R.W. TUESDAY

The Rev. R.W. Tuesday preached a farewell sermon on Sunday evening, after which a representative meeting of parishioners followed in the Parish Room, where the Rector presented the Rev. R.W. Tuesday with a cheque for £29, with the best wishes of all in the parish. The Rev. R.W. Tuesday was gazetted on Wednesday.

DEATH OF MISS M.K.A. BEECHEY

The death occurred at Newbury on Thursday last week of Miss M.K.A. Beechey in her 88th year. Miss Beechey, who was born at Wokingham, was the youngest child of William Collett Beechey, in whose memory a stained-glass window was placed in the south aisle of All Saints' Church by his children. Miss Beechey had resided with her sister, the late Miss Mary E. Beechey, at the Glebe, Rectory Road, and, after her death of the latter, left Wokingham to live at Newbury. The funeral service was at St. John's, Newbury on Monday.

WORK OF THE C.P.R.E.

Reference was made to the Wokingham branch of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England at the meeting of the Wokingham Town Council last week, when that authority decided to continue its annual subscription. The branch has a long list of members and a satisfactory financial balance. Owing to the war the branch has lost its hon. treasurer, and Mr. Hamblett, of the Midland Bank, has undertaken the work. It is hoped that Mr. Cotton, the secretary, who has been ill, will soon be able to resume his duties.

THE RITZ

"Andy Hardy Gets Spring Fever" heads the programme at the Ritz Cinema, Wokingham, during the early part of next week. Mickey Rooney is again Andy, Lewis Stone is seen as Judge Hardy, and all the rest of the family are present—Faith Holden, Celia Parker, Sarah Haden and Ann Rutherford. The story is said to be the most amusing and the most dramatic of all the Hardy pictures. John Litel and Margaret Lindsay have the star parts in the second picture, "On Trial." For the latter part of the week, "Invitation to Happiness" is the principal feature, and has Irene Dunne and Fred MacMurray in the leading role. Fred MacMurray is cast as a boxer, whose ambition is to become heavyweight champion of the world, and then he falls in love with the daughter of a millionaire. "Boys' Reformatory" is the supporting feature.

DEATH OF MR. F.W. CLARK

Mr. Frederick William Clark, aged 74 years, passed away on Monday at his residence, 21, Station Road. A native of Wokingham, he attended St. Paul's School, on leaving which he entered the printing establishment of the late Mr. W.J. Gotelee. He remained for 60 years in that firm (now Mr. L. Lush), until the time of his death. In his younger days he was closely connected with the sporting activities of the town. He was a member of "The Rectory Blues," St. Paul's Cricket Club for lads. Later he was for many years member and player in the Wokingham Excelsior C.C. He also played for Wokingham Town F.C. He was a member of All Saints' choir for some 20 years, also of the Wokingham Choral Society. In the present decade, Mr. Clark took great interest in the several cricket matches, Wokingham Corporation v. Old Timers in which he ably captained the latter. At the time of the Boys' Brigade he took keen interest in it locally. The funeral will take place at 11.45 a.m. today (Saturday), at St. Paul's, Wokingham.

Fri 1st March

DIG FOR VICTORY

The Wokingham Town Council desires to draw your attention to the fact that despite the appeal of the Minister of Agriculture they STILL HAVE A LARGE NUMBER OF VACANT ALLOTMENTS.

You are earnestly requested to cultivate an allotment, for which application should be made to the Borough Surveyor, Town Hall, Wokingham.

Sat 9th March

SOLDIER'S BROADCAST FROM NAZI STATION

Message To His Mother At Wokingham

CAPTURED ELEVEN DAYS BEFORE DATE FIXED FOR WEDDING

Exactly a week before he was due to arrive in England on leave—and 11 days before he was to have been married—John William Gray, of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, was taken prisoners by the Germans. Gray, whose mother and sister live at 115, Evendon's Lane, Wokingham, is 25 years of age, and he has seen his family only once in the last seven years.

Broadcast From Nazi Station

Still awaiting official confirmation of her only son's capture, Mrs. Gray was told by a representative of this paper that he had broadcast from a Nazi radio station on Wednesday night.

"He has written to us regularly during the whole time he has been in France," Mrs. Gray said. "We have sent him parcels of woollen clothes and of things to eat and we were preparing a welcome home for him next week. Now I may not see him again for years."

Had been recalled to the colours

Gray, whose home is in Middlesex, joined the Army at the age of 18. Enlisting in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, he was sent abroad almost at once and had seven unbroken service overseas. Most of this service was in North India, but he spent some time in Gibraltar. He took his discharge on his return to England in the autumn of last year and obtained employment as a telegraphist at Leamington.

Within a very short time, however, he was called to the Colours and was one of the next contingent to go to France. In his letters to his mother he made it evident that the only thing which caused him any inconvenience was the bitter cold—and that was not surprising in view of his long sojourn in India.

The first intimation that her son was due to come home on leave—and that he was due to be married—was conveyed to Mrs. Gray in a letter sent to her by the young man's fiancée, Miss Edith Melham of Esher Place, Esher, recently. A friend of Gray's serving with him, returned on leave and took the message to Miss Melham that Gray would be home on March 12th, and that he had suggested the wedding should be on the 16th.

Mrs. Gray has lived at Evendons Lane for the past five years with her daughter, Mrs. , and her three grandchildren—two of whom are twins. Mrs. Futter, a widow, has lived in Wokingham for the past 20 years.

According to reports Gray was one of 16 men taken prisoner from a British outpost on the Western Front. It was the first time that we had lost prisoners on land in this war, but the men of the particular outpost had a specially dangerous task in maintaining contact with the enemy. A British communiqué issued from G.H.Q. stated: "A raid took place this morning against a post in the British front line, and the

enemy succeeded in capturing some prisoners. The post was recaptured and the enemy retired leaving one dead. Two British soldiers were killed and one wounded."

It was officially claimed in Berlin that 20 men were killed and 16 prisoners taken. Another German statement was issued to the effect that the German soldiers had received orders to take British prisoners at all costs. Only a few of the prisoners were taken to the broadcasting studio and Gray was one of them.

Speaking with a slight stammer, Gray first gave his name and address. Then the announcer said, "You may speak to your mother," Gray, speaking rapidly said, "Hullo mother, I am all right. I am a prisoner in Germany. I am not wounded and I am in the best of health. Will you please give my love to Edith?"

According to the announcer Gray had a growth of beard. He was asked why he had not shaved and he replied: "I have no shaving kit." Answering further questions he said he had left his kit in the trenches before he had time to take it with him.

Told of this radio conversation, Mrs. Gray said, "What will happen to him now? That is what worries me. All the things we hear about prisons in Germany....."

Sat 6th April

A FINE RECORD

The Wokingham branch, women's section, British Legion, began to knit comforts for the troops in December. Since then they have dispatched 154 knitted comforts, as follows: 52 to Army Comforts Depot, Reading; 34 to R.A.F. London headquarters; 16 to the Royal Navy; 55 to a company, Royal Engineers. The men's branch contributed £3 4s. 6d. towards the cost of the wool. Mrs. P.G. Murray has collected and sent 119 knitted comforts to the Royal Artillery Fund in London.

Sat 13th April

FORTHCOMING CONCERT

The Royal Engineers (Aldershot) are to give a concert in aid of the Wokingham Ambulance Fund in the Ritz Cinema on Sunday afternoon, April 21st.

AMBULANCE PRESENTATION

At the usual meeting of the Wokingham Division, St. John Ambulance Brigade, on Wednesday, an oak timepiece was presented to Mr. and Mrs. A. Woodley to mark the occasion of their marriage.

A.F.S. INSPECTION

On Sunday morning the Mayor (Cllr. E.W. Reeves) inspected the Wokingham members of the Auxiliary Fire Service attached to the Wokingham Fire Brigade. Under the command of the Chief Officer W.B. Martin (W.F.B.), the men, 19 in number, paraded at the eastern side of the Town Hall. The Mayor was accompanied by the Deputy-Mayor (Cllr. J.E. Thorpe), and members of the Town Council who watched the proceedings included Alderman, Whaley, Councillors Beale, Bowyer, Lawrence, Perkins and Titterington (A.R.P. Controller) also the Town Clerk. The men presented a smart and workmanlike appearance, as did their appliances. The parade dismissed, Chief Officer Martin conducted the municipal party over the fire station. Subsequently a move was made to Kingsmere, where the A.F.S. carried out very smartly and efficiently a number of fire drills.

Sat 4th May

WOKINGHAM FOOD CONTROL COMMITTEE

Plea For Removal Of Jam Restrictions

Speaking at a meeting of Wokingham Rural Area Food Control Committee at Wokingham on Monday, Mr. G. Heath, food executive officer, said there had been nearly 2,000 applications for "jam sugar," and the amounts asked for varied from 10 lbs. to 10 cwt. (hundredweight). They had been submitted to the Ministry of Food, and the Ministry had suggested that in any case where the officer thought the amount excessive, he should make a recommendation as to the amount he considered would be applicable.

Mrs. Eva Jarvis contended that the Ministry had made a mistake in restricting it to certain fruits. She thought they should have asked housewives what they would make to put before their own families, including jam from marrow and rhubarb, and not subject them to dictation by people who did not know. Many cottagers who needed the extra sugar had no fruit trees in their gardens, but they had rhubarb and marrow.

Mr. Heath mentioned that there had been applications from eleven Women's Institutes, in all 44 tons was asked for through the committee.

After further discussion Mrs. Jarvis moved a resolution that representation be made to the Minister of Food for sugar to be allowed for jam-making without any restriction as to the kind of fruit or vegetables to be used, the quantity allotted to be according to the size of the household or the amount of fruit or vegetables produced.—This was seconded by Mr. J. Doe and carried unanimously.

In a report covering the past four months Mr. Heath said the total number of ration books issued in the district was 34,012. He spoke warmly of the kindness which had been shown to the staff of the Food Control Office, and said he was astounded by the patience and sympathy shown by the public.

Sat 1st June

DAY OF PRAYER

All churches were filled with devout congregations. At All Saints' the Mayor and Corporation attended the service at 10.30 a.m.

AN APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE OF WOKINGHAM

The Wokingham Hospital Committee are organising their annual house-to-house-collection on Sunday, June 2nd. In the present circumstances money is needed more than ever by the hospital authorities, and the committee appeal to the public to support the boxes as 'liberally' as possible.

EMPIRE DAY CELEBRATED

The Palmer School celebrated Empire Day on Friday last week. The school, including seniors and infants, assembled in the playground, and managers and teachers, also parents and friends of the scholars, were very interested in the proceedings. The rector, the Rev. G. Kenworthy, presided, and in a short address referred to former boys of the school serving in H.M. Forces.

THE RITZ

For the early part of next week the film version of the famous stage farce, "French Without Tears," is being shown. Ray Milland and Ellen Drew are the stars. The second feature is "Disputed Passage," with John Howard, Dorothy Lamour and Akim Tamiroff. "The Man They Could Not Hang," the principal feature for the latter part of the week, stars Boris Karloff. It unfolds the blood-curling story of a scientist who was

able to conquer death. "Sky Patrol," with John Trent and Marjorie Reynolds, is the second feature.

£300 FOR BERKSHIRE HOSPITAL SUPPLY DEPOTS

The Hon. Mrs. Corfield, organiser of the County of Berkshire Hospital Supply Depot, writes:--

Mrs. Benyon, County Director of British Red Cross in Berkshire, has very kindly used her influence with the joint war organisation (Lord Mayor's Fund), and secured the sum of £300 on behalf of Hospital Supply Depots in the county.

Mrs Corfield has to distribute this sum among 153 depots in Berkshire. She is very pleased to be able to do this, and though each depot cannot receive a large sum she feels it is an expression of appreciation and thanks from the British Red Cross, for the work which they are doing so splendidly.

APPLY FOR YOUR NEW RATION BOOK NOW

Detailed Instructions

The Ministry of Food asks us all to apply for our new ration books without delay. So get your pen and ink and follow these simple instructions. Inside the back cover of your ration book you will find a detachable postcard, headed "reference Leaf," and stamped "Do not detach until told to do so." It is time to do so now.

On the top half of the postcard there is a space for your name and address. We were all asked to fill this in when we first got the books, but many of us forgot to do so. If you did not fill in yours, do it now. Be sure to write both surname and Christian names in block letters. It will be a great help too if you give the address at which your ration book was first delivered. Now turn to the lower half of the postcard. Sign your name in the space provided and give your present address and the date. If you are moving before June 24th give your new address. There is something else to do. In the lower left corner of the post-card write your National Registration identity number—that is, the letters and numbers printed on your identity card. Be sure to give both letters and numbers. If by any ill chance you have lost your identity card you must get a new one. Ask your local council offices or at your nearest police station and they will tell you where to apply for a new identity card.

Now for the other side of the card. If you have not moved since September 29th, 1939, fill in the address of the Food Office given at the front cover of the ration book. But if you have moved since that date or are going to move before June 24th, then fill in the address of your new Food Office. Lastly, cut out the card and put it in the post. No stamp is required.

Children of 13, and over should sign their own postcards. If a child is under 13, a parent or guardian must sign. In either case, the child's date of birth and National Registration identity letters and numbers must be given.

Hospitals and boarding schools are regarded as home addresses. If you have a child in hospital the matron will get his ration book for him and give it to him when he comes out. If you hold a traveller's ration book insert as your address a place where you can be certain of collecting your ration book when issued. Address the card to the Food Office named on the cover of your ration book.

Sat 15th June

LOCAL CASUALTIES WITH THE B.E.F.
Well-Known Residents Bereaved
Berkshire County Cricketer Missing

War news of a personal significance has been received in homes in Reading and district this week, some of it good and some, unhappily, sad. Berkshire men have been prominent in the heroic retirement from Belgium, and their gallantry is in keeping with the high traditions of the county.

Well-Deserved Leave

In business houses, shops and factories in the district men of the B.E.F. have told their stories to their former colleagues. They are spending their well-deserved leave in looking-up old friends, reliving the immediate past and preparing for the unknown future.

Despite the hardships and frightfulness already endured, not one of the men who returned safely is dismayed. In every case there is a determination to play the full part in the destruction of the Nazi and Fascist regimes, and in every case there is nothing but confidence of an allied victory.

More news has been received in Reading and district of local men who have been killed or wounded in action. In some cases, however, relatives have not even the poor consolation of definite knowledge, official messages merely stating the unhappy phrase, "Missing, believed killed."

BISHOP'S SON DEAD

News has been received of the death of 2nd. Lieut. Alec Hugh Wright, fourth son of Bishop G.W. Wright and Mrs. Wright, of Glendower, 8, Crescent Rod, Wokingham. Mr. Wright, who was 21 years of age, was educated at Weymouth College, and was due to go to St. Peter's Hall, Oxford, when war broke out. Having taken his O.T.C. certificate at college, he at once applied for, and was granted, a commission in the Green Howards. He received training at Sandhurst, and went to France early in April. Bishop Wright arrived home on leave from his diocese in North Africa shortly before his son went abroad. His diocese includes Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, and the entry of Italy into the war is naturally of great personal concern to him.

The death of 2nd. Lieut. Wright is a matter of sorrow to many people in Wokingham, for he was well-known in the town. Last summer he joined the Wokingham Cricket Club, and proved himself a useful member. He had had a successful cricket career in Weymouth. The family have lived at Wokingham since 1935.

Sat 6th July

BABY SHOW RESULT

A total of £22 was raised by the Baby Show held last week in aid of the comforts Fund for the local men who returned from Dunkirk.

BRITISH SAILORS SOCIETY

The street collection for the British Sailors' Society last Saturday realised £25 17s. 5d., a record for the town and more than double the highest total of any previous year. Mrs. A. Andrews was the organiser.

RIFLE CLUB OPENED

In spite of the short notice given, the opening night of the Wokingham and District Rifle Club was quite successful, nearly thirty taking part in the drill, under the direction of R.S.M. Martin. Some excellent results were obtained, even by beginners, coached by Mr. Ward, ex-musketry instructor, and others. Old soldiers are invited to attend a refresher course, and an air-gun range is being fitted up for young people at ten rounds per penny. All are welcome to attend free of charge on Friday evenings

from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Subscriptions to help with the training will be gratefully received by Mr. E.H. Perkins, 1, Denmark Street, Wokingham, who is the hon. secretary and treasurer.

SILVER THIMBLE FUND

The Mayoress of Wokingham writes: "I have been asked to extend an invitation to all those in Wokingham and district who are able and willing to support the Silver Thimble Fund. The first flying ambulance to be bought at a cost of £5,000, has been ordered and funds are now being raised in order to purchase the second. Mrs. Lambert of Barford House, Wokingham, has consented to act as our local organiser of the fund. I am sure there must be many disused articles in every home such as old gold, silver, Sheffield plate, plate, or copper in any form which could be melted down and I appeal for a visit to your plate chest to see what can be found for this worthy cause. The more saleable gifts are sold at 10a, high Street, Wimbledon. Mrs. Lambert will be pleased to make arrangements for the collection if necessary, on receipt of a postcard. Everything received will be sent to Lady Taylor, the vice-president of the fund.

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor, (Cllr. E.W. Reeves) presided at a meeting of the Wokingham Town Council on Thursday, which proved to be one of the shortest on record. The proceedings lasted less than five minutes. The following recommendations were accepted and approved:--

In the report of the Finance Sub-Committee it was stated that 261 school children and 11 school teachers were billeted in the borough. The billeting officers reported compulsory billeting was not necessary, although in some cases strong persuasion was used. Owing to overcrowding and unsuitable houses, a certain amount of re-billeting would have to take place.

The Girl Guided, Boy Scouts, V.A.D., St. John Ambulance and W.V.S. and the Mayoress' Catering Committee all rendered good service, and the billeting officers worked extremely hard.

A letter was read from the Mayor of Southwark, in which he offered to the people of Wokingham the sincere thanks of the people of his borough for "the very evident generosity and kindness with which they have accepted our little evacuees."

It was agreed that the borough surveyor be authorised to spend a sum not exceeding £200 in the purchase of stocks of building materials for use in the repair of war damage.

It was recommended that the Town Clerk ascertain from the County Council as to whether they would bear the cost of the erection of air raid shelters in the borough, and it was recommended that inquiries be made as to whether the shopkeepers would keep their shops open for the general public in the event of an air raid.

DEATH OF FORMER SADDLE MAKER AT WOKINGHAM

For more than 50 years in business at Wokingham as a saddle and harness maker, Mr. Thomas Maris died at his home, 73, Highgrove Street, Reading, on Wednesday, at the age of 86. Mrs Maris died in February 1939, in her 83rd year.

Mr. Maris came to Reading from Cambridgeshire as a young man, and he took over the business in Market Place, Wokingham, shortly afterwards. He had made saddles and harness for most of the prominent families in East Berkshire, and he was

recognised as an expert in his craft. He retired three years ago. A member of the Wokingham Club, Mr. Maris was, for many years, a keen bowls player. His death resulted from a sudden collapse. The funeral takes place today (Saturday) at Reading Cemetery.

Fri 19th July

RAID WARNINGS
SOME ANSWERS TO “WHYS” & “WHY NOTS”
SMALL RISK FROM LONE RAIDERS
(PASSED BY CENSOR)

A lot of unnecessary worry and false rumour is due to ignorance about the tactics employed to deal with enemy raiders. “Why don’t they sound the sirens”? “Why aren’t the A.A. guns firing”? “Why aren’t our fighters in action”? are the sort of questions asked. And the answers given by “know-alls” often lead to ridiculous stories.

It must be remembered that recent raids have only been of a general reconnaissance nature, designed to enable the enemy pilots to find their way about the countryside, to disturb Factory work, to cause loss of sleep and thereby increase personal irritation. If you give way in this fashion you are only helping the enemy to achieve his object.

Now the sounding of sirens is not a fixed system. Each raid has to be judged on its “merits” and the decision made as to whether or not it is worthwhile to sound the sirens to deal with a lone raider or two which only be passing overhead on its way to an objective. The Fighter Command has to decide this problem each time. The man in charge is a reasonable man doing a reasonable job of work, and the public must him to do his work properly. He is in the best position to assess the character of the raid and knows far more than the “critic-in-the-street”.

Remember, too, that 100 per cent safety in a raid is not possible. Turn these facts over in your mind for a moment. The enemy is about half-an-hour’s flight away from the south-west. If each time one plane comes over the sirens are sounded, industry is bound to be disorganised. If the raid lasts an hour and a half and there are 5,000 workers in a factory, 7,500 hours of work will be lost—and that is a serious matter, particularly with munition and aircraft factories. Multiply that loss of time in relation to all the factories in the region affected by the raid.

At the moment the Nazis have not bombed open towns in a serious fashion. Fear of retaliation makes him pause. He knows that as long as the R.A.F. bomber strength is maintained, we will answer him bomb for bomb. Allow that strength to go below the level when big retaliation is possible, and the enemy will undoubtedly bomb towns mercilessly.

So your ultimate safety depends on the bomber strength. So factories must work tirelessly. They cannot if work is interrupted by siren-sounding and ordinary industry (with which aircraft production is linked) hampered.

In war risks have got to be accepted. Complete safety would immobilise the country and we should lose the war. Everyone is in the “front line” and you must accept reasonable risks. But that risk from these lone raiders is so small that you can ignore it. You stand more chance of being killed on the road than you do by a bomb at the moment.

Now about the A.A. guns and the fighters. It is no good firing the guns until the enemy plane is located. And it is not easy to find a lone raider at night in clouds. Fighters, too, have a difficult, a tremendous difficult task in locating the enemy if they are in small numbers. The enemy is probably doing at least 200 m.p.h. and the fighter

250 to 300 m.p.h. Just try to imagine that at night. And if fighters are to go up at night they have to take off and land in darkness. Casualties are bound to occur sometimes in this most dangerous operation.

Even by day it is no easy matter to find one plane in the air when you too are in the air. Remember how much sky you can see when you get up to the top of a high hill? Well, multiply that a few times and imagine what the pilot sees, and don't forget that he still has to pilot his machine, doing something in the region of 300 to 350 m.p.h., which doesn't give much chance for a look round. One pilot said that it was like "looking for a gnat in the dome of St. Paul's."

You are advised to cut this out and keep for reference.

Sat 20th July

ON BOMBED PATROL YACHT
Wokingham Survivor Of The Warrior
TRIBUTE TO MEN'S BRAVERY

Among the survivors of H.M. Patrol Yacht Warrior II, which was sunk in an enemy bombing attack in the English Channel on July 11th, is stoker Harold Prior, whose parents live at 336, Barkham Road, Wokingham. During the action one rating was killed, but the remainder of the crew were safely landed.

Stoker Prior comes from a family where there is a tradition of service. His father who now works at the Wokingham Post Office, saw 21 years' Army service, including long periods abroad. Stoker Prior himself was born at Hartley Wintney 27 years ago, but spent a great deal of his childhood in Egypt, where his father was then serving. He joined the merchant service on leaving Egypt in 1930, and among the boats on which he has been are the Queen Mary and the Aquitania.

He transferred to the Royal Navy at the outbreak of the war. He has three brothers who are serving in the Army. One of these considers himself extremely fortunate to have been amongst those who returned from Dunkirk. His Uncle, Mr. J. Potter, whose home is also at Wokingham, is in the Navy, as is his cousin.

ON PATROL WORK

On Monday Stoker Prior, who is now on leave, called at this office and described his experiences to a representative of this paper. He stated that, his ship was on patrol work in the Channel, when on Thursday last week they were attacked by at least 18 Junkers bombing machines, which indulged in low dive bombing.

"We brought down two of them at least, and there were two others which were so badly damaged that I do not think they could possibly get back again," he said. "Although the enemy machines dropped about seventy bombs, we only lost one man, the chief steward. The Warrior commenced to sink immediately after being hit. As many as possible took to the boats, and the rest jumped into the sea. We were in the boats about five hours when we were picked up by a trawler. We were very kindly treated by the crew on our journey to a southern port."

"When the boat started to sink all I escaped in was my trousers and singlet. Some of the crew, many of whom were in their bunks, got away with even less than this. What struck me more than anything was the bravery of the men. They were singing all the time the bombing was going on, and when the ship went down, gave a rendering of 'Rule Britannia.' Whilst we were in the boats two of our officers went overboard in order to make room for two of the ratings.

Despite his gruelling experience, Stoker Prior was able to dwell on the light side of what he had been through. "Someone," he said, "had the sense to ask me if I would go swimming on Sunday."

Stoker Prior was married last September at the Reading Register Office. His own home is now at 21, Greetham Street, Portsmouth.

LEGION WOMEN'S SALE

The total raised by the recent sale at Clarecourt in connection with the Wokingham British Legion (women's section) was £13 10s.

HELPING ST. DUNSTAN'S

The envelope collection in Wokingham and district has resulted in the total of £57 4s. 9d. being sent to St. Dunstan's War Fund. It was organised by Mrs. W.P. Tucker.

CONCERT

A successful concert was given entirely by eleven evacuated and Forest Road school children on Thursday last week in Forest Road schools, which was tastefully decorated by the children with roses from Mr. and Mrs. R. Hopkin's garden. During the interval, Miss Loutham (head mistress) was presented with a bouquet of flowers. The collection totalled £3 6s. 9d. Afterwards Mrs. Hopkins was presented with a bunch of roses and lavender, and the money for the Forest Road Wool Fund, for her Wednesday afternoon work party to knit comforts for the troops.

SOLDIER THANKS BABIES

The babies who were the principals in a baby show at Wokingham recently, when £22 was raised for comforts for local men returned from Dunkirk, were among those thanked by one of the soldiers who received a parcel as a result of the show. He writes to Miss Benson, the principal organiser:- "I wish to express my thanks for the parcel received. I feel that I cannot thank you and the organisers, also the babies and mothers, for these, their gifts, enough. I only hope that I may do my part as well and as willingly as you all hope.
A soldier from Dunkirk."

MAYOR APPEALS FOR MORE L.D.V.'S

The Mayor of Wokingham (Cllr. E.W. Reeves) writes:-

"I would like to make an urgent appeal to our local residents who are eligible at once to join the very important organisation, the L.D.V. I do most sincerely thank all those who responded to the appeal and fully appreciate the most valuable work they are doing. More men are urgently needed, in fact more than double the present strength, so that our town may be adequately protected.

Men from 17 years of age up to the present calling-up age, and men over calling-up age up to 65 years of age are most urgently needed. I need hardly point out the need, firstly, of guarding your own homes and town, and secondly, the value to the National effort, if we can properly man and guard this portion of the country entrusted to our care. Remember the more men we have the easier will be the work. Applicants should register at the Police Station between the hours of 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. and I hope a good response will be made to this most important appeal.

Sat 17th Aug

HEROES OF DUNKIRK HONOURED
Wokingham Presentations
BABIES PROVIDE THE GIFTS

Wokingham-born men who took part in the evacuation of Dunkirk were on Wednesday evening, at Wokingham Town Hall, presented with cigarette cases as mementoes of the historic episode. The men were: Cpl. E. Austin, Pte. A. Barnes, Pte. J. Baker, Pte. H. Banks, Pte. R. Beazley, Pte. G. Brant, Pte. T. Brant, Pte. W. Butler, Pte. A. Carey, Pte. G. Cox, Sto. J. Dance, Lce/Cpl. Dollery, Sgt. R. Edwards, Sgt. Edan, Pte. Gains, Pte. L. Gilbert, Pte. D. Goble, Pte. C. Gomm, Pte. C. Green, Sgt. J. Hulton, Ldg. Seaman P. Hattow, Pte. J. Harris, Sgt. H. Ings, Pte. A. Ives, Cpl. C. Kirby, Lce/Cpl. C. Keech, Bandsman H. Langlay, Pte. E. Lawrence, Spr. E. Lush, Sgt. A. Maslin, Pte. J. Morris, Cpl. J. Prentice, Bandsman F. Phelps, Pte. A. Pester, Pte. C. Prior, Lce/Cpl. F.J. Quick, Yeo. Of Signals W. Sear, Pte. C. Steel, Pte. E. Smith, Pte. G. Smith, Pte. E. Spratley, Driver A. Wilson, Pte. D. White, Ptes. Eagle, McEwan, and Morissy whose homes are in Wokingham, but who are not natives of the town, received presentation pencils bearing the civic badge of the borough.

Funds to defray the cost of the presentations were raised by means of a baby show organised by Miss E. Benson. Certificates instead of prizes were awarded at the show, and the prize money, together with additional donations and subscriptions, were used to purchase the cigarette cases and pencils. Each of the cigarette cases was engraved with the initials of the man for whom it was intended, and was embossed with the Wokingham civic badge.

The hall was full of the relatives of the men when the presentations were made by the Mayor (Cllr. E.W. Reeves), who was accompanied by the Mayoress. A number of the men were unable to be present, and in those cases the gifts were received on their behalf by relatives. The proceedings were introduced by the Band of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, under the direction of Mr. J.E. Needham, playing the regimental March. "The Dashing White Sergeant," followed by "Rule Britannia."

TOWN'S GRATEFUL THANKS

The Mayor said that the town offered its grateful thanks and sincere tribute to the men, who took part in the glorious episode of the evacuation from Dunkirk. He thanked Miss Benson for the energetic way in which she had organised the scheme for showing in a practical way their appreciation of the gallantry of the men. He also thanked the mothers for the willing way in which they had assisted in the scheme. However much they might regret the necessity for the evacuation there was no doubt that the wonderful rearguard action had upset the German plans for the destruction of the British Army. Wokingham was proud of the men from that town who had played a part in the action.

He regretted that some Wokingham men were still reported missing. The sympathy of that great gathering would go out to the relatives, together with the hope that good news would soon be received about the following: Pte. Culley, missing; Pte Goble, missing, believed prisoner of war; Pte. Oram, Pte. Rodgers and Pte. Woover, missing.

After the presentation ceremony the thanks of the meeting were expressed to the Mayor and Mayoress, and Miss Benson and the band, by Dr. H.F. Curl. "These gifts have been given by the babies of Wokingham, because we hope that the babies will grow up in a land which is free and will ever be free. When they reach the age of these young lads who have fought so gallantly I hope they will not have to fight," he said.

The band played, "There'll always be an England," which was sung by Mr. Maurice Willis. During the afternoon the band played at the Langborough Recreation Ground. Some fourteen members of the band had taken part in the evacuation.

Sat 24th Aug

CIVILIAN RESPIRATORS

The public of Wokingham are asked to attend the British Legion Hall, or the Church House, Easthampstead Road, with their respirators, in order to have context extension pieces fitted. They should attend on days according to the initial letter of their surname, and the times and days will be found in our advertisement columns.

HEROES OF DUNKIRK

In the list of names published last week of Wokingham-born men who took part in the evacuation of Dunkirk being honoured by presentations by the Mayor, the name of Private T. Barnes was unfortunately omitted. Private Barnes is still reported missing, though his relatives entertain hopes that they will receive news that he is a prisoner of war.

Fri 30th Aug

WHAT ABOUT A SPITFIRE?

Will You Contribute and Engine or a Rivet?

Is there any reason why this district should not contribute to the National Effort by providing a Spitfire?

Other parts have done so, and we venture to think there is sufficient spare money to buy one. The raids during the past week should be an incentive to everyone should give what they can to provide the fighter planes for our gallant airmen to continue their splendid work in bringing down enemy raiders.

Every Spitfire provided in this way will even up the odds which in the past our airmen have been up against. Man for man the British pilots and airmen can knock spots off the "Jerries," and if the necessary machines are only secured the number of raiders who will venture to cross these shores will grow less and less. Especially will this be the case when we have an overwhelming superiority of fighters and bombers which will keep the Germans busy repelling our attacks on the other side of the Rhine.

So everyone should help along the good work by subscribing to the fund.

Who will provide these parts?

The cost of the various parts of a Spitfire are given below. Who will help?

1. engine, £2,000;
2. fuselage, £2,500;
3. wings, £1,800;
4. undercarriage, £800;
5. guns, £800;
6. airscrew, £350;
7. tail, £300;
8. petrol tank, (top), £40;
9. petrol tank, (bottom), £25;
10. oil tank, £25;
11. compass, £5;
12. clock, £2 10s.;
13. thermometer, £1 1s.;
14. sparking plug, 8s.;
15. rivet, 6d.

COLLECTIONS AT CINEMAS

Tomorrow, Saturday, August 31st., Messrs. Associated British Cinemas, Ltd. 30/31 Golden Square, London W.1., with the approval of Mr. John Maxwell, the Company's Chairman and Managing Director, will at each one of the Company's cinemas throughout the country, launch a personal appeal to the film going public for donations to the "A.B.C. Patrons and Staff Hurricane and Spitfire Fund."

Collections will be made daily in the theatres for a fortnight ending on Saturday September 14th.

THE MAYOR OPENS THE FUND

At the Ritz Cinema, Wokingham, the Mayor (Councillor E.W. Reeves), supported by Lieut. Col R.H. Anderson, Commander Wokingham Home Guard, will inaugurate the fund and will speak from the stage of the cinema.

Lieut.-Col. R.P. Henstock, Commander Bracknell Platoon, Home Guard, will support the appeal at the Regal Cinema, Bracknell.

Patrons of either of these theatres who would prefer to make a contribution by cheque, Money Order or Postal Order should make them payable to "A.B.C. Hurricane and Spitfire Fund" and cheques and Postal Orders should be Crossed.

Contributions made in this way should be addressed personally to the respective Managers of the Cinemas, Mr. N. Stratton, Ritz Cinema, Wokingham and Mr. E.P. Frankham, Regal Cinema, Bracknell.

Should any patron desire to send loose money, this should be sent through the post in a Registered Envelope.

The Managers of the Cinemas will acknowledge personal contributions through the medium of "The Times and Weekly News" and, at the closure of the appeal, the amounts subscribed at the Cinemas will also be published.

Sat 7th Sept

TWO MORE DUNKIRK HEROES

Two more Wokingham-born men have been given cigarette cases as mementoes of the parts they played in the Dunkirk episode. They are Stoker H. Clarke, R.N., of 4, Langborough Road, Wokingham and Officer's Steward H. Rolfe, of 58, Wescott Road, Wokingham. Both men are at sea, but the cases have been left at their homes for them to collect on their next periods of leave.

SOLDIERS', SAILORS' AND AIRMEN'S FAMILIES' ASSOCIATION.

Collections were taken in Wokingham Division, with which is associated the Incorporated Soldiers' and Sailors' Society, on Tuesday. Colonel F.H. James was the hon. secretary and organiser. Details: Bracknell, £16 15s. 7d.; Crowthorne, £12 18s. 4½d.; Hurst, £12 18s. 2¾; Sonning, £11 5s. 11¾; Wargrave, £24 2s. 8¼d.; Winnersh, £4 7s. 4¾; Finchampstead, £12 0s. 1d.; Wokingham, £64 18s. 11d.; Total (subject to audit), £159 7s. 2¼.

FIRST P.O.W. FROM BERKSHIRE

Believed to be the first Berkshire man to be taken prisoner of war by the Italians, Leading Telegraphist Reginald Challis, R.N., has his home at Valetta, Matthews Green, Wokingham. Telegraphist Challis, who was previously reported missing from the submarine Oswald was born at Hurst 29 years ago. He was educated at St. Paul's C. of E. School, Wokingham, and he joined the Navy as a boy at the age of 15.

After being with H.M.S. Ganges, he spent three years in Chinese waters in H.M.S. Whitshed. For the next three years he was at the Valetta Wireless Station, and he later joined the submarine service. After two years in H.M. submarine Narwhal, he

transferred to the Oswald. When this vessel was sunk in the Ionian Sea early in August, Telegraphist Challis was in the water for two hours before being picked up by an Italian ship.

Fri 13th Sept (WT)

PUBLIC AIR RAID SHELTERS AT WOKINGHAM

The Town council has forwarded us the following information regarding Public Air Raid Shelters which have been provided.

Our readers should cut this out from the paper and keep it handy for use in emergency.

Public Air Raid Shelters have been provided in the following positions:-

BROAD STREET, adjoining the Post Office. Above ground shelter for 50 persons.

PEACH STREET, adjoining the Welcome Inn. Above ground shelter for 50 persons.

DENMARK STREET, entrance adjoining Hammertons, Basement shelter for 90 persons

DENMARK STREET, opposite the Clinic. Underground shelter for 30 persons.

ROSE STREET, entrance adjoining the Evacuees' Rest Room. Above ground shelter for 50 persons.

LONDON ROAD, adjoining Richardson and Starr's Garage. Above ground shelter for 50 persons.

GOODCHILD ROAD. PLAYING FIELD, entrance opposite Wescott Road School. Above ground shelter for 50 persons.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY STATION YARD, Above ground shelter for 50 persons, (not yet completed).

The shelters are provided for the use of persons in the streets, when Air Raid warning is given and who are unable to return home quickly.

Persons living in nearby houses should NOT leave their homes to enter the shelters.

Sat 21st Sept

SCRAP METAL

A further consignment of scrap metal from the dump at Embrook has been despatched by Mr. Barrett, of Messrs. Froud and Barrett, of Embrook, and 24s. has been handed to the Red Cross Fund.

GOOD RESULTS

The "ABC Patrons and Staff Hurricane and Spitfire Fund," which was opened recently at the Ritz Cinema, Wokingham, and the Regal Cinema, Bracknell, has resulted in the following amounts being raised: Wokingham, £62 3s. 6d.; Bracknell, £21 19s. 11d.

LADIES' BOWLING

Great interest was shown at the Ladies' Bowling Club, Wokingham, on Wednesday afternoon, when competitions were held in aid of Spitfire Funds. The sum of £7 was raised. Members subscribed towards the many prizes and, in addition, gifts were received from Mrs Bennett, Mr. Beard and Mr. Exton. Flowers were given by Mrs. Townsend. The president, Mrs. Thorpe, distributed the prizes. The winners were: Mrs. Sears and Miss Goodchild, score 29; Mrs. Fry and Mrs. Butcher, 27; Miss Pither and Mrs Townsend, 16; Mrs. Boyd and Miss Scragg, 14; Mrs. Farr and Mrs Goodchild, 13.

IN HOSPITAL

Mr. and Mrs. William Sear, of 14, Barkham Road, Wokingham, have received information that their eldest son, William Sear, Yeoman of Signals, is in hospital. He is progressing favourably and hopes to be home soon. Mr. Sear, who is 28, is a well-known native of Wokingham. Joining the Navy as a lad of 16 years, he commenced as a signaller at 18, and has done many years of foreign service. He did 13 trips to Dunkirk at the evacuation. He was on H.M.S. Esk (destroyer) when she was sunk, receiving injuries to his knee and back. Presumably he was blown into the water and later picked up. He had the misfortune of losing all his possessions, including the cigarette case presented to his mother on his behalf, by the Mayor at Wokingham Town Hall on August 14th this year.

Fri 27th Sept.

THE BLACK-OUT

Guidance for Householders

It is absolutely essential that the black-out should be 100 per cent' efficient at all times. The lengthening of the hours of darkness into the evening increases the danger of light being revealed.

Householders must discipline themselves to take no risks with their lights. The chief rules are:-

- (1) See that blinds and curtains fit properly,
- (2) Blacken the edges of any windows where there is an insufficient overlap of blinds or curtains,
- (3) If the window is open, see that curtains cannot blow open in a sudden gust of wind,
- (4) On particularly dark evenings do not expose lights even if it is not legally black-out time,
- (5) Remove electric light bulbs or gas mantles from any room which has no efficient black-out,
- (6) Always put out your hall or kitchen light when opening the front or back door,
- (7) If you are awakened during the night do not switch on your bedroom light until you are sure your curtains have not blown open; it is better not to use the bedside switch which you might turn on as a habit.

REMOVAL OF CENTRAL OFFICE

For reasons of economy, the Hon. Mrs. Corfield is moving her Central Office and Shop for the County Hospital Supply Depot to her house in Glebelands Road, Wokingham. The work will be carried out exactly as formerly, and all who wish to make enquiries or to hear about the work, will be welcomed. After September 30th, please address all letters and parcels to Tith Barn, Wokingham.

Sat 30th Nov

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. W.B. MARTIN Wokingham Fire Brigade's Chief Officer

Few men in Berkshire can claim such a lengthy and unbroken period of voluntary public service as Mr. Weston B. Martin, who, this year completes 50 years as a member of Wokingham Fire Brigade. Mr. Martin has been chief officer of the brigade for the past 13 years, and, under his leadership, the fire-fighting service of the town has grown in strength and efficiency in a remarkable manner.

At the age of 71 Mr. Martin shows the enthusiasm and activity of a man in his twenties, and his rapidity in answering calls at all hours and in all weathers is an example to every man in the brigade. The additional difficulties and responsibilities thrown on his shoulders by wartime conditions have been met in the manner one would expect of a man with Mr. Martin's determination, and the town is happy in the knowledge that in all branches of its work the brigade is qualified and ready.

So wide is this recognition, that an almost unprecedented step has been taken. The Mayor, Cllr. E.W. Reeves, has prepared a circular letter, which is being distributed all over the borough. Headed "Testimonial to Mr. W.B. Martin," the context is as follows:

"The Wokingham Town Council have had under consideration the outstanding services voluntary rendered to the town and district by Mr. Weston B. Martin, Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade, who has been a member of the Brigade for the past 50 years.....Mr. Martin has shouldered heavy responsibility and devoted a great deal of time to the work of the brigade, and I am sure that you will agree that his record sets a high example of voluntary service and devotion to public duty. The council have come to the conclusion that something should be done to mark his 50 years' service and have decided to open a subscription list for the borough and surrounding district, with a view to making Mr. Martin a suitable presentation."

The circular goes on to appeal for subscriptions, and it states that the list will be closed on December 7th. Subscriptions, it adds, should be sent to the Town Clerk at the Town Hall, Wokingham. A representative of this paper, inquiring at the Town Hall this week, was told that there has already been a very gratifying response to the appeal. It has not yet been finally decided what form the presentation will take.

Sat 7th Dec

W.E.A.

"The Roman Empire" was the subject of the lecture at Wokingham on Wednesday by Mr. W.J. Souch, B.Sc., F.R.G.S.

MAYORESS'S APPEAL

Mrs. Reeves appeals for warm clothing, boots, gloves, overcoats, etc., for evacuees and school children of poor parents. The Mayoress has many offers from helpers ready to alter clothes. Goods can be sent to the W.V.S. Depot, 54, Denmark Street on

Wednesday afternoons or Saturday mornings, or the Town Hall, or they can be collected.

APPEAL FOR BINOCULARS

The Mayor of Wokingham has appealed to the people of Wokingham and district to "Put Their Binoculars on Active Service." Any optician, he writes, will tell them how to do it. There are many people who possess field glasses, but whether their binoculars are in use or whether they have been put away for the duration, it is the patriotic duty of every owner to offer them to the Government here and now,

ACCIDENT

A serious accident occurred on Saturday, about mid-day, near The Rifle Volunteer, Embrook, when a pedal cyclist, in crossing the road, collided with an oncoming Army motor-cyclist. Mrs. F.C. Heelas, of The Mill House, Embrook, who was standing nearby speaking to a friend, was involved in the smash. Dr. Piggott and Dr. Rose were called, and the ambulance conveyed Mrs. Heelas to a Reading nursing home, suffering from severe head injuries and compound fractures of both ankles.

MILITARY NEWS

Driver C.H. Rogers, R.E. 16. Langborough Road, Wokingham, who was previously reported missing, is now reported killed on May 20th at Tallas Road, Le Paré.

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Sat 25th Jan

WOKINGHAM FIRE CHIEF HONOURED 50 Years With The Brigade CHEQUE PRESENTED BY MAYOR

In recognition with his association with the Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade for half-a-century, Mr. Weston B. Martin, chief officer of the brigade, was presented in the Wokingham Council Chamber on Thursday with a wallet containing a cheque for £100, the amount subscribed, together with an album containing the names of the subscribers. The presentation was made at a meeting of the Town Council by the Mayor.

The Mayor pointed out that this was another unique record for Wokingham. In Wokingham, with its healthy situation, it was natural that residents should live to a ripe age, and as they had been always favoured with a spirit of voluntary service in the town, they had had and were still making some very good records. In the Town Council they had several members with long periods of service. He would mention one only—that of Ald. P. Sale, who had served on the council for over 43 years. Captain Martin had served the Wokingham Fire Brigade for over 50 years.

"Conditions today," continued the Mayor, "allow us to appreciate a little more than in peace time this wonderful service. Many of you know the strain of always having to be as ready as possible. Captain Martin has been doing this for fifty years never knowing when the bell would ring to call him to undertake the saving of life and prevention of damage. Every night for fifty years Captain Martin has had to make sure his fireman's equipment is ready. I need not mention the efficiency of the Wokingham Brigade because its reputation has been known and its efficiency appreciated for many years. Wokingham can never repay Captain Martin and the other members of the brigade for their services because by their voluntary service they have saved the town thousands of pounds."

ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE

The Mayor went on to say that the council felt sure there were many outside that body who desired to show their appreciation of the service given by Captain Martin. The response made in these difficult days was a further proof of that. The name of Martin had meant much to Wokingham. Mr. Martin's uncle, Cllr. T.B. Martin, served on the council and was Mayor in 1888. Mr. Martin's brother, Ald. Martin, joined the council in 1902, was Mayor on four occasions, and was still active and valued member of the council. Another brother, Chief Engineer Martin, had been with the chief officer in the fire brigade for many years. Captain Martin himself had been justly recognised by his selection as chief officer.

Concluding the Mayor mentioned that the wallet, which was suitably inscribed, was decorated with the crest of the borough. He paid tribute to the way in which Mrs. Martin had contributed to her husband's success. Cllr. Reeves also presented to Mr. Martin, on behalf of the National Fire Brigades Association, a medal with bars indicating the completion of fifty years' service.

Chief Officer Martin, acknowledging the gifts and thanking the Mayor for his complimentary references, said he hoped he might for long have health and strength to continue to discharge the duties he had undertaken as chief officer of the Wokingham Fire Brigade, of which he was very proud. In a lively and reminiscent speech he mentioned how on one occasion many years ago when two horses were retained for pulling the fire manual, it was discovered on an alarm of fire being given, that one of the horses had been let out to an undertaker. It was Mr. Martin's duty to unhitch the horse from the hearse at the earliest opportunity. Fortunately the fire was a small one, and the owner of the premises seemed quite satisfied with the brigade, for he complimented them upon their smart turn-out. Later, when the brigade acquired a steam fire-engine two fire brigade horses were brought from London, and Mr. Martin described how on one journey these horses dragged the engine into a ditch. In 1937 the brigade found themselves in need of new equipment. They appealed for £1,000, and within ten months £1,200 was subscribed. They bought a new machine, and that machine and its crew had proved their efficiency before and during the present war.

Sat 1st Feb.

WAR WEAPONS WEEK

The dates for the proposed War Weapons Week in Wokingham and the Rural District are March 22nd—29th. An inaugural meeting is to be held in the Town Hall on Thursday, February 6th, at 2.30.

A NOTABLE RECORD

About a year ago we mentioned that the goal of the Wokingham War Savings Committee was £150,000. They have now, in a little over a year, reached the quarter million mark (£250,000). The committee are naturally proud of this result, which has been achieved by the Borough of Wokingham only. The hon. secretary of the committee is Miss M. Greenfield, of "Lockton."

Fri 7th Feb

DEATH OF MR. THOMAS B. PITHER

Funeral at Wokingham

It is with regret that we have to announce the death after a long illness, of Mr. Thomas Ballard Pither, which took place at his residence in Broad Street, Wokingham January 27th.

Mr. Pither was for many years in business as a butcher, in Broad Street, but due to ill health he was obliged to retire some time ago. He was a keen bowler being a member of the Bracknell Bowling Club. He was an honorary member of the Cricket Club of Wokingham. His wife, three daughters and two sons survive him.

The funeral took place on Thursday at St. Paul's Church, The rector, the Rev. H. Scott officiating at the service.

Sat 8th Feb

WOKINGHAM WAR WEAPONS WEEK

Aim To Raise £50,000

Wokingham Borough and Rural District combining in a War Weapons Week to be held between March 22nd and 29th, aim at raising £50,000. This was stated at an inaugural meeting, held in Wokingham Town Hall on Thursday, under the chairmanship of the Mayor (Cllr. E.W. Reeves). The Mayor said the figure might appear high but he had no doubt that Wokingham would rise to the occasion. It was proposed to earmark the money for two bomber aircraft costing £20,000 and two fighters, costing £5,000 each.

Dealing with national savings in the district he said Wokingham borough had already passed the quarter million mark. There were thirty-four savings group in the borough and sixty-one in the rural district, and it was proposed in future to include the district's total in the borough indicator at the Town Hall. "Everyone must make as great an effort as possible," he said.

An executive committee of forty-five was set up, with Mr. S. Lawrence as hon. campaign secretary. The first meeting will be held at Wokingham Town Hall at 5 p.m. on Tuesday.

The Assistant Regional Commissioner of the South Region National Savings Committee, Mr. W. Green, said, "We have to get our saving and lending level nearer to the spending level, and a War Weapons Week is a popular way of getting that done."

Sat 1st March

OBITUARY MR. FRANK TALBOT

The late Mr. Frank Talbot (31), the eldest son of Mr. J. Talbot of 24, Howard Road, Wokingham, and the late Mrs. Talbot, attended the Palmer and St. Paul's Schools and was employed as a gardener by Miss Ellison for a number of years. Latterly he was in the service of Mrs. L. Grahame-Smith, Sindlesham House.

VISITING TROOPS THANKS

We have received the following letter from the Mayor of Wokingham:--You may remember that you allowed me to make an appeal to your traders a few weeks since on behalf of our visiting troops. I feel, therefore, your readers will be interested in the attached letter:--

Dear Mr. Mayor,

Firstly I wish to thank you on behalf of the officers and other ranks of the battalion for taking up the appeal to the inhabitants of Wokingham for pianos, gramophones, wireless sets, books, etc. Secondly I wish to thank the donors who so generously came forward and answered the appeal. Will you please convey to them our thanks and appreciation? The number of donors make it impossible for me to thank them individually. In conclusion, I add that we are sorry to leave Wokingham,

where we have been happy and made welcome. We all thank our friends in this town for their hospitality.

Yours faithfully,

R.E.A. Jones, Major, for Lt.-Colonel commanding.

May I also take this opportunity of expressing my thanks, because the appeal was certainly answered in a magnificent manner.

WAR WEAPONS WEEK

In connection with Wokingham's War Weapons Week, a grand parade has been arranged to take place on Sunday, March 23rd, commencing at 2p.m. Amongst those taking part will be Army and Air Force units, bands, Civil defence units, Home Guard.

Fifteen local shops have agreed to loan their windows for some exceptionally good exhibits during the week. Special competitions are to be arranged for school children in the borough and rural district. Savings Certificates given by Ald. Barrett and Mr. E.E. Summers will be the prizes.

Two whist drives, arranged by Mrs. Townsend, are to be held in the Town Hall on Wednesday, March 26th. Some of the surrounding villages are making arrangements to hold whist drives. The indicator on the Town Hall will show daily the exact amount invested. A War Weapons film will be shown at the Ritz Cinema.

The Mayor is to give a Savings Certificate to every baby born in the borough during the week, and Ald. G. Ford, chairman R.D.C., will deposit ten shillings in the Post Office Savings Bank for every baby born in the rural district that week.

Sat 8th March

"RETREAT"

The Military Band and Drums will beat "Retreat" in Broad Street, Wokingham, opposite Montague House, on Wednesday at 5 p.m.

W.E.A.

Mr. W.J. Souch, B.Sc., F.R.G.S. gave the last of his series of lectures on Monday, the subject being "The First English Colonies."

BIBLE SOCIETY

In connection with the British and Foreign Bible Society the annual meeting of the Wokingham branch was held in All Saints Church, when the address was given by the Right Rev. Bishop Wright.

DIED THROUGH ENEMY ACTION

The death has occurred of W.J. Gale through enemy action. He was the second son of Mrs. Gale and the late Mr. W.J. Gale, of Heatherside, Sandhurst Road, Wokingham. He went to Newmarket 22 years ago with Bert Lines, and was familiarly known on the turf as Sloper.

THE LATE MR. E. HOBBS

Mr. Edward Hobbs, of The Lodge, Holme Grange, Wokingham, who has died, was for many years in the employ of the Hon. Mrs. Weston as butler. The funeral took place at All Saints', the rector officiating. The mourners were: The widow, Mrs

Seward (sister), Mrs. Newcombe (sister-in-law), Mrs. Alborough. The Hon. Mrs. Weston also attended.

THE LATE MR. C. JONES

Mr. Charles Jones, who has died at his home in Mount Pleasant, Wokingham, aged 65, had been in the employ of Messrs. Drake and Mount for 40 years. The funeral took place at St. Paul's, Father Carlin officiating. The mourners were: The widow, Mr. T. Jones (brother), Mrs. Stilton, Mrs. Jones (sisters-in-law), Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Brown (nieces), Mrs. Hales, Mr. Sadler.

BELL RINGER'S DEATH

The death has occurred of Mr. Albert Hill of 1, Carey Road, Wokingham, aged 83. He was the oldest trustee of the New Royal Forest Lodge of Oddfellows, and was also one of the oldest bell-ringers in the district. The funeral took place at All Saints', the Rev. O'Brien Hamilton officiating. The mourners were: Mrs. Shrive, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Wardle, Mrs. Hawkins (nieces), Mr. and Mrs. Watts.

Sat 15th March

FOOD CONTROL COMMITTEE

At the meeting of the Food Control Committee, held on Monday in the Council Chamber, with Mr. George Ford as chairman, the Food Executive Officer, Mr. Geoffrey Heath, in presenting his report, informed the committee that since the last meeting the third issue of ration books had been made, and the number issued to date was 36,352. This figure was approximately 6,000 in excess of the number issued in July, 1940. Valuable help was again rendered by ladies and gentlemen, who, once more volunteered their services for the work. The number of permits granted under the National Milk Scheme for the quarter, October 1st to December 31st, 1940, was as follows: For milk at the reduced price of 2d. Per pint, 1,756; for milk supplied free, 661; transfer permits, ie, from other areas, 200; dried milk, 10—total, 2,627. The previous quarter's return showed 1,304 applications; therefore the number of permit holders had doubled during the last quarter. Replying to a question asked by a member of the committee as to whether there would be any sugar for jam this year, Mr. Heath said that up to the present he had not been led to believe that there would be any.

Sat 22nd March

WAR WEAPONS WEEK FOR WOKINGHAM

Aim To Raise £75,000

MAYOR TO PURCHASE FIRST SAVINGS CERTIFICATE

The Mayor of Wokingham (Cllr. E.W. Reeves) opens Wokingham's War Weapons Week today (Saturday) by walking into the Post Office at 8.30 a.m. to purchase the first Savings Certificate. The week has already had a splendid send-off, one tradesman having promised a gift of £500 to the treasury during the period.

A Full Programme Arranged

Aiming at raising £75,000 to purchase three bombing aircraft and three fighters, the organisers, nevertheless, hope to exceed that figure by no less than £1,000. A full programme for the town and district has been arranged.

In a special message, Sir Kingsley Wood, Chancellor of the Exchequer, sent his warmest good wishes for the success of the Week and expressed confidence in the result.

MESSAGE FROM SIR KINGSLEY WOOD

When the inaugural meeting was held some weeks ago it was decided to aim at £50,000, but the quick public response soon made it evident that a higher figure could safely be fixed. Under the chairmanship of the Mayor, and with Mr. S. Lawrence as hon. Campaign secretary, the committee has planned an interesting programme. On Sunday there will be a procession through the streets of Wokingham, starting in rectory Road at 3 p.m. The salute will be taken in the Market Place by Mr. A. T. Loyd, Lord Lieut. of Berkshire. The procession will include Army and Air Force units, civil defence organisations, Home Guard detachments, fire brigades and bands.

On Monday there will be whist drives held under the auspices of Wokingham Emergency Hospital and Winnersh British Legion, both starting at 7.30 p.m., and a rummage sale at 2.45 p.m. at Woodley Village Hall. At Church House, Finchhampstead, on Tuesday, from 4 p.m. to 7p.m., there will be a first-aid post demonstration. There will be a whist drive at Winnersh and a military band concert at Wokingham Town Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday's arrangements include a football match between Wokingham Juniors and Metalair Sports Club at Wokingham, the Mayor kicking-off at 6 p.m. Whist drives will be held in the evening at Woodley, Barkham and Twyford, and there will be an additional drive at Woodley in the afternoon. On Friday there will be whist drives in the evening at Woodley and Hurst, the latter being followed by a dance. A football match will be held on Woodley Recreation Ground at 5.30 p.m. today (Sat), and there will be an entertainment by Earley Players in the New Hall at 7.30 p.m. There will also be a concert by children at the Senior School, Loddon Bridge Road, Woodley.

All the week there will be a display of photographs, entitled "The Air Arm of Britain," in the vestibule of the Ritz Cinema.

A telegram received from Sir Kingsley Wood on Thursday stated: "I send you my warmest good wishes for the success of the Wokingham War Weapons Week. The fine result of the first year of the war savings campaign is the best encouragement we can possibly have to redouble our efforts to meet the mountainous cost of the war. It is becoming increasingly clear that all of us are duty bound to spend as little and lend as much to the nation as we possibly can. Selfish spending today can only weaken our war efforts. Civic effort is of outstanding value in this vital campaign, and I am sure that the citizens of Wokingham will do their utmost during their War Weapons Week to reach a total of which they may be justly proud."

In a special message given to a representative of this paper the Mayor said, "War Weapons week is a call for practical patriotism, and I am confident that the people of Wokingham will answer that call with the same eagerness and enthusiasm that they have shown on other occasions in the past. We have set ourselves a distant goal, but we will get there. It is up to every man, woman and child to do his or her bit to make the week a success.

£30,000 RAISED IN 1918

The last time a War Weapons Week was held at Wokingham was almost 23 years ago—in June 1918—when a total of £30,000 was raised. On that occasion the money was earmarked for a gun. The secretary of that week was Mr. (now Alderman) A.E. Priest, who is actively associating himself with the present effort. The 1918 week had the object of raising £20,000, but that total was reached on the day before the last. The daily totals were: Monday, £7,500; Tuesday, £12,000; Wednesday, £14,500; Thursday, ££17,500; Friday, £20,000; Saturday, ££30,280. It will be interesting to compare these totals with the figures realised in the present week.

As a memento of the 1918 effort an inscribed shell has stood ever since near the entrance to the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Wokingham. The suggestion has been made that that shell which is of large proportions, should be handed back to the nation to be used against the country which was responsible for the last war as well as for this. It is a suggestion which merits the attention of the Town Council.

Sat 29th March

WAR WEAPONS WEEK
Wokingham Aim To Raise £75,000
AN IMPRESSIVE PARADE

With a procession claimed by many onlookers to be the finest of its kind yet held in the county, Wokingham's town and rural district War Weapons Week really got into its stride on Sunday. The enthusiasm of participants and spectators was all the greater because of the knowledge that even by that time something like three-quarters of the total sum aimed at had already been realised.

The organisers set themselves to reach a figure of £75,000 during the current week for the purchase of three bombing aircraft and three fighters. When the procession made its way past the Town Hall it passed beneath a large notice, proclaiming that no less than £58,521 had been raised on Saturday, the first day of the Week.

That excellent start did not escape the notice of Mr. A.T. Loyd, Lord Lieut. of Berkshire, who took the salute at the Town Hall. He referred to it in his short address, and he congratulated the people of the town and district on their rapid and patriotic response to the appeal. Also on the platform were the Mayor of Wokingham (Cllr. E.W. Reeves), Mr. George Ford (chairman of Wokingham Rural District Council) and Viscount Caldecote, the Lord Chief Justice. Members of the Town and Rural District Councils were also present, together with the Town Clerk (Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton), and the Clerk to the R.D.C. (Mr. G. Heath).

The procession assembled in Rectory Road and made its way through the principal streets of the town watched by a large number of people. The six bands included those of St. Sebastian and the Royal Merchant Navy School, Bear Wood. Military units and equipment attracted much attention, and particular interest was shown in the Land Army detachment. Dressed in their jerseys and riding breeches, the girls carried rakes over their shoulders as they marched. Others rode in a farm cart. Boys and girls of the Bear Wood school looked smart in their uniforms, and other young people on parade were local Scouts, Guides and Cubs. Members of the Red Cross and St. John organisations were present as representatives of all Civil Defence Units, the men's and women's branches of the British Legion, and the Home Guard.

The Week began with the Mayor buying the first Certificate at Wokingham Post Office on Saturday morning. Brisk business was done at the various selling centres during the day.

THE DAILY TOTALS

The indicator at the Town Hall showed the following daily amounts: Saturday, £63,960; Monday, £19,140 and Tuesday, £23,206, the total on Tuesday night being £106,569. The sum of £10 has been received by the Mayor of Wokingham from an anonymous donor.

The programme of the week included a military band concert in the Town Hall on Tuesday, under the conductorship of Band Sergeant W.S. Connett, and compered by Major C.G. Percy-Hardman. During the week 55 savings groups have been formed.

The proceeds of a football match between the Metalair Sports Club and Wokingham Juniors, at Wokingham on Wednesday amounted to £7 15s., which will be devoted to

the purchase of savings stamps for children of the Wokingham Elementary Schools. No goals were scored.

Two whist drives held in the Town Hall on Wednesday, Mr. P. Fry acting as M.C. Prizes were distributed by the Mayoress.

Other events were held in the district. On Thursday, at the Ritz Cinema, the Mayor made a recruiting appeal for the Home Guard and Civil Defence organisations.

The total realised by Wednesday night was £125, 095.

Sat 5th April

WAR WEAPONS WEEK
Wokingham Raises Over £220, 000
ORIGINAL TARGET TREBLED

The remarkable total of £225,366 raised during Wokingham's War Weapons Week, which ended on Saturday, represents just three times the total originally aimed at. Gratifying as this complete success is, there is one feature of the Week which is even more notable.

At Wescott Elementary School, Wokingham, Mr. Edward E. Browne (head master), the staff and the pupils took War Weapons Week very seriously. They worked together to do their full share in the cause, and the result was that no less than £64 was raised by the school in one week, an average of £2 1s. per head.

The Mayor (Cllr. E.W. Reeves) and the Mayoress paid a special visit to the school on Friday last week, to congratulate everyone on the special effort. The chairman was Ald. P. Sale (chairman of the managers), and the attendance included Mrs. Sale and Cllr. And Mrs. J.E. Thorpe. It was stated that the school saved a total of £320 in 1940. The totals for the first two months of this year being: January, £76; February, £82. Mention was also made of the fact that the school has "adopted" six prisoners of war, and sends each of them 5s. a month.

The proceedings included a cleverly-staged "pageant," not the least interesting item being the enthusiastic "capture of Hitler and Mussolini."

MAYOR'S GRATITUDE

In a letter addressed to this newspaper, the Mayor of Wokingham says: "Although at the time of writing the final result of our War Weapons Week is not to hand, and a further opportunity will be arranged for Mr. G. Ford, chairman of the Rural District Council, and myself to express our thanks to everyone concerned, I feel I must take the earliest opportunity of expressing gratitude for the great help which has been given locally. Mr. S. Lawrence, our campaign secretary, has put into the week an enormous amount of work, and I am sure the success of the arrangements and of the week has, in a large measure, been due to his energy, enthusiasm and efficiency. The parade, which has been described as the best in the county upon which I have had many congratulations, has been the work of Mr. Rands, as chairman, and his Entertainments Committee, and I do offer to all of them my sincere thanks. The Hon. Mrs. Corfield and members of the War Bonds Committee have been most active, and have contributed to a large extent in the total. The manner in which in so short a time everyone was aware of our War Weapons Week is proof of the work of our Publicity Committee, under the chairmanship of Ald Barrett, and the Press agent, Mr. W.E. Hall. The indicator, giving the daily results was in charge of Miss Finch, and I wish to express my best thanks for the able way the total was compiled each day. To all and everyone who helped, and there are many, I would like, at the earliest opportunity, to express my sincere thanks and gratitude.

It is reported that gifts received up to Wednesday amounted to £941 14s. Approximately totals of savings have been reported as follows: County Girls' School, £1,528; Palmer Schools, £702; Forest Road area, £1,571; Earley area, £1,918; Twyford area, £17,215; Farley Hill area, £6,510.

Sat 12th April

ROYAL VISITORS

Their Highnesses, Princess Helena Victoria and Princess Marie Louise, honoured the Hon. Mrs. Corfield by visiting Tithe Barn on Tuesday and inspecting the work of the central office, shop and stores in connection with Hospital Supply Depots in Berkshire. Their Highnesses were very interested in all they saw. Those who work with Mrs. Corfield were presented.

Sat 10th May

GIVE-TAKE SALE

A give-and-take sale was held on Wednesday, at Tithe Barn, by permission of the Hon. Mrs. Corfield, O.B.E. The sum of £35 16s. was raised this being devoted to the funds of the Moral Welfare Association.

PROCEEDS OF RECITAL

The Royal Naval War Amenities Fund have acknowledged receipt of a cheque for £40 15s. 7d. Forwarded by the Right Hon. Lord Caldecote C.B.E., the Lord Chief Justice of England, the proceeds of a recital by Miss Jelly d'Aranyi at Wokingham.

WOKINGHAM MAN MISSING

Mr. and Mrs. J. Ward, of 82, Oxford Road, Wokingham, received news on Monday that the aircraft of which their son, Sgt.-Pilot Leslie A. Ward, R.A.F.V.R., was pilot failed to return to its base. Ward, who was educated at the Palmer Schools and Ranelagh, was a member of the Wokingham Cricket Club, and played football for both Wokingham and Embrook.

Sat 7th June

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

More Hood Victims

Wokingham Man Lost In The Hood

Among those lost in H.M.S. Hood was Anthony B.J. Bamford (19), of Easthampstead Road, Wokingham. Mr. Bamford was educated at Palmer School, Wokingham, and then at Ranelagh School, Bracknell, having won a scholarship. He joined the Royal Navy at 16; was trained at Portsmouth on the St. Vincent, subsequently joining the Hood after brilliantly passing every examination. Becoming an A.B. at 18 Mr. Bamford served in the Mediterranean and was present when units of our Navy sank Italian warships in Taranto harbour. His father fought in these same waters twenty years ago.

DEATH OF EX-A.R.P. CHIEF

The death occurred on Sunday of Captain E. Hamilton-Bate, R.N. (retired), of 3, Crescent Road, Wokingham. Captain Hamilton Bate was A.R.P. Controller for the Borough of Wokingham in succession to Captain A.S.C. Trench, and he retired from that office for reasons of health in April this year. At the meeting of Wokingham Town Council on Thursday, the Mayor spoke of Captain Hamilton-Bate's services for

the town, and, on his suggestion, the council agreed to send to the relatives a message of condolence.

Sat 21st June

HUT ERECTED AT COST OF £1,800

As the result of the success of a Church Army canteen marquee for the Forces at Wokingham, a permanent "Pilgrim Trust" hut has been erected on the same site, and was opened by Lord Daryngton on Saturday. The hut, which was built by the Church Army at a cost of £1,800, includes a small chapel, a canteen, stage, writing tables, games and a piano.

At the opening ceremony the Mayor of Wokingham (Cllr. E.W. Reeves) said that Wokingham was most grateful to the Church Army for its work in the district. The popularity of the marquee that was previously used was an indication that the hut would be well patronised. The proceeds of the Wokingham Violet Day collection, which was being held on that day, would be contributed towards the cost of the hut. "I feel that after the war this building could be a place round which the social activities of those who have returned from the Forces could centre," he said.

Lord Daryngton summarised the national work of the Church Army, of which he is president, and declared the canteen open, after which the Rev. G. Kenworthy, rector of All Saints', Wokingham, dedicated the chapel.

Tea was served from the canteen, during which selections were given by a military band.

Fri 8th Aug

DEATH AND FUNERAL OF MR. HENRY BOWYER A LOSS TO WOKINGHAM AND DISTRICT

After 7 months illness at his home at Ashridge Farm, Wokingham, Mr. Henry Bowyer one of Wokingham's, and indeed Berkshire's, best known and most popular farming personalities passed peacefully away, on July 30th. His funeral, which took place at All Saints', Wokingham was attended by some 400 people including representatives from the many institutions with which he was connected or supported. Floral tributes totalled 131.

It was in 1892 that the late Mr. Henry Bowyer commenced farming at Ashridge as Bailiff and continued in this position for 14 years. He then accepted the offer from his employer to take the farm over on his own account. This was a fine tribute to a good servant and farmer. For another 35 years he successfully farmed Ashridge thus at the time of his death he had been connected with it for nearly 50 years. A member of the Wokingham and District Agricultural Association he was an expert grower of Root crops and specialised in Mangolds for which he won numerous prizes. As a judge his services were much in demand by agricultural show societies. In addition to farming his business interest extended to the successful businesses carried on under the name of Henry Bowyer and Son at Peach Street, Wokingham and at High Street, Camberley.

The late Henry Bowyer and Ashridge Farm will live long in the memory of the Sporting community for Ashridge has been the venue of upwards of 30 Point to Point Race meetings, hundreds of Hunt meetings, numerous shows and Fetes. At all these he dispensed his hospitality with the generosity for which he was noted. Among the thousands entertained at Ashridge, Royalty are included, H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester visited the Farm on several occasions. A personal letter from His Royal highness was a proud possession of the late Henry Bowyer. It can be truly said of him

that he was happiest when he was helping others for he gave generously to all deserving causes. His genial personality will be greatly missed by his many friends.

His funeral was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. Gordon Kenworthy and the hymns, "How Sweet the name of Jesus sounds" and "Abide with Me" were sung and Psalm XC. Mr. Arthur Yould presided at the organ.

On Sunday during the morning service the Rector spoke of the great interest for the deceased showed in the parish, his kindness to those with whom he came into contact, and expressed his sympathy of the congregation towards his relatives.

As the funeral cortege entered the Church the farm and shop staff lined the Church path; these being Messrs. G. Hale, C. Marshall, S. Stanley, A. Stanley, L. Lawrence G. Stroud, W. Lee.

(List of mourners)

Sat 16th Aug

FRUIT PRESERVATION

Wokingham's Fruit Preservation Centre opened on Friday evening at Wescott Road School. The school will be open to receive fruit from 4.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. every Friday, and wholesale prices will be given for apples, plums, blackberries, etc., and wild fruit.

Sat 13th Sept

FOR THE RED CROSS

Six children—Madge Roots, Marjorie Tilbury, Christabel Tilbury, Annie Martin, Ruby Townsend and Joyce Townsend—have handed to the Mayor the sum of 10s. they have collected.

WAR COMMENTARY

On Wednesday the first of a series of Ministry of Information War Commentaries by Mr. Vivian Carter, was given at the Town Hall. The Mayor presided. Mr. Carter said Hitler's New Order was getting a little dog-eared now. Even his own followers were beginning to get a little dubious of its worth. Germans were beginning to ask when the New Order was coming.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

The amount of National Savings raised during August was £17, 294. New groups are being formed in the borough and in the rural district, and a house-to-house canvas is being conducted in the borough. A further list of groups in the rural district, with their aims and objects, is appended: "Hawkins" (Woodley), aim £50, object 1 Bren gun (from September 1st to 30th), this group from March 3rd to August 28th has collected £329 17s. 6d.; Wokingham Central, £150, 1 machine gun and 1 Bren gun (September 1st—November 30th); Wokingham R.D.C., £50, 1 Bren gun (September 1st—30th); Shinfield W.I., £80, 1 Bren gun, 1 Tommy gun (July 1st—September 30th); "West Drive," Woodley, £40, 1 parachute (August 30th—September 20th); "Park View," Twyford, £18, heavy artillery shell (September 1st—30th).

Sat 1st Nov

"SALUTE TO THE SOVIET"

This film was shown at the Ritz Cinema last week and £70 was raised in aid of the Russian Red Cross in collections taken after each performance.

FIRE FIGHTERS ENROL

Many firefighters have been enrolling during the week at the Town Hall, and more are wanted, to safeguard buildings in Wokingham. The fire-fighters will be detailed under their own air raid warden.

WEA LECTURE

Continuing his series of lectures for the W.E.A. on "Italy and the Italian People," at the Town Hall last Monday, Mr. A.G. Macrial's subject was, "Renaissance—St. Francis of Assisi."

WOMEN'S SECTION BRITISH LEGION

The annual meeting of the Women's British Legion, Wokingham was held on October 22nd at "Mertonford," by permission of Col. And Mrs. Anderson. It was stated that 137 garments had been dispatched to the R.A.F. Comforts Fund, 46 to the Royal Navy Depot, 111 to the Army Comforts Fund, Reading, 59 to the Berks County Collecting Depot, and 56 to the local Home Guard, making a total of 409 garments. Mrs. Eustace, organiser with Mr. A Andrews of Poppy Day collection, asked for helpers for collecting on Poppy Day. The officers and committee were re-elected.

TENNIS FOR RED CROSS

Several famous tennis players took part in tennis matches in aid of Red Cross, held at the En Tout Cas Courts. Miss Jean Nicholl, the England player, beat Miss Audrey Cardinal, of Wimbledon and Middlesex, 6—4 in the first set. The game was stopped when Miss Cardinal fell on the court in the second set. The second match between Derrick Barton, Essex junior triples champion, and Leslie Cator, Essex county and a Wimbledon player, thrilled the crowd, Barton winning 6—3, 5—7, 6—2. Miss Cardinal, in spite of her fall, completed the four players in the mixed doubles. Although the game was extremely hard fought Miss Jean Nicholl and Mr. Derrick won 6—2, 6—4. The sum of £21 10s. 6d. was handed to the Hospital Supplies Depot of the Berkshire branch of the Red Cross, consisting of £12 9s. 6d. from a collection, and £9 1s. from a mock auction and a draw held between the matches. The Mayor thanked all those who had assisted, especially the proprietors of the courts, Mr. A. Pollecutt and Mr. E. Fidler.

Sat 8th Nov

WAR SAVINGS

£17,217 has been raised in the last four weeks for War Savings.

PRESUMED KILLED

Pilot Officer William Kenneth Manifold, R.A.F., aged 23, who was the assistant sanitary inspector of the Wokingham R.D.C. before 1937, and the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Manifold, of Clare Court, Cottage, Wokingham, has been reported missing, presumed killed.

WOKINGHAM FIRE GUARDS

"The business area of Wokingham. Near the Town Hall, is the best protected area from the point of view of Fire Guards," said Mr. A.H.L. Beale, local A.R.P. Controller to our representative, commenting on the Fire Guard registration, which began last week.

TOWN COUNCIL AND ALLOTMENTS

The report of the General Purposes Committee, which was adopted at a meeting of the Wokingham Town Council on Thursday, recommended that negotiations should be made to obtain the Carnival Field, Wokingham, to be used for allotments. An amendment, proposed by Ald. F.J Barrett that two strips of land in Gipsy Lane should be purchased on account of the possible expenses which would be incurred by acquiring the Carnival Field was defeated. The committee recommended that the proposed British Restaurant should accommodate 200 people.

Sat 15th Nov

THE QUEEN AT WOKINGHAM

Work of Supply Depot Seen

Her Majesty the Queen paid a visit on Thursday to the Berkshire Hospital Supply Depot at Tithe Barn, Wokingham the residence of the Hon. Mrs. Corfield. Her Majesty was received by Mrs. Corfield who proceeded to make a number of presentations. These included the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham (Cllr. And Mrs. E.W. Reeves) Miss Mary Corfield, who is storekeeper and packer at the depot. Miss Alexander (introduced to the Queen as of Scots birth), the assistant storekeeper and packer, Lt.-Gen. P. Molloy, hon. Treasurer, Miss Curl, secretary, Miss Ward and Miss Hill, packers, Mrs. Braby, Mrs. J. Simmonds, Mrs. D.E. Lane and Miss Deane (members of the Mothers' Union, who work for the depot), Mrs. Butcher, Mrs. Edmonds and Mrs. Kimber (members of the Conservative Working Party), Lady Bruce-Gardner (Regional Officer, Central Hospital Supply Depot, Region 6), Mr. C.A. Poole (County Commissioner for the St. John Ambulance), Mrs. C. Eric Palmer (County Director) of the Women's' Voluntary Services) Miss Doris Finch (Assistant County Director, W.V.S.), Mrs. Luddington, Mrs. Shaw and Mrs. Titterington (workers at the depot), Mrs. Harold Watts (whose husband recently conducted an auction sale by which £460 was raised), Lt. Miss Knight and Seconds Muriel Green and Mavis Roberts (2nd Wokingham Girl Guides), and the Misses Beryl May (prefect), Irene Futter and Kathleen Kirby (of the Holt School).

The Queen was attended by the Lady Delia Peel. Her Majesty made a tour of the depot examining clothing and other articles made for the hospitals. She had a chat with everyone whom she met, discussing problems of evacuees with the Mayor, and exhibiting an interest in and a keen knowledge of the work being done by all those associated with the depot. Her Majesty congratulated all those who were organising working parties on behalf of the depot, and she obviously thrilled the representatives of the Holt School and of the Girl Guides by conversing with them. The Queen was shown a map illustrating the wide area for which the depot worked.

At the conclusion of her tour the Queen was presented by Miss Corfield with six bed jackets for her Majesty's own working party. She expressed her delight at the gift, and commented upon the excellence of the workmanship, and particularly the neatness of the finishing

As she was about to leave, the Queen turned to the Hon. Mrs. Corfield and congratulated her on the organisation of the depot. "I have been greatly interested in all I have seen, and I think you are doing magnificent work here."

Children of the Palmer and Luckley Schools who lined the drive, and a large number of residents of the district, loudly cheered as the Royal car departed.

Sat 29th Nov

HOME GUARD DANCE

A dance took place at St. Sebastian's Hall on Friday last week for the Home Guard. It was organised by Number 4 Platoon, and the proceeds were in aid of the new site for the Wokingham Ambulance Station.

PAYMENTS TO CHARITY

Local cinemas have provided the following sums of money to charity from Sunday cinema shows:--Royal Berkshire Hospital, £75; Wokingham Orthopaedic Clinic, £30; the Mayor's Fund, £15; Berkshire Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society, £10; Berkshire County Probation Fund, £5; All Saints' District Nursing Association, £7 10s.; St. Paul's District Nursing Association, £7 10s.

DEATH OF MR. F.E. CHAPMAN

Mr. F.E. Chapman, of Holme Rayles, Wokingham, passed away on Thursday. The father of A.P.F. Chapman, the England, Kent and Berkshire cricketer, he had a long and honourable career in the scholastic profession, retiring to Wokingham, though taking temporary masterships. He served on the Berks Education Committee for a long period, and since 1922 has been a manager of Palmer Schools, Wokingham. He played much representative cricket and football, and also hockey. The funeral will take place at All Saints', Wokingham, today (Saturday) at 2.30p.m.

AWARD OF THE D.F.M.

The king has approved the award of the Distinguished Flying Medal to Flight Sergt. Henry George Matthews, 236 Squadron, in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations. Sergt. Matthews, whose home is at "Hillboro", Soldier's Rise, Wokingham, was severely wounded in the left shoulder during combat with two Heinkels. He continued to man his turret, and during the return flight he was continuously in radio communication with his base. In this way he contributed largely to the safe return of his aircraft.

He was in the grocery trade before he enlisted in June 1939, as a wireless operator, and played for the Crowthorne Wednesday F.C. He was educated at the Palmer School.

Fri 12th Dec

WOKINGHAM AND DISTRICT WARSHIPS WEEK

H.M.S. GARTH

A £400,000 TARGET

Should Wargrave Adopt a Rowing Boat?

Wokingham people will be interested to learn that the town has been allotted the Destroyer H.M.S. Garth for Warships Week and if the amount aimed at --£400,000-- is raised, the town and district will be given the honour of adopting the destroyer. Arrangements have been made with the co-operation of the Admiralty, for each area conducting a "week" to adopt a ship, the cost of which is equivalent to the target aimed at, and in order to commemorate this association, the Admiralty will present a replica of the ship's badge, together with a history of the ship's name for permanent exhibition in the Town Hall or Council Offices of the adopting area. It is suggested that the ship adopted should be presented by the area with a suitable plaque to be fixed on the quarterdeck of the ship.

At a meeting of the main Committee of the Wokingham Warships Campaign held in the Town Hall on Tuesday, the Mayor (Councillor E. W. Reeves) said that Wokingham had now decided to adopt a destroyer of the Hunt class. It was very

appropriately named the "Garth," which had many local associations, and its adoption would mean raising, the objective to £400,000.

Mr. Reeves also read a letter from the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, in which he said he was interested to hear of our Warship Campaign, and expressed his cordial good wishes. "The Royal Navy have done so much for us, let us do all we can for them."

A letter was also read from Mrs. Howard Palmer, telling of the good work of the Women's Institutes. Fourteen groups in Wokingham Rural area have collected £3,799 11s. 1d. in the last six months.

Referring to the suggestion that the Easthampstead Rural District should hold their week at the same time as Wokingham, Captain J. M. Tasker, Regional Savings Commissioner, said that this friendly rivalry between districts caused great interest and helped both campaigns considerably.

After the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Baxter, had read the minutes of the last meeting, Mr. Briscoe told the meeting that Wargrave feels that it could raise more money if it held its week separately. £30,000 had already been promised if the week was held early in the new year.

The Mayor hoped that Wargrave would reconsider its decision and come in with the rest of the District, while Col. Burnell, the Chairman of the Wokingham Rural District Council, also said that he thought it a great pity Wargrave should be so parochially minded. Small units should throw themselves into an opportunity of this kind. Perhaps the Navy could find a rowing boat for them to adopt if they had a week of this kind. The Wargrave committee eventually decided to reconsider the matter and announce their decision at the next meeting of the main committee.

Capt. Tasker told how the small groups had responded magnificently to the Summer Campaign, and that the Warships Weeks were intended to stimulate interest in small savings and to dovetail the Summer Effort. Large sums are helpful to the campaign but the basis of the campaign was the local groups and the small saver.

The ship Wokingham had been allocated was the destroyer "Garth," and if Wokingham succeeded in raising the money it would receive a replica of the ship's coat of arms, while the arms of the district would be placed on the quarter-deck of the warship. He was sure that this appeal would not fall on deaf ears and that Wokingham would raise the money, and surpass the objective by as much as possible.

Wokingham had originally decided to aim for the price of a Corvette, but as the latest ships of this type cost only £120,000 it was decided to adopt the Destroyer. In these times a high target is desirable. We all realise the need to tighten our belts now that we are up against it, as never before. To pass the target would bring Victory nearer and restore peace.

It was decided not to elect the sub-committees until the outer parishes had appointed their committees, and reported to the next meeting which will be held on Tuesday, December 30th.

Sat 13th Dec

THE POLITICAL UNITY OF ITALY

Last Tuesday Mr. A.G. Macrini, continuing his series of lectures for the W.E.A. at the Town Hall, spoke on the "Political Unity of Italy."

SAVINGS CAMPAIGN

War savings for the week ending November 29th totalled £7,685. Wokingham Central Group has exceeded its target of £130 by raising during September, October,

and November £228; £3,925 has been collected since the group was formed in May, 1940. A group has been formed by the Presentation Convent in Easthampstead Road.

AMBULANCE CAMPAIGN SUCCESSFUL

The campaign launched in Wokingham to raise £600 for a new ambulance station and site has met with great success, more than the required amount being taken by Monday morning. As reported in our last issue £18 was raised from a concert and whist drive held at the Town Hall. On Friday £21 was added from another whist drive at "Glebelands," when a hundred and sixty-four people took part, the chief winners being Messrs. Cook, J.C. Crawle, and W. Hibbess.

On Saturday flag selling and house-to-house collections realised £86 2s. 7½d. The remainder was made up by voluntary contributions from firms and individuals. The total so far received is now £676 12s.

The following articles have been taken from the Reading Mercury and the Wokingham Times

1942 to 1945

NB Articles dated Friday are from The Wokingham Times. Those dated Saturday are from The Reading Mercury.

1942

Sat 3rd Jan

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Last Monday evening troops and their friends were entertained at the Church Army Canteen Hut at Wokingham.

METHODIST CHURCH

A social was held on New Year's Eve at the Methodist Church, followed by a Watch-Night Service at 11.15 p.m.

DR. BARNARDO'S HOMES

Members of the Watchtower Society and Barnardo's Helpers' League collected £4 13s. by carol singing. This with other subscriptions, makes a total of £7 12s. sent to Dr. Barnardo's Homes

HANDEL'S "MESSIAH"

"The Cecilian Singers," rendered Handel's "Messiah" on Saturday at All Saints'. Mr. Arthur Yould was the conductor, and Mr. P.R. Scrivener, F.R.C.O., was at the organ. Soloists were Gwendoline Earl, Elizabeth Hawkins, Elsie Gibson and Marjorie Harris.

WAR SAVINGS

War Savings in the borough amounted to £3,038 for the week ending December 13th. There was a slight increase for the following week (ending December 20th), \$3,246 being saved. A new group, the "Rural District Council Houses Savings Group," has been formed with 29 members as a start.

CHRISTMAS AT THE HOSPITAL

Christmas festivities opened on the Saturday before Christmas at the Emergency Hospital, Barkham Road, with the showing of the film, "Alf's Button Afloat." On Christmas morning each patient received a Christmas card, given by Mrs. Young of Twyford. Morning service in the chapel was conducted by the Rev. P.J.H. Scott and broadcast throughout the building. Before the dinner which consisted of roast pork, roast beef, chicken, beer and Christmas pudding, etc., the Mayor and Mayoress (Mr. and Mrs. Reeves), Ald. W.T. Martin and Mr. G. MacLoughlin toured the various gaily decorated wards. The Mayor and Mayoress presented the children with sixpence each, as did Ald. W.T. Martin. Each child also received a threepenny-piece from Ald. F.J. Barrett. Ald. Martin congratulated the committee on the excellent work they had carried out during the year, and called for a vote of thanks for the excellent dinner served by Miss Heath, the cook, and her staff. He concluded by remarking upon the generosity of Miss Huggins, of Twyford, who had once more forwarded a shilling for each patient. A visit from Santa Claus after tea was made possible the generosity of a local firm.

In the evening a variety concert was given by members of the staff, and on Boxing Night the staff dinner took place in the dining hall, followed by a social evening. The film, "Charlie's Aunt," was shown to an appreciative audience the following evening, and on Monday the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham paid the train fares for a trip by the children to see, "Robinson Crusoe" at the Palace Theatre, Reading. From 8.30 to 12 the same evening an Army dance band provided the music for the staff dance.

Sat 17th Jan

WAR COMMENTARY

Mr. Vivian Carter gave another War Commentary on behalf of the Ministry of Information at the Town Hall on Wednesday.

TWO TEAMS BEATEN

The Wokingham Junior Sports and Social Club won the two matches they played last week against a Ranelagh team 3—1, and against Old Bracknell Wanderers 9—3

IRON RAILINGS

The Wokingham Borough Council have completed their survey of railings in the district. The Borough Surveyor told a representative that if anyone has a query about their iron railings they should communicate with the Borough Surveyor's office, Town Hall, Wokingham.

WARSHIP WEEK

The Publicity Sub-Committee held its first meeting at the Town Hall on January 8th. Ald. Barrett was elected chairman, Miss M. Riddle, hon. Secretary, and Mr. E. Hall publicity agent. The committee has decided to adopt one distinctive poster, which will be displayed throughout the district. Mr. Rutter (Senior School Woodley), Mr. Verrall (Arborfield School) and Mr. Willoughby (Earley School) have been asked to form a sub-committee to arrange competitions for schools. It has been suggested that a standard method of indicating the daily results of the campaign during Warship Week should be adopted in the borough and rural areas:-- war savings for the week ending January 3rd amounted to £3,191.

WASTE PAPER CONTEST

A special campaign has been launched in Wokingham in connection with the January Waste Paper Contest. Boy Scouts and Girl Guides have been asked to canvass all the houses in the area, and the W.V.S. are going to concentrate on the business premises. "What we want the firms to turn out are their ledgers, obsolete records, old journals, etc.," said the Borough Surveyor to a representative. A guarantee of confidence will be given in case of documents of a private nature, and those concerned can see their waste paper disposed of. A loudspeaker van is touring the town, and the Ritz Cinema have been showing a film, "It All Depends On You" throughout this week. At each performance collections of waste paper have been made. There is a display, showing the utilisation of paper in one of Heelas, Sons and Co.'s windows, and in the Market Place there is a container into which waste can be dumped.

Fri 6th Feb

OUR WARSHIP WEEK FEBRUARY 21--28

For the second time the residents of the Borough of Wokingham and the Rural District will shortly be asked to make a supreme effort in support of the War. In March 1941 they surpassed all expectations and lent to the nation the magnificent sum of £225,000 for the purchase of War Weapons. In a few weeks' time they have yet another opportunity of helping their country in its hour of need. We have undertaken to raise between February 21st and 28th a minimum of £400,000, being the cost of a fully equipped Destroyer of the Hunt class. If we succeed we shall have the satisfaction and honour of adopting a fighting ship which has been allocated to us by the Admiralty, and which has been named H.M.S. GARTH thus forging a close link between this neighbourhood as a whole and our gallant Navy, on whose unceasing vigil our food, our munition supplies and our very existence depend. In order to commemorate the association between this district and the "adopted" ship, the Admiralty will present a replica of the ship's badge for permanent exhibition in the Town Hall of Wokingham. Moreover as a further link, a plaque will be placed on the quarter deck of H.M.S. Garth, bearing the familiar stag and oak in gold on a green background, so long associated with Berkshire, together with the Royal Crown, witness -to the fact that Windsor Castle is situate in the County.

Honour indeed but before we can claim it as ours, a tremendous challenge must be met. WE MUST IN FACT, RAISE BETWEEN US IN ONE WEEK THE SUM OF £400,000. Such a task can only be accomplished at the expense of personal sacrifice. While facing this fact, we shall do well to remember two things. First THAT MONEY SAVED AND LENT REMAINS THE PROPERTY OF THE LENDER. Secondly, that our very existence depends on the sacrifice of lives of the men in our Navy and Merchant Navy (900 of the latter are killed every month) and that only by complete subordination of our personal interests to those of the nation can we ensure that the men who are GIVING their all shall be adequately safeguarded in their dangerous duties.

In-asking the House of Commons for a fourth Vote of Credit to cover war expenditure during 1941-42, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, while expressing the opinion that "savings so far achieved, and particularly in small sums had been very impressive, and far greater than many at one time thought likely or possible," called once again upon everyone to "pull his or her weight."

Out of the many present incomes (he said) and particularly OUT OF THE GREATLY INCREASED INCOMES WHICH ARE NOW BEING ENJOYED BY LARGE NUMBERS OF OUR PEOPLE, a 'great deal more can undoubtedly be saved and lent to the State. I have heard it said that perhaps a third of our people are saving on a scale that is fully adequate, that another third are saving on a moderately reasonable scale but might well save more, and that a third are either not saving at all or saving very small sums indeed.

We are confident that the residents of this district will not fail to answer the challenge. Save to the maximum, SAVE TILL IT HURTS, and make our Warship Week a success.

The Securities now available are 2½ per cent. National War Bonds—redeemable 1949-51 (no limit). 3 per cent. Savings Bonds (A)—redeemable 1955-65 (no limit). 3 per cent. Defence Bonds—redeemable 10 years after purchase, at a premium of 1 per cent. (limit £1,000). National Savings Certificates (limit: 500 Units costing £,375).

Fri 27th Feb

WOKINGHAM WARSHIP WEEK OPENS

On Saturday afternoon the Mayor, Councillor E. W. Reeves performed the opening ceremony for Warship Week, by speaking at an auction of gifts to the nation. In his speech he urged everyone to give as much as they can to adopt that very fine destroyer H.M.S. Garth. He expressed his thanks to those regular savers, and asked everyone to save more than they could afford, and be really hard up at the end of the week. After referring to a message from the captain of the Garth, a copy of which appears in this issue, Mr. Reeves said it was up to us to do all possible to provide our men with weapons. He also thanked those who had sent gifts to be auctioned, for their practical help. After he had expressed his appreciation to Mr. Harold Watts who auctioned the gifts, the Mayor was handed a large bag of farthings by eight-year-old Iris Fenn, of Wokingham, as a free gift. The Mayor then started the auction by selling a large toy rabbit, which fetched 25/-.

Mr. Watts asked everyone present to be as generous as possible, and recalled Nelson's famous signal, "England this day expects every man to do his duty."

The following is a list of prices fetched by some of the gifts: Currant cake 15/-, Quarter Bottle of Whisky, 10/-, 1 doz. eggs, 12/-, Case of Dessert knives and forks, 30/-, 100 cigarettes, 11/-, A sack of potatoes was bought by Mrs. Cox, who handed them back for re-auction when, they fetched 14/-. A George III 5/- piece was sold for 11/-, a bottle of sherry), 12/, three table cloths, 22/-, C.S.M. 'Blackman, of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, sent in three Spitfire brooches made from a penny, and these were sold for 5/- each. A box of onions was sold for 15/-, but the purchaser told Mr. Watts to put 'em up again, when they were, sold for 15/- once more. But the onion buyers were very generous, and, they were again sold for 12/- and finally 10/-. Among other gifts sold was a solid silver cigar case, given by Mr. John T. Mead of Denmark Street. A 4oz egg was sold to Dr Smith for 6/-, but he handed it back for re-auction together with six eggs. This lot then sold for 12/-.

Fairly good weather favoured the Wokingham Warship Week parade on Sunday, when the salute was taken by the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, A. Thomas Loyd, O.B.E. who spoke from the saluting base in the Market Place.

The Lord Lieutenant began by expressing his pride and admiration: for those doing their part in many wide activities. He recalled the last time he had spoken in the Market Place, on the occasion of the War Weapons parade, and how well Wokingham had responded to the call then. He was confident that the target would be reached, for

this cause that lies particularly close to our hearts. We all thank God for: the British navy, and it is up to us to see that the money would be forthcoming. It is not enough to express a general interest in the work, we must invest every penny.

The Germans are very active in watching campaigns of this kind, and they would be very pleased if we did not get £400,000. He ended by wishing the week every success, and remarking on the splendid start.

In expressing his sincere thanks to the lord Lieutenant, the Mayor, councillor E.W. Reeves, said how grateful we were to him for honouring us by coming. He spoke of the interest he takes in Wokingham, and how all present were impressed by his address. He ended by asking everyone to uphold the credit of the town.

An army chaplain then offered prayer for the success of the week, and the ceremony closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

The procession lined up as follows:--

Model Warship, Chief Marshall and Police car, Band of H.M.S. Collingwood, Contingent from H.M.S. Collingwood, Band The South Wales Borderers. Contingent The South Wales Borderers, Bren Gun Carriers etc., South Wales Borderers, Royal Artillery (4 vehicles), Royal Berkshire Regiment Band. Contingent Corps Military Police. Home Guard, Home Guard P.O., Band of the Army Technical School, Army Technical School, Searchlight with crew, 3.7 A.A. Gun with Crew,, Detachment of the W.R.N.S. Contingent of Red Cross, Contingent St. John Ambulance, Borough A.R.P., Rural District A.R.P., Borough National Fire Service, Rural District National Fire Service, Band Sea Cadet Corps (Reading), Contingent Sea Cadet Corps, Band Royal Merchant Navy School, Contingent A.T.C., Drums of the Royal Berks Regiment, British Legion (men and women), Women's Land Army, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides.

Sat 27th March

BURIAL OF THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT

The burial of the Duke of Connaught took place last week at Frogmore—in the grave in which the Duchess of Connaught was buried in 1917. The Dean of Windsor took the committal, and the coffin was lowered into the grave by Grenadier Guards. The grave is close to the Royal Mausoleum, where Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort are buried.

After the funeral in January the coffin was placed in the Tomb House beneath the Albert Memorial Chapel at Windsor.

AN APPEAL TO BUSINESS MEN

We make a special appeal to all business men in the district to examine all their trade catalogues and see whether there are not many which are obsolete and which could be thrown out for salvage. One firm to whom we appealed was able to throw out about two hundredweight of these catalogues and practically every business firm has a number of these lists which are superfluous and might be spared.

May we ask all business firms to see whether they have a quantity of show cards, display boxes and other advertising matter which also could be thrown out for salvage, and, finally to look though their lists of business records and see whether there are not some which are kept beyond their useful life and which are unlikely to be used again, and again might be thrown out for salvage. The need for a vast increase in the supply of salvage paper is urgent and immediate and we are asking the co-operation of my fellow business men in this district to do what they can to ensure a good supply.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Householders, managers of hotels, Clubs, Boarding Houses, Lodging Houses and Hostels should make themselves acquainted with the provisions of the Fuel and lighting (Coal) Order 1941, and which limits the acquisition of house coal to six cwts. (hundredweights).

SALES OF NEW POTATOES PROHIBITED

The Ministry of Food announces an order, which comes into force immediately, prohibiting all sales of new potatoes of the 1942 crop, including potatoes in the ground. Producers who have grown crops under glass for early sale should apply for sales licences to the Director of Potato Supplies, St. John's College, Oxford. This prohibition will remain in force until a plan is introduced by the Ministry for marketing new potatoes during the early weeks of the season, when supplies are short.

New directions which come into force on Wednesday, have been issued by the Ministry as a further measure for building up the reserve of long-keeping potatoes for use in June and July.

MR. S.A. PITHER LEAVES BROAD STREET

Mr. S.A. Pither who has been associated as manager of the butchers, at 15, Broad Street, Wokingham since June 1940 when the business was sold, is leaving.

We undoubtedly shall all miss his cheery smile as well as his unfailing courtesy and the personal interest and trouble which he invariably took to please his customers. Being a very old resident of Wokingham, having resided here for some twenty-two years and having won the esteem of everyone we trust that he will not be very long in fixing up another appointment.

Sat 9th May

BUSY FIRE BRIGADE

On Saturday the Wokingham Fire Brigade dealt with a fire in the Wokingham S.R. Station yard, when a truck, containing boxes, caught fire. No sooner had they returned from this outbreak than they were called out to Tanners Farm, Swallowfield, where a cowshed was burning. The same night at 11.00 there was a fire at the Loddon Bridge Tea Gardens. A shed was ablaze.

JUNIOR SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

The football match played on Saturday to benefit the comforts fund of the club was a great success. Both teams, Crown Villa (Reading) and the Army Technical School (Arborfield), showed splendid ability, and it was the best junior game seen in Wokingham for many years. The result seemed destined to be a 2—2 draw until the last three minutes, when A.T.S. scored the winning goal.

AWARDED THE B.E.M.

Company Sergeant-Major Nigel Headington received the B.E.M. from the King at a recent investiture at Buckingham Palace. Sergeant-Major Headington was educated at Marlborough College, and was Bursar at Maiden Erlegh School until he joined up just before the outbreak of war. He is the son of Mr. John Headington, who was Mayor of Wokingham in 1900, and Mrs. Headington, of "Penveriton," Wokingham.

Fri 3rd July

BROOKLANDS ACE IS KILLED IN AIR CRASH DEATH BY MISADVENTURE

A man with an exceptionally long and active flying career, during which he had had many spectacular escapes from death, Flight-Lieut. Christopher Stainbank Staniland, has been killed in a flying accident on Friday at the age of 36. Flight-Lieut. Staniland was a famous Brooklands racing motorist and flier. His death closes the career of a speed-king who has had many spectacular escapes.

He was chief pilot to the Fairey Aviation Company. Slight and fair with a friendly boyish grin, he devoted his life to the quest of land and air speed records and had chosen for his career that most arduous and dangerous jobs.—a test pilot. He had many spectacular escapes from death.

He became a member of the Caterpillar Club in 1933 when he jumped from his machine which became out of control on a trial spin they had started at 14,000 ft.. Landing three miles from his wrecked plane, he ran across country to rescue secret instruments and information from the machine, which was on the Air Ministry's secret list. He found two policemen guarding the wreckage one of whom asked if he had seen the crash. "Yes, thank you," replied Staniland, "I had an excellent view."

Staniland was also relief driver to Capt. G.E.T. Eysron when the latter broke the world's 24-hour record at Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah, in 1935.

At the Inquest on Monday it was revealed that the plane (which was on the official secret list) crashed to earth in a vertical spin; there were many eye-witnesses.

George W. Garner, aerodrome foreman stated that the aircraft left at 11.10 a.m. on Friday for a trial flight. Flt.-Lt. Staniland was a very experienced pilot, and was Chief test pilot at the 'drome.

Police Sergeant Thomas A Costar said that at 11.35 he was patrolling the main road, when he heard an apparent explosion in the air. On looking up he saw the aircraft coming down from 8,000 feet in a vertical spin, and that several pieces of aircraft were flying in the air.

The machine came down until 1,000 feet from the ground, when it went into a flat spin once and then again in a vertical spin, crashing behind some trees. On going at once to the scene of the crash the police sergeant found the pilot dead in the cockpit. After removing the body to Wokingham Mortuary, he saw the throttle was wide open and that parts of the wings and tail planes were missing. These were later recovered at distances of up to one mile away.

The coroner, Mr. R.J. Payne, in recording a verdict of "death by Misadventure," said that Flight-Lt. Staniland was a very distinguished pilot, and that his early death was a very great loss to the country.

Sat 4th July

WESCOTT ROAD SCHOOL

On Wednesday the Mayor and Mayoress paid a visit to the school gardens at High Close. Each plot was visited, and the boys questioned upon their work. The Mayor praised the young gardeners' efforts, and gave them some useful advice. Other visitors were the Hon. Mrs. Corfield, O.B.E., Mr. and Mrs. J. Egerton Thorpe, Mr. E.S. Whaley, Mr. E. Perkins and Dr. E. Ward.

MAYOR STARTS SALVAGE CAMPAIGN

The Mayor opened the mile-of-books campaign in Broad Street, Wokingham, on Wednesday. The Mayor, after outlining the importance of saving paper, then laid the foundation stones for the pathway of books by placing his contributions on the pavement. The Hon. Mrs. Corfield, O.B.E., followed the Mayor's example, and added a large, thick book. With amazing rapidity the pathway lengthened, and, at the time, it did not appear unlikely that the target would be achieved.

The Mayor also started the mountain-of-metal in the Market Place. Details of Wokingham's salvage campaign were published last week.

LETTER

Southern Regional Commissioner's Office
Marlborough House
Parkside Road,
Reading, Berks

21st July, 1942

Dear Mr. Mayor,

From now onwards American troops will be landing in England in increasing numbers. Considerations for security will render it impossible for anything but the shortest notice to be given of the arrival of American units at their destinations; nor at this stage can the particular area be indicated in which they may be expected. Yet it is obviously of the greatest importance that they should be given a warm welcome and quickly made to feel at home in their new surroundings.

Preliminary local preparations are therefore advisable in the immediate future, so as to be ready for sudden arrivals, and I should be most grateful for anything that you can do in this direction.

The general responsibility for promoting accord between the American Army and the civilian population falls upon the Ministry of Information, whose representative will doubtless be making contact with you, if he has not already done so.

There is also the question of hospitality of a more continuing nature for any American units which may be stationed in your neighbourhood. The Americans will not expect lavish or formal hospitality. But they will deeply appreciate anything that can be done to take them into the life of the community and allow them to share in its amenities.

Yours sincerely
Sir Harry Haig

Sat 8th Aug

GIRLS' TRAINING CORPS

The Mayor of Wokingham will preside at a recruiting meeting to be held at the Town Hall on Monday at 7 p.m. In connection with the formation of a Girls' Training Corps Company in Wokingham. The immediate purpose of the Training Corps is to meet the needs of the 16—18 age group—the majority of whom left school at 14—by enabling them to continue their education on practical lines, and fitting them for entry into H.M. Services, Civil Defence, and other forms of national service. Girls of 14—16 are no less keen than their elders, and these, wherever desirable, will be admitted to form special sections of their own. There are six subjects in which all cadets will be trained:-- First-aid, hygiene, dispatch carrying, handy-women's course, squad drill,

and physical training; but there are also a large number of subjects in which instruction will be given to those who desire it, including book-keeping, shorthand and typing, cooking, swimming, electricity, dress-making and even cinema projection. There will also be facilities for games and social intercourse. This ambitious project will clearly need for its fulfilment strong local support and adequate assistance, financial and other, from official sources.

Women over the age of 18 who are willing to serve as officers of the corps should apply to the Commandant, Mrs. John Walter, at St. Catherine's, Bear Wood.

Sat 15th Aug

A.T.C.

"A" Flight under the direction of Pilot Officer J.P. Smith, R.A.F.V.R., held a successful dance on August 6th, at the Convent Hall, Easthampstead Road, when the Rhythm Boys band played to a happy gathering of Cadets and their friends.

CHURCH ARMY HUT AND STATION CANTEEN

During the past few months thousands of H.M. Forces have received tea and refreshments at the Church Army new station canteen, and the assistance of the helpers has been greatly valued. There are some who might be willing to help behind the scenes making sandwiches, salads, or even doing some very elementary cooking. They are asked to offer their services. For several weeks men have had to be turned away who have been seeking sleeping accommodation for the night. Spare blankets for us at the Hut to meet this need would be greatly appreciated. Other needs are a carpet and a bicycle (lady's or gentleman's) to save petrol.

"TANKS FOR ATTACK" CAMPAIGN

Wokingham's "Tanks For Attack" savings campaign is now in full swing and already a substantial amount has been collected.

The campaign which started on July 20th will be continued until September 26th. It is hoped that £220,000 will be lent to the country in the Wokingham and Rural District area during that period. To achieve this figure £22,000 will have to be raised each week. The sum to be contributed in the borough will be £15,000 in accordance with its population.

In the event of success, the area will be allotted three tanks to bear the name of Wokingham and Rural District, with the right to add to each the names of three Savings Groups which have done outstanding work.

Defence Bonds, Savings Certificates and stamps only are eligible for inclusion in the total sum registered.

A sub-committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Mr. W.C. Rands and several events have been organised. On Wednesday, a concert by the Silver Band of Phillips and Powis was given in Langborough Road Recreation Ground, and other attractions will be: August 19th, open air dancing; August 26th, whist drive; August 29th, football match; September 2nd, open air dance; September 9th, whist drive; September 13th, band concert.

In addition to these attractions a cinema band will tour the following places: August 19th, Swallowfield, 3 p.m.; Farley Hill, 6 p.m.; Three Mile Cross, 9 p.m.; August 20th, Wokingham, 3 p.m.; Remenham, 6 p.m.; Twyford, 9 p.m.

Sat 29th Aug

WOKINGHAM MAN GIVES WAR COMMENTARY

Major Lewis Hastings, M.C., R.A., of White House, Wokingham, has broadcast two war commentaries to date.

MISSING AT SINGAPORE

Pte. Harold Spratley, 100 Evendons Lane, Wokingham, who has been officially reported missing at Singapore, believed prisoner of war, served in a convoy on anti-aircraft duties. He had been in the Army two years, and before that worked for the Town Council.

RENOVATIONS TO BAPTIST CHURCH

The generosity of two members of the Baptist Church in giving £100 has resulted in the renovation of a damaged wall, and the supply of a large number of revised hymnal books for the use of the congregation. It was expected that this would be completed by today. In addition, the doors of the church will, in the near future, be regrained.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

On Thursday there will be a service at 7 p.m. in the Market Place, when the Mayor and corporation, members of the Home Guard, Civil Defence, etc., will attend. All denominations will be represented. At All Saints' there will be Holy Communion services at 7.0, 8.0, and 11.15 a.m., and that there will be a special service at 12.0 mid-day. There will also be services at the other churches.

"TANKS FOR ATTACK" CAMPAIGN

No figures are yet available in connection with the Wokingham "Tanks for Attack" campaign, which ends on September 26th and will then have lasted ten weeks. The target for the town is £35,000, and for the whole rural area £220,000. On Wednesday there was a whist drive at the Town Hall, and at the Barkham Road Recreation Ground today (Sat) there will be a football match between the Home Guard and the N.F.S.

ALLOCATION TO CHARITY

The following allocations to charity have been made from the Sunday takings of three local cinemas: Royal Berkshire Hospital, £200; King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor, £50; Wokingham Orthopaedic Clinic, \$45; British Red Cross and St. John War Organisation, Prisoners-of-war Department, £25; Sonning Deanery Moral Welfare Association, £20; Ambulance Fund of th St. John Ambulance local branch, £15; Bracknell Nursing Association, £10; All Saints' District Nursing Association, £7 10s.; St. Paul's District Nursing Association, £7 10s.; and the Berkshire Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society, £10.

Sat Sept 12th

KILLED IN ACTION

Marine Kenneth John Stark, of 73, Fairview Road, Wokingham, was killed while serving in H.M.S. Cairo during the last Malta convoy battle. He was first reported missing, presumed killed, but his parents have now received news from the captain, Royal Marines, H.M.S. Cairo, stating that their son was killed instantly by torpedo explosion while he was manning his gun. He was in his twentieth year, and had been two-and-a-half years in the Service.

FOR FORTY YEARS A LICENSEE

The death has occurred of Mrs. Florence Mary Aldridge, of the Dog and Duck, Matthews Green Road, and the funeral took place on Monday at St.Paul's. Mrs. Aldridge had been licensee of the Dog and Duck for over forty years. Aged 76, she had become well-known in the district; she used to live in Reading. The rector officiated at the funeral, when among the family mourners were: Mr. G. Aldridge (husband), Mr. W. Hobbes (brother), Miss G. Shepherd, Miss E. Hambleton, Mrs. G. Stroud, Mrs. J. Smith, Mrs. O. Shepherd, Mrs. K. Pidgeon (nieces), and Mr. F. Cultimore (brother-in-law), M.C. Shepherd (brother-in-law), Mr. O. Shepherd, Mr. H. Parker, Mrs. E. Raymond, Mr. W. Aldridge, Mr. E. Hambleton, Mr. A. James, and Mr. E. Purser.

Sat 10th Oct

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

The All Saints' Youth Fellowship Bible Class started their winter session last Sunday.

WAR SAVINGS

War Savings in Wokingham Borough for week-ending last Saturday amounted to £5,664.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Harvest festival services were held on Sunday at Forest Road Church. Captain H. Gibson preached at evensong, and the Rector, the Rev. G. Kenworthy, conducted the Children's Gift Service.

LAUNDRY DEVELOPMENT

Mr. I. Carter, proprietor of the West Reading Laundry, has taken over the managing directorship of the Wokingham Laundry Co., Ltd. The work will be carried on under the same control and management as the West Reading Laundry.

DEATH OF MR. THEODORE E. COOPER

Mr. Theodore Ernest Cooper, 11, Seaford Road, Wokingham, who died on Monday, belonged to the Berkshire Volunteers from 1883 for 16 years. He was 78 and the funeral took place on Monday at All Saints' Church.

HOSPITAL COLLECTION

The Mayor of Wokingham (Cllr. E.W. Reeves) writes: "Will you allow me to appeal through your paper to the residents of Wokingham to support the house-to-house collection on Sunday for the Royal Berkshire Hospital. This collection has been made annually for over 50 years; Wokingham in the past has always supported the Royal Berks Hospital, and I hope in these difficult times the residents will give generously to meet the ever-increasing cost of the hospital.

Sat 7th Nov

THE MAYORALTY

The Mayor-elect (Alderman E.W. Reeves) regrets that owing to War conditions it is impossible again this year to issue the usual invitations to the Mayor-Making Ceremony on Monday next.

REPORTED KILLED IN ACTION

Lieut. Derrick Denton, Highland Division of the Royal Engineers, has been reported killed in action in the Middle East. [later found to be wrong person].

NOVEMBER 11th

Among the "Armistice Day" services at Wokingham churches was one at All Saints, conducted by the Rector, at which the Two Minutes Silence was observed. There were many people present to pay tribute to those who fell in the last war and those who have fallen in this, and during the service the Rector laid a wreath on the memorial in the church. The ceremony concluded with the Mayor, Ald. E.W. Reeves, laying a wreath from the townspeople of Wokingham on the war memorial outside the church.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PARADE

The British Legion Wokingham Branch Annual Service of Remembrance was held last Sunday, at St. Paul's. The Mayor and Corporation, members of the British Legion Branch and the Women's Section, and a detachment of Home Guard, paraded to the church, where the service was conducted by the Rev. P.J. Hepburne-Scott. Col. H.I.E. Palmer, was parade marshal. During the service, wreaths from the Wokingham Company of the Home Guard, men of the British Legion and the Women's Section, were laid on the chancel steps by the Mayor.

Sat 5th Dec

DEATH OF CAPTAIN M.W.L. HAWKES

The death of Captain Mansell Welstead Lamb Hawkes M.C., Royal Manster Fusiliers, occurred on November 22nd. Previously to moving to Sussex, Captain Hawkes lived for many years at Embrook House, and became well known in the district. He was a member of the Downshire Lodge of Freemasons, and his hobbies were shooting and fishing. The funeral took place on Friday last week at St. Paul's, Wokingham, the Rev. J. Hepburn Scott officiating.

BATTLE FOR FUEL

Details of a "Battle For Fuel" campaign which is taking place in the borough for two weeks and commenced on Monday, were published in this paper last week. Throughout the town there are window displays and posters; a loudspeaker van has been touring the area and there are competitions. The winners of one competition—there are three handsome prizes—will be those who can estimate most correctly: the weight of an immense lump of coal in Toomer's, Broad Street window; and the amount of water a dripping tap in Heelas' window wastes in a week; and can state the readings on a gas and electricity meters in the Finchampstead Road showrooms.

Another competition entries to be sent to the Finchampstead Road showrooms—is to compose the best fuel economy hint. Entry forms and details can be obtained in the town. In Sale's shop, the W.V.S. explaining all about the haybox.

Sat 12th Dec

LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXPLAINED

On Monday at the Town Hall the Mayor gave a talk to Girls' Training Corps Cadets on the workings of local governments and the office of Mayor. Alderman Reeves was introduced by Mrs. John Walter.

WAR SAVINGS

In the four weeks ending November 28th, £13,292 was raised in Wokingham. A new group has been formed at Silverdale Road, Early. Yesterday (Friday) Wokingham school children were entertained at the Ritz with a programme of war savings films, and the Mayor thanked all the children for the very successful and steady way they had saved their money.

HOME FROM HOME PARTY

On Monday 18 happy children sat down to a sumptuous (but wartime) tea party in their home from home—the Murray Homes, Oxford Road. With them were four of their little friends as well as other friends who had prepared their Christmas party. They were also celebrating the raising of £12 2s. 6d. By a competition—won by C.K. Cox, Aggister Lane, Barkham Road—to be sent to the Admiralty towards a torpedo for H.M.S. Nelson, and additional to this sum, the children and staff enclosed the 14s. In farthings they had collected amongst themselves.

Sat 26th Dec

POSTSCRIPT

Here is a postscript to the “Tanks for Attack” campaign. On Tuesday it was announced that a tank had been allocated to the Wokingham Borough and R.D.C. for their effort.

THE LATE SIR THOMAS MCARA

A memorial service for Sir Thomas McAra, of Wokingham, for many years secretary of the Newspaper Proprietors’ Association was held on Friday last week, at St. Dunstan’s-in-the-West, Fleet Street. Dr. A.J. MacDonald officiated, and Prebendary A. Taylor, of St. Bride’s gave the address. There was a large and representative attendance.

MAYOR’S CHRISTMAS WISHES

The Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham, Ald. And Mrs. E.W. Reeves, extend their warmest greetings for Christmas and best wishes for a peaceful New Year to the residents of Wokingham. In view of the prevailing conditions, the Mayor and Mayoress are not posting their usual Christmas cards this year.

COUNCILLOR THORPE’S SON PRISONER

On Saturday Cllr. J. Egerton Thorpe, Deputy-Mayor of Wokingham, and Mrs. Thorpe were officially informed that their son, Major L.E. Thorpe, is a prisoner of war in Japanese hands, believed to be in a camp in Malaya. It was after the fall of Singapore that Major Thorpe was reported missing. He is 28, received his commission in 1934, and two years later, left for India. When war broke out he was transferred to Singapore. Cllr. And Mrs. Thorpe have another son, Major L.A. Thorpe, who at present is serving on the Burmese front.

1943

Sat 9th Jan

PRODUCE ASSOCIATION FOUNDED

On Thursday a Wokingham Produce Association was founded at a meeting in the Town Hall, at which the Mayor presided. Miss Chown, of the Agricultural Instruction Department of the Berkshire County Council, described the Value of the association. This temporary committee was formed: Mrs. W.G. Jeffries, 82 London Road,

Wokingham, secretary; the Mayor, Mr. Wright, Mrs. Thorne, Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Beale, Mrs. Clarke and Mrs. Elton. It was agreed to ask Cllr. Lawrence, Mr. Harold Lee and Mrs. Lush to join. People interested should see any of these people.

FROM THE H.M.S. *GARTH*

Just Before Christmas, the Mayor of Wokingham sent this telegram:” The Officer Commanding, H.M.S. Garth, the resident schoolchildren of Wokingham Borough and Wokingham Rural District send you all on Garth their best wishes for Christmas and a safe return in the New Year—Mayor of Wokingham.”

Now the Mayor has received this message, “All on board H.M.S. Garth send the townspeople of Wokingham warm greetings for Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.”

The Mayor says, “We feel sure the townspeople will be glad to know that greetings have been exchanged with H.M.S. Garth, which they were able to adopt owing to their successful Warship Week.”

Sat 30th Jan

IN OPEN BOAT FOR 22 DAYS Wokingham Man’s Dramatic Story

Sun-tanned Merchant Seaman, John George Carlin, of Wokingham, is back home. Twenty-two days of the time he has been away he has spent in an open boat, in mid-Atlantic, with eighteen other men. His ship was torpedoed just north of the Equator, and the crew escaped in two lifeboats.. The second lifeboat has not been seen or heard of since. Its twenty men are feared lost. The nineteen men in Carlin’s boat were miraculously saved when a patrolling Sunderland flying boat was seen and signalled

The story is dramatically told in the log of John Carlin who was at the Royal Merchant Navy School, Bear Wood, and is the son of Mrs. Carlin, 264 London Road, Wokingham; his father lost his life in 1926, when he was washed overboard from his vessel.

The log relates how day after day distress signals were sent out by wireless from the two boats, but of no avail. On the first day course was set for a West African port, but next day the wind had changed and they had to alter course to the north.

On the eighth day there came a rain squall, and the two boats lost sight of each other. Carlin’s vessel passed floating tree trunks, bananas and flowers. The men hoped these were signs of nearby land. Next day the sea was rough, and no land was sighted. Carlin wrote in the log: “I guess we will just have to make for the African coast if possible and get within reach of convoy patrols and aircraft.

On the twelfth day: “We find out that by giving ourselves a quick dip in the sea we are refreshed and made less thirsty, although we keep our mouths closed.” Next day Carlin caught a small fish which he had been trying to catch for nearly a week. “Not much flesh on it, though,” he wrote.

And so time passed. The men were in excellent spirits, but weak through exposure. On the twentieth day there was rain at last. They caught four to five gallons in the sails. Carlin wrote, “This rain is really a blessing, for we are on our last beaker of water. Everyone thinks it is a sign our luck has changed.” They were right.

Says the log: “Twenty-second day—G. Smith, fireman, sights Sunderland aircraft astern. We quickly drop smoke flares and he sights us. This is so unexpected and so glorious a sight it brings tears to all our eyes.” Later the aircraft dropped a message in a container: “If any more boats or survivors lower sail and raise it again. Wish I could do more. Best of luck. Remain in Present position. Ship on way.”

Later the 'plane dropped container with flares, first-aid box, phosphorus mixture and water.; and a short time afterwards, foodstuffs, matches and cigarettes were "delivered." A corvette was on the scene some hours after the Sunderland had sighted the survivors.

Carlin told a Reading Mercury reported on Tuesday: "We were very lucky to be sighted by the Sunderland. I don't think we could ever have reached land, for the trade wind was against us, and when we were picked up we were still hundreds of miles from shore. Our water ration was six ounces a day"—less than a tumblerful every 24 hours— and it was very hot weather the whole time. We had plenty of food but we could eat little, as the lack of water made it almost impossible. We were all weak and light-headed after the ordeal, but we recovered in a few days."

Carlin—who was third officer of the torpedoed vessel—is going back to sea again soon. He is a very happy man, for last Saturday he was married—to Miss Ruby Jarvis, of Wokingham.

Sat 6th Feb

AIR TRAINING CORPS

Monday was the second anniversary of the A.T.C. of Britain. Under the Bracknell heading there is a summary of the work of the 1,447 Squadron, which includes Wokingham.

RECORD SAVINGS MONTH

Last month the Borough of Wokingham beat all their previous war savings records. They saved £33,269—practically double the average monthly savings. For the week ending last Saturday £5,593 was invested. Other savings news is that among new groups formed is one with the most unusual name of "The Odds and Ends Group" of Barkham Road.

THE TOWN HALL

The Town Hall now possesses an air of greater majesty than it has done for many months. The walls are no longer bare, as the paintings, stored away for protection earlier in the war, are back in position. In addition, the walls of the Town Hall Chamber have been distempered for practically no cost, as the distemper was provided by Ald. Barrett, and the walls were painted by council workmen, the Mayor told the council on Thursday.

Fri 19th Feb

TRAGIC DEATH OF MRS. J. MILES

Well Known Wokingham Woman Killed In Air Raid

We regret to record the death of Mrs. Julia Miles, licensee of the Leathern Bottle, Barkham Road.

On Wednesday afternoon last she visited a cinema in a nearby town in company with her daughter, Mrs. Hester and her 2-year-old niece. After coming out of the cinema they went to the "Peoples Pantry" for tea and chose a table near the door.

It was whilst they were having tea that the building was bombed, Mrs. Miles being killed instantly. Mrs. Hester sustained serious injuries and was conveyed to the Royal Berkshire Hospital where she is progressing satisfactorily.

The child however was missing but was ultimately found unhurt with the exception of minor scratches, at the Battle Hospital, where she had been taken from the First Aid Post.

Mrs. Miles, mother of Councillor Sidney Miles, took over the licence of the Leathern Bottle in 1925 on the death of her husband, Mr. J. Miles, who was formerly Sgt. Instructor O.T.C. at Wellington College, and came to Wokingham in 1909.

The funeral

The funeral and internment took place on Monday at St. Paul's Church, the Rev. P.H. Hepburne-Scott officiating.

The mourners were Cllr. S.J. Miles and Mr. F. Miles (sons); Mrs. M.L. Miles (daughter-in-law); Mr. G. Vickers and Mr. H. Hester (sons-in-law); Miss B. Powers; Mr. C. Lovick; (uncle); Mr. C. Lovick (cousin); Cllr. and Mrs. Jaycock; Mr. and Mrs. A. Frost; Ald. P. sale; Mr. Walter Frost; Mr. William Frost; Miss E. Fry; Mrs. Marshall; and many others.

Wreaths were received from the following:

(List of mourners etc)

Fri 26th Feb

FARMER'S SON COMMANDS SPITFIRE SQUADRON

Wokingham Fighter Saved a Bomber Crew

Farmer's son, John Stewart Fifield, of Pike's Farm, Bill Hill, Wokingham is now the squadron leader and commander of a Spitfire squadron in Fighter Command.

He joined the R.A.F.V.R. in 1938 when he was 21, after being an apprenticed motor engineer, and then assistant manager of an electrical service station.

Since those days he has spent nearly a year in the arduous task of training other men to fly and fight, but, like all fighter pilots he likes best to be in the air "taking a crack at the Hun."

He had an adventurous time during Dieppe when he was attacked and shot down by four F.W.190s. That was his third trip over Dieppe. He baled out and was rescued after only 20 minutes in his dinghy.

Recently he figured in the "rescue" of a Halifax bomber which was in trouble in bad weather and with small hope of making a safe landing. As dawn came with the Halifax heading across the channel in a desperate effort to make the English coast, two Spitfires were being warmed up at a Fighter Command aerodrome in the south. One of the Spitfires was S/Ldr. Fifield. The other was that of one of his flight commanders. When he realised that the bomber was in difficulties, the flying control officer at the Spitfire aerodrome asked for fighters to be sent off. Fifield and his flight commander went.

Squadron Leader Fifield's story of the search for the bomber is: "When we took off at dawn there was thick cloud at 1,000 feet and while he was flying with me my flight commander's instruments froze up. The next thing he knew he was breaking cloud and diving for the sea at 300 or more miles an hour. He rejoined me as the bomber was crossing the coast.

When I saw the Halifax it was only about 300 feet above the water and the pilot did not seem to be aiming at any particular place. I flew in front to guide him and I wagged my wings to indicate my intention. The bomber pilot wagged the wings of his Halifax. But the effort was almost too much, for the bomber lost about 100 feet of height and I thought for a moment that it was going to hit the water. I put my flaps down and throttled back and the Halifax was able to keep up with me.

I imagine the bomber pilot had been conserving his remaining engines because he had climbed back to about 500 feet by the time we crossed the coast. Visibility was pretty bad but we found our aerodrome all right. Every time the bomber went into a wide circuit and the pilot, obviously, could not see the landing ground. So I orbited

the end of the aerodrome nearest the appropriate runway. After about the fifth circuit, the bomber pilot tested his flaps and came in to make a wizard landing.

This article was crowded out from the last issue.

Ed.

Sat 27th Feb

EXPLOITS OF H.M.S. GARTH

Story Of Attack On E-Boats

Wokingham and district people will be proud to hear of the exploits of H.M.S. Garth, the destroyer they adopted by the success of their Warship Week in February, 1942, when they invested £480,634 in war savings. Their target was £400,000. H.M.S. Garth, a magnificent, swift war vessel, is a Hunt class destroyer.

The full story of this attack on a group of German E-boats has been told by Lt.-Commander J.P. Scratchard, D.S.C., R.N.) commanding officer of the Hunt class destroyer, H.M.S. Garth. It was by the light of star shells, fired by another destroyer, H.M.S. Montrose (Lt.-Commander W.J. Phipps, O.B.E., R.N.), that the Garth smashed up the formation of E-boats with gunfire, destroying one of the enemy boats and damaging another.

“It was shortly after midnight that we sighted the E –boats,” said Lt. Commander Scratchard “The star shell from the Montrose showed up the E-boats in orderly line ahead formation. We too were well illuminated and must have presented a lovely target for a torpedo, but the E-boats were in no mood for action, except avoiding action. When we brought our pom-pom to bear and scored hits on the second in the line, they broke formation and manoeuvred in wild zig-zags in an effort to escape.

“Visibility was poor, and the smoke from our gunfire added to our difficulties, but we kept firing at one E-boat after another. Then we saw that one of the E-boats was on fire, though she was still going ahead at about 20 knots. Our fire was accurate, and still further reduced this E-boat’s speed. We scored repeated hits with our close-range armament. The fire in the E-boat spread rapidly, but she managed to keep going, dodging around in circles in a most amazing fashion, and making an elusive target. At last her engines stopped, so we ceased fire. “We could see a group of men clustered together on the afterdeck of the E-boat. They were shouting for help.”

AMMUNITION EXPLODING

Sub-Lt. H. Brierly, R.N.V.R., was then sent away in the destroyer’s whaler in charge of a party which had orders to take off the survivors from the E-boat while Garth continued the pursuit. “When we approached the blazing boat,” said Sub-Lt. Brierly, “ammunition was exploding and there was also the risk of fuel tanks going up. We could make out six men and a dog huddled together as far away from the flames as they could get. I decided that 10 to 15 yards was the nearest that we could approach with reasonable safety, and I remembered thinking that this was an opportunity for which I had long waited—to try out my knowledge of German. I shouted to the survivors to throw away their arms and swim for it. They hesitated, and then only one of the party swam over to us. I assured him that nothing terrible was going to happen to the survivors, and he shouted to the others to follow his example.

“The rest of them, bringing the dog with them, abandoned ship and swam over to us to be taken aboard the destroyer.”

A seventh survivor who had jumped overboard before the arrival of the whaler, and had been swimming around for some time, was also picked up.

This was the Garth’s first engagement with an E-boat.

Fri 19th March

AID TO CHINA FUND FLAG DAY

The Mayor of Wokingham appeals to all who can help him with the above Flag Day to kindly send their name to Mr. Andrews, 39 Station Road, Wokingham.

So many who have helped previously are now on other duties or away from the Town that anyone who can only give an hour or so would be a great help to this deserving cause.

LOST MAILS

The following surface mails to the United Kingdom have been lost as a result of enemy action:

Letters and printed papers from Cyprus, posted about July 15-21; Egypt, July 21-24; Kenya, August 7-11; Palestine, July 21-26; Sudan (Anglo-Egyptian.), July 17-21; Syria, July 17-24; Uganda, August 5-8.

WAR-TIME NURSERY RHYME

How very good
Of Robin Hood
To keep his men so merry
Good humour's bow
Can often throw
An arrow straight at Jerry

Fri 7th May

H.M.S. GARTH PLAQUE PRESENTATION AT WOKINGHAM

Commander Southby R.N. says "This is Victory Year"

"With this piece of oak goes the well wishes,, of the district, to the officers and men 'of H.M.S. Garth.'" With these words the Mayor (Ald. E. W. Reeves) presented the Plaque'(given by Wokingham Borough and Rural District Councils) to Commander Sir Archibald Southby, Bart., D L M P., at the Town Hall before a large representative gathering from the Borough and district.

The Aldermen and Councillors, dressed in their robes of office, were present, together with the Chairman of the Rural District Council! (Lt.-Col. C. D. Burnell, D.S.O., J.P.) and representatives of the Council.

This exchange of Plaques is the sequel to the successful culmination of Wokingham's Warships Week which exceeded the target of £.400,000 and the adoption of H. M. Destroyer "Garth".

Cut from an oak grown in the Windsor Forest, the plaque, presented to Commander Southby, was carved by His Majesty's carver at Windsor with Wokingham's symbolic Acorn at the crown, on the one side and the County Crest representing the Rural District Council on the other.

In receiving the Plaque, Commander Southby voiced his very great thanks for the pleasure he was afforded in being present on such an occasion as this, and went on to say "Here today is the result of the very successful Warship Week, The world owes a debt that can never be repaid to the men of the sea--the Royal Navy and Merchant Services and it is through the efforts of such men, men like these in His Majesty's Ship "Garth" who you have taken to your hearts, that we, who are here today, are well fed, well dressed, and in comparative peace".

After being thanked for coming to the presentation. by Lt-Col. C.D. Burnell and the Regional Savings Commissioner, Captain Tasker, Commander Southby responded by saying these words.

“I feel sure that this will be a Victory year,” and recited the following original slogan.

“1940 Wings for Survival.

1941 Wings for defence.

1942 Wings for Offence and

1943 Wings for Victory.”

After the closing address of Commander Southby the guests, whose numbers exceeded 100 –were entertained to tea and cakes ably organised by Miss Finch of the W.V.S.

Fri 14th May

WOKINGHAM SAVINGS COMMITTEE WINS “TANKS FOR ATTACK CERTIFICATE

“In recognition of the Special Effort in the “Tanks for Attack” Campaign, which earned for Wokingham and District Savings Committee, the privilege of naming one tank, upon which appropriately inscribed plates have been placed.

“I extend sincere thanks for this valuable contribution to the war effort and ask your acceptance of the Certificate of Honour as a permanent record of your achievement.”

(Signed) P. J. Craig
(Secretary of State for War)

This is the text of the Certificate presented by the National Savings Committee to Wokingham and District Savings Committee for their successful “Tanks for Attack” Campaign in 1942.

Small certificates for “Special Meritorious Service” have been presented to the Borough Savings Group and School Savings Group in the Borough of Twyford; these being the only groups in the area who exceeded their targets.

HOME GUARD CELEBRATES ITS 3RD ANNIVERSARY (WT)

Friday is the 3rd anniversary of the formation of the Home Guard.

Formerly, the Local defence Volunteers and later re-christened by Mr. Churchill, the Home Guard.

In those early days its only uniform was a khaki brassard and its arms were shotguns, sticks and any and every kind of old weapon its members could lay hands on.

Now the Home Guard, numbering over 2,000,000 trained men possess the finest equipment available in rifles, light and heavy machine guns, sten guns, and a good range of grenades and considerable ordinance of sub-artillery.

An opportunity to see the extent of the efficiency of the Home Guard, in action, will present itself in Wokingham during next week.

By kind permission of the Misses Ellison a mock battle and manoeuvres will take place, which will include, Battle Square drill, Fieldcraft, Motor and Machine Gun Drill, First Aid, and a demonstration of Tank Busting.

Every opportunity should be taken to see this display.

Admission is free.

Sat 15th May

RADIO IN CHURCH

Sunday is Empire Youth Day. At 9.30 a.m., in All Saints’, Wokingham, a service at Westminster Abbey will be heard over the wireless.

D.S.O. FOR MAJOR

In recognition for gallant and distinguished service in the field, the Distinguished Service Order has been awarded to Major E.J.C. King-Salter, of the Rifle Brigade. Major King-Salter is the son of Mr. and Mrs. King-Salter, of Shute End House, Wokingham.

IT STARTS TODAY

Today, May 15th, is the first day of Wokingham and district's Wings for Victory Week, the biggest local savings effort ever. If the half million aim is reached the district will be allocated ten Sunderland flying boats, the eyes of the Navy, whose duties include spying out U-boats and destroying them. Details of the Wokingham programme for the week have previously appeared (some of the village activities are published this week; others were printed last week). The opening ceremony will be in the Market Place at 3 p.m. today, as gliders, towed by aeroplanes, fly overhead.

TATTOO COMES TO TOWN

Three years ago—on May 14th, 1940—Mr. Anthony Eden made a dramatic announcement over the radio. The Local Defence Volunteers was to be started. That night many thousands of Britons queued outside police stations and gave their names, ready to fight—with pikes if necessary.

Now the Home Guard (as it was re-named) is a modern well-equipped Army. To celebrate the third birthday, Wokingham Home Guards have organised a miniature tattoo. It is to be held on Thursday in the field (entrance Broad Street) belonging to the Misses Ellison. The public are cordially invited to come and see how the local Home Guard are prepared to defend their homes should the occasion arise. Display includes tank busting, battle squad drill, field craft, mortar and machine gun drill, etc.

Sat 5th June

YOUTH CENTRE

Throughout last winter dances were held in the Town Hall. They were for members of the Youth Centre. Now—for summer entertainment—this go-ahead organisation has arranged tennis matches, swimming, cycling and hiking.

DAISY DAY

In connection with the National Children's Home and Orphanage, the annual Daisy Day collection will take place on Saturday, June 26th. The honorary local secretary, Mrs. J. Butler, 270 London Road, Wokingham is urgently in need of further helpers.

OBITUARY

On May 28th, Mr. Francis Staniland, aged 89, founder of the *Wokingham Gazette*. He was formerly a missionary in Japan, connected with the London Missionary Society.

£439,089 FINAL "WINGS" TOTAL

The final Wings for Victory total for Wokingham and district was announced yesterday to be £439,089. These are the borough and village figures.

Wokingham borough, £127,054; Arborfield and Newlands, £2,657; Barkham £870; Earley, £5,481; Finchampstead, £10,182; Hurst, £50,487; Remenham, £10,095; Shinfield, including Spencers Wood with, £5,971, £17,304; Sonning, £55,227; Swallowfield, £8,925; Twyford and Ruscombe, £26,100; Wargrave, £95,346; Winnersh, £6,261; Woodley, £21,597; Wokingham Without £1,303.

Fri 18th June

WOKINGHAM BRITISH RESTAURANT OPENED

Every Table Occupied on first day

“I hope that the housewife, who perhaps has one of the most difficult jobs these days, to carry on, will find that we shall be able to make things a little easier for her by the service which this Restaurant will supply.” Thus commented the Mayor (Ald. E.W. Reeves) during his opening remarks before a large crowd at the official opening of the British Restaurant on Monday afternoon. Tastefully furnished and decorated to wartime utility pattern the building has accommodation for 180 diners.

Strictly in accordance with the general practice of British Restaurants, every diner helps themselves, and a large self serving hatch from the kitchen has been provided, with pay desk attached. The cooking facilities are the latest obtainable, and designed to effect labour saving to the fullest possible extent.

The preparation and cooking of meals is in the capable hands of Mr. F.W. Allen, the Chef/ Manager, who has spent 35 years in catering, mostly in hotels in various parts of the country. With a permanent staff of 6, Mr. Allen informed a representative of the Times and Weekly News, that he plans to give a different menu every day, of the most nourishing foods obtainable. Lunches will be served from 12 to 2 p.m. and Teas from 4— 5.30 p.m. Mr. Allen is fortunate also in having the services of three members of the W.V.S., who have promised to assist during meal times.

Before formally declaring the Restaurant open, the Mayor expressed the hope that the people of Wokingham, in whose interest alone, the restaurant had been started, would give it their full support and thereby derive all the benefits which were their due, and which the Council were anxious to provide.

After expressing his appreciation of the War Time Meals Dept. of the Ministry of Food, for its very valuable help and assistance, Mr. Hucking and his staff, the builder of the premises, for the trouble that he had gone to in making the Restaurant as attractive as possible with the materials with which he had to work, Messrs. Brakespears & Fergusons for their generous gift of the land on which to widen the approach to the Restaurant from the Market Place, the Mayor paid tribute to the Town Clerk and the Borough Surveyor for their additional work and responsibilities in connection with the venture.

Mr. Hendry, of the War Time Meals Dept. of the Ministry of Food, who was present, apologised for the unavoidable absence of Major Gale, the Divisional Food Officer and congratulated the Wokingham Council, and in particular the British Restaurant Sub Committee, for their valuable efforts in connection with the venture.

An appeal

Miss Finch, who is in charge of the W.V.S. who are giving their services at the new British Restaurant, appeals for a few volunteers to relieve the W.V.S. on various days during the week. All those who may be able to help in this respect, should contact her at the British Restaurant.

Sat 19th June

ACCIDENT DELAYS TRAINS

Trains—Late Tuesday morning a light goods engine was derailed on the down (Reading) line at Wokingham Station. This caused passenger service delays for several hours. About 4.30 p.m. normal running was resumed.

HELPING THE HOSPITAL

On June 9th, the 3rd Wokingham (Methodist) Girl Guides held a sale and concert on the lawn, at Braemar, Peach Street, lent by Mr. W. Medcalf. The chair was taken by Mrs. W. Medcalf, and Mrs. H. Porter, M.B.E., declared the sale open. The Mayor and Mayoress were present and a fine crowd supported the Guides. As a result, £37 10s. has been sent to the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

FIVE HUNDRED NEED RATION BOOKS

Over five hundred Wokingham people have not yet been to the Town Hall Food Office for their ration books and identity cards, according to an official this week. Distribution should have been completed on Saturday. Some of these people may be holiday makers or have left the district. The plan has worked smoothly in Wokingham; residents have cooperated well.

AIRMAN MISSING

Two months ago Flight Sergt. Malcolm Baxter applied for a transfer from instructor's duties to more active service. On Sunday he was reported missing. Flt.-Sergt. Baxter is 21 and the captain of a Halifax bomber. He was educated at Cordwallis School, Camberley, and Leighton Park School, Reading, and later employed by the Anglo-Saxon Oil Co., and joined the R.A.F. in the autumn of 1940. He is unmarried and lived with his mother at 56, Matthews Green, Wokingham.

Fri 9th July

HIGH PRAISE FOR WOKINGHAM SAVINGS

Bouquets Fly

Before the Chairman (Ald. E.W. Reeves), and a representative gathering of the Wokingham savings Committee, at the Town Hall on Thursday. Mr. J.H. Clare, Chief Commissioner of the National Savings Committee, paid high praise to everyone concerned, for their remarkable efforts in the recent 'Wings for Victory' week Campaign, and for the district's wonderful savings record.

Mr. Clare, who had come to the meeting from London Headquarters, brought with him a personal message of thanks from Lord Kindersley for the Borough and Rural District Council and for the Wokingham Savings Committee.

In reply to a suggestion made by the Chairman of the Committee (Ald. E.W. Reeves) that the target for these special weeks should be fixed by Headquarters, Mr. Clare thought this would be a difficult thing to accomplish—and that, in his own opinion, the local people should be the ones to decide their own target.

However, Ald. Reeves' resolution will go forward to Headquarters for consideration.

Before answering the many and diverse questions put to him, Mr. Clare informed his listeners that, although he had no definite information, he thought that the policy of the National Savings Committee would be to hold further special weeks in the future.

He also warmly congratulated the Hon. Organising Secretary, (Mrs. Jean Baxter), for her unstinting and tireless efforts in connection with the campaign. These sentiments were also voiced by the /chairman and Ald. Barrett.

H.M.S. GARTH APPEAL FUND (WT)

It has been suggested that a Fund should be opened at Barclays Bank, Wokingham on behalf of the crew of OUR ADOPTED SHIP H.M.S. GARTH.

The Officer Commanding has been consulted and states that often a little financial assistance which can be given to an officer or man is a real help.

If a fund can be built up, the Officer Commanding would be able to draw on same at his own discretion without reference to anyone else.

The Bank Manager would then advise the Mayor of Wokingham when the balance was reduced to £50 so that a further appeal could be made.

It is felt that this Fund would enable our residents to keep in touch with the crew, even after the war, as long as the Garth is in commission.

We feel sure there are many residents in the district who would like to contribute and any contributions sent to either of the undersigned or to the Manager Barclays Bank, Wokingham, would be gratefully acknowledged.

It has been suggested that many organisations both in the Borough and Rural District may like to run Whist Drives, Dances, Garden Parties, etc., in aid of the Fund.

The Mayor has already received some subscriptions amounting to £63 and the Officer Commanding has been authorised to start drawing on the Fund as and which the occasion may arise, but it is hoped that further subscriptions will be forthcoming at an early date, in order that the Fund can be well established.

ERNEST W. REEVES

Mayor of Wokingham

C. D. BURNELL (Lt. Col)

Chairman of Wokingham Rural District Council

Fri 24th Sept

WOKINGHAM

H.M.S. Garth's Gifts to the County Girls' School

Following the "Ocean Library" which was sent by the pupils of the County Girls' School to the crew of H.M.S. Garth, a beautiful model of the ship, made by one of the ship's company, has been presented to the school.

This delightful gift is now the school's most treasures possession, and a splendid reminder of the link between the school and Wokingham's adopted warship.

Sat 23rd Oct

A WOKINGHAM VETERAN

Aged 58 And Back In The Service

At the age of 58, Commissioned-Boatswain J.W. Potter, R.N., of Wokingham, eldest and the only one of six sailor and soldier brothers to emerge from the last war, unscathed, is back again in the service. He is the only one of the family to carry on their service tradition in this war, and he has just completed his quarter century as a naval warrant officer. He is no longer at sea, but is serving at a base on the East Coast.

He joined the Navy in 1902 at the age of fifteen, and after seeing war service in the battleship H.M.S. Jupiter, and later in the destroyer, H.M.S. Retriever, of the famous Harwich Force, he retired with a pension in 1922. He exchanged his naval uniform for that of a postman. Then he got a glimpse of life in the Army as a civilian clerk in a cavalry remount depot. When he was recalled to the Navy in December, 1939, he was running a dairy business with one of his brothers.

Even in his present job he has found variety. After being for two years in charge of diving operations, his present daily routine may find him doing a relief for the present diving officer, supervising targets for firing practice, conducting examinations for ratings in search of promotion, and performing a host of other duties contributing to the efficient administration of a naval base.

The service tradition of the family is being maintained by Boatswain Potter's own son and daughters. His son is in the Navy, his eldest daughter is a Queen Alexandra's nurse in West Africa, and his two youngest daughters, who are still at school, are enthusiastic war workers.

Sat 11th Dec

EX-PRISONER TELLS OF EXPERIENCE

Capt. G.P. Grundy, formerly a prisoner-of-war in Germany visited the Church Army Hut on Thursday, when he told of his experiences. The Mayor presided. Capt. Grundy paid a tribute to the Red Cross for the work they are doing to make life easier for a prisoner-of-war. He said he had seen whilst a prisoner, the R.A.F. bombing several towns and it had to be seen to be believed.

Fri 31st Dec

DEATH OF MISS M. B. ELLISON

St. Paul's Parish Church loses an Ardent and Generous Supporter

In the death of Miss Mary Blanche Ellison of the "Elms", Wokingham, at the age of 83, the Parish of St. Paul loses one of its most prominent supporters. Miss Ellison who would have celebrated her 84th birthday on Christmas eve, was the elder of two surviving sisters of a well-known Wokingham family, who have lived in the town since 1880.

She and her sister have always taken a great interest in the work of St. Paul's Mothers' meetings, which have met regularly for many years at the Elms. The work of the Missionary Association, has always received the Misses Ellison's enthusiastic support, and the grounds of their house, were always thrown open for the St. Paul's Annual Fete, garden parties, and shows for various local deserving causes.

Miss Ellison is survived by her sister, Miss Maggie Ellison. The funeral service was conducted at St. Paul's Church on Wednesday, by the Rector, the Rev. P.H. Scott, M.A., assisted by the Rev. D.T.R. Carlin (curate), Rev. Gordon Kenworthy, Rector of All Saints', and the Rev. Ellison, R.N.V.R., Naval Chaplain (cousin of the deceased).

(list of mourners)

ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION FACILITIES FOR THE FORCES

Following a meeting of representatives of the various voluntary organisations, and others, convened by the Mayor (Cllr. G.A. Cheeseman) at the Town Hall on Wednesday of last week, proposed plans for facilities to entertain and provide recreation in Wokingham for visiting members of the Forces were discussed.

From the large number of people present, a committee was formed, comprising the Mayor (Chairman) Dr. E. Smith (Sec.), Mrs. Thomas, Miss Finch, the Rev. S. Brunt, Cllr. F. Perkins and Cllr. F. Moles. The Deputy Mayor (Ald. E.W. Reeves) was co-opted.

Since the first meeting, the Committee have assembled on four occasions, and the proposed plans have now been decided upon. The Town Hall will be available every Friday night from 6 to 10 p.m. for an informal gathering of all members of the armed

Forces, at which it is proposed to provide forms of recreation and amusement. The first of these evenings will be held tonight (Friday).

Other proposals, the details of which have, as yet, not been settled, are football and tennis, and golf at the East Berks. Club. We hope to be able to publish further information on the scheme shortly.

1944

Sat 1st Jan

CHESSE SET FOR THE MAYOR

The Mayor has received a chess set almost entirely of paper, from scholars of St. Paul's School, Wokingham. He went to the school breaking-up party to present the prizes to the older children. When he had finished, one of the older boys went up to him, and, on behalf of the boys of the school, gave him this chess set. The Mayoress handed each child a present from the Christmas tree.

AMERICANS TO USE TOWN HALL

The Town Hall is now free for the use of American troops. At a meeting of representatives of all organisations in the town. It was agreed that the Americans should have the use of the large hall on Friday evenings. A committee was formed and Dr. E.F. Smith was elected secretary to provide entertainment for the troops. It is also hoped that the Americans will have the use of the hall on Wednesdays, but this has not yet been decided.

On Thursday evening a dance was arranged for them in the Town Hall by the committee of the Home Guard.

CHRISTMAS AT GLEBELANDS

Comedians, who once amused the audiences of music halls and theatres, again came into their own over Christmas when they entertained their fellow members of "Glebelands"—the beautiful rest and convalescent home of the Cinema Trade Industry. This was only part of the Christmas programme arranged by the manager, Capt. C.J. Marshall. On Christmas Day, Sunday and Monday, films were shown, and on Christmas Eve, Wokingham Youth Centre carol singers led by Ald. F.J. Barrett, J.P., visited Glebelands, and gave a selection of carols, sings and hand-bell ringing. Many stars, including Anna Neagle sent Christmas telegrams. One turkey, given by Major Stanley Bates, managing director of Odeon Theatre Ltd. Weighed 35 lbs.

FUNERAL OF MISS M. ELLISON

The funeral of Miss Mary Blanche Ellison of "The Elms," Wokingham, who died on Wednesday last week, took place at St. Paul's on Wednesday. The service was taken by the Rev. P.J. Hepburne Scot (Rector), the Rev. G. Kenworthy (All Saints') and the Rev. <r. Carlin and the Rev. G. Ellison, R.N.V.R.

Miss Ellison who leaves a sister, Miss M.I. Ellison, had lived in Wokingham since 1888. She was a great benefactor to the town and was respected by all with whom she came in contact.

(List of mourners)

Fri 7th Jan

G.T.C. ENTERTAIN AT WOKINGHAM

Gaily attired in party dresses the lasses of the Wokingham Company of the Girls' Training Corp were the hostesses to their girl and boy friends of the Air Training Corp, and a few American soldiers, at the Town Hall on Tuesday.

The hall was attractively decorated for the occasion by Mr. C.A. Nibbs, assisted by Mr. Wright, and the evening was voted on all sides, as being a very successful one.

Among those present were the Chairman of the G.T.C., (the Hon. Mrs. Corfield) and Miss Corfield.

Games and dancing were enthusiastically indulged in capably directed by Junior Commandant Henderson, and assistant Officer Robinson.

During the evening a competition for a doll dressed as a W.R.E.N. was run by A.S.L. Tarry, and was won by Mrs. H. Cottrell. The proceeds of this additional attraction to the programme realised £2 7s. 6d, which goes to the Red Cross Prisoner of War Fund.

Before the party came to an end, the opportunity was taken by junior Commandant Henderson, to express a vote of thanks to Mr. Nibbs for his unfailing assistance to the G.T.C. not only on this occasion but during the past meetings of the company at the Town Hall, sentiments which were heartily endorsed by the assembly.

D.F.C. AWARDED TO ACT. FLT. LIEUT O. H. LUSH

Good News for Councillor and Mrs. H. Lush, of Wokingham

It has officially reported that the Distinguished Flying Cross has been awarded to Act. Ft/Lieut. O. H. Lush R.A.F.V.R., only son of Councillor and Mrs. Lush of Wellington Road, Wokingham.

This news, which was conveyed to Mrs. Lush by *The Times and Weekly News* yesterday (Thursday) was the first intimation that her son had received this coveted award.

Flight Lieut. Lush joined the R.A.F. in April 1941, and after serving in the ranks, was commissioned in 1942.

He was educated at Grosvenor School, Wokingham, and Caterham (Surrey) School, under the fine headmastership of Alan Mottram, and after completing his education, was apprenticed to the County Surveyor at Winchester. Prior to the outbreak of war, he was engaged in the capacity of Civil Engineer to the Berkshire County Council.

In the words of the citation announcing the award it is stated that on many occasions it has been entirely due to the excellence of this officer's navigational skill that his captain has been able to find, and bomb enemy targets in adverse weather conditions.

Sqdn. Navigational Officer Flt/Lieut. Lush has performed his duties with remarkable keenness, and as a result, an exceptional high standard of navigation has been maintained in the squadron.

COUN. J. E. THORPE'S SON REPORTED PRISONER OF WAR

Good news has been received this week by Councillor and Mrs. J.E. Thorpe of their youngest son, 29 years, old Major L.E. Thorpe of the Corp of Signals, that he is a prisoner of war in Thailand.

Sat 29th Jan

NAVAL CASUALTY

In a list of deaths of members of the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets due to enemy action and other causes arising out of the war appears the name of Ernest James Fenn (1st Officer) "Ellerdale," Bearwood Road, Wokingham.

REPEAT PERFORMANCE

Infants of Palmer School gave a repeat performance of an entertainment in the school Hall on Thursday. Canon Wickham Legg thanked the children and mistresses for a good show, and a collection was taken for "British Sailors."

AMERICANS ENTERTAINED

An American concert party went to the Town Hall last Saturday to entertain the children of All Saints' Sunday School who were having their annual party. The compere was Corpl. Albert Pearce. Pte. Joseph Vicino played the accordion, Pte. Carl P. Weiderhold was at the piano, and Pte. 1st Class, Charles A. Cook (tenor) songs.

BRITAIN MUST INCREASE TRADE

After this war Britain must increase trade with her Empire, said Mrs. Lancelot Dent, speaking on the British Commonwealth at an open meeting at the Town Hall on Tuesday. She said it was up to Britain to help her Empire, who, without hesitation had come forward to help their mother country with the war. The meeting was organised by the Women's Section of the British Legion, and Mrs. P.G. Murray was in the chair.

Sat 26th Feb

RED CROSS PRISONERS OF WAR FUND

A bring-and-buy sale was held at Lodgelands, Wokingham by invitation of Mrs. Luddington. The total proceeds amounted to £74 15s.

RED ARMY DAY

Flag sellers in Wokingham on Wednesday—Red Army Day—collected over £46 for medical equipment for the Russian Army and there is more to come in.

UNITED SERVICE

A Women's World Day of Prayer united service was held at Milton Road Baptist Church yesterday (Friday). Representatives of all the churches in the town were invited. Mrs. F.E. Thomas conducted the service and gave the address.

FOR U.S. ENTERTAINMENT

The "get-together" social at the Town Hall on Friday last week for American troops and British girls proved a great success. Over 80 people attended, and the usual Friday evening entertainment for the Americans seems to have come into its own at last. Wokingham Entertainment Committee have arranged for another "get-together" evening at the Town Hall on March 3rd, and an all American Concert Party will entertain at the Town Hall on Monday.

Fri 3rd March

WOKINGHAM MAN RECEIVES D.S.M. AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Petty Officer James Sargant, of "Montello", Barkham Road, Wokingham, was among those who attended the investiture at Buckingham Palace, on Tuesday, when he was decorated with the Distinguished Service Medal by the King. He was accompanied by his wife and sister.

The citation, giving notice of the award, said that P/O Sargant had shown great gallantry and had set an example of the whole-hearted devotion to duty during an action with an enemy E-boat in the South Atlantic, while on convoy duty.

P/O Sargant has been a resident of Wokingham since 1922. Pensioned from the navy in February 1939, he was recalled for service in August of that year.

During the course of his 30 years at sea, he served with the late Sir Dudley Pound on board H.M.S. Colossus, in the Battle of Jutland in 1916, and is the recipient of the Good Conduct Medal.

Sat 4th March

RED ARMY DAY

The flag-day on Wednesday last week for medical equipment for the Russian Army realised £48 13s. Mrs. J.B. Eustace was the organiser.

RITZ COLLECTIONS

Organised by Mr. Allday, manager of the Ritz cinema, collections were taken last week for the British Sailors' Society, and the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleet, £81 10s. being taken.

H.M.S. GARTH IN ACTION

H.M.S. Garth, Wokingham's adopted ship, was recently in action against an enemy E-boat. A telegram has been sent by the Mayor, Cllr. G.A. Cheeseman, congratulating the captain and crew, and he has since received an acknowledgement from the captain.

NEWS OF WAR PRISONER

News has been received of L./Tel. Reginald Challis, R.N. whose home is at 110, Matthews Green, Wokingham, now a prisoner of war in Germany. He was captured when the submarine "Oswald" was sunk early in the war, and was a prisoner in Italy until the Armistice was signed, when he escaped, but was recaptured after 4½ months of freedom.

AMERICAN STARS ENTERTAIN

American stars entertained US soldiers at the Town Hall on Monday with 1½ hours top-line variety. The show, "Boomps-a-daisy," arranged by the U.S.O. has been given in other towns and villages throughout the South of England. Artistes included Gladys Church (singer and novelty whistler) Jack McCloud (banjo), Consolo and Melba (dancing team), Miss Phyllis Colt (songs) and the Evans family, Evan and Helen (father and mother) and Maryetta and Lester (daughter and son)

TOWN COUNCIL

The Corporation's pig farm, started just over two years ago, has provided enough meat rations for the entire population of Wokingham for one month. Ald. F.J. Barrett mentioned this at the Wokingham Town Council meeting on Thursday, when he said it was remarkable to think that this had been done, when the pigs had been mostly been fed on kitchen waste.

The chairman of the British Restaurant and Committee, Ald. E.W. Reeves reported that from the opening to December 31st, 48,000 lunches, 8,000 subsidiary meals, 7,500 teas and 31,000 beverages had been supplied.

Sat 11th March

DRAMA

At the Rose Street Methodist Youth Club on Monday, Squn. Ldr. Blatherwick lectured on "Drama."

FOR NURSES' FUNDS

The whist drive, organised by the Ratepayers' Association, at the Town Hall on Thursday, was in aid of Wokingham Nurses' Funds.

MOTHERS' UNION

Mrs. Canadine spoke on "Home Life and Training the Children," at a meeting organised by the Mothers' Union Campaign Committee, at the Town Hall on Tuesday. Mrs. Shelley presided.

NO PIT JOB: BUT FORCES CLAIM HIM

William John White (19), 22, Common Road, Embrook, who appealed some time ago against going into the coal mines, has been notified that, whilst he is unfit for work in the mines, he will have to go in the Forces. His ground of appeal was that his mother was an invalid.

£50 TOWARDS TARGET

The Mayor's Aid-to-China Fund has already reached £50 towards the year's target of £1,000. On Wednesday, at the Town Hall, Miss E. Newbery, who has lived for nearly 17 years in China, spoke on "China and its Millions." Her talk was illustrated with lantern slides, and a collection was taken for the fund. The Mayor presided. The committee hope to raise £100 by their flag-day today (Saturday).

BRITISH WELCOME CLUB OPENED

Wokingham's British Welcome Club opened on Friday last week at the Town Hall. The object of these clubs, which are opening all over England, is to bring the U.S. and Great Britain closer together. The idea was thought up by the Ministry of Information, and Brigadier younger, Ministry of Information, said there was a priceless opportunity now for the U.S. to get to know us, and for us to get to know them. The club will be open on Friday evenings, and all U.S. soldiers and British girls are invited. The Americans entertained last Friday and will again entertain this Friday. The A.T.S. is represented by Sgt. J. Gibson, and the W.L.A. also have their representative. Cpl. Scotty Pearce, U.S., makes an admirable compere.

Sat 25th March

AWARDED THE M.B.E.

The London Gazette announces the award of the M.B.E. to Third Officer John George Carlin, son of Mrs. Carlin, 264, London Road, Wokingham. He spent 22 days in an open boat after his ship was torpedoed just north of the Equator in 1942. His story was fully reported in the Mercury at the time. He formerly attended the Royal Merchant Navy School, Bear Wood.

Sat 29th April

KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Laurence E. Toogood R.N.V.R. H.M. Light Coastal Forces, husband of Mrs. Joan (Jimmy) Toogood, of Edneys Hill, Wokingham has been killed on active service.

Fri 5th May

Red Cross Gift Shop

The popularity of the Red Cross & St. John Gift Shop at 23, Denmark Street, has far exceeded expectations. Since it opened on Easter Saturday, the gifts that have been sold, realised £230. The best day's takings so far, was £63.

Residents of the Borough, and Rural District, have generously contributed to this most deserving of all causes, and the articles given for re-sale range from, a diamond brooch, valued at £70, and early editions of Dickens and Thackeray, to a child's toy fort and soldiers, and a Dunhill pipe.

Despite the large variety of gifts which have been disposed of there have been many requests from prospective patrons, for handbags, a small-sized girls' bicycle, and all types of trinkets and locketts.

Mrs. R.H.R. Palmer, who is in charge of the Gift Shop, informed our reporter this week, that more gifts are urgently required, no matter what their value. There is still a great demand for the small type of gift, and the organisers hope that residents will continue to support the fund, by supplying them with their unwanted, or unused articles.

The appearance of two bepatched Italian prisoners strolling along the Reading Road on Sunday evening minus an armed posse as their guard, caused a resident to notify the police. As a precautionary measure the men (who could not speak a word of English) were interrogated, their camp was communicated with, and presumably the information given gave them a clean sheet, and they were allowed to continue on their way. The entire proceedings appeared to cause the Italians much amusement.

Sat 27th May

RATION BOOKS

The distribution of the new issue of ration books for Wokingham Borough, has so far gone without a hitch. Mr. J. Stallwood, Deputy Food Officer, told our representative "Wednesday was a very busy day, more being distributed than on the same day last year.

OVERSEAS RELIEF DAY

Wokingham Boy Scouts last Saturday—Overseas Relief Day—had a busy day doing anything from polishing silver to digging the garden, to raise funds to enable 'Scout-trained men to do relief work when the occupied countries in Europe are liberated.

AWARDED D.F.C.

The Distinguished Flying Cross has been awarded to Acting Warrant Officer Bernard Chapman Brooker (658724), R.A.F. No. 35 Squadron. This Warrant Officer was born in 1919 in London, and his home is at Wokingham. He was a clerk in civil life. He was transferred from the Army in 1942 for air duties.

Sat 3rd June

REPATRIATED

Among the prisoners of war repatriated from Germany on the Gripsholm was Pte I Dyer, of Nine-Mile-Ride, Wokingham.

OVERSEAS RELIEF

The money raised by Wokingham Boy Scouts on May 20th—Overseas Relief Day was approximately £12.

AWARDED THE D.S.M.

For courage and skill in dangerous mine-sweeping operations, a Wokingham man Temp Stoker, Petty Officer George Edward Holloway has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

LADY BADEN POWELL'S VISIT

Lady Baden Powell, Chief Guide, visited the County Girls' School, The Holt, on Saturday for the South Berkshire Girl Guides' Rally. The Chief Guide accompanied by the County Commissioner, Miss H. Williams informally inspected the Guides who came from Bracknell, Crowthorne, Earley and Farnborough.

The 1st Twyford Rangers also attended. The march-in of massed colours and drums of Royal Merchant Navy School, Bear Wood was followed by the march-in of the Guides.

Fri 9th June

FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH CONFERRED UPON ALDERMAN W. T. MARTIN, J.P. AND DR. E. WARD, M.B.E.

Town's Most Honorable Distinction in Recognition of Their Long and Devoted Services

Before a large assembly of specially invited guests, the Wokingham Borough Council, at a special meeting on Wednesday, unanimously passed a resolution, to confer upon Alderman W. T. Martin, J.P., and Doctor Ernest Ward, M.B.E., the honorary Freedom of the Borough of Wokingham.

Almost every member of the Council was present for this historic occasion, and among the guests were Ald. Martin's son, and daughter in law, Mrs. Girdler, (Ald. Martin's daughter), and her two boys, together with other members of his family, Dr. Ward's two daughters were also present, to witness the presentation, which is the greatest distinction a town can bestow upon any one of its citizens. The Mayor, Councillor G. A. Cheeseman, presided and in formally opening the proceedings, said that this special meeting had been, called to confer honour, where honour was due, and that the presentation they were about to make to Ald. Martin and Dr. Ward, was the greatest privilege that a town could bestow, and was only given in cases where it was richly deserved. He then called upon Ald. Philip Sale, to propose the resolution in respect of Ald. W. T. Martin, J.P., he being the only one other, to possess the distinction of Freeman of the Borough.

ALD. MARTIN J.P.

Alderman Sale, in expressing the great pleasure it afforded him to be allotted the duty of proposing the resolution that Ald. Martin be made an Honorary Freeman of this Borough, spoke of the long friendship between himself and Ald. Martin, I have known him all my life, his mother, and father too, and I think I knew his grandfather, but I was a child at the time, and children's impressions are sometimes fleeting. He

comes from a long line of public servants. His uncle was a member of the original Council, elected in 1805.

He then dwelt upon Ald. Martin's business career.

“At -the early age of 16, when children today are leaving school, Ald. Martin became the responsible head of a business in this Borough and he was blessed with good parents, to whom he was very greatly attached.

He has over 40 years' service to his-credit, services of diligence and devotion, free from all selfishness, and his efforts have always been for the welfare of this, his native town. In all his work, he had a great and worthy helpmate, in his dear wife, whom I knew and respected.”

After dwelling on Ald. Martin's efforts in connection with the sale of the Gas Works, Ald. Sale concluded “As I say, he has served us generously and well, without a thought to himself, and without a pound profit, and therefore I have the greatest pleasure in proposing that Ald, Martin be admitted an Honorary Freeman of the Borough for his services. Faithfully rendered as Councillor, Chairman, and four times Mayor of this Borough.”

The proposal was seconded by Ald. F.T. Barrett, who also

Cllr. Barret; concluded with the remarks, “The honour which we bestowing upon Ald. Martin today, is one that is richly deserved, but which should have been conferred when he accomplished the valuable work in connection with the Gas Company, many years ago.”

The Mayor, in presenting the Scroll, and the inscribed walnut Casket to Ald. Martin, congratulated him on behalf of the Corporation and citizens of the Borough. In accepting the conferment, Ald. Martin said what a great honour it was for him to receive this appointment. He said that he owed everything to his dear wife, whom he had known as a girl, at the age of nine and from whom he had never been parted, until four years ago ”She, to me, was a great part of my life, her words and guidance on many things, have helped me to do what was right.”

DR. WARD M.B.E.

Ald. A. E. Priest, was called upon to propose the conferment upon Dr. E. Ward, and in the course of his eloquent address, he spoke of the pleasure it gave him to be speaking of .a person whose name has been for the past fifty years or more, and is still, a household word, in all the homes in Wokingham and district; a name which is held in high esteem and affection by all.

(rest missing)

Sat 24th June

KILLED IN ACTION

Lieut. Edward Charles Sidney Smith, of 49, London Road, Wokingham, has been killed in action. Lieut. Smith who was,24, and a was previously a clerk at the Southern Railway Goods Depot at Reading. A keen athlete, he played football for Wokingham Town, and cricket for a local club.

Fri 30th June

WOKINGHAM AND DISTRICT EXCEED THEIR TARGET

"The Soldier Saluted With £460,000

[and still more coming]

Wokingham and District ‘Salute the Soldier’ campaign has been successfully accomplished, and the final figures at present available, show that £460,000 has been

raised, thus smashing the target of £350,000 by £11,000. The small saver has once again contributed generously, and it is estimated that at least £72,500 has come in from Post Offices and Groups. The Banks' returns show a figure of £319,800.

Free Gifts to the Nation (£850), were not as great as in the previous campaigns due possibly to the difficulties of organising entertainments. The Borough raised the sum of £170,875 and the amount contributed as a Free Gift to the Nation was £101 2 5.

The organisers

The work of organising the campaign has reflected the highest credit upon those who so willingly gave their services. It would be impossible to give mention of all these enthusiastic workers, but special mention is deserved for a few whose efforts have been so successful.

The Hon. Organising Secretary, Mrs. J. Baxter, has played a major part in the smooth running of the campaign; Mr. F. W. Davis as the Hon. Treasurer has accomplished his task of co-ordinating the steady flow of thousands of pounds from Groups, Banks and Post Offices into their requisite channels, very successfully for the second year in succession.

Mr. W. Rands and Mr. W. Illott deserve special comment for the way in which the opening display and Sunday's procession was organised, in addition to the general entertainment arrangements of the week.

The Mayor, for his patient and willing co-operation in visiting the numerous special events of the week and offering his words of encouragement; the staffs of the banks and Post Offices in coping with the burden of this additional work, on their already depleted staffs.

And finally to those who responded so magnificently to the 'Salute the Soldier' call, by loaning their money to the country at this all-important phase of the war.

Our men abroad will have the greatest pride in reading that their town or village in the Wokingham and Rural District has accomplished such a splendid achievement.

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Sat 12th Aug

PRESENTATION

Over three years ago 40 cigarette cases, inscribed with the crest of Wokingham, were presented to the relatives of men who were in the evacuation from Dunkirk. On Friday last week, at the Town Hall, the Mayor, Cllr. G.A. Cheeseman presented Mrs. Dixon, of Barkham Road, Wokingham, with a silver cigarette case as Wokingham's tribute to her husband Gunner Dixon, R.A. who lost his life at Dunkirk. Miss Benson, organiser of the idea of giving the cases, was not able to be present.

Sat 19th Aug

MENTIONED IN DISPATCHES

The "London Gazette" announces that Sgt. Leslie Eric Nibbs, R.A.F., son of Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Nibbs, Hobart Place, Wokingham, was mentioned in dispatches. Sgt. Nibbs is 25, and before joining the R.A.F. worked as an engineer at Wokingham.

AWARDED THE D.F.C.

The Distinguished Flying Cross has been awarded to Flight Lieut. Cecil John Fleetwood Murray Pike R.A.F.V.R., No. 180 Squadron. The officer has completed a tour of operations during which he showed at all times courage and determination. Under his leadership the efficiency and morale of his flight has been raised to a very high level.

Born in 1910 in Monkstown, Belfast, Flt. Lt. Pike's home is at Wokingham. He was educated at Glyngarth, Cheltenham, Clifton College, Bristol; and Reading University. He enlisted for air crew in 1940 and was commissioned in 1941, and is entitled to wear the ribbon of the 1939 Star.

Sat 2nd Sep

SALVATION ARMY

For the first time in the history of the Salvation Army the West London Division Office, Salvation Army, met in conference in Wokingham Town Hall on Thursday, under the leadership of Lt. Col. Pennick, Divisional Commander North London Division.—The Salvation Army ran a jumble sale on Saturday in aid of the New Building Fund.

WOKINGHAM MAN KILLED

Leonard Amos Williams, aged 36, of 7, Crescent Road, Wokingham, a welder at Metalair, was killed in a collision with a Canadian Army lorry on Tuesday. At the inquest yesterday (Friday), Reading, the Coroner, Mr. J. Martin, returned an open verdict. Frank Ziglinski, of the Canadian Army, said he turned off the main Reading Wokingham Road, and when he had almost completed the turn he felt a bump. He pulled up, and found the cyclist lying in the roadway. Williams died from a fractured skull and cranial injuries, said Dr. Spencer Lawson, Deputy Casualty Officer at Royal Berks Hospital. He was brain dead. There were no independent eye-witnesses of the accident.

Fri 13th Oct

KILLED IN AIRCRAFT CRASH AT WOKINGHAM

Technical Observer Loses Life

Describing how a great sheet of flame enveloped his cabin, the intense heat rendering him practically unconscious, a pilot of an R.A.F. aircraft appeared before the East Berks. Coroner's Court at Wokingham, on Wednesday to give evidence of the death of his technical observer who was killed when the machine crashed in flames near Woosehill Lane, Wokingham, on August 8th.

Owing to the necessity of medical treatment for severe burns and injuries sustained while baling out of the blazing machine, the pilot, Sqd/ Ldr. A D. Miller was unable to be present on August 10th, when the inquest had been adjourned until his recovery. Still bearing visible signs of his recent injuries, Sqd/Ldr. Miller told the Coroner how, while carrying out a routine test flight on August 8th, together with his observer, Mr. Peter Frank Ainsbury, a civilian technical officer, who was attached to the Ministry of Aircraft Production, Devizes Road, Salisbury, the machine suddenly caught fire which spread rapidly throughout the cabin. The flames appeared to come from behind him, and the observer's cabin in which Ainsbury was standing at the time was almost an inferno. So intense was the heat that Miller was practically suffocated, but he signalled to Ainsbury to bale out, and the signal was acknowledged. He managed to keep the machine flying for a few seconds in order to give the observer a chance to get out, and then he himself jettisoned his hatch and baled out, landing within a few hundred yards from where the aircraft had crashed.

Although badly burned, he attempted to get into the blazing machine to see if Ainsbury had managed to bale out-but owing to the heat, he was unsuccessful.

Asked if he could give any explanation as to the cause of the fire or where it had originated, witness remarked that it had all happened so suddenly he had no opportunity of even thinking about it. In reply to further questioning by the Coroner, witness suggested that the intensification of the fire in the observer's compartment may have caused deceased to lose consciousness.

Mr. E. G. Elton, of "Brown Eaves" Barkham Road, Wokingham, stated that he saw the aircraft travelling from north-west, when it suddenly lost height, turned, and abruptly dived towards the ground. He saw a parachute open when the machine was about 400 feet. When he first saw the machine there was no sign of fire, but flames came from it as the machine turned.

Police Constable G, Yules who lives in Woosehill Lane, about a quarter of a mile from where the 'plane crashed, said that he saw the machine roll, it then righted itself and one of the engines started to splutter-then stop. He then saw flames coming from the port engine and spread, to the undercarriage. As the 'plane dived earthwards, he

saw a parachute and another object fall from it, later it was discovered that this was an escape hatch.

Police/Sgt. Jones stated that he arrived at the scene at 4.10. The machine was a total wreck but still burning. He saw a mutilated body taken from the centre of the wreck, and although badly burned showed signs of a parachute harness attached. Parts of a parachute were discovered in the remains of the aircraft.

The body was removed. To the mortuary where it was ascertained that both legs had been severed at the hips, left arm severed at the shoulder, and head badly smashed. In returning a verdict of 'Accidental Death', the Coroner expressed his sympathy with the relatives of the deceased.

EMBROOK

Business Changes Hands

In 1929, when Embrook was part of the Wokingham Rural District area, and the Reading Road was nothing compared with its present importance and popularity as a residential district, Mr. and Mrs F. Lee decided to open a business which is now known as the Embrook Post Office.

From a modest start, the business grew and prospered, and Embrook developed. Now, after 15 years, Mr. and Mrs. Lee have disposed of the establishment to Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Mead.

Sat 21st Oct

CURFEW BELL

The centuries-old custom of ringing the "curfew" bell from September 18th to March 11th, at 8 p.m., has been revived in Wokingham. Since the war, the bell has not tolled.

JUNIOR SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

The annual meeting of the club was held on Friday last week, when the report and balance sheet was presented to the club organiser. Excellent progress in every direction was confirmed by the club results.

DEATH OF MR. PERCY FULLER

The death occurred on Tuesday last week of Mr. Percy Fuller, aged 60, at his home, 11, Oxford Road, Wokingham. Mr. Fuller, who was married but had no family, was on the staff of Messrs. Ferguson's wine merchants, at Reading. He was well known as an accomplished pianist and entertainer, and for many years was pianist to the "Cheerio" Concert Party. He was a member of the Wokingham Club and the Reading Catholic Club. The funeral took place on Saturday at St. Paul's, Wokingham.

BAR TO D.F.C.

Acting Flight Lieut. Bernard Chapman Brooker, D.F.C. (172486) R.A.F.V.R., No. 35 Squadron, has been awarded a Bar to his D.F.C. Since the award of the D.F.C. this officer has completed further operational sorties.

Sat 28th Oct

AWARDED D.S.O.

The King has approved the following award for gallant and distinguished service in North-West Europe, the Distinguished Service Order to Brigadier H. Essame M.C., the Northampton Reg.

COMMANDER SCAIFE AT TOWN HALL

Commander John Scaife, O.B.E., R.N., spoke on "Over to France" in the Wokingham Town Hall on Wednesday. He was introduced by the Mayor of Wokingham, Cllr. G. A. Cheeseman, as the Navy's Raconteur. The talk was arranged by the Ministry of Information.

Sat 11th Nov

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

A Remembrance service at St. Paul's on Sunday was conducted by the rector, the Rev. R.H. Scott, the Mayor and members of the Town Council were present.

SAVINGS PLAQUES PRESENTED

A presentation of plaques by the War Office in commemoration of the success of the Wokingham and district Salute the Soldier week took place at Wokingham on Saturday. The Mayor, Cllr. G.A. Cheeseman was in the chair and the plaques and scrolls were presented on behalf of the War Office by Lieut.-Col King Salter, D.S.O., a resident of the town.

The Mayor congratulated all officials connected with the success of Salute the Soldier week. Mrs. Baxter, Hon. Secretary of the Wokingham and Rural District Savings Committee, said that whatever the civilians were asked to do, it could be nothing compared with what the armed forces were doing. She presented a constitution, which has the object of maintaining a vigorous savings organisation, and said it was proposed to form a committee—to be called the Wokingham Rural District Savings Committee—which would be in operation after the war. A chairman hon. Secretary, and treasurer would be elected annually, and the committee would represent all sections of the Community.

A resolution to adopt the constitution was proposed by Cllr. Fullbrook, seconded by Ald. F.J. Barrett, and carried unanimously. Cllr. Fullbrook said that money was now needed more than at any other time, for if the war is to come to a successful conclusion, there must be money to complete it.

Sat 25th Nov

LOCAL GUNNER IN STIFF FIGHT

After successfully supporting the withdrawal of the Airborne Forces across the River Lek in Holland, gunners of a West Country Field Regiment, fighting with the 43rd (Wessex) Division, were engaged for days on end in an effort to smash a dangerous German counter attack. During two hectic days a battery commanded by Major S.G.H. Loosley, fought and eventually smashed the enemy attempt to infiltrate in force across the river,' writes a Military Observer. Directing the operations of his battery from a forward position, with observation officers out on both flanks overlooking the river, Major Loosley was at one time faced with the problem of engaging enemy troops who had got in behind one American company position in a small area, bounded on one side by a railway embankment and on the other by a dyke road. So near were the Germans to our troops that anything but the most skilful command of the battery fire would endanger the lives of our men. Up with the Americans as a forward observation officer was Capt. E.C. Gilders, who had as a signaller, Lance-Bombardier W. Bridgeman, Elms Lodge, Denmark Street, Wokingham.

Sat 2nd Dec

KILLED BY ENEMY ACTION

Sgt. Jack Bidwell, R.A.F. of Embrook, a well-known figure in the town who died recently through enemy action was buried at St. Paul's on Friday last week. Members of the Home Guard of which Bidwell was a member prior to his joining the R.A.F. acted as bearers, and the Rev. F. J. Hepburne Scott officiated.

Fri 8th Dec

FUNERAL OF SGT. BIDWELL

The funeral service of Sgt. Jack Bidwell (Flight Engineer, R.A.F.) of 186, Reading Road, Wokingham, took place at St. Paul's Church, Wokingham on Friday, November 24th., and was conducted by the Rev. P. J. Hepburne Scott.

The family mourners were:— Mrs. J. Bidwell (widow), Mr. and Mrs. Bidwell (parents), Cpl. A. Bidwell R.A.F. and Cpl. S. Bidwell R.A.F. (brothers), Mrs. Edwards and Mrs. Luckhurst (sisters), Mrs. and Mr. Howard (sister and brother-in-law), Mrs. A. Bidwell (sister-in-law), Mrs. Langdon (aunt), and Miss Langdon (cousin). Other mourners included two Sergeants (Flt. Engineers) from Sgt. Bidwell's Squadron; Officers, N.C.O.s and men of the Home Guard; friends from the Royal Insurance Coy.; Major Treharne, Mrs. G.S. Watts, Mrs. L.M. Newham, Mr. Fred Lee, and Mr. B Carter.

Sgt. Bidwell, who was forty years of age, was killed whilst returning from an operational sortie over Munster.

GUARD MARCH OFF PARADE

A Job Well Done

Despite inclemency of the weather on Sunday, many residents turned out to honour the men of 'D' Company 11th Berks. Battalion Home Guard, on their last official public ceremony.

The Mayor, (Councillor W. C. Fullbrook) and members and officials of the Council were guests of honour on this historic occasion, and the various civil service organisations were also represented at the ceremonial March Past at the Market Place.

This part-time army of men from all walks of life, youths and grizzled veterans of the last war, have, during the past four and a half years, given willingly of their spare time to train and drill for an emergency, which fortunately never materialised—but nevertheless, their strength and efficiency played an important part when D Day and the liberation of Europe was planned by the High Command.

Upwards of 250 officers and men of the Wokingham Company of the Berks. Battalion, without arms but wearing their steel helmets, formed up at the assembly point at Wokingham Station, and led by the Pipe Band of the R.A.M.C., marched along Wellington Road and Denmark Street towards the Saluting Base in Market Place.

As the marching column swung into Denmark Street, it appeared to the onlooker, not as a part-time organisation, but a highly trained army, which would have done credit to any front line battalion. The route was lined with spectators who gave the men a good reception and in the Market Place Lieut. Col. G.F. Gough, D.S.O., M.C., was there to acknowledge the salute, and afterwards, in a short address, express his appreciation of their smartness and efficiency.

At the conclusion of the March Past, the men formed up in the Market Place to hear an address and prayers, given by the Rector of All Saints', the Rev. Gordon Kenworthy.

Lieut. Col. Gough, in the course of his address said:

I am honoured to be here at this ceremony which you are so appropriately attending. I say appropriately because your presence at this ceremony typifies the intimate co-operation and connections between the community and the military, in all phases of the war, and particularly with regard to home defence. We are all in the war together. Major Bryden, all ranks of 'D' Company 11th Berks. Battalion Home Guard, and I want to make it quite clear that when I say all ranks, I include the ladies who have helped the Home Guard, as they have done.

"You have received from officers much senior to myself, appropriate messages about the fine achievement of the Home Guard, and the great service that it has rendered, not only to the nation, but to the whole Allied Cause.

From time to time I have made plain my own high opinion of this Company, as well as of the whole Battalion. It is only necessary to have seen this parade today to realise the state of efficiency which you have reached, and the work that you have done. I want to congratulate you most sincerely on your turn out.

You yourselves from your own efforts know the quality and extent of your own achievement and that knowledge is one of the greatest satisfactions which a man can have. You take away with you, that satisfaction and knowledge greatest privileges that a Commander could have is to have fine men serving under him, in whom he has confidence. You have given me that privilege.

Before I end, I do want to give you, one and all, my sincere thanks for the past and good wishes for the future. Thank you for all that you have done to make easy my task as sub District Commander, and for making it a happy task. The best of good fortune to you all, and more power to the spirit of the 11th Berks. Battalion Home Guard.

The Mayor in his address on behalf of the citizens of Wokingham, thanked Col. Gough for attending the ceremony of the local Home Guard, of which Wokingham is very proud.

"You and the people of Wokingham" he said addressing Col. Gough and H.G members "know that had the invasion taken place, whether you had been selected to face the enemy in some different country or on the outskirts of Wokingham, you would have been prepared to give your life, if necessary, either for England or Wokingham.

Many of you, like myself, can remember the early days of the L.D.V. when you were called upon to register at the Police Station, and I must, on behalf of the town, extend to Col Anderson, our very grateful thanks to all the important work he carried out in those very difficult days, and I am sure, despite the very proud moments he must have had in the past during his military career, this final standing down ceremony must be as impressive when he remembers the early days, as any he has had.

"In addition to all the training which has been necessary over these weary years, the Home Guard, as an organisation, have taken their part in any good cause in the Town for which I should like to express the Town's gratitude.

Some of your members have lost their lives, and we all, on this memorable occasion, remember and reverence their memory.

The Scroll which it is my honour to receive on behalf of the inhabitants of Wokingham in memory of the 1,070 members of the Home Guard, including 20 women telephonists will be preserved with the records of the Town Council, and will be a lasting tribute to all those on parade this morning, a tribute of years of hard work and training, carried on during the time of greatest strain and anxiety, a tribute to your

patriotism and love of your country and your town, and also a tribute that by your sacrifice you saved your country and your town from the horrors of war.

On behalf of your Town Council, and the inhabitants of Wokingham, I sincerely thank you for your past services. I congratulate you on the fact that through your efforts, it is possible for this standing down ceremony to take place, and I can assure you that the present generation will ever remember the service you have rendered to your country and this Scroll will remind the coming generation what their forefathers did for Wokingham.

At the conclusion of his speech, the Mayor received from Major Bryden, a bound volume giving the names of 1,070 officers, men and women of the Home guard auxiliary, who served with 'D' Company. The volume bound in Red feather, had the Royal Berkshire's Regimental badge, colours, shoulder flash, and title, superimposed on the cover. On the fly leaf was printed the name of 'D' Company's Commanding Officers, and included Lt./Cll. R.H. Anderson, who commenced the Company from 18th July 1940 to May 1942. Major H.M. Kemble, D.S.O., from May 1942 to December 1943, and Major S.T. Bryden, from January 1st. 1944, to date.

Below these names appears the quotation "They also served, who trained and waited."

before the Company moved off from the assembly point, the men were addressed by Lt. Col. F.B. Abbott, D.S.O., and the men responded by giving him three resounding cheers.

Sat 9th Dec

CONCERT AIDS R.A.F.

At Rose Street Methodist Schoolroom on Tuesday a concert in aid of the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund was held and had a good attendance

FOR MERCHANT NAVY COMFORTS

A programme of folk songs, sea shanties, and sketches was presented by Wellington College Sing-Song Society at the Town Hall, Wokingham on Thursday last week, in aid of the Merchant Navy Comforts Service. The producer was Mr. B.G.L. Kemp.

WON D.C.M. IN MALAYAN CAMPAIGN

Regt.-Sergt.-Major Charles Roadnight, D.C.M., whose father is the proprietor of a private hotel on the Bagshot Road, Wokingham, hopes soon to be exchanging war stories with his father, also a former R.S.M. and holder of the D.C.M.

Charles Roadnight has recently come out of Burma where he was with a special Force (The Chindits) unit. Before that he saw active service on the North-West Frontier. He was also in the Malayan Campaign and was one of a select party to make an exciting escape from Singapore when the Japanese were in the streets of the city. He won his D.C.M. during the Malayan Campaign, when he attacked a hut full of Japanese single-handed, wiping out a score of them by throwing grenades which he had stuffed into his kit.

Fri 15th Dec

NEWS OF THE FORCES

Wokingham Man Captures S.S. Major

During the crossing of the Scheldt Canal by the famous Desert Rats' Division, Lance Cpl. P. Beasley, of 51 Eastheath Avenue, Wokingham, captured an S.S. Major

and two lesser lights of a counter-attacking force which attempted to wipe out the bridgehead.

The counter-attack had suddenly developed against the bridge which, in their haste, the enemy had neglected to blow up. S.S. troops attacked with great ferocity, having been told, as it was later discovered, that the entire fate of the German Seventh Army depended upon them.

It was also discovered later, that the attack was not to deny our troops the use of the bridge but to destroy a large barge lying under the bridge, which, as a naval headquarters, contained highly secret documents regarding establishments and future operations. A squadron of tanks went forward to assist the Royal Engineers and beat off the counter attack, with many killed and 50 taken prisoner. Then Lance Corporal Beasley, with two Maquis, went off on a private patrol.

They encountered one civilian and were told that an S.S. man had just shot another civilian simply to obtain his bicycle as a means of escape. Beasley advanced further into the area north of the canal, expecting to find the wounded enemy in ditches. At first he did not spot the German who was hiding in a hedge, and it was left to the Maquis to see him and express a desire to go back for assistance.

Beasley approached the German prostrate on the ground.

“I called him and told him to get up,” Beasley told me, “but he wouldn’t. Then I stuck a revolver in his ribs and he got up but wouldn’t come back with me. I saw he was an officer, but that didn’t make any difference, so I told him to put up his hands, He wouldn’t. Then I collected two more and *they* wouldn’t put their hands *down*. I had to drag the S.S. major back with me, because he refused to be searched by anyone but an officer of field rank.”

Fri 29th Dec

EAST LONDON EVACUEE LEAVES WOKINGHAM

Bruce Anthony Croft, of Leyton came to Wokingham during the London blitz of 5½ years ago, and since that time has made his home with Mr. and Mrs. Stewart, of 1, Broad Street. He had attended St. Paul’s School and is at present head choirboy at St. Paul’s Church. Now that he has reached school leaving age, however, he has to put his “country” home behind him, and on Boxing Day he returned to his parents, and hopes to commence work very shortly as an electrician.

1945

Fri 5th Jan

YOUR VICTORY GARDEN ON FERTILISERS AND GREENHOUSES

Generally speaking, next to the varieties of peas, beans and potatoes, the question of fertilisers for the allotment gives rise to most discussion and argument. The provision of “National Growmore Fertiliser” with the Ministry’s hallmark has no doubt been a relief to many ploholders, particularly to latecomers. The proprietary fertilisers are, however, still very popular, and so they should be. It is good to see all the old names still on show in many a store window, some of them having nearly a century of existence behind them and—like Johnny Walker—still going strong.

The old favourites

I greatly enjoyed a visit to a well-furnished store the other day and re-read with pleasure the virtues and qualities of the same fertilisers I have known since boyhood.

The value of a little faith in our medicine—be it prescribed for ourselves or for the crops we grow—cannot be overestimated; in fact, gardening and farming require more faith than most occupations and we set about our tasks with much more hope when we are fortunate in getting the things we have faith in.

The plotholder who has his favourite fertiliser needs little advice. It may be a well-balanced mixture that almost everything he grows will respond to; but I would suggest that in addition to his favourite fertiliser he should secure a few pounds of Sulphate of Ammonia. There is nothing at the price so quick and magical in its effects for such things as giving a start to young cabbages that have come through a severe winter. Spinach, lettuce, and other crops that look in want of a pick-me-up respond in a way that is surprising. But give the sulphate sparingly and never fail to water it in; in fact it is best applied dissolved in water, a tablespoon to a gallon of water is enough for most things, so along with your order for fertiliser don't forget a few pounds of sulphate of ammonia.

Making use of the greenhouse

Those fortunate enough to possess a greenhouse, heated or unheated, can now begin to put it to use. Sowings of such things as onions, lettuce, early cabbage and cauliflower can safely be made. It should be remembered that the onions take over a month to germinate, so that there is little danger in having them too early for a sowing in a cold house. Fill the box with a mixture of soil as virgin as possible—fresh loam with a little leaf soil and sand is ideal—and sift it so that the young seedling onions can be taken out of the soil without breaking the roots. Sow thinly and the plants will be all the more sturdy.

It is particularly important that all vegetable seeds sown under the glass should be sown thinly and transplanted at the right moment. They go wrong much more quickly indoors than in the open, and unless they can be well attended to, it is largely wasted effort. If you have a greenhouse, and the time to give attention to the seeds of the crops you are very fortunate and can bring many things on. You are certain to have neighbours who have no greenhouse, so if you have any space not in use, an offer to house a few pots of early vegetable seeds or a box of onions will be greatly appreciated.

A false economy

I am asked once again if it is necessary to buy new vegetable seeds every year, or can those left over from last year be used this spring. It is far better and more satisfactory to get a fresh outfit of seeds every spring. It is true that certain vegetable seeds retain their powers to grow for several years, but this depends on how they have been kept. And there others that lose their power very rapidly.

There are things we could, and perhaps should save and be very economical over ; saving and using up old seed is no economy, however, but it is likely to end in a serious loss and much disappointment.

Sat 6th Jan

R.A.F. AWARD

Flight-Lt. John Stewart Fifield (83294), R.A.F.V.R., 169 Squadron has been awarded the D.F.C. Flight-Lt. Fifield has set a fine example and skill, keenness and devotion to duty. He has completed a very large number of sorties and throughout, his determination to inflict loss on the enemy has been most commendable. Among his successes is the destruction of two enemy aircraft at night. This officer was born in 1917 at Hurst and his home is at Wokingham.

PARTY FOR CHILDREN

“Vendon”, South Drive, Wokingham, a hostel for young members of the Women’s Land Army was gaily decorated on Saturday, when members gave a party to 29 children of Rose Street, Wokingham. Each child was entertained to tea, and was given a present and a 3d. piece, the gift of the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Cheeseman. Toys were made by the girls themselves and distributed by Father Christmas.

Helpers included Miss Walker, Mrs. Staniland and Mr. Fox. This is the second Christmas party to be given by inmates of the hostel.

THE EMERGENCY HOSPITAL

On Saturday, Master and Matron (Mr. and Mrs. H.G. Billing), held their party for the children and patients. The Mayor and Mayoress (Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Fullbrook) the Deputy Mayor (Cllr. Cheeseman), after visiting the sick wards, assisted with the refreshments and entertainment. A Punch and Judy show by Mr. W. Harris, Junior caused great amusement. Father Christmas (Mr. Gornall), paid a visit, and all the children were presented with a gift kindly forwarded by “D” Company, Wokingham Home Guard. Mr. Cheeseman also distributed sixpences to all the patients and children present.

Sat 13th Jan

PARATROOP COMMANDO KILLED

Mr. and Mrs. P. Chase Gardener, Evendons Lane, Wokingham, have been informed that their second son, 2nd/Lt. Michael Chase Gardener, a Royal Marines parachute commando, was killed in January. Educated at Rugby School, Gardener, who was 20, became a pupil to the Wokingham Borough Surveyor. He enlisted in June 1943.

EVACUATED CHILDREN’S PARTY

Arranged by the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham, Cllr. And Mrs. W.C. Fullbrook, a party for 160 children evacuated to Wokingham was held at the Town Hall on Saturday. The party included tea and an entertainment given by Mr. Philpot, a conjurer,, and Mr. Jones and his pupils. Phyllis Lucking, an evacuated child, thanked the Mayor, and her sister, Doris, presented the Mayoress with flowers. A vote of thanks to the performers was proposed by John Webb, and John Webbs thanked the L.C.C. for their contribution towards the entertainment. The Mayor thanked the helpers for an excellent tea, and presented each guest with two 6d. Savings stamps.

Fri 19th January

PRESENTATION OF CAPTURED NAZI ENSIGN TO WOKINGHAM TOWN HALL WOKINGHAM

A deputation consisting of Officers and Men of H.M.S. Garth (our adopted ship) will visit Wokingham on Friday, January 26th, 1945, arriving at Wokingham Station at 2.30 p.m. to present a Nazi Ensign, recently captured. The presentation will take place outside the Town Hall (weather permitting) at 3 p.m.

It is hoped that as many residents as possible will be on the route from the Station to the Town Hall, via Broad Street to welcome the personnel of our adopted ship, and show our appreciation of their past deeds. If anyone on the route has any flags available which they could display, I feel it would be a nice gesture to our guests, which, I feel sure they would appreciate.

W.C. Fullbrook,
Mayor of Wokingham.

Fri 2nd Feb

WOKINGHAM WELCOMES MEN OF THE "GARTH"
First Official Visit To Present Captured Ensign

Despite the extreme cold, the schoolchildren of Wokingham, together with their parents, assembled in force on Friday last, to give a welcome to the officers and men of H.M.S. Garth, on their first official visit to the town, occasioned by a request from the ship's company, to present to the district which "adopted" their ship, a Nazi Ensign, captured from a German 'E' boat, after an action in which the enemy boat was sunk.

The entire length of the route, from Station Road, to the Town Hall, was lined with Schoolchildren. As the marching sailors approached, they were greeted with loud cheers and excited waving of treasured flags, which had been stored away, waiting for just such an occasion.

As the column swung round to the east of the Town Hall, where the Mayor and the Chairman of the Rural District and representatives of the Savings Committee were waiting, the large crowd surged forward to secure a better view of this unusual presentation, but were halted by a rapidly erected rope barrier

The well-worn Nazi flag, attached to a short staff on which was fitted a brass plate, suitably inscribed, was presented to the Mayor by the Commander of the Garth, Capt. W. Grono Davis D.S.C. and the Mayor (Coun. W.C. Fullbrook), suitably responded. In his address, the Mayor spoke of the Wokingham and District residents' great interest in the activities of the Garth, and the pride which was felt when it was known that "their" ship had the honour of bringing the King safely back to this country after his visit to France

In expressing thanks for the Nazi ensign, the Mayor said that it would be added to the many other links with the Garth, which are treasured and appreciated. The ship's Crest, continued the Mayor, which is not carried into action, was being cared for by Miss Effie Barker, one of the joint Masters of the Garth Hunt; one of the ship's life belts was in the safe keeping of Mrs. R. Palmer, and the ensign will now join the plaque (a replica of the ship's crest), in the Town Hall.

The Mayor made reference to the H.M.S. Garth Fund, which was launched some time ago, for which Captain Davis only, can draw on when he considers it necessary. Reference was also made to the successful appeal given out last year by the present Deputy Mayor (Coun. G. A. Cheeseman), for some mah-jongg sets for the use of the officers and men of the Garth. This resulted in residents providing six sets, which were duly despatched. In conclusion the Mayor expressed his assurance, which he hoped would be passed on to the other members of the crew who were unable to be present on this occasion, of the residents' feeling of pride at being associated with the Garth, "Our thoughts, our best wishes and our prayers are with you all, and I hope that when this war is over and your dangerous work to a large extent, is completed, we may have another opportunity of demonstrating to all the officers and men of the Garth, our heartfelt thanks for all you have done. We wish you Good Luck and Good Hunting."

The Chairman of the Rural District Council, (Lt. Col. C.D. Burnell), then spoke, and in the course of his address, explained something of the disadvantages which he felt as Chairman of the R.D.C., on a function such as this, as while the ensign has been a gift to both the Councils, it will be retained in the Borough, "We are two entirely separate organisations" he remarked, and added facetiously that the men should "return to your ship with little delay, proceed to collect another Nazi ensign, and

present it to the Rural District Council, when the members would be most delighted to receive and entertain you”.

The presentation proceedings concluded with the crew of the *Garth* being accorded three hearty cheers, and the singing of the National Anthem. The Captain and his four officers were entertained in the Town Hall, where they received many gestures of hospitality.

The crew, after being dismissed from parade, were introduced to many of the local residents and took the opportunity of looking round the centre of the town. Many autograph books, which must have been stowed away for a long time, were in evidence, and the men were kept busy supplying all who were anxious to have a record of this memorable visit.

At 3.45 the ratings met at the British Restaurant where a substantial high tea, which included grilled ham and scrambled eggs, was provided for them. The Mayor, Lt. Col. Burnell, Mrs. Baxter and Mr. Tonseth (Assistant regional Commissioner) attended and again gave them a warm welcome to Wokingham.

An amusing incident took place just before tea was finished, when about twelve lads came in all with books, asking for autographs. Ald. E. W. Reeves, who was acting as host on behalf of the Mayor, told the boys to form up and march in, the same way as the sailors, salute, and present their books to each member of the crew. When asked how many of the boys wanted to join the Navy when they were old enough, all said they wanted to be sailors. While this was in progress, the Captain with his officers were answering various questions about their ship, at the large gathering of interested inhabitants of Wokingham, who were present at the Town Hall.

On view in the Town Hall was a beautifully made replica of the *Garth*, which had been presented to the Holt School some time ago. It had been modelled by members of the crew in their spare time.

Before leaving to spend the evening with some of their newly found hosts, Captain Davis received another three sets of mah-jongg, which which had recently been given by local residents.

It was understood that the men would have to return to their ship on Friday evening, leaving Wokingham on the 6 o'clock train, but at the last minute the Captain found it possible to grant a few hours' leave. Arrangements were then made for each man, if he so desired, to attend the Ritz Cinema, and for those who had not already been offered accommodation with one or other of the residents, the First Aid Post was opened up for the night, and a hot breakfast was served to the men before they left Wokingham, which they did on Saturday morning, full of enthusiasm for the hospitality and kind reception they had received from the town.

A special word of praise is due to the small executive Committee under the Chairmanship of the Mayor, and especially to Miss D. Finch and her willing band of W.V.S. helpers, for making last minute arrangements for some of the crew to be entertained and accommodated for the night.

CIGARETTES FROM HEAVEN

Local Schoolchildren were Angels to the “Forgotten Army”

Men of a British regiment driving the Japanese towards the Irrawaddy River had smoked their last cigarettes. Few had even as much as a stub end left when late in the day, a cargo aircraft flew over and signalled its intention to drop supplies.

With the rations that came floating down beneath the white parachutes were two cases of English cigarettes—the gifts of school children at home.

The men were greatly touched as they opened the cases and found the cigarettes bearing the school children's greetings to the men of the 14th Army.

Most of the gift cigarettes had come from village schools, and had been subscribed for my members of the Overseas League.

None of them bore addresses, but they were distributed as far as possible among men from the same area

Fri 9th Feb

THE BOYS OF H.M.S. GARTH EXPRESS THEIR APPRECIATION

Mr. E.C. Peggs of Wokingham' has received the following appreciative letter from a member of the crew of H.M.S. Garth which sums up their general impression of Wokingham's hospitality. We hear that some critical and incorrect statements have been publicly made, about the so-called unsatisfactory provisions for entertainment for the crew. We have no doubts that the following will dispel any further false impression.

(The full report of the presentation of the Nazi Ensign, appeared in our last issue).

Dear Mr. Peggs,

This is just a short note to thank you for your hospitality and kindness to our boys on Friday, when we were at Wokingham. Everyone enjoyed themselves "top-hole" and we hope to renew our acquaintance with you very soon.

The boys who were left on board were very sorry they could not be with us, after we had told them how well every one of you looked after us.

Curiously enough, I came across this photograph today, and am enclosing it to you in the hope that your boy may be in it.

May I thank you once again and assure you that we will not forget the kindness of the Wokingham people to us.

Yours most gratefully,
JAMES YACOMINE, AB

9 Mess H.M.S. Garth,
c/o G.P.O., London.

Fri 16th Feb

SALVATION ARMY

Recently a Sunday evening service at the Salvation Army Hall was conducted by Sgt. Lindquist, of Chicago, a member of the U.S.A. Forces, who is also a candidate for the Ministry, at the conclusion of hostilities.

An announcement was made that a party of Americans who had formed themselves into an Evangelical Group under the leadership of Lt. Colonel Hill (Chaplain) would be visiting the Wokingham Corps on Sunday evening February 18th for a service.

BAPTIST CHAPEL

The service at the Baptist Chapel on Sunday evening, February 11th, was conducted by members of H.M. Forces. A solo was sung by Pte. Stanley Wymen, the scripture readings being read by L/Cpl. F. Barton. The singing was lead by a special choir of members of the Forces who sang a hymn in place of the usual anthem. An address was given by the Rev. F.E. Thomas.

WAR SAVINGS

War Savings in the borough for the week ending January 27th, amounted to £18,485.

Sat 17th Feb

NAVAL AWARD

For bravery, resolution and skill in H.M. Ships in a successful action with enemy destroyers off the Dalmatian coast, Leading Seaman Norman Philip Peggs, D/JX. 251030, of Wokingham, has been mentioned in dispatches.

+

H.M.S. GARTH

The Mayor of Wokingham has received a letter from Lieut. John V. Holt, of H.M.S. Garth, expressing his thanks on behalf of the officers and ship's company of the "Garth" for the really excellent and exciting welcome that you and the townspeople of Wokingham went to so much trouble to produce. He goes on to say that everyone was full of praise for the splendid hospitality shown. "Your return visit we insist upon," he adds.

Sat 24th Feb

MENTIONED IN DISPATCHES

Word has been received that Major Whitcher R.A.M.C. with the 8th Army in India, an old Ranelagh boy, has been mentioned in dispatches for "Gallant Distinguished Services."

Sat 3rd March

REPORTED MISSING

Mrs. W. Smith, of Holmwood, Forest Road, Wokingham, has been informed that her son, Stoker Phillip Roy Smith, is missing from H.M. Submarine "Porpoise" which is long overdue and must be presumed lost. Aged 19, he was a member of the Reading Sea Cadets before joining the Royal Navy.

NO UPHOLSTERY

Thames Valley passengers on the Wokingham routewill have noticed a new utility double decker bus, which has wooden slat seats instead of the usual upholstered ones, and only two drop windows on each deck. It has a seating accommodation of 55, seven more than that of the ordinary buses. This type of vehicle is, however, purely a war-time measure.

WOKINGHAM OFFICER WINS D.S.O.

It is announced that the Distinguished Service Order has been awarded to Lt.-Col. Guy Owen Thompson, Royal Engineers, of Wokingham for services on the Italian Front. The citation states:--

"This officer assumed command of the Engineers of the division the day before the advance from the River Matauro started. Throughout the whole advance he has shown a courage and devotion to a duty of a very high order. He has personally been right forward continuously during the advance under shell, mortar and small arms fire, for which he has exhibited a complete disregard. Though injured by the explosion of a mine he continued to discharge his duty quite unshaken. His example and gallantry played a most important part in maintaining the momentum of the advance from the River Matauro to the River Conca between August 27th and September 3rd.

Sat 10th March

LAST OF A LANDMARK

American soldiers were called in to assist in the final stages of the removal of the stale ---water tank which has stood in the Market Place for several years. Pneumatic drills were employed by them to raze the concrete foundations in the ground.

LOOKS AFTER TROOPS WELFARE

His home bombed and his wife staying with friends at 8, Barkham Road, Wokingham, Bdr Albert Brown is looking after the welfare of British other ranks at an U.N.R.R. camp for Yugoslav refugees local in the Suez Canal area. Bdr. Brown has seen service in Syria and Palestine where he was on plotting tables and worked with a mobile plotting unit.

WOUNDED SOLDIERS' PARTY

A party for wounded soldiers was held in the Town Hall on Thursday under the direction of Mrs. Hussey. Fifty guests were entertained with tea, spelling bee ----and impromptu games, and in the evening a concert party from the R.E.M.E. School presented a show. Cigarettes were provided by members of the N.F.S. Originally planned to take place monthly, Mrs. Hussey's parties have proved such a success that they are to be held fortnightly as soon as possible. Forty-five ladies in the town have come forward to help, and each in turn, according to the number of men expected, is responsible for food for three guests.

N.F.S. PRESENTATION

Compan Officer A.F. Edwards, N.F.S. is retiring from full-time service with the N.F.S. but is returning to part-time capacity at Sonning, where he has been Chief Officer from 1919 to 1941, when he was posted to take charge at Wokingham. During the three and a half years he has been at Wokingham, Mr. Edwards has made many friends and he pays tribute to the generous and measure of co-operation received from local officials, civil defence members etc. Recently he was presented with an illuminated address, a case of pipe tobacco, a fountain pen and a wallet containing notes as a token of esteem from Fire Force members at Wokingham, Winnersh and Finchampstead stations.

Sat 17th March

OBITUARY

Sgt. R.F.D. Shafer, R.A.F., aged 23, son of Mr. Shafer, of Aukland, Mill Lane, Earley, who was killed in a flying accident, was interred at St. Paul's, Wokingham, on Saturday, the Rev. P.H. Scot, officiating

Fri 20th April

WOKINGHAM'S WELCOME HOME FUND FOR THE FORCES, 1945

Inaugural Meeting at Town Hall

Under the ex officio chairmanship of the Mayor, the first meeting of representatives of local organisations took place at the Town Hall, on Monday. An executive committee was formed to launch a fund, and to make arrangements for an official welcome home to all local service men and women. It was agreed that the Fund be described as "Wokingham's Welcome Home Fund for the Forces, 1945," and that it should be registered under the War Charities Act.

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On the proposition of Coun. Moles, seconded by Mr. A. Andrews, Alderman F.S. Perkins was elected Hon Secretary. Mr. Hamlet (Manager of Midland Bank), was elected Treasurer, Councillor Moles was voted assistant secretary.

Before inviting nominations for the executive committee, the Chairman informed the meeting that the idea of starting the Fund was that the expense of giving the returning service personnel an official welcome home, would not fall upon the rates, and therefore it was up to the committee to get as much money into the Fund by whatever manner they considered best. It was not known at this stage, how the money was to be spent, but he had no doubts that it would be spent to the satisfaction of everyone.

The following nominations for the committee were then proposed, seconded and accepted: Councillor H. Lush, Lt.-Col. F. Wells, Councillor F. Moles, Mr. E. Browne, Miss Finch, Councillor Mrs. Longhurst, Miss Wescott, Mr. C. Ward, Rev. F.E. Thomas, Mr Green, Alderman F.J. Barrett, Mr. Rumsey, Mr. R. Giles, and Councillor D. Goddard. It was agreed that the committee have power to co-opt. If required.

While the number of suggestions put forward by the meeting on how the official welcome home was to be conducted, were very few, Mr. Giles put forward an idea for a flag day to be held on the official V day—the proceeds of which would materially assist the Fund.

One questioner asked if the welcome would be given after the war in Europe, or when the Japanese were beaten. The Mayor replied that the meeting would agree with him that it could not take place until the Japanese war was over. It was however suggested that there should be an official welcome extended to each returning serviceman, and that he should receive some little token.

Approx. 900 service personnel from Wokingham

Lt. Col. Fortesque Wells, (British Legion), was asked if he could give some idea of how many local men and women were serving in the Forces, but he replied that the British Legion had experienced considerable difficulty in securing this information—it was being held back for some reason or another. So far they had only been able to secure 317 names.

Mr. H. Bird, (Ministry of Labour), offered the information that he had records of an approximate figure of 700 men and 200 women, serving from the borough.

The meeting felt that it would be necessary to ascertain the actual number, and one person suggested that members of the Youth Club should canvas every house in the borough, with a view to compiling a complete record.

The meeting concluded with the Chairman requesting that the Executive Committee only, should remain.

WOKINGHAM SAILORS' FLAG DAY

The Flag Day held on Tuesday, April 10th, in aid of the St. George's Fund for Sailors, realised the very satisfactory sum of £126 9s. The collection was undertaken

by the committee of the local Ladies' Guild of the British Sailors' Society, and was organised for them by Mr. D. Woodhams. Thanks are due to him and his very willing helpers.

We understand that arrangements are already being made to hold a summer Fete the same as last year, in aid of the British Sailors' Society, full particulars of which will be published in due course.

H.G. RIFLE CLUB

We learn that the .22 Range is now open at the Drill Hall on Monday and Wednesday evenings for practice, and on Saturday evenings for matches and competitions.

A full bore shoot has been arranged at Sandhurst on Sunday April 29th

BUS SHELTER DAMAGED

On Thursday last, an Army Red Cross ambulance struck the overhanging gutter of the new bus shelter outside the Town Hall, tearing off the gutter and causing damage to the roof and structure. Fortunately there was nobody under the shelter at the time.

Fri 11th May

WOKINGHAM AND DISTRICT CELEBRATE VE DAY (WT)

Scenes of Restrained-Sober but Thankful Jubilance

The official declaration of Victory in Europe day, was celebrated in Wokingham and throughout East Berkshire, with sober restraint. With a few exceptions, there were no scenes of wild enthusiasm, the populace generally, preferring to observe VE DAY in the privacy of their homes. To many whose husbands and sons are still fighting in the Far East, this was not their occasion for rejoicing—their day will come, with the cessation of the Japanese conflict.

Flags, bunting and streamers were prolific, and displayed from every house in the district. More ambitious residents displayed fairy lights in their front gardens, while business houses and factories made full use of the end of the blackout, by flood-lighting their premises.

The public holiday with no organised entertainment, left no alternative but to continue with their own personal pursuits, and the countryman took the opportunity of the occasion to spend VE DAY in the garden or in the allotment.

Other sections of the community took full advantage of showing thanks to victory by attending Thanksgiving Services, which were held throughout the day in churches of all denominations.

In Wokingham, the day's services culminated in a United Thanksgiving Service which was held in the Market Place, and attracted a large congregation. The Mayor and representatives of the Corporation attended, and the service was conducted by Rev. Gordon Kenworthy.

At the conclusion, the square was crowded with spectators who remained to listen to the broadcast of the King's speech.

As was to be expected, local licensed house were prepared to meet an unprecedented demand and so great was this that at times, particularly in the Market Place, it was impossible to gain an entrance to many of the 'pubs'..

While the atmosphere was most convivial, and the scenes of comradeship and good fellowship were rife, no incidents occurred, the public enjoying themselves with noticeable sobriety.

The large crowds in the square joined in the dancing which had spontaneously commenced to the sounds of relayed dance music, the scene being illuminated by flood lighting from the Rose Hotel.

The fact that the 'dance floor' consisted of recently laid gravel appeared to be no deterrent to the dancers, whose numbers increased as the public houses closed. Fireworks and 'thunderflashes', also made an effective contribution to this unusual (for Wokingham), spectacle, and at midnight everyone joined in the singing of "God Save the King".

On the evening of VE plus 1 Day, presumably in view of the success of the previous evening, relayed music was broadcast from the Rose Hotel, and another large crowd assembled to dance outside in the square.

The Mayor took full advantage of this opportunity to go round amongst the people with a large basin asking for contributions towards the "welcome Home" fund, and collected £10 15s.

Whilst the festivities were progressing in the centre of the town other scenes of festivity were being witnessed further afield. In Waterloo Road, almost all the residents of the road, with many friends, joined in the dancing in the road, to the music relayed by Johnny Goswell. The scene was illuminated by flood-lighting.

At Forest Road, Wokingham Without, fifty odd children of the district, having been entertained to a sumptuous tea party arranged by residents of the district at the Changa Service Station, completed their VE day celebrations by dancing madly round an enormous bonfire. The occasion was made doubly exciting for the youngsters for the burning of a Nazi effigy. We learn that this spontaneous treat followed a VE Day-even party in which most of the residents celebrated on the green outside the Warren House, and terminated in the very early hours in the morning. Having had their treat, it was felt that the children should receive one too.

Fri 8th June

EVACUEES' FAREWELL PARTY

About fifty evacuee children and a number of their foster mothers sat down to a farewell tea party at the Town Hall on Saturday afternoon. The Mayor and Mayoress presided, and also present were the deputy Mayor, Cllr. Cheeseman; Cllr Reeves; Mrs. J.E. Thorpe, wife of Wokingham's first wartime Mayor, and many others.

The Rev. Kenworthy, Rector of All Saints' said a few words to the children before they commenced tea, and remarked that after so many years of unselfishness, he hoped the foster mothers would now be really selfish and thoroughly enjoy the large victory cake placed at their table.

Mrs. Gibbs of Toutley Road, Embrook, said she was glad the children were now able to go home as she felt that they had been away from their mothers a long time. Mrs. Webb, London Road, Wokingham, had a special reason for being glad her two evacuees were going home because she knew that they had a good home to go back to, and she would now be able to adopt two orphaned boys of five and seven years old, who were waiting to make their permanent home with her.

All the children were in that state of excitement when they hardly knew whether they were glad or sorry to go back, Phyllis Lucking of Dulwich, aged 13, was not keen on leaving Wokingham, as she liked it down here, "but I want to be with mummy", she said. Sydney Hibbert of Welling, was not keen to go back, because, as he remarked, "I've had a good billet". Allan Baker, from Battersea, smiling shyly through a mass of freckles, said he didn't want to go back after living in the country.

After tea the children and grown-ups were entertained by the All Saints' Youth Club, and a very merry time was spent.

Sat 9th June

FOR SALVATION ARMY SOLDIERS

Members of the Women's Service Group gave a concert on Monday in the Salvation Army Hall, Sturges Road, when proceeds were for the Salvation Army Soldiers' Welcome Home Fund

DIED IN INDIA

The death occurred suddenly on May 31st at Rawal Pindi, India of General Sir Henry Finnis, K.C.B., M.C., G.O.C.-in-C, Noth Western Army, General Finnis married in 1917, Cecile, only daughter of the late Col. O'Malley, C.B., and the late Mrs. O'Malley of Dromore, Wokingham. He leaves one son.

METHODIST YOUTH CLUB CONCERT

A dramatic evening with songs and plays was given at the Town Hall on Saturday by members of the Methodist Youth Club. The plays were "Escape," "At the Photographer's" a Mabel Constanduros comedy, and "A Room in the Tower," a historical drama. Production was effective and make-up very impressive. At the end of the performance, a bouquet was presented to the producer, Mrs. Blatherwick. The target of £15 was reached.

BOYS' BRIGADE DISPLAY

The Mayor, Cllr. W.C. Fullbrook, took the chair at a grand display of Boys' Brigade activities by the 7th Reading Company at Wokingham Town Hall on Wednesday. The programme included the presentation of badges to the 1st. Wokingham Company. by Ald. F.J. Barrett. The proceeds were for the funds of the 1st. Wokingham Co. who are endeavouring to raise a fund of £50 for gymnastic equipment.

MISSIONARY GARDEN PARTY

St. Paul's Church held its sixth Missionary Garden Party since the war at The Elms, Wokingham on Wednesday, by permission of Miss Ellison. An address was given by the Right Rev. Bishop Daughish, formerly Bishop of Nassau, and secretary of the S.P.G.. His subject was the West Indies Church Appeal. Holt School Girls under the direction of Miss Dickson, gave a performance of "The Bathroom Door." The total proceeds amounted to £115.

Sat 16th June

OBITUARY MRS. PALEY

The funeral service of Mrs. Catherine Margaret Paley, late of Cantley, Wokingham, and recently of Park Lodge, Binfield, took place at Binfield Parish Church on Wednesday. Internment followed at St. Paul's, Wokingham. Mrs. Paley was 89.

EMPIRE YOUTH WEEK END

Special services in connection with the annual Empire Youth Sunday were held at the Salvation Army Hall by Capt. and Mrs. Fiddaman (corps officers) on Sunday evening. The Mayor and Mayoress and some members of the corporation attended in their official capacity for the first time in the history of the local corps. On Monday evening an Empire Youth Pageant was arranged by the Torchbearer Youth Group. An

auction and refreshment stall raised a good sum for the S.A. Men's Welcome Home Fund.

Sat 23rd June

EVACUEES RETURN

Forty accompanied children and eleven grown ups and children from Wokingham Borough and Rural District returned to London on Wednesday morning. Before walking to the station they were given refreshments in the St. Paul's Parish Rooms. The Rev. G. Kenworthy, the Rev. P.J.H. Scott and Rev. H.C. Johnson went to see them off, together with a number of foster parents, all of whom were a little sad.

Sat 7th July

Wokingham Officer Wins M.C.

It is announced that the Military Cross has been awarded to Major John Eric Weller, Royal Engineers of Wokingham for services in North-West Europe. The citation states:--

"Near Rees on March 24th, 1945, 210th Field Company Royal Engineers, commanded by Major J.E. Weller, was engaged with 11th and 209th Field Companies Royal Engineers on building a bridge over the Rhine. The site was subjected to observed artillery and mortar fire so accurate that the company was ordered on several occasions to temporarily abandon work. The whole time work was in progress Major Weller, whose unit was in the most exposed position, remained on the open bank directing the task. Wherever danger appeared greatest he was to be found encouraging his men and showing disregard for his personal safety. His calm leadership undoubtedly saved casualties and his courageous example was reflected in the determination of his troops.

Fri 13th July

RED CROSS PENNY-A-WEEK FUND

The result of the house to house collections for the above fund for May was £60 8s 8d.

A JOB WELL DONE

Mrs. Jean Baxter who has been the Hon. Secretary of the Wokingham National Savings Committee for the past four years, resigned her appointment on June 30th. During her term of office, she has been responsible for the three big successful savings campaigns—Warship week, Wings for Victory, and Salute the Soldier, which together totalled 1½ million pounds in savings. Due to Mrs. Baxter's tireless efforts, savings in the district have risen from 17% to 32%, but since the end of the war in Europe, they have fallen away, and Mrs. Baxter feels that she can no longer devote the time for the tremendous job of work which will be necessary for the peace savings campaigns, the first of which will be launched shortly.

Mrs. Baxter has been the recipient of numerous congratulatory messages, on her most successful years of office, from all over the district, and she leaves her self-appointed task with the feeling of a job well done, in which the strong enthusiastic support of the Group secretaries and others, has contributed to a very great extent.

No successor for the position has yet been found, but it is hoped that someone who may have the time and energy to work up a peace savings campaign, will come forward.

WOKINGHAM AND DISTRICT CELEBRATE VJ DAY

The news of the unconditional surrender of the Japs, broadcast by the Prime Minister at midnight on Tuesday, was heard only by those who stayed up in anticipation of such an announcement. But many residents of the district were unaware of the fact that Wednesday was the first of the two days' VJ holiday until early on Wednesday morning.

Wokingham residents were rudely awakened from their peaceful slumbers at 6.30 a.m., by a stentorian voice announcing "Good morning, it's a VERY good morning, because here is the news that the world has been waiting for.....the Japanese war is over.....!" followed by strains of martial music. One particular resident of the Market Place apparently took a poor view of this unconstitutional method of announcing Peace and, thrusting a tousled head out of his bedroom window, instructed the broadcaster to "Clear off!" in no uncertain terms.

But this instigator of modern "Town Crying," undaunted, continued on his way, his pronouncements being greeted with cheers and expressions of good-will. Early morning risers, on their way to work, unaware of it being a public holiday, upon hearing the official announcement, promptly turned their footsteps in the direction of home once more.

It may be gathered that this self-appointed "Town Crier" was none other than Mr. John Goswell with his mobile amplifying unit. Throughout Wednesday morning other contract address contractors in villages throughout East Berks cooperated in promoting the desired gay and happy atmosphere by broadcasting music from their shops and mobile vans, to the great delight of the youngsters especially.

Despite the heavy rain and dull sky which persisted throughout all of Wednesday morning, flags, bunting and streamers made their appearance again and towns began to take on a carnival spirit.

Residents gathered on their front steps and conversed freely with their neighbours on the wonderful news. This was a great day for many of them—their sons and husbands in the Far East theatre of operations would, they hoped, be home soon.

This culmination of a second world war in twenty-five years was celebrated throughout the County with expressions of undisguised thankfulness. The churches held special Thanksgiving Services and those who desired (and there were Many) took advantage of giving thanks to Him for the safe deliverance of their loved ones.

Most of the food shops opened for a few hours on both VJ days, and bread and milk deliveries were maintained. Cinemas and amusements continued to their advertised programmes. Many took advantage of the Wednesday holiday to witness the Victory Procession in London and the State Opening of Parliament, but due to abnormally large crowds, few were able to see much of it.

The Mayor, together with members of the Wokingham Town Council, attended an evening United Service at All Saints' Church on Wednesday, which was followed by an open-air service in the market Place, conducted by the Rev. Gordon Kenworthy.

During the evening crowds began to assemble in the vicinity of the Town Hall, in anticipation of some form of festivity following the service, and this took the form of dancing in the Square to the accompaniment of relayed dance music. Licensed houses were unable to take advantage of the extended hours of opening, due to limited supplies, and many of them closed early in the evening. This, however, did not appear to cause any undue lack of jollification in the free for all dancing which was carried on until midnight.

Peach Street was undoubtedly the brightest street in the town—shops being fully illuminated and electric lamps being festooned across the street.

Children of Seaford Road built a large bonfire with an effigy of Tojo dressed in colourful robes sitting upon a chair on its apex. At dusk this became a roaring inferno, Tojo being consumed by the flames, accompanied by the frenzied cheers of the children.

Bonfires and street dancing continued throughout the entire evening in various parts of the town, Waterloo Road being a particularly effective scene. Houses were floodlit and also festooned with fairy lamps, while a large crowd of dancers—both young and old—made merry to the music supplied by Mr. John Goswell's radio rhythm

Sat 21st July

NAVAL AWARD

For distinguished service during offensive operations with the Allied Armies over a period from November 1944 to January 1945, Marine Frederick Peberdy, R.M. Ch.X107053 (Wokingham) has been mentioned in dispatches.

FETE AT COUNTY GIRLS' SCHOOL

A fete was held in the grounds of Wokingham County Girls' School, on Wednesday, in aid of the British Sailors' Society. Presented by the combined efforts of the school and pupils, every corner of the spacious grounds was utilised by novel side shows, stalls, and competitions. Refreshments were organised and served by Mrs. E. Thomas, Mrs. G. Martin and helpers. The stalls were manned by the girls. Following tea, pupils of the school performed scenes from Shakespeare's "The Tempest." The play was produced by Miss E. Hope.

Sat 4th Aug

WING COMMANDER'S WORK

Landing very early on D Day at the Normandy beach-head, Wing Commander Brian Armiger (27) of Wokingham has served continuously on the continent supervising the disembarkation of R.A.F. personnel equipment and ammunition, and later re-embarking the airman proceeding to the United Kingdom on leave. He is married and has two children.

WELCOME HOME APPEAL

The executive committee dealing with Wokingham's Welcome Home for the Forces has decided that the main part of the town's recognition will take the form of the presentation of a wallet and a purse to every woman surmounted by the town crest. There are over a thousand names on the list. The factories and tradesmen in Wokingham have been approached for contribution towards raising a sufficient sum. The response has been most generous. The Mayor (Cllr. W.C. Fullbrook) has expressed the hope that all private residents will help by subscribing as liberally as possible.

Fri 24th Aug

EMBROOK CELEBRATES VJ2 DAY

Embrook celebrated VJ2 day in no uncertain manner, when the traditional bonfire and Jap effigy were burnt; in fact, this fire surpassed others in this district, as it was still smouldering on the following morning. This fine effort was due to the endeavours of Major Glan Williams, R.A., of the 465 L.A.A. Battery, Toutley Camp, also Mr. Skinner, of Toutley Hall and his colleagues of the A.R.P., Mr. Carlyle and Mr. Irving.

Various explosions shook the neighbourhood and a giant V comprising of magnesium flares, blazed on the ground as a preliminary. At 9.30 p.m. the bonfire was started and, helped by a breeze, was soon well ablaze. Another V sign was seen in the heart of the fire.

The “Jap,” hoisted on a tall pole, succeeded in evading his fate until the flames reached the peak, but at last amidst jibes, he succumbed to the inevitable. Soldiers meanwhile set the “stage” for a mock show. General McArthur (Sgt. Jack Gertsy) dictated the Surrender Terms to Sgt. Humphrey Hunter (R.A.) as “General Wickywacky”; Sgt. Frank Keam (R.A.) as Hon. “Packup” and Sgt. Jack Fletcher, (R.A.) as Hirohito.

The penalties “imposed” were (1) to whitewash the camp paving stones; (2) to pick up and relay same for eternity, and (3) to have 48 hours’ pass every two days. Each committed “Hon. Hari-Kari.” A ring was then formed round the blaze and songs were sung. About two hundred folk also had an enjoyable dance at the Toutley Camp canteen, at which they were guests. Dancing lasted till the small hours of Friday morning. This was a record attendance for the popular ‘camp’ dances.

Fri 24th Aug

EVENDONS LANE CELEBRATES VJ2 DAY

Early on Wednesday morning (VJ. 4), the children residing in Evendons Lane, Wokingham, began to get busy—preparing the usual bonfire—which appears to be one of the main features on these occasions. Bushes and other inflammable material were collected and taken to the plot of ground.. This was added to by a band of willing and energetic helpers, who cut down the hedgerow in the front of the plot. Very soon a substantial heap was collected for the bonfire on VJ 2 night. The effigy of “Tojo” was also prepared, with a collecting box in his lap, and placed in the front of the bonfire.

During the evening of VJ 2 day, stalls and side shows were run by members of the Evendons Lane Celebrations Committee, and other helpers. A substantial sum was collected towards the big event which is to follow in the near future.

As darkness approached, excitement ran high, and “Tojo” was wheeled to the bonfire, placed in a chair on top of the heap, and the bonfire lit. Flames soon shot several feet in the air, and “Tojo” was no more! In the light of the bonfire, which burnt for about two hours, dancing and community singing were indulged in, led by music supplied by the Evensdon Lane accordion band.

To round off Victory Week, an open air dance was held in the Lane on Saturday evening. A very large crowd of people gathered. Music for dancing was supplied by Stan Ayres and his band.

Sat 6th Oct

FOR WELCOME HOME FUND

As the result of a dance held at All Saints’ Church House on Thursday last week, £13 1s. 4d. was handed to the Wokingham Welcome Home Fund. All Saints’ Youth Fellowship was responsible for the organisation.

HOLME GRANGE OPENS

Holme Grange opened up as a Preparatory School for Boys on September 28th. The nucleus of the new school is formed by boys from Eaton House School, which has been resident at Haines Hill, Twyford, since 1939, and which has now returned to

London to its old premises at 3, Eaton Gate, where it was for many years a famous day school.

JUNIOR SPORTS CLUB

The indoor evenings are proving most successful. The first football match of the season was against an Army Technical School team and though our lads were defeated by five clear goals, their performance was really quite creditable. The junior team won their first game last Saturday, when they entertained Bracknell Youth Juniors. For the club Jimmy Langley scored a hat-trick, and Johnny Emmerick the other goal, to which the Bracknell team replied twice. It has been pleasing to have a number of serving members home on leave.

Fri 12th Oct

THE NEW OFFICES OF THE "TIMES AND WEEKLY NEWS"

With the erection of our new offices at Embrook lies a tale of make-do and mend, which has extended over a considerable number of years. Until recently the building was one of the less imposing edifices on the West side of the Borough. This fact is not surprising when one considers it was, originally, a timber-constructed carpenter's shop, at the rear of which was a large workshop and cement shed. These two buildings became our composing room and machine shop.

For years the production of this paper has been accomplished only at the expense of considerable inconvenience. Lack of inadequate heating and lighting have been the principal difficulties, for the original premises were not erected for the purpose for which they are at present being used.

During these past two and a half years, and in easy stages, the task of converting the original buildings into a modern, warm, light and airy printing works has been accomplished; not a simple task in these days of shortage of men and building materials. The increasing volume of work has necessitated new machines and additional space, and having gradually attended to these matters, we have recently focused our attention upon the offices.

The advice of the Planning Department of Messrs. Watts and Son was secured, and the plans were drawn up which, ultimately were approved by the appropriate authorities. The matter of securing builders was also finally accomplished, and we were able to enrol the services of a firm of licensed builders. This firm, Messrs. Warren and Eaves, after surmounting the difficulties of obtaining supplies, made an early start demolishing the front of the present building, and within four weeks had completed the entire reconstruction—the result of which is shown in the accompanying photograph.

Considerable interior work, that of enlarging and modifying the offices, has also been completed within the month—a factor which, with present day difficulties—is worthy of comment.

Prompt and efficient service in altering both the gas and electricity supplies was undertaken by the Yorktown and Camberley Gas and Electricity Company, whilst new electric lighting and wiring system throughout was undertaken by another local business man—Mr. R. Bowyer, who also undertook the reconstruction of the interior heating system.

The entire improvements have been successfully completed with a minimum of delay (an important factor, as the office staff have had to operate in close proximity to noisy printing machines), as a result of perfect cooperation between the firms concerned.

The work of modernising the electric clock, together with the new facia, was the work of a local firm—Messrs. Giles, Signwriters.

The completed offices are modern in appearance, dignified, and attractive, The effect of giving width is due to the incorporation of the new type of Crittall windows, which also make provision for allowing maximum light and air. Built in eleven inch cavity wall, the front is rendered in cement, finished in ferrow concrete, the white being broken by a red brick coping and brick fillet pointed in ferrow concrete extending the entire width of the premises. Green door and window frames complete the colour scheme.

The forecourt of the office has a brick surround and will ultimately become a small flower garden, n which it is hoped to grow perennials with a view to providing a splash of natural colour which does so much in further [page torn]ing the attractions of any but [page torn].

Fri 19th Oct

“HOLME GRANGE” PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The new Boys’ Preparatory School, recently opened at “Holme Grange,” Easthampstead Road, Wokingham, is the nucleus of the Eaton House School, Haines Hill, Twyford, which was evacuated from Eaton Gate, London, where it gained its reputation as a famous day school, and has since returned.

The principal of the new school, Mr. Gordon Walker, native of the West country, and educated at London and Oxford Universities, was formerly a master at a public school at Claysmore, Dorset. His primary object, he informed a “Times and Weekly News” reporter, is to make Home Grange a thoroughly efficient preparatory school, with a first rate teaching staff. With his duties as a commissioned officer in the J.T.C. completed, he will now concentrate on his scholastic work.

There are at present over thirty scholars at the school, most of whom are resident. It is intended eventually to accept fifty boarding scholars and the same number of day pupils.

Home Grange, recently de-requisitioned by the military, is situated in beautiful surroundings, and despite the lack of labour, playing fields are being marked out, and a football field is already completed. Other sports will be encouraged and taught.

THANKS—FROM THE GARTH

The Mayor of Wokingham (Councillor W. C. Fullbrook), has received the following letter from Captain G. Forman, the Commanding Officer of H.M.S. Garth:--

“Dear Mr. May

On behalf of the officers and Ship’s Company of H.M.S. Garth, I would like to thank the citizens of Wokingham for the reception we received at the Thanksgiving Parade and also to thank you, the Mayoress and all the other kind people who helped to make our visit so pleasant and comfortable. The visit was greatly enjoyed by all those who were privileged to take part, and one that will not be forgotten by ‘Garth’ for many months.

All the Company of your adopted ship, sincerely hope that the ‘Lend. to Mend’ savings week will be a great success and that the target will be reached and passed.”

Sat 20th Oct

AWARDED THE MILITARY MEDAL

Sgt. Ronald Joseph Paice, Royal Armoured Corps, who was born at Wokingham, and who resided in the district for many years, has been awarded the Military Medal

for services in Italy. When his troop commander was severely wounded, Sgt. Paice reorganised the troop and moved off in support of the infantry. He twice led his troop against enemy positions and was responsible for killing large numbers of the enemy. His great courage and leadership saved the lives of many men and averted what might have been an extremely serious situation.

Sat 27th Oct

KILLED IN ACTION

It has now been officially reported that 2nd. Lieut. Henry C. Fosbery, 272/80th A. Tank Battery, R.A., youngest son of the late W.H.S. Fosbery, M.D., and of Mrs. Fosbery, of 5, The Terrace, Wokingham, was killed instantly in Singapore on February 14th 1942.

Fri 9th Nov

FORCES' CORNER

Died In Japanese P.O.W. Hospital

News has now been received that Robert James Hatcher, R.A.S.C., whose parents reside at Barkham Ride, Wokingham, died in a prisoner of war Hospital, Thailand, on March 12th 1943, and he was buried with Military Honours.

HOME ON LEAVE

Staff Sergeant Robert Mortis, of 5, Rances Lane, Wokingham, is home from the Sudan on thirty days' leave.

He has served with the Forces for over four years and travelled extensively. He is due to be "demobbed" in January, and is looking forward to settling down once more in his native town.

REPORTED KILLED

Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Knapp, of 63, Oxford Road, Wokingham, have received notification that their only son, F/Lt. George Knapp, aged 22, has been killed in a flying accident in Singapore. This news is doubly sad coming at a time when it was least expected.

He had been serving with the R.A.F. in Burma for some time, and was only married a few months ago.

P.O.W. RETURNS

Sgt. E.J. Chaney, Royal Artillery, who is the son of Mrs. and the late Major Chaney, of Wokingham, has recently arrived home, after his release from a Japanese prisoner of war camp. He was attached to the first contingent to go to the Far East, and was captured at Singapore.

HOME FROM THE PACIFIC

After spending over 18 months with H.M.S. Victorious in the Pacific warfare, O/SP.M. Hynes, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Hynes, of 72, Wescott Rd., Wokingham, has arrived home for 10 days' leave, before rejoining his ship for troop-carrying operations between Britain and Singapore.

O/S Hynes has been in the very thick of Japanese warfare, having once been wounded when Jap suicide 'planes crashed on the ship, and on another occasion it can now be stated, the Victorious was blazing almost its entire length, but though battle

scarred, it has come through to live up to its name. O/S Hynes has commenced his short leave by celebrating his engagement.

Fri 28th Dec

EAST LONDON EVACUEE LEAVES WOKINGHAM

Bruce Anthony Croft, of Leyton came to Wokingham during the London blitz of 5½ years ago, and since that time has made his home with Mr. and Mrs. Stewart, of 1, Broad Street. He had attended St. Paul's School and is at present head choirboy at St. Paul's Church. Now that he has reached school leaving age, however, he has to put his "country" home behind him, and on Boxing Day he returned to his parents, and hopes to commence work very shortly as an electrician.

WOKINGHAM EMERGENCY HOSPITAL

Christmas Activities

Christmas festivities at the Wokingham Emergency Hospital were again celebrated in the traditional Yuletide spirit, the wards and dining room being very effectively decorated for the occasion. On Christmas Eve the entire staff made a tour of the hospital singing carols.

On Christmas morning, after a substantial breakfast, every patient was given a bag containing sweets, oranges and cigarettes and also a Christmas card—the gift of Mrs. Oliver Young, of Hare Hatch, Twyford. A special Christmas Day service followed in the chapel, preached by the Rev. P.J. Hepburne-Scott, and which was broadcast throughout the hospital.

The Christmas dinner in the dining hall, consisted of roast pork, roast beef, etc., rounded off with liberal portions of Christmas pudding, beer and minerals, while each hospital patient's dinner consisted of chicken. During the meal each patient received a gift of 1s. from the Misses Huggins of A Bear Corner, Hare Hatch, Twyford.

For the first time for forty-three years, Alderman W.T. Martin was prevented from carving the Christmas joints in view of illness, but his place was taken by Alderman F.J. Barrett, who later, in the course of a brief address, expressed the sincere apologies of Alderman Martin upon his enforced absence but, on his behalf, Alderman Barrett presented every patient with 1s. This was supplemented by a small monetary gift given by Alderman Barrett.

Major A. Hunter (Chairman of the Management Committee), who was also present, apologised for the absence of Mrs. Jarvis and Miss E. Norris.

During the Xmas dinner all the children in the dining hall were presented with a toy, which had been made by the hospital staff.

After a substantial tea of iced cake, mince pies, trifle and jellies, patients were entertained during the evening by a staff concert, in which the following took part: Staff Nurse Cavenagh, sisters Tarrant, Brickland, Nurses Sadler, Willmott, Stocken, The Matron, Mrs. Billing, Messrs. T. Austin and W. Gournall. The show was compered by the Master and Mrs. Mundy was the guest pianist.

During the evening there was a welcome return of Sergeant Fowler, R.A.F., who was formerly attached to the hospital as a clerk, and who is at present on leave.

On Boxing Night the staff were entertained to a dinner, which was followed by dancing, games, etc.

DANCING DISPLAY

On Wednesday of last week, pupils from the Royland School of Dancing gave a delightful entertainment at the Town Hall. After a bright opening number by the

Wokingham Juveniles, tiny tots from the Fairdene Nursery School earned much applause with their "Pony Trot." Jean Phillips followed with her topical songs. Others taking part were José and Gillian, Rose Scarse (winner of a "Sunshine Medal" in London), and Jean Hilliard, who showed great promise as an operatic dancer. "Jill," the Jack in the Box," Beryl Belcher, June Plank, June Waite, Pauline Williams, P. Miles, Joyce Hepworth, Marie Lane and the Wokingham Babies all contributed to 'a most enjoyable evening'. At the close of the entertainment the pupils from Fairdene Nursery School presented Miss le Roy with a beautiful bouquet of yellow chrysanthemums

ENTERTAINING THE DUTCH TROOPS

We learn that there was some response to the appeal by the Mayor for residents to entertain some of the Dutch soldiers over Xmas. It is anticipated that the response would have been greater had it been possible to give longer notice.

ON LEAVE

Among those who have recently spent Christmas at home on 28 days' leave is Rifleman E.M. Darbourn, of Soldiers Rise, Wokingham, who has been serving in Italy. Rifleman Darbourn is one of the Wokingham Town Council's severest critics and he still has not forgotten the flower baskets on lamp-posts etc.

Sat 29th Dec

CHRISTMAS IN WOKINGHAM

A very fine Christmas tree,, the gift of Messrs. Sale and Son, stood in the Market Place, Wokingham, over Christmas. It was decorated by Mr. Dick Giles, and on Christmas Eve, people gathered round it to sing carols, led by members of Wokingham Youth Centre and various choirs in the town. Mr. E.C.S. Davis conducted the singing, and the carol-singers relied on Mr. Love's cornet to give them their note. A group of hand bell ringers under Ald. Barrett played several carols on the bells. On Christmas morning, full peals of eight were rung from All Saints' and St. Paul's. A midnight mass was celebrated at St. Paul's in addition to other Christmas services. In All Saints' Church, a tall Christmas Tree, beautifully lighted, stood opposite a flood-lit Crib.

CELEBRATIONS AT THE EMERGENCY HOSPITAL

On Christmas Eve the staff of Wokingham Emergency Hospital went carol singing round the cheerfully decorated wards. Each inmate received a bag containing an orange, sweets and cigarettes on Christmas morning, and a Christmas card provided by Mrs. Oliver Young, of Hare Hatch, Twyford. The Misses Huggins, of Bears Corner, Hare Hatch, sent a shilling for each Berkshire patient. A service from the chapel. Conducted by the Rev. P.J.H. Scott, chaplain, was broadcast over the wards. The usual Christmas fare was served for Christmas dinner, and the chairman of the committee, Major A. Hunter, and Ald. F.J. Barrett were present to help with the carving. Mr. Scott was also there. Unfortunately Ald. W.T. Martin was absent for the first time in forty years because of ill-health. Gifts to the children were distributed at the end of the meal. There were iced cakes, jellies and trifles for tea, and in the evening the staff gave a concert. On Boxing Day the staff held their social and dinner.

The following articles have been taken from the Reading Mercury and the Wokingham Times

1946 to 1951

NB Articles dated Saturday are from The Reading Mercury. The rest are from The Wokingham Times.

1946

Sat 5th Jan

JUNIOR SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

The annual football match against Havelock Rovers on Boxing Day, was won by the Club 8—2. On Saturday the team lost 4—3 to Wokingham Town. It was a great pleasure to have so many Service members home for Christmas.

ACCIDENT

The Hon. Mrs. Corfield and Miss Corfield were involved in a serious car accident on Saturday on their way to Edinburgh from Berwick. The Hon. Mrs. Corfield is still in hospital suffering from severe cuts on her head, and shock, but is going on as well as can be expected. Miss Corfield escaped with bruises and minor cuts.

WOKINGHAM WELCOMES 1946

Peals of eight were rung at midnight from All Saints' and St. Paul's. The Drill Hall, where a dance, organised by the Wokingham branch of the Berkshire Regiment Old Comrades' Association, was in full swing, was crowded.

The R.E.M.E. band from Arborfield supplied the music, and proceeds went to branch funds. Wokingham Club members entertained their friends at a party which lasted until one o'clock. Members of the Methodist Youth Club held a social at their headquarters until 11.30 p.m., when they attended a watch-night service, conducted by the Rev. J. Webster, in the Rose Street Chapel. On the evening of New Year's Day, All Saints' Youth Fellowship held a dinner in the Church House. Among the nine guests were the Rev. G. Kenworthy and Miss Lloyd, who were presented with book-tokens.

Sat 12th Jan

MRS. CORFIELD

The news of the Hon. Mrs. Corfield's accident was received with general concern in Wokingham. It is now learned that she is progressing favourably and is expected at her home, Wemyss Lodge, Murdoch Road, sometime this weekend.

KILLED IN ACTION

Major Allan (Bruno) Davidson-Brown, 19th Hyderabad Regiment, husband of Mrs. Margaret Davidson-Brown, of Holme Grange, Wokingham, who was previously reported missing, is now officially reported killed in action in Malaya, on January 7th 1942.

BRITISH LEGION SOCIAL

Mrs. Anderson, vice president of the branch, opened the Wokingham British Legion Women's Section Social on Wednesday in the Town Hall. Dances were contributed

by Miss Stephanie Aldridge, of Earley, and songs by Miss Betty Wood. Members of the Methodist Youth Club gave a sketch and several other items and songs, and Ald. Barrett and his handbell ringers gave a recital on the bells.

Sat 19th Jan

Photograph of Mr. J. May, Wokingham awarded the B.E.M.

No info

Sat 2nd Feb

WOUNDED

Mr. and Mrs. W. Bowyer, Red Lion Inn, Oakhanger Bordon, late of Wokingham, has been officially notified that their son, Major H.G. Bowyer, 1st Batt. Royal Garhwal Rifles (Indian Army) was wounded on December 5th 1945 In Sumatra. He is now in hospital in Singapore where he is now progressing satisfactorily.

ST. PAUL'S

The Ven. Archdeacon Herbert Thorndike Shaw, M.A. Archdeacon of Grenada and until recently rector of St. George's, Grenada, Windward Islands, has been appointed to the living of St. Paul's, Wokingham. Mr. John Walter of Bear Wood, Wokingham, is the patron of the living. The Archdeacon succeeds the Rev. the Hon. P.J.H. Scott, who will leave shortly to take up the living of chaplain to St. Mary's Abbey, West Malling, Kent.

Sat 9th Feb

MRS. C.E. TRILL

The funeral took place, on Wednesday at St. Paul's, of Mrs. Lush, mother of Mrs. C.E. Trill, of Denmark Street, Wokingham

CRICKET CLUB REFORMED

The first annual meeting of Wokingham Cricket Club since 1941 was held on Monday at Wokingham Club. Cllr. L.D. Sears, elected to the chair, said that he was keen to see cricket in Wokingham back to the standard he remembered some years ago. He stressed the need for enthusiasm and co-operation.

Election of officers resulted: President, Cllr. L.D. Sears; hon secretary, Mr. H. Knapp; hon. treasurer, Mr. P.W. Fry; match secretary, Mr. J. Langley, 12 Milton Road, Wokingham. To the committee were elected Messrs. A.T. Ilott, E. Mundy, H.R. Wells, R. Billington and R. Holder. The election of captains and vice-captains was left to a further meeting.

The secretary said that no fixtures had yet been made. It was agreed that there should be three teams and that the match secretary should start at once to arrange fixtures for Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. After some discussion, one guinea was agreed on as the subscription, but the committee was asked to consider other arrangements for junior members.

PRESENTATION TO THE REV. P.J.H. SCOTT

A representative gathering met at the St. Paul's Parish Room on Wednesday to bid farewell to the rector, the Rev. the Hon. P.J.H. Scott. The churchwardens, Mr. J.H. Newberry and Mr. W.J. Willey presented him with a cheque for £83 4s. 6d. on behalf of the parishioners.

The wardens spoke in glowing terms of the rector's excellent teaching and fine leadership, and of Mrs. Scott's many acts of Christian kindness. The rector, in replying, said how very moved he was by the kindness shown, and expressed his heartfelt thanks to all. Mr. Scott is leaving St. Paul's to take up the duties of Chaplain to St. Mary's Abbey, West Malling.

Sat 9th March

CANTEEN SOCIAL

There was a social for Church Army canteen workers and troops on Tuesday. Capt. Rogers' concert party provided the entertainment.

SERVICES FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

On Ash Wednesday morning, the children of Palmer School and Wescott Road attended a service at All Saints', and those of St. Paul's School went to St. Paul's.

ON LEAVE FROM INDIA

Mr. Peter May of London Road, Wokingham, is home on a month's leave after service in India. Unfortunately he arrived a fortnight too late for his brother's wedding. Also on a month's leave from India is gunner John Hopkins, of Easthampstead Road.

NEW RECTOR'S INDUCTION

The induction of the new Rector of St. Paul's, the Ven. Archdeacon Herbert Thorndike Shaw, was performed by the Bishop of Reading, on Saturday. The service, which was attended by the local clergy and a large congregation, was followed by tea in the Parish Room.

MENTIONED IN DISPATCHES

Flight Lieutenant A.F. Betts, whose wife and family are at present residing at Toutley Hall, Wokingham, has recently learned that he has been mentioned in dispatches in the New Year's Honours List, having carried out special work in Italy. Flight Lieutenant Betts is still serving in the Central Mediterranean Forces, and is officer in command of a parachute unit.

ATTENDED MEMORIAL SERVICE

Mr. and Mrs. W. Smith, of Holmwood, Forest Road, Wokingham, were among the relatives who attended the memorial service at Colchester in remembrance of the officers and ship's company of the submarine H.M.S. Porpoise, which was presumed lost with all hands off the straits of Malacca just over a year ago. Their son, Roy, was a member of the crew.

SAVINGS TARGET FIXED

A target of £10 per head of the population, or approximately £400,000, has been adopted by the Wokingham and Rural District Local Savings Committee for its target for the year starting April 1st. This decision was taken at a rally for group organisers and secretaries, held at the Wokingham Town Hall on Saturday. The chief speaker was Miss Jean Batten, who gave a most inspiring talk, and speeches were also made by the Mayor of Wokingham and Col. C.D. Burnell, chairman of the Rural District Council. An excellent tea was arranged by the W.V.S., following which a short recital was given by the Cecilian Singers under their conductor, Mr. Arthur Yould.

Sat 16th March

OBITUARY MR. C. GODDARD

It is with regret we record the death of Mr. Charles Goddard of Coppid House, Wokingham, which occurred on Wednesday. He was taken ill whilst attending to his duties as churchwarden at All Saints' Church, Wokingham on Sunday.

The late Mr. Goddard was one of the best-known characters in East Berkshire. He joined the Berkshire Constabulary in 1880, and retired in 1932, having by that time served as superintendent of the Forest Division for 31 years. During his long and interesting career he had been on duty at many Royal functions, whilst during the time he held the rank of superintendent he arranged all the police duties for Ascot race week. His early years as a constable were spent at Maidenhead and Sandhurst.

The superintendent devoted a large amount of his time to social work in the Wokingham neighbourhood, particularly since his retirement. For many years he had been churchwarden at All Saints'. He also sat on the Wokingham Town Council for a considerable period, retiring a little over a year ago. He retained a keen interest in matters connected with criminal reform, and was a most efficient hon. Secretary of the Berkshire Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society.

Mr. Goddard's wife predeceased him by many years, and he leaves no family. The funeral will take place at All Saints'. Wokingham, at 2.30 p. m. today (Saturday.)

Sat 20th April

GUARDS WAR CRIMINALS AT TRIAL

Gunner John Darbourn, whose home is at Beecroft, Soldiers Rise, Wokingham, is acting as court guard at a war criminal trial in Germany.

CALIFORNIA MOTOR CYCLE CLUB

The opening meeting of California Motor Cycle Club took place on Monday, at California Club Rooms. Among the many interesting points discussed was the decision to become affiliated to the South Midland Centre A.C.U., also to hold a regular meeting every Thursday at the headquarters, California Club, Longmoor Lake, near Wokingham. The following officers were elected: President: A.E. Cartlidge; chairman N.E. Cartlidge; secretary, H. Lewis assistant secretary, Miss I. Lucions; treasurer, Mrs. A.E. Cartlidge; committee members: Mr W. Smith, Mrs. E. Lovelock; Mr D. Lovelock, Mr. T. Gibson, Mr. W. Bodger. The next meeting will be on Thursday, April 25th.

RECRUITING CAMPAIGN

The Women's Land Army

One of the most important problems in the world today is that of food. For this reason agriculture, which has done so much over the war years, must continue to produce the maximum amount of food.

The Women's Land Army, therefore, which has already done so in supplying a large portion of the labour required on the farms during the past five years, must continue to play a large part in the field of food production, and an appeal is being made for 30,000 new recruits. Berkshire is aiming to raise its due proportion of this number, and special efforts are being made in the various towns in the county during the remainder of the present month. Applicants for the Land Army should be between the ages of 17 and 40, strong, healthy and fond of country life. They must be willing to work anywhere in England and Wales, and in the job in which they are considered

best suited, although, subject to current employment demands, every effort will be made to place new recruits in the type of job and in the part of the country they prefer.

There are immediate vacancies in Berkshire for milkers, market gardeners and poultry workers. The minimum wage is now 50s, for a 48-hour week with overtime at fixed rates. In many cases experienced members of the Land Army command a weekly wage substantially ahead of the national minimum.

Fri 3rd May

H.M.S. GARTH COMFORTS FUND.

Many of our readers will remember that when H.M.S. Garth was adopted after the Warship Week Savings Campaign, a fund was created and deposited at Barclays Bank, Wokingham, upon which the Officer in charge of the ship had permission to draw for the benefit of any member of the crew.

Some £278 was deposited, and has been used from time to time by the different officers in command. In January 1946, the Garth was put in reserve, and the crew was transferred to H.M.S. Bicester.

Although the Garth's seagoing career is over, her days are not quite ended because she has become an accommodation ship for a minesweeping flotilla, in conjunction with H.M.S. Eskimo.

At this time there was a balance of £91 19s. 7d. standing to the credit of this fund and the Executive Committee decided to send twenty guineas to the Captain of H.M.S. Bicester to be used for starting a fund for this ship, and the remaining £70 19s. 7d. has been sent to the Officer in charge of H.M.S. Eskimo, for the purchases of games and books to be used for the personnel of the Garth and the Eskimo.

We understand the Executive has made a request that in the event of the Garth ever going to sea again, the Mayor of Wokingham should be advised, when it is hoped by the present Committee that the fund would be reopened, for the benefit of the crew, as we are sure the people of Wokingham and district, after the magnificent response in the past, would still like to keep in touch with the ship.

Fri 17th May

LAND ARMY GIRLS ENTERTAIN DUTCH SOLDIERS

When the 9th Regiment Stoottroepen (Stormtroops) leave Easthampstead Park for the Dutch East Indies, which is likely to be very soon, they will take with them memories of the kind hospitality they have received during their short stay in this country.

Since these Dutch boys have been with us they have set a fine example and reflected great credit upon their country by their orderly, polite and gentlemanly behaviour—characteristics which might well be imitated by some of our own people.

Last week a party of these soldiers under Lieut. Van Gorkom, were guests at the Women's Land Army at their hostel at Jealott's Hill, Warfield, where they were entertained by twenty-five very attractive young Land Army Girls. The party was organised and arranged by the Warden of the Hostel as a gesture of hospitality and the girls, despite the fact that they had, only a few hours before, returned from a hard day's threshing on neighbouring farms, very successfully coped with almost double their number of men.

The Dutchmen's limited knowledge of our tongue made things a trifle difficult at first but this obstacle was very soon overcome by the girls of the Land Army.

The Nightjars Dance Band, a small but talented quartette of musicians, provided the dance music and dancing was interrupted only long enough for everyone to do justice to a substantial selection of appetising refreshments.

Sat 18th May

INDOOR BOWLS CLUB SOLD

The sale by auction of the Indoor Bowls club, Reading Road, Wokingham, was conducted on Tuesday by Messrs. Watts and Son at their Property Sale Rooms in Broad Street. Bidding started at £2,000, and the club finally went to Mr. George Pratt, of the Queen's Oak Hotel, Finchampstead, for £3, 050.

Fri 31st May

DUTCH TROOPS BID FAREWELL TO WOKINGHAM

Over 2,000 Dutch troops paraded before the Mayor and Members of the Wokingham Corporation on Friday last. The 7/3rd and 2/9th Dutch Light Infantry, together with the 5th Batt. Stormtroopers, goose-stepped smartly past the saluting base, watched by a large and admiring crowd of morning shoppers. With the Mayor was Major Van Erp, O.C., 2/9th D.L.I., Major Van Welz Enes, O.C. 7/3rd D.L.I., Major Schilberoord O.C. 9th Batt. Stormtroopers, Col. C. H. D. Bonnett, C.B.E., T.D.D.L.

Royal Fusiliers (Commandant, Mobilisation Control Centre), Major W. S. Rainsford, D.C.M. (Commandant), Easthampstead Park Camp), Captain C. H. Brashaw, M.M. (Quartermaster, Easthampstead Park Camp). Some of the troops left Wokingham in the early hours of Tuesday morning en route for the Dutch East Indies.

POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS—WOKINGHAM AREA

“V” Day & Whit Monday

On Saturday, 8th June and Whit Monday (10th June) standard Bank Holiday arrangements will apply.

The Head Office will be open from 9 a.m. to 12 noon for the transaction of all classes of business. The Town Sub-offices will not be open.

In the Rural Area Offices transacting telegraph business will be open from 9 a.m. to 10.30 p.m.

There will be one delivery of letters and parcels.

One collection will be made from the street letter boxes in the Town area at approximately 5.30 p.m. and in the Rural area in connection with the delivery.

Fri 14th June

DEATH OF MR. “CHUMMY” DEARLOVE

Whilst the Victory procession was in progress on Saturday, news was received that Mr. F.J. Dearlove, more affectionately known as “Chummy,” had passed away at his home at Denmark Street, Wokingham, and the band in the procession stopped playing as they entered Denmark Street.

Mr. Dearlove, who was 76 years of age, was one of Wokingham's best known and most popular residents. He was noted, among other things, for his retentive memory and he could keep people interested for hours with his stories of Wokingham during his younger days.

A keen sportsman, he was captain of the Wokingham “Magpies” over 50 years ago. He was also an ardent supporter of and player for the Wokingham Town F.C.

During the war Mr. Dearlove was a member of the "Specials," but his greatest interest was the Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade, which he served for over 50 years, and he was actively engaged as a volunteer member of the N.F.S. up to a few months ago.

And so Fireman Dearlove has answered his last call, and on Wednesday he was accorded the honour of a fireman's funeral, his coffin being borne to All Saints' Church on the fire engine, the cortège being led by his firemen colleagues. At the church his coffin was carried on the shoulders of four fireman while other representatives of the Voluntary Fire Brigade and Wokingham and Bracknell N.F.S. formed a guard of honour.

A widower for seven years, Mr. Dearlove is survived by one son and one daughter

Fri 21st June

WOKINGHAM'S NEW TOWN CLERK

For the first time in the history of the Borough, Wokingham will have a full-time Town Clerk at a salary of £500 per annum. He is Mr. L.G. Smalley, who has been selected for the post from twenty-four applicants. Mr. Smalley succeeds Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton, who is retiring from his official position on August 1st, to devote more time to his legal practice.

Married, with two children, Mr. Smalley is thirty-seven years of age, and has spent twenty-two years in local government.

A native of Oadby, Leicestershire, he was educated at the Newarke and City School and University College, Leicester. In April 1924 he was appointed Assist. Clerk of Oadby Urban District Council and became Deputy Clerk of the same council in January 1928. In April 1929 he was appointed Clerk, Chief Financial Officer, Rating and Valuation Officer of the Burton Latimer Urban District Council, Northamptonshire.

His social interests include that of the Burton Latimer Baptist Church, of which he is Deacon and Treasurer. He is also Treasurer of the Kettering and District Fellowship of Baptist Churches, and Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Burton Latimer Tuberculosis Care Committee.

A keen sportsman, Mr. Smalley finds time for recreative amusements in tennis and swimming, also poultry breeding and carpentry.

Sat 29th June

OUTINGS

On Tuesday members of the All Saints' Mothers' Meeting had a trip to Worthing by motor-coach.—The Sunday schools of Wokingham, churches, chapels, and Salvation Army went on Wednesday, in a convoy of motor-coaches, on a combined outing to Bognor.

MENTIONED IN DISPATCHES

Cllr. S.L. Bowyer has been mentioned in dispatches in recognition of his outstanding services with the B.L.A. in Germany between the early part of 1944 and May 31st, 1945, when he was wounded. An acting sergeant, Cllr. Bowyer was with the allied Mission Camp, Main H.Q., 21st Army Group B.L.A., and had a more exacting task than most N.C.O.s. As clerk, storekeeper and disciplinarian, he was dealing with men of five different nationalities. He was demobilised last December after a gruelling time in various convalescent hospitals. Cllr. Bowyer was elected to the Wokingham Town Council in 1931, and was at that time the youngest councillor.

Sat 13th July

THE LATE MR. G.E. BRANT

After a long illness, Mr. George Ernest Brant, the well-known photographer and bowler, 2, Denmark Street, Wokingham, died on Tuesday.

DEATH OF MISS ROURKE

Miss Emily Rourke, of the old established Wokingham drapery business, Rourke and Hayes, died on Monday aged 73. She was the daughter of the late Charles Connor Rourke and she leaves two brothers and four sisters. The funeral was on Thursday at All Saints' where Miss Rourke attended for many years.

FUNERAL OF MR. CHARLES BOWYER

The funeral of Mr. Charles Bowyer of Bean Oak Farm, Wokingham, who died last week from injuries received from when he was knocked down from his bicycle by a car took place on Tuesday at All Saints' Church, Wokingham. Canon Wickham officiated, and a great number of Mr. Bowyer's many friends were present. There were nearly 70 wreaths.

Mr. Bowyer, who was 77 was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. Bowyer, of Murrell Green Farm, Hurst, and had lived in the Wokingham district practically all his life. As a young man, he was bailiff of an estate in Egham for a few years. Later, he went to Hatch Gate Farm, Sindlesham, where he lived for 24 years. In 1929 he took over Bean Oak Farm, Wokingham. His wife died in 1937. A member of the Wokingham and District Agricultural Association, Mr. Bowyer was a well-known judge at shows in many surrounding districts. Especially in root and corn crop classes. He was for some time, a valued member of the Howard Palmer Bowling Club, and a keen supporter of the Garth Hunt. All his life he maintained an interest in the conservative Association

The inquest on Mr. Bowyer has been adjourned to July 25th.

Fri 9th Aug

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Presentation to the Retiring Town Clerk

In recognition of his valuable service to the borough of Wokingham during his thirty years as Town Clerk, Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton, who retired on August 1st, was presented with a silver salver and a cigarette box at the commencement of the Council meeting on Thursday of last week.

The presentation was made by the Mayor (Councillor D. Goddard) and the gifts were subscribed to by the past and present members of the Council and the Council officials.

Alderman P. Sale expressed the Council's regret at Mr. Clifton's resignation, but he was sure that on the other hand, Mr. Clifton would have the satisfaction that he was leaving a job well done.

Alderman A.E. Priest said that the Council and the townspeople would wish him prosperity, good health and happiness in the future.

In reply Mr. Clifton remarked that he knew that the Council would do all they could for the improvement of Wokingham and he hoped that at the same time they would try and retain its character.

Mr. L.G. Smalley, who succeeds Mr. Clifton, took up his new position on August 1st.

Fri 9th Aug

WOKINGHAM WELCOME HOME FUND

First Presentation of Wallets

Before a very large assembly at the Ritz Cinema, Wokingham, on Sunday afternoon the official presentation of wallets to the first 205 returning ex-Servicemen and women of the Borough was performed by the Mayor (Councillor D. Goddard), assisted by the Deputy Mayor (Alderman W.C. Fullbrook) and Alderman F.S. Perkins (Organizing Secretary of the fund).

The wallets of brown pigskin, embossed with the crest of the Borough and endorsed with the initials of each recipient across the corner, were considered the most practical means of showing Wokingham's appreciation and gratitude to those who had served, and the Mayor extended a sincere expression of thanks to those residents—both rich and poor—who had so generously subscribed to make the fund a financial success. He added that it stood at nearly £2,000, but was still open for further contributions.

He also felt that a debt of gratitude was due to Alderman W.C. Fullbrook for his untiring efforts in connection with the fund, and also Alderman F.S. Perkins, who had put in an enormous amount of work day and night, mostly behind the scenes, in the interest of the scheme.

The Mayor then described how the fund was launched after a public meeting to which representatives of various organisations had been invited. At this meeting an organising committee had been formed charged with the responsibility of getting the fund started and to decide the best method of its allocation to local ex-Service personnel. After much consideration wallets were decided upon, and it was hoped to have arranged some form of tea party at which to make the presentation, but the new rationing scheme prevented this. He pointed out that the Welcome Home Fund had nothing to do with a War Memorial Fund, it was simply a token of Wokingham's gratitude to its returning service folk.

The Presentation

In presenting the wallets to the ex-servicemen who came onto the stage from the audience, the Mayor said it afforded him great pleasure to officiate on such an occasion as this and he hoped that they would treasure the wallets in memory of an afternoon together.

The first man to receive his wallet was Mr. Harold Prior, who, after a short spell as a civilian, has decided to return to the Royal Navy for a further twelve years. Among others who received a great ovation were Dr. J. J. Kempton and the four Beasley brothers of Evendons Lane.

During the afternoon musical interludes were provided by Mrs. Gwendoline Earl and Mr. Roland Miller who, accompanied by Mr. Arthur Yould, sang duets and solos.

Aldermen Fullbrook and Perkins both made further reference to the fund, and mentioned that Wokingham's Roll of Honour in the war was 52. All these fifty-two homes had been visited and at fifty of them the desire for wallets was expressed in memory of those who had not returned.

After thanks had been accorded to the stewards, the artistes, the Manager of the Ritz and his staff, the Mayor's mother (Mrs. Goddard) was given a round of applause.

Sat 21st Sept

COSSACK RIDERS

Many people watched a thrilling demonstration by the Russian horsemen, the Don Cossack Riders, at Norris Farm on Tuesday evening. The performance was floodlit. Proceeds were for the Wokingham Welcome Home Fund.

FAMILIES INSTALLED AT CAMP

To prevent squatters getting there first, Wokingham Town Council has taken over Toutley Camp for families on the emergency list. About ten families who were living in crowded or insanitary conditions were moved in towards the end of last week. Four families of squatters who were already in residence have been allowed to remain for the present, and all the huts are now occupied.

Work is in progress to improve the Nissen huts in every way possible and to make them into really comfortable temporary dwellings. Brick partitions are being built to divide them into several rooms, clear glass will replace the frosted glass, and light, water and indoor sanitation are to be installed. The Sergeants' Mess is already partitioned off, and it has a bathroom. The housewife who is living there with her husband and child showed a reporter over her new home explaining that the other huts would soon present a similar appearance. The combined kitchen and dining room, quite adequate in size, contains a stove which gives out a pleasant heat, and, in addition, there is a scullery and a bedroom.

Some of the other families are, for the time being, sharing communal bathrooms, and as a temporary measure, the arrangement is working well. One reporter was told that when Ald. F.J. Barrett, chairman of the Housing Committee, called to see how things were progressing, he was assured that the occupants were definitely satisfied.

WOKINGHAM'S CHURCH SCHOOLS

The fate of Wokingham's Church Schools was the subject of a well-attended meeting under the chairmanship of the Bishop of Reading (the Rt. Rev. A.G. Panham) in the Church House on Tuesday. "The Church was the pioneer of education long before people entertained the remotest idea of this coming up to be the affair of the State," said his lordship. He stressed the need to preserve the independent character of Church Schools and concluded, "There is no government in the world I would trust with the education of all the children in the country. "We have seen where that can lead." The Bishop then introduced Sir Charles Harper, K.B.E., C.M.G.

Setting out to answer the question, "Why Church Schools?" Sir Charles said, "Our Church stands and has stood for the religious side of the State and of the country. As each, and in its own right, it has taken a great part in education and the formation of the British character. Today in the new Education Act, church people have the chance of carrying on that tradition. If our children are to have a fair chance of growing up into Christian men and women, their education must have its roots in Church Fellowship."

The second speaker was the Rev. A.H. Rees, vicar of Chiswick and a minor Canon of St. Paul's. He explained that if Church people managed to raise half of the sum required to run the schools under the New Act, Church Schools would become aided schools. This would mean that the majority of school managers would be churchmen, representing the principles for which the schools were built. They would have the opportunity of appointing teachers who were believing Christians, and Church teaching would be given without restriction. Also, the school premises would be at the disposal of the managers on Sundays and workdays. If, on the other hand, Church people failed to raise the money, the schools would become controlled and religious

teaching would be under severe restrictions, "If a school becomes controlled," said Mr. Rees, "it loses its, Christian, and its Church atmosphere altogether.

"This is no more matter of education in its narrowed sense. It is a matter of securing the Gospel to the souls of your children. It is your way of doing your bit in this part of the country to save the soul of the nation."

Sat 5th Oct

R.E.M.E. CELEBRATE FOURTH BIRTHDAY

On Saturday the fourth anniversary the formation of the Corps was celebrated at the R.E.M.E. establishment at Arborfield. During the morning the men at Hazebrouck Barracks were inspected by Major-General Sir Basil A. Hill, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., one of the Colonels Commandant of the Corps, who was deputising for the Corps chief, Major-General Sir Bertram Rowcroft, who was indisposed. He was greeted by Brigadier L.N. Tyler, Commandant of the Arborfield establishment, and the parade was under the command of Colonel R.O. Girdlestone.

Sir Basil began his inspection with the guard-of-honour of cadets from the nearby pre-O.T.C.U., and he was impressed with the smart turn-out of these young soldiers, none of whom had more than 10 weeks service. After he had completed his inspection of the six companies on parade, he gave a short address and then took the salute at the march-past—which was led by the R.E.M.E. band under Bandmaster Selley. Earlier there had been prayers conducted by the Padre, the Rev. Foley Hogarth.

The parade was watched by officers, N.C.O.s and men of the R.E.M.E. training centre and many civilians, among whom were the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading (Cllr. And Mrs. H.S. Langston) and the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham (Cllr. D. Goddard and Miss M. Goddard). After lunch Sir Basil and the guests watched rugby and soccer matches.

Fri 29th Oct

MR. A.T. HEELAS

Mr. Arthur Tyndale Heelas, head of the old established firm of Heelas, of Wokingham, and one of the greatest authorities on the history of the town, died at his home, "Oakleigh", Fairview Road, Wokingham, on Monday, in his 79th year.

Eldest son of the late Tyndale William Heelas, he was educated at Reading Grammar School and at a Royal Naval School in Portsmouth. He afterwards went into the family business. At one time a member of the old voluntary Wokingham Fire Brigade, Mr. Heelas served as a special constable in both world wars.

A pioneer of motor-cycling, he was also a keen cyclist, being for many years president and chairman of the Berks, Oxon and South Bucks Centre of the National Cyclists' Union. He was a senior judge of cycling events in the county, and took part in the judging at the Olympic Games of 1900. The Reading Athletic Club claimed his interest for a long period, and he was a member of the Wellington Club, Reading.

Mr. Heelas was chairman of the National Trust for Finchampstead Ridges—a stretch of country for which he had the greatest affection. His membership of the Berkshire Archaeological Society was of very long standing, and in May, 1941, he was elected to the society's council. He had written extensively about every aspect of the history of Wokingham and district, and made a life-long hobby of its research. Although he was often urged to publish a book, he never did so, but he was always willing to put the information he possessed at the disposal of any interested person.

He leaves his wife and one son, Mr. Eric Heelas, who served with the RAF during the war. Cremation was at Woking on Thursday. Mr. Heelas left instructions that the ashes were to be scattered on Finchampstead Ridges.

Fri 1st Nov

WOKINGHAM THANKS ITS EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Packed Cinema At Presentation Of Wallets Ceremony

Even premieres of a super film could not have attracted a larger audience than was present at the Ritz Cinema on Sunday afternoon—the occasion being the second presentation of the “Welcome Home” Wallets. Every seat was occupied and other spectators at this remarkably successful function were forced to stand—almost three deep in places—at the rear of the stalls.

On the stage was the Band of the Army Technical School, Arborfield (by permission of the Commandant, Colonel G.D. White), with their conductor—Bandmaster Newman, A.R.C.M.

An impressive and poignant moment was when the entire audience rose to its feet during the playing of two verses of ‘Abide With Me’ and remained standing while the relatives of those who did not return and who had intimated their desire to be present received the posthumous presentation of the inscribed wallets from the Mayor. By this natural and thoughtful gesture the thoughts of everyone in that packed building went out to those proud parents and wives in their tragic loss.

This was followed by the British Legion Exhortation—given by the Chairman of the Wokingham Branch British Legion—Lt.-Col. Fortesque Wells.

The Mayor of Wokingham (Cllr. David Goddard) added his tribute on behalf of the town to the relatives of The Fallen, and to those who were spared to be present on this occasion to receive a simple but sincere token from those who had subscribed to the ‘Welcome Home Fund’. He gave a brief description of the fund—how it started and grew as a result of the energetic efforts of its committee of which Ald. W.C. Fullbrook was the enthusiastic Chairman and Ald. F.S. Perkins its hardworking Secretary, who was responsible for the arrangements of this presentation. He added a tribute to the untiring efforts of the canvassers who were charged with the responsibility of the compiling of the list of Wokingham’s serving men and women. Finally the Mayor thanked the subscribers, without whom there would have been no presentation; Messrs Spero Ltd. (who were represented in the audience) for their excellent workmanship in the manufacture of the wallets; the Manager of the Ritz Cinema and his staff; the Stewards Band; Colonel White and, in fact, everybody for their part in making the occasion such a success.

TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-EIGHT WALLETS

Next followed the presentation to the ex-service girls who, though now dressed in more feminine attire, still revealed the unmistakable signs of their former military training by their smart bearing in mounting the stage and receiving their wallets. On leaving the stage Ald Fullbrook extended a friendly handshake and a good wish for the future and every recipient was accorded enthusiastic applause from the audience.

Two people who mounted the stage and received their wallets together were Dr. Phyllis Pigott and Mr. Owen Pigott—the only husband and wife to participate in the presentation together. They were given a great reception.

Then followed the men—180 of them. One by one they climbed the short steps to the stage to the accompaniment of spirited clapping which many of them acknowledged with a cheery grin and a “thumbs up” sign. The Mayor was waiting for

them—each man's initialled wallet ready and after a friendly word and shaking of hands, it was over. Demob suits were well in evidence.

Possibly one of the hardest worked individuals during the presentation—and for that matter long before it took place—was Ald. S.F. Perkins. He called out the names of every recipient, and in order that his voice should carry to the furthest corners of the building acquired what might be termed a stentorian roar. There was a microphone on the stage but they seldom work when needed, and the Alderman had no alternative than to use his natural voice to its maximum power. By the end of the ceremony he sounded a trifle hoarse, but at least he was heard.

He mentioned that several of the recipients were unable to be present, many of them being still in hospital recovering from their war wounds, others still in the services but stationed away from home. In these cases the wallets would be received by their relatives or friends. Ald. Perkins pointed out that among them were several high-ranking officers and also a number of men who had been decorated—but this occasion was such that it was more fitting if the men be called by their Christian and surnames—omitting rank and distinctions. To judge by the audience's reaction, this decision was a popular one.

During a short interval the Army Technical School Band played a selection and, at the conclusion of the afternoon's ceremony, formed up outside and, to the accompaniment of their own martial music, marched to the centre of the town, watched by a large and appreciative crowd who lined the route.

Fri 8th Nov

WOKINGHAM'S "PRE-FABS" ARRIVE

Two Being Completed Every Day

It will not be many weeks now before at least 40 of the 400 homeless families who are on the Council's priority list will have been comfortably installed in their new homes. Last Thursday, after months of preparatory work on the foundations of the 40 prefabricated houses in the Binfield Road site, the first sections arrived. They came on huge lorries and caused considerable interest as the convoys made their way through the centre of the town en route for the location.

The new houses—actually they are bungalows—are being built in two sections—each lorry carrying one section. Made of aluminium, they comprise two bedrooms, one [illeg.]x 11' and the other a little smaller. A living room, complete with special stove which not only provides the warmth for that room but supplies warmth to all other rooms in the building by a series of hot air ducts. It also supplies hot water in the bathroom and kitchenette. This living room, complete with special stove which not only provides the warmth for that room but supplies warmth to all other rooms in the building by a series of hot air ducts. It also supplies hot water in the bathroom and kitchenette. The living room 12'x 11' out of which leads a compact and labour-saving kitchenette 11' x 9', is equipped with sink, copper, gas cooker and refrigerator, all built in a single...along one side. The bathroom also is of a very modern design and is fitted with a bath, basin and lavatory. Electric lights and power points are a feature throughout. The small but compact entrance hall is not fitted for a hall-stand, but a corner is utilised for this purpose and is equipped with clothes' hooks.

When our reporter and photographer arrived at the site on Friday, a foreman pointed out that he was not permitted to give the Press any information about the buildings, so a representative of the Ministry of Works on the site was approached. He also stated, courteously but firmly, that he was instructed not to impart any information about the bungalows, but did not offer any objections to the buildings being inspected. In view

of the lack of cooperation, we had to secure the information desired by personal inspection.

Having seen the interior of the completed buildings, attention was given to the remarkably efficient method of erection by a comparatively small gang of erectors. Each of the four sections which arrived on the lorries in their proper order is driven under a gantry where, within a few minutes, the floor of the building is located on special iron fittings and attached by means of steel pins. The section is then lifted by a winch, the lorry drives away and the section, which weighs about 3½ tons, is lowered on to two bogies running on rails at right angles to the lorry. The pins are quickly released and the erectors push the section along the rails where it is joined with its adjoining section and firmly attached by means of bolts at the top and bottom.

While our representatives were present one complete bungalow was erected in little over an hour. It was learned that the first two buildings were completed in two afternoons.

Sat 30th Nov

TOWN COUNCIL TO PURCHASE SWIMMING POOL

The Town Council formally accepted the report of the General Purposes Committee and agreed to accept Mr. William Thomas Martin's figure of £12,000 for the pool and equipment payable by 30 annual instalments of £400 with the option of paying off the balance outstanding at any time.

Sat 28th Dec

FIRE OUTBREAK AT YE OLDE ROSE HOTEL

Burning Beams Under Roof

An alarming outbreak of fire occurred at Ye Olde Rose, the well-known hotel in the Market Place, Wokingham, on Saturday night last. A member of the staff noticed a smell of burning at about 11 p.m., emanating from a cloakroom on the top floor. The door of the room had been left locked by a plumber who had been busy there during the day attending to a water pipe burst caused by the frost, and there was some difficulty in effecting an entry.

The N.F.S. were summoned from the nearby Town Hall and attended immediately with a pump-escape. The firemen found that several oak beams were smouldering. They had some difficulty in getting at the seat of the outbreak, having to remove some slates from the roof. It was not until nearly four hours later that the outbreak was effectively dealt with and the firemen were able to leave, satisfied that there was no further danger.

An adjoining bedroom was at one time involved and much damage was done by smoke and water. The difficulty in dealing with the outbreak when it was first discovered was increased by the fusing of the electric lights. Members of the staff had to carry pails of water upstairs in the dark. The hotel was taken over only recently by Mr. Lester Welsh.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Christmas festivities in Wokingham did not seem to be restricted to any serious extent by rationing. Patients at Wokingham Emergency Hospital began the day in the right spirit with ham for breakfast. Chicken, pork and time-honoured Christmas pudding appeared at dinner-time, and iced cake, fruit jellies and trifle were enjoyed for tea. On Tuesday the staff sang carols in the evening, and on Christmas Day they put on a show with Father Christmas as the star turn to the delight of children of the

Murray Home, who were present. As in the past, patients all received a shilling from Miss M.S. Huggins a Christmas card from Mrs. O. Young, both of Hare Hatch, Twyford. The chaplain, the Ven. Archdeacon Thorndike Shaw, Rector of St. Paul's, Wokingham, conducted a Christmas morning service.

At Glebelands, the Cinema Trades Rest Home, celebrations began on Christmas Eve with carol singing. Turkeys, plum pudding, mince-pies, trifles and jellies were included in the Christmas fare, and there was iced cake for tea. Father Christmas was present, and there was a tree with gifts for everyone. Other items on the programme were a picture show, a fancy dress dance and a musical evening.

Children of the Barnardo Home at High Close, spending their first Christmas in Wokingham had a big Christmas tree cut from the grounds. Stockings were obligingly hung on the banisters to give Santa Claus easy access to them, and each one was filled with a new toy, second-hand toy, a cracker, a Christmas card and a bag of sweets. The children who were old enough to attend a church service went to All Saints' in the morning, coming home to a traditional Christmas dinner. The staff had their celebration in the evening.

THE NEW OFFICES OF THE "TIMES & WEEKLY NEWS"

With the erection of our new offices at Embrook lies a tale of make-do and mind, which has extended over a considerable number of years. Until recently the building was one of the less imposing edifices on the West side of the Borough. This fact is not surprising when one considers it was originally a timber constructed carpenter's shop, at the rear of which was a large workshop and cement shed. These two buildings became our composing room and machine shop.

For years the production of this paper has been accomplished only at the expense of considerable inconvenience. Lack of inadequate heating and lighting have been the principal difficulties, for the original premises were not erected for the purpose for which they are at present being used.

During the past two and a half years, and in easy stages, the task of converting the original buildings into a modern warm, light and airy printing works has been accomplished; not a simple task in these days of shortage of men and building materials. The increasing volume of work has necessitated new machines and additional space, and having gradually attended to these matters, we have recently focused our attention upon the offices.



The advice of the Planning Department of Messrs. Watts and Son was secured, and plans were drawn up which, ultimately were approved by the appropriate authorities. The matter of securing builders was also finally accomplished, and we were able to enrol the services of a firm of licensed builders. This firm,

Messrs. Warren and Eaves, after surmounting the difficulties of obtaining supplies, made an early start demolishing the front of the present building, and within four weeks had completed the entire reconstruction as shown in the accompanying photograph.

Considerable interior work, that of enlarging and modifying the offices, has also been completed within the month—a factor which, with present day difficulties—is worthy of comment.

Prompt and efficient service in altering both the gas and electricity supplies was undertaken by the Yorktown and Camberley Gas and Electricity Company.

ENTERTAINMENT SAVOY, WOKINGHAM

“Scarlet Street.”

Described as one of Hollywood’s most graphic melodramas, “Scarlett Street” is due next week at the Savoy Theatre. Based on the arresting French novel and play, “La Chienne,” the new film co-stars Edward G. Robinson and Joan Bennett with Dan Duryea. The three players headlined recently in “The Woman in the Window,” were re-united by Director-Producer Fritz Lang, who piloted both films.

“Bitter Sweet.”

Jeanette McDonald and Nelson Eddy will be seen once more at the Savoy Theatre in “Bitter Sweet,” their latest re-issue. It is a Technicolor picturisation of the operetta for which Noel Coward wrote both words and music, and it contains some of the most charming songs ever to reach the screen. “Bitter Sweet” presents Miss MacDonald as a London Belle of the Gay ‘Nineties, who elopes with her singing teacher, played by Eddy, and who returns with him to Vienna, city of song.

1947

Sat 1st Feb

SUNDAY SCHOOL PARTY

Seniors and juniors of All Saints’ Sunday School, including some children from Forest Road, were entertained to a party at the Church House on Saturday. Arrangements were made by Miss Harwood and the rector, the Rev. G. Kenworthy was present to distribute certificates. After tea, the children joined in community singing, and then they saw lantern slides of “Sinbad the Sailor,” “Beauty and the Beast,” and “The Pied Piper.” Commentaries were given by Capt. Rogers.

LOCAL OFFICER’S AMERICAN AWARD

A local officer in Trieste, Lt.-Col. A.H. Gardner, R.A., of Lowther Road, Wokingham, was recently awarded the American Medal of Freedom. Lt.-Col. Gardner was decorated by an American Army Colonel, and the official citation read as follows: “For exceptional meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in Italy from the 11th September, 1944, to 8th May 1945. This officer joined the Allied Military Government Allied Commission on 11th September, 1944, and was attached to the Agricultural Sub-Commission, Olive Oil Staff, on 18th January, 1945. Despite the difficulties encountered, lack of transport, shortage of personnel, he carried out his duties in a successful and noteworthy manner.” The citation also records the Col. Gardner’s “tact, diplomacy, tireless energy and attention to duty reflect great credit upon himself and organisation.” Lt.-Col. Gardner held a Territorial Commission in the Royal Artillery, was called for active service in August, 1939, and was with the 80 H.A.A., R.A. (Reading Regiment) from August, 1939, to, May 1940.

Until July, 1941, he took part in the anti-aircraft defence of the United Kingdom, including London and the Thames estuary, Bristol, Portsmouth, and Southampton.

Fri 7th Feb

SINGAPORE LINK WITH WOKINGHAM

News of Eggs—And a Crocodile

As many eggs as you want (about 3d. each) and plenty of other food without points or coupons-

No. Not in Wokingham! This happy state of affairs exists in Singapore and the link between this town and the Far East is L/C. William Marriner, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Marriner, live at 22, Woosehill Lane, Wokingham.

Mrs. Marriner celebrated her birthday this week and her son cabled her: "Many happy returns. Good luck. Keep Smiling." William, who will have been in the Army three years next October, two of which he has spent abroad, hopes to return home next summer to be demobilised. He is in the Royal Singapore District Signal Regiment.

Enjoying Life.

He seems to be enjoying life out there. In a recent letter he said the temperature was 90 degrees in the shade and that he gets much better food than his parents get in Wokingham. He has had as many as 15 eggs a week!

He also described how he saw in one of the main streets a crocodile, eight feet long, that had been shot by members of a police radio car on patrol. It was just ambling comfortably across the road when it was spotted. Six shots from a .88 revolver stunned the monster and two more from a .303 rifle killed it.

Sat 8th Feb

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL RESIGNATION OF ALD. A.E. PRIEST

Alderman A.E. Priest, senior Alderman of Wokingham Town Council since the recent resignation of Alderman Sale, is to resign his seat on the Council. Members heard of his decision at the February meeting on Thursday, when the Mayor (Councillor N. C. Lawrence) read a letter from Alderman Priest expressing his regret that he had found it necessary to take such a step. He felt that it was in the best interests of the Council that he should do so, though he had hoped to be able to remain until October 1948.

Alderman Priest, who was first elected to the Council in 1911, has been four times Mayor of the Borough—in 1929, 1930, 1931, and 1932. He was made an Alderman when the Borough was extended in 1927, and from 1921, without a break, he has been chairman of the Lighting Committee. Alderman Barrett, who is now the senior member of the Council, expressed the Council's regret that Alderman Priest had found it necessary to resign, and paid tribute to his valuable services to the town.

Sat 22nd Feb

BOWLING CLUB

The annual meeting of the Wokingham Bowling Club was held in the Club Pavilion on Thursday week, Mr. P. Thorne presiding in the absence of Mr. H.E. Bennett through illness. The treasurer presented the annual balance sheet, which showed a credit balance of £89 12s. 6d., and pointed out that a considerable sum had been expended on the improvement of the green. The following officers were elected:-- President, Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton; chairman, Mr. F.J. Barrett; hon. secretary, Mr.

W.J. Strange; captain, Mr. P. Thorne; vice-captains, Messrs. J. McInnes and F.J. Barrett; committee, Messrs. Weller, Lunn, Reed, Sear, Beard, Painter and Ward.

FUEL SITUATION IMPROVEMENT

An improvement in the power position was reported at Metalair, Wokingham, mid-week. Mr. L.H. Whatley, managing director, stated that through the use of generators and diesel engines, 90 per cent of the firm's employees were back and it was hoped that all would be back next week. A night shift was being run to spread the power out evenly. "But prospects are not too bright," continued Mr. Whatley. "We may have to close if suppliers of various small parts are unable to carry on. It is touch and go."

Wokingham Plastics, Ltd., are employing twenty out of a staff of eighty-five, and that figure includes office staff, foremen and managers. The few who are in are using a small petrol engine. There is no heating in the workshops. "If the power comes on next week we may be able to complete our stand for the Ideal Homes Exhibition, otherwise, it is hopeless," a reporter was told.

All street lighting in Wokingham is out, with the exception of all-night junction lamps.

The Wokingham Employment Exchange Manager declining to make a statement on the crisis as it had affected labour in the town, said he had strict instructions not to make any figures known.

Sat 15th March

BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

The monthly meeting of the Wokingham branch of the women's section of the British Legion was held last week, the chairman (Mrs. P.G. Murray) presiding. Despite the bad weather, a large number of members were present to hear the Rev. E.P. Blamires give a talk on New Zealand.

LOCAL GUNNER IN LOST "PAMELA."

Gunner G.R. Brant, 20, of Wokingham, was one of two gunners who, with a crew of 10, were reported missing when the 407-ton S.S. Pamela, of Beaumaris, was lost without trace off Anglesey on October 10th, 1944. This was stated at the Ministry of Transport inquiry which opened at Bristol on Tuesday. It was learned that within a few hours of the hearing a plank bearing the Pamela's name had been washed up at Anglesey.

SAVINGS COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the executive committee of the Wokingham and District Savings Committee, on Monday, in the Town Hall, with the Mayor (Cllr. N.C. Lawrence) in the chair, it was decided to form a new sub-committee specifically to deal with the new organisation of National Savings in the Borough of Wokingham. It was reported that the Savings Group position in the borough was not as satisfactory as it might be, and the executive committee after discussing ways and means of improving the position decided to set up a special sub-committee for the borough with the Mayor of Wokingham as its chairman.

Sat 26th April

TOWN COUNCIL AND MARTIN'S POOL

May 24th may be a gala day in Wokingham. That is the date on which the Town Council hope to open Martin's Pool, and it is their intention to make the opening a

Whitsun holiday event. This was announced by Cllr. L.D. Sears at a special meeting of the Council on Thursday to receive the report of the Martin's Pool Committee. The Mayor (Cllr. N.C. Lawrence) was in the chair.

Cllr. Sears outlined the history of the Council's negotiations with Mr. W.T. Martin since last September, when Mr. Martin offered the Pool to the Council for £12,000, to be paid at the rate of £400 a year, for thirty years, free of interest. The district valuer's valuation of the pool was £7,000 plus £1,052 for the equipment, a total of £8,052. The yearly cost to the Council for the first five years would be £529 8s. 2d., and the total repayment figure would be £12,136. Altogether, by borrowing from the Ministry of Health, with interest to pay, the Council would ultimately several hundred pounds worse off than they would have been under the original terms.

Mr. Martin was not bound to accept the district valuer's valuation, which Cllr. Sears thought was a low one, but he had very generously agreed to do so, although he could have got at least another £1,000 for the pool. "I do not want the Council to pass this report without being aware of the generosity being shown by the Freeman of the Borough, Mr. Martin," concluded Cllr. Sears. The report of the Martin's Pool committee was adopted.

It was proposed by Cllr. Reeves, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Longhurst and carried, that application be made to the Ministry of Health for sanction to borrow £8,052 for the purchase of the pool.

Sat 31st May

WHIT-MONDAY OUTING

Miss Lloyd's Tuesday Bible Class and other members of All Saints' Church, had a motor-coach trip to Southsea on Whit-Monday.

REQUEST FOR A HALT

Some 222 residents in the locality have petitioned for a halt or station between Wokingham and Crowthorne at Nine Mile Ride. The petition has been sent to the traffic manager of the Southern Railway.

YOUNG WIVES

Mrs. R.W. Tuesday has started a Young Wives Group in connection with the St. Paul's branch of the Mothers' Union. The first meeting of the Young Wives was on Wednesday afternoon in the St. Paul's Parish Room.

COMBINED EFFORT

Staff shortage in the churchyard having brought about pressure of work there, choir-girls and bell-ringers of All Saints' led by the Rev. E.V. Lean, have applied themselves the task of cutting grass and tidying graves.

LIFEBOAT DAY

Mrs. E. Liddiard, hon. Secretary of the Wokingham branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, expresses thanks to the subscribers and helpers for the recent flag day effort which raised just over £50 for the Institution.

SHOW SUCCESS

At the recent British Samoyed Club championship show, held at Leeds, Prince Serge of Kobe was the best dog in the show, winning the Kennel Club challenge certificate, three firsts and a special prize. Prince Serge of Kobe is owned by Mrs. K.R. Wells, Star Lane Crossing, Wokingham.

GARDEN PARTY

Organised by the Wokingham Women's Meeting over one hundred people attended a garden meeting and sale held on Wednesday at Devonia, Langborough Road, the home of one of the members, Mrs. W.P. Tucker. There were various stalls and competitions and tea was served. The meeting was opened by Mrs. B.J. Harris, Ald. E.W. Reeves presiding. Proceeds exceeding £30 will go to Women's Meeting funds. The Mayor and Mayoress were among those present.

Fri 20th June

Off to Canada

MR. and MRS. S.A. PITHER LEAVING WOKINGHAM

Mr. and Mrs. S.A. Pither, of 37, Emmbrook Road, Wokingham, are looking forward to joining their married daughter, Mrs. W.A. Kitching, in Montreal, Canada, soon. They hope sail about the 24th of this month.

Mr. Pither, who was born at Swallowfield in 1881, has lived in Wokingham practically all his life. He carried on business as a master butcher under the title, S.A. Pither Ltd., in Broad Street, for 13 years, retiring about seven years ago. His wife, who was Miss Lilly Over when he married her in 1911, belongs to a very old and well-known Crowthorne family.

When the 1914-18 war broke out, Mr. Pither came back from Australia to rejoin his old regiment, the Berkshire Yeomanry with which he served in that campaign. He joined the Special Police afterwards, and became District Officer, finishing with that rank this year. He had also been in the Hampshire Volunteers and was a member of the Wokingham Fire Brigade from 1909 to 1911.

For 13 years Mr. Pither was a member of the executive of the Wokingham Club, and was its Chairman in 1945 and 1946, when he retired. The daughter, Barbara, was married to Capt. W.A. Kitching, of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals—Loyal Edmonton Regt.

Mr. Pither leaves behind him his best wishes to all his comrades and Mrs. Pither joins in thanking the host of friends they have made locally for their many kindnesses

Sat 5th July

TAXI-RIDE FOR OLD PEOPLE

Wokingham Hire Car proprietors banded together on Monday to give 73 old people, whose average age was 79, a three-hour drive. They were given tea at California-in-England. The party was accompanied by the Mayor (Cllr. N.C. Lawrence), and arrangements for the outing were made by The Deputy-Mayor (Ald. D. Goddard) assisted by Miss Goddard.

DANCE FESTIVAL

Gaily clad in national costumes, members of the Berkshire Association of Girls' Clubs and Mixed Clubs took part in a dance festival, held in the grounds of the Holt School, Wokingham, on Wednesday. The festival, one of several being presented in various parts of the county, was arranged in co-operation with the Berkshire Education Committee. Dances from many counties were performed, some of them community dances, in which the audience were invited to join.

RECTOR TO LEAVE WOKINGHAM

The Rev. Gordon Kenworthy, rector of All Saints', Wokingham, since 1933, has announced his decision to resign the living on account of ill-health. The date of his departure is not yet known. Before he was appointed to Wokingham, where he succeeded Canon B. Long, Mr. Kenworthy was vicar of Ardington. He was formerly curate at Kennington, London, and rector of West Ilsley. The Rev. F.V. Lean, assistant priest at All Saints', will also shortly be leaving to take up duties in South Africa.

Sat 12 July

TOWN COUNCIL TO SEND CONGRATULATIONS

The "loyal and ancient Borough of Wokingham" is to send a message of congratulations and goodwill to H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth on her engagement. This was suggested by Ald. F.J. Barrett at a meeting of the Town Council on Thursday, with the Mayor (Cllr. N.C. Lawrence) in the chair, and was warmly acclaimed.

GERMAN YOUTH LEADERS ENTERTAINED

Members of the Methodist Youth Club welcomed a party of German Youth Leaders to their meeting on Monday. The Germans, mostly women, are on a visit to this country to study youth movements here. After seeing a play, "Anti-Clockwise," performed by their hosts, they joined in a game of table tennis. The reception committee was headed by Mr. Shanks, club leader.

JUNIOR SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

The Old Boys held their annual meeting last week when the secretary's report showed that the initial season had proved most successful from the playing angle, the team having finished sixth in their section of the league. Officers were elected as follows:--Chairman, Ald. D. Goddard, J.P.; hon. Secretary, Mr. Arthur Hyde Parker; hon. Treasurer, Mr. R. Emmerick, match secretary, Mr. G. Phelps. Ray Reed was elected Captain.

Sat 2nd Aug

PRINCESS ELIZABETH AT BEAR WOOD

Visit To Royal Merchant Navy School

Princess Elizabeth, making her first official visit to Berkshire since the announcement of her engagement, attended prize-giving at the Royal Merchant Navy School at Bear Wood, on Saturday to distribute the prizes and to unveil a tablet acknowledging a gift to the school of £72,100 from the Merchant Navy Fund of South Africa.

Sat 16th Aug

OBITUARY

ADMIRAL J.B. EUSTACE

Admiral John Bridges Eustace, for many years a member of the Berkshire County Council, died at his home, Denton Lodge, Wokingham, on Saturday. He was 87.

The eldest son of the late Colonel and Mrs. Eustace, Admiral Eustace entered the Navy in 1874, and as a young officer won promotion for his services in suppressing slave traffic. In 1900, with the rank of commander, he acted as Principal Naval Transport Officer to the China Expeditionary Force, and was mentioned in General Gaselee's dispatches. Three years later he was promoted to captain, and from 1904-7 commanded the cruiser Fox in the East Indies, earning the commendation of the

Indian Government and the Foreign Offices for diplomatic services in connection with the Bahrein and Henjam incidents, and the settlement of the Zaranikh Pirate incident near Hodeida.

Becoming commodore of the Royal Naval Barracks, Portsmouth, in 1911, he remained there until he was promoted to flag rank in 1913. At the outbreak of war in 1914, in the absence of a vacancy in his own rank, he patriotically returned to Portsmouth and commanded the depot there until in 1916, he was seconded to the Ministry of Munitions. He retired from the active list of the Navy after his promotion to vice-admiral in 1918, and was promoted to admiral on the retired list in 1922.

Admiral Eustace's interests and activities in Berkshire were numerous. For sixteen years member for Wokingham (West) on the County Council, he was particularly concerned with the public health aspect of the Council's work, representing the B.C.C. and the committees of the Berks and Bucks Joint Sanatorium and the Wingfield Morris Orthopaedic Hospital, Oxford. He resigned from the County Council in 1944 on account of advancing years.

One of Wokingham's most popular mayors, he held that office for five consecutive years, from 1923-28. He was also vice-president of Wokingham Club and a governor of Wokingham County Girls' School. The Berkshire County Nursing Association, of which he was a vice-president, claimed his keen interest, and in 1941 he was elected to the committee of the Berkshire Blind Society. A Younger Brother of Trinity House, Admiral Eustace was also a justice of the peace of the Forest Division. He was a prominent Freemason, being a member of the Downshire Lodge and the Berkshire Masters Lodge, Past Master of the Navy Lodge, Past Master of the Downshire Chapter and a member of the Wellesley Chapter.

He married in 1907 Helena, daughter of the late Charles Robinson, of Kindeace, Rosshire, by whom he is survived.

The Funeral

The funeral took place at All Saints' Church, Wokingham, on Thursday. The officiating clergy were: The Rev. G. Kenworthy (Rector), Canon S.M. Winter, Rural Dean, and the Rev. J. Maryon Wilson, who married the late Admiral and Mrs. Eustace 40 years ago at Charleton, Kent. The Rev. William Howitt, of Lancing College, Sussex was at the organ. The coffin was draped with the white Ensign and the Admiral's flag, upon which rested his cocked hat and sword.

The family mourners were: Mrs. Eustace (widow), Mrs. H. Mildred Jones (sister), Mr. G. Jones (nephew), Lt.-Col. Colin Robertson (brother-in-law), Mrs. John Eustace (niece), Capt. And Mrs. Bankes, Mrs. Seton Eustace. Miss Alicia Eustace, Mr. Sinclair Eustace and Mrs. Robertson Eustace (cousins).

(List of mourners)

Sat 27th September

THE LATE MR. F.H. TICKNER

Mr. F.H. Tickner, formerly for twelve years Licensee of The Lord Raglan, Wokingham, died suddenly on Saturday at his home in Howard Road. Mr. Tickner had lived in Wokingham for 32 years. He leaves a widow, one daughter, three sons, and five grand-children. Cremation took place at Reading on Wednesday.

DEATH OF MISS HUGHES

The death occurred on Sunday of Miss Margaret Hughes, younger daughter of the late Ald. E.C. Hughes, one-time Mayor of Wokingham, and a well-known builder and contractor. Miss Hughes, who was 49, lived at 86, London Road, Wokingham. During

the war she served as a voluntary billeting officer to the borough. She is survived by her sister and brother, Brigadier A.C. Hughes, county surveyor for Hampshire. The funeral took place yesterday (Friday) at All Saints'.

Sat 11th Oct

MISS MARGARET LOCKWOOD AT WOKINGHAM

Miss Margaret Lockwood, favourite British film star, visited Glebelands, the Cinema Trades Rest Home at Wokingham, yesterday (Friday). She was received by Mr. Reginald Bromhead, chairman and president of the Home, and Mrs. Winifred Marshall, the matron. After lunch, Miss Lockwood made a tour of the house and grounds, expressing delight at what she saw. She chatted with the patients, some of whom were old colleagues, and left after tea.

During the day, a small film of Miss Lockwood's visit was made, and will be shown at the Royal Command Performance.

Sat 15th Nov

WOKINGHAM'S FIRST WOMAN MAYOR

On Monday Cllr. the Hon. Mrs. Mary Hay Corfield, O.B.E., was elected Mayor of Wokingham, and thus became the first woman to hold this office in the borough. Among the spectators who filled the Council Chamber were members of the new Mayor's family, the fourth Lord Inverclyde, of Castle Wemyss, Renfrewshire, and Bishop Bernard C. Corfield, late of Travancore, now of Stratfield Saye.

FIRE IN BUILDER'S YARD

Wokingham National Fire Service was called out in the early hours of Wednesday morning to a fire in the yard of Messrs. Lowe and Son, builders and contractors, of Wellington Road, Wokingham, in which several sheds were burnt out. The cause of the outbreak is not known.

MAYOR ATTENDS DANCE

Cllr. The Hon. Mrs. Corfield attended her first public function as Mayor of Wokingham on Wednesday, when she visited the Cricket and Lawn Tennis Club dance, held in the Drill Hall. She was accompanied by the Mayoress, Miss Mary Corfield. Music was supplied by Jack Powell's Sextet, and the M.C. was Cllr. S.L. Bowyer.

DEATH OF MR. E.W. EAMER

Mr. Ernest William Eamer died at his home, 1, Mount Pleasant, Wokingham, on Wednesday week. Two days before his 71st birthday. He had been in failing health for some months. Born at Embrook, Mr. Eamer was for 45 years verger and parish clerk of St. Paul's Church, Wokingham.

FUNERAL OF MR. F.G. MARTIN

The funeral of Mr. F.G. Martin, of 14, Wescott Road, Wokingham, whose death at the age of 76 occurred on Thursday week, took place at Wokingham Baptist Church on Saturday, the Rev. F.E. Thomas officiating. For forty years a prominent member of the Fire Brigade, Mr. Martin was well-known to most people in Wokingham, and took a leading part in carnivals and processions held in the town. He died at *Fernleigh*, Shute End, the home of his brother, Mr. W.T. Martin.

1948

Fri 23rd Jan

THE LATE MR R. ARNOLD

The death took place on Thursday of last week of Mr. Richard Arnold, the well-known newsagent and stationer who had been in business in Peach Street for more than 45 years. Mr. Arnold who was born in London, left Camberwell as a young man to take over a farm at Andover, Hants. After a few years he came to Wokingham and opened up the business in Peach Street. A keen member of the Salvation Army, he was closely and actively associated with its work at the S.A. Hall in Sturges Road.

His Motto

Noted for his devotion to his religion and his integrity in business, he always acted up to the motto which he exhibited in his window

The secret of our success;
God first, business next
And pleasure last.

His chief interest apart from the Salvation Army and his business was football. He was a keen supporter of the Wokingham Town Football Club and was one of the last surviving trustees of the Club's ground. He was also much interested in School football and was the donor of a challenge cup for which school teams competed every year.

Mr. Arnold was married twice. His first wife, née Miss Edith Head, died in 1922, a month before they should have celebrated their silver wedding. There were two daughters and a son of the marriage. The former are married. He married his second and surviving wife in 1925 and there is one daughter, a girl aged eleven.

Charitable Work

A man of very kindly and charitable nature, Mr. Arnold did very much good work in a quiet way among the needy.

The funeral took place on Tuesday, the interment at All Saints' Churchyard being preceded by a largely attended service at the Salvation Army Hall, Sturges Road, conducted by Major M. Langston, who used to be in charge of Wokingham Corps. The family mourners were: The widow, Mrs. Phyllis Arnold; Mr. R.H. Arnold, son; Mrs. K.G. Browning, daughter; Miss E. Arnold, sister; Mr. C. Smith and Mr. Colin Hewart, nephews; Mr. G.W. Oates, Mr. and Mrs. A. Oates, brother-in-law and sister, and Mr. and Mrs. A. Keyes.

Mr. C. Walker carried out the funeral arrangements.

Sat 21st Feb

A ROYAL GODMOTHER

Princesses At Binfield

Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh attended the christening of the infant daughter of Major and Mrs. Jean Lycett-Wills, at All Saints' Church, Binfield, on Sunday.

Princess Margaret stood as a god-mother for the first time, and the other god-parents were Lord Roderic Pratt, Lieut.-Colonel H.H. van Straubenzee and Mrs. Victor Balfour. The service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. C.J. Ellwood.

Major and Mrs. Wills live at Allanbay Park, Binfield. Mrs. Wills, formerly the Hon. Jean Constance Elphinstone is a niece of the Queen. Lord and Lady Elphinstone were present at the ceremony. Sunday School children, Mothers' Union members and other Binfield parishioners filled the church, and large crowds waited outside to see the

arrival and departure of the Royal party. The singing was led by the Parish Church's own choir.

The baby girl made no murmur when Princess Margaret carefully took her from her nurse and handed her to the Rector to be named Marilyn Emma Margaret.

(description of dress)

After the service, they attended a christening party at Allanbay Park.

Sat 6th Mar

“SILVER LINING WEEK

Plans for the local “Silver Lining “ week, to be held from March 13th-20th, were discussed at a meeting of the Wokingham Savings Committee held at the Town Hall, with Ald. Lawrence in the chair. The target will be £25,000m in National Savings, and both the Borough of Wokingham and the Wokingham Rural District will participate. The opening ceremony will take place at a concert, to be held in the Town Hall, on Saturday, March 13th.

SAVINGS BANK

On Monday a new full-time branch office of the Reading Trustee Savings Bank is to be opened at 31, Peach Street, Wokingham. The office, which is the 12th under the control of the Reading Bank, is to be officially opened by Sir Kenneth Stewart K.B.E., J.P., the chairman of the Trustee Savings Bank Association, and should ultimately add considerable support to the National Savings Campaign in Wokingham and district.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE

On Saturday, members of the Reading Town ‘A’ Ambulance Cadet Division Band, under Cadet Supt. F.G. Carter and honorary bandmaster H. Young, visited Wokingham where a dance organised by Miss I. Adams, was held in aid of the funds of Wokingham Ambulance Cadets and Reading Town ‘A’ Cadet Band. Before the dance the cadets marched round the town, and the band beat Retreat outside the Town Hall. During the interval at the dance, items were given by the Reading Town ‘A’ Cadet Band under Cadet Supt. F.G. Carter presented Miss Adams with an hon. member's badge of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and Miss Adams made a presentation to the band of a tenor drum, which had belonged to the late Irish Rifles.

Sat 20th March

“SILVER LINING CAMPAIGN

Public support of Wokingham's “Silver Lining” Campaign has not been as widespread as the organisers had hoped, and the audiences at functions in connection with the week have so far been comparatively small.

The campaign was launched at the Town Hall on Saturday, with a concert by “Les Versatiles” of Reading. Chief speaker at the opening ceremony which followed the show, was Col. D.J. Cresswell, Regional Commissioner for National savings. He was introduced by the Mayor (Cllr. the Hon. Mrs. Corfield), who was supported by the Deputy-Mayor (Ald. N.C. Lawrence). Col Cresswell pointed out that the “Silver Lining” Campaign was not a stunt, but was designed to encourage regular saving week by week. “It is far better to put money by now, while things are expensive and in short supply,” he continued. “We shall then be able to spend wisely when conditions are more normal.” A vote of thanks was proposed by Lieut.-Col. C.D. Burnell, chairman of Wokingham R.D.C.

Question Master at a "Twenty Questions" feature in the Town Hall on Tuesday was Mr. W. Holloway, Assistant Commissioner for National Savings, Reading. He was assisted by Mr. L.H. Waters, hon. publicity officer to Reading Savings Committee, and the team consisted of Cllr. Miss D.M. Finch, Miss Sale, Cllr. W.G. Jackson (head master of Woodley Hill Grammar School), and Mr. E.K. Eagles (head master of Palmer School, Wokingham). After an interval, in which Mr. Holloway conducted a "Quiz," a team from the audience went on to the platform.

Latest figures received yesterday (Friday) showed a total of £7,698 towards the target of £25,000. At a whist drive arranged for last night prizes took the form of savings tokens.

Sat 27th March

PRODUCE EXHIBITION

Members of Wokingham Produce Association with the help of the county Council's Agricultural Education Department, staged an exhibition of produce the Town Hall on Wednesday. The Produce Association's main exhibit was a stand well laden with seasonable stock, together with preserves bottled by members. Ald. N.C. Lawrence, chairman of Wokingham Produce Association was present to answer questions about rabbits and poultry, several varieties of which were on view. The Berkshire County Council showed a model allotment, control measures against pests, pruning demonstrations, and stands illustrating points about pig and goat-keeping. A model pre-fab was linked with an appeal to growers to send spare plants to the W.V.S. Garden Gift Scheme. Miss D.M. Cumming answered housewives' queries and explained her store-cupboard exhibit. Ministry of Agriculture films were shown twice during the afternoon and evening. They dealt with "Preparation of the soil," "Vegetables all the year round," "Commercial vegetable growing," and "Soft and hard fruit growing for amateurs."

"SILVER LINING" WEEK DISAPPOINTMENTS

The closing of Wokingham's "Silver Lining" Campaign, marked by a concert by the Sainsbury Singers in the Town Hall on Saturday was, perhaps the most disappointing event in a week full of discouragements. An excellent performance by first-rate Reading vocalists was heard by an audience of hardly more than a dozen. No charge for admission was made.

The Mayor (Cllr. the Hon. Mrs. Corfield) announced that she had intended to ask for a collection for the United Nations appeal for Children. There were, however, so few people present, that she did not feel justified in proceeding with the plan. Ald. N.C. Lawrence, thanking the Mayor for her presence, said that at least one good thing had come from the week—the growth of new savings groups.

"Weeks such as this are only flashes," said the Alderman. "It is the steady savings that count." He said that, so far, new groups in the district numbered five.

The crossword competition in connection with the week was won by Miss Monica Lake, of Homes Grange Lodge, Wokingham, whose entry had the least number of mistakes. She received a savings token of £1. Second came Mr. Ronald Archer, of Watmore Lane, Winnersh, who also received a £1 token. The limerick contest was won by Mr. Farron, of Arborfield, with Mr. H.H. Baxter, of St. Anne's, Wokingham as a runner-up. Both received tokens worth £1.

Final figures will not be known until next week. It is thought that the total so far stands at about £12,000, mostly in small savings.

Fri 2nd April

NEW HOME FOR PREP SCHOOL

When then 60-odd pupils of Wokingham Preparatory School reassemble next Wednesday after their Easter holidays, they will find themselves in new, much more commodious, and definitely more interesting surroundings. Miss B.E. Caudwell, the Principal, has purchased the White House, Finchampstead Road, Wokingham. Formerly occupied by Mr. C. S. Schofield. It has some 20 rooms. Several of which are spacious and ideal for adaptation as class rooms.

The largest is a ball room with a fine sprung floor, which will be used for kindergarten and assemblies. At one end is a lovely Adam fireplace in a white Italian marble which came from the Palace, Whitehall. It was a present from Charles II to Lady Castlemaine.

There are two other Adam fireplaces in the house and an Adam staircase leading from the entrance hall, in addition to three finely appointed and decorated bathrooms.

The White House is situated in beautiful grounds. At the front is a huge tulip tree—there is only one other to compare with it in the country—which already gives promise to healthy bloom.

While extending window space in one of the ground floor rooms at the front of the house this week, workmen came across a brick marked with the initials “R.G.” and the date 1747.

Sat 10th April

TOWN COUNCIL'S PRESENTATION TO MR. A. E. PRIEST

The presentation of an illuminated address to Mr. A. E. Priest preceded the April meeting of Wokingham Town council on Thursday. The address, which expressed the appreciation and thanks of the Mayor, alderman and councillors to Mr. Priest for his loyal and valuable service to the town, recorded the stages of his career on the council which began in November 1911. Elected an alderman in 1927 he was Mayor for four years, from 1929-33. For 26 years he held the chairmanship of the Lighting Committee.

“We all remember the untiring work he did for the council,” said the Mayor (Cllr. the Hon. Mrs. Corfield) handing Mr. Priest the address. Replying Mr. Priest spoke of the sadness with which he had decided that he no longer felt able to continue on the council.

Sat 29th May

OBITUARY

Canon B. Long

Canon Bertram Long, Rector of Wokingham for 29 years, and an honorary canon of Christ Church, Oxford, from 1933 to 1945, died at Batworthy, Chagford, Devon, on Thursday last week, the 54th anniversary of his ordination. He was 78. A Naden Divinity student of St. John's College, Cambridge, he went to Wells Theological College in 1893. Ordained a deacon in 1894 and a priest in 1895, he served his first curacy from 1894-96 at Caversham. From 1896-7, he was domestic chaplain to the Bishop of Truro, then accepting the curacy of Burnham, Bucks, he remained there until he left for Beaconsfield in 1901.

It was from Beaconsfield that Canon Long went to Wokingham in 1904 to become rector of the Parish Church of All Saints', where he was to spend more than half of his ministry. A surrogate from 1907-1945, and Rural Dean of Sonning from 1928-1933, he was chaplain of Wokingham Public Assistance Institution from 1912 until 1933.

Canon Long had an affection for Wokingham as deep as that of townspeople for himself. In 1917, his book, "The Record of the Parish Church and Parish of Wokingham, Berks," was published by the Oxford University Press. He left Wokingham in 1933 to become rector of Whitechurch, where he stayed until his retirement in 1945.

The funeral took place at All Saints', Wokingham, on Monday. Officiating clergy were: The Rev. J.W. Blencowe (son-in-law); Canon G.F. Coleridge; Major the Rev. W.H. Bayley (rector of Bear Wood), the Rev. R.D. Canadine (rector of Whitchurch); the Rev. Arthur Buss; the Rev. K. St. C. Thomas (vicar of Chipping Norton and the last curate to serve with Canon Long at Wokingham), and the Rev. R.J. Sidertin (assistant priest, All Saints').

Family mourners included: the Rev. G.S. Long (brother), Mr. and Mrs. Fred Long (son and daughter-in-law) Mrs. J.W. Glencowe (daughter), Dr. and Mrs. A.R. Esler (son-in-law and daughter), Miss E.M. Long (niece), Mrs. Berkley Stevens, also representing Sir Frederick Cripps, Captain Cripps and Lady Stephens (nephews and nieces), the Rev. E. Thackery (nephew) and Mrs Thackeray (sister-in-law) and Mr. Peter Glencowe (grandson).

Among others present were: [long list.....]

TRIBUTE TO CANON LONG

On Monday evening a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (half-muffled) consisting 1,260 changes was rung on the bells of All Saints' Church, Wokingham, as a tribute to the late Canon Long, who was a bellringer of the Tower, whilst he was rector of the parish. The ringers who took part were: Mr. E. Whittingham, Miss G. Crockford, Messrs J. Woodason, W.J. Brooks, W. Newton, F. Butler, J. Elliott, and W.J. Pearce (Deputy Foreman) who was the conductor.

Sat 12th June

FOR CHILDREN'S FUND

The Mayor of Wokingham (the Hon. Mrs. Corfield) has received from the Lord Mayor of London a letter expressing thanks for a cheque for £396, being the sum raised in the town for the United Nations Appeal for Children.

FLOOR POLISH CAUSED FIRE

A can of floor polish left on a stove caused a fire in a front room on the second floor of Montague House, Broad Street, Wokingham, on Thursday last week. One unit from Wokingham fire brigade quickly extinguished the blaze. Two units of the same brigade also dealt with a heath fire at Gorrick Woods on Saturday.

PORTRAIT FOR TOWN HALL

A large and valuable painting by the French artist, Benjamin Constant, has been presented to the Borough of Wokingham by Mr. John Walter of Bear Wood. It is a portrait of his mother. Mrs. Arthur Walter, painted some fifty years ago, and exhibited in the Paris Salon. The picture has been in the Walter family ever since, and now it is to hang in the Town Hall. Its special interest to the town lies in the fact that Mr. Arthur Walter held the office of High Steward of Wokingham.

WAR MEMORIAL

The executive of Wokingham's Welcome Home Fund for the Forces have decided, with the approval of the Rector, to erect a stand and case in the parish church. The

case will contain a book in which the names who fell in the 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 wars will be inscribed. "This memorial will be dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Oxford at a service on October 24th next. Admission will be by ticket only owing to the necessity to reserve seats for the relatives of the fallen.

Information concerning the name of any man who lost his life in either war is required. The "Welcome Home" recorded the names only of those who resided in the borough, but as this memorial is being placed in the parish church the qualification will be the ecclesiastical parishes of All Saints' and St. Paul's. The names of any who lived outside the borough, but in the ecclesiastical parish, are also required. Any names of those in the borough who were not sent in under the Welcome Home effort should also be submitted. Names and applications for seats at the service should be sent to Ald. F. Stanley Perkins, 33 Broad Street, Wokingham.

Sat 10th July

TRAFFIC HOLD-UP BY DUCKS

A number of ducks, wending their way slowly down the centre of Evendons Lane, Wokingham, on Tuesday, held up traffic for nearly twenty minutes.

BOLLARDS INSTALLED

Traffic approaching Wokingham from London and Crowthorne no longer have to pull up at night and examine signposts to get their bearings, for bollards have been installed in the Market Place by the council. The bollards clearly show the way to London, Reading, Crowthorne and other towns, and are situated at the Denmark and Peach Street sides of the Town Hall. Even in daylight, when their uses are limited, the bollards are not an eyesore. For they have been built on a crazy paving foundation, and include a small garden, blooming with flowers.

FOOTBALL CLUB

The annual meeting of the Wokingham Town Football Club was held on Wednesday in the Wokingham Club, the president (Dr. E.F. Smith) presiding. It was reported that last season the first eleven occupied sixth position in the league and the Reserves finished eighth. The record in cup ties was not impressive although they had won the Currie Cup. Towards the end of last season it was agreed that they should be a recognised nursery Club to Reading F.C. It was arranged that Reading should send to Wokingham likely amateurs, and all training facilities at Elm Park were placed at the club's disposal twice a week. Before the season ended the question of levelling the ground was raised and the subject will be the first care of the newly-elected committee. The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Dr. E.F. Smith; hon. secretary, Mr. J.L. Langley; hon. treasurer, Mr. W.H. Lee.

Sat 17th July

MISS ANONA WINN AT GARDEN FETE

Miss Anona Winn, the stage and radio star, visited the British Sailors' Society garden fete at the Holt School, Wokingham, on Wednesday and received donations from pupils of the school.

Miss Winn spoke of the work done by the society during the war. "Wokingham branch," she said, "has raised over £1,000 in the past five years and this money has been spent providing our sailors in all parts of the world with some of the comforts of home." After Miss Winn had received donations she was besieged with pupils who paid a penny a time for her autograph.

Events during the afternoon included a display of vaulting and ju-jitsu by boys of the Royal Merchant Navy School, Bearwood, and dancing displays by girls of the R.M.N.S. and pupils of Holt School.

There were also donkey rides for the children, as well as various stalls and sideshows. The prize in one of the competitions was a travelling clock presented to the Wokingham branch of Her Majesty the Queen. Over £142 was raised by the society.

Sat 2nd Oct

FILM STAR AT WOKINGHAM

Miss Anna Neagle's Visit

"The sweetest person I've ever met" was how several residents described Miss Anna Neagle, British film star, who visited Glebelands (Cinematograph Trade Convalescent and Rest Home), Wokingham, on Friday last week.

Miss Neagle, who was welcomed by Mr. R. Bromhead, president, Cinema Trade Benevolent Fund, last visited Glebelands three years ago.

Wearing a "New Look" creation of powder blue, Miss Neagle sat in the place of honour at lunch, after which everybody gathered in the lounge, where Miss Neagle told them that she always enjoyed her visits because everyone was so happy there. "My only regret," she added, "is that my visits are so fleeting and so few and far between."

Before leaving Miss Neagle presented the Matron (Mrs. W. Marshall) with gifts of tobacco and cigarettes and crystallised fruits for the women.

Sat 9th Oct

R.E.M.E.'S SIXTH ANNIVERSARY

Celebrations at Arborfield

The sixth anniversary of the formation of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers was celebrated by the R.E.M.E. Training Centre, Arborfield, last week-end. On Saturday morning Major-General Sir E Bertram Rowcroft, K.C.B., C.B., representative colonel commandant for 1948, took the salute at an anniversary parade.

Congratulating the men on their turn-out and drill, Maj-Gen. Sir Bertram Rowcroft pointed out that in any future war the mechanical engineer would play a major part. Those men now serving would, in a national crisis, be regarded as the nucleus of the National Army, he added.

"Six years is not a long time, but our six years has been one of the longest and most fateful in history. We were brought into being at the blackest period of the war, when, although the seeds of victory had been sown, stout hearts, faith and a stubborn will were needed to bring them to fruition."

On Friday evening an officers' ball was held at the Officers' Club, Aldershot, when music was supplied by the R.E.M.E. Staff Band. A brief-case was presented by Sir Bertram Rowcroft to 2nd Lt. J.B. Herman, the champion R.E.M.E. cadet at Sandhurst during the last course.

At Arborfield on the Friday there was a variety show in the Garrison Theatre, at which the guest star was the B.B.C. comedian, George Doonan. At a sergeants' ball on Saturday, a birthday cake was cut by Sir Bertram Rowcroft. Music was supplied by Harry Lewington and his band, while at the Other Ranks' ball, the dance section of the Corps band played.

At the rugby match on Saturday, R.E.M.E. beat the Old Tiffinians.

Sat 30th Oct

ROLL OF HONOUR DEDICATION

The Fallen of Two Wars

The Bishop of Oxford (Dr. Kenneth Kirk) attended a memorial service at All Saints' Church, Wokingham, on Sunday to dedicate a Roll of Honour to local men—and one local woman—who died in the two world wars.

Among the congregation, which numbered over 700, were two hundred relatives of the fallen, many of whom had travelled over considerable distances.

The Mayor (Cllr. the Hon Mrs. Corfield) and members of the Corporation, walked in procession from the Town Hall, headed by the St. Sebastian's Parish Band. They entered the church through a guard-of-honour provided by the Home Guard. Other local bodies taking part in the service were the Fire Brigade, the British Legion, and the women's section the British Red Cross, the St. John Ambulance Brigade, Toc H, the Undenominational Women's Meeting, the Baptist Women's Meeting, and the All Saints' and St. Paul's branches of the mother's Union.

(this is followed by a list of clergy present and the sermon)

The Roll of Honour, in book form, was inscribed by Mr. R.T. Giles and presented by him. The memorial on which it stands was set in place by Cllr. I.D. Sears, who also presented the children's stool which has been put at the foot of the memorial.

After the service, outside the Town Hall the Mayor thanked all who had taken part in the ceremony.

Sat 27th Nov

BEE-KEEPING LECTURES

Mrs. M. Jerome, County Advisor in Bee-Keeping, gave the first in a series of five talks on Bee-Keeping at the British Legion Hall on Monday. The course is being arranged under the auspices of the Berkshire Society of Bee-Keepers.

SCOUTS RECEIVE FLAG

The 5th Wokingham Scouts Group have received the gift of a Union Flag from Miss J.M. Ellis, Assistant District Commissioner for Wokingham. The presentation, made by Miss Ellis at a Scouts' social at the Town Hall on Wednesday, marks her tenth year of scouting. Present at the social were about 100 Scouts and their guests, including the District Commissioner, Mr. R.E.J. Moffitt and Mrs. Moffitt, and Major A.S.C. Trench, secretary of the local Scouts' Association.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Proceeds of St. Paul's Christmas Bazaar, held at the Drill Hall, Wokingham, on Wednesday, reached a figure near the £200 mark, to be divided between church funds and Home and Foreign Missions. The prize for the most attractive stall was won by scholars of St. Paul's Church School. Other stallholders were Mrs. Thorndyke Shaw and helpers, fancy goods; Mrs. W.J. Willey and helpers, Christmas gifts; Miss Williams and helpers produce, produce; Mr. W.J. Willey and helpers, mystery stall; Mrs Thatcher and helpers, teas; Miss Cornish and helpers, white elephant; and Mr. Thatcher and Mrs. Inman, competitions.

EX-SERVICE MEN'S CLUB OPENED

Representatives of the Services, the British Legion, the churches and the police force were among the large gathering who attended the opening of Wokingham Ex-

Service Men's Club by the Mayor (Cllr. the Hon. Mrs. Corfield) on Saturday evening. The Club, near the British Legion Hall in Station Road, has three rooms, newly decorated, a men's bar, a ladies' bar, and a spacious billiards room upstairs. The chairman is Cllr. W.J. Willey.

"When you were brothers-in-arms, you experienced a wonderful feeling of fellowship and comradeship," said the Mayor. "That is something we want to continue, and the club should promote it. It will unite all ranks and classes. We will need this feeling of comradeship in the world today among individuals and nations, and though the club in Wokingham is small you can set an example here which others may follow.

Admiral, Sir Arthur Paliser, who said why he specially welcomed the club added, "Ex-Service men and women have problems peculiar to themselves, problems which can be thrashed out more satisfactorily over a cup of tea, or a glass of beer than in the heat and turmoil at a big public meeting.

Sir Arthur concluded by making two appeals, one for contributions, the other for more members. A vote of thanks to him was proposed by Miss C.M. Oakley-Hill, and seconded by Mr. A. Andrews. After the opening ceremony, there was a variety show, arranged by the entertainments committee of the British Legion.

Sat 18th Dec

HOLDER OF DOG'S V.C.

Staying in Wokingham this week are Sir Richard and Lady White, and with them is their twelve-years-old Boxer, "Boy," holder of the dog's V.C., the Dickin Medal. "Boy," who was trained to detect mines, accompanied the invasion forces which landed on the continent on "D" Day. As the result of a bullet wound he lost the sight of one eye. The Dickin Medal was awarded for his devotion.

1949

Sat 15th Jan

WILL OF MR. A.T. HEELAS

Mr. Arthur Tyndale Heelas, of Oakleigh, Fairview Road, Wokingham, head of Heelas, Ltd., drapers, Wokingham, an authority of the history of the town left £16,383 13s. gross, £15,765 2s. 7d. net value (Duty paid £1,371). He left two pictures, and his library of reference books and archaeological journals and books dealing with local history, to the Mayor and Corporation of Wokingham, suggesting (but creating no trust) that the library be used as a reference library and not as a loan library. His effects not otherwise disposed of to his wife, and the residue to her for life, with remainder to his son, Eric.

FAREWELL TO THE COLONEL

Residents and staff of Buzzacott Hall, the Salvation Army's Eventide Home at Wokingham, joined in a farewell luncheon in honour of their retiring warden, Colonel Evelyn Farey, on Thursday last week. Visitors included Mr. James Buzzacott, donor of the house, and the Rev. Gordon Kenworthy, rector of All Saints', Wokingham. Both paid warm tribute to Colonel Farey's work in Wokingham during the past three years, and her 40 years' service with the Salvation Army. A number of the Colonel's fellow officers were present, among them. Brigadier Faith Jacobs (retired), of Reading, Major Martin (retired). Lieutenant Blakey and Capt. Horsnell. A toast to Colonel Farey was drunk. It is not yet known who has succeeded her at Buzzacott Hall.

Sat 5th March

THE BELLS OF ST. PAUL'S

The repair and the re-hanging of the bells of St. Paul's Church, Wokingham is about to begin, announces the rector (the Ven. Archdeacon Thorndike Shaw). A 1946 estimate put the cost at £257, and so far the Bell Fund has realised £240.

REMEMBERING "THAT MAN."

The Tommy Handley Memorial Fund benefited by the proceeds of a concert presented by the Wokingham Variety Players in the Town Hall on Thursday. Production was by Mr. Dick Giles, and a large audience watched a lively show, which included a Wild West interlude by the "Applejacs."

DEATH OF MR. W. TEAKLE

Mr. William Teakle, well-known Wokingham monumental mason, died in a Reading nursing home on Saturday, aged 74. His father founded the family business at 26, Denmark Street, which now passes to his nephew, Mr. H.J. Langdower. Mr. Teakle was keenly interested in the National Association of Master Monumental Masons. He belonged to the Wokingham Bowling Club and to the Howard Palmer Bowling Club, of which he was Green Ranger. He attended All Saints' Church, where he was a sidesman. Mr. Teakle's wife died three years ago and he leaves no immediate family.

The funeral was on Wednesday at All Saints', the Rev. R.J. Siderfin officiating, with Mr. Cusden, at the organ. Arrangements were by Messrs. J.B. Hall and Son.

Sat 9th April

WOKINGHAM'S MAYOR-ELECT HON. MRS. CORFIELD AGAIN CHOSEN

The Hon. Mrs. Mary Hay Corfield, O.B.E. of Wemyss Lodge, Wokingham, the town's present Mayor, is to continue in the office for another year. Wokingham's first woman Mayor, Mrs. Corfield, during the past eighteen months, has won a high place in the esteem of the townspeople by her keen and impartial patronage of every sort of activity. She has launched several successful local appeals on behalf of charities, among them a fund for the children of Europe, and, more recently, the Tommy Handley Memorial Fund

A county Alderman, Mrs. Corfield was elected to the Berkshire County Council in 1935 as member for Wokingham East. In 1940 she was appointed to the Education Committee, becoming acting chairman of the Higher Education Sub-Committee in 1941, and succeeding to the chairmanship on retirement of Lord Arthur Butler in 1944.

Mrs. Corfield was co-opted to Wokingham Town Council in 1942, and when she contested her seat in 1945 she came third on the poll.

During the war, she was organiser of the Berkshire Hospital Supply Depot. Chairman of the governors of Wokingham County Girls' School and chairman of Wokingham Evening Institute, she has also for many years been actively associated with the work of the Mothers' Union

Youngest daughter of the first Lord Inverclyde, Mrs. Corfield married first, in 1904, the Rev. E. Murray Robinson, and later Canon Claud Corfield, Prebendary of Bath and Wells, who died in 1926. She has one daughter, Miss Mary Burns Corfield, who is her Mayoress. Mrs. Corfield has several literary publications to her credit, among

them "The Loyal Heart," an anthology, "Beauty," "Service and Perseverance," "The Memories of a Scotswoman," and "Claud Corfield—Chronicle of a Busy Life," a tribute to her husband.

Sat 14th May

TERRITORIAL ARMY PARADE

Since the Territorial Army recruiting campaign started there has been no response in Wokingham to the appeals and the local strength still stands at five officers and five other ranks. In an effort to stimulate recruiting for the T.A. and the R.A.F.V.R., the 4/6th Battalion, the Royal Berkshire Regiment, T.A., held a parade and a series of displays at Wokingham on Sunday.

The parade formed up in Rectory Road, and, led by the band of the 2nd Cadet Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment, marched to the Market Place, where the salute was taken by the Mayor of Wokingham (the Hon. Mrs. Corfield) who was accompanied by General Sir Andrew Thorne (Deputy Lieutenant of Berkshire) and Major General C. F. C. Coleman (G.O.C. 43rd Wessex Infantry Division).

The parade marched to the Langborough Road recreation ground, where a series of displays were given. The display comprised equipment used by the T.A., and a R.E.M.E. team showed how to strip a 25-pounder gun. The R.A.F.V.R. ("week-end" flyers) from Woodley flew over the ground during the afternoon in Tiger Moth aircraft.

Sat 28th May

FIRE BRIGADE WANT VOLUNTEERS

Young men living in the Wokingham district are invited to volunteer for part-time duty with the Wokingham Fire Brigade. Anyone interested should call at the Fire Station any Friday between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Volunteers should have completed their military service and be not more than 50 years old.

"GUNNER" WEEK

"Gunner" Week is to be held in Wokingham from 4th June to 11th. Starting on Saturday week with a military display at Langborough Road recreation ground, the programme includes displays of marching, counter-marching and Highland dances by the boys from the Army Apprentices School Arborfield. There will also be an exhibition of artillery equipment and guns, manned by local Territorial Army units.

BOY SCOUTS MEETING

Wokingham and District Boy Scouts Association annual meeting was held in the Town Hall on Wednesday. Mr. F.J. Barrett presiding. The District Commissioner, Mr. R.B.J. Moffitt, reported a loss in membership of eight, largely due to the closing down of another Bear Wood Troop. He said the problem of obtaining Scout Leaders was becoming increasingly difficult. In his report the secretary, Mr. A.S.C. Trench, paid tribute to the Mayor of Wokingham, the Hon. Mrs. Corfield, for her financial help during the year. Whist the financial position was satisfactory the treasurer, Mr. A.H.L. Beale, warned the meeting that they could not expect as many subscriptions during the present financial year. The election of officers resulted: Chairman, Mr. F.J. Barrett; vice-chairman, Captain Henderson; hon. treasurer, Mr. A.H.L. Beale; auditor, Mr. F. Payne; hon secretary, Mr. A.S.C. Trench. The executive committee was re-elected en bloc.

Sat 2nd July

BELL RINGERS' OUTING

Bell ringers from St. Paul's Church, Wokingham, and All Saints'. Wokingham, had a day out on Saturday, when they rang peals of triple grandsires at Boyn Hill, Maidenhead, Farnham Royal, Beaconsfield and Marlow.

"GUNNER WEEK"

Wokingham's "Gunner Week", held recently by the local branch of the Royal Artillery Association, realised a total profit of £44 15s. 2½d., which has been sent to the Royal Artillery Benevolent Fund. Of this amount £18 11s. 2½d. was raised by the flag day.

LEGION FETE

A stall containing articles made by disabled men was a feature of the fete organised by the women's section of the British Legion (Wokingham branch) at West Lodge, Wokingham, on Wednesday. Mrs. Harris, of the disabled men's stall in London, addressed the meeting. Lady Victoria Villiers (president of the section) was among those present. All proceeds were devoted to branch funds.

OBITUARY, MR. BAGLEY

A retired school master, Mr. Reginald Bagley, of "Clopton," Eastheath Avenue, Wokingham, died on Monday, aged 62. He was at St. Paul's School, Wokingham, from 1922 until he retired in 1945. An enthusiastic beekeeper, he was at one time secretary of the Berkshire Beekeepers' Association. Mr. Bagley also took a keen interest in the Wokingham branch of the Workers' Educational Association. He leaves a widow, two sons and a daughter. The funeral was at St. Paul's Church, Wokingham, on Thursday.

Sat 23rd July

SWEET RATIONING RETURNS

Sweets off the ration since April 24th, will again be rationed from August 14th. This was one of several changes in the rationing scheme announced by Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the House of Commons on July 14th, when he opened the debate on the economic situation. Sweets will be rationed at 4 oz. per head a week, and the D and F coupons, on the personal points pages in the current ration books will be used, each coupon being worth 2 oz. Those available during ration period number four, which begins on August 14th, will be the four coupons marked D4 and the four marked E4.

On the same day on which sweet rationing is to be re-introduced, August 14th, the sugar ration will be reduced from 10 ozs, to 8 ozs. From last Sunday the butter ration was increased by 1 oz. to 4 ozs weekly. This brings the total fats ration to 10 oz. as the margarine and cooking fat ration is unchanged. From July 31st the meat ration is also to be increased from 1s. 1d. to 1s 4d. per week, and the bacon ration is to be increased by 1 oz. to 3 ozs. weekly from August 21st.

Sir Stafford also announced that it was necessary to reduce the 110 million dollars originally provided for tobacco by 20 million dollars. Manufacturers in general would in due course have to make some reduction in supplies to the public, probably not more than 5%.

Sat 31st Dec

DR. BARNARDO'S HOMES

During the week before Christmas, Wokingham members of the Barnardo Helpers' League went carol singing and collected £11 10s. for Dr. Barnardo's Homes.

CHRISTMAS EVE DANCE

The Static Condenser Sports and Social Club held their annual dance and social at the Drill Hall, Wokingham, on Christmas Eve. Music was supplied by Frank Tanner, who is a blind pianist, and his band. Mr. J. North, one of the firm's directors, was M.C.

BASEBALL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Wokingham Monarchs Baseball Club was held in the Town Hall, Wokingham, on Thursday. Mr. G. Moffitt, secretary, stressed the urgent need for new players, particularly as so many were at present doing National Service. The financial report showed assets of £4 1s. The election of officers resulted: Chairman and treasurer, Mr. E.N. Sherwood; secretary, Mr. G. Moffitt.

CHRISTMAS PARTY AT GLEBELANDS

British film stars, Anna Neagle and Joan Dowling, sent presents and cigarettes for residents of "Glebelands" Convalescent Home, Wokingham, this Christmas. Along with many other presents these were placed upon a large Christmas tree and distributed to residents and their guest on Tuesday. Father Christmas, Mr. Tebbitts, was assisted by the matron, Mrs. Marshall. Everyone received three presents. Each lady resident and member of the staff was given a hot water bottle and cover presented by Mrs. Ditcham, wife of the vice-president.

Each evening, starting on Christmas Eve, there was dancing, and an entertainment, provided, of course, by people at the home. The home is supported by the Cinematographic Trade Benevolent Fund, and there were several telegrams and cards from well-known personalities in the cinema world. Greetings came from such faraway places as Nairobi and Australia.

Residents sat down to a Christmas Day dinner of turkey, Christmas pudding, mince pies, and a quantity of nuts and fruit. Highlight of the Christmas period was a fancy dress dance on Boxing Day, over 60 people taking part. Many of the costumes were home-made but some were also provided by Denham Studios. The fancy dress competition was won by the matron and Nurse Goddard, dressed as "The Ugly Sisters." One of the judges was the rector of All Saints', the Rev. G. Kenworthy.

FESTIVITIES AT WOKINGHAM HOSPITAL

Christmas festivities at Wokingham Hospital were celebrated in the traditional manner, all wards being effectively decorated for the occasion. Saturday was observed as Christmas Day. In the morning each patient was presented with sweets, an orange, apples, cigarettes, a Christmas card and a present. The Mayor and Mayoress, the Hon. Mrs. H. Corfield, O.B.E., and Miss Corfield, Ald. E.W. Reeves, Dr. J.M. Smelos, medical officer, Miss A. Howard, Miss E. Norris and the Ven. Archbishop Thorndyke-Shaw, chaplain, assisted in the serving of Christmas dinner, and the Mayor conveyed greeting over the microphone to all at the hospital.

Ald. E.W. Reeves on behalf of the House Committee, conveyed thanks to the Mayor and Mayoress and other ladies and gentlemen assisting and to the hospital staff, regretting that Ald. Barrett had been prevented by illness from attending for the first

time in 50 years. He also conveyed greetings from Ald. W.T. Martin. Mr. Reeves added that, for the first time in a number of years the chairman of the House Committee, Major A.R. Hunter was unable to be present. Mr. Reeves sent greetings to Mr. H. Beesley, a bed patient, who is 102 years of age. Mrs. Norris also conveyed greetings to all, with good wishes for the future.

After tea the nursing staff, under the direction of the Matron, gave a variety concert which was relayed by microphone to all unable to attend.

On Christmas Day there was again special fare, whilst on Tuesday the annual staff dinner and social took place.

1950

Sat 28th Jan

OLD TIME DANCING

Old-time dancing was again a popular attraction at St. Paul's Parish Room on Wednesday.

CHURCH SOCIAL

St. Paul's Young Wives' Fellowship and Mothers' Union combined for a social in the Parish Room on Thursday last week.

DARTS WIN

In the national darts teams' championship (third round) The Three Frogs defeated the Comrades' Club Reading Ladies, 2—0.

SOCIAL

A social, organised by the Wokingham Players, was held at the Wokingham club on Saturday. Mr. L. Freeman was M.C.

SUDDEN DEATH

Mr. Thomas Claude Edwards, for over eight years manager of Pither and Sons, butchers, of Broad Street, Wokingham, collapsed in the shop on Friday morning last week and died shortly afterwards. A post mortem examination revealed that death was due to heart failure. Mr. Edwards, who was 49 years old, leaves a widow, one son and two daughters. Cremation was at Reading on Tuesday.

PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

Wokingham Produce Association held their annual social at the Town Hall, Wokingham, on Wednesday. Ald. N.C. Lawrence, chairman of the association acted as M.C., and a programme of entertainment was presented by local people, including a song recital by Mr. Harrison (baritone) who was accompanied at the piano by Mrs. White, from Glebelands. Mr. J. Woodason gave impressions of radio personalities and a short play, "The Crimson Coconut," by Ian Hay, was presented by All Saints' Youth Club.

Sat 25th Feb

FUNERAL OF MRS. L.C.B.L. STRATTON

The funeral took place on Monday, at St. Paul's Church, Wokingham, of Mrs. Louise Cecilia Bazalgette Lucas Stratton, aged 96, of Saxham Lodge, Wokingham. The Rev. Gordon Kenworthy officiated. Mrs. Stratton was the widow of the Rev.

Joseph Stratton, M.A., Oxon, who was the Master of Lucas Hospital from 1889 to 1917. She was the daughter of Mr. St. John Welles Lucas, M.R.C.S., and a direct descendant of Henry Lucas, who founded the Lucas Hospital in 1663. A woman of many talents, Mrs. Stratton was noted for her painting, wood carving and modelling. A small scale model of the Henry Lucas Hospital now rests in the Town Hall, Wokingham.

Sat 4th March

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

Old-time dancing was continued in St. Paul's Parish Room on Wednesday.

R.A. BALL

Approximately 200 dancers attended the ball held by the Wokingham branch of the Royal Artillery Association at the Drill Hall, Wokingham, on Saturday. Music was supplied by the Casino Players, and Mr. F. Clemas acted as M.C.

BASEBALL CLUB

As part of their training programme, the Monarchs Baseball Club (Wokingham) saw a two-hours instructional film show at the British Legion Hall, Wokingham, on Sunday. Mr. G. Moffitt, captain and hon. Secretary, was the organiser. The baseball season opens on April 2nd.

CAGE BIRD SOCIETY

Wokingham Cage Bird Society held their first afternoon pairs show on Saturday, when 53 pairs were exhibited at Church House. The cup for the best pair in the show was won by Mr. F.W. Bryant, and the medal for runner-up by Mr. W. Woodward. Specials were awarded as follows: Best champion canary pair, Mr. Bryant; best novice canary pair, Mr. E.S. Boocock; best budgerigar pair, Mrs. Goldsetzer; best British pair, Mr. J.W.L. Barker; best ladies' exhibit, Mrs. Pither; best juvenile exhibit, Master Bryant.

Other prize winners were: Mrs. Lamont, Mrs. North, Messrs. Adey, Joyce, Ayers and Viner.

EX-SERVICE MENS' CLUB

A successful year, with a "paid-up" membership of 190 and a further 30 members on the books, was reported at the annual meeting of the Wokingham Ex-Service Men's Club, held in the Legion Hall, Wokingham, on Friday week. Cllr. W.J. Willey presided. In his address, the chairman paid tribute to officials of the club, mentioning in particular the hon. Secretary (Mr. A. Andrews), who was recently presented with armchairs in appreciation of his work. Submitting the accounts for the year Mr. Dinham said they had made a profit of £80 in 1949, after allowing for depreciation of furniture and fittings. In his report, the hon. secretary (Mr. A. Andrews) said although the club had been running for more than a year the attendance had not been what was anticipated in view of the membership. Cllr. Willey was re-elected chairman, Mr. Payne, treasurer, and Mr. Andrews, secretary. The retiring members of the general committee were re-elected en bloc, with the addition of M. Edwards, P. Fenwick, A. Knapp and A. Button.

Sat 27th May

RATIONING OF PETROL ENDS

No Shortage For Whitsun

The general verdict of garage proprietors on hearing the news that the rationing of petrol would cease from midnight (Friday) was "Now that we have the petrol for Whitsun, all we want is sunshine. One thing that need cause no concern is supply."

All the main garages in Reading assured the Mercury that they are not likely to run dry, and the same assurance is given by the bulk suppliers

Motorists however, probably do not appreciate all the implications of the relaxation. In the first case it will mean higher insurance rates and a return to the full rate of duty. The order will also mean less work for a number of people and more for others. The Ministry of Fuel and Power, stationed at Whiteknights Park, Reading, say that there would obviously be large-scale redundancy, but the full implications are not yet known. Whatever time is saved in the garages by the abolition of coupons will be more than filled by the anticipated increase in repair work.

Sat 8th July

RETURNING "HOME"

One of the oldest firms in Wokingham, Sale and Sons, will soon be returning to their birthplace after 60 years. They are moving from No. 16, Market Place, to No. 27, the premises where Mr. Stephen Sale built his business when he went there in 1825. He remained there until 1890.

Sat 29th July

"FLYING SAUCERS" SEEN AT WOKINGHAM

Many people in Wokingham sat up late on Thursday night, hoping to see what had been described by some as a "flying saucer."

A lady of Denmark Street, Wokingham, said she was looking out of her bedroom window on Wednesday night and saw a "disc-shaped object floating across the sky."

"It seemed to be about 12 inches long and was about a mile away," she said. "and it was very bright." She called her neighbours who supported the statement.

The brightness of the moon spoilt any appearance on Thursday evening, although some residents report seeing the object, this time much smaller.

Sat 16th Sept

COLOURFUL CARNIVAL AT WOKINGHAM Non-Stop Programme Of Entertainment

All the pomp and ceremony of previous carnivals returned, with additions on Wednesday, when Wokingham produced as colourful a spectacle as ever witnessed in the town.

Despite the many pessimists, the carnival committee, under the organising secretary, Mr. Peter Sparkes, did in three months what had previously taken nine. A non-stop variety programme of music, shows and sports culminated in a grand procession of nearly 100 decorated vehicles and parties spread over a three-mile route of flag-bedecked streets and building

From 8 a.m. until 2 a.m. the following day "raggers" dressed as everything from apes to Zulus, paraded the town with programmes and collecting boxes.

The day was opened officially by the Mayor, Cllr. S.L. Bowyer, when he released the first balloon of a balloon race in the Market Place at 10 a.m. Large crowds thronged the town, and extra buses brought several thousand visitors from

neighbouring towns and villages, most of them supplied with paper hats, balloons and fireworks.

Music from the bands of the 1st. Batt. Royal Hampshire Regiment, and 3rd Carabiniers (Prince of Wales Dragoon Guards), was relayed in the streets from the Market Place, and was followed by children's entertainment on a decorated stage.

Many Mayors Present

With a flourish of instruments, twelve trumpeters of the 3rd Carabiniers heralded the guests on to the stage in the afternoon to await the arrival of the carnival queen elect and her attendants. Among those present were the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham, Cllr. S.L. Bowyer and Mrs. Ratcliffe, Mrs. Peter Remnant, wife of the M.P. for the Division, the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading, Ald. A.F. Clark and Mrs. C.D. Widdecombe, the Mayor and Mayoress of Windsor, Cllr. R.H. Tozer and Mrs. Tozer, the Mayor and Mayoress of Abingdon, Cllr. Mrs. Challenor and Miss Janet Challenor, the Mayor and Mayoress of Maidenhead, Cllr. J.B. Maudsley and Mrs. J. Norris, the Mayor and Mayoress of Henley, Cllr. H.T. Simms and Mrs. Simms, the Mayor and Mayoress of Newbury, Cllr. J. H. Hole and Mrs. Hole, the Mayor and Mayoress of Hendon, Ald. J.L. Freedman and Mrs. Freedman, the Mayor and Mayoress of Wallingford, Cllr. M.L. Whitely and Mrs. Whitely, and chairman of Wokingham R.D.C., Lt.-Col C.D. Burnell and Mrs. Burnell.

A further fanfare by the trumpeters, and the queen elect, Miss Pauline Froud, and her maids-of-honour, Miss Gwen Musto and Miss Beryl Choules, with attendants, Miss Rhoda Fry and Master C. Hussey, mounted the raised, red-carpeted stage to take their positions in the centre.

Mr. H. Banks, in his full civic dress of town crier, announced the ceremony ready to begin, and introduced the Mayor of Wokingham, who spoke a few words, urging support to make the carnival a success.

Crowning Of The Queen

On bended knee, Miss Pauline Froud, aged 17, was then crowned carnival queen for the carnival—revived after a lapse of 13 years—by the Mayoress, Mrs. Ratcliffe. Addressing her audience, the carnival queen dressed in white cloque, said, “May I express my deep appreciation of the honour which has been bestowed upon me. My heartfelt wish is that today will bring much pleasure to young and old and that your generosity will benefit our local charities.”

The Mayor of Wokingham replied by saying he hoped it would be the happiest day in the Carnival Queen's life. The “royal party” were then led by bands to the carnival field for the opening of the pleasure park. Here the Carnival Queen sampled the amusements before leaving to tour the various shows and sports.

While music by several bands in the Market Place entertained many during the afternoon, several thousand spectators and contestants packed the sports field for a grand athletic display. Here also a children's fancy dress parade was held, with children dressed as everything from angels to goblins. One particular set which attracted attention was the first-prize winner. “The Mayor and Corporation” composed of two alderman, a policeman, town crier, mace-bearer and Mayor.

Results were as follows:- long list of winners.

The main event of the day, the grand procession, left Rectory Road at 6.30 p.m. and nearly 100 decorated vehicles and parties took 25 minutes to pass one point. Led by the Band of the 3rd Carabiniers, the procession threaded its way along the three-mile route which was lined with cheering crowds. A vehicle which attracted much attention was the antique fire engine drawn by two horses. The engine was found by accident in a junk yard at Twyford a short time ago, and it was discovered to have once belonged

to Newbury fire service. It is in perfect running order and is driven by steam. A windmill composed of wood covered by flowers drew the greatest applause, and it was given a first prize. It was exhibited by Sale and Sons. White-washed, with brass and chromium gleaming, the Corporation dust cart was almost unrecognisable. The bins were used for collecting coins thrown by the spectators.

Prizes were presented by the Carnival Queen, outside the floodlit Town Hall at 9 p.m. Here the Mayors of Newbury, Hendon and Henley, who had remained to the end, publicly thanked the town for its hospitality. The Mayor of Wokingham concluded the prize-giving with a word of thanks to Peter Sparkes, the organising secretary, and his committee and helpers.

Carnival Dances

The British Legion Hall, Drill Hall and Church House were packed to capacity for the rest of the evening until 2 a.m. for dancing and general fun-making. The Hon. Peter Remnant, M.P. for the Division, with Mrs. Remnant, attended the various dances

The Mayor stated on Thursday: "I am anxious to take the first opportunity of thanking everybody who helped towards the success of our carnival, and to express my gratitude to the public for their magnificent support."

Sat 23rd Sept.

HOOLIGANISM AT TOUTLEY CAMP

A few days after No. 17, Toutley Camp, Wokingham, was vacated, hooligans started to destroy what might have become a home. Over 60 panes of glass were smashed, windows and door frames broken, and a gas cooker partly dismantled. Now Wokingham Town Council has approved the Housing Committee's recommendation that due to the damage done the demolition of the building be speeded up.

Sat 11th Nov

WOMEN'S LAND ARMY TO DISBAND

Women's Aid Given To Berkshire Farmers

On November 30th, 100 girls working in different parts of Berkshire will be the only remnants of the Women's Land Army left in the county. The final disbanding takes place on that date, and as the months go by, the girls' familiar uniforms will become a more unusual sight and will no longer be replaced by the Land Army.

In its eleven years' existence, the Land Army in Berkshire formed an emergency labour force upon which farmers learned to depend for the efficient working of their farms. Initial reluctance to employ women was swiftly broken down as the girls themselves proved their worth, and many employers could genuinely say: "I don't know how we should have managed without them. No job was too dirty or difficult for them to tackle and actual physical strength was the only limitation in which their sex made a difference to the work they undertook. Market gardening, ditching, hedging, thatching, tractor, pest and poultry work were among the hundreds of ways in which they helped farmers in the urgent war-time food production programme, but it was probably in milking and dairying that they made their biggest contribution.

Dairy Instruction

Many farmers preferred girls to men working in the cowsheds, for they had a lighter touch, were quieter with the animals and were often more particular about the hygienic side of dairy work. Miss J. Matthews, dairy officer to Berks County Council agricultural education department, organised dairying courses from 1943 until 1949, at the rate of about two a year for 12 students at a time. She also assisted in the

milking and dairying instruction given to Land Army members from 1939 on farms, at centres in the county, and during general training of one month at hostels. Proficiency badges for milking and dairying instruction which raised the standard of work, were awarded to 87 girls working in Berkshire. Other Land Army Workers decided to make agriculture their career and went to farm institutes and colleges. Several gained the National Diploma in Dairying and are now holding responsible positions. Tests for proficiency in general farm work, market gardening, and field, poultry and tractor work, were held occasionally in the country.

Recruiting continued steadily throughout the war, and the last recruitment drive took place in 1949. A small proportion of the volunteers came from Berkshire and Reading, but by far the majority were city girls from London, Yorkshire and Lancashire.

They had never come into contact with the land before and the new life they led held its own rewards, in spite of the long working hours and lack of amenities for leisure amusement. In 1943, peak year for recruiting, there were 2,000 Land Girls working in Berkshire. At that time the national strength was 75,000, compared with 17,000 during the 1914-18 war when the Women's Land Army was first formed.

Responsibility for the Land Army in the county rested with a committee, whose chairman from the outbreak of war was Mrs. Howard Palmer of Wokingham. She worked with Mrs. Norman May, county secretary, until 1945. Two county organisers, Miss Bayne-Jardine and, early in the war, Lady Mount, acted as liaison between the administration office and the county, keeping in touch with farmers and conditions generally, and making monthly welfare visits to the girls on the job.

Voluntary local representatives maintained personal contact with Land Army workers in their area.

PALMER CUP PROFICIENCY

After the war Lady Mount followed Mrs. Howard Palmer as chairman of the county committee, which changed its character and became concerned with welfare advisory matters. When she resigned her position Mrs. Howard Palmer presented a cup for proficiency in dairying and milking. County secretaries following Mrs. May were Miss Gillian Rogers and Miss Marjorie Blunt, and Berkshire was merged with Oxon, Isle of Wight, Warwick and Hants in 1949 under the secretaryship of Miss M. Cuff, whose office at Oxford will be closed on December 15th after months of sorting and packing up.

Land Girls whose billets were not found for them by farmers lived in hostels maintained by the W.L.A. while the Agricultural Executive Committee found it necessary to employ large numbers for seasonal labour. The last hostels in Berkshire to close this month were at Jealotts Hill and East Challow, though Oxfordshire are keeping five hostels open for the girls who are remaining on the land.

One of the highlights of the Land Army's history in the county, which will remain a bright memory, was the all-day rally at Windsor Castle in the summer of 1945. The Queen and the two Princesses mingled with the girls, made presentations and inspected them. Another great occasion was the farewell parade at Buckingham Palace, on October 21st this year, when Her Majesty took the salute. Berkshire sent ten girls to this parade.

The future for the 100 Land Army volunteers, who will become "ex-service" on November 30th, is a matter of mixed feelings. They are determined to continue working on farms and market gardens as long as they can find people willing to employ them, but must lose the support of the Land Army and the companionship of being a member of a large organisation. Three girls will stay at their Windsor Castle

jobs, and others have no intention of quitting the work with animals and growing things that they have learned to love. Several of them are veterans with a full eleven years' service. Among these are Phyllis Pellatt, of South View Farm, Uffington, and E. Willett, of the Compton agricultural Research Station; Rose Podmore, of Manor Farm, Fernham; Alice Walpole, of Chalk Pig Farm, Stanford Dingly, and Beryl Hawkings of Manor Farm, Shrivenham.

The Benevolent Fund

Berkshire County W.V.S. has offered to supervise the welfare of the remaining girls, and Miss Cuff told a Reading Mercury representative this week that the Women's Land Army Benevolent Fund will last for at least two years. It exists to help volunteers in time of special need, and the address in 1951 will be 23-26, Chester Terrace, Regents Park, London N.W.1. Past members are joining the Berkshire Women's Land Army Association, whose chairman is Lady Mount. Formed in 1945 the association aims to keep ex-Land Girls in touch with each other through a newsletter and twice-yearly reunions.

Fri 8th Dec

JOHN MILLS AT GLEBELANDS

John Mills, star of "Scott of the Antarctic" who has appeared in every Command Performance, visited Glebelands on Friday last, and is pictured here with his equally famous playwright wife, Mary Hayley Bell. Standing at his back are Mrs. Marshall, the Matron, and Mr. Reginald Bromhead, founder and chairman of the Cinematograph Benevolent Association. During his visit Mr. Mills invited all the residents of Glebelands to the performance tomorrow (Saturday) of "Top of the Ladder," St James Theatre, London, in which he is playing the leading role.

Sat 9th Dec

WOKINGHAM GARDENERS

The First Annual Dinner

Some 150 members and friends of the Wokingham Allotment Holders' and Gardeners' Association attended the association's first annual dinner, which was held at the Civic Restaurant, Wokingham, on Saturday, when guests of honour were the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham, Cllr. S.L. Bowyer and Mrs. Ratcliffe.

The success of the association was attributed to the youthfulness of the association's officers by Mr. F.T. Williams who proposed the toast, "The Association," adding that he had watched, as a spectator, the growth in membership from 17 to nearly 300.

The president, Cllr. F.G. Hope, responding, paid tribute to the work put in by members and non-members of the association, and said that the Borough Corporation had also assisted them.

Mr. F. Carter, secretary of the association, spoke of the assistance given by the Town Council, and said that water had now been laid on at all allotment sites in the borough. The council are also dealing with a great influx of rabbits on allotments. He proposed the health of the "The Mayor and Corporation of Wokingham," and, in response, the Mayor said the council would do all they could to further the aims of the association.

Mr. C.J. Windebank, who proposed a toast to the visitors, thanked all those who had helped the association, with special reference to members of the Reading Association. Mr. Yates replied.

Following the dinner, a variety programme was presented by the "Raggers" concert party, with Mr. R. Bevin as compere.

Sat 16th Dec

FILM STARS VISIT WOKINGHAM HOME

Michael Denison, accompanied by his wife, Dulcie Gray, are the latest of Britain's top screen stars to visit the Cinematograph Trades Benevolent Fund Home at Glebelands, Wokingham. On Saturday the two stars were received by the president and chairman of the home, Mr. Reginald Bromhead, and the matron, Mrs. W. M. Marshall, and taken, after lunch, on a tour of the spacious grounds. While passing through the rooms of Glebelands, Michael Denison and his wife met and talked with residents about their latest work. "The Franchise Affair," yet to be released, is the title of the third film they have made together.

The guests left early in the afternoon to appear at the Ambassador Theatre, London, in the last night of their play "Four Poster."

Dulcie Gray was a pupil at Wokingham Luckley Girls' School for one year before the war.

1951

Sat 6th Jan

WOKINGHAM CINEMA CLOSING THE REASON—HIGH ENTERTAINMENT TAX

The Savoy Cinema, Wokingham, is to be closed after the last showing of "The Champion," tonight, Saturday. It is to be sold. The reason for closing was given to a *Mercury* reporter by Mr. H. Handford, the owner, who said: "The high rate of entertainment tax and the impossibility of complying with the quota regulations have been the deciding factors."

Forty per cent of the takings go in entertainment tax, and regulations lay down that 30 per cent of the films shown must be British. Mr. Handford declared that this quota was impossible to obtain, as it was a case of the small owner competing against large circuits.

The Savoy was converted from a shop to a cinema just before the first world war — in the days of the silent films.

Sat 13th Jan

The building of Wokingham's Secondary Modern School just off London Road will begin this spring. Although it is not expected to be completed until 1953-53 preliminary steps to appoint a head-teacher are to be taken by the Berkshire Education Committee.

NEW LIBRARY

The Ministry of Education has now confirmed the Compulsory Purchase Order for the acquisition of Montague House, Broad Street, Wokingham and the development of the premises for a library will begin on October 1st.

Sat 20th Jan

PENSIONERS' REST ROOM

Permission has now been given by the Town Council for the Old Age Pensioners' Rest Room in the Town Hall, Wokingham to be opened during the afternoons as well as the mornings. Two afternoons a week will be reserved for women Old Age Pensioners—on Thursdays and Fridays, from about 1.30 to 5 p.m. Tea will be served and books from the County Library may be taken out loan free. The room was

formally opened for its new purpose yesterday (Friday) by the Mayor and Mayoress (Cllr. S.L. Bowyer and Mrs. Ratcliffe).

Sat 27th Jan

CONCERT PARTY AT HOSPITAL

On Friday last week the patients of Wokingham Hospital were entertained by Mr. Mack's concert party from Reading.

CHEAPER SEATS FOR PENSIONERS

By producing their pension books at the Ritz Cinema, from Monday onwards, old age pensioners will be able to use any seat in the cinema for 7d. during matinee performances.

EVENING INSTITUTE SOCIAL

Nearly 100 members and friends of the Wokingham Evening Institute attended a New Year social held in the Drill Hall, Wokingham, on Friday last week, organised by the Sports and Social Committee.

OLD AGE PENSIONERS

A new branch of the National Federation of Old Age Pensioners Associations was formed in Wokingham at a public meeting in St. Paul's Parish Hall on Monday. Mr. E.T. Lancaster presided, Mrs. M. Miller was elected hon. secretary and Mrs. W. Stoneham chairman.

ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

The Wokingham branch of the Royal Artillery Association held a dinner at the Bush Hotel, Wokingham, on Friday last week. Brigadier E.J.H. Douche presided and was accompanied by the district secretary who explained the re-organisation of the association now that it was separated from the benevolent fund.

PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

Local artists entertained over 70 members of the Wokingham Produce Association at a social in the Town Hall on Wednesday. Games and competitions were conducted by Ald. N.C. Lawrence, and Mr. W. Gregory, ex-Wokingham stationmaster, related humorous tales. A sketch, "World Without Men," was presented by members of the Embrook W.I. Mrs White of Glebelands, was at the piano.

Sat 3rd Feb

DISPOSAL OF FUNDS

Wokingham Fire Brigade Case

The proper disposal of funds representing the proceeds of sale of equipment formerly used by the Wokingham (Berkshire) Fire Brigade, which became defunct in 1942, when the National Fire Service took over, was discussed by Mr. Justice Danckwerts in the Chancery Division on Thursday.

It was stated that the funds consisted of £187 in the bank, £1,000 3%, savings Bonds and £1,000 3%, Defence Bonds. The judge said the brigade was formed in 1876 and in 1942 the National Fire Service having been established, the whole of the equipment

was purchased for £1,645. It had formerly been maintained by donations, subscriptions, fire attendance fees and the proceeds of the annual ball.

It was claimed that the assets were the private property of the members of the brigade in much the same way as property of a members' club was owned by the members for the time being.

On the other hand it was alleged on behalf of the representatives of subscribers that the property was given on a rather peculiar sort of trust—to use the money given for the purposes of the fire brigade or for the individual members' benefit—and failing the division of the money in that way, upon a resulting trust for the subscribers. The Attorney-General claimed that the funds were subject to a charitable trust

“In my view,” said Mr. Justice Danckwerts, “This was a body of a non-profit-making character which was formed to supply a public need, and that was to provide a means of fighting fires in the Wokingham district. It seems to me that the provision of a public fire brigade of this kind is as much a public charitable purpose as the provision of a lifeboat.”

That ruled out any other application of the funds, and he proposed to declare that they were held on a charitable trust for the provision of a public fire brigade for the benefit of Wokingham and adjoining district. The matter would go into Chambers for the settlement of a scheme. His lordship was told that his decision might affect a large number of other bodies of a similar character.

Sat 24th Feb

MONTAGUE HOUSE

It was reported at Friday's meeting of the Berkshire Education Committee that the County Valuer had agreed with the District Valuer that the price for the purchase of Montague House, Wokingham should be £5,000. As the property is to be used for educational purposes no development charge will be payable.

Sat 17th March

GARDENERS' QUIZ

Members of the Wokingham and District Gardeners' and Allotment Holders' Association held a quiz at St. Paul's Parish Room, Wokingham, on Friday last week.

DANCE

A dance, organised by Mr. J. Goswell, was held at the Drill Hall, Wokingham, on Saturday, to raise funds for the annual outing of the Children's Hospital, Cold Ash. Music was supplied by Archie Knapp and the Casino Players, and Mr. E. Cropper as M.C.

DRAMA SCHOOL

The second of two one-day schools on drama, taken by Mr. John Morley (county drama advisor), proved extremely popular at Wokingham Town Hall on Friday last week. Subjects of the two demonstration classes were “Mainly for Actors” and “Putting on a Play.”

EVENING INSTITUTE

How young people are trying to solve the problem of furnishing a home was shown at an “open night” exhibition by Wokingham Evening Institute members on Wednesday. Students were seen at their studies by parents and friends.

FOOTBALL

Wokingham visiting Newbury Northcroft on Saturday in the Premier Division of the Reading and District-League, lost 3—0. The first half was goalless, but Wokingham inside forwards missed many good opportunities, whereas Pocock, in Wokingham's goal, had some uneasy moments.—Playing most of the game with ten men, Wokingham Reserves were defeated 3—0 at home by Stanford-in-the-Vale, in the Berks and Bucks—Junior Cup semi-final. Wokingham's injured man, G. Phelps, dislocated his elbow and broke a small bone in his arm.

CONCERT GROUP

A programme of classical music was presented by the Wokingham Concert Group in the Milton Road Schoolroom on Saturday, the programme including pieces by Bach, Beethoven, Handel, Mozart and Vaughan-Williams. Those taking part were, Stella Cooke (oboe), George Maskell (violin), Maureen Lund Yates (soprano), Peter Hodgson (piano), Peter Turner (piano). Josephine Brennell was the accompanist. The Mayor of Wokingham Cllr. S.L. Bowyer, who was accompanied by the Mayoress (Mrs. E. Ratcliffe), expressed his appreciation of the performance, and urged the public to give full support to the activities of the Concert Group.

CRICKET CLUB

The depressing state of the club's finances was the chief topic at the annual meeting of Wokingham Cricket and Lawn Tennis Club in Wokingham Town Hall on Tuesday. Mr. H.C. Hurlock (hon. treasurer) reported an excess of expenditure over income of £42 10s. This, he explained, was only the statement for nine months ending December 31st 1950, and there was still about £12 on the income side to add. The chairman (Cllr. L.D. Sears) proposed the disbandment of the tennis section and renting out of the courts, declaring that these were a running liability which the club could ill afford. The meeting agreed to the letting out of the courts. Officers elected were: President, Cllr. L.D. Sears; hon. treasurer, Mr. H.C. Hurlock; hon. secretary, Mr. S. Beeton; cricket captain, Mr. C. Woollhead; Vice-captain, Mr. J.W. Soper; 2nd XI captain, Mr. T. Boshier; Wednesday XI captain, Mr. S. Collins.

THE LATE DR. E. WARD

A well-known Wokingham resident, Dr. Ernest Ward, of Bedwyn Lodge, Milton Road, died in the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, on Friday last week, aged 87.

When six years old, Dr. Ward came to England from India and lived at Staines. After education at Marlborough College, he went to Bristol Royal Infirmary for his medical training, and qualifying, became Assistant Medical Officer and house surgeon at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. In 1892 he came to Wokingham, and the following year married Miss Eleanor Maybury Ransome, of Cork. They had a son and three daughters. Dr. Ward carried on his practice until 1939 when he retired.

During the 1914-18 War he was in charge of four auxiliary hospitals in the neighbourhood, and for his work received the M.B.E.. He was in a great part responsible for the building of the Wokingham Memorial Clinic in Denmark Street, opened in 1923. He served on the clinic committee up to his death.

In 1920 he was elected upon the Town Council, and continued until 1936. From 1920-26 he was a churchwarden at All Saints' Church. In 1944 he was made a Freeman of Wokingham.

At the funeral at All Saints' Church on Tuesday, the Mayor and Mayoress (Cllr. S.L. Bowyer and Mrs. E. Ratcliffe) attended with members of the Corporation.
Sat 14th April

OBITUARY MISS M.T. HEELAS

Granddaughter of John Heelas, a founder of the Wokingham firm of Heelas and Sons, Miss M. Tyndale Heelas, A.B.W.S., died at a Reading nursing home on Saturday. She lived at Burcott House, Wokingham, for many years.

Miss Heelas was well-known in the art world and had exhibited many water colours in London and Reading. Cremation was at Woking on Wednesday.

Sat 21st April

THE COUNTY LIBRARY

The Wokingham branch of the County Library will be transferred from the Town Hall to Montague House, Broad Street, Wokingham, as from May 1st. Books may be taken and exchanged between 5.30 and 7.30 p.m. on Mondays and Fridays, between 2.30 and 4.30 p.m. on Tuesdays and between 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Sat 5th May

MISSING IN KOREA

Hopes ran high in two Wokingham homes this week that their sons, reported missing after recent action in Korea, would get back to allied lines, or at the very worst, were prisoners-of-war. On Tuesday, Mrs. M. Allum, of 11, Commons Road, Embrook, received a telegram to say that her eldest son, Arthur John, aged 19, was missing in action with the Gloucestershire Regiment. Private Allum had been in the Army for one year. A pupil at Ranelagh School, Bracknell, he worked previously at Shire Hall, Reading.

Private Edward S. Rose (19), of 65, Rose Street, Wokingham, was due to be demobilised in June and had written to his family telling them how much he was looking forward to coming home. He had been sent to Korea with the Gloucestershires after serving in Germany. A telegram saying that he was missing was received on Wednesday. Edward Rose attended Palmer School, Wokingham, and before being called up worked with Hosler Ltd., Wokingham, as a plumber.

OPENING OF THE FESTIVAL

Members of the Wokingham youth organisations relay lit by Ald. F.S. Perkins at Shute End, to the Festival bonfire in London Road. As the Mayor, Cllr. S.L. Bowyer, plunged the light into the fire, a great cheer arose from the vast crowd assembled. Wokingham's part in the Festival had begun. Prior to the bonfire-lighting, a service was held at All Saints' Church, and from the church people went to the Market Place for Community singing, led by St. Sebastian's Band. An accident occurred at the bonfire field when Mrs. L. Gaines, of Bear Wood Road, slipped and broke a finger.

NEW LIBRARY OPENED

Wokingham's new library at Montague House, Wokingham was formally opened by The Mayor (Cllr. S.L. Bowyer) on Tuesday. The chairman of the County Library Committee, Mr. S. Freeman, spoke of the difficulty of finding suitable accommodation in the past, but said that now Montague House was being devoted for further education, the much-needed library facilities could be given to the people of Wokingham. He also paid tribute to the work of the late Miss M. Harwood and of Mr. C. Hawkins (Deputy Town Clerk). The Mayor of Wokingham, who was accompanied

by the Mayoress, endorsed the chairman's remarks about the late Miss Harwood and her 26 years' voluntary service, and referred to the fact that a small tablet to her memory had been placed in the Rating Office.

Sat 12th May

FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN SERVICE

Representatives from the various Wokingham churches gathered in the Market Place on Sunday for an open-air Festival service, which was conducted by the Mayor's chaplain (the Rev. F.A. Steer) assisted by the Rev. R.J Siderfin, and the address was given by the Methodist minister, the Rev. C.B. Penrose. The psalm was read by the rector of St. Paul's Church (the Ven. Archdeacon Thorndike-Shaw). The Mayor (Cllr. S.L. Bowyer) and members of the council attended.

Music for hymns was played by St. Sebastian's Band.

Sat 19th May

ROTARIANS RECEIVE CHARTER

The Rotary Club of Wokingham received their charter at the Town Hall on Wednesday, the presentation being made by Rotarian H .J. Bowyer (Slough), who is Rotary international representative and chairman of No. IX District. Representatives of more than a score of clubs from four or five counties answered the roll-call at the dinner and representatives were present from clubs in Districts No. 13 and No. 14. After Past President Colonel L.T. Goodenough, of Reading, the sponsors of the new club, had spoken, the district chairman (Rotarian Bowyer) conveyed greetings from all clubs of Rotary International British Isles, and from 6,500 clubs spread throughout 80 countries of the world.

After presentation of the charter, Captain Ernest E. Goss (president of the Reading Club) handed to the founder-president of the Wokingham Club (Rotarian F.J. Barrett) a ship's bell bearing the Rotary badge for use at club meetings. The bell was the gift of the Reading club. Rotarian, E.A. Hoskins (founder-member of the Wokingham Club) presented a president's jewel which had belonged to his father, and Past President H.G. Markham (Reading) presented a visitors' book, on behalf of three Reading members who assisted in the formation of the club--Past Presidents L.T. Goodenough, W.G. Warwick and himself. President Barrett asked his club to accept a reading desk, which he himself had partially made.

On Sunday afternoon a dedication service is to be held at Finchampstead Church, to be conducted by the rector (Rotarian the Rev. R.D. Weller).

Sat 2nd June

FOOTBALL CLUB

Wokingham Town Football Club's first eleven may be playing in a different league next season. At a meeting of the club's players, members and supporters on Monday it was agreed that the committee should consider applying for membership of a different league, yet to be decided upon. Wokingham Town have been members of the Reading and District League for about 20 years. Mr. F. Medcalf presided, supported by the hon. secretary (Mr. J Langley).

NEXT WEEK'S FILMS

"Tea For Two," showing at the Ritz Cinema, Wokingham, at the beginning of next week, is an adaptation of the famous "No, No Nanette." The tunes are as catchy as ever, while the dance routines are given full scope. The stars are Doris Day, Gordon

Macrae and Billy De Wolfe. A good supporting film is "The Return of Jesse James."—George Raft and Colleen Gray are together in "I'll Get You For This," which is the feature at the end of the week. This film is based on a novel by James Hadley Chase.

FUTURE OF BILL HILL MANSION

Bill Hill Mansion, Wokingham, has been sold to Mr. Peter Oldfield, of Farley Hill. The land, comprising some 290 acres, will be used by Mr. Oldfield for farming, and he intends to specialise in beef-producing Aberdeen Angus and Galloway herds. The centre of the mansion is being restored to some of its former beauty and will be used for Mr. Oldfield's personal residence. The wings are being completely changed to a modern style and are expected to be used for the farm workers. The estate and mansion was sold in fifteen lots, the residence itself being under a reserve price of £3,500. There are well over 100 acres of wooded parkland on the estate, also Bill-Hill Lodge and the Keeper's Cottage.

Sat 21st June

MACE ON SHOW

Wokingham's mace is on show until June 30th at an exhibition of Corporation Plate of England and Wales, at the Goldsmiths' Hall, London.

Sat 11th Aug

GIFT PARCELS

Food gift parcels, sent from Australia, were distributed on behalf of the Mayor (Cllr. W.J. Willey) to many Old Age Pensioners in the town on Friday last week.

FESTIVAL CARNIVAL QUEEN

Twenty-one-years-old Isobel Buckner, a chemist's assistant, of 7, Oxford Road, Wokingham, was selected as Wokingham's Festival carnival queen at the Ritz Cinema on Friday last week. Last year's queen, Pauline Froud, 18, and Elizabeth Perkins, 17, were selected as attendants. On the stage the girls were attended by Margaret Kirkpatrick, aged 10, and Ralph L. Cadby, aged 11, who had been chosen as pages earlier in the week. The chairman of the Carnival Committee, Cllr. S.L. Bowyer, thanked the organisers, especially Mr. M. Ward and the staff of the cinema. With the cinema packed to capacity the proceedings were relayed outside the cinema to a crowd of about 200. Introducing the queen and attendants, the Mayor (Cllr. W.J. Willey) said the town could be congratulated on its choice, and he wished the winners a happy time during the carnival.

Sat 18th Aug

AWARD TO LOCAL CINEMA

For the second years in succession the Ritz Cinema, Wokingham, has been awarded the Associated British Cinema's prize for the best-kept cinema in the district, which includes theatres in Reading, Slough, Oxford and Maidenhead. Mr. E. Ward, the manager, modestly says the credit is due mainly to his staff.

FOOTBALL

Preparing for this season's football in their new league, the Great Western Combination, Wokingham Town players are holding their matches on Tuesday and

Thursday at 7 p.m. On Monday, August 27th, it is hoped to play a friendly game with Woodley at the Finchampstead Road ground.

Sat 25th Aug

BASEBALL

After being five runs down in the second innings, Wokingham Monarchs settled down against Standard Telephones baseball team at the Barkham Road diamond to win 11—6, on Sunday. Some of the best pitching this season was by W. Smith for the Monarchs.

BASEBALL CLUB

A meeting of the Monarchs Baseball Club was held in Wokingham on Wednesday, when Mr. F. Clemas was elected chairman and Mr. E. Page, treasurer. The club are to organise a dance and other functions to raise money, which was said by the secretary, Mr. G. Moffatt, to be urgently needed.

Sat 8th Sept

BERKS "BIGGEST AND BRIGHTEST"

Thousands Enjoy Carnival Fun At Wokingham

Thousands invaded Wokingham on Wednesday by almost every possible means of transport and on foot, to join in the Festival carnival—claimed by the organisers to be "Berkshire's biggest and brightest event." This boast had ample justification; from early morning to well after midnight the fun was such as few towns in the country could have equalled this Festival year.

The day dawned dull, but promptly at 8 a.m. nearly a hundred "Raggers," dressed in colourful costumes, assembled at the Town Hall. They rode, walked and clowned their way through the crowds throughout the day, jingling their collecting boxes at all and sundry.

The Mayor of Wokingham (Cllr. W.J. Willey) signified the carnival opening when he released the first balloon of a balloon race in the Market Place at 10 a.m., after which the Farnborough S.J.A. Pipe Band began a tour of the town. Then began a non-stop variety programme which continued until the early hours of Thursday.

As the special buses unloaded their exuberant passengers, complete with rattles, flags and hooters, a puppet show began for the children's benefit in the Market Place. Motorists passing through the flag bedecked streets, stopped to gaze in wonderment at the picturesque proceedings. A word of praise is due to the harassed policemen and policewomen, who, with the help of special constables had their time filled coping with the congestion of traffic and pedestrians.

On a decorated stage near the festooned Town Hall, the Hon. Peter Remnant, M.P., and Mrs. Remnant were introduced to the crowds, as were seven Mayors and Mayoresses—Cllr. and Mrs. H.G. Mullard (Abingdon), Cllr. and Mrs. F.C. Morris (Henley), Cllr. J.B. Maudsley and Mrs. Norris (Maidenhead), Cllr. J.W. Slater (Newbury), Ald. and Mrs. W.O. King (Oxford), Cllr. and Mrs. T.W. Knight (Reading) and Cllr. and Mrs. R.H. Tozer (Windsor).

Carnival Queen's Arrival

At 1.10 p.m., the carnival queen, Miss Isobel Buckner, aged 21, drew up to the stage with her two attendants, the Misses Elizabeth Perkins and Pauline Froud, and two pages. The "royal party" were given a tumultuous welcome by the several thousand spectators.

After being announced by the Town Crier, Mr. H. Banks, the Mayor of Wokingham, Cllr. W.J. Willey extended a cordial welcome to the visiting guests and he appealed to the people to enter into the festive spirit of the memorable occasion.

Dressed in an ivory satin dress, with a purple cloak, and carrying a bouquet of pink carnations, Miss Buckner was crowned queen by the Mayoress (Mrs. W.J. Willey).

In a pretty little speech, the carnival queen declared: "May I say how proud I am today to be crowned Festival carnival queen, and how deeply I appreciate the honour. It is my sincere wish that you will have an enjoyable day and may I appeal to you for your generous support in order that the various charities will benefit."

The queen officially opened the carnival fun-fair and after touring the many attractions she made her way to the Carnival Field, where she declared it open for the children's races, fancy dress competition and baby show.

While music was being played by the R.A.M.C. Military Band and the Farnborough S.J.A. Pipe Band, the queen's party moved off to Wokingham Hospital, where Miss Buckner met and kissed the oldest resident, Mr. H. Beasley, aged 104.

Fancy Dress Parade

No one was more surprised than the judges when they inspected 7½ years-old Jeffrey Boocock, of 23, Barrett Crescent, Wokingham, who entered the children's fancy dress competition dressed as a snake charmer, for he carried curled round his neck a live snake, 2ft. 6in. Long. The grass snake found by him whilst on holiday a week ago, is now one of Jeffrey's many pets.

Over 5,000 people paid to see the parade, Wokingham's best ever, which attracted over 220 entrants. After the parade, the carnival queen presented prizes and certificates to the following:-

(long list of winners)

When the queen returned to the carnival field she presented prizes to the baby show and fancy dress winners.

Boys from the Army Apprentices School Arborfield, gave a display of gymnastics, and for the children a puppet show was presented.

The climax of the day was the procession which stretched for nearly two miles. Milling crowds thronged the thoroughfares, and gasps of astonishment, sighs of admiration and peals of unrestrained mirth greeted the tableaux, decorated vehicles and trade exhibits. The history of fire engines was depicted by appliances from all over the county, many of them of doubtful vintage. Cars that only just managed to move rubbed shoulders with sleek-streamlined models, and even the corporation dust-cart had donned new paint and carried gleaming bins. Motor-cycles, bicycles, tricycles, tractors, prams and hansom-cabs travelled the route; pedestrians in fancy dress, as everything from chickens to clowns, ambled and gambolled along, and even Bo-Peep took her sheep.

Music was relayed through loudspeakers, and a judo display was given in the Market Place by members of Reading Judo club.

The Prize-Giving

Later, prizes for the countless competitions were distributed in the Market Place. In addition to the results already published the following awards were made:-

(long list of winners)

VARIETY CONCERT

A grand variety concert by the Legionaries concert party took place in the Market Place. Dancing continued until 2 a.m. on Thursday to music by the R.E.M.E. orchestra, at the carnival hall in the Drill Hall. For old-time enthusiasts there was

dancing at California, and another modern dance took place at the British Legion Hall, Wokingham. Special late buses conveyed the people to different parts of the county.

Sat 6th Oct

SOLDIERS CAPTURED IN KOREA

There were happy families in Wokingham and Embrook on Monday, for letters came by the first post from their sons who had been reported “missing” in the Gloucestershires’ epic Korean stand, five months ago. This was the first the parents had heard from them.

Both soldiers aged nineteen, are Pte. Edward Rose, at 65, Rose Street, Wokingham, and Pte. Arthur Allum, of 11, Commons Road, Embrook.

Both of their parents declared that they had never given up hope and they refused to believe that their sons had been killed. The letters say that their boys are well and safe and that they are treated well by the Chinese. Pte. Rose says he is given pork every Saturday and at least once a week chicken is on the menu. They are all kept in touch with the latest phases of the Korean peace talks and hope that they will be settled satisfactorily soon.

Sat 13th Oct

OLDEST VOTER

The oldest elector in Wokingham, Mr. Henry Beasley, now in his 105th year, will be using a postal vote at the General Election in October 25th as he is unable to leave Wokingham Hospital.

GUNNERS’ DANCE

The Wokingham branch of the Royal Artillery Association held a dance at Wokingham Drill Hall on Saturday in aid of branch funds. Music was by the Casino Players and Mr. E. Cropper was M.C.

WOMAN SAVES BABY

Mrs. E. Townsend, of 70, Gipsy Lane, Wokingham, stopped a runaway pram, containing a baby, from running off the pavement in Peach Street, Wokingham, into passing traffic, on Wednesday morning. The rescuer left the scene before she could be thanked for her act.

BASEBALL

The Wokingham Monarchs again decisively beat Sutton Beavers on Sunday. Playing at home they had no difficulty in scoring 21 against the visitors 3. For the first time the Monarchs had two Americans in their line-up; they came in mid-way through the game. Up to the seventh innings the game was still open, but then the Beavers cracked and allowed the home team to score 10 runs. Next week the Monarchs visit Odiham for a play-off with the Canadians, after their 5—5 draw over ten innings some weeks ago.

HOSPITAL DANCE

Nurses of the Wokingham Hospital and friends attended an old-time dance in Wokingham Drill Hall on Friday last week. Music was supplied by the Utopian Dance Band, and Mr. F. Ward was M.C. Among those present were the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham (Cllr. and Mrs. W.J. Willey). The dance which was organised by the Hospital Social Club, was held to raise funds for providing additional amenities for

the patients. To raise further funds for the same purpose, a bring-and-buy sale was held at the hospital on Wednesday.

MAYOR ACTS AS TELEPHONE OPERATOR

Just what happens when a subscriber lifts the telephone receiver was demonstrated to members of the public this week, when Wokingham Post Office staff held an "at home" exhibition. Among the members of the first party to visit the telephone exchange were the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham (Cllr. and Mrs. W. J. Willey). Wearing headphones and a mouth-piece, the Mayor took charge of one board, and, guided by the supervisor (Miss E.A. Fowler), he received a call for a Reading number. The connection was made satisfactorily.

The Head Postmaster (Mr. B.C. Duncombe) and members of the staff explained the intricacies of the telephone switchboard, including the systems used to deal with "999" calls.

Visitors were told that during an average week the Wokingham switchboard deals with 17,000 calls, 10,000 of which are incoming. "We feel it is a very good thing for people to come along and learn just what does happen when they make a call," Mr. Duncombe stated. "It makes for better understanding on both sides."

Just what pains are taken to please subscribers are well illustrated by a small disc placed over one local number which mentioned that the subscriber wished the ringing tone to be of a certain pitch and frequency. "This is just part of our everyday service," explained a member of the staff.

At present there are 1,027 direct subscribers to the Wokingham exchange, and there is a waiting list of 134. Since 1945, the engineers have fitted 483 new lines, including 200 removals from one house to another.

Sat 17th Nov

AN INDUSTRIES EXHIBITION Wokingham's First Effort Successful

Ancient crafts and modern industrial methods were demonstrated at the Wokingham Industries Exhibition, which opened at the Drill Hall on Wednesday. Fourteen stands representing the various crafts and industries in the town and district were on view to the public, the exhibition having been organised by the Chamber of Trade and local firms.

Declaring the exhibition open, the Mayor (Cllr. W.J. Willey) said it was launched by the organisers with some trepidation and a spirit of adventure. "I consider it to be a Miniature South Bank Exhibition, and it is something new which would do justice to many towns larger than Wokingham."

Cllr. Willey, who was accompanied by Mrs. Willey, welcomed Col. C.D. Burnell (chairman of Wokingham R.D.C.) and Mrs. Burnell, and Mr. D.A. Slyfield (chairman of East Hampstead R.D.C.). The Mayor spoke of the large amount of export work carried out by local firms, and said they exported goods to over 50 foreign countries, including America, all the colonies and Finland. He congratulated the organisers. Mr. Tanner and Mr. Perkins and their committee, and said, "There is something really worthwhile."

In one corner of the hall there were miniature examples of wrought ironwork made by Mr. F.W. Prater, including five baskets, dog grates and wrought-iron entrance gates. Wokingham Plastics demonstrated one of the most modern industries and showed pressurised fighter canopies and windows. On view was one of the largest double-skin pressurised canopies in production—that being used for the Supermarine

“Attacker,” in service with the Royal Navy. Electronic heating equipment was shown by Radio Heaters Ltd., and Mr. Philip Morgan, a stonemason demonstrated the modern methods of the firm. Mr. W. Teakle and Co., in making head-stones, garden ornaments, polishing and finishing stonework. On the more technical side was the stand exhibited by Metalair, Ltd., who showed delicate precision work. For the women, C. And M. Ellen showed just how upholstered goods were repaired and manufactured. In addition, exhibits were arranged by a number of other local firms. The exhibition was opened in the morning especially for children.

Sat 8th Dec

THE COUNTY LIBRARY

The opening hours of the County Library in Montague House, Wokingham, are to be trebled as from, January 7th next. This is to meet the increasing public demand and will mean that the library will be open for 24 hours weekly, which will, in time, be increased to full time opening. Mr. F.W.S. Baguley, of the Leicester City Library, has been appointed librarian and will take up his duties when the new hours come into effect. They will be: Monday, Tuesday and Friday 2-4 p.m. and 5-7.30 p.m.; Wednesday and Saturday 10 a.m.-12 noon and 2 p.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday 10 a.m.-1p.m.

FOOTBALL

On Saturday Wokingham Reserves beat St. Sebastian’s at home 4-0. It was a keen game and St. Sebastian’s were unlucky not to score. Pocock, in the Wokingham goal, made several fine saves, including a penalty. After four weeks’ illness, Fricker made a welcome return to the forward line, and celebrated by scoring twice. Underwood and Sherwood also netted. The first team did not have a match. Today (Saturday) the first eleven play away to Hemel Hempstead in the Great Western Combination. The selected team are: Pocock; Maynard; Davies; Cox; Roche; Clacey; Cooper; R.E. Thatcher; Dyer; Phillips and R. Thatcher. The Reserves team to meet Havelock Rovers at home in the Wokingham Clinic Cup are: Taylor; Smith; White; Sherwood; Reed; Darby; Noyes; R. Jackson; Fricker, Underwood and Hampton.

THE WESTENDE CHARITY

500th Anniversary Celebration

Wokingham’s oldest bequest —the Westende Charity—celebrates its 500th anniversary this year.

In 1451, John Westende, as clerk, of Wokingham, made provisions for the building of eight “eleemosynary cottages” at the eastern end of Peach Street, then named Le Peche-street.

These almshouses, as they were later called, have been occupied by the needy of Wokingham ever since. As set down in the charity, no poor person may be expelled from his cottage during his life unless the inhabitant is a “proven robber, ‘night-stroller,’ or a notorious offender.”

Five of the cottages are on one side of the street, three, the other. The trustees are now receiving applications for one almshouse recently made vacant. The five cottages, strangely, have their backs facing the street, and although the repairs have been made during the passing years there has been little structural change. Each home consists of two rooms, one up and one down. Annually the inmates have 8 tons of coal shared between them, and they also receive grants of meat and bread.

AN ANCIENT CUSTOM

Every Whit-Tuesday the trustees call at the almshouses to distribute 6s 8d. between the residents. This charity goes back to 1612, and is known as Wolley's Charity. The 6s. 8d. is paid by The Catherine Wheel Inn, Henley, for, in 1564, Frances Frewyn, of Henley, was given £6 by Thomas Wolley, on condition that 6s. 8d. rent be paid each year, by him and subsequent owners. In 1612 it was decided that the 6s. 8d. should be paid to Wokingham Charities, namely the Westende Almshouses occupants.

An ancient custom served on Whit-Tuesday is for each woman in the almshouses to present a "nosegay" to the trustees. Hence the name. "the Nosegay charities." In the Parliamentary returns of 1786 it is erroneously called "Frewin's Charity."

As the years pass, costs for repairs rise, and it is only with difficulty that the trustees manage to keep them in their present condition.

Two almshouses were erected on the celebration of Queen Victoria's Jubilee. These were paid for by the townsfolk and built on Westende Charity land, but no endowment was bequeathed for repairs. This is one of the problems facing the trustees. At present the clerk to the trustees is Mr. W.A.P. Ireland. Mr. F.S. Barrett is chairman and Mr. S. Sale is vice-chairman.

However finance is not preventing a celebration of the 500th anniversary, for today (Saturday) at the Wokingham Church House the almshouse inhabitants are being entertained to tea by the trustees. The Mayor and Mayoress (Cllr. W.J and Mrs. Willey) are expected to be present.

Sat 15th Dec

METALAIR FIRE

Metalair factory fire, Station Road, Wokingham was first seen by a signalman on duty in his box.

The following articles have been taken from the Reading Mercury and the Wokingham Times

1952 to 1954

NB Articles dated Saturday are from The Reading Mercury. The rest are from The Wokingham Times.

1952

Sat 5th Jan

YOUTH CLUB DINNER

All Saints' Youth Club, Wokingham, held their first annual dinner at the Church House on Tuesday. About fifty people attended, including the rector of All Saints', the Rev. F.A. Steer, and the club leader, Mr. J. West.

DR. BARNARDO'S HOMES

Members of the Barnardo Helpers' League and others went carol singing in Wokingham during the week before Christmas. The sum of £8 was collected and sent to Dr. Barnardo's Homes.

FOOTBALL

Away to St. Luke's, Henley, in the Reading Minor League, on Saturday, Wokingham Minors won 7—0. The first and reserve teams were without matches last Saturday. Today (Saturday) the minor team selected to visit Cove in the Camberley

Minor Cup are: Hills, Rowe, Riddell, Hinkins, Pratt, M. Turner, R. Turner, Hambleton, Flint, Welch and Lee.

NATIVITY PLAY

Members of Wokingham C.E.M.S., Young Wives, group and helpers presented a Nativity play at All Saints' Church, Wokingham, on Wednesday and Thursday. Attractive costumes made the production colourful. Equipment was loaned by the Wokingham Players and a collection was taken from the large audience in aid of the Curate's House fund.

Sat 19th Jan

ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

At the request of the new chairman (Mr. A.D. Tanner), Brigadier E.J. Douche presided over the annual dinner of the Wokingham branch of the Royal Artillery Association, held at the Bush Hotel, Wokingham, on Saturday. The guest of honour was Lord Malise Graham, district chairman of the Association.

COINCIDENCE

Ten Years ago, patrons of the Lord Raglan public house, Wokingham answered an appeal by one of their members, Sgt., Ken Race, who was serving with the Royal Artillery in Italy, for a dartboard. Last Saturday the brass inscription plate was handed over to Mr. J. Mead, landlord of the Lord Raglan, who intends to nail it up in the public bar. It had been found by another local player in Tunisia, North Africa.

HISTORIC INTEREST

The Minister of Town and Country Planning has compiled a list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest in Wokingham and they had been scheduled under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947. Among the places scheduled are All Saints' Church, St. Paul's Church, Lucas Hospital, The Roebuck Inn, The Wokingham Club, Ye Olde Rose Inne, The Bush Hotel, The Beeches Manor Hotel, and properties in Broad Street, Denmark Street, Market Place, Peach Street, Reading Road, Rose Street, Shute End, Wiltshire Road and Dowles Green.

Sat 9th Feb

THE KING IS DEAD

His Majesty King George VI passed away at Sandringham House in the early hours of Wednesday morning (7.30 a.m.), only 56 years of age and in the 16th year of his reign. Shocked and profoundly grieved by the sudden news, the Nation and Empire are in deepest mourning. The Royal County of Berkshire, with the County Borough of Reading, shares the general sense of poignant sorrow which has been aroused by the death of a beloved Monarch.

MAYOR'S LOYAL TELEGRAM

The following telegram was addressed to Queen Elizabeth, and sent to Sandringham at noon on Wednesday:-

The people of the Borough of Wokingham are deeply grieved at the death of His Majesty the King, and with humble duty express their heartfelt sympathy for you and the Royal Family. –W.J. Willey, Mayor of Wokingham.

THE PROCLAMATION

A large crowd gathered in Wokingham Market Place yesterday (Friday) morning to hear the Proclamation of the Accession of Queen Elizabeth II, read by the Mayor (Coun. W.J. Willey).

The Mayor and Corporation led by the mace-bearer and the town crier, all dressed in their colourful robes of office, slowly mounted the purple clothed stage. On the stroke of 11 a.m. the Mayor began to read the Proclamation with due solemnity. While he did so the watching crowds stood in reverent silence, unbroken by even a whisper.

The Union Jack and town flags, flying at full mast from the Town Hall, fluttered wide in the breeze of the cold February sunlight. Through-town traffic halted around the assembly crowds as the Mayor read on, to conclude with the words, "God save our Queen".

On the utterance of these words the band of the Royal Merchant Navy School, Bear Wood, played the National Anthem while heads were bared in respect.

Also present for the Proclamation were the rector of All Saints' Church (Rev. F.A. Steer), the rector of St. Paul's Church (Ven. Archdeacon Thorndike Shaw) and representatives from local organisations. After the ceremony, the town crier, Mr. Banks, reminded the Mercury that during his 27-years' service this was the third time he had been present at the Proclamation.

FENCING

Excalibur Fencing Club, Wokingham were soundly beaten on Sunday when they visited the Nautical College, Pangbourne, losing by 15 fights to 5.

FIRST AID LECTURES

The first of a series of first aid lectures on "First-aid in the Factory and in the Home" was attended by about 40 people in Wokingham Ambulance Room in Easthampstead Road. The lecturer was Dr. Hargrove and practical demonstrations were given by Mr. Burden an ambulance officer.

CRICKET CLUB BALL

Wokingham Cricket Club held their annual ball at Wokingham Drill Hall on Friday last week. Dancing was to music by Norman Hackett and his band. Mr. Jack Soper was M.C. Among those present were the Mayor of Wokingham, (Cllr. W.J. Willey) and Miss Willey and Major Hurd, vice-president of the club.

FALSE ALARM

After receiving a call to a chimney fire in Grovelands Avenue, Winnersh, Wokingham Brigade were notified before they left the station that the call was a false alarm with good intent.—Wokingham court proceedings were held up on Tuesday morning when the siren, which is on the roof of the police station sounded, summoning firemen to a chimney fire in a flat in Peach Street, Wokingham.

Sat 8th March

FOOTBALL

Today (Saturday) Wokingham Reserves are at home to Rabson Rovers, kick-off 3 p.m. The selected team are: Pocock; Smith; Lawrence; Barker; Reed; Darby; Noyes; Treacher; Fricker; Chalmers and Hill

AMBULANCE IN COLLISION

An ambulance and a private vehicle collided at the junction of Easthampstead Road and Goodchild Road, Wokingham, on Wednesday afternoon. Slight damage was caused to both vehicles but no one was injured.

FACTORY FIRE

Three appliances from Wokingham and Reading dealt with an outbreak of fire in a light engineering works (Harper and Hollyman, Ltd), in Peach Street, Wokingham, on Thursday night. Passing soldiers saw flames and smoke coming from the side of the building, and gave the alarm. Flooring, walls and a door of a first floor room were damaged, but firemen prevented the outbreak spreading to an adjoining paint store. The cause of the outbreak is being investigated.

Sat 15th March

NEW JAZZ CLUB

Authentic jazz, as played in America in the 1920s will be coming regularly to Wokingham, starting next week. In an effort to promote a live interest in jazz in the town, a club is being formed at The Welcome Inn, Wokingham. The organiser is Dennis May (25), the son of the new licensee of The Welcome Inn.

ROTARY CLUB

At the weekly luncheon meeting of the Rotary Club of Wokingham, held at The Bush Hotel, on Thursday last week, the guest speaker was Mr. A.C. Dobbs F.S.A., a retired member of Lloyds, whose subject was "The History and Machinery of Lloyds." Rotarian Alan Perkins thanked the speaker.

HUT COMPLETELY DESTROYED

A timbered hut in Bob's Copse, Simons Lane, Wokingham, was burned to the ground on Saturday night. Wokingham firemen were called to the fire just after 7.30 p.m. and although they were assisted by the Reading Brigade they were unable to save the hut. Camping equipment was destroyed. During the summer the hut was used by Sea Scouts but for the past few months it has been locked up. The cause of the outbreak is being investigated. The hut belonged to Mr. Curtis, of Redlands Road, Reading.

TERRITORIAL CLUB

A successful year's activities was reported by the secretary, C.Q.M.S. W.A. Binder, at the annual meeting of the Wokingham 4/6 Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment (T.A.) Club, at Wokingham on Wednesday. C.Q.M.S. Binder reported a year full of activity. The club's finances were said to be in a satisfactory condition by the treasurer, Lt. P.S. Ford. The meeting passed a resolution thanking C.Q.M.S. Binder for his work as a "highly efficient and capable" secretary during the year. The following officers were re-elected: President, Capt. C.H. Willing; treasurer, Lt. P.S. Ford; vice-president, Capt. J. Vey, M.M.; secretary, C.Q.M.S. W.A. Binder. Other committees were re-elected en bloc, with the addition of Mr. J. Goswell, to the entertainments committee.

Sat 22nd March

CRICKET CLUB MEETING

At the opening of the annual meeting of the Wokingham Cricket Club on Wednesday, members stood in silence in memory of the late Mr. Charles Witham, an active member of the club. Mr. H.C. Hurlock (hon. treasurer) reported that at the end of the year there was a balance of £92. From the playing point of view, the hon. secretary said the year had been satisfactory. He congratulated Mr. T. Gibbs, who topped the batting averages, and Mr. C. Woollhead, who headed the bowling averages. The Cricket Club played 56 matches winning 34, losing 28 and drawing 4, seven being abandoned through rain. The following officers were re-elected: President, Mr. L.D. Sears; hon. secretary, Mr. E.S. Beeton; hon. treasurer, Mr. H.C. Hurlock, Mr. J.W. Soper was elected captain with Mr. C. Woollhead as vice-captain. Mr. S. Collins was elected captain of the Wednesday eleven and Mr. W. Martin match secretary.

THE WOKINGHAM CLUB

The Wokingham Club now faces a brighter future. This was stated at the annual meeting held in the club on Friday last week. The president, Mr. R.H. R. Palmer, who presided and paid tribute to all who had contributed to the past year's success. It was, he said, the best year for a considerable time. Mr. A. Ilott, presenting the chairman's report, said he hoped greater advantage would be taken of the club's Bowling Green, which is now one of the finest in the country. A new social committee would be formed, which he thought would be able to improve the many amenities. The two billiards tables were the finest in the district, and two exhibitions had been given during the year. The first was in aid of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, and raised nearly £40. Mr. Ilott thanked the secretary, Mr. W.H. Bunch, for the work he had done in this connection. Mr. R.H.R. Palmer was unanimously elected president, and said he would be able to serve the club for many more years. The retiring officials and executive committee were re-elected with the addition of Mr. W. Brimblecombe.
Sat 19th April.

YOUTH WEEK AT WOKINGHAM

To prove that youth clubs are not merely places where young people meet to dance and listen to modern music, the Wokingham and District Advisory Youth Committee have sponsored a "Youth Week" which began with a concert on Tuesday, and will end on Sunday with a special youth service in the Town Hall.

During the week exhibits of working models, painting and needlework have been shown in shop windows in the town and their high standard reflects the great amount of time that the members of the various youth clubs have devoted to them.

The first of several events to take place in the Town Hall, Wokingham was a youth concert on Tuesday night, attended by the Mayor and Mayoress (Cllr. And Mrs. W.J. Willey), representatives of twelve clubs staged an impromptu show which provided ninety minutes of good entertainment. There were faults, and at times the continuity was ragged, but there were failings which would have been eliminated by rehearsals. The programme was well-balanced with variety to suit every taste. One of the best performances was by the youngest artiste, 11-years-old Jean Ayres, who gave two piano solos. Another young performer, Cicely Wilkins, gave an excellent rendering of "Christopher Robin is saying his prayers," with actions to suit the words. A feature of the concert was the playing by the blind pianist, Terry Warner, of a waltz, as yet unnamed, especially written for him by his music teacher. John Petersen, of St. Sebastian's Band, gave a cornet solo, and a quartet from the same band contributed an item. Other performances included songs by Frances Brent and Joan Manders, and a

humorous duet by Tony Webb and Gordon. An acrobatic dancing turn was given by the Belcher Girls.

During the concert, the chairman of the Advisory Committee, Mr. H. Shanks, welcomed the Mayor who he said had supported the "Youth Week" from its inception, and had, in spite of a heavy Mayoral programme, managed to attend the meetings.

Over 150 young people attended the Youth Week dance at the Drill Hall, Wokingham, on Thursday. Music was by George Watkins and his band, Mr. R.B. Heath being M.C.

Sat 26th April

JUMBLE SALE

A successful jumble sale was held at the Church House, Wokingham, on Saturday by the Women's section of the Wokingham Labour Party, and raised over £13.

TABLE TENNIS

J.M. Riddell was the winner of the Wokingham and District Youth League, Table Tennis League, knock-out competition, at the Church Army Youth Club.

ROTARY CLUB

At a meeting of the Rotary Club of Wokingham, held at the Bush Hotel, on Thursday that week, Mr. F.E. Phipps of Messrs. H. and G. Simonds Ltd., gave a talk on brewing. The vote of thanks was proposed by Rotarian Maurice Ifould

PACK FLAG PRESENTED

Col. B.P.C. Freeland, who has been connected with the Scouting movement for over 40 years, presented the 1st Wokingham (Mayor's Own) Wolf Cub Pack with their own pack flag on Thursday. The evening concluded with a film show and camp fire.

The "44 FUND."

To raise money for the "44 Fund," which has been inaugurated to help meet the cost of the house bought for the curate of All Saints' Church, a whist drive was held in the Church House on Wednesday. The rector, the Rev. F.A. Steer, presented the prizes, which, with the refreshments, had been given.

SCOUT GROUP

The annual meeting of the 5th Wokingham Scout Group was held in St. Paul's Parish Hall on Tuesday and was presided over by Mr. F.J. Barrett (chairman of the Wokingham Scouts' Association). Miss Finch, secretary of the Parents' Association, reported on the year's activities, which, she said, had been satisfactory. A social evening followed.

BASEBALL

In their first away game of the season, Wokingham Monarchs completely outplayed the R.A.F. Boscombe Down, and reversed the result of their previous match by winning 21-15. The Monarchs got away to a good start, their first four batters scoring, Sergeant by virtue of a home-run (the first this year). By the end of the fifth innings the visitors were leading 19-8, but scored only two more runs in the last four innings.

Sat 7th June

SCOUTS IN CAMP

A party of Scouts from the 5th Wokingham troop spent Whitsun week-end in camp at Wheatlands Manor, Finchampstead, led by S.M.G. Moles.

ARTILLERY DANCE

The local branch of the Royal Artillery Association held a dance at Wokingham Drill Hall, on Saturday, music being by Stan Ayres and his band. Mr. E. Cropper was M.C.

FIRE AT FIREMAN'S HOME

Fireman were called out on Friday night last week to "Ye Olde Tuck Shoppe," Market Place, Wokingham, the home of Mr. H. Hawkins, a Wokingham fireman. His chimney was on fire.

OFFERTORY BOXES ROBBED

On Friday evening last week, offertory boxes at St. Paul's and All Saints' Churches, Wokingham, were broken open and the contents taken. Because of previous happenings of a similar nature at both churches the boxes are emptied regularly and it is believed that only a few shillings were taken.

Sat 14th June

PENSIONERS' MEETING

Members of No. 1 branch, Wokingham Old Age Pensioners' Association, attended their fortnightly meeting in Wokingham Legion Hall on Wednesday. Community singing and social was followed by tea.

MISSIONARY GARDEN MEETING

St. Paul's Missionary Association, Wokingham, held a garden meeting and sale in the grounds of Appin Lodge, Murdoch Road, Wokingham, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Inman, on Wednesday. The Speaker was the Rev. George Warren, of the Melanesian Mission.

CONVENT FETE

About £150 was raised at a fete on Saturday organised by the Wokingham Convent of Presentation in aid of school funds. Fine weather ensured a good attendance, and stalls and competitions carried on briskly throughout the afternoon. The main feature of the entertainment was a demonstration of dances from Europe and Russia, including American square dances.

MODERN MUSIC CLUB

The Wokingham Modern Music Club held their final musical evening of the season on Tuesday at the Wheatsheaf, Wokingham. Started only eight weeks ago the club has become well established in Wokingham, and it is hoped to re-commence in September with guest singers and instrumentalists from London. On Tuesday next members of the club are going to Wimbledon to hear their resident band—the Top Five—compete in the *Melody Maker* Dance Band Championships.

MEDALLION DISCOVERED

A copper medallion, dated 1788, and showing a calendar of Sundays throughout that year, has been found at the rear of No. 23, Market Place, Wokingham, by Mr. S. Ayres. A new roof is being fixed on the building, and the coin was found among the rubble. The medallion, which is slightly larger than a penny, also bears the birth date of King George III and the birthdays of other members of the Royal Family. Full and new moon dates can still be deciphered, together with the fact that 1788 was a leap year.

Sat 21st June

MACE ON SHOW

Wokingham's mace is on show until June 30th at an exhibition of Corporation Plate of England and Wales, at the Goldsmiths' Hall, London.

Sat 23rd Aug

ROTARY CLUB

At the weekly luncheon on Thursday last week, the guest speaker was Mr. A.L. Strachan, chief estates officer of the Bracknell Development Corporation, whose interesting talk on the development of Bracknell was well received.

TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Members of the newly-formed Wokingham branch of the Townswomen's Guild spent a pleasant afternoon at Charlecombe House, Rectory Road, Wokingham, on Monday. Most of the garden party attractions were held indoors because of the rain but between the showers well over 60 members strolled round the attractive gardens.

FOOTBALL

Wokingham Town Football Club opened the season today (Saturday) with the Reserves playing away to Theale. About 30 players turned out for training on Tuesday evening, including several newly-signed men. The team selected to meet Theale is: Fullick; Fry, White; Barker, Sherwood, *Roberts; *Bradbury, Phillips, *Taubman, *Pearce, Hill. (* denotes new player.)

WOKINGHAM BY-LAWS

Did you know that for dropping a banana skin in the street you can be fined £2? A similar penalty can be imposed for dropping an orange or apple skins or the leaf of a lettuce or cabbage on the pavement.

This is one of the many Wokingham by-laws which may easily be broken through ignorance. These by-laws have been drawn up by the council over the years for the good rule and conduct of the town.

When snow has fallen during the night it is an offence not to clear the pavement in front of a house or shop by 9 a.m. After a snowfall during the day residents are given two hours in which to clear their frontages. One habit which could lead to a summons is the sweeping of dust and dirt from shops and houses over the pavement into the highway, but the police use their discretion in this matter, and interfere only if the dirt actually constitutes a nuisance.

Shopkeepers who hang out flags advertising particular commodities may also be committing an offence if the flag "annoys" residents or "alarms" horses. However on carnival day no offence is committed by decorating the streets and shops with flags and bunting, unless advertisements are carried on the banners. By-laws concerning the handling, wrapping and delivery of food are very strict. Every aspect has been

covered and the laws state that “all necessary steps to protect food from dust, dirt, mud, filth, dirty water, animals, rodents, flies and insects” shall be taken.

In all cases if an offence is committed the penalty is “a fine not exceeding forty shillings.”

Sat 30th Aug

MERRY-MAKING AT WOKINGHAM PROCEEDS FOR LYNMOUTH DISASTER FUND

Thousands of merry-makers from near and far streamed into Wokingham on Wednesday. The population nearly doubled that day as visitors arrived by car, on bicycles, in ‘buses, by rail or walked from neighbouring towns and villages. It seemed as if the population of this part of East Berkshire was suddenly being poured into this little market town. It was carnival day, and from 8 a.m. until early Thursday morning people showed their intentions of enjoying themselves.

The exuberant, flag-waving, hooter-blowing crowds were greeted by decorated streets and flag-bedecked buildings. But the main purpose of this year’s carnival was summed up on posters with the words “All profits to Lynmouth.” This decision reached by the carnival committee had the almost unanimous approval of the crowds, and they gave even more readily than in previous years.

The day dawned brightly and at 8 a.m. the potential late sleepers were aroused with a clatter and din from the Town Hall. The “raggers” had begun the work led by their “Red Indian” leader Ald. W.C. Fullbrook. Throughout the day the Ragers paraded the streets in comic costumes depicting pirates and pixies, devils and demons, masters and musicians. They invaded gatherings of fun-seekers with their collecting boxes and good humour.

Promptly at 10 a.m. the Mayor of Wokingham, Cllr. A.T. Ilott, signified the official opening of Carnival Day by releasing the first of hundreds of balloons from the Market Place. The famous Dagenham Girl Pipers began their parade of the borough and later returned to the Market Square for a display of highland dancing.

CROWNING OF THE QUEEN

A guard-of-honour formed by the Dagenham Girl Pipers beat a slow roll on their drums as the Mayor and Mayoress arrived in the Market Square prior to the ceremony of crowning the carnival queen. There was loud cheering as Pauline Redgrove (18) arrived with her maids-of-honour, Miss Shirley Abbott and Miss Irene Cummings, and the two attendants, Miss Carol Collins and Master William Edgington. Pauline mounted the steps of the decorated platform, in her dress of white poul with a small gold flower design, with the new horseshoe neck bolero and white cloak, lined with gold and fastened with gilt leaves. The two maids-of-honour wore ballerina-length dresses of stiff gold net.

The Mayor (Cllr. Ilott) described the occasion as one of the highlights of the carnival and then the Mayoress received the crown from the attendant, William Edgington. With due solemnity the crown was placed on Miss Redgrove’s head.

In a brief address the queen declared: “I feel very honoured to be crowned queen toady. I welcome the people who have come here, especially those from the surrounding districts.” She appealed to the gathering to contribute all they could to help the fund for Lynmouth.

After the ceremony the queen and her retinue proceeded by car to open the funfair, and later to declare open the carnival field. While children joined in carnival sports, parents watched and listened to the Dagenham Girl Pipers and the Central Band of the W.R.A.F.

One of the lesser-publicised but perhaps the most moving scene of the whole day was carried on at the Wokingham Hospital. A guard-of honour of nurses welcomed the queen and her party to the hospital where she visited every ward meeting and talking to the patients. Mr. Beesley, aged 105, received a special kiss from Miss Redgrove.

THE GRAND PROCESSION

Later in the day the grand procession set off from Rectory Road. Led by the W.R.A.F. Central Band, the parade took over twenty minutes to pass one point. Spaced along the column were St. Sebastian's Band, the East Berks Boys' Band, and the Dagenham Girl Pipers. Cars of doubtful vintage rubbed shoulders with sleek, immaculate 1952 models. The borough dust cart looked spick and span as, instead of picking up a cargo of rubbish, it received silver and copper coins into its open sides, all in the cause of Lynmouth. The "Raggers" joined in the fun as they extended their collection tins to a generous crowd. A word of praise is deserved by their leader, Ald. W.C. Fullbrook, for up to eight o'clock that night he had collected £60 17s. 4 ¾d.

Floodlights illuminated the Market Square as the carnival queen presented the prizes. Following this short ceremony, some people remained in the square for an open-air concert and relayed music; others moved away to the fairground. For those merrymakers seeking even later entertainment there were three dances, at California for the Old Tyme dance enthusiasts at the British Legion rooms for modern music, and at the Drill hall for the Carnival Ball.

"MISS BERKSHIRE" SELECTED

Six bathing belles from Berkshire waited at Martin's Swimming Pool, Wokingham, on Saturday for American actress Barbara Payton, one of the two judges billed to select "Miss Berkshire." This was to be one of the 1952 carnival highlights. British star Ronald Howard also waited with his wife and so did the Mayor and the Mayoress, carnival officials and the crowds that packed the lawns. They waited for over an hour until Barbara Payton arrived with her producer and director.

Cries of, "Get on with it" from some of the audience went unheeded and the long waiting period was filled in by children's swimming events and lively remarks from the commentator, Mr. C. Watkinson.

After explanation to the audience that Barbara Payton had been "unavoidably detained" at the studio the long-awaited moment for the choosing of "Miss Berkshire" arrived. Blondes and brunettes paraded in their one-piece expensive costumes before the judges. The judges did not have an enviable task in making their selection and from the sixteen competitors seeking the title, five were recalled for a re-examination and interview.

The crowd quietened for a minute as the judges conferred and when cheers greeted the name of the winner, Miss Pearl Hedgecock, aged 17, a clerk, of 4, Course Road, Ascot. Second was Miss Betty Symonds, 19, of 54, Marshall Street, Maidenhead, and third was the married competitor, Miss Myrtha Froud, 26, of Larch Avenue, Wokingham. The coveted royal blue sash was draped over the winner and a garland of asters was placed around her neck by Barbara Payton.

Sat 13th Sept

THE CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

Representatives of various organisations in Wokingham packed the Town Hall on Monday for a special meeting called to discuss plans for the Coronation in Wokingham next year.

The meeting had been called by the Mayor (Cllr. A.T. Ilott) who presided. After a long discussion a resolution by the Deputy Mayor (Cllr. W.J. Willey) was passed: "That this open representative meeting of the associations of Wokingham recommend to the organising committee that efforts be made to celebrate the Coronation over at least three days, with special emphasis on the children and aged people of the town." Mr. E.H. Langley seconded.

At this juncture Mr. L. Goddard Smalley (Town Clerk) was appointed organising secretary, and elected on the committee were Police Superintendent E. Chandler and Messrs. P. Ruff, W. Rands, W. Burden, D. Nixon, J. Freeland, S. Beeton, E.H. Langley, F. Bridges and D. Taubman, Mrs. Tucker, Mrs. Hussey, Mrs. Plumridge, Mrs. McCarthy, Miss D. Sale and five councillors.

Many suggestions were put forward. One of the most popular ideas was for a pageant. Another suggestion was for something of a choral nature to include schoolchildren. It was generally felt that the previous Coronation custom of distributing mugs was not favoured.

In reply to Cllr. E.T. Lancaster's question about a 1d. rate to enable the committee to carry out their plans, Cllr. Willey said that he could not speak with any authority but he felt sure the council would be generous.

Sat 20th Sep

MOLLY MILLAR'S LANE

In reply to an inquiry as to the possibility of a permanent water supply being provided for residents in Molly Millars Lane, Wokingham, the Town Council have stated that a supply would be laid on eventually, but no date has been given.

Sat 27th Sept

PENSIONERS' MEETING

Members of the No. 1 branch of the Wokingham branch of the National Federation of Old Age Pensioners' Association discussed the branch's work at their fortnightly meeting in the British Legion Hall on Wednesday. Tea was followed by community singing.

BARNARDO HELPERS' LEAGUE

The annual box-opening was held on Saturday at High Close. League members joined with Barnardo girls, resident at High Close, in playing a tennis tournament. The total proceeds from box collections and donations amounted to £22 for Dr. Barnardo's Homes.

BASEBALL

The Wokingham Monarch's played a U.S. Navy team in a friendly game of baseball on Sunday at the Barkham Road Diamond, but it had to be abandoned in the second innings. Tomorrow (Sunday) the Monarchs play their last game of the season, against Mitcham Tigers at home.

LOVE TO BLAME

Several nights during the past fortnight the Wokingham Town Hall caretaker, Mr. C. Nibbs, has been brought from his bed by a policeman on night duty because the hall doors have been found unfastened. The reason was that courting couples leaning against the door had forced the bolt from its socket. Now a new socket has been fitted and Mr. Nibbs should get his sleep.

A NEW AMBULANCE FOR WOKINGHAM

The Berkshire County Council Ambulance Service on Monday took delivery of the very latest six-cylinder Morris Commercial N.V.S. type ambulance. Supplied by Hewens Garages Ltd. of Reading this graceful vehicle, painted a bright duck-egg blue inside embodies all the most up-to-date ideas and can carry four stretcher cases with two attendants or five sitting down case also with two attendants. It is for use at Wokingham.

PHILIP SALE MEMORIAL HOMES

Ideal homes for the older members of the town are now under construction on a plot of land just off Cockpit Path, Wokingham. This land was given by the Sale family of Wokingham to provide a memorial to the late Alderman Philip Sale. At a cost of £28,000, the council are having built on this site thirteen bungalows and one house. There will be six homes for single folk, comprising a bed-sitting room, kitchen, bathroom, and a hall, and seven dwellings for couples, comprising one bedroom, living room, kitchen, bathroom and hall. To qualify for these bungalows—called “The Philip Sale Memorial Homes”—the people must be over 50.

These homes are built to a special design to make life more easy for the residents. At a little extra cost, to make the homes appear as attractive outside as will do inside, artistic touches have been added by the placing of flower boxes, wrought-iron gates at the entrance, gables and attractive stonework. At the corner entrance of the “L”-shaped estate will be the fourteenth dwelling, a warden’s house. Here will live a paid warden whose job it will be to help care for the residents. The official duties of this post have yet to be settled, but it is expected that the warden will help look after those taken ill, do some errands, and organise general social activities.

For any social functions a common recreation room is to be built on the estate. But these council plans are costing money, and it is expected that an appeal will be launched to raise money to help pay for the warden and for the extra comforts that can make the old folks’ life that much easier.

Sat 18th Oct

NEW LIGHTING SCHEME

Consent has been given by the Minister of Transport to a skeleton lighting scheme in Molly Millars Lane and Eastheath Avenue planned by Wokingham Council.

METHODIST ANNIVERSARY

The Rose Street Methodist Church, Wokingham, celebrated its 82nd anniversary on Wednesday with a gift day and sale, opened by the Mayoress of Wokingham (Mrs. A.T. Ilott). Mr. T.R. Lascelles was in the chair. In the evening the organist and choir of the Wesley Church, Reading, presented a concert. Mr. J. Wild presided. Proceeds from both the sale and concert were in aid of church funds.

WOKINGHAM NEW INDUSTRIES

SWIFT DISTRIBUTION OF FISH

A welcome addition to Wokingham’s industry is Explorator Ltd., a service and supply and delivery of sea-fresh fish, set up at Eastheath Avenue, Wokingham.

It was just after the last war that a Lowestoft man, Mr. Tony Cartwright, decided to do something about the distribution of fish. He realised that the distribution methods almost universally followed by the trade were out of date so he decided to replace the

wooden boxes with rusty nails by aluminium boxes, which could be sterilised. The next point was to have swift transport to insulated vans.

The first central depot was established near Reading and was later transferred to a more convenient premises in Wokingham. Fish landed at Northern ports are brought to Wokingham for distribution to an area reaching out to Bedford, Cambridge, Cheltenham and Bristol, and along the coast from Weymouth to Hastings. The main purpose of this project is to ensure that the housewife is always assured of sea-fresh fish.

Speed is the keynote all along the line. An average of 5,600 stones of fish are delivered by "feeder" men to Wokingham six days a week. They are brought in Explorator vans—a fleet of 30 is now operating—which are specially designed to ensure hygienic conditions throughout.

On Saturday the chairman and directors of the company held an informal gathering at the Wokingham depot to mark the opening of this new establishment.

Sat 25th Oct

WOKINGHAM HOSPITAL "ELIZABETH WARD" OPENED

A new children's ward opened at Wokingham Hospital on Wednesday, and was named "Elizabeth Ward." The opening ceremony was performed before a large gathering by Mrs. Remnant, wife of Wokingham's M.P., who said that the name had been chosen very appropriately. The ward, which is painted in cream and white, holds three beds, two cots and two cradle cots, the latter containing two babies. The beds are of painted white metal set around the room. At one side are two large windows looking out over cultivated land and trees.

The Mayor of Wokingham (Cllr. A.T. Ilott) was then conducted with the gathering to a new occupational therapy room which he declared open.

Chairman of the Hospital House Committee, Major A. Hunter, said that the room had been built and equipped with the funds raised by the Friends of Hospital League, which came into being about 15 months ago.

The Mayor paid tribute to the league especially one of the founder members, the Deputy Mayor (Cllr. W.J. Willey).

Cllr. Willey said that the purpose of the room was to give patients an added interest in certain activities and help them on the way to good health. He made an appeal to all not belonging to the league to join immediately and help make the hospital "Wokingham Hospital" in the true sense of the words.

The Ven. Archdeacon Thorndyke Shaw asked for God's blessing on the new ward and occupational therapy room.

Among those present were Col. C.B. Crabbe, Oxford regional Hospital Board, and Mrs. Benyon, vice-chairman of the Hospital Management Committee. Earlier that afternoon Mrs. Remnant had opened a bring-and-buy sale.

Sat 13th Dec

HEADMASTER FOR NEW SCHOOL

Mr. Eric Bancroft has been selected to be the first headmaster of Wokingham's new secondary school.

Fri 27th Dec

GARTH HUNT MEET AT WOKINGHAM MARKET PLACE

Dull weather following heavy rain, did not deter the people of Wokingham from streaming into the Market Place in their hundreds to watch the arrival of the Garth Hunt for the first Boxing Day Meet there for the past 18 years.

As the pink-coated riders on their sleek mounts trotted into position, they were welcomed by the Mayor, Cllr. A.T. Iltott. So large were the crowds that those who arrived after 11 o'clock found it impossible to penetrate to the centre of the Market Place, where the more fortunate members of the Hunt were enjoying the stirrup cup provided by Ye Olde Rose Inne.

Led by the joint Masters of Fox Hounds, Miss Effie Barker and Mr. Vivian Simonds, the hunt made its way via Rose Street to Mr. Reginald Palmer's residence, Stokes Farm. Crowds on foot and families in cars followed. Many of the former saw several foxes during the day, a brace being killed.

Miss Effie Barker afterwards expressed to a "Wokingham and Bracknell Times" reporter "the Masters' appreciation of the splendid welcome afforded us by the Mayor and people of Wokingham.

The Hunt celebrated its centenary this year. It was founded in 1852 by Thomas Colleton Garth.

1953

Sat 25th April

CROWDS SEE THE QUEEN

Wokingham's main streets were crowded on Wednesday morning with people hoping to catch a glimpse of Her Majesty the Queen as she motored through en route to Badminton. With the Queen travelled Princess Margaret. As she passed the Queen smilingly acknowledged the waving crowd.

TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

The first birthday party of the Wokingham Townswomen's Guild was held in the Wokingham Club on Tuesday. Guests included members of the Reading Afternoon and Evening Guilds, and the Embrook W.I. The party was organised by Mrs. C. Buchanan and her committee. Games, a dancing display, and a one-act play, "Our Husbands," acted by Guild members, made the evening a happy and entertaining one.

OLD AGE PENSIONERS

The meeting of the Wokingham No.1 branch of the National Federation of Old Age Pensioners' Associations in the British Legion Hall on Wednesday took the form of a sale, in aid of the outing fund. It was opened by the Deputy-Mayoress, Mrs. W.J. Willey, and it hoped that the money raised will be enough to meet the cost of the two free summer outings—to Blenheim Palace and Hindhead—later in the year.

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Baptist Sunday School celebrated its anniversary over the week-end. Morning and evening services were conducted by the Rev. W.H. Brackenbury, of Reading. There was a large congregation in the afternoon service, guests coming from the Methodist Sunday School and the new Sunday School opened by the Baptists at Toutley. Items were given by the primary department and a play, "The Sign the Master Gave," was presented by junior and senior scholars.

WOMEN'S ANNIVERSARY

The Wokingham Women's Meeting celebrated their 38th anniversary with special services in the Methodist Church on Sunday and Tuesday. On Sunday the Rev. A.H. Creed preached in the morning and the Rev. Merson B. Birnie, from Reading, conducted the afternoon service at which the soloist was Mrs. E.J. Fuller. Mrs. E.E. Langston presided at the afternoon meeting on Tuesday at which the speaker was Mrs. Gwen Passmore who was paying a return visit to Wokingham. She chose as her subject, "Three Queens." Anthems were sung by the Hampshire Avenue Sisterhood Choir. Visitors also came from Lent Rise, Burnham.

AMBULANCE BRIGADE

The Wokingham Ambulance Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade held their annual meeting at the Brigade Headquarters, Easthampstead Road, on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Supt. T. Sadler. The secretary, Sgt. H. Surman, gave a brief report on the year's work, and the treasurer, Ambulance Officer E. Edwards, presented a financial statement, showing a credit balance of £58 5s, 0½d. The treasurer and secretary were both re-elected, as were the committee, comprising Supt. T. Sadler, Ambulance Officer E. Edwards, Mr. W.E. Burden, and Transport Officer F. Moles, and Messrs. Maslin, Hasleham and Frost.

HOUSEWIVES' EXHIBITION

"Better than last year" was the general verdict on the Housewives' Exhibition and Sale, held in the Drill Hall, Wokingham, on Wednesday, and organised by the Women's Advisory Committee of the Wokingham Division Conservative Association. The high standard of exhibits in all classes made the judges' task a difficult one.

Prize-winning exhibits were staged in the centre of the hall and surrounding these were stalls, run by branches throughout the constituency. Almost all of the stalls had a special Coronation appeal, particularly the Sonning one, which was a blaze of red, white and blue, and won the cup, presented by the association for the best-dressed stall.

The opening ceremony in the morning was performed by Miss. S.P. Denis de Vitre, deputising for Mrs. Peter Remnant, who was indisposed. "There had been a great deal of time, thought, and energy expended beforehand," she said, "and hoped it would be an even greater success than its predecessor." Miss de Vitre especially thanked Mrs. J. Bushnell and Mrs. D. Wilstead for their untiring work. Sir Conrad Corfield, chairman of the divisional Association, added his congratulations and best wishes.

In the afternoon cups were presents to successful entrants by Elizabeth, Countess of Bandon, who was introduced by Mrs. L. Victor Smith. In a short speech, Lady Bandon congratulated all concerned on the success of the exhibition and added, "if all this ability and industry is called forth by Conservatism, then long live the Tories."

Lady Bandon then made the following awards:--

Association cup for best-dressed stall: Sonning branch; inter-branch cup, presented by Sir Patrick Gower, for branch winning highest number of points; Earley housewives' rose bowl, presented by Mrs. John Bushnell, for woman member gaining highest number of points; Mrs. Atkins, Winkfield and Ascot branch; Lady Knox Cup for fancy needlework; Mrs. Bramwell Booth, Finchampstead; Major and the Hon. Mrs. J.L. Wills' Cup for plain needlework; Mrs. M.E. Sturges, Earley; Mrs W. Howard Palmer Cup for knitting; Mrs. Long, Shinfield; Miss S.B. Denis de Vitre Cup for thrift class; Mrs. N. Jones, Earley; the Hon. Mrs. Corfield Cup for handcraft; Mrs.

Hawkins, Sandhurst; the Hon Mr. and Mrs. P.F. Remnant Cup for children's exhibit: Susan Knowles, Winnersh; Miss Bafry Cup for produce: Mrs. Clarke, Sandhurst.

Sat 6th June

A UNITED CHURCH SERVICE OPENS WOKINGHAM'S CELEBRATIONS

Judging from appearances, there was nobody celebrating the Coronation in Wokingham on Tuesday morning for the streets were deserted, save for those whose business kept them out of doors. It was almost as if the veil of night had been suddenly lifted, for the only sounds, apart from occasional footsteps, to break the silence were the rustle of paper decorations and the angry flapping of the flags in the strong wind.

There was no lack of loyalty, however, the empty streets merely reflected a whole-hearted interest in the greater celebrations. All who could, found themselves seats in front of television sets or by radios. As well as those accepting neighbourly hospitality—and these were legion—there were large audiences watching and listening to the procession and ceremony throughout the town. Probably the largest of these was in the British Legion Hall which was crowded all day. At the Wokingham Hospital patients, and staff alike, none more than 106-years-old Mr. Henry Beesley, thrilled to the pomp and pageantry brought to them by television, and this scene was repeated at the cinematograph Trade Benevolent Home, Glebelands, and the Salvation Army Eventide Home at Buzzacot Hall.

During the early morning, before the procession was televised, there were services at St. Paul's Church and All Saints' Church. About 200 people availed themselves of the cheap day return to Waterloo, and caught the 4.11 a.m. train, which was quite full by the time it left Bracknell. Very few travelled later in the day.

Wokingham's week of festivities officially began on Monday evening with a united church service in the Market Place. The rain was responsible for a smaller congregation than had been expected, but over 200 attended. The address was given by the Rev. R.S. Owens, Rev. A.H. Creed read the lesson, the prayers were led by Rev. H.M. Rey Smith, and the Benediction was given by Rev. F.A. Steer. The singing was led by the combined choirs under the direction of Mr. A. Yould.

There was to have been a beacon lit by the Scouts, but owing to a misunderstanding over the site, this was cancelled. On Tuesday the major items were the old folks' tea, in the Waterloo Restaurant, followed by their concert in the hall of the new Secondary Modern School, London Road. The Mayor, Cllr. W.G. Jackson, accompanied by the Mayoress, Mrs. W.J. Willey, was present at both sittings of the tea, and later joined the old people for the concert, and, with the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. A.T. Illott, actually took part in it.

Comper for the evening was Cllr. E.H. Langley, and he introduced a first-class variety show, with something to suit all tastes. Comedy was well supplied by the "Three Loose Screws"; songs were given by Miss Mary Mathias (soprano) and Mr. Harold Hopkins (baritone). Jack Woodason's impressions were as popular as ever, and Mr. Tom Rundle gave a very entertaining act, producing music from such surprising things as a vacuum flask and a bicycle pump. The show was rounded off in grand style by the Wokingham Players, whose production of "The Harem" was much appreciated. Much less of a success was the open-air concert in the Rose Street car park. The weather kept away many of the hoped-for audience, but the failure of the majority of the artistes to arrive put Mr. Dick Giles in a most embarrassing position. He did, however, give one of his puppet shows and was helped out by G. Cracknell, but the show had to be concluded after only 20 minutes.

The man who had greatest cause to celebrate was Mr. Henry Beesley, who had three Mayors (Cllr. W.G. Jackson, the present holder of the office, and Cllr. W.J. Willey and S.L. Bowyer) and the Mayoress (Mrs. W J. Willey) at his 106th birthday party in a private ward of the Wokingham Hospital on Tuesday afternoon. Lying in bed with the memory of Sunday's outing with his daughter, Mrs. Goodchild, of Spencers Wood, still fresh in his memory, he thoroughly enjoyed cutting a magnificent cake—presented to him by Messrs. Lee's—and seeing that all had a piece. As well as many presents, he had numerous birthday cards surrounding him, but pride of place went to a telegram from the Queen.

In common with every other borough in the country. Wokingham has been given a festive appearance. But although many business houses and private residents went to great lengths to brighten the town, there was a disappointingly large number of unadorned houses. Probably the most impressive shop window was one in Peach Street, in which, surrounded by royal purple, was a lifelike image of the Queen in full regalia and holding the orb and sceptre. Quiet dignity was symbolised by the crown in a florist's window containing no less than five-and-a-half thousand heads of gnaphalium. Another shopkeeper displayed a collection of souvenir Coronation mugs, dating back to William IV.

Judging of the best decorations in the town was carried out on Monday and the committee made the following awards:--

Private houses: 1, Mr. Goatley, 9 Rose Street, Wokingham; 2, Mr. R. Morgan., 50 Rose Street, Wokingham; 3, Mr. W.H. Lee, 75 London Road, Wokingham

Business premises:--1, Herring Bros, Peach Street; 2, Messrs. E.J. Fuller, Denmark Street; 3, Messrs. Sale & Son (Florists) Market Place, Wokingham

The Coronation Ball, arranged by the D Coy., 4/6 Batt., Royal Berkshire Regiment, was held in the Drill Hall. Music was by the "Heralds of Swing." The M.C. was Mr. Fred Barter.

Throughout the week the children of Wokingham have been well catered for and their big day was Wednesday. Starting soon after lunch the 150 entrants in the fancy dress parade began converging on the Town Hall, and in a blaze of colour they marched down Denmark Street to the Langborough Road Recreation Ground, where, for the benefit of the other 1,250 children, they paraded. Then, by schools, they went into the marquees for the Coronation tea party, and were each given a souvenir mug. After the tea they all enjoyed an informal sports meeting for about two hours, and Mr. Dick Giles entertained them with his puppets.

Children's homes in the town all reported that their charges thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and street parties were given in many parts of the town. The celebrations continue today (Saturday), when the ox-roasting takes place.

HISTORIC SPECTACLE WAS POPULAR ENDING TO WOKINGHAM'S CORONATION FESTIVITIES

After a decidedly slow start earlier last week, Wokingham's official celebrations suddenly gained tempo on Saturday, when people from all over the district poured into the Market Place to watch the ox-roasting ceremony.

Dancers from the Drill Hall and Waterloo Restaurant left their dancing at midnight on Friday to watch the Mayor of Wokingham, Cllr. W.G. Jackson light the fire, which was then stoked up by the local firemen, who appeared to be as competent at stoking fires as at putting them out.

Cooking of the ox began at 2 am on Saturday and a steady stream of people arrived to watch and help baste the carcass soon after daybreak. In addition to the three chefs,

Mr. Selby and Mr. Green, Instructors at the Army Catering Corps Training Centre Aldershot, and Mr. Fox, of Manchester, the Mayor, Cllr A.T. Ilott, Cllr. S.L. Bowyer and others all took a hand in the roasting. Cooking was completed at mid-day and by 4 o'clock, the published time for carving, the Market Place was thronged with well over 1,500 people.

The Mayor, carefully directed by the chefs, carved the first portion to the accompaniment of three lusty cheers from the crowd, and then, and having procured a piece of bread from the W.V.S. servers he smilingly proceeded to enjoy the first slice.

The deputy Mayor was handed the next portion and then for the next 90 minutes nearly 2,000 pieces were served to the queue, most of whom purchased a slice of bread and a picnic plate for threepence. At the conclusion of the carving there were many dog owners queuing for the bones.

A large proportion of the "diners" wrapped up their slices of meat and took them home but a few, like elderly Mr. and Mrs Hunt, of Binfield Road, Bracknell, enjoyed theirs on the spot. Mrs. Hunt remembered as a tiny child, being left in the care of friends inside the Wokingham Town Hall at Queen Victoria's Jubilee while her parents went into the Market Place to enjoy the roast ox dinner served on that occasion. Both she and her husband are natives of Wokingham being born in the North Ward of Forest Road and only moving to Bracknell two years ago.

Just as the last dish had been washed up, a man dashed into the Market Place to know if he was in time for a slice. Told by Cllr. Bowyer that it was all over, he replied, "We heard about it in London this afternoon and dashed down in the car right away."

Throughout the afternoon music was played by St. Sebastian's Parish Band. In the evening an even larger crowd assembled at Langborough Road Recreation Ground for the lighting of the scouts' beacon and bonfire sing-song which followed.

A guard of honour of guides and scouts led by District Commissioner, J. Freeland, welcomed the Mayor and Mayoress. Within a few minutes of the Mayor lighting the beacon, a pillar of flame and smoke soared up some 50 feet into the evening sky and its welcome heat spread over a radius of many yards. Scouts and guides began their sing-song with "Bring Back my Bonnie to Me" and a number of scouting songs and rounders. The singing, however, was mainly confined to the scouts, most of the spectators contented themselves with watching the crackling bonfire.

Young people of the town accompanied by the St. Sebastian's band then left the recreation ground to march in torchlight procession round the town returning later for the firework display. By the time the first grand volley of red, white and blue rockets leapt into the air, the spectators had increased to some 2, 000.

Fine display of set pieces, rockets and roman candles followed, ending just before midnight with the illuminated words, "God Save the Queen" and an accompanying volley that must have been heard all over the town. The long-awaited Coronation festivities of 1953 were really over.

The previous evening, Friday, about 250 people attended the Coronation concert in the fine concert hall of the Wokingham Secondary Modern School. Here a programme of concert music was given by the augmented orchestra of the Berkshire String Players, led by Ray Monkcom and conducted by Robert Noble, Director of Music for Berkshire, and singing by the Wokingham Madrigal Society was conducted by Clive Penman.

The concert opened by the Trumpet Voluntary played by Bernard Brown and was followed by a Coronation Anthem of the 17th century sung by the Wokingham and

District Choral Society, who also sang Parry's Coronation Anthem "I was glad when they said unto me".

A choir of children from Wokingham Schools sang three songs including Parry's "England". A pianoforte solo L'alouette by Glinka was given by Peter Turner who also played the solo in Concertino for Pianoforte and Strings by Armstrong Gibbs.

Thur 27th June

MR. HENRY BEESLEY DIES

Mr. Henry Beesley, claimed to be the oldest man in Britain, has died soon after his 106th birthday. He died in his sleep on Saturday evening in Wokingham Hospital

Sat 4th July

CONVENT FETE

The Convent of the Presentation, Wokingham, held their annual fête on Saturday in aid of the school funds. Fortunate with the weather, the fête was a great success, and the stalls, managed by the children, were well patronised. A popular feature during the afternoon was the dancing on the lawns, and many of the patrons and friends joined in.

A GOOD START

Mr. F.W.S. Bagulay, librarian of the Wokingham branch of the County Library, is well pleased with the response to his recent appeal for help in compiling an index of local organisations and the upkeep of a social calendar, although, he says, it will take about a year for the scheme to prove its value. Mr. Bagulay is, however, anxious for still more clubs and organisations to get in touch with him.

SAVINGS COMMITTEE SOCIAL

The Wokingham National Savings Street Group Sub-Committee held another successful social and old-time dance in the Church House, Wokingham, on Tuesday afternoon. Their guests during the afternoon were Mrs. Wells, secretary of the Slough Industrial Group, and the assistant commissioner for Slough, Mr. Allinson. Ken Car provided the music for dancing, and the M.C. was Mrs. Carpenter.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

What will probably be the last Coronation outing from the borough was enjoyed on Sunday by over forty children from the Market Place and Denmark Street. And not only the children had a good day out—for many parents and friends (three coach loads in all) spent the day at Littlehampton. There, as well as swimming, the children took part in an impromptu sports meeting. As a mark of their appreciation the children presented Mrs. G. Boshier (who, with her husband, organised the outing) with a bouquet and a brooch.

BAPTISTS' RALLY

Over 120 members of the Baptist Men's Movement throughout the county, and Oxford and Slough, held their annual summer rally at the Milton Road Church, Wokingham on Tuesday evening. The chair was taken by Mr. H.F. Maton, of Slough, president of the Berkshire branch of the movement. The principal speaker at the rally was Mr. J.W. Beaumont, of Harrow, president of the London Baptist Men's Movement. In the course of his address, Mr. Beaumont stressed the necessity for men to take an active part in the life of the church.

WOKINGHAM SPORT CRICKET

Wokingham failed by 14 runs to beat their visitors, the Bank of England, 2nd XI, on Saturday afternoon. Set 178 to score (Roadknight 61, Brookes 26; Wilson 5 for 44, Soper 3 for 38), the Wokingham tail-enders just could not rise to the occasion although they had been given a grand start by Smith (62), and Drury (28) and Soper (89). The home team have to accept much of the responsibility for their own defeat, however, for they conceded no fewer than 26 extras. Ward (6 for 24) was the best bowler of the day, and he was helped by Roadknight (3 for 46).

The 2nd XI had a fine victory at Ascot when they skittled the Royal Ascot team out for 25 runs and then and then passed this total for the loss of only one wicket. Billington (5 for 8) and E.F. Gough (5 for 13) were Wokingham's bowlers, and E.G. Gough went on to reach his half-century after the home team had lost by 9 wickets. At 84 for 6, Wokingham put Ascot in again, and they had reached 80 for 8 when stumps were drawn.

Sat 25th July

WOKINGHAM'S NEW SCHOOL FIRST OPEN DAY

The first term's work at the new Modern Secondary School, Wokingham is drawing to a close. But in just over 16 weeks the staff and 300 children have achieved much. Just how much the parents were able to judge for themselves on Wednesday, when the school was thrown open for their inspection.

The afternoon programme opened with a mannequin parade by the elder girls, who displayed dresses of their own making and, in some cases, their own design.

The accent was on summer frocks, but two enterprising girls had made themselves sports clothes. Much of the work was hand-sewn, but Mrs. J. Roberts, who teaches needlework, said that the school was well equipped with sewing machines, and it was their policy to get the work done as quickly as possible, consistent with quality. The girls bought the materials from the school, and the clothes, when finished, were their own property.

After the parade, Mr. N.L. Smith, music teacher, conducted a choir over 100 strong in two Elizabethan songs, the accompanist being Miss Mary Joel, one of the pupils. This was followed by a presentation of the last act of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," in which Miss Gilbert, the drama mistress, made full use of the fine hall, the stage, the auditorium and the surround. An effective idea was to have only the principal characters in costume. The head master, Mr. E. Bancroft, then told the children to take their parents on a conducted tour of the exhibition. Here examples of the younger girls' needlework, and pottery, woodwork, painting, horticulture and science exhibits were all eagerly inspected, and drew deserved tributes from the admiring mothers and fathers.

On Tuesday the governors inspected the school, and saw the mannequin parade, concert and exhibition.

Sat 5th Sept

THE BEAR WOOD ESTATE ERROR

Mr. J. Walter of St. Catherine's, Bearwood sends the following letter to the editor:-

"In your excellent article on Bear Wood (in the Mercury Country) of August 1st, it is stated that the first purchase of the Bear Wood estate was made in about 1830. This is the year given in the Victoria County History of Berkshire). As a matter of fact it was

made in October 1816. The error is so unimportant that I should not have mentioned it but for the fact that it was repeated in the first paragraph of 'Mainly About Berkshire'. I am therefore sending you the correct date for future reference."

Sat 19th Sept

BACK ON ENGLISH SOIL AGAIN
Grand Welcome For The "Glorious Glosters"
P.O.W.S FROM KOREA RE-UNITED With Their Families

Scenes as moving as any in recent British history were seen at Southampton Docks on Wednesday when the graceful Royal Mail Lines S.S. Asturias, her upper decks crowded with some 600 repatriated prisoners-of-war from Korea, berthed after her long voyage from the Far East.

To the accompaniment of regimental marches, played by the Band of the 1st Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment, and cheering from the vast crowd of relatives and friends of the soldiers, who were eagerly waiting on the bunting-decorated quayside, the great liner eased up to her berth.

As soon as the gangways were fixed in position down them rushed the happy soldiers whose one thought then was joyous re-union with their loved ones—wives, children, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters and sweethearts.

Among the repatriated men who disembarked were:--

Pte. A.J. Alum, Gloucestershire Regt., whose mother, Mrs. K. Allum, lives at 11, Commons Road, Embrook, Wokingham.

Pte. E. Rose, Gloucestershire Regt., whose father, Mr. E. Rose, lives at 65, Rose Street, Wokingham.

The Asturias arrived off Southampton on Tuesday evening, and anchored in the Solent for the night, but the time was not wasted, for much routine work, such as documentation and Customs work, was carried out before morning.

Wokingham Welcomes

Looking bronzed and fit—but tired—in spite of almost 2½ years' captivity in Communist hands, Pte Edward Sidney Rose relaxed in an armchair at 65, Rose Street, Wokingham, on Wednesday afternoon, smoking a cigarette. Ted was home. Home at last, and from the moment he stepped across the doorway, festooned with flowers and surmounted by a replica of the Gloucester's regimental badge, he was continuously shaking hands with his many friends who called to extend their welcome, or opening the many presents and greetings telegrams.

Much the same was happening at 11, Commons Road, Embrook, also decorated with flags, where Arthur John Allum was spending his first afternoon at home.

Both the Rose and Allum families had met their sons at Southampton. Formalities kept to a minimum, both families were soon re-united and speeding homeward.

Ted and Arthur, schoolboy friends, had joined the army about the same time, served together, and took part in the "Glorious Glosters" epic stand of the Imjin River, where, together with the greater part of the Battalion, they surrendered. Ted Rose said that the orders were given "every man for himself," but it was impossible to escape—in fact the Chinese seemed deliberately to fire over their heads to show they would rather take prisoners than kill. Once taken, the prisoners were marched for 18 days to the camp where they were to spend over two years—at Chungsong. Both agreed that the food, though poor, was just sufficient, and neither was physically ill-treated. They were subjected to Communist propaganda, however although they took very little notice of it. At first Communist "lectures" were compulsory, but towards the latter

part of the war they became voluntary, and although many did attend, mainly for something to do, the Wokingham lads ignored them.

The larger celebration will be at the Drill Hall, Wokingham on October 17th.

Fri 25th Sept

MRS. HOWARD PALMER DIES SUDDENLY

Mrs. Ada Morgan Howard Palmer, widow of Mr. W. Howard Palmer, J.P., died suddenly at her home, Heathlands, Wokingham, on Tuesday night. She was 83. During her more than 50 years' residence at Heathlands, Mrs. Howard Palmer, although for some years a victim of rheumatoid arthritis, took an active part in the affairs of St. Sebastian's parish, and her model farm with its prize Guernsey herd.

Since the death of her husband in 1923, she had been churchwarden of St. Sebastian's Church and gave a new altar and East Window to the Church in his memory. During the war years Mrs. Howard Palmer turned Heathlands into a war hospital, and also took a keen interest in the Women's Land Army in Berkshire, of which she was Director. When peace came she presented the family cricket ground and pavilion to the village for use as a playing field, for thanksgiving for the return of men from the war.

A similar gesture was made by her husband at the end of World War I when he had St. Sebastian's Memorial Hall erected and arranged for its maintenance by the family. A few years ago Mrs. Howard Palmer gave the hall to the parish council together with £1,000 for its upkeep and the caretaker's cottage.

One of her greatest interests in the village was perhaps was her work as Manager of St. Sebastian's Church School, and she was much loved by the children.

AGRICULTURAL INTEREST

She was a past County President of the Berkshire Women's Institute and was for many years president of the St. Sebastian's W.I. The name of Howard Palmer has figured prominently in the activities of the Wokingham Agricultural Shows for many years. Mrs. Howard Palmer was president of the Association on more than one occasion and at the time of her death was president of the Guernsey Society and vice-president of the Crowthorne, Finchampstead and St. Sebastian's Horticultural Society.

She is survived by her only son Mr. Reginald Palmer, chairman of Huntley & Palmers, Reading and president of the Wokingham Club.

A funeral service at St. Sebastian's Church today (Friday) at 2,30 p.m., will be preceded by a Requiem at 8 a.m., and private cremation.

Sat 10th Oct

PRESENTATIONS TO FORMER KOREAN PRISONERS-OF-WAR

The Mayor of Wokingham, Cllr. W.G. Jackson made presentations to Messrs. A.J. Allum and E.S. Rose, of Wokingham, former prisoners-of-war in Korea, at Wokingham Town Council meeting on Thursday.

Sat 17th Oct

ST. CRISPIN'S SCHOOL IS FORMALLY OPENED

On Wednesday, the Minister of Education, Miss Florence Horsbrugh, officially opened the Wokingham Secondary Modern School and planted a tree.

Fri 23rd Oct

PRESENTATION CEREMONY FOR RETURNING POWS

An enormous blue and gold banner with the inscription "Welcome to the Glorious Gloucesters" hung on the sombre walls of Wokingham Drill Hall; floral decorated tables laden with iced cakes and every delicacy set the scene; and 14 boys of the Gloucester Regiment among them Ted Rose of Bracknell. Were included in the 250 guests who celebrated the return from Korea of Edward Rose of Rose Street and Arthur Allum of Emmbrook with a mammoth family party on Saturday.

Among the guests were the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham (Cllr. W.G. Jackson and Mrs. W.J. Willey); Ald. David Goddard, Lt. Gen. Percy Molloy, president of the Wokingham Branch of the British Legion; and Mr. W. Burden, secretary of the branch.

The Mayor welcomed the boys, speaking of his own happy connections with Gloucestershire during the lifetime of his wife. A toast to "The Glosters" was proposed by Ald. D. Goddard, and later the boys were presented with cigarette lighters by General Molloy.

Mrs. Rose and Mrs. Allum received bouquets from Mr. W. Burden.

RELEASE SOON

The party was a real family affair, all the cakes and other dainties having been made by the two families, who also decorated the hall. Games and dancing went on until midnight when the guests adjourned to the decorated home of Edward Rose and carried on until the early hours.

On Wednesday Allum and Rose reported back to Gloucester Camp where another celebration awaited them before their release and return to civil life at the weekend.

Sat 24th Oct

RUSH FOR PETROL

Up to midday Thursday the unofficial strike of fuel tanker drivers had not made itself greatly felt in Wokingham. Garages reported that petrol sales were heavy—motorists were taking no chances. One of the largest filling stations said that the demand had been very heavy, and if it did not decrease the customers would have to be rationed. Bulk deliveries of petrol were made in Wokingham up to Thursday.

A VINTAGE TRICYCLE

Motor-cycle enthusiast, Mr. D. Lee, of Rectory Road, Wokingham, took his 1896 tricycle to Nuneaton on Sunday for the vintage motor-cycle rally organised by the Nuneaton Road safety Council in conjunction with the Vintage Motor-Cycle Club—and came back with two cups. The larger of the two is the "D Jukes" Cup for the pre-1915 class of the "Concours d'elegance," which Mr. Lee will keep for one year, and the smaller is a replica which is his own property. This veteran Deschamps 3½ h.p. machine is thought to be the only one of its type in the country, and was the oldest at the rally, appropriately numbered "one." Whilst there Mr. Lee rode it several times for the benefit of the spectators. Although built in the days when it was compulsory for the rider to have a man walking in front of him waving a white flag this veteran machine is quite capable of exceeding 20 m.p.h. On November 1st Mr. Lee hopes it will keep up a steady 20 m.p.h., for then he will compete in the London-Brighton run organised by the Veteran Car Club of Great Britain. This will be his first attempt. In addition to this old Deschamps, Mr. Lee runs a 1911 Bradbury 554 c.c. belt-driven cycle, which, despite its appearance and age, can still top the 60 mark.

PRODUCE ASSOCIATION'S LAST SHOW

As the public began to file out of the Town Hall, Wokingham, on Saturday afternoon, and cleaners began to get busy with their brooms, the Wokingham Produce Association—as far as the general public were concerned—ceased to exist. For Saturday's autumn show rang down the curtain on an association which has done much to encourage food production for well over 10 years. It was during the late war that, in response to the Government's appeal, the association came into being—then, primarily, to help alleviate the serious food shortage; and latterly during the unsettled peace it has continued this work, although the floral and decorative classes have now outnumbered the humble vegetables. But although this show was their last, members were just as keen to make it the customary success, and entries (207) were well up. The quality of the exhibits also was described as of “a very high standard.” There was a good selection of apples, in spite of it being a poor year for fruit, and there were several first-class dahlias and gladioli. Classes for floral arrangement were well supported and a number of delightful miniatures made a pleasing display.

Two special “Coronation year awards of merit” were made—to Mr. R.A. Rackham for best exhibit in fruit and vegetable classes, and Mrs. B.C. Wilson for the best floral exhibit. The Victory Silver Challenge Cup and *Smallholder* bronze medal for the member gaining highest aggregate points in all vegetable classes in 1953-53 were presented to Mr. O.J. Hambleton, who also won the R.H.S. Banksian medal for the highest total of prize-money in the annual show.

Following the usual custom, there was one class judged by both the judges and popular vote. This was for floral arrangement. Mr. F.H. Carter was the only member of the public whose decision tallied with that of the judges, who awarded first prize to Captain P. Baldwin, W.R.A.C., with Mrs. M.M. Knowles second and Mrs. B.C. Wilson third. According to popular vote, Mrs. Eames was the winner with Captain Baldwin and Miss J.B. Bolton second and third.

Sat 31st Oct

JUMBLE SALE

The jumble sale in the Church House, Wokingham, on Saturday afternoon in aid of the All Saints' Young Wives' Group, realised a profit of £19.

SAVINGS SOCIAL

The Wokingham Street Groups Sub-Committee of the National Savings Committee held their monthly social in the Church House, Wokingham, on Tuesday afternoon.

YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

The weekly meeting of the All Saints' Young Wives' Group, held in the Church House, Wokingham, on Wednesday, was addressed by Mr. Richardson, from St. Dunstan.

ROVER “DEN.”

Mr. E.P.C. Preston, Assistant Commissioner for Rover Crews, officially opened the 5th Wokingham Rover crew's new “den” in the Wiltshire Road on Saturday. The Rover “Vigal Altar” was dedicated by the chaplain to the local association, the Rev. F.A. Steer.

IMPRESSED BY ST. CRISPINS

A party of Dutch journalists said on Monday that they were particularly impressed by St. Crispin's School, especially the first-class equipment in the practical departments. After inspecting the school and watching several classes at work, the party were entertained to tea with the head master, Mr. E. Bancroft.

"SMOG CONSCIOUS"

Although generally afflicted with "smog" many Wokingham people appear to have taken heed of the London Medical Committee's recent recommendation on the making and wearing of masks. One of Wokingham's three chemists has, for the past two or three weeks, had a much greater demand for gauze, and has had to send for further supplies.

METHODIST ANNIVERSARY

The Wokingham Methodist Church anniversary was marked on Wednesday by a concert of sacred music, given by the Crowthorne Methodist choir. Before the concert, the minister, the Rev. H. Ogden, received gifts in the vestry. The concert was presided over by Dr. W.G. Templeman. Supper was afterwards served in the schoolroom. Over £70 was collected, and this will go towards re-equipping the schoolroom with modern tubular-steel chairs.

LADIES' BOWLING CLUB

The Wokingham Ladies' Bowling Club broke away from the traditional dinner when they held their annual prize-giving in their pavilion on Tuesday evening. The function began with a whist drive in the afternoon, and this was followed by supper and a social evening. During the evening the club president, Mrs. E. Thorpe, presented, on behalf of club members, a powder compact to Mrs. D. Beard, as a memento of her year's county presidency. Other trophies and awards were presented as follows: Club championship, Mrs. L. Thorne; handicap championship, Mrs. V. Hoar (runner-up, Mrs. P. Fry); three-wood championship, Mrs. E. Johnson (runner-up, Mrs. D. Beard); pairs, Mrs. R. Banks and Mrs D. Beard (runners-up, Mrs. R. Kennedy and Mrs. P. Fry); knock-out pairs, Mrs. R. Maryon and Mrs E. Johnson (runners-up, Mrs. V. Hoar and Mrs. L Thorne); triples, Mrs. V. Smith, Mrs. E. Paine and Mrs. N. Gear (runners-up, Mrs. E. Thorpe, Mrs. R. Maryon and Mrs. D. Beard); rink, Mrs. V. Smith, Mrs. R. Kennedy, Mrs. J. Bass, Mrs. L. Thorne (runners-up, Mrs. E. Thorpe, Mrs. R. Banks, Mrs. E. Johnson, Mrs. P. Fry); novices cup, Mrs. R. Maryon (runner-up, Mrs. F. Hopkins).

Sat 7th Nov

BOROUGH COAT OF ARMS

In London, early this week, the Town Clerk, Mr. L. Goddard Smalley, received from the Royal College of Arms the coat-of-arms granted to the Wokingham Borough under the Letters Patent by the Kings of Arms. Immediately after receiving the coat-of-arms Mr. Smalley took it to the printers where it will be photographed before being returned in time for the council meeting on Thursday.

Even the Town Clerk himself has not yet had an opportunity to examine closely the arms, but the design is understood to be the same as the last proposal made by the council, viz., a field of acorns on a patent shield, with an ermine chevron representing the royal house in the forest, in the apex of which is a Tudor rose (part of the arms of the two Queens Elizabeth). Surmounting the shield is the customary helmet (visor

closed), and on this, resting on a wreath, is a Saxon crown. Above this is a demi-stag, representing Berkshire, and holding in its forepaws a bishop's crozier—signifying the holding of the town by the Bishop of Salisbury.

The motto is "E Glante Quercus"—"from the Acorn to the Oak."

The decision to apply for a Grant of Arms was made in March.

Sat 14th Nov

PRINCESS MARGARET VISITS DR. BARNARDO'S WOKINGHAM.

CROWDS CHEER THE ROYAL VISITOR

Three New Cottage Homes Inspected

PRINCESS TAKES KEEN INTEREST IN GIRLS' WORK

Wokingham turned out in force to welcome Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret yesterday (Friday) afternoon. Hundreds of schoolchildren given a special half-holiday, thronged the thoroughfares and entrances to High Close, Dr. Barnardo's Home, where the Princess visited three new cottages.

Inside the grounds, children of the home cheered as the Royal visitor arrived by car. Her Royal Highness was received by the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, Mr. H.A. Benyon who presented Mrs. Benyon, the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham (Cllr. W.G. Jackson and Mrs. W.J. Willey), the Town Clerk, Mr. L. Goddard Smalley, the Chief Constable of Berkshire, Commander the Hon. Humphrey Legge, and Mr. A.G.B. Owen, chairman of the council of Dr. Barnardo's Homes, who then presented Mrs. Owen, the Lady Rayleigh, member of the Barnardo council, Mr. F.J. Potter, general secretary, Mr. E.H. Lucette, general superintendent, Miss A.M. Scorrer, Chief Inspector, Children's Branch, Home Office, Mr. J.E.A. Bazalgette, Chief Executive Officer, and the superintendent of the High Close Home, Mr. and Mrs. R.S. Davies.

Big Moment for Mavis

The big moment for fair-haired, blue-eyed, 16-years-old Mavis Rackham came when she presented the Princess with a bouquet of violets and carnations. She had been chosen because she had been at the school longest—six years. For a fortnight Mavis had been practising her courtesy, and although she was rather nervous, everything went off perfectly.

Her Royal Highness was first shown over the main house by Mr. and Mrs. Davies and their three-years-old son, Martin, accompanied by the Lord Lieutenant and Mr. Owen.

Whilst in the main house Mr. Davies presented Miss Lillian Parker, chief matron, and Dr. H.P. Merrick, the medical officer of the home.

Leaving the main house, the Princess walked down the drive to the first cottage, and, before entering, Mr. Owen presented Mr. H. Hall, chief architect of the home, Mr. A.I. Cripps, architect of the new cottages, and Mr. L.A. Sears, a director of the builders. Mr. Davies presented to the Princess Miss Evelyn Neale, the cottage matron.

Cottage Matrons Presented

Her Royal Highness then walked across the main drive through the lines of invited guests to reach the next cottage, where Mrs. Davis presented the cottage matron, Miss Winifred Austin. At the third cottage she met Mrs. Muriel Green, the cottage matron. The girls at each house were gathered at the entrances.

From the third cottage the Princess walked down the drive close to the main gate, where eager crowds pressed forward to get a close-up view of the Princess. As she entered the schoolroom the children really had a good view.

Inside the prefabricated building where the 64 resident girls have their lessons she met the teachers and showed a lively interest in the girls' work which was on show.

Then she returned to the main building, walking between the ranks of the many guests, who showed tremendous enthusiasm.

Outside the general public still lined the streets, waiting until the Princess Margaret drove away, happily waving in response to the cheering crowds.

A description of the Home has already appeared in the Reading Mercury.

5,000 LONDON OVERSPILL

On Thursday the possibility of accepting 5,000 of the overspill population of London was discussed.

Sat 21st Nov

ELECTORAL WARDS

At the Wokingham Town Council meeting on Thursday a motion by Cllr. E.T. Lancaster that the Town Council be instructed to take the necessary steps towards the division of the Borough into six electoral wards was carried by twelve votes to ten.

NEXT WEEK'S FILMS

"Quo Vadis," M.G.M.'s biggest-ever production, can be seen at the Ritz for the whole of next week. How much it cost to make and the number in the cast are two astronomically-high figures that justify M.G.M.'s boast that it is their greatest effort. Even their own set word "colossal" hardly seems strong enough. Robert Taylor, Deborah Kerr, Leo Genn and Peter Ustinov are the main stars.

RE-UNION

Old girls of the Convent of the Presentation, Wokingham, held their annual meeting and re-union at the convent on Sunday. After the customary lunch the association's annual meeting was held under the presidency of Miss Pauline Willis. It was decided that the association should celebrate the jubilee of the convent being founded in Wokingham (1904), but a proposal that this be marked with a dance did not find the required support. The presidents also drew members' attention to the fact that subscriptions were in many cases in arrears, and these should be paid promptly. The meeting was followed by an afternoon of games and competitions. Before leaving, members attended Benediction in the convent chapel.

Sat 5th Dec

DIED IN A GAS-FILLED ROOM (Miss L.J. Baker)

Aged 86 years, Miss Laura Jane Baker was found dead on Thursday morning in a gas-filled room at the house where she was living, 47, Oxford road, Wokingham. A post mortem was held and there will be an inquest on Monday.

SCOUT BAZAAR

The Mayor of Wokingham (Cllr. W.G. Jackson) and the Mayoress (Mrs. W.J. Willey) went to the Church House, Wokingham, on Saturday afternoon to lend their support to the 1st Wokingham (Mayor's Own) Scout Group annual bazaar. Most popular of all the afternoon visitors was Father Christmas. The bazaar was to raise funds for the building of a new headquarters, and Scouts Cubs and parents alike all worked hard to make it a success.

CHRISTMAS SALE

The Baptist Sunday School's first Christmas sale, held in the Milton Road Schoolroom on Saturday, raised over £50. There were many attractive stalls, including one for holiday presents and sideshows. The various departments of the Sunday School also provided entertainment. The primary and junior sections presented plays and the seniors gave a puppet show. The sale was opened by the minister, the Rev. H.M. Ray Smith.

A GOOD TURN

The 5th Wokingham Rover Crew started last week-end doing a good turn that will keep them busy for many months to come. They have agreed to provide the labour to look after the gardens of the five almshouses in Peach Street because of the difficulties that some of the tenants find in doing this themselves. The Rotary Club have agreed to provide the materials. The produce is to be divided between these five tenants and three who live in the almshouses on the other side of the road and have no gardens.

THE ONE-DAY STRIKE

Wednesday's 24-hour strike by engineers made itself felt, directly and indirectly in Wokingham. At the C.F. Taylor (metalworkers) Ltd., factory in Molly Millars Lane, Wokingham, all those employees on aircraft work—about 25—stayed away. For those employees dealing with the normal commercial metalwork "it was work as usual." A spokesman for the firm told the Reading Mercury, that although the strike had caused considerable inconvenience, it was not serious. The indirect effect—at the Radion Heaters works—was far more serious. The non-arrival of certain components for a large export order from Reading manufacturers where workers were "out" meant at least a two-days delay in delivery.

ST. PAUL'S WINTER BAZAAR

Making his second visit to Wokingham on Wednesday, The Right Rev. H.N.V. Tonks opened St. Paul's winter bazaar, held in the Drill Hall. Apart from the official reason for his visit, the bishop said he was glad to be in the town to renew the friendship of the rector, the Ven. Archdeacon Thorndyke Shaw—with whom he had been associated whilst Lord Bishop of the Windward Islands. The Bishop said that because of the way in which the coloured folk had been treated in the past he regarded the work of the church overseas as most important that he thought it would be a good idea if part of the profits from all church sales was devoted to fostering that work. A vote of thanks to the Bishop was proposed by Mr. W.J. Willey. Visitors had a good opportunity of doing some early Christmas shopping—for presents and the festive table.

Sat 12th Dec

CLOCK TOWER

The re-shingling of the clock tower on the Town Hall has cost £63

CLUB OUTING

Over forty members of The Welcome Inn Darts Club visited Her Majesty's Theatre, London, on Wednesday evening to see "Paint Your Wagon."

CHAMBER OF TRADE

The Wokingham and District Chamber of Trade meeting in the Town Hall on Friday last week was devoted to the showing of three films by the Esso Petroleum Company.

CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

Children from Wescott Road, Palmer, Palmer Infant and St. Paul's Schools took part in a "Festival of Christmas" in the Drill Hall, Wokingham, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

NEW OFFICES

The Wokingham Conservative Association have now settled down very comfortably in their new headquarters at No. 8 Rose Street, Wokingham. During the past five years they had been at Denton Lodge, Shute End, Wokingham, but this was at all times a temporary arrangement. Now in the new house they have bought, the Conservatives have the security of tenure they have been lacking and considerably more office space which makes it easy for the Member, the Hon. P.F. Remnant to give interviews to persons seeking his help.

THE LATE MISS L.J. BAKER

Miss L.J. Baker died at her home, 47 Oxford Road, Wokingham on Thursday last week, at the age of 86. She came to Wokingham as a young lady and opened a small private school in 1889. As pupils increased, larger premises were needed, and most of her work was done at Terrace Point, now used as a doctor's surgery. When this again became too small, the school moved to Montague House, where Miss Baker spent the last nine years before her retirement in 1929.

On the foundation of the County Girls' School, she was elected to the Board of Governors, on which she served for many years.

She was actively interested in town affairs and was a most loyal and enthusiastic member of Milton Road Baptist Church where her valuable service will long be remembered. She held many different offices there and probably devoted most time to the work of the Women's Meeting, which she attended until the time of her death.

She supported many Philanthropic societies and was a keen member of the Wokingham Moral Welfare Society. Despite her increasing age she became a regular visitor at the Wokingham Hospital, and for some time she was on the committee of the Friends of the Hospital. Her life was dedicated to the service of others. The funeral service took place at the Baptist Church, Wokingham, on Wednesday, followed by a cremation.

WELFARE FOOD SERVICE

Only one out of every three mothers in Wokingham and district is taking the advantage of the Welfare Food Service and collecting their children's cod liver oil and orange juice from the local food office. The Ministry of Food Welfare Service invited mothers and their young children to the town Hall, Wokingham, on Monday afternoon, when they were given details of the scheme. Many accepted this invitation.

The Mayor and Mayoress (Cllr. W.G. Jackson and Mrs.W.J. Willey) were both present and Ald. E.W. Reeves attended in his capacity as chairman of the local Food Control Committee.

Ald. Reeves pointed out that milk was a child's natural food, but it did not supply all the vitamins that a healthy baby required. The cod liver oil and orange juice supplied under the scheme could make good that deficiency. The Mayor said, that as a

school master, he had noted the improvement in children's health since the scheme was first put into operation.

The deputy regional food officer, Mr. M.E. Eastbrook, also spoke and urged mothers to try and influence those mothers who did not collect their cod liver oil and orange juice to do so.

1954

Sat 6th Feb

MUSEUM PIECES?

Recent gifts to the borough include a set of lantern slides of old Wokingham (showing the old manual fire engine and the old timbered houses in Rose Street, where the food offices now stand) and a collection of black and white reproductions of old Wokingham inn signs, many of which have passed into obscurity.

NEW SEAL

A welcome addition to the Borough of Wokingham's office equipment is the new lever press seal-embossing machine which does away with the troublesome and unsatisfactory method of having to melt and use sealing wax. Used officially for the first time this week the machine incorporates the recently-granted coat-of-arms in a seal approximately two inches in diameter.

Sat 13th Feb

W.E.A. LECTURE

Mr. George Owen gave the eighteenth in his series of lectures, "The National Wealth," in the Town Hall on Friday last week, and dealt with the finance of local government.

FOR THE OLD FOLKS

The Highways and Establishments Committee of the Town Council have accepted an offer by a decorator to re-decorate the kitchen at the Wokingham Town Hall used by old people as a rest room free of cost.

STATISTICS

Deaths of permanent residents in Wokingham between December 20th, 1953, and January 16th, 1954, show a heavy increase over the previous month—14 against four. During the last month six men and eight women died. Of these, one was over 90, four over 80, five over 70, one over 60, two over 50, and one 14-years-old boy. During the same period 10 births were registered—four boys and six girls.

C.E.M.S. MEETING

The All Saints' (Wokingham) branch of the C.E.M.S. held their annual meeting in the Church House, Wokingham, on Thursday. The rector, the Rev. F.A. Steer, presided. Mr. R.S. Davies was elected chairman, and the secretary (Mr. F.W. Green) and treasurer (Mr. W. Jasper) were re-elected. After the meeting members went to the Milton Road Schoolroom, where the Rev. S. Hinton gave a talk to the Men's Contact Fellowship on "Communism and Christianity."

TO "CRY" AT HASTINGS

Mr. H. Banks, Wokingham's Town Crier, has been invited by the *News of the World* to compete in the 1954 National Town Criers' Championship, to be held at Hastings on August 14th. The General Purposes Committee of the Town Council have resolved that his name be entered. Mr. Banks has been Town Crier for the borough since January 1st, 1925, but last year was the first time he competed in the national championships, when he was the oldest entrant, as well as the longest serving town crier.

YOUNG LIBERALS BRANCH

Mr. John McQuade, prospective Liberal candidate for Wokingham, speaking at a meeting held on Saturday, at Church House, Wokingham, to re-form the Wokingham Young Liberals, said: "It is up to the young people to right the errors of elder politicians." He deplored the present political apathy. Mr. Peter Carr, the chairman of the Home Counties Young Liberal Federation spoke in support. Among those present were six Young Liberals from the Denham branch, who gave the new branch a fine send-off. The new secretary is Mr. O.J.P. Sykes, of Pinegrove, Crowthorne.

WEATHER RECORDS

Records show that 1953 was a dry year for Wokingham Borough, the year's total of 21.16 inches being just over 4 ins., less than the average for 53 years, 25.17 ins. The driest year on record was 1921, when only 13.83 ins. was recorded. Wettest day last year was October 31st, when 94 in. was recorded, but this was far less than May 25th, 1911, the wettest day on record, when 1.97 ins. fell. Records show that there were 167.47 days with more than .01 in. of rain.

Lowest temperature during the year was 20 degrees, recorded on February 7th. Highest temperature in 1953 was 87 degrees—on August 12th—six degrees cooler than the highest recorded, on July 29th, 1948.

Sat 20th Feb

SALE OF SAXHAM LODGE

Messrs H.E. Hall & Son, Chartered Auctioneers, Wokingham, submitted Saxham Lodge, Fairview Road, Wokingham, a gentleman's small residence for sale by public auction at the Rose Inn, Wokingham, on Wednesday. Although the property failed to reach the reserve at the auction it was sold immediately afterwards at a satisfactory figure.

READERS' LETTERS

THE WOKINGHAM TOWN HALL CLOCK

Sir,—I was interested in your notes about the Town Hall at Wokingham in the article on Wokingham in your last issue. It is said that the face of the clock from the old building was bought by the vestry of Yately church and placed on the church tower, where it still is. Our old clock had, for about 250 years, only struck the hours, but in 1865 new mechanism was added and the dial purchased. The clock is still substantially the ancient movement of about 1600 and keeps very good time.

SYDNEY I. LOADER

(Church Clerk)

St. Peter's, Yately,

St. Gwithian, Darby Green,

Blackwater, Camberley.

Sat 13th March

NO SALE

Angry housewives marched to the Town Hall, Wokingham, on Thursday after they had waited for over an hour at the Waterloo Restaurant for a sale which was not held. The councillors and officials having left, a number of the women went to register a protest at the police station. The sale was banned by the assistant sanitation inspector, Mr. R.G. Hopkins, as it contravened the Shop Act.

Sat 10th April

BREWERY PREMISES

The Finance Committee of the Wokingham Town Council recommended that the Council purchase the old Wellington Brewery in Denmark Street, Wokingham, subject to the District Valuer's report.

Sat 17th April

LOCAL DRIVER HONOURED

The highest award that can be made to a British racing driver competing in a continental event—the Malcolm Campbell trophy—was presented to Mr. J. Duncan Hamilton, and ex-Fleet Air Arm pilot, now living in Wokingham, and his co-driver, Tony Rolt, by Earl Howe at the Royal Automobile Club on Wednesday, in recognition of their winning last year, the Le Mans 24-hour race. Mr. Hamilton, in a "C" –type Jaguar XK 120 fitted with disc brakes, drove to fourth place in the British Empire trophy race on Saturday after winning his heat, in the class for the largest competing cars.

TO BE RE-SUBMITTED

The petition to Her Majesty the Queen for the division of the borough into six electoral wards has been returned from the office of the Privy Council for re-submission after the forthcoming municipal elections. The official letter states: "It is understood from the Home Office that it will not now be possible for a scheme to be prepared and come into operation in time for this year's elections. I am to suggest that having regard to the proposed apportionment of councillors, your council may wish to consider deferring the re-submission of the petition until after the elections have been held."

Sat 12th June

STOP!

The Ministry of Transport have granted permission for a "Halt" sign to be erected in Milton Road.

FIRE IN BOILER HOUSE

Wokingham firemen were called to Clare Court, Glebelands Road, Wokingham, on Wednesday, to extinguish a small fire in a basement boiler house.

PERMISSION GRANTED

The Public Health Committee of the Wokingham Town Council have resolved that the Havelock Rovers F.C. be allowed to play on the Barkham Road Recreation Ground next season.

EXPENSIVE WEATHER

The exceptionally heavy rainstorm on Saturday afternoon, and the unsettled weather over the whole of the holiday period, reduced the profits of the Martin's Swimming Pool by about £200 it was estimated this week by the pool manager, Mr. C.H.J. Mackie. This was, for Mr. Mackie, his last Bank Holiday at the pool, where he has been manager for the past six years, as his resignation comes into effect at the end of this month. Mr. Mackie said he is looking forward to having a summer holiday—the first in 13 years.

Sat 19th June

TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the Wokingham Townswomen's Guild, held in the Wokingham Club on Tuesday, was Mr. A.R. Lucas. He spoke about English wildlife.

"ORANGE-BOX T.T."

An "Orange-Box T.T." will be one of the features of the Wokingham Carnival. This is being run by Boy Scouts, and will be open to Scouts from all over the county. Entry forms can be obtained from the organising secretary, 101, Finchampstead Road, Wokingham.

NEW G.S.M.

It has been announced that Mr. S.G. Butcher has been appointed acting Group Scout Master of the 1st Wokingham (Mayor's Own) Group of Boy Scouts, in succession to Mr. J.B. Freeland, who recently moved to Guildford. Mr. V.L. Smart will be the Scout Master.

NEW HOME WANTED

The 1st Wokingham (Mayor's Own) Scout Group are under notice to leave their present headquarters by the end of the month, and urgently require somewhere to store their camping equipment. Anyone with a shed not being used is asked to communicate with Mr. John Butcher, of 8, Peach Street, Wokingham.

FLOODS

Saturday's heavy rain (.88 in.) resulted in flooding in Patten Ash Drive, Rances Lane, Waterloo Road, Molly Millars Lane, Wiltshire Road, and at Toutley. The River Emm rose until water reached the height of the bridge in Finchampstead Road. Saturday's rain was light in comparison with the previous Saturday, when 1.26 in. fell in the Wokingham area.

WOKINGHAM JUNIOR SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

On Saturday the Wokingham Junior Sports and Social Club paid a visit to West Reading Youth Club for a games tournament table tennis, darts and billiards being played. After very close and sportingly contested games the Wokingham club proved winners by 14 games to 12. Mr. David Goddard expressed the thanks of the Wokingham members for the welcome extended.

CYCLE TRIAL

Seventeen members of Boys' Clubs from Bracknell, Bear Wood, Ascot, Windsor and Crowthorne competed in a 9¼-mile cycle time trial in the Nine-Mile-Ride—Finchampstead Ridges area on Wednesday. Best time was put up by 19-years-old T. Naggs, of Bracknell, who returned in 23 minutes. Of the under 18's the fastest time was recorded by James Claridge, also of Bracknell, who finished in 23 minutes 11 seconds. Fastest time of the under 16's was an Ascot boy, P.F. Haines, who clocked 24 minutes 35 seconds. Those with the best times will be competing in the county championships at Burghfield on July 17th.

SECOND IN GRAND PRIX

In one of the most exciting finishes of the Grand Prix of Endurance—the 24-hours long gruelling race at Le Mans on Sunday—a Wokingham driver, Mr. J. Duncan Hamilton, only narrowly failed—with his partner, Tony Rolt—in capturing victory for the second successive year for the works-entered Jaguar. After an all-out bid to catch the winning Ferrari, which had been leading practically throughout the race, he was beaten by 1¾ minutes. Last year this same pair drove Britain's racing green to victory at a record average speed of 105.85 m.p.h., slightly faster than this year's winning average, 105.16 put up by Foilan Gonzales and Maurice Trintignant. Had it not been for trouble with the fuel supply, Hamilton and Rolt would have stood a far greater chance of gaining another win.

EX-SERVICE MEN'S CLUB

Meeting Applies The Closure

The Wokingham Ex-service Men's Club faced its Dunkirk on Saturday—and did not survive. At an extraordinary general meeting of the club it was decided--by 11 votes to four—that the club be closed as from the following day. The meeting had been asked to consider a resolution from the Executive Committee that the club be closed “in view of the increasing losses, and the marked reduction in support by the members.”

A WOKINGHAM ESTATE

Sale By Auction Of Heathlands

The 425 acres Heathlands Estate, Wokingham, formerly the home of the late Mrs W. Howard Palmer, was offered for sale by auction in the Wokingham Town Hall on Monday afternoon at the first property auction to be held in the hall. Of the 25 lots, 20 found buyers and realised a total of £27, 550. The sale, conducted by Mr. Tom Vincent, for Messrs. Nicholas, of Reading, attracted considerable interest, and there was a large attendance. The main residence standing in 22 acres of ground was bought in by the auctioneers for £12,000, and remains for sale by private treaty.

Of the two farms—Heathlands and Ravenswood—the former was sold for £12,000 whilst the latter, of 110 acres and slightly the smaller, remained unsold.

Heath Lake, extending to seven acres, and a further 82 acres, including much timber (mostly Scots pine) did not find a market.

The gardener's five-roomed bungalow cottage realised £2,000, but the walled garden and vegetable garden (in all over two acres) did not change hands. Four Houses, Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, Edneys Hill, went for £1,200, £1,000 £1,550 and £900 respectively. The bungalow, Honey Hill, realised £850, and an attractive country bungalow known as “The Shack” was purchased for £1,200. A detached bungalow, “Lilac Cottage,” and small country holding was knocked down at £910, and nearby

“Rose Cottage” realised £725. The post office and general stores on the cross-roads at St. Sebastian’s was sold for £900.

Various plots of land were offered and realised sums upwards of £425.

Sat 17th July

SALVAGE

The Wokingham Town Council sold ten tons of waste paper during May.

PREVENTION IS BETTER

A sink and taps and two doors having been stolen from a sanitary block at Toutley Camp, the Housing Committee have resolved that all unwanted fittings at the camp be sold.

ROTARY CLUB

At the weekly luncheon of the Rotary Club of Wokingham held on Thursday last week, the guest speaker was Major R. Brett, of the United States Air Force. His subject was P.O.W. camps in Korea, and the vote of thanks was recorded by Rotarian John True.

THE RUNAWAY

Apparently quite unconcerned, a dog sat quite motionless in the driving seat of a cart as the pony pulling it bolted in Peach Street and London Road on Monday morning. The runaway was chased down the London Road by a man on a bicycle. It then turned, raced back towards the town and turned off into Wiltshire Road, where it was finally halted.

WOKINGHAM REVISITED

A welcome will be extended tomorrow (Sunday) to C.S.M. Clover, of the Salvation Army, who will visit the town to conduct the evening meeting in the Salvation Army Hall. Mr. Clover will be remembered as Captain Clover, who came to Wokingham 24 years ago to re-establish the Salvation Army in the town. He is now at Oldham.

GARDEN FETE

The Sonning Deanery Moral Welfare Association held their annual garden fête in the grounds of “Sherwood,” Murdoch Road, Wokingham, on Saturday, by permission of Mrs. I.M. Glennie. During the afternoon students of the Easthampstead Park Training College presented a one-act “thriller”—“The Monkey’s Paw.” It is expected that about £48 will be raised for the association funds.

STUDENTS’ LUNCHEON

To mark the end of the full-time day commercial course at the Institute of Further Education, Montague House, Wokingham, on Wednesday, the students held their second “going down” luncheon. This pleasant function was organised by the students themselves and attended by about 35 people. Principal guests were the Mayor, Cllr. R.H. Brimblecombe, the Hon. Mrs. Corfield (chairman of the local advisory committee which runs the institute), and Mr. B.E. Scott, chairman of the Easthampstead R.D.C. The toast to the Institute was proposed by Miss J. Collins and responded to by the Hon. Mrs. Corfield; that to the guests proposed by Miss J. Barker and acknowledged by the Mayor.

CARNIVAL QUEEN CHOSEN

At a ball held specially for the occasion, Wokingham's 1954 Carnival Queen was chosen in the Drill Hall, Wokingham, on Wednesday. She is dark-haired 17½-years-old Miss Audrey Frost, of The Diamond, Barkham Road, Wokingham. Miss Frost's attendants will be Miss June Pither (16), of 51, Rose Street, Wokingham, a clerk at Radio Heaters, Ltd., and Miss Freda Merritt (18), of 98, Wescott Road, Wokingham, employed by Clifford and Sons, dairy men, of Peach Street, Wokingham. The judges were Miss Sydney Walker, compère of the Carroll Levis production, "Stairway to Stardom," and Tommy and Sylvia Snapp, from the same show. They were introduced by the Mayor, Cllr. R.H. Brimblecombe.

OVER 75s ENTERTAINED

A garden party was held in the grounds of Cantley, Wokingham, on Wednesday—a garden party with a difference. The host, 76-years-old Mr. P.O. Watson, had given an open invitation to all the "over 75s" in Wokingham and district, and had the pleasure of entertaining 100 of them. With his housekeeper, Miss F. Rossell, Mr. Watson, one of the "youngest "over 75s" present, saw that their friends had everything they needed, and the clerk of the weather had provided brilliant summer sunshine, with just a cooling breeze. To Mrs Seaward, the oldest lady in the company, Mr. Watson himself presented a bouquet of carnations and scabious. During the afternoon the Embrook W.I. presented a one-act play, "Repent At Leisure," and there were a number of competitions. Mr. Watson was thanked by Ald. S.L. Bowyer.

Sat 24th July

SCOUTMASTER RETIRES

Mr. Godfrey Moles, Scoutmaster of the 5th Wokingham Group of Boy Scouts, has resigned from that post.

OLD FOLKS' OUTING

Members of the Wokingham No. 2 Branch of the National Federation of Old Age Pensioners enjoyed an outing to Southend on Wednesday.

AFTERNOON TOUR

Two coachloads of members of the Wokingham Women's Meeting enjoyed a sight-seeing tour in the Berkshire countryside on Tuesday afternoon.

SAVERS SOCIAL

The Wokingham Street Groups Sub-Committee of the National Savings Committee held their monthly social in the Church House on Tuesday.

Sat 14th Aug

ALL THAT GLISTERS

The Mayoral chain is to be re-gilded, the Finance Committee of the Town Council have resolved. The Mayoress's chain and the Mace are also to be repaired.

Sat 21st Aug

OUTING

The patrons of the Ship Inn, Wokingham, enjoyed an outing to Brighton on Sunday.

NEW STREET NAMED

The new street on the line of the drive now known as Buzzacott Hall Drive is to be called "Frog Hall Drive."

TOWN GUIDE

Now on sale is the recently re-written Official Guide to Wokingham which bears the borough coat of arms in colour. In addition to a historical sketch of the town and much interesting local information it contains notes on many of Wokingham's interesting neighbours. Profusely illustrated, it also has a very useful street map. It was prepared by the Town Clerk, Mr. L. Goddard Smalley.

DEATH OF FORMER RESIDENT

Well known in Wokingham for many years, Mr. F. Lee, licensee of Ye Olde Cricketers, Maidenhead, died on Thursday, last week, aged 56. Mr. F. Lee—brother of Mr. Harold Lee—was formerly employed at Messrs. Heelas, Wokingham, and also kept the Embrook Post Office Stores. The funeral was at St. Mary's Church, Maidenhead on Wednesday, and was followed by cremation at Reading. Mr. Lee is survived by a widow, one daughter (at present abroad) and two sons.

Sat 28th Aug

FIRST HORTICULTURAL WOKINGHAM

B.B.C. Send Newsreel Cameras

DOGS AND HORSES AN ADDED ATTRACTION

Over 2,000 people flocked to Frog Hall Meadow, London Road, Wokingham, on Saturday for the Wokingham Horticultural Association's first show and gymkhana—and had it not been for the ever present threat of rain the attendance might well have been up to the hoped for 3,000. As it was the rain held off until the prize-giving which came late in the programme, and did not mar the show itself.

Those who went to the showground were amply rewarded, for in what was undoubtedly the largest show of its kind to be held in the town for many years there was something to interest everybody. And not only local enthusiasts were interested, for the B.B.C. sent their newsreel cameras down to give it an even wider audience.

Although run by a horticultural association, the exhibits in the main tent covered a wide field. The vegetables were well to the fore, of course (and, in view of the recent weather the quality was very good, reported the judges), but the flowers were, as everywhere showing signs of a bad summer. There was not a great number of entries in the livestock and poultry sections, but the standard was high. There was an interesting exhibit by the Wokingham Bee-Keepers' Society (it is noteworthy that in the honey sections most of the class-winning exhibits had been sent by rail from Yorkshire, and to Mr. D. Robinson, of York, they will be returned with a silver challenge tankard). Considerable interest was aroused in this tent—not only amongst the juniors—by the model aeroplanes, both solid and flying.

Nestling in one corner, dwarfed but not overshadowed by the large gladioli, were the miniature floral arrangements—which this year had attracted a record number of entries. In the floral arrangement classes too, there was much artistic work on view, particularly by Mrs. B.C. Wilson (who has had success in the nation-wide *Evening News*' show, also at the Royal Windsor Rose Show) and Mrs. Knowles.

The dog shows were as popular as ever with the crowds, and these attracted 60 entries.

Gymkhana Attraction

The gymkhana was managed by the High Beech Riding Stables, and attracted the usual large crowd. During the morning riders of all ages displayed their prowess before the judges—Mrs. David Bourne, Miss Sybil Smith, Lieut.-Col Isles, and Mr. George Cazalet—in the best rider competition for the Starmead Challenge Cup. Mr. R.D. Hensley, riding Jelbi, gave a cadenced display to win the trophy, whilst several other riders provided strong opposition. Before lunch the children's jumping was filmed by the B.B.C. television newsreel, the winner being Miss Marion Hensley, with Carol Barnes a close runner-up. To open the afternoon programme in the gymkhana ring there was a first-class fancy-dress parade, which was also "shot" by the B.B.C. One of the highlights of the day was the junior jumping. After several clear rounds two riders and their ponies began to make their personality felt. Miss Tina Adams, on the wonderful little jumper Sunday, and Miss Margaret Hunt on Romany dominated the second round with their totally different styles, the latter winning after a jump-off in which both rode well. The judges awarded a special prize to Miss Marion Hensley for a clear first round, after she had taken the wrong course.

Providing novel entertainment during the afternoon were the Reading and District Model Aircraft Club with their control-line flying display—and to further interest the crowd, the Reading Archers showed their toxophilic skill. Favourites at many local shows, the children of the Le Roy School of Dancing gave an attractive performance.

An unusual, but appreciated attraction was the facility for having water-colour sketches executed on the ground of horses and dogs, and for this Mrs. Dulcie Vaughan had many clients.

For patrons who wanted a unique view of the show, the Blackbushe Flying Club had arranged pleasure flights for 15s., and the noise of the Proctor aircraft circling overhead became an accepted part of the day's proceedings.

Also on the programme were various sideshows, children's races and the inevitable bowling for a pig. Amongst those who attended were the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham (Cllr. and Mrs. R.H. Brimblecombe).

WOKINGHAM GOES GAY FOR CARNIVAL

Revival Of Beating-The-Bounds Ceremony

LAUGHTER KEPT AWAY THE RAIN

All roads led to Wokingham on Wednesday for the main effort of the town's Carnival Week. From early morning until late at night gaiety and revelry was the order of the day, and everyone joined in, including thousands of visitors for miles around. Early in the morning the ceremony of beating the bounds was carried out after a lapse of 19 years, and among the "victims" was the Mayor (Cllr. R.H. Brimblecombe), who received a hearty bumping at the boundary post in Sandhurst Road.

Two of the day's outstanding attractions were the crowning of the Carnival Queen (Miss Audrey Frost) and the procession through the streets in the evening. A carnival ball wound up the day.

The carnival spirit had already made itself felt by Tuesday evening, when over 2,000 revellers thronged the Market Square to witness the "pub-to-pub" pram race.

Early on Wednesday the town throbbing with activity, and at the heart of it all—the Market Square—a cacophony of hooters and squeakers, rattles and bells, whistles and drums provided a deafening announcement of what was to follow during the day.

Raggers, in exotic costumes, were everywhere, persuading visitors to buy programmes and to help fill their collecting boxes. As the day's programme of events

got under way the traffic, which had received warnings of the carnival on the main approaches to the town, was frequently brought to a standstill. And to accompany the laughter which over-ran the town there came, after a few early spots of rain, welcome sunshine.

A “Shave” For The Mayor

Carnival Day began, appropriately enough, with a Reveille call which summoned raggars to their briefing point outside the Town Hall. Over loudspeakers, cheerful music began to draw the attention to the town centre. And here, to their amusement and delight, their chief citizen, the Mayor (Cllr. R.H. Brimblecombe), was the victim of one of the first stunts of the day. He was hauled up on to a platform and underwent a treatment that looked—even if it was not—very uncomfortable for him. A bunch of raggars, using an outsize wooden razor and a whitewash brush, gave him a shave that he will not easily forget. Among other discomforts he experienced was one that would have gladdened the heart of Sweeney Todd. The mayoral throat was efficiently “cut” and the red velvet used for effect proved a satisfactory substitute for what in serious circumstances would have been blood.

Hardly had he recovered from this “onslaught” than he found himself being escorted to the borough boundary for the ceremony of the beating the bounds, which had not been carried out in the town since 1935.

To describe it as a “bumper” success would not be inaccurate, because, still dishevelled from his earlier experiences, the Mayor received a hearty bumping beside the boundary post in Sandhurst Road. A similar fate awaited his predecessor, Cllr. A.T. Ilott, who is vice-chairman of the carnival committee.

While the Mayor returned to the Town Hall, the beating party toured the bounds and reported that all was quiet. Ten o’clock saw the start of the balloon race. The Mayor released the first balloon, and as it soared skywards, bigger by far than any of the other balloons in the competitions, a little group of amateur meteorologists watched its flight with satisfaction. As it soared higher so did their hopes of a fine day, and sure enough, by mid-afternoon the weather was really benevolent. Nine-years-old Heather Ruff, daughter of the organisation secretary, Mr. Peter Ruff, assisted the Mayor to release the first balloon.

A parade through the town by the Farnborough St. John Ambulance Pipe Band culminated in the Market Square with an impressive display of Highland dancing, which attracted so many people that buses and other vehicles had to be re-routed.

The children, of course, were not forgotten, and among the many attractions provided for their amusement were a Punch and Judy show and a colourful puppet show stage by a Well-known entertainer, Dick Giles.

Crowning Of The “Queen”

Not surprisingly, it was the crowning of the Carnival Queen, attractive Audrey Frost, which drew the biggest crowd. Looking radiant in her full-length white gown, and deep red cloak, she arrived with her attendants, Margaret Naish and June Pither, just as the sun came out for the first time. Waiting to receive her were the Mayor and Mayoress, the deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr. W.G. Jackson and Mrs. W.J. Willey, Police Superintendent A. East and Mr. Peter Ruff.

For probably the last time in his long career as Wokingham’s official Town Crier 74-years-old M. Harry Banks made a public appearance at the ceremony. After her had called for silence, the Mayor invited the Mayoress to crown the Queen.

There was a record entry for the children’s fancy dress parade. Over 160 children in costumes that had obviously been designed with skill and considerable thought (mainly by their parents) paraded before several thousand people on the Wokingham

C.C. Field. There were four classes for children up to twelve years and in each, judges found their job a difficult one.

The procession

It was undoubtedly the carnival procession in the evening which the crowds were most anxious to see. But although many of the gaily-decorated vehicles and tableaux were most impressive, and the people manning them obviously enthusiastic, the procession as a whole, did not equal the standard of previous years. But the procession, which extended for a mile, was nevertheless colourful.

It was led by a remarkable line of veteran cars (only one of which, surprisingly enough, met with any difficulty along the route) followed by two cars carrying the Mayor and Mayoress and their deputies. Behind them, in an open landau, came the "Queen" for a day, Miss Audrey Frost, and her retinue. Six bands provided stirring marching music.

Some of the tableaux in the procession were cleverly presented. Among the outstanding entries were an illustration of the recent R.S.P.C.A. attempts to rescue Sally, the seal who was found with a motor-tyre round its neck, and the local Boy Scouts' idea of a Viking boat and crew. A topical note was struck by the Wokingham borough group, which put on view the vehicle which caused them to cancel a trip to Switzerland when it broke down in France.

Antique horse-drawn vehicles, horsemen and women in fancy dress and bareback riders from a nearby circus gave a special thrill to the younger people in the watching crowds. And, of course, there were plenty of laughs as penny-farthing bicycles, competitors from the previous day's pram race, and many weirdly-dressed pedestrians released rainbow-coloured streamers and balloons.

Carnival Ball

To round off Carnival Day there was a ball at the Drill Hall (with music provided by Norman Hackett and his band), carnival dances at the British Legion Hall and the Waterloo Restaurant, and an old-time ball at California, which went on till 1 a.m.

In connection with the carnival, shopkeepers in the town were invited to take part in a shopping week. This consisted of a window-dressing competition in which points were awarded for carnival atmosphere, originality, selling appeal, cleanliness and show ticketing and detail. A panel of independent specialists judged the windows on Wednesday morning. Although the entries were considerably down on previous years, and the standard considered not as high, the judges found competition just as keen.

Special Service

On Sunday, the Rev. R.S. Owens conducted a special service in All Saints Church, Wokingham, attended by the Mayor and Mayoress. Later that evening the Mayor was among those who enjoyed a concert given in the Langborough Road Recreation Ground by the St. Sebastian's Parish Band.

Monday evening was, for the children at least, a foretaste of Carnival Day itself. Over 200 filled the Drill Hall for a fancy dress party, organised again by Mr. and Mrs. R. Maddams. Almost all the children were in costume. Enjoying themselves as much as the children, at times it seemed even more so, were the two clowns—Smokey and Hampe—who have made themselves great local favourites since the circus came to town. Dick Giles and his puppets were much appreciated, and the conjurer too delighted the kiddies.

Sat 11th Sept

PRIDE IN HIS WORK
FIFTY YEARS A BLACKSMITH

For fifty years now, old Fred Painter has been bending over his anvil in the Blacksmith's shop in Peach Street, Wokingham, attending with pride and skill to the shoes of countless horses. And fifty years, as most will agree, is a long time to stay in one place doing the same job—especially one that demands above average strength.

“You've got to be as fit as the animal you have to deal with,” Fred will tell his many visitors. And he will show them a scar behind his right ear which is a permanent reminder of a day many years ago that a horse kicked out in protest at what Fred was engaged to do. But the horse did not win the argument. Fred had to give it new shoes and it did not leave the shop until it had them well and truly nailed on.

Strangely enough, it was a midget-sized pony that caused Fred the most trouble he has ever experienced.

“Do you know, that pony jumped on my back to avoid being shoed?”, said Fred. “But I never gave up. He tired of his antics sooner than me.”

There was a time when Fred put on no fewer than 400 shoes a week. There were always horses in the shop and five men to attend them. In fact, there were once seven blacksmiths in various parts of Wokingham. Today, Fred and one other on the edge of the town are the sole survivors of their trade.

Unchanged

Everything else changes but the blacksmith's shop. That is an undeniable fact. At 69, Fred is using the same tools, the same forge and making shoes in exactly the same way that he did when he gave up a job with a firm of engineers to become an apprentice “blackie.”

The sad thing is that because everything else changes and horses are replaced by mechanical vehicles and machines, Fred's 150-years-old shop is often empty. He has no reason to keep his forge burning as fiercely as it once did. If he is lucky he will, perhaps have to put on forty shoes in a wee. His customers are mainly riding or hunting establishments. Today, only one local tradesman—a baker—sends his horse to Fred. The rest send their vans to the garage.

Fred is still fit and there is plenty of work in him yet. But there must, he admits, come a time when he will have to close the shop. And when he does, it will be unhappily permanent, for there is no son or assistant to carry on the business.

Till then, the sound of his anvil and the glow of his forge will continue to arouse the curiosity of sightseers who could be forgiven (in such an age) for thinking of horseshoes not as things which provide a man with his livelihood, but rather as lucky charms.

1914-18 KINDNESS REMEMBERED

Canadian Gift To Bear Wood Church

Just over 39 years ago Mr. and Mrs. John Walter placed their mansion house at Bear Wood at the disposal of the Canadian Government, and in September 1915, it became a hospital and convalescent home for wounded Canadian troops.

Before it closed, in August 1918, over 20,000 had rested and recovered there. The generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Walter was never forgotten by Canada, neither was the hospitality afforded the patients by the villagers. It was a debt that could not be settled with money, for kindness is not bought. But when, years afterwards, the General Synod of the Church of England in Canada heard that the picturesque little church of St. Catherine's, Bear Wood, was in need of restoration and parish funds were low they acted promptly. As the former Bishop of Reading, the Right Rev. A.G. Parham, told the congregation on Sunday, the Synod's gift of about £2,000 had gone far towards removing the anxieties of those who were responsible for the fabric of the church.

Tablet Unveiled

During the service, in the presence of the High Commissioner for Canada, the Right Hon. Norman Robertson, the Bishop unveiled a tablet commemorating the generous assistance given by the Primate and the General Synod of the Church of England in Canada towards the restoration of the church, in memory of the services rendered by it to the Canadian Convalescent Hospital during the first world war.

The special service was conducted by the rector, the Rev. J. Brooksbank Moore, and the lessons were read by Sir Campbell Stuart and Mr. John Walter.

After the service, the High Commissioner inspected the guards-of-honour from the local branch of the British Legion, and from the Canadian Veterans' Association of the United Kingdom. The latter were also given the opportunity of meeting Mr. Walter, and it was fitting that three of them should have been at the hospital. Of these Mr. John A. Knight, of Windsor, Ontario, and Mr. A.W. Ellis, of Winnipeg, were patients, and Mr. W. Scott, of Montreal, was on the staff. Although none could remember meeting at the hospital, there was a great possibility that Mr. Scott had met the others, for he was dealing with the admission of patients.

Before leaving many of the Canadians paid their respects at the graves of six of their countrymen, resting beneath simple stones and freshly-placed flowers.

FOOTNOTE: the rector said afterwards that the work of restoration (which has been mainly confined to the roof) is not yet complete, and about £500 more is needed for the completion.

Sat 30th Oct

POLICE PROMOTION

Now in Wokingham as a police sergeant is Arthur Greenway, who has been promoted to replace Sgt. J. Davis, who is moving to Shinfield. Mr. Greenway joined the force in 1938, and comes from Wantage.

STORM DAMAGE

Saturday night's heavy rain caused considerable damage in the town. Worst-hit premises were those of Mr. F.J.A. Wright, in Broad Street, where the damage was said to be over £200.

WANTED—600 NEW SAVERS

The Wokingham Rural District Savings Committee were represented at the National Savings Rally in the Royal Festival Hall, London, on Tuesday by Mrs. Winifred Read, of Shinfield. The rural district target is 600 new savers.

ROTARY CLUB

At the Wokingham Rotary Club luncheon, held on Thursday last week, the guest speaker was Wing Commander R.C. Crabbe, whose subject was "Twenty-five years in the Royal Air Force." The vote of thanks was given by Rotarian E.A. Dinham.

DANISH VISITORS

The Salvation Army Hall, Wokingham, was decorated in red with flowers over the week-end as a tribute to Colonel and Mrs. Ronager, from Denmark, who conducted the anniversary meetings. On Monday a programme of music was given by the Reading Central songster Brigade.

POPPY DAY APPEAL

Gen. Sir Frank Messervy, chairman of the Wokingham branch committee of the British Legion writes: I am just back from the unveiling of the war memorial at El Alamein, in which ceremony of honour to the dead you will all have joined in your thoughts and prayers. You will remember that Field-Marshal Montgomery, in his address said that three keywords stood out in the lesson left by those who fought: "Forward—Together—Victory." Let us remember those words during this week of remembrance. Let us go forward together with victory over disability and distress of those who suffer for our peace and security, by giving more generously than ever to Poppy collections. Donations may be sent to Mr. Payne, Barclays Bank, Wokingham.

CHURCH HALL PROJECT ABANDONED.

The parochial council of All Saints Church, Wokingham, have decided—on grounds of prohibitive cost—to abandon the project of building a church hall in Forest Road, Wokingham. Between 1938 and 1945 just over £1,100 was collected for this purpose (and to which must now be added £400 interest) so that the total amount to be disposed of is now about £1,500. A letter has been sent to personal subscribers—where known—asking for their approval to transfer the gift to the Church House, Easthampstead Road, Repair Fund, the All Saints' Church Structural Repair Fund or to a specified Church Fund. Where the subscribers are known to have died the money will be divided equally between the two funds mentioned, unless the executors direct otherwise. Untraceable gifts and collections, will be invested in a trustee security and the interest will be sent to provide limited transport, until further notice, for the residents of Forest Road, and other outlying areas, who wish to attend the church.

W.I. BAZAAR AND OLD ENGLISH MARKET

On Saturday a successful bazaar and old English market, arranged by the Women's Institute, was held in the New Hall. Stalls were set under decorated umbrellas and small tents, and others were arranged in garden settings. The president, Mrs. L.G. Murray, presided. The vicar, the Rev. A.C. Wilson, congratulated the Institute. The opening ceremony was performed by one of the oldest members, Mrs. R. Hawkins, who said she hoped that the bazaar would be the first of many. Miss Margaret Cooper, the youngest member, presented Mrs. Hawkins with a bouquet from the members, also Mrs. L.G. Murrey with a bouquet from the bazaar committee and helpers. All the stallholders wore picturesque costumes.

Sat 13th Nov

A BERKS WOMAN'S DIARY WOKINGHAM PLANS TO HELP OLD PEOPLE

After eight years of planning, waiting and hoping, the Wokingham Area Housing Society are within sight of their goal—to provide accommodation for elderly people of slender means. Final plans are now in process of being approved, the builder is ready, the site is available, and the society are hopeful that their first tenants will be able to move in by the end of March 1955.

The society, an organisation with charitable status, was formed in 1946 by Miss G.M. Godsall, former Rural District councillor, with the idea of converting an existing house into small self-contained units for elderly—though able-bodied—people. Later, it was realised that the best scheme was to have a specially-designed building erected, and the society have worked towards this end.

Pleasant Outlook

A site on Finchampstead Road, Wokingham, has been given by Mr. P. Vaughan-Morgan. The land is now being farmed by his daughter, Miss I. Vaughan-Morgan, a member of the society, and the future tenants will have a pleasant southerly outlook on to her pastures.

The building has been designed as a terraced ground-floor construction, providing accommodation for twelve tenants—eight, single and two double units. A unit comprises a living-room with bed recess, kitchenette and bathroom, with a second bedroom for the double units.

In each unit French windows on the south side give on to the garden, and in the Finchampstead Road side the front doors are sheltered so that the tenant may sit and watch the world go by. Each coal store is accessible from outside and inside. The entire building will be centrally heated, though the units will have a modern continuous-burning grate in the living room. Cooking and hot water will be by electricity. With possible visitors or illness in mind, the society are providing a guest room, for which a small charge will be made.

Individual Homes

No communal rooms are to be built—“these are to be individual homes,” says Miss Godsall, chairman of the society, “without any hostel atmosphere.” Only fit and active people will be selected as tenants, but to ensure some supervision in case of minor illness or accident, a retired nurse will be among them.

Cost of the scheme is expected to be about £10,000, of which most will be raised by loan from the local authority. Once established it must be self-supporting, with rents at an economic figure. “We make no secret of the fact that we have a means test,” Miss Godsall told me. “and when I mention it to any would-be tenants, they are quite frank about telling me their incomes.” The housing scheme is a long-standing ambition of Miss Godsall, who first realised the need for this long before the war.

The Aims

She has trained herself in housing matters through work on local housing authorities and by practical experience. “We aim to house those for whom no special provision is at present made by local authorities,” she said. “There is much hardship among elderly men and women struggling to live on tiny pensions and small savings, and to whom privacy matters a great deal. We feel that our scheme may be the answer to their problems.” The Wokingham Area Housing Society believe that they are the first to request the use of the loan powers of Berkshire County Council for housing societies.

FEMINA

Sat 11th Dec

SALVAGE

The Wokingham Town Council have sold four tons of waste paper—for £24—the Public Health Committee were told at their November meeting.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

A mass radiography unit is to visit Wokingham on January 24th for three weeks, and will probably be stationed in the forecourt of Montague house, Broad Street.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

A Christmas party was held in the Salvation Army Hall, Wokingham, on Monday. An

unusual item in the programme was a piano trio, and other entertainment was provided by the members of the Reading Central Torchbearers.

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The Palmer School Parent-Teacher Association held a successful whist drive at the school on Tuesday evening, the M.C. being Mr. Frank Carter. Over £6 was raised for the children's Christmas Party.

NATIVITY PLAY

About thirty young students of the School of the Convent of the Presentation, Easthampstead Road, Wokingham, took part in a nativity play in the school on Monday afternoon. Senior girls formed the choir.

FOR NEW GATES

A jumble sale in the Church House, Wokingham, on Friday last week and a "Village Shop" in the Wokingham Town Hall on Saturday each raised just over £14 for the fund to provide new gates for the graveyard at All Saints' Church, Wokingham. Both functions were organised by Miss S.M. Finch.

NEW SAVERS SIGN

Surmounting a pole, erected in the Wokingham Market Place on Monday, is a red, white and blue target bearing the figure "600." This represents the number of new national savers the local committee hope to recruit before the end of March next year. Each hundred will be signified by an electric light switched on during normal "lighting-up" hours.

FLOODING

Heavy rain caused a considerable amount of local flooding in the Wokingham area on Wednesday. In the Easthampstead Road on Wednesday. In the Finchampstead Road on Wednesday evening policemen came to the rescue of several pedestrians and carried them through the worst of the flooding. In Rances Lane, Waterloo Road and Patten Ash Drive, water was at times several inches deep, and there was also heavy flooding at Arborfield, and in Matthewsgreen Road.

TOY SERVICE

At the schoolroom in the Milton Road, Wokingham, on Sunday, the Rev. H.M. Ray Smith received from boys and girls of the Baptist Sunday School toys and books for the annual "toy service." These gifts, with similar items from the primary department of the school, were sent to a London church, for distribution among needy children. The service was conducted by the Sunday School superintendent, Miss I. Evry, and the address was given by Mrs. George Andrews. The lesson was read by Master Christopher Woods.

A RECORD CATCH

It is not for nothing that anglers have the reputation of being tellers of tall stories. Very often their arms outstretch credulity. And for that reason, 15-years-old Arthur William Cardrick, of 109, London Road, Wokingham, has sent his latest catch to be mounted in a glass case—for he knows there would, in its absence, be many reproving glances as he told how, on Saturday, he caught the giant pike he has been tempting for years. Using a light rod with a line of only 8½ lbs. breaking strain—and without

landing net or gaff—he succeeded in taking a 21 lbs. Pike from Buzzacott Lake, a short distance from his home. The pike was 43 inches long and had a girth of 19 inches. It took a quarter-of-an hour's hard struggle for Arthur to land his catch, which had snapped at one roach too many—this one being impaled on a treble hook. The weight of the fish was verified by the secretary of the Twyford and District Fishing Club, Mr. G. Miles, of 4, South Place, Wokingham, and among the witnesses was Mr. J. Buzzacott, from whose lake it was taken. Although young in years, Arthur is already something of a veteran angler, for he has enjoyed fishing ever since he was old enough to hold a line, and in this respect follows in his father's footsteps. One might say that he has now overtaken Mr. Cardrick, for the latter stated that he had never made such a day's fine catch [the following is out of context] was not his son's first catch, and doubted if he would. Saturday success, however, for he held the previous record for the lake with an 8½ lbs. Pike, caught two years ago.

The following articles have been taken from the Reading Mercury and the Wokingham Times

1955 to 1960

NB. Those articles dated Saturday are from The Reading Mercury. The others are from The Wokingham Times

1955

Sat 8th Jan

PATH BLOCKED

A tree branch was blown across the path leading from Osborne Road to Palmer School, Wokingham on Sunday morning.

RE-DEDICATION SERVICE

The Rev. H.M. Ray Smith, minister of the Wokingham Baptist Church, conducted the Baptist Women's League annual re-dedication service on Wednesday.

DANCING DISPLAY

The eighth display given by the Miss Le Roy School of Dancing in Church House, Wokingham, on Saturday, realised a profit of £6 5s. 6d. for the Medical Missions of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

ROTARY CLUB

At the Rotary Club of Wokingham luncheon held on Thursday last week, the guest speaker was Mr. W.E.C. McIlroy, C.B.E., whose subject matter was spastic children. The vote of thanks was recorded by Rotarian Jack Willey.

VISIT TO ICE SHOW

A party of 70 children and adults enjoyed a visit to "Aladdin on Ice" at Wembley on Thursday. It was arranged by the women's section of the Wokingham borough branch of the Wokingham Division Conservative Association.

COW IN COLLISION

Driving in the Finchampstead Road, Wokingham, on New Year's Eve, Mrs. Rosemary Walter, of St. Catherine's Lodge, Bear Wood, was involved in a collision

with a cow which was straying on the road. The cow was attended by a veterinary surgeon. The car was slightly damaged.

JOINT PARTY

The local branches of the British Legion and the Royal Artillery Association joined forces on Saturday to give members' children a New Year party. And as a result 120 boys and girls between five and twelve thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon. After a first-class Christmas tea, the children played games and watched a film show, arranged by the Mayor, Cllr. R.H. Brimblecombe, who, together with the Mayoress, called in to see the youngsters having a grand time. Main feature of the film show was a short version of "Scrooge"—appreciated as much by the adults present as by the children. Before the children left each was given an orange, a bar of chocolate and a balloon—and each responded energetically to the invitation by the Legion president, General P. Malloy, to give "a big hand" to the organisers. In the evening, it was the adults' turn and Legion and R.A.A. members enjoyed a social.

UNLUCKY FOOTBALL CLUB FIRE DAMAGE TO PAVILION BOILER HOUSE

A fire which broke out in the boiler house at the rear of the Wokingham Town F. C. pavilion at 6 a.m., on Sunday caused hundreds of pounds of damage. The wooden hut which housed the boiler was completely demolished, and the asbestos roof over the bathrooms and changing rooms was also destroyed. Flames leapt 50 feet into the air as firemen raced to the scene.

On the rear walls of the bathrooms, nothing remained after the fire but charred embers, and there was considerable interior burning. The spectators' seats, however, were practically undamaged. The Supporters' Club's catering utensils and tea urns were saved, however, as was much valuable electrical equipment in the Supporters' Club office. Had the wind not taken the flames outwards away from the building, the damage would have been far greater.

Coming so soon after the recent storm damage to the stand on the opposite side of the grounds, Sunday's fire was a great blow to the club, who have been faced with much greater expenditure since they joined the Metropolitan League at the beginning of the season.

The pavilion, which was opened in 1936, was insured against fire. In this respect the club are now more fortunate than with the damage to the stand roof, which cost more than £200. It was ironic that the fire should have started less than two days after repairs to that roof had been completed.

Footnote: The club's black and amber flag was still flying over the pavilion on Sunday morning.

On Sunday morning Supt. A. East of the Wokingham Police, and Divisional Officer Cowle, of the Berks and Reading Fire Brigade, conducted an on-the-spot investigation. They decided the most probable cause of the fire was an overheated domestic type boiler. The damage was said to be "between £500 and £1,000.

The fire was reported by Mr. W.G. Love, of 38, Langborough Road, Wokingham, who saw the flames from the signal box at Wokingham Station where he was on duty.

Sat 12th Feb

RATEABLE VALUE

The total rateable value of the borough had been increased by £96 to £68,040.

LORD LIEUTENANT'S VISIT

The Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, Mr. H.A. Benyon, visited the Wokingham Magistrate's Court on Tuesday and met the local justices before taking his seat on the Bench.

BELLRINGERS' TRIBUTE

As a tribute to the Lord Bishop of Oxford, a quarter, peal of "Grandsire Triples" was rung at All Saints' Church, Wokingham, on the eve of his enthronement. The peal was conducted by Mr. W. Newton.

NEW CINEMA MANAGER

Now completing his first week as manager of the Ritz Cinema, Wokingham, is Mr. H.R. Clark, of Maidenhead. During the fourteen years he was at Maidenhead Mr. Clark became well known for his activities on behalf of various charities, to which his patrons subscribed a considerable sum of money.

JUNIOR SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

The indoor games championships and tournaments are continuing with success. Of those completed, David Woodage has won the senior table tennis championship, beating Danny Murphy in the final, and Micky Carey succeeded in beating Dicky Winter in the junior final. Stanley Readings is the winner of the shove-halfpenny championship, following a finals win over David Woodage, while Tony Jones beat Stan Readings in the darts championship final. During the club gathering on Friday last week, the club leader, Mr. D. Goddard, on behalf of the helpers and members, presented a clock to Peter Tickner, with congratulations to him for his 21st birthday.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS AMALGAMATE

In September 1952 members of the Wokingham Baptist Church started a Sunday school at Toutley Camp, especially for the many children in that area who had no contact with a Sunday school. It was a difficult task, for they had very little equipment, and the hall was ill-suited for worship. But the staff persisted, and achieved considerable success. Now, a council decision to clear Toutley Camp has meant that they have taught at Toutley for the last time. The work of the Sunday school is not ended, however, for on Sunday the school was amalgamated with the Milton Road School. Instead of teachers going to Toutley the pupils are brought into Wokingham and join in the existing classes.

FOOTBALL STAND APPEAL

The new Wokingham Town Football Club stand which was erected by the Wokingham Supporters' Club at a cost of £600, had its roof wrecked in the recent gales. The cost of the damage is estimated at about £200. The chairman of the Football club, Mr. C.F. Chipp, is launching an appeal to all local sportsmen and anyone who likes to send a donation. Donations should be sent to either Mr. Chipp, 39, Eastheath Avenue, Wokingham, or the hon. treasurer, Mr. J.L. Langley, 12, Milton Road, Wokingham. The damage to the stand has hit the club at an unlucky moment, for they have just entered senior amateur football, and the hope of success in their first season has been damped a little by this unfortunate occurrence.

PLENTY OF RAIN

Recently published borough meteorological records show that 31.87 in. of rain fell last year (1.55 in. of it on December 8th), which is 6.58 in. more than the average for the last 54 years. On 192 days there was more than .01 in. of rain. The wettest year on record was 1903, when 38.97 in. was recorded. There was heavy rain in Wokingham on June 5th and July 25th, when more than one inch of rain was recorded on each day (1.26 in. and 1.03 in. respectively). Wettest day ever recorded was May 25th 1911, when 1.97 in. fell. The lowest recorded temperature in 1954 was 11 degrees, on January 27th, the lowest recorded since records began in May, 1948. Hottest day was September 1st, when the thermometer showed 82 degrees, 11 degrees less than the highest recorded temperature, on July 29th. 1948.

ALL SAINTS' YOUTH CLUB

All the officers of the All Saints' Youth Club resigned at the club's annual meeting, held in the Church House, Wokingham, on Friday last week. There was no friction in the club, but having been in office for some years, and with increasing personal commitments, chairman Mr. W. Gilbert, secretary, Miss Penney and treasurer, Mr. Boshier felt that the younger members should take over the responsibility. Before resigning, treasurer Mr. Boshier reported that the finances of the club were on a sound footing, but without a grant from the Sunday cinema fund the club would be hard pressed financially. A report of the year's progress was given by the club leader, Cllr. J. West. The election of new officers resulted: Secretary, Miss A. Gutteridge; treasurer, Mr. Peter Challis. The chairman will be elected at a later meeting. Club leader Cllr. J. West will continue in this office during 1955.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Moving the adoption of the minutes of the Housing Committee, the chairman Ald. N.C. Lawrence, said he wished to make it known that the Philip Sale Memorial Homes had not been officially opened. Owing to a misunderstanding this impression had been created by a press report; the official opening was planned for midsummer, where there would be a garden party. The function which had been described as the opening was the opening of the common room.

Sat 5th March

SCOUT PARTY

The Wokingham and District Scouts Association held their annual party in the gymnasium at Hazelbrouck Barracks, Arborfield, on Saturday.

AN AMERICAN VISITOR

An honorary member of the 1st Wokingham (Mayor's Own) Scout Group for the duration of his visit to Wokingham is Bruce Johnson, an American Scout and Patrol Leader from Illinois.

"THE OPEN ROAD"

Fifty Scouts of the Wokingham District are now rehearsing for their variety show, "The Open Road," to be presented in the Town Hall, Wokingham, next month.

YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

The funds of the All Saints', Wokingham, Young Wives' Group will benefit by £12

14s. as the result of a jumble sale held in the Church House, Wokingham, on Saturday.

“AMERICAN SUPPER.”

To relieve the burden on those who normally deal with the catering, the meeting of the borough branch of the Young Conservatives' Association held on Friday last week at Dundaff House, Rectory Road, Wokingham was regarded as an “American Supper”—for which all members took their own refreshments.

W.E.A.

Mr. George Owen gave his twentieth lecture in the series “Aspects of European Civilisation in the XVIIth Century” to members of the W.E.A. on Thursday last week. In this Mr. Owen dealt with the significance of the scientific revolution and its consequences on human thought.

HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION SOCIAL

Over 60 members of the Wokingham Horticultural Association spent a pleasant time at their annual social in the Baptist Schoolroom, Milton Road, Wokingham on Saturday evening. All gardening cares and worries were forgotten as members took part in an entertaining programme of games and competitions organised by Mr. D. Cahill, who acted as M.C.

MR. T.G. BOSTON'S VISIT

Mr. Terry Boston, the Labour Party's prospective Parliamentary candidate for Wokingham called in at the social organised by the Borough Labour Party in the Church House, Wokingham, on Saturday to meet his constituents in an informal manner. Over 100 people were present, and Mr. F.G. Furber, the Party agent, was M.C. Music was provided by Ken-Car.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYERS

In Wokingham, as in towns and cities throughout the world, a special service in connection with the “Women's World Day of Prayer” was held on Friday last week. Lady members of all local churches gathered in the Methodist Church, Rose Street, during the afternoon for a service conducted by Mrs. H. Ogden. The address was given by Mrs. P. Brown, and others taking part were Mrs. Inman, Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Brooker, Major Browning and Mrs. Ray Smith.

“CANTLEY” ESTATE

The Cinematograph Trade Benevolent Fund confirmed this week that negotiations are in progress for the sale of their recently acquired “Cantley” estate to the Marquess of Ormonde, recently of “Gennings,” Hunton, Maidstone, Kent. The family seat is Kilkenny Castle. The Marchioness is the daughter of the late Charles Carlos Clarke, of Sunninghill. It is understood that the new owners are unlikely to take up residence until the end of the year.

RENT TRIBUNAL

Sitting at Wokingham on Monday, the Reading Rent Tribunal heard an application by Mr. F.J. Barnett for a reasonable rent to be fixed for Rookwood Annexe, South Drive, Wokingham, leased by him from Miss E.M. Carter and Miss V.M. Lindow. The premises, a converted garage, consisting of two rooms and a kitchen, were rented

by the applicant, unfurnished, and for them he paid £2 per week. The Tribunal reduced this to one guinea per week.

GUNNERS' CHILDREN'S PARTY

Over 30 children—aged between two and 15 years—enjoyed themselves at a belated New Year party at The Welcome Inn, Wokingham, on Saturday. They were the children of members of the local Royal Artillery Association, and their guests from the Murray Homes, Wokingham. Having amply satisfied their appetites, the boys and girls entered into an energetic programme of games and competitions, under the guidance of Mr. Dave Webb, with Mr. Bert Young at the piano. Before leaving, each child received a small present.

NEXT WEEK'S FILMS

A glimpse behind the scenes of the F.B.I. will be given to patrons of the Ritz, Wokingham, during the first half of next week, when "Down Three Dark Streets" is shown. Broderick Crawford is cast as the F.B.I. operator who tracks down a colleague's murderer, and accidentally solves three of his unfinished cases. Ruth Roman, as the mother of a young girl, who is threatened with the abduction of her child unless she pays ten thousand dollars, also gives a fine performance. The villain is played by Casey Adams. The supporting film, in colour, is "The Yellow Tomahawk," which has a self explanatory title. On Thursday the music of Sigmund Romberg and the voice of Mario Lanza are presented in "The Student Prince," which is also filmed in colour. Mario is not seen, however, as his voice is dubbed for Edmund Purdom, who is co-starred with Ann Blyth. Also showing is "Fast and Furious," a film of the motor-racing tracks.

Sat 12th March

General Purposes Committee meeting held on Tuesday last week to consider the London "overspill" problem, the Wokingham Town Council decided on Thursday to reject the proposal to decant 5,000 Londoners to Wokingham.

The committee had recommended "That it was the considered opinion of the council, after much serious thought, that the best interests of Wokingham and its inhabitants would be served by a natural growth of population and they have decided, therefore, that they are not prepared to enter into an agreement with the London County Council under the provision of the Town Development Act, 1952, for the reception of population into Wokingham.

WOKINGHAM CARNIVAL

Not To Be Held This Year

At a poorly-attended meeting in Wokingham Town Hall on Tuesday, it was decided not to hold a carnival in 1955. Twenty-four members of the public (including the Press) had just heard that the last carnival (in August 1954) had resulted in a profit of £129 13s. 8d., slightly less than 10% of the total income of £1,320 12s. 10d.

Sat 9th April

ENTER CINEMASCOPE

A new era in film entertainment, as far as Wokingham is concerned, opens on May 9th. At the Ritz, Wokingham, CinemaScope will be seen for the first time, the film being "Drumbeat" starring Alan Ladd. Not all films shown after this will be in CinemaScope, but the others will use the "panoramic" screen—which will be ten feet

shorter, the present size picture will be a thing of the past. New projectors are not being fitted, but modifications will have to be made to the existing ones. Although this new venture is expensive, the admission prices are to remain the same.

This coming week opens with "Timberjack" featuring Sterling Haden, Vera Ralston and David Brian—a tale of the struggle between a ruthless timber baron and a young lumberjack out to revenge his father's death. Also showing is an American comedy, "The Atomic Kid," starring Mickey Rooney. At the end of the week Tony Curtis, Gloria de Haven and Gene Nelson appear in "So This Is Paris,"—a technicolor musical with a nautical air.

Sat 30th April

"MUSIC IN SPRINGTIME"

The Wokingham Madrigal Society presented a programme of "Music In Springtime" in the Wokingham Town Hall on Wednesday

LOCAL CUBMASTER HONOURED

Mr. A.J. Butcher, of Peach Street, Wokingham, Cubmaster of the 1st Wokingham (Mayor's Own) Troop, was selected to be a section leader in the St. George's Day parade of Queen's Scouts at Windsor on Sunday.

OLD FOLKS ENTERTAIN

The concert party of the Wokingham No.1 branch of the National Federation of Old Age Pensioners went to Reading on Friday last week, when they entertained members of the West Reading branch. On Monday afternoon they entertained patients at the Wokingham Hospital.

YOUNG STAR AT GLEBELANDS

A well-known film star, 10 years-old Miss Mandy Miller, paid a visit to Glebelands, the Cinematograph Trades Benevolent Fund country home, on Friday last week, and presented a "deep freeze" refrigerator to the matron, Mrs. W. Marshall. The refrigerator was the gift of Messrs. J. Lyons and Co. Ltd., who are to keep it stocked with ice-creams.

SCOUT GROUP

For the 5th Wokingham Scout Group, 1954 was a successful year. This was made clear at the Group's annual meeting, held in the St. Paul's Parish Room on Wednesday, under the chairmanship of Mr. R.S. Davies, the Group Scoutmaster. Miss J.M. Ellis, Cubmistress, reported on her section's activities and said that many more helpers were needed. Mr. G. Coleman spoke on the activities of the Junior Troop, Senior Scouts and Rovers, and pointed out that Senior Scouts, though small in numbers, had done well in helping to train the younger element. Mr. L.C. Bennett presented the balance sheet, which showed the group to be in a sound financial position. General Sir Frank Messervy, president of the local Boy Scouts' Association, congratulated all on their hard work during the year, and the meeting was also addressed by Dr. S. Barrett, the recently-appointed District Commissioner.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY GATHERING

Glasses were raised to toast "England," at the request of Air-Commodore R.H.S. Spaight in the Wokingham Drill Hall on Saturday, when, for the second year running, Mrs. V.M. Essame organised a Gt. George's Day gathering. The Mayor (Cllr. R.H.

Brimblecombe) responded on behalf of the borough, “a small but pleasant part of the land.” General Sir Frank Messervy then asked those present to drink the toast to “St. Dunstan’s”—and Mr. Charles Thomas replied on behalf of that organisation. During the evening entertainment was provided by Mr. Thomas, a blind singer from St. Dunstan’s, whose rendering of “There’ll always be an England” was much appreciated. Mr. and Mrs. Lowes each sang appropriate songs for the function. The ball was decorated with the flag of St. George, and with red roses, and it was noteworthy that the large proportion of guests carried a red rose. This was the second such function that Mrs. Essame has arranged—and such was its success that it is to be held annually.

WOKINGHAM SPORT FOOTBALL

Wokingham’s senior team did not keep up their winning form when they visited Chelsea on Saturday. Indeed, the team that lost 5-0 to Chelsea was scarcely recognisable as that which beat Newbury on their own ground only a few days before. Chelsea were undoubtedly the better side, but the score flattered them. For the first 15 minutes play was fairly even, but then a penalty was awarded—unjustly in the opinion of some of the players—against Runnacles and, this being converted, the town seemed to lose heart. By the interval Chelsea had added two further goals, without reply, but then had to fight strongly to hold their lead. Poor shooting cost Wokingham at least three goals, and, at the other end, Runnacles could not be blamed for the two further goals he let through.

Three goals down, with only 20 minutes left for play, it seemed that Wokingham’s “A” team were certain to lose to Broadmoor in their Ascot and District League match on Saturday. But in those twenty minutes the Town rallied, and with a succession of attacks scored five goals, to snatch the victory. Of these McVicker notched three, Heald and Riddell sharing the other two. Visiting Sunninghill on Monday evening they put up another good performance in winning by five of the six goals of the match. David Sadler played a good game for Wokingham, whose scorers were McVicker (4) and Riddell.

Wokingham’s 2nd team wound up their season with a 2-0 win over visiting Marlow on Saturday, Stevens scoring both the Town goals. The first half consisted mainly of midfield play, with few good shots from either side. The visitors’ passing was better than that of the Town, but the finishing on both sides was weak, although Stevens had bad luck with two scoring chances. On the resumption, Stevens moved to the centre-forward berth and back-heeled a corner, well taken by Mercer, into the net to give Wokingham the lead. Shortly afterwards the Marlow team was weakened when inside-right Draper had to leave the field with a wrist injury; Wokingham’s second goal was the result of another Mercer-Stevens movement, the latter having little difficulty in heading the ball home.

Wokingham’s home Metropolitan League match with Tonbridge on Wednesday was fast and interesting, with little to choose between the teams—but it was the visitors who scored the only goal of the match and took two points from Wokingham. For Wokingham, Turner (who was injured) and Bolton were outstanding.

BASEBALL

The baseball season started in Wokingham on Sunday, when the Wokingham Monarchs entertained the Dulwich Blue Jays in a League match on the Barkham Road Diamond. Although the local team lost by nine runs to six they were not disgraced,

and had it not been for errors on their part it would have been an even closer game. The Monarchs opened with Geoff Moffitt pitching to Den Sargeant, who later relieved him on the mound, and Dale Russell took over behind the plate. Six of the visitors' runs came in the fifth innings. But Dale Russell hit a three-run homer to make matters more even, and in a ninth innings rally B. Higgins also made the round trip.

Sat 14th May

WASTE PAPER

The Borough Surveyor's report shows that seven tons of waste paper was sold by the borough since his last report.

TENANTS' SOCIAL

Members of the Waterloo Road Tenants' Association enjoyed themselves at a social in the Waterloo Restaurant on Friday evening last week.

NEW WIDE SCREEN

The new wide screen at the Ritz Cinema, Wokingham, was officially "opened" for the first time on Monday at a short ceremony conducted with the assistance of two members of the 1st Wokingham (Mayor's Own) Scout Group. Ten-years-old Roy Whitworth was handed a shilling for "Bob-a-Job" week funds by the manager, Mr. H. Clark, for carrying on to the stage a small table and electric switch, and Christopher Hussey a 15 years-old scout, made the opening speech and was also handed a donation to scout funds by the manager.

Sat 2nd July

MACE LEAVES TOWN

Wokingham's silver mace made one of its rare appearances outside the borough on Wednesday when taken to Abingdon for a ceremony at which the freedom of the borough was conferred on the Royal Berkshire Regiment. The borough was represented by the Mayor, Cllr. W.J. Willey, the Town Clerk, Mr. L. Goddard Smalley, and the Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. C.A. Nibbs, all of whom were wearing their official regalia.

EXCHANGE VISIT

The Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham, Cllr. And Mrs. W.J. Willey, were at Wokingham station early on Thursday morning to wish those taking part in the exchange educational visit between children of St. Crispin's School and a school at Braunlage, Germany, a good voyage home. The Mayor handed to them a photograph taken at the recent Mayor's Sunday parade and a letter for the Burgermeister of Braunlage. The previous evening the Germans were entertained at a farewell party at St. Crispin's School.

AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Representing the Borough of Wokingham at a service held in Westminster Abbey on Monday to mark the tenth anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter, and attended by H.M. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, was the Mayor, Cllr. W.J. Willey. After the service, civic heads from boroughs and rural districts all over the country all were entertained by the chairman of the L.C.C., Mr. Norman Pritchard, at the county Hall, Westminster, where the Rt. Hon. Mr. Anthony Nutting spoke on the significance of the anniversary.

Sat 9th July

SCHOOL'S OPEN DAY

The Holt School, Wokingham, was "open" to parents and friends of the staff and pupils on Tuesday.

FIRE CALL

Wokingham firemen were called to a heath fire at the railway embankment at King's Bridge, Nine-Mile- Ride, on Tuesday evening.

PENSIONERS' WHIST DRIVE

The Wokingham No.2 branch of the National Federation of Old Age Pensioners held a whist drive in St. Paul's Parish Room on Wednesday.

SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army week-end meetings in Wokingham were conducted by Envoy and Mrs. Morrish, and their two sons, from Teddington.

FLAG COMPETITION

Led by Patrol Leader John Kitchen, members of the 1st Wokingham (Mayor's Own) Scout Group took part in the County Flag competition on Saturday. As last year, they were placed fifth.

ORGAN RENOVATED

The assembly of the renovated organ for the Baptist Church is expected to be started this month, and the provisional date for its dedication is September 14th.

VISITOR'S "THANK YOU"

In a letter to his hosts, Herr Hans Joachim Kolach, who recently brought a party of children from Braunlage, Germany, to stay with children of St. Crispin's School, Wokingham, says: "Thank you very much for the wonderful time we had. I don't think any one of us will be able to forget our stay with you."

CRICKET

On Saturday, Wokingham Senior Sports and Social Club visited the Royal Merchant Navy School, at Bearwood and won by three runs, the scores being 58—55. Riddell and Edgington (25 and 20 respectively) were Wokingham's top scorers. Jones (27) was top scorer for the School. Cheal took 8 wickets for 18 runs; for the Club Riddell took 3 for 18, Readings 2 for 19, Dance 2 for 3, and Edgington 3 for 9.

GERMAN VISITORS

Arriving in Wokingham tomorrow (Sunday) are 20 young Germans who are taking part in the annual exchange visit between the borough and Bad Gandersheim, Germany. On Monday, after they have had a chance to settle down in English homes

the party will spend the day at Oxford. The following evening they will attend a social at Earley, and on Wednesday they are to visit the Berkshire and Reading Fire Brigade headquarters. That evening they will be officially welcomed at the Town Hall, and then attend a dinner at the Waterloo Restaurant. It is hoped to arrange a factory visit for the Germans on Thursday, and the follow evening they will attend a normal weekly meeting of the All Saints' Youth Club. The second week's programme includes visits to Windsor and London, and a passing-out parade at the Army Apprentice School, Arborfield.

MEMORIALS HOMES FETE

Due to the generosity of the family of the late Alderman Philip Sale—a mayor and freeman of the borough of Wokingham—the town council were able to build a home for elderly people on a plot of land near the centre of the town, said the Mayor, Cllr. W.J. Willey, in opening a garden fete in the orchard at the rear of the Alderman Sale Memorial Homes on Saturday afternoon.

The fete, he explained, was to raise money to provide a television set for the common room in the homes. Among those present were the Misses Constance and Dorothy Sale, daughters of the alderman to whose memory the houses were erected, the Hon. Mrs. Remnant, wife of the Member of Parliament for the Division and several members of the council. After the official opening the Mayoress was presented with a bouquet by Mrs. E.M. Windebank, who on that day had been a resident of the homes for exactly two years. In addition to the usual stalls and competitions there was a dancing display, and pony rides.

Sat 16th July

DARTS CLUB OUTING

Members of the Victoria Arms arts club enjoyed a day's outing to Brighton on Sunday.

CRICKETERS' DANCE

The Wokingham Cricket Club held a dance in The Bush Hotel on Friday last week.

SALVATION ARMY OUTING

Members of the local branch of the Salvation Army enjoyed a coach outing to the Cheddar Gorge on Tuesday.

NURSERY VISIT

Members of the Wokingham Horticultural Association visited Messrs. Sale and Son's rose nurseries in the Barkham Road, Wokingham, on Friday last week.

WASTE PAPER

Ten tons of waste paper were sold by the Wokingham Borough Council during the period covered by the latest report of the Borough Surveyor.

STUDENTS' LUNCHEON

Students of the full-time day commercial course at the Institute of Further Education, Montague House, Wokingham, held a luncheon on Wednesday, attended by the Mayor, Cllr. W.J. Willey.

REFRESHING

More people visited the Martin's Swimming Pool over the week-end than at any time since August Bank Holiday, 1953. During Saturday and Sunday 549 people paid to enter the grounds, and there were 1,432 swimmers.

YOUTH CLUB OUTING

Members of the All Saints' Youth Club enjoyed an evening outing to Wargrave on Friday last week—including the boy who fell into the river while testing its temperature before an intentional swim.

JUNIOR SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

The club outing to Ryde on Sunday was a great success. The programme included a cricket match on the sands, won by Stan Reading's team over that captained by Jim Edgington, the scores being 88 to 44.

ROVERS IN SWITZERLAND

For the second year running members of the 5th Wokingham Rover Crew are setting off today (Saturday) for a fortnight's camping in Switzerland. They are travelling in the same 15cwt. Truck that they used last year, when they were stranded in Paris with a broken shaft. Leader of the party will be Phil Woods, and rover Mate Harold Gates will be looking after the finances.

SCOUT GROUPS TO AMALGAMATE

The 1st (Mayor's Own) and the 5th Wokingham Scout groups are to amalgamate. They will be known as the 3rd Wokingham group. Mr. S.G. Butcher, G.S.M. of the 1st Wokingham group, will hold the same office with the new group. The newly-adopted scarves are to be emerald green, and will have the old emblem of Wokingham—an acorn and two oak leaves.

CHILDREN BEAT PARENTS

Children of St. Paul's School, Wokingham, beat a parents' team at cricket on Wednesday. The parents were handicapped by having to use a bat half the usual width, and had to run at least twice during each over. The parents declared at 87 for 6, but the boys, with several wickets in hand, scored 91 runs before stumps were drawn. Best hit of the match was by the head master, Mr. S.W. Meachen, who lofted a ball on to the roof of the laundry adjacent to the school playing field.

SCHOOL OUTINGS

Four coach-loads of children from St. Paul's School, Wokingham, and their parents, set off early yesterday (Friday) for their annual outing. They were bound for Bournemouth, and intended to call at Salisbury on the way. They planned to visit Winchester on the return journey.

-- Children from Palmer and Wescott Road Schools joined forces for their annual outings, and they went by train to London. Their programme included a river trip, a visit to the Tower, and a coach tour of London.

CHAMBER OF TRADE

Only three members—apart from the secretary, Mr. A.D. Tanner—arrived at the Wokingham Town Hall on Monday for the meeting of the executive council of the Wokingham and District Chamber of Trade. As this was only half the required

quorum, this meeting and the general meeting of the Chamber which was to have followed, were cancelled. The two main items to have been discussed at the general meeting were the Peach Street traffic regulations and the Chamber's annual dinner.

YOUNG GERMAN VISITORS

The party of 21 young Germans from Bad Gandersheim who are visiting Wokingham were officially welcomed to the borough by the Mayor, Cllr. W.J. Willey, in the Town Hall on Wednesday. In a short speech the Mayor encouraged the visitors to look upon the residents of the town and the council officials as their friends, and to ask as many questions as they liked. The Mayor was thanked for his welcome by the leader of the party, Dr. Gunter Thilo-Schade, and received a gift of flowers from Fraulein Almuth Kittel. The Town Clerk, Mr. L. Goddard Smalley, then explained to the Germans the significance and use of the borough regalia, which was on show, and gave them a brief history of the town. The ceremony was followed by a dinner in the Waterloo restaurant. At this the loyal toast was given by Mr. G. Miles, chairman of the Local Advisory Youth committee, who are sponsoring the visit, and the toast "Our Guests" was proposed by the Mayor. The Director of Education for Berkshire, Mr. T.D.W. Whitfield asked those present to drink to the success of "international reciprocal visits."

Sat 23rd July

NATIONAL SAVINGS

Wokingham's national savings workers were congratulated by their chairman, Ald. S.L. Bowyer, at a rally held in St. Crispin's School, Wokingham, on Friday last week, when the orchestra of the Corps of R.E.M.E. gave a concert. The rally was organised for the presentation of three new awards. To Mr. Howard Perkins of Radio Heaters Ltd., Ald. S.L. Bowyer handed the shield for the industrial group to show the greatest increase in membership (35). Two children from Palmer Schools collected a shield for the greatest increase in school savers (90), and Mrs. V.M. Wicks, of the street-group sub-committee, was presented with the cup for having 41 new members in the Latimer and Havelock Road savings group. Badges for seven years' service were received by Mrs. I.G. Francis, of 49, Gipsy Lane, Wokingham, and Mr. J.H. Kirkpatrick, of the "Metalair" savings group. Making the presentations, Mr. Bowyer pointed out that Wokingham had 94 savings groups, with 3,137 members—34 per cent of the population, and in the recent campaign secured 520 new members.

NATIONAL SERVICE CALL-UP

An audience of young men due to register for National Service during the next 12 months, together with some of their parents, attended a meeting at Montague House on Tuesday last week, organised by the Berkshire Education Committee's Central Berkshire Area, Youth Employment Service. Answering questions and giving as much information as possible were Mr. A.J. Alpe, of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, Mr. F.H. Rudge, representing the Royal Navy, Lt.-Col. C.L.C. Ward, for the Army, and Ft-Lt. L.E. Stack, for the Royal Air Force. Major L.M.E. Dent presided, and hoped that at these meetings became better known, still more people would attend them.

TRAMP SUPPER

Tramps, as they were known before officialdom found it necessary to record them as "persons without a settled way of living," are fast disappearing from our roads. But

on Friday last week several made their way to the Church House, Wokingham, to accept the hospitality of the All Saints' Youth Club and join them for supper. None were refused admission, for all bore faint resemblances to well-known club members, although hidden behind shaggy unkempt beards. One proved to be the club leader, Mr. John West, and two who received prizes for their appearance gave their names as W. Munday and D. Murphy. Whether a real tramp would have appreciated the first prize—a free haircut—was a matter of much debate. The judges included Herr Hand Willer, one of the leaders of the German visitors to Wokingham, of Bad Gandersheim and Seesen, Mr. and Mrs. G. Miles, and Mr. J. Sparrow, and they also gave a prize to Miss I. Grant for her gipsy costume. At this social the German visitors enjoyed seeing an English youth club in action and joined in many of the games. Before the “tramp supper” got under way, W. Munday beat L. Frith in the final of the club's knock-out table tennis competition.

Sat 27th Aug

LEAVING FOR BEIRUT

A man who will soon leave Wokingham for Beirut is Capt. Reginald Aldridge, of 143, Barkham Road, Wokingham, who is to be one of the pilots seconded from the Hunting Clan Airlines to help the newly-formed Middle East Air Lines. He expects to fly Viscounts, among other craft, and will be stationed in Beirut for two years. His wife, son and daughter will also travel to Syria.

ANOTHER RECORD

Another attendance record was beaten at Martins Swimming Pool this week. On Monday 1,069 swimmers paid to use the pool—the highest number on an ordinary week-day since the Council took over the management in 1947. On the same day there were 226 people who paid for admission to the grounds only. The total number of swimmers on Saturday, Sunday and Monday was 2,182, and 595 people were admitted to the grounds only.

CANADIAN CHOIR AT WOKINGHAM

For the second time in slightly more than a year, the Wokingham Town Hall echoed to the voices of the Elgar Choir from Vancouver on Saturday. As on the first occasion, this smartly uniformed choir was welcomed by Cllr. R.H. Brimblecombe, the deputy Mayor, and by the Rev. Harold Ogden, minister of the Rose Street Methodist Church.

Those who were fortunate enough to hear the choir on their previous visit flocked to the Town Hall again, for seldom can such fine singing be heard in Wokingham. Despite the heat, the choir, under the direction of Mr. C.E. Findlater, gave a programme of 27 items, well chosen from sacred and secular sources.

One of the most popular items was a highland dance admirably executed in costume by one of the younger members.

This year there were five choristers who were on the 1954 tour, among them being soloist Naomi Bartindale; they came up to the expectations of a critical and appreciative audience. One of the most noticeable features of the choir was their own enjoyment of the concert—they were very happy to sing “The Happy Wanderer” as an encore and gave the impression that they would have continued singing as long as the public cared to listen, had the conductor, Mr. Findlater, not had another appointment. On Sunday the choir gave a sacred concert in the Rose Street Methodist Church.

This is the sixth overseas tour that the choir have made, their first visit to this country being in 1936.

Sat 17th Sept

THE WESTENDE ALMSHOUSES

The anxiety of the Wokingham United Charity Trustees over the finances for maintaining the Westende Almshouses has been greatly eased by the recent publication of a scheme by the Charity Commissioners merging a number of local charities in order to make funds which were lying dormant available for this purpose. The implementation of this scheme resulted from an application to the Commissioners by the trustees to free certain money standing to the credit of the charities, which, though not obsolete, were not as useful as in the past.

The effect of this amalgamation of charities, said Mr. W. Ireland, the clerk to the trustees, was that half the income could be used to maintain and improve the almshouses, whilst the other half would as in the past, be devoted to assisting the poor in various ways. The Commissioners felt unable to include all local charities in the merger, and a number are to remain as they were, and will be administered separately. Next week the Charity Trustees are to receive a substantial cheque from the Wokingham Rotary Club, collected as the result of an appeal by the club president, Cllr. A.G. Skedgel.

The Westende Almshouses in Peach Street, Wokingham, are to be considerably improved now that the money is in hand, and more extensive improvements are to be made to the pair of semi-detached almshouses added to the charity on the occasion of Queen Victoria's Jubilee. Eventually it is hoped that the existing almshouses can be rebuilt, and money is to be set aside for that purpose.

Sat 1st October

A LUCKY ESCAPE

Working in the churchyard at All Saints', Wokingham, on Thursday morning, the verger, Mr. W. Pearce heard a crashing sound—and ran with his assistant into the open. It was just as well that he did so, for close up to where he had been standing fell a large bough of an elm tree, brought down by the high wind.

“LITTERBUGS” CRITICISED

The rector of St. Paul's Church, Wokingham, the Ven. Archdeacon Thorndike Shaw, criticises—in his parish magazine—the “thoughtless and dirty” people who leave rubbish in the churchyard, and comments “our much vaunted education does not appear to touch on even the fringes of the decencies of life.”

CASUALTIES UNION

Members of the Wokingham study circle of Casualties Union visited Ponders End Gas Works, London, on Sunday, to watch the annual competition, sponsored by the Union, for first-aid and diagnosis. The leader of the study circle, Mr. G. Wakelin, assisted some members of the Union in “making up” before the contest.

N.S.P.C.C.

The Rev. Arthur Morton, National director of the N.S.P.C.C. spoke to a Wokingham audience on Monday about the work of the society. The meeting was held in the Town Hall, under the chairmanship of Mrs. S.V. Cullen, and was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr. and Mrs. W.J. Willey.

CARS WRECKED BY FIRE

Two local motorists had their cars destroyed by fire during the week. On Saturday a car, owned by Mr. D. Kennedy, of Cherry Tree Cottage, Limmer Hill, Wokingham, caught fire on his own premises, but could not be saved. On Monday, a Humber car, belonging to Mr. L.J. Frost, of 582, Reading Road, Winnersh, was destroyed by fire, also on private premises.

A LINK WITH THE PAST

Added to those curios which, if room was available, could form the nucleus of a borough museum, has been the recent gift of a print of Thomas Chambers, mace bearer, town crier and sexton of the town from 1826 until 1861. It was given to the Town Clerk by Mr. William Chambers, of 8, Eastry House, Hartington Road, London S.W.8. whose father was the last of the family to carry on the tradition. Thomas Chambers is depicted as a portly man, in uniform and carrying the town crier's bell. Although a pillar of the local church, and a loyal servant of the council, it is reputed that Thomas Chambers was in some ways "a law unto himself," for he acted as "look-out" man at the bouts of cock-fighting that were then common in the district. Mr. William Chambers himself has a connection with the town, for he was one of the members of "D" Coy., 4th Bn., Royal Berkshire Regiment, who left the Wokingham Drill Hall in August 1914.

Sat 10th Dec

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

One case of acute poliomyelitis and two of scarlet fever were reported to the Medical Officer of Health for the borough during October. One case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified, bringing the total of cases on the register to 64, in addition to eight cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

NO CLAIMANTS—FUND CEASES

"The Wokingham Patriotic Fund," set up for the benefit of widows and orphans for the South African War, has now ceased to exist—without one claim having been made upon it. The Board of Charity Commissioners have ordered that the £100 3½% War stock be transferred to the Wokingham United Charity Trustees, and the £1,068 3s. 4d. in cash at the Reading branch of the Trustees Savings Bank be invested. The Charity Trustees are empowered to use the yearly income from both these investments at their discretion for the benefit of widows or orphans of sailors, soldiers or airmen residing in the parishes of All Saints', St. Paul's and St. Sebastian's, Wokingham.

Sat 17th Dec

FIREWORKS FACTORY EXPLOSION

Two Killed And Many Injured

ARBORFIELD TROOPS HELP IN RESCUE

Investigations as to the cause of Monday's explosion at the Rainbow Fireworks Factory, Finchampstead, when two men were killed and fourteen others were injured, were being continued late this week. The explosion, heard clearly in Reading, was described by one witness as "having the effect of a bomb." It shattered many surrounding windows.

The explosion occurred early in the evening, shortly before employees were due to finish for the day. It is understood that it originated in a wooden hut in which the deceased were working. The walls were blown out and the roof caved in.

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Sat 11th Feb

SCREEN ACTOR'S ADVENTUROUS LIFE

A frequent week-end visitor to Pound Cottage, Forest Road, between Binfield and Wokingham, is a 30 years-old man, who, after an adventurous life, is fast making a name for himself in films. Tony Wright is his name. It may not "ring a bell" with many cinema-goers at the moment. But in the next year or two it may. He has recently signed a seven years contract with the Rank organisation and big things are planned for this rugged handsome actor.

The film ace's home is at Pound Cottage, where his mother, Mrs. G. Wright, former actress Joan Baily, lives. He is also the son of a well-known actor, the late Hugh E. Wright.

Sat 18th Feb

WOKINGHAM CLUB ANNUAL MEETING

Although the accounts of the Wokingham Club showed a profit of £128 for 1955, the president, Mr. R.H.R. Palmer said there was one disappointing item in the reports before the members at the annual meeting on Thursday. This was the drop in subscriptions. With the ever increasing population of the town and district it would be a healthy sign if there was a slight increase in the membership each year. He asked members to try and introduce their friends to the club.

Later in the meeting, Mr. L.D. Sears said that he thought there were many people in the town who did not know of the club's existence. He suggested the committee should send letters of invitation to potential members. This was agreed to.

The Club Chairman, Mr. C.T. May, after asking members to continue their support, mentioned that there were expenses which would have to be met in the future, these expenses having been postponed for some time.

The accounts were presented by Mr. E. Dinham, the auditor, and he explained that the increased profit had arisen mainly from the bar. The club assets stood at £1,478.

The item on the agenda, "Election of Officers," was not the formality of past years, for Mr. W.H. Bunch, the secretary declined to seek re-election after six years in office. He agreed, as a temporary measure to continue, and the committee were instructed to find a successor to him within three months.

The president and other officers paid tribute to Mr. Bunch for his work as secretary.

Mr. R.H.R. Palmer was re-elected president, and Mr. F. Payne will continue as treasurer. Mr. C.T. May was returned unopposed to the committee, and the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. P. Fry was filled by Mr. E. Morley Clemas.

Sat 10th March

HUT SOLD

The former N.A.A.F.I. hut on the Toutley camp has been sold by the Town Council for £22 10s.

BURST PIPES

Figures published this week show that during the first thirteen days of February 91 water pipes froze on the council housing estates—77 pipes burst.

R.A.A. PLANS

The Wokingham branch of the Royal Artillery Association decided at their meeting on Wednesday to go ahead with plans for a recruiting campaign at Bracknell.

GOOD HEALTH

No cases of tuberculosis were notified to the Medical Officer of Health during January, the number of cases on the register remaining at 62 pulmonary and seven non-pulmonary.

FIRE CALLS

Wokingham firemen were called to two chimney fires on Monday evening—to Finchampstead Road and Wiltshire Road, Wokingham. The following morning they dealt with a grass fire at Larch Avenue, Wokingham.

VITAL STATISTICS

Between January 15th and February 11th two boys and one girl were born in the borough. During the same period there were 13 deaths, 10 men and three women. Of these six were over 80, five over 70 and one over 50.

COFFEE AT THE "LOCAL"

An unusual question—for a public house—is being heard frequently at the Hope and Anchor, Wokingham, since Mr. W. Dean has had a coffee-making machine installed in the saloon bar. "Sugar, Sir?" is now as normal as the more familiar "Soda or water, Sir?" This asserts Mr. Dean, is the first machine of its kind to be installed in a bar in Berkshire.

Sat 24th March

"MINORS CLUB"

The "Minors Club" of the Ritz Cinema, Wokingham, was five years old on Saturday and to mark this the children saw a special film. "The Stolen Airliner." Saturday was also the closing date for entries in the Johnny Mack Brown painting competition. Later, these were judged by a panel of independent judges, who awarded first prize to 11-years-old Stephen Frankum, of 3, Oak Cottage, Broadmoor Road, Crowthorne. Today (Saturday) he will receive a prize from the manager, Mr. H. Clark. A prize for the runner-up will go to 13-years-old Lorna Eastman, of 1, Chapel Green, Luckley Road, Wokingham. The winner's entry will go forward to the area competition, where he may win a new bicycle.

Sat 31st March

WOKINGHAM FIRM'S TRANSFER.

It was confirmed this week that, subject to the transfer of the transport licences on May 11th, the removal and storage business of E.W. Reeves and Co., of Wokingham and Camberley, has been taken over by Messrs. C. and G Ayres, of Friar Street, Reading.

An official statement reveals that there will be little disturbance in the business. Mr. Cecil Culver, who has been with Messrs. Reeves for the past 20 years, has been appointed manager and the remainder of the removal and warehouse staff are being retained. Ald E.W. Reeves will maintain an interest in the business, acting as consultant to the new proprietors.

Mr. Reeves took over the business at the beginning of the First World War on the liquidation of the previous company. Under his guidance it quickly grew and was extended by the addition of more premises at Camberley. Ald. Reeves—now the "father" of Wokingham Town Council—has always taken a lively interest in

Wokingham affairs and joined the council in 1923. He was Mayor of the town for four successive years, 1939-1943, and has several times headed the poll in municipal elections. At the present moment he is chairman of the Finance Committee of the Borough Council. In 1946 he was elected to the board of management of the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

Sat 21st April

WOKINGHAM SCOUTS

Successful Merger

The amalgamation of the 1st and 5th Wokingham Scout groups to form a new group—the 3rd Wokingham—which took place on January 1st, has proved a great success. This was made clear at the first annual meeting of the group, held in St. Paul's Schoolroom on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Mr. F.E. Bullen. In his address, Mr. Bullen said that the financial position with regard to the building fund had improved a great deal, there being nearly £600 collected, but the problem of acquiring land was becoming as great as that of cash.

The recently-appointed group secretary, Mr. W. Goatley, said he hoped it would soon be possible for negotiations to be opened for the purchase of land in Wellington Road.

The financial statement was presented for the last time by Mr. L.C. Bennett, who is soon leaving the district.

GROUP REPORTS

Group reports were given as follows: Cub Pack "A" (Mr. David Bullen): The pack had been handicapped by the absence through illness of Miss Ellis. Membership now stood at 20, with four boys awaiting investiture. Bob-a-Job week resulted in the Cubs earning an average of 10s. per head.

Cub Pack "B" (Mr. V.L. Smart): Membership was now 29, an increase of three since the amalgamation, and there were three awaiting investiture. Bob-a-Job week had proved a success, with one boy earning £2 9s. 3d.

Third Wokingham Troop (Mr. J. Payne). There were now 40 members. Two boys had done particularly well in the Bob-a-Job week. R. Whitworth earning £2, and T. Giddings 30s.

Senior Scouts (G. Coleman): This group had benefited most from the amalgamation from a membership point of view, and had received three Queen's Scout badges. Two holders, J. Hearn and H. Hayes, had been selected to attend the St. George's Day parade at Windsor to-morrow (Sunday).

Rover Crew (Mr. G. Moles): after reviewing recent activities, Mr. Moles mentioned the summer tour of North Wales, now being planned, and which he would be leading.

Mr. John Butcher, the Group Scoutmaster, said that the total membership was now 119, of whom 14 were Scouters. Mr. Butcher took the opportunity to present Mr. L.C. Bennett with a "Thanks" badge in recognition of his work as treasurer. Mr. Bennett had already accepted a pair of Scout book-ends from Mr. Bullen.

The District Commissioner, Cdr. S. Borrett, expressing his pleasure with the progress of the newly-formed group.

NEW DIRECTORY

A new addition of the *Wokingham and Bracknell Directory* has just been issued, price 10s. This edition contains a full alphabetical list of streets and private residences in the two towns, and also private residences in the surrounding villages. There is also

a complete alphabetical traded section as well as street plans of Bracknell and Wokingham.

PARKING PLACES

At last week's meeting of the Town Council the following areas were approved as parking places: Rectory Road (between a point opposite the police station and Gadd's Path), the north-west side of Wescott Road, and the north-east sides of School Road. Supt. A. East, of Wokingham, said this week that no decision had yet been taken over the date when the order allowing motorists to leave vehicles without lights will come into effect.

THE YOUNGEST TOWN CRIER

Wokingham Appointment

An advertisement in a recent issue of the *Reading Mercury* had two happy results. For 26-years-old Mr. Victor E. Raymond, of 231, Shinfield Road, Reading, it brought almost the fulfilment of a childhood ambition and provided the borough of Wokingham with a Town Crier, thus preserving this ancient office.

Mr. Raymond's appointment was confirmed by last week's meeting of the Town Council—and one of its first official duties will be on polling day—May 10th. Before then he will receive a new uniform—identical with that worn for almost 30 years by his predecessor, Mr. Harry Banks. This will be a navy blue coat with scarlet facings, navy blue trousers with a scarlet stripe, a scarlet waistcoat and green cape. He will also wear a black top hat with a gold band. On the old uniform there were special brass buttons, embossed with the old town emblem—an acorn. It is likely that these will be transferred to the new uniform.

Mr. Raymond was born in Australia, but has spent the greater part of his life in Luton. He is married, and told the writer that it was partly due to his wife's encouragement that he applied for this post. "But," he added, "I have always admired the Town Criers I have seen on the films and read about."

Sat 5th May

SPRING SHOW AT WOKINGHAM

Presentation To The First Treasurer

Although it had been expected that the unfavourable weather would have taken a heavy toll of entries in the Wokingham Horticultural Association's spring show, held at the Town Hall, Wokingham, on Saturday, there was only a slight falling off in the number of exhibits and this was accounted for mainly in the "domestic" classes. Mr. G.E. Lingard, one of the judges of specimen blooms, said that he was impressed by the high standard of the exhibits, having regard to the recent weather, and also by the numbers.

The show followed the normal pattern in that the bulk of the entries were for floral arrangement or floral art, and here too, standards were high. Mrs. B.C. Wilson retained the Staniland challenge goblet by gaining most points in the decorative section, although Mrs. M.M. Knowles provided worthy opposition. The Reading Federation diploma for the best vase of flowers in the show went to Mrs. C.J. Windebank, and the *Popular Gardening* floral diploma for the best entry in the flower arrangement classes went to Mrs. R. Smith.

At the conclusion of the show, the president, Cllr. E.W. Goodchild, presented a floral painting and table lamp to Mr. and Mrs. L.C. Bennett, who are about to leave Wokingham for Amersham. Mr. Bennett was treasurer of the Wokingham Produce

Association at the time of its amalgamation, and was the first treasurer of the Horticultural Association. Mr. Bennett expressed his regret at leaving, and said that he and his wife wished to show their appreciation of the friendship they had received from association members. He then asked Mr. Goodchild to accept a challenge cup, to be awarded to the person gaining the highest number of points in the domestic section in the four shows of the year.

Sat 19th May

SECOND EXPLOSION AT FIREWORKS FACTORY

Sreatley Man Injured At Finchampstead

A second explosion within five months at the Rainbow Fireworks Factory, Finchampstead, injured a forty-years-old worker on Tuesday afternoon, when the shed he was working in was blown to pieces. On Wednesday Home Office explosive experts and police sought to find the answer to this second incident.

It was only in December last that three people were killed and fourteen others were injured in a similar incident at the fireworks factory.

It was soon after two when Tuesday afternoon's explosion occurred. Mr. Alfred Fuller of Manor Farm, Southridge, Sreatley was working in an asbestos filling shed. The terrific explosion shattered the building and fire broke out. Mr. Fuller managed to stagger from the ruins as fellow workers ran to his aid.

He was taken to the Army Depot at Arborfield but his condition was found to be so serious that he was taken immediately to Battle Hospital, Reading. There he was treated for multiple abrasions, a badly damaged right arm and hand—his arm was fractured—and for severe shock. The hospital refused to allow anyone to see him.

A director from the Rainbow firm, Mr. H. Nebbs, said after the accident that it was certain that a worse disaster had been prevented because of the restrictions imposed after the last explosion in December. They had them been limited to the amount of composition that could be used in a shed at one time. "That is why the damage was not more serious." He said.

Cause A Mystery

Fire prevention officers from Reading came to Finchampstead after Reading and Wokingham firemen had gone out only to find the small blaze that had broken out already put out by the workers. They left without having solved the riddle as to what caused the explosion. They felt that until Mr. Fuller was interviewed the problem would remain unsolved.

Wokingham police officers joined forces with the Home Office inspector on Wednesday morning for a survey. The cause still remained a mystery.

Mr. Fuller, a widower, with no family that could be traced, was still in hospital when we went to press. On Wednesday he was said to have got over the initial shock and was more comfortable. Visitors were all barred. The police were in contact with the ward sister to find the first possible time that he could be interviewed.

Sat 9th June

WOMEN LEGIONNAIRES

Members of the women's section of the Wokingham British Legion branch heard a talk by W./P./Sergt. E. Payne at their meeting on Wednesday on the work of the women police.

ROADS CLOSED

Peach Street was closed to motor traffic for about four hours on Sunday morning whilst a new water supply was laid for the two Queen Victoria Almshouses. Also closed was Easthampstead Road, railway work being in progress at Star Lane crossing.

C.E.M.S. PILGRIMAGE

Nine members of the All Saints', Wokingham, branch of the Church of England Men's Society took part in the diocesan pilgrimage to Salisbury on Saturday, led by the Bishop of Reading, the Rt. Rev. E. Knell. After tea at Salisbury the visitors were taken on a conducted tour of the cathedral, where they attended evensong.

MYSTERY TOUR

Thirty-eight members of the Wokingham No.1 branch of the National federation of Old Age Pensioners enjoyed a "mystery tour" on Friday last week. They visited Chertsey (where they had tea) and Burnham Beeches, returning by way Windsor and Maidenhead.

MEMORIAL TO FIRST MAYOR

A new wooden seat has been placed in All Saints' Churchyard by Miss D. Wescott, of Broad Street, Wokingham, in memory of her parents, the late Thomas and Susan Wescott. Mr. Wescott was the first Mayor of Wokingham, in 1885, and was the town's first citizen in the following year, and in 1900. Several years ago Miss Wescott presented to the town the chain of office now worn by the Mayoress, in memory of her father.

SCHOOL'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

On January 6th, 1906, Mr. T.F. Douglas, of 91, London Road, Wokingham, was the first boy to enter the newly-built Wescott Road School, Wokingham. On Wednesday he was among the earliest of the many parents and visitors to arrive and share in the school's golden jubilee celebrations.

Chatting to our reporter, he recalled the march, in bitterly cold weather, from the old "British School" in Milton Road, Wokingham, to Wescott Road. On Wednesday, without hesitation, he found his way to the headmaster's office with considerably less trepidation than he would have shown half-a-century before.

Another of the original scholars to return was Mrs. Houchin, of 28, Elm Lodge Avenue, Reading, who lived as a girl in Mount Pleasant, Wokingham. Her father helped to build the school, and she later returned to it as a teacher for a short time.

There were originally 223 boys and girls at the school, and this number rose to its peak of 499 in 1952. The opening of St. Crispin's School eased the burden of accommodation by taking 143 children away, but the roll has again risen, now standing at 477.

The celebration ceremony was under the chairmanship of the Hon. Mrs. M. Corfield, the chairman of the governors, who paid tribute to the work of the teaching staff during the life of the school.

Mayor Welcomes Parents

The Mayor, Cllr. Mrs. C.E.A. La Bouchardière, welcomed the parents, and was followed by Mr. E.E. Browne, head master from 1924 to 1945. In thanking his successor for the invitation to take part in the celebrations, Mr. Browne said that his wife was among the first teachers at the school, but that on the opening day in 1906

she little thought of attending the golden jubilee celebrations. Mr. Browne said that there had been many changes in education since he first took over the school, and that children were now given far greater opportunities for education at a higher level.

On behalf of the "old boys" present, Mr. Geoffrey Gale thanked the management for their invitation.

The Director of Education for Berkshire, Mr. T.D.W. Whitfield, told the audience that Wescott Road School was built as a model for others, and it was still a good model of the way a school should be run, even if the style of school building had changed in the last 50 years.

During the afternoon the children presented a number of plays, but the weather interfered with the scheduled outdoor programme of dancing and physical training.

Sat 30th June

BIG STORE BLAZE Oldest shop In Wokingham

Wokingham's largest and oldest shop, the departmental store at Heelas (Wokingham), Ltd., in the Market Place, was swept by a fire on Wednesday afternoon that gutted the rear of the building and caused damage running into many thousands of pounds. Storerooms packed with furniture and bedding were destroyed within half an hour of the outbreak, and despite strenuous efforts on the part of the local police and the public, very little was salvaged.

It was about 3.15 p.m. that the fire was discovered by workmen who were dismantling a large glass dome over the haberdashery department, and within minutes it had spread along the entire length of the rear buildings. Thick brown smoke billowed over the Rose Street car park, fanned by a strong wind that hampered the work of the firemen.

Almost before the sounds of the siren had died away a fire-engine drew into the car park—but was manned only by the driver. Helped by P.C. G.H. Wakelin, who was early on the scene, he began laying a hose, and they were helped by two more police and were soon joined by two other firemen.

The first fireman to arrive mounted a ladder at the rear of the building, but his efforts made little or no impression on the fire, which raged through the building. Slates were splintering under the heat and crashing to the ground around him, but he continued to play his hose on to the roof until it was no longer safe for him to do so.

Aid From Bracknell And Reading

With the arrival of a second pump from Bracknell, and crew from Reading and neighbouring brigades, the main blaze was soon put under control, and the danger averted from the adjoining old timbered properties.

Volunteers Help To Salvage

Hundreds of onlookers flocked to the Market Place from an apparently deserted town—it was early closing day—and many responded to the appeal for people to salvage what they could carry. Furniture and bedding, together with anything that was portable, were carried into the Market Place and then transferred to a café at the front of the building.

Before all the stock could be cleared the public were ordered out of the shop, and no sooner had they regained the safety of the undamaged shop-front than the ceiling in the centre of the main hall began to cave in. One fireman, Mr. Pocock, of Bracknell, was slightly injured by falling debris, and two girls were overcome by smoke and needed medical treatment.

The managing director of the company, Mr. Orson Wright, was spending a holiday at Foway, in Cornwall, and was immediately sent for. His own living quarters at the shop and the flat occupied by Mrs. Evans, were practically undamaged.

During the past four years much modernisation has been done to the building.

Sat 14th July

NEW PRESIDENT

Mr. Dennis Irvin has succeeded Cllr. A.G. Skedgel as President of Wokingham Rotary Club.

CAMPANOLOGISTS' VISIT

A party of church bellringers from St. Mary's, Church, Uxbridge, visited All Saints' Church, Wokingham, on Saturday, when they rang for a short time.

VITAL STATISTICS

Eleven boys and three girls were born in the town during May. During the same time there were eight deaths, six men and two women. Of these, four were over 80, two over 70, and two over 60.

"GUNNERS" AT TATTOO

A coach-load of members of the local branch of the Royal Artillery Association visited the White City Stadium on Friday last week to watch the annual S.S.A.F.A. Searchlight Tattoo.

"DUMMY POLICEMAN" STRUCK

A wooden police bollard in Broad Street, Wokingham, was slightly damaged on Wednesday last week when struck by the front off-side wheel of a Thames Valley bus, driven by Mr. Frederick S. Hall, of 26, upper Nurseries, Sunningdale, as he was overtaking a stationary coach.

Sat 11th Aug

FROM AN OBSCURE CORNER

Several years ago, from an obscure corner of the Town Hall, there was rescued an oak candlestick—believed to have been used at council meetings in bygone years—carved in the shape of an acorn. Now, converted into an electric lamp, it serves in this modern age on the desk in the Mayor's Parlour. Its origin is surrounded in mystery, for it was clearly not designed to hold a candle. It may have surmounted a newel post or formed part of the decorations in an old timbered house. There is some faint writing in ink on its base: "The Old Town Hall, Wokingham. One of" But what it was, or where the others are, we shall never know.

QUERCUS

Sat 15th Sept

TOWN HALL

Those who are employed in the Town Hall are hoping that the cold grip of winter will not be felt in the town for another two or three weeks—the central heating system is out of action while a new oil-fired boiler is being installed. Costing about £800, this will be fed automatically from a tank to be erected in the Town Hall yard. It has been possible to use the existing "high pressure" pipes in the building and as the new

system will work on a “low pressure” basis the safety factor should be greatly increased.

ALMSHOUSES RENOVATED

Modern Amenities For Elderly Folk

The two Queen Victoria almshouses in Peach Street, Wokingham, have now been renovated at a cost of over £1,000, one being ready for occupation on Monday, and the second during the following week. Built in 1887, these houses—like the others administered by the trustees of the Westende Charity—were in great need of repair and improvement, and for this purpose an appeal was made to the Wokingham public about 18 months ago.

Largely due to the efforts of the local Rotary Club, this realised over £600, and when more money was made available due to the amalgamation of several local charities, the trustees were able to put the work in hand. Three quarters of the cost will be met by a Government grant.

These almshouses now compare very favourably with new council houses. Electric light and power points have been fitted in each room, and old-fashioned heavy iron grates in the dining rooms have been replaced by modern fireplaces, which also heat water for the newly-fitted baths. Until recently the houses had indoor fuel stores, but this space has gone towards the new bathrooms and modern toilets. By the sides of the baths have been chromium-plated “grab” rails to assist the elderly tenants and prevent accidents. Coal will, in future, be kept near the back doors in neat concrete bins.

Previous tenants have been asked no rent for these houses, but in future they will pay 5s.—which is more than reasonable by any standard.

Only one difference

There will be only one difference between the two houses—in a cabinet in the porch of No. 69, Peach Street will be kept the engraved silver trowel with which the foundation stone was laid nearly 70 years ago. It has been given to the trustees by Miss D. Wescott, whose parents were Mayor and Mayoress at the time.

Sat 22nd Sept

BATTLE OF BRITAIN PARADE

The “Battle of Britain” parade though Wokingham on Sunday—organised by the Wokingham and Woodley branch of the R.A.F. Association—set a new high standard, and was made more impressive by the absence—or near absence—of traffic, the majority of which had been diverted. Assembling in Rectory Road, the parade—led by the R.E.M.E. Staff Band—marched down Broad Street and Rose Street, but was unable to follow the normal route, along Peach Street, to the centre of town due to road work, and retraced its steps. At the Market Place there was a drumhead service conducted by the Rev. R.C. Rudgard, at which the lesson was read by Air Commodore R.C. Field, of H.Q. Home Command, R.A.F., who later took the salute in Broad Street.

Leading the column, behind their own band, were 180 troops from Arborfield. They were followed by contingents from the local Territorial Army unit and Army Cadets, the Royal Air Force at White Waltham, the R.E.M.E. and R.A.F. Associations, the men’s and women’s sections of the local British Legion, the Civil Defence and Boy Scouts. Also in the procession were the Mayor and Corporation and officials of the Town Council.

After the parade the Mayor, Cllr. Mrs. C.E.A. La Bouchardière, accepted an invitation to join the officials of the local branch of the R.A.F.A., and officers of the units taking part, for tea at the Drill Hall—being the first Mayor to do this.

Accompaniment for the hymns at the service in the Market Place was provided by the St. Sebastian's band. The collection taken at this service amounted to £15 1s. 9d.

The annual old-time ball organised by the Wokingham and Woodley branch of the R.A.F. Association was held in the Waterloo Restaurant, Wokingham, on Saturday, and was a great success, both from a social and financial point of view. Music for dancing, came from Gordon Fowler's Orchestra and the M.C. was Mrs. Jane Sparkes. This year the association was able to arrange their own catering from gifts made by the public. A novelty sale—of "mystery parcels"—was also made possible by gifts and this resulted in a profit of over £4.

The response to the house-to-house and street collections for the R.A.F.A. was said this week to have been good, but the figures will not be available until next week.

Sat 4th Dec

SEVERE DAMAGE BY THE GALE
Roof Of Football Club Stand Blown Off
TRAIN SERVICE DISLOCATED AT WOKINGHAM

The severe gale which struck Reading and district on Friday last week did much damage, many trees being brought down, whilst broken telephone lines and electric cables caused engineers to work at full pressure over the week-end. Most serious damage of all, however, was at Wokingham, where the roof of the newly-erected stand of the Wokingham Football Club was flung on to the adjoining railway track and dislocated train services.

Due mostly to falling tree branches, telephone lines were broken everywhere, the Reading area staff being called upon to remedy no fewer than 1,500 different faults; so well did they tackle the task that by Monday morning only 300 remained for attention. Damage to the Southern Electricity Board's overhead wires in rural districts kept repair men working all day Saturday and Sunday, although, in fact, the amount of damage experienced was considered small in view of the severity of the gale.

A hoarding at the corner of Broad Street and the Butter Market was wrecked. A wooden crucifix outside Holy Trinity Church, in Oxford Road, was forced over at a grotesque angle. A Reading Man woke on Saturday morning to find a television aerial in his garden—and he has no TV. set! Tiles, fences, sheds and so on suffered in all parts of the borough.

A tree falling across the road at Pangbourne Hill caused traffic difficulties until it was hauled out of the way. A massive, very old oak tree blocked a lane at Bunces Shaw, Farley Hill.

Railway Line Blocked

A gust, which ripped the roof from the newly-erected stand at the Wokingham Football Club ground on Friday, carried it on to the Wokingham-Bracknell railway track, blocking both lines of traffic. As it fell the asbestos roof tore down telephone wires, which short-circuited the electric conductor rails. Many people in the town saw a brilliant blue flash in the sky soon after 10 p.m., when the initial damage was done.

Railway workers hurried to the scene, and, working by the light of hand lamps, set about clearing the lines.

The "up" line was restored for traffic enabling the 10.24 p.m. train to go through to Waterloo—at about 11 p.m.—but no sooner had this been done than heavy winds hurled more debris on to the lines, blocking both. It was not until 2.15 on Saturday

morning that the “up” and “down” lines were opened for two-way traffic, and it was possible to free the goods trains that had been kept waiting. The last passenger train left Reading for Waterloo at about 1.50 a.m., two-and a-half hours late. The 9.24 p.m. from Waterloo was stopped one hour later at Bracknell, when passengers were transferred to Thames Valley ‘buses, or they hired taxis to take them home.

“Terrific Crack”

As far away as Ascot the electric flash was seen. At that time a man whose garden adjoins the railway said he heard a “terrific crack” and a spluttering as if a “fuse had blown in the middle of my garden.”

The night was a disastrous one for the Wokingham Football Club. The stand, which had cost £550 to put up, was their second to be wrecked by the weather in two seasons. This last was uninsured against storm damage, and it is estimated that the cost of repairing it will be well over £200. The roof was not bolted to the wooden framework; had it been, it is thought that the whole structure would have been overturned. As matters were, the rear iron supports were lifted from their footings. The telephone wires (not part of the G.P.O. network) were restored at 5.45 a.m. on Saturday, but workmen were busy with the wires while Saturday’s game was being played.

Hazardous Driving

Elsewhere in the town there was considerable damage to roofs and chimneys. Mr. A. Musto, of the Wokingham Borough Surveyor’s staff, was on call until 3 a.m. on Saturday, and was out again three hours later. At 5 p.m. on Friday, he dealt with a large tree bough which had fallen across Molly Millars Lane, the first of many branches to make driving hazardous. Sometime between 10 and 10.30 p.m. a large elm was blown down in the Wiltshire Road, falling across the lawn at General Sir Frank Messervy’s home, Wiltshire Farm. A small cupressus blocked the pathway between Palmer School and Osborne Road, and in the same vicinity a greenhouse was wrecked. In the Barkham Road a fir tree heeled over before the wind, but was pulled down before it could fall on to the road.

There is a mystery about a quantity of what appeared at first sight to be plate glass which lay shattered in Messrs. Sale and Son’s yard in the Market Place. This was later thought to be part of a car windscreen, but its origin is still untraced.

There was flooding in what is known locally as “tragedy lane,” leading to the council tip near Gypsy Lane, sufficient to wash away several heavy railway sleepers.

Many football matches and other sports fixtures in the Reading area were cancelled for Saturday.

Fencing of St. George’s Vicarage was blown down.

Sat 15th Dec

SAVERS’ SOCIAL

The Wokingham M.B. Savings Committee held a social at the Drill Hall, Wokingham, on Friday last week at their part of the national celebration of the 40th anniversary of the National Savings Movement. During the evening there was a short film of the opening of the birthday celebrations held at the Guildhall earlier in the year, and one of the ornate brass swords and imitation candles that were used in the ceremony were on show. The Mayor, Cllr. Mrs. C.E.A. La Bouchardière, attended and presented long-service awards to the following: Mrs. M.E. O’Connor (10 years), Ald. S.L. Bowyer (seven years) and Mesdames J. Carpenter, J. Matthews, M. Dodd and K. Kirkpatrick (seven years each). Mr. W.E. Billen was unable to be present to receive his badge for seven years’ service to the movement. Mrs. E.G. Coffin, of the

south Drive Savings Group, was presented with the Street Groups Section Cup for having the highest percentage increase in savings in one group, having raised 320 per cent more savings than last year. Cllr. E.H. Langley, of the Reading Co-operative Society, Ltd., was awarded the Places of Employment Shield for the highest percentage increase (233 per cent) from a works savings group. Mr. Dick Giles gave a puppet show during the evening and dancing was to the music of Stan Ayres and his band.

BOWLING CLUB'S SILVER JUBILEE DINNER

The Wokingham Bowling Club celebrated its 25th anniversary dinner on Tuesday, with a dinner at The Waterloo Restaurant. Among those present were seven founder members, one being the club chairman, Mr. G.S. Reed. The others were Mr. A.E. Priest, a former Alderman and Mayor of the borough, Mr. W. Crocker, Mr. C. Lunn, Mr. W.J. Strange, Mr. T. Paine and Mr. J. French. Joining the club in its celebrations were representatives of eighteen clubs throughout Berkshire.

Proposing the toast to the club, the captain of the county bowling association, Mr. F. Mulford, said "How proud you must be when you recall the club's beginning and its record over the past 25 years. The club has won many county trophies and provided many county players—ten in the past year."

Mr. A.J. Orchiston proposed the toast to the Berkshire County Bowling Association and the London and Southern Counties' Bowling Association, and expressed his club's appreciation of their help in the past. The presidents of these associations, Mr. T. Campbell Dykes and Mr. F. Riley, responded.

The toast of "The Visitors" was proposed by Mr. J. Brand and responded to by the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. W.J. Willey, who later presented the season's trophies.

NEW HIGH STEWARD OF WOKINGHAM

Appointment After Fourteen Years

The Marquess of Ormonde, Lt.-Col. The Most Honourable James Arthur Butler, M.C., was installed as Wokingham's 17th High Steward at a short ceremony in the Town Hall on Tuesday. The formal business was kept to a minimum, the resolution that the corporate seal of the council be affixed to the instrument of appointment being moved by the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. W.J. Willey, and seconded by Cllr. H.R. Wells. Then after the Town Clerk had read the wording of the instrument—which had been illuminated by Cllr. A.T. Ilott—the Mayor, Cllr. Mrs. C.E.A. Le-Bouchardière, presented it to the Marquess.

In doing this the Mayor referred to H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught, holder of the office until his death in 1942. He had received his instrument of appointment from Mr. W.T. Martin, who was the only living Freeman of the Borough, and who was prevented by his age and infirmity from being present to watch this presentation. That the office had been left vacant since 1942 was not an indication that the council wished to see it die, but because they could find no one whom they wished to ask who was in a position to be able to take the office.

The Mayor went on to refer to Lord Ormonde's connection with the town and the county and his active part in county council affairs, expressing pleasure that he and Lady Ormonde should have decided to live in Wokingham.

After 300 Years

In reply the Marquess said he was proud to be elected High Steward of the ancient Borough of Wokingham. A similar honour had not been conferred on a member of his family for 300 years—in 1660 the Ormonde of those days was appointed High

Steward of Westminster, Kingston and Bristol. Although he had not lived in the town very long the Marquess said that he and Lady Ormonde had much appreciated the welcome that had been extended towards them. He had, he said, known Wokingham since 1902, when he was a student at Wixenford School. In those days the school had no chapel, and he well remembered walking to Wokingham every Sunday to attend the parish church. He was glad to be able to do this again, and had been struck by the size of the congregations at the church which showed it was a living factor in the borough. He had maintained his connection with Berkshire whilst at Sandhurst, first as a cadet and later as an instructor. After leaving the army, Lord Ormonde said, he renewed his county attachment by living at Winkfield, and was then on the County Council and on the Easthampstead R.D.C. After the last war he had moved to Kent in order to look after a widowed mother, but had returned to Wokingham.

After touching on the history of the borough, Lord Ormonde said he hoped it would never lose its character as a country market town. Under the guidance of the Mayor and the council, he was confident that it would continue to make the steady progress it had done in the past

Thanking the council for the deed of appointment, which he valued highly, Lord Ormonde said he hoped to be worthy of his distinguished predecessors.

The business concluded with the National Anthem, and this was followed by a sherry party.

Sat 22nd Dec

A NEW CUP

Over 40 members of the Wokingham St. John Ambulance Girl Cadets enjoyed themselves at a Christmas party in the Milton Road schoolroom on Saturday organised by Mrs. Payne, the member-in-charge of the cadets. During the party Mrs. Edwards presented to Mrs. Payne a new challenge cup, to be awarded annually to the best cadet, given by herself and her husband, Divisional Officer E. Edwards.

HOSPITAL CONCERT

Patients at the Wokingham Hospital enjoyed a concert on Saturday, given by the local Civil Defence Social Club, who were augmented for the Occasion by the Sainsbury Singers and the choir of the Wokingham Townswomen's Guild. This was the first occasion on which the C.D. Social Club had entertained an outside organisation. For those patients who could not leave the wards, the concert was relayed over the hospital's public address system.

FOOD AND WARMTH

Parcels of groceries were handed to each of the families at the Sale Memorial Homes by the Mayor Cllr. Mrs. C.E.A. La Bouchardière, on Monday. They had been provided by the efforts of Mrs. Beasley, who manages the communal activities at the homes. In addition to the Christmas parcels, each family was promised a hundredweight of coal, to be delivered within a few days. After distributing the presents, the Mayor stopped for a cup of tea with the old folk. The oldest person to receive a gift was Mrs. M. Seaward, who is 87.

NEXT WEEK'S FILMS

Robert Newton and Kit Taylor can be seen in "Long John Silver" at the Ritz Cinema, Wokingham, on Christmas Eve and Boxing Day, with Laurel and Hardy in the supporting film "Dancing Masters." In the main film, Robert Newton revels in the

sort of swashbuckling rôle to which he always did justice. Of the two films showing at the end of the week it is hardly necessary to say more than that they are “Doctor in the House” and “Genevieve”—two of the best comedies to come from British studios for many years, and a first-class double programme.

1957

Sat 12th Jan

A FORMER MAYOR OF WOKINGHAM

Death Of Mr. A. E. Priest

By the death on Wednesday of Mr. Albert Ebenezer Priest (78), of 36, Sturges Road, Wokingham, the town lost one of its most distinguished residents. A great part of Mr. Priest's life was devoted to the service of the town, and he began 36 years' uninterrupted service on the council in November 1911. Returned unopposed in 1914 and 1921, he headed the poll with the then record number of votes in 1924. Three years later he again polled a record number of votes and in the same year he was elevated up to the aldermanic bench on the extension of the borough, serving until his retirement in 1947. He became Mayor in 1929, and held office for four consecutive years. During his council service he held only two chairmanships—that of the Lighting Committee for 26 years, 1921-1947, and of the Rating Committee from 1932 to 1936. Mr. Priest joined the council as a representative of the Ratepayers' Association, of which he was then secretary.

Mr. Priest had the unique record of having served one firm of solicitors—now known as Messrs. Cooke, Cooper and Barry—for 65 years, starting as an office boy when he was 12 and rising to be managing clerk within 20 years.

Educated at St. Paul's School, Mr. Priest sang in the church choir for 40 years, and was for some time a churchwarden and treasurer of the parochial church council. In his early years Mr. Priest was a lieutenant in the Boys' Brigade and was the organiser of the borough's National Savings movement during the First World War, in recognition of which he was commended by the then Prime Minister, Mr. Lloyd George.

A keen sportsman throughout his life, Mr. Priest was for ten years secretary of the Wokingham Cricket Club, and among his most treasured possessions was a solid silver cricket bat presented to him by the “sportsmen of his native town” at the completion of his four-year mayoralty. For several years Mr. Priest was captain of the Howard Palmer Bowling Club, and as Mayor officially opened the Wokingham Bowling Club.

President of the Wokingham Hospital Committee for many years, Mr. Priest was mainly responsible for the £1,000 target being reached for endowing a hospital bed, and in 1934 was made an honorary life governor.

He also took an interest in the Boy Scout movement, and was vice-chairman of the local Boy Scouts Association for some time.

Mr. Priest represented the Borough Council on the Wokingham United Charity Trustees, and continued to do this after his retirement from the aldermanic bench in 1947.

Married at St. Paul's Church, Wokingham, Mr. Priest celebrated his golden wedding in July, 1955, and leaves a widow, son and married daughter.

The funeral service will be held at St. Paul's Church, Wokingham, at 2.45 p.m. on Monday, followed by cremation at Reading.

Sat 16th Feb

TRAFFIC IN BROAD STREET

Since the beginning of the year, when the new Road Traffic Act came into force, the “dummy policemen” used to control traffic in Broad Street have lost their official status, and now have to be replaced by permanent signs. No difficulty should be experienced in siting a permanent bollard in the middle of Broad Street—near the Post Office—but at its junction with the Market Place it is not so easy. A temporary bollard has been in use for several days, and has been moved many times in order to find the most useful site. It seems probable that the new sign will be considerable nearer the bus stop outside Heelas, Ltd., than before, and this may well lead to further congestion. A proposal that all buses coming from Reading should stop in Broad Street, was rejected some time ago, but this is a good opportunity for the matter to be raised again. There is an objection to bus stops on opposite sides of the road being too close together but Broad Street is surely wide enough for this regulation to be waived.

NO GOOD FRIDAY CINEMA

The Town Council decided, without debate, on Thursday not to allow the local cinema to open on Good Friday, although it was clear from the minutes that at least one or two members were in favour of opening when the matter came before the General Purposes Committee. Recently the council refused to allow the cinema to show the much-publicised “Rock Around the Clock.” But then had second thoughts and changed their mind. Whatever feelings they may have had about unruly conduct proved completely groundless; apart from the expected desultory handclapping, it might have been any other film on the screen. Had the council adhered to their original decision, hundreds of people would have been deprived of enjoyment and the cinema company would have lost a considerable amount of revenue.

Now the council’s decision will mean that the company will certainly lose revenue on Good Friday—which in some parts of the country is a profitable day—and the public will have to look elsewhere for their entertainment. Many of us may have strong views on whether or not it is a good thing to have films on such days, but I feel that the council might have given people the opportunity of going to the cinema if they so desired. I know that the management offered to meet the council’s wishes if they requested that a film with a religious theme should be shown.

Sat 23rd March

GIFT FROM TOWN CLERK

An inspection of the roadside trees in Broad Street, after one had been uprooted by an unknown lorry, revealed that they were all very “insecure”. The damaged tree is to be replaced by a flowering cherry tree—a gift from the Town Clerk.

CARAVAN SITE

A suggestion that there should be a controlled caravan site in Wokingham to help solve the problem of a waiting list for council houses of between 300 and 400 people was made at last week’s council meeting by Alderman W.C. Fullbrook who asked for the number of caravans already licensed in the town.

SALVATION ARMY

This year’s “Self-Denial” appeal organised in the town by the Salvation Army realised £277. On Monday, Colonel Bernard Booth presented a musical programme in the Sturges Road Hall, assisted by Miss Rose Smith, of Ealing. A cornet solo was given by Kelvin Ketteringham.

O.A.P. SONGSTERS

A coachload of pensioners travelled with the Songsters to Woodley Old Folks' Club, where they gave a concert at the Coronation Hall. Items were given by Mrs. Row, Mrs. Barcus, Mrs. Hockham, Mrs. McQuire, Mrs. Shorter Mrs. Hunt and Mrs. Bishop. The last-named is the secretary and organiser. Mrs. Hunt was the pianist.

ON THE CARPET

The Mayor's Parlour has been fitted with a carpet, at a cost of £51 14s 3d. Criticism of spending this sum was made by Councillor E.H. Langley at last week's council meeting. The Town Clerk said that it had not been possible to buy a suitable carpet in the town. The one that he did buy was priced at £53, but he obtained it for £47 10s.—the balance was for the underlay.

PATH TO BE IMPROVED

The "cinder track" between London Road and Seaford road is to be taken over by the Town Council, and will be improved this year, said Councillor E.W. Goodchild at last week's council meeting. Councillor E.H. Langley said he had known the track since 1908 when he used it to attend school, and though it was time something was done to improve it.

A NEW COMMITTEE

A suggestion that a new committee of the Town Council be formed to deal with recreation grounds and open spaces, together with the swimming pool, and that it should be known as the Parks Committee, was defeated by one vote at the last General Purposes Committee meeting. At the open meeting on Thursday last week, Councillor E.H. Langley gave notice that he would raise the matter again at the April meeting.

NEXT WEEK'S FILMS

A gay, light-hearted musical set in the twenties—"The Best Things In Life Are Free"—opens next week's programme at the Ritz Cinema, Wokingham, and stars Gordon Macrae, Dan Dailey, Ernest Borgnine, with Sheree North providing the glamour and romantic interest. At the end of the week there comes a taut American Air force film, "Brink of Hell," in which William Holden gives a fine performance as a top-ranking pilot who loses his nerve and self-respect after becoming a prisoner-of-war in Korea and yet fights his way back to become a test pilot of a rocket-plane. Lloyd Nolan also contributes a good portrayal as the Commanding Officer. Written by the author of "Twelve O'Clock High," this is a worthy successor.

CLUB'S GOOD YEAR

"A most successful year," was how Major C.H. Willing, president of the "D" Coy., T.A. and ex-service Men's Club of the 4/6th Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment (T.A.) described the past twelve months to members at their annual meeting on Thursday. Financially there had been a considerable improvement in the club's position, due to increased bar profits and the success of the weekly dances. In his report, the secretary, Mr. W.A. Binder, said the committee had found it necessary to increase the subscription from 6s. to 7s. 6d.—the first increase since 1936.

During the meeting, Mr. Frank Starr said that the "canteen fund" of the Old Comrades' Association had been recently wound up, and on behalf of the trustees he

handed a cheque for £10 to Major Willing with a suggestion that an item of furniture be bought for the club. The officers for the ensuing year will be: President, Major C.H. Willing; vice-president, Captain A.J. Vey; secretary, C.S.M. Binder.

Sat 13th April

WOKINGHAM M.P. TO RETIRE

Politics And Business Are Hard Taskmasters

Those who attended the annual meeting of the representative council of the Wokingham Constituency Conservative Association on Friday last week, heard with regret that their Member, the Hon. Peter Remnant, would not be offering himself as a candidate at the next General Election. Mr. Remnant has represented Wokingham since 1950, when he became Member for the newly-created constituency, and in each of his two subsequent elections—in 1951 and 1955—has been turned with an increased majority, in each case following a three-cornered fight in which a Liberal candidate was involved.

During the last war Mr. Remnant rose from the rank of unpaid acting lance-bombardier to that of lieutenant-colonel, and was at one time senior staff officer to the General Commanding Canal Area in Egypt. An enthusiastic sportsman, Mr. Remnant used to play cricket for Berkshire in the Minor Counties Championship. On four occasions he reached the final of the amateur fives championship, although never successful.

Mr. Remnant's business connections are with brewing and tea companies.

Sat 4th May

LEGLSS AIR ACE MEETS FORMER NURSES

Two women who did more than anyone else to give the legless air ace, Group Captain Douglas Bader, the will to live after his disastrous crash at Woodley in 1931, were united with him on Saturday at the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

The occasion was the annual prize-giving of the Reading Combined Hospitals Training School for Nurses and Group Captain Bader was the guest-of-honour.

He could not conceal his joy at being back at the hospital which saved his life. "The reason I have come here is not because I want to make an ass of myself," he said. "but because it is an honour to be here. Nothing on earth would have stopped me from coming."

Then Group Captain Bader turned to Miss Dorothy Brace, now matron of Battle Hospital, who—"bless her heart"—was obviously moved by his affectionate references to her nursing skill. "But there was someone else," said Group Captain Bader. "Sister Evelyn Thornhill, who was in charge of Benyon Ward back in 1931."

And he persuaded Miss Thornhill, who is now matron of London's Brompton Hospital, to join him on the platform.

Group Capt. Bader told the nurses and guests: "Had it not been for these two ladies—apart from the chap who hacked off my legs—I would not be here (and so happy) to-day."

Then he told the young prize-winners that they were a "very pretty collection. If a nurse was pretty as well as sympathetic, he added, amid laughter, a patient could send the doctor away.

After he had distributed the prizes, Group Captain Bader, who was accompanied by his wife, spent a long time chatting with Miss Brace and Miss Thornhill.

It was reported that student nurses at the combined hospitals gained a notable success in the State examinations last year. On all three occasions every nurse who entered the finals obtained a pass.

Sat 11th May

WHIST DRIVE

The St. Crispin's School Parent-Teacher Association held a successful whist drive in the school on Tuesday.

PAPER MONEY

During March and April the Town Council sold five tons of waste paper for £35.

ANNIVERSARY

The Wokingham Methodist Sunday School held their anniversary on Sunday and Monday, when the Mayor, Cllr. Mrs. C.E.A. La Bouchardière, presented trophies to the successful scholars.

“BOATERS” FOR THE SIXTH FORM

Heads turned in the High Street, Wokingham, this week, when several girls walked along in straw “boaters” with red and white bands. The girls were sixth-formers from Wokingham County Girls' School, in their new summer headwear.

Miss Whitlow, the head mistress, believes that this is the first time the school has worn this type of hat. The idea came not from the teachers but from a meeting of sixth-formers last term.

The rest of the school are not forgotten, however, for they are wearing new straw hats with brims that are turned up at the back and down at the front. The new headwear is not compulsory; the girls can wear the navy berets if they like.

WOKINGHAM SWIMMING POOL

Wokingham's open-air swimming pool opened for the season yesterday (Friday), and when our reporter called earlier in the week it presented a pleasing picture, with the neatly-kept gardens that promise an abundance of roses later in the year. The pool itself was gleaming from its annual re-whitening and the surrounds and furniture have had a new coat of restful green paint.

This year, for the first time since the Town Council took over control of the pool, season tickets are available for Wokingham residents. They cost 25s. and are valid at any time other than Sundays and Bank holidays. This is a concession to the ratepayers that should result in improved attendances. School children can buy books of tickets at 12s. 6d. for 20 or 6s. 3d. for ten.

Youth clubs and other organisations wishing to use the pool can do so on one night per week at a reduced rate of sixpence per person, provided they attend in a body and the leader has written authority.

This year admission to the grounds will cost 1s., and bathing on week-days will cost 2s. (1s. for those under 14). On Sundays and Bank Holidays the bathing charge is 3s. (1s. 6d. for those under 14). Special evening tickets are also available for bathing on week-days at 1s. 6d., and on Sundays and Bank Holidays at 2s. (half-price for those under 14).

This year the pool is being managed by Commander W. St. J. Ainslie, who retired from the Royal Navy three years ago, having been in the service since a youngster. For the last eight years of his service, Commander Ainslie was in charge of the

training of Sea Cadets throughout the whole of the British Isles and Northern Ireland. He told the Mercury reporter that this was the first time he had been in charge of a swimming pool, but he was looking forward to the work and expected little difficulty.

Sat 8th June

SWIMMING POOL OPENING

The new swimming pool at Luckley School, Wokingham, referred to in last week's paper, was opened on Saturday by Mrs. J. Hodges, president of the Berkshire Amateur Swimming Association. Immediately after Mrs. Hodges had declared the pool open, Wendy and Carol Miller, 14-years-old twins, became the first Luckley girls to use the pool, diving in together and swimming its 75 feet length. The head mistress, Mrs. E.M. Galloway, had told the visiting parents—the opening coincided with sports day—of the history of the pool project, which would be completed when new changing accommodation was built. Mrs Galloway paid great tribute to Mr. L.E. Whitmore and Mr. A. Sears, who had designed and built the pool, and to the many parents and old girls who had supported the appeals for funds which had been made over the past ten years.

After the opening ceremony a team of swimmers from the Reading Borough Police gave a demonstration of life-saving, with a commentary by Mr. R. Donovan, and then senior girls of the Reading Swimming Club—including the Miller twins—gave a display of the latest swimming techniques.

Sat 17th Aug

“UNCLE STANLEY” CALLS

The man who is “Uncle Stanley” to thousands of young film fans all over the country paid a surprise visit to the Ritz Cinema, Wokingham, on Saturday morning to meet the children at the “Minors’ Matinee.” “Uncle Stanley”—Mr. H.G.S. Winch, head of the Minors Department of associated British Cinemas—congratulated the audience on their singing and good behaviour.

LIBRARIAN LEAVING

Leaving Wokingham at the end of this month to open a new library at Havant, will be Mr. Frank Bagulay, of 52, Sturges Road, Wokingham, who has been a librarian at Montague House since January 1st, 1952. Mr. Bagulay came to Wokingham from Leicester, where he was with the city library, and was the first full-time librarian at the Wokingham branch of the county library. Since then he has seen it grow in size and popularity, and he has been concerned with the formation of a branch at Bracknell, which opened in 1953. Mr Bagulay, who is married and has a son and daughter, takes up his new position on September 2nd, but his new branch will not be opened until October. He has been an enthusiastic member of the Wokingham Literary Group since its inception and has served as secretary.

NEXT WEEK'S FILMS

The story of how a young, pleasure-loving man (Tab Hunter), fails at a university and in his early days in the army, but eventually proves himself a courageous soldier and rehabilitates himself in the eyes of his parents, his girl friend and his superior officers is told in “The Girl He Left Behind,” at the Ritz Cinema, Wokingham, at the beginning of next week. Natalie Wood is the girl in the title rôle. “The Lone Ranger,” also showing, tells of one man's fight to restore peace between ranchers and Indians, and is a well-made “Western.” Clayton Moore (The Lone Ranger) and Jay Silverheels

(his Indian friend) have the leading roles. An entertaining story of how a schoolmistress (Jean Simmons) becomes a secretary in a night club, and not only proves capable of looking after herself in these strange surroundings, but also taking care of the problems of others can be seen at the end of the week in "This Could Be The Night." Also featured are Paul Douglas and a newcomer, Anthony Franciosa.

Sat 15th Nov

WOKINGHAM POST OFFICE

Within the next fortnight the Wokingham public are to lose a privilege that many did not know existed. For many years the Broad Street Post Office has been open for business (within certain restrictions) from 9 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. on Sundays. This has proved an expensive luxury, for the demand for the services was very small. Now it is proposed to discontinue the Sunday opening, in keeping with the national trend. It will make very little difference to post office patrons, for stamps will still be available through the machines, but it will represent a great saving in the running expenses of the Post Office.

Sat 21st Dec

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The St. Paul's School Parent-Teacher Association held a Christmas social in the Parish Room on Saturday.

CAROL SERVICE

The Rev. A.C. Dowsett, curate of All Saints' Church, Wokingham, conducted a special carol service for school children in the church on Wednesday afternoon.

RESTORATION FUND

All Saints' Church Restoration Fund benefited by over £13 from a collection taken in the church last week, when Wokingham and District Choral Society presented music from Handel's "The Messiah."

FIRE

Wokingham firemen were called out on Friday last week to deal with a small outbreak in a flat at 5a, Peach Street, Wokingham, above Messrs. Dewhurst's shop. The outbreak started when clothing placed near a fire burst into flames.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

On Tuesday, for the first time for years, the weather conditions were good for the annual open-air community carols singing in the Market Place, Wokingham, organised by the Wokingham Rotary Club. Some of the carols were recorded by B.B.C. engineers for a broadcast on Wednesday.

"SPUTNIK III."

"Sputnik III" landed in Wokingham on Thursday, and from it, on to the playground of Wescott Road School, stepped Father Christmas, with presents for all. He was welcomed by the head master, Mr. M.H.B. Curtis, and before leaving his silver rocket ship he led the children in a rousing chorus of "Jingle Bells." He then went into the school and distributed the presents at the form parties.

“QUIZ” SUCCESS

Four girls from the Holt School, Wokingham, are hoping to spend a summer holiday in Madeira next year. For this is the first prize in the nation-wide “Outspan” road safety “quiz” competition organised by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, and on Friday last week the “Holt” team had a resounding win over the Ashmead School, Reading, in a regional contest.

Sat 28th Dec

THE HUNTER IS NAMED “PRESENTATION”

The 104-years-old Garth Hunt met in traditional style, surrounded by many hundreds of the townsfolk in the Wokingham Market Place on Boxing Day.

This year provided an occasion unique in the history of the Hunt; Mr. R.H.R. Palmer, who had been greeted by the Mayor, Cllr. E.W. Goodchild, referred to the “coming of age” of Miss Effie Barker as a Master of Hounds, and went on to speak of her record as a Master, firstly in her own right and then jointly with others, including Lord Northesk, Mr. Vivian Simonds and latterly Mr. Michael Downes.

In recognition of this fine record, said Mr. Palmer, the members of the Garth and the neighbouring South Berks. Hunt decided to make a gift to Miss Barker, and there was only one possible choice—a horse.

It was difficult, went on Mr. Palmer, to secure a good mount at this time of year, but Miss Barker had been fortunate, and a six-years-old chestnut hunter had been found. It should give good service for at least 10 years, and he asked Miss Barker to accept it.

Replying, Miss Barker said she found it difficult to express her thanks adequately in words. The life of a Master was said to be full of ups and downs but she was happy to say there had been more ups than downs.

This she attributed with gratitude to the kindness, understanding and friendliness of all in the Garth Hunt.

Miss Barker made a point of thanking the followers of the hunt, whether mounted, on foot, bicycle, or in cars. It was, she said, appropriate that the hunter she had been given should be called “Presentation.”

Concluding, she said the gift had made her “the happiest woman in England today.” After the stirrup cup had been served from Ye Olde Rose Inne, the hunt moved off with Miss Barker riding her new mount.

1958

Sat 1st Feb

CLOSING DOWN

One of Wokingham’s best-known business men closed his shop doors to the public for the last time this week. He is Mr. W.W. Stewart, who has carried on a cycle trade at the corner of Rose Street and the Market Place for the past 21 years. Standing in the now almost empty shop, with the remains of his stock awaiting collection., Mr. Stewart told me this week that he had not intended retiring yet, but had very little choice as he did not own the property. He came to Wokingham, he said, when he was 12 months old, and on leaving school was apprenticed with Mr. Eric Perkins, who formerly ran a cycle business where Messrs. Drake and Mount are now. For some time he had a shop in Denmark Street, and, with a partner, later ran a garage in Rose Street. In 1936 his present shop was opened at a former doctor’s surgery. Although he

has spent most of his life in the cycle trade, Mr. Stewart was not himself a great cyclist. He is an accomplished bowler, and no mean opponent on a billiards table. In the past few years he has been in poor health but there is now an improvement which he hopes will be maintained.

I asked Mr. Stewart if the great post-war increase in the number of car-owners had been reflected in a decrease in the demand for cycles and was surprised to learn that more cycles were being sold now than before the war. "Youngsters are more keen on cycling than they used to be," he said, and added that this might be attributed in part to the great improvement in the machines, with new light-weight alloys and better gearing.

Sat 15th Feb

WEATHER RECORDS

The meteorological records kept by the borough for 1957 show that there was a total of 25.76 inches of rain, .47 inch above the average for the past 57 years. The wettest year on record was 1903 (38.97 inches). More than .01 inch of rain fell on 165 days in 1957, the highest record being 218 days in 1910. The average over the past 57 years is 167.75, the first move from 168 since 1948. The heaviest rainfall in 1957 was on September 23rd (.78 inch), the wettest day on record being May 25th, 1911 (1.97 inches). The lowest temperature recorded during 1957 was 20 degrees (on the night of December 15th/16th), the lowest recorded since records began in May, 1948, was 11 degrees on January 27th 1954. The highest temperature of 1957 was three degrees short of the record of 93 degrees on July 29th, 1948, and occurred on June 29th.

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

The Siting Of A Siren

A great deal of time was spent at Thursday's meeting of the Wokingham Town Council in discussing the removal of the air-raid siren—now used as a fire warning—from the roof of the police station, and replacing it on a steel tower near the Methodist church, Rose Street. The matter was referred to in three committee reports, and in accepting that of the Plans and Town Planning Committee the council agreed to inform the Chief Fire Officer of their great concern over the proximity of the new site to the Methodist Church, and ask for "every possible alternative" to be considered.

The Town Clerk reported that the siren was being moved at the request of the Chief Constable—with the police force undergoing a reorganisation he could not guarantee to have a man on duty throughout the day who was available to sound the siren.

Another reason for the move was that the vibration of the siren was damaging the police station roof. There would be a certain amount of inconvenience to worshippers at the Methodist Church, said the Town Clerk, but added that records showed that during the past year the siren had been sounded for a total of only five minutes during the opening hours of divine service. In future the siren would be operated by remote control from Reading, and he understood this would result in a saving of time. The Town Clerk, answering a question from the report of the Plans and Town Planning Committee, said that the council had no statutory authority to dispute the siting of the siren, providing it did not conflict with the proposed development plans.

Sat 22nd Feb

CHRISTOPHER FINDS BOMB A Wokingham Discovery

Taking a short cut through the back gardens on his way from Palmers School, Wokingham, to see his aunt, Mrs. L. Shard, of 64, Peach Street, Wokingham, on Friday last week, ten-years-old Christopher Saxe, of 55, Norreys Avenue, Wokingham, found an unexploded German incendiary bomb, probably dropped on the town in 1940 or 1941. Not realising how dangerous it might be, Christopher proudly carried his new-found souvenir indoors to show his aunt. It was kept indoors for a short time before Christopher returned it to the garden. When, later, Mr. Leslie Shard returned home he noticed the bomb and on Tuesday evening notified the police.

The police were not given the exact location of the bomb, and on Wednesday morning the gardens at the rear of the Peach Street houses, several of which are unoccupied, were searched and the bomb was eventually found by P./Insp. G.F. Drew. It carried the numbers AZ 8312 and 268 RS/143 K on the base, and on the side was 59 K III. Made of light alloy and outwardly undamaged, the bomb, which had steel fins, was 14 inches long and two inches in diameter. The particulars were telephoned on Wednesday morning to a bomb-disposal unit, stationed on Salisbury Plain, and it was subsequently dealt with by them.

Sat 8th March

COLORPHOTO SOCIETY

The Wokingham Colorphoto Society have now completed their first year. At their annual meeting to be held at St. Crispin's School library on March 26th, the programme will consist of, apart from the official business and election of officers, the showing of a varied selection of colour transparencies. If the response is good the society will endeavour to put the collection on show somewhere in the town as an example of the work of the organisation. Mr. Robertson, an official of the society, said that the group had become very popular and work consisted of all aspects of colour photography.

Sat 15th March

WOKINGHAM SOLDIER IN LIBYA

Presented With Medal By C.-in-C.

Presented with a Long Service Good Conduct Medal by the C.-in-C. Middle East Land Forces, Lieutenant-General Sir Roger H. Bower, K.B.E., C.B. during his recent visit to North Africa, was A.Q.M.S. Desmond Carpenter, R.E.M.E. Desmond, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. Carpenter, live at Tithe Barn Cottages, off Milton Road, Wokingham, is living Married Quarters out in Libya with his wife, Glenys, and daughter, Nicola.

He is attached to the 6th Royal Tank Regiment as they serve in Italian-built barracks at Homs. The presentation was made during the first visit of General Bower to Libya since he assumed the appointment of C.-in-C. in January.

It was in 1939 that Desmond enlisted as a boy apprentice. He was promoted staff sergeant in 1945 and served in Egypt and Palestine with 23 Corps Troops Workshops supporting 6th Airborne Division and 1 and 3 Infantry Divisions. He was attached to the Arab Legion in 1948 and served with the Bedouin Brigade L.A.D. in the Arab-Israel war. In 1952 Desmond was promoted W.O. II in charge of the R.E.M.E. attached to the Royal Malta Artillery. He was posted to the 6th Royal Tank Regiment in August 1956.

Desmond has done half his Army service abroad. He is not the only one in the family to have found adventure in the Army, however, for his father, Mr. Harry Carpenter, served in the Royal Artillery for 36 years.

GIFT FOR WOKINGHAM CORPORATION

Silver-gilt Cup From Mr. John Walter

Mr. John Walter, late of Bear Wood, whose family has been intimately connected with the neighbourhood of Wokingham for more than 140 years, presented a silver-gilt cup to the Mayor, Cllr. E.W. Goodchild, before Thursday's meeting of the Town Council, as a memento of the happy relationship that has endured between the family and the town through four generations. The cup was originally presented by the residents of Bear Wood to Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Walter, parents of the present Mr. John Walter, on the occasion of their silver wedding anniversary in October 1897.

In making the presentation Mr. Walter said that there were two occasions, each concerned with the Town Hall, that stood out in his mind. It was in the hall that he made his first public speech. In those days there was considerable agitation by the suffragette movement, and he accepted an invitation to address a public meeting. "I being very young at the time, spoke with great conviction against votes for women. The following year I was asked to address another meeting on the same subject. I then spoke with equal conviction for votes for Women."

His second personal memory of the Town Hall was of the presentation made to him by the Mayor and Corporation of a silver rose bowl on the occasion of his marriage 55 years ago. "The sight of that rose bowl brings back to me happy recollections of those days, more peaceful in many respects than we are living through now. This evening I am honoured in the opportunity of meeting the successors of the former council who have, in their turn, taken up the unending task of safeguarding the ancient traditions of this borough."

To the Mayor, Mr. Walter said, "May I ask you to accept, on behalf of the Corporation, this cup. I ask you to accept it in memory of the happy relations which have existed between Wokingham and my family for four generations, or for let us say more than 140 years. It was presented to my father and mother in 1897 in memory of their marriage in 1872. It has always been a cherished treasure in my family, and now Bear Wood has passed into other hands I feel that there is no place so appropriate for it as in the Wokingham Town Hall. Wherever I happen to live in future, so long as the cup remains here I shall feel the honoured friendship between my family and Wokingham has not been severed."

In reply Cllr. Goodchild said, "It is with the greatest possible pleasure that I accept this beautiful gift to perpetuate the memory of the name of Walter in this borough." He went on to recall the civic connections with the town of the family—Mr. John Walter, grandfather of their guest for the evening, was the High Steward from 1885 to 1894 and Mr. Arthur Fraser Walter held the same office from 1895 until his death in 1910.

Concluding the Mayor said to Mr. Walter, "I thank you very sincerely for this gift, which together with the beautiful painting of Mrs. Walter you gave some time ago will keep alive the memory of the Walter family."

Sat 26th April

WOMEN LEGIONNAIRES

The annual monthly meeting of the Wokingham branch, women's section, British Legion, was held in the Legion Hall on Wednesday last week. Mrs. P.G. Murray (chairman) and Mrs. R.H. Anders (vice-chairman) both gave short talks. A musical interlude was provided by Mrs. Dowding (hon. secretary) and Mrs. Hare (hon. treasurer).

NEW FIRE SIREN

The new fire siren mounted on a pole adjacent to the Methodist Church in Rose Street, Wokingham, came into operation yesterday (Friday) after tests. Now emergency fire calls are sent direct to Reading, and the Wokingham siren is sounded by remote control. It is expected that the new procedure will be faster and more efficient.

ST GEORGE'S DAY PARADE

Local Scouts and Guides attended a special service at All Saints' Church, Wokingham, on Sunday afternoon and later took part in the annual St. George's Day parade. The service was conducted by the rector, the Rev. F.A. Steer, and the address was given by the Rev. A.C. Dowsett. After the service the Scouts and Guides marched in procession to Rectory Road, via Rose Street and Broad Street, where Cllr. Simon Barrett took the salute.

NEW ELECTRICITY SHOWROOM

Owing to the increasing demand for electricity in Wokingham district, a new and more conveniently situated electricity showroom and service centre will be opened by the Southern Electricity Board at 27, Market Place, Wokingham, on Monday, April 28th. This new showroom will replace existing premises at 36/38, Finchampstead Road, Wokingham, and consumers will be able to avail themselves of central up-to-date premises where there is adequate space for displaying the Board's range of electrical appliances as well as additional facilities for dealing promptly with all inquiries and service problems. Facilities also exist for the payment of accounts.

A VETERAN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Wokingham Baptist Church Sunday School celebrated its 150th anniversary during the weekend. On Saturday evening there was a social evening, which was also a reunion of many former teachers and pupils, and messages of goodwill were received from three former ministers of the church. On Sunday the services began with a meeting for prayer, conducted by the minister, the Rev. H.M. Ray Smith, and morning and evening services were led by Miss Doris Street, a well-known lecturer in Sunday School methods. The present children of the Sunday School took part in these services by singing, and reciting extracts from the Scriptures. During the afternoon children from all departments of the school united in presenting a play, "Over The Hills To Nazareth," in the church and Miss Street told the story to the smaller children. The Methodist Sunday School was invited to this special service. Between the afternoon and evening services, tea was served in the schoolroom, and a large birthday cake was cut by Mrs. F. Hall, who has the unique record of having taught in the school for over 60 years. Among the guests were three former superintendents, Mr. H.R. Griffith, Mr. H. L. Perkins and Mr. G.W. Peryer, together with Mr. A. Andrews, who was superintendent of the morning school from 1936 to 1941.

Sat 10th May

NEW LACE DESIGNED AT WOKINGHAM

Earns Award Presented By The Duke

In the upstairs, lattice-windowed study of 21, Rances Lane, Wokingham, was designed a new lace that earned for its creator, Mr. Frederick Hobden, the award of a certificate for one of 20 "Designs of the Year." He received the certificate at the hands

of Prince Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh, at the Design Centre, Haymarket, London, on Thursday. The lace—which is on permanent display in the design centre—has already made a successful appearance in the home and export markets.

It has a simple elegance, is functional and, at the same time, blends well with the current trends in furnishing. In these days of larger windows and more extensive use of glass in building, the prizewinning lace solves the problem of shielding the interior of rooms from the outside view, whilst not greatly interrupting the outward view; largely for this reason it was dubbed “Vision Net.”

It is not surprising to find that the designer—and his charming wife—come from the home of fine lace, Nottingham. It was at the Nottingham School of Art that Mr. Hobden began the training that, having taken him into the lace and fabric industry, enabled him to pursue his career in America, where the family spent 20 happy years. In the United States Mr. Hobden came, towards the end of his stay, a free-lance designer and, as such, worked in many media other than lace, which, nevertheless, remained one of his favourites. During their prolonged American visit the family lived in New England and Southern California—where, for five years, they were on the border of Hollywood—and the decision to return to England was taken by Mr. and Mrs. Hobden after the marriage of their daughter to an Englishman.

Sat 31st May

A GYMKHANA AT WOKINGHAM

Members Of Garth Hunt Pony Club Compete

The recently-formed Wokingham sub-branch of the Garth Hunt branch of the Pony Club and the local St. John Ambulance Brigade, joined forces on Monday to stage the first Wokingham Pony Show and Gymkhana, held on the Carnival Field. Early morning rain made conditions far from ideal, and the mud tested riders and horses alike. As the day progressed, however, the weather improved and by the afternoon the earlier downpour had been forgotten and the public arrived in force to watch the novice and junior jumping and gymkhana events.

A feature of the morning's programme was the success of Dawne Archer, who has been riding only since October, in sharing the first place in the high jump (13 years-old and under class) with Carol Close, clearing four feet. The scurry jumping was strongly contested, and the Pony Club Cup for this went to Ian black, on Huffy, after a jump off with Gillian Morphew on Clare. The junior jumping for the Ashby cup was won by Virginia Houldey on Acrobat.

The judges were Lieut. B.J. Palmer, R.C.M., J.T. Sallis, Royal Horse Guards, and Mrs. Jean Perkins. The profit from the show will be shared by Wokingham sub-branch of the pony club and the St. John Ambulance Brigade, the superintendent of which, Mr. W.E. burden, told the *Mercury* that the appeal fund for the coach would benefit from their share.

(Harry Banks of 43, Langborough Road, former Town Crier of Wokingham died on 31st July 1958)

Sat 6th Sept

ANCIENT MEASURES

The Mayor of Wokingham, Alderman F. Moles, and the Town Clerk have a problem—where to store a set of brass measures recently given to the town by the Weights and Measures Department of the County Council. Made in 1857, this set of ten measures, from half-a-gill to a bushel, was issued to the police of Wokingham,

who were then responsible for the enforcement of the newly-introduced Act of 1855 governing the uniformity of weights and measures. There are copies of the Imperial standards as kept in London, and were made by a Reading firm. In 1888 the responsibility for the enforcement of the weights and measures regulations was transferred to the then recently created County Council, and only one master set was required by them. The remainder was kept for use as “working standards,” and the set now locked in the Mayor’s parlour was last stamped as being accurate in 1921. It is interesting to note that in 1904 the then Chief Constable of Berkshire was required to pass an examination and qualify as a weights and measures inspector before a new department could be formed, and since then no police officers have been employed in the department. The box in which the measures are kept—together with a copy of the Imperial yard—bears an old label “Wokingham,” and is undoubtedly the one which was originally provided for the local police. As the largest of the measures weighs about $\frac{3}{4}$ -cwt. (hundredweight) when empty it will be seen that the problem of storage is a very real one, the Mayor’s parlour being quite inadequate for the task. The acceptance of these measures is yet another reason for the provision of a civic museum in Wokingham. The standard “weights” issued at the same time as the “measures” are still in current use.

Sat 11th Oct

FREEMAN OF WOKINGHAM

Ald. E. W. Reeves Honoured

Wokingham Town Council on Thursday conferred upon Ald. E.W. Reeves the freedom of the borough “in recognition of the faithful and devoted service which he has rendered to the borough of Wokingham and to the County of Berkshire by his long association with local government over the past thirty-five years, and his interest in the social, recreational and cultural life of the town.

The resolution was proposed by Ald. W.C. Lawrence, and Ald. S.L. Bowyer seconded.

Sat 18th Oct

TOWN HALL CURIOS

This week there came into the possession of the town yet another item of more than passing interest to add to the existing large collection of curios already held at the Town Hall. This, given by his daughter Miss Dorothy Wescott, is the illuminated address presented to Mr. Thomas Manley Wescott, first mayor of Wokingham, on completion of his two-year term of office. The address, in book form, is a magnificently executed piece of penmanship and contains the names of the various subscribers. It was handed to Mr. Wescott—after whom one of the borough roads was named—on June 28th, 1888, when he also received the portrait of himself which now graces the council chamber. At the same time Mrs. West was also given a bracelet by the many subscribers, headed by the then Mayor, Mr. Thomas Briant Martin, uncle of the late Mr. W.T. Martin, who was created a freeman of the borough.

At the moment there is a heavy demand on office accommodation in the Town Hall, and indeed, there is a real need for a new civic hall and offices. As an emergency measure it has been suggested that the existing Town Hall yard be roofed and further offices provided by this means. It would, of course, cost a considerable amount of money, but not more than a fraction of the cost of a complete new office block.

SALVATION ARMY

The Wokingham Corps of the Salvation Army were visited over the week-end by the Hanwell Songster Brigade. On Saturday the chairman for the afternoon was Mr. L. Goddard Smalley, the Town Clerk. On Sunday the chairman was Col. W. Wellman.

INNER WHEEL

Membership of the Wokingham Inner Wheel club has now risen to the record figure of 29, members were told at their meeting at Heelas Restaurant, Wokingham, last week, at which two new members, Mrs. R. Haye and Mrs. R. Davis, were welcomed.

ROTARY CLUB

A talk on Cyprus was the feature of this week's meeting of the Rotary Club of Wokingham on Monday. The speaker was the Rev. Campbell McKinnon, and he was thanked by the Rev. J. Brooksbank Moore. The president, Mr. J. Rodger, presided.

LABOUR PARTY FAIR

Wokingham Constituency Labour Party held their annual fair in the Church House on Saturday and benefited by £70 as a result. The fair was opened by the prospective candidate, Mr. Terry Boston. A competition for the most attractive stall—judged by Alderman and Mrs. A. Lockwood, of Reading—was won by the Crowthorne Labour Party.

YOUR FILM ENTERTAINMENT

Coming to the Ritz Cinema, Wokingham, next week is a film that will be welcomed by all lovers of children. It is "Cry From The Streets," and has Max Bygraves and Barbara Murray in the leading adult roles, and Colin Petersen (remembered for his performance as "Smiley") and Dana Wilson (who scored a success in "Shiralee") as the juvenile leads. Mr. Bygraves plays a good-hearted radio mechanic who has never quite recovered from the shock of losing his wife and child in a railway accident, and Barbara Murray appears as a young girl who devotes her life to the welfare of slum children. The programme is completed by "The Golden Age of Comedy."

Sat 1st Nov

WOKINGHAM EX-SERVICE MEN'S CLUB

The Wokingham Ex-Service Men's Club is likely to be finally wound up—about three years after it closed. For some time there have been many in the town who were not completely satisfied with the way in which the hopes of a final meeting seemed to diminish with the passing months. The matter was not forgotten by members of the British Legion, however, and it is as a result of their action that the day of final settlement has been brought nearer, for there have been references to the delay at each of the subsequent branch annual meetings. Last week it was said that it was now known that there was about £50 awaiting distribution, and the former officers of the club are to be asked to convene a meeting of members in the near future.

WOKINGHAM BRITISH LEGION

Past Year Marked With Frustration

If Wokingham Branch of the British Legion is to flourish it will have to recruit more young and active members and persuade the present members to take a greater interest in its activities and social functions. These were the inescapable conclusions to be drawn from the branch annual meeting on Friday last week. The chairman, Mr. H.R.

Wells, referred to the difficulties of keeping the branch functioning—difficulties experienced by many other branches, he explained—and said “The past year has been marked by a certain amount of frustration, as your committee have found it impossible to hold regular monthly meetings owing to lack of support.”

Certain things had been accomplished in the past year, however, and Mr. Wells reported that pensions for the disabled had been increased following a national rally in the Royal Albert Hall, attended by himself and the standard-bearer, Mr. W. Spokes. There was still more to be done in this direction, commented Mr. Wells.

Having referred to parades organised or attended by branch members, Mr. Wells thanked the officers and committee for their work, paying a special tribute to the entertainments committee, which had provided a great deal of the branch income.

The financial state of the branch was reported on by Mr. F. Payne, treasurer, who said that the general fund had increased during the year from £7 16s. 8d. to £13 6s. 7d. the benevolent fund had increased from £4 1s. 6d. to £15 10s. 9d. and the entertainment fund had also risen—from £109 7s. 1d. to £116 7s. 1d.

Reporting on the work of the entertainments committee, Mr. W. Reporting on the work of the entertainments committee, Mr; W. Hannam said that the thrift club was proving more popular each year. When It started the deposits reached £300--this year they were expected to exceed £3.000.

Concerning the. Legion and ex-Service men in need of some assistance, Mr. W. Burden reported that the service committees had been busy in several cases. Some men were helped in their claim for pensions, and one man was able to take a job locally after the Legion had found accommodation for him.

The election of officers was as follows: President. Lt.-Gen. P. Molloy; vice-presidents, Messrs. R. Haye, A. B. Hall, W. Burden and F. Payne; chair-man, Mr. H. R. Wells: vice-chairman, Mr. W. J. Willey: treasurer; Mr. F. Payne: secretary, Mr. A. Dowding; assistant secretary; Mr. W. Hannam; standard-bearer, Mr. W. Spokes; deputy standard-bearer, Mr. A. Dunham.

Sat 8th Nov

TRAMP SUPPER

Members of the Wokingham Civil Defence Social Club held a “tramp supper” at the headquarters in Denmark Street, Wokingham, on Saturday. Such was its popularity that more similar functions are planned.

SALE OF BOOKS

Book-lovers from Wokingham and district found much of interest at Perkins Garage showrooms on Friday and Saturday, when the second sale of books in aid of the All Saints’ Church Restoration Fund was held.

GUY FAWKES DAY FIRE

Wokingham firemen had only one call on Wednesday—to a garage fire at 5.25, Reading Road, Winnersh. Two lorries parked in the garage were damaged by fire, believed to have been started by an ember from a Guy Fawkes bonfire.

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

St. Crispin’s School Parent-Teacher Association held a whist drive on Tuesday in the school library, winners being: Mrs. Higgins, Mrs. Prior, Mrs. Rumbold, Mrs. Gott, Mrs. Newland, Mrs. Newman, Miss Cook, H. Langley, Mrs. Hussey and W. Cook.

ARTS GROUP

Members of Wokingham and District Arts Group were joined by those of the Bracknell and East Berkshire Writers' Group at a meeting in Wokingham Town Hall on Friday last week, when Mr. Norman Court spoke on Chinese art. He dealt with the Chinese national approach to art and the influence of religion. The talk was illustrated by a film of Chinese folk-art.

HOWARD PALMER BOWLING CLUB MEETING

An improvement in the financial position of the Howard Palmer Bowling club was reported to members at the annual meeting held in the Wokingham Club on Friday last week under the chairmanship of Mr. A. Bailey.

Mr. W.H. Bunch, the retiring secretary, said that in spite of a wet season, only one match had been cancelled. The Saturday team had played 19 games, winning nine and losing ten. The Wednesday team had secured eight victories and conceded eleven defeats. The combined fixtures had.

AN INVITATION

Did you serve with the Allied Forces in Alexandria or Tobruk during the war? If so the manager of the Ritz Cinema would be glad to hear from you, and would welcome you as a guest to the first showing in Wokingham of the film "Ice Cold in Alex," on November 24th.

1959

Sat 21st Feb

WOKINGHAM CARNIVAL MEETING WAS A FLOP

A Council-Sponsored Event Suggested

Do the Wokingham public want a carnival in 1959? This question was answered with an emphatic "No" in the Town Hall, Wokingham, on Wednesday, when less than a dozen people—including the Mayor, three councillors and two Press representatives—answered the Mayor's invitation to attend a "public" meeting to discuss the possibility of holding a carnival. Alderman F. Moles ruled that there were insufficient people present to carry any decision, and said that he would refer the matter back to the existing committee: but the public had spoken more eloquently by their absence than they could have done in words.

Opening the meeting, the Mayor looked disappointedly in front of him at the five people who sat among the 30 to 40 empty seats and commented, "This is representative of a population of 10,000?" He went on to say that soon after taking office—in May 1958—he had signed the cheques for the distribution of the profits of the carnival held in August, 1957

Sat 28th Feb

THIRTY YEARS A MILKMAN

Mr. E. J. Garrett Is Retiring

Retiring on March 14th, after more than thirty years as a milkman, is Mr. E.J. Garrett, of 92, Embrook Road, Wokingham, who is 65 years old tomorrow (Sunday). Mr. Garrett left school when he was 12 years old, and started as a milk-boy for Mr. Elder, of Matthews Green Farm. He kept this job for two years before working for Mr. Boshier, of Chapel Green Farm, where he spent a further three years in the milk

trade. At this stage Mr. Garrett decided to make a change and until the outbreak of the First World War worked as a gardener.

In 1912, Mr. Garrett joined the Royal Berkshire Regiment (T.A.) and went to camp with them at Salisbury and Folkestone. In August 1914, he was mobilised, and went to France where, in 1917, he was awarded the Military Medal. A month later, in July 1917, he was wounded at St. Julien and after being invalided home rejoined his regiment in Northumberland, staying with them until November, 1918. In the following year Mr. Garrett re-enlisted with the Royal Berkshire Regiment and saw service with them in India, Mesopotamia, Persia and South Russia, being again invalided home in 1921 and discharged the following year.

Back in Wokingham, Mr. Garrett was market gardening for seven years. But he still had a desire to be in the milk trade and went to work for Mr. E.F. Bowyer, of Ashridge Wood Farm, with whom he stayed until 1946. In that year Mr. Bowyer's business was bought by Messrs. Clifford and Sons, and Mr. Garrett joined this company, by whom he is still employed.

Mr. Garrett says he has enjoyed his life's work as a milkman, and has made many friends on his various rounds. On his retirement he thought he would return to his other love—gardening.

PENSIONERS

Wokingham No.1 branch of the National Federation of Old Age Pensioners were entertained by a choir organised by Mrs. Hookway, at the British Legion Hall.

GARDENERS' QUIZ

Wokingham horticultural Association beat the Reading Federation in a quiz at The Molly Millar Hotel, Wokingham, on Tuesday and will hold a challenge shield for a year. The Wokingham team comprised Miss J. Salter and Messrs. Bonney, Godwin and Wilkins.

ROTARY CLUB

The speaker at this week's meeting of the Rotary Club of Wokingham was Rotarian George Evan Cook and his subject was "An Aspect of the Lord Mayor's Show." Rotarian Cook was on the Lord Mayor's Committee which organised the show. Rotarian Reeves thanked the speaker. President Jack Rodger presided.

MEMBERS WANTED

Despite slackening in attendance, "D" Company, 4/6th Batt., Royal Berkshire Regt. (T.A.), and Ex-Service Men's Social Club finished the year in a sound financial position. This was stated at the annual meeting on Thursday when it was agreed to launch a membership drive. To this end it was decided to form a special entertainments committee, and to hold more social evenings and dances. The new Commanding Officer. Major L.J. Lance, took over the presidency.

WATERLOO JAZZ CLUB

Friday evening last week marked the first of the club's new "Name Group" evenings, the attraction of the session being the well-known broadcasting and Columbia recording star Tony Crombie and his Men. A capacity crowd proved that this policy will be extremely popular, and Mr. Crombie's autograph was much in demand. A recent feature was the showing of two Technicolor films made by members, the first a repeat of the popular summer "Riverboat Shuffle!" and the other

features the finals of the hula-hoop contest and many shots of the couple jiving at the Christmas party.

Sat 28th March

TOWN CRIER IN ACTION

Wokingham's new town crier, Mr. Harold Cornish, was in action for the first time on Saturday when the promoters of a local fête called upon his services.

ROTARY CLUB

Members of the Rotary Club heard a talk by Mr. Bellworthy on "Structural Plastics" as applied to the aircraft industry at their meeting on Monday. The president, Mr. Jock Rodger presided.

COLOUR WORK

Members of the Wokingham Colour Photo Society heard a talk by Mr. Lancelot Vining at St. Crispin's School on Wednesday, when he showed many examples of 35 mm colour work done by himself and other experts.

FORMER HEAD MASTER DIES

The funeral took place at St. Paul's Church, Wokingham, on Monday, of Mr. Edward Elliott Browne, aged 74, of 171, Reading Road, Wokingham, who died on the previous Tuesday. Mr. Browne was a former head master of Wescott Road School, Wokingham.

RECRUITING DRIVE

On June 9th, the Royal Berkshire Regiment and the Wiltshire Regiment amalgamated to form The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, and to secure Regular troops for the new regiment a recruiting drive has been launched in the two counties. The Berkshire Mobile Campaign opened on Monday with a film show and display of small arms in the Market Place, Wokingham.

DENTAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Mr. W. J. Willey, of Glendower, Crescent Road, Wokingham, was recently elected chairman of the conference of Local Dental Committees to be held in 1960. This was done at a meeting of representatives of over 100 committees at the Church House, Westminster, at which the guest speaker was Mr. J.P. Dodds, the Under-Secretary to the Minister of Health.

DEATH OF FORMER MAYORESS

Mrs. Ethel Thorpe, of Benfieldside, Milton Road, Wokingham, widow of James Egerton Thorpe, former Mayor of Wokingham, died on December 23rd 1958.

Sat 27th June

BIG FIRE AT WOKINGHAM

A two-bay single storey factory at Oxford Road, Wokingham, was gutted by fire on Monday, and thousands of pounds worth of electrical equipment, some of which was for export to Canada was destroyed. The owners of the factory, Ladybird appliances, Ltd. were at the time moving to new premises in Molly Miller's Lane. Mr. John Reynolds, who was passing the factory soon after the fire started, said: "There was a

series of explosions. Flames were leaping 60 feet in the air, and bits of the roof were falling all around me.”

DEATH OF LADY WILSON

The death occurred on Wednesday last week of Lady Wilson, widow of Col. the Rt. Hon. Sir Leslie Orme Wilson. A native of Australia. She passed away at Caloundra, Queensland. Sir Leslie Wilson was M.P. of Reading in the years before the 1914-18 war and immediately after that war. He resided on his appointment as Governor of Queensland, a post he held for a number of years. He and his wife, who were married in 1909, lived for many years in Wokingham. Sir Leslie met his death in a road accident in this country in 1955.

Sat 8th Aug

FATALITY AT MARTIN'S POOL Colleague Thought Man Was Playing About

A 30-years-old man's cries for help whilst bathing in Martin's Swimming Pool, Wokingham, were ignored because it was thought he was playing about, it was stated at an inquest in Reading on Thursday. A verdict of accidental death was recorded by the Reading Borough Coroner, Mr. J.L. Martin, on the man, Raymond Richard Victor Dowsett, an electrician, of 38, Birdhill Avenue, Reading, who was drowned on July 20th, whilst bathing during his lunchtime break from work.

Sat 15th Aug

TOWN HALL PAINTINGS

This week I wish to comment on the recent decision of the Town Council to spend a great deal of money—possibly £300—on the restoration of the paintings that decorate the Town Hall. Those who have followed these notes for some time will know that the writer advocates the removal, not restoration, of these oversized and overbearing canvases. But there was a feeling around the council table that the paintings should be restored, and an expert was called in to make the necessary examination. Each painting was cleaned, and this revealed a hitherto unsuspected brightness. Unfortunately, however, it was seen fit to test a strip across the face of the portrait of King James II, who now appears to have a prominent, shining nose. It is extremely unlikely that any of the paintings will be restored during the next year, and under the circumstances I suggest that it would be advisable to store them in the meanwhile—in their present state they can only detract from the general appearance of a decorated hall.

THEIR OWN THEATRE

At last the Wokingham Players are near to realising their greatest ambition—their own theatre in the town. Since the company were formed immediately after the war they have produced plays in the Masonic Hall, the Church House and the Town Hall—but none of these places found a real home and the facilities they required. After an initial success the Players had an unfortunate run when little seemed to go right for them and public interest waned. With the move to the Town Hall, however, came a new lease of life for the company, and many new members joined their ranks.

The Town Hall, however, increased production difficulties as players had only one evening to rehearse “on stage,” to overcome this the Players committee looked for a wooden hut which was suitable for conversion to a theatre. They found one near Hindhead 94ft.x 24ft., and bought it for £100. A large part of the company's

remaining funds went on “Ichabod”—a 22-years-old lorry which is being used to transport the dismantled hut to Wokingham.

Now the Players are waiting to erect this on a site in the Norreys Barn Estate leased to them by the Town Council. Here the reassembled hut will be suitable for arena presentations and the more normal type of show. The new stage will be a low one, and the tiered seating will bring new comfort to the audiences. The building will also contain a well-equipped workshop, property store rooms, better wardrobe facilities, much-improved dressing rooms and a kitchen.

The Players tell me they are considering the formation of a Theatre Club in the town, to promote an interest in amateur and professional stage work. In the meantime they are busily preparing for their November show—the J.B. Priestley comedy, “When We Are Married.”

Sat 22nd Aug

VISITING WARSAW

The Hon. Peter F. Remnant, the Member for Wokingham leaves on Tuesday for a visit to Warsaw. He will return on September 4th.

NEW TORY OFFICE

The Wokingham Conservative Association are to move from their office at 8, Rose Street, Wokingham, next Wednesday, it was announced this week. The Association has bought larger premises at 30, Rose Street, Wokingham. When the Association was first formed it used temporary offices at Shute End, Wokingham, and in November, 1953, moved into its present offices. The new offices will enable committee meetings to be held at headquarters.

LEAD COFFIN DISCOVERED

Workmen starting on the last phase of the restoration of All Saints’ Church, Wokingham, have discovered a lead coffin in a cavity under the chancel. When the chancel was being redecorated recently a ladder broke through the tiled floor revealing a cavity which is thought to have been caused by a defective drainage system. This part of the church was built in 1861 when the existing chancel was lengthened by 21 feet. The graves, which have now been revealed by the subsidence, are probably 250 years old.

JUNIOR SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

The activities of the club continue successfully. They have been experiencing their best-ever tennis season, which a full membership of keen lads are enjoying to the full. The club championships resulted in Bill Green retaining the Senior cup, and Bill Flint retaining his Junior trophy. Tennis cups and prizes were presented by Mr. E. Fuller. Five club members entered for the *Reading Mercury* Tennis Junior Championship, and the above-named club championships have succeeded in reaching the semi-finals, and hope to meet in the final on September 5th. The indoor club evening on Wednesdays is well attended. Congratulations were extended from the club to Tony Jones, former club member, who was recently married, and whose wedding the club leader, Mr. D. Goddard attended.

Sat 29th Aug

A MIGHTY MAN IS HE

Half-a-century is a long time for anyone to remain in business in one shop in the town. Yet Fred Painter has been at the blacksmith's shop in Peach Street, Wokingham for 53 years.—and still the ring of his hammer as it sends showers of sparks cascading over the anvil draws children—and adults—to his dark doorway, eager to see an old craft being perpetuated. Today his forge is flanked by garages on either side, and the days when he and other brawny men made and fitted no fewer than 400 shoes per week are gone forever. Fred has seen many changes in his street—he is one of the oldest still working there—but time has not changed his shop. He still uses the same tools, the same forge and the same technique that he was taught as a lad when he left a firm of engineers to become a “blackie.”

On Tuesday, however, the usually placid Fred was a worried man. He had been asked to attend at the Mayor's Parlour at 10 a.m.—and could not think why. Perhaps the authorities were going to close his smithy to retire after all these years, this was something he had not planned. But his fears were unfounded. He was welcomed by the Mayor, Ald. S.L. Bowyer, and Mr. W. Harold Lee, and, to mark the town's appreciation of his services, particularly with regard to pre-war carnivals, was presented with a framed portrait of himself—taken by Mr. W.H. Lee.

Sat 26th September

WELL!

Workmen engaged on improvements at The Victoria Arms, Easthampstead Road, Wokingham, discovered a brick-in well this week. Ten feet deep, it was still, after the abnormally dry season, full of water.

A SHIP ADOPTED

How can an interest in geography be stimulated in school? The problem has been solved, to a very large extent, by Mr. F. Stone, of St. Crispin's School, Wokingham, who has formed a “Ship Adoption Society” at the school. Mr. Stone told the Mercury that the society had “adopted” a 10,000-ton cargo liner, the Port Alma, a motor vessel of the Port Line, built in 1928.

Each week the society meets during the lunch hour, and about forty boys and girls follow the latest news of the vessel which is at present on its 62nd voyage, and returning from New Zealand. Letters are received at the school from time to time from the captain and crew and in a prominent place by the world map are a photograph of the Port Alma and an oil painting by one of the crew, of the ship passing through the Panama Canal.

The owners have provided the scale plans of the vessel, from which a model is being made in the school workshops. Two girls are making a table runner which they hope to present to the captain when the ship next docks at Southampton. The children are also preparing a large album showing details of the school and school activities, which they hope to present at the same time.

Mr. Stone said that by following the movements of the Port Alma as it covers the globe the children have added a personal interest to the study of geography, and other subjects. It is hoped to have the captain or a senior officer from the ship at the school's speech day on October 21st.

Fri 20th Nov

PEOPLE HANG COATS, PUT CUPS OF TEA ON ROLL OF HONOUR

What should happen to Wokingham's Roll of Honour.....tribute to those who gave their lives in two world wars? Town councillors attacked moves to transfer it from the

Town Hall to the clinic—the borough’s war memorial in Denmark Street—and condemned the lack of respect that the Roll of Honour received from townspeople at last Thursday’s town council meeting.

The Public Buildings and Properties Committee had reported that the Roll of Honour was seriously affected by dampness, and could not be re-erected in the Town Hall without considerable renovation and re-writing of the names. The committee had discussed the suitability or otherwise of the Town Hall annexe for the Roll of Honour and suggested that it could be hung in the clinic.

COULD NOT BE MOVED

It had been resolved that the council ask the trustees of the Clinic for their views on this suggestion—but Cllr. A.T. Ilott urged for the matter to be referred back to the committee for further consideration. “They would be making a very bad mistake in moving it.” It had been in the Town Hall for many years—and it was more than an old shoe. It meant a great deal to many hundreds of people in Wokingham. To suggest that it should be cast down to the clinic is wrong.

The committee chairman, Ald. S.L. Bowyer, said however that they had given the matter a great deal of thought. It was in a disgraceful condition and something had to be done. What the committee had wanted were some suggestions from the townspeople and now they had got some which would be a big help.

After Cllr. Ilott had offered to re-write the names without cost to the council, the meeting agreed to the reference back.

Sat 28th Nov 1959

SANTA ARRIVES

Arriving at Wokingham station, on Saturday afternoon, 'Santa Claus was welcomed by the Dagenham Girl pipers who led his coach to the Market Place store of Heelas Ltd., where he will spend his days between now and Christmas.

LUNCH AT THE HOUSE

The Member for Wokingham, Mr. W.R. van Straubensee, entertained the chairman of Easthampstead Rural District Council, Mr. Gordon Thrake, and his wife, to lunch at the House of Commons on Wednesday. After lunch, Mr. and Mrs. Thake listened to a debate.

ANOTHER POST

Mr. W.R. van Straubensee, Member for Wokingham, has been elected secretary of the Conservative New Towns Committee in the House of Commons. The chairman is Mr. Frederick Gough, M.P. for Horsham, which includes Crawley, and the vice-chairman is Mr. Martin Madden M.P. for Hitchin, which includes Stevenage.

TOWN HALL

The future position of the Roll of Honour, which for many years, has been exhibited in the Town Hall annexe is causing many arguments at the moment. The British Legion—whose views should carry some weight—are strongly opposed to the transfer of the Roll to the Denmark Street clinic, as has been suggested. They would prefer to see it moved to the opposite end of the hall, replacing the large gilt mirror.

Personally I think that the mirror detracts from the beauty of the hall rather than adds to it, and I do not subscribe to the belief that because it was given by a former Recorder and is an antique it should remain in the most prominent place in the hall, It has been said, however, that many a member: of the council has curtailed his speech

on seeing his reflection in the mirror, and if this is so perhaps a useful purpose has been served!

However, I am again going to suggest that the appropriate committee should seriously consider removing at least the inferior canvases which have for so long given the hall a decidedly gloomy character. This would make it possible for the Roll of Honour to be placed in the corridor side of the hall, and the wreath stand could be placed in position only when required, as suggested by Cllr. E. W. Goodchild, thus preventing its misuse by the public. QUERCUS

Sat 5th Dec

BIG FIRE AT WOKINGHAM Plastic Factory Partially Guttled

One of the worst fires in Wokingham in living memory almost totally destroyed the Denton Road Factory of Messrs. Wokingham Plastics on Saturday morning. The loss was estimated by Major T. Astley Herd on Monday at “about £150,000.” Five of the seven blocks were gutted, including the office block adjacent to the Ritz Cinema.

The cause of the fire and the time that it started remain a mystery. Strong criticism was levelled at the fire service by the watchers, who said that no firemen arrived until 5.30 a.m., although the fire had started at least half-an-hour before this. But the official records show that the first warning call was made by a Mr. P. Wiggins—who lives by the main entrance to the factory—at 5.18 a.m. The fire authority headquarters at Reading said on Monday that their records showed the fire call was received at 5.21 a.m., and within ten minutes firemen were on the scene.

Unfortunately, the bells in two firemen’s houses failed to ring, but this, said an official, did not affect the turn-out of the appliance from Wokingham, which was adequately manned.

Also criticised by many of the hundreds of people who quickly arrived was the water supply—but this criticism was equally strongly repudiated by Mr. C. Carey, the assistant divisional officer, who himself attended the fire. As soon as they arrived, said Mr. Carey, the first fireman used a nearby hydrant, but later it was necessary to change the method of obtaining water—the eight-inch main in the Market Place being brought into use. At this stage people might have seen the water supply temporarily reduced owing to the change-over procedure. But the Bracknell appliance had brought with it 400 gallons of water, and this was available in the early stages of the battle.

“I formed the conclusion that the water supply was an exceedingly good one,” said Mr. Carey, who added that the public’s lack of knowledge of the brigade procedure might have given rise to a false impression. “There was no delay in getting the first jets to work,” said Mr. Carey.

At that time, however, the fire had a good hold on the factory, and it was clear that little of the contents could be saved. The greatest problem was to prevent the fire spreading to the houses in Easthampstead Road, and the cinema, which was only a few feet away.

Flames Eighty Feet High

The noise of the asbestos roof disintegrating awoke people in a wide radius, and the mass of flames leaping 70 or 80 feet skywards drew great crowds. Many of the first arrivals responded quickly to an appeal to carry furniture, clothing and bedding from Mr. N. Hunt’s home at 9, Easthampstead Road, and one local tradesman, Mr. A.T. Caiger, placed his van at their disposal. Nuns from the nearby Convent of the Presentation were also soon on the scene to render what help and comfort they could.

Southern Electricity Board workers who were employed on an all-night repair job at the booster station in Denton Road were among those who were first aware of the fire.

While the fire was at its worst the first employees arrived. On Monday Mayor Herd said that none of the employees—the labour strength varies about the hundred mark—had been discharged. The women were advised to return home, and the men set about salvage and demolition work. The main wall running alongside the cinema car park was badly cracked, and had to be shored up prior to its eventual demolition.

A tribute to the Wokingham industrialists who had offered to help by making storage space available was paid on Monday by Major Herd. He also said that employees had been generous with their offers of help, and praised the telephone and electricity services.

One of the greatest losses to the company was of their moulds—made in their own workshops. During the war the firm made parts for Hurricanes and Spitfires—now their production ranges from lamp fittings to components for television sets, and they also have Government contracts.

On Saturday morning hundreds of children arrived at the Ritz Cinema for the matinee, and despite the fact that the fire was still burning, it was sufficiently under control for the show to be given—although one of the exits was out of use. Paintwork on the cinema was damaged, as was one of the flat roofs, and a number of windows were cracked by the heat. The car park was extensively damaged, and the company estimate the total damage at £300.

Sat 12th Dec

THE FIRE SIREN

Mr. Bill van Straubenzee has been approached in recent weeks by a number of inhabitants in Rose Street and other nearby streets in connection with the noise caused by the fire siren in Rose Street. After considerable correspondence, helped by one of the local councillors, the Chief Fire Officer has arranged to try the fitting of a baffle to the siren in order to try to reduce its unpleasant effect. It has been pointed out that the exceptionally hot and dry weather of this summer gave rise to an enormous increase in the number of fire calls at Wokingham, and with the return to normal weather conditions the number of calls has been greatly reduced. Mr. van Straubenzee has been assured that when the new fire station has been erected at Wokingham the siren will be removed from its present position without delay.

“MIRROR ON THE WALL”

Recently there has been trouble caused by the objects at each end of the Town Hall. At first it was suggested that the Roll of Honour should be moved from the annexe to the Memorial Clinic, but I am glad to note that this will now be restored to its former position.

The Council are currently faced with the problem of the mirror. In committee the council agreed not to replace this overbearing antique—but at open council a plea for further consideration of the matter, and an offer of £25 towards the cost of the repairs, were actually accepted and it will be another month before the fate of the mirror is known. At Thursday's meeting of the council only one member spoke emphatically against the mirror—Dr. P. P. Pigott—and the brevity of her speech might have resulted in the point being missed. Cllr. Dr. Pigott pointed out that the mirror obscured the chimney breast and destroyed the illusion of narrowness created by it.

I wholeheartedly support any scheme for the removal of the mirror for I am not one of those people who revere objects merely on account of their age. The mirror

belonged to an era long past. The Town Hall looks more attractive now than, I would think, at any time in living memory. The walls should not be obscured by the mirror—or the dull pictures that are eventually to be restored. I would hope that the council could find storage space, not only for the mirror, but for the many portraits which will, if re-hung in their present state, detract from the new beauty of the hall.

QUERCUS

Sat 19th Dec

DEARER PICTURES

Admission prices at the Ritz Cinema, Wokingham are to be increased by threepence as from January 10th. This will make the standard prices 2s. 3d., 3s. 3d., and 4s. The cheap rate for old age pensioners will remain at 9d. The high cost of maintenance and the burden of the entertainment tax are given as the reasons for the price increases.

1960

Sat 16th Jan

PORTERS STARTED IN “OAKINGHAM”

Clock Business Has Ticked Long History

Just retiring from the Hartley Wintney business after 60 busy years is Mrs. Porter, widow of the late Mr. Alfred William Porter, whose family have been jewellers and clock-and-watchmakers since before 1700, and who transferred their business from Wokingham to Hartley Wintney in 1844 in the days when the stage coaches to the West of England ran past the shop, and the coachmen called in to check their watches.

Somewhere about the time when Porters opened in Hartley Wintney, the landlord of the Whyte Lyon, a few hundred yards up the road, shot himself because he thought the opening of the railway at nearby Winchfield would mean the end of the road traffic through Hartley Wintney on which the hotel's prosperity depended!

Mrs. Porter, now 84, came out of Fleet Hospital on Saturday after enjoying excellent health for most of her life, but thinks now it is time she took life less strenuously. Her son, Mr. Basil Porter, is now in charge of the business.

Tale Starts In 1750

After more than 50 years in London, a member of the Porter family set up business in Wokingham, then called Oakingham, in 1750. Somewhere about 1800 Mr. Samuel Porter decided to make a call on Mr. John Staples, a clock-and-watchmaker in Odiham of whose work Mr. Sam Porter was a great admirer. The two craftsmen had never met, but Mr. Porter walked from Wokingham to pay his respects to his Odiham rival. The return journey covered about 30 miles!

Mementos of the long history of the business are all around as one calls at Mr. Porter's shop. A time-keeper in Mr. B.A. Porter's flat is a drop dial cock in a mahogany case, and it has been keeping time ever since it was made by Mr. Mark Porter in 1790 at Oakingham.

Standing still in the same position in the shop where it was built by Mr. Alfred Porter in 1849 is a magnificent grandfather's clock, 6 ft., 6 ins. tall. It keeps unvarying good time.

The grandfather clock is just a youngster hardly learned to tick compared with some Methuselahs at Porters. Just gone from the workshop is a clock, made in 1580. A German table clock constructed about 1600 is just leaving, and it is “good for centuries,” said Mr. Porter.

Emperor's Clock

Making a repair visit to the workshop a year or two ago was a clock that would probably make a record price if put up for sale. It was made for the Emperor of China in 1795, and is now in the McGrigor Mess, Aldershot.

A Mechanical marvel and with the most intricately devised system of sounding bells as well as a supreme decorative scheme, this clock was “won” by a British officer somewhere around 1900, when the Imperial Palace in Peking was sacked. After an astonishing series of adventures the clock reached Britain and now has its permanent home in Aldershot. It had not worked for 30 years when it reached Porters, but was soon registering the hours again.

Sat 6th Feb

THE BROADMOOR QUESTION

Mr. W.R. Van Straubensee, the Member for Wokingham, is, on Monday, February 15th, to ask the Minister of Health a question concerning the recent escape from Broadmoor.

NEW YEAR PARTY

A New Year party was given for residents of the Sale Memorial Homes, Wokingham, on Saturday. The M.C. was Mr. G. Reeves, and among the guests were the Mayor and Mayoress, Alderman and Mrs. Moles, and Alderman N.C. Lawrence.

LEAVING

After 30 years as a hairdresser in Wokingham, Mr. S.G. Hussey is leaving to take a business in the small Cornish village of Calstock. Mr. Hussey closes his Peach Street business next Saturday. Mrs. Hussey has been closely associated with carnivals and other social events in Wokingham for many years.

APPEAL DISMISSED

The Minister of Housing and Local Government has dismissed an appeal by Mr. J. Barrett against the refusal of Wokingham Borough Council, acting on behalf of Berkshire County Council, to grant permission for the use of land at Brookside Works, Reading Road, Wokingham, for the display and sale of second hand motor-cars which was the subject of an inquiry held in November.

HOSPITAL CONCERT

Elderly patients at Wokingham Hospital were given a concert on Saturday, organised by Supt. W.E. Burden, of the local St. John Ambulance unit. The first half of the programme was provided by the Shinfield Players, whose handbell ringing was particularly appreciated. After refreshments—also provided by the St. John Ambulance Brigade—the choir of the girl cadets gave a number of items, and these were followed by a comedy number written specially for the concert and given by the Brigade

NEW MATERNITY WARD

The Reading Hospital Management Committee are to spend £11,616 on equipment for the new maternity ward at Wokingham Hospital. In addition this hospital will be provided with the “Telenurse” two-way patient-nurse experimented with at Peppard Chest Hospital. The committee are also trying to combat the danger of electricity cuts, of which they have been the victims on two occasions in recent months. Although

they have an emergency supply on tap for the theatres, the new boiler house is electrically controlled and further cuts would stop the heating.

NEXT WEEK'S FILMS

The damage done to a score of reputations by an innocent girl who lets her imagination wander when writing a best seller is the basis of "Please Turn Over," the main feature at the Ritz Cinema, Wokingham, throughout next week. Julia Lockwood appears as a 17-years-old authoress who puts her family and friends in to a sensational novel "Naked Revolt." Ted Ray and Jean Kent are the parents, and others bringing comedy to the film are Leslie Phillips, Joan Sims, Charles Hawtrey and Lionel Jeffries. This is a well-made British comedy. The supporting film—"The Desperate Man"—features William Hartnell as a criminal out to retrieve the proceeds of a previous robbery, who gets caught by two reporters. Unlikely but good of its kind.

"DON'T FORGET CRICKET," SAYS MAYOR

An Appeal to planning authorities not to forget the needs of cricket and other sporting clubs was made by the Mayor, Ald. F. Moles, at the annual players' dinner of Wokingham Cricket Club, held at The Bush Hotel on Wednesday.

"To go round the countryside and pass through small towns and villages on a Sunday afternoon and see cricket played on the green—to my mind this is England," said the Mayor, who congratulated the club on their successful efforts to bring entertaining cricket to Wokingham. He had a special word of praise for those who were working hard to improve the amenities and build a new pavilion, on the Wellington Road field.

The toast to the club, proposed by the Mayor, was replied to by the president, Mr. L.D. Sears, who said it was unfortunate that the club did not receive greater support from business men and the public of Wokingham.

The toast to the visitors was proposed by the club captain, Mr. Ray Hancox, and the reply was by Cllr. A.D. Tanner.

The captain, Mr. R. Hancox, presented the trophies won during the past season.

Sat 13th Feb

SCARLET FEVER AND T.B.

During December ten cases of scarlet fever were notified to the Medical Officer of Health for Wokingham, and two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, one man and one woman. There are now 40 men and 35 women in the town suffering from this form of tuberculosis.

CIVIL DEFENCE SOCIAL

Among the guests at the Wokingham Civil Defence Club social evening—at the Denmark Street headquarters on Saturday—were the Mayor and Mayoress. Alderman and Mrs. F. Moles, and representatives of Civil Defence units at Earley, Reading and Spencers Wood. The M.C. was Mr. MacRoberts, and a competition in aid of refugees raised £4.

WOMEN LEGIONNAIRES

Wokingham branch of the women's section of the British Legion held a party in the Legion Hall, Wokingham, last week to mark the 33rd anniversary of the foundation of the branch. Mrs. Robinson of Finchampstead, entertained members and a presentation

of a tray was made to Lady Victoria Villiers, who has been president of the branch for 30 years.

WEATHER RECORDS

Weather statistics for 1959 relating to Wokingham were issued last week. The year's total rainfall was, at 22.36 inches, almost three inches below the average for 59 years. The driest year on record was 1921, when only 13.83 inches of rain fell. During 1959 there were 147 days on which .01 inches of rain fell—this was 20 below the average for 59 years, the highest on record being 218 in 1910, and the lowest 114 in 1949. The wettest day in 1959 was July 10th, when 1.88 inches was recorded, more than double the figure of the preceding day, .85 inches, which had the next highest rainfall in 24 hours. The wettest day on record was May 25th, 1911, when 1.97 inches was recorded. The lowest temperature recorded in Wokingham in 1959 was 20 degrees, on January 16th. The lowest recorded since records were started in May, 1948, was 11 degrees on January 27th, 1954. The highest temperature recorded during the year was 89 degrees on July 8th, the highest on record being 93 degrees on July 29th, 1948.

FIRE-GUTTED FACTORY

Moving To New site

The Wokingham Plastics, Ltd., factory which was gutted by fire in December, will not be rebuilt on the old site. The Wokingham Town Council learned at their meeting on Thursday that the county planning authority had agreed to give permission for the factory to be rebuilt on a site in the Eastheath Industrial Estate, and for residential development of the existing factory site.

A report to the Financial Committee revealed that the basis of discussions for the move were that the borough council should buy the present factory site, and that a sum of about £1,250 should be paid—by the Borough and County Councils—as compensation and removal expenses.

THE MIRROR RETURNS

The Town Hall mirror—now a century old—is to be repaired at a cost of £50 and rehung in its original position in the hall. An amendment that a quotation of £180 for complete restoration and regilding be accepted, was not carried. It was also proposed, in committee, that in view of the expense the mirror should not be replaced, but this was also defeated.

FUTURE OF WOKINGHAM CLUB

The President's Action

The president of the Wokingham Club—Mr. R.H.R. Palmer—described his own action at a second meeting of the club on Wednesday as “unconstitutional and high-handed.” But the members approved his suggestion that the resignation of the entire committee and secretary be accepted and that he appoint a new five-man committee to put the club back on its feet.

The meeting had been called after the annual meeting a month previously—at which it was revealed that the club was virtually bankrupt—was poorly attended.

Before the president made known his plan to appoint a new committee a number of suggestions were put forward. The former chairman, Mr. C.T. May, urged that thirty members should each give £10 and that a further £300 should be raised from a bank. Mr. F. Medcalf said that the club premises—owned by Mr. R.H.R. Palmer—could be

sold and another club built on the bowling green. Another suggestion was that the premises buildings should be halved—the rental from one half helping to maintain the other as a club.

Before the resignation of the officers, it was decided that the Howard Palmer Bowling Club should be divorced from the Wokingham Club. The bowls captain said that he doubted whether they would be able to continue in the coming season. The green, said a member, was in a bad condition and the work needed to make it playable would be costly.

After Mr. Palmer had said that the bowling club could no longer be considered an asset the decision to separate it from the parent club was taken by a majority vote, five members voting against it.

Mr. Palmer attended the meeting both as president and landlord, and said that he would not let rooms in the club on a seven-year lease if there was little prospect of the club continuing. It was not reasonable, he said, to expect him to allow half of the club premises to become derelict while the remainder was leased.

There was an association between the club and his family that had lasted half-a-century, said the president, adding that he wanted to see it continue. But he was outspoken—“You owe £500. The club is broke, the bills have got to be paid. Where is the money coming from?” he said, urging the members to be honest with themselves. If members do not want a club they should say so. They could realise on their assets and clear the liabilities—but this was a course he would do much to avoid.

Until the new committee is formed the existing officers will continue to serve.

Sat 26th March

BOWLS CLUB TO CONTINUE

The Howard Palmer Bowling Club will continue. This decision was taken by 30 members at a special meeting of the club, held in the Wokingham Club on Tuesday. Recently, owing to financial difficulties and a re-organisation of the Wokingham Club, the bowling section was separated from the parent club. Mr. C.T. May was elected chairman of the new Howard Palmer Bowling Club, and it was agreed to ask Mr. R.H.R. Palmer to become the president. Mr. R. Thatcher was elected secretary. A donation by the new chairman started the club funds, and it was agreed to have three classes of membership. Full membership will cost two guineas, and non-playing members will pay 10s. 6d. Lady members of the club will pay one guinea.

Sat 2nd April

WOKINGHAM BOWLERS

Now Own More Land

After protracted negotiations the Wokingham Bowling Club now own not only their green and the land on which the pavilion is built, but the surrounding land. This was announced at the annual meeting held in the pavilion on Tuesday, and referring to it in his annual report the secretary, Mr. E.C. Plumridge, said “This ensures our existence for a very long time.”

The progress of the club during the past year had been “most satisfactory,” said the secretary. Membership had remained stable, and there were now 49 full members, 18 country members, 6 life members and 2 social members.

Despite the long journey, the Whitsun tour was a success, and Mr. Plumridge hoped for an equally successful trip to Worthing in the coming season. The fixture list for 1960 had been arranged with the emphasis on Sunday matches.

The green, said the secretary, had stood up to the demands of a hot dry summer very well, and it was during the season that the full worth of the recently acquired sprinkler system was appreciated. The long-term policy of buying mechanical aids for the groundsman was one that would pay dividends, he felt.

There was competition for the various offices for the club, but the retiring president, Mr. J. Brand, had to decline re-election owing to ill-health. His place was filled by Mr. R.J. Fenner, Mr. H.C. Lee becoming vice-president. Mr. G. Reed retained the chairmanship, and Mr. E.C. Plumridge was re-elected secretary. The new treasurer will be Mr. J. Ford, with Mr. R.A. Ingram taking over as assistant secretary. Mr. F. Beard retained the captaincy, the vice-captains being Mr. P.W. Fry and Mr. J.L. Langley. Mr. H. Blackman was re-elected match secretary.

WOKINGHAM PROPERTY SALE

Messrs. H.E. Hall and Sons, incorporated auctioneers, report a successful sale of the freehold shop premises and living accommodation known as No. 15, Peach Street, Wokingham. There was a large attendance at the auction which was held at The Bush Hotel, Wokingham, on Tuesday. The bidding started at £4,000 and rose rapidly in bids of £250 and £500 at a time up to £8,500, the property eventually being sold for the satisfactory figure of £8,900.

The freehold property has a frontage of 27ft. 6in. to Peach Street, including a right of way of about 10ft. 6in. the figure represents a value of approximately £330 per foot frontage. This figure is even £100 per foot in excess of the recent figure obtained by the Borough of Wokingham just recently from a multiple firm for 100ft. of frontage lower down Peach Street.

The buyer of the freehold premises, we understand, is a manufacturing clothier and he intends to open a retail shop and redevelop the site. No. 15, Peach Street was owned by the late Ella Johnson, and a both she and her husband died within a few days of each other, both intestate, the property is owned by the Crown and was sold on behalf of the Treasury Solicitor. Mr. C. Farnell, auctioneer and sole principal of Messrs. H.E. Hall and Sons, conducted the sale.

Sat 23rd April

THE MIRROR RETURNS

Subject of exhaustive debate—in the Council Chamber and outside it—the mirror presented to the town by a former Recorder of Wokingham is now once again hanging over the stone fireplace in the Town Hall.

CAR PARK SCHEME

The long-awaited Denmark Street car park will soon become a reality instead of an item for discussion at council meetings. A tender for its construction—and the demolition of certain old properties—has been accepted from a Darlington firm, who quoted £1,787 10s.

Hair Fashions

An exhibition of hair styles—in which 22 models showed a total of 28 different styles—was arranged by Mr. Leslie Ilott and held in the Town Hall, Wokingham, on Wednesday in aid of the Mayor's appeal for the World refugee Year Appeal Fund. The Mayor and Mayoress, Ald. And Mrs. F. Moles, were among the guests during the afternoon and at the evening show.

Sat 14th May

KING CHARLES' PORTRAIT RESTORED

A wealth of colour and detail, unseen for years, has been revealed by the cleaning of the portrait of King Charles II, which formerly hung in Wokingham Town Hall. This is the first of the many canvasses to be restored, and was done as an experiment.

SCOUTS' CAMPING CONTEST

The Wokingham District Boy Scout camping competition was held at Wellington College over the week-end and was won by the 3rd Wokingham Group, who competed against Scouts from Finchampstead and Arborfield. The Arborfield Scouts were handicapped when one of their tents was accidentally destroyed by fire.

YOUR HEALTH

One case of scarlet fever, and one of puerperal pyrexia were notified to the Medical Officer of Health for the borough during March. During the same month there were two further cases of tuberculosis—one man and one woman—added to the register, making a total of 76 patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and 10 suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

CIVIC CONGRATULATIONS

The following telegram was sent to Buckingham Palace on Friday: The Mayor, Alderman and Burgesses of the borough of Wokingham extend hearty congratulations and all best wishes to H.R.H. Princess Margaret and Mr. Anthony Armstrong-Jones on the occasion of their wedding. During the day two Union Jacks were flown over the Town Hall, but the town flag, being under repair, could not be flown.

COFFEE AIDS REFUGEES

Two coffee parties held in Wokingham during the week raised a total of £70 for the Mayor's appeal for funds for world refugees. On Tuesday the All Saints' Young Wives Group party in the Town Hall realised £12, and the following morning, despite the heavy rain, a coffee party organised by the Hon. Mrs. Corfield and held at her home, Wemyss Lodge, Wokingham, produced £58.

MATERNITY UNIT OPENS

On Monday the new maternity unit at Wokingham Hospital received its first patients. A spokesman for the Reading Group Hospital Management Committee told this newspaper it was hoped that the contractors would have completed work on the new building within the next two months. In the meantime a certain amount of improvisation had to be done to enable the new extension to be used. The old maternity building, he said, was being converted into an anti-natal outpatients' department.

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL TOPICS

The County Surveyor has informed the Borough Council that there is no need for a "Halt" sign in Evendons Lane at the junction with Finchampstead Road, as visibility is "quite clear" in each direction.

The new road, running from the junction of Murray Road, and Arthur Road, in the direction of the hospital is to be known as Meadow Road.

The Wokingham Boy Scouts have asked permission to provide, at their own expense, a showcase in the Town Hall for their trophies.

Since he gave up his post as assistant Town Hall keeper, Mr. H. Cornish has found it difficult to attend to his duties as Town Crier of Wokingham and has resigned from his position also. He is the second Town Crier since Mr. H. Banks retired a few years ago after holding the post for 30 years.

Five organisations in the Town will receive a total of £75 from the Sunday Cinema Fund, now administered by the town council. Highest grants—of £20 each—go to the League of Friends of the Wokingham Hospital and the Almshouses Repair and Rebuilding Fund. The Wokingham Junior Sports Club will receive £15 and grants of £10 will go to each of the two branches of the National Federation of Old Age Pensioners.

Sat 28th May

FAREWELL WITH A TIMEPIECE

There were many present at Wokingham Town Hall on Monday to see the presentation made to the Hon. Peter Remnant, Member for the Wokingham Division for nine years, who retired from political life at the General Election. The parting gift took the form of an eighteenth century bracket clock in a mahogany case. (I understand Mr. Remnant is interested in old clocks, so the choice was an appropriate one). Mr. Remnant had, during his term of office, a hard-working contingent for the Conservative cause and this was reflected in the spirit of the gathering on Monday. Sir Conrad Corfield, the president made the presentation and extended the customary good wishes. The contingency is fortunate in Mr. Remnant's successor, for Mr. "Bill" van Straubenzee has already achieved a wide popularity among the electorate.

CAR PARK

Work on the Denmark Street Car Park is progressing even faster than it was at first hoped. In the first week the contractors—W. Button and Son, of Watford—have removed 1,600 cubic yards of earth and have levelled the greater part of the site. But they were handicapped for a time earlier in the week when some of the heavy lorries cracked the stone which was covering a 22-ft. deep well in the main entrance. This well came as a surprise, but it was known that there was one well to the left of the main entrance. This was dry, but the recently-found one contained 12-ft. of water.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

The new Mayor appointed his wife as Mayoress and Ald. And Mrs. F. Moles as deputy Mayor and Mayoress. He also re-appointed the Rector of All Saints', the Rev. F.A. Steer, as chaplain, and Mr. C.A. Nibbs as Sergeant-at-Mace. Also re-appointed were the honorary constables, Mr. A.R. Flint and J. Callan.

A REPRIEVE FOR WOKINGHAM CLUB

F.C. Supporters May Take Over

The Wokingham Club had an eleventh-hour reprieve on Wednesday. The president, Mr. R.H.R. Palmer, took the chair at a special meeting called to consider the recommendation of a three-man sub-committee that the club should close. He told members that he had had various offers to take over part of the club for business premises on a seven years' lease, but he felt this was unreasonable whilst the club was running on a week-to-week, month-to-month or year-to-year basis.

A proposal had been sent to him, he said, from the chairman of the Wokingham Town F.C. Supporters' club to the effect that the club might be prepared to take over the premises for their headquarters.

Mr. F. Medcalf, chairman of the Supporters' Club and former member of the executive committee of the Wokingham Club, said that his club had a turnover of about £5,000, of which over £2,000 was profit. The Supporters' Club had to give financial backing to the Football Club, but he felt that if they opened a new headquarters in the centre of the town they would attract new members from the younger age group.

The Supporters' Club were to meet on Wednesday, Mr. Medcalf told the president, and although he could not forecast the decision of the committee he felt it right that the members of the Wokingham Club should know that a suggestion to take over the premises—with the approval of the president—would be put before that body.

The Wokingham Club, said the president, was still running at a loss, and he thought a decision should be taken that evening without entering into protracted negotiations which would increase the liabilities of the club, which were at present about £800.

It was agreed that the sub-committee of Messrs. R.A. Ingram, L.D. Sears, A.D. Tanner and the secretary Mr. R.E. Thatcher should approach the Town F.C. Supporters' Club and Industrial Catering Limited and report back to a special meeting of the club at the earliest opportunity.

Following the last meeting, said the president, the Howard Palmer Bowling Club had started as a separate organisation, and he understood this was making good progress. He regretted the position in which the Wokingham Club found itself, and paid tribute to the chairman, Mr. C.T. May, and the committee for their work during the recent difficult years. The position, he said, was no fault of theirs, but the result of a combination of various things—television taking a great share of the blame.

Sat 25th June

THE FUTURE OF WOKINGHAM CLUB

Football Supporters' Club Statement

Wokingham Town F.C. Supporters' Club will not take over the Wokingham Club, it was revealed in a 150-word statement says, the Supporters' Club this week.

Meetings and discussions have been in progress for several weeks. Delegates from both clubs have been reporting to special committee meetings.

As a result of their deliberations, the statement says the Supporters' Club "are fully alive to the fact that their primary duty is to support their parent club financially and they feel that the amount that would be required for them to take over the Wokingham Club would be too high.

"Therefore at the present juncture, they are not prepared to proceed further in the matter."

Sat 2nd July 1960

WOKINGHAM LOOKS AHEAD

New Town Hall Details

Dependant on credit restrictions Wokingham will have a new Town Hall and municipal offices within four of five years. This week the conditions of the competition for its design were circulated to over 50 members of the Royal Institute of British Architects. The first prize is £1,000. The site is the junction of Wellington Road and Denmark Street, Wokingham.

The new Council Chamber will have seating for 30 members (anticipating an increase of six on the present constitution), with a dais for three movable seats and adjacent seats for six officers. Accommodation is planned for six Press representatives and a public gallery for thirty people.

The Mayor will have his own parlour with an antechamber and the Mayoress will have a private room. There will be a Member's Lobby and retiring room, an interview room, kitchen and two committee rooms, each capable of seating 25, and so arranged that they may be used as one large room.

The Town Clerk's new department will contain seven offices, a store, a waiting room and an interview room and the Borough Surveyor's department will be somewhat larger. As at present, the Borough Treasurer's department will be on the ground floor. The Public Health and Housing departments will have much improved accommodation.

Provision is made for an automatic telephone room and one strong room. There will be a central filing room, a welfare room for female staff, and a cleaners' room on each floor. The caretaker will have a three-bedroomed home.

TWO PUBLIC HALLS

There will be two public halls. The larger will seat 600 people, and the smaller hall, 150 people. The two halls will be so designed for simultaneous use, but the cloakroom facilities, lavatory and bar accommodation and car park may be shared.

In the large hall there will be a stage with ample wings, a musicians' room and two dressing rooms. In addition there will be a projection room and chair store. A separate entrance will be provided for each hall, with recessed pay-boxes.

The council's assessor, who will make the award, is Mr. Clifford Culpin, of Doughty Street, London, W.C.1. The first prize will be of £1,000 with second and third awards of £500 and £250. The designs must be submitted to the Town Clerk by October 17th, and the assessor will notify the General purposes Committee of his awards at their meeting on November 1st.

Sat 9th July

CLUB TO CLOSE

The Wokingham Club is likely to close down at the end of this month. No official confirmation of this fact has been issued but it is understood that a meeting of the advisory committee, appointed by Mr. R.H.R. Palmer, president and owner of the Market Place premises was held this week. They forwarded "certain recommendations" to Mr. Palmer, said a member of the committee, Mr. R.A. Ingram. The news has followed months of doubts about the future of the club, which is in debt and suffering from lack of support. The possibility of a reprieve came at the end of May when it was suggested that the football Supporters' Club might take over the premises as their headquarters. This move failed. A final meeting will be held at the end of the month.

MORE MUSIC

In answer to many local citizen's appeals for more music in Wokingham the local Workers' Education Association on Tuesday decided to form a gramophone society and a musical appreciation class. The meeting was held in the Library. The society will meet every Tuesday evening in the reading room at the Library to listen to records. It is planned that mainly classical music will be played. The music appreciation class, which the W.E.A. will run for 12 weeks after Christmas, has come from the formation of the gramophone society. Mr. R. Doran, of the W.E.A., says that

they will also be running an autumn programme to include courses on Archaeology and Anthropology.

Sat 23rd July

RELIEF ROAD AT WOKINGHAM

Purchase Of Properties

Purchase of further properties in Rose Street, Broad Street, and Cross Street, Wokingham, in preparation for the construction “in due course” of the Wokingham Relief Road is being recommended at the meeting of Berkshire County Council in Reading today (Saturday). The properties concerned are at 3, Broad Street, 63a, Rose Street, and 1, Cross Street.

Making the recommendation, the Highways and Bridges Committee state that the Ministry of Transport have indicated that grant for the purchases would be forthcoming when authorisation was given for the road works to proceed.

The committee also report that an assurance has been received from the Ministry of Transport that grant will be given for the purchase of part of the site at the junction of Rose Street and Broad Street, owned by Heelas, Ltd., when the roadworks are authorised to be carried out.

The committee had previously agreed to the purchase, subject to this assurance from the ministry.

Sat 30th July

CLOSURE OF THE WOKINGHAM CLUB

Today (Saturday) will see the closure of the Wokingham Club. This was revealed at a special meeting held on Wednesday, when it was announced that the president, Mr. R.H.R. Palmer, had decided that this was the only course to adopt and that he would settle the club’s liabilities when the property had been sold.

There has been a great deal of speculation as to the price the club premises will fetch; some time ago the figure of £40,000 was quoted extensively, but this week I heard the view expressed that the site would fetch upwards of £60,000. Under these circumstances one cannot wonder that Mr. Palmer should decide to close the club rather than invest more money in an endeavour to keep solvent a club that was not adding greatly to the amenities of the town.

COLOURFUL

The Town Hall continues to improve; this week I notice that three of the portraits, which a few weeks ago were faded and filthy have been re-hung and, I suspect, are as colourful now as when the artists first put brush to canvas. And to add to the improvements the lighting has been replaced—with 24 bulbs against the former dozen. So many improvements are being made in the Town Hall that I heard one local resident say this week: “I can’t see why they need to spend a lot of money on a new one.” But you cannot please all the people.

QUERCUS

CHANGES AT BEAR WOOD

School To Be For Boys Only

The past year has been one of great changes at the Royal Merchant Navy School, Bear Wood, and the head teacher, Mr. C.W.S. Averill, reported at the school speech day on Saturday that still more would be taking place in the near future. The biggest

break from tradition will come into operation about 1963 when the school will be for boys only, and not co-educational.

The scheme for admission now includes sons of serving members of the Armed Forces, and Mr. Averill stated that this had already brought in more than a dozen boys. By September at least one-fifth of the boys will have entered through this scheme.

Speaking on this subject, the chairman, Mr. P.K. Devitt said that this change had come from the increasing rarity of the circumstances through which they used to accept boys. He added: "By saying this I hope you will not think we are squeezing out these children."

There was a notable change in the dress of the boys. Previously they wore naval uniform, but at the speech day the majority wore blue lovat suits. The head master, commenting on this, said: "I think you will agree that the 'new look' is at the same time sufficiently distinctive to be identifiable as our own, and also by 1960 standards attractive and appropriate.

Will grow in strength

Mr. Averill continued: "All these changes, though perhaps deplored by a few, have been decided upon as the wisest and best ways of adapting the school to the circumstances of the 1960's. I am convinced that, with average good fortune, the school will grow in the strength gathered from the wider range of pupils, and from a broader outlook. Thus, the school will serve its original "purpose more fully than ever before.

The guest of honour was Admiral Sir William Tenant, chairman of the King George V Fund for Sailors. Prizes were to have been presented by Lady Tenant, but she was unable to attend, so Sir William officiated.

Sat 24th Sept

B.E.M. MEDALS PRESENTATION

A ceremony, unique in the history of Wokingham, will take place in the Town Hall on October 7th when the Lord Lieutenant, the Hon. David Smith, will on behalf of Her Majesty, present British Empire Medals to Miss D. Wescott and Mr. A.F.B. Bridges. Mr. Bridges is the former Civil Defence officer for Wokingham—and other districts—and before leaving the town he devoted much of his time to work at the Denmark Street C.D. headquarters.

Miss Wescott is the daughter of the late Mr. Thomas Manley Wescott who, in 1885, became the first Mayor of the Borough. Miss Wescott herself served on the Borough Council for 15 years—from 1928 to 1943—and was the second lady to be elected to that body. In 1937 she became chairman of the Planning Committee, and in the same year she presented to the council the chain which her father had worn as Mayor, and which is now worn by the Mayoress. The awards of the B.E.M. to Mr. Bridges and Miss Wescott were announced in Birthday Honours List.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE

At a general meeting of the Wokingham Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, held at the Easthampstead Road ambulance station on Wednesday, plans were made for the forthcoming ball, on October 21st, which will form part of a recruiting campaign. The superintendent, Mr. W.E. Burden, also told members of new training schemes. Thanks were expressed to Miss M. Squires, the retiring secretary of the social club, and Mr. L. Saunders was elected as her successor.

THE WEEK AT THE CINEMA.

A spectacular film centred on the “big top” is the feature at the Ritz cinema, Wokingham, on Monday. “The Circus of Horrors” has, as indicated by its title, an “X” certificate, and this story of the perverted ambition of a brilliant plastic surgeon certainly deserves one. Anton Diffring appears as the near-genius but mentally unbalanced surgeon, and Erika Remberg as his first circus recruit and, later, victim. Violent death is also brought to the screen in the supporting film, “Urge to Kill,” with Patrick Barr, Howard Pays and Ruth Dunning. At the end of the week there comes to the screen a well-made film of the trial by court martial, in 1881, of a negro soldier. Jeffrey Hunter, Constance Towers and Billie Burke have the leading roles.

Light relief is provided by the supporting film, “Tall Story,” in which Anthony Perkins and Jane Fonda mix college studies, romance and basket-ball.

Sat 1st Oct

LINK WITH CHARLES KINGSLEY

The widow of the man who was said to have inspired Charles Kingsley to write “The Water Babies” died in the Wokingham Hospital on Friday last week aged 90. She was Mrs. Fanny Seaward, widow of the late Alderman James Seaward, who served on the Wokingham Town Council from 1891 until his death 30 years later. Mr. Seaward had a chimney sweeping business in Rose Street, Wokingham, and as a boy climbed through many chimneys in the way described by Charles Kingsley in his book. The funeral of Mrs. Seaward took place at All Saints’ Church, Wokingham, on Wednesday.

A CHANGE OF SCHOOL

It was announced this week that Mr. S.W. Meachen, now headmaster of St. Paul’s Junior School, Wokingham, had been appointed to succeed Mr. P.R. Green, who is relinquishing the headmastership of the Palmer Junior School to take up an appointment in Southampton. Mr. Meachen came to Wokingham in 1934 as an assistant teacher at the Wescott Road School, and in 1939 moved to Bucklebury on being made a head master. After a 5½-years tour of duty in the Army, Mr. Meachen returned to Bucklebury until 1952, when he succeeded Mr. B.F. Wilkins at St. Paul’s Junior School. Mr Meachen will take up his new duties on January 1st.

WOKINGHAM ROLL OF HONOUR

The roll of honour, commemorating those Wokingham men who died during the 1914-18 and 1939-45 wars, will be restored in time for the annual service of remembrance and wreath-laying ceremony. The new roll of honour will not be glass covered, as it is being written on oak panelling. In recent months the annexe, in which the roll will remain—despite a suggestion some months ago that it should be moved to the Denmark Street Clinic—has been used as a workroom by the artist employed by the council to restore the old paintings. These paintings have now been restored to their former beauty, and although the work was expensive the money was well spent.

WOKINGHAM POSTAL OFFICIAL

The 46-years Post Office career of Mr. William H. Cousins—assistant postmaster at Wokingham since 1947—ended on Monday when he began his final leave before his official retirement on October 7th. To mark the occasion, the head postmaster, Mr. E.A. Cole, presented him with a stainless steel tea service on behalf of himself, the staff and the sub-postmasters from the district. Mr. Cole in wishing his late assistant a long, healthy and happy retirement, referred to his wide experience in many offices.

Joining the postal service as a lad at Ascot, Mr. Cousins moved to Sunninghill before transferring to Reading, and then spent a short time at Manchester before returning to the county borough. His next appointment was at Windsor, and on moving to Maidenhead he became an overseer, later taking on a similar post at Wokingham in 1945, two years before his promotion to assistant postmaster.

To Mr. Cole's tributes to Mr. Cousin's work were added those of his colleagues, Mr. W.G. Thomas (overseer) and Mr. E. Prior (assistant inspector of postal work), and that of Mr. Gardiner, sub-postmaster at Crowthorne.

In thanking Mr. Cole and his colleagues for their gift—which would be much appreciated by his wife—Mr. Cousins said that he had always been “rebel,” and had on occasions crossed swords with some of the staff. But this was something that was to be expected when one took a supervisory post, and even though he was now retiring his advice was available to anyone who felt he might help them with a problem.

Sat 8th Oct

FALSE ALARM

The Wokingham fire siren sounded early on Monday morning owing to an electrical fault.

WOMEN LEGIONNAIRES

Wokingham branch of the women's section of the British Legion held a sale in the legion Hall on Wednesday, opened by the Marchioness of Ormonde.

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY

The annual bring-and-buy sale in aid of the Church Missionary Society was held in the Church House, Wokingham, on Tuesday, and was opened by the Marchioness of Ormonde.

R.A.F. ASSOCIATION

A profit of £22 9s. 6d. was realised for the Wokingham and Woodley branch of the R.A.F. Association by a jumble sale held in the Church House, Wokingham, on Saturday.

TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

A conducted tour of the Cambridge colleges was enjoyed by 36 members of the Wokingham Townswomen's Guild on Thursday last week. Towards the end of this month guild members are planning to visit the Stock Exchange.

THREE AT BUXTON

Three members of the Wokingham B.P. Guild attended the tenth national conference of the Guild at Buxton over the week-end. They were Mr. Harold Gates, Mr. John Butcher and Mr. Geoffrey Reynolds. The Berkshire delegation was the second largest at the conference.

NEW MANAGER

Mr. J. H. Cole became manager of the Ritz Cinema, Wokingham, on Thursday, in succession to Mr. R.H. Walker, who was transferred to Worthing on the same day. Mr. Cole was the manager of the Regal Cinema, Bracknell, when it was part of the

Associated British Cinemas chain, and was for eight years at the Regal, Caterham, before that.

RALPH WALKER

The many friends he made here during his two-year stay will miss Ralph Walker, who handed over the Ritz Cinema to his successor on Thursday, on moving to Worthing to take charge of the Plaza, near the front and three times as large as our own local theatre. For Mr. Walker—as ex-navy man—this is a return to the coast, as he came to Wokingham from Gravesend. During the past summer he took up the game of bowls, and was a popular member of the Bearwood Bowling Club during one of their most successful seasons.

Fri 14th Oct 1960

MISS WESCOTT GETS A B.E.M.

For a brief moment on Friday evening, the Wokingham Town Hall became very much part of “Royal” Berkshire, when the Hon David Smith, Lord Lieut. of Berkshire deputised for Her Majesty the Queen at the presentation of the British Empire Medal to Miss Dorothy Wescott, of the Gate House, Wokingham, and Mr. A.F.B. Bridges, former Civil Defence Officer for Wokingham.

The Lord Lieut. resplendent in his gold braided navy and red dress uniform, and wearing four medals, was accompanied by Lady Helen. He was welcomed by the Mayor of Wokingham, Cllr. A.G. Skedgel, who gave a brief resume of the work of the two recipients.

He pointed out that Miss Wescott was the daughter of the late Thomas Manley Wescott, Mayor of Wokingham in 1885, 1886 and 1891. Miss Wescott was herself the second woman member of the council. Elected in 1928 she served until her resignation in 1943.

Indifferent health

Throughout the war years she had been in charge of the clothing service of the clothing service of the W.V.S., and still helped in this work despite her indifferent health.

Mr. Bridges was a resident of Wokingham for many years and became its Civil Defence Officer. For many years Resident of the Province of Nigeria, he had for two years been in charge of Civil Defence in Lagos.

The Lord Lieut. Expressed his very great pleasure in presenting the awards on behalf of Her Majesty. He then pinned the shining silver medal of the B.E.M. with its scarlet ribbon on the coat of Mr. Bridges and handed him a sealed envelope containing a personal letter from the Queen

On two sticks

Miss Wescott, who is recovering from an illness, then made her way painfully on two sticks, to the table, where she, too, received her medal and the Queen’s letter. She also received a bouquet of freesias from members of the W.V.S.

The letters from the Queen, signed personally, read as follows: “I greatly regret that I am unable to give you personally the award that you have so well earned. I now send you my congratulations and best wishes for your happiness, (Signed) Elizabeth R.”

A vote of thanks to the Lord Lieut. Was given by the Marquis of Ormonde, who in a brief speech said “It is most important that he should get to know us well and share the pride and tradition of this borough. We shall particularly value the interest which

we know he will take in the problems that face the borough with all too great frequency.”

At the end of the presentation an informal cocktail party enabled the many people present in the hall to personally congratulate Miss Wescott and Mr. Bridges.

Sat 15th Oct

CAR PARK IN WOKINGHAM

“In Disgusting Condition”

Unless something was done to improve the surface of the Denmark Street car park it would not be used as widely as the council had hoped, said Ald. N.C. Lawrence at Thursday’s meeting of the Wokingham Town Council, when he described it as being in “a disgusting condition” at present.

It was reported that the cost of carpeting the park with tarmac, installing drainage and outlining parking spaces would be £1,600 and the council had before it a resolution that the question “be left until the Borough Surveyor is completely satisfied that all consolidation has been achieved.”

Ald. Lawrence urged that some provision should be made immediately for the benefit of people walking from their cars to the entrance. Coun. E.W. Goodchild, chairman of the Highways Committee said that the worst area was near the entrance, and he would arrange with the Borough Surveyor for something to be done to ease the position.

NEW FACTORY

The council approved plans for a new factory in Fishponds Road—off Molly Millars Lane—for Wokingham Plastics, Ltd. and resolved to make application to the Minister of Housing and Local Government to borrow £17,000 for the purchase of the Denton Road factory site from the same company. The council also agreed to borrow £54,000 for development on the Commons Road estate.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER FOR JENNIFER

Wokingham Girl Is “Miss Press Ball”

A tensed and expected audience of 500 waited in the hushed silence of the Town Hall on Friday last week as a panel of star judges chose vivacious 17-years-old Jennifer Snuggs, of Stanley Villa, Oxford Road, Wokingham as “Miss Press Ball” 1960.

Thousands of autumn leaves cascaded from the roof as the judges reached their decision, and Jennifer stepped forward amidst deafening applause as Mario Fabrizi and William Hartnell of TV’s ever-popular programme, “The Army Game,” placed the specially embroidered sash of office over her shoulders.

Also on the judging panel were film-producer George Brown, his wife Tina, and lovely raven-haired Marie Devereux, currently starring with Dirk Bogarde in his new picture, “The Singer, not the Song.” Kate Fabrizi, Mario’s wife, sat in as chairman.

While the audience waited for their final decision, model “Christine” displayed the £100 ball-gown created by Penti, of Gun Street, Reading, and made up of hundreds of yards of autumn-shaded net, that the lucky winner would receive, together with a cheque for £50, a diploma for a week’s holiday, a complete modelling course, and many other wonderful prizes.

A night to remember

Ticket prices were higher than for any previous press ball, so that the committee could make the night one to remember.

The Town Hall was transformed with special lighting and decorations, music was by Johnny Dankworth and his orchestra and the International Quintet, and, at 10 o'clock the fast-moving "Glamour Time" cabaret delighted with up-to-the-minute song and dance routines.

A free buffet and illustrated souvenir dance programme were also included in the price of the ticket, and in addition each lady received a phial of Goya's "Love Affair," and each gentleman a gift pack of "Bristol" cigarettes.

Back to "MISS PRESS BALL," however, a close second to Jennifer Snuggs, the girl who wants to be a nurse, was civil servant, Shirley Jones, aged 19, and 17-years-old Dominic Humphrey-Smith, who is training to become a secretary, was placed third.

LUCKY GIRLS

Apart from the wonderful prizes already mentioned, Jennifer won a course of driving lessons or the hire of a car for a week from the Summit School of Motoring; two "Monarch" suitcases from Marks and Spencer; a day's trip for two on Smith's luxury coaches; a re-style, shampoo and set at John London's salon; a hairdryer donated by Whitaker Signs, Ltd.; a jersey two-piece from the Reading Co-operative Society; a £2 10s gift voucher from Littlewood's Stores, Ltd.; a £1 1s, gift voucher from the Reading Fine Art Gallery; a presentation tin of biscuits from Huntley & Palmers; a bouquet from Mrs. Woodley, of Caversham; 100 "Bristol" cigarettes; a gift pack of "Tavern" ale; a leather handbag from Heelas of Wokingham and a plastic mackintosh from Kendalls of Reading.

Shirley, in second place, won:

Twelve modelling lessons from the Grosvenor Fashion Agency; a re-style, shampoo and set at Louis of Mayfair's salon; a gift voucher valued at £1 10s. from Littlewoods; a presentation tin of biscuits from Huntley and Palmers; a bouquet from Mrs. Woodley; a gift pack of Tavern Ale from H. and G. Simonds, and 50 "Bristol" cigarettes from W.D. & H.O. Wills, plus a plastic mackintosh from Kendalls of Reading.

Dominic's prizes were:

Eight modelling lessons from the Grosvenor Fashion Agency; a shampoo and set at Louis of Mayfair's salon; a gift voucher valued at £1 from Littlewood's; a bouquet from Mrs. Woodley; a gift pack of Tavern Ale from H and G Simonds, and 50 "Bristol" cigarettes from W.D. & H.O. Wills, and a plastic mackintosh from Kendalls of Reading.

In fourth place, Mrs. Catherine Tilbury, of "Merrydown," Lower Henley Road, Caversham, won: Six modelling lessons from the Grosvenor Fashion Agency, and a plastic mackintosh from Kendalls of Reading.

The other finalists will also receive modelling lessons from the Grosvenor Fashion Agency.

Poster hitch

The Press Ball committee had been at the Town Hall since the previous evening, positioning the traditional bill-posters which are a well-loved part of the Press Ball decorations. Half-way through the morning the fire authorities arrived and suggested changes be made in order that they should conform with fire regulations. Last minute rehanging brought them within the required safety margin, and all was well

Also in the morning the equipment used for dropping the 10,000 Autumn leaves was tested. About 1,000 were dropped from the roof with spectacular results. In the evening, however, when the full load dropped, about half of them failed to separate and dropped with an audible thud on the head of Press Ball secretary David Shute.

Another ambitious feature of the beauty competition was a telephone tie-up with film star Richard Todd all the way from Elstree. A hush came over the audience as he came on the line into the Town Hall's public address system, and spoke to the audience wishing them a good evening. In order to achieve this the organisers were fortunate to receive generous cooperation from the Town Hall electricians and Mr. Ray Burford of Messrs. Hickie and Hickie of Reading.

At 2 a.m. dancers left the hall as the last strains of the National Anthem died away. For them and hundreds of others the evening had indeed been one to remember.

It has just been announced that in addition to the first prize, the Summit School of Motoring have offered Shirley Jones, the girl who came second, driving lessons until she passes her test.

Sat 5th Nov

HISTORY AT THE CINEMA

For the first time in the history of the Ritz Cinema, Wokingham, seats may be booked in advance next week, when the feature is "The Ten Commandments"—the religious extravaganza by Cecil B. de Mille.

LEAVING WOKINGHAM

Having been curate of All Saints' Church, Wokingham, for three years, the Rev. A.C. Dowsett will be leaving in the near future to take up an appointment at St. Peter's and St. Paul's Church, Warer Orton, near Birmingham.

RAIN—RAIN—RAIN

October's rainfall in Wokingham was the third highest since records began in 1901, and reached 7.38 inches. This was the highest monthly total since December, 1914 (7.42 inches). The highest monthly total on record was 7.46 inches in October, 1903.

METHODIST MEMORIAL

A memorial to the late Mr. W.P. Tucker was dedicated by the Rev. A.E. Emerson, superintendent minister of the Reading Circuit, at Sunday morning's service in the Rose St. Methodist Church. The memorial takes the form of a new communion table and was presented by Mrs. Tucker.

FORMER MAYOR IN HOSPITAL

Mr. David Goddard of Oxford Road, Wokingham—Mayor of the borough in 1945, and a member of the Town Council for 21 years—was admitted to the Royal Berkshire Hospital early on Thursday morning. Yesterday (Friday) he was said to be "under observation and fairly comfortable."

GIFT FOR THE CARETAKER

Mr. L. Blackman, for nine years caretaker of the Wescott Road School, returned there last week to receive from the head master, Mr. M.B.H. Curtis, an electric drill—a gift from the parents and teachers. Mr. Curtis thanked Mr. Blackman, not only for the conscientious way he had carried out his normal work, but for the great deal of extra work he had put in to help the school, and also for the service he had given as traffic warden.

TO HELP THE ELDERLY

Mr. M. Evans, superintendent of the "Oakfield" hostel for elderly people, had a special word of praise this week for the many tradesmen and business houses who helped him in his first-money-raising effort since taking over the hostel. This was a whist drive, held in the Church House, Wokingham, on Friday last week. The effort realised over £42 for the combined Christmas and television fund started at the home.

AUTUMN FAIR

The 3rd Wokingham Scout Group held their annual Autumn Fair in the Drill Hall, Wokingham, on Saturday—but owing to the heavy rain attendance was well down on last year and the profit was only £50. The fair was opened by Lady Liddell, who was met by a guard of honour, and to whom a bouquet was presented by Cub Andrew Clark. Among the attractions was a puppet show. During the afternoon the Group Scoutmaster, Mr. A.J. Butcher presented "thanks" badges to Mr. and Mrs. F.E. Bullen for their many efforts on behalf of the Scout movement.

DESIGN FOR WOKINGHAM TOWN HALL

Marlow Man Wins £1,000

Prize-winners in the competition for designing a new Town Hall and municipal offices at Wokingham were announced on Thursday and received their awards from the Mayor, Coun. A.G. Skedgel.

The assessor, Mr. Clifford Culpin, gave first place—which carries a premium of £1,000—to Mr. John G. Fryman, of Marlow, whose work is to be seen in the town at Messrs. Radio Heaters, Ltd. Messrs. Grenfell, Baines and Hargreaves, of Preston, came second, for which they will receive £500, and the third award, £250, goes to Mr. William Ryder, of Bruton Street, London, W.1. From the remaining 21 entrants, Mr. Culpin singled out Mr. G.P. Schoon, of Camberley, and Mr. Martyn Wheatley, of Luton for a special commendation.

In his report to the council, Mr. Culpin said that 105 sets of conditions were issued and these produced 11 entries, offering a range of solutions to the problem and generally the standard of design was high. Many competitors had lost sight of the fourth dimension—cost—although it had been stated that a lavish scheme was unlikely to receive the approval of the Ministry. The estimated cost of the most lavish scheme was more than four times that of the lowest. Of the winning design Mr. Culpin said "It is economical and workmanlike and will enable the Town Council to invest public money in buildings of which they can be proud.

Mr. Fryman's scheme is said by the assessor to provide "a simple, direct and economical solution of the problem posed." Advantage of the fall in the site had been made in the provision of car-parking accommodation at two inter-connected levels, and the existing trees had been preserved. The office block was well-planned with the less important shallow rooms on the Wellington Road frontage, the principal rooms looking north-east over a sunlit square. Provision was made in the plans for the re-arrangement of partitions to give varying sizes of rooms.

Simple and dignified

The council site was described by the assessor a "simple and dignified," and has one of its attractive features, a "members lobby," overlooking the pedestrian square. Below this suite a covered colonnade would provide a direct link between the office block and public halls. These had been planned with great economy—in contrast to many of the other schemes—and the arrangement of the large and small halls enabled

them to be readily used en suite. The kitchen arrangements were excellent and suitable for coping with banquets.

The specified external materials—bush-hammered concrete and high-grade blue brindled bricks—were in sympathy with the external architectural character of the buildings, and echoed their straightforward planning.

On the question of cost, Mr. Culpin said that the estimate of £211,600 was based on slightly optimistic unit rates, but he considered that at the working drawing stage a price could be obtained which would not exceed by more than ten per cent the competitor's estimate. The estimated cost of the second and third prize-winning designs is £294,335 and £276,700 respectively.

Presenting the cheques for £1,750, the Mayor congratulated the winners on their efforts, particularly Mr. Fryman, who, with a colleague, had spent the greater part of the previous night preparing a perspective sketch of the hall. The Mayor said he was pleased to note that the premier award had gone to an architect whose work had already been seen in the town. The assessor, Mr. Culpin, spoke of the valuable experience gained by competitors and said they should not worry too much about not winning—he had recently gained second place in a similar competition, and as a result gained a much larger job.

Sat 10th Dec

AMONG THOSE PRESENT

Among those present at the official opening on Wednesday of the Oakfield Hostel for old people, in Barkham Road, Wokingham, was a lady whose home it once was. She is now Mrs. P. Witkins, of Bournemouth, but was then Miss Mary Holmes, the seventh in the family of eight children of Mr. James Holmes for whom the house was originally built.

WOKINGHAM PILOT COMMENDED

Sequel to Khartoum Crash-Landing

The pilot of the B.O.A.C. Britannia which crash-landed at Khartoum last month, Captain A.S. Powell, received a framed commendation “for outstanding qualities of leadership and airmanship” and a silver cigarette box from the Chairman of the Corporation, Sir Matthew Slattery, at B.O.A.C. Headquarters, London, on Thursday.

Captain Powell, of Park Avenue, Wokingham, landed the Britannia on its belly because of an undercarriage failure. B.O.A.C. said: “Captain Powell's calmness, fortitude and skill enabled him to land the aircraft without injury to any of the 19 passengers or his crew, and undoubtedly averted what could have been a much more serious occurrence.

FORMER TOWN CLERK

Dies At Wokingham

The death occurred after a short illness at his home, Allan Lodge, Broad Street, Wokingham, on Sunday, of Mr. John Henry Elliston Clifton, who was Town Clerk of the borough for 33 years.

Mr. Elliston Clifton came to Wokingham from Llandrindod Wells In January 1913, to take up his duties as Town Clerk, this appointment including those of solicitor to the Corporation and Borough Accountant. At the same time he established himself as a solicitor in the town and continued in practice until 1953, when he acted as advisor to his niece and adopted daughter, Miss I.J. Elliston Clifton, until the practice was sold in 1957.

Devoting himself unsparingly to the welfare of the borough, Mr. Elliston Clifton had little time for private interests, but he was a keen golfer and a founder member of Berkshire Golf Club in addition to being a longstanding member of the East Berks Golf Club. A Freemason he was the senior Past Master of the Downshire Lodge and Past Provincial Grand Registrar. He was a founder member of the Rotary Club of Wokingham.

During the time he was Town Clerk, Mr. Elliston Clifton saw many changes in the borough, and was called upon to carry out many duties outside normal local government routine. In 1927 the borough was extended from 500 to 3,300 acres and he worked for two years on legal and Parliamentary matters in this connection. Earlier, in 1920, he prepared and presented the council's case at a public inquiry concerning the sale by the Corporation of the municipal gas works to the Yorktown and Camberley Gas and Electricity Company: this also had necessitated complicated and protracted negotiation over a number of years.

Owing to his connection with the Corporation, Mr. Elliston Clifton was appointed solicitor to Wokingham and District Water Company, and later carried out the arrangements for the sale of the company to the forerunners of the Mid-Wessex Water Company.

He was always concerned for the preservation of Wokingham's pleasant characteristics as an attractive residential town.

He was clerk to the Assessment Committee and to the Forest Division Justices, appointments which he held until 1948 and 1953 respectively. He was also for many years clerk to the Windsor Division of Justices and at the time of his death was clerk to the Tax Commissioners.

The two world wars brought many extra duties for Mr. Elliston Clifton: food rationing and national registration in both wars, organising the local military service tribunal in the 1914-18 war and, during the second, being responsible for organising, opening and running the British Restaurant. Before retiring as Town Clerk in August, 1946, he organised and carried out the purchase of the sites on which the majority of council housing estates have since been built.

In 1935 Mr. Elliston Clifton organised the King George V Trust appeal for the borough and carried out the scheme acquisition of the playing fields of Wescott Road.

In the capacity of a practising solicitor, Mr. Elliston Clifton had the opportunity of carrying out a number of matters of importance to the town. One of these was the Free Church Burial Ground Trust, formulated by him, as was the Trust for the Wokingham Orthopaedic Clinic. After the passing of the National Health Act he was able to preserve the clinic as an independent local undertaking.

OLD FOLK'S HOSTEL

Gets Delayed Opening

Three years after it was first used as a hostel for the elderly, "Oakfields"—a former private house in the Barkham Road, Wokingham—was officially opened by the chairman of the Berkshire County Council, Sir George Mowbray, at a ceremony on Wednesday.

Sir George said that it might be wondered why the hostel was "opened" some time after it had been in operation: if one had entered such a place and found a succession of rooms, perhaps devoid of furniture, and bereft of inhabitants it would be almost "a soul-destroying performance." How much more satisfying it was to find a living community of happy and contented old people.

Technically such a place was known as “accommodation for the aged” but he preferred the word hostel, and a feature of Oakfield was the small wards and individual rooms. Here the old people could retain, to a very considerable extent, their own freedom, their own personalities and individualities. “I believe it is that retention of the feeling of home that brings a tremendous amount of comfort and happiness to old people who, having lived their lives, have reached a stage where they continue no longer to do for themselves, by themselves, but essentially need the care, comfort and attention which a hostel such as this can and does provide in such measure,” said Sir George.

Before the war, Oakfield, he said, had been a private house. Then the government had requisitioned it for housing evacuees from heavily bombed areas. In post-war years it had been acquired by the County Council for use as a children’s home, and three or four years ago it was transferred for the use of old people. Then it provided for 21. Recent improvements had made it possible to double that number, and to cater for both men and women.

In seconding the vote of thanks proposed by Dr. A.G. Walker, the chairman of the Oakfield House Committee, Dr. P.P. Pigott, said that she was pleased to note that three trends had been developed in the hostel. Firstly, that it now catered for men and women, and could therefore accept married couples; secondly that the smaller units created a “homelike” atmosphere instead of an institutional one, and lastly that old people could be nursed there during illness instead of being taken to hospital whenever they felt sick.

The Rural Dean, of Sonning, the Rev. Canon S.J.S. Groves, attended and blessed the hostel.

NEW HALL AT WOKINGHAM Council To Have Second Thoughts

A demand for fuller details to be obtained before negotiations were opened with the Ministry concerning the building of the proposed new hall and municipal offices was made by Coun. W.J. Willey at Thursday’s meeting of the Wokingham Town Council.

Coun. Willey moved the reference back of the resolution, carried by a majority, the General Purposes Committee, that a meeting be arranged with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to ascertain the Minister’s view on the plan.

Saying that he felt alarmed about the situation, Coun. Willey pointed out that the cost of the municipal hall scheme would be over £262,000 (representing an increase in the borough rate of 2s. 6d.) and in addition to this there would be the cost of the new sewerage scheme—almost as much as the new hall.

The motion for the reference back was seconded by Coun. W.C.A. Smith.

Ald. F. Moles opposed this on the grounds that if the scheme were submitted to the Minister at this stage, and failed to secure his approval, a great deal of the official’s time would have been saved.

Urging the council to put the scheme before the Minister as soon as possible, Ald. N.C. Lawrence forecast that the town population would be doubled in 10 years, and there would be a considerable increase in the rateable value—the penny rate product might rise to as much as £1,000. Looking forward to a population of 20,000, Ald. Lawrence said: “If you have not got something to show or give the public you are not worthy of the name of the borough and that is what you have got to face.” Urging immediate action, Ald. Lawrence said “If the time is not ripe now it never will be....We have suffered too much in the past with ‘the time is not ripe’ attitude. The

reason why we are where we are today is that we have never had the courage to get ahead.”

Coun. W.G. Jackson suggested that what the public of Wokingham wanted to know was the effect the municipal hall scheme and the sewerage scheme would have on the rates as they were at the moment. When the new hall scheme was first considered, the council had thought in terms of £100,000. “We now have a figure two-and-a-half times as great,” he said.

Chairman of the Finance Committee, Ald. E.W. Reeves, reminded members that the cost of the new hall would not stop at £262,000. It would have to be furnished, and this would probably cost another £10,000. In addition there would be the cost of upkeep which he did not think would be offset by income from lettings.

The motion for the reference back of the item was carried by 11 votes to 10.

Sat 31st Dec

Among the many gifts received at High Close—the Wokingham residential school of Dr. Barnardo’s organisation—was an imitation pillar-box containing half-a-hundredweight of sweets and toffees. This was presented by workers of Handley Page Ltd., of Woodley, and other gifts included an enormous Christmas stocking sent by Messrs. Campbell, of Reading. Less tangible, but as enjoyable, were the two presents of Christmas outings. On Thursday the 33 children remaining in the school for Christmas were taken to see “Robinson Crusoe,” at Windsor, through the generosity of a friend of Dr. Barnardo’s and, early next week, they will be taken to London to see the decorations and lights. During Christmas afternoon the school was visited by the Mayor and Mayoress, Coun. And Mrs. Skedgel.

VISIT BY ANNA NEAGLE

Residents at Glebelands—the Wokingham convalescent home run by the Cinematograph Trade Benevolent Fund—were visited by Miss Anna Neagle and her husband, Mr. Herbert Wilcox, on Christmas Eve. Despite fog, and a breakdown en route, Miss Neagle and Mr. Wilcox spent over an hour at the home before motoring back to Brighton.

Anna Neagle renewed her acquaintanceship with several friends she had met on previous visits, and there were presents for all the residents. Also present were Mr. Ralph S. Bromhead, chairman of the fund and the secretary, Mr. C. Drumond Scott, together with two executives from the film industry, Mr. R.S. Camplin (who acted as Father Christmas), and Mr. C.H.V. Brown—There were 55 residents at Glebelands for Christmas, including 84 years-old Mr. George Pearson, a well-known producer of silent films who lectures on the art of film-making. Turkeys for the Christmas dinner were sent from the Northern Ireland branch of the fund. Many firms associated with the film industry also demonstrated their support of the fund by sending appropriate gifts—and it would not have been Christmas at Glebelands without two film shows.

The following articles have been taken from the Reading Mercury, Wokingham Times and Evening Standard.

1961 to 1970

NB Articles dated Saturday are from The Reading Mercury. Those dated Thursday are from the Wokingham Times. Those dated Friday are either from The Wokingham Times or Evening Standard. Evening Standard articles are indicated.

1961

Sat 14th Jan

FIRE SWEEPS GENERAL'S WOKINGHAM HOME

Rescue bid to save guest fails

Unsuccessful attempts to save the life of a guest in a Wokingham house fire were described by Lt.-Gen. Percy Molloy, late of the Royal Marines, who sat in a borrowed dressing gown in the lounge of his daughter's home. He told the "Reading Mercury" how he and his wife had escaped from the outbreak which swept their 14-roomed home at 15, Crescent Road, Wokingham, in the early hours of Saturday morning.

The guest--69 years old Mrs. Stella Norman Edmunds--was the former wife of the now Recorder of Bath, Mr. Humfrey Henry Edmunds.

Mrs. Edmunds—a polio victim who walked only with difficulty—was said by General Molloy to have arrived at his house by car on Monday, having travelled from London. "She was looking for accommodation and told my wife that she had known her sister," said the General.

General Molloy said that the fire was discovered after he--recently recovered from pneumonia--had a coughing attack soon after 3 a.m. His wife thought she could smell something burning, and he had suggested that she checked to see if anything had been left on the kitchen stove. He realised the gravity of the situation when his wife opened the bedroom door and shouted: "The whole house is full of smoke." Together they went to Mrs. Edmunds' room and on opening the door were confronted by a wall of flame leaping from floor to ceiling. They shouted but it was clear no one could live in such an inferno they escaped down the only staircase. General Molloy said that his wife's acute sense of smell had probably saved their lives; it was she who had first detected the smoke, and had they remained in their room for another 10 minutes the passage and the one staircase might well have been impassable. "My wife is a cripple, and could not have climbed from a first-floor window," said the general.

On leaving the house, General Molloy and his wife were given shelter by their neighbours, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Trench. Later they went to stay with their daughter, Mrs. Diana Brimblecombe, at Brittons Farm, Wokingham.

General Molloy said that it was remarkable how much had been salvaged, although many of their personal belongings—including clothes—had been lost. Several items had been recovered from the debris, such as Mrs. Molloy's silver dressing table set and some of her jewellery.

The kitchen, dining room and another ground floor room had escaped damage, but the floor of the room in which Mrs. Edmunds was sleeping collapsed. The fire is thought to have started in Mrs. Edmund's bedroom.

General Molloy—who celebrates his 85th birthday next month—has lived in the Crescent Road house for almost 30 years. In March last year General Molloy was presented with the gold badge of the British Legion—the highest award a member can receive—for his services to the branch of which he has president for many years.

Mrs Edmunds, who had lived at Crowthorne at various times, was the daughter of the late Mrs. Eugenie Hanson, for many years headmistress of Broadmoor School.

Sat 21st Jan

"HAPPIEST PLACE IN A HOSPITAL"

Maternity unit opened at Wokingham

The “happiest place in a hospital—the maternity unit—was opened at Wokingham Hospital on Thursday by Sir George Schuster, chairman of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board. Although the new £115,000 block has been in operation since August when workmen moved out after a year-and-a-half’s building, this week saw the official start of a magnificently equipped and attractive unit. Where once lay forecourt flower beds there now stands a tribute to the efforts of all concerned in making Wokingham Hospital’s maternity accommodation the most modern and up-to-date in the area.

Opened too was the new extension to the nurses’ home, designed on similar lines to the other block- Visitors on Thursday were invited to inspect both building; the nursing staff and proud mothers met many local dignitaries as they walked round.

The building scheme started just over four years ago, when agreement was reached between Oxford and the North-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Boards, for the provision of extra maternity services in the Wokingham-Bracknell area. The meeting on Thursday represented the end product of a fruitful co-operation which is being currently urged upon the health services from all sides.

A UNIT OF 32 BEDS

After detailed discussions, it was agreed that the unit of 32 beds, with a family doctor, medical staff and consultant obstetric advice from the Reading group of hospitals, would meet the needs. Planning of the units was undertaken in close consultation by the Oxford Regional Board, and the Hospital Management Committee. The Boards own architectural department designed the buildings.

They aimed for a domestic, atmosphere. And they achieved it, writes our reporter. There is a large proportion of single rooms, and no sub-unit comprises more than four beds.

For mothers allowed up after the birth of their babies, an attractive, carpeted lounge provides a pleasant day room where they can eat meals.

At the opening ceremony, Sir George Schuster said Berkshire had the reputation of possessing the lowest rate in maternal deaths. “Whereas our numbers are 32 in 100,000, elsewhere the ratio is 40 per 100,000. We hope very much that that fine record continues,” he said.

Lord Moynihan, chairman of the North-West metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, spoke of the happy relationship and spirit of co-operation existing between the two Boards. He referred to the maternity unit as “the happiest place in the hospital.”

Col. C.B. Krabbe, vice-chairman of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board and a member of the Reading and District Hospital Management Committee, presided. The blessing was given by the Rt. Rev. Eric Knell, Bishop of Reading.

Sat 4th Feb

WOKINGHAM CHOOSES IT’S MAYOR-ELECT

A lady for the third time

It was announced this week that Dr. Phyllis Pleasance Pigott, of “The Old House,” The Terrace, Wokingham, has accepted nomination by the Mayoral Selection Committee and will become Wokingham’s next Mayor in May.

Dr. Pigott will be the third lady Mayor in the history of the borough, the Hon. Mrs. Corfield having held the office from November, 1947, to May, 1950, and Mrs. C.E.A. La Bouchardière in 1956/57. Her association with the Town Council began in December, 1939, when she became a co-opted member and she remained on the

council until October, 1945, although her duties as a medical officer with the R.A.F. prevented her from taking an active part in council affairs from 1942 onwards.

In 1957, Dr. Pigott returned to the local government scene, and topped the poll in the election to fill two vacancies in Embrook Ward, the other seat being won by the then Mayor, Councillor Mrs. La Bouchardière.

Dr. Pigott was married in 1927—the year she obtained her medical qualification—and in the following year she went abroad, where she spent six years in Egypt, and Palestine. For half of this time she was on the staff of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem and her work there was recognised by her being made an Officer of the Order of St. John.

Two years after her return to this country, Dr. Pigott came to live in Crescent Road, Wokingham, and later moved to her present home, which had been in the family since 1917.

In 1938 she was asked by the then Mayor to give first-aid lectures to A.R.P. personnel, and in September the following year she took medical charge of all evacuees to the town. In 1940 Dr. Pigott went into general practice, assisting Dr. R. Rose, and continued to do so until joining the R.A.F. Medical Service, from which she retired in 1946 with the rank of Squadron Leader, having previously been mentioned in dispatches.

Locally, Dr. Pigott has become well known for her work for the Wokingham and Bracknell. Society for Mentally Handicapped Children—of which she is chairman—and also for her interest in the Oakfields Hostel for old people in Barkham Road, Wokingham, where she is chairman of the House Committee. In addition she is a member of All Saints' Church Parochial Church Council.

For the past nine years she has been honorary medical administrator at St. Luke's Hospital, Chelsea. She is also a member of the Chelsea and Fulham Group Hospital Management Committee. In an interview with this news-paper on Wednesday, Dr. Pigott said her duties in London during the coming year would be so arranged as to make it possible for her to attend civic and other functions in Wokingham.

Dr. and Wing Commander Pigott have two children—a son, who is at present in general practice in Crowthorne, and a daughter married to Air/Cdre. H.I. Cozens, who commanded the first Spitfire squadron during the war.

Sat 25th Feb

CIVIL DEFENCE LECTURES

So many people arrived at, the Civil Defence headquarters in Denmark Street, Wokingham, on Wednesday for the first-aid lectures organised by the St. John Ambulance Brigade that there was insufficient room and the lectures were transferred to the British Legion Hall, Wokingham. Even in this hall it was a case of “standing room only” to hear the first of six lectures given by Dr. I. L. F. Maine, The lecture was followed by a film and demonstration of the new “Minute-man” resuscitator recently bought by the local division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

HOUSE NAMES

Children attending the Palmer Junior School have now been divided into four “houses” by the recently appointed head master; Mr. S.W. Meachen. And what better names to give those houses than those of four former students who have become Wokingham's leading citizens and worn the Mayoral chain. These were the late Ald. F.J. Barrett, Mr. David Goddard and two present aldermen of the town, Mr. F. Moles and Mr. W.C. Fullbrook. At a meeting of parents at which he announced this “house”

project, Mr. Meachen arranged for a number of educational films to be shown and was able to meet many of the parents individually for the first time.

MAJOR J. L. WILLS

Seriously injured in riding accident

Major John Lycett Wills, aged 50, a member of the Tobacco Company and whose wife is a cousin of the Queen, is in a London hospital with severe concussion after being thrown from his horse. The incident occurred when he was riding his grey gelding, Watney, near his home, Allanbay Park, Binfield, on Monday.

His son, Andrew (23), a godson of the Queen, said on Tuesday: "He was riding at the side of the road when the horse slipped, possibly frightened by a passing car, and my father was thrown and struck his head."

A lorry driver called for help after seeing Major Wills lying in the road, and he was taken by ambulance to Windsor Hospital. Because of the severity of his injuries he was, transferred to the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Bloomsbury, London.

The Hon. Mrs. Wills is keeping in constant touch with the hospital.

The Queen has been told of the accident and is being kept up to date with Major Wills' condition on Tuesday she sent a personal message from India to Mrs. Wills.

A hospital bulletin issued at noon yesterday (Friday) stated: "Major Wills is still unconscious and there has not been any further improvements in his condition.

Sat 4th March

HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Mr. C.D. Conway, of Frog Hall Drive, Wokingham, gave an illustrated talk on "Fertilisers" to members of the Wokingham Horticultural Association at the Molly Millar Hotel, Wokingham, on Friday last week.

BOY SCOUTS

On Friday last week, the 3rd Wokingham Scout Group—now in its 11th year—held an "open night" in the Baptist schoolroom, Wokingham. The programme was supervised by the acting District Commissioner and Scoutmaster of the Group, Mr. A.J. Butcher. The 3rd Scours total membership is 120.

CIVIL DEFENCE

Following recent successes in examinations, 43 first-aid badges and badges of rank were presented to members of the Wokingham Civil Defence during a social evening in the Civil Service headquarters on Thursday last week. Miss D.M. Finch, chairman of the Wokingham Civil Committee, made the presentations.

METHODIST MEETING

The quarterly leaders' meeting of the Rose Street, Wokingham, Methodist church was held on Wednesday last week, the Rev. Leonard Hale presiding. The spiritual condition of the church was reviewed and careful consideration was given to the pastoral oversight of all church members, the care of the sick and the poor, the provision of adequate opportunities for Christian fellowship, and the preparation classes for church membership. In connection with the preparation for church-membership, the minister reported he would be holding classes in the next few weeks, for young people wishing to join the church. The membership return for the quarter was maintained at 113. It was agreed that a letter be issued to all members, to be given to newcomers to the area, with a personal invitation to attend the Methodist Church.

The services on Sunday were conducted in the morning by the Rev. Leonard Hale and in the evening by Mr. Peter M. Smith from Reading.

NATIONAL SAVINGS AWARDS

Mrs. M.F. O'Connor, of 67, Evendons Lane, Wokingham, was presented with a "bronze key" by Regional Assembly member, Mr. A. G. Stickland, at a dinner held at Messrs. Heelas of Reading on Friday last week, organised by the Wokingham M.B. Street Groups sub-committee of the National Savings Movement. The Marquess of Ormonde, who was to have made the presentations was unable to attend owing to illness. The Bowyer Cup was won by Mrs. I. Francis, and two group leaders, Mrs. D. Wilson and Mrs. C. Woodason, received their "seven year" awards.

Certificates for having more than 20 members in their groups went to Mrs. J. Gott, Miss G. Woods, Mrs. E. Prince, Mrs. E. Wells, Mrs. V. Wicks, Mrs. E. Coffin and Mrs. C. Woodason.

SOCCER SOCIAL

At the Town Hall on Saturday, Wokingham Town F.C. Supporters' Club held their annual social. The entertainment included games, dancing and competitions. Music for dancing was provided by Ken Carr.

GUIDES' NEW BANNER

Girl Guides from the five Wokingham companies attended the evening service at All Saints' Church, Wokingham, on Sunday, when two new banners—of the 4th and 5th companies—were blessed by the rector, the Rev. F.A. Steer. On Tuesday the 4th Wokingham Company had a "Thinking Day" ceremony at their meeting in the Masonic Hall, when among those present were the Divisional Commissioner, Miss S.B. de Vitre, and the new District Commissioner, Mrs. Marshall Roberts.

THIS WEEK AT THE CINEMA

Have you ever seen or heard of poker-playing, whiskey-drinking sixth-form girls? If not, you will certainly have the chance next week, when "The Pure Hell of St. Trinian's" is shown at The Ritz, Wokingham, Wokingham, on Monday, for six days. Their latest escapade—burning down the school—lands the whole schoolgirl contingent into the Old Bailey. A universal sigh of relief is expressed but changes to horror when they are discharged. Flash Harry (George Cole) again features, but this time it is the Greek Islands which suffer, when the girls embark on a "cultural" tour. They are accompanied by Sergt. Ruby Gates (Joyce Grenfell)—in love with her superior (Lloyd Lamble)—who is supposed to keep a chaperon eye on them. Also showing is "Ski Troop Attack," the story of an American wartime ski patrol in Germany, who are cut off behind the German lines, and the furious battle which ensues.

Sat 11th March

RAINFALL

February was an unusually dry month in Wokingham—the total rainfall being 2.4 inches, of which .64 inches fell on February 27th.

JUMBLE SALE RAISES £15

At the Wokingham Horticultural Society's jumble sale in the Church House, Wokingham, a total of £15 was raised for association funds.

PENSIONERS ENTERTAINED

Members of the Wokingham No.1 branch of the National Federation of Old Age Pensioners were entertained at their meeting in the British Legion Hall, Wokingham, on Wednesday, by a company of handbell ringers from Mortimer West End.

LAST YEAR'S WEATHER

Meteorological records for the borough for 1960 show that the total rainfall—31.95 inches—was 6.52 inches below that of the average for the last 60 years. The lowest temperatures recorded were 2.2 degrees on January 13th and February 17th. The highest temperature was 81 degrees recorded on June 6th.

METHODIST CHURCH

Members of the choir from the Wesley Church, Reading, gave a concert in the Wokingham Methodist Church in Rose Street on Tuesday. Services at the Methodist Church on Sunday were conducted in the morning by the Superintendent minister of the Reading Circuit, the Rev. A.E. Emerson and in the evening by the Rev. Leonard Hale.

Fri 7th April

SHOP STILL SHUT AS SPINSTERS STAY PUT

The determined resistance to two elderly women, the Misses K. and R. Caiger, to part with their 100-year-old family shoe business in Peach Street, Wokingham, may be the reason that the former Johnson's greengrocer's shop next door still remains empty and derelict. Despite the fact that Mr. Jack Lass paid £8,900 for it on the death of the Johnson, no planning permission has been applied for—and in the very heart of a busy town it still stands dirty and boarded up—a public eyesore. The elder Miss Caiger told the Times that almost immediately after the auction at which the Johnson shop was purchased, Mr. Lass “offered thousands” if they would get out of the premises.

NOT SELLING

“I told him that I didn't want thousands and had no intention whatever of selling the business,” she said. Miss Caiger has been informed only this week that Mr. Lass will be calling on her in the very near future, “But our answer will still be the same.”

Now the position becomes even more complicated, for on Tuesday last week a man walked into the Caiger's shop and asked if they knew where Mr. and Mrs. Johnson had moved to. He was astounded to hear of their death and said he was a brother of Tom Johnson and had only just landed in England from abroad.

This may mean that the estate will revert to him (it has gone to the Crown) and the fate of the unwanted shop could take a new turn.

WELCOME INN WILL BECOME A SHOP SITE

The Welcome Inn in Wokingham's Peach Street has been sold. The brewers—Brakespears—are giving up the licence and the pub will be demolished to make way for a block of shops.

It was a big shock to the landlords when they heard the news. But they told the Times this week that they are to be offered another house as soon as possible. They have been given a year to leave the Welcome. Once they have gone, the purchasers—it is a Slough firm which has bought the inn and the adjoining car park—will get to work. The present building will come down, and the new premises will be set back in line with the rest of the shops so that the street can be widened.

Price secret

The purchasers' name has not been revealed. Their solicitors said this week that their clients did not wish to release any news at all. Nor was the price revealed but the Times understands that it is well over £20,000.

The local licensees will not be sorry to hear that the town will lose one licence—for it is generally agreed that there are already too many pubs. Mr. and Mrs. May hope to stay locally. They moved to Wokingham and the Welcome nearly 14 years ago from London and both like the town.

Fri 28th April

THE OLDEST OVENS BAKED THE BEST BREAD

For ten years Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Tompkins of the confectioners at the corner of Rose Street, Wokingham, have been using two of the oldest working ovens in the country to bake the home-made bread for which they have become so well-known.

But tomorrow (Saturday) they are to retire—and at some future date their shop, believed to be the second oldest building in Wokingham, will be swept away for road widening. With it the ancient ovens.

Mr. and Mrs. Tompkins have made many friends who will wish them well in their retirement at their home, 52 Reading Road, Wokingham.

Mr. Tompkins said that at one time a nameplate on the ovens indicated that they had been repaired by a firm that had gone out of business in 1812. Originally made to use faggots for fuel they have been converted to coal and finally to oil. They are unique in the fact that they work on the principle of getting the heat from the stone floors and brick sides, which after being heated with blasts of flame to 1,000 degrees, cool down to a steady 600 degrees after 30 minutes. So well do the bricks and stone retain the heat that even if they were left untouched for 14 hours they would still be about 300 degrees.

Mr Tompkins has been in the trade 50 years. He opened his first confectionery shop in Kentish Town on May 1926, the first day of the General Strike. He remained there until 1949 when, to put it he 'packed up and went out to Australia to study the general conditions there. But I was not impressed and returned to England and so to Wokingham.'

He was chairman of the parliamentary committee for the London Master Bakers' Federation and became its president in 1945-46 A Rotarian for nearly 10 years, Mr. Tompkins has been elected the district vocational chairman for 1961-62—the first time this honour has come to Wokingham He will be able to give unlimited time to this office during his retirement.

Until the new development takes place the business will be carried on by Messrs. Polly's Ltd., of Reading.

Sat 20th May

WOKINGHAM GARAGE CATCHES FIRE

Despite attempts by a Wokingham garage proprietor to extinguish a small fire, which started in his garage on Saturday evening, the blaze resulted in the destruction of nearly all the contents, including many personal belongings.

The proprietor, Mr. Reginald Hiller, was in the D. & A. Garage, in Plough Lane, Wokingham, welding holes in a car silencer, when a spark is believed to have ignited a small tray containing petrol. Mr. Hiller attempted to beat out the flames with an old mackintosh, but a drum of paraffin also caught alight. The fire spread to the wooden roof, and he had scarcely pulled containers of oxygen and acetylene out from the garage when the whole building caught fire. Firemen from Wokingham and Bracknell dealt with the blaze and were working there until midnight.

Among the articles badly damaged were cameras, a radiogram, and a television set, but a violin—which he had had since childhood—was later found to be undamaged in its case. A built-in office was completely destroyed, but the only vehicle to suffer harm was a wreck of a Wolseley. This, acting as a shield, prevented the flames from reaching any of the other cars.

Sat 3rd June

CHANGE OF NAME

The name of Radio Heaters, Ltd., of Eastheath Avenue, Wokingham, has been changed to “Radyne Ltd”.

PRESENTATION CONVENT

In veneration of the Blessed Virgin, the May procession was held in the grounds of the Presentation Convent, Easthampstead Road, Wokingham, on Sunday. Father Maurice Wallace led the procession which started at the chapel and finished at the shrine. Following this was the benediction in the chapel, and the hymn “Faith of Our Fathers” was sung.

FLAG DAY RAISES OVER £127

Over £127 was collected in Wokingham on Saturday, when the Berkshire Aftercare Association organised a flag day. The local collections were sponsored by the Wokingham zone, whose chairman is Mrs. C.E.A. La Bouchardière.

TO REMAIN IN MINISTRY

At the unanimous request of the Wokingham Methodist Church—confirmed by the Reading Circuit authorities—the Rev. Leonard Hale has agreed to continue as minister of the Rose Street Methodist Church until August 1962. Some months ago, the Rev. Leonard Hale indicated that he wished to retire in August.

DARTS

If past records counted for anything, Chris Saxe should have won the house singles championship at The Ship Inn, Wokingham, on Tuesday. Not only had he recently won the divisional singles title, but also the championship of the Reading and District Hop Leaf Darts League. But in George Thexton, vice-captain of the successful Ship Inn Team, he came up against strong opposition, and narrowly failed to win the house championship.

GIFT TO CHURCH

In his current letter to parishioners, the Rector of All Saints’ Church, Wokingham, refers to the difficulties faced by those responsible for arranging to have a new

furnace fitted at the church. The position of the existing furnace, the problem of stoking and fuel storage still exist—but one major burden, that of paying for a new installation has been lifted by the gift of £1,000 from the Marchioness of Ormonde, who has specified that any balance remaining shall go towards the Structural Repair Fund.

SOCIAL CLUB SPRING BALL

Members of the Social Club of Radio Heaters, Ltd., Wokingham, enjoyed their spring ball at the Olympia Ballroom, Reading, on Friday last week. Dancing was to the George Watkins Band.

BAPTIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

A party from Wokingham Baptist Youth Fellowship took part in the annual Youth Rally, held at Wallingford on Saturday and organised by the Berkshire Baptist Association. They joined in boating and rambling and afterwards took part in the evening service at Wallingford Baptist Church. The following day, about 30 members visited the New Mill Chapel on its anniversary. At the anniversary service, Mr. P. Jerman, the Superintendent of Hoxton Market Christian Mission, officiated. A member of the Youth Fellowship, Steven Pearson, spent the week-end on a sailing course at Bisham Abbey, sponsored by the Central Council of Physical Recreation.

OLD-TIME DANCE

The profits made at the old-time dance held at the Church House, Wokingham, on Saturday and organised by the Wokingham M.B. Street Groups Sub-Committee of the national Savings Movement will go towards a party held annually for voluntary workers of the movement. During the evening over 60 members and guests danced to the music of Stan Ayres and his band.

SCHOOL MAY QUEEN

The 11th May Queen of Palmer Infants School—was crowned on Friday last week, in the grounds of High Close, the Wokingham Dr. Bernardo's Home. Her crown was carried in procession by Nicola Hawkins, and her attendants were Ann Lee, Jean Harris and Sandra Mangnall. Opening the ceremony was John Woolliams in Town Crier's uniform, with David Bridges as the herald and Nigel Page as the page. Following the crowning, the children dressed in smocks and head-dresses, entertained the visitors present with maypole and other dancing.

The crowning ceremony—performed by Miss E.L. Norris, one of the school managers—might be the last of its kind, as the present Palmer Infant School will be transferred to new premises on the Norreys Barn estate later this year, and the head mistress and founder of the ceremony, Miss E.E. Newson, will not be joining the new staff. During the morning a collection was taken in aid of the Dr. Bernardo's Home.

Sat 10th June

WOKINGHAM TERRITORIALS

Exercise in the New Forest

Officers, and men of "D" Company and the 3-inch mortar platoon, 4/6th battalion, the Royal Berkshire Regiment, located at Wokingham, under the command of Major J.L. Lance, held an interesting week-end exercise in the Southampton area of the New Forest.

Leaving Wokingham on Saturday afternoon, the "D" Company drivers practised convoy drills and traffic control en route to the New Forest, where a defensive position was taken up for the night. After "stand-to" at first light, patrolling was practised against a "live enemy." Having successfully dealt with this opposition, the company resumed their advance in M.T. towards the coast. Eventually, men from "D" Company reached Lepe beach, near Fawley where, again, the "enemy" were encountered. Calling down defensive fire from their mortars, the "enemy" attack was broken up, and the company took their final objective on the beach.

On the return journey, driving instruction was given to several learner drivers, and the company returned to their T.A. centre in Denmark Street, Wokingham, late on Sunday afternoon, after an extremely interesting week-end, during which many valuable lessons were learned.

Sat 17th June

FACTORY VISIT

Pupils from St. Paul's Primary School, Wokingham, toured Huntley and Palmers' biscuit factory at Reading on Monday.

TREE BLOCKS ROAD

A fallen tree partially blocked the Wellington Road, Wokingham, took after midnight on Tuesday. The police were called out, and with the aid of a borrowed saw managed to clear the road.

O.A.P. AND SONGSTERS

The Wokingham O.A.P. and Songsters have an anniversary this month, it being seven years since they were formed by Mrs. E. Bishop, secretary and organiser. Besides having entertained a great number of old age pensioners, giving an annual concert every autumn, two holidays a year for members and friends, also entertaining at Christmas parties, they are kept busy. This month 40 had a most enjoyable week at Cliftonville, the Songsters singing at a party one night to 250 pensioners from various parts of England. They are now busy with concerts, outings, etc., for some time ahead all round East Berkshire.

VISIT TO BAPTIST COLLEGE

A trip to the Bristol Baptist College was enjoyed by a party of 21 members of the Wokingham Baptist Youth Fellowship on Saturday. Arriving shortly after lunch, they were met by Malcolm Smalley—the son of the Wokingham Town Clerk, Mr. L. Goddard Smalley—who will soon become a Baptist Minister. They saw the works factory of the Bristol aeroplane company, and the Clifton suspension bridge and were then taken round the college where they saw, among other things, a collection of old Bibles. During their visit the members learned much of the history of the college.

MRS. FRANK HEELAS DIES

Mrs. Charlotte Mary Elizabeth Heelas, of The Mill House, Reading Road, Wokingham, died on February 16th. She was the wife of Mr. Frank C. Heelas.

WOMEN LEGIONNAIRES

There was a large attendance at the monthly meeting of the British Legion, women's section, on Wednesday last week, Mrs. P.S. Murray resuming as chairman after an

absence through illness. A talk on sponge making and fillings, given by Mrs. Rampton, was much enjoyed.

EMBANKMENT FIRES

Four times on Thursday, Wokingham firemen were called out to deal with embankment fires. Twice the blazes were at Winnersh Halt railway station, once at the embankment at Finchampstead Road, Wokingham, and a fourth at Skew Bridge, Wokingham.

MOTHERS' UNION GARDEN PARTY

The annual All Saints' Mothers' Union garden party—organised by Mrs. F.A. Steer, wife of the rector—was held on Thursday afternoon in the grounds of The Rectory, Rectory Road, Wokingham. Present during the afternoon was the Mayor, Dr. P.P. Pigott.

BECHES MANOR HOTEL IS DESTROYED BY FIRE

The Beches Manor Hotel, Wokingham, was destroyed by fire on Wednesday night. The building was empty and scheduled for preservation because of historical and architectural interest.

Fri 14th July

POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE AT GLEBELANDS

Celebrities from all branches of the film industry converged on Glebelands, the Cinematograph Trade Benevolent Fund's home in Wokingham on Saturday for the opening of the C.M. Woolf Memorial Cottages. To match the celebrities the garden party had been arranged on a grand scale. A red-coated, white-gloved master of ceremonies announced the president of the fund, Sir Philip Water; the chairman, Mr. Ralph Bromhead, and the manager of the Glebelands Home, Mr. M.P. Thompson—and their wives.

Teas were served at tables under gay umbrellas in the spreading cedar tree corner of the vast sweep of lawn. Sideshows manned by the sports clubs of various film studios were to be found on the south side of the lawn.

Underfloor heating

The three pairs of Memorial Cottages costing just under £20,000 were designed by the fund's honorary architect, Mr. Harry Weedon. Each cottage has two reception and two bedrooms, parquet flooring, a modern bathroom and kitchen, and electrically controlled underfloor heating.

Unveiling the memorial plaque outside the cottages, the Mayor of Wokingham, Dr. Phyllis Pigott, what ideal homes they would make for the elderly residents of Glebelands who wanted their own things about them and wished to retain their own independence.

The fund's chairman speaking about the late Mr. Woolf, who died in 1942, said what a tower of strength he had been to the film industry.

Although the majority of the people present were, so to speak, the "back room boys" of the film industry three who arrived accompanied and supported by publicity agents were Carol Lesley, Yvonne Buckingham, and Norman Rossington.

Miss Lesley has just finished filming with singer Adam Faith in "What a Whopper" Miss Buckingham has just finished two thriller films in Ireland—"Murder in Eden" and "Question of Suspense". Norman has just been filming "Go to Blazes" with Dave

King. This week he was doing a TV play and shortly to make a film called "This Sporting Life".

Sat 23rd Sept

PASSING OF A FAMOUS CRICKETER

A.P.F. Chapman's Famous Days

Mr. A.P.F. Chapman, the Reading-born Berkshire County cricketer, who later was to become captain of England and one of the great personalities of the game, died in an Alton hospital on Saturday, aged 61. To cricket Arthur Percy Frank Chapman brought a new gaiety of approach, even a light-hearted atmosphere, yet in terms of matches won, England have had few more successful leaders.

Born in Reading in September 1900, he was the son of the late Mr. Frank Emerson Chapman, of Wokingham, himself an all-round sportsman of reputation. Mr. Chapman was a former Wokingham Town Councillor who moved to Wokingham on retiring from Haileybury, and lived in Wiltshire Road. He served on the Town Council from 1921 to 1928.

The same sporting flair soon became evident in the son. He was educated at Uppingham, where he was elected captain of the cricket team. Representative matches at Lords followed, and in 1919 he was chosen by *Wisden* as one of the five "Public School Cricketers of the Year."

Percy, as he was known to a vast circle of friends, gained his blue as a Freshman at Cambridge in 1920 and was also a member of A.C. Maclaren's 1921 team which, at Eastbourne, inflicted their first defeat on Warwick Armstrong's Australians. The following year he scored a dazzling century against Oxford, and followed up with 160 for the Gentlemen against the Players at Lords. But his achievements with the bat were invariably equalled by his gifted fielding.

Coming down from Cambridge, he played for Berkshire in the Minor Counties championship, and on two separate occasions, chiefly through his efforts, Berkshire obtained the greatest percentage of points and played in the finals against the winners of other sections.

He later played for Kent, and from 1931 to 1936 he captained that county, for whom he was a stimulating influence.

In 1924/25 he toured Australia with Arthur Gilligan's M.C.C. side, but his great moment came in the final Test of 1926, at the Oval. He had played in some of the earlier tests of the series, all of which had been drawn, but for the Oval match—on which depended the Ashes which Australia had held throughout the post-war period, he was chosen a captain. Surprise greeted the choice, as his experience of captaincy was limited to school and minor matches, yet he led England to a triumphant victory.

For four years he stayed at the top, through series of fascinating Tests with the Australian side captained by Bradman, but in 1930 he was dropped for the fifth and final match after scoring a cavalier 121 in the second.

His marriage in 1925 to Miss G.H.H. Lowry, sister of a New Zealand cricket captain was dissolved in 1942.

Fri 17th Nov (Evening Standard)

EX-MAYORS HONOUR THE MAN WHO LIKES TO LOOK AFTER PEOPLE.

Mayors come and go but one man survives them all—Wokingham's mace-bearer-at-arms, Mr. Cyril Nibbs. At last Thursday's meeting of the council the man who, during the past 22 years, has attended 16 of the town's Mayors, got a pleasant surprise. The present Mayor (Dr. P.P. Pigott) handed Mr. Nibbs, an envelope

containing money collected by former mayors as a gift for his 70th birthday, which he celebrated on October 24th.

Commented Dr. Pigott, "We all appreciate the dignity and care which Mr. Nibbs brings to the office of mace-bearer-at-arms, and Ald Bowyer had the idea that all the mayors should contribute to this present."

But then, Mr. Nibbs has always cared for things. Perhaps it stems from his days as a gardener, or from the time his wife, Florence, became an invalid, 32 years ago. Since that date he has had to do virtually everything for her. Mr. Nibbs proudest boast is that, in 22 years, he only missed one council meeting, about eight years ago.

It was only by chance that he became mace bearer-at-arms. Born in Medmenham, he came to Wokingham in 1940 as a town hall keeper. At that time the job as mace bearer-at-arms was going so he just combined the two. He retired as town hall keeper at 65 and shocked colleagues and friends by refusing a £40 collection. I don't like a lot of fuss he said.

Mr. Nibbs is an ex-sailor, father of two and grandfather of six.

Fri 8th Dec (Evening Standard)

FINE FARE SUPERMARKET OPENS

Wokingham's newest supermarket, Fine Fare in the new shopping centre in Peach Street opened on Tuesday and with it came the price-slashing war. The first 150 customers received a free chicken. Over the next few days Fine Fare will be handing out 7,000 frozen birds to early morning customers or to those purchasing £2 worth or more of goods.

Other stores will follow suit.

But it isn't only the free chicken gimmick which will be pulling Wokingham and district housewives into the new supermarket. The price-cutting on selected items each week will attract them too. Other stores will have to follow suit as they do in other towns if they wish to compete. The only winner is the shopper.

Mr. W.T. Smith, manager of this latest Fine Fare store—part of Mr. Garfield Weston's £30M scheme for supermarkets over the next few years says that tea will permanently be cut a penny. Then every week seven or eight commodities will be cut by twopence or perhaps threepence at a special offer.

1962

Sat 6th Jan

WINTER COMES TO WOKINGHAM

"Snow ploughs" have been out in force in Wokingham. Bulldozers from town building and demolition sites were hired out, and a squad of these "snow ploughs" patrolled the town centre on Monday and Tuesday, shovelling and scraping the mounting mess off the roads. Gangs of workmen too, have joined in clearing the paths, caked with solid ice and snow

But the continued efforts of men and machines were not enough. People were scared off the pavements, cars were abandoned in Broad Street and Denmark Street and every morning Wokingham has awakened to a freezing half-empty town.

All but a few of the bus services have operated in the town. But, report Thames Valley, they have had some difficulty with the number 3A bus—which goes through Wokingham to Finchampstead. Milk deliveries went haywire, and some deliveries went on until 11 o'clock on Monday night.

Old people have suffered in the biting cold. Many residents from "Oakfield" hostel for the aged, are in bed, and two old people were taken to Wokingham Hospital over the week-end with bronchitis.

Accidents in the town were comparatively few. A double-deck Thames Valley bus slipped partly into the ditch near Warren House, Forest Road, on Sunday afternoon. Mr. M. Naylor, from Perkins Garage, who went out to free the bus had 12 other calls during the day.

On Friday last week, a car, driven by Mr. David Archer, of 416 Wokingham Road, Earley, braked in the Forest Road, to avoid a collision with a tractor, driven by Mr. Vincent, of Pyke's Farm, Forest Road. Mr. Archer's car struck a concrete pole in the road. There were no injuries.

On Sunday, Mr. S. Barnes, of 316, Barkham Road, came down the Barkham Road in a gritting lorry. Near the junction with Molly Millars Lane he braked—and hit a stationary car.

Several bricks were knocked out of a wall in Matthews Green Road on Sunday morning when Mr. Ronald Haye, of 6, Shute End, skidded by The Dog and Duck. His car hit the wall, and was slightly damaged.

A GIANT CRACKER

For Dr. Barnardo's Home

A seven feet long Christmas cracker holds pride of place at the Dr. Barnardo's Home, High Close, Wokingham. For the giant cracker—presented to the children by the "tin-bashers," of Handley Page, Woodley—contains 84 pounds of chocolates.

Delivered on the Saturday before Christmas the cracker has not yet been opened. It stands in a dining room alcove at the home. "We're keeping it until the school re-opens and everybody who belongs to the home is back," explained head mistress, Miss Evelyn Dunn.

Next Tuesday all 56 pairs of hands will be ready and waiting as the cracker—almost a yard in diameter—is pulled and the sweets distributed.

Handley Page, the "Aunt Emily" of the Wokingham Dr. Barnardo's home, have also given presents for each of the children.

Fri 26th Jan

DEATH OF MR. R. HERRING

Son of the man who founded Herring's china and glass business in Peach Street, Mr. Rich Herring, of 70, London Road, Wokingham died in Battle Hospital last Friday. Mr. Herring was born at the old Welcome Inn, in Peach Street, 77 years ago, and moved with his father to the present Herring's shop when he was only five. His grandfather, Mr. William Henry Herring, was a chief Constable of Berkshire.

Mr. Herring, who went into hospital just before Christmas, will be remembered for his wonderful knowledge of Wokingham many years ago. He is survived by his widow, his son Patrick, who carries on the business, and one grandson. Cremation took place at Woking on Wednesday.

MR. AND MRS. PURVER

The Bakery, London Road, Wokingham

Beg to inform all their customers that they have disposed of all their business as from January 31st, 1962. They wish to thank them all for their custom over the last 30 years. Customers will be pleased to know that M. Killan & Son Ltd., who are taking

over the business, are individual craftsmen bakers and, it is felt, will be able to give every satisfaction and personal attention.

Mr. and Mrs. Purver trust their customers will continue to give their successors their custom.

Sat 27th Jan

MR. A. GODSAL ENGAGED

The engagement has been announced of Mr. Alan Godsall of Haines Hill, Twyford. He is to marry Lady Elizabeth Stopford, younger daughter of the Earl of Courtown, of Beaconsfield, and Mrs. Christopher Vian, of Godalming.

Sat 10th Feb

CINEMA SILVER JUBILEE

Celebrating its silver jubilee this year will be the Ritz Cinema, Wokingham—and also reaching a 25th anniversary with the company will be the chief projectionist, Mr. Charles Sargeant. Interviewed this week, Mr. Sargeant recalled the days when he first joined the film business; the best seats in the house at the Ritz then cost 1s. 6d. and the films—nearly all black and white—were shown on a screen that would be dwarfed by today's equipment. The original projectors are still in use at the cinema, however, although modified in 1956 to take the new wide-screen films. With the advent of television there were fears that this cosy little family cinema would close, but it did not share the fate of so many others, and with increasing attendance looks forward to a new period of prosperity.

Workmen are now busy renewing the entire seating—there are 712 seats to be completely renovated and the work is expected to take some time, as it is done mainly at night. At the Ritz cinema, Mr. Sargeant renewed his working partnership with manager Mr. Jack Cole, for they spent eight years (1944-52) working together at the Regal Cinema, Caversham.

SNOW CLEARANCE COST

The heavy snowfall at the beginning of January cost the Wokingham ratepayers about £300 it is revealed in a report presented to the Town Council on Thursday. The snowfall, following a week of heavy frosts had thrown a severe strain on the Highways Department and contractors had been called in to clear the snow in the town centre.

POOL OPENING

The Martin's Swimming Pool, Wokingham, will be opened for the 1962 season on May 14th.

Sat 17th Feb

WOKINGHAM BOWLING CLUB

Highly successful season reviewed

A successful season—one of the best in the history of the club—was reported to members of Wokingham Bowling Club at their annual meeting in the pavilion on Tuesday. The retiring president, Mr. R.J. Fenner, congratulated Mr. Jack Rivers on being the first person to bring the county singles championship to the club and expressed the hope that this would be the fore-runner of many such occasions.

Referring to the apparent lack of progress with regard to the plot of land the club owned fronting on to the main Reading Road—land which it was their intention to

sell—Mr. Fenner said they were being delayed by the hold-up in the development of the adjoining property, Beches Manor Hotel.

The club would be ill-advised, he said, to spend a great deal of money on the preparation of a development plan if it were decided by a higher authority that the bowling club site and the Beches Manor site should be considered as one unit for this purpose. Consultations were being held, however, and a great deal of preparatory work had been done by the officers.

From a playing point of view, reported the club captain, Mr. J.L. Langley, it was a fine season. Any despondency he had over the curtailment of certain matches was balanced by the fact that others were increased and, in many cases, players had “stood down” to give others a chance. Of the 64 matches the club had won 42, drawn one and lost 21. The Wednesday team had scored a total of 1,652 shots and conceded 1,325, the Saturday team were 89 shots up, 1,714 to 1,625 and the Sunday team had scored 2,148 as against their opponents’ 2,078.

Many members had played in the majority of matches, Frank Beard topped the list having missed only 13 matches, and P.W. Fry played in 43. Both G. Beales and H.C. Allen put in 42 attendances with E. Harrison (41 and J.L. Langley (39). G. Collyer and W. Dorrell each played 37 times. Most successful skip was Frank Beard, winning 26 of his 44 matches, with G. Collyer winning 25 out of 35 skip appearances. G. Cox also came out on the winning side with 16 victories from 30 matches.

Financially, said the treasurer, Mr. G.E. Ford, a quick look at the statement of accounts showed a loss on the year of £112. But this was no cause for alarm; the new kitchen and other improvements, a new shed for the groundsman, and a “face lift” inside the pavilion had resulted in an increase of £315 in the amount spent on repairs and extensions.

Bar profits were again the main source of income at £287. The ladies’ social evening had proved a great success, and had contributed £40 to the funds.

The club decided—by a large majority—to break with a tradition as old as itself, and to invite ladies to the 1962 dinner.

Mr. Harold C. Lee, a former president, was returned to this office in succession to Mr. R.J. Fenner, and his place as vice-president was taken by Mr. E.C. Plumridge, who also retains the secretaryship. Other officers were re-elected as follows: Chairman, Mr. G.S. Reed; treasurer, Me. J.E. Ford; assistant secretary, Mr. R.A. Ingram; match secretary, Mr. H. Blackman; captain, Mr. J.L. Langley; vice-captains, Messrs. F. Beard and P.W. Fry.

Sat 10th March

PLANE CRASH IN JUNGLE

Wokingham man was the pilot

The pilot of the ill-fated DC-76 airliner, which crashed into a jungle swamp on Sunday, was a Wokingham resident, Captain Arthur Henry J. Williams. He was one of 111 people who died when the plane hit the ground at Douala, in the Cameroons. Capt. Williams who lived at 29, Frog Hall Drive, was an experienced pilot, with 11,000 hours’ flying time behind him.

The cause of the disaster has been officially described as “a complete mystery,” but it seems possible that the storms and appalling weather conditions in the area, at the time, may have been a vital factor in the death flight.

The plane was leased by Californian Airways from Sabena Belgian World Airlines. Mr. Williams was himself chief pilot and founder-director of the Caledonian Company, which was formed late last year. A near-neighbour in Frog Hall Drive, and

a fellow director—Mr. “Tommy” Thompson, left England on Monday to visit the scene of the crash.

The plane had just taken on 3,900 gallons of fuel at Douala, and Capt. Williams decided to continue with the flight, despite adverse weather reports. The plane was fully loaded, but within the safety regulations. Engine failure has not yet been ruled out.

JUMBLE SALE

On Saturday the local St. John Ambulance held one of the largest jumble sales ever seen in Wokingham at the Drill Hall. Over £60 was raised for the scheme. Launched by Supt. W.E. Burden, to provide a Christmas party for old people of the town.

HEALTH REPORT

During January there were 18 cases of measles notified in the borough, the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. C.S. Pitt reveals in his monthly report. There were no cases of smallpox in the borough, and no direct contacts—but the local doctors had been inundated with inquiries regarding vaccination and a total of 270 people had been vaccinated at special clinics held in the Town Hall. No new cases of tuberculosis had been reported, but one registered case moved into the borough and two had recovered. There are now 66 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis registered in Wokingham—38 men and 28 women. In addition, there are seven cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis—4 men and 3 women.

COLOUR MAGIC

Members of the Wokingham Colorphoto Society heard a recorded lecture, illustrated by slides, under the title of “Colour Magic” at their meeting at St. Crispin’s School, Wokingham, on Wednesday. The lecturer was Mr. C. Bromback, and he dealt mainly with table-top under varying lights. Entries in the children’s section of the Penney Trophy were judged and results of last month’s floral section were announced. These showed that the secretary, Mr. F.J. Francis had taken first place, beating Mrs. E. Goatley and the chairman, Mr. C.D. Conway, into second and third places respectively.

BOWLS CLUB SOCIAL

Members of the Wokingham Bowling Club said “thank you” to the ladies who keep them supplied with tea during the bowling season at a social in the Town Hall on Saturday. And this year these thanks were expressed in the tangible form of pairs of stockings—handed to them on the club’s behalf by the Mayor, Cllr. Dr. P.P. Pigott. Dancing was to the music of Stan Ayers and Mr. R.A. Ingram was M.C. A feature of the evening was the cabaret arranged by Brenda Oliver. Adding to the hilarity three of the officers—secretary Mr. E.C. Plumridge, match secretary Mr. Harry Blackman, and captain Mr. J.L. Langley—joined in one of the danced numbers dressed as farm yokels. The club president Mr. Harold C. +guests.

YOUNG BAPTISTS ENTERTAIN

Members of the Baptist Youth Fellowship threw a party at the Baptist Hall, Milton Road, Wokingham, on Saturday for parents, relatives and old-folk. About 40 elderly people from the “Oakfields” hostel and the Wokingham Hospital were taken to the hall by the St. John Ambulance Brigade coach and given tea—arranged by a catering committee under the leadership of 17-years-old Miss Susan Sibley—and a full

programme of entertainment. This was under the direction of M.C. Mr. Jim Hawkes and included three sketches, demonstration dancing and piano solos by Christopher Gould. A visitor to the party was the Mayor, Dr. P.P. Pigott, who had a special word with all the guests. The party ended with community hymn singing after the ladies had beaten the men in a Bible quiz.

Sat 5th May

LAWN TENNIS

The Kestrel Lawn Tennis Club had a disappointing start to their match programme on Saturday. Their men's team visited Royal Ascot and went down 7—2, whilst the following day the ladies lost 5—4 to Simonds' Ladies, Reading.

CINEMA'S FACE LIFT

Work has now started on a complete redecoration of the Ritz Cinema, Wokingham, to mark its silver jubilee on May 29th. Starting on May 28th there will be a special celebration week, and the film chosen will be "Road to Hong Kong" with Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and, of course, Dorothy Lamour. On the day of the anniversary (Tuesday) a reception will be held at the cinema at which an A.B.C. starlet will be making a personal appearance. In addition to the redecoration the screen is to be moved back to allow more stage space for personal appearances.

QUEEN'S 20-MINUTE VISIT TO TOWN

Wokingham prepares

The Queen's visit to Wokingham on June 25th is likely to last only 20 minutes. She will probably arrive via Peach Street for a reception at the Market Place.

There she will meet the Mayor and councillors, sign the visitors' book and leave down Broad Street.

So said the Mayor, Dr. Phyllis Pigott, at a meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Wokingham Town Council on Tuesday.

MR. P. O. WATSON

Mr. Percival Octavius Watson of Cherrycroft, Farnham Royal, Bucks, formerly of Cantley, Wokingham, died on December 17th, aged 83 years. His daughter was Mary Sinclair, of Oakfields, Jordans, Bucks.

Sat 26th May

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC

The annual meetings of the Wokingham Orthopaedic Clinic Committee and of the Trustees were held at the Clinic on Monday, when the reports of the working of the past year and the balance sheets were presented and accepted. The hon. secretary Miss E. Ward reported that the number of patients on the register on May 11th was 239, and the number of attendance during the year, 551. New patients numbered 148, 52 patients were x-rayed at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, 16 were admitted to the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre at Oxford or the Abingdon Hospital, and 30 were given a course of physiotherapy at Wokingham Hospital. The committee was re-elected en-bloc, with Mr. David Goddard, chairman; Miss E. Ward, hon. secretary, and Miss M.G. Goddard, hon. treasurer. Mr. Goddard was re-elected chairman of the Trustees.

Sat 2nd June

HER MAJESTY TO AUTOGRAPH PORTRAIT

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh and the Lord Lieutenant, will arrive at Wokingham Town Hall at 2.55 p.m. There they will be welcomed by the Mayor, Cllr. P.P. Pigott, who will have been presented to the Queen at Easthampstead Park Training College.

The Mayor will present to the Queen those who comprise the official platform party; the High Steward, the Marquess Ormonde, and Lady Ormonde; the Mayor's chaplain, the Rev. F.A. Steer; and the Town Clerk, Mr. L. Goddard Smalley.

Then the council members will step on to the dais in order of seniority to be presented. First will be the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. A.G. Skedgel, to be followed by "Father" of the council and Freeman of the Borough, Alderman E.W. Reeves.

Then will come the aldermen, councillors and chief officers.

The Queen will be asked to sign the Distinguished Visitors' Book and autograph a portrait which will be hung in the Town Hall. Before leaving she will be presented with a bouquet by the four-and-a-half-years-old granddaughter of the Mayor, Eleanor Cozens, and daughter of the Mayoress Mrs. G. Cozens.

The centre of the town will be closed to traffic early in the day. Schoolchildren will watch the visit from outside St. Crispin's School to Seaford Road; in Broad Street outside Markham House and The Elms from Montague House to Rectory Road.

The Market Place will be lined by Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Nursing Cadets, members of the British Red Cross and St. John Ambulance Brigaded and the Civil defence Corps.

ROYAL EXCHANGE AT WOKINGHAM IS CLOSING

The traditional cry of "Time, Gentlemen, Please," will be heard for the last time at the Royal Exchange, Denmark Street, Wokingham, on Whit-Monday evening.

This week, Mrs. Phoebe Parfitt, wife of licensee, Mr. W.C. ("Jack") Parfitt, said that the house had been sold by the brewers and they would close on Whit-Monday. They are to take over the Red Lion at Spencers Wood.

Before coming to Wokingham, Mr. and Mrs. Parfitt were in the fish-and-chip business in London, but they like public-house life and are glad to be taking over another house. "We have made many good friends in the town since we came here nearly nine years ago—we are sorry to leave, but in a way we are glad that no one else is to take over," said Mrs. Parfitt.

The Royal Exchange fronts on to Denmark Street, and has land which extends back to Cockpit Path. It has been proposed that there should be large-scale development on this side of the road.

Sat 9th June

WOKINGHAM TERRITORIALS

In 1939 a soldier from the Royal Berks Territorials put several shooting trophies in the vaults of a Wokingham bank. The soldier was killed in action in the last war—and the cups stayed in the bank until 1960, when they were found by auditors. The name of the soldier has never been discovered but the cups are being used for their original purpose.

Last week-end 34 members of the "D" Company from Wokingham took part in their annual classification and prize meeting marksmanship contest. They used rifles and light machine guns and several members of "C" Company from Maidenhead took part. Seven men qualified with rifles and nine with the light machine gun.

The rifle challenge cup—the biggest prize of the day—went to Major A. Spackman, of Priest Avenue, Wokingham. He scored 37 hits out of a possible 40. The Corporals' and Trained Soldiers' Cup went to Bracknell man, Cpl. E. Rose, from Ralph's Ride.

The Recruits' Cup was won by Private D. Grainger, from Fair Acres, Warfield. Finally the Light Machine Gun Cup went to Private A. Byles, from Yately.

Sat 30th June

COLOURFUL CEREMONIAL AT A COLOURFUL WOKINGHAM

A gaily-decorated Wokingham, hung with flags and bunting, welcomed the queen and Duke of Edinburgh on their arrival in the afternoon. By a happy chance the Royal visit coincided with the beginning of Carnival Week and a real effort had been made by shop and house owners to present a colourful town to their Royal guests.

Peach Street was lined with waving crowds as the Royal car approached the ancient market square. From a balcony of the Town Hall above the flower-bedecked dais trumpeters of the Life Guards sounded a fanfare as the Royal car drew up.

After the National Anthem, played by the Band of the Regiment of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Sir William Mount re-introduced the Mayor of Wokingham, Dr. Phyllis P. Pigott. The Mayor was preceded by the mace-bearer, Mr. S.L. Callan, who, as a mark of respect carried a reverse mace for the occasion.

After welcoming the, the Queen and the Duke, the Mayor presented the High Steward, the Marquess of Ormonde and Lady Ormonde, the Mayor's chaplain, the Rev. F.A. Steer, and the Town Clerk (Mr. L. Gordon Smalley). Afterwards councillors, including the Deputy-Mayor, Cllr. A.G. Skedgel, were presented.

Following the presentations the Queen and Prince Philip signed the Distinguished Visitors' Book and autographed photographs for the Town Hall.

Before continuing to Maidenhead, the Queen was presented with a bouquet of orchids and roses by Eleanor Cozens, the four-and-a-half-years-old granddaughter of the Mayor.

The Duke of Edinburgh took an interest in the heavy, ornate mace and was told that it was one of two similar ones in the country (Newbury has the other). The Duke quipped: "The rest must have been melted down."

Sat 7th July

THOUSANDS FLOCK TO WOKINGHAM

Revived after a lapse of five years, the Wokingham carnival attracted thousands of people to the flag-bedecked town on Saturday for a carnival that set many precedents.

A new day—previous carnivals have been on a Wednesday—a new procession route and the crowning ceremony on Langborough recreation ground were all changes that set people talking.

But despite the inevitable troubles that arise with new ideas, one thing was clear—the vast majority of people thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and that was the organisers' ambition. If, it seems likely, they raise a considerable amount for local charities they will be even more pleased.

The programme really opened with an amateur contest at the Rita cinema on carnival eve, but the official start to the day was the opening ceremony by the mayor, Dr. P.P. Pigott, in the Rose Street car park at 10 a.m.

Here the carnival patron, Mr. W.R. van Straubenzee, M.P., was master of ceremonies, and he then went on the St. Crispin's playing fields.

More entries would have been welcomed by the organisers, but the sports were a model of efficient planning and went through smoothly and without a hitch. So much

so that more than the 50 scheduled races run, finishing up with a special event for the whole family.

Principal trophy at stake was a cup for the handicap mile, won in convincing style by Keith Belshaw. A special prize for a game effort was given to eight-years-old Dane Swallow, of Arborfield, who retired after three laps.

This year the crowning ceremony was on the Langborough recreation ground, and it was unfortunate that the Queen, Miss Jennie Snuggs, and her entourage, arrived twenty minutes late for their first engagement of the day. But the patience of the crowd who had been entertained by the band of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal regiment was well rewarded, for in an open landau drawn by two greys, the queen and her attendants, Miss Rita Worner and Miss Marie Carr were charming. The Queen, in a long white gown and jewelled blue cape stepped forward and was crowned by the Mayoress, Mrs. H.I. Cozens.

While the "royal party" was visiting the funfair, the Wokingham Hospital—where they toured all the wards, including the new maternity block—and the Oakfields old people's hostel, the children were enjoying themselves at a fancy dress contest. Over 200, in costumes of all kinds, gave the judges (including nurses from the Royal Berkshire Hospital) a difficult task.

Feature of the day—as always—was the procession. The entries for this provided all the ingredients for a great success; but it was marred by the disjointed way it toured the town. Several times the gaps were so long that many thought the procession had ended.

Quite outstanding was the float entered by Messrs. Page of Camberley. This was a large-as-life pink elephant, made of chicken wire and two hundredweight of tissue paper, that waved its ears and trumpeted realistically.

Another lively tableau was the "swing to the Liberals" float which had its own private band. One of the latest factories to open on the industrial estate was represented by a giant perambulator "A New Arrival!—Johnsons."

A ferocious-looking gorilla and a "missionary" cooking over a real fire, helped to make the Royal Berkshire Players' contribution noteworthy, and the Wokingham Players also took the opportunity of reminding the public of their theatre-building efforts. The British Legion "Wizard of Oz" float attracted much attention, and local Brownies were obviously enjoying themselves following the "Pied Piper of Hamelin."

A feature of the procession, seen for the first time, was a collection of antique bicycles, the oldest dating back to 1864. After the procession an auction of "slave girls" proved a popular spectacle on the Langborough recreation ground.

Two dances were held to cater for the differing tastes—a more formal carnival ball at the Drill Hall and "twisting" in the open air on the recreation ground. Then, as night fell, people flocked in their thousands to see a magnificent half-hour firework display given by the Rainbow Firework Company of Finchampstead.

Then shortly before midnight, the curtain came down on a carnival that many will remember for years to come.

GUY FLETCHER QUARTET WINS TALENT CONTEST

They went on stage last, but emerged the winners of the Berkshire amateur talent contest, held during a Midnight Matinee at the Ritz Cinema, Wokingham, on Friday last week. The Guy Fletcher Quartet, of Hurst, with their vocalist Jackie Daniels, played, besides one comedy act, two numbers of their own arrangement and gained the judges' verdict.

The contest, run in conjunction with the Wokingham Carnival, attracted about thirty entries from all over the county. Following elimination heats during the week, the

competition was highlighted on Friday when about twelve finalists battled for supremacy.

The girl who stole the spotlight was 11-years-old Josephine Breeze, of 227, London Road, Wokingham, who perkily sang "I Enjoy Being a Girl," from the "Flower Drum Song."

But, as one of the organisers said after the show: "She was too young and lacked the maturity that some of the others had, although she was very good and had talent."

Led by beautiful Sheila Matthews, the panel of judges included Max Miller, Robert Beatty, Arthur Helliwell and Robin Richmond.

The finalists in the competition included two comedians, solo singers and musical groups.

As a prize the group are entitled to spend a week's free holiday in any one of Butlin's holiday camps in Britain. While there they will be eligible to participate in another contest being run by Butlin's.

They have also been presented with a record of the numbers they played in the contest in Wokingham.

Sat 29th Sept.

WOKINGHAM COUNCIL'S 750TH HOUSE WILL BE OPENED TO-DAY

A landmark in Wokingham housing is being marked today (Saturday) by the opening of the 750th permanent post-war house built by the Wokingham Town Council.

But the Wokingham housing manager, Mr. Claud Hawkins, said this week that the waiting list still approached the 500 mark, although many of these were people who did not already live in the town, but qualified for a place on the list by virtue of their employment in Wokingham.

Between 1921 and 1939 the council built only 40 houses, and acquired 16 more due to the extension of the borough in 1927. Since the war, however, the face of Wokingham had been changed by large scale housing building. In 1945 the late Ald. F.J. Barrett was chairman of the Housing Committee, and land was bought at Norreys Barn, Commons Road and Embrook Road

The first traditional type houses built for the council after the war—a group of six—were started in Evendons Lane in 1946. Two days later the Norreys Barn estate started to take shape.

The first scheme here resulted from the co-operation of seven local firms—and the competitive effort was highly successful and produces 38 houses. In 1949 a further estate was bought on the Waterloo Road, and here, 50 pre-fabricated permanent houses were erected.

The first attempt at "low-cost" housing—the so-called "people's house"—was made on the Finchampstead Road estate in 1951. Given a plot of land near the town centre by the family of the late Ald. Philip Sale, the council built the Memorial Homes which bear his name—a block of thirteen bungalows and a caretaker's flat.

In 1955 the council went ahead with a further scheme of prefabricated permanent houses, and over a period of years 146 "Cornish Unit" homes took shape.

The development of the Norreys Barn estate continued with traditional type houses and flats until the latest 240-unit scheme was implemented. The needs of owner-occupiers have also been taken into account by the council which has built 48 houses for sale to people of the waiting list. Nine houses have been sold to sitting tenants and 22 plots of land have been sold to people wishing to build for themselves.

Sat 6th Oct

WOKINGHAM'S 750TH COUNCIL HOUSE OPENED.

Saturday was a red-letter day for the Wokingham Borough Council Housing committee, for it marked the opening of their 750th permanent post-war house. But next Tuesday will be the big day for Mr. and Mrs. Cane, for then they will move into this show house from their present home in Kiln Ride.

At 61, Eustace Crescent—named after Admiral J.B. Eustace, five times mayor of the town—Ald. N.C. Lawrence, chairman of the Housing Committee, presided over the opening ceremony.

For a small borough with a population of 10,000 in 1945, it was an achievement to have built 750 post-war houses, he said. Their job was not finished and a considerable part of this estate still had to be done.

The estate was unlike any other in the town—it was an “open” one, with no gardens in front of the houses, but lawns which the council would maintain. On this new development—designed and built by Messrs Telling and Son (Builders) Ltd., —there were four garages for every five houses. This should ensure that no cars were left by the roadside or on the lawns.

The front door of Mr. and Mrs. Cane's new home was unlocked by the Mayor Dr. P.P. Pigott. Both she and Ald. Lawrence were presented by Messrs. Telling with an inscribed key to mark the occasion.

ACCOUNTING MACHINE FOR WOKINGHAM

Wokingham Town Council are to buy a mechanical accounting machine at a cost of £2,750, following a recommendation from the Organisation and Methods consultants who were employed to suggest ways of increasing the efficiency of their administration.

This was agreed at Tuesday's meeting of the General Purposes Committee. The Borough Treasurer, Mr. B. Chant, said that the cost would be met from the capital fund, and would be repaid over a seven-year period.

In addition to rate-accounting, there were many other uses to which the machine would be put and when fully operative he expected it to be used 26-30 hours a week. This would mean that the demand for extra staff would be curtailed, although not eliminated.

Sat 13th Oct

END OF A TREE

The walnut tree around which a seat in memory of the late Ald. Philip Sale was built between The Sale Memorial Homes and the Waterloo Restaurant—was felled on Thursday, as the top had died and was brittle.

Sat 3rd Nov

WOKINGHAM RECEIVES COAT OF ARMS

A first look at the new coat-of-arms, which have been granted to Wokingham Rural District Council. The design combines the principal topographical and historical features of the district, and the motto *Unum E pluribus* (“One made out of many”) refers to the union of the various parishes in one rural district. It is a variant of the motto of the United States of America, whose first president, George Washington, was descended in the maternal line from the family of Ball of Arborfield.



Sat 24th Nov

WOKINGHAM SHOP SOLD FOR £23,000

One of Wokingham's principal shops changed hands on Thursday for £23,000. It was the Tudor-styled building opposite the Town Hall that had been the home of Sale and Son (Wokingham), Ltd., for many years.

Having registered their business and developed a new "garden centre" at Folly Court, Barkham Road, Wokingham, the firm put their Market Place shop on the market. And two directors, Mr. P.J. Sale and Mr. O.R.C. Sale were present at the great Western Hotel, Reading, on Thursday, when bidding started at £15,000. In quick £1,000 stages it rose rapidly to £20,000 and then in £500 bids to £23,000 at which figure it was knocked down to Messrs. J. Kirby & Co., of Molly Millars Lane, Wokingham.

The new owners described themselves as agricultural merchants—in contrast to Messrs. Sale & Son, who have been connected with horticulture since the firm was founded.

The sale was conducted by Messrs. Nicholas, with Mr. W.T.D. Vincent on the rostrum.

Sat 15th Dec

OVER £1,000 RAISED

The Mayor of Wokingham, Cllr. Dr. P.P. Pigott, announced this week that she had closed her appeal for the Freedom From Hunger Campaign. Taking into account £170 directly contributed to the Oxfam Committee during the appeal, the amount raised by Wokingham was £1,064. The Mayor paid a tribute this week to Mr. W. Harold Lee, who gave all the printing, and to the organisations in the town whose help meant that there were no administrative expenses.

EFFORT FOR THE FAMINE RELIEF

A concert given by girls of the Luckley-Oakfield School, Wokingham realised over £37 for the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief on Saturday.

ROTARY CLUB

Members of the Wokingham Rotary Club heard from their colleague, Mr. J. Barfoot, at their luncheon meeting on Monday, about Trustee Savings Banks. Records of transactions of the Wokingham Trustee Savings Bank in 1832 are still in existence.

CHRISTMAS POST

To help cope with the seasonal rush at the Wokingham Post Office, Mr. R.A. Cole said this week that parcel traffic would be dealt with in a hired hut at the back of the Post Office yard, and in a garage. The annexe at the rear of the Post Office will be open to the public for letters, parcels and packets. Additional staff will be taken on to cope with the work—40 at Wokingham, 75 at Bracknell and 20 at Crowthorne. Extra vehicles have also been booked.

METHODIST GUILD

Guest speaker at Tuesday's meeting of the Wokingham Methodist Guild was the Rev. A.R. Burch, who gave a talk on a tour of Holland, the Rhineland, Bavaria and Austria. The meeting was under the chairmanship of Miss Sylvia Brown.

MAYOR AT CHEESE PARTY

Berkshire branch of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy held a cheese and wine party at the Wokingham Town Hall on Monday. Proceeds were in aid of the Society's benevolent fund. Guest-of-honour was the Mayor, Dr. Phyllis Pigott.

SALE MAKES £300

The Corpus Christi Hall, Station Road, Wokingham was packed on Saturday afternoon for the annual Christmas sale organised by the church. This realised a profit of over £300 for the school building fund.

FACTORY MOVING

Messrs. Metalair, Ltd., are to close their works in the Reading Road and at Station Point, Wokingham, and build a new factory on the Eastheath Industrial Estate. It was reported to the Finance Committee of the Town Council on November 8th that, after considerable negotiations, the company had agreed to drop their claim for removal expenses on two conditions: That the Reading Road site should be given planning permission for a petrol-filling station, restaurant etc., and that the Station Road site should be bought by the County Council. The planning committees of both authorities had met and agreed on the conditions.

Sat 29th Dec

THE LATE MR. E. PERKINS

A well-known businessman in Wokingham, Mr. Eric Perkins, of 22, Broad Street, Wokingham, died in Battle Hospital, Reading, on Wednesday last week, aged 83. Mr. Perkins, founder of the garage in Broad Street, Wokingham was also for many years in the cycle trade in Denmark Street, Wokingham, and latterly associated with Messrs. Wokingham Radio Relay. A keen Methodist, he held numerous appointments connected with the Wokingham Church—where the funeral service was held on (Thursday) before cremation at Reading. Mr. Perkins is survived by his widow, a son and daughter.

FANCY DRESS

Before the annual free Christmas show for regulars at the Saturday matinee for children at the Ritz Cinema, Wokingham, on Christmas Eve there was a fancy dress competition

Fri 4th Jan (WT)

TRAINS STAND AS BIG FREEZE CREATES CHAOS

Two trains carrying hundreds of passengers to work were stranded between Ascot and Wokingham yesterday morning as ice brought electric trains to a complete standstill.

The big freeze brought chaos everywhere—but particularly to the railways. Thousands of commuters were affected. Many waited for trains that just didn't arrive—by yesterday afternoon only four trains had passed through Wokingham to or from Ascot all day—and others were as much as three or four hours late for work after being stranded.

Trouble started when the second trains started out from Reading and Waterloo. The first out had got through all right, simply pushing the covering of snow off the conductor rail. Then it froze...and the trouble started. Ice—at least a quarter-inch thick—on the live rail meant that the next train through could not get power.

A special de-icing train was sent to clear the line between Ascot and Reading last night and stuck at Earley. It had struggled to Reading on low power, but had to be pushed back by steam locomotive, the special spray used not having affected the ice over the conductor rail.

The 6.43 and 7.19 trains out of Reading were coupled to make a more powerful eight-coach unit. But it took 47 minutes from Earley to Wokingham...and an hour to crawl to the Waterloo Road crossing half-mile away. Passengers were forced to sit for nearly an hour before a steam locomotive from Reading pushed them into Bracknell just before 10 o'clock.

The next Waterloo-bound train from Reading arrived at Wokingham at 8.58—and was promptly turned round because of the conditions and because so many people were waiting to get to Reading. It was no better for trains coming down. The second out of Waterloo hit the ice...and crawled to a stop.

Sat 19th Jan

WARNING SIREN TESTED

A police patrol toured Wokingham early on Monday warning people to take no notice of the Broadmoor warning siren, which started experimental tests at 11. a.m. At 10-minute intervals, the siren sent its two-tone warning wailing over the town. It was installed on a vehicle from the Reading Borough Council's surveyor's department.

DISABLED AT PANTOMIME

A party from Wokingham Disabled Club went to see "Dick Whittington" at the Wokingham Players' new theatre on Friday last week. Ten children from the Murray Homes were included in the party.

CHILDREN'S PARTY

About 60 children of employees of Radyne, at Wokingham, enjoyed their annual Christmas party on Saturday. All the children were under seven years old. Mr. Larry Smith, from Newbury, put on a Punch and Judy show and then organised games for the rest of the afternoon. Before they went home, all the children were given a present by Father Christmas.

CIRCUS OUTING

A party of 31 children of employees of Metalair, Wokingham, went by coach to see Bertram Mills Circus at Olympia on Saturday.

HOSPITAL CONCERT

Patients at the Wokingham Hospital enjoyed a variety concert on Saturday given by a company from the staff of Messrs. Huntley and Palmers, of Reading.

TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Members of Wokingham Evening Townswomen's Guild heard a talk about the history of Wokingham, given by the Town Clerk, Mr. L. Goddard Smalley, at their meeting on Tuesday.

VISIT TO LAPLAND

Members of the Wokingham Methodist Guild heard an illustrated talk about Lapland at their meeting on Tuesday. It was given by Mr. Peter Shanks, who visited the country with friends during the summer.

THE LATE.-COL. A.F.W. ANDERSON

The death occurred at his home, "Fernleigh," The Terrace, Wokingham, on Sunday. Lt.-Col. Andrew F.W. Anderson was the second husband of the former Miss Edna Martin, a daughter of the late Ald. W. Martin, a former Freeman of the Borough.

COLDEST NIGHT

The lowest temperature recorded in Wokingham since records were started in 1948 was registered on Saturday night--6°F. Maximum temperature that day was 28°F the same as on Sunday, when the minimum was 16°F.

ROTARY CLUB

The speaker at Monday's meeting of Wokingham Rotary Club was Rotarian C. Culver, who gave a talk about Rotary in the South of France.

FOR REFUGEES

Wokingham Baptist Young Wives have raised £180 in their Aid for Refugees campaign.

WINE MAKING

Mrs. N.P. Williams was officially installed to the office of enrolling member of the St. Paul's, Wokingham, Mothers' Union at a special service on Thursday. The service was conducted by her husband, the rector of St. Paul's, the Rev. J.J. Williams. At the same service Mrs Halesworth became leader of the young wives' group.

Sat 16th Feb

BRITISH LEGION PARTY

Wokingham branch British Legion, women's section, held their 36th birthday party at the Legion Hall on Wednesday last week. Chairman Mrs. D. Murray told members that the president, Lady V. Villiers, was unable to attend because of a shoulder injury—but she sent birthday greetings. Members enjoyed a selection of colour films including those of Miss Gott when in Holland with the Girl Guides, followed by Mr. and Mrs. Francis with films of Canterbury, Bournemouth, Cambridge Colleges, the Lake District etc. An iced birthday cake in Legion colours was served at tea-time and cut by the chairman.

METHODIST GUILD

The Wokingham Methodist Guild held a literary evening in the church schoolroom on Tuesday Miss S.M. Brown presided and a film of home missionary work in Cornwall and the Tamar Valley was projected by Mr. H. Shanks.

ROTARY CLUB

Speaker at Monday's meeting of Wokingham Rotary Club was Rotarian W. Markham, a past president of the Reading club. He told members about a holiday he had spent recently at Barbados in the West Indies.

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

A house in Denton Road, Wokingham, is being taken over as a meeting place for the Society of Friends (the Quakers). They estimate that altogether the whole project will cost between £3,000 and £4,000. This will be met by money that has been collected by Quakers in Reading and district—most of it comes from Wokingham.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES

Wokingham's new municipal offices—now approved by the ministry—will be smaller than at first envisaged. The size of the office block has been reduced by the omission of waiting rooms and circulation space.

FIRE STATION

Prospects of Wokingham's new fire station have receded again. After turning down the outright purchase of the Finchampstead Road site at the figure asked by the Town Council the Fire Authority have estimated that if the rent was based on this figure the negotiations for a lease were likely to be unsuccessful. The Finance Committee of the Town Council have decided to tell the District Valuer that the rent required will have to be in relation to the capital value of the site.

YOUR HEALTH

There were 17 cases of infectious disease notified to the Medical Officer of Health for Wokingham during December, it is revealed in his monthly report. Scarlet fever was the most prevalent with 11 cases.

VITAL STATISTICS

Girls outnumbered boys by 12 to 8 in the births recorded in Wokingham in December. During the same month there were nine deaths—four men and five women.

COST OF SNOW CLEARANCE

It has been estimated that between December 27th and January 15th, 10,000 tons of snow fell on the public highways in Wokingham. The fall was the heaviest recorded and was the equivalent of one-and-a-half inches of rain. The approximate cost of clearing it was £5,000, of which £1,500 will have to be paid by the borough.

BERKSHIRE OR WATERLOO

A proposal to call a new block of flats in Waterloo Road, Wokingham, "Berkshire Court" has been objected to by the Town Council Highways Committee. They suggest "Waterloo Court" as an alternative.

240 BURST PIPES

Local plumbers have been given a pat on the back by the Housing Committee of the Wokingham Town Council. "Their valuable co-operation during the emergency" earned them a vote of thanks when the committee were told that 240 burst pipes etc. had been dealt with.

Sat 16th March

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NORREYS BARN THEATRE

The chairman of the Wokingham Players, Mr. Arthur Bradbury, hit out on Friday last week against those who urged local authorities not to support the appeal by the Theatre Royal Windsor, for funds from public money. He was speaking at the official opening of the Wokingham Players' theatre on the Norreys Barn Estate—a theatre bought and built by the company with very little "official" support. He said that the man who had inspired the theatre project was Mr., Ted Sherlock—he had designed it and done much of the physical work in building it. In this he had been helped by the company, and by his "right hand man" Alan Aplin.

Looking back to the time when the theatre was just a dream, Mr. Bradbury said that at first the company had thought in terms of a rehearsal hall. They had raised £85 in a quarter-of-an-hour at a meeting, and with the cash in hand this enabled them to buy an old Army hut for £100. Then the hard work started, and they were encouraged by the response to an appeal at one of their shows, when during one week the Players' audiences gave or promised £300.

Later when more money was needed, the Players approached the Town Council and were asked to submit a detailed application. This was done and the figure asked for was £800. The response was a gift of £20.

The Players' president, Mr. Stephen E. Sale paid tribute to the hard work of the company and in asking the Mayor, Dr. P.P. Pigott, to declare the theatre open, congratulated her on being nominated for a third term of office.

Cutting a pink ribbon across the stage, the Mayor said, "It gives me great pleasure to declare this theatre open."

Sat 8th June

PRINCESS ANNE RIDES AT WOKINGHAM

Princess Anne was an unexpected entrant at the Wokingham Pony Show and Gymkhana held at the Elms Field, Wokingham, on Whit-Monday. She won the trophy for the best rider under 13.

The show was organised by the Garth Hunt branch of the Pony Club (Wokingham sub-branch) in conjunction with the Wokingham Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Sat 15th June

WOKINGHAM CLUB—OWNER'S APPEAL

The owner of the Wokingham Club in the Market Place planned to pull it down and re-build it as a shop with storage space, living accommodation and offices—using as much of the original material as possible. Berkshire County Council thought that the character of the present building is such as to lend dignity to the Market Place and they refused permission for development.

At a local inquiry on Thursday the owner of the club, Mr. R. Palmer, appealed against the County Council decision.

Appearing for Mr. Palmer, Mr. E. Blain, Q.C., said that the building could not be pulled down without the consent of the Minister of Housing

In December 1960, outline permission was given for the conversion of the existing club into the shop, storage room, living accommodation and offices as required. His client wanted to pull down the building because it could not be converted owing to the present elevation.

Sat 6th July

WOKINGHAM ALMSHOUSES Scheme for rebuilding

Trustees of the Wokingham United Charities are now awaiting confirmation of a scheme drawn up by the Charity Commissioners which will enable them to sell land for building at Hatch Ride, Crowthorne. With money by this sale, likely to be in excess of £20,000, the trustees would like to buy a site for the rebuilding of the existing Westende Almshouses in Peach Street. But they cannot do this and will have to borrow their "own" money back from the Commissioners and pay interest on it.

The scheme to rebuild the almshouses is closely linked with the improvements in Peach Street. The County Council want the land on which the present almshouses stand and have agreed to build or meet the cost of new ones on a different site. At one time it was planned to rebuild at the rear of the present houses, but this land is now considered to be too valuable for this type of development and the trustees are having to seek another site.

Some time ago the trustees sold a number of houses in the London Road to the Borough Council for about £1,000. These houses had formed an investment and the original plan was for the rents of these to provide the funds to keep the almshouses in good repair. But latterly these rents have proved insufficient to keep their own houses in repair. With the proceeds of this sale, the trustees had hoped to finance the repairs to another house which they owned but in fact had to hand the £1,000 over to the Charity Commissioners and then borrow back £500 which they are still repaying.

This week the clerk to the trustees, Mr. W.E. Miller, said that they were hoping to sell the Hatch Ride land as soon as possible and would then put the rebuilding programme in hand. At the moment, one almshouse was unoccupied as it was in a poor state of repair and the present situation did not justify money being spent on it.

Sat 13th July

GO-AHEAD FOR PART ONE OF WOKINGHAM CIVIC CENTRE SCHEME

Wokingham Town Council's plans for the first stage of the scheme for their new municipal offices on The Elms open space at Wellington Road, Wokingham, have been approved by the Berkshire County Planning Committee. The scheme comprises a three-storey office block. The building has a modern styling with a flat roof and a finish consisting of blue-brown brindled facing bricks with black vitrolite panels with courses of tooled precast concrete.

The County Planning Committee stated that another major application had been received for the development of land in the same area. This was for the erection of a coach station for Brimblecombe Brothers Ltd.

Sat 5th Oct

WITH MAYOR'S LETTER

Wokingham's mace-bearer, Mr. C.A. Nibbs, left on Tuesday to see relatives in Toronto, Canada, and took with him a letter of greeting from the Mayor to the mayor

of Toronto. Mr. Nibbs was travelling with Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Coffin, of Stanley Road, Wokingham.

Sat 19th Oct

IMPROVEMENTS AT ST. PAUL'S

The St. Paul's School, Wokingham, now has a hall—for the first time in its history. This was stated at the annual meeting of the Parent Teacher Association. It was agreed that a letter should be sent from the association expressing their appreciation of the interest in the school taken by the Berkshire Education Authority.

The head mistress, Miss Foy, reported that since Easter three new Terrapin buildings had been erected in the playing field, and the whole of the school interior had been repainted in attractive colours.

The Infant and Junior Schools had been amalgamated under one head, and new staff had been engaged to cope with the increasing number of children—there were now 180 juniors and 98 infants with the prospect of a further intake at Christmas.

Officers elected were: president, the Rev. J.J. Williams; chairman, Miss B.G. Foy; vice-chairman, Mrs. P. Rogers; secretary, Mrs. H. Glendenning; treasurer, Mr. S.J. Postlethwaite.

Sat 26th Oct

WOKINGHAM CLUB SOLD

After being in the market for three years, the former Wokingham Club premises have been sold. On Monday a board announcing this was fixed to the front of the early 19th-century building that has been the subject of much speculation and planning disputes.

This week, Mr. Colin Farnell, sole principal of Messrs. H.E. Hall and Son, confirmed that the freehold of the property, owned by Mr. R.H.R. Palmer, had been sold to a London property investment company. The undisclosed price is understood to be substantial and running into five figures.

It is likely that the building will be let in suites of offices. Frustrations, setbacks and disappointments have all risen from the proposed use of this building, since the Wokingham Club failed to pay its way.

The original application to the planning authority to develop the building as a shop with living accommodation and offices was granted in December 1960. But it was subject to a condition that the character of the building be preserved—a condition considered to be ambiguous and impossible to put into practice.

After months of work a plan for taking down the existing front and rebuilding, using the old bricks was turned down. The refusal was the subject of an appeal to the Minister. Whilst dismissing the appeal, the Minister stated that this would not prejudice a further plan being submitted on the lines of taking down the existing front of the building to fascia level, and fitting slightly larger, paned shop windows.

And this is the most likely development—although the building will still remain listed as being of special architectural or historical interest under the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act.

Sat 9th Nov

WORK ON WOKINGHAM'S NEW TOWN HALL STARTS SOON

Work on the first stage of the new Wokingham municipal buildings and public hall is expected to start by April next year, it was said at Tuesday's meeting of

Wokingham Town Council's General Purpose Committee At the meeting was the architect, Mr. John Fryman, who in 1960 won £1,000 in a competition to design the new buildings. Soon after this was held there was a national financial crisis and local government capital expenditure was heavily curtailed.

Last year the ministry sanctioned the preparatory work for the new project to be built in three stages—and suggested that the proposals in the twinning design were in some respect too lavish for Wokingham and called for an amended plan. It was the approved amended plan that members were shown on Tuesday.

In the first stage—estimated to cost about £50,000—will be the departments of the three principal offices, the Town Clerk, Borough Treasurer and Borough Surveyor.

The second stage would add the Public Health and Housing Departments, the main entrance hall and enquiry office and the council suite, comprising a council chamber, ante-room and committee rooms.

The third and final stage would be a public hall, now designed for 450 as compared with the 600 in the original plan.

Mr. Fryman told the council that to comply with the Ministry requirements interview rooms, waiting rooms and corridor apace had been deleted from his original design. In some respects it would be difficult to differentiate between the two plans. The decision to build in three stages meant that the first development was without a main entrance hall. In fact the entrance to the first block would be the fire escape route for the completed project.

Car parking facilities for the first stage would provide for 40 cars. And a further 110 cars would be catered for in the second stage. One difficulty that would have to be overcome was that of an access road to the site. Originally it had been envisaged that a private developer of land at the rear of the council project would build an access road to council specifications which could be used during construction. This road had not materialised.

The Town Clerk explained that although no agreement had been signed with the developers giving them a right of way over the council's land. It was agreed that they should have this if the road was constructed within two years. The time had not yet expired but it was doubtful if it could now be constructed in the remaining period.



1964

Sat 25th Jan

WOKINGHAM SOCIETY

Support for the proposed Wokingham Society is growing rapidly, it was reported this week after a meeting of the Founding Committee. A sub-committee has been considering possible alternatives to the Rose Street-Peach Street plan for improving the traffic situation in the town. Other plans include a survey of the scheduled properties and "environmental areas" of the town. It is hoped that a public meeting to inaugurate the society will be held in March.

Sat 1st March

VEN. ARCHDEACON H.T. SHAW

A former rector of St. Paul's Church, Wokingham, died in Westminster Hospital on Thursday last week. He was the Ven. Archdeacon Herbert Thorndyke Shaw, who retired in 1962 and moved to Edenbridge, Kent

Mr. Shaw obtained his first degree at Keble College, Oxford, in 1925, and became a Master of Arts four years later. He became a deacon in 1926 and a priest the following year. From 1926 to 1928 he was a curate at Newcastle, and then spent three years at Whitley Bay. In 1931 and 1932 he was at St. Cuthbert's, Newcastle, and from 1932 to 1937 was Vicar of Copmanthorpe.

From 1937 to 1945 he was Archdeacon of Grenada, Canon of St. Anselm in Kingston Cathedral and Rector of St. George, Grenada. He was Archdeacon (Emeritus) of the Windward Islands in 1945 and from 1944 to 1946 was examiner chaplain to the bishop of Antigua, and held a similar position to the Bishop of the Windward Islands from 1945 to 1948.

It was in 1946 that he returned to this country and took over St. Paul's Church, Wokingham. He was also one of the chaplains to the Wokingham Hospital.

He is survived by his widow and three children, one son and two daughters.

The funeral was at Edenbridge on Monday. A Requiem Mass was held at St. Paul's Church, Wokingham, on Monday, conducted by the Rural Dean, the Rev. F.J.E. Britnell.

Sat 27th March

BROWNIES

The oldest Brownie pack in Wokingham—the First Wokingham—celebrated its 45th anniversary on Wednesday. They were joined by Brownies from the more recently-formed Sixth Pack to give a demonstration to parents who attended the open meeting. Miss S.B. Denis de Vitre, the Divisional Commissioner, appealed for more Guiders to help meet the demand for adult help. The film, "The Guide Log," was shown.

Sat 6th June

WOKINGHAM FETE NETS £240

A profit of about £240 was made at the High Close Dr. Barnardo's Home Fete and open day in Wokingham on Saturday. Part of the money will be used to send the girls to the seaside for a fortnight in the summer and the rest will go towards the cost of a new handicraft centre which it is hoped to build fairly soon.

The fete was opened by blonde cabaret star, Miss Vera Day. Entertainment was provided by two Nigerian dancers and favourites with the children were the clowns from the Ford Motor Company who visit the fete every year. There was also a fancy dress competition.

Sat 27th June

RAIL CROSSING ROW GROWS

Officials from British Railways attended a public meeting in Wokingham to explain the workings and the safeguards of the new automatic barriers at Star Lane crossing, Wokingham—which will become operative on July 5th. But instead they found themselves the target for a storm of protests that the barriers had been installed.

The meeting under the chairmanship of the Mayor, Cllr. J.E. Chapman, unanimously accepted a resolution from Cllr. H.A. Chapman calling upon the Minister to modify his decision having special regard for the need for safeguards for children, noting with alarm and concern the manner in which the scheme had been approved without the consideration having been given to local objections and opinions.

Opening the meeting the Mayor—who did not disguise his objection to the new barrier—summarised the three main issues as he saw them—the disturbance to local residents from clanging bells and flashing lights; the potential danger to children, and the manner in which the whole scheme had been implemented. The Town Clerk then gave details of what steps the council had taken by way of protest—and the ineffectiveness of these.

Mr. H. Evans, of the Line Manager's Office, gave an outline of the basic principles of the new crossing barriers—and the safeguards which British Railways had incorporated.

Then came the questions...with Ald. F. Moles setting the theme. The public are not so much concerned with the mechanical workings of the barriers as with the safety of the children—particularly when they are unattended during school holidays, he said. And he added a protest about the way in which it seemed that the ministry and British Railways had decided to install the new barriers regardless of local protests.

As questions came from all quarters of the hall the officials were hard pressed to answer the many points made. One, Mr. T.W. Craig made the point "We are human too... we are parents and have children."

He explained that the real target for protests should have been the Ministry of Transport—they had fixed the date by which the new barriers were to become operative.

One of the strongest protests came from Mrs. L. Huckings—whose bungalow is only a matter of feet from the point where the warning bells have been installed.

"I shall write to Sir Winston Churchill and Field Marshall Montgomery—I shall go on fighting she said, after complaining that the bells would be ringing every few minutes for about 18 hours every day.

"There is no short answer," came the reply from British Railways—and Mr. L.G. Leaton, in charge of the installation, said that the bells were of single tone with "modest output." He guaranteed that they would be adjusted to have only a "modest output" and gave an assurance that the test ringing which had been heard was not, in fact, the pattern for the future.

Mr. B. Reid, a member of the Easthampstead Rural District Council—who are protesting about plans to install two such barriers between Wokingham and Bracknell—complained about the "cattle grids" which were designed to keep children off the track were themselves dangerous. He thought it quite possible that youngsters could get their feet caught in between the protective wooden rails. A child could be caught, screaming and trying to free his ankle until the train came along and silenced his screams for ever, he said.

Mr. Peter Ruff, clerk to the Wokingham Without Parish Council, put forward their reason for objecting, and asked what would be the position if a car broke down—or if there was an accident—across the line in such a position as to leave the barriers unaffected.

Mr. H. Evans said that during daylight the visibility of 200 yards was ample to allow trains to stop—in foggy weather they would be travelling more slowly. “But what happens at night?” asked several members of the public. And to that no one heard a reply.

Mr. John Ellis—prospective Labour candidate for Wokingham—said that he objected to Wokingham being used as an experiment. Such experiments should be carried out at isolated crossings, and then gradually brought into use in busier regions.

For the railway, Mr. Craig confirmed that four crossings of the new type were in use already. They had proved successful, but he admitted that none of these were on electrified lines.

Sat 11th July

RAIL BARRIER PROTESTS

British Railways are to have a man in attendance at the Star Lane crossing, Wokingham until the authorities are completely satisfied that there will be no recurrence of the failure of the automatic barrier on Monday and Tuesday.

This was said by the Mayor Cllr. J.E. Chapman at Thursday’s meeting of Wokingham Town Council, together with Cllr. A.G. Skedgel, one of the borough officials, had talks about the crossing, the previous day with Mr. W.P. Reid, of the Ministry of Transport, following the failures on Monday and Tuesday of the barriers to work properly.

BARRIERS FAIL A WEEK AFTER INSTALLATION

A week after they were officially in use the automatic barriers at the Star Lane level crossing, Wokingham, failed on Monday. And then they failed again on Tuesday. On Wednesday a top-level inquiry was held at the crossing, with the chief signals and telecommunications engineer for the Southern Region and Col. W.P. Reid, the ministry of Transport’s Inspector of railways, in attendance. This revealed that the fault lay in a manufacturing defect in a piece of electrical equipment.

It was shortly before 11.45 pm on Monday, that a local man telephoned the Wokingham police to tell them that the barriers were not working properly. Although the flashing lights on the standard were working, the barriers failed to fall and the crossing was open to trains and road traffic at the same time. Police rushed a car crew to the crossing to take over traffic control and they remained there until the last train had passed.

Railway officials were also called out, and by 9.50 a.m. on Tuesday it was thought that the fault had been rectified. But at 2.23 p.m. the barriers failed a second time—on this occasion in the safe position—and it was 6 p.m. before they were finally put right.

A spokesman for British Railways said that while the barriers had failed in the “up” position train drivers were cautioned to approach the crossing with care.

Yesterday’s inquiry showed that the fault lay in a time element relay which contained a manufacturing defect. When supplied these relays were sealed to prevent tampering, and unknown to them this relay had a defect sealed in. As a result all other relays of this type were being modified.

On June 24th a public meeting was held in the Town Hall—at the suggestion of the M.P., Mr. W.R. van Straubenzee—at which British Railways officials explained the

working of the new barriers. The barriers were designed to “fail safe”—so that in the event of a fault the arms would fall and seal the road to vehicular traffic. And in this event a warning would automatically be given to the railway. But on Monday night the crossing did not “fail safe”.

“We were expressly asked by the ministry to install a warning system so that we should know when the barriers were in the “down” position too long. There was no provision for a warning being given when they failed in the “up” position. They should not have done this” commented British Railways later.

The fight goes on

A leaflet published by British Railways, showing how the new continental style barriers will work at the Star Lane level crossing was issued this week. A copy was sent to Wokingham residents’ association and other leaflets have been on display on station platforms.

But the fight against the new barriers still goes on—even after they are in place. Although parents have said that they fear children will be able to get on to the electrified line the Minister of Transport decided to quash all objections last week and gave the railway authority the go-ahead to install the barrier.

Sat 12th Sept

ROTARY CLUB

At the weekly luncheon meeting on Monday, a member of the club, Rotarian E. Coleman, spoke to members about a recent visit he had made to Norway with a party of Rotarians and their wives from the district. Mr. Coleman told of the welcome

The party received when they were entertained by three Rotary clubs in Norway, and described some of the places of interest that they had visited. The meeting was chaired by the president, Rotarian A. Tomkins.

BRITISH LEGION

Members of the Wokingham branch, British Legion, Women’s Section, who attended the resumed Monthly meeting on September 2nd, heard an interesting talk on the Church’s work among merchant seamen. This was given by the Rev. A.P. Hutchinson and was illustrated by coloured films of the merchant navy in all parts of the world. A vote of thanks was proposed by the president, Lady Victoria Villiers, and endorsed by the chairman, Mrs. D. Murray. Further arrangements were made re the sale of work on Wednesday, October 7th.

Sat 26th Sept

THE LATE MR. F. HEELAS

The death occurred on Saturday of Mr. Frank Heelas, of 33, The Terrace, Wokingham, aged 92. Mr. Heelas was a member of the family which established the well-known Wokingham firm bearing their name. He was for many years a member of the now defunct Wokingham Club. A funeral service was held at St. Paul’s Church, Wokingham, on Friday, followed by cremation at Woking.

Sat 3rd Oct

BALLOON RACE

Wokingham Boy Scouts released 1,256 balloons from the Town Hall yard, Wokingham, on Saturday as part of their effort to raise money to send a local Scout to the World Jamboree in America in 1967, They would have released more but, owing

to an error, only a quarter of the gas they expected was delivered.. The profit was said on Monday by the District Commissioner to be £28 3s. 3d.

Already one label has been returned from King's Lynn. The closing date for return of labels is October 17th.

SECOND WIN

To prove that it is not necessarily the most expensive equipment which produces the best photographs, the Wokingham Color-photo Society has a "communal camera" contest each year. Members are each allowed to take three photographs on a cheap camera that they "borrow" for a few days—and the member whose pictures are judged the best keep the camera. On Tuesday, for the second year running, the winner was the former chairman, Mr. C.D. Conway.

Sat 10th Oct

WOKINGHAM TRAFFIC TALKS

The Wokingham Society are to ask for a meeting with the County Surveyor at which they hope to discuss, informally, their proposals for the easing of traffic congestion in the town.

The Society's Traffic and Plans Group has now analysed a sample survey of traffic taken between 11.30 and 12.30 p.m. on Monday, July 13th, by girls of the Holt Grammar School. These girls kept observation at points in Reading Road, Milton Road, London Road, Easthampstead Road, Finchampstead Road, and Barkham Road, and noted the description and registration numbers of commercial vehicles, and the time first seen and direction.

From this it was possible to trace the routes of entry and exit and the time spent in Wokingham. A total of 359 vehicles were checked—129 light vans, 73 heavy vans and 157 lorries. The majority of these passed through the town in less than 10 minutes.

A traffic expert who is a member of the Wokingham Society analysed the information collected, and had concluded that 59% of the through traffic would use a northern by-pass. A southern by-pass would draw off 93% of the through traffic, and a scheme of employing the northern by-pass and a link road between the Finchampstead and Reading Roads would filter off 87% of the through traffic.

These figures and conclusions are to be the basis of talks between the Wokingham Society and county council officials.

Sat 10th Oct

FRESH LIGHT ON AN OLD BERKSHIRE NEWSPAPER

A date and initials above the "Reading and Berkshire Chronicle:" offices in Valpy Street might lead you to believe that the newspaper was founded in 1770. No proof exists that this was so.

A "Berkshire Chronicle" did indeed have its first issue in 1771, but published in Wokingham. Until recently it was thought that only one copy remained in existence, dated December 1st, 1775. Most unexpectedly, the discovery has been made of issues running in sequence with few breaks from the second of volume one dated January 14th, 1771, to the 260th of volume five, dated December 29th, 1775.

Lady Russell, of Swallowfield Park found these "Berkshire Chronicles"--almost all in excellent condition—when turning out family treasures. With most thoughtful generosity, she has presented them to the present "Chronicle."

According to K.G. Burton, in his excellent book "The Early Newspaper Press in Berkshire, 1723-1855," published 1954, the Wokingham "Berkshire Chronicle" was launched mainly on the responsibility of Mr. Clement Cruttwell; his father was a prosperous butcher there, died January 1772. William Cruttwell, probably an uncle of Clement's, was a bookseller in the Market Place, from about January 1766 until death two years later and was the "Reading Mercury" agent.

His widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Cruttwell, continued the "Mercury" agency. She announced she intended to carry on "the Liquor Trade and bookselling and stationery business...Printed dialogues of her Circulation Library...may be had gratis... A next assortment of Hardware goods..." She remained "Mercury" agent until January 1771, continuing at her Wokingham shop until death in February 1776.

The earliest "Chronicle" of the new-found collection states that the newspaper was printed at Wokingham for the publishers and published by Trickey, Cruttwell and Co., in the Market Place, "where Advertisements are taken in, and Printing in general performed with Correctness, Elegance and Dispatch, on reasonable Terms."

It was claimed that the paper was circulated "with the utmost expedition throughout not only Berkshire but en other counties. It bears no price.

Clement Cruttwell (according to Mr. Burton) had by April 1766 set up as a surgeon, apothecary and man-midwife in Broad Street, Wokingham. In March 1767 he published "An essay on the Practice of Midwifery," printed by William Cruttwell of Sherborne and sold at the "Mercury" office, Reading, and by William Cruttwell at Wokingham. He was a keen advocate of inoculation against smallpox, and wrote strongly to the "Mercury" defending its use.

As well as having a surgery in Wokingham, in October of 1767 he took apartments in Friar Street, Reading. In December that year he went into partnership with Mr. Henry Goldwyn, surgeon and oculist of Castle Street, Reading; the partnership apparently broke up about 1779.

With Clemet Cuttwell's medical career in mind, the "Mercury" referred thus to the "Berkshire Chronicle's" founding at Wokingham: "Mr.....of Oakingham, who has for many years inoculated persons with the smallpox with uncommon success, has now opened an office for inoculating the Public with Politics. The matter, which other printers have made use of this operation, having proved to be of a very pestilential and inflammatory nature, and to have affected the brain of the Patients with an uncommon delirium, he professes that he will use such only 'as shall tend to please and profit'; his nostrums being effectual to remove all complaints in the eyes, nerves or brain, or any part of the human system."

The "Chronicle" office was set up in the Market Place, most likely at Mrs. Elizabeth Cruttwell's shop. Mr. Burton adds: "The style of the early numbers...is not known, as the only copy accessible is number 256, Friday, 1st Dec. 1775." That copy consists of four pages of four columns each, stamped, priced at 2½d., and published by Trickey, Cruttwell, Wheatley and Co., in the Market Place. He considers that Trickey was William Trickey, a Wokingham draper, who died in 1826 aged 92; Wheatley, most likely William Wheatley, local innkeeper who had The Kingshead in 1754, took over The Bush Inn in 1756, and ran from there ten years later his "Oakingham Machine" to London; he moved to The Old Rose Inn in 1778, but died that year.

The "Chronicle" had not long been started when Clement Cruttwell married Molly Brookes, daughter of the late Mr. Brookes, Wokingham woollen-draper. She, dying in 1812, outlived her husband by four years.

Mr. Burton comments: "The exact life of the "Berkshire Chronicle" is not known, but it probably did not continue for long after the year 1780.

Sat 17th Oct

WOKINGHAM'S 'BERKS CHRONICLE' (concluded)

The "Berkshire Chronicle" of Reading was founded in 1825 by Mr. John Jackson Blandy, Mr. Garrard and others. Mr. Blandy, the chief, was the solicitor-son of a solicitor, and Town Clerk of Reading from 1830 until his death.

The first year of the "Berkshire Chronicle and Forest, Vale and General Advertiser" appeared on Saturday, January 29th, 1825. It was printed and published by Mr. William Drysdale, in the High Street, Reading, priced at 7d. While under Blandy's ownership the paper was implicated in several libellous statements, clashed bitterly with the "Mercury."

An extraordinary feature of those early "Berkshire Chronicles" which intrigues and invites further research is that, from the start, letters that are published under pseudonyms and include the famous "Junius" are so vigorously in support of that stormy petrel and labourer for the freedom of the Press, John Wilkes. When the "Chronicle" was first published, Wilkes not only recently been released from imprisonment for criticising the King's speech

The second number of volume one has on its front page a leading article signed "W," which, judging by its contents and those later could well have been Clement Cruttwell. But reports are given at length of the Robin Hood's Society's debates concerned with Press freedom, the names appear of Domitian, Junius, John Wilkes himself, many others concerned journalistically and nationally in the bitter political battle of the day. A longer report appears in one issue of the handling by Wilkes as Alderman, of complaints against Wheble and Miller, publishers respectively of the "Middlesex Journal" and "London Evening Post." Parliamentary debates are given prominence. There are venomous attacks upon the Rev. John Horne (Tooke-Horne), with whom Wilkes had quarrelled; and Horne replies at length. Horne, incidentally was for a time tutor to the notorious Marcham miser, John Elwes.

It has never yet been proved who really was Junius. Wilkes himself has been held to authorship—but so have many others. More commonly accepted is that the nom-de-plume was of Sir Philip Francis, whose patron was Lord Barrington of Shrivensham. "Junius" is said to have signed his letters to the Press thus from November 1768 until January 1772; one appears in the "Chronicle's" January 27th issue (continued on February 3rd) addressed to Lord Chief Justice Mansfield.

It is possible that the "Berkshire Chronicle" collection now in the possession of the Features Editor (to whom all especially interested should write) was made by John Dodd—from 1763 until death in 1783 owner of Swallowfield Park—or some member of his family.

WOKINGHAM DOCTOR FOR THE SEYCHELLES

A Wokingham resident, Dr. R. Child, who represents Wokingham East on Berks County Council, left on Thursday for a five-week assignment under the United Kingdom/ Seychelles Technical Assistance scheme. He is travelling via Nairobi and Mombasa.

Dr. Child whose home is at 4, Astley Close, Wooshill Lane, will be examining the scheme for the cultivation and production of tea in the Seychelles, and will advise the government on problems of policy that are likely to rise.

A Portsmouth Grammar School boy before taking a 1st Class Honours degree in Chemistry at King's College, Dr. Child was Director of Research at Ceylon's Coconut Research Institute from 1931 to 1949. He then became Chief Chemist and

Deputy Director of the Tea Research Institute of East Africa and four years later succeeded to the Directorship, a post he held until 1961.

Dr. Child, who is 61, belongs to numerous learned societies. In addition to being a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chemistry, he is a life member of the Chemical Society and the Society of Chemical Industry. He also belongs to the American Chemical Society, was a founder member of the Chemical Society of Ceylon and its president from 1944-1946. The following year Dr. Child was the president of the physical sciences section of the Ceylon Association of Science and became the 1956 and 1957 chairman of the East Africa local section of the Royal Institute of Chemistry.

Sat 24th Oct

MUSIC CLUB

At the October meeting of the Music Club members heard a music and verse recital given by Anthony Hill and Oliver Cox. Their programme included items by Chopin, Bartok and Tennyson and original works by both artists and two poems by T.S. Elliot set to music by Mr. Hill.

MISSION FESTIVAL

A special festival was held at All Saints Church, Wokingham, on Wednesday as part of the Sonning Deanery Mission Festival. The preacher was the Rev. P. Burns, a New Zealander. The service was followed by a meeting in the church house at which a film, "Journey into India" was shown.

FIRST AID

Wokingham Civil Defence workers who had successfully completed first-aid courses were presented with medallions and certificates at the training headquarters, Denmark Street, Wokingham, on Thursday, by Ald. Miss D.M. Finch.

Sat 7th Nov

TOWN CRIER

Tuesday's meeting of the Wokingham Town Council's General Purposes Committee gave approval to a suggestion that a town crier should be appointed. The proposal came from Cllr. E.J. West who pointed out that it was four and a half years since Wokingham had a town crier. The Establishment Committee is to discuss the matter.

NEW OFFICERS

People who hunt animals in order to kill them were strongly criticised at the annual meeting of the Wokingham and District Society Against Cruel Sports, at Wokingham Town Hall on Monday. Officers elected: Chairman, Miss M. Cole; secretary, Mrs. N.E. Whiting; treasurer, Mrs. J. Wade.

INFORMATION SESSION

Further details of the proposals concerning the redevelopment of the centre of Wokingham were available to the public when officials of the County Planning Department held an "information session" in the Wokingham Town Hall on Wednesday.

RECORD

Money poured into the coffers of the St. Paul's School, Wokingham, Parent Teacher Association at the rate of well over £1 per minute on Wednesday. In an hour the jumble sale at the school raised £83 which will go towards providing Christmas entertainment for the children. The previous record profit from a sale at the school was £60.

Sat 5th Dec

WOKINGHAM'S NEW HALL

The new Methodist Church Hall and ancillary buildings in Rose Street, Wokingham, will be opened today (Saturday)—having cost over £10,000 to build. The project which was started through the ministry the Rev. Leonard Hale, was given a good financial start by a grant from the Joseph Rank Benevolent Trustees of £1,400. The Methodist Chapel Committee added a further £400, but two years ago—in spite of a 20-year-old legacy of £1,500—the total stood at less than £5,000. In the last two years this amount has been doubled—but still the final target, enabling the church to open the buildings free of debt, has yet to be reached.

The site on which the new buildings stand was part of a foresighted purchase made by the trustees nearly a century ago. This week the minister, the Rev. E. Ralph said that he hoped the new church hall would enable a considerable development to take place in the youth work done by the church.

The doors will be opened by Mrs. A.H. Creed whose late husband, the Rev. A.H. Creed, lived in Wokingham in the early 1950s. The service of dedication of the new buildings will be taken by present minister, but Mr. Leonard Hale—who launched the scheme—will also take part. The address will be given by the son of Mrs. Creed—Mr. A. Lowry Creed, a former vice-president of the Methodist Conference, the highest office open to a layman of the Methodist Church.

For some years there has been a friendly relationship between the Methodist and Baptist Churches in Wokingham—as evidenced by their joint service of Holy Communion each year—and after the dedication a tea will be held in the Baptist Church Hall. The growing fellowship between all churches will be further illustrated as the Rev. F. A. Steer, Rector of All Saints, and the Rev. H.M. Ray Smith, on behalf of the Free Churches in the town, will speak at the tea.

Sat 19th December

WOKINGHAM CHRONOLOGY

The History Group of the Wokingham Society have fixed March as the target month during which they hope to complete their chronology of Wokingham. This week Mr. Anthony Cross, the society chairman, said that this chronology would be the skeleton on which they hoped to build up their history of the town. "Various people or groups of people had agreed to deal with particular periods of the town's history, and their combined efforts would produce a complete record of the town. The group has considered the possibility of a museum in the town and an ad hoc committee of the Town Council also has the matter under consideration.

The History Group felt that there were three main possibilities—a permanent museum adequately staffed, an unattended museum or exhibition on a permanent basis, and a semi-permanent display, cared for by some parent body, such as the existing Reading Museum.

The first idea was not, the group thought, possible owing to the financial implications and the second was not desirable owing to the lack of proper care of exhibits and supervision. The group recommended that the third suggestion should be explored, and their proposals have been passed on to the Wokingham Town Council for their views.

The group are compiling a photographic record of buildings of historic or architectural interest in the town, paying particular attention to those which, it is feared, may be demolished under improvement schemes.

1965

Sat 6th Feb

FAREWELL TO SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

Berkshire paid its final tribute to Sir Winston Churchill at the week-end. Vast crowds were at Reading General Station on Saturday to see the funeral train as it travelled to Bladon and churches were filled on Sunday for memorial services.

At Wokingham Station itself the two main platforms were barred to the general public, for safety reasons. Instead the public were invited to watch from a goods siding—and hundreds accepted the offer. They had an uninterrupted view of the train as it passed through a few minutes ahead of schedule.

With bared heads the crowd watched in silence, broken only by the sound of the engine and a single bell tolling from St. Paul's Church, as the train rounded a bend and disappeared from view.

Minutes later on Wokingham Town Ground, the players, match officials and spectators stood in silent tribute to Sir Winston.

Thanksgiving

Wokingham's corporate act of homage and thanksgiving for the life of Sir Winston Churchill took place on Friday, last week, at All Saints' conducted by the Rector, the Rev. F.A. Steer. It was an interdenominational service and the lesson was read by the Baptist minister, the Rev. H.M. Ray Smith. The Mayor, Cllr. J.E. Chapman and members of the Corporation attended. The address was given by Mr. W.R. van Straubensee, M.P. for Wokingham.

Sat 13th Feb

WOKINGHAM COUNCIL WORRIED AT VANDALISM

Vandalism in Wokingham reached such proportions that the town council decided on Thursday to offer a reward of £5 to anyone giving information leading to the prosecution of persons damaging street lamps. Most of the damage, said Cllr. A.G. Skedgel, chairman of the Highways and Lighting committee, had occurred in the Embrook area.

He produced a bullet-ridden plastic street lamp shade to show the sort of damage that was costing ratepayers a great deal of money. We have a marksman on our committee and he assures us that this is the result of someone with an airgun standing underneath and firing at the lamp," said Cllr. Skedgel.

Another appeal to the public to help protect their own property came from Cllr. S.L. Bowyer, chairman of the Public Buildings and Properties Committee. He referred to the damage at the new public conveniences on the Denmark Street car park. This had led to the committee deciding to close these at 10 p.m. each evening and all day on Sundays, a course which the council accepted.

APPOINTED GOVERNOR OF GIBRALTAR

A new Governor of Gibraltar was announced by the Colonial Office on Thursday. He is General Sir Gerald Lathbury, who lives at Locks House, Waterloo Road, Wokingham, and who has been A.D.C. General to the Queen since 1962.

He succeeds General Sir Dudley Ward, who completes his term of office at the end of July. Aged 58 Sir Gerald was educated at Wellington and Sandhurst. He was commissioned into the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, and since serving in the war, when he was mainly in command of parachute troops, his posts have included Commandant, Staff College; C in C. East Africa and G.O.C. in C. Eastern Command. From 1961 he has been quartermaster General, War Office.

TOWN CENTRE PLAN SHOULD SERVE NEEDS OF WOKINGHAM

The Wokingham Society have now published their views on the Berkshire county Council proposals for the redevelopment of the town centre. If these views are accepted at a general meeting to be held next Monday, they will be sent to the county council.

Of paramount importance, claim the authors of the society report, is the by-passing of through traffic. The town centre plan should serve the needs of the town, and not those of through traffic. And, they urge, the interim stages must be wholly relevant to the final plan in order that resources should not be wasted.

Proposals by the county council to use Rose Street as part of a clockwise traffic circuit, together with Broad Street, Rectory Road and Wiltshire Road, are criticised. The new traffic circuit, which would be constructed near All Saints' Church does not figure in its entirety in the final scheme. Objecting to this aspect of the plan, the committee argue that it would entail alterations and demolitions to serve only the needs of the interim stages.

Attacking the plan to use Rose Street as a main thoroughfare, as a short term expedient, the committee express the fear that this will possibly lead to the destruction of the "very exceptional character" of the street—one of the very few examples of a closed street in the country. And they fear that a continuous flow of heavy traffic would bring about the demise of the fine old period houses in the street.

They suggest, in order to provide early relief to the congestion in Peach Street and Market Place, giving priority to the development of the southern sector of the proposed distribution ring road. This, they claim, would obviate a considerable amount of work on development serving only short-term needs.

The society regret the planners' proposal to use Rectory Road as part of a distribution ring. It would detract from one of the most attractive residential sections of the town centre, they claim. Also criticised is the virtual severance of Shute End and The Terrace, which would arise from the construction of another traffic circus at that point. It would spoil the attractive approach to the town and, they say, the isolation of the doctors' surgery and police station in the centre of the proposed circus would be inconvenient and aesthetically distasteful. They strongly recommend the investigation of another ring road, at a greater radius from the town centre.

Another criticism is of the proposal to extend the new Elms Road into Broad Street, which would necessitate the demolition of a house.

The society urges that, in order to relieve pressure on the main shopping centre, comprehensive shopping facilities should be afforded in the peripheral residential areas. And this, they say should be a condition of planning permission.

Many of the criticisms, they say, would be unnecessary if priority were given to the southern section of the distribution ring and a by-pass. But it was realised that these were dependent upon the availability of funds.

Sat 27th April

YOUTH WEEK AT WOKINGHAM

The official opening of South-East and Central Berkshire's first Youth Week will be performed by BBC commentator Raymond Glendenning on Tuesday. The week will be launched from St. Crispin's School, Wokingham, where a three-day programme of events is to be staged. During the three days a hobbies exhibition will be on view and prominent speakers will lecture in the afternoons. Wokingham Rotary Club will be assisting with the project.

On Thursday, Mr. W.R. van Straubenzee, M.P., Coun., J. Chapman, Mayor of Wokingham; the Rev. A.A. Horsely, curate of St. Paul's Church, Wokingham; and Mrs. Helen McCarthy, Berkshire county councillor, will take part in an "Any Questions?" evening. They will be facing a panel of teenagers from youth clubs in the area. Chairman will be Mrs. M.C. Long, chairman of the County Council youth Section of the Education Committee.

Youth teams taking part in the "Youth Entertains" revue at Wick Hill School, Bracknell, on Friday will be at All Saints', Wokingham; Coopers Hill, Bracknell, and Woodley Venturers. It is hoped that amateur folk singer Brian Banks will entertain during the intervals.

Saturday is the climax of the week with a youth ball at Sperry's canteen. The week's activities will be brought to a close with a modern youth service at St. Paul's Church, Wokingham, when the 20th century Mass will be sung.

Sat 8th May

THE COST OF REBUILDING WOKINGHAM HOSPITAL

To rebuild Wokingham Hospital, which houses 96 geriatric patients, and which last week was described by its consulting physician, Dr. S.M. Vine, as "a medical slum," would cost some £240,000, said Mr. Joseph Archer, Deputy secretary of the Reading and District Hospital management Committee on Wednesday.

Mr. Archer said the root cause of the problem of overcrowding was lack of money. The matter had been discussed the previous day by the Management Committee, which had known for a number of years that the four geriatric wards of the hospital were overcrowded. It is simply that a lot of old people need and require attention and while there are those old people we must meet the demand.

Slow process

Because the building of hospitals such a slow process, they had to be content with the use of buildings which were available in 1948 when the Health Service came into being.

It was not just a local problem for Wokingham but applied all over the country. Many of these buildings had been put up in the last century and the Wokingham Hospital had originally been a poorhouse.

Since the hospital had been taken over a lot had been done to improve the building and to raise the standard of medical service there. Dividing walls had been removed, walls had been plastered, the wards had been redecorated and two of them had been re-floored.

To put up a new building today was not fashionable because of the low capital allocation, but £17,000 had been spent in the last two years in re-wiring the hospital and in the year 1963-64 running costs had amounted to £148,000.

To try to reduce the overcrowding the Hospital Management Committee had already decided to remove the six children's beds to Townlands Hospital, Henley, and make the space available for two or three adults.

Expansion

In addition the committee were also considering the possibility of expanding the number of long-stay beds at another hospital in the group with a view to transferring patients from Wokingham within the next twelve months.

With regards to the financial difficulties involved, Mr. Archer remarked that as an example, the £9,460 which the committee had asked for to provide urgent staff and equipment needs at the hospital had been whittled down this year to £4,200.

Sat 15th May

CLINIC TO GO

The trustees of Wokingham Memorial Clinic have accepted a suggestion by the town Council's architect, Mr. John Freeman that the existing clinic should be demolished and the site used for car parking and an ambulance service. This would be in conjunction with a new clinic to be built on an adjoining site near the new municipal offices.

Sat 10th July

TOWN CRIER APPOINTED

Wokingham's new Town Crier will be ex-Company Sergeant Major Herbert Biddle. The only problem—will the green and gold-braided uniform fit?

"I hope it does. I have always liked to be turned out properly," said Mr. Biddle, who is confident that he was all the right qualifications.

The Voice: "Let's say that I managed to make myself heard on the barrack square.

The Bearing: Straight as a ramrod; military haircut.

The Time: No hobbies—"I am just domesticated."

Mr. Biddle, who lives at 171, Waterloo Road, Wokingham was the army recruiting sergeant major at Reading for 13 years until his retirement in January.

He holds the Long service Medal and clasp, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the B.E.M., which he was awarded in 1960 for his service with the Royal Warwickshire Fusiliers. He was in the army for 44 years.

When he puts on his new uniform the 55-year-old Mr. Biddle will be the first town crier in Wokingham for five years.

Sat 24th July

STAR LANE CROSSING FAILURE

The automatic barriers at the Star Lane level crossing, Wokingham, failed last week—in the "open" position for road traffic.

They were out of action for five hours, from 12.45 p.m. until 5.45 p.m., while workers overhauled the electrical system. Flagmen from Wokingham station controlled the traffic.

The installation of the barriers brought numerous protests—and fears for the safety of the road users—after they failed in their first week. Attempts to have the barriers modified met with no success.

Cllr. A.G. Skedgel, chairman of the Town Council's Highways Committee, knew nothing of the failure on Friday of last week when questioned by our reporter. He promised to raise the matter at next week's committee meeting.

Sat 16th Oct

MULTI-POINT PLAN FOR THE FUTURE WOKINGHAM

The 400-strong Wokingham Society which has been acting watchdog over the town's affairs since its formation two years ago has embarked on its biggest task yet to help retain some of the character of the old market town against increasing pressure from modern development. Under a general heading, "Wokingham in the Future," the society is setting out to plot, stage by stage, the growth of the town as its members see it in the years to come.

The work is being undertaken by the traffic and planning section, and at the moment it seems unlikely that the Plan will meet with anything but approval by the local authorities. Many of the suggestions put forward tentatively at a meeting last week could be immediate improvements to the appearance of the town centre; others, less easily defined, will not be effective until the proposed ring road is constructed and the Market Place becomes a traffic-free precinct.

Few of the sub-headings of The Plan will rouse any controversy, apart, perhaps, from the society's idea of the eventual size of the town.

Society's chairman, Mr. Anthony Cross, stressed the point that its aims were not simply to preserve Wokingham in its present form. To "retain the best of the old and encourage the best of the new" is almost a password, and it is significant that the new development gets no more than a cursory glance in The Plan's multi-point references.

The work will be a winter exercise in detailed planning, and early next year Mr. Cross hopes to present a full report to the society.

Heading the list of improvements for immediate consideration are traffic arrangements, unnecessary street "furniture," such as road signs, lamp-posts and illuminated shop signs, and the provision of trees along some of the major shopping streets. Other points include the layout of Rose Street—one of the proposed through-roads in the ring-road scheme—and the implications of the M4 route, are all long-term analysis.

The detailed line of the M4 has yet to be published, but already the society has appointed a "task force" to jump into action immediately the planners have finished

"The trouble with planning matters is that so often things are inter-dependant. It isn't possible to reach a conclusion on one thing because it may be affected by something completely different which is still in the planning stages. What we hope to do is work on improvements which we think could be possible immediately, and at the same time formulate an idea of what the town should be like in the future."

Sat 18th Dec

PRESENTATION TO MISS EFFIE BARKER

Miss Effie Barker whose name is synonymous with fox-hunting in Berkshire, was thanked for her services to hunting at a meet of the Garth and South Berks hounds on Saturday. Presenting Miss Barker with an inscribed gold wrist-watch, a cheque, and a book containing the names of subscribers to the gifts, Mr. Reginald Palmer – at whose home, Hurst Grove, Twyford, this lawn-meet took place – referred to Miss Barker's mastership and joint-mastership of the Garth and South Berks over a period of 29 years, except for the time during the war when she was in Germany with the British

Red Cross – and one of the first to enter Belsen when it was liberated. Despite her busy war work she found time to run the hunt kennels.

Most of the smooth success of the amalgamation of the two Hunts was due to her tact and personality. She had served with several Masters – including her father – and during all that time had endeared herself to the whole countryside, of which she was, more than anyone else, a part.

Returning thanks, Miss Barker described herself as “a very ordinary person doing a very ordinary job for generous and kind people.” The last 29 years had gone in a flash. No Master had had such kindly co-operation from the whole country – landowners and farmers alike; she was specially grateful to the non-hunting farmers for their kindness.

She expressed her thanks to the field, too. “Maybe I have left them behind at times, but I hope I have made a few young people want to be fox-hunters.” She hoped that fox-hunting would continue to be the magnet of the countryside.

Miss Barker first became a joint Master of the Garth in 1936. Her father--the late Col. F. G. Barker--was Master from 1928 to 1931. Mr. Reginald Palmer – now president of the combined hunt – was joint Master (with Sir H.R. Cayzer) from 1931 to 1936.

1966

Sat 15th Jan

PLAN TO TREBLE ‘OPEN SPACES’ IN WOKINGHAM

Over 200 acres of building-free open spaces will be available to the people who live in the Wokingham of the future. This, at any rate, is the intention of the town council, which is conducting a survey of possible sites in the borough for playing fields. Two council committees—the Public Properties, Pool and Parks and the Plans and town Planning—combined forces to draw up a plan for almost trebling the existing 80 acres of pleasure grounds—in official terms, Public open Spaces and Playing areas—to an ideal acreage well over the 200 mark.

This ideal is based on an assumption of an eventual population of 25,000 people, which leaves a considerable margin of growth for several years to come. The population of the town at the last census was between 15,000 and 16,000. Residential developments planned or already under construction will make a heavy demand on existing play-areas in the borough. The new areas under consideration are at Keephatch, Chapel Green Farm, Fox Hill and an area near Matthews Green Farm. These added to the open spaces already in existence, would balance recreational facilities in the bigger new town.

In addition the education authorities are to be asked whether they would allow the public to use the playing fields and sporting facilities attached to the schools in the borough.

The National playing Fields Association and allied organisations are to be brought into discussions on an advisory basis—and another meeting of the two town council committees working on the project has been called for April. Among the points to be discussed will be the availability of the land already suggested; what areas will be suitable for open spaces or playing fields; and what games could be played on those areas which fall into the latter category.

Sat 5th Feb

DR. P.P. PIGOTT IS LEAVING WOKINGHAM

Wokingham's long-serving woman mayor, Dr. Phyllis Pleasance Pigott, will not be seeking re-election at the municipal elections in May, as she is leaving the town. After the elections Dr. Pigott, who is Deputy Mayor, is moving to Banbury to be near her daughter, who acted as Mayoress during her mother's term of office from 1961 to 1964.

Only two other women have held the office of Mayor of Wokingham. The late Hon. Mrs. Corfield was Mayor from November 1947 to May 1950, and Mrs C.E.A. La Bouchardiere in 1956/7.

Dr. Pigott takes a keen interest in the history of Wokingham. She showed our reporter several items of historic interest which she intends giving to the town. These include some articles of agreement dating back to the 18th century, which were found in the property next to the Old House, a reprinted first copy of the Reading Mercury and a painting of old Wokingham.

Dr. Pigott's husband, the late Wing-Commander Pigott and his mother, Mrs. M. Pigott, gave the town an Act of Parliament clock which was found at The Old House, Shute End, Dr. Pigott's home which dates back to the late 16th and early 17th century. It is one of the oldest houses in Wokingham and has been in the family since 1917.

Sat 16th April

DR. P. PIGOTT PRESENTS CASKET

Dr. P. Pigott, Deputy-Mayor, presented a silver casket on Thursday to the Mayor so it could be used at the civic ball later this month. She is leaving Wokingham next month.

Sat 2nd July

WOKINGHAM CARNIVAL MAKES PROFIT OF £500.

Fashions were left for Henley and umbrellas were "in" at Wokingham Carnival Day festivities on Saturday. But the rain held off until after the procession, watched by over 2,000 people, had toured the town's crowded streets.

To ensure that the carnival would make a profit and partly to ensure against the weather, the organisers, Wokingham Round Table, spent many hours during the evening leading up to Carnival Day touring the town selling programmes. Something like 4,500 programmes were sold at 2s. each.

This week Tablers estimated that the carnival week had made a net profit of at least £500. Most of this will be sent to the Guide Dogs for the Blind association, but a fraction will be reserved for other charities.

The carnival festivities got fully underway on Friday evening last week with the crowning of the Carnival Queen, Wendy Carpenter, of Wellington Road, Wokingham. Reigning Queen of Reading and Woodley, Vanessa Way, of Haddon Drive, Woodley, came second in the contest, and third place went to freelance model, Sandra Lewis, of Rances Lane, Wokingham.

The crowning ceremony was performed by athlete Bruce Tulloch, who lives in Wargrave. Wendy secured the prizes of a four-day holiday for two in Germany, £25 for going-away clothes and £10 in spending money. She and one of her attendants, Sandra Lewis, travelled in the procession in a veteran car, which was preceded at the head of the decorated vehicles by St. Sebastian's Band.

First prize in the commercial class was awarded to the Molly Millars Lane firm of Radyne, who recently received the Queen's Award to Industry for helping the export drive. Baylis's, Reading came second.

A colourful interpretation of Humpty Dumpty earned first prize in the non-commercial class for the Wokingham and Bracknell Training School for mentally-handicapped children. Wokingham Old Age Pensioners' Songsters Group were placed second in this class

Within half-an-hour of the opening ceremony and cutting of a large lardy cake the rain came down, and hundreds made their way from the carnival field. But hundreds stayed to watch the various attractions that carried on regardless of the weather. This included wrestling, a demonstration of tent pegging by the Royal Corps of Transport, Aldershot, a fire-eating display by Stromboli and Sylvia and a programme of tug-of-war finals.

Sat 23rd July

OLDEST MACE-BEARER

The man who has advised and guided 17 Wokingham mayors was honoured at a reception in the Town Hall, Wokingham, on Saturday evening when mace-bearers and chauffeurs from adjoining boroughs presented him with a tankard.

Mr. Cecil Nibbs (74) of Cockpit Path, Wokingham, was the oldest mace-bearer in Britain when he retired from office last month. His work as mace-bearer spanned 26 years of mayoralty, starting with the late Alderman Ernest Reeves in 1940 and ending with the town's comparatively new Mayor, Cllr. William Smith. Mr. Nibbs agreed to carry on being mace-bearer until Cllr. Smith had taken office.

Born at Medmenham, Mr. Nibbs moved to Henley in 1901 and lived in the riverside town until 1940. He regards Henley as his native town and gained immense pleasure when he was allowed to carry Henley's £1,000 mace at the civic hall in Henley earlier this year.

Newly-instituted civic heads have always been grateful to Mr. Nibbs for his words of wisdom, and two months ago a cheque from former mayors and members of the council was presented to him at the Mayor-making ceremony.

Sat 17th Sept

NEW BUILDINGS

The first second and third year pupils of Wokingham's St. Paul's Primary School have moved into one wing of the new school in Murray Road. The remainder of the pupils will transfer into the new building when the school is completed, probably next Easter.

MOTORISTS' EVENING

Wokingham Accident Prevention Committee are organising a "Motorists' Evening" for September 29th. For four hours the general public will be able to test themselves on a reaction timer and take part in road sign quizzes. Also on view will be Road Research Laboratory experimental data. Entrance will be free and the special evening will take place in the Old Town Hall.

NEW TEACHERS

Wokingham's newest school, Embrook County Secondary Modern, this term welcomed four new teachers. They are Mr. K. Docking, Mrs. B.A. Booth, Miss J. Hewitt and Mrs. A. Marcus. Wescott Road primary School, Wokingham, have three new teachers this term. They are Mrs. D. Murray, Mr. M.C. McBride and Mrs. D. Owen.

WOKINGHAM: WHERE EAST IS WEST

There is a concern that the weather-vane on the old Town Hall, which was recently painted gold and black. On close examination it can be seen that it is has been replaced the wrong way round--east is pointing west.

According to the borough surveyor it must have been like that for years unless the workmen moved it when they were working on the old Town Hall. He did not know when the mistake would be rectified because it is difficult to get at.

Sat 15th Oct

EDUCATIONAL VISIT

First year students at Emmbrook Secondary Modern School paid an educational visit to the Frimley Green Water Works on Friday last week.

HARVEST SERVICE

A harvest Festival service was held at Emmbrook Secondary Modern School on Thursday last week and fruit was taken to the residents of Corfield Green Home. The school "adopted" the old folk in this home and have been visiting them regularly during the course of the year. Some fruit was also taken to the old people in Oakfield, Barkham Road, Wokingham.

SCHOOL'S SERVICE

Emmbrook Primary School held a Harvest Festival service at the school on Thursday last week and 70 parents were invited to attend. The number of parents attending had to be restricted owing to lack of space. One child from each class took fruit and vegetables to a children's home in Wilton Road, Reading on Thursday. On Friday four older girls distributed flowers to the old folk in Wokingham Hospital and toured some of the wards.

FOOTPATH PLEA

Eastheath Residents' Association who have requested a right of way to be created between Molly Millars Lane and Barkham Road are to be told that Wokingham Borough Council's Highways and Lighting Committee are unable to take any further action. This is due, the committee reported at Thursday's council meeting, to the complexities of the route due to the ownerships and industrial use.

Sat 22nd Oct

TOWN CRIER TAKES ON MORE WORK

Mr. Herbert Biddle, who since July 1965, has had the quite unenviable task of being the town's crier, will next month hold four municipal posts at Wokingham. Mr. Biddle, who lives at 171, Waterloo Road, became on the retirement of Mr. Cecil Nibbs, the borough's mace-bearer. On November 7th he will not only be appointed the town hall keeper, but the market superintendent as well.

Sat 12th Nov

KALEIDOSCOPE OF SCHOOL WORK

A kaleidoscope of school life gave a unique approach to Embrook County Secondary School's first prize-giving on Wednesday. The successful experiment was produced for the prize-giving by Mr. Kettlewell. The production portrayed some of the more enjoyable aspects of school life. The boys showed their agility in a gymnastic display, and the girls modelled clothes they had made themselves, but the

highlight of the kaleidoscope was a display of movement and drama entitled "The Eclipse." The children moved naturally to the rhythm, which changed with the mood of the scene.

The headmaster, Mr. R.F. Carter, outlined the growth of the school from its opening in May 1965, when 65 children shared the school with builders and the primary school, to its present 265 pupils. He continued with the chairman's theme explaining that the grounding the pupils received were not only academic, but also physical, cultural and social, as "no profit grows where no pleasure is taken."

Starting the school from scratch had been a wonderful experience for Mr. Carter, and he was grateful for so much help from his staff and neighbouring headmasters. However, the school has only just started on its journey, and new and difficult problems of overcrowding, public examinations and a possible change of status loom ahead, but we will draw together our resources to meet them.

The guest speaker was Dr. D.J. Waddington, Senior Lecturer in Chemistry at York University, who presented the prizes and spoke on human behaviour.

"ADOPTED"

Three more of Wokingham's unmade roads are to be adopted as streets repairable by the inhabitants at large. They are: Meadow Road, Meadow Walk and Meadow Way.

SLIDES COMPETITION

The Wokingham Colorphoto Society beat the C. F. Taylor Camera Club by three points at an inter-club colour slide competition held at C. F. Taylors, Molly Millar Lane, Wokingham, on Wednesday. The judge was Mr. B. Genn. Guests at the competition were Wokingham Plastics Camera Club.

Sat Dec 10th

SECOND CROSSING

Wokingham is to get its second pedestrian crossing after Christmas and it will be situated near the site of the former Maypole Dairy in Peach Street. At Thursday's meeting of the borough council, Cllr. A.G. Skedgel, chairman of the Highways and Lighting Committee, said that the Minister of Transport had given her approval to the construction of the crossing. As soon as the necessary apparatus has arrived work would start, although the crossing would not be in use before Christmas.

The construction of a crossing in Peach Street is a victory for the council who have been pressing for many months, but the provision of a similar crossing at Emmbrook seems no nearer. Berkshire's Chief Constable has said that he considers a crossing at the foot of the hill; at Emmbrook a potential danger

Sat Dec 31st

SEASONAL FESTIVITIES AT WOKINGHAM

Hospitals, children's homes and other organisations in Wokingham started their Christmas festivities early this year and many were able to celebrate Christmas quietly.

A spokesman for the Dr. Barnardo Residential School at High Close, Wokingham, said: "We had most of our parties and rejoicing before Christmas." Many of the children went home, only six children staying at school for Christmas." On Christmas Eve they were visited by the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham, Cllr. and Mrs. W.C.A. Smith.

At the Wokingham Hospital carols were sung by the nursing staff on Christmas Eve. A service in the hospital chapel on Christmas morning was followed by a visit from the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham. During Christmas Day a Salvation Army band played in the wards. The hospital was open to visitors throughout Boxing Day.

Oakfields Old People's Home in Barkham Road, Wokingham celebrated the Christmas period quietly. The residents enjoyed a nativity play and the visit of concert parties by the Brownies and the reading Magical Society. The Mayor and Mayoress were among the Christmas Day visitors.

At Glebelands, Wokingham, the country home for retired theatrical, cinema and television employees Christmas was spent in true "show business" style. A party was held at the home on Christmas Eve and Father Christmas was there in the shape of a well known person from the film world. After their Christmas dinner residents watched the Walt Disney film, "The Incredible Journey." Another feature was "The Unsinkable Molly Brown" was also show on the home cinema during Christmas. Among the Christmas visitors was the Mayor Cllr. W. Smith.

1967

Sat 21st Jan

SHOW RETURNING TO WOKINGHAM

At the annual meeting of the Wokingham and District Agriculture Association on Tuesday it was announced that Wokingham Show will this year return to Wokingham after an absence of several years, and be held at Woods Farm, Easthampstead Road, Wokingham.

Mr. Richard Palmer, Joint Master of the Garth and South Berks Hunt, was elected as president, the eighth member of his family to hold this position. Mr. Cyril F. Taylor accepted the post of president-elect for this year. The chairman, Mr. D.S. Strang, pointed out the value of Mr. Taylor's help since he has a great interest in agriculture.

A considerable increase in expenditure at the 1966 show has made the committee decide to raise the price of entry from 4s. to 5s. At the same time the question of increasing members' subscriptions from £1 to 30s. was discussed and it was decided to put this into force for the start of 1968.

Mr. D.S. Strang was re-elected for another term as chairman, with Mr. J. Keen as vice-chairman. Mr. F.A. Greader agreed to continue as secretary, assisted by his wife. Mr. D.G. Cox was elected treasurer in succession to Mr. Jones.

Sat 18th Feb

DEATH OF FORMER MAYOR

A member of the Wokingham Town Council almost 17 years—and mayor of his native town in 1957—Mr. Ernest William Goodchild of 3, Park Road, Wokingham, died on Friday last week, aged 72.

From 1951 to 1954 he was chairman of the Highways Committee and was their representative on the Wokingham Accident Prevention Committee, of which he was for many years chairman.

For 12 years—from 1930 until his retirement in 1962—he was with Hughes and Co. (Reading) Ltd., of which he was company secretary. A member of the committee of the Wholesale Tobacco Trade Association, he was invited to become the national president, but had to decline owing to ill health.

Locally Mr. Goodchild was president of the Wokingham Horticultural Association, and seldom missed one of their shows. He held a similar office in the Kestrel Lawn

Tennis Club and was also associated with the Wokingham and District Arts Group a member of which painted his portrait in Mayoral robes which hangs in the Town Hall. He was also for some years a member of the Special Constabulary.

He was cremated at Reading on Thursday and is survived by his wife, son and daughter.

Sat 4th March 1967

THE DEATH KNELL SOUNDS FOR THE HOWARD PALMER BOWLING CLUB

Despite taking over the entire assets and membership of the Bear Wood Bowling Club in 1964, it was agreed last week that the Howard Palmer Bowling Club, Wokingham, formed over 30 years ago, would finally close. Apathy and loss of membership has killed off a club which, with the amalgamation, seemed to have been given a new lease of life. In 1963, the Howard Palmer Bowling Club found itself in the position of having a good green and two useful pavilions, but without a strong following of members.

The Bear Wood Bowling Club, by contrast had a good membership but were given notice to leave because of the development potential of their green. Before the 1964 playing season opened, both clubs amalgamated and enjoyed two successful seasons. Then membership again declined; in 1966 there was a sparse fixture list and in recent weeks it became clear that there was no prospect of fulfilling a programme of matches for the coming season.

At the club's annual meeting—attended by only six members—it was decided that the secretary, Mr. W.E. Burden, should tell the owner, Mr. R.H.R. Palmer, that the club was not in a position to continue, and would not be able to make further use of the green which opened, in 1933, as a memorial to his father, the late Mr. W. Howard Palmer.

Mr. E. Ketteringham, the chairman said, "It seems to me we cannot carry on. We have had to cancel most of our fixtures throughout the year."

Three years ago the club had over 40 members—now it has only eleven.

The present club green was, at one time, comparatively isolated, behind the former Waterloo Restaurant. Now this has been demolished in connection with the proposed ring-road scheme, and the bowling green site would have an access to the new road. It is, however, designated on the Wokingham Town Map as a playing field.

Before the opening of this green, members bowled on three rinks behind the former Wokingham Club, out of which grew the Howard Palmer Bowling Club.

The parent club itself fell a victim to apathy in 1960. After being closed it remained empty while protracted planning negotiations took place. It was eventually sold in 1963 and the premises are still being redeveloped.

The news that the bowling club was to close came as a surprise this week to Mr. C.T. May, the former president. When, owing to the financial difficulties of the parent club, the bowling club section became autonomous in March 1960, he gave them a financial start.

(Ald S.L. Bowyer was responsible for reviving, during his mayoralty, the pre-war tradition of a bowls match between the club and a team led by the Mayor.)

IN HONOUR OF FOUNDERS

Guides and Brownies from Wokingham and district packed All Saints' Church, Wokingham, on Sunday for their annual Thinking Day Service. The service is held throughout the country to commemorate the birthdays of the founder of the Girl Guide

movement. Lord Baden-Powell and his wife, Lady Baden-Powell, who is World Chief Guide.

Sat 18th March

RADYNE EXPANSION MERGER

Radyne Ltd., of Wokingham, the world's largest company dealing with induction heating equipment is to link up with Delapena Ltd., of Cheltenham. The companies are part of the David Brown Corporation and account for more than a third of all induction heating equipment in use in Britain.

Induction heating is a widely-used method for directing heat accurately in industry. All Delapena's induction heat treatment marketing and technical services will be moved to Wokingham to produce a new range under the name Radyne Delapena Research and Development will be stepped up and new fields explored when the firms are fully integrated.

Delapena employs about 450 people but it is not yet known how the move will affect staff. About half of the present work carried out in Cheltenham will move to Wokingham.

WOKINGHAM'S NEWEST SCHOOL

In a showcase at Wokingham's newest school is a 45-million-year-old fossil, dug up when the school was being built. But in every other respect the school is among the most modern in the country. Among the new ideas in school design incorporated in the new St. Paul's School, Wokingham, is the provision of their own wash-basins and toilets for each classroom which also has a drinking fountain.

The school took nearly two years to build and can accommodate over 300 children aged between seven and eleven. The school has eight self-contained classrooms, all of which will be in use when the children from the infant school move to the junior school after the Easter holidays.

Miss B.G. Foy, the headmistress of the school, told the *Mercury* that all the children are very proud of their new school and she is pleased to think that they can now take in children who they had to turn down when the old school was in use. To keep the school in good condition all the children wear slippers or plimsolls while at classes.

The changing rooms at the school have footbaths and hot air fans and the large hall is equipped with physical exercise bars. The hall is also used for school dinners which are served from the kitchen adjoining the hall. A library in the centre of the school is quickly being created.

Sat 15th April

BOOMING WOKINGHAM

Wokingham's population has increased by 59% in the last six years, from 10,710 in 1960 to 17,020 last year, states a report of the borough treasurer, Mr. Bryan Chant, to a recent meeting of the town Council's Establishment and Organisation Committee.

Over the same period the number of council-owned homes has increased by 50% while housing advances have gone up by 111%

Berkshire's fastest-growing town, Wokingham, had a penny rate product of £3,487 in 1966, whereas this was only £619 in 1960. These penny rate figures are slightly misleading as Wokingham's Town Clerk, Mr. L. Goddard Smalley, pointed out on Monday. The big change was largely due to the alteration in values in 1963.

At the same time he quoted figures over the past six years, showing how the loan debt had risen by 136%.

OPENING TOURNAMENT

Forty old and new members turned up for the Kestrel Lawn Tennis Club's opening tournament at Wokingham on Sunday, and although the weather was not too kind the afternoon was a great success.

The eventual winners were Hugh Beckett and Joan Wright who beat Peter Niblett and Margaret White 6—2.

The club opens its programme on April 22nd with a home mixed match against Courage starting at 2 pm.

ROYAL EXCHANGE TO BE DEMOLISHED

For five years the old Royal Exchange public-house in Denmark Street, Wokingham, has remained unoccupied, and now, as it is decaying, children are playing inside the building. Because of the danger to children, Wokingham Borough Council is serving a notice regarding the demolition of the building. Mr. L. Goddard Smalley, the Town Clerk, said this week that the site was completely open at the rear and was becoming a danger to children.

MORE SILVER

Three officers of the 4/6th Bn. of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, which was disbanded last month, attended Thursday's meeting of Wokingham Borough Council to present a silver cup to the Mayor, Cllr. W.C.A. Smith. The cup was given to the Royal Berkshire Regiment in 1868.

LANDING SITE

Berkshire police have been granted permission by Wokingham Borough Council to sue the Carnival Field in Wellington Road as a landing space for helicopters. The police are to use helicopters to combat crime and pin-point traffic hold-ups.

1968

Sat 3rd Feb

THE HON. PETER REMNANT

The former Conservative M.P. for Wokingham, the Hon. Peter Remnant, died at Oxford on Wednesday. He was 71. Often described as a 'typical Berkshire gentleman' Mr. Remnant had all the attributes to merit this description.

Born at Hare Hatch, near Twyford, he lived in Berkshire for more than thirty years, and always took an active interest in local affairs. Farmer in Berkshire, tea grower in Assam, and a director of brewing and tea companies, were a few of Mr. Remnant's business positions.

He was the son of the First Lord Remnant, and was educated at Eton and Magdalen College, Oxford. In 1939 he was an acting unpaid Lance-Bombardier in the R.A. following the outbreak of hostilities he gained a commission and rose to become Lieutenant-Colonel, and was, at one time, senior staff officer to the general commanding Canal Area in Egypt.

An enthusiastic sportsman, Mr. Remnant played cricket for Berkshire in the Minor Counties championship and on four occasions he reached the final of the amateur "fives" championship, although never successful.

Turning to politics after the war, Mr. Remnant was returned for Wokingham—then a new constituency—in 1950. In each of his subsequent elections in 1951 and 1955 he increased his majority. As an M.P. he was active in Wokingham affairs and is still

remembered for the fight he put up when the War Department wished to build a grenade range near Arborfield. More recently he was involved with the Ministry of Social Security over his steadfast refusal to pay Selective Employment Tax on his workers at Bozewood Farm, Whitchurch. A widower with two grown daughters who both survive him, Mr. Remnant and his wife lost their only son in January 1945, when he was killed in action while serving with the rifle Brigade.

Sat 24th Feb

TOWN CENTRE BATTLE AGAINST BLACK DUST

Wokingham traders and shoppers will have to contend with the problem of creeping black dust for at least another three weeks. People on the town centre are already in despair over the fine black oxidised substance that has been the plague of the town since Peach Street and Denmark Street were stripped of their surfaces two weeks ago.

Constantly hanging in the air, the dust settles on food and fittings, lies thick on cars and covers shoppers as passing cars throw up fresh waves. But the dust is the result of a necessary process when resurfacing these roads. A new surface could not be laid on top of the old as that would have brought the road level with the pavement, so the old tarmac had to be burnt off. But not all of it burns away, and the result—fine particles of oxidised bitumen.

The new surface cannot be laid until the old dust has been dispersed by passing traffic, and a spreader is available from the county council to do the job in about three weeks' time.

Sat 9th March

WOKINGHAM 'OVERHANGS' TO HAVE NEW ROLE

The four-year-old controversy over Wokingham's 'overhangs' has finally come to an end. They have been bought by a Wokingham builder who hopes to transform them into a commercial proposition by the end of the year. The builder, Mr. T. Chamberlain, Larch Avenue, Wokingham, expects to have to spend £20,000 on the five cottages, numbers 53 to 59 Peach Street, before the work is completed. Architects are already preparing plans for ground-floor offices and two-bedroomed flats above.

Four years ago the cottages were declared unfit for human habitation and since then, despite endless struggles between Wokingham Town Council and County Council, they have fallen into a state of decay.

Wokingham Town Council appealed against the preservation order made by the Berks County Council, but were turned down because, said the Ministry of Housing, the cottages are of special archaeological and historic interest. Wokingham Council fulfilled the obligation to prevent the properties from becoming a health risk, but no further move was made to restore them.

At a public inquiry the local Public Health Inspector, Mr. John Bowden, estimated that the cost of restoration would be £20,000 whereas the County Council claimed it could be done for half that amount. Even with a substantial Government grant and offers of financial aid from various preservation societies, the council was afraid that annual restoration work would result in an increased rate levy.

The five cottages are scraped by passing lorries, but are said by Wokingham Society to date back to the 16th century and are the last remaining examples of typical Elizabethan-style properties in Wokingham.

The Society which instituted the idea of preserving the overhangs has the backing of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England. The Ancient Monuments Society

and the Berkshire Archaeological Society, who consider there is a possibility that the cottages were once used as a Guildhall.

Sat 23rd March

SCOUTS GET SITE FOR NEW H.Q.

After an 18-month-search for a small piece of land on which to build a Scout hut, Embrook scouts are now able to realise their dream. They have been granted a 21-year lease on a plot of land behind Toutley Pumping Station by Wokingham Town Council. With £1,000 in the bank collected by the scouts and architects plans drawn up by the boys' parents, the Embrook Group have waited in vain to begin work on their dream hut. But at last week's meeting of Wokingham Town Council, the Council approved a recommendation by the Public Health Committee that the scouts should be leased the land.

The length of the lease is important to the scouts if they are to secure grants for their £2,500 headquarters.

Sat 30th March

AWARDS TO SAVINGS WORKERS

Seventy voluntary workers attended a cheese and wine party organised by the Wokingham Municipal Borough Savings Committee in the Civil Defence Training Centre last week. They were welcomed by Chairman of the Savings Committee, Mr. D.W. Irvin, who reported that the total savings from all sources in the borough at the last return was about a million and a quarter pounds.

Deputy Mayor of Wokingham, Cllr. W. Smith, presented long service awards to Mrs. I Fish, Mrs. D. Wills, Mrs. Y. Hawkes, Mrs. G. Firsdon, Mrs. W. Oliver, Mrs. E. Smalley, and Mrs. E. Smith.

The Stanley Bowyer trophy was presented to Mts. E. Smith, Secretary of the Street and Village Groups for her service during the year. A Regional Certificate of Merit was presented to Mrs. M. F. O'Connor on recognition of her 24years service. In addition a flower vase was given to her on behalf of the savings workers. District Commissioner of the National Savings Movement, Mr. A. Pindar, thanked the workers for their efforts during the year and in spite of the previous economic situation, hoped that a further improvement could be maintained.

WOKINGHAM BRIDGE REBUILDING SCHEME

Work has already begun on these Bailey bridges to take traffic and pedestrians prior to the reconstruction of Skew Bridge, Wokingham, classed unsafe by a Ministry of Transport survey team. Signs have been erected on each side of the bridge warning of long delays and single-line traffic.

The first bridge under construction is a "mini" Bailey bridge—alongside the existing railway bridge—for pedestrians. Work will continue during the night and next weekend, and is expected to be completed by early April, when work will begin on the first of the larger bridges to be contracted over the existing one.

A finishing date for the rebuilding of Skew Bridge, described by town councillors as "highly dangerous" has not yet been fixed, but it is expected to be completely rebuilt within two to five years. The Borough Surveyor, Mr. H.G. Bathurst, is advising motorists and drivers of heavy lorries to use an alternative route via Forest Road and Amen Corner to avoid delays.

The "fly-over" Bailey bridges are intended to take heavy vehicles off the bridge, but are only a temporary measure while Skew Bridge is rebuilt.

Sat 27th April

RAIL CROSSING FAILED TWICE IN TWO DAYS

Both the Wokingham Society and the town's Mayor, Cllr. Ernest Blan were angry yesterday (Friday) at the failure of the automatic level crossing at Star Lane, twice in two days. Cllr. Bland is calling for the crossing to be manually operated until an inquiry is held to establish its safety. He told a reporter, "I use the road myself and feel that the crossing should not be automatically controlled until there is a 100% guarantee that it is safe. There already has been one fatal accident there and as Mayor I am very concerned about it.

On Wednesday morning local people noticed that one of the barriers was stuck and traffic was held up until railway workers arrived to operate the crossing.

The electrical equipment failed again on Thursday morning as motorists and cyclists were on their way to work. Again the traffic was held up and as an extra precaution the railwaymen held up rush-hour trains with a red flag.

Mr. Anthony Cross, Chairman of the Wokingham Society who has protested to the Ministry of Transport about the crossing is to include details of the latest incidents in a dossier of all happenings at the crossing since it was opened. The dossier will form supplementary evidence at the public inquiry being held into the Hixon crossing disaster. Mr. Cross said, "The inquiry will also examine proposals by the Society which it is felt will improve safety factors at the crossing. We are suggesting that rubber pads, linked to a danger signal should be placed on the crossing so that if a vehicle stalls and is stuck there the engine driver will have fair warning and stop.

The Station Master at Wokingham, Mr. Gordon Gregory, told a reporter, "There was a technical fault with one of the barriers stopped in the down position with the light flashing. We had a man on the spot in six minutes and the crossing was worked manually until perfectly safe. With any electrical equipment there must sometimes be a fault. But there are laid-down safety precautions and these were taken immediately. There was no danger provided the public obeyed the regulations."

Sat 4th May

To avoid having to put a weight restriction on Skew Bridge, near Wokingham, while it is being rebuilt, two temporary bridges are being constructed over the top of the bridge to take half the traffic.

The bridge which, carries traffic between Reading and Wokingham, is one of many now considered to be performing work they were not originally designed for which have been surveyed under operation "Bridge Guard," by British Rail Southern Region. A spokesman for the Southern Region said on Wednesday, "Although the bridge is weak, it is definitely not dangerous." The bridge will be given a new deck of pre-stressed concrete beams and will be widened on the south side.

It had originally been thought that a weight restriction would have to be enforced, but as this would have meant rerouting all the buses and heavy lorries through the residential areas of Wokingham, Berkshire County Surveyors' Department came up with the idea of the temporary bridges. They will be constructed over the existing bridge, forming a "double-deck" system, and it is hoped they will be completed by early June.

When the south side of the bridge has been extended, the reconstruction of the rest of the bridge will start, one lane at a time. This leaves two lanes of the bridge still in operation and a further two lanes are provided by the temporary bridges. In this way weight restriction is avoided by having only half the usual amount of traffic on Skew

Bridge itself. The other half is taken by the temporary bridges. A similar method was used during the reconstruction of Victoria Bridge at Windsor.

It is hoped that the whole operation will be completed within 18 months.

Sat 6th July

EMMBROOK BANK'S NEW BRANCH

The thrifty junior savers of Wokingham took another step forward on Monday. After two years of excellent business, the Unique Emmbrook Secondary School Bank celebrated the opening of a new branch. The custom for the branch—another 200 prospective clients—comes from Emmbrook County Primary School.

After officers from Berkshire savings organisations had congratulated the children at the secondary school, a handful of nine-year-olds from the primary school across the road stood on tiptoe to open accounts at the bank.

The bank was opened in March 1966, the idea of Headmaster, Mr. Richard Carter, and mathematics teacher Mr. Michael Arbon. Since then its turnover in pocket money in investments has been a fantastic £12,000. Of the 365 pupils at the school, 320 have accounts with the bank.

Soon the 11-to-15-year-old pioneers and their new nine-to 11-year-old customers will be joined by even younger children, the seven and eight-year-olds at the primary school. They will have the chance to open accounts in September, when the primary school's own bank will be officially opened. Until then all the business is being done at the secondary school. The bank is open for 45 minutes on three days a week.

The bank is staffed by the pupils. Mr. Arbon has already trained about 40 children to be cashiers. They operate the entire bank themselves with very little help from the staff. They write out their own cheques for dinner money, school journeys, their metalwork, and even sweets at the tuck shop. There have been only one or two in the red since the bank started.

The biggest savers among the pupils saw their names go into a lottery for a Premium Bond on Monday. The winner was 14-year-old Michael Townsend of Watmore Lane, Winnersh, one of the bank's cashiers. A draw for bonds is being held monthly at the school.

Mr. E.T. Harrison, Managing Director of Racal Electronics Ltd., told the pupils that they could be proud of the example they had set. He said he was sure other schools would soon be following suit.

Sat 17th Aug

DEATH OF FORMER 'TIMES' CHIEF

For long a Chief Proprietor and a director of "The Times," Mr. John Walter, aged 95, died on Sunday at his Hove home. He was a great-great-grandson of the founder of that famous newspaper, and formerly of Bear Wood, near Wokingham.

Educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, on graduating with honours (Lit. Hum.) in 1897 he entered the family business at Printing House Square, London. In keeping with a Walter tradition of "knowing the job from A to B," one of his earliest accomplishments was to learn how to operate the Kastenbein composing-machine. As a journalist he became assistant to the Paris correspondent, and travelled extensively.

On the death in 1910 of his father, Mr. Arthur Fraser Walter, he became chairman of "The Times," holding this position until 1923. Mr. Alfred Harmsworth (later Lord Northcliffe) had secured control of "The Times" in 1908. Lord Northcliffe's shares were acquired in 1922 by Mr. John Walter in association with Major the Hon. John Astor (now Lord Astor of Hever), with whom he became co-Chief Proprietor.

He remained a Chief-Proprietor until 1966, when the publishing group owned by Lord Thomson of Fleet obtained an 85% share-holding in a new company, Times Newspapers, which was to publish “The Times” and “The Sunday Times.”

Mr. Walter was in early years a patron of agriculture in Berkshire. Serving in the 4th Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment (T.A.), he became Captain and an honorary Major.

Twice married, he leaves two sons and two daughters. His elder son, John, was born in 1908.

Founder

John Walter I (1739-1812), founder of “The Times,” was a London coal-merchant’s son who, succeeding to the business, became wealthy and took a leading part in establishing the coal exchange. Then he changed to underwriting and was eventually a member of Lloyds. The American War hit him hard, he experienced bankruptcy. In 1782, seeking to rebuild his fortunes he met Henry Johnson, inventor of a new method of printing composing by means of “logo-types”—founts composed of complete words instead of separate letters. Walter bought the patent and in 1784 purchased premises in Printing House Square. There he commenced a book-printing business, relying upon the “logographic” process. He also started a small newspaper, “The Daily Universal Register,” first published on January 1st, 1785, and printed logographically. Its 940th number was called “The Times, of Daily Universal Register”, shortly afterwards, simply “The Times.”

Walter had troubles both as book-printer and newspaper publisher. Libels in “The Times” on members of the Royal family caused him to be fined heavily, and sent to prison. “An incautious insertion of my eldest son” brought him further conviction in 1799; he died thirteen years later at his Teddington residence.

William Walter, the eldest son was unsuccessful in the management of “The Times” and he gave place to his younger brother, John, who took full charge in 1803. Yet John had been destined for Holy Orders. He brought new virility and forcefulness to the newspaper, antagonising the Government in so doing. This last particularly in his building-up of the paper’s foreign intelligence. From the struggle, “The Times” emerged as the leading European journal. He, not his father, might therefore be said to have been the true creator of “The Times.”

During a strike in 1910, John Walter, in shirt-sleeves, worked at the type-setting case and the press for 36 hours incessantly—and, despite all obstacles, the paper came out. When, in 1814, he introduced a cylinder printing machine steam-powered, the creation of German printer Koenig, this was described as “the greatest improvement connected with printing since the discovery of the art itself.”

He bought the Berkshire estate and residence of Bear Wood. He was M.P. for Berkshire from 1832 until 1837, and afterwards Member of Nottingham. He died at Printing House Square in 1847, having moved there to be nearer his physicians.

Legal career

So his eldest son became chief proprietor. Born at Printing House Square, John was later called to the Bar. His father’s death interrupted a legal career. But he likewise served Berkshire and Nottingham in the House of Commons. A scholarly man, he had a fine literary sense founded upon the classical.

He pioneered printing improvements with “The Times” that contributed greatly to the development of a cheap Press. These innovations included the Walter Press of 1869, a steam-powered rotary employing stereotype plates and continuous rolls of paper, turning out 12,000 copies an hour.

With immense enthusiasm for building (again, a practical man who could use skilled hands in an emergency), he reconstructed "The Times" office and re-built the Bear Wood house. The designs were his, bricks came from his estate, so did wood-work. The village of Sindlesham next to the Bear Wood estate, he practically rebuilt, making it a model of its kind.

It was his father who, two years before his death, erected St. Catherine's Church at Bear Wood. (Catherine Walter, only 25, died with pathetic suddenness in December of 1844).

John Walter III, in connection with his work on the estate, the area of which he extended considerably created the present beautiful lake below the mansion. This was to bring tragedy. His eldest son, John, destined to succeed him with "The Times," after leaving Oxford travelled round the world. Returning to Bear Wood only a very short while, he and others of the family were enjoying ice-skating on the lake on Christmas Eve of 1870, when the ice broke. John was drowned endeavouring to rescue his brother and a cousin. Because of this, Arthur Fraser Walter became at length Chief Proprietor

To his father, John, is owing the public beauty-spot at Finchampstead Ridges. John Walter in 1861-3 made a road across the Ridges and down towards Crowthorne, lining either side of the lower part with Wellingtonias, which today have become enormous trees. He also extended the Wokingham road to the Ridges. He died at Bear Wood in 1894.

Arthur Fraser Walter, High Steward of Wokingham, and a Director of the London and S.-W. Railway, a barrister who never practised, died in 1910.

A memorial service for Mr. John Walter will be held at St. Catherine's Church, Bear Wood, on Sunday at 11 a.m.

End of Wokingham news from the Reading Mercury, which became the Berkshire Mercury in 1970 and was published on Thursdays. The Berkshire Mercury stopped publishing in 1979.

During the period Aug 1968 to Aug 1971 news was taken from Wokingham Times microfilms.

The Reading Mercury, or, Weekly Entertainer 1723-1725 continued as The Reading Mercury and Oxford Gazette, etc. 1767-1831, and then continued as Reading Mercury, Oxford Gazette and Berkshire County Paper, etc 1831-1839.

It carried on as Reading Mercury, Oxford Gazette, Newsbury Herald and Berks County Paper, etc. 1839-1960, continued as Reading Mercury, etc. 1960-1970 and finally as Berkshire Mercury 1970-1979.

Wokingham Times

1968-1970

Thursday 29th August 1968 is the start date of the earliest Wokingham Times microfilm. There is also a gap between January 1972 and April 1981.

1968

Thur 29th Aug

Francis Staniland, missionary in Japan for many years, world traveller and founder, editor and publisher of the Wokingham and Bracknell Gazette and County Review set out his aims for the future in the first issue of his newspaper. January 24th 1903.

Thur 12th Sept

THEY WERE QUEUEING TO GET IN MINUTES BEFORE THE 'EYES DOWN'

First big winner at the new Wokingham bingo session on Friday was Mrs. B.K. Mason of Upper Broadmoor Road, Crowthorne. She went home with a nice £75 profit from the evening. And hers was not the only success. The management at the ABC cinema must be well pleased with the general success of the evening.

Queues started forming outside the theatre from 6.30. The doors did not open until soon after 7pm, actual play did not start until after 8pm. Surprising aspect of the crowd to this bingo uninitiated reporter was that there were just as many men in the crowd as women—even though it seemed to be the ladies' lucky night for wins.

First ever winner of the session—£5 for a line—was Mrs Audrey Challis, of 2 North Green, Bracknell. And the lucky person in the member's draw for £25 was Mrs. Sarah Carey, of Eustace Crescent, Wokingham.

Bingo caller, Roy (he seems to be called by just his Christian name) took proceedings along at quite a pace, and there was always something happening to sustain interest.

He began his calling to a near capacity house—not a bad attendance in a theatre that holds 700. And the people I spoke to seemed all in favour of bingo on their doorstep.

DEATH OF FORMER MAYORESS

The death occurred last Wednesday night of a former Mayoress of Wokingham, Mrs. Helena Eustace, of Denton Lodge, 16 Shute End. She was aged 98. Mrs. Eustace's husband, Admiral J.B. Eustace, was Mayor of Wokingham from 1923-27.

Mrs. Eustace was a very prominent member of All Saints' branch of the Mother's Union, being an Enrolling Member for many years. She was also a life president of the national body of the Mother's Union. She was loved and respected by everyone. She continued to take an active part in Mother's Union work until about ten years ago. Even after this she continued to be interested.

Mrs. Eustace was originally from Scotland, the eldest child of Charles Robertson, of Kindeace. But she had lived in Wokingham for the greater part of her life. The funeral took place on Tuesday at All Saints'.

Thur 19th Sept

ONE-WAY TRAFFIC FOR MOST OF TOWN CENTRE

WOKINGHAM'S BIG TRAFFIC SWITCH-ROUND PLANNED FOR MIDNIGHT ON SUNDAY SEPT. 29TH

Wokingham's one-way traffic scheme will come into operation at midnight on Sunday, September 29th. But the Borough Engineer, Mr. H.G. Bathurst, has issued a warning to motorists using the town on that Sunday. He says: "Workmen will be on the town's roads all day and possibly on the following Monday erecting new islands and their signs.

The scheme, which is experimental and may have to be amended in the light of traffic movements, introduces one-way traffic for the whole of the centre of the town with the exception of Broad Street. This remains two-way to give access to the town centre and its car parks and to allow buses to enter the centre by a direct route.

Rectory Road will be one-way for traffic entering from Reading Road and Glebelands Road; Wiltshire Road will be one-way towards the London Road from the junction with Rectory Road; Peach Street is one-way towards the Town Hall and Denmark Street to its junction with Langborough Road.

The north and west sides of Market Place will be one-way, while a short stretch on the east side will be two-way to permit the gyration of buses and other traffic. A short length of Rose Street will be two-way, but traffic can enter only at Broad Street and leave by the narrow section into Wiltshire Road. Milton Road will be closed to all traffic except buses at its junction with Rectory Road. Beyond the closed portion, two-way traffic will apply.

There will be restrictions on waiting in the vicinity of each junction on the one-way circuit, for example, day parking in the Town Hall area will go.

Some bus stops are to be re-sited. Three in Market Place are to go, but there will be a new one by the wine shop in Market Place and one outside Montague House in Broad Street.

The need to safeguard pedestrians is to be carefully studied and a report will be submitted to the Highways Committee with a view to putting in additional crossings.

Mr. C.D. Evans, of the county surveyor's department said that careful consideration has been given to all objections to the scheme. Those concerning the use of Rose Street by buses had not been upheld by the county Highways Committee. By using Rose Street buses would be able to get out of the town in an easterly direction and the introduction of a gyratory around the Town Hall would enable public service and delivery vehicles to turn. It was necessary to allow buses to emerge from Milton Road at its junction with Rectory Road but otherwise a very short section would cease to exist for the motorist.

The new scheme would provide a street passage through the town for all concerned. It was being introduced to reduce the traffic chaos in Wokingham and this was considered to be the best possible scheme until major road works were carried out. The county council remained of an open mind. This was an experimental scheme which might have to be amended.

Thur 26th September

Retail price maintenance on cigarettes ended which was good news for supermarkets but bad news for small retailers.

Thur 3rd Oct

TOWN'S ONE -WAY 'TURNING PRIVATE ROADS INTO PICCADILLY CIRCUS'

Wokingham's new one-way experimental traffic scheme has raised a storm of protest from householders in Langborough Road, Murdoch Road, Crescent Road and Howard Road, and one has described it as becoming like Piccadilly Circus.

With there being no entry to Denmark Street at its junction with Langborough Road, traffic using this road to get to the town centre and London Road via Easthampstead has more than trebled since the introduction of the scheme on Sunday night. Langborough Road has been described as a "narrow two-way race track with a death trap at its junction with Howard Road."

Deep concern is being expressed at the danger to pedestrians at Howard Road. For old people and for children crossing from Luckley Path to the recreation ground the Langborough/ Murdoch Road junction presents a risk to life and limb, residents claim.

Leading an action committee representing residents in Murdoch Road is General D.A.K. Redman, of Caerleon. An emergency meeting of this committee has been called for tomorrow (Friday) when members' views on the changed circumstances will be obtained. Immediate action by General Redman has been a request to the police to impose a traffic speed check.

So far there has been little comfort for the residents from Borough Engineer, Mr. H.G. Bathurst. He said the one-way system had been an even greater success than he had anticipated and that "it benefits the majority at the expense of the minority." He said that Murdoch Road was a private road but it was also a public highway. People must realise that if you are going to reduce the inconvenience in the town centre to a minimum there must be elsewhere. Traffic counts and speed checks would be introduced next week and the system modified in the light of factual information.

Thur 24th Oct

LEGION HONOUR FOR ALDERMAN

There was a pleasant surprise for Alderman S.L. Bowyer, president of the Arborfield branch of the British Legion at the annual dinner and dance last Saturday. He was presented with the Legion Gold Badge awarded by the National Executive Council on the recommendation of Arborfield, Barkham and District Branch.

Making the presentation, the county chairman, Mr. R. Rainer, said it was a great pleasure for him to do so. Ald. Bowyer had rendered great service to the Legion and the award was well merited. In a letter to Ald. Bowyer, the general secretary of the British Legion, Mr. D.E. Coffey, said: "I am so pleased that your valued services to the British Legion have been recognised in this way."

Thur 5th Dec

BAKEHOUSE AND GARAGE ARE DEMOLISHED

Demolition of the bakehouse and garage premises in Rose Street, Wokingham at the junction with Broad Street began this week. Part of the land is to be used to provide a wider access to Rose Street, and the rest is expected to be offered for private or other development. The site belongs to Berkshire County Council.

MAYOR LAUNCHES SCHEME WHICH COULD MEAN DAY CENTRE FOR WOKINGHAM

Target of an appeal to be launched in Wokingham in the New Year to raise funds for the welfare of the area's old people is likely to be in the region of £50,000—£60,000. This would be the cost of a well-equipped Day Centre in a scheme sponsored by the Mayor, Coun. Mrs. J.M. Davy, and endorsed by a packed public meeting at the Town Hall on Monday night.

The meeting attended by about 300 people representing all walks of Wokingham life, approved the formation of a new body—Wokingham and District Old People's Welfare Association. All organisations in the area are to be invited to have representation on its committee and a meeting at which officers are elected has been provisionally fixed for the evening of Monday, December 16th, at the Town Hall.

Opening the meeting the Mayor said she was overwhelmed by the attendance. She had never seen the Town Hall with as many people in it. She thanked all who had given her encouragement in the plan to form the association. She said: "It all began last June when in Finchampstead I was told that workers there were delivering Meals-on-Wheels in Wokingham. I found that Wokingham itself did not deliver a single meal. I was shocked and decided to look further into the question of old people's welfare in Wokingham. I found that wonderful work was being done by statutory and voluntary bodies and by individuals. All had plans for helping the elderly, but because there was no master plan they were getting no further in their efforts. It was obvious to me that an old people's welfare association was badly needed to get all efforts

under one umbrella. Wokingham was the only burgh in Berkshire without such an association and was missing out on benefits available from the county. ”

“The first object of the new association would be to introduce a Meals-on-Wheels service. We badly need a master plan and would like to start Meals-on-Wheels early in the New Year. We need car drivers and I hope the people of Wokingham will get together to help—you all can help.”

Mrs. Davy expressed her thanks to Wokingham Scouts for the help they had already given. They had delivered over 300 letters by hand and the first donation cheque received had been from them.

1969

Thur 30th Jan

NB--The mace bearer and town crier was Mr. Biddle

WOKINGHAM SOCIETY'S ONE-DAY EXHIBITION

More than 1,000 visitors visited Wokingham Town Hall on Saturday to see a one-day exhibition, staged by the Wokingham Society, with the intention of not only attracting interest in the future development in the town, but also in the hope of reflecting some of the past which makes the town what it is today.

Taking the visitor right back are relics of the Bronze Age, including axe-heads, and other locally-collected finds. From there on most periods were included, and with the aid of pictures, maps and other items, many facets of the town's past were revealed.

Many visitors were interested in the civic robes worn by the Mayor, deputy Mayor and the Town Clerk, and in the mace and the corporation silver. The town's Mace Bearer, Mr. C. Biddle, was kept busy answering questions. The local fire service had not been forgotten, and the splendid uniform of the Captain of the brigade was once again visible to the public.

Other exhibits linked the railway with the town and its commercial development. An example of early Wokingham engineering was an early penny-farthing bicycle which had been made by the Finchampstead Road firm, the Butler Brothers.

One of the highlights of the exhibition was the presentation of the schools' History Prize for 1968, which had been donated by the Society, and had been held over to the time of the exhibition. The prize was presented by the Mayor of Wokingham, Cllr. Mrs. Jean Davy, to 15-year-old Martin Gornall, of Lyneham Road, Crowthorne.

After the exhibition Mr. Croft said that the response had been fantastic and that the Council Chamber, where it was held, had been overcrowded most of the time. She said that the Wokingham Society which staged the exhibition played an important part in the town and offered much constructive comment. She deplored the changes in Wokingham but it is essential that the changes have to come about. The town was very grateful to the Society for the exhibition which she hoped would be the forerunner of many more.

Interest of young people

Welcoming the many visitors to the exhibition—the council chamber was packed with people—she said it was a particular pleasure to her to see so many young people present.

Introducing the Mayor, the chairman of the Wokingham Society, Mr. Anthony Cross said the project had been in mind since the formation of the society. The exhibition had become possible because of the cooperation of a large number of people in the town and in particular, the Corporation of Wokingham.

Later the Mayor told the Times that this was a most fascinating exhibition but we have come a long way since then. Wokingham today is a progressive town taking care of its citizens. In this respect its association for the elderly has recently come into being and this is something which could not have been thought of 100 years ago.

The exhibition vividly pictured with photographs, prints, uniforms and relics including axe-heads and flints, the Wokingham of the past. Here could be seen glimpses of the town in the 17th century through the Georgian and Victorian eras to the early 20th century emerging into the Wokingham of today

Included was a model of the Lucas Hospital made by Mrs. Stratton, wife of one of the masters of the hospital who served there from 1880 to 1920.

Thur 13th Feb

MEALS ON WHEELS FOR WOKINGHAM

Two hot plates were ready at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Skates in Wokingham, last Thursday, when the Mayor, Coun. Mrs. Jean Davy, arrived at the start of the town's own Meals on Wheels service.

Generous portions of piping hot roast lamb and vegetables to be followed by fruit pie were served by Mrs. Anne Fowler of the National Council of women and Mrs. Mary Hughes of the Wokingham Townswomen's Guild.

Thur 15th May

RITZ--WOKINGHAM'S CINEMA'S FUTURE IN BALANCE

The Ritz Cinema in Wokingham could become a full time bingo hall under an arrangement recently concluded between Associated British Cinemas and Star Associated Holdings. As from the 1st July Star Holdings will operate under licence fifteen full time and ten part time bingo clubs in all parts of the country. It runs 68 cinemas and has other extensive interests in the entertainment world.

Thur 3rd July

WHITE'S STORE CLOSES

White's furnishing store in Peach Street closed because shoppers are attracted to Bracknell. Wokingham has parking and one-way problems. The company intends to expand in Bracknell and Reading.

Thur 2nd Oct

TOWN HALL OFFER TO OLD FOLK

The Wokingham and District Association for the Elderly is to have first refusal of the former fire station at Wokingham Town Hall. The Public Works Committee has decided to offer it to the association with a request for suggestions as to its use by that body

Thur 9th Oct

THE BULL IS HAUNTED

The Bull At Arborfield where Queen Victoria and Prince Albert stopped on their journey to visit the Duke of Wellington at Stratfieldsaye on January 20th 1845, is believed to be haunted by a lady in blue.

The name 'Bull' would substantiate the Rev. Ditchfield's suggestion that the wild boar or of course just have sounded a good name to the first landlord.

THREAT TO JOBS AS METALAIR SWITCHES PRODUCTION PLANT

Metalair Ltd., Engineers, Fishponds Road, following months of speculation about their plans, are about to cease manufacture at Wokingham, though certain other activities will be continued by them there.

Back in July the company denied rumours that they were to close the factory and a spokesman then said: "As a group we are rationalising our manufacturing, but plans for this have not yet been finalised."

Asked this week if the "rationalisation" programme was now completed, Mr. C.J. Woolhead, a director, replied: "Yes, to a degree, Most of our production facilities are moving to Lincolnshire, though we are retaining here our sales service, repairs and that side of it. He admitted that there would be some redundancy but could not state at this stage how many workers would be involved or when this would occur. It is understood that not many will be absorbed under the new arrangements.

Thur 6th Nov

MR. H. C. LEE DIES AT BOURNEMOUTH

Mr. Harold Charles Lee of Lee's Bakery, Denmark Street, Wokingham, died in hospital at Bournemouth on Wednesday last week. He was 65. He had been in business for 36 years and was well-known in the town as a bowler and a founder member of the Wokingham Rotary Club. He leaves a widow.

The funeral was at Bournemouth Crematorium last Monday and at his there were floral tributes only from his family. His wish was that donations should be made to Cancer Research.

Thur 27th Nov

The Town Council is looking for a town crier.

Thur 11th Dec

LADY ORMONDE

Lady Ormonde, wife of the Marquess of Ormonde, died on Wednesday last week after a three-day illness.

Lord and Lady Ormonde, who were married in 1925 and had two daughters, came to Cantley, Wokingham, over ten years ago. Lady Ormonde was the younger daughter of the late Charles Carlos Clarke, of Welton, Sunninghill. She was a great supporter of All Saints' Church, Wokingham, and the former rector, the Rev. F.A. Steer returned to officiate at the funeral there on Monday.

1970

Thur 1st Jan

The Land Commission's application for outline permission to develop 360 acres of agricultural land at Wooshill Lane was refused by Berkshire County Council. This was the second application. The first was for 100 acres of the same site.

Thur 5th Feb

Soon after the sound of the fire siren disappeared from Wokingham and personal beepers came into operation on Monday afternoon Wokingham Fire Brigade was called out to the Ross Group Factory at Eastheath Avenue.

Thur 5th March

IT'S SELF-SERVICE AT WOKINGHAM

Wokingham joins the growing number of towns this week where motorists can serve themselves at modern petrol pumps. The chance comes with the re-opening this week of the Southrold Service Station, in Broad Street, the town's first self-service station.

It is operated by Hurst Garages (Berkshire) Limited. The parent company, which has other garages in Wokingham/ Twyford areas and the group has long standing and close associations with the Cleveland Petroleum Company. The new self-service station will be under the direct control of managing director Mr. Graham Bailey.

Motorists who have never served themselves before may be appreciative at the prospect of filling their own tanks. Such questions as: "How does it all work?", "Will I have to calculate the cost myself?" immediately raise themselves.

They need have no worry however. Plenty of others have easily mastered the simple controls and now prefer the quick service. There are always as many attendants as customers.

The new pumps called blenders, serve four grades of petrol, which are clearly marked by the star system and Cleveland's own well known trade names. Petrol prices are clearly marked. The selector control is marked with the star grades and trade names. A fore court attendant will be available to help you and provide any guidance you may require. A motorist wishing to serve himself will drive up to the pump and turn the selector knob on the side of the pump to the grade he wants.

Another clearly marked lever switches on the pump, but even at this stage, you're not going to be drowned in a stream of highly inflammable petrol. The flow is controlled by the trigger on the nozzle. The new do-it-yourself pump attendant merely puts the nozzle into his petrol tank and squeezes the trigger to start filling.

On the face of the pump there are two registers of figures for each grade of petrol. One clearly records the number of gallons sold, while the other equally clearly records the cash value of the sale.

Shelter

At the same time the gallonage and cost of the sale are recorded on a control console near the pay desk. A two-way intercom system between pump island and pay desk has been installed for customer's convenience. In case of difficulties help is always quickly available, while Southrold's pumps are sited underneath a large canopy—an added amenity for self-service during bad weather.

The station is one of 2,200 operated in this country by Cleveland. This company's own brand of accessories will be on sale and the site will offer comprehensive servicing facilities. Additional services such as credit card transactions, motor insurance and self-drive car hire will also be available.

On the opening an introductory offer of 1s per gallon off cash purchases of four gallons and over will be available. In addition the site will offer quadruple Green Shield stamps on cash purchases of four or more gallons.

The site will operate bonus stamp offers on selected tyres, batteries and accessories and will be open from 7 am-11 am daily, including Sundays. The opening hours are to be extended to a 24-hour operation in the near future.

Thur 26th March

DEATH OF MR. ALAN PERKINS

"A man of strong calibres, a fine brain and high principles." This was one of the tributes paid this week to Mr. Alan Howard Perkins who died in a nursing home on Thursday after a short illness. Mr. Perkins was 80, and is survived by his wife, a daughter and two sons. His home was at 5 South Drive, Wokingham.

Born in Denmark Street, Wokingham he started work in 1904 with his brother Eric who was running Wokingham Motor and Cycle Works in the Market Place.

In 1906 he joined the Berkshire Yeomanry and a year later was in Australia pioneering the use of cars for overland travel. Throughout the First World War he served in the Pioneer Corps of the Australian Army.

On his return to England in 1919 he married Miss Elsie Pither and that year joined his brothers Eric and Frank at Perkins' Brothers Garage in Broad Street, Wokingham. Soon afterwards he started the Central Garage (Eversley) Ltd., which is still in operation.

Landmark

A landmark in his career came in 1933 when he designed and built two motorised pantehnicon bodies for Mr. Ernest Reeves, of Wokingham, which were used for the removal business. From this started the Wokingham Pantehnicon Company. This company is now Modern Vehicle Construction Ltd., of Reading the name Wokingham Pantehnicon Co. is still used on Bodies it constructs. The business designs and builds especially for the furniture removal trade and has connections in Scotland, Dublin and Australia.

He was a pioneer of fibreglass roofs for these vehicles and in 1958 came a major breakthrough with fibreglass panelling. Mr. Perkins's design is still being used today and over 700 such vehicles were built under his guidance. He lectured and toured extensively to train estimators in the removal trade, using a miniature removal van into which was fitted miniature furniture.

In 1960 he retired from Perkins Brothers Garage and sold to Moons Motors of London, and in 1965 he officially retired from Wokingham Pantehnicon Company, although he acted in an advisory position until his death.

Active Tory

A prominent worker for the Conservative Party, Mr. Perkins was among those active in forming Wokingham Constituency Party in 1948 and was on its management committee for about five years. He was Wokingham Borough branch treasurer for 10 years to 1955.

Rotary was another of his keen interests. He was a founder member of Wokingham Rotary Club in 1951 and its third president. He was for some years editor of the club bulletin and held various other offices. In the wider sphere of Rotary District 109, he was a former club Service Committee chairman and a vice-chairman of Zone C.

The funeral service was at All Saints' Church, Wokingham yesterday, and was followed by cremation.

MAYOR CHAPMAN'S CONDITION SERIOUS

The condition of Mayor, Col. H. A. Chapman is still serious. He underwent two serious operations a fortnight ago at St. Thomas's Hospital, London where he has been since the 3rd March.

Thur 21st May

MAYOR CHAPMAN DIES

The Mayor, Col. H. A. Chapman died on the 14th May.

He had a gift of keeping debate in the council chamber short and to the point without ruffling colleagues' feelings. He was vice-chairman of the Wokingham branch of the British Legion.

In private life he was a teacher. He hailed from Australia and started his professional career in 1934 at York after completing his studies at London University.

At Brackenhale School, Bracknell where he was senior master an internal memorial service was held on Friday.

During his five years as senior master he rendered tremendous service to the school. He had a concern for young people and respected their rights which was of immense value. The Deputy Mayor, Mrs. Davy is performing mayoral duties until Cllr. West assumes office as Mayor. The funeral service will be at All Saints.

Thur 28th May

THE NEW MAYOR'S TOP AIM

Within minutes of being elected last week, Wokingham's new mayor 50-year-old Coun. John West, was launching a "clean-up" campaign in the town. He vowed he would be a "happy man" if Wokingham was a tidier place by the time he retires from office next year. Among those responsible for the present mess were the fish and chip eaters and people who discarded pieces of paper at random. The Mayor, the longest serving councillor, called for a concerted effort from all residents to keep Wokingham clean.

Happy Man

The 'Keep Wokingham Tidy' plea came shortly after the red-robed Coun. West, a men's hairdresser, had been sworn in as Wokingham's 43rd Mayor since 1885. He succeeds Coun. Bill Chapman, who died in a London hospital on May 14 and whose funeral took place at All Saints' Church, Wokingham, the day before the mayor making ceremony. The new mayor was first elected on to the town council in 1947. He remained on the council until 1955 and then, after a four year's break, he was re-elected in 1959 serving continuously since that year. The mayor said that since he joined the council the number of homes provided by the council had been increased from 50 to 1,000-"A considerable achievement."

But he warned that although the council's parks committee would strive to provide amenities, the facilities themselves might be some time in coming and liable to prove expensive.

The Mayor was proposed by Alderman Norman Lawrence and Councillor Peter Johnson was seconder.

"John West is my idea of a local councillor," said Coun. Johnson. "He knows everyone, goes round everywhere and is always willing to take on a case.

During local elections the Mayor became "Wokingham's own Hansard" down detailed facts and figures in a little red notebook. Tributes were also paid to the former Mayor, Coun. Chapman by Coun. R.R. Crail, who had served with him on the town planning committee.

LADY VICTORIA VILLIERS WAS GOD-DAUGHTER OF QUEEN VICTORIA

The death was announced on Saturday of Lady Victoria Villiers, a former president of Wokingham British Legion Women's Section for 30 years and a god-daughter of Queen Victoria, to whom her mother and grandmother were Women of the Bedchamber.

Lady Victoria was a daughter of the 7th Duke of Roxburghe. Her mother, born Lady Anne Churchill, was also Mistress of the Robes and a sister of lord Randolph Churchill. Lady Victoria was thus a first cousin of Winston Churchill.

Marriage

In 1901 she married Charles Hyde Villiers, Royal horse Guards. Previously a member of Portal's expedition to Uganda, he fought in Jameson's Raid and the South

African War. After his marriage he left the Blues and was appointed to the Royal Bodyguard at the command of King Edward VII.

Lady Victoria and her husband lived at Folly Court, Wokingham, for about 20 years. Always extremely active, she was a vigorous rider with the Garth, and an equally keen racegoer.

Linguist

After Colonel Villiers died in 1947, his widow lived in London—giving much time to charity flag days and bazaars and contributing huge quantities of her own embroidery—until a month before her death. She was a very fine linguist, passing the interpreter tests in French and German during World War I.

Lady Victoria is survived by four of her seven children, numerous grand-children and great grand-children. The funeral service takes place at St. Paul's Church, Wokingham, today.

Thur 11th June 1970

ALDERMAN'S DAUGHTER MARRIED

Miss Susan Peggy Skedgel, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A.G. Skedgel, of Copper Beeches, Murdoch Road, Wokingham, was married at All Saints' Church, Wokingham, on Saturday to Mr. John Barlow Pearton, only son of the late Mr. W.J.S. Pearton and Mrs. F.A. Steer, and stepson of the Rev. F.A. Steer, of the Vicarage, Aldermaston.

The bride's father is an alderman on Wokingham Borough Council and a former mayor, and the Rev. F.A. Steer, is a former rector of All Saints', Wokingham.

The service was conducted by the Rev. K. Martin and the Rev. A.G. Millard. Bridesmaids were Miss Janet Skedgel (bride's sister) and Miss Gillian and Miss Margaret Steer (bridegroom's sisters). Mr. and Mrs. Pearton will live in Wokingham

ROMAN COINS FIND

Mrs. Patricia Prime, of 84 Matthewsgreen Road, a fortnight ago discovered a hidden horde of coins buried sometime during the fourth century A.D. in the field opposite her home. She found them while taking her dogs for a walk across the fields. She spotted a few coins lying on top of the newly ploughed soil and stuffed them in her pockets and raced home to show her husband. As soon as he saw the coins he went out there with a torch to see if he could find any more.

The next day Mrs. Prime contacted Reading Museum, and officials came out that evening to examine the coins. They called in an archaeological research team from Oxford, and with the aid of metal detectors they were able to unearth a further 500 coins. With painstaking care, Mrs. Prime and staff from the museum unearthed about 1,800 of the bronze, silver-washed coins.

Fascinating

Mrs. Jill Greenaway, of the museum, discovered the pot which had held the money. It was bound with bandages and carefully extracted from the soil—to disclose another 900 of the small bronze pieces still there. According to museum staff this is the largest find ever to have been unearthed in Berkshire. The value of the find has not been determined. The heads of two Roman emperors, Constans and Magnentius, are clearly defined on the coins which have, so far, been examined. About 40% of the coins are severely corroded and all but 2% of the remainder are likely to require conservation treatment.

Thur 3rd Sept

A CENTRE FOR THE TOWN'S YOUTH AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE

Behind Montague House in Broad Street, Wokingham, workmen are applying the finishing touches to a building which will eventually become a focal point for the town's youth and community. It is Wokingham Youth Centre—the place that will run itself. The philosophy of the centre is quite simple:-

The people who use it will programme their own activities said the warden, Mr. Peter Jones. He is not drawing up a list of activities to be carried out at the centre. Instead, he wants young people to tell him what they want to do, and if it is feasible, leave them to get on with it.

Welcome

Basically the centre will be catering for the 14 to 21-year-olds. But adult groups will more than welcome to make use of the excellent facilities the county-built centre has to offer. And it seems that the people of Shire Hall have thought of everything. The ground floor consists mainly of a large, airy activity hall that is suitable for most things from judo to dancing. At one end screened off from the rest of the floor is a workshop for those who fancy their hands at woodwork, metalwork or anything else that can be carried out in there.

Chat

Near to this are the changing rooms complete with shower. But if you just want to sit and chat over a cup of coffee or coke and watch the activity in the main hall, the centre boasts a sophisticated, carpeted coffee lounge. Here you can relax in the comfortable padded chairs and sup the delicious coffee made in a kitchen that would be the envy of many a housewife.

Between the hall and the coffee bar in a small alcove sits the disc jockey's delight, two stereophonic record player decks. Speakers have been installed throughout the building and can be switched on and off so that if you don't want music you don't have to have it.

Upstairs is a smaller room which could be used for table tennis or as a meeting room, a well-equipped darkroom for the photographically-minded, and what Mr. Jones jokingly calls the "girls" room."

Hairdressing

This is a long narrow carpeted room with direct access to the ladies' loo and Mr. Jones thinks this would be ideal for make-up or hairdressing sessions and all the things girls like to do without the boys around.

Alongside the building workmen are just completing a hard court which can be used for such sports as netball, volley ball, five-a-side football and tennis.

Recently Mr. Jones had meetings with a group of young people who came up with ideas for film-making, fencing, drama and judo.

The centre will be officially opened on September 11th in the fortnight before townspeople are invited to come and inspect the building. A nominal admission charge will be made. Activities and events will not be exclusive to the members of the centre, in fact one of its purposes is to serve existing youth groups in the area. And for the adult groups, particularly those who have a membership of young mums, a crèche run by qualified staff is planned to look after small children while mum keeps fit or whatever.

Voluntary help is still needed, both from people who have a specialist skill to impart. Or from those who are just interested in youth work and generally helping out at the centre. Although not yet officially opened several activities have been put on during school holidays.

The daytime sessions have been lean but in the evenings there has been a fair number of young people throwing their weight about in judo, fencing, improving the body beautiful by weight training, and beauty care. Already many of them have made themselves at home and their verdict on the centre is very favourable.

Thur 17th Sep

NEW CREMATORIUM

Work is expected to start next month on a £120,000 Crematorium at Easthampstead Park Cemetery. The crematorium will open in February 1972 and will process about 250 burials and 650 cremations a year.

JOHNNY WEST SEES HIS DREAM COME TRUE

On a day in 1959 the founder of Johnny West's Youth Club and the chairman of Wokingham area Youth Committee set out to find a suitable site in the town for a youth centre. They plumped for land between Montague House in Broad Street and put their findings to the County Education Committee. On Friday night, eleven years later, John West, now Mayor of Wokingham, officially opened the £37,500 centre that he had wanted to see in the town 'for a very long time.'

Thur 1st Oct 1970

TOWN HALL OFFER TO OLD FOLK

The Wokingham and District Association for the Elderly is to have first refusal of the former fire station at Wokingham Town Hall. The Public Works Committee has decided to offer it to the association with a request for suggestions as to its use by that body. Mrs. Jean Davy, chairman of W.A.D.E. said that this was a wonderful gesture.

Thur 8th Oct

THREAT TO JOBS AS METALAIR SWITCHES PRODUCTION PLANT

Metalair Ltd., Engineers, Fishponds Road, Wokingham, are about to cease manufacture at Wokingham, although certain other activities will be continued by them from there. In July the company denied rumours that they were to close the factory and a spokesman said, "As a group we are rationalising our manufacturing, but plans for this have not yet been finalised."

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Mr. Woolhead admitted that there would be some redundancies but could not state at this stage how many workers would be involved or when this would occur. It is understood that not many will be absorbed under the new arrangements.

Thur 15th Oct

A NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR OLD PEOPLE

The residents of Palmer Court, the old people's flats, have been given a new lease of life said the Deputy-Mayor of Wokingham, Mrs. Jean Davy, at the official opening of the council's £90,000 project last week by the Mayor of Wokingham, Cllr. John West.

Palmer Court is 29 flats of single and double units with two specially equipped for physically handicapped people. The old age pensioner residents, all from the Wokingham area, moved into their fully-furnished homes seven weeks ago. The flats have been designed to provide freedom and privacy, but there are bells in every flat

connected to the warden's room if they need him. The occupants were encouraged to put to full use the court's amenities, which include a TV room, a laundry and a lounge.

Among the guests at the opening of the building were the Marquess of Ormonde, aldermen, councillors and officials of the borough council, and representatives from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, local welfare services, and local organisations.

Thur, 5th Nov

FIRE STATION TO OPEN AS WADE SHOP

The old Fire Station at Wokingham Town Hall is to open as a shop to boost Day Centre Fund of the Wokingham and District Association for the Elderly. Opening date has been fixed for November 20, but next week sees the start of stocking up.

The shop will be open to receive bric-a-brac, toys, babies and children's clothing, good clothes, furniture, china—and practically anything, including dairy produce, flowers, cakes, that will show a profit.

Times of opening next week are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10am to 12; 2pm to 4; and 6 to 8.

ROMAN CHURCH OF THE SEVENTIES

Wokingham's new Roman Catholic Church built at a cost of £70,000, is to be opened by the Bishop of Portsmouth, the Rt. Rev. Derek Warlock, at a special service on November 14. The church is situated in Sturges Road next to the Presbytery. On the same site is St. Theresa's School and the Presentation Convent.

The need for a new church was brought on by the expansion of Wokingham over the last few years and the relative increase in the number of Catholic parishioners. There was only room for a congregation of 150 in the old church in Shute End, but the new one will be able to seat upwards of 340. The new church will take over the name of Corpus Christi from the old one.

The old one will then cease to be used as a church. It may be demolished. It was built nearly 60 years ago and was the first Roman Catholic church for the parishes of Crowthorne and Twyford. The parish itself was only founded in 1901.

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The new church has been paid for by money raised from the parish and a bequest made by the last generation of the Gale family who lived in Wokingham and Bracknell. The older locals may remember the Gale dairy which served the local community. The design is contemporary and has a number of pleasing features. On the first approach the frontage on to Sturges Road strikes one a rather slab-like and unimaginative. In fact at the moment there is nothing to differentiate it from a block of flats, but once inside its more appealing aspects become immediately clear.

The church is off-square, meaning it is wider than it is long and this perhaps is its most redeeming asset. With the centre of attention being the altar, set as it were half way along the church, the congregation are much closer which makes for greater participation in the liturgy. This is a great improvement on the traditional shape of churches where a large chunk of the congregation can hear very little and see even less. The architect seems to have achieved his aim of making a large area as intimate as possible. The interior is well lit and all the modern facilities such as central heating have been included.

The church is fully fitted out and ready for the opening. The floor is still to be tiled and the Portland stone altar set up. The font and tabernacle will come from the old church. The Station of the Cross were carved by David Johns of Woodley.

Thur 19th Nov

BISHOP CONSECRATES WOKINGHAM

After nearly sixty years in Shute End Corpus Christie Church has closed its doors there and opened in ultra-modern style in Sturges Road, Wokingham. The Roman Catholic church was too small and inadequate for a growing congregation and so nearly two years ago a site was chosen to build a brand new and much larger R.C. for the community. About £70,000 was raised mainly through donations and legacies particularly from the Gale family of Bracknell who were converts during the last century.

Last Saturday there was a service of dedication at the new church and more than 500 people came to celebrate mass and hear the Bishop of Portsmouth, the Rt. Rev. D Worlock, consecrate the church.

Thur, 26th Nov

MAYOR OF WOKINGHAM TOLD TO MOVE ON.

The Mayor of Wokingham, Cllr. John West, was told to move on by film unit men when he stopped in the Market Place during his Sunday morning stroll to look through the awning of a market stall wondering why it had a display of fruit on a Sunday morning. "I walked away, but became rather angry the more I thought about it, and returned to find out if they were paying for the stall. I also wanted to know if they had permission. I finally returned after learning that attempts had also been made to move the Market Superintendent. When he informed the members of the film unit who he was they apologised and invited him to lunch on the following day. The unit had also brought their 'soup kitchen' and parked it in the passage-way to the red Lion. This did not please the owners of the pub and they had it removed. There was another incident at Wokingham Railway Station on Sunday night when a photographer was kicked by Mia Farrow, star of the film, "Buff," the location scenes of which were shot in Wokingham and other parts of Berkshire.

According to Town Hall officials the unit had permission to film in certain parts of the town but no streets were cordoned off. Double yellow lines were covered with tarpaulins as a Mercedes car was parked for most of Sunday morning beside the market for filming purposes. A temporary zebra crossing was rigged by rolling down a marked tarpaulin at the bottom of Station Road at the approach to the station which did not please some motorists. British Rail had given permission for the unit to film but the station wasn't cordoned off and passengers were able to enter and leave while filming was in progress.

Thur 3rd Dec

ALD. CHAPMAN MOVING TO DEVONSHIRE

Ald. John Chapman who was Mayor of Wokingham in 1964 and 1965, and his wife, Rose, are leaving Wokingham soon for a small house at Ottery St. Mary in Devon. The Chapman moved to Wokingham 16 years ago from Cheshire. Although they are both Londoners, Mr. Chapman's 30-year stint as a civil servant in the Stationery Office necessitated moving around the country quite a bit.

Public work

Mr. Chapman, who is 66, has served on the council for the past 15 years. During that period he has been involved in every committee. He is at present chairman of the Organisations and Establishments Committee.

Since he retired from the Civil Service in 1964, he has devoted himself entirely to public work, taking a particular interest in local government reorganisation. As a founder of Wokingham Literary Society, a former chairman of Wokingham Players, an official visitor to Dr. Barnardo's and Governor of St. Crispin's School, Mr. Chapman's 16 years in Wokingham have been "full and interesting."

Mrs. Chapman has also been active. She started West Forest Townswomen's Guild and organised Cancer Campaign and Dr. Barnardo collections, as well as being a member of the W.R.V.S.

The Chapman's live at 43 Simons Lane, Wokingham.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF LIBRARY EXTENSION

A former missionary in Japan, Mr. F. Staniland, founder editor of the Wokingham, Bracknell and Ascot Times came to Wokingham and started the paper, then the Berkshire Gazette, in 1903. There was, he though, a lot to put right in Wokingham and thereabouts, but it was not until 1924 that he got round to the idea of a library in the town.

He failed to get the borough council interested so he turned his attention to the county council and managed to persuade it to open a branch of the county library service.

It started in one room and at the end of the first year made the substantial contribution to the ratepayers' funds of 3s. 4½d. in fines.

The first voluntary librarian was Miss M. Haswood who remained in the post until 1949. She was helped latterly by Mr. T S. C. Hawkins who took over as librarian-in-charge on her death.

There was a slight delay in opening the library because the then county librarian had broken his arm, but eventually 250 books in five boxes were despatched by carrier to the Town Hall and the library was opened on Friday, 5th September 1924.

Thur 10th Dec

THREAT OF BUILDING'S COLLAPSE LEADS TO TRAFFIC DIVERSION

Market Place, Wokingham was blocked on Tuesday after the authorities feared that the former Working Men's Club, a three storey Georgian building, was on the verge of collapse. The entry to Denmark Street from Peach and Broad Streets was barricaded resulting in a big traffic diversion which added to the usual evening rush hour congestion.

The working men's Club is being pulled down with the exception of the frontage which is scheduled for retention and it was discovered that a fractured had developed running the Market Place facade. Concrete was poured into the foundations to strengthen the very weak right end of the building. Yesterday afternoon the face of the

building was being shored up with timber baulks.

The site is to be used for shops and offices

Thur 24th Dec

HISTORY OF WOKINGHAM LIBRARY

In 1924, Mr. Staniland, founder of the Berkshire Gazette in 1903, persuaded the County Council to open a branch of the county library in one room. The first volunteer librarian was Miss M. Haswood who remained in the post until 1949. She was helped, latterly, by Mr. T. S. C. Hawkins, who took over as librarian-in-charge, upon her death. There was a slight delay in opening the library because the then County Librarian had broken his arm but eventually 250 books in five boxes were despatched by carrier to Wokingham. In 1925 a regular exchange of books commenced. By 1928 there were 934 registered readers and 566 books were being exchanged for the county library at a time.

A search continued for larger premises but many of the sites that were earmarked were sold or let to other bodies. In 1951 rooms became vacant at Montague House and on May 1st the library vacated the town hall and moved to Montague House occupying what had formerly been the scullery, dining room and study. The library was open for ten hours per week and the first paid librarian was Miss C. Sale. After a year in the new premises 92,131 books were issued and there were 4,544 registered readers. Today the branch issues 313,000 books and has 14,400 registered readers. It is open in the extended premises 51 hours per week.

Situated at the rear of the library in Montague House the new extension completes the complex of county council educational and recreational buildings in Broad Street. Inclusive of the of the existing library premises the scheme has cost £13,500.

Access to the building continues to be through Montague House, and there are new doors and panelling in the entrance. The layout of the original premises has been altered, and one of the small rooms has been turned into a workroom and office. The remainder of the original library now houses the children's section. All other books have been moved into the extension.

Apart from the increased shelf space the public have room to move around. A quiet area for reading has been provided, as well as a new staff cloakroom.

Tribute to the work done under very hard conditions by branch librarian Miss C. M. Steer and her staff was paid by Dr. R. Child, chairman of the library committee and Wokingham Library advisory committee, who presided. He said the service which she and her staff had given was beyond all praise.

Dr. Child recalled that when he first joined the county council the annual report of the library committee included a report which said the premises at Wokingham were too small. For many years the proposed extension was cut out of the estimates, but now at last they had got it, and it was a very great pleasure to him, as chairman of the library committee, and of the Wokingham library advisory committee.

Thur 31st Dec

DEATH OF MR. BUZZACOTT

Mr. James Buzzacott who, over the years, quietly contributed to a number of local charities, died this week aged 95. Mr. Buzzacott came to Wokingham soon after the war and bought Frog Hall, the adjoining cottage and the surrounding land off the London Road.

He lived in the cottage and leased the house which he renamed Buzzacott Hall, to the Salvation Army. When the lease terminated the building became derelict and was bought by a building company. Some of the land was used to build Buckhurst Drive.

Mr. Buzzacott continued to live in the cottage. He was a regular attender at the Baptist Church, and then the Methodist Church, and gave a substantial sum towards the rebuilding of the organ at the Baptist Church. He also contributed to Wokingham hospital.

The following articles have been taken from the Wokingham Times for 1971 only and the Reading Mercury 1972 to 1976.

1971

Thur 7th Jan

WOKINGHAM CLUB BUILDING TO BE DEMOLISHED

It was decided on the 1st January that the building of the former Wokingham Club is to be demolished owing to its dangerous condition. It was of the late regency and early Victorian period.

BLACKSMITH'S SHOP TO HAVE A NEW FUTURE

The results of a structural survey of the blacksmith's shop in Peach Street will be submitted at a meeting at Wokingham Public Works Committee tonight. The committee is looking into uses for the premises which it is understood are to be preserved.

In his report Mr. H.G. Bathurst, the borough engineer and surveyor, says the ridge tiles of the roof are defective in several places and tiling battens appear to have been split or deflected at several points particularly near the double doors on the north side. Tiles are also missing in several places. A number of roof timbers are suffering from wood beetle and there is some breakdown of the surface timbers possibly due to chemical or smoke action over the years.

Apart from the peculiar bonding arrangement in places the walls are solid and show very little evidence of face erosion. Some of the window lights are made up of varied size panes and in some cases lack proper support beading but otherwise are substantial. The large double doors on the north side need urgent attention. It is evident that either no proper lintel was initially provided or the lintel has failed at some time. The resultant sag of the roof wallplate has trapped one leaf of the double doors as a support and has caused the roof to assume a dish shape at this point which has probably deformed the tiling batons and moved the rafters slightly. The existing floor is virtually natural ground with loose boarding laid over one small area.

The estimated cost of essential work to bring the building into a reasonable state of repair is £200. Other works which it is suggested might be carried out include the provision of a concrete floor with damp proof membrane, a damp proof course to the external walls replacement of some of the windows and the thorough cleaning out and repainting of the inside of the building. The estimated cost of these works is £300

Thur Jan 14th

MOTHER OF CLLR. CHILD DIES

Mrs. Mabel Child, mother of Cllr. N. Child died in a nursing home at Hindhead. Mrs Child, a great grandmother and widow of Ernest Child who was well-known in

Wokingham bowling circles, formerly lived at Handpost Corner, Wokingham, where she and her husband ran a general store which they founded in the 1930s. Mr. Child died in 1950. Mrs Child, who was 94 was a former member of St. Sebastian's Church and St. Sebastian's Women's Institute.

Thur 28th Jan

COIN OPERATED PETROL PUMPS NOT ALLOWED IN WOKINGHAM

No coin-in-the-slot petrol facilities for motorists are to be available in Wokingham, following a ruling of the Public Health Committee

The committee is responsible for licensing of premises where petrol is sold, and it was reported that discussions had taken place with an applicant for a petroleum licence who proposed to introduce a coin-operated petrol filling station in the borough.

"A completely automated station could give rise to problems of safety for the general public," says a report to be submitted to tonight's Borough Council meeting.

It was decided that licences should be issued only for petrol-filling stations where an attendant is on duty at all times.

Thur 4th Feb

HEADMASTER GRAVES HAD A WONDERFUL WAY WITH HIM

John Graves, brother of celebrated poet Robert, and novelist Charles, is to retire from the headmastership of Holme Grange Preparatory School, Wokingham, which he bought twenty years ago. But the school will go on, and Mr. Graves will remain on the Board of Governors

"For the school is now very much part of the Wokingham scene," he told me this week.

"When I took over Holme Grange in 1951, we had 20 boarders and 32 day boys. Now there are 104 pupils and our absolute limit is 120.

Mr. Graves fell in love with the beautiful country home which houses his school. "I was very much attracted by the fine proportions of the building, with its lofty ceilings, beautiful oak panelling and doors, and pleasant surroundings," he said. The house was built in 1883 by the celebrated 19th century architect Norman Shaw and the building has been highly praised by people like Sir Nikolaus Pevsner.

Typical of Norman Shaw's work is the school's distinctive chimney piece which dominates the house and is a distinctive feature. The school was started in 1945 by Mr. James Gordon-Walker, with a nucleus of boys from Eaton House, a well-known London day school that had been evacuated to Shurlock Row early in the Second World War.

Said Mr. Graves: "Our start was inauspicious but from 1953 the school grew steadily attracting day boys as far as Henley and Virginia Water. The numbers of boarders also increased. Many of them, especially the sons of R.A.F. and Army officers, began as day boys and came in to board later. New changing rooms, boot rooms, Class-rooms and a science laboratory were added, with accommodation for the headmaster and teaching staff. The playing fields were also enlarged and improved and grass tennis courts were laid down.

Decision

"In 1966, with my own retirement in sight, and the future of independent education still in the balance, I had to determine whether Holme Grange had a future and, if so, how best this could be secured. After much heart-searching, I decided that the school was fulfilling a useful purpose and could best survive as an educational trust, whose

profits would be used for the benefit of the school. The trust came into being in 1967, with a strong board of trustees and governors, whose numbers have been increased when it seemed desirable.

The next step was to bring the accommodation and equipment fully up to date. In 1968 an appeal for funds addressed to past and present parents met with a generous response. A fine new block of three classrooms has been erected and central heating installed throughout the main building as well as the most modern fire precautions. The science laboratory has been re-equipped and a new reference library added. This serves also as an extension to the existing dining hall making it possible for the whole school to dine together.

Holme Grange is certainly flourishing with a constant flow of pupils to public schools.

It sits in 21 acres of grounds including three playing fields and a lake as well as a large variety of trees and shrubs. The aim of the school is to provide the atmosphere of a happy and active country home with the discipline of school life.

Traditionalist

Mr. Graves is traditionalist when it comes to discipline. But there is no corporal punishment at Holme Grange. Neither is there any namby-pamby approach. The ebullient Mr. Graves needs no artificial aids when it comes to discipline. This kindly man insists on respect at all levels, and gets it. A few well chosen words can make the most recalcitrant boy visibly wilt. But the “Mr. Chips” image is also there, for this Oxford graduate and former chief assistant to the Editor of the Times Literary Supplement has spent all his life in education in one way or another. He loves it and is a thoroughly dedicated schoolmaster.

He is 67 and can fairly be said to be of the “old school.” He has little patience for “comprehensive anything” anything

Fixed Ideas

He has fixed ideas about how children should be taught because it works. Mr. Graves is always on the move throughout his school and keeps his fingers on everything. He even admits that his sophisticated and expensive central heating plant which has an engine room” like a destroyer, and cost thousands, is one of his pet hobbies.

He has no plans for his retirement, or if he as he didn’t want to talk about them. He will have more time for his wife and family. His wife teaches music at the school and his son is also a master. He has two other sons and a daughter.

Thur 1st April

TOWN HALL CLOCK

The clock was an afterthought of the builders of the town hall. The clock was built in 1866 by Tucker of London and is a quarter ting-tang turret clock. There are three bells the largest of which sounds out the hours and the other two strike the quarters. Two of the pendulums have to make a detour in the roof with the aid of a network of pulleys. There is a plaque stating that the clock was restored, new dials added and automatic illumination installed by Cllr. George Thorne Phillips, Mayor of Wokingham in 1894 and 1896.

The Town Hall clock winder in the 1970s was Percy Nash, Jeweller, Market Place who winds the clock up every week. He has looked after the clock since 1957 when it was last cleaned.

Thur 22nd April

LORD ORMONDE, HIGH STEWARD

Lord Ormonde has died in a Reading Nursing home. He died last Saturday a week before his 78th birthday. He is survived by two daughters: Lady Martha Ponsonby, who had four children and lives at Woodstock and Lady Jane Heaton who has one son and lives in the South of France.

The Ormonde family seat is in Kilkenny where his ashes will be buried. The funeral was held on April 22nd at All Saints. His cousin is Mr. Charles Butler who will succeed the title.

WOKINGHAM LAUNDRY

After having been in business since 1907 the premises of Wokingham Laundry Co. Ltd. in Station Road are to close down tomorrow and the work transferred to Reading. Hobbs West Reading Linen Service. The site is being disposed of for residential purposes." I was told by Mr. H.W. Waugh, general manager, who recalled that some 15 months ago the Wokingham concern was acquired by Maidenhead District Laundry Co. Ltd. who operate several laundries in the area.

"After April 23rd we shall no longer be processing any work here," he said. "The whole of it will be transferred to Hobbs West Reading Linen Service, 38 Wilton Road, Reading." He emphasised that it was not a closure, but a concentration of activities of the big plant at West Reading which is probably the most up-to-date in the country.

In addition to acquiring the Wokingham one, Maidenhead District Laundry Co. Ltd, bought their other company, West Reading Laundry and Hobbs Laundry, Reading and amalgamated them.

Thur 29th April

THE OLD SMITHY

The Old Smithy in Wokingham fell into disuse about four years ago and two years later the last farrier who practised there, Fred Painter, died in his eighties. Until his death, Mr. Painter would still come up to his premises and keep a watchful eye while chatting to friends in the garage next door.

His former partner, Mr. Harry Berry, had died way back in 1943. Under the partnership of Berry and Painter the smithy flourished. It was the very the early day of the motor car and in this rural area, the horse was the common mode of transport, whether it be horse-drawn vehicle or by horse alone. The local hunt met regularly and many children owned ponies. There was work in plenty for the farrier.

The history of this smithy, one of three in the town (the others were in Station Road and Peach Street) is a little hazy. According to the Wokingham Society the building is definitely Victorian. It is also believed that the premises were originally owned by a veterinary surgeon before he sold out to Berry and Painter.

The smithy had a regular clientele as well as the casual customer who would pop in for a quick shoeing as one would now for a petrol fill-up. Berry and Painter kept a good stock of ready-made shoes for clients such as the Garth Hunt and, as well as being farriers, or catering, as they put it "for practical shoeing," they were general smiths. This included making utility products like hinges for barn door or hooks for hanging kitchen utensils. Berry and Painter also undertook "Memorial work of every description in marble, granite and stone designs.

Now the smithy lies dormant, its future undecided. Inside are all the tools of the former trade, anvils, hammers, bellows, immediately recognizable but now rusting.

The Borough has received 11 offers for the premises including at least one to return the smithy to its former use and another from Reading University for all the tools. The

town and the environment may have changed in the sixty or so years since Berry and Painter first let off steam but the actual character of the smithy has hardly changed one bit.

Thur 20th May

THE ROSE INN BLAZE

The blaze at the Rose Inn, Wokingham, would not have been so disastrous if the town had a full-time brigade with better equipment, it was claimed this week. The damage to the 15th century inn is estimated at £100,000. Wokingham's Chamber of Trade has now called for a full-time fire brigade.

The secretary of the Chamber of Trade said that with Wokingham's population soaring to 50,000 and with the large number of old buildings in the area, there was hardly a town with more fire risks. The fire was reported at 3.30 am on Thursday and it was about 3.45 am before the turntable ladder came. It would seem quite possible that if the turntable ladder had arrived earlier the fire could have been controlled and stopped from spreading to the building next door.

Thur 3rd June

WOKINGHAM'S DERELICT BOWLING GREEN

A Wokingham bowling green has become "derelict and useless" an alderman said this week. So now the borough council's Parks Committee has decided to open it for more general Recreation. The council had been asked by a playgroup at the Salvation Army Hall if the children could use Howard Palmer Bowling Green during break periods, and the committee heard it was being used "unofficially" by other children during the day.

Mr. Richard Gwynne, the deputy borough surveyor said no harm could come to the actual bowling area as it would have to be re-laid before it could be used for bowling again. The drainage enclosing the green would have to be protected, but otherwise he could see no objection

Said Coun. John Tattersall: "I would be delighted for the playgroup or any other group to use it. It was donated to the town for the town's use. For God's sake, let us use it. It has been literally year since we began talking about what we were going to do with this piece of land." Added Coun. John West: "It is exactly the same as Langborough Recreation Ground—as far as I can see it is just an extension. We have inherited it and we have got to make use of it."

Thur 29th July

SKEW BRIDGE

Last week saw the end of the work on Skew Bridge, Reading Road. For the first time for nearly four years we now have a clear run without Bailey Bridges, lights, and bumps enough to crack your chassis. It has been a long time coming, this widened and strengthened bridge. In February 1968, British Rail and Berkshire County Council agreed to provide the two Bailey Bridges to carry road traffic during the reconstruction period but it wasn't until May of that year they were put in position. Then, according to the borough council, the whole job was expected to be completed early in 1969.

Before all this, of course the old Skew Bridge had lasted a long time and seen a lot of traffic change.]

Thur 5th Aug

ALMSHOUSES

A block of cottages has been demolished by the Charity Commissioners at the junction of Peach and Cross Streets. The borough says that it is all part of the proposed re-development for the area. A spokesman for the council says that the vision of lorry drivers turning into Cross Street will be greatly improved.

Thur 26th August

NEW LOOK FOR HOLME GRANGE

David Langton, (32) has just taken on the invidious task of succeeding to Mr. John Graves who, for 30 years was supreme of the school set in 31 acres of fields and forest behind Easthampstead Road. He has two sons, aged two and four. Educated at Abingdon and Goldsmith's College, London University, he has taught for eleven years in prep schools, most recently as a housemaster at Bedford Lower School. Lesley, his wife, is also a qualified teacher.

When Mr. Graves took over the school in 1951 there were 20 boarders and 32 day boys. In the coming term there are to be 53 boarders and 52 day boys paying £75 a term each for tuition. He is hoping to increase the number of day boys.

What does the school have to offer? Acres of land, of course, including three playing fields and a lake, an extended dining hall, a reference library, and eight teachers for 102 pupils which gives about twelve boys to each class.

Thur 16th Sept

THE NIGHT OLD HAVELOCKER WAS CAUGHT IN A RAT TRAP

Reading about Wokingham's so-called out-dated railway station reminds me of my school days when the level crossing gates were hand-operated and when horse-drawn carts, milk floats, brewers' drays and council tip-carts were the main traffic delayed.

During the dark winter evenings a favourite after-school game was "Dicky Dyke." Two boys would go out with a lighted candle in a jam jar or an old policeman's bullseye lantern to be chased by a happy band of followers. Usually the two boys had a ten-minute start, and often if the chase went on or there was a downpour of rain, the Dykers (the boys with the candles) would hide under a tarpaulin-covered wagon in the railway yard. There they would keep fry and warm while the chasers were soaked to the skin.

One dark and wet evening I remember I and the other Dyker thought Minchin's corn and hay store was warm and inviting, so we went in to hide just on top of the trusses of hay under the rounded roof.

I turned three somersaults in my haste to get out and landed with my backside caught in the powerful jaws of a rat trap secured by cord. I broke the cord to get free but with the rat trap firmly fastened to my backside, I ran across the Laundry Meadows and down the school playground. There I was freed from the jaws of the rat trap though a major part of my short trousers was torn away.

I never did return to Minchin's hay loft, for fear of another trap.

Thur 30th Sept

TOWN CLERK SAYS FAREWELL

Leonard Goddard Smalley has been Wokingham's town clerk for 25 years. Today (Thursday) he leaves his desk in the borough council's Wellington Road office for the last time. Because today Mr. Goddard Smalley retires after a lifetime in local

government and a substantial part of it in Wokingham. His house is in Wokingham and he does not plan to move.

WOKINGHAM'S NEW DEPUTY-TOWN CLERK

A new figure was hard at work in the Wokingham Borough Council offices last week. Mr. John Barnes, aged 41, will replace Mr. Nigel Butler, the present deputy, when he takes over as Town Clerk.

He has come to Wokingham after more than ten years' experience as Deputy Clerk at Alton Urban District Council in Hampshire, but his work in local government has taken him all over the country.

A Yorkshireman born and bred, Mr. Barnes started his career in his home town of Halifax straight after leaving school. Except for a two-year break for National Service he has worked in local government ever since. A married man with three young sons, Mr. Barnes has moved into a house in Patten Ash Drive, Wokingham, provided by the council, but he hopes when he has settled in to find a house in the area he can buy.

"I came here because I thought the future looked brighter in Wokingham than in Alton. Local government reorganisation there would have meant the amalgamation of four authorities, whereas here it looks as if it will mean only the amalgamation of the rural council with the borough.

Mr. Barnes will be taking over the servicing of some of the council committees from Mr. Butler, but at the moment he is not sure which they will be,

Thur 7th Oct

SILVER TEA SERVICE FOR TOWN CLERK

The Mayor of Wokingham, Dr. Reginald Child, presented Mr. L. Goddard Smalley with a silver tea service to mark the retirement last Thursday after 25 years as Wokingham Town Clerk.

Following the retirement of the Town Clerk, his secretary, Miss Eileen Little, has decided to retire after 22 years' service. Miss Little, who lives in Oxford Road, Wokingham, will retire from her full-time job at the end of the month. But she will stay with the council part-time as the Mayor's secretary.

Appointed to take over from Miss Little as Town Clerk's secretary is Mrs. Hazel Brooker.

Thur 11th Nov

The mayor's chain dated back to 1890 and the badge is five years older. They were renovated at a jeweller's at a cost of £313. The wreath on the badge had become badly worn and the jeweller recommended that the wreath be re-cut completely.

Thur 25th Nov

Lee's Bakery is moving from Denmark to Peach Street and into the restaurant business in a big way. The whole of the ground floor of former White's Furniture Store will be an open plan shop and bakery. The upper floor will house the Oakingham Restaurant, the front half of which will be self-service, continental-style café and the rear half a fully-furnished restaurant aimed at the business man's lunch trade and special functions. Mr. W.T.C. Bailey is a joint partner of Don Lee, son of the founder.

Thur 2nd Dec

The horses used to pull the fire engines, thanks to the efforts of the Marquis of Downshire were the famous Tilling horses. Always grey these horses came from stables which supplied the London Fire Brigade.

End of Wokingham Times microfilms. From now until April 1981 news will be provided by the Berkshire Mercury, successor to the Reading Mercury.

1972

The Reading Mercury became the Berkshire Mercury which was published every Thursday. The following articles are from the Berkshire Mercury:--

Thur 13th Jan

COFFEE MORNING FOR OLD FOLK AT WOKINGHAM

Wokingham Activity Group are running coffee mornings at the Wokingham Centre on Tuesdays. The group, the adult body associated with the centre say that anybody is welcome to drop in, but they are running the service primarily for the benefit of old people.

“We are working on a rota system with all the members taking their turn,” Said Mrs. G. Hales-Owen, secretary, “W.A.D.E. approached us to see if we could do this and we are pleased to be able to help. So that the coffee mornings will be generally known I have written to the old age pensioners’ clubs and there is a small advertisement displayed at the WADE gift shop in the Market Place.”

So that the coffee mornings will be generally known the old age pensioners’ clubs have been contacted and there is a small advertisement in the WADE gift shop in the Market Place.

From time to time Wokingham Activity Group arranges afternoon tea for old folk. The Group’s own activities include an address by a visiting speaker once a month, a keep fit programme and beetle drives. Members can enjoy all the facilities of the youth centre including table tennis and volley ball.

One member, a florist gives flower arrangement demonstrations. Another, a hairdresser, does shampoos and “sets”. A percentage of the charges goes to club funds.

Thur 27th Jan

WOKINGHAM WALK MAKES OVER £3,000

A little charity goes a long way....and just to prove it a large body of walkers raised over £3,000 in the highly successful sponsored Wokingham Walk held on Sunday. Young school children, old age pensioners and a contingent of Army apprentices from Arborfield were among a troop of 600 walkers who set out from Wokingham Youth Centre, all with the aim of completing the walk.

They were given a carnival-like send-off and this must have boosted spirits, for the majority of the entrants finished the course. Three of the walkers raised over £100 each. The highest total was achieved by 13-year-old Stuart Huckings, a pupil at the Forest School, who is due to collect £126.25—just 15p more than Mrs. Barbara Eamer, a traffic warden, who had the highest individual total last year. Andrew Gilbert, a 14-year-old schoolboy, also excelled himself by raising £100.40.

Many other individual efforts were equally notable but in different ways. A great many 11-year-olds managed to stick it out and so did the old age pensioners,

including the 72-year-old Mr. Arthur Belcher, who finished the curse with the best of them.

The walk, which followed the quiet lanes and footpaths in and around Wokingham, is in aid of the Wokingham day centre for the elderly. This sum of at least £3,000 will bring the present savings toward the scheme to £43,000 plus. (This includes a grant of £30,000).

The chairman of the Wokingham and District Association for the Elderly, which organised the event remarked that this was a marvellous achievement.

Thur 3rd Feb

WOKINGHAM'S BLUE POOL ROW RUMBLES ON

A woman resident was ejected from the meeting of Wokingham Town Council on Thursday last week after members started to discuss the controversial Blue Pool issue. Order had to be called by the Mayor of Wokingham, Cllr. Dr. R. Child, who threatened, "I shall suspend the meeting if there is much more of this. The residents know that this Council has their interests as much at heart as they do."

On leaving the Town Hall the woman shouted across the room, "It's about time that some of you people got down there and saw what was happening. We have taken enough talk as we can stand." Pleas for order were lost in the subsequent burst of applause by over fifty residents who attended the meeting.

There were three separate discussions on the Blue Pool during the evening. The matter was first raised by Cllr. R.B. Naish who referred to the nuisance of mud in the Blagrove Lane area caused by vehicles travelling to and fro from the Blue Pool. "This has been going on for now for close on two years. I think it's about time we stopped playing games and had a little action to get rid of this mud."

Cllr. Mrs. M. Fergusson Kelly said that the mud was also a traffic hazard. "There has been an accident in that lane. It is very difficult to brake on that road."

In a report of the Public Works Committee it was stated that the police had received complaints over the mud and proposed to take action under the Highways Act, 1959. However the Committee have decided to follow up a suggestion that a more satisfactory way of dealing with the problem was by way of a special by-law. Cllr. Naish later raised the subject of the Blue Pool under the Public Health Committee minutes. He said that the smell was worse than ever. "I can assure you that Finchampstead Road people have complained of this smell and if action has not yet been taken to stop this I think it must be taken at once."

The chairman of the Public Health Committee, Cllr. John West, said that everything was being done that could be done. "The Public Health inspector has told me that there is still a smell there but at the present moment there has been some improvement. He has the whole matter under a very careful and watchful eye. If he is not satisfied and further action needs to be taken he will not be afraid to do it."

The question whether to serve an enforcement or a stop notice on the owners and occupiers of the Blue Pool was brought up by Cllr. I. Watson. "I find no real evidence why we should not serve a stop notice. It seems to me sensible that a stop notice should be served with an enforcement notice the whole thing may go on for some while."

The Town Clerk, Mr. Nigel Butler, explained that a stop notice was only served in an obvious case of a breach of the planning law. "In this particular case there is not an obvious breach of the planning law. Where you have a disused clay pit, the problems associated with that cannot in fact be easily overcome by a stop notice. He advised

that an enforcement notice would be more effective in the long run and could save the Council costly legal complications.

The Council decided that a carefully drafted enforcement notice should be served upon the owners and occupiers of the Blue Pool forthwith.

PARK PLANNED AT WOKINGHAM

Plans for a children's boating/ paddling pool and a small recreation park in the centre of Wokingham were heard at the Wokingham Town Council meeting on Thursday last week. Members were told that the Borough Engineer and Surveyor were preparing a scheme to convert the Howard Palmer Bowling Green into a small park and recreational area.

The land had been given to the Council by Deed of Gift in 1968 in order to perpetuate the memory of the late Howard Palmer.

DEATH OF ALD. N. LAWRENCE

Wokingham has lost an outstanding personality and former Mayor through the death at his home in Reading Road, Wokingham, on Sunday of Ald. Norman Lawrence. He was eighty.

Ald. Lawrence, who leaves a widow, worked in the postal service at Wokingham for 44 years before retiring and devoting himself more assiduously to local affairs. He had the distinction of becoming Wokingham's first Labour Mayor in 1946 and had been on the Council continuously since November 1937 when he succeeded in securing a seat at his first attempt.

In February 1948 he was elected an alderman. For 13 years he was Chairman of the Housing Committee, and until last year was Chairman of the Finance Committee. The funeral takes place today (Thursday) at St. Paul's Church. Wokingham.

Thur 9th March

WOKINGHAM'S HISTORY ON DISPLAY

The Wokingham Society's Exhibition, "Wokingham from 1800 to the present day," was opened at the Town Hall on Thursday by the Mayor, Dr. Reginald Child. The Mayor congratulated Mr. Anthony Cross, Chairman of the Society, the Secretary, Mrs. J. Caldwell, and all the representatives of churches and organisations who prepared the stands on the excellent result of their hard work, and pointed out to the assembled crowd some aspects of the stands such as the "Royal Table," part of the Borough Council's exhibit showing the Queen's and Prince Phillip's signatures in the Visitors' Book which they signed in 1962. Press reports and pictures of Queen Victoria's visit in 1845.

He quoted from a guide book of 1913 which mentioned Wokingham stating that it was "a quiet self-centred country residential town," and pictures on the stands around the room bear this out. Tree-lined dirt roads, attractive houses with here and there a few people with time to spare sitting or standing in the sunshine.

Modern Ideas

Still quoting the Mayor said: "Let no one think of Wokingham as a place asleep. It is governed by a Mayor and Corporation, who, while, they have succeeded in maintaining its aspect as that of an old Berkshire borough have yet contrived to keep it abreast of modern ideas." He hoped the present Mayor and Corporation were doing just that.

The Mace Bearer was kept very busy answering numerous questions by the children on the history of the Borough Council exhibits. They were particularly interested in

the mace and mayoral robes, the splendid regalia and silver. Also on the Borough Council stand and causing considerable surprise was a Nazi flag that had been presented to the Mayor by the captain of H.M.S. Garth, Wokingham's adopted ship.

Thur 27th April

WOOSEHILL LAND FOR DEVELOPMENT

Fairview Estates Ltd. have bought 25.40 acres of land at Woosehill, Wokingham, for residential development. The price paid has not been disclosed. The land forms part of a complex totalling 325 acres which was originally put together by the Land Commission, which instigated its release for housing development and carried out negotiations with the owners. When the Land Commission was wound up the task of getting the development under way was taken over by Berkshire County Council.

Woosehill is recommended for housing development in "Central Berkshire: A Programme for Residential Development," a consultative document published by the County Council a year ago.

Says Mr. John Cousins, a director of Fairview Estates, who negotiated the deal, "By purchasing this site, we have acquired an access to the entire complex from the A329 road. We have thus taken the first steps towards the development of a large site in an area where there is a tremendous demand for homes. We are at present negotiating with the planning authority to resolve the various planning problems which still have to be ironed out, and hope to begin building in about 18 months' time."

Thur 18th May

TEMPORARY HOME IS PROMISED FOR WOKINGHAM CRAFT CENTRE

The Berkshire Craft Centre at Wokingham have been promised temporary accommodation when their headquarters, The Old Brewery, Denmark Street, are demolished. The promise came from the Mayor, Cllr. Dr. Reginald Goodchild, in his speech at the opening of the Centre's third annual exhibition at the Town Hall on Friday.

He mentioned the Council's plans for the re-development of Denmark Street, which include pulling down several existing buildings to make way for a multi-storey car park. "The Council are fully aware that the Craft Centre is an outstanding amenity of the town, and it is quite possible that alternative accommodation will be provided—not perhaps as spacious as that you already enjoy, but large enough to tide you over until a more permanent place can be found," he said.

He remarked on the excellence of the work on display, and with his wife spent a long time at each stand listening to the exhibitors, mainly amateurs, explaining the different processes involved in producing the different articles.

Miss I.C. Vaughen-Morgan, of Warren Lodge, Finchampstead, was demonstrating her skill at the spinning wheel. She was winding spool given her by a Swallowfield farmer which, when ready, would be knitted into pullovers.

Mrs. Peggy Hodges, of Wards Farm, Woodcote, was weaving, and Elizabeth Apps (12), of Luckley Road, Wokingham, with Karen Hewitt (13), of 12, Wylam, Bracknell, were busy lace-making. Both the girls were enjoying time off school to take part in the exhibition, and their exquisite work and deftness in handling the bobbins attracted a great deal of attention.

At the stand displaying the art of lapidary, Mrs. Jane Upton, an instructor, explained how even stones picked up on a beach at holiday time can be cut and polished and made into attractive ornaments and jewellery. Many of her more ambitious pupils at the Centre take up silversmithing and combine the two arts most effectively.

One of these is Mrs. Jenny Stewart, of 8, Ransdale Road, Bracknell, and the silver stand showed examples of her work. These included teaspoons with amethysts set in the handles and a delightful modern style necklace built from small finely shaped pieces of silver with a pendant of iron pyrites. Other exhibits on the stand included rings and initialled cuff-links, a lotus flower candle-holder by Philip Upton, cruet sets and rose vases.

The creative embroidery section attracted a great deal of comment and interest, and Mrs. G. Edwards, who teaches art at the Centre, was kept busy answering the many questions and explaining how the designs were first thought of and then built up to be made into wall panels, cushions, pictures, etc. Powdered glass enamelling is another skill that exponents find well worthwhile. The ashtrays, earrings and pictures made a colourful and attractive stand.

A pupil turned instructor had several items of basket work on view. Miss Gwen White of 50, Hatherley Road, Reading took up basketry as a hobby but now gives instruction in the art at further education classes in Reading. Tables, chairs, pictures and work-baskets of all kinds, all designed by herself, were on show, including her latest work, a tea-trolley with melamine trays.

Not all the Centre's work was displayed at the Town Hall. Visitors were invited to Centre to see members continuing their work. They saw a Persian rug being made by Mr. R.H. Hall, of Reading, who only started at the Centre in January. He is Warden of St. Stephen's Church, Reading. An ex-seagoing engineer, and was working on a loom built from wood from bombed-out houses in London.

The exhibition continued on Saturday with an added attraction of puppet shows given by Peter and Gwen Edwards, instructors of the Puppet Workshop which opened in 1971. They were assisted by some of the children who attend the classes. The children learn to use the marionettes and glove, rod and shadow puppets and the intricacies of making and clothing them.

Thur 1st June

WOKINGHAM CIRCUSES, PROVIDED

Circuses will be allowed to continue using the Wokingham Carnival Field—provided an R.S.P.C.A. Inspector can visit the site at any time. This was the new ruling decided upon by members of Wokingham's Martin's Pool and Parks Committee on Tuesday. They had been asked to consider a request from the Captive Animals Protection Society to refuse permission for circuses to visit the town on future occasions.

One member, Mrs. Y. Davis, felt that it would be a shame if the circuses stopped coming. Mrs. M. Fergusson Kelly, who admitted her dislike of circuses, said that although there was a statutory right for an R.S.P.C.A. inspector to visit a circus, it was only at the convenience of the circus owner. She asked that circuses should be allowed to come only if the owner agreed to a visit from the R.S.P.C.A. at any time. "I think this should show a lead to other councils," she added.

Thus 8th June

TRIBUTE TO DUKE OF WINDSOR AT WOKINGHAM CIVIC SERVICE

Wokingham Civic Service was held at All Saints' Church on Sunday. The Mayor of Wokingham, Cllr. Ian Crail, accompanied by his wife, the Mayoress; the Town Clerk, Mr. Nigel Butler, Alderman and Councillors, walked in procession from the Town Hall to the church for the service.

They were preceded by the Mace Bearer, Mr. H. Biddle, and two Honorary Constables, Mr. H. Dyer and Mr. C.R. Waller.

The flags on the Town Hall and the church were at half-mast and the Constables' staves and the Mace were all draped in black crepe in mourning for the Duke of Windsor. The Mayor's Chaplain, the Rev. Kenneth Martin, Rector of All Saints', conducted the service after which the procession formed again with St. Sebastian's Silver Band leading the Mayor, the Corporation and Member of Parliament, Mr. W. van Straubenzee.

Representatives from the Wokingham Branch of the Royal British Legion, the Red Cross, St. John Ambulance Brigade, Guides, Cubs and Scouts and Army Cadet Force followed. Their leaders were introduced to the Mayor outside the Town Hall where the parade ended.

ALL THE FUN OF THE CARNIVAL COMES TO WOKINGHAM

Wokingham's record-breaking carnival nearly got out of hand on Saturday. Police were called in twice during the afternoon and eight young people were arrested.

An unhappy series of events led to the first incident, which took place at the tug-of-war heat between a team from the town's Metropolitan Pub and one from Camberley. All was going well until the Metropolitan team were disqualified by the referee. A scuffle broke out in the crowd and the referee was forced to seek safety, Police were called out to restore order and no arrests were made. A spokesman from the metropolitan team claimed that the incident arose after the referee failed to give a satisfactory explanation for the disqualification.

The major conflict of the day occurred in nearby Denmark Street as the crowd started leaving the Carnival Field off Wellington Road. After receiving sever complaints, police arrived on the scene and a number people were taken by van to the police station. Eight people were later granted bail and face charges arising out of the incident.

Apart from this the Carnival was a success. More than £1,500 was raised—at least £500 more than last year's total. The money will go towards buying a new coach for the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

An estimated 8,000 turned up to enjoy this annual spectacle organised by the Wokingham Round Table. The special attraction of the day was the 40-dtrong pipe band of the 7th Gurkha Rifles who led the grand procession through Wokingham and later gave a memorable display in the Carnival Field. There was also music by the Maidenhead Sea Scouts, the St. Sebastian's Silver Band and the R.E.M.E. Apprentices from Arborfield.

The procession itself was full of the improbable, the inspired and the eccentric. There was Alice with her friends in Wonderland; a "Heath Robinson" style mowing machine; the world's largest Lardey cake; old time music hall and many other entertaining creations.

The judges must have had a hard time trying to decide the prize-winning floats. In the voluntary section they chose the Wokingham Society's ingenious "pollution menace," while Clifford Dairy's "Cleopatra in her bath" was the trade winner.

To keep all the family occupied during the afternoon there was an exciting programme of events with something for everyone. A hovercraft and vintage motorcycles were other attractions. There was a Donkey Derby and P.T. displays together with the usual fairground trappings.

Throughout the afternoon the Carnival Queen, Miss Caroline Williams and her attendants strolled round the Carnival Field helping, in their own way to make Carnival '72 an enjoyable occasion for all.

Thur 15th June

OUTSTANDING SAVINGS RECORD

Each street in Wokingham has its own National Savings Group, and according to Mr. Arthur Pindar, District Commissioner of the National Savings Movement, "Wokingham Borough is outstanding in the Southern Region in its response to the National Savings appeal. "Schools, societies and organisations are all strongly co-operative and willing to assist the movement in every way," he said.

He was talking at the National Savings stall in the Market Place, Wokingham, manned by the Wokingham Municipal Borough Home Savings Committee on Saturday morning, when the Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr. and Mrs. Ian Crail, with their small daughter, Nichola, paid them a visit.

The stall displayed posters and literature to publicise the June Community Month with an accent on voluntary work by the Home Savings Group collectors. With Mr. Pindar was Mr. Dennis Irvine who agreed to be "temporary" Chairman of the Wokingham Savings Committee 12 years ago and has remained Chairman ever since, and the Southern region Deputy Member Mrs. Louis Parnell.

Savings in the Southern region now total over £1¼ million each year.

Thur 6th July

SCOUTS' HECTIC WEEK-END

A week-end camp in the Carnival Field, Wellington Road, Wokingham was the climax to a fortnight's celebrating by the Wokingham and District Scouts, in honour of 50 years of Scouting in Wokingham. The Mayor of Wokingham, Cllr. Ian Crail, accompanied by District Commissioner (Scouts) Stanley Batchelor and District Commissioner South East Berks, Skip Newton, with other Guide and Scouts Commissioners opened the event.

Cub Scouts from nine packs contested a 'Knock-out' competition involving several Contests on boards stretched over the swimming pool.

Winners of the 7-legged race were 1st Wokingham (All Saints) second, and 1st Winnersh, the newest Cub Pack in the District, third.

The Mayor presented prizes to the successful Cubs before the Scouts and Guides competed in a tent pitching competition. The traditional sing-song round the camp fire rounded off the first day.

Sunday began with a quiet half hour as the Scouts and Scouters held their own service in the centre of the field. Then it was the Scouts turn to show their paces and events to test their skill and endurance were soon under way. Seventy competitors took part in the assault course and Scouter Derek Oxborough, 3rd Wokingham Troop who planned the course, showed how it should be done and finished it in a record time of 1 min. 44 seconds.

The winners of the event were—under 13s, 1, S. Bruce. 1st Emmbrook; 2, R. Todd. St. Paul's; 3, R. Williams. 2nd Crowthorne.

Over 13s. 1, M. Day. 3rd Wokingham; 2, M. Leysham, 3rd Wokingham and P. Davies, 1st Emmbrook; 4, A. Blue, St. Paul's.

Football with a difference was played by Scouts versus Guides on Sunday afternoon. Ten teams took part and the final match between 3rd Wokingham Scouts and 1st Emmbrook Guides resulted in a win for the boys with a score of 2—0.

In a first-aid competition judged by Mr. and Mrs. Alan Newport and Mr. B. Sturge of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, Wokingham Division, the winners were 4th Wokingham Guides and 1st Embrook Scouts 'B' team.

The trophy for the overall winners was presented to 1st Emmbrook Scouts and Guides formed a circle round the flag as the camp came to an end.

Thur 27th July

WORK STARTS ON WOKINGHAM'S NEW STATION

Work is to start next month on rebuilding Wokingham station. The new station will be built on the site of the present one on the town side of the line. Once the existing buildings have been demolished a temporary ticket office and toilets will be provided until the building is complete.

The new station will have a modern ticket office, heated waiting area, toilets and a cycle store, and a new footbridge will link the two platforms. The existing footbridge over the level crossing will remain in public use for the time being.

A modern industrial building system, designed to reduce site work to the minimum, will be used for the new station. The work at Wokingham is due to be completed by next spring.

Thur 3rd August

WOKINGHAM R.D.C. CHANGE PLANS FOR NEW WARDS

The new warding arrangements for the forthcoming "marriage" between the Wokingham Councils got an initial seal of consent on Tuesday with one alteration.

Wokingham Rural District Council decided at a special meeting that the proposals for warding arrangements as put forward by the Joint Committee should operate at the first election of the District Council. The new system—which has still to be finally approved by the Home office—has been slightly modified by slightly increasing the representation OF California Ward in Wokingham Without from one to two councillors.

The Clerk, Mr. C. Cockayne, told members that representations had been made concerning the original proposal to have only one councillor for California Ward. As 430 houses were scheduled to be built in the ward there would be sufficient electorate when the elections take place in June, 1973, to justify two councillors. Despite a move to get the alteration rejected, the Council overwhelmingly supported the revised scheme.

Under the future warding system, Wokingham Borough Council will have their present representation cut by over 50% to 11 members while the number of Rural District Council councillors will be reduced from 51 to 40. The scheme is due to be considered by Wokingham Town Council at their meeting tonight (Thursday).

Thur 14th Sept

WOKINGHAM: ONE BIG TRAFFIC JAM

The furore over Wokingham's traffic management one-way system came to a head at the meeting on Thursday last week of the Public works Committee, with councillors and aldermen joining in the general condemnation.

Unmollified by an announcement that measures were to be introduced this week to improve traffic flow at the Shute End Bottleneck, Ald A.G. Skedgel suggested they

ought to get ready to scrap the scheme as quickly as they could before any more public money was poured out on it. He stressed that they were all extremely concerned about the situation.

“I have never seen this town with such chaotic conditions as we have as the scheme was introduced on Monday morning. It is just not working. We get blockages in Broad Street, the Market Place, Denmark Street, Wellington Road, Station Road and up to Reading Road. How can a circulation scheme work when there are blockages all around?”

The Borough Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. R.G. Gwynn had reported on a meeting that afternoon with the County Council and the Alder Valley bus company at which the traffic arrangements were discussed very thoroughly.

At the point where Shute End came into Broad Street two lanes of traffic were having to converge into a single lane resulting in a considerable build-up, far more than occurred when the previous temporary system was in operation. They had considered measures to improve traffic circulation. One of the aims was to enable traffic coming out of Station Road into Shute End to merge with the flow from Reading before the junction with Broad Street and Rectory Road was reached. One of the recommendations was that they dispose with roundabout procedure there. This would enable vehicles going into Rectory Road to go down Shute End in the usual way while traffic heading into Broad Street would disregard the island. The reason for introducing these adaptations was that the system was experimental.

It would be wrong at this stage to withdraw the order without fully trying all the alternatives. Unless they tried these out now they would never know the answer or never have an opportunity of finding out.

Cllr. R.B. Naish the committee's newly-appointed Chairman said there were now two lanes of traffic along Denmark Street, some travelling at high speed. One vehicle must have been doing about 50 m.p.h. If, in 1968 Denmark Street was not considered wide enough it cannot take the traffic at the moment. It is chaotic down there. Pedestrians are unable to cross the road.

Ald. S.L Bowyer also took up the cudgels on behalf of the pedestrians for whom there were only two official crossings in the town. “Their crossing of Denmark Street was restricted because there were now three lanes of traffic going into that road. It is not good enough. We have six weeks before our next meeting and I suggest that if this is not successfully treated we should do something before the situation gets any worse than it is now. If it doesn't improve in three weeks we should revert to the old system.

Cllr. Naish said that there had been no respect shown for the elderly. He had received a letter from one of his electors blaming him for all this.

Cllr. I. Crail, the Mayor, said it seemed an extraordinary situation that an order should be made for an experimental one-way system without incorporating provision for pedestrians. He thought it would be worthwhile to make representations on this aspect.

Cllr. W. Smith said he understood Langborough Road was choc-a-bloc with cars because they could not get into Denmark Street where the traffic would not give way.

Cllr. D.J. Lewis said it would be interesting to see what happened on Saturday when hundreds of shoppers' cars fed into the one-way system. They would be funnelled into the system and would have to go 'around the houses' a couple of miles before the drivers could get into their houses. This was going to be a harassment to the residents of Wokingham.

After further discussion it was decided that if no improvements are effected after a short trial, a special meeting would be called in to get the scheme rescinded. This had

been called for in a letter from Wokingham and District Chamber of Trade, which described the town as ‘just one big traffic jam’.

‘FEARS COME TRUE’

The Chairman of the Wokingham Society, Mr. Anthony Cross, has issued the following statement:

“The new one-way system has come into operation and the Society has seen its fears come true—traffic snarl-ups, a race-track in Denmark Street and the great hazards for pedestrians trying to cross the road, particularly in Denmark Street—etc. Things are in fact far worse than expected. To take only a few examples: On Saturday morning there was a build-up of traffic from Station Road right back to the Bull at Barkham; residents in Wellington Road and the roads off it have extreme difficulty in getting their cars in and out; and the main stream of traffic through the Market Place, Denmark Street and Wellington Road often proceeds so fast that it is well-nigh impossible for traffic from side roads to infiltrate. While the scheme has many disadvantages, there are no obvious advantages. Unless there is a definite improvement, should not the whole scheme be suspended and thoroughly re-examined?

The Society intends to make the strongest representation, both in principle and in detail. We shall be asking members of the Society, or others, to provide details of particular instances to Peter Wilford of 22, Marks Road, who is the Secretary of the Society’s Traffic and Planning Group. Everyone should remember that this is an experimental scheme.”

Thur 28th Sept

BUS LANE EXPERIMENT

Yesterday (Wednesday) there was a fresh development. The County Council’s Surveyor’s Department announced that from Sunday, for one week only, the contra bus lane in Shute End is being withdrawn. This will give them a week to assess the advantages and disadvantages according to a spokesman.

Thur 9th Nov

METHODIST UNVEILING

Tablets to commemorate the opening of the £45,000 extensions to the Methodist Church, Wokingham, were unveiled on Saturday afternoon. A large sum was donated by the Arthur Rank Trust. Witnessing the ceremony were Dr. R.G. Ashman, Superintendent of the Methodist Ministry Reading Circuit; the Rev. Denis Phippen from Tilehurst who gave the address in a service which followed; Mr. William van Straubenzee, Wokingham’s M.P; and many members of the church in Rose Street.

The tablets, given by a donor who wished to remain anonymous were placed at the entry to one section and on the outside wall of another. The Minister, the Rev. S. Maurice Wendt unveiled them. He explained the they hoped the attractive suite of rooms that had been added to the enlarged church would become a centre not only for the men and women who worshipped and shared social activities there but for the youth ad continuity of Wokingham.

As the target of £45,000 has not yet been reached, a gift day was held on Saturday after the unveiling and service and Mr. Wendt received a further £750 for the fund. All the organisations attracted to the church are planning ways and means of raising the remaining £4,250 before the finishing touches are made to the building ready for the official opening in May.

WOKINGHAM IS RELIEVED BUT LOOKS AHEAD

The County Highways Committee's decision to withdraw Wokingham's much criticised one-way traffic management system was warmly applauded when Cllr. Ian Crail, the Mayor, revealed the news last Thursday night. Cllr. Crail presiding at an open meeting of the Borough Council in the Town Hall said that it had been decided this system could form the basis of a contingency plan which could be implemented at a later date when the M4 was linked with the A329 relief road.

DISUSED WELL FOUND AT RAIL STATION

Workmen rebuilding Wokingham railway station uncovered a fresh water well on Monday. The well, which was thought to be several centuries old, was brick-lined and it was 5 ft. in diameter and 40 ft. deep. The workmen gauged its depth by tying a piece of concrete to a length of rope to make a simple plumb line. Mr. John Kelly, a pipe-layer, was working nearby when it was found.

The digger was clearing a trench when it took the cap clean off the top and they looked down into the deep hole with water at the bottom. But during the night it filled up right to the top with water and they had to pump it out before they could restart work. The well which was in the middle of a building site was eventually filled in and concrete laid over the top.

1973

Thur 25th Jan

600 IN WOKINGHAM WALK

Led by the Wokingham Carnival Queen, Miss Caroline Williams, and two young pipers from the Arborfield Apprentices School, A/T L/ Cpl M. Ross and A/T W. Stewart, more than 600 people set off on Sunday to walk 20 miles in aid of a Day Centre for the Elderly. The Wokingham Walk started and finished at the Wokingham Youth and Community Centre.

Two small diversions had to be made to the planned route. The first one because a golf tournament was being played on a course the walkers had intended to cross, and the second round a pig farm at Broadmoor for fear of carrying disease to the animals.

Four young men including last year's first man in, Brian Greenham decided to run the distance. Brian, of 48, Eastheath Avenue, Wokingham, who attends the Brighton Polytechnical College, travelled to Wokingham especially to take part. He finished fourth.

First were two Arborfield Apprentices, A/T L/Cpl. Peter Savage and A/T Sgt. Ian Colville, who were immediately followed by Graham Maurice, a student at Bracknell Technical College. All completed the 20 miles in a few minutes over two hours.

The Walk was not a race. The object was for as many as possible of the participants to finish but for none of them to carry on further than they felt capable of without doing injury to themselves. St. John Ambulance Brigade members were out in force touring the route in an ambulance and cars while others manned check points. Walk Marshalls also kept a constant look-out for anyone in trouble.

For the first time ever, units of the Army kept in touch with the Centre by means of radio, relaying news of the walkers back to the organisers. They were able to warn of signs stupidly altered by hooligans and to save many walkers from going in the wrong direction. Some unfortunates were not so lucky and were lost in the woods between the second and third check points, trudging through quite a long way through really boggy ground before once again getting on to the right road.

All the schools in the area were represented and one Headmaster, Mr. C. Carter of Emmbrook School completed the walk with two other masters and several pupils. Old age pensioners and young people took part and all thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Dogs too seemed to be happy despite the appalling state they got into from wading through a newly ploughed fields and along muddy footpaths.

Both the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham, Cllr. and Mrs. Ian Crail completed the distance. Their opinion of the walk as was most of the walkers, was mixed. "If the ground had been drier it would have been wonderful," said the Mayor. "Many people have seen countryside they never knew existed, but some of the footpaths and one newly ploughed field were diabolical. Walkers were losing their shoes in the mud."

Ald. John West who took part in the first walk when he was Mayor, and again in the second walk last year, finished the third one too. He found the mud heavy going and was very tired at the end. Other walkers fund the walk as "90% marvellous and the other 10%, though no fault of the organisers, dreadful."

The final figure if sponsors all pay what they have promised should be over £4,000. The two previous walks both raised over £3,000.

Little Court, Reading Road has been chosen as the site for the Centre and once approval has been given, work on renovating and decorating will begin.

Thur 1st Feb

FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH FOR TWO AT WOKINGHAM

Wokingham on Tuesday paid the ultimate expression of civic gratitude to two men, outstanding in service to the town. The occasion was the presentation of the Honorary Freedom of the Borough to Ald. Stanley Leonard Bowyer and former Town Clerk, Mr. Leonard Goddard Smalley. The Honorary Freedom represented the highest honour which could be conferred, recording for all time the gratitude of the community to those who had served in great devotion and selflessness.

But for the untimely death on January 1st. this year of Ald. Frank Moles he too would have received the honour.

The new Freeman were handed their scrolls by the Mayor and invited to sign the Freeman's Roll, witnessed by the Mayor and Mr. Nigel Butler, Town Clerk. Mr. Godfrey Moles was asked to accept the scroll which should have been received by his father.

Thur 1st March

RED CROSS SERVE DINNER AT MASONIC HALL

A traditional meal of turkey brought back memories of Christmas at the Masonic Hall on Saturday when 150 elderly people were guests of the Wokingham Red Cross Cadets. The party was a result of a year's hard work by Cadets and the Parent Committee who raised money by running jumble sales, a concert and a summer fete.

Old folk from Wokingham, Arborfield, Winnersh and Binfield were collected by a fleet of cars and taken to the hall where they were joined by the Mayor of Wokingham, Cllr. Ian Crail, the Director of Berks., Red Cross Cadets Group Captain W. J Swift, the Wokingham Commandant, Miss de Vitre, and Ald. Mrs. J. Davy.

Following a meal prepared by a team of volunteers from Arborfield led by the Chef, Warrant Officer, F. Brierly from the School of Electrical Engineering, there was entertainment by the "Merry Medlers," a concert party from Reading.

THINKING DAY SERVICE

Guides and Brownies met on Sunday afternoon for the first Thinking Day Service to be held since the Wokingham District was divided into two, and for the first such service to be held at Corpus Christi Church, Sturges Road. The theme was "Unity"—through Guiding, among nations and within the Church.

Guides with their Company flags and Brownies with their Pack pennants, marched to the front between rows of fellow Guides and Brownies, parents and a contingent of St. Paul's, Wokingham Scouts, who were representing the Scout movement in the district.

Girls and Guiders leading the congregation in prayer, and a group calling themselves the "Leisure Mums" accompanied the choir on guitars for one hymn. Afterwards, flag and pennant bearers formed a guard of honour outside the church.

Thur 15th March

STD SYSTEM FOR WOKINGHAM

Progress in the form of STD, comes to Wokingham next week with the opening of the town's new automatic telephone exchange. At 8 a.m. on March 23rd, the automatic exchange will take over from the existing manual and West Forest exchanges.

The Post Office are hoping that, subject to his commitments permitting, Mr. W.R. Straubensee, M.P. for Wokingham, will perform the opening ceremony at noon on that day.

Some 7,000 subscribers are affected, the bulk of them on West Forest mobile exchange. Not only has West Forest more connections than its parent, it is the largest mobile exchange complex in the country. About half of the existing Wokingham subscribers will have their telephone numbers changed by the addition of the prefix 78, and all others will have a complete number change to a number beginning with 78.

"It will be a six-figure number ranging from 780000 to 78 787499. A number of people will be given service from Brookside, another mobile exchange which we are starting there," said Post Office public relations officer, Mr. M. Gray. "We know the new Wokingham exchange will not be large enough initially to cater for the expected demand and that is why new subscribers will be connected to Broadside." Brookside STD will remain in service until completion of an extension to the equipment at the automatic exchange which the contractor already has in hand.

To explain the introduction of the STD system to the public, Post Office Telephones are to stage an exhibition in the Old Fire Station, Wokingham Town Hall from March 21st to March 27th.

Wokingham's first telephone exchange was opened in 1891 by the National Telephone Company. In 1900, 11 Denmark Street was acquired for an exchange on a 21-year lease. The Post Office took over the National Telephone Company in 1912. Records show that in 1927 Wokingham had only 295 lines.

Thur 22nd March

CHINESE TREE FOR WOKINGHAM

A tree of the *Sophora Japonica* species (known as the Chinese Scholar tree) was planted at the boundary of the pitch and putt course, Wokingham, on Thursday, to formerly introduce to the borough the national "Plant a Tree '73" scheme.

It was chosen and planted by the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham, Cllr. and Mrs. Ian Crail, who selected a Chinese tree to commemorate both the national scheme and the Mayor's coming visit to China where, for three weeks, he will be representing his firm at the British Industrial Technology Exhibition being held there.

The spade used was borrowed specially for the occasion from the Royal Borough of Windsor. When the tree grows to its full height it will be 30 feet tall with an attractive green stem and white flowers. It also has the characteristics of seasonally shedding its bark, thus enhancing its appearance during the winter period.

WOKINGHAM'S HIGH STEWARD IS INSTALLED

A ceremony that linked the centuries took place in Wokingham Town Hall on Thursday last week, when Major John Lycett Wills, former High Sheriff of Berkshire, was installed as Wokingham's 18th High Steward. The appointment follows the death last year of the Marquis of Ormonde.

The Mayor of Wokingham, Cllr. I. Crail said he considered it an honour and highlight of his year of office to be able to introduce a new High Steward of the Borough. The office of High Steward was an ancient one dating back to the charter granted by King James I of England which named Sir Henry Neville of Billingbear for that role. Indeed many other members of the Billingbear family were the names that appeared right down to the eighth Lord Braybrooke, High Steward in 1895.

Perhaps it was appropriate that the custodian of Allenby Park, so close to Billingbear, should be their High Steward.

Major Wills, late of the Life Guards, lives at Allenby Park, Binfield. During the war he saw service in North Africa, Syria and Cyprus, returning to Windsor where he was with the training battalion of his regiment. He retired from the Army in 1947.

In 1936 he married the Hon. Jean Constance, second daughter of the 16th Baron Elphinstone, Kt. And they have one son and two daughters. Mrs. Wills has been an extra Lady-In-Waiting to Princess Margaret since 1970. She is a niece of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Major Wilkes, who is engaged in farming, takes a keen interest in youth work and is chairman of the organising committee of the famous Dockland Settlement which promotes boys' clubs and also takes a benevolent interest in the elderly.

After the Corporate Seal of the council was affixed to the instrument of appointment, and Mr. Nigel Butler, Town Clerk, read the Letters Patent, the instrument was presented by Cllr. Crail to Major Wills. His coat-of-arms had already been added to those of 17 predecessors which are emblazoned on the ends of the hammer beams above the audience.

Thur 29th March

SEVEN THOUSAND GO STD IN HALF-MINUTE

Only 30 seconds was the time it took to switch over some 7,000 subscribers to STD at Wokingham on Friday morning. But one line remained disconnected in the town's new automatic telephone exchange, and by pulling out a plug in the main distribution frame. Mr. W.R. van Straubensee. M.P. for Wokingham, completed the operation. Appropriately, the last line to be connected turned out to be that of his own divisional headquarters in Rose Street.

FULL WEEK-END FOR DUTCH VISITORS

Visitors from Aalten, Holland who stayed at Wokingham for the week-end by invitation of the Chamber of Trade and Commerce to meet the people of the town and to see its industries, enjoyed a very full three days. They were met at the airport on Friday afternoon and taken on a coach tour of London before being brought to Wokingham and a reception at the Bush Hotel that evening.

The Mayoress of Wokingham, Mrs. Ann Crail was there to greet them with the President of the Chamber of Trade, Mr. Leslie Ilott and various members of different organisations who had agreed to be hosts to the visitors during their stay.

On Saturday they visited the Town Hall and were shown the civic regalia by the Mayoress and the Mace Bearer, Mr. H. Biddle. After a tour of the town, again by coach they had coffee with the residents of Glebelands, the home for retired actors and actresses and then were shown over Slumberland's factory in Fishponds Road. After a free afternoon they were special guests at the Chamber of Trade's President's Night celebration at Ed's Barn where they joined Michael Barrett of the B.B.C. and the Deputy Mayor of Wokingham, Cllr. John Tattersall and his wife.

Sunday saw them on another coach tour, this time of the surrounding areas including Henley, Windsor, Virginia Waters and Ascot racecourse, with a farewell party following in Oakleaf Hall, Finchampstead Road. Here there were discussions on the possibilities of "twinning" or "town friendship" with Aalten. After lunch at the Old Rose Inn on Monday, the visitors left for the airport.

A return trip is to be made by Wokingham representatives in June when Wokingham Football Team visit Holland to play in several matches.

ROUND TABLE'S GIFT DEDICATED

The new coach presented to Wokingham St. John Ambulance Brigade by the Round Table was dedicated by the Rev. Kenneth Martin, Rector of All Saints' Church, on Wednesday last week. The ceremony in which a new ambulance was also dedicated took place outside St. John Headquarters in Goodchild Road and was watched by a strong component of the Brigade with the Berkshire Commissioner, Brig. David Barker, and several officers of the Round Table in attendance.

The Mayoress of Wokingham, Mrs. Ann Crail, who takes a keen interest in the Brigade was also there and joined members and guests for refreshments after the dedication.

The coach, bought from proceeds resulting from last year's Wokingham Carnival, is used to transport elderly and infirm people on outings and meetings. It replaces the first coach bought by Wokingham Round Table after the Carnival held three years ago and cost £2,100.

Thur 5th April

WOKINGHAM CAR PARK CHARGES

Wokingham's car parking scheme came into effect on Sunday, making motorists liable to pay for parking in the four council car parks in the town. The scheme means that drivers using the Rose Street, Denmark Street, Easthampstead Road, or Cockpit Path car parks — which together hold 250 cars—now have to pay 5p for a period up to two hours, or 10p for any period over that in any one day.

Parking is free on Sundays and between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. on all other days.

MAYOR COMPLAINS ABOUT BUS SERVICE

The Mayor of Wokingham, Cllr. Ian Crail, has written to the Alder Valley Bus Company complaining about the service between Bracknell and Wokingham. In his letter Cllr. Crail, who uses the service every day to get to and from work in Bracknell, gives five examples since January 18th of buses breaking down and of long waits for a replacement vehicle, which in one case, itself broke down.

He also cites the case of the No. 90 service which is scheduled to run during the rush hour at 5.13 p.m. from Bracknell. "This has, during the last couple of months run

on average approximately one day a week—days go by without a bus—one day a coach was used....This bus fills a big gap in the rush hour on the Wokingham Road.

Cllr. Crail also states the case for the unfortunate London commuters who live in the eastern half of Wokingham. “One may leave the train at Bracknell and just miss a west-bound bus by five minutes or one may leave the train at Wokingham and, after at least a five minute walk into town, miss the east bound bus by five minutes—this on a half hour interval service.”

The General Manager of the Alder Valley co., Mr. P. Scully, said, “The various points raised in it are being investigated and I have arranged to meet Mr. Crail in due course.”

BLUE POOL CAN BE USED FOR TIPPING

Although Wokingham Borough Council failed to have enforcement notices against tipping and depositing of refuse on land at the Blue Pool upheld by the Department of the Environment, the outcome has not been unsatisfactory from their view-point. This was made clear at the meeting of the Public Health Committee on Tuesday. It was reported by Mr. Nigel Butler, the Clerk that the Secretary of State had allowed the appeals of Thomas Lawrence and Sons (Bracknell) Ltd., Harry A. Coff Ltd, and Peter Wilkins Ltd., relating to the use of this land for the tipping of refuse, spoil and waste materials.

The enforcement notice had been quashed and temporary conditional planning permission was granted for that use. “I do feel that as far as this committee was concerned it was a successful prosecution because it led to them having to comply with the standards we laid down,” said Cllr. J.W. Tattersall.

Mr. Butler said that the appeal was successful on planning grounds as well, because of the view expressed that it was desirable that the appeal site should eventually be filled in.

Cllr. J. Watson said that conditions of the consent were not being complied with, in that tipping was being done on Sundays. As 28 days were allowed for compliance the situation would have to be watched.

Mr. J.B. Bowden, Chief Public Health Inspector said he had one complaint, in that certain Saturday morning traffic was arising from the use of the pool.

Thur 31st May

THE CAUSES OF LATE BUSES AND CANCELLED JOURNEYS

Mr. N.D. Flower, Commercial Manager of the Alder Valley Bus Company, spoke to members of the Wokingham and District branch of the National Council of Women at a morning meeting held last week. Mr. Flower told members of the many difficulties the company had encountered during the past five to ten years.

The three main causes of trouble were the increase in the number of private cars which led to a loss of revenue for the bus company; the rapid growth of costs in the late 1960s, and the great inflation of wages in 1969-70; and traffic congestion.

The rise in costs and wages resulted in a jump in fare charges and consequent loss of passengers. Traffic congestion made running to a reliable timetable virtually impossible. Added to this, certain depots had a shortage of staff and vehicles which sometimes meant cancelling journeys at short notice with obvious inconvenience to passengers.

“57% buses are at present operated by one-man crews to help keep down costs and alleviate the staffing problem and more are to follow,” he said. Reading in particular had vehicle maintenance difficulties as their fleet of buses was so old. New buses, at

the rate of 103 in the next two years, were due to be produced but there had been a delay and buses were being borrowed from Oxford to help the situation until the new vehicles were in operation. Unremunerative journeys had to be constantly reviewed and many rural services which should have been discontinued were kept on as a service to the public.

Mr. Flower quoted Reading with its contra traffic flow lanes and access to the shopping precinct as a good example in the use of buses.

“As to the future,” said Mr. Flower, “the company will co-operate fully with the new counties transport planning.”

WOKINGHAM SCOUT AWARDS

Presentations of several Gold Arrow Badges, three medals of Merit and a Silver Acorn Award were made at the Wokingham District Scouts annual meeting last week. As Scout Leaders, Scouts and parents crowded the Methodist Church Hall, Rose Street, the President, Sir John Marling welcomed the recently elected County commissioner, Major Michael Paxton, and announced the success of the recent adult recruiting drive.

District Commissioner, Mr. Stanley Batchelor said that as a result of the drive they now had three helpers for Guides, 11 Scout Leaders; 14 instructors and 15 supporters but still needed lay people for canoe instruction. He said that the Scouting population had grown 200% in the last ten years and was still expanding. In September a new Group would be formed at the Methodist Church in Rose Street.

The Secretary, Mr. Peter Larew, who had to resign due to pressure of work, and his wife Jane were presented with gifts in appreciation of their work. Miss Christine Brett, was awarded the “Thanks” badge for her services.

The County Commissioner presented the following—Cub Scouts—Gold Arrow: Nigel Priestley, Gerald Owen, Richard Todd, Ian James, Simon Fielding, Terry Reynolds,, Guy Penfold all of 1st Wokingham (St. Paul’s); Colin Bone and Gary Fetch of the 2nd Crowthorne; Richard Gee, Michael Holroyd, Cristopher Holroyd, Peter Harrison, all of 3rd. Wokingham; Tony Crawford,, Keith Logan, Ian Moss, Robert Mesdin, Trevor Knott, Timothy Cromarty,, all of 1st Emmbrook; Jeremy Morgan, David Grubb, of 4th Woking-Wokingham.

Chief Scout’s Award:

Stephen Alder, David Winter, Christopher Vadal, Paul Clark, all of 1st Emmbrook.

Venture Award:

Norman Lonn of the Terra Nova Venture Unit.

Medal of Merit for outstanding services to Scouting:

Mrs. Gladys Watson, Cub Scout Leader, 1st Finchampstead who also received the Long Service Decoration; Mr. Derek Davey Group Scout Leader, 1st Finchampstead; Dr. Helmut van Emden, Group Scout Leader, 1st Emmbrook (in Dr, van Emden’s absence his mother accepted the award on his behalf)

The Silver Acorn for specially distinguished service to Scouting went to Mr. John Butcher—former Group Scout Leader, 3rd Wokingham.

WOKINGHAM PONY SHOW AIDS ST. JOHN

A new trophy provided by the Wokingham Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade was competed for at the 16th Wokingham Pony Show and Gymkhana held at the Carnival Field, Wellington Road, on Monday. The event was organised by the Garth Hunt Branch of the Pony Club in aid of the Wokingham St. John Brigade.

Laura Carter on Vive Maria who came first in the Novice Jumping Class (15-21 years) was presented with the trophy by Wokingham Brigade Officer, Mrs. Joan Morgan. The Organiser, Mr. E. Brattle, said that the number of entries was slightly up on previous years. The gymkhana events were well-supported and despite the weather, onlookers were numerous.

Heavy rain soon after the start was unpleasant and made the ground a little slippery but no accidents occurred and the standard of riding was very good. Girls far outnumbered boys in all classes.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham, Ald S. Bowyer and Mrs. J. Foreman-brown, called at the ground in the afternoon and presented two cups—the Perpetual challenge cup to Heather Crocker on Holly Ripple and the Minimus perpetual challenge cup to Sarah Adam on Equacus Revel. Laura Carver, winner of the St. John Cup, gave the Mayoress a bouquet on behalf of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Other winners listed.

A fancy dress competition attracted many entries and provided some amusing and attractive costumes—winners listed.

Thur 14th June

DEVELOPERS WANT WOKINGHAM TOWN HALL

Estate agents, said to be instructed by a leading property development company, have asked Wokingham Borough Council if they would consider disposing of the Town Hall for future redevelopment. The approach is to be discussed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee at their meeting this evening (Thursday).

The chief officers have urges that the proposal should not be entertained, on the following grounds:--

- (a) the demand for use of the Town Hall for public meetings both by the local authority and other organisations is such that no other alternative accommodation is available.
- (b) the Town Hall is of an historic value to the town and forms a central feature within the conservation area, and
- (c) its future use for local government purposes cannot be determined in advance of the new District Council making a policy decision on both office accommodation and community hall facilities for the town area.

RED CROSS CADETS INSPECTED

The new President of the Wokingham Red Cross, 28 Detachment, Mrs. Ann-Marie Bonsor, attended their annual inspection at Keep Hatch, the home of their Commandant Miss S. Denise De Vitre on Thursday last week.

Cadets with their officer, Mr. H. Wakelin, lined up beside senior member of the group as the Branch Director, Group Captain W. Swift, accompanied by the Assistant Director, Mrs. R. Ashcroft, walked along the ranks stopping to talk to each one in turn. Mrs Ashcroft complimented the cadets on their smart turnout and asked them to think up special ways of celebrating next year's Golden Jubilee.

The senior Red Cross members too were complimented by Group Captain Swift before he made long service presentations to the following: Section Leader, Mrs. L. Stroud (20 years); Nursing Officer, Mrs. K. Albon (12 years); Dep. Officer, Disabled Club, Mrs. A. Jeater (9 years); V.A.D. P. Herman and VAD L. Austin (6 years); VAD Mrs. D. Osborn and VAD Mrs. M. Everett (3 years).

Thur 21st June

COUNCIL FINDS ITSELF WITH TIME ON ITS HANDS

What to do with a valuable gift has created a problem for Wokingham Borough Council. They are faced with the disposal of an interesting clock on behalf of a local charity but until a suitable “home” can be found they are left with a dismembered timepiece on their hands.

The arrival of a Parliamentary clock which was once outside the home of Dr. P.P. Pigott at 25, The Terrace, Wokingham, has posed something of a problem for the Council.

Originally the intention was for the Parliamentary clock to be incorporated in the new almshouse development of Wokingham United Charities in London Road, but this fell through.

At Thursday’s meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee it was reported that the clock was considered unsuitable for erection out of doors as part of the almshouse scheme and there was no appropriate mounting for the clock elsewhere within the development. In view of this the Trustees have ask if the council will accept the clock for safe-keeping with a view to its possible inclusion in some other scheme in the town, or alternatively, for mounting on some existing community building.

The committee were told that the clock had some historic interest for the town in that it had been part of the fabric of 25, The Terrace for almost 200 years and Dr. Pigott’s wish was that it should remain in the town which could not be guaranteed once she and her family had disposed of the property.

Mr. Nigel Butler, Town Clerk said that there were not many such clocks about. They got their name from the fact that when they were introduced in the 18th century a specific licence had to be obtained from Parliament to display a timepiece where the public could see it.

The council have agreed to take charge of the clock and although no suitable position for mounting it is available at the moment, the Borough Engineer and Surveyor (Mr. R.G. Gwynn) is investigating possible sites.

Thur 28th June

‘TWINNING ASSURED’

Wokingham’s “twinning” with Aalten, Holland, is assured. That was the verdict of members of Wokingham Chamber of Trade given at a meeting held at The Roebuck on Tuesday.

Mr. Michael Drury, Secretary of the Chamber, reporting on the recent visit to Aalten made by representatives of the group said that it was a success, not only from the social side but in the number of people we met. Twinning is taking place in though if not in deed. In this statement he was upheld by Mrs. Rene Field, a member who made the visit. She said that no one would stop the visit now.

A film and slides taken on the trip were shown after the business part of the meeting was concluded.

END OF A FREE ERA FOR WOKINGHAM DRIVERS

Parking space in Wokingham’s off-street car parks is no longer free. Unless drivers purchase a ticket from the “Trust the Motorist” machine provided and display it in a prominent position on their windscreens they are liable to a fine of 50p.

At a Chamber of Trade and Commerce meeting on Tuesday evening, Mr. Leyland Jackson whose business overlooks a car park in Denmark Street, told of the

annoyance caused to some motorists in obeying these instructions. Some drivers once they have parked their car have to walk 100 yards to the machine to get a ticket, return to stick it on their windscreens and then walk back again to get to the shops.

During last Wednesday's bad weather he had seen young mothers with pushchairs having to make their way to and fro across the muddy flooded ground and it was obvious how frustrated they felt.

A letter is to be sent to the council advising them of the Chamber's feelings on the inadequacy of the system.

Thur 2nd Aug

AALTEN SCOUTS VISIT WOKINGHAM

Friendship between Wokingham and the Dutch town of Aalten took another step with the visit to this country of Scout Leader Kees van Loon and three of his troop. They came by ferry and car to stay with fellow Scouts in the Wokingham district.

Kees renewed an old acquaintance with Chairman of the District Scouts Committee, Mr. W. Vincent of Crescent Road, Wokingham, and the three boys were guests of Crowthorne Scouts.

Together they made a tour of London, visited Windsor and the castle, and on Friday evening the Ditch boys joined in the weekly Scout meeting of their Crowthorne hosts. While their leader viewed various camp sites in and around Wokingham on Sunday with the object of the whole of his troop over next year, the three Scouts, Jos Geling (14), Nico Selink (13) and Leo Koelman (13) together with the three boys, they stayed with enjoyed a day's hike.

A party at Mr. Vincent's home on Sunday for the host families ended the visit. The Chamber of Trade, the main instigator of the "twinning" with Aalten, saw them off on Monday after a coffee session.

KEEPING OIL AWAY FROM EMM BROOK

Firm action is being taken by the Public Health Committee of Wokingham Borough Council to eliminate oil pollution of the Emm Brook. Despite their efforts, however, they have not been entirely successful, it was revealed at their meeting on Tuesday last week.

Mr. J.B. Bowden, Chief Public Health Inspector, reported that he had recently written to two companies with adjoining premises in Fishponds Road in connection with the discharge of oil into the surface water drainage. Since writing he visited the site and noticed that oil was continuing to find access to this drainage.

Mr. Bowden said that following his letter the manager of one of the firms told him he had had certain drains cleaned out, and on the visit, Mr. Bowden was able to confirm that efforts were being made in that direction.

But while he was there he noticed a film of oil on the surface of the water. The oil was seeping into the drain from the sump of an old car engine which was lying on the ground outside the neighbouring premises, although a great amount of cleaning of the drain inlets and inspection chambers had been undertaken by both firms.

It was agreed to serve a notice on the company from whose premises the oil had drained, Messrs. M.C. Pigott & Co. Ltd. The other firm to whom the Chief Public Health Inspector had written was the Ridat Engineering Company.

"I would not like to think that the whole of the oil pollution of the Emm Brook was due to these main premises," Mr. Bowden said. "We think the oil getting into the brook is from several sources."

Thur 9th Aug

COUNCIL STAND FIRM ON LISTED BUILDING

Wokingham Borough Council are standing firm in their determination that every effort must be made to retain the external appearance of a centuries-old “listed” building when the site in the town centre is redeveloped. The property is 26—28 Market Place.

Permission was granted to Queensmere Estates Ltd., in September of last year to demolish the existing buildings, apart from the front elevation, which was to be kept intact and incorporated in the ensuing shops and office development. Since then the architects have drawn the Council’s attention to the difficulties of trying to preserve the façade during the alterations, and had included a report from their structural engineers. They are now seeking permission to replace the frontage, but the Town Planning Committee decided that the architects should be informed that the design in model form as submitted would not meet with the approval of the council.

“I think when this first came up members of the committee did have very grave doubts as to whether these alterations should be granted approved,” Ald R.F. Board-Jones told the Council at the meeting on Thursday last week.

“We have seen before instances where attempts were made to preserve old frontages, and where during the building operations accidents have happened to the framework and it has been found incapable of joining up the new with the old.”

On this occasion they had been given an assurance nothing of that nature would happen with the premises in Denmark Street, that the old would match up with the new, the stucco frontage preserved, and it might be to the town’s benefit if they be gone over by specialists.

“Yet once again there appears there is going to be trouble. I would like to know just how much trouble we may expect and whether these is going to be possible to preserve this old frontage which means quite a lot to that particular section of the town”

Cllr. Ian Craig, Town Planning Chairman, confirmed what had been said about previous occurrences, but said the corporation have tried hard to overcome this by stating which part of the building must remain. To the best of his knowledge there had been nothing untoward, of the developers moving in front of that line. This committee want to make every effort to preserve the frontage. A meeting would take place on the site between the Planning Officer, the architects and the structural engineers, to ascertain the best means of achieving that aim.

Thur 4th Oct

ELDERLY COMFORTS AT WOKINGHAM

Work on Wokingham’s long-awaited Day Centre for the Elderly should commence in two weeks and be completed by the Spring. After considerable difficulty in getting firms to tender for the job of reconstructing Little Court, Reading Road, the site selected for the Day Centre by the Committee of the Wokingham and District Association for the Elderly, one tender has been accepted.

As part of the planned work is not to be carried out a new price will have to be quoted. This is a cottage in the grounds which was to have been altered for the use of a caretaker, and stables which were to be turned into a games room, but they are now to be demolished

The firm has agreed to install gas central heating and a lift; renew all wiring; construct a kitchen suitable for the use of the house and for the Meals on Wheels service: build new toilets and special facilities, such as a wheelchair entry into the

building; effect other essential alterations; re-decorate and turn the house, which was fast becoming derelict, into an attractive and welcoming centre.

When completed the organisers expect to serve 100 meals a day and deliver a further 100 via the Meals on Wheels service.

To use the facilities, elderly people will be asked to pay a yearly subscription of 50p each and a small amount, possibly 10p for a meal, which will be subsidised by the County Borough Councils.

Since notice of the purchase of the site appeared in the Press earlier this year, damage amounting to over £200 has been caused by vandals. A former sergeant of Wokingham Police, Mr. Jones, agreed to become caretaker and guard of the premises.

Thur 18th Oct

NEW WOKINGHAM SCHOOL OPENED

Before an audience of parents, children, Managers and the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham (Ald. S. Bowyer and Mrs. J. Foreman-Brown), Mr. T.D. Whitfield, the Director of Education for Berkshire, unveiled a plaque on Tuesday to commemorate the official opening of the new Palmer School in Norreys Avenue, Wokingham. The original school in Palmer Road now stands empty, but its reputation for excellent work was mentioned by the Director, who said that there had been a long recognised need for a new school.

The old one had been structurally bad but educationally very good and he wished the new school a continuing record of success

A display of work by former and present pupils, pictures, books, press cuttings, etc. aroused considerable interest as did copies of a booklet compiled by the headmaster, Mr. S. Meachen, which gave a short history of the school from 1713 to 1973.

Entertainment was provided by the school choir, a recorder group and the P.T.A. choir with special guests; Mr. and Mrs. K. Lowe.

Thur 25th Oct

THEY BEAT THE BOUNDS

“Beating the Bounds”, a popular item at earlier Wokingham Carnivals though dropped recently, was the inspiration for the planners of a sponsored walk which took place on Sunday. Twenty-three boys of the Wokingham Unit of the Army Cadet Force, set off at 9 a.m. to walk the borough boundary--probably the last time it will be done before the coming re-organisation of districts.

The walk served a double purpose, to mark the boundary and to raise money for funds. Despite Saturday's wet weather, which made the going on part of the route very muddy, the one adult, Mrs. Brenda Dobson, wife of the Commanding Officer, and all but two of the boys who took part finished the course.

Eleven check points were manned and there were no mishaps, except for a minor one, when the first group of four boys misread their map and were “lost” for a while until spotted and directed to the right road.

The three N.C.O.s of the unit started last and finished first, led by Cadet Sgt. Major Sean Morrissey, and even two new recruits who only joined the Cadets on Thursday, completed the distance, although suffering from blisters.

From their combined efforts, the boys stand to collect more than £80.

Thur 15th Nov

METHODIST'S ROSE FAYRE

A fanfare of trumpets announced the opening of the Methodist's Rose Fayre at Wokingham on Saturday. It was played by young members of the 1st Cavesrham Boys' Brigade, after a guest, the Rev. Derek Sutherland, had ordered the ceremony of the keys be started.

The Methodist Church members of Rose Street had decided their bazaar would be "different" this year so each stall, decorated with masses of paper flowers, was barred by a glittering tape to which a key was attached. At a signal, stall-holders unlocked their entrances and the hundreds crowding the hall began to buy. Among the visitors were the Mayor, Ald. Stanley Bowyer and Mrs. Joan Foreman-Brown.

"Christmassy" music was relayed all day and at the end £760 had been raised for the church building fund.

Thur 22nd Nov

HOLT SCHOOL CHANGING TO COMPREHENSIVE

Considerable time and thought have already been spent on the forthcoming changes to the Holt School, Wokingham, the headmistress, Miss J Holland, told parents and former pupils at the certificate ceremony held there on Friday. The change-over from grammar to comprehensive begins there next September when the first year forms will consist of 180 girls taken from a certain area instead of having qualified in a selective process.

The staff, while welcoming the new pupils, will ensure that none of the existing girls suffer limiting opportunities. Miss Holland spoke of the extensions including a sixth-form unit that had been completed this year, which meant that teaching accommodation for practical and science subjects together with an extended library benefited the whole school.

More additions were planned; in particular a section for humanities and music but she was afraid, the steep rise in costs threatened to reduce the programme.

She congratulated the girls on their examination successes. In June this year, 143 girls sat for exams at the end of the fifth-year course and between them passed a total of 813 subjects at "O" level and obtained 134 C.S.E. qualifications. At the advanced level results were not quite so satisfactory.

The Chairman of the Education Committee, Mr. H. Bedictus presented the awards. He was introduced by the chairman of Governors, Mrs. B.E. Scott.

Thur 29th Nov

POST OFFICES READY RUSH

Thousands of motorists were expected to call at sub-post offices, post offices and special centres throughout Berkshire and South Oxfordshire today (Thursday) to collect their petrol ration coupons. The motorists are the first of some 250,000 in the area who will collect ration coupons over the next 12 days. Post Office officials at Reading are confident the operation will run smoothly, but sub-postmasters feel they will be hard-pressed to cope with the enormous amount of extra work.

The Post Office is urging motorists to co-operate fully with special arrangements for issuing coupons. Details have been advertised in all national newspapers this week.

In the Reading Post Office area special centres have been set up at Reading, Newbury, Bracknell, Wokingham and Henley specifically to issue coupons. Their exact location is as follows: Reading—22 Blagrove Street; Henley—75, Bell Street; Newbury-special office next door to Post Office;. Bracknell—4, Cross Way (formerly the John Farmer shoe shop); Wokingham—Town Hall, Market Place.

Apart from these towns all main Post Offices will issue coupons. In addition all sub-post offices will issue them.

Mr. Nigel Jeffries, Assistant Postmaster responsible for petrol coupon rationing, appealed to the public to go to the post office they usually use. All a motorist needs to collect his coupons are his vehicle registration document (log-book), and the vehicle's current licence (tax disc).

Today (Thursday) motorists whose surnames begin with A or B can collect their coupons. Tomorrow motorists whose surnames begin with C can collect their coupons,

The 12-day programme continues. Surnames beginning D and E—December 1st; F, G—December 3rd; H—December 4th; I, J, K, L, —December 5th; M—December 6th; N, O, P—December 7th; Q, R—December 8th; S—December 10th; T, U, V—December 11th, X, Y, Z—December 12th.

The special centres will be open 8.30 a.m.-6.30 p.m., Monday to Friday, and 8.30 a.m.-5.30 p.m. on Saturdays. Sub-post offices will continue their normal business hours.

UNOFFICIAL RATIONING

Garage owners in Berkshire and surrounding areas are facing what looks like an uphill struggle in trying to prevent their petrol pumps from running dry. Already the first week of short supply has taken its toll with many garages rationing petrol, closing early and closing altogether on Sundays.

A spokesman for the district branch of the Motor Agents Association said he knew of cases where petrol supplies had been cut by 40% to some garages. The M.A.A. itself has expressed concern that some garages are getting 50% less petrol than they should. Most petrol stations were now restricting supplies and serving only regular customers.

Thur 6th Dec

THE LONG WAIT FOR VERY LITTLE

The great petrol panic gripped Berkshire this week with motorists queuing up to an hour for a few gallons and many filling stations closed and barricaded by mid-day. One extreme case was in Reading where the Heron Garage on the A4 closed yesterday (Wednesday) morning after staff objected to the attitude of queuing motorists.

In Maidenhead yesterday and Tuesday queues outside filling stations brought rush-hour chaos. "Motorists are desperate, panic-stricken and anxious to keep their tanks filled to the brim," said a spokesman for one leading petrol station.

But while others bemoaned the worsening situation Berkshire County Council chiefs met yesterday to try and do something concrete. They agreed to aim at a reduction of fuel consumption of ten per cent, by restricting the use of council vehicles.

Mr. Keith Byard of Wokingham Motors, Finchampstead Road, appealed to motorists to stop panicking and settle for their usual amount of fuel. "We are having to close early to conserve petrol otherwise we would have sold our quota long ago. The situation has worsened in the last few days. People queue when many of them already have nearly full tanks, On Tuesday we had to close in the middle of the morning to take stock. We could have sold three or four times our normal amount."

He was just one of the many garage managers in Wokingham who have introduced some form of rationing. Others limit their regular customers to two gallons or sell 50p's worth

The Blue Star garage in Reading Road, Wokingham opened at 7.30 a.m. and had sold their daily quota by 9 a.m. on Tuesday. At Bourne and Thomas, London Road, Wokingham the situation was "diabolical". The manager said that cars were forming up at both entrances and he had to cope with 12 cars in the forecourt in both directions. "They had to fight to get in or out."

Thur 13th Dec

PROCLAIMING SANTA

Startled birds took flight and shoppers stopped in their tracks on Saturday morning as Wokingham's Town Crier, Mr. Herbert (Chick) Biddle, suddenly gave voice.

"Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!" he intoned as, ringing his handbell, he marched halfway round the Town Hall to stand near a newly-planted oak tree on the island in Peach Street.

"A proclamation," he announced accepting a ribbon-tied scroll from Mr. Les Ilott, a member of Wokingham's Chamber of Trade and Commerce. "Know ye that Father Christmas will pay Wokingham a good-will visit on December 15th. Preceded by a military band he will leave the railway station at 2.30 p.m. tour the centre and precincts and end at the Town Hall. God Save the Queen."

Returning the scroll to Mr. Ilott and taking bell in hand once more, he marched round the further side of the Town Hall to the island in Denmark Street and once again read the proclamation, this time to an audience of small children who had followed his splendidly dressed, top-hatted figure in awed wonder.

Mr. Biddle's service as a Sergeant-Major in the Warwickshire Regiment in his younger days stood him in good stead for Saturday's job. His soldierly bearing added dignity to the colourful uniform and his stentorian tones could be clearly heard above the noise of the passing traffic.

1974

Thur 10th Jan

WOKINGHAM SOCIETY SEEKS FRESH FIELDS

After a series of fights against schemes like the Woosehill development the Wokingham Society is now turning its attentions to positive schemes of its own. The Society is enlisting the help of residents to set up groups to examine the town's old buildings and conservation areas and come up with schemes for restoration, preservation and general improvement.

Mr. Barry Palmer, the Society's Secretary, said last week, "We are an amenities Society and we want to produce something positive. "We want to set up several groups of people to cover areas in the Town centre and consider problems and come up with schemes and suggestions."

Suggestions could include plans for clearing derelict sites or redecorating whole areas in a more comprehensive manner. The Society will probably pass on their findings to the Borough Council and other interested bodies, and press for the work to be done.

Mr. Parker thinks that some of the members may even become so enthusiastic that they will do some of the work themselves. The Society are appealing for as many people as possible to join the scheme and they are holding a meeting to launch the campaign at the Old Town Hall, Wokingham on January 15th at 8 p.m.

Thur 24th Jan

MONEY-RAISING TRAMPS

The Wokingham and District Association for the Elderly held its fourth sponsored walk on Sunday. About 450 people set off from the Youth centre in Broad Street at 10 a.m. to walk the 20-mile route and, between them they raised about £3,750 for the W.A.D.E. day centre for the elderly. Mrs. Jean Davy, the Chairman of W.A.D.E. was highly delighted with the result.

The route went through Crowthorne, Sandhurst, along the outskirts of Bracknell and through Binfield.

One walker who did surprisingly well was Thomas Reeves of Barkham Road, Wokingham. He broke his leg in a motor accident last year and did 12 miles of the route on crutches. He wanted to complete the whole of the journey, but was forced to stop by his friends.

Most of those who set off completed the route and only 35 people dropped out along the way.

Thur 7th Feb.

NEW BOYS' HOSTEL FOR WOKINGHAM

APPROVAL has been given 'for a new boys' hostel to be built in Wokingham, a scheme which nearly got deferred because of the Government's cut back in local authority spending. The go-ahead, given by Berkshire's Finance Committee on Friday, is subject, however, to agreement of the County Council,

The idea is to rebuild Green Field House Hostel, Maidenhead, on the sites of Field House and South Field hostels in Wokingham. The cost of about £200,000 will be largely paid for from the sale of the Maidenhead site.

The project had had a far from easy time getting through committee stages. It was recommended for approval by the Education Committee, but at the opening of the Finance Committee, the Chairman, Mr. W. A. Gilbey, suggested deferment so that the costs could be looked at further by the new County Council.

Mr. F. D. Pickering was among those opposed to a delay. This, he said, was a scheme to help deprived and handicapped children and Berkshire had done relatively little in the past in this area. The new hostel would be a major step forward.

Thur 21st Feb

EMMBROOK SCHOOL BLAZE

Fire completely gutted the sixth form precinct at Emmbrook Secondary School, Wokingham, on Thursday last week. But for the prompt action of caretaker, Mr. George Huckle, an adjoining building would have been involved in the blaze.

The building is a detached one and contains accommodation for approximately 60 pupils. It was erected in 1968 as part of the preparation for the raising for the school leaving age, at a cost of £27,000, including the cost of furnishings. So far the cause of the fire has not been ascertained.

The loss of this building has meant a re-organisation of classes and the school hall has temporarily had to be brought into use as class accommodation. No children are being required to stay away from school and the authority has already taken steps to arrange for the delivery and erection of temporary classrooms on the site.

Thur 28th March

MOVES TO BOOST SCHOOLS FIRE PRECAUTIONS

The fire precautions at Berkshire's 550 schools are likely to be reinforced, following reports concerning the February blaze at the Emmbrook County Secondary School, Wokingham. Under consideration is a detection system which will raise an alarm to a permanently manned point, such as the caretaker's premises, while biennial inspection of all schools is also being debated.

Reports from the County Fire Officer and the County Architect were discussed by the Berkshire Property Sub-Committee yesterday (Wednesday). Mr. R.C.N. Paul, the County Architect, said that the fire was believed to have started in the lockers in the dining/ social area at about 6.30 p. m. on February 13th, and the first call to the Fire Brigade was timed at 7.38 a.m. next day.

No evidence was found to suggest the cause of the fire, although the severity of the damage suggested it had been smouldering for a long time. Had. the fire started while the building was occupied it would probably have been discovered and extinguished with little or no risk to the occupants. Because of the low risk to occupants in day school buildings, it had not been Council policy to install automatic fire systems, linked to either the caretaker or direct to the Fire Brigade.

The loss or damage to a building, in the rare instances it occurred, would be covered by the County's blanket insurance policy. The intensity of the fire at Emmbrook was such that certain materials were inadequate to resist the spread, although the materials complied with regulations.

The steel roof deck, though non-inflammable, could not prevent ignition of the insulation and roofing: felt above the deck and the spread of the fire across the roof. The plasterboard linings to the internal partitions collapsed under the intense heat over such a long period, exposing the timber frames behind them.

Mr. Paul did not consider it would be practicable to specify materials in a school building so that a fire not discovered until after a substantial period of time, would not spread or break out resulting in extensive damage. However, he was concerned about the proximity of other buildings to the fire particularly a transportable building which was only 10 feet away.

The Fire Officer, Mr. K.C. Bridges, said that automatic means of detecting a fire had not been recommended in any previous reports on schools and would generally be considered only for residential buildings or business premises.

It would, however, provide some advantages. A fire would be detected in a short time and the alarm given, and the sooner a fire was discovered the more quickly the building could be evacuated. Early detection would also limit the fire, smoke and heat damage.

It would not be possible even if it was considered desirable for the Brigade to accept connections from all schools.

Mr. Bridges suggested that the simplest, and most positive arrangement, to protect school - buildings, and one which was more economical, would be a detection system, which raised an alarm not only in the building itself, but also to a point permanently manned by a member of the staff, perhaps the caretaker.

The Fire Officer also raised the question of school inspections. A number of schools had been visited at the request of the head teacher or because they required music licences. He was obtaining a complete list of properties from which they would pick up those schools which had not been inspected and he visualised that they would get first priority in any eventual programme of inspections.

Mr. Bridges said he hoped it would be possible in future to visit every-school biennially, although it was not possible to say how soon they would catch up. The

Committee are to get further reports on both the question of a detection system and on school inspections.

WOKINGHAM FAREWELL

The last Mayor of Wokingham, Ald. Stanley Bowyer said at a reception on Tuesday: "At midnight on Sunday the axe falls on the Borough and it will be no more."

He was talking to representatives of all organisations in the Borough to fellow members of the Council and special guests, the High Steward of Wokingham, Major John Wills and Wokingham's Member of Parliament, Mr. William van Straubenzee.

The event is a farewell party for our dear old Borough" He described the change made though local government reorganisation as a sad and tragic occasion.

He thanked the Town Clerk, Mr. Nigel Butler, and all other Town Hall officials for their work for Wokingham and personally thanked Council members both present and former with whom he had served for the past 43 years.

During the evening, Mr. Anthony Cross, President of the Wokingham Society, presented the Mayor with a surprise gift of two prints of old Wokingham.

Thur 11th April

RESIDENTS AMAZED AT WOOSEHILL DECISION

The announcement that residential development is to be allowed at Woosehill has caused great concern in Wokingham. County Cllr. K.W. Johnson said, "I am extremely disappointed by the Minister's decision to release the Woosehill area for residential development at this time. I was entirely in agreement with the Wokingham Borough Council's objections voiced at the public inquiry, and I would have thought the decision would at least have been held over until the preliminary results of the recent Transportation Survey, expected about June this year, are available.

"In any event it seems that the decision on such a major item has been made by the new Minister in indecent haste so soon after taking office. We must try now to ensure that provision of the infrastructure (schools, sewage and waste disposal, open space etc.) necessary to support this development is adequately made, with assistance from Central Government to minimise the financial impact upon local residents. In particular we look to early provision of the Inner Distribution Road (I.D.R.), and County Cllr. Lewis Moss and myself are actively pursuing this objective at Shire Hall.

In my opinion the decision also makes provision of a permanent link on to the A329M inevitable, probably at or near the previously proposed site of the Ashridge Interchange, with the consequent reorganisation of the adjacent local roads to feed into the I.D.R. Without such provisions the situation in Wokingham will be intolerable long before the development is complete."

The Minister's statement that local residents would not be affected by the enormous increase to the population was greeted with amazement. The effect on the medical service was quoted as one instance. A Medical Centre is included in the plans for Woosehill but, it was pointed out, this will not bring more available hospital beds or staff in the Reading and Ascot hospitals that serve Wokingham. Nor will it ease the strain on local General Practitioners whose lists are already filled to capacity.

Roads already overcrowded will be chaotic through the centre of Wokingham and the Reading Road in particular will be very much affected as there is to be only one exit from the Woosehill development on to a major road and it will be on to this road.

Commuters expecting to find travel to and from London will experience long delays. The M4 is often disrupted by accidents and the Chiswick fly-over causes

serious hold-ups. The train service is overcrowded and—when it does run—is also subject to delays and cancellations.

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“Wokingham is a ceremonial sacrifice by the Berks County Council to the Government. When the Government wants some more land they are handed bits of Wokingham. We should do away with ribbon development. It is threatening to unite Reading and Bracknell,” said Mr. Roy Oliver, of the Wokingham Society.

“Why did any of us bother to protest at the enquiry last year?” said Mr. Glen Stewart, a member of the Meadow Road Residents’ Association, “No notice has been taken of anything any of us had to say.”

Members of the Woosehill Residents’ Association who will be greatly affected by the development say that they will become “watchdogs” on a project they most reluctantly have to accept.

Mr. Duncan Naish whose back garden overlooks a flood plain in this area said that plans show a double road is destined for this spot although in the original discussions it was agreed there would only be a six inch encroachment on this land.

There is a space of 115 ft. between the end of his and his neighbour’s garden and a weir on the Emm Brook. Water in wet weather overflows the area and a brick wall is to be built to maintain the floods.

“Will the consortium of landowners be in a position to implement the agreement they entered into with the late Borough Council for amenity land when the land has been sold to eventual developers?” was the question asked by Cllr. Webber.

All are anxiously awaiting the outcome now of the appeal made by the owner of more land in Simons Lane for residential development bordering Woosehill.

Thur 16th May

WOKINGHAM DAY CENTRE OPENS IN JUNE

The Little Court Day Centre for the Elderly is ready and all the people of Wokingham have been invited to a gala opening on June 1st. at 2.30 p.m. For five years the Wokingham and District Association with their chairman, Mrs. Jean Davy whose idea it was in the beginning, have worked hard with this in mind.

The Wokingham Walk held for the past four years on a January Sunday has never waned in popularity and has been a great fund-raising event. Coffee mornings, sales, dances, the Wokingham Carnival, have all contributed to the amount needed to launch this project and many private donations too have been given as well as help from the Wokingham Borough Council, the Berks County Council and Wokingham Rural District Council.

At first Mrs. Davy’s idea was to build an entirely new centre but land was impossible to buy or lease in the middle of town, so Little Court, an old but charming house in its own grounds on the reading Road nearly opposite the Masonic Centre was bought and has had extensive alterations and refurbishings carried out to make it acceptable to the old folk.

Different rooms have been allocated for different purposes—a games room with dominoes, draughts, etc., a billiards room, a sitting room with television where old friends can meet for a chat.

Cheap meals will be provided and tea served during the day. A chiropody service has been arranged and plans for other amenities are in hand.

Most of the elderly folk in Wokingham and the surrounding area are looking forward to seeing and using “their” centre but a few feel perhaps it may turn out to be a waste of money and time.

Transport appears to be the main worry for those unable to move about freely. Others are willing to use the centre during the summer months but think their own fireside and comforts will prove too strong for them to want to move far in the cold or wet weather.

For the gala opening the Band of the Royal Corps of transport will be playing and for everyone’s extra enjoyment, (and to raise funds) there will be sideshows and teas.

Thur 23rd May

METHODIST CHURCH IN WOKINGHAM HAS BEEN GROWING SINCE 1817

Finishing touches were added to the Wokingham Methodist church shortly before the doors were opened for a special re-opening service on Saturday This new part of the church has been in use since Christmas but it was only this week that Mrs. Edna Wendt cut the ribbon across the new doorway and commented that the church gave young and old an opportunity to share in rich fellowship.

Last September the old properties on the side of the church were demolished and building work, which has cost about £45,000, was started. Worship stopped for only one month, while the walls were being knocked out.

Methodist work in Wokingham was pioneered by Corporal William Emmort, of the Horse Guards in 1817. Two years later arrangements were made for the Rose Street Barn to be converted into a chapel. By 1869 work had expanded and the Barn Chapel became inadequate. Adjoining land was bought with a view to rebuilding; and by November, 1870, the new church was opened. Next year land was purchased for Sunday School premises and they were opened the following year.

In 1931 more property adjoining the church was purchased for future development. In 1964 the new hall and ancillary rooms were opened. Now ten years later, the history is continued, with the opening of the new extension. The architect was Mr. W.H.C. Cripps and the builders were Luff Building Ltd., Wokingham. The preacher at the opening service was the resident Minister, the Rev. Dr. Maurice Wendt.

The service was conducted by the Superintendent Minister Dr. Ronald Ashman, the Rev. Wendt and the Rev. Ralph Bates, (Minister from 1962/65). Following the service members of the congregation were served tea.

Thur 6th June

EVERYONE HELPED WITH DAY CENTRE

The opening of Littlecourt, Wokingham's Day Centre-for the Elderly, on Saturday was described by Mrs.; Jean Davy, Chairman of the Wokingham and District association for the Elderly as: “A real Wokingham event for Wokingham people.” Nearly everybody in the area had contributed something towards the Day Centre fund and all “from the children who posted their 50ps in plastic bags through my letterbox, to the £58 and more donated by large associations were of equal importance.”

The Centre cost f40, 000. Some of the money was donated by the then Wokingham Borough Council. Wokingham Rural District Council and Berkshire County Council. The rest came from the people of Wokingham.

Five years ago Mrs. Davy decided something must be done for .the old people of Wokingham and W.A.D.E. was formed. Their main object was to provide a day centre where old people could go for company and cheap meals. At first it was hoped a plot of land could be bought in the centre of the town and a new building erected, but costs and scarcity of such plots proved too much so Littlecourt, an old house in its own grounds in Reading Road, has been leased from .the County Council.

A great deal of renovation was needed to make the Centre possible. Now there are two large lounges—one on the ground floor and one on the first floor—a dining room, facilities for hair dressing, chiropody and medical aid.

There are pleasant gardens for the old people to enjoy, a television room and games.

Hundreds of people of all ages turned up for the opening ceremony when Mrs. Davy cut a ribbon stretched across the entrance to the house.

With her was the Mayor of Wokingham, Mr. John Tattersall with his wife the Mayoress, the deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Mr. Stanley Bowyer and Mrs. Joan Foreman-Brown, and committee member, Mr. Albert Skedgel.

A fete run at the same time raised £175 and a stall selling plants to be planted in the gardens of the Centre made a further £36.

During the afternoon the prizes won by walkers who raised most sponsor money in the Wokingham Walk, which took place in January, were presented by the Mayor.

Thur 13th June

LACK OF FUNDS THREAT TO BERKS CRAFT CENTRE

Having survived five years of struggle against odds, it would be sad to see the Berks Craft Centre at Wokingham--the first such centre to be established in the whole country--close for lack of funds.

In opening the Centre's annual exhibition at the Town Hall on Friday, Peter Stark, Director of the recently established South Hill Park Centre, Bracknell, said that he was surprised there had been so little public help in the way of funds for them.

Apart from a small grant given by the local Council at the beginning and other very minor donations from Craft organisations, they had had nothing.

They have been threatened with the loss of their building due to forthcoming, redevelopment and numbers of interested people have stopped attending classes because of the fuel situation when the crisis was on.

These old arts and crafts are rapidly becoming lost to the nation. Visitors to the hall were impressed with the skills shown by "ordinary" people who have learned lace-making, basketry, weaving lapidary and silver-smithing at the Centre.

Members were shown "how it is done" and watched many of the processes demonstrated from beginning to end

The Mayor, Mr. John Tattersall, agreed that the Centre should be helped and promised to see what could be done.

An extraordinary meeting is to be held at the Centre on June 24th to discuss the problems and it will probably be decided then whether to continue the project. If sufficient is shown by local people and new recruits come to swell the numbers of regulars they could survive and would like to do so without having to depend on grants.

Thur 13th June

MEDIEVAL SPLENDOUR DREW THE CROWDS AT WOKINGHAM

Knights and Men-at-Arms vied with Ladies-in-Waiting in the splendour of their dress at Wokingham Carnival on Saturday. The West Forest Round Tablers, who organised the event, had asked all who participated to follow a medieval theme and the result shown in the 30 floats which took part in the procession was very colourful.

The star of the parade was Lady Godiva (Linda Batt-Rawden) who rode a white horse. She was followed by Robin Hoods, Maid Marions, bold barons, archers, Knights of the Square Table, nurses from Wokingham Hospital on Knight Duty and many others.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham, Mr. and Mrs. John Tattersall, Ms, Jean Davy and Dr. H. Dodd, judged the floats before the procession started and chose as winners:--1, The Wokingham Society; 2, Guide Dog for the Blind Association; 3, Wokingham Evening Townswomen's Guild.

The trade float entry from Morland Brewery showing a bar of 1711 and a modern one, won first prize in that class. While Timothy Johnson (3) as Wee Willie Winkie, won a prize for his costume and proudly walked (with his mother) all the way to the Carnival Field with the other entries.

Archery demonstrations, a tug-of-war competition, a fun fair and several stalls manned by local organisations entertained the hundreds of spectators who arrived to enjoy the fun.

Another highlight was the medieval tournament. The clashing of swords and the expert use of lances as horses galloped round the arena ridden by the Black Knight, Sir Guy of Gisborne, Sir Lancelot of the Lake, and other Knights kept the crowds spellbound.

In all the Tablers hope to have raised in excess of f1,000 which will be shared between children's charities in Wokingham.

Thur 20th June

FUN IN THE SUN

A beer tent, soft drinks, ice cream and cream teas proved very popular in the sunshine at Emmbrook Secondary School's summer fair on Saturday. With St. Sebastian's Silver Band providing the music for their added entertainment, a record number of visitors enjoyed a fun-packed afternoon, finding numerous stalls and competitions set up .for their enjoyment.

Five-a-side football .in which 16 men's teams took part resulted in a win for Crowthorne who beat East End United by 1—0.

Netball produced 10 ladies' teams with Wokingham and Alpha (Bracknell), winning all their games to appear against each other in the final when Alpha were beaten 8-3.

A live pig, the prize in a bowling competition, was won by David Riggs who. Having the choice of the animal or the value of it in cash, chose to keep the pig.

But the main attraction of the afternoon was the giant hot air balloon, Sweeney Todd, owned by the British Bacon Curers Association which was filled and raised but not unleashed, owing to the stiff breeze which would have blown it across the paths of flying aircraft.

More than £400 was raised which delighted the organisers, the P.T.A., who said how grateful they were for the support given.

THE POTTER'S WHEEL

The first exhibition of handicraft held at Montague House, showed pottery, paintings, needlecraft and flower arranging. Mrs. Rita Padden, the new principal of this further education college, hopes the display will encourage people who have always wanted to be able to do something like this to enrol and learn. She already has some elderly folk from Lord Harris Court, Sindlesham, planning lessons and hopes the old folk at Palmer Court, Wokingham, will take advantage of the amenities.

"I want everybody of all age groups to realise just what can be done. When children are off hand, many mothers just don't know what to do with their spare time. They can come here and enjoy a hobby."

In September she hopes to start a small crèche so that mothers of young children can have lessons, perhaps not handicraft, but typewriting, shorthand, languages--anything the College supplies and they want to do,

The exhibition was held for two days and enticed a great many interested people- in, especially early morning and evening.

Thur 27th June

METHODISTS RAISE £200

The pleasant garden at 11, Murdoch Road, Wokingham, home of Dr. and Mrs. D. MacDonald, was the venue this year for the annual garden party organised by the Rose Street Methodist Church. It was officially opened by two former members of the church, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bailey who said how pleased they were to hear that the building fund, to which the money raised that day would go, needed only £3,500 to reach its target.

The crowds found numerous stalls to keep them amused and there were pony rides for the children, a fancy dress competition which produced some original and attractive costumes; a colouring competition and strawberry teas.

The amount was approximately £200.

OYEZ! FOR WINNERS

"Oyez! Oyes! Oyex! intoned Wokingham's Town Crier, Herbert (Chick) Biddle, after he had rung his bell for silence at Wescott Road Primary School summer fair, held on Saturday in the school grounds. He had been invited officially to open the day's proceedings and to help to judge the fancy dress display with Elizabeth Sawers, a former teacher at the school, and her husband Clive. Their task proved to be very difficult, as the many youngsters, who had entered in the three classes, paraded before them.

They decided that in the "Character from a book" class, the Mad Hatter (David Grindy" aged 5) was the winner, with Richard the Lionheart (Alexander Metcalf, 5) second.

In the Topical class, in which a miniature Gary Glitter could be seen, Susan Tizard (8) as a newspaper collection for the school's swimming pool fund was first, and Jonathan Mock (7) as a Womble, second. The third class was "Traditional" and produced the largest number of entries. The winner was Russell Rowlands (6), as a cave man, complete with flint-headed spear and axe. Second prize was shared between three young people, as puppets and manipulator.

Stalls and competitions kept the crowd happily engaged all afternoon and for their extra enjoyment, James Walton, of Wescott Road, had arranged an exhibition of Edwardian prams and bicycles, old telephones, cameras and phonographs and a collection of antique hats, including a toupee, a top hat, I bowler and a straw boater.

A total of £390.65 was raised for the school's swimming pool fund.

Thur 25th July

AMERICAN SCOUTS WIN

Wokingham Scouts first ever International event to take place in the District went with a bang—and a splash—at the 3rd Wokingham Troop's headquarters in Norrey's Avenue on Saturday.

Saturday.

After practices in the morning and a lunch provided and served by members of the Wokingham Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Scouts from Aalten, Holland, U.S.A:F. High Wycombe, and Wokingham's own team began a series of hectic and hilarious games arranged and organised by the District Services Team leader, Mr. Chris Malley, and his wife, helped by Chairman Mr. Bill Vincent and his daughter Jayne and several volunteers. The event was based on television's popular programme, "It's a Knock-out."

Three teams of 19 boys took part but as the Americans only had 12 Scouts, their numbers were made up by volunteers from 1st Finchampstead.

At the end the American Scouts were declared the winners, and their team captain, Richard Wallace, was presented with a special trophy District Commissioner, Mr. Jim Earls.

Runners-up and winners of the Aalten-Wokingham Rose Bowl presented by the Wokingham Chamber of Trade, were the Dutch team, only a point behind. Wokingham were third, only two points behind the winners.

The match was first arranged to take place only between Aalten and Wokingham as part of the "town twinning" programme, but when it was known the American Scouts were at High Wycombe, the competition was extended to include them.

Thur 11th July

SUNDAY MARKET TO AID WOKINGHAM F.C.

A Sunday market will be opened on Wokingham football ground at Finchampstead Road on July 21st, said Mr. Eric Marshall Vice Chairman of the club. "We know local traders are upset. We didn't want to cause any trouble. Mr. S.J. Gibson, a market-owner from Hornchurch, Essex, is going to call on all the shops in the town and the stallholders in the Market Place to give them first refusal of a Sunday stall—you can't be fairer than that."

The officials of the club were approached by Mr. Gibson in the first instance and, as funds are desperately needed, they agreed to the market. By law the market can operate for 14 days without planning permission being sought. If at the end of that time permission is withheld, the market will close.

"The football club must survive," said Mr. Marshall. "If traders had offered help, and contributed perhaps f5 or £10 a year, we wouldn't even have entertained the idea of a market, but none of them supported the club in any way and we must get revenue from somewhere."

A spokesman for the Wokingham Chamber of Trade said this week that all small traders in the town were concerned at the unfair competition such a market would bring.

It has been suggested that the Carnival Field would be used for this purpose, but Mr. Marshall pointed out that Wokingham has a number of ready-made car parks, none of them far away from the ground, and a sudden influx of vehicles would benefit the Council, who own the parks.

Mr. Gibson has said that there will be approximately 90 stalls, offering all types of goods from clothing to vegetables, china and toys, and that all stallholders will be reputable people. They will be people who will come back week after week and depend on their reputation to succeed in their business. And he also assured questioners that the market would be a clean one and conform to all regulations.

Many people are attracted to the idea of a Sunday market and think it will compete favourably with that at Blackbushe. They do not like the thought of Wokingham's peace being disturbed, but are inclined to feel the inconvenience may be outweighed by the market's usefulness.

Thur 18th July

PARTY TO REMEMBER

"It's off!" was the cry which arose when the hot air balloon, Free and Easy lifted from the ground at Glebelands, Wokingham, on Saturday, to rise slowly over the trees and disappear into the distance. The balloon was one of the many attractions at the golden jubilee garden party given by the Cinema and Television Benevolent Fund in aid of this home for former artists of stage and ITV screens

Among the hundreds who attended were several familiar faces including that of actor Angus Lennie who only the previous evening had appeared in "Justice" on television.

Sylvia. Simms an up and coming starlet Jane Seymour were soon recognised as was the tall cockney comedian Arthur Mullard; but quietly and unobtrusively stealing the show was Dame Anna Neagle, dressed entirely in pink, who arrived with her husband, Herbert Wilcox. Dame Anna is no stranger to the Home having visited it very often and residents are proud of the beautiful portrait of her that hangs in the lounge. With her and her husband was Chairman of the C.T.B.F. Cecil Bernstein.

Robin Hood, Little John and King John, all characters from the latest Walt Disney cartoon film, proved a great attraction to children--young and old--as they promoted an archery contest.

Despite the rain which fell almost continuously the whole afternoon, everyone stayed—with umbrellas up—to enjoy the exciting competitions and games provided for their amusement.

In the house, residents manned their own stall on which hand-knitted goods, home-made jams and so on were displayed. Teas and other refreshments were served and a bingo session ran without a pause.

"We were surprised to see so many people as the weather was so bad. It's most gratifying," said Mr, G. Gregory who, with his wife and staff run the Home.

Not only retired persons use the home. Those who have worked in bingo, cinema or Independent Television industries can also recuperate there after an illness or operation and their dependants too can enjoy the same facilities.

Thur 5th Sept

IDEAS TO RESTORE DRILL HALL AT WOKINGHAM

The Drill Hall, Wokingham, for long the centre of Wokingham's recreational activities, but now in a sad state of disrepair, may, if a local resident has his way, take on a new lease of life. Members of the Town Council Amenities Committee discussed on Tuesday, a well thought-out detailed study sent to the Town Clerk by Mr. David Feather, of Wooshill lane, Wokingham, in which he decried the paucity in the area of theatrical facilities of a reasonable standard.

Mr. Feather has contacted various societies, such as the Wokingham Players who, before their own theatre in Norreys Avenue was built, staged some shows in the Drill Hall; Woodley Light Operatic Society; East Berkshire Operatic Society; Wokingham Madrigal Society; Yateley Opera Group; the Felicity Morgan School of Dancing and a possible Wokingham Operatic Society, who all agreed that such a theatre would be welcome.

These groups, Mr. Feather believes, not only fulfil a major role in public entertainment but also, through their internal activities, satisfy a substantial recreational need for their membership.

“Should the Drill Hall not be acceptable as the basis of a theatre, perhaps the various councils between them could find a suitable site, where a purpose built structure could be erected,” he wrote.

Mr. Feather also outlined his ideas on how the money necessary to the scheme could be raised with the help of the District Council, the Town Council and, perhaps an Arts Council grant, with local firms being asked to contribute along with members of the public.

To use the Drill Hall would mean a complete change in plans already passed for the development of Denmark Street and. although the majority of the committee agreed the idea would be a sound one, most felt this would not be possible. A theatre, too, they thought would not be a viable proposition and suggested, instead, a Community Centre, incorporating a theatre.

This had already been put to Mr. Feather, who said that none of the Societies mentioned would be interested in performing in a hall where the auditorium would have a flat floor. Cllr. J. Rankin said that he did not think it would be feasible to alter the Drill Hall and that it would be difficult financially to make it viable.

Chairman of the meeting, Cllr. John Lewis, said that, although it would be a good thing for the community to have a centre and that such an amenity was desperately needed, it was a case of “what we can do with monies we have NOT got available.

He suggested the committee write to Mr. Feather to say they sympathise with his motives, but feel they cannot provide a theatre in isolation, but that the District Council would be informed of his proposition and their help asked in building a community centre and a theatre as part of a complex, which would serve the whole community and not just a small section.

Thur 19th Sept

WOKINGHAM SOCIETY IS TEN YEARS OLD

Ten years ago the Wokingham Society came into existence and on Saturday, at the Community Centre, Broad Street, members met to celebrate its anniversary. The Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr. and Mrs. John Tattersall, were there with the Chairman of the Society, Anthony Cross, and two other founders members, Mrs. June Weber and Desmond Duval.

Dancing to the music of the Wokingham band, “Sound Six,” was interrupted by supper and the cutting of the cake specially made for the occasion.

A raffle provided one of the highlights of the evening when one of the prizes was a 4 lb. bag of sugar which had been chained and padlocked to a table.

Thur 26th Sept

WOKINGHAM VICAR STEPS OUT TO SIZE UP PARISH

Blistered feet he could have done without, and a pedometer that worked would have been a help too, but both mishaps were disregarded by the Rector of St Paul’s,

Wokingham, the Rev. L. Lloyd-Davies, when he walked his parish boundaries on Friday. It all started when people phoned him from areas he knew nothing about, asking to be married in St. Paul's.

"The parish is a large one and the boundary rather vague especially at Finchampstead, and I didn't know where they were talking about so I thought the best way to find out was to walk it," he said. Several of his parishioners heard of his intentions and decided to turn it into a sponsored walk—much to his delight as it means he can use the money which will amount to approximately £40, to buy extras for the church.

The weather was kind and, with his dog Ianto, he set off from the Rectory in Holt Lane in brilliant sunshine. "It was very pleasant," he said. "People working in their gardens and in the fields stopped to talk and I do know now exactly where my parish extends." Now, because his pedometer failed to work properly, he may have to resort to using his car to work out the distance.

Thur 17th Oct

DEATH OF FORMER MAYORESS

A former Mayoress of Wokingham, Mrs. Hilda May Reeves (82), died on Saturday at her home in Crescent Road, Wokingham, after being an invalid for many years. Creation will take place at Easthampstead Crematorium today (Thursday). Representatives from the Town Council are expected to attend.

Mrs. Reeves was the widow of Mr. Ernest William Reeves, Freeman of the Borough and Mayor for four years during the last war.

Thur 31st Oct

GLENN MILLER MAGIC PACKS THEM IN—AND RAISES £500

The magic of Glenn Miller's music still draws top capacity crowds and more than 500 people attended a Glenn Miller concert to enable Wokingham Rotary Club to raise more than £500 for local charities at Emmbrook School last Thursday.

The Showband of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, conducted by Capt. M.G. Lane, set the mood of the evening with a classic arrangement of "St. Louis Blues." A rousing "American Patrol," "Georgia" (featuring trumpeter B.S.M. G. Saunders) and the inevitable "In the Mood," were just a few of the well-known Glenn Miller sounds enjoyed by the audience.

Their vocalist was Ricki Dee (Corp. William Thain), who has been with the band since 1959 and has toured with them in Brazil and the Seychelle Islands.

Wokingham's Ken and Eileen Lowes combined in a presentation of the light music they made popular before opera claimed Eileen and Ken returned to his first love the violin. Together they sang excerpts from "West Side Story," a selection from "Porgy and Bess," and ended with duets including "Stranger in Paradise," "I have Dreamed," and "Climb Every Mountain." Ken played Monti's "Czardas" and Eileen sang the aria "One Fine Day" from "Madame Butterfly."

Another star was Derek Etherington, who started playing the piano at nine, studied classical music in his teens and has developed over the years a style which makes for easy listening.

The guest of honour was Air Commodore Sir Louis Dickens.

Thur 19th Dec

THE 'APES' ARRIVE IN TOWN

“Apes” took over Wokingham on Saturday and for an hour the town centre was theirs. The Wokingham Chamber of Trade’s spectacular procession of Father Christmas (Mike Drury), escorted by characters who could have come straight from the “Planet of the Apes” as seen on television, brought thousands of delighted youngsters (and oldsters) to line the route.

Father Christmas arrived at Wokingham Station at 2.30 p.m. to find a horse drawn cart with an “Ape-man” driver waiting for him. After chatting to the many children who had gone to the station to see his arrival, he climbed into the cart and escorted by four “Apes” started his journey through the town. Their progress was announced by the Thames Valley Police Band who led the way.

Sweets were thrown to youngsters as the cart trundled up Station Road, along Shute End and Broad Street, turned into Rose Street and came back to the town centre along Peach Street to the Town Hall; and all along the way crowds waited to see and to wave.

As soon as the cart stopped, “Apes” and Father Christmas were mobbed by youngsters trying to talk to and touch the visitors.

SHOP FRONTS JUDGED

Shop windows in Wokingham town centre came under close scrutiny on Friday as judges, invited by the Chamber of Trade, inspected them for attractiveness, colour and originality. Professional and non-professional window dressing was taken into account and prizes awarded for both sections in this annual competition.

The judges, including the Mayor and Mayoress, Mr. and Mrs. John Tattersall, found their task difficult but enjoyable. Shops of all trades took part and it was surprising to see how such mundane things as tools could look so colourfully attractive.

A new entry in the competition this year was a bar at The Olde Rose Inne in the Market Place. The decoration was delightful but even more so were the two charming “Molly Mogs” behind the bar. Grace Cook and Sheila Courtney. Their efforts gained a special prize. Other winners were the “Wokingham Times” Jill Russell and Esquire, who were all presented with their awards by the Mayor and Mayoress.

1975

Thur 9th Jan

WOKINGHAM LEGION’S AWARD

The Wokingham Branch of the Royal British Legion has again been awarded the Cayley Cup given annually to the most meritorious of the 60 branches in Berkshire. Now they have been notified that on February 15th at the Area Conference at Eastbourne they are to be presented with an even more important award--the South Eastern Area Merit Cup, after being chosen from 540 branches in the six counties comprising the area.

Both cups were won by their endeavours in respect of Poppy Appeal. benevolent work including visits to the sick, elderly and those in hospital, co-operation with other organisations, activities within the community, attendance at conferences, forums and various parades, regularity at meetings and arranging meetings with interesting speakers or entertainments and maintaining increasing membership.

The Branch Chairman, Mr. A. Dunham, has also been awarded an Area Certificate of Appreciation and this too will be presented at Eastbourne.

Thur 16th Jan

FORMER MAYOR RESIGNS

Mrs. Jean Davy, a former Mayor and Alderman of Wokingham, has resigned from the Town Council because, she says, she has become frustrated. Before the re-organisation of local government, the former Wokingham Borough Council was in existence and Mrs. Davy was Chairman of the Planning Committee and of the Housing Committee for many years.

At that time she found her work very satisfying but since April when the Borough Council became the Town Council and some of its authority was taken away, she says she has become more and more frustrated, "As a doer, I felt I was no longer contributing to the town as a Councillor any more. We made decisions which then went to the District Council, and that was it—we never saw them carried through."

By giving up as Councillor, Mrs. Davy feels she will be able to concentrate even more on her other interests.

She is a J.P. and sits on the Forest Magistrates Bench in Bracknell for two or three days each week, apart from this her main concern is now Little Court, Wokingham's Day Centre for the Elderly, a project in which she was involved from the beginning.

The idea for a Day Centre first came to her when, as a founder member of W.A.D.E.--the Wokingham and District Association for the Elderly—she realised there was nowhere in the town for old people to go for a reasonably-priced meal and somewhere to sit in comfort to chat with friends.

Mrs. Davy successfully involved residents, traders and businessmen in the Little Court scheme and the idea became reality last June when the Centre was officially opened.

Mrs. Davy is chairman of West Mead School for handicapped children and belongs to several other organisations in the town.

Cllr. Ian Crail, Chairman of the Town Planning Committee which met on Thursday, said that Mrs. Davy would be sadly missed on Committees where her experience had been such a help.

As her seat on the Council is now vacant, a new member will be elected or co-opted.

BLUE POOL SITE FOR PLAY AREA

Wokingham's Blue Pool, which has been used as a rubbish dump, is again under discussion as residents of Eastheath Avenue and Reeves Way asked the Town Council to consider its re-orientation. In a letter to the Town Council they pointed out the desirability of the pool site as a recreational area.

They also asked the Council to try to gain to use a field owned by A. Johnson and Co. in Eastheath Avenue, and land between Eastheath Avenue and Reeves Way for play areas.

Mr. John Watson said something should be done immediately as the pool was being filled in very quickly. The Town Clerk is to look into the suggestions contained in the letter.

Thur 23rd Jan

PRIZE FOR WOKINGHAM STATION

Wokingham railway station has been awarded second prize in the Southern Region's Best Kept Stations competition. Each station was judged for its cleanliness and tidiness. Wokingham came second in the Ascot area, with Windsor and Eton Riverside in first place and Camberley third.

Thur 6th Feb

UNCOVERING RELICS AT WOKINGHAM

Pottery finds dating back to the 13th century and indications of a cottage of that date, too, have made the archaeological dig at Wokingham, “well worth while.” The dig was started four weeks ago and, despite the rain, has progressed rapidly.

The Director, Don Stewart, the Urban Archaeological Officer of the Archaeological Committee for Berkshire, has been working to a tight schedule, as that part of Cross Street and Peach Street, where the excavations are taking place, is due for redevelopment and they have been allowed just eight weeks to complete their investigations.

So far they have discovered signs of a fairly substantial medieval cottage with two fire-places, dating about the 16th century, and are uncovering another floor to see if there is any evidence of a dwelling of the Saxon period.

Their newest discovery of foundations of a 13th century cottage on the same site was made on Friday. At the same time pieces of pottery were dug up from what was obviously a rubbish pit nearby. In the pit were layers of shells, indicating that dwellers in Peach Street, which in medieval times was known as Peche-street (French for fish), enjoyed shell fish as a major part of their diet.

With Don is a team of nine young archaeologists, who received help from a number of local enthusiasts at week-ends.

Next week the team hope to start a fresh dig at Cross Street, but near the junction with Rose Street, a much “older area” on the site of a 16th century house, burnt down at the beginning of the last war.

Photographs, drawings and maps have been made of their discoveries. The site supervisor, Janet Dowling, has travelled extensively in pursuit of her interests in archaeology, including Israel, York and Gloucester.

ST. PAUL’S WIN QUIZ—JUST!

History repeated itself on Thursday last week when Emmbrook Junior School’s team in the Wokingham District Council’s Home Safety Quiz was beaten by half a point. As a practice for their match with St. Paul’s Juniors on Thursday, Emmbrook played against their P.T.A. team and lost by 43½ to 44.

Against St. Paul’s at St. Paul’s School they lost by 40 to 40½ in an exciting match which was only decided on the last question.

Mr. C.A. Fry, organiser and question master, posed questions on health, fire prevention and first-aid; helping to judge the answers were Sgt. Bill Amor of the Thames Valley Police, and Mr. Barry Price, member of the Wokingham District Council Health Department.

The winning team, Philip Ball, Simon Meredith, Derek Hudson, Anne Gerrish and Lucy Wickham, go on to the next round.

In the competition, teams from 24 schools in Wokingham, Winnersh, Shinfield, Woodley and Crowthorne take part, with the finalists receiving a trophy and certificates.

The competition between St. Sebastian’s and Oaklands was also very close and it wasn’t until the third round that Oaklands managed to jump ahead and finish with a clear lead of 33 points to St. Sebastian’s 27. The Oaklands team members were Susan Belcher, Deborah Mays, Christopher Reece, Sean Pigeon, and Jonathan Ashdown.

M.P. RECEIVES ROAD DANGER PETITION

A 600-name petition protesting about road dangers in part of Emmbrook was presented to Mr. W.R. van Straubensee. M.P. for Wokingham, on Saturday. It came

from villagers of Emmbrook who are worried about dangers pedestrians face when walking around a bend at the bottom of Matthews Green Road.

A delegation led by the Chairman of the Joel Park Residents Association, Mr. Roger King, said Mr. van Straubensee that their concern was for children using the three Emmbrook Schools, for young mothers with prams and for old people.

The villagers' plea for a footbridge to run beside the existing road bridge across the Loddon at this point has been turned down, and they claim that nothing else has been done to minimise the danger. They are hoping that the petition will result in early action.

Thurs 13th Feb

WOKINGHAM TOWN HALL ROOF LEAKS

Work must be carried out immediately on part of the Wokingham Town Hall roof to allow office workers a dry place to sit. At the Amenities Committee of the Town Council last week, the Town Clerk, Mr. Richard Jones, told members that water literally poured down the walls of some of the offices in heavy rain and was particularly bad in one of the toilets.

He had asked six firms to present estimates on costs of repairing the flat roof section, and to survey and give an estimate of money required for the rest of the roofing. Only one firm had bothered to reply,

The cost of the flat roof repairs would be £100, but for the rest it would take approximately £1,430. Mr. Jones had advised Mr. Keith France, the Wokingham District Council's Housing Officer, who replied-that a detailed, structural examination of the roof should be carried out.

This left the council in a dilemma, he said, as it would take at least three months to go through this procedure and every time it rained, water poured in. "We have got to do something now," Mr. Jones said.

Mr. John Tattersall, the Mayor, said the work on the flat-roof; the cause of most of the trouble, should be carried out immediately and a survey made of the rest of the building as soon as possible afterwards. "As landlords we have a duty to our tenants to at least keep them dry," he pointed out.

Thur 27th Feb

WOKINGHAM'S SHARE OF LEGION AWARDS

The Southern Area Merit Cup, only once before won by a Berkshire branch of the Royal British Legion was presented to the Wokingham branch last week. It was received by Mr. A. Dunham, Chairman of Wokingham Royal British Legion, at the Legion conference at Eastbourne where he also received on behalf of the branch a Certificate of Merit. Wokingham are already holders of the Cayley Cup, a County Merit Award.

The presentation of cups and certificates was one of the last duties of Lord Astor of Hever to perform before his retirement as Area President.

Among other awards was a special Certificate of appreciation made to the County Secretary of Berkshire, Mr. R.E. Shrive; Area certificates of appreciation to Mr. N. Wickens, former Chairman of Winnersh branch; and Mr. A. Dunham, Chairman of Wokingham, in appreciation of their endeavours over many years on all aspects of Legion activities.

Wed 26th March

EX-MAYOR ATTACKS 'DISGRACEFUL STATE' OF WOKINGHAM'S MARKET PLACE

A petition deploring the 'disgraceful state' of Wokingham's Market Place has been raised by a former Mayor of the Borough and handed over to the District Council. The man behind the protest is Mr. Ernest Bland, who is manager of a men's wear shop facing on to the market.

Describing the area as looking like a "slum," Mr. Bland said this week, "In all the 28 years I have lived and worked in Wokingham, I have never seen it in such a disgraceful state as it is now."

Mr. Bland was referring in particular to dirty torn covers flapping in the wind, and to "scruffy" scaffolding that has stood against what was once Kirby's for the past two or three years.

"I am not knocking the market people. I believe them to be an asset to this part of the town but what I am against is the ugly look of the stalls when the traders have gone."

He took a petition round to all the shops and inns and public houses in the centre of the town and nearly everyone signed it. The petition asks for the council to take action to tidy up the Market Place, and Mr. Bland suggests that the covers be taken down each day and only put up again when the stalls are in use.

"On Sunday evening there are no lights at all in that part of the town. It is dark, dirty, and presents a wholly disreputable appearance which is enough to frighten everybody away. Shoppers now go to towns outside Wokingham and find pleasant, clean shopping precincts with plenty of car parking spaces. Of course they don't want to shop in Wokingham. I love the town, and hate to see it going downhill so rapidly. Something must be done and done soon."

Thur 3rd April

'CHAMBER OF TRADE MAY DIE' WARNS OFFICIAL

The Wokingham Chamber of Trade is to try to present a new image in an effort to gain more members. At a meeting last week they agreed to concentrate more on local issues than on national ones and to try to help businessmen in Wokingham. By doing so they hope to break through the apathy that appears to surround them. If they don't the chamber may die.

Invitations had been sent to all traders and businessmen in the town for the last meeting, but only the eight that usually attended had bothered to turn up.

A change of name had been suggested at a previous meeting but it was decided to take no action on this move. Instead the chamber stated its objectives. They are to concentrate on local issues more than national ones to try to reduce unpaid work on behalf of the Government such as filling tax forms, to expand membership to include the self-employed and local companies and to try to reduce further tax burdens on the self-employed, to make chamber of mutual benefit to others and to make Wokingham a pleasant place in which to work and live.

Thur 10th April

IMPROVING WOKINGHAM MARKET

New covers have replaced dirty torn ones on stalls at Wokingham Market Place since a petition regarding the "disgusting state" of the market was handed to the District Council. The petition was organised by former Mayor of Wokingham, Mr.

Ernest Bland, who had the support of shopkeepers, publicans and traders in that part of the town.

At Tuesday's Wokingham Town Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting, the Town Clerk, Mr. Richard Jones, told members that he had sought quotations for repairing bent and cracked stall tubing and suggested an entirely new lay-out for the market would be desirable.

Stalls should be five or ten feet in width, all interchangeable, giving room for more to be included on the site and designed so that when one section needed to be replaced it could be done without undue disturbance or cost. Members agreed that his recommendations should be discussed at a full council meeting.

NEW BARRIERS AT STATION

Wokingham District Council have fully supported plans to install automatic barriers at Wokingham Station, level crossing. Their support follows an offer from Berkshire County Council of financial aid to speed up the completion of the project, but on Monday they agreed that the barrier should be of full width type, with metal aprons.

They made this condition after fears that the traffic situation could become worse if a continental half-barrier crossing was put in.

Thur 17th April

WOKINGHAM TO SPONSOR PLAY BUS

The Wokingham Town Council's decision to go ahead with a mobile play school scheme by themselves was approved by the district council's Community Services Committee last week.

It was agreed that they would be responsible for servicing and garaging the play bus. They also agreed to act as coordinators to get the project under way.

The town council decided they would go ahead with the scheme despite the fact that Winnersh and Woodley Town Councils were not prepared to take part in the scheme.

They will accept the ownership of the vehicle and be responsible for its running costs for the next two years.

The money for the bus was raised by the West Forest Round Table. At the moment it is at Ed's Barn Country Club; it is hoped that the conversions to the bus will be completed by June.

Thur 22nd May

SHOCK FOR TRADERS

Dozens of Wokingham shops are facing closure because they cannot afford huge rent increases. Traders in the town centre said this week they will be forced out of business by rises of as much as £5,000 proposed by the owners of the properties. A dentist has already decided to move out of his surgery in the Arcade, off Peach Street because he cannot pay a 250% rise. And many more shop managers fear they will have to close down after the shock rent demands arrived this month.

The rents are due to go up because of a review of seven-year leases on many town centre stores. Most of the shops affected are in Peach Street where tenants have been asked to pay between £3,000 and £5,000 a year more. Peach Street is one of Wokingham's main shopping centres. Among the stores whose managers have said they are facing massive rent rises are a jewellers, greengrocer, men's wear shop, bakery and shoe store.

It is understood that the rises have been proposed to bring the rest of the properties up to a figure they might be expected to fetch in the current property market.

Thur 22nd May

COMMISSIONER WILLIAM WYCLIFFE BOOTH DIES

Commissioner William Wycliffe Booth of the Salvation Army, and a grandson of the movement, died last week at his Wokingham home, Happy Valley, Kiln Ride, Wokingham. He was aged 80. He had lived in the area for about 19 years. He leaves a widow and six children, four of whom are officers in the Salvation Army.

Commissioner Booth had led a colourful life, working abroad for many years and was a major figure in the regrouping of the Salvation Army after the Second World War. Before the war he worked in France and Switzerland and was second in command of Scotland. He returned to France at the end of the war to regroup their forces and much of his work was in evacuating prisoners from the notorious Devil's Island camp.

In 1949 he was sent to Norway where he stayed for six years before taking charge of the Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda. He came back to England in 1954 and a year later at their centenary celebrations he unveiled a memorial to his grandfather at Westminster Abbey.

The funeral service was held on Friday last week at the salvation Army Hall, Camberley.

Thur 12th June

TELEVISION STAR JOINS THE LINE-UP OF JUDGES

Wokingham Carnival proved more of a success this year than ever before. The parade of 46 floats—four more than last year—was judged by the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Skedgel, with television's Blue Peter favourite, Lesley Judd.

Their final choice was West Forest Townswomen's Guild with their "Oakingham Market" in the organisations section and the "Wokingham News" in the trade section.

Attractions

At the carnival was a variety of attractions including displays by sheepdogs and the Thames Valley Police dogs, and dancing by the Kennet Morris Men. There was a marrow dangling contest, and music was provided by bands of the 2nd Battalion Parachute regiment, R.E.M.E. Arborfield, and the 1st Woodley Girls' Brigade.

Queening over it all was Miss Wokingham Carnival 1975, Margaret Huber and Junior Queen Melanie Winslow.

This year's carnival was organised by Wokingham Round Table who believe that a record amount of more than £2,000 has been raised.

The only disappointment of the day was the non-appearance of the Strongbow Skydivers, a free-fall parachute display, which had to be cancelled because of aircraft trouble.

Thur 19th June

RED DEVILS DROP-IN AT EMMBROOK FAYRE

The Emmbrook Secondary School's summer fayre came to an exciting end with the Red Devils free fall parachute team dropping in. The five parachutists made spectacular landings on the small space roped off in the middle of the school's playing field which was lined with excited spectators. There, headmaster, Mr. C. Carter was handed a baton by the team to commemorate the occasion as a fast moving small plane skimmed the rooftop.

The fayre was attended by a record number of visitors who made good use of the various sideshows and games put on for the occasion. Football and netball competitions were watched and enjoyed as was disco and rides on a small scale fire engine and on ponies.

The money raised will go towards the purchase of a mini-bus or van which will be used to take pupils on trips to other schools and to their project at Tirabad, Wales.

Thur 24th July

“MY WORK IS DONE”—RETIRING HEADMISTRESS

It is almost 28 years since Beryl Caudwell decided the White House, Finchampstead Road, Wokingham, would make an ideal preparatory school, and her unfailing efforts since that day “to keep the lamp of learning burning bright” were acknowledged at a farewell party given at the school last week to mark her retirement as headmistress.

Parents and pupils packed into what was once the drawing room of the original house and heard Miss Caudwell say that the love that existed at the White House School was beyond expression. Because of that love the occasion was not a sad one.

“I do feel my work is done,” she said. “But I know that the school will continue to flourish and grow.”

The Rev. Geoffrey Carr, chairman of the School Trustees presented Miss Caudwell with a cheque for £200 on behalf of the trustees, parents and pupils past and present. During her retirement Miss Caudwell will continue to live in her house in the grounds of the school.

MANSION MAKES WAY FOR NEW GUIDE DOG TRAINING CENTRE

Folly Court, Wokingham, once a large, imposing mansion looking across its acreage to Barkham Road, is now just a pile of rubble, apart from a carriageway tower which is to be restored. Some older residents of Wokingham may have mourned its passing last week, under relentless bulldozers, but for Mr. Terry Warner, Chairman of the Wokingham and Bracknell Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, it was the beginning of a dream soon to be realised.

It is on this site at Folly Court, that the Wokingham Training centre for Guide Dogs will be built and a spokesman for the National Association offices in London said it was hoped to start construction in October, with a good possibility that the Centre would be enrolling its first puppies for training by Christmas 1976.

Meanwhile Mr. Warner, his wife Val. who is secretary of the local association and the rest of the committee are continuing with fund-raising events to help finance the new building.

Thur 31st July

COUNCIL AGREE TO £40,000

Wokingham Town Council have agreed to contribute £40,000 towards a sports hall scheme at St. Crispins School, with the understanding that it can be used after school hours by the public. The overall cost of the improvements, modifications and additions to the hall, to make it suitable for adult use, will be £120,000. The district council will give £80,000 of this total and the two councils will offset the cost over two years.

The county council have already invested £163,000 in the building of the sports hall and will provide land for improvements free of charge. Working drawings have yet to be completed, but the scheme is scheduled to start in 1976.

Control of the use of the sports hall will probably be carried out by a management committee, half being representatives of the education authority and the remainder shared equally by the town and district councils.

Plans have been submitted for the scheme to Wokingham District Council by Berkshire's Director of Education and will be considered on August 7th. He is asking for outline permission for the extensions and sports complex.

Thur 2nd Oct

'DISGUSTING STATE OF WOKINGHAM' ATTACKED

Derelict and dilapidated buildings in Wokingham's town centre were again under discussion at Tuesday's meeting of the Wokingham's Chamber of Trade and Commerce. One trader, Mr. A. Bland, described the whole appearance of the town as "frankly disgusting" and said it was little wonder that people were shopping elsewhere.

"Twenty years ago, said Mr. Bland, "They had been promised a shopping precinct in the centre of Wokingham, but instead other areas a few miles away had them and people were going there to shop in comfort." He accused the Wokingham District Council of "a grave disservice" to the people of Wokingham in not looking after the town centre in the way it deserved.

We have derelict shops and private premises in the town that are in an extremely dangerous state," he said. "Nothing is done about it. Hoardings and scaffoldings on empty buildings are attracting fly posters which are never taken down."

Mr. Jim Bate, who chaired the meeting, said the chamber would continue to put pressure on the council on the thorny question of the appearance of Wokingham Town Centre.

Thur 23rd Oct

LORD LIEUTENANT RESIGNS

Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, Maj. the Hon. David Smith, has resigned for health reasons. He announced the decision to a meeting of the County's Deputy Lieutenants on Monday, but he is to carry on in the post until the end of the year. No decision has yet been taken over a successor.

Major Smith, who is 68, was appointed Lord Lieutenant in 1959. He lives at Kings Copse House, Southend, Reading.

Educated at Eton and Oxford, Major Smith was associated with the family company of W.H. Smith and Son all his working life. He retired from the board of the company 1972 and was the governing director from 1948 until 1969.

He is still a member of the board of W. H. Smith and Son (Holdings) Ltd. a policy making company, and on the board of Lloyds Bank.

In 1964 he was awarded the C.B.E, and three years ago was made an Honorary Doctor of Literature at Reading University. Major Smith has held various positions on local and national organisations including chairman of the N.S.P.C.C, President of the Newsvendors' Institution, and membership of the Berkshire Playing Fields Association, the Berkshire Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society and the local branch of the Council for Protection of Rural England.

In 1946 Major Smith was appointed a magistrate and was chairman of the Reading County Bench from 1952 to 1958. He married Lady Helen Pleydell-Bouverie in 1931 and the couple have four sons one daughter.

Thur 30th Oct

PALMER MEMORIES RECALLED

MEMORIES of schooldays 50 years ago and old friendships rekindled made a reunion for former pupils of Palmer School, Wokingham, a happy occasion when they met again last week at the present school on Norreys Avenue built three years ago.

The school was open all day for the visitors and quite a number of them were able to compare school in the 70s with their recollections of it in 1925. The first arrival was at 8.15 a.m. and from then on the school headmaster, Mr. Sidney Meachen was kept busy showing a steady stream of former boys and girls round the school, listening to their comments as he explained teaching methods used nowadays.

The general feeling among the visitors was that things had improved considerably. They were also intrigued by the school dinners and recalled a typical lunch in the 1920s—a bowl of hot soup from the butcher's shop on Peach Street.

In the evening the pupils gave a P.E. display and concert for their guests. The children played recorders and violins and the choir sang a selection of favourite melodies, including some from 1925.

At the end of a memorable day, Mr. W.C. Smith, a former pupil and ex-mayor of Wokingham, thanked Mr. Meachen and his staff and the children for their warmth and hospitality.

HAIRDRESSER IS LEAVING TOWN

The name "Edwina" has been associated with hairdressing in Wokingham for something like 40 years, but the present business, run by Mr. Les Ilott, at 23 Market Place, will close down in two weeks and a suite of offices, fronted by Parkers, Estate Agents, will take its place.

Explaining his reasons for leaving Wokingham after 22 years in business Mr. Ilott said he was tired of worrying about increases in rates and how to keep his prices steady while costs rocketed. His lease runs out in seven years' time. This offer came out of the blue, through City and Suburban Properties. He felt this was an opportune time to move out.

Mr. Ilott was born in Wokingham and educated at Palmer School but it wasn't until after war service—having started his hairdressing career in Kingston and then Surbiton—that he opened his hairdressing salon in Wokingham. He took over the original Edwina salon, opposite his present business, 22 years ago, and 12 years later moved into 23, Market Place, which was then a carpet shop.

Until 18 months ago, Les ran both salons, under the name of Edwina, as well as a business in Crowthorne, which he will continue to operate. He will also open a small salon in Lambourne, about one third of the size of his present business premises.

Les Ilott has been an executive member of the Chamber of Commerce and has supported several local groups.

Thur 27th Nov

NICE TO BE BACK IN WOKINGHAM

For many people Wokingham is a nice quiet run-of-the-mill town, with not a lot in the way of excitement, but one couple who are delighted to be back after five years in Devon, are ex-Mayor of Wokingham, Mr. John Chapman, and his wife, Rosa.

Mr. and Mrs. Chapman, now living at Burford Court, Wokingham, moved to Ottery St. Mary, because, as they explained, they wanted a change of surroundings, but, although they tried hard to settle, they missed the warmth and companionship of their friends in Wokingham.

Mr. and Mrs. Chapman spent last Christmas in Wokingham with their daughter and grandchildren and it was then they began to think seriously about returning. They also have a son who is a deputy headmaster of a school in Germany.

Mr. Chapman was an executive with H.M. stationery Office when he retired in 1965. Ten years earlier, a year after he and his family had arrived in Wokingham, he was elected to Wokingham Town Council.

It was in 1955 that he formed the Wokingham Literary Society, which is still flourishing today. He was also active in the Wokingham Players, a manager of Emmbrook Primary School and a Governor of St. Crispins. He was also elected Mayor of Wokingham in 1964. He left the town in 1970.

While Mr. Chapman is “relaxing” in his retirement he will probably be painting—in oils. Samples of his skill on canvas hang in their new flat at, 3, Burfield Court, Wokingham, where their many friends will be delighted to find them again after five years away from home.

BOOKSELLER CLOSING UP

Wokingham bookseller, Mr. Jim Bate, is closing up his Peach Street shop and moving to Dorset because he has exhausted his enthusiasm for selling books.

Mr. Bate, President of the Wokingham Chamber of Commerce and a former borough councillor, went into the bookselling business four years ago. He looked around and decided that there wasn't a decent book shop in Wokingham and he thought he would try something about it. And there is no doubt he has succeeded, because since then, Bate's Bookshop has become a familiar haunt for lovers of books from all over the district.

He and his wife Olga came to this area 10 years ago, when Mr. Bate retired as a Technical Advisor for Shell Oil Company. But total retirement was too leisurely for him and he looked around for ways to keep busy. He worked as an Estate Agent for a time and was appointed to the Board of Governors of Hephaistos School, Farley Hill, and was elected councillor for Wokingham.

He has served for a number of years on the committee of Wokingham Chamber of Commerce. He says that he will be sorry to leave Wokingham and hopes that whoever takes over the Peach Street premises will continue to run it as a bookshop.

ST. CRISPIN'S SPORTS COMPLEX

Berkshire planners have given approval for the proposed sports complex at St. Crispin's School, Wokingham. The county council's development committee gave the scheme outline planning consent on Tuesday, after they heard that the main problems had been settled at a meeting between Wokingham District and Town Councils and a special section from county.

It had been hoped to build the sports hall complex without disturbing the all-weather tennis/football pitches and retaining as much of the Wokingham Road frontage. However, it was found that there was no alternative but to build on part of the tennis/netball pitches and the frontage of the school. The swimming pool, which will be constructed at a much later date, will take up part of the all-weather pitches.

By taking this course, the council hope that phase one of the scheme—to build two halls and ancillary accommodation—can proceed at an early date.

At a meeting of Wokingham Town Council on Tuesday, Mr. W.C.A. Smith suggested that the plans should be dropped, on the grounds that it could cost Wokingham rate-payers another £15,000 on top of the money already contributed.

Mr. Bob Boyd, who was in favour of the scheme said it would be a great disservice to the people of Wokingham if we were to refuse it. Mr. Boyd, who is also a member of the District Council explained that the extension facility was now on top of the County Education Authority's list and the Town Clerk, Mr. Richard Jones commented that on this basis there was every possibility that it would not be axed.

Thur 4th Dec

ONE OF THE LAST LINKS WITH REEVES IS TO END SOON

When Mr. Cecil Culver, manager of Bishop's Move, Wokingham, puts on his coat and closes his office door for the last time at the end of this month, one of the few remaining links with the original firm of Reeves and Co. will be severed. Although born in London, Mr. Culver has lived in Wokingham since he was a small boy and is a member of a local family. His grandfather, Mr. William Culver, had a builder's business and was a member of Wokingham Town Council.

When he left school, Mr. Culver went into banking and insurance and the circumstances that brought him to Mr. Ernest Reeves' removal firm appear now strangely fortuitous. Mr. Culver and Mr. Reeves' son Gordon were school friends, and in 1938, Mr. Culver was invited to join the business which had been started by the Reeves family in 1887.

Gordon Reeves joined the army when war broke out, but Mr. Culver was turned down on medical grounds. He continued in the furniture removal business, working as Mr. Reeves' right-hand man. Gordon was killed on active service and his father took comfort in the friendship and loyalty of Cecil Culver.

In 1956, Mr. Reeves sold the business to C. and G. Ayres, of Reading, but the original name was retained and Mr. Culver continued as company manager. The firm was taken over by Bishop's Move in 1972.

Mr. Culver, who is 65, says he has mixed feelings about retiring. "There's such a pile of legislation to get through nowadays. I'm scratching about with bits of paper when I should be organising a removal," he said.

As for changes in the type of removal jobs, compared with almost 40 years ago. Mr. Culver thinks that people have less furniture now, and correspondingly, houses are much smaller. He recalls a most memorable job at the outbreak of war when St.: Paul's, School, London, was evacuated to Easthampstead Park. Several laboratories of equipment had to be transported, as well as the other school supplies, and a few years later it had to be moved back again to Kensington.

Although Mr. Culver is officially retiring at the end of this year he is taking over a temporary relief at Bishop's various branches throughout the country, which could mean quite a bit of sightseeing in the years ahead for Mr. Culver and his wife, Edwina. He is a past President of Wokingham Rotary Club, chairman of the Friends of Ranelagh, President of a local orthopaedic clinic, Vice-President of Wokingham Horticultural Society, and past Chairman of Mid-Southern Area Furniture Removers' Institute.

1976

Thur 8th Jan

JULIAN, 21, IS A THIRD GENERATION CRAFTSMAN

The skill of the craftsman has again manifested itself at Shute End House, Wokingham, with the third generation of the King-Salter family to produce a highly creative talent for handicraft work. Julian King-Salter is a 21-year-old theology

student at Queen's College, Birmingham, but he has been dabbling in pottery, with obvious success, since he was a 12-year-old schoolboy at Marlborough

Vases and pots and of every shape, size and colour testify to Julian's ability to mould clay into objects of lasting beauty without the aid of a potter's wheel. The satisfaction of turning by hand is what makes pottery so fascinating for Julian.

By the time Julian left Marlborough he had established a hobby he intends to continue for the rest of his life, and when he went on to study at Cambridge he found the facilities and opportunities for making his "pots" readily available.

At Queen's it was a different story and Julian persuaded his father, the Rev. Canon King-Salter, to apply for planning permission to build a pottery kiln in the back garden of Shute End House.

Julian's grandfather, also Julian, a naval architect and the first member of the King-Salter family to occupy Shute End House, was interested in iron work as a hobby and built a forge in the garden. It is on the site of this forge that Julian plans to build his pottery kiln.

The Rev. Canon King Salter retired in Manchester about 18 months ago and brought his family back to Shute End House for the first time in ten years.

Julian has just completed his first year at Queen's and he hopes to have a year off before taking his Theology degree. Not surprisingly Julian also loves to paint, and his other major hobby is gardening. He hopes to enter the Ministry in a few years' time.

Thur 29th Jan

W.A.D.E. WALK GOT OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT

There was an impression of disordered chaos when W.A.D.E. (Wokingham and District Association for the Elderly) Walkers arrived at Wokingham's Community Centre on Sunday for the start of the 20 miles. Annual walk to raise funds for Little Court, the residential centre for the elderly.

Explaining the confusion, W.A.D.E. chairman, Mrs. Jean Davy said, "We are most upset that our arrangements started so badly. There was a break-in at the Centre early on Sunday morning and finger-print experts were still working on one of the doors when we arrived. Normally the walkers would have come in one way with their sponsor slips and left by a different door, but this time everyone had to use the same door for entrance and exit and it was a complete muddle. We only hope people will understand and not be put off from coming back next year.

Vandals had broken into the Centre through a window and stole sweets valued at approximately £50. They also took money from billiard tables and pool tables and caused considerable damage.

In spite of the initial setback to the W.A.D.E. Walk, and some later problems when radio communications failed between the Centre and some of the check-points, Mrs. Davy said she was delighted with this year's exceptional turnout—at least 900 compared with just over 600 in 1975. It is estimated that something like £6,500 will be collected from sponsors over the next few weeks.

The signal to start the walk was given by Cllr. Alfred Skedgel, Mayor of Wokingham. Leading the field along Broad Street was one of W.A.D.E.'s most senior members, 92-year-old Mrs. Edith Gilbert, Eastheath Avenue, Wokingham. With her was Mrs. Constance Bell, Miss Kathleen Jones, Mrs. K. Hopper, Mrs. Margaret Monk, Mrs. A. Myles and Mr. J. Norman.

Children and dogs always enjoy the W.A.D.E. Walk and this year there were more than ever. "Trumps" a Cairn terrier owned by the Ghent family of Hawks Close, Wokingham, really lived up to his name, with £29 sponsor money for the 20 miles. At

least 20 dogs of varying breeds went home on Sunday with a rosette fixed to their collar, testifying that they had completed the distance.

Youngsters who completed the distance included 10-year-old Claire Marriner from Binfield, and 10-year-old James Cook, Gorse, Ride North. Thirteen-year-old Mark Couper, of 183 Finchampstead Road, Wokingham, has almost £40 to collect from sponsors for his successful day's walk.

Anchor man for the Walk was, again Mr. David Spooner, whose job was to urge on any who were simply lagging or to get help for those who just couldn't go on any further, although on Sunday there were very few in the latter category.

SECOND MATRON IN 300 YEARS

For the second time in its 300-year history Lucas Hospital, Wokingham, is being administered by a Matron rather than a master and it is already evident, after only a month in residence that Mrs. Gladys Walker has made a favourable impression on the residents at the almshouses in Luckley Road.

A native of Reading--although she moved to London at an early age --Mrs. Walker was attracted to the vacancy at Lucas Hospital because she felt the duties would ideally combine her own training and ability as administrator and qualified nurse.

Mrs. Walker's first nursing experience was with the Red Cross in London during the blitz. From there she moved into commerce --although still in the medical field--and eventually became assistant in charge of a 50-strong sales force with Johnson and Johnson.

She has also held a government position which involved dealing with various health Problems. She seemed to be drawn to medicine and people and it was the people and their problems which drew her back to nursing--this time at Wrexham Park, Slough. From there it was a short step to the National foundation for Educational Research, also at Slough. Mrs. Walker's last post, before taking over as Matron at Lucas on Miss Doris Murray's retirement at the end of the year, was at High Wycombe General Hospital.

Sir Henry Lucas founded the almshouses on their present site at Chapel Green in 1663 and the Paladian building, constructed from Binfield bricks, was officially opened in 1665, with 16 elderly men in residence. The Draper's Company took over as Trustees on the death of Sir Henry Lucas and have maintained the buildings and administered the almshouses since that time.

From 1665 until 1938 a Master--an ordained priest--was in charge and had his rooms in the east wing, which also housed the refectory for the residents. This is now a cellar with the Matron's drawing room above--a delightful room with some of the original windows still intact.

In 1922 the Draper's Company changed the residence qualifications to admit married couples and widows or single women and men and altered the main body of the building to form single or double roomed flats. Each flat is spacious and comfortable and now has central heating, a modern kitchen and bathroom and the added luxury of television.

The chapel on the west wing of the building, is the show piece of the hospital, with the original oak benches on which the "old men" sat, the Chance gates which are also the altar rails, the pulpit with an hour glass close by and the delicate iron work of the priest's stall.

The original stained glass window bears the Royal Arms of Charles II and depicts the lilies of France as a quartering.

Thur 5th Feb

WOMAN NEXT MAYOR

Since Wokingham's first mayor took office in 1885 the tendency has been for men to wear the chain of office, but this year, for only the fifth time, a woman will hold the honour. The choice of the Mayoral Selection Committee fell on Mrs. Margaret Busst, aged 55, of Mill Close, Wokingham, who has been a town councillor for more than eight years, and the town council accepted the recommendation last week.

The new Mayor, who begins her term of office in May, was born in Birmingham in 1960. She has been a widow for just over two years, and her daughter, Mrs. Anne Giddings who lives in Wokingham with her husband and three children, will be the new Mayoress.

An insatiable interest in politics drew Mrs. Busst to Conservative Association meetings in the early 1960s and, from the very beginning planning was her particular niche.

Mrs. Busst is Chairman of the Town Council's Planning Committee, a member of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and is also on the Planning Committee of Wokingham District Council.

Her local interests are the Wokingham and District Association for the elderly, of which she is a committee member, and the Friends of Little Court. She is also on the Board of Managers at Walter County Infants' School and on the Board of Governors at Holt School.

Mrs. Busst is a senior Accounts Clerk with Ridat Engineering Co. Ltd; of Fishponds Road, Wokingham.

Thur 12th Feb

MR. SMITH IS NEW LORD LIEUTENANT FOR BERKSHIRE

Mr. John Smith C.B.E., of Shottesbrooke Park, has become the new Lord Lieutenant for Berkshire. The announcement that the Queen had been graciously pleased to approve his appointment came at mid-day on Tuesday in joint announcements from the Prime Minister's office, and the Lord Lieutenant's office at Shire Hall, Reading.

Mr. Smith (52) formerly an M.P. and High Steward of Maidenhead, is closely involved in environmental projects through the National Trust and the Manifold and Landmark Trusts, which he and his wife, Christian, founded.

He succeeds the Hon. David Smith (to whom he is not related) who retired on health grounds last December.

Mr. Smith, who inherited Shottesbrooke Park from his cousin, Miss Nancy Oswald Smith, was High Steward of Maidenhead for nine years and last year was made the first Freeman of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

From 1956 to 1974 he was President of the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Non-County Boroughs Association. He is also President of the Maidenhead Civic Society, the Regatta and other local bodies, and of the Reading branch of the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust. He is a Fellow of Eton College.

He has been a member of the staff, and then a director, of Coutts and Co. for the past 27 years, He was a member of Parliament for the Cities of London and Westminster for five years up to 1970, a member of the Executive of the 1922 Committee and on the Public Account Committee, and was one of the sponsors of the Civic Amenities Act and on the Committee for the Countryside Act.

He was educated at Eton and New College, Oxford, for which he rowed and served in the Fleet Air Arm for four years during the war as a Lieutenant R.N.V.R, in the Mediterranean, Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

Mr. Smith's principal interest is the environment. He has served on the various Head Office committees of the National Trust for 25 years and is an honorary FRIBA, and founded and runs with his wife, the Manifold and Landmark Trusts which carry out or support a wide range of environmental projects all over the country.

Mrs. Smith is Scottish, the daughter of Colonel Elliott Carnegie of Lour, Angus, and they have two sons and three daughters.

COUNCIL TO TAKE OVER WOKINGHAM CAR PARKS

Pay and Display car parks in Wokingham—at Rose Street, Denmark Street, Cockpit Path and Easthampstead Road—are to be taken over by the Wokingham District Council when the Royal British Legion three-year lease -expires in June.

A spokesman for the British Legion Attendants' Company said on Monday, "We are losing £100 every week on these car parks and, while we would be happy to operate on a break-even basis to keep our attendant in work, we have to face the fact that we are running a business, with 1,000 ex-servicemen to consider. We can't go on incurring losses like this.

The problem in Wokingham has been that, while Wokingham District Council has been happy to offer the Attendants' Company this leasing arrangement—for which we pay rates of £1,200—they have done nothing to ensure that motorists use the car parks. In fact, according to my information, Wokingham drivers leave their cars everywhere except in the car parks. We have informed the district council that we are not interested in renewing our lease, although we would be willing to continue on a management basis. We have this arrangement with a number of other councils and it works extremely well.

According to the Secretary of Wokingham District Council he is not worried about this. The Community Services Committee has been studying the estimates for these car parks and recommendations for increased charges were made at a District Council Finance and General Purposes meeting last Thursday.

The proposed rates will be 10p for two hours and 20p for all-day parking. The excess charge for over parking will go up from 50p to £2. Rose Street would become a short stay car park—four hours maximum waiting permitted.

At last week's meeting members of the district council heard that car park companies had been invited to submit offers for running the car parks but the only formal offer received suggested a rental of £7,000 plus 70% of the income in excess of £17,000.

Automatic barriers will not be installed where the pay and display system operates. In fact at the Elms Road car park it is intended to take down the automatic barrier and replace it with another pay and display machine, which indicates that a car park attendant will be more essential than ever, according to the Secretary of WDC.

Thur 4th March

WOKINGHAM WINS 'TOP STATION AWARD'

Wokingham Railway Station has been judged one of the best-kept stations in the Southern Region's South Western Division. The station was awarded a prize for being the best-kept in the Feltham area. Runner-up was Ascot Station. The £50 prize for the best-kept station for the whole division went to Liss, near Petersfield.

Thur 18th March

WOKINGHAM FIRM CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF TRADING

One of the oldest family businesses in Wokingham—Baker's Hardware in Market Place—celebrates its centenary this year, but the present owner, Mr. Marcus Baker, says he and his sister, Doris, are not planning a special celebration.

"It will be business as usual unless I decide to retire", said the 69 year-old tradesman.

The Baker family have been in the same building since 1876 when Mr. Charles Baker came from Hampshire to start up in business as a picture framer, gilder and home decorator. Until 1830 the original Swan Inn occupied the premises and then it was a tailor's shop. Mr. Charles Baker, his grandfather was well-known in Wokingham as a town councillor and Methodist preacher. He retired in 1917 and his son Wesley took over the business and added hardware to the sales stock.

Mr. Marcus Baker and his sister joined their father in the family business when they left Wescott School and they have worked in it together ever since. From 1934 until 1968 Mr. Baker was a volunteer member of the Wokingham Fire Brigade and one of his most treasured possessions is a framed certificate from Berkshire and Reading Fire Authority in recognition of his long and meritorious service.

Wed 15th April

SEVERE OIL POLLUTION AT WOKINGHAM

The Emm Brook at Wokingham is now "completely dead" because of severe oil pollution it was stated this week. Householders and local industry are partly to blame said Wokingham District Councillor, Mr. John English. Last week he told the district council's Community Services Committee about the situation and it was decided that there should be full discussion at their next meeting by which time a report should be prepared.

Yesterday (Tuesday) he said there were three possible sources which caused the pollution. "Firstly, there is the run-off from roads and car parks. In the last few years many more lorries and car parking areas have appeared close to the Emm Brook. Parked vehicles naturally discharge small quantities of oil, and with large areas of tarmac, the oil has a fast run off into the stream. Special units built into the drainage systems could not cope adequately."

The second factor was the expansion of light industries, particularly in the Molly Millars Lane area. Factories do very often discharge oil inadvertently.

Finally there is also the unsocial behaviour of the householder. They are causing severe pollution by dumping sump oil down the drains. They obviously do not realise, but this is a real problem which must stop. He hoped the district council would seek the cooperation of the factories and the public in the matter, and would point out that they have certain powers to deal with offenders. We don't know what the full story is at present. But what we would like to see is sufficient communication to make people aware of what is actually happening to the Emm Brook—it is now completely dead. I haven't seen a fish in there for years.

Samples of the water are now being taken and a special report is now being prepared by public health officers.

Thu 22nd April

WOKINGHAM WOMEN PUT BERKS ON MAP

Three determined Wokingham women have put the town and county of Berkshire on the National savings map by successfully operating a new pilot scheme for small savers. Mrs. Doris Wanstall, a youthful 72, of Sewell Avenue, assisted by Mrs. Iris Hucknell of Heelas Road and Mrs. Irene Fish of Priest Avenue were one of about 20

guinea pig teams chosen throughout Britain to give a trial to the Neighbourhood Savings Scheme. The scheme is designed to cater for the millions of people who at present buy the familiar 10p savings stamps from collectors who call at their homes each week. The stamp is being phased out at the end of the year.

Under the new neighbourhood Scheme each team of three or two collectors and an auditor are responsible for house to house collections of cash from a maximum of 20 people. At the end of each 13-week cycle, amounts accrued by each of the savers are deposited in a National Savings Bank or Trustee Savings Bank account.

The Wokingham Team in the trial period collected a total of £142 from 18 members with £15.50 as the maximum contribution.

At a celebration party organised by the Community Group of Wokingham District Savings Committee at Wokingham cricket pavilion, Mr. Gordon Dupree, chairman of the Berkshire National Savings Council said, "Mrs. Wanstall, Mrs Hucknell and Mrs. Fish have shown that the Neighbourhood Scheme can replace the national savings stamp very successfully and effectively. The national committee has now given the go-ahead for neighbourhood schemes to be started throughout the country."

Thur 29th April

STATION CROSSING GOES PUSH-BUTTON

New lifting barriers will be brought into use at the level crossing outside Wokingham Station on Sunday. The barriers are push-button controlled from the signal box, and will speed up the flow of road traffic in the area because they can be operated more quickly than the gates they are replacing.

They are equipped with red and amber lights, and when a train is due a steady amber light will show for five seconds, warning drivers and pedestrians that the barriers are about to come down. At this point they must stop unless it would be unsafe to do so. The twin red lights then start flashing, and in a few seconds the barriers come down.

Pedestrian warning bells will ring between 7 am and 11 pm.

The new system has four barriers, two on each side of the railway track, which consist of red and white poles and a collapsible metal "skirt." When these are lowered the railway is completely sealed off from the road.

When the barriers start to operate, the left hand one comes down first on both sides, followed by the right hand one. Any traffic on the crossing and already past the barriers when the lights begin to flash will have ample time to clear the crossing before the other barriers descend.

The trains cannot go over the crossing until this sequence of events has been completed, and when trains are not using the crossing, the barriers

Thur 6th May

DRILL HALL DEVELOPMENT

Wokingham District Council have engaged architects to prepare alternative schemes based on the council's development brief for the Drill Hall site at Denmark Street, Wokingham. It will take about four months to prepare the alternative schemes which will then be presented to the council and there will be a period of public consultation.

In the consultation period an informal meeting will take place with members of the Wokingham Town Council, when proposals will be displayed and explained; there will be a meeting with societies and the Chamber of Trade when the proposals will be explained, and at a public meeting the proposals will also be on view and explained.

At the expiration of the consultation period the public societies etc. will have four weeks to submit written comments on the proposals. After the comments by the public, societies etc. have been examined by the council, the architects will proceed with the preparation of the final scheme.

Thur 27th May

WOKINGHAM'S NEW MAYOR IN OFFICE

Wokingham's new Mayor, Mrs. Margaret Busst was installed at the official Mayor-Making ceremony in Wokingham Town Hall on Tuesday. She succeeds Cllr. Alfred Skedgel who has retired from Wokingham Town Council after 22 years' service to the town.

A widow for almost three years, Mrs. Busst appointed her daughter, Mrs. Anne Giddings as Mayoress and Mr. Robert Naish as Deputy Mayor. Making her acceptance speech Cllr. Busst said it was good to see so many women councillors and recalled her first days in office when she was told by Mr. R. Board-Jones, "a woman's place is in the home." But in spite of that we have always been treated with courtesy and consideration by members of this council.

Mrs. Busst of Mill Close, Wokingham, has represented Emmbrook Ward as a Conservative for almost ten years. Her special interest is town planning and she has worked to preserve Wokingham's historic atmosphere. She has served on the town council and district council planning committees and General Purposes Committee. She has been unhappy with some of the development decisions in the town especially when applications we refuse are granted on appeal to central government.

"For the future I hope to see a start made on improvements to Cross Street, Rose Street, Denmark Street and I hope I even may live to see pedestrianisation in Wokingham. The retention of Wokingham as a beautiful market town must be our first consideration in planning."

Thur 10th June

WOKINGHAM CARNIVAL—MOST SUCCESSFUL EVER.

"Around the World in Eighty Days" was the theme of this year's Wokingham Carnival and the organisers—West Forest Round Table—said it was a winning idea and had helped in no small way to make the 1976 event the most successful ever with a profit of over £2,000.

According to the publicity coordinator the event attracted a crowd of about 10,000. The organisers made a point of involving the children before the event with the flag and the Chinese dragon competitions in the schools and when the youngsters have a personal interest they will persuade the parents to come along.

More than 50 local groups—twice as many as anticipated—entered decorative floats in this year's procession and thousands of people lined the route from Norreys Avenue to the Carnival Field to catch a glimpse of Hawaiian dancers, Dutch girls and African lions perched on every kind of conveyance bedecked with bunting and flowers.

Judging the procession was around-the-world yachtswoman, Mrs. Rosie Swales, but her late arrival because of a train delay caused the organisers a few problems.

The police had arranged to close the town centre from 2.00 pm until 2.45 pm to allow the procession to get from Norreys Avenue to the Carnival Field but judging didn't finish until almost 3 pm which meant traffic was stacked from Wokingham to the Loddon Bridge.

Once on the field the procession, led by children from Walter County Infants' School, signalled the start of the Carnival which was officially opened by Wokingham

Mayor Cllr. Margaret Busst accompanied by the Mayoress, Mrs. Lesley Giddings on their first official duty since taking office.

First prize for the best float in the voluntary section went to the Wokingham Society with their replica of an ancient market town in its preserved state. Second was the Wokingham Evening Townswomen's Guild with a splendid display of postage stamps around the world and in third place was the Wokingham Lions' float, a lorry-load of small children in delightful oriental costumes with a centre piece of lions.

In the trade section Gowrings of Wokingham took first prize with "Wokingham News" in second place.

The prize in the walking section was won by two ladies, who epitomised the happy atmosphere of the day, with the sun blazing down and everyone in a relaxed, festive mood.

Miss Joan Salter, of Oxford Road, Wokingham, a soon-to-be-retired civil servant, and Miss Bea Snell of St. Paul's Gate, Wokingham, a retired school teacher, and comparative new-comer to the town, put on some old togs and with 11-year-old cross-breed Polly joined the procession as "around the world" tramps.

A competition to celebrate the year of the Chinese Dragon was held in the main arena during the afternoon.

15th July

WOKINGHAM ACTION GROUP WOUND UP

The Evendons Lane, Wokingham Action Group has been officially wound up having achieved its objective – an alternative access for lorries using the gravel extraction site at Evendons Farm. The vehicles will now exit on to Finchampstead Road west of Handpost Corner.

The group last week donated £50—the balance of their funds—to the Wokingham and District Association for the elderly and the cheque was accepted by the chairman, Mrs. Jean Davy.

Coinciding with the winding up of the action group, the chairman, Mr. Bill Butler, who has run the post office in Evendons Lane for the last five years, is moving to Sonning Common where he and his wife are taking over a smaller business.

DO-IT YOURSELF CHURCH BELLS

Young bell ringers at St. Paul's Church, Wokingham, have been raising funds to have the ancient Warner Bells refurbished, but the latest estimate, around £4,000, have raised a big problem. So now, the youngsters, all school age, and their leader, Mr. Keith Begrie, the Tower Foreman at St. Paul's, have decided to do the job themselves, with the help of their parents and other church members.

Said Mr. Begrie, "we will replace the old wood supporting the bells and the result should be just as satisfactory as putting in a metal frame, and a lot cheaper. There will be a sponsored bell ring at the Church on Saturday."

ST. PAUL'S FETE

The sound of handbells rung by the children of St. Paul's Church, Wokingham, attracted people to the church fete on the Rectory lawn last week. A gymnastic display was performed by the pupils of St. Paul's School and a fancy dress parade produced a delightful display of colour and originality.

Members of the Felicity Morgan Dancing School gave a demonstration, among the special guests being the Mayor of Wokingham, Mrs. Margaret Busst, and the Mayoress, Mrs. Ann Giddings. There was a wide selection of stalls and sideshows.

Thur 23rd Sept

FAR REACHING CHANGES FOR WOKINGHAM

SWEEPING changes which could have far-reaching effects on Wokingham's town centre are revealed today (Thursday). The face-lift proposals are contained in preliminary reports prepared by Wokingham District Council following a growing concern that the town is being choked by increasing trade and traffic. Ten years ago, the town centre served a catchment population of 15,000. Today that figure has doubled to 30,000, and it is this massive growth which is responsible for most of the problems. The Wokingham Town Map, approved in 1966, is still used as the basis for controlling development within the town. Basically, however, the map does little more than zone areas for different forms of development and is largely out of date, failing to take account of such developments as Woosehill and the designation of the Wokingham Conservation Area.

Chief planning officers of both the district and county council now accept that a new plan setting out clear policies is urgently required. The first step in tackling the problem has come with the publication this week of two reports, one dealing with traffic and pedestrian movement, and the other with conservation.

The traffic report concerns itself with the movement of pedestrians and vehicles of all types within the town centre. Some of the problem spots identified are Peach Street, Market Place and Rose Street. The report states: The town centre with its historic narrow street pattern, has grown commercially with a substantial increase in the number of businesses and a shift in retailing towards the larger shops and supermarkets. This has led to more and larger service vehicles entering the town.

Activity

Market Place, the centre of bustling pedestrian activity, is seriously affected by this traffic, which passes on all sides of the Town Hall. A serious safety hazard exists with people trying to cross to and from the market stalls.

The main shopping area of the town—Peach Street—also suffers from very heavy loads of traffic with the result that the two sides of the shopping street are severed. Footpaths are too narrow to carry the large numbers of pedestrians and again there is a constant safety hazard.

Rose Street, one of the most important historic streets in the town, suffers from a multiplicity of traffic functions. The report suggests that the primary objective of future policy should be to pedestrianise the Market Place and adjacent parts of Denmark Street. This objective cannot be achieved until the Inner Distribution Road scheme is carried out, the first phase is scheduled to commence in about five years' time.

In the meantime, a programme for immediate action is suggested, which includes:

- New kerbing and increased paving at the junction of Broad Street with Rose Street, Broad street with Market Place, and Peach Street and Market Place.
- Parking restrictions in The Terrace, Wescott Road, Denton Road, Shute End and parts of Station Road.
- "Residents Only" parking restrictions in Sturges Road and Crescent Road.
Closure of Luckley Path to vehicles.
- "Nose-in" parking to be removed outside 54-72, Peach Street for safety reasons.

On the question of car parking, the main parks open to the public are managed by the district council, whose policy is that they should be self-financing. In order to ensure more efficient use of the town's parks, it is proposed that differential rates of charging will be

applied to discourage long-term parking in Rose Street car park and to ensure the use of other parks. Further parks are envisaged for the future.

Suggestions in the report for improving public transport are to locate the bus stops in Broad Street, closer to the centre and the possibility of taking the present bus routes out of Rose Street.

The second report, entitled, "Town Fabric" deals with the conservation of the town centre, the recognition of its character and quality, and the identification of a series of policies to aid and secure the historic built form of the centre.

Suggests

The report suggests ways in which the pressure for change can be guided in order to improve the economic, social and physical quality of the town centre, and recommends the following policies:-

No further loss of listed buildings of architectural or historic interest to be allowed unless there are compelling reasons or obvious advantages accruing.

New buildings must respect the character of the area

- Buildings which are not listed but as a result of the studies undertaken to date are worthy of retention, may be subject to a building preservation notice.
- Alterations and additions to listed buildings in the town centre must be carried out in a manner sympathetic to its character.

The report also deals with advertising and shop fronts and puts forward suggestions for improvement schemes to be carried out in Rose Street and Market Place.

The two reports are now available for public consultation and any observations should be sent to the District Council's planning department by October 23rd.

Two further reports, dealing with housing and economic activity, will be published early next year. Linked policy statements will then be prepared which will help formulate the new town plan.

Thur 21st Oct

STEAM SHOW MAKES TERRIFIC LOSS AS PUBLIC STAY AT HOME

Saturday's spectacular at Wokingham Carnival Field should have got the public all steamed up. There were gleaming, shining, puffing engines. There were merry-go-rounds and roundabouts. There were even the can-can girls. The only ingredient missing was the people. They stayed away in their hundreds. In fact support for the steam fair, organised by showman, John Carter, was so poor that he has made a four-figure loss on the event.

And now the man who has caused havoc among residents at Winkfield in the past with his steam shows, fireworks and low-flying aircraft is planning to turn his back on the area. The explanation was either that the public are not interested in steam fairs or that money is scarce.

Nov 1976

END OF AN ERA FOR OLD PALMER SCHOOL

Palmer School, Wokingham is being demolished to make way for old people's accommodation. But before parents start ringing Mr. Sidney Meachen the headmaster of the primary school in Norreys Avenue, it is the old school in Palmer School Road that is being pulled down. The school site is to be the home of 85 people in warden-assisted and self-contained accommodation and will release valuable council housing for families.

The school, which was built in 1874 and opened by the Bishop of Oxford in 1875, catered for 120 infants and 160 boys and girls of junior school age. The acre site was

then valued at £200 and the contractor's charges were £2, 275 2s. 5d. The furniture cost £37, the books £5 15s. and the desks £68.

The original Palmer Schools were set up elsewhere in the town, in Denmark Street and Rose Street under the direction of the late Dr. Charles and Martha Palmer and free schooling was provided up to 1891.

Throughout the late 1800s the school was added to until 145 and 352 other children were educated there. The school was church aided and remained so until 1964. Throughout the early 1970s children from the school were sent to other infant schools in the area, and eventually on May 23rd 1973 Palmer School was closed and the new school opened in Norreys Avenue.

The old school had many fond memories for the thousands of children who went to it and many of them will be sad to see it pulled down. Wokingham District Council bought the land last year, decided that accommodation for old people was needed near the town centre, and that the Palmer School site was ideal.

The council bought the land for approximately £34,000. The design and supervision of the building will cost at least £45,000 and the cost of building a further £450,000. The final cost is likely to be in excess of £600,000. A far cry from a century ago when the land cost £200 and the contractor's bill was just over £2,275.

To look on the bright side, 85 elderly people will be re-housed in suitable accommodation, leaving vacant council housing for families. The units will be 12 one-person warden-assisted units, 12 two two-person warden-assisted units, one five-person warden's house, 16 two-person self-contained flats, and four three-person self-contained flats. This will give the council a good degree of flexibility in accommodating elderly people.

Work on the new building will not start immediately. Traders are expected to be invited in April or May next year and they will probably have to be submitted to the Department of Environment before the work can go ahead.

Thur 2nd Dec

FORMER LORD LIEUT. OF BERKSHIRE DIES

A former Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, Major the Hon. David Smith, died last week aged 69. He held the post of Lord Lieutenant for 16 years before resigning for health reasons at the end of last year. He died of a heart attack on Thursday night.

Major Smith who lived at Kings Copse House, Bucklebury, was the third son of the second Viscount Hambleden. He was educated at Eton and Oxford and was associated with the family company of W. H. Smith and Son all his working life.

He joined the firm in 1930 and was governing director from 1948 until 1969. He left the board in 1972. At the time of his death he was still on the board of the firm's policy-making public company W. H. Smith and Son (Holdings) Ltd.

He became chairman when the company was formed in 1949 and retained the position until 1972. Major Smith was also on the board of Lloyds Bank.

In 1931 he married Lady Helen Pleydell-Bouverie and the couple had four sons and one daughter.

Between 1939 and 1953 they lived at Pangbourne where Major Smith was a church warden at Pangbourne Church. During that time he was the chairman of the local branch of the British Legion and president of the Pangbourne Conservative Association.

During the war Major Smith served in the Royal Artillery at the War Office and on the staff of Southern Command.

In 1964 he was awarded the C.B.E. and in 1973 was made an honorary Doctor of Literature at Reading University. Major Smith also spent many years as a magistrate, becoming a Justice of the Peace in 1946 and Chairman of Reading County Bench in 1952 for six years.

Major Smith's involvement with W. H. Smith and Son brought him into contact with Old Ben, the news trades charity, and he was for many years an active supporter of the institution.

He was involved with many organisations and charities including the NSPCC, Berkshire Discharged Prisoners Aid Society, Berkshire Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association and the county branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

When Major Smith was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire in 1959 he assumed the title of Custos Retulorum which dates back to the 14th century. He also held another ancient office—the High Steward of Wallingford.

Berkshire Mercury

1977 – 1994

The Reading Mercury, which became the Berkshire Mercury in 1970, published on Thursdays. The Berkshire Mercury stopped publishing in 1979, with no, or very little, Wokingham news during the final two or three years.

1977

April 1977

DENMARK STREET AS IT WILL BE PLANS FOR SUPER STORE

The exhibition of plans for a superstore and multi-storey car park in Denmark Street will be open to the public tomorrow (2-9 pm) and Saturday 9am to noon when a model will be on show at the district Council offices, Shute End. A representative from the firm of architects or a member of the district planning office will be on hand to explain the plans and model.

Following the exhibition there will be a meeting of interested local organisations at Shute End on May 10th when their representatives will be able to put forward their views on the plan.

The store will be 53,100 sq ft. and have parking space above it for 316 cars. The Drill Hall, Berkshire Craft Centre, public toilets and the Army Cadet Training Centre will all be demolished and the toilets repositioned on the site of the new building.

The shops fronting Denmark Street will be kept and restored with office space above and a courtyard development behind them. Fronting Elms Road will be used for maisonettes, flats or small office suites. Access to the car park will be from Elms Road. The superstore will be almost four times the size of Waitrose shop in Peach Street.

Thur 9th June

FILM STARS VISIT BERKSHIRE

Film and television personalities were in Wokingham last week to unveil a plaque in Memory of Sir Stanley Baker, the British actor and producer who died recently. The ceremony was the endowment of a new hall at Glebelands, the Cinema and Television Benevolent Fund house for retired workers from the industries. A plaque was unveiled

by Sir Stanley Baker's widow, Ellen, accompanied by their children, Sally, Martin and Glyn.

Among the special guests were Harry Secombe, Elspeth March, film producers Sir James Carreras, Mr. Cecil Bernstein and Monty Berman who endowed the hall along with Mr. Jack Martin, manager at Glebelands.

Mr. Martin said that Sir Stanley had been interested in Glebelands for many years and had put in a lot of work to raise money for its upkeep and maintenance.

1978

Thur 28th Sept

DOUBLE ARSON BLAZE HAVOC

An arsonist caused havoc in Wokingham town centre on Monday night in two separate incidents. Guttled in one fire was the Old Brewery in Denmark Street—due to be demolished to make way for the Tesco supermarket development.

In the second fire, in Wellington Road, £2,000 of clothes and bedding for Help the Aged were destroyed in a house being used as a store. The house, owned by Berkshire County Council was also badly burned.

On the following day a spokesman for Wokingham police said that arson was suspected and added that both incidents were being connected.

The first was discovered shortly after half past eight. Four appliances from Reading, Wokingham and Bracknell were sent and began to fight the blaze which is thought to have been started in the basement. This was used by tramps and old bedding there would have provided ample fuel.

Two hours later three more appliances had to be sent to Wellington Road to fight the other fire. It wasn't until well after midnight that both fires were brought under control.

A spokesman for Wokingham District Council who are leasing part of the Old Brewery to Tesco told the Mercury that the building was due to be demolished within the next two weeks for superstore development. The fire would make no difference to demolition plans. There was no point in adding up the cost of the damage.

A spokesman for Help the Aged confirmed that about £2,000 worth of blankets and other donations had been destroyed—part of a stock for emergencies, collected by local volunteers. The charity had a temporary licence to use the house, known as *Redtiles*, from the county council. It was originally bought in connection with Wokingham's proposed Inner Distribution Road but long term plans for it are undetermined.

Thur 26th Oct

WOKINGHAM HONOUR FOR GARRISON

A permanent link has been forged between Wokingham and the R.E.M.E. Corps, Arborfield garrison, with the acceptance by the Corps of the status of Honorary Townspeople.

At a special civic ceremony and parade in the town on Saturday, a message was read from Prince Philip, Col. in Chief of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, stating, "I know that all members of the Corps very much appreciate this generous and hospitable gesture by the Mayor, councillors and people of Wokingham. The men who train so hard to provide Britain's capacity to defend herself against aggression have been known to feel their efforts are not always appreciated by their fellow citizens. Conferring the status of honorary Townspeople of Wokingham to all members of the Corps is a wonderful encouragement to us all."

The Mayor of Wokingham, Cllr. Peter Johnson, presented a frames scroll to General Sir Hugh Beach, Representative Col., Commandant of R.E.M.E., granting the unusual honour to the Corps. In return the Mayor accepted an engraved silver salver on behalf of the town.

Sir Hugh Beach praised the wisdom and foresight of wartime members of the R.E.M.E. Corps in selecting Arborfield as a training centre with its proximity to Wokingham, "Whose hospitality those soldiers enjoyed as much as we do today."

After inspecting the Town Guard, under Parade Commander Lieut. Col. C.J. Derbyshire, the Mayor, Cllr. Peter Johnson, addressed the packed crowd watching the ceremony. He said he was proud to bestow the title of Honorary Townspeople on the R.E.M.E. Corps because of their happy integration with the town since the Corps's involvement in 1942. The Corps, Garrison and Wokingham have grown rapidly since that day. Like the acorns in the town coat of arms, all have grown to large oaks. It has always been a great satisfaction to us that so many members of the Corps have settled here on completion of their service. He was sure that the official ceremony would further cement the ties between them and they would follow the future achievements of the Corps with mutual pride.

The civic ceremony ended with a parade through the town of 450 R.E.M.E. officers and men, who exercised their new status by marching with bayonets fixed, and led by the staff band.

After the parade, the Town Council held a reception at Ed's Barn Country Club, Wokingham, and in the evening invited guests attended a cocktail party at the R.E.M.E. Headquarters Officers' Mess at West Court, Finchampstead.

POLICE SEEK BOYS AFTER £20,000 BLAZE

Fire ripped through Ludgrove School Farm this week, 50 yards from Ludgrove School, causing damage estimated at £20,000 just after 4 pm on Tuesday. It destroyed a Dutch barn containing a 100 tons of baled hay owned by Mr. Allan Barber. Wokingham police have issued a description of two boys they would like to interview in connection with the incident. They were seen by the lake adjacent to the barn about an hour before the fire started.

Five appliances attended from Wokingham, Reading, Bracknell, Crowthorne and Ascot and the blaze was under control within an hour, although firemen stayed at the farm until early on Wednesday morning.

1979

No Wokingham articles from the Berkshire Mercury.

No microfilms of the Wokingham Times between January 1972 and April 1981. Any reports in between these dates come from old copies of the Wokingham Times newspaper.

1981

Thur Feb 19th

LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO TOWN CLINIC

Miss Evelyn Ward who received the M.B.E. in the New Year's Honours list last month has died at the age of 80. Miss Ward was honoured for her service in Wokingham Memorial Orthopaedic Clinic. But her sudden death denied her the

chance to receive her award from the Queen at the presentation ceremony at Buckingham Palace last week.

Miss Ward, who lived in Milton Road, devoted her life to the clinic and had worked voluntarily since it was established in Denmark Street in 1925. She was born in Milton College, Wokingham at the turn of the century and until her death was the only surviving daughter of Dr. Ernest Ward.

Thur 2nd April

DEATH OF FORMER MAYORESS

Mrs. Eileen Brimblecombe has died at her Finchampstead Road home after a long illness. She leaves a husband and two children. She was the wife of Mayor, Reginald Brimblecombe

She was to be the Carnival Queen of 1939 but the war came. The funeral will be held at Easthampstead Crematorium.

Thur 9th April

RESTYLED RITZ CINEMA OPENS ON SUNDAY

Cinema returns to Wokingham this Sunday after an absence of nearly two years. The heroic adventures of Flash Gordon will fill the screen as the Ritz reopens its doors to filmgoers. But the efforts to bring movies back to the town has been costly.

The final bill for the Ritz Entertainment Centre has soared to £150,000—more than 50% up on the original estimates. The manager is Ray Hipkin who says work will be finally completed on Good Friday.

The complex includes a pool hall with an American-style coffee bar and refurbished bingo hall. It was to open on the previous December but there were difficulties. The 180-seat studio will be showing newly released big movies—unlike the old sex films which were screened to numerous empty seats before the old Ritz closed. Modern projection equipment and what is hoped will be installed will make one of the best screens in Berkshire for the first showing at 3.20pm. Modern projection equipment and what is hoped will be one of the best screens in Berkshire will be waiting for the customers on Sunday afternoon at 3.20 for the first showing.

Treat

And as a special treat for young lovers there will be double seats in the back row. Admission prices at the new Ritz will be £1.80—five pence cheaper than its Reading rivals. Old age pensioners and children are to be charged half-price at all times with no restrictions

DEATH OF FORMER MAYOR

Dr. Phyllis Pigott, Mayor of Wokingham in the early sixties died last week after a long illness. Dr. Pigott began her long service to the town when she was first elected to the old Borough Council in 1939. She served throughout the war years and resigned in 1945. She returned to her council work in 1957 and held the office of Mayor for three years from 1961 to 1963. She resigned from the council for the second time in 1966.

Wokingham Town Council has sent a message of sympathy to Dr. Pigott's family. She had been living in Banbury in recent years.

WOKINGHAM MAYOR VISITS NORTHERN IRELAND

Wokingham Mayor Cllr. Mrs Marion Fergusson Kelly made a flying visit to Northern Ireland last week to see British soldiers at work. Cllr. Kelly has her own

special link with the Corps for, on joining the ATS during World War II, she was stationed at REME Arborfield during its foundation. Later she saw service in Italy and Greece.

Her two-day whistle-stop tour began with a visit to Army HQ in Northern Ireland, at Lisburn, where she also presented a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to sergeant Bryan Probert who joined the Army as a boy apprentice in 1963 and has served in Hong Kong, West Germany, Libya, Borneo, Bahrein and Gibraltar.

After a call on the Garrison Light Aid Department the Mayor drove to RAF Aldergrove and chatted with REME soldiers supporting Northern Ireland Regiment Army Air Corps and the Northern Ireland Electronic Workshop. She also visited 46 Command Workshop at Kinnegar on the Belfast Lough and the Northern Ireland Roulement Workshop and its locations in Sydenham near Belfast and at Long Kesh. On her one evening in NI the Mayor had the chance to meet REME officers serving in Ulster and their wives as well as her counterpart Alderman D G R Green, Mayor of North Down, and Mrs. Green.

Thur April 23rd

WOKINGHAM TOWN HALL

The red brickwork of the town hall was cleaned and rubbed. Two new flags were ordered – a Union Jack and a house flag. The total cost was £210 plus a new tea urn costing £51.81.

Thur 7th May

Wokingham solicitor, Rupert Ingram, has retired from his practice after 26 years. Mr. Ingram, 65, who joined Clifton Ingram in 1955, became a senior partner in the firm which is based in Broad Street, soon after joining the company. The firm which was established by former Town Clerk Elliston Clifton just before the Second World War was run by Isobel Clifton, the founder's niece when Mr. Ingram signed up.

At a special retirement reception held at the Tithe Barn Hotel last week Mr. Ingram was presented with a video recorder to mark his departure. He also received two plates to commemorate his years with the company. Mr. Ingram, who has lived in the town all his working career, will be spending an active retirement with his wife, Winifred

Thur 18th June

ARISE SIR BILL

Wokingham and Bracknell MP Bill van Straubenzee was awarded a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. He was honoured for political services in his 22nd year as a Member of Parliament. He was one of four backbench Conservative MPs to receive knighthoods in the honours list announced last Saturday.

Thur 9th July

NUNS SAY FAREWELL

The doors of St. Anne's Nursing Home in Wokingham will finally be closed on July 31. That is the day when thy community of seven Bon Secour nuns leave the house which has been run by the order for over 40 years.

They had to sell the 200 year old house, just off the London Road, earlier this year after soaring bills and the start of work on the A329M extension threatened the future of the rest home.

The new owner is Mr. Norman Hooper, of Crowthorne, who has already started work on converting the building into a luxury hotel. Urgent roof repair work is underway while inside the nuns are packing their belongings in preparation for their departure later this month.

Throughout its life in Wokingham St. Anne's has cared for the aged and terminally ill. The twenty patients who were there when the sale was finalised have now left. Many have gone to stay with relatives while others have gone to St. Christopher's Priory at Ascot.

Some members of the present nursing community have been at St. Anne's since it was first opened in the late 1930s. Others have been there just three or four years. Five of the community are transferring to a Bon Secour run home at Beaconsfield—St. Joseph's. The others will go to Ramsgate where the Order also has a home.

Sat 13th Aug

GO-AHEAD IS FOR NEW CLINIC

Facelift plans to rejuvenate Wokingham's Red Cross clinic in Denmark Street look set for take-off. The fifty-six year old clinic originally set up as a 1914-18 war memorial was used as an orthopaedic clinic under the Oxford Area Health Authority until last year. Now the building plans have been given the go-ahead by the town's planning authority and the start hinges on the final go-ahead from the Charity Commission who seem certain to agree.

Modernisation of the clinic will bring it back into use as it was originally intended, for the benefit of the people of Wokingham. The clinic will provide a permanent home for storing items issued on medical loan, and will also provide facilities for training members in first aid and nursing and vital work done in disabled clubs.

The war memorial section will be renovated, but the two extensions are to be pulled down. This means the orthopaedic clinic and the old outbuilding will be replaced by a kitchen, toilets and an office. The total cost is set at £63,000.

Thur 20th Aug

CANTLEY TO RE-OPEN WITH HOTEL

Cantley Country Club is to re-open next month thanks to the intervention of two businessmen. The mansion will now be turned into an hotel and the country Club revamped under the plans lined up by the two men. Mr. Leo Ratcliffe, a businessman in the motor trade and Mr. Maurice Monk, a country club manager took over Cantley last weekend by taking over a lease with their own cash.

1982

No Wokingham Times microfilms

1983

Thur 6th Jan

WOKINGHAM CUP

Links between the REME soldiers serving in Northern Ireland were strengthened on Tuesday with the award of a challenge trophy. The Wokingham Cup presented by the Town Mayor, Cllr. David Ireland to Lieut.-Col. Peter Glass Commander (Maintenance) Northern Ireland will be awarded each year to a unit of the REME soldiers in the province who have done most to foster local community welfare there.

The cup was to honour the REME soldiers who are in our minds for the fantastic work they do on behalf of this country in Northern Ireland. This is the second town token for the serving REME soldiers in Northern Ireland who already have the use of a sailing yacht named *Wokingham*.

Thur 3rd Feb

CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU

The Citizen's Advice Bureau moved back to its old offices in the Town Hall after being based in Langborough Road for a year. Town Mayor, Cllr. David Ireland officially opened the modernised offices on Monday. The new premises has two interview rooms and an extended office area. The CAB began six years previously with six volunteers.

Thur 10th Feb

MAYOR'S MARKET

A Mayor's Market will be held in Wokingham Town Hall on Saturday from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. Twenty local charities will be running stalls.

Thur 3rd March

THE ACORN CUP RETURNS TO WOKINGHAM

Canon John Lawton presented the town Mayor, Cllr. David Ireland with the acorn cup which is over 180 years old. The cup was originally given to Captain and Commandant, James Webb, by the townspeople of Wokingham in 1798 for his part in their protection. At that time people were afraid of attacks from the continent and an invasion of Britain. The cup had been in the care of the Canon, a descendant of James Webb, for many years.

Thur 21st April

NEW MARKET WELCOMED BY MAYOR

Town Mayor Cllr. David Ireland welcomed stall-holders and shoppers alike when he officially declared the new covered market open with a sherry toast on Tuesday. The 11 dual purpose stalls which fill the Town Hall extension were well stacked with wholefoods, clothes, motor accessories and toys, all set for the first day of trading. The market area will be open four days a week—Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.—and during the evenings it is available for hire for public and private functions. For evening functions the height of the stalls is adjustable and they can be put together to form a stage.

Congratulations

The Mayor congratulated the town council's amenities committee on what he described as "their own original idea." He thanked the chairman of the amenities committee, Deputy Mayor Cllr. Dan Austin, for his role in instigating the market when he was Mayor.

Thur 19th May

HALIFAX VICTORY STARTS RUMPUS

Government permission for the Halifax Building Society to set up in Wokingham's Market Place is seen by many as the signal for building societies and estate agents to flood the town. A DoE inspector announced this week that despite strong objections from the town and district councils, the Halifax should be allowed to move into Gotelee House.

Critics of the decision say it creates a dangerous precedent and will make it easier for other building societies to come in. They argue that landlords throughout Wokingham will now be more likely to fight for permission to change shops to offices and so win the higher rents offices can command. This will push shops and shoppers out of Wokingham

Already opposition is mounting to moves by Gascoigne-Pees who want to set up an office in retail premises in 31-35 Denmark Street but many fear it will be too late.

Thur 26th May

STROLLER

ANYONE REMEMBER THE TYPHOON OF '45?

I have received a very interesting letter from Mr. Chris Thomas of 22 Blagrove Lane, Wokingham, who would like to know if anyone remembers a Hawker Typhoon making a forced landing nearby 38 years ago.

Mr. Thomas is writing a book about the wartime operations of the famous fighters and fighter bombers and part of his research involves interviewing Typhoon pilots. Our story begins with details of a dog-fight over Northern France about five weeks after D-Day. Despite being hit the Typhoon No. MN860 made it back to base where the full extent of the damage was revealed.

It had been hit by 17 200mm cannon shells, mostly in the wings where the main spar had been pierced, and also in the propeller and engine cowling. Although seriously damaged, the 'plane was not written off but returned to the U.K. for repair. Eventually it was re-issued to 84 Group Support Unit at Lasham in Hampshire for training purposes.

On May 16th, 1945 it suffered an engine failure in flight and the pilot, Flight Sergeant Ray, had to make a forced landing in a field near Wokingham—believed to be Warren Farm. The pilot was unharmed but although his aircraft was not badly damaged, with the war in Europe over the RAF had more Typhoons that it needed, and MN860 was ignominiously scrapped.

Mr. Thomas wonders if any readers can recall the event, especially the exact location of the, or perhaps even come up with a photograph. He would be interested to hear from anyone as well. He would also like to be contacted by any readers who had first-hand experience of Typhoons.

Thur 16th June

THE OLD FORGE HAS NEW TENANTS

Wokingham's Old Forge has new tenants. The former smithy in Peach Street now houses the offices of SavaCentre, owners of five hypermarkets. Previously the company's offices were just down the road in Wokingham Market Place where they had been since 1980.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham, Cllr. and Mrs. David Ireland and Mr. Philip Robinson, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce were among the guests at an informal opening of the new offices last week. The ceremony was performed in the reception area of the old town forge which has now been completely refurbished and contains a small display of blacksmith's tools and pictures of the smithy at work.

Although the building has been completely modernised, the architecture is of a traditional style to fit into the traditional market town townscape.

Thur 22nd Sept

CLOCK TOWER VANDAL TO PAY £700

An 18-year old youth climbed the town hall clock tower and caused £700 of damage. James Cook, Kelsey Avenue, Finchampstead, received three months in youth custody. On Friday night towards the end of August he removed the hands on two of the faces. He had previous charges. He was ordered to pay £700 to Wokingham Town Council plus £25 for failing to keep the peace during his one-year sentence.

BLAZE SHUTS WOOLWORTHS

A devastating weekend blaze in Wokingham's Woolworth's store cause severe damage, threatened nearby residents and shut shop doors to customers all week. Management cannot yet say when the store will reopen.

During the huge Saturday evening fire a family of four were forced to flee their neighbouring flat as thick smoke billowed from the burning building as more than 30 firemen fought against thick smoke and flames. Woolworth's staff from several local stores have spent the week hard at work, trying to salvage stock and clean up after the blaze. Woolworth's press officer could not say how long it would be before the store was back to normal.

Six appliances and their crews from Wokingham, Bracknell, Crowthorne and Reading raced to the scene. Senior staff officer at Reading Fire Brigade described the extent of the fire which is thought to have started in the first floor stockroom. "We recorded 90% per cent of the first floor and roof more severely damaged by the fire and there is also water and smoke damage". Woolworths had just finished trading for the day and most of the staff had just gone home when the fire started, soon after 5 p.m. As the blaze raged firemen wearing breathing apparatus were forced to leave the inside of the two-storey building for fear it would collapse.

The Wokingham store manager was on holiday at the time and Mr. Michael Hiscock from the Maidenhead store was standing in. Mr. Hiscock and a staff supervisor were the only people in the store when the fire started.

Thur 6th Oct

Suffolk Lodge in Rectory Road was opened by Mayor Cllr. David Ireland. The lodge was built by W.E. Chivers and is it run by Berkshire Social Services.

Thur 27th Oct

NEW BASE FOR RED CROSS TAKES SHAPE

A new Red Cross centre is soon to open in Wokingham, which will provide a permanent site for the Society's also valuable space for storing equipment. The new centre is being built at Denmark Street and is a modernisation of the old Wokingham Clinic incorporating the war memorial which has been used as a meeting centre over the years. Offices are also being built which the Red Cross Society will let to local businesses.

Centre organiser, Mrs. Ann Jeater explained the need for a new centre. "It will provide a meeting room for Red Cross activities and training sessions. We also need somewhere to store equipment and medical loan material."

The medical loan equipment is very necessary to the Society, as it is loaned out to people in their homes when for example someone has had an accident and needs a wheelchair or bandages. The idea came from group Captain Bill Swift the recently retired director of the Berkshire Red Cross.

Not many places have a Red Cross centre and this is intended to be a kind of show piece. One of the advantages of the Society is that they will not have to spend any money on the new centre, as the Berkshire branch of the British Red Cross Society are

trustees of the land which was donated to the Society in 1922. The Society is also hoping to make a profit by letting the offices which are to be built on the site.

Mrs. Jeater hopes that the services offered by the Red Cross in Wokingham will be able to expand with the opening of the new centre. "We would really like more volunteers and I think that when the new centre opens, more people will come forward to join the Society."

Renovations of the old Wokingham Clinic are being carried out by K and H Constructions Ltd. of Wokingham. The company has ensured that the new and renovated buildings will be in keeping with the other buildings in Denmark Street.

1984

Thur 30th Aug

HANNAH GORDON OPENS SAFEWAYS, WOOSEHILL

At 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday Hannah Gordon opened Safeways of Woosehill. Wokingham.

Thur 27th Sept

TIDY ROLES FOR ERNIE AND PIPPIN

Take four fluffy legs, two short fat hairy ones, put them together next to a litter bin and what have you got—Pippin. Crowthorne's very own doggy star and comedian Ernie Wise in a new anti-litter film. Ernie, who lives in Maidenhead, volunteered his services free to star with Pippin and a cast of 11 children from Emmbrook School in the five-minute film, the newest venture by the Keep Berkshire Tidy Group.

The idea of an anti-litter film was first suggested to Bracknell District Council by Pippin's owner, Mrs. Ann Head after Pippin's latest film success in an anti-litter film for Thames Valley Police and British Telecom. Berkshire County Council took up the idea, donating a grant of £5,000 with Bracknell chipping in £500. The filming took place in Joel Park opposite the Holt School in Wokingham last week.

Ernie's own contribution was of vital importance. Not only did he agree to appear free of charge and to suggest ideas he brought along film associates. Mr. Ron Price, the Emmbrook drama teacher and the Keep Berkshire Tidy Group wrote the script.

Thur 4th Oct

LADY VICTORIA FINALLY OPENS TOWN'S RED CROSS CENTRE

The new, bright, modern, welcoming Red Cross Centre in Wokingham's Denmark Street was finally opened on September 27th by the patron of the Berkshire Red Cross Society, Lady Victoria Palmer. The celebration included local Red Cross workers and Wokingham Mayor Cllr. Ann Davis.

The building was formerly a chapel which became a war memorial and clinic used by the Red Cross after the First World War. Recently it has needed a repair and the Red Cross as trustees for the Charities Commission have worked out a deal for its renovation.

The renovated centre will be open initially on Tuesdays from 10.30 to 1.30 and on Fridays from 12 to 2 p.m. It is hoped to open five days a week later and last Monday a new first aid course began in the evening.

Thur 11th Oct

R.E.M.E. CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY

On Saturday morning troops marched through Wokingham with bayonets fixed to celebrate the anniversary of being granted status of Hon Townspeople of Wokingham.

The Town Guard from the School of Electrical Engineering, the REME Staff Band and the pipes and drums of the section from Princess Marina College were drawn up outside the town hall. The Mayor Mrs. Ann Davis and the council inspected the men.

While the inspection was taking place three companies of REME officers and soldiers were forming in Broad Street and with the arrival of the bands and Town Guard the whole parade marched through the town with bayonets fixed.

Thur 25th Oct

Wokingham Town Hall turret clock is almost certain to be electrified in the near future if additional quotes as to the cost are not satisfactory. The town hall clock at present requires winding for a quarter of an hour each week. This is carried out by the town hall keeper who is paid £1 a week to do it. The estimated price for the work is £2,720.

1985

Thur 7th Feb

THE KOKO KNUTS

In this group 54 year-old George Reeves was the drummer. Going left to right along the faces is Burt Young, Albert Andrews, Gordon Reeves and the first lady standing up is possibly Margery Jeffries. Albert Andrews owned the laundry and Burt Young ran the Boys' Brigade in Reading. The band used to play hill billy music in concerts for hospitals, collecting for charities, Wokingham carnivals. They also played jazz every Saturday night at the British Legion Club in Station Road.

Thur 14th March

TAKE OFF FOR NEW THEATRE

Wokingham Theatre has been given the go-ahead to build a new £150,000 theatre at Cantley. Wokingham District Council has agreed to give the theatre's scheme a £4,500 grant, and a loan of £60,000 at a low interest rate. The theatre has raised £75,000 from profits. The new building will house a 24-seat auditorium, stage, foyer and lounge area, bar, dressing rooms and car parking for 50 cars.

Thur 11th April

TOWN PARK SET TO RECEIVE £5,000 FACELIFT

A £5,000 transformation is on the cards for Wokingham's Howard Palmer Park following detailed discussions at the town council last week. Councillors at last week's Wokingham District Council amenities committee discussed the play equipment, facilities and general improvements they intended to make to the park.

These include a three foot "rustic" style fence on the northern boundary of the site, a refreshment pavilion, a number of signposts, litter bins, a brand new climbing frame complex, seats around the perimeter, landscaping and general tidying up of the plot and possibly floodlighting to deter vandals.

The proposals also included one to clear up some confusion over whether the park should be called Howard Palmer Park or Howard Palmer Recreational Ground.

Vandalism

Various plans were discussed and it was reported that the five original quotations sought from suppliers of play equipment had been whittled down to two possibilities. The preferred structure was similar to one in Reading's Prospect Park which seemed to be lasting well after nearly two years.

It was agreed that a number of signs would be erected at the three entrances after landscaping had been carried out, such as trimming straggly trees and perhaps

planting bulbs in between them. The one big red rose bed would become three smaller circular ones and litter bins would be installed. Special signs prohibiting ball games and dogs would be put up.

The plans were approved subject to certain protective coatings being put into the play equipment to deter vandalism and Cllr Davis suggested a grand opening which she would like to host when everything was complete.

THE FIRST ERFSTADT INVASION OF 1985

A group of German visitors from Wokingham's twin-town Erfstadt was due to arrive in Wokingham last night at the start of a four-day springtime visit. They are the first twinning visitors to arrive this year and follow the visit to Germany in February of a group of Wokinghamers (as natives of the town are known over there) to enjoy the Erfstadt carnival.

The highlight of the visit will be on Saturday night when the Wokingham Twinning Association holds a social evening for its visitors to which all and sundry in Wokingham are invited. The Saints (from St. Sebastian's Band) will be there, as will the All Saints' bell-ringers—it should be quite a saintly evening

. There will be supper provided and, the social committee hopes, plenty of dancing. The Mayor, Cllr. Ann Davis, will be present and all are invited to dress up I fancy dress on a nursery rhyme theme. Tickets cost £2 (£1 for children) and anyone wanting to go should ring Mark Richards.

Thur 16th May

TALENTED REBEL KNEW HER CAUSE

Mrs. Jean Whitford of Finchampstead, the founder of Wokingham Arts Group has died in her hundredth year. She was a remarkable person and knew what she wanted. She was not afraid to be a touch rebellious—dyeing her hair and wearing light stockings well before such practices were fully accepted.

First and foremost she was a journalist—a prolific writer of articles on a huge variety of topics, particularly issues affecting women, their rights and their feelings. She submitted dozens of articles for radio broadcasting which were accepted, and which she presented herself on the airwaves—often giving the title in advance of writing the actual work simply so the programme controllers could print the programme of talks. Later on she wrote an autobiography entitled, *No Dizzy Heights*.

Born in Penge, London, in 1885, she went to school in Shrewsbury, Shropshire, moving to Ludlow and then to West Kirby in Merseyside before coming to rest approaching forty years ago in Warren Lane, Finchampstead. After a thorough schooling she worked in censorship in Ireland in the First World War, when she wrote her first and only play.

She married in her early twenties and had five children, but her joy in being active was never quashed and she would haunt salesrooms, campaign for a bus service down Finchampstead way and even stand on street corners distributing leaflets for causes she believed in.

“She always wanted to go into journalism—from a very young girl she was interested in journalism but at that time it wasn't easy to get into,” said her daughter, Mrs. Jean Holloway, who lives in Ashridge Road. She never made any money but she led a happy and full life and we were very happy as children—she was never a clinging mother. She would do anything at all as long as it was exciting and was not sitting at home.”

A journalist Mrs. Whitford may have been, but she was an equally talented artist and when she reached the age of sixty, she persuaded the council to let her use Montague House for exhibiting local artwork. Why should people have to travel all the way to the capital or large city embankments simply to see art displays when there is plenty of talent on our own doorstep was her claim.

Although she was the founder of the Wokingham Arts Group, she contributed mainly to its organisation and co-ordination and not to its social side. But she let the group flourish on its own, and it did just that. She herself was still doing oil paintings of anything and everything, with the single exception of portraits, into her ninety-sixth year at her home until failing eyesight prevented her from going on.

In the end, Mrs. Whitford's hectic and happy life came to a close after a slight chill turned into pneumonia and she died peacefully holding her daughter's hand on April 17. How inappropriate it would be for a woman who loved publicity to miss out on this final chance for a little limelight.

THE WEEK WOKINGHAM WENT WILD

Wokingham went wild recently, but a police presence was not required at the Town Hall where a major event was being staged to make local residents appreciate the countryside around them. Entitled "Wokingham Act Wild", the event was a series of exhibitions and talks given by all sorts of people in the area concerned with conservation.

It was all organised by a group called WERD—the Wokingham Environmental Resources Development team, who work from the teachers' centre in Alderman Willey Close and are funded by the Manpower Services Commission.

The Town Mayor, Mrs. Ann Davis, was there to see the day off to a good start, and she had nothing but praise for the team's efforts. Wendy Willett is the coordinator of the six-person WERD team, and she had the headaches of organising the event.

As part of their effort to encourage people to appreciate the wilderness of the countryside, WERD were selling wild flower seeds at one of the stalls. They wanted to get people to plant these in their garden to attract wild insects and butterflies. They would see then that wild things can be as beautiful as the more conventional garden flowers.

Much of WERD's work involves dealing in schools where they give talks and provide educational packages for children about the countryside. They also do a lot of work with the disabled, the unemployed and the elderly—and of course, the general public. Because WERD is funded by the Manpower Services Commission's community programme, its employees are entitled to work for one year only. The present team are coming to the end of their time and they are looking for new people. The posts are open to anyone who has been unemployed for some time.

There was certainly no doubting the success of the Wokingham Act Wild day. Crowds of shoppers and schoolchildren thronged the town hall to talk to representatives of the organisations which included the Wokingham Natural History Society, the children's branch of the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Naturalist Trust, the Berkshire Conservation Volunteers and the World Wildlife Fund.

One unusual stall belonged to Martin and Sue Brown who were publicising their organisation Earthbound Explorer. Martin explained that they run courses on subjects connected with the countryside, birds and animals, some of which take place as evening classes at Dinton Pastures and some of which involve one-day field trips. They are also hoping to branch into the realm of running holidays in the countryside.

In another corner of the room was Jill Butler, warden of Dinton Pastures Country Park who said that they were hoping that people would become interested in the countryside through this day, and might come down to see what Dinton Pastures has to offer.

Even Wokingham Public Library had representatives that day. Mrs. Pamela Hunter, community librarian, said that the library tended to become involved in the community and they were trying to improve their image. They want people to realise that they were there and that they had a lot to offer.

A familiar face from political circles was Bracknell District Councillor Colin Brookes, present in his capacity as representative of the Ministry of Defence branch of the British Deer Society. He said that there were a lot of deer around the area on MOD land, and he was often called in as a skilled marksman to put them out of their misery when poachers had been at them. It was a terrible thing to see a deer which had a cross-bow bolt stuck in its jaw or had a noose slowly tightening around its neck as it grew because it had broken away from poachers. He hoped the stall would let people know that there were deer in the area, that they were being looked after and that they could join the British Deer Society if they wanted to help protect them.

V.E. DAY PARTY TIME

When Wokingham Town Council decided to celebrate V.E. Day, it did it in true Roaring Forties style. The council held a thanks-giving concert at the Westende School in Wokingham to commemorate 40 years of peace. And for the ex-serviceman and war widows it was a chance to revive the songs, music and memories of the war era.

The evening's entertainment included songs of the forties by the Westende School Choir, music from the St. Sebastian's Band and a Parade of Honour. Local opera star Eileen Lowes brought many a tear to the eye when she closed the evening with the Lord's Prayer. Another local singer, Mr. James Parker sung 'The Lights of Home', 'Chocolate Soldier' from U.S.A. and 'The Victory Waltz'.

The concert was organised by local Cllr. Mrs. Marion Fergusson Kelly. She said that it was a town's gesture to the soldiers, ex-servicemen and their widows. It was quite a night. Everyone who took part in the concert gave their services free and the town council paid all the other costs.

The Town Mayor, Mrs. Ann Davis, was given a guard of honour by members of the Royal Navy and cadets of the Navy, Army and Air Force Units. Nearly 100 people attended the concert and everyone co-operated to make it a great success. The school let them use the hall and the local karate club changed their night to keep it free for the concert. Councillors helped by pulling the pints and serving food. There was even a Smokey Joe's bar to give the night that special Forties feel. There were also people who hadn't seen each other in ages and there were people from Africa, Crete, Gibraltar and Japan.

Thur 13th June

A CAPITAL CARNIVAL

The Wokingham Carnival of 1985 took to the town streets and fields at the weekend—and, as ever, the main event of the year was an outstanding success. From early afternoon until well into the evening thousands of people took part and watched the festivities helping to raise valuable cash for Folly Court, the Guide Dogs for the Blind Training Centre in Wokingham.

The fun ranged from showcows on the Carnival Field at Cantley House to parachutists from R.E.M.E. spectacularly landing on the field in front of an enthralled

crowd. Activities started soon after mid-day, when more than 20 floats gathered along the streets to be judged by Miss Wokingham and the Mayor, Cllr. Keith Cattran before setting off for a grand procession through the town centre.

Cllr. Cattran was particularly pleased with the success of the event because it helped to publicise the charity he is working for as Mayor for the next year—a renal machine for the Royal Berks Hospital which will eventually be permanently placed in Wokingham Hospital.

The procession itself was filled with an amazing array of float, on cars, lorries, and even a double-decker bus which wound its way through the streets led by Carnival Queen Michelle Winkley. The floats were based on the theme 2001 and no effort was spared as the spectacular line-up of colours and ideas marched past the hundreds of cheering and clapping people of the town.

Later the procession arrived at Cantley Field where, after the official opening, ceremony there were shows in the arena by the Thames Valley Dogs Display Team, the parachutists, music from the Reading Scottish Pipe Band and a training demonstration by the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

Carnival chairman Mr. Lloyd Windust said: “We expect to make a profit of over £6,000 for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.”

The lucky programme prize—a meal for two at St. Anne’s Manor was not claimed on the day after being drawn out by Miss Wokingham. The number is 0439 and the winner should go along to see the manager at St. Anne’s to arrange a date for the meal.

Thur 1st Aug

MUSIC AND MARCHING

Feet were tapping in the Market Place, Wokingham during a special visit from the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh’s Royal Regiment. Lunchtime shoppers were treated to a fine display of military music and marching from the regimental band and corps of drums. Among the town notables present were the Mayor Cllr. Keith Cattran and Deputy Mayor Mrs. Margaret Busst.

The 40-minute display, in the small area in front of the Town Hall, was a fitting testament to the Army’s precision timing. Not a foot was out of place. The stirring military tones were accompanied by a public exhibition of the regiment’s hardware which made it clear that these were not just toy soldiers of the Grand Old Duke of York variety.

The Wokingham Visit forms part of the county-wide goodwill tour and recruitment drive which the regiment has undertaken this summer. It is part of the Keep the Army in the Public Eye. (KAPE) campaign. Apparently most of the recruiting is done in Berkshire. The aim is now to show people in the towns that they visit the local regiment.

Thur 8th Aug

LANDSCAPE THEME

Wokingham Town Council have accepted a tender for the landscaping of the Howard Palmer Park for which they have allocated £32,000 from this year’s budget. A few extra items have been added to the plan. These include five lamp posts in a mock Victorian style. They have special tough glass and photo sensitive cells which mean they come on or off in response to light conditions. The lamp posts would have added an extra £2,000 to the bill had not the council been able to make economies on their £14,000 allocation for surfacing costs.

There remains some delay in the provision of water and electricity to the site and the council's recess committee were authorised to keep up contact with the Thames Valley Water Authority and Southern Electricity during the summer break.

The question of the refreshment kiosk proposed for the park was deferred until next year. The council felt that to go ahead with building now would only mean that the facility would stand unused.

Thur 22nd Aug

TOWN CRIER CHICK BIDDLE RECALLS LIFETIME IN UNIFORM

India

Within one year of leaving school Chick had received his basic training in the regimental band and was packed off to India. He spent five years there and with the band he saw the upper crust of the British Raj. The band were never given front line duties but Chick remembers stretcher bearing during the religious riots which used to flare up each year.

Sudan

In 1930 Chick was on the move again as the Regiment embarked for Khartoum in the Sudan. He spent a year there and hated every second. At times the temperature climbed to 121f in the shade. At one point the band had to go with the regiment on its exercises which included a 15-mile forced march across the desert, a trek which nearly did for Chick. There was sand everywhere which penetrated the instruments. When a wind storm rose the sand would blast through the wooden shutters on the barrack windows.

Once saw a plague of locusts which came as a thick cloud like an Indian monsoon.

All told Chick was glad to get back to Blighty in 1931, when he led the Regimental mascot, a black buck antelope from India called Bob, back to Woking. It was there he met Lucy, his wife to be.

Married

Chick left the band in 1933 and was promoted to lance corporal and the job of clerk in the orderly room. In 1935 he married Lucy and by 1938 Chick was back in his home town of Warwick where they set up home in married quarters.

This was an unfortunate time to start a family. Six weeks before the outbreak of war in September 1939 their only child, Maureen was born. There then followed a lengthy separation as the family returned to Lucy's mother in Woking and Chick was posted to Lanark, Scotland, as an infantry instructor.

He helped train up the raw materials for the war machine. The fresh faced young men who would see action across the world. After the war Chick became Colour Sergeant Biddle and was posted to occupied Germany. As a platoon commander in Lubeck in 1948 he helped on the great Berlin Airlift. He finally left the Regiment after forty-one years' service in 1965. But within a year Chick was back in uniform as the mace bearer and town crier for Wokingham.

He gave up the function of mace bearer in 1981 as there were too many social engagements but Chick continues as town crier and is known throughout Wokingham.

Thur 5th Sept

WORK STARTS ON THEATRE

It was all smiles on the faces of members and friends of the Wokingham Theatre recently, at a turf-turning ceremony to mark the beginning of the construction of their long-awaited new building. At the ceremony the chairman of the Wokingham District

Council Colonel John Cole and Wokingham town Mayor Keith Cattran both praised the joint effort of the two councils to help provide the theatre with a new home.

The theatre is being built at Cantley adjacent to the Cantley House Hotel to the north of Wokingham and will have 120 seats. This is six more seats than the theatre group's current home, a temporary old wooden building on the Norreys Avenue.

The theatre will not be completed until spring 1986, a few months later than planned. The cost of the theatre will be £160,000, and the district council has given the theatre group a £60,000 low interest loan and a £4,500 grant. The town council has given £1,000 and is considering buying a row of seats when decoration of the inside of the theatre gets under way.

Thur 3rd Oct

CENTENARY OF THE COUNCIL

The day opened with the arrival of the Lord Lieut. Of Berkshire, the Hon. Gordon Palmer led by the REME Staff Band and travelling in a horse-drawn carriage. The Lord Lieut. was given a trumpet fanfare at the town hall. The Mayor Keith Cattran welcomed the Deputy-Mayor of Erfstadt, Herr Adolf Kappes and Town Clerk, Herr Johannes Mrasek. Fifteen past town mayors were presented with commemorative pins and a commemorative scroll was signed. The rest of the day featured various displays, including stiltwalkers, Wokingham Firemen with an old manual pump fire engine, a wild west show and morris dancing. The day ended with a firework display at the carnival field

Thur 17th Oct

MAYOR OPENS LUXURY HOTEL

A new luxury hotel was opened in Wokingham aimed at catching the business trade in Berkshire. The Edward Court Hotel at Wellington Road, which has 25 bedrooms all with en suite bathrooms was opened last week by Wokingham Town Mayor, Cllr. Keith Cattran.

Hotel managing director, Miss Judith Simpson said the hotel was small and able to offer a personal service. She added Wokingham had very few hotels and they hoped to attract trade from the many businessmen passing through the area.

The hotel is owned by the Luff Building Company of Wokingham who have previous experience in constructing hotels as they built Bracknell's Ladbroke Mercury but this is the first time they will be taking on running one. Miss Simpson said the hotel was a milestone for Luff who was this year celebrating its 25th anniversary. If it proved a success then there was a possibility of further hotel ventures.

Thur 7th Nov

FUN IN THE STREETS AS THE TOWN CELEBRATES MAKING HISTORY

Wokingham turned the clock back 100 years on Saturday as the town celebrated its mayoral centenary. Thousands of eager townspeople, many dressed in Victorian costume, turned out to enjoy a day of nostalgia and celebrations. Stalls, displays and entertainments were laid on to commemorate the town's historic centenary which began with Wokingham's first Mayor, Alderman Thomas Manley Wescott, in 1885.

The day began with the arrival of the lord Lieut. of Berkshire, the Honourable Gordon Palmer. Led by the marching R.E.M.E. staff band and travelling in a horse-drawn carriage, the Lord Lieut. was given a trumpet fanfare welcome at the Town

Hall. He was met by Wokingham's present Mayor, Cllr. Keith Cattran, who at 40 years of age is the youngest mayor ever to hold the office.

Honour

Cllr. Cattran said in a welcoming speech, "Being a mayor in this year of mayoralty is an exceptionally high honour." He reminded the crowd of Wokingham's past silk industry and added that Howard Palmer Park was originally given to the town by a member of the Lord Lieutenant's family. Cllr. Cattran, the town's 59th Mayor, thanked the mayoral centenary committee and welcomed the deputy mayor of Wokingham's twin town, Erfstadt, Herr Adolf Kappes and town clerk Herr Johannes Mrasek.

The Lord Lieut. said, "It is an enormous honour to be with you as you turn another page in your history. I am very proud of the connection there has been over the last 100 years between members of my family and your town."

Fifteen past town mayors were presented with commemorative pins and a commemorative scroll was signed. The rest of the day featured many displays including those by the corps of R.E.M.E., the Red Cross, St. John Ambulance and Wokingham Rotary Club. Wokingham Fire Brigade turned out, not with a modern fire engine, but a 110-year-old steam-powered engine.

The street entertainment included stilt walkers, a Wild West show, Morris dancing, a Punch and Judy show and country dancing. Wokingham Theatre gave two performances of an Olde Tyme Music Hall. Street vendors and many shops' staff joined in the fun by dressing in Victorian fashion and selling Victorian goods.

The day ended with a colourful fireworks display at the Wokingham firework carnival field. Cllr. Cattran said, "The participation has been terrific. The Lord Lieut. was delighted and we all had an enjoyable day."

1986

Thur 20th Feb

DALEK PATROLLING THE TRAFFIC

Much has been said about the unsatisfactory traffic arrangements on view in Wokingham. Locals as well as visitors have cursed the various one-way systems and miniature roundabouts and in particular the junction of Broad Street, Rose Street, and Market Place at the heart of the town has not escaped criticism. But with the help of this photograph you might like to see what things were like twenty-five years ago. Rather than pedestrian crossings, traffic islands, bus lanes and one-way signs the whole junction was managed by one solitary police Dalek placed firmly in the middle of the road.

PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ WITH EASTENDERS

It was a full house at the Ritz Bingo Club in Wokingham recently for the visit of soap opera stars Douglas Fielding and June Brown better known as Dot Cotton and Sergeant Quick from BBC's Eastenders. The two stars took time off from their regular evening haunt of the Queen Vic in Albert Square to spend some time at the newly opened club which has just undergone a £150,000 revamp.

The Ritz, recently closed for three days, to enable a completely computerised and refurbished game room to be installed. The officer and the lady stayed for the interval when they signed their names for eager autograph hunters before heading back to see Den and the lads at the Queen Vic.

Thur 27th Feb

TOWN CRIER RESIGNS

Chick Biddle, Town Crier, aged 76, resigned after 20 years. Before becoming town crier Chick, who holds the BEM, was a soldier. He resigned because of advanced age.

Thur. 13th March

A public meeting was held to determine if there was enough interest to twin with Viry Chatillon as well as Erfstadt. The meeting was held on Wed March 12th.

Thur 29th May

LOYAL CHICK'S FAREWELL

One of Wokingham Town Council's longest standing servants has bid farewell to the councillors he has served for twenty years. Mr. Herbert "Chick" Biddle who served the town council first as a mace bearer then as town crier, was last week presented with a carriage clock by new town mayor Cllr. Marion Fergusson Kelly in recognition of his loyalty and hard work over the years.

Thur 25th Sept

ANTHONY CROSS

Anthony Cross died on Sunday afternoon. Born in March 1921 he was a confirmed bachelor. He lived at Dolphin House, Highfield Close, Wokingham for 39 years. Educated at Ardingly College, Sussex he studied history at Cambridge University.

During the Second World War he served as an officer and was wounded in the Sicily Landings of 1943 and was invalided out of the services.

He then worked as a Conservative Party agent in Chelmsford, Essex before attending the London School of Economics.

He was well-versed in foreign affairs but his first love was history. Development in Wokingham in the 1960s sparked off his fight to save it from planners. This led to him founding the Wokingham Society in 1964. He was its leading force. He was its chairman for ten years and its president for twelve. He was a man who loved Wokingham and did as much as he could for it. He was also the editor of the Wokingham Chronology.

He was widely travelled and a member of the Berkshire History Society and a long-standing member of the Conservative Party.

Thur 16th Oct

NO PLACE LIKE HOME FOR LOYAL THEATRE COMPANY

After nearly forty years of entertaining local audiences, beginning with its first performance in the Masonic Hall in 1948, Wokingham Theatre at last has a permanent home. The smart brick building next to Cantley House Hotel, cost £150,000, and represents the sheer hard work put in by company members. Membership in the company varies from 100 to 120, with about eight productions staged each year. The actors are never lacking in enthusiasm.

The new theatre will also be the venue for different groups, including a fashion show, a music group, and a dance school.

The company has not always been housed in such impressive surroundings. In the October of 1947, a meeting was held in the town hall, resulting in the birth of the Wokingham Players. The company had a variety of houses over the first few years, including Church House and Wokingham Town Hall. But a permanent home had to be found. An unused army building was located in Grayshott, taken in pieces to

Norreys Avenue, and reassembled. The £100 building was opened in 1963 with snow blowing through the unfinished roof.

Despite the addition of a kitchen and bar the building was only meant to be temporary. But it was not until this August that the much-loved hall saw its last production.

A struggle to find a good plan for a move to Twyford Road ended in September 1964, when the district council gave permission for a building designed by Windsor architect Tony Hudson. Then the real fight began as members worked to raise the rest of the money they had begun to collect in 1961. In the summer of last year the fund received a terrific boost. Wokingham District Council not only gave a low interest loan but also presented an unexpected grant.

Over the past few months, members showed boundless enthusiasm in helping prepare the theatre for its first production, Terence Rattigan's "Separate Tables." 125 seats were man-handled from the recently closed Fulcrum theatre in Slough. Much of the decorating was done by members some giving up their holidays to help out.

The theatre's grand opening was on a Sunday evening. Following the last performance of "Separate Tables" veteran actress Beryl Reid O.B.E. and Hughie Green were on hand to unveil a plaque.

The theatre is run by dedicated volunteers. Their success is shown by the fact that seats for each show are usually 80 to 90 sold out.

Thur 30th Oct

TIMES EDITOR ADAM RETIRES

Adam McKinley, editor of the Times Series since 1976, retires at the end of this week. Mr. McKinley, who was 65 earlier this month, joined the Times in 1970, after a distinguished career in national and provincial journalism. A Glaswegian and son of a Labour MP, Mr. McKinley started in journalism with the Glasgow Evening Citizen. After more than five years' service in the Royal Navy, in which he was torpedoed in both Malta and Russian convoys, Mr. McKinley rejoined the Daily Express where he worked as a political and industrial reporter as well as night news editor.

Soon after he joined the Times in 1970 he began writing his weekly often controversial and hard hitting column.

1987

Thur 26th Feb

JEAN DAVY DIES

Jean Davy died aged 71 from a brain tumour. Her funeral was held at all Saints' Church on Wednesday 25th February.

Thur 19th March

DIANA'S TREAT

Princess Diana visited Dr. Barnardo's High Close School on Friday escorted by Col the Hon. Gordon Palmer. Once she had been introduced to local dignitaries she chatted to the parents. Despite the visit of the Royal president of Dr. Barnardo's the 48 pupils found it was lessons as normal. After the visit she made an unscheduled walkabout to talk to the crowds outside.

Thur 7th May

MAYOR'S EXHIBITION GOES BACK IN TIME.

Mayor's Exhibition goes back in time

Wokingham went back to its roots on Saturday when town Mayor Marion Fergusson Kelly presented the Mayor's Exhibition at the Town Hall.

Among the many historical delights on display was the charter allowing the town to hold its Tuesday market, which dates from the thirteenth century. The old borough council's account books some going as far back as the 1850s were shown to the public, along with photographs of former mayors, councillors and district events.

Mayor Marion said that the purpose of the exhibition is to show off the history of Wokingham and to show people in the town the status it had originally. She said that the town was steeped in history with distant connections which included some with Queen Anne and Robert the Bruce, the first king of Scotland.

The Wokingham Society and the Twinning Association each had stands showing their history and archives. Many of the old records and accounts had never been seen before. They were only found after a search through archive stores. Among the fascinating facts the records had uncovered was the information that Wokingham Borough Council owned land in 1855 to the princely value of £72. The town's wages bill was just £21 17s. 8d. Traditional crafts like spinning and lace work were demonstrated by local craft groups and press cuttings and old newspapers showed the history of the town and its people.

Thur 28th May

I WILL MISS THE TOWN SAYS SIR BILL

The man who has done more to shape the development of Wokingham than any other steps out of the limelight this month. Sir William van Straubensee, Wokingham MP for nearly twenty-eight years has retired from politics.

His decision not to stand for re-election marks the end of an era for Wokingham, which has returned Sir to office eight times since 1959. And for Sir William, a man who says he married his job, the thing he will miss most will be his contact with the town and its people.

The 63-year-old solicitor was first elected to Parliament in 1959. Then his constituency stretched from Reading Cemetery Junction to Ascot race course and included Bracknell. Berkshire was a small place when he was first elected and Wokingham was no more than a market town. Most of the people were farmers and the greater part of the landscape was open fields. As development changed Sir William found his role as MP changing with it. In 1963 the constituency was split and Bracknell was taken out to become part of East Berks. The Wokingham constituency was limited to the town and surrounding areas.

Sir William saw himself as a rare breed in politics as he is one of the few members who refused to give up all financial independence and become a full time MP. He practices as a partner in a firm of solicitors in London. His reason for keeping his independent income was simple. Other people have to do things. Other people have to have a skill or a trade or a profession and they don't want full time MPs.

During the Edward Heath government of 1970 to 1972 Sir William held the office of joint Parliamentary Under Secretary State for Education. It was in this ministerial role that he worked closely with an education secretary who broke the sound barrier for women in politics—none other than the present Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Between 1972 and 1974 Sir William faced perhaps the toughest job of his parliamentary career—that of Minister of State for Northern Ireland at the height of the troubles. During these years he became engulfed in a shroud of security.

When that posting came to an end with the fall of the Conservative government in 1974 his great relief was not only that he was not a terrorist target but that he was able to move freely among his constituents again. During these years it was always a risk working in the constituency but people were very understanding.

He is choosing to move now because he is afraid of outstaying his welcome. It is a great mistake to go on for too long. It is far better to give up when people are saying nice things and meaning them.

Sir William is an honorary vice president of the National Union of Students and before the recent dissolution of Parliament he was chairman of the Education Select Committee.

Thur 11th June

TOWN CELEBRATES A TWINNING DECADE

Carnival crazy Wokingham proved itself the perfect twin when it celebrated a decade of twinning with Erfstadt on Saturday. There were double last year's number of stands and it was hoped that more than £6,000 had been raised. Some 5,000 people, if not more, went to the carnival even though it was a blustery day.

Members of Wokingham's Round Table together with Beazer Homes who had organised the carnival hoped the event had raised the Twinning association's profile in the town. According to Mayor John Green the Round Table put together a splendid show and the excellent standard of floats this year showed that a tremendous amount of hard work had gone into them.

Blonde bombshell Cathy Reeves, Wokingham's seventeen-year-old carnival queen led the procession in an open top BMW to the Cantley Carnival field.

Gusts of wind buffeted the helicopter bringing Radio 210's top DJ Graham Ledger to open the carnival. The radio station had helped to organise a huge tea party for 500, one of the main attractions. Unfortunately the party suffered a hiccup when the power failed on the water heaters and the organisers had to resort to orange squash. Nevertheless the children had an opportunity to meet the Tetley Tea Folk, Sidney and Brew Gaffer and sample slices of a giant three-foot square cake made by Wilfred Bailey & Sons of Crowthorne.

Tetley who were celebrating their 150th anniversary, laid on an afternoon of street entertainment which included a fight between two 30-foot foam Japanese wrestlers.

Meanwhile sheepdogs, Spot, Flo, Bill and Kate impressed the crowd with their sheep and duck rounding up skills. The carnival show rounded off with a thrilling wild west show as Firecloud and his braves besieged a group of settlers with bullets and fire.

In the judging of the floats the trade section was won by the Wokingham Chamber of Trade and Commerce who entered the procession for the first time. The youngsters of Wokingham's Red Cross group won the youth section while the 3rd Wokingham guides and 5th Wokingham scouts won the Under-12 section with their twins float, including real-life twins Harriet and Sam Wilde. The huge wedding cake float was won by the Wokingham Town Twinning Association.

Pam Wilde of the Twinning Association carried off second prize in the grand draw, a holiday for two in Paris, but a group of German guests from Erfstadt went home with the lion's share of prizes.

The carnival celebrations continued late into the night with a dance and fancy dress party.

Thur 18th June

REDWOOD STROLLS TO AN EASY VICTORY

Wokingham's new Conservative MP, John Redwood, swept to victory in last week's General election. The 35-year-old former director of Rothschild easily won with a comfortable majority over his closest rival John Leston.

Thur 15th Oct

TWINS FOR A DECADE

Wokingham celebrated ten years of friendship with its West German twin town on Saturday but the weather was less than friendly to the occasion. Civic leaders and visitors from Wokingham's twin town were here to reaffirm the twinning declaration and sample some traditional Berkshire culture.

After arriving at Heathrow Airport, the German visitors were taken to Wokingham Town Council for a talk on the town's extensive silver by mace bearer Albert Dunham.

Then under a downpour of rain, a parade of Wokingham and Erfstadt councillors marched to Erfstadt Court, off Denmark Street where a commemorative plaque was unveiled to mark a decade of friendship and mutual understanding between the two towns.

Local scouts, guides and army organisations lined the route as the parade arrived at Palmer Park. The Berkshire Bedlam Morrismen provided an entertaining dance routine before the civic group moved on to Langborough Recreation Ground. Each town mayor then planted a tree to mark the occasion and they unveiled a park bench draped in the flags of both countries. The party then took refuge from the rain in a nearby marquee tent for an official signing ceremony. Wokingham Town Mayor, John Green, said "For ten years the bonds of friendship have been forged between Erfstadt and Wokingham. The links have grown stronger between us with each passing year. We value highly the exchanges that have taken place between our young people, sportsmen and women, councillors and interest groups. The trees that he and Burgermeister, Heinz Cremer, Erfstadt's mayor, had planted would grow like the friendship between the two towns."

A translation of the speech was provided so the Germans present at the ceremony could understand him, but that did not put Cllr. Green off trying to speak a little German.

Burgermeister Cremer replied, "I am very pleased to sign this charter. I think it's the wish of the people of Erfstadt and I hope our friendship goes on and on."

The original signatories of the charter, former Wokingham town clerk Richard Jones and former Erfstadt mayor Adolf Kappes were also at the ceremony. A private reception was later held at the town council offices.

Wokingham Town Football Club played host to the German visitors on Saturday night when a celebration party was held.

A TUDOR DRAGON (BEA SNELL)

Wokingham's Bea Snell is a familiar face around town but how many of us know her as Mistress Bet, the "Dragon" cook of Kentwell Hall. Since retiring to Wokingham thirteen years ago, if retiring is the right word, Bea has devoted her life to serving the community. She is a member of the Hospital's League of Friends, The Volunteer Bureau, WADE, The National Council of Women, and she's just retired from being governor of two schools.

Many readers will know her as Madame Za, the great mystic reader of the tarot cards at many town fetes and fayres. She is also a familiar face at Martin's Pool where she swims four times a week but every summer Bea, of Elms Road, Wokingham changes. She takes off her jewellery, wipes off her make-up and pulls on a cloth cap, a dress smelling of roast pig and starts talking funny.

Kentwell Hall!

Unlike other ladies aged 73, Bea does not look forward to a quiet summer holiday but rather a hot, busy two weeks in a Tudor kitchen as Mistress Bet, the dragon cook, of Kentwell Hall. She, along with 200 volunteers takes part in a reconstruction of history at an old Tudor hall in Long Melford. All the volunteers live and breathe life as it was in the days of Tudor England. Right down to the language quoth Bea.

They also use Tudor-style tools and artefacts and have authentic accessories of all kinds. The unique feature is that those participating never leave their Tudor roles so that visitors feel they are meeting figures out of history.

According to Bea the funniest thing about it is the people who come and see you. They pull at your clothes and help themselves to the food when you aren't looking. But Mistress Bet is not a lady to be taken lightly. If she sees anyone helping themselves to a swift bit of Tudor tart, she roars at them. And if anyone dare suggest that she should take her apron along to the laundry she plays ignorant. After all who's ever been to a Tudor laundry?

Bea started spending her summers in a different world three years ago when she spotted an advert in the national press. From then on she has never looked back as she convincingly portrays a chief cook in Tudor times. Everything about the set up is as authentic as possible—even down to the gossiping in the kitchen among the servants.

1988

Thur 21st Jan

TOWN SAYS OUI TO FRENCH CONNECTION

Wokingham townfolk said "Oui, s'il vous plaît" to plans to twin with the Paris suburb of Viry Chatillon at the weekend. Some 340 signatures in favour of twinning were collected prior to this week's public meeting called to hammer out if the town should—after seven years of discussion—set up a French connection. The response has left the chairman of the town twinning association Elsie Hudson feeling optimistic.

Wokingham Town Council is the only authority which can formerly set up twinning links with another town and it is the council which will make the final decision. Talk of Wokingham twinning with Viry Chatillon in a tri-partite twin with Erfstadt was mooted in July 1979.

Thur 3rd March

MAYOR GREEN GETS A VIRY WARM WELCOME

This time next year Wokingham will be twinned with the French town of Viry-Chatillon. Wokingham's Mayor, John Green and Deputy Mayor, Fred Clark have just returned from a weekend visit.

Viry-Chatillon is about 18 kilometres south of Paris, just South of Orly. During their stay both visitors from Wokingham liked what they saw. Unfortunately a previous attempt to link with the town ended in disaster when a member of the Twinning Association, Victor Forsythe, likened Viry to Fulham or Wandsworth.

Both Mr. Green and Mr. Clark said that this view was rubbish. Perhaps what impressed them most of all was the fantastic sporting facilities available. Viry has an Olympic skating rink and two swimming pools.

Mr. Green was impressed by the hospitality shown and everyone was very friendly. They were given a tour and Paris and were looked after all the way. The French are keen to go ahead with the official twinning on June 25th, tying in nicely with their annual festival. Wokingham's representatives would travel to Viry where the official charter of agreement would be signed. It is hoped that the return official twinning visit to Wokingham would go ahead at the beginning of October.

Thur 31st March

TOWN HALL

Mayor John Green was surprised to learn that his wife, Christine, would replace Cllr. Richard Pennell. At the same meeting her husband was chosen to be mayor for an extra year. Pennell resigned because of commitments at work.

Thur 16th June

CARTOON CAPERS AT CARNIVAL

The world of Wokingham was a stage for the day as hundreds of revellers dressed up as their favourite film and cartoon characters to make the 8th annual carnival the biggest ever. Overcast skies and strong winds were not enough to spoil the day for around 6,000 people who cheered the floats through the town and followed them on to Cantley Field for an afternoon of fun. West Forest Round Table which organised the event in conjunction with Beazer Homes, was delighted with the way it went.

The fun started when nearly 40 floats assembled in Norreys Avenue to be judged.

Smiles

Tears from the 25 cold toddlers on the Ashridge Nursery float turned to smiles of joy as they were announced winners of the under-13 class. Their delighted parents had sent five weeks planning their 101 Dalmatians outfits and painting "Beware of the Dogs" signs.

The 1st Woollahill Cubs and Scouts took the under-18 prize with their colourful Flintstones float. The Fair Ladies of Wokingham Evening Townswomen's Guild won the adult class with their float based on the famous film. Trade prize was won by the St. Trinian's float of Midland Bank. Mayor John Green praised the imaginative hard work that had gone into making such a spectacular procession.

The huge procession was led through the town by Miss Wokingham Kathryn Fedder, cheered on by thousands who lined the route. The excitement continued at the Carnival Field with star attraction Bully the baby elephant on show. He trundled round the ring gratefully accepting cakes from delighted children.

Paddywack and Supermouse entertained the big crowd dashing round in a 1931 Morris car, trailing clothes and car parts as they went.

A fitting finale was provided by the Auto Space Kings and their daring motorbike display on a wire 60 feet above the ground. More than 110 stalls reported brisk business and several had sold out by mid-afternoon. The money raised will fund various health in the Wokingham area.

Thur 30th June

TOWN TWINNING

Links between Wokingham and Viry Chatillon were made official at the weekend when a charter between the two towns was signed. Wokingham Mayor, John Green, and Viry Chatillon Mayor Henri Longuet made their nine year friendship official.

Representatives from Erfstadt were also present to make a tripartite relationship.

Thur 4th Aug

AN ERA ENDS AS FORMER MAYOR STAN DIES AT 81

One of Wokingham's best loved sons, Alderman Stanley Bowyer has died. Mr. Bowyer, owner of Henry Bowyer and Sons pet shop in Peach Street, died aged 81 on Sunday in Reading's Dunedin Clinic from a heart attack. Mr. Bowyer who served as a Wokingham councillor for over half a century was admitted to the clinic on June 27th after breaking his hip in a fall in his office.

Born in 1907 Mr. Bowyer started the family pet shop business in 1925 with his father Henry. The young businessman soon began showing interest in civic affairs and in 1931 became the youngest councillor in Britain when he was elected to Wokingham Borough Council.

Recalls

Stanley's son Michael fondly recalls a favourite story of his father from these early days. The Mayor of the time Alderman Albert Priest said to him, "Bowyer you have now been elected by the majority of the town to serve on the town council for a term of three years. At the end of the three years you will come before the public again for re-election. If they see fit they will re-elect you for a further period of three years and until that time you will listen."

Even the alderman's words couldn't deter Mr. Bowyer who went on to be elected mayor himself in 1951 and to be made an alderman in 1953.

Town

In 1972 Mr. Bowyer was granted the freedom of the Borough and in 1973 served his second term as Mayor during which time Wokingham Borough Council became Wokingham Town Council. His hard work which, among other things resulted in Wokingham having electric street lighting introduced, was rewarded in the 1970s when Bowyer Crescent was named after him.

Before joining the Royal Army service Corps and serving in France, Belgium and Germany with Montgomery's 21st Army Group during the Second World War, Mr. Bowyer helped safeguard Wokingham through those difficult early years in the air Raid Patrol and fire watching.

As well as his 57 years of service with the council Mr. Bowyer was involved with Wokingham United Charities, mentally handicapped children and several local schools. He was also president of Winnersh British Legion and of the Legion's Number Three Group.

Flowers

Tomorrow councillors and members of the British Legion will walk from the town hall to All Saints Church for Mr. Bowyer's funeral at 12 noon. Flowers are welcome or donations to MENCAP (the society for the mentally handicapped) can be made to funeral directors A.B. Walker and Son Ltd of Eldon Road, Reading.

Thur 18th Aug

WALTER'S £200,000 FACELIFT

A £200,000 facelift at The Walter Arms public house in Wokingham started on Monday. The pub's storeroom and double garage are being converted into a function room and new bar. Licensee Ron Ballard has also submitted plans to the District

Council a new car park. He has already got permission for change of bar and a licence for the new bar.

The function room will be used for conferences and wedding receptions. There were plans to redecorate the existing bars in the New Year. Hopefully there will be major alterations inside. "We want to take a couple of walls down inside the bar and revamp the toilets."

Thur 25th Aug

COUNCIL OFFICES DELAYED AGAIN

The deadline date for the completion of Wokingham District Council's new offices has been missed again. Builders James Longley had promised that stage two of the building would be finished by Friday but tonight councillors will be told much of the work is still outstanding. They will hear it will be impossible to meet the deadline and a decision will have to be made about the delays at the meeting.

HISTORY MYSTERY AT 4-STAR HOTEL

There may be the ghost of a nun

Wokingham's new-look four star hotel is finally open after a £9 million facelift and extension project involving 18 month's work. The newly-named Stakis St Anne's Manor on the London Road now has 130 bedrooms, new conference and banqueting facilities and a new leisure club.

Formerly known as St. Anne's Manor the building now owned by entrepreneur Reo Stakis is believed by staff to be steeped in history. There are rumours that the staff's quarters are haunted, probably by a nun. But the full history of the manor still remains a mystery.

Sales Manager Beverley Faithfull said the staff had made inquiries but had drawn a blank. They are appealing to Wokingham people to enlighten them if they can. The new hotel, one of 35 in the Stakis chain, has attracted mainly business people since it opened in August 8th.

The extension has been built and furnished in the same style as the original listed building. In places the join between the old and new bricks are just visible.

Perhaps the main interest to many Wokingham residents will be the new leisure club which is open to membership as well as hotel guests. The management hopes to attract a total of 500 memberships including a mixture of families and single members. The club includes an 18-metre long and eight metre wide indoor swimming pool with an attached whirlpool spa. It is set in a Roman-style room complete with pillars, statues, mirrors on part of the ceiling and drinks area. Other facilities include two sunbeds, a sauna and steam room, two outdoor all-weather tennis courts and a gym. Among the fifteen exercise machines are rowing and running machines and bicycles. There is talk of providing a running track.

Thur 29th Sept

PADDOCKS CAR PARK PLAN IS APPROVED

Controversial plans to turn the Paddocks in Wokingham town centre into a car park have been given the go-ahead by Wokingham district councillors. It was the best out of a number of alternatives. Access to the car park is to be through the middle of Elms Road recreational ground but only as a temporary measure until an alternative is found. The plan will now be referred to the policy committee to raise the budget for the scheme from £210,000 to £336,000.

VIC IS BACK TO THRIVE

Greengrocer Vic Fletcher was angry and bitter when rising overheads forced him to close his greengrocer shop in Peach Street that his family had owned since 1939. He was forced out of Wokingham by the landlord who put up the rents to such an extent that he couldn't afford to pay.

He now runs a thriving farm in Forest Road. The farm has been so successful that he intends to open a farm produce shop there on October 13th.

Thur 10th Nov

TOWN HALL

The town hall is scheduled to have repairs made to balconies and railings, replacement of main doors, overhaul of timberwork around the clock tower, and treatment of flagstaffs. The cost is expected to be around £5,000.

WOKINGHAM SOCIETY FACES CLOSURE THREAT

The Wokingham Society may have to disband after nearly a quarter of a century because of apathy. Once a thriving watchdog body with around 700 members it attracted just 13 members to its annual meeting. Last Wednesday's turnout was the lowest in its 24-year history and seven short of the minimum needed to form a quorum.

For years the society acted as a bulwark against new development which would detract from the town's character. Past successes appear to have been forgotten except for the faithful few who were clearly proud of their Wokingham heritage. About eight years ago the society played an important part in ensuring that the land on Elms Field was not sold for office development. Its joint effort with Berkshire and Wokingham councils led to a public enquiry and the plans for development were subsequently turned down.

The town could be affected in many other ways should the society fold. The society proposes improvements necessary for the appearance, public open spaces, and other amenities in the area. It strives to conserve the traditions and character of Wokingham by preserving historic buildings and aims to monitor the needs of vehicles and pedestrians. Basically by keeping in touch with local residents it tries to create as civilised an environment as possible.

TOWN HALL TO UNDERGO 'CONSIDERABLE' REPAIRS

Wokingham's Victorian town hall is set to undergo a major series of repairs, including work on the stonework. Chartered surveyors have been called in to draw up a list of repairs to the 130-year-old building. The most urgent work includes repairs to the balconies and railings replacement on the main doors, and overhaul of the timberwork around the clock tower and treatment of the flag staffs. The roof is still in good condition although plant growth in the rain gutters needs to be cleared

According to Town Clerk Michael Taylor up until now the council has not had a proper maintenance programme and repairs have been done as they are needed. This is the first year we will have a formal maintenance programme so the work needed is considerable.

The town hall maintenance sub-committee decided last week to submit the most urgent works for approval to the Amenities Committee which meets in two weeks. If they agree the council will put the contract out to tender. It is not known how much the work will cost. Full council approval will be needed as the contract for the works

is expected to be over £5,000. Stage two of the programme of less urgent work is already being drawn up and could be agreed early next year.

Thur 24th Nov

PADDOCKS CAR PARK PLAN SCHEME IS APPROVED

The plans to build a car park at The Paddocks have been agreed by councillors. The decision has been condemned by residents who are angry at the loss of green land near their homes. They fear the car park will attract hooligans and be a danger to children. Wokingham District Councillors have received 37 letters of objection.

After the meeting Ellison Way Management Committee members claimed that council officers had not properly considered their suggestion of an alternative site for the car park on to the eastern side of Elms Road. They said the Elms Road land had originally been set aside as common land and therefore could not be legally be built on.

Town councillor Jean Burnett-Wilson said the proposal could not be recommended legally and claimed the land at Elms Road was common ground. The land was on record as being common in 1817 but surveyors maintain it has not been since then.

1989

Thur 12th Jan

HEATHLANDS SOLD FOR £1.3M

Wokingham farmer Mark Hall has sold Heathlands Country Market and Garden Centre for £1.3 million. He plans to return to vegetable and pick-your-own growing including raspberries and strawberries on the remaining 120 acres. Mr. Hall has been running it for the past 14 years and felt it was time to do other things. The site needs a great deal of money spending on it and he is nor by nature a retailer. He is a grower. His wife thought it was more than she wanted to take on and she wanted to get involved in the farming side.

The new owner is Cramphorn Plc based in Chelmsford, Essex. A deal has been made with Cramphorn to continue supplying vegetables to the country market. The company plans to extend the present buildings and increase the range of items at the garden centre.

Mr. Hall moved to Wokingham in 1966 and began growing vegetables before opening the centre in 1972.

Thur 16th March

A REPRIEVE FOR WATCHDOG GROUP

The closure threat over the town's watchdog body, the Wokingham Society, has been lifted. It was feared the society would be forced to fold when only 13 members turned up for the AGM. But last week members answered the call to rally round when they crowded into the Methodist Hall for another annual meeting.

Rosemary Goldschmeid, the secretary said the closure threat seems to have receded. "The main problem appears to have been that we weren't properly co-ordinated. We just couldn't reach everybody."

TANLEY'S GIFT TO WOKINGHAM

Stanley Bowyer, who died last July aged 81, has left hundreds of pounds worth of legacies to various local charities and organisations. His estate was valued at £246,738 net and the donations included £500 to All Saints' Church of which half goes to the organ fund and half to the choir fund.

£250 each to Westende Charities, Wokingham to be used for the residents and matron; The Wokingham and Bracknell Royal Naval Association: MENCAP, care of Mrs. Southern in Pages Croft, Wokingham; The Berkshire British Legion No.3 Group of which he was president, and the Winnersh British Legion Poppy Fund.

£150 each to the Arborfield, Bracknell, Binfield, Cranborn, Crowthorne, Hurst, Sonning, Twyford, Winnersh and Wokingham branches of the British Legion for a new branch standard.

Mr. Bowyer, a councillor in Wokingham for more than fifty years, also owned Henry Bowyer and Son's pet shop in Peach Street but the future of the shop is not yet known. The business is being run by his son Michael.

Thur 30th March

GOLDEN YEAR FOR NEW MAYOR

Wokingham Cllr. Fred Clark is to be the town's new mayor—in the year he and his wife Elsie celebrate their golden wedding anniversary. Cllr. Clark succeeds Cllr. John Green, the town's mayor for the past two years, on May 16th. Cllr. Clark pledged to do all he could to benefit the town's people when he received the nomination to become mayor-elect last week.

He added, "Obviously my two years as deputy mayor have given me a good training although there will be a lot more to do as mayor." the Clarks have lived in Wokingham for 22 years. They have a son and a daughter and six grandchildren.

Cllr. Clark is president of Wokingham RNLI and an active member of the town's Twinning organisation. He also helped to restart the Wokingham Hospital branch of the League of Friends.

He has been involved with St. Crispin's School for nearly 22 years. He has served as chairman of the Parent Teachers Association and Chairman of the governing board. He is also a governor of Wescott County Infants and Westende Junior Schools.

He thinks that it should be the aim of all councillors to achieve this honour. He and his wife are looking forward to the year and wish to do their best for the people of Wokingham.

OYEZ! CALLING FOR A NEW TOWN CRIER

The search is on for a new town crier in Wokingham—and only those with strong voices need apply! Chick Biddle, town crier for 21 years, is hanging up his handbell following a period of ill-health and now Wokingham Town Council is looking for a replacement. The crier is called out around six times a year to make proclamations.

At last week's full council meeting, Mayor John Green called on town councillors to put forward any suitable candidates. He also suggested a town crier competition could be run during festival week in June.

Ladies and gentlemen who apply for the prestigious post will be expected to read a test script proclaiming to the people of Wokingham the TIMES Wokingham Cancer Care Day Centre Appeal. This is where you, our readers, come in. We want you to write in to us with your suggestions for scripts. Send them to Wokingham Times, 54 Peach Street, Wokingham.

Thur 15th June

MONSTER FUN AT THE CARNIVAL

Even the Grand old Duke of York would have been proud of the army of people who turned out for the Wokingham Carnival on Saturday. They lined the streets to cheer on the long procession of "Nursery Rhymes" floats and then headed for the

carnival at Cantley Field to enjoy a monster bill of fun. Such huge crowds ensured this year's event passed its £4,500 charity target with ease. And Mayor Fred Clark is aiming for an even bigger success next year. He wants more floats, more people lining the route of the procession and a higher profile for the carnival to turn it into a major Thames Valley event.

But nothing could detract from the massive popularity of Saturday. Phil Cullimore, carnival chairman, was delighted with the outcome. Wokingham Round Table, who organised the carnival, will give the proceeds to the Wokingham Adult Training Centre in Woosehill Lane. Many other charities and voluntary groups from around the district took part and raised money for their own particular good causes.

The day started with about thirty floats assembling in Norreys Avenue to be judged. Among the judges were Wokingham's British pairs ice skating champions Cheryl Peake and Andrew Naylor, who took an afternoon off training, and the Mayor and Mayoress.

The procession, headed by the St. Sebastian Wokingham band, arrived at Cantley at 2 pm for Olympic silver medallist swimmer Sharon Davies to open the carnival sponsored by Laing Homes.

Hundreds of spectators watched a battle between two 20-foot high inflatable dinosaurs and a daredevil feat by John Byron, runner-up in the world stunt championships. He was shackled up inside a blazing tepee, yet escaped unscathed.

Carnival Creations

The brightly coloured Wokingham carnival procession swept through the town to the delight of hundreds of people who lined the roads. Carnival princess Louise Tandy took pride of place in the lead car followed by a stream of floats which had been ingeniously designed along the theme of nursery rhymes. The various creations by voluntary groups, charities and businesses, including old favourites like Sing-a-song of Sixpence, One-Two Buckle my Shoe and many more.

Competition for prizes in the three float categories was close as judges hurried to make up their minds just before the procession started off on its route through the town centre.

In the trade section, the Wokingham Chamber of Commerce took first prize with their 'Four and Twenty Blackbirds baked in a pie' float. The adult club section was won by Suffolk Lodge with the WADE day centre coming runners-up.

The under-13 section, judged by Andrew Naylor and Cheryl Peake with the carnival princess, was won by the 4th-9th Wokingham Brownie pack. Their Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary theme pushed the Finchampstead Brownies into second place.

Best stall on Cantley field was Westcott playgroup's novel 'Queen of Hearts' cake stand.

Thur 22nd June

RON'S BIDS FOR THE BELL

The search for a new town crier reached the trial stage on Saturday when the one and only candidate tried his hand with the famous bell. Ronald Rimmer was the only entrant for the competition organised by the town council. Although he put up a good performance, his selection was by no means certain. Now Wokingham Town Council will have to decide, first at committee stage then at a meeting of the full council, whether Mr. Rimmer should be appointed to the prestigious post.

The outgoing town crier, Chick Biddle, gave Mr. Rimmer a few hints on Saturday and then judged his shouting power for the town council. And Chick's verdict, "He

did all right. It is his first time and it is something that comes with practice. There is no question about it, there is a right and wrong way.

“He is an ex-serviceman. He is well turned out and it is only a question whether he can face the public. If he is appointed we hope he will do it for many years.”

Thur 29th June

FLOWERS FOR THE PRINCESS

Hundreds of smiling schoolchildren braved scorching sunshine to catch a glimpse of the Princess Royal. A relaxed Princess stopped to chat and shake hands with her young fans making their wait worth every minute. Princess Anne was clearly dressed for the weather when she arrived to open Wokingham District Council new offices last Wednesday.

She was greeted by a sea of patriotic flags and children eager to hand over tightly clutched bunches of flowers. A pupil of St. Paul's School, Sesla Laughnane was one of dozens of children who handed the Princess a posy. Sesla said, “She is lovely. She thanked me for the beautiful flowers and asked me which school I went to.”

Quartet

The kind-hearted Princess took time out to speak to many of the excited youngsters who craned and stood on tip toe to catch a glimpse of her. One happy quartet of schoolgirls from St. Paul's Junior School had their day made when the Princess said hello.

After the impromptu walkabout it was on to the scheduled business of the day and the unveiling of a plaque in the foyer of the new offices. After a brief tour of the building, Princess Anne signed the visitors' book in front of a small crowd inside the council chamber. Major Douglas Goddard, chairman of Wokingham District Council, thanked the Princess Royal for signing a photograph of herself which will hang in the chamber.

He said, “Your gracious presence with us is clear evidence of the value that you place upon the service provided by us and other local authorities to the community in preserving and enhancing the quality of life in our district.”

Society

Mr. John Forsyth, direct of the South Berkshire Music Centre, presented a cheque for £2,300 for the Save The Children Fund. The money was raised at a concert put on by the society last year. As she left the building she chatted to members of the society.

REME PARADE NO LONGER AN ANNUAL EVENT

The popular parade through Wokingham from Arborfield by the Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers will no longer be an annual event. Instead the parade will be given a higher profile every three or five years. The next parade will be in 1992 coinciding with REME's 50th Anniversary.

A spokesman said, “We have a number of freedoms and after an initial period of time we taper it off. We agreed with the Mayor not to have another parade until 1992. There are all sorts of commitments on us. The parade does take up a lot of resources and we have a lot of priorities, not least training for our operational role.”

Mayor Fred Clarke said, “We were approached by them and accepted the situation. It is understandable as they have to close the town down because of the security risk.”

Meanwhile, REME at Arborfield is being studied along with other training bases by the Ministry of Defence. The study initiated in January last year, will determine the

long term structure of training to make it more effective, efficient and value for money. The results of the study are expected by the middle of next year.

Thur 3rd Aug

TOWN MAYOR WILL LEAD DELEGATION

Wokingham town councillors have overwhelmingly backed a recommendation to seek urgent talks on saving Martin's Pool. Mayor Fred Clark will lead a four man delegation to meet opposite numbers on Wokingham District Council in a last ditch effort to save the doomed outdoor pool.

The decision follows an emergency session of the finance and general purposes committee which paved the way for the pool's future to be debated at last week's full town council meeting. Otherwise it would not have been raised before September.

Cllr. Jack Green summed up the mood of the meeting when he said, "If 5,000 people want to retain the pool, that is good enough for me," He was referring to a "save our pool" petition sparked off by massive opposition to district council plans to sell the £2 million pool site for development to raise money towards building an indoor pool on the Carnival Field.

The delegation will consist of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor Bob Wyatt, Town Clerk Michael Taylor and Cllr. Peter Edwards, vice-chairman of the amenities committee.

Thur 19th Oct

TOWN HALL

The horse trough outside the town hall is to be moved. The prison cells may be used to store files.

Thur 26th Oct

TOWN COUNCIL REJECTS NEW INDOOR POOL

Wokingham town councillors have condemned plans to turn Martin's Pool over to the bulldozers. And a major development company has joined in the attack, accusing Wokingham District Council of 'town cramming' in its determination to replace the historic pool with 18 houses.

At a meeting of the town council's planning committee, members supported a proposal which would keep the outdoor pool site for recreation. The councillors were meeting to discuss their response to the South East Area Local Plan. Following a heated debate on plans to build a cut-price indoor pool on the Carnival Field, they rejected the plan on the casting vote of chairman Ray Eke after the vote was tied, five apiece.

Having seen the plans for the new pool, Cllr. Eke said he could not support them. He said that the council should be aiming to provide an Olympic standard pool. But Cllr. Jim Stott supported the indoor pool, questioning the depth of support within the town for Martin's Pool. Cllr. Marion Robertson said she was struck by the "tatty2 appearance of Martin's.

Cllr. Jack Green could not envisage how the new pool could make a profit. He said "If Martin's Pool in the hottest summer since 1976, is running at a loss how can we expect to fund and make a profit on the new pool?"

ARC Properties, who are seeking to build a new pool as part of their mini-town proposals for Evendons Farm, have criticised the district council.

Thur 2nd Nov

CAMPAIGN FAILS TO SAVE POOL

A desperate attempt to save Martin's Pool failed on Monday when a motion to keep the area in recreational use was thrown out. Even a petition with well over 6,000 signatures did not budge Tory councillors from rejecting the appeal to save Wokingham's historic outdoor swimming pool.

At a full meeting of Wokingham District Council, SLD councillor Keith Malvern presented the petition—with 6,196 signatures—to council chairman Douglas Goddard. But Tory councillors were adamant that the town could not support two swimming pools and that the sale of Martin's Pool site would help the cash-starved council fund other capital programme items.

Recreation committee members are due to meet this week to discuss the reviewed specifications for the new indoor swimming pool to be sited at the Carnival Field. They will hear an officer's recommendation to substantially reduce the budget for what was originally intended as a showpiece indoor pool. Council officers have drawn up a list of priorities which limit the new leisure complex to a six-lane, 25-metre pool, a learner pool and beach area, sauna area and a small refreshment area. The new facilities will be expected to meet a budget at today's prices of £3.4 million—£1 million less than the previous budget.

The timescale for building the pool will be about a year behind the original schedule after tenders came in at between £2 million and £3 million over the council's estimates in the first round of tendering earlier this year.

At Monday's meeting Cllr. Malvern said the decision to close Martin's Pool had been taken ten years ago and was made on condition that the council built two new swimming pools—one in Wokingham and the other in Earley. Cllr Malvern said that he hoped that this council was in no doubt about the strength of feeling in the district about Martin's Pool.

Cllr. Pauline Hellier-Symens said, "There are about 30,000 people in Wokingham and 150,000 in Wokingham district. If you present someone with a bit of paper in front of them they will probably sign it anyway."

STORM OVER ELMS FIELD LANDSCAPING

A 100-strong residents' group has attacked Wokingham District Council claiming it has "violated" or "ignored" its own planning consent conditions. Ellison Way Management Company Ltd has written to the council demanding action over the scheduled landscaping of the Elms Field recreation ground. Members say that when part of the field was "torn up" for the construction of The Paddocks car park, a condition of planning consent was that ground cover, tree and shrub planting would take place in the first planting season after the civil engineering work was completed.

In his letter to council amenities officer, Gordon Bendall, residents' chairman Dr. Derek Gregory states: "We were told when the civil work was completed in March 1989 that the planting season was now over and that landscaping would commence in October 1989. He adds: "We have had to complain three times since then about the lack of mowing or other care to the temporary grass seeding that was carried out in Elms Field in the spring, leaving the field in a deplorable state. Now with October over, Dr. Gregory says, "Landscaping planting work has not yet commenced. We believe you are now in violation of the planning consent."

A council spokesman said that when the civil engineering work was completed in March it was too late to start planting. Landscaping and planting at Elms Field would

take place in the winter planting season and was likely to be carried out early in the new year.

Thur 9th Nov

WOKINGHAM'S FIREWORK SPECTACULAR

Thousands of people turned out to watch a spectacular fireworks and laser show in Wokingham on Saturday. Windsor Forest Unicorn Club raised about £5,000 for the TIMES cancer care appeal and Ark, a workshop for handicapped children in Bracknell, at the extravaganza which featured fireworks from all over the world.

The event attracted 8,000 people who saw the sky lit up with a stunning array of fireworks, a huge bonfire complete with a he Guy Fawkes and a laser show. A funfair and sideshows completed the dazzling picture. The event was so popular that it had to be delayed for about fifteen minutes to give people the chance to get in. Traffic queues from the field at Cantley stretched back to the centre of Wokingham and Mayor Fred Clark was just one of the hundreds of people caught up in the jam.

Cllr. Clark and his wife Elsie were due to launch the fireworks and at one moment it looked as if they might miss the event. Fortunately the couple arrived only a little late and Cllr. Clark was able to welcome the thousands who turned up.

Companies

Unicorn spokesman Mike Shirley said that the money raised at the event and through contributions from local companies and people was still to be finally counted but it looked likely the total would be around £5,000. Most will go towards the cancer care unit to be built at Wokingham Hospital. The rest will go to Ark. The club hopes to put the show on again next year as part of its fund-raising activities.

Thur 16th Nov

ARTHUR TURNS OVER A NEW LEAF

Lovable wide buy, Arthur Daley, alias actor George Cole popped into Wokingham to launch the district council's crime prevention manual. Surrounded by a large group of our boys in blue he looked decidedly uneasy as he opened a special crime prevention exhibition at the council's Shute End offices.

But even this didn't stop him from trying to off load a job-lot of Japanese locks on the unsuspecting public. But there was a serious side to it all for it marked the launch of a unique joint venture with the Thames Valley Police Authority to produce a manual aimed at giving practical advice to house holders to help them in the fight against crime.

About £28,000 was spent on producing 53,000 copies to be distributed to every home in the area and council chairman Major Douglas Goddard said, "I feel it is very well invested and there has been a tremendous response. People are actually reading it."

Thur 23rd Nov

WELCOME WILLIAM

School 'delighted' Prince is coming

Prince William is to go to school in Wokingham, Buckingham Palace announced at the weekend. In an unusual break with tradition Prince Charles and Princess Diana have decided to send their son to the exclusive £2,100-a-term Ludgrove School in Wixenford.

There he will share a dormitory with six other boys and lessons will include Latin, French and computing. The 130-acre site has a heated swimming pool, squash courts and a nine-hole golf course.

William will be a full boarder along with the 186 other boys at the school, although he will go home at half-term and will be allowed to go away about every third weekend.

Football

His day will start at 7.15 a.m. and lights out is at 8 p.m. There are also lessons on Saturday morning. Each class has 14 pupils and there is a great emphasis on P.E. with boys playing both football and rugby, as well as cricket, athletics and tennis. There is also the opportunity to go riding, take part in clay pigeon shooting or get involved in creative activities such as pottery.

William will be eight when he starts at the school next September and he will stay there for five years. Ludgrove has a family style set-up and according to Buckingham Palace was chosen from a short list of 10 schools around the country.

The joint head teachers, 47-year-old Gerald Barber and 50-year-old Nichol Marston, said the prince would be treated exactly the same as the other boys. Mr. Barber said, "We are delighted Prince William will be joining us in September and we hope he will be very happy."

Former pupils include Sir Alec Douglas Home and the Duke of Kent.

WHEN WOKINGHAM BROUGHT BACK THE DEATH PENALTY

Vive la revolution! Heads rolled in Wokingham on Friday when a guillotine and stocks were set up in the town centre. Workers were dragged out of their offices by soldiers of the French Revolution and marched to their place of humiliation and execution. Among the unfortunate victims was the Mayor of Wokingham, Fred Clark, who was thrown in the stockade with his wife Elsie.

Of course it was all part of the fund-raising stunts held in aid of the national Children in Need campaign. West Forest Round Table raised more than £7,000 with their fun execution day and other events.

Anyone could be arrested, tried and executed by request. Prisoners were released only when friends and workers handed over money. The executioner was Alec Stewart, the Surrey and England cricketer, but few people recognised him with his black hood and mask.

Alan Harding, chairman of the Round Table, said, "We had a very good response and I'd like to thank the people of Wokingham for their help."

Staff at the Midland Bank in Wokingham organised a Teddy Bear's Picnic. Homemade cakes and refreshments were sold to customers, and staff were encouraged to wear fancy dress. Those who did not had to pay £2 to the Children in Need appeal.

Thur 7th Dec

THE MOMENT WE'VE ALL WAITED FOR

Tuesday was a proud day for Wokingham when the foundation stone of the town's new cancer care day centre was laid by British Airways chairman Lord King. More than £65,000 has been raised to date for the TIMES fund which was set up to build the centre.

Lord King was a fitting choice to lay the foundation stone—for British Airways has pledged £200,000 towards the £50,000 building costs. Commenting on the money

raised by TIMES readers, Lord King paid tribute to the paper's involvement at a time when the Press in general was coming in for criticism.

In his speech, Lord King said his company's donation to the new centre was one of the largest it had ever given. Over one million people in the United Kingdom have been cancer patients. In West Berkshire alone there are on average 1,400 new cases a year. I hope that many others will follow our example so that we can quickly pass the target of £350,000 for the local appeal and £3 million for West Berkshire.

Other guests included Sir Francis Kennedy, special advisor to Lord King, the Countess of Westmoreland, President of the Macmillan Fund, Major Douglas Goddard, chairman of the District Council, Margaret Hawkins, chairman of the Wokingham and District Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, and many other local dignitaries.

Thur 14th Dec

THE SANTAS ON BIKES

Leather-clad they rode into Barnardo's school in Wokingham on Saturday bearing Christmas gifts. Children gazed in delight as more than 100 motorbikes streamed up the drive of High Close School. Some riders had piles of gift-wrapped presents tied to their bikes. Others had huge soft toys riding pillion with their machines covered in Christmas decorations.

The toy run was organised by the Christian Motor-cyclists Association, who had powered their way to the school to make sure all the children there have a fun-packed Christmas.

The convoy had ridden to Wokingham from Palmer Park in Reading. C.M.A. chairman Derek Toome of Winnersh said there were more bikers than ever this year. "There must be about 125 to 150 bikes here, from places like Portsmouth and Bristol as well as the local area. I'm over the moon that so many have turned up. It's a great cause. Everyone buys a present and people have spent anything from £5 to £40 on games, toys, puzzles, you name it."

The toy run was the brainchild of Winnersh motorbike fan Ben Spiller. Ben said that the idea came from America. It is good for the kids and good for the bikers who always seem to have such a bad image.

SALVATION ARMY SISTER DIES

The last of the three famous Salvation Army sisters, Olive Bramwell-Booth, was being buried at Finchampstead today (Thursday), following her death at the age of 98. Olive was the last surviving child of General Bramwell-Booth, the second leader of the Salvation Army.

She died on December 13th at a home in Camberwell, South London. She had devoted her life to the work of the Salvation Army in Britain and abroad. The Bramwell-Booth sisters were the granddaughters of the Salvation Army's founder General Sir William Booth.

After the war she was in charge of work with churches and relief organisations helping to repatriate children who had been moved from their homes during the war. In 1950 she became secretary of the Salvation Army's war graves department which organised visits for widows to their husbands' graves.

Olive retired in 1951 but she and her sisters continued to appear on television, and at luncheons and receptions and Olive was known as a lively public speaker. One of the sisters, Dora, died in February at her home in North Court, Finchampstead. The elder sister, Commissioner Catherine Bramwell Booth died in 1987 at the age of 104.

A service will be held at the Salvation Army Citadel in Sturges Road, Wokingham at 2 p.m. and Olive will be buried in the family grave in Finchampstead Cemetery.

1990

Thur 4th Jan

Wokingham C.A.B. moved from the Town Hall to the Old Social Club in Elms

Thur 1st Feb

CHAOS AND DESTRUCTION

Winds gusting at 80 mph swept through the Wokingham district, closing schools, blacking out villages and leaving homes and buildings battered in a carbon copy of the 1987 mini-hurricane. And the London Weather Centre is forecasting, "There's more to come."

Finchampstead was completely blacked out as electricity supplies to the villages were cut by last Thursday's gale. Blankets and supplies had to be taken to the elderly and emergency gangs were drafted in from all over the country to help restore power. The Southern electricity offices in Wokingham remained open throughout Sunday to advise and coordinate work.

Wokingham's Broad Street library has been closed until further notice after the high winds wrecked the chimney leaving it hanging dangerously. Whitelocke Infants' School was expected to be closed until the end of this week after winds ripped off the roof and heavy rain flooded the building.

Trains

A number of trains were stranded at Ascot, unable to go further.

Heathlands County Market suffered extensive damage in the gales with the plant house and coffee shop roof ripped off. Nothing was left standing as the winds hurtled through the centre and Julia Carter said, "It looked as though a whirlwind had gone through it."

There was praise from all quarters for the police, council workers, electricity workers and other services who worked through the night to ease the suffering and inconvenience as the Dunkirk spirit enveloped the area.

The meteorological officer for Wokingham Town Council, Bernard Burton, said the storm "was very similar" to the hurricane of 1987. Equipment stationed at Emmbrook School measured a top wind of 80 mph at around 1.30 p.m. Many of the winds throughout the day measured 70-80 mph he said.

Roy Fuller, at Wokingham District Council's engineering department said that in terms of manpower and machinery he estimated that the clean up would cost about £20,000.

About 300 tenants rang the district council after the storm to report damage that looks set to run into thousands of pounds. Gutterings and tiles were blown off, structures were damaged.

Berkshire County Council put early estimates of its clean up at £1.25 million. A spokeswoman said the elderly had been particularly badly affected and several of the county's own homes had been damaged.

Advice

She said, "Gas heaters and cookers were provided for some people and hot foods delivered to many vulnerable people. And staff pulled out the stops to make sure the disabled, elderly and frail were well cared for and had enough to eat. Some people were temporarily checked into residential homes."

Andy Staff, manager of Bennetts Insurance, Broad Street, said, "There were more than an average number of claims and considerably more on TV aerials, roofs and windows and also on claims for car damage." His advice was to get any essential work fixed and send the invoice to the insurance company. Policies do not usually cover damage to wooden fences.

A spokesman for the London Weather Centre said the Wokingham and Bracknell areas should expect more fierce gusts, but not gale force like last Thursday. The Thames valley largely escaped the high winds of Sunday and Monday as they blew along the South Coast. Buildings and trees weakened by last Thursday's winds should be given special care.

Thur 8th Feb

THE MYSTERY OF CORPORAL KIRBY

This beautifully engraved cigarette case was presented to a Corporal C. Kirby by the people of Wokingham in honour of his gallantry and heroism in helping his fellow soldiers. Unfortunately it fell into the hands of someone else. Elizabeth Watson, of Green Road, Earley, was given the case by her sister in the Midlands after it was found among the effects of her in-laws. Now she would like to trace Mr. Kirby or his family so that she can return it. She has made some investigations but without success.

(N.B. All Wokingham soldiers who returned from Dunkirk were presented with one of these cigarette cases by the Mayor of Wokingham in August 1940. Jim Bell)

Thur 15th Feb

NEW-LOOK MARKET TO BE READY BY SPRING

Wokingham's prestigious new look Market Place should be completed by the beginning of April. The revamp has meant the outdoor market has had to move temporarily to the new pedestrian area behind the town hall. It was due to move on Monday for about two weeks. But district council planners say the move will be done with as little inconvenience to shoppers and town-centre workers as possible.

The scheme, which is being jointly funded by the town and district councils at a cost of £130,000 includes attractive red brick paving, cast iron benches, bollards and trees. The council hopes it will make the town centre safer and give townsfolk somewhere to sit in a picturesque environment.

There are also plans to hold small-scale events on the pedestrianised area. The spokesman said, "The paving has been selected to complement the town hall and surrounding red brick buildings and has a non-slip textured surface for safety. Different colours and a change in level have been used to show the difference between pedestrian areas and those areas where buses and delivery vehicles are allowed. In order to make life easier for mothers with prams or push chairs, or disabled in wheelchairs, within the area traditional kerbs are replaced with sloped surfaces.

Thur 22 Feb

TAKING OFF THE RITZ

Wokingham's only cinema, the Ritz, is to close in the middle of May. The owner has decided to shut down because of competition from The Point, a new screen complex at Skimped Hill in Bracknell, due to open in April.

Raymond Hipkin, managing director of Jora Leisure Ltd., who has owned the Ritz for 11 years, said the move was forward planning. He said, "I'm really trying to be a realist. This is just a one-man-band and we won't survive."

The multi-screen complex at Bracknell is considered a major threat. "When there are seven or eight major films showing, cinema-goers are bound to find something they like."

The Ritz was custom-built in 1938 for £47,850 and film-goers paid a shilling or sixpence to get in. It was originally owned by Union Cinemas but changed hands three times before Jora bought it from EMI. Mr. Hipkin has also discussed with the Wokingham District Council ideas for a night-club or disco on the site, but the council said this was too near a residential area.

The bingo hall and video shop will remain, but Mr. Hipkin has applied for planning permission to turn the 400-seat cinema into offices and shops. The cinema entrance will be used for the bingo. There is a small area on the ground floor for retail, and the first floor will be used for offices.

Barry Gilbert, manager and projectionist at the Ritz for the last four years, is deeply disappointed about the closure.

Thur 22nd March

MEMORIES OF TIMES GONE BY

This week Stroller looks at the life of George Phelps—and maybe stirs up a little bit of nostalgia for the way Wokingham used to be.

George Phelps was born in Wokingham on March 19th, 1923. Hundreds of council tenants past and present will remember him. For George was the rent collector for Wokingham Borough Council. In 1974 the rural and borough councils merged to become Wokingham District Council and George was appointed senior rating assistant.

As a young lad George had attended Palmer School, where Mr. Maidment was the headmaster. Hard-working and well-behaved pupils were presented with splendid certificates for "good conduct and satisfactory progress."

When he was eight, George followed a family tradition and joined the choir of All Saints' Church. "My father, my uncles, my brother and later my son Michael all took their places in the choir stalls," says George. George's grandfather also sang in the choir. Old Mr. Phelps lived at the bottom of Rose Street. He had a powerful voice, and after he had imbibed a couple of pints in the pub that used to be at the top of Rose Street, he would burst into song that could be heard the length of the street.

Another love of George's life was soccer. He won his first medals playing for Palmer School 1st XI. George left school at 14 and went to work as surgery boy for Dr. Curl and Dr. Rose. The surgery was at 29 Market Place, which has since been demolished to make way for the little parade of shops which includes Oxfam and John Bell Carpets. George's starting wage was five shillings (25p) a week. One of his jobs was to take medicines out to private patients, riding round on a trade bicycle.

After a year George was offered another job. He went along to 16 Market Place and worked for Miss D. Sale, a member of the old Wokingham family of nurserymen and seedsmen. Miss Sale was one of the first florists in the country to send an order under the Florists Telegraph Delivery later known as Interflora.

It was about now that George and his friends found there was no junior football team in the town. Undaunted the lads found their own team, playing mostly on Barkham Road recreation ground. Then Ald. David Goddard heard of their

enthusiasm and took the team over. Under his leadership the lads became founder members of Wokingham Junior Sports and Social Club.

About now two historical events occurred. War broke out and George's voice broke. The next two years were terrible. His voice teetered about all over the place until it settled down to baritone.

George was demobbed in 1947, after service in India. In April of that year the TIMES carried an advertisement for a male to undertake the work of rating and general clerk for Wokingham Borough Council. George's application was successful and he started work in May.

The icing on the cake in George's life came when he was appointed choirmaster of All Saints. The choir he had joined as a junior chorister back in 1931.

George met his wife, Norah in 1947 and they married in 1949. Today they have a daughter, a son and four grandchildren.

After more than 36 years with the council George took early retirement in 1983. He had retired from all Saints choir in 1976 after 45 years' service and nowadays finds life extremely busy with his growing family of grandchildren.

Thur 29th March

WILFRED BAILEY BAKERS SOLD TO SUPERMARKET BOSS

A bakery owned by the same family for 25 years has been sold to a supermarket boss. John Williams of Streatley has resigned as a departmental manager at Sainsbury to take over the Wilfred Bailey and Son shops in Wokingham, Crowthorne, Woodley, Lower Earley and Reading. The Bailey family had been involved since Wilfred Bailey joined Lees Bakery in Wokingham about 25 years ago and was made a partner when the owner died

His son Graham, who lives in Rowan Close, Wokingham, took over on his retirement 10 years ago and was partnered by his brother, Ray, a former Crowthorne Parish Councillor who lives in Cambridge Road, Crowthorne. Their brother, Andrew still owns five other Wilfred Bailey shops in and around Maidenhead.

Ray and Graham moved the bakery from Wokingham to Church Street, Crowthorne, eight years ago where it bakes for the Baileys' shops and others. The brothers still own the site which has planning permission for three shops and offices.

Although the brothers say they had not been looking for a buyer, Ray told the TIMES this week that changes would have had to be made because the new Uniform Business Rate would have cost the firm too much.

He said, "the amount we would have to pay would have been the same as the profits made by all the shops last year." According to Graham Mr. Williams made an offer at a time that was right for them. He decided to sell up and concentrate on the new business service centre which he had just set up.

Ray already runs a high-class kitchen design and fitting studio in Yateley.

Mr. Williams who took control of the business on Saturday, says he has no plans for change and the business will carry on as it has been. All the staff have been kept on.

Thur 5th April

BLUNDER COSTS TORY HIS SEAT

Two hours is a long time in politics—so a Wokingham councillor has discovered to his cost. Long-standing Wokingham councillor and former town mayor John Green has been beaten—not in the polls but by the clock.

Time ran out for John Green when his agent mislaid his nomination papers for the district council elections in May. The stage was set for the veteran Tory to retain

Wescott Ward on Wokingham District Council, a seat he has held for six years. But despite an impressive launch for the party's election campaign on Monday, the agent, Major Russell Matthews, lost the papers. After a phone call from the TIMES, just after the 12 noon deadline for nominations on Tuesday, Major Matthews searched for the missing papers and found them under a pile of other documents.

THE FIRST WOMAN HIGH SHERIFF

Berkshire has its first woman High Sheriff. She is Lady Elizabeth Godsal—whose husband Alan held the post in 1959. She lives in Twyford. Lady Elizabeth takes over from Raymond Seymour, of Bucklebury, Reading.

Defence, jails and the collection of fines were once the High Sheriff's main concern as the principal Government agent in each shire, but the duties are now mainly ceremonial. Every year the Queen is given three names for the Sheriff's post and she must choose one of them by lottery with a bodkin. This procedure dates back 850 years and although a name is traditionally selected by chance, the sovereign know who will be picked.

Thur 3rd May

RITZ CINEMA TO REMAIN OPEN

Ritz Cinema to remain open for as long as it is viable according to the owner, Raymond Hipkin. Although he is applying for planning permission to change its use it does not mean it will definitely close. Around £200,000 has already been spent building a new bar and refitting the bingo hall to accommodate an additional 60 to 80 people. The entrance to the two screen cinema has also been moved.

The cinema is still provisionally scheduled for closure in September when the new ten-screen cinema at The Point in Bracknell opens.

Thur 17th May

CHURCH WINS ITS BATTLE FOR HALL

Wokingham church leaders have won their battle to build a church hall—providing a meeting place for the local groups. But they fear the delay in taking it to a Government inspector will push up the final bill.

The application to build the hall near St. Paul's Church in Reading Road was turned down last year by Wokingham District Council planners. But the decision was overturned subject to conditions, after the church leaders appealed to the Department of the Environment. Now members of St. Paul's fear the one-year delay could add 10% to the final cost.

Warden Ted Boshier said the new church hall will be a valuable asset to the community as well as the church. The area lacked facilities and the hall will give groups somewhere to meet. It will have a main hall, upstairs offices and meeting rooms, a kitchen and toilets.

The church was using the former St. Paul's School at the corner of Station Road as a hall until the contractor refurbishing it went bust. It was decided to sell the building and find another site for the hall.

A proposal to build the hall on old graves next to the church was rejected by church officials. Instead they decided to use a piece of nearby shrubland further along Reading Road. But councillors feared the development would lead to trees being uprooted and would cause more car parking problems along the Reading Road and surrounding streets.

The church has tried to keep as many trees as possible and to make sure the hall is sound proofed to prevent noise affecting residents. There is also provision for car parking on the site.

Mr. Boshier said that about 50 residents had written in support of the application and three or four people, originally against it had been won over when they saw the final plans.

TOWN HALL

Elected: mace bearer and mayor's attendant—Albert Dunham; town crier—Ronald Rimmer; hon. constables—Peter Strong and George Rance; parade marshal, Leonard Pyke.

Thur 16th Aug

NEW POOL GETS THE GO-AHEAD

Wokingham's new £4.8M indoor pool has got the go-ahead—and it will be ozone-friendly. In a vote behind closed door on Monday night, the district's recreation committee agreed to enter into a contract with Laing Wessex on behalf of John Laing Construction Ltd. to build a new pool and associated road works. This involves improvements to the junction of Wellington Road and Finchampstead Road, including a roundabout to provide access to the swimming pool. The announcement doom's Martin's pool to closure once the new pool is finished.

Swimming lessons currently held at Martin's will transfer to the new pool and be extended to include lifesaving and survival swimming.

Apart from one abstention, councillors voted unanimously to accept the contract, which will represent the major part of the £4,893,000 pool budget.

Policies

The Laing Wessex tender was selected from a shortlist of six, opened on November 9th, to build the pool which has been designed by the council's architect, Eddie Boyle, and his team to a brief produced by the recreation department.

In line with the council's green policies, the pool will be environmentally friendly, with high standards of insulation and an emphasis on energy conservation. No tropical hardwoods will be used in its construction and a newly-developed ozone friendly disinfection plant will be used to purify the water. This, the council proudly proclaims, will make sore and runny eyes a thing of the past for pool users.

Special facilities have also been included for the disabled, with ramps for wheelchair users and hoists to help them in and out of the water.

Work on the pool is scheduled to start in early January and will take 18 months, opening to the public in 1992. Over 250,000 visitors each year are predicted.

Thur 6th Sept

WHITELOCKE'S JUBILATION

Pioneering Whitelocke School started a new term this week celebrating victory in its five-year battle to integrate disabled and able-bodied children. After years of disappointment staff and parents at the infants' school in Norreys Avenue, Wokingham, are overjoyed that the building has finally started on their new nursery.

The new nursery has twenty places for able-bodied nursery-age children. The aim is for able-bodied children to work with disabled children who already go to the school's

existing nursery. As part of the refurbishment the school's old kitchen has been converted into a language area and it has a new computer resource centre.

Berkshire County Council finally did an about face and agreed to fund the project at a cost of £45,565. The new nursery should be completed within the next eight weeks and the school already has a waiting list of children who want to go there.

Whitelocke School is one of a few in Berkshire which provides education for able-bodied and handicapped children together.

Thur 13th Sept

HELLO WILLIAM

Wokingham said, "Hello William" on Monday as the eight-year-old prince arrived in the town for his first day at Ludgrove School. Accompanied by Prince Charles and Princess Diana, William arrived by Bentley to be greeted by school heads Nichol Marston and Gerald Barber. Princess Diana looked tearful as she said goodbye to the young prince.

TOWN HALL IS FOUND TO HAVE 62 FAULTS

Wokingham Town Hall has 62 structural faults according to an annual inspection carried out by chartered surveyors. The 46 interior and 16 exterior problems include damp, loose mortar and a collapsed kitchen ceiling.

Wokingham town councillors have instructed town clerk Michael Taylor to give the go-ahead for the more urgent repairs, obtaining estimates in advance for the most expensive projects. The Lawrence-Vacher Partnership carried out the inspection and has given the town council a copy of its report, detailing the work that needs carrying out. It was considered by members last week.

It says: there is evidence of rising damp affecting the building in a number of areas. The areas involved are the toilet accommodation from the market, the Mayor's Parlour, in the hallway and toilet accommodation, in the east entry lobby and in the old CAB office now occupied by Crème de la Crème.

Other faults highlighted include:

Handrail to the west stair is loose.

A section of doorstep to the door between the main hall and council chamber is missing.

In the kitchen the ceiling had originally had taped covers to joints which are now missing in places and in part collapsed elsewhere. This requires re-securing and possible redecoration.

There is an unpleasant smell in the ladies' lavatory to the office suite which requires further investigation.

The east clock face is out of synchronisation with other faces.

Deterioration was noted to the back of the parapet.

Mortar is cracked and loose in places. Some corners are cracked and damaged by frost and also from the fixing of posts to pigeon wires.

The report adds: Some further works to stonework should be carried out. Neglect to this work could lead to damage of brickwork.

MANY HAPPY RETURNS

There were smiles all round when members of Westmead Day Centre, together with helpers, carers, staff and friends celebrated the centre's first birthday. The centre, which is in Rances Lane, was converted from the former Westmead School which catered for disabled children. When the children transferred to the Whitelocke Infant

and Palmer Junior Schools, the adults seized the opportunity of a building that was virtually purpose-built for their needs. After a fair amount of labour, the Westmead Day Centre was born a year ago.

Wokingham's Town Mayor, Cllr. Fred Clark, paid his first visit to the centre and after an hour said he was very impressed with the facilities on offer to the users. These facilities include educational classes, computer courses, various crafts, a dining room where a good lunch is provided, talks and advice sessions.

In addition, holidays and outings are arranged for members. For many of the users, the most important "facility" is that of offering time out from their own homes. "If I didn't come here," said one member, "I would be stuck indoors on my own, getting really low."

Thur 20th Sept

MAYOR FORCED TO CANCEL HIS CHARITY BALL

The Mayor's charity ball, which was set to raise up to £1,000 for the district's elderly, was cancelled through lack of interest. Out of 150 tickets for the charity event due to be held at St. Anne's Manor last Friday, only 30 were sold and two of these cancelled later. The tickets were priced at £32.50 and money raised would have gone to WADE. The Mayor Cllr. Fred Clark said that if he had got just 50 people turning up he would have run it.

GOWRINGS IS BEING SOLD

Gowrings, the Wokingham car firm is being sold. The Thatcham-based company has too many sides to the business and needs to reduce borrowing, said deputy chairman Alan Deal. The company has suffered a slump in profits and has decided to sell its motor trade side.

Pre-tax profits were £163,000 from the six months to the end of June 1990, compared to £510,000 for the same period a year earlier, at a time of general depression in the national economy. The company is changing its strategy and moving more into leisure activities and away from the motor trade. Gowrings of Wokingham is one of our best companies. Also being sold is Gowrings of Newbury, a Fleet contract hire company, and a major share holding of Fanford Springs Golf Club in Kingsclere.

THE MOMENT WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR

After a year of fund-raising, last week saw the opening of WADE's new extension. Mayor, Cllr. Fred Clark, with his wife, Elsie, were guests of honour and the town's dignitaries and businessmen turned out in force to mark the special occasion.

Built by local developer, Peter Luff, the improvements include a bathroom with a specially adapted bath for elderly people and extra rooms. The cost of the work was £123,000—£69,000 of which has already been raised.—but now the centre is looking to make up the other £54,000.

The mayor officially opened the extension and unveiled a commemorative plaque. In all he managed to raise an impressive £13,000—well over his target of £12,000—and this money was used to buy furniture and fittings for the new rooms. Any money now raised will go to WADE's general fund.

Thur 4th Oct

LORD PALMER LEAVES

A former chairman of the international biscuit company Huntley and Palmer's has left an estate valued at £971,878 gross. £964,939 net. The Rt. Hon Raymond Cecil, 3rd Baron Palmer, OBE, died on June 26th at the age of 74. His home was at Farley Hill House, Farley Hill.

Thur 11th Oct

A GLIMPSE OF WOKINGHAM AS OLD FOLK REMEMBER IT

There's a new book about Wokingham, just over the horizon, containing scores of old photographs of the town. John and Rosemary Lea, who live in Oxford Road, are members of the History Group of the Wokingham Society. Together with their fellow-members they have collected 163 old photographs and written an easy-flowing narrative about the town, the personalities and the changes that took place in the town between the 1890s and the 1950s. *Wokingham—A Pictorial History* will be published at the end of October.

Thur 15th Nov

THE DREAM COMES TRUE

Dedicated charity workers saw their dream finally realised when Wokingham's new cancer day centre was officially opened on Tuesday. Residents whose fund-raising helped pay for building costs joined local dignitaries to celebrate the opening of the centre in the grounds of Wokingham Hospital.

The centre has the capacity to help up to 18 cancer care patients a day. It is named British Airways Macmillan House in recognition of the company's £200,000 donation towards the company's £350,000 building costs. The remaining £150,000 was raised by local people in a massive fund-raising effort launched in the Wokingham Times and coordinated by the Wokingham and Crowthorne Macmillan Support Group.

Fund-raisers looked on as the British Airways chairman Lord King of Wartnaby unveiled a plaque to mark the opening of the centre. He paid tribute to Major Douglas Goddard and Margaret Hawkins whose hard work helped raise thousands for the appeal. And he thanked the TIMES for its publicity and support.

The new centre includes a treatment room, a day room where patients can meet, and a purpose-built kitchen where patients can be assessed to see if they can cope at home. It will open for three days a week at first, increasing as more funds become available. It has £36,000 to pay for running costs until the next budget in March. The fund-raising will continue. Money is still needed for the Dellwood unit at Reading.

1991

Thur 14th Feb

WOKINGHAM IS GRIPPED BY THE BIG FREEZE

Rail commuters stranded schools shut refuse collection services abandoned and hospital casualty units working at full stretch treating an army of victims of the ice. This was the scene as heavy snow and arctic temperatures extended their freezing grip across the country, leaving Wokingham shivering beneath an icy white blanket.

To date, it is estimated the Arctic conditions have already cost £250,000 to keep the roads usable. Traffic came to a standstill on impassable roads and gritters and snowploughs worked through the night to clear a route for the travellers determined to beat the elements. Temperatures reached a low of -9 degrees C with freezing wind chill factors taking the total into double figures in Wokingham—making this the coldest winter since 1987.

British Rail Southern axed half its trains and urged travellers to stagger their journey times to ease the chaos. A spokesman for BR said, "The snow and ice is getting into the engines causing them to cut out and become powerless. We are doing all we can to maintain them and keep services running, but we are down to half our normal trains.

Beeline Buses managed to maintain an almost 100% service over the weekend, although press officer Clive Alexander admitted certain services were cancelled after the first snowfalls. There were problems with some of the larger buses.

The county worked around the clock with teams of 22-tonne gritters to tackle major roads. Elsewhere smaller lorries loaded with rock salt battled along minor roads to clear paths. Over 200 workers gave up their beauty sleep to make sure the roads across the county were safe.

Thur 21st Feb

START IS MADE AT LAST ON NEW POOL

Work has finally started on the new £5M Wokingham swimming pool. The Wellington Road site saw a host of dignitaries gathered for the historic moment on Monday, when district council chairman, Jean Meyers, dug the first official hole. The landmark ceremony was started off at the controls of a JCB, but Mrs. Meyers moved on to the more traditional method of digging with a spade.

Contractors for the project are Laing of Wessex, part of John Laing Construction. Pool designers and district architect, Eddie Boyle said, "We hope to have the pool finished in 18 months' time and we are scheduled to open in August 1992."

When finished the pool will feature a 25 metre main pool, mini-leisure pool and numerous water features for young swimmers.

GOWRINGS DECIDE NOT TO SELL UP

Car dealers Gowrings have decided against selling their Wokingham garage. The owners realised that because of the slump in the market they would have to sell it for less than it was worth. A spokesman confirmed that there were no further plans at the moment to sell the garage.

THE MAYOR IS GRANTED HIS OWN SCOUT GROUP

Wokingham's Mayor, Fred Clark, has been granted his very own Scout group. The Mayor's troop was disbanded after the first and fifth troops amalgamated to become the Third Wokingham Troop. Cllr. Clark is delighted by the move. He said, "I decided it would be nice to reinstate the Mayor's Own Troop, and with a bit of persuasion, the council was happy to agree. I shall be visiting them regularly and following their progress.

Thur 28th March

CONTRACT SIGNED FOR INDOOR POOL

The contract for Wokingham's new indoor pool has been signed with Laing Wessex. The contract worth nearly £5M was signed by district secretary John Marsh and Trevor Berry, the company's regional manager. Witnessing the signing were district council chairman Jean Mayers and recreation chairman Lynn Griffith.

Work on the new pool began last month at the former Carnival Field on Wellington Road. Facilities will include a 25-metre main pool, a learner pool and a leisure pool.

The pool is expected to attract an estimated 250,000 visitors a year and is due to open next year.

MARTIN'S POOL POLL DAY IS APRIL 15

Wokingham people will vote on the future of Martin's Pool on Monday April 15. The district council which owns the pool was left no alternative but to hold the poll after it was demanded at a town meeting. Voters will be asked two questions:

1. Are you in favour of keeping Martin's Pool as a public amenity for the town?
2. Do you object to the sale of Martin's Pool for development?

The district council has agreed to appoint a returning officer to deal with the referendum.

Now the council is obliged to make the public aware of the poll. All costs involved in running and advertising the referendum, estimated at between £3,000 and £4,000, will be charged to the town council, although the district council will bear a small percentage in terms of staff time for organising the poll.

The result is unlikely to alter the district council's plans to sell Martin's Pool for housing and offices to help finance the new indoor pool. Lynne Griffith, chairman of the district's recreation committee, confirmed that he was not obliged to take any notice of the result of the poll. It was democracy that people could call for a town poll on issues. But she thought the questions to be asked in this instance were loaded. They haven't addressed the problem of finance and whether anyone would be prepared to pay an increased poll tax to keep the pool open.

Thur 11th April

DAY OF PRIDE FOR THE NEW HIGH SHERIFF

Berkshire's new High Sheriff was this week due to be sworn in for his term of office at a special inauguration ceremony at Reading Magistrates Court Lewis Moss, of Queensmere, Sandhurst Road, Wokingham, was appointed High Sheriff by the Queen, taking over the office from Lady Elizabeth Godsall. The office of High Sheriff is the oldest secular position in the country and Captain Moss is one of only 50 nation wide.

Captain Moss, aged 69, is no stranger to civic life, having been a county councillor for nearly 20 years. He was made a CBE in 1985.

During his year of office he hopes to raise funds for the St. John Ambulance and the Royal Berkshire Community Trust. Captain Moss is due to be sworn in by the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, John Henderson, on Tuesday.

Sat 18th April

THE VOTE FOR MARTIN'S POOL IS A TRIUMPH SAYS WOKINGHAM SOCIETY

Wokingham has voted a resounding "Yes" in favour of retaining Martin's open air pool. In Monday's poll, the number of people who voted to keep the pool was 3,255 to just 83 against a majority of 3,172. And 3,201 voted against selling the pool site for development with 88 in favour.

Thur 2nd May

EX-MAYORESS OF WOKINGHAM DIES

Thelma Chapman, a former mayoress of Wokingham, has died in Bournemouth at the age of 79. Mrs. Chapman was married to Lieut. Col. Bill Chapman, Wokingham's mayor, who died while holding office in 1969.

Thelma Chapman was a member of the British Legion and attended All Saints Church while she lived in Wokingham during the 1950s and 1960s. Her husband served in the Army education Corps, taught in Bracknell schools and served as a Wokingham councillor. Mrs Chapman leaves two children, Alan, aged 47, and Roma, aged 40, and five grandchildren.

Mrs. Chapman moved to the South Coast from Wokingham in the early 1970s, and died in Bournemouth on April 3 after a respiratory illness. Her funeral was held in Bournemouth on April 10.

Thur 9th May

WOODLEY AIR MUSEUM TAKES OFF

The Woodley Air museum was opened. Mrs. Jean Fostekew who is the museum trustee formerly worked in Miles aircraft factory. Lloyd Robinson, chairman of the Royal Berkshire Aviation Society which developed the museum said that the opening was an achievement for a lot of people. Some of the members had put in thousands of man-days to get the museum ready to open. Having revealed the museum to the public the society, which was formed in 1983 had achieved its first goal and was now hoping to open the museum again in the future. The next step was to open for pre-arranged visits of small groups followed by regular occasional open days and, eventually regular opening in a couple of years' time. Mr. Robinson appealed to any other aircraft enthusiasts to come along and help get the museum off the ground.

Thur 23rd May

SOCCER CLUB GROUND IS UP FOR SALE

Wokingham Football Club has put its Finchampstead Road ground up for sale. The ground is being touted around major developers in a bid to find a buyer to ease crippling debts estimated at well over £100,000 and still rising. An announcement is expected within the next few weeks. And the future of the Pin and Bowl pub which fronts the ground on to the Finchampstead Road, is also in doubt. Owners Grand Metropolitan are putting it on the market.

The present access to the ground is directly behind the Finchampstead Road railway bridge and could—because of highway objections—put pay to any development on the site. But demolition of the pub could provide an alternative access further up Finchampstead Road. Any deal would hinge on an alternative football ground being found.

Wokingham FC is a victim of its own success. Last year the club was forced to pay out for vital ground improvements to meet new Vauxhall League standards. Promotion to the Conference League seemed likely. As a result the ambitious decision was taken to improve the ground still further by demolishing the old covered terrace and build a new stand. Considerable costs were incurred but the work came to a sudden standstill after the scheme ran into difficulties with the planning authority, leaving the club owing thousands of pounds.

Thur 22nd Aug

HISTORIC PET SHOP SAVED FROM CLOSURE

Wokingham Pet Shop has been saved from closure by an eleventh hour deal. It was due to close down this coming Saturday, with owner Michael Bowyer saying the business was no longer viable. But on Friday, the business which has stood on the Peach Street site since 1926 was sold to Wooshill man Richard Croyden.

He intends to keep the shop as a pet shop and will retain the business name as Henry

Bowyer and Son. He is also planning to keep on two of the full-time staff and two part-timers although he plans to manage the shop himself.

Mr. Croyden, a director of Wokingham Football Club, was born in Wokingham and went to school with Michael Bowyer.

Thur 28th Nov

CHRONICLE CLOSES END OF 1991

The Wokingham Chronicle has ceased publication, ending an unsuccessful two-year long bid to establish a foothold in the town. Launched with a banner headline "We're here to stay," the paper finally gave up the unequal struggle last week. A spokesman admitted it had failed and would not be reappearing.

Its failure is no surprise since the Wokingham Chronicle's launch, your TIMES has enjoyed unprecedented successes, winning national trophies as the fastest-growing weekly in the country. In July this year we were able to proclaim a further audited circulation rise of more than 11%. And by the end of the year we confidently expect to have more good news for our loyal and increasing number of readers.

There's good news too for our advertisers. An in-paper competition run in conjunction with Wokingham clothing store, Hudson Bay, to win £250 worth of clothing has attracted more than 650 entries—clear proof of the pulling power of your TIMES.

Thur 12th Dec

PRIDE AND SADNESS AT THE LAST PARADE

Soldiers began moving out of Arborfield Garrison on Friday—and a last emotional passing out parade was held to mark the occasion. Defence cuts announced on Friday decreed that the Training Battalion and Depot, with its 150-180 permanent staff and around 300 recruits would have to go. The departing battalion will set up its new home in Pirbright, Surrey and will be known as Rowecroft Company. But the R.E.M.E. staff band will remain in Arborfield.

During Friday's farewell parade speech Major General Mike Heath, Director General of R.E.M.E. (the Royal Engineering and Mechanical Engineers) referred to the collapse of the Warsaw Pact and said it would have a direct effect on the Army. He urged those passing out to press for excellence in everything they did and referred to the honours bestowed on R.E.M.E. Members for their work in the Gulf War.

To the strains of the *Lily Bolero*, a tune the R.E.M.E. Band had made its own, the flag was lowered at Rowecroft Barracks for the last time. A sundial memorial was unveiled by Major General Heath to be left as a permanent reminder of the 32 years that the Training Battalion and Depot had been at Arborfield. With the departure of the battalion around thirty civilian jobs such as clerks and typists will be lost. Local businesses, such as milk suppliers, will also feel the pinch as the Army families move on. The move is expected to be completed early in the New Year.

1992

Thur 5th March 1992

CHURCH PLANS TO DIG UP BODIES

Wokingham Baptist Church in Milton Road is planning to dig up 150 graves to make room for a new hall. The human remains will be reburied at the Wokingham free Church Cemetery unless relatives come forward wanting to arrange the reburial or cremations themselves.

The removal will be done by hand early in the morning and the graves screened as

they are disinterred. Church officials have given two months' notice of their plans. If any relatives of those buried at the graveyard within the last fifty years formally object, the building cannot go ahead. Plans showing the graves to be moved can be viewed at Hays and Reid solicitors at Shute End between 10.00am and noon and 2pm to 4pm Monday to Friday before May 5th.

Thur 26th March

BOB IS WELL ARMED FOR THE TOP CIVIC POST

Bob Wyatt is an ex-army man who brought up his three children alone. It has been a tough disciplined life that has armed him well for taking on the job of Wokingham's new Mayor.

The closeness of the family unit and the need to talk problems through gave Bob a keen sense of democracy. And as Mayor, he will aim to put the broad interests of the community first by making sure each council member has a say in making decisions, regardless of party. Bob says his approach will strengthen and continue Wokingham's fine traditions of running a reasonable and responsible council. Above all he believes in listening to the people of Wokingham.

Bob lives in Sturges Road, Wokingham, but was born in Charlton, London in 1931. He spent much of his working life in the Army and it was the Army which brought him to Wokingham when he was posted to REME at Arborfield during his National Service in 1953. He decided to stay on with REME as a professional soldier, reaching the rank of lieutenant. Bob says his military life gave him a strong sense of service, taught him to work as a team and showed him that doing things for others can be fun. Even when he left the Army to work for the AA in 1960 he joined the Territorials.

Bob rose to become a lieutenant colonel, running his own traffic control battalion of around a 100 men staffed entirely from the AA. He was awarded the Territorial Declaration in 1978 and the MBE in 1960 for his services.

The enjoyment Bob gained from serving others prompted him to stand for office. He served in the old Wokingham Borough Council in the early 1970s and joined the Wokingham Town Council in 1983. He likes being able to do his bit for Wokingham, which he calls a "super little town". Bob is keenly aware that the town faces many changes including plans for superstores and the proposed Inner Distribution Road.

He says there is very little dogma in his views and hopes this will help him; he knows the Mayor has to be free of bias. Bob wants to make sure everyone contributes to making decisions and he hopes his approach will help soothe passions raised by controversial subjects like the IDR. When people get excited and put themselves in entrenched positions it is not always good for the community he says.

Bob's experience in the AA and his engineering training led him into the fascinating hobby of restoring classic Austin cars. He has written books about the Austins and has been recognised as an expert on the history of the firm and models like the Austin Seven. I love books and can't stop writing. It's almost like a disease he said.

Bob led a tough life at home, being left to bring up his three children after his wife, Barbara, left him 20 years ago. The family stuck together and became very close by respecting one another and talking problems out rather than arguing.

He is certain he has the right approach with people, citing as evidence the fact that his sons and daughter are all making a success of their lives.

Bob, who was a deputy mayor during 1989-90 and has been a school governor at St. Theresa's, Wescott and Westend, takes office on May 12th.

Thur 9th April 1992

CARNIVAL IMAGE FOR NEW POOL

Wokingham's new leisure centre is to be called the Carnival Pool. The £4.9M swimming pool in Wellington Road, which looks set to be finished slightly ahead of the scheduled date of September 14th, could be open to the public towards the end of October.

The pool was named at a meeting of Wokingham District Council's recreation committee last week. The vote went with the suggestion put forward by Cllr. Denis Thair, at a working party meeting, that keeping Wokingham out of the title would give the feeling of a district facility.

Thur 23rd April

Wokingham's High Stewards, old and new, are to be honoured by the Town Council. Retiring High Steward, Major John Wills is to be presented with a plaque bearing the council's crest at the Mayor Making ceremony on 12th May. He has served the town since 1973 when he was appointed High Steward. He is retiring because of ill-health.

At the same ceremony the Town Council will honour his successor, Lady Elizabeth Godsall, who will be presented with an illuminated copy of the declaration of her acceptance of office. The out-going Mayor, Jeanne-Burnett-Wilson will make both presentations before she hands over to Cllr. Bob Wyatt at the ceremony.

Thur 7th May

MAJOR HONOUR FOR ALBERT WOKINGHAM'S TREASURE

Town Macebearer, Albert Dunham, is now the official warden of the Guild of Macebearers in the south. Albert was installed on Sunday—the first time that Wokingham has been given the honour and 70-year-old Mr. Dunham is as proud as punch.

In a moving ceremony in Wokingham Town Hall the chain of office was handed over by retiring warden Gerry Rowls—who only just made it after a special celebration to welcome family from New Zealand.

Albert was talked into taking on the office of macebearer in 1981 by the late Stan Bowyer, a former town mayor. And on Sunday, Mr. Bowyer's son, Michael, was present at the special inauguration ceremony at Wokingham Town Hall, attended by up to 30 other macebearers from the southern region.

Mr. Dunham, of Mole Close, Wokingham, will be given the title of regional warden. His duties will include attending mayoral conferences as well as his usual role as town mayor's attendant. In accepting his new title Mr. Dunham told the assembled guests, "this is a great honour and I can assure the Guild that I will uphold the responsibilities and the good name of the Guild."

Thur 7th May

EMMBROOK'S W.I. FORCED TO CLOSE DOWN

Emmbrook Women's Institute has been forced to close down because members cannot find anyone to be their secretary. Members met in Emmbrook Village Hall last month, but no one stepped forward to take on the post of secretary. So there was no alternative but to declare the W.I. closed.

Emmbrook W.I. Was formed in October 1936 and lived through many difficult times, including the war years when the A.R.P. Took over the hall and the W.I. Met in the Baptist Room in Milton Road. Later the Institute suffered the loss of a great number of members when they were re-housed in other parts of the town and an

inadequate bus service made it impossible for them to continue attending meetings. In addition, the W.I. For many years fought a constant battle to keep a very old and dilapidated hall standing up and fit for use.

California and Binfield will be acquiring new members as a result of the closure of Emmbrook.

Emmbrook members have been asked not to forget the W.I. Market, which is held in the Community Centre behind the library in Broad Street every Friday at 9.15 am. Customers are made very welcome and cups of coffee are on sale.

Thur 14th May

OAKFIELD OLD PEOPLE'S HOME SOLD OFF

Oakfield House, the former social services home for the elderly, has been sold. But it will remain as a nursing home. Berkshire County Council has sold the turn-of-the-century building in Barkham Road, Wokingham, for more than £625,000.

The land was declared surplus to requirements last June amid a storm of controversy. Relatives and friends of the 26 elderly residents feared the move would be too much for them to bear. But the county pressed ahead with its plans to close the home as part of a programme to release funds to upgrade other social services homes.

Details of the sale have not yet been disclosed but agents Martin & Pole said that there had been a number of different propositions for the sale. Prospective buyers included developers wanting to change the building to a variety of uses, including a school, a hospital, a conference centre, a hotel, flats and housing development.

Thur 14th May

NEW MAYOR PLEDGES TO HELP THE HOMELESS

Wokingham's new Mayor, Cllr. Bob Wyatt, has chosen as his charity, Caritas, the housing trust for Wokingham's young homeless people. He pointed out that Wokingham had one of the highest divorce rates in the country, "and this contributes to the serious problem that we have with young homeless in the town," he said.

Cllr. Wyatt brought up a young family single-handed. He realises many young people from broken homes feel unable to "side" with either parent and opt to go it alone. And there are also the youngsters who have been in care. Once the children reach 18 the authorities have no responsibility for them. They have never had the shelter of a loving family and need somewhere with support to help them learn to cope with adult life.

Caritas, an initiative of local churches was formed to provide a permanent solution to the problem.

Thur 21st May

STRIKE AS FIRM AXES 53 STAFF

Fifty-three staff lost their jobs at Radyne Holdings, Molly Millar's Lane, Wokingham on Monday because of the recession. The company which makes machinery has suffered a serious drop in orders. Demand for the company's products had fallen off in key markets in Europe, North America and the Far East. In France sales had dropped by three quarters and in Korea dozens of foundries had closed.

Managing director, Mike Garaway said that the redundancies had come from shedding 28 staff from the shop floor, 20 office staff and five people taking early retirement. Three were being transferred within the company. The firm was transferring work to sub-contractors who could produce components cheaper than

Radyne's factory. The firm had offered full redundancy money and had paid the staff in lieu of giving them full notice.

RESIDENTS PROTEST AS GRAVES ARE DUG UP

The graves at Milton Road Baptist Church are being moved to make way for a new church hall. Among the dead who are being dug up from their final resting places are town mayors, lay preachers and church elders.

The church won permission to develop the graveyard after a long planning battle. Church leaders say that their old hall is inadequate and too old to maintain. Luff builders are preparing the ground and clearing the gravestones, while a specialist company will disinter the bones by hand. The bodies contained in the 150 graves will be re-interred in the Wokingham Free Churchyard in Reading Road, Wokingham.

The Baptist Church received no protests from families who had relatives buried in the graveyard but a number of residents are dismayed at the destruction of such an old graveyard.

Whole families including the Brants, the Heelas family, the Sales and the Butlers were laid to rest in this churchyard.

Thur 4th June

WAR VETERANS CONGRATULATE MABEL AS SHE REACHES 100

Kindness shown to soldiers during the Second World War was remembered when a former Wokingham Mayoress celebrated her 100th birthday. Mabel Perkins was first lady from 1937 to 1938 when her husband Frank was Mayor.

As her family gathered together for the centenary celebrations memories came flooding back. Daughters Marion and Barbara recalled how during the war her mother opened her home to evacuees and Canadian soldiers. Marion explained that at one time five little girl evacuees from London were in the house, while bunks were put in attic for 20 soldiers billeted there. Mrs Perkins opened her kitchen to the Canadians, stationed so far from home making them homemade soup and providing a few home comforts.

On her birthday that work was recognised when, along with a telegram from the Queen, Mrs. Perkins received a telegram from the Canadian High Commissioner. The Canadian Veterans' Association UK also plans to plant a tree in honour of her 100th birthday.

The £10,000 scheme to reverse the direction of buses around Wokingham will be in operation as from next Monday.

Thur 16th July

TOWN MAYOR JOINS THE BIG SLEEP-OUT

Wokingham Mayor, Bob Wyatt was one of about a dozen people sleeping rough in the town on Friday night. And he said it was worth it despite the discomfort. The townspeople volunteered for the sponsored sleep-out to raise money for CARITAS, the charity aiming to set up a hostel for the homeless in Wokingham. They slept the night in the entrance of Boots in Wokingham Market Place.

The next day the group, some as young as 13, agreed they had not had a bad night because it was fairly mild and dry. But sleeping rough is not something they would want to do again in a hurry. One sleeper had really been homeless in Wokingham for around eight years before being helped by Shelter. He agreed to join the CARITAS supporters to show solidarity—and advised them to sleep with their shoes IN their sleeping bags to avoid them being pinched. A cardboard box is not really a very good

bed but hopefully Friday night will prove a point to people.

The sleepers reckon they raised £300 and CARITAS is about 10% on the way to its target for the hostel it plans to build in Wokingham. Anyone who wants to make a donation should contact CARITAS to PO Box 148, Wokingham, Berks, RG11 2EE.

13th Aug

The Bull at Barkham has been in existence 1728. It is thought to have been named after the Bullock family. The pub changed shape in the early 1980's. The 250 year old forge attached to the pub was closed down for good when Courage Breweries decided to modernise the Bull and add a restaurant. The historic forge closed on the 10th February 1982 and the blacksmith, Cyril Fuller, had to move on after 22 years as a farrier.

Thur 27th Aug

TOWN CRIER DIES

Wokingham's stand-in town crier, Sid Stott, has died at the age of 72. Sid was officially Woodley's town crier for 14 years but regularly stood in for events in Wokingham and Bracknell. Sid had been ill for some months before he finally died on Sunday, August 16th. His funeral was held at St. John's Church, Woodley, yesterday (Weds) attended by his widow, Bessie.

He took over as town crier in 1978 after winning a competition run by the Woodley festival of music and arts in conjunction with the town council. Although his position was only for a year, Sid enjoyed the work so much that he asked to be taken on permanently. From then on he was a familiar figure in Woodley when dressed in his colourful robes, he made regular appearances at the switching on of the Christmas lights and the council's annual opening day in September.

For nearly thirty years Sid worked for British Aerospace in Bracknell until his retirement in 1985. A member of the Burma Star Association and Winnersh British Legion, Sid had served as a naval officer in the Far East during the war.

He was also a very active member of the community regularly attending charity events and carrying out town crier duties in Bracknell, Wokingham and Reading. His fee was always donated to his favourite charity, Age Concern. Only a few months ago he daringly abseiled down one of Reading's tallest buildings, the Reading Bridge House, to raise money for charity.

Sid, who lived at Brunel Drive, Woodley, leaves six children and eleven grandchildren.

Thur 10th Sept

POLICE GIVE WARNING TO CLAMPERS

Police have stepped into the Wokingham wheelclamping controversy—ordering the clampers to release a family's car. The police received advice from their control room and told the clampers that if they refused to release the car they could be arrested.

The incident happened on Monday when motorist Sue Tallent parked in front of Wokingham library alongside the wall of the chemist's shop while she popped into Montague House to sign on for a college course. Minutes later she emerged to find that her Cavalier car had been clamped by Roadrunner Security—which is employed by Berkshire County Council to stop non-library users from parking outside the library.

Mrs Tallent who had her four-year-old son Darell with her was shocked and angry. But she called her husband Andy and together they were determined to stand their

ground. Mr. Tallent vowed that he would not pay the £58 release fee and decided to have a go at removing the clamp himself. But he was advised by police that if he broke the clamp he could be charged with criminal damage. Next he decided to let some air out of the tyre and jack the car up to try and ease the clamp off. But then the police stepped in. After taking advice from their control room they asked the clumper to remove the clamp or else face arrest for receiving property by deception.

This was because there is no warning sign on the wall of the shop. The strip of land on which Mrs. Tallent was parked was believed to be owned by the landlord of the shop. But a police spokesman admitted the whole clamping situation was “a very grey area.”

Mr. and Mrs. Tallent, from Forest Park, Bracknell, said they would never have paid the £58 release fee.

Community worker Tommy Elwood who works from the centre behind Montague House became involved in the clamping dispute after he was told what had happened by the caretaker, who witnessed the clamping. “The clampers just waited in their van until she got out of the car and then clamped her. She wasn’t gone more than a couple of minutes.”

HARRY WILL JUST BE ONE OF THE BOYS

Prince Harry, who joined his brother William at Ludgrove School in Wokingham on Monday will be subject to just the same rules and regulations as other pupils at the £2,100-a-term school.

The 102-year-old school in Luckley Road has a staff of 13 masters and four mistresses. It is conveniently situated just 90 minutes from the Prince and Princess’s Gloucestershire home, Highgrove, and within easy reach of Windsor Castle.

An average day starts at 7.15 am, when matron wakes the pupils and they visit the communal bathroom to wash, before prayers and breakfast in the dining room.

Lessons begin at 9 am. These are in classes of about 14 and include maths, scripture, French, history, art and geography, as well as practical classes like carpentry. Other activities include riding, fencing and model aircraft flying. Later Prince Harry will also do computer studies.

The third in line to the throne will not be exempt from the rules and discipline which apply to the school’s 190 pupils. The boys are allowed £5 pocket money per term and fruit every day—but sweets are rationed to three times a week and cake from home is allowed only at matron’s discretion. Phone calls are banned except in emergencies, but pupils are allowed to spend three weekends a term at home.

Spanking was banned at the school in 1985. Instead, punishments include weekend detention, being sent to bed early or suspension of the sweet allowance.

As a new boy or “squit”—the school’s nickname for first year pupils—the seven-year-old prince will share a dormitory with a handful of other boys. He will wear a uniform of blue or grey corduroy trousers, blue shirt and blue V-neck sweater. Boarders are allowed three home visits a term. William, now nine, joined Ludgrove two years ago.

Thur 1st Oct

CLAMPERS ARE BOOTED OUT

The Wokingham Library wheelclamping storm is over. The private clamping firm which angered scores of Wokingham motorists has been given its marching orders. The company’s contract ran out on Friday and it will not be renewed. There will be no more clamping.

Wheelclamping was introduced last December to stop non-library users from using the library car park. Almost immediately there were complaints. The Roadrunner wheelclamping unit's staff were accused of bullying tactics.

The library department has decided that it is an experiment that didn't work. They were pleased with the benefits it brought for library users but it caused too many problems for other people. As late as last Wednesday Roadrunner caused a storm by clamping cars belonging to students at Montague House when the library wasn't even open. The clammer released the cars after being told it was not in the contract to clamp on Wednesdays.

Thur 3rd Dec

LANGBOROUGH REC PROJECT TAKES ROOT

A scheme which aims to ensure the future of an avenue of lime trees at Langborough recreation ground has been set in motion by Wokingham Mayor Bob Wyatt.

The Mayor turned the soil on the first sapling watched by town councillors and Wokingham M.P. John Redwood. The trees are being planted among the original limes which have reached maturity. The saplings will eventually replace the old trees.

When the scheme was first announced, some residents living near the ground protested that the existing trees had decades of life left before they would have to be cut down. They also feared that the new trees would compete with the old for nourishment and none of them would flourish as a result. But councillors believe the new trees will play an important part in the park's environmental future. The launch of the scheme coincides with National Tree Week.

Thur 17th Dec

The Town Crier is Ron Rimmer.

1993

Thur 7th Jan

RAINBOW FIREWORKS CLOSES

Rainbow Fireworks at Hogwood Lane closed down. Rainbow started life in Down Mills Road, Bracknell in 1948 and when the new town began to expand the company moved to Finchampstead. The site was licensed as a firework factory on the 31st August 1963. There was an explosion on the 12th December 1955 killing three of the staff. Production ceased in October 1972.

Thur 13th May

BAPTISTS CELEBRATE

Wokingham Baptists celebrated the reopening of their church in Milton Road on Saturday after it was modernised and extended. Around 300 people attended a special service of thanksgiving and dedication. The church had been closed for a year for building work and the congregation had been meeting at Emmbrook Infants School.

The Minister, the Rev. David Rogers said that he and the congregation were thrilled with the work which should help boost church activities.

The church dating from the 1860s has been modernised and a new hall and offices have been added. Mr. Rogers said that this would stop youngsters from having to cross the road between the church and its former meeting rooms.

15th July

THE BATTLE TO SAVE MARTIN'S IS FINALLY LOST

Wokingham district councillors have agreed to accept an offer for the site to the highest bidder. Protesters were told they were "living in cloud cuckoo land if they thought councillors would change their minds at this late stage.

Until this week "Save Martin's Pool" campaigners still had hopes of victory. Wokingham Town Council had agreed to offer the district council £60,000 a year as part of a three-year leasing deal. At the end of that time the district, which owns the site, could sell it if it wanted. But on Monday district councillors rejected the offer outright and entered into private talks to decide which of the development bids to accept.

The district says it needs the money from the sale, estimated at £500,000 for essential housing projects. Councillors were advised that if a deal was not signed by the end of the year, the capital receipt would only be worth half of that amount. The carrot proved too great a temptation for councillors to pass up.

Thur 29th July

LAING TO BUY MARTIN'S POOL

Laing Homes will be the new owners of the Martin's Pool site. The company's offer to the owners, Wokingham District Council, was accepted in a private meeting of councillors on July 12th. Laing was revealed as the highest bidder at a council meeting on Monday but the amount the company is paying for the site is being kept secret until negotiations have been completed.

Thur 19th August

VERONICA ESSAME DIES

Veronica Essame died on the 11th of August at Battle Hospital after a nine-month fight against cancer. She was a well-known fund-Raiser. She was made an honorary free person of the town in 1966 and received a BEM medal in 1991 for her work.

Thur 30th Sept

WOKINGHAM TWINNING PRESENTS PLATE TO VIRY CHATILLON

A celebration plate designed and engraved by disabled teenager Rebecca Gale was presented by Wokingham to the people of Viry Chatillon. The gift marked five years of twinning between the two towns and was commissioned by Wokingham's Town Twinning Association. Rebecca, aged 19, has a glass engraving workshop at Holme Grange.

A party from Wokingham travelled to Viry Chatillon to present Rebecca's work together with an oak tree.

Thur 22nd July

RECTOR SAYS GOODBYE TO WOKINGHAM

The Rev. Peter Rapsey, Rector of St. Paul's, Wokingham, is preparing this week to move to Dorset where he will be chaplain to Warminster School. His final service will be on Sunday. Mr. Rapsey and his wife Christine have been in Wokingham for nine years. During this time, the parish centre in Reading Road has been built, the church has been decorated and relit, the Lady Chapel and the Walter Chapel have been refurbished and the spire with its bells has been made safe.

Congregations have increased and Mr. Rapsey said, "People in general seem to look on St. Paul's as a friendly and welcoming place. We get many requests for weddings and funerals from all over the town."

Mr. Rapsey is expecting life to be completely different at Warminster School whose pupils are aged between five and eighteen. "My responsibilities are for the whole school community. In some ways it will be very similar to being a parish priest, but in others it will be completely different. We are looking forward to the challenge."

Mrs. Rapsey, who has been teaching at the Meadow Nursery School in Murray Road during the past few years, is also looking forward to the challenge. The Rapseys have three sons, two of whom are at university, while the third, Dominic, is still at school. Mr. Rapsey's successor has not yet been appointed

Thur 28th Oct

EVELYN WILLEY DIES AT 93

Mrs. Evelyn Willey who was the widow of leading Wokingham figure Jack Willey, has died in Norfolk at the age of 93.

Ald. Jack Willey a town councillor and twice Mayor of Wokingham. Mrs. Willey was his Mayoress and was also mayoress to Cllr. Walter Granville in 1953. She was an active member of the Townswomen's Guild, where she made many friends.

The funeral is at Kelling Church in Norfolk at 10 am on Monday, November 1st. The internment is in the churchyard of St. Paul's, Wokingham, at 3 pm on the same day. Mrs Willey lived in Crescent Road, Wokingham.

Thur 9th Dec

POOL BATTLE FINALLY LOST

Protesters have finally admitted defeat in the battle to save Martin's Pool after the government refused to halt the bulldozers. The Department of the Environment announced this week that it had decided not to call in the planning application. As soon as the decision of the Secretary of State was revealed consent notices for the clearance and the new housing were issued by Wokingham District Council.

1994

Thur 3rd March

TOWN HALL CLOCK

Gillet & Johnson have completely rebuilt the clock at a cost of £2,700 and given it an all-weather varnish. Keith Begrie looked after the clock which was giving faulty time for some years. Now he only has to make two trips a year to move the hands forward and back for spring and autumn. The last time it was overhauled was a hundred years ago.

Thur 17th March

WEST OAK IS HOME FROM HOME

There was an all-star line up on Friday to help celebrate the official opening of the West Oak Nursing Home. The home which houses 55 elderly people, has been running for a year and was initially built to help cater for ex-patients of Wokingham Hospital.

Now, residents come from all over the area and the Murray Road building has proved a great success with staff working hard to create an informal home from home atmosphere.

Management pride themselves on creating comfort and security with a non-

institutional feel to the home.

Thur 31st March 1994

SITE BOOKED FOR SUPER LIBRARY

The news that Wokingham is to get a new £2.3M library near the heart of the town has been given a warm welcome. Thousands more books and advanced reference facilities are promised in a new two-storey building on the corner of Denmark Street and Langborough Road. Wokingham will become the library headquarters for the district when it opens its doors to the book borrowing public early in 1996.

The library will be three times the size of the existing one in Montague House and will be on the site of the derelict GK Motors building, opposite the Duke's Head pub. It will include a lift, ensure easy access for disabled people and stock an extra £750,000 worth of new books.

The scheme is part of a package that is that is likely to see the construction of a Waitrose superstore behind Broad Street and a new home for the youth and community centre in Reading Road, Wokingham.

Work will start on the computerised library in mid-1995 and it will be the largest venture of its type in Berkshire since the building of Reading library in 1985. It will be partly funded by the sale of the land behind Broad Street which is set to be purchased by developer Peter Luff. The district and town councils will also provide some money

Thur 14th April

The Queen came to Wokingham on Tuesday to visit Glebelands. During the one-hour visit she inaugurated two new bungalows, a summer house and gate wings located at the entrance to Glebelands. The royal party was then given a tour of Glebelands before the Queen and Duke sat and chatted with the residents over tea.

Thur 26th May 1994

FORMER MAYORESS IS 102 YEARS OLD

A former Wokingham Mayoress celebrated her 102 birthday by holding a party with the present Mayor as a special guest. Mabel Perkins was joined by around 70 people to mark the big occasion with town mayor Philip Hudson taking part in the birthday toast with wife Elsie.

The centenarian was mayoress when her late husband, Frank, was Wokingham's Mayor in 1937. She was also the first person to move into Berkshire Nursing Home, Barkham Road, Wokingham, where banners and balloons were hanging up for the party on Sunday

Thur 21st July

STAN TICKS UP 22 YEARS SERVICE

There is far more to being a traffic warden than simply dishing out tickets, as Stanley Harris knows only too well. Mr. Harris, aged 61, who lives with his wife, Elizabeth in Gipsy Lane, Wokingham, has just been awarded a medal for 22 years' service as a traffic warden. He is thrilled that the dedication he has given his work has been recognised—"It's an honour to get the award and I'm very pleased."

During his career, he has had more than his fair share of emergencies to deal with—including helping to save lives. On one occasion Mr. Harris showed that he was more than a pen pusher by helping paramedics to carry a heavy stroke victim from a car to an ambulance. And at other times, he often finds himself in hot demand from passers-

by. Surprisingly Mr. Harris claims that most motorists are quite understanding when they find him by their car writing out a ticket. "Your approach is the big thing. Most drivers accept that they have done something wrong," said the traffic warden who patrols the streets of Reading.

Thur 28th July

STATION BLAST BRINGS TOWN TO A STANDSTILL

An explosion at Wokingham Station caused havoc as bomb squad experts were called in and rush-hour traffic was brought to a standstill. Experts later discovered later that the blast which lifted a manhole cover by two inches was caused by a minor electrical fault. There was a problem with a link box which houses underground cables.

The fault caused a small amount of smoke and a build-up of heat, causing the manhole cover to lift.

ROSE (94) RINGS THE BELL WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM HER FRIENDS

A bell retrieved 40 years ago from a demolished school building rang for the first time at its new home in Palmer School, Wokingham. The salvaged bell has almost been forgotten about until headmaster Russell Palmer found it and decided to re-hang it as a tribute to the school's long history. Some restoration work was carried out on the 120-year-old bell and a new clanger made before it could be positioned in the centre of the school building.

To celebrate the occasion, a ceremony was held attended by past and present pupils, some of whom remember the school's old Victorian building and bell tower. The oldest person associated with the school, 94-year-old Rose Elliot, was given the honour to be the first to ring the bell since it was silenced 40 years ago.

As a dinner lady at the school in the 30s, Mrs. Elliot from Coronation Square, would keep the children in check.

The bell used to signal the beginning of lessons but will now only be rung on special occasions, such as at the end of the year to bid farewell to year six pupils. As part of the dedication ceremony, the youngest pupil, Emily Leadbetter, (7), and the oldest, Richard Burwood (11), were the first pupils to have the opportunity of ringing the bell.

Thur 11th Aug

EX-MAYOR LOSES BATTLE TO SAVE HISTORIC HOTEL

Planners have finally struck the death knell for the 90-year-old Tithe Barn in Wokingham. One of the few remaining large historic buildings in the district will be bulldozed to make way for 18 flats in Glebelands Road. The fight to save the old hotel building was finally lost last Wednesday when councillors decided it was too derelict to keep. Since the last customer left the once prestigious hotel in 1988 the building has been the victim of squatters, vandals and the weather.

A final attempt by campaigner and former Mayor, Margaret Busst to save the 19th century hotel failed when the Department of the Environment turned down a plea to classify it as a listed building.

The Wokingham Society and Ancient Monuments Society also supported the retention of the building. But a council inspection of Tithe Barn carried out in March 1992 showed that it was in a "structurally poor" condition and would cost around £370,000 to repair.

Thur 29th Sep

FAREWELL CHICK

Former Wokingham Town Crier Herbert (Chick) Biddle has died, aged 85. Mr. Biddle, of Sale Garden Cottages, was a well-known and much-loved face around town throughout 22 years as the voice of Wokingham Town Council. He passed away quietly at the Royal Battle Hospital, Reading on Thursday (Sep. 22).

The distinguished ex-servicemen joined the Warwickshire regiment at only 14 years old. He went on to have a long career with the Army serving as a recruitment officer in Reading until he retired in the sixties. He was later awarded the British Empire Medal and recently became a member of the Wokingham British Legion.

Mr. Biddle became Town Crier and mace bearer in 1966. He retired in November 1988 due to ill health. Albert Dunham, mace bearer at the Town Council took over from Chick in 1981 but he knew him before that.

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Thur 12th Jan

BUTCHER DIES AT 87

Former Wokingham butcher Cecil Belcher died at the weekend. Mr. Belcher passed away quietly surrounded by his family at their home in Blagrove Lane, Wokingham, on Sunday. He was 87. He leaves a wife, Vera, six children, 11 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Belcher first moved to Wokingham in 1933 and established himself in Evendons Lane where he successfully ran a butcher's chop for 30 years. He was well-known throughout the town and was chosen to be featured standing outside his shop in the book, *A Pictorial History of Wokingham*. Mr. Belcher was also a local freeman and was involved with the lodges in Wokingham.

His funeral will take place at Holy Trinity Church, Sunningdale, tomorrow (Friday) at 2 p.m. His daughter, Beryl Williams said, "We chose to bury him there so he can be next his parents.

Thur 19th Jan

EMMBROOK HALL FURY

A catalogue of complaints has marred the long-awaited re-opening of Emmbrook Village Hall. Angry town councillors listed a number of concerns about the way the refurbishment had been carried out at a public meeting last Tuesday. And they later threw out members of the public to discuss the matter behind closed doors, causing speculation as to the full extent of the problem. Hall users too although seemingly unwilling to rock the boat, have admitted in private that they are appalled by the long list of things still to be done.

More than £20,000 of council money was set aside to repair the hall after it was found to have been damaged from underground flooding over the years. Councillors spent months deciding on how they wanted the work to be carried out amid widespread criticism that they were wasting time juggling red tape. The hall was eventually closed for repairs in August and many of the area's clubs and organisations were forced to find alternative venues while the work was carried out.

Last week, the doors were opened for the first time in five months. But instead of

celebrating, the town councillors were furiously drawing up a catalogue of complaints. At a meeting last week they accused workmen of leaving hot water pipes exposed after replacing the central heating; leaving holes in the walls because they couldn't find the right size of skirting board; turning up the heating to dry out the floor covering in less than 24 hours—even though they were told to allow the floor to dry naturally; putting down two coats of polish on the floor within one and a half hour—even though the manufacturer advises a wait of 24 hours between each coat. More importantly town councillors were told that new precautions to stop the floor flooding in the future had been ignored.

Cllr. Jack Earnshaw, treasurer of the hall, told astonished colleagues that there was still no way of monitoring how much water was collecting under the floor.

He said that there was no inspection hatch, as specified so we will never know whether anything has been done to reduce the level of water under the floor. The damp-proof membrane is not attached to the one in the wall and concrete blocks are missing from under the screed. This was typical of the whole operation and could compromise the strength of the floor.

Richard Dadd, chairman of the hall's management committee said that he shared the council's concerns. "This has been a traumatic experience, especially since we thought it would only be a four week job at the beginning. There are a number of things outstanding and the main problem now is fitting in the work around the various clubs. The hall opened last Monday and everyone is delighted to be back in it."

Thur 9th Feb

JANUARY WAS A TOTAL WASHOUT

Last month was the wettest January in Wokingham ever recorded according to a weather expert. Recordings taken at the Wokingham Meteorological station at Emmbrook School show that 138.2mm of rain fell during the month—smashing the previous record in 1948 by 10.7mm.

The torrential rain and high winds threw parts of the district into turmoil. The River Stort and the Upper Loddon were put on flood alert, fallen trees brought down power lines and blocked roads and rainwater cascaded over the platform edge like a waterfall at Crowthorne rail station. But it was only a few freak days late in the month which caused all the problems.

Weather expert Bernard Burton said that only 12.9mm of rain fell in the first half of January and the remaining 125.2 came splashing down in the second half. Most of the chaos was caused between Tuesday 17th and Sunday 22nd when 66.9mm of rain fell. The following Tuesday was the most miserable with 11.5 hours of rain.

Figures for the other years featured in the top five wet Januaries—recorded over 114 years—are 117.6mm in 1939; 116.1mm in 1937 and 112.2mm in 1943. However despite last month's dire downpours it pales into insignificance compared to other months. It is only the 21st wettest month since 1882 and is nowhere near the record 197mm of rain that fell in Wokingham in October 1960.

Thur 23rd March

NEWSAGENT EDITH DIES

One of Wokingham's best shop owners of the 1960s and '70s has died at the age of 88. Edith Langley served behind the counter of J.L. Langley newsagent, in Denmark Street with her husband, Jack, for 24 years. She was also a familiar face outside the shop as a member of many local clubs and associations during her lifetime in Wokingham

But daughter Audrey Carpenter of Oaklands Drive, Wokingham, said her mother will be best remembered by the regular customers of the shop where a dry cleaners now stands. She just loved people and meeting people and it all came from her 24 years in the newsagent shop. She was a good listener.

Edith, known to many as Edie, was involved in many local community groups including the British legion, Townswomen's Guild, Women's Fellowship, Hard of Hearing club and Wokingham and District Elderly (WADE) day centre.

Her late husband, Jack Langley, who died in September, 1984, was also a much-loved character in the town and was popularly known as 'Mr. Wokingham'.

Edith enjoyed a holiday in Spain only last summer and remained active until she suffered a fall shortly after Christmas. She died peacefully last Wednesday at Suffolk Lodge nursing home, Rectory Road, where she had been living for the last six years.

Edith also leaves behind daughter, Joy, five grandchildren and three great grandchildren as well as many friends.

The funeral will take place at 12.30pm today (Thursday March 23rd) at All Saints' Church where Edith was baptised, confirmed and married.

Thur 8th June

There was an outcry over psychic fairs being held in the town hall. Mike Taylor, Town Clerk, investigated the legality of the fairs and was told by legal experts that the fairs would only have been illegal if there had been an intent to deceive the public.

TOWN PARK TO GET VANDAL PROOF SEATS

Visitors to Howard Palmer Park will be able to sit in comfort when new vandal proof benches are installed. The small town centre park has been the target of hooliganism over the last year and the new Plaswood seats will replace existing benches which have been wrecked.

In the last 12 months vandals have ripped off the backs of all the seats in the park, decorative lamps have been smashed, conifer trees burned down and brick planters have been sprayed with graffiti. The new tough benches are made from recycled plastics. The Town Mayor, Cllr. Ann Davis also suggested that security lights be erected in the park to deter vandals.

In her annual parks report, amenities administrator Fiona Heston highlighted improvements in the town's other parks, including new play equipment in Joel Park.

Thur 13th July

PRINCE WILLIAM LEAVES WOKINGHAM

Prince William left Ludgrove School for the last time this week. The 13-year-old prince will start at Eton next September having passed the tough entrance exam earlier this term.

Princess Diana arrived at the school last Wednesday to collect her two sons in a green Rover 620 with blacked-out windows. A police Landrover had already left piled high with the boys' belongings. Minutes later the Princess pulled over in Rances Lane to stop off at Santram newsagents where she and her sons regularly buy sweets.

Earlier the prince had bade a fond farewell to fellow pupils and to headteacher Gerald Barber. Prince Harry will return to Ludgrove in September.

.Thur 20th July

MOLLY MILLAR TO BECOME BIG HAND MO'S

One of Wokingham's best known pubs is changing its historic name after a massive

£200,000 facelift. The Molly Millar in Station Road will now be known as Big Hand Mo's Goodtime Emporium. The new name is part of the recent refurbishment programme by owners Scottish and Newcastle. Brewery bosses say the vamped-up pub will be the most exciting concept since the big bang.

But while the pool tables and hi-tech video machines may prove a hit with some customers, the decision to change the name would anger local history buffs. The Molly Millar is a historic name in Wokingham. Other local landmarks which bear it include Molly Millars Lane, Molly Millars Road, Molly Millars Close, Molly Millars Bridge and the Molly Millar industrial estate.

But despite the famous name, mystery still revolves around the true identity of one of Wokingham's best known women. The popular theory is that Molly Millar was actually Molly Mogg, daughter of the landlord of The Olde Rose Inne, whose legendary beauty was immortalised in a 1726 ballad by John Gay. But county records show no evidence of Molly Mogg ever marrying and changing her name to Millar, nor any link between her and the pub in Station Road. Other people believe that Molly Millar was simply an old wood gatherer who lived down the lane which now bears her name.

Whatever the truth behind the story, the Station Road pub was not called the Molly Millar until 1960 when the then owners, Watney's changed the name from the Railway Tavern. Now, Scottish Newcastle have decided the name needs to be changed again to fit the pub's more modern image.

A spokesman said that Big Hand Mo is the name of a fictitious pool player in keeping with the new look. The pub has been closed for the facelift. It is due to reopen on Thursday, August 10th. Eight new jobs have been created at the new-look pub.

Thur 3rd Aug.

THEN.AND NOW (PIN AND BOWL)

The Pin and Bowl has stood derelict in Finchampstead Road for some time. But last week the bulldozers moved in and now only the ruins of the building remain. The 18th century pub has become a victim of the proposed development of the Wokingham Town F.C. Ground by Higgs and Hill.

Seeing the pub reduced to rubble stirred up some strong emotions for former landlord and landlady Lennie and Joan Best. The couple, from Batty's Barn Close said a lot of people had very good times during the 16 years they were in the Courage pub. After many happy memories as publicans between 1973 and 1989, the Bests said they could not let the pub just crumble without comment.

Author of Old Pubs and Inns of Wokingham, Dennis Ayres said the site had quite a history. There used to be a tannery on the site about 300 years ago but the pub itself was built about 1720 and was a brewery and a mill, presumably for grinding malt. It was called the Nine Pin and Bowl and the whole area around it was a pub come industrial estate in a minor sort of way with all sorts of other buildings around the back.

Under planning rules, Higgs and Hill have been able to demolish the Pin and Bowl without permission because it is a public house. They still need approval to demolish the neighbouring cottages. Meanwhile the developers wait on the side lines with their plans to build houses on the football ground site when the club eventually move to a new ground.

Thur 24th Aug

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ADAM MCKINLEY

Adam McKinley, former editor of the Wokingham Times, has died of lung cancer at the age of 73. Mr. McKinley passed away peacefully in the early hours of last Wednesday morning at his home in Bramber Mews, Caversham Park Village. He leaves a wife, Dorothy, four children, three step-children and 11 grandchildren.

Born in Scotland, Mr. McKinley started off his career in journalism as a reporter on the Glasgow Herald before moving to the prestigious Scottish Daily Express where he was crime reporter. His career was interrupted by the outbreak of the Second World War and Mr. McKinley abandoned his notebook for a life at sea, serving with the Fleet Air Arm.

During his years in services he travelled the world and was torpedoed twice, narrowly missing death. He was eventually demobbed in Australia and spent a year travelling around the country before returning to England. Once safely back home Mr. McKinley resumed his career moving to the London offices of the Daily Express, and then to the Daily Herald where he enjoyed the prestige of being one of the youngest news editors in Fleet Street.

He later moved to Kenya where he edited the Mombassa Times, and his prolific career was also to include spells working for the Hull Daily Mail, the Nottingham Evening Post, the Daily Telegraph and Border Television in Carlisle.

In 1970 he made his final move and arrived at the Wokingham Times as news editor. He then went on to be deputy editor before being made editor of the series. He was also appointed editor of the Reading Standard and editorial director of Thames Valley Newspapers.

Mr. McKinley semi-retired in 1983 but remained an important figure in local newspapers writing weekly columns in the Wokingham Times, Basingstoke Standard and Reading Standard until two years ago when he suffered a stroke. As editor of the Times, Mr. McKinley established a reputation as a tough but fair man. The son of a Labour M.P. he displayed a keen sense of politics, both national and local, and his comments were both feared and respected by councillors throughout the area.

Mr. McKinley will also be remembered by many for his dedication and hard work to help to raise £2M for the Thomas Scanner Appeal.

Thur 7th Sept

TOWN'S HON. CONSTABLE DIES

Harry Dyer, Honorary Constable to the Wokingham Mayor for 17 years died last Friday, aged 77. As well as his role of honorary constable which involved protecting the mayoral entourage, Mr. Dyer was also a caretaker at the Town Hall for about 15 years.

His wife, Kathleen, 76, who lives in Norreys Avenue said her husband lived in the town all his life. If anyone in the Town Hall wanted anything he was always there. He would also organise disabled children's parties when he was retired. Before working at the Town Hall he was a market gardener at Robins Farm and worked at Luckley-Oakfield School.

He and Kathleen were childhood sweethearts. She lived at Mount Pleasant and Harry lived nearby. They were young and each married someone else. Mrs. Dyer married a soldier from Aldershot and moved to Cowley. It was only fate that brought the young love alive 46 years later.

Harry's son-in-law, Tony, used to look after her mother, buying her birthday and Christmas presents every year—though Mrs. Dyer had no idea who he was. They met at her mother's funeral and remained friends. Then one day he brought his father-in-

law down to meet her.

The couple married ten years ago at the Baptist Church, Milton Road, Wokingham. Mr. Dyer leaves behind four children and six grandchildren, aged between 3 and 15, from the couple's former marriages. The funeral is on Monday at 2.30 p.m. at All Saints' Church, followed by internment at the Free Church Burial Ground.

LUCKLEY-OAKFIELD CELEBRATES ITS CENTENARY

Luckley-Oakfield celebrated its centenary on its 77th birthday. To add to the confusion staff, pupils, parents and governors enjoyed a Victorian Fair which was marked with the distinguished presence of the Prince of Wales, the elder son of Queen Victoria.

The discrepancy over the anniversaries arises from the fact that Oakfield and Luckley schools were funded 23 years apart. Oakfield was founded in 1895 with the pupils exiled to the wastes of Cumbria well away from the temptations of any town, but also well away from the museums, theatres and art galleries then thought essential to the education of a young lady. The school's younger sister, Luckley was founded in 1918 by Bertha Drake and the two schools merged in 1959.

A time capsule, containing a copy of the prospectus, examples of pupils' work, a sports day programme and a prefect's badge, was buried. The centenary was also marked in May with a thanksgiving service in All Souls Church, Langham Place in central London.

Thur 14th Sept

BIG DAY FOR TOWN'S YOUTH

Nearly half a million pounds has been spent on building a spanking new youth and community centre for the town. The centre, which opens on Monday (September 18th) will replace the old premises located next to the library in Broad Street which they have been in use for 24 years.

The new centre on the Reading Road opposite St. Paul's Church, will provide a place for youngsters to meet and get involved in a multitude of interesting activities. Centre manager and youth and community worker Tom Elwood is delighted with the modern building which boasts an activities room, tuck shop, main hall, changing rooms with shower, disabled facilities and outdoor floodlit hard court.

By asking young people themselves what they want, there are all sorts of exciting ideas—teenage aerobics, karate, judo and self defence classed, a youth dance group, a junior club night, a sixth form lunch bar, circus skills with juggling, unicycling and stilts and organised games like table tennis, pool, football.

And the centre, which is part of the Berkshire County Council youth and community service, will also have guest speakers to talk to youngsters about all sorts of issues. Future plans include live band performances, drama groups, video club, fantasy games and basic motor mechanic classes.

But of course all this costs money and though the county council will pay for the maintenance, Mr. Elwood has to raise the funds to pay for the activities. He will hire out the massive hall for functions, conferences and meetings and the proceeds from this will go straight back into the centre. Mr. Elwood would like anyone interested in hiring the centre—or any volunteers willing to help out—to contact him on 01734 783610.

Thur 14th Sept

St. PAUL'S ORGAN PLAYS ITS LAST HYMN

Church-goers were in mourning on Sunday evening (Sept 3rd) in Wokingham as St. Paul's Church organ finally bit the dust. Church organist, David Pether coaxed the last hymn from the 130-year-old organ watched by a congregation led by priest-in-charge Roger Stillman. An appeal to raise funds for a new organ was started soon after Father Roger joined St. Paul's Church last year.

Father Roger said, "The total bill could be about £40,000, we won't know the exact amount until it is removed. There could be a lot of a lot of repairs needed to the floor boards under the organ."

Parishioners have been devout in their donations for the new musical accompaniment. The original appeal was for £20,000. There is a certain amount of money in reserve but the church is hoping for another £5,000. The new organ will not be installed for another month. Until then services will be conducted by the church piano.

Thur 21st Sept

HUGE BLAZE WRECKS DEPOT

A huge fire that ripped through a warehouse belonging to a Wokingham storage firm last Saturday has resulted in a double tragedy. News of the fire will have devastated the people who left their possessions in the storage unit owned by Andy's of, Fishponds Road, Molly Millars Industrial Estate, Wokingham. Some of them put their worldly goods into storage before going to Europe or the United States and others live locally.

The ferocious blaze destroyed about three quarters of the furniture stacked in boxes at the warehouse. Early estimates were that up to £500,000 worth of property had been destroyed but the company later put the total loss at less than £100,000-.

Firefighters were called out just after 8 a.m. On Saturday. It took five teams of four firefighters working in rotation over four hours to get it under control. It was one of the town's biggest ever fires. All that could be seen from the outside were clouds of smoke.

Boxes that were on fire were lifted outside with a JCB to make it easier for firefighters to put them out. A hydraulic platform was also needed to get to the top storeys. Although the blaze was under control by 12.25 p.m., the warehouse was regularly inspected over the weekend until it was declared safe on Sunday afternoon. It is believed that the unit was only 30% full. If the fire had occurred three weeks earlier the loss could have been five times as bad.

The fire, believed to be caused by an electrical fault in the heater units, is being investigated. Staff from Andy's spent the weekend clearing up and breaking the news to customers and contacting the loss adjusters.

Thur 28th Sept

WELCOME RETURN OF OLD WAR ARTEFACT

A major war artefact from Wokingham's past which was thought lost has been unearthed in Slough. A scroll listing the names of the Wokingham company of the Royal Berkshire Regiment dating from September 18th 1914, was presented to Mayor Ann Davis on behalf of the town council.

Cllr. Davis thanked the Army for bringing it back and not keeping it in storage and added that the scroll was now in the place where it belonged. The scroll was under safe keeping at the barracks in Slough for 30 years but had to be refurbished by the council. A spokesman from the town council said that nobody quite knows why it had been kept in Slough for so long.

The Royal Berkshire Regiment renamed the Wessex Regiment (Territorial Army, was based at Slough but has recently been disbanded). They decided the scroll should be returned to its rightful home in Wokingham. Lt. Col Barry Paddison M.B.E., of the regiment's second battalion based at Brock Barracks in Reading made the presentation to the council last week.

It will be kept in the War Memorial Annexe where it can be seen by the public among the other treasures from Wokingham's past. The scroll contains the names of officers, NCOs and men of the fourth Battalion who served overseas. A small plaque was also included in memory of those who gave their lives for their country in the World War 1939-1945.

Thur 5th Oct

HIDDEN WINDOW REVEALED

A stained glass window has been discovered at St. Paul's Church in Wokingham. The window was apparently hidden by the organ. People were aware that the window was there, but, they didn't realise how beautiful it was. The window is said to echo small sections of the great East window—the choirs of angels, with their musical instruments.

SUNDIAL UNVEILED AT HOWARD PALMER PARK

At the official unveiling of Wokingham's magnificent new sundial in Howard Palmer Park there wasn't a ray of sunshine in sight. The rain poured down as Town Mayor Cllr. Ann Davis and Town Cllr. Keith Malvern marked the end of a project that has been in the pipeline for several years.

Pupils from Emmbrook School, who are now at university, won an inter-school competition to design the best sundial. Emmbrook has a reputation for its keenness to take on projects that have practical results. The £11,000 attraction was funded by the Town Council who say it has a valuable contribution to make to the cultural life of Wokingham. With realistic good sense, Emmbrook tried to make the sundial vandal-proof.

Thur 7th Dec

WONDERFUL WOKINGHAM

Great community spirit, an electric atmosphere and smiles all round made the first ever Wokingham Winter Carnival an astounding success. Hundreds of people flooded the streets, bringing the centre of Wokingham alive with music and laughter. Small children had the time of their lives, dragging their parents round to meet Father and Mother Christmas in the TIMES sponsored grotto.

There were clowns galore, jugglers, and men on stilts mostly organised by Kathy Valentine of Circus Scene. Like many events on the day, the Victorian market was so popular it brought the town to a standstill. People jostled to get close to the stalls, many of which were collecting for charity.

Wokingham's Police inspector, Paul Cessell was strutting the streets in a superb Victorian policeman's outfit complete with top hat. The Wokingham Society Local History Group also helped people to take a trip down memory lane. Not only did some wear Dickensian costumes, but they set up an exhibition in the Town Hall.

Over 80 organisations and businesses helped to support the carnival while 120 stalls enticed shoppers. But it was Paul Thomas, of Wokingham Lion Club, who kept the town buzzing with his permanent commentary on what was on offer in the town. As compere he talked through the carnival procession which saw 80 floats go by,

including postman pat followed by the Mayor, Ann Davis, and town crier and councillors in full ceremonial dress. Later Cllr. Davis announced the winner of the best float as Wokingham's Townswomen's Evening Guild. They had dressed up as toys from their Christmas show this year, the Christmas Toy Box.

Thur 14th Dec

LIGHTING THE OLD STREET LAMPS

Once upon a time a man on a bike went round Wokingham keeping the gas street lamps aflame until the onset of electricity made it unnecessary. George Kingston, who has just turned 91, worked for the old Wokingham borough for over 30 years making sure the town was never plunged into darkness.

"I started off doing it for a fortnight but I lasted all that time, so I must have liked it. I'd go around at night and check that the lights hadn't gone out because it was blowy or whatever, then I'd check they were out first thing in the morning. I'd have to work every day, including Christmas Day. It was a job you'd call a tie."

Mr. Kingston who now lives at Westende sheltered housing in London Road, would set the clocks on the lamps every week. They would go on when it got dark and go off at 11 pm. But the one at the crossroads of London and Peach Street stayed on all night.

"I went round with my ladder. I'd stand on my bike pedal and pull myself up on the bar and light the lamps. I used something which is like a cigarette lighter, though these weren't so common then.

Wokingham born and bred, he first lived in Rose Street as his parents did next to the Metropolitan pub which he would often visit for a quick tipple. He only left his beloved town when he joined the RAF in 1940 or when he had the odd holiday in Blackpool or Morecambe. His wife, Florrie, nee Richardson, died of cancer about 20 years ago. She was also a Wokingham lass and lived in Rose Street all her life. She was christened, married and buried in All Saints' Church.

1996

Thur 7th March

PLAQUE UNVEILED AT NEW LIBRARY

Heritage Secretary Virginia Bottomley took time out from her parliamentary duties to unveil a plaque at Wokingham's new super-library. She was welcomed on Tuesday by town Mayor Ann Davis, district council chairman John Green and Berkshire County Council chairman Cecil Trembath.

Work on the library on the corner of Denmark Street and Langborough Road started last September and is due to be completed in autumn 1996. The library, at a cost of £1.75m, will be times the size of the old library at Montague House and thousands of new books will be bought.

Mrs. Bottomley said, "I'm thrilled to be here because I feel that libraries play a vital role in any community. Libraries provide such a wide range of facilities, including important projects for children and the disabled. It is a building for the future and I hope I will be able to return when I am an old lady to enjoy the many books that it will provide."

Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, unveiled a plaque at Wokingham's new super library. Work started Sept. 1995 and is due to be completed in Autumn of 1996. Cost: £1.75M.

Thur 4th April

OFTEL LAUNCHES CODE CHANGE

Taken from a Reader's Letter written by Richard Dadd:--

From April 8th 1996 an entirely new STD code of 0118 for the Reading area will be introduced and run in parallel with 01734 until December 31st 1997.

In conjunction with this new code existing subscriber numbers will be increased to seven digits by the addition of 9 at the beginning.

Thur 25th April

THE HELP SHOP OFFICIALLY OPENS

Officially unveiled on Wednesday in Wokingham Town Hall was a tourist centre and one-stop shop council bureau. It was opened by Mayor Cllr. Ann Davis and the chairman of Berkshire County Council Cecil Trombath. The scheme which has cost around £50,000 has been jointly funded by the town council and Berkshire County Council.

The councillors hope that the one-stop shop renamed "helpshop" and tourist information centre will bring a major boost to Wokingham. The shop stocks a variety of information leaflets and also offers booking service for local bed and breakfast accommodation. It is also aimed at dealing with any enquiries about local government services. The Southern Tourist Board staff will be sharing the same office and will be offering information about tourist attractions throughout the region.

The helpshop and tourist information centre can be contacted by phoning the Town Council on 01734 783185.

Thur 2nd May

ON PARADE AS SCHOOLS MERGE

Arborfield Garrison has enhanced its reputation as home to excellence in engineering. The School of Electronic Engineering—already located in Arborfield has merged with the School of Aeronautical Engineering, formerly based in Middle Wallop, Wiltshire. The new school—to be called the School of Electronic and Aeronautical Engineering—will train officers for the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME). A formation parade was held last Thursday to mark the merger of two schools.

Major General Philip Corp, the director general of support (Army) was inspecting officer at the event, which was attended by nearly 200 people. Speaking about benefits of the merger, information officer Lt. Jonathan Trebarne, said, "It is a concentration of training and resources."

He denied the merger had anything to do with Army cutbacks, saying, "This would have happened anyway."

9th May

MAY FAYRE FANTASTIC

The sun smiled on the thousands who strolled round the delights of Wokingham's first-ever May Fayre extravaganzas. There was something for everyone with food, drink, craft stalls, dancing, music, and bonnet competitions. From babes in their prams to proud grannies, people flocked in their droves to the Market Place event on Bank Holiday Monday. The traditional represented by the Green Man who is an ancient symbol of rebirth, mixed with the modern. The event was organised by Gerald Aggett, President of Wokingham Lions.

The day kicked off for the brave at 6a.m. With a choral rendition of the Wokingham

Song—E Glannde Quercus (from the acorn grows the oak) from the top of All Saints' Church tower.

Most of the town centre pubs, cafes and restaurants were open, and there were refreshments all day long. For the peckish there was a hog roast and pancakes and for the adventurous there was an aunt sally, darts and much more. The ears were titillated by the Berkshire Youth Jazz Orchestra, an old-fashioned barrel organ and Morris Dancers.

Bizarre creatures roamed the streets including a thing on stilts, a dragon woman and, of course, the infamous Green Man. Mr. Aggett thought the charity and other stalls had probably reaped in around £15,000.

Thur 16th May

TINA EARNS RAPID PROMOTION

Tina Marinos took over as Town mayor. She became a councillor for Evendons in 1995. She was a teacher at Embrook School. She elected the Children's Society as her chosen charity for which she has been a collector for several years.

Albert Dunham, Ron Rimmer, George Rance, David Down and Maurice Chapman were reappointed as Macebearer and Mayor's Attendant, Town Crier, Honorary constables and Honorary Parade Marshall respectively.

Thur 23rd May

CANADA PAYS TRIBUTE TO TOWN'S OLDEST RESIDENT

Canada paid tribute to Mabel Perkins who celebrated her 104th birthday yesterday (Wednesday). She was the first lady of Wokingham from 1937 to 1938 when her husband, Frank, was Mayor. She is believed to be the town's oldest inhabitant.

She endeared herself to many by opening her home to evacuees and soldiers during the war. At one time she had bunks in her attic for 20 soldiers and was caring for five young girl evacuees from London. She prepared soup for Canadian soldiers stationed thousands of miles from home and provided them with other very welcome home comforts.

The Canadian High Commission also expressed their thanks and appreciation for the many services she provided Canadian servicemen during the war and the association she has maintained in the years since then. On Mabel's 100th birthday the Canadian Veteran Association UK planted a tree in her honour

Thur 13th June

PLAQUES TO IDENTIFY HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Twenty years after the idea was first mooted, several historic buildings in Wokingham have finally been marked with plaques. On Saturday Wokingham Town Hall was graced with a blue plaque while another was placed on the NatWest bank building to commemorate Rose Street. Chairman of the Wokingham Society, Donald Macdonald, says the fruition of the plan can be attributed to the group's dynamic new treasurer, Roy Thomas.

Before plaques could be added to the buildings, Mr. Thomas had to go through a time-consuming planning application process. Other plaques will be put on the Queen's Head pub, the oldest house in The Terrace and the overhangs in Peach Street.

MAYOR OPENS THERAPY CENTRE

Children in Wokingham who have development difficulties can now attend new play therapy sessions in the town. Instead of having to travel to the Dingley Child

Development Centre at Reading's Battle Hospital every week local youngsters who have difficulty seeing, hearing, communicating, moving or balancing, can now go to the sessions at Wokingham Hospital.

Officially opened by the Mayor of Wokingham, Cllr. Tina Marinos, the sessions at the Dingley Family and Play Therapy Group, will take place in the baby clinic every Friday between 9.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m.

Thur 11th July

COUNCIL ACTS TO PROTECT TOWN'S HISTORIC SITES

Wokingham's historic past has been further protected by sweeping new conservation boundaries. Planning chiefs at Wokingham District Council have agreed to establish a new conservation area along part of the north and south sides of Langborough Road to protect its Victorian character.

And they have also pushed out the boundaries of the existing Wokingham Town Centre Conservation Area to include Howard Palmer Park as well as incorporating a corner of All Saints' Church graveyard that was previously unprotected.

Harold Saunders, the District's conservation architect said that it means that some works will need more detailed observation and these areas will now be considered more visually sensitive. The Langborough Road Conservation Area is the Victorian edge of the town. We are looking for as pure Victorian as you can get and sadly as you go along Langborough Road it changes as alterations have been made.

We accept that they are still living area that will take change but it should be appropriate to the character and details incorporated in those existing buildings. The Langborough Road Conservation Area will run from numbers six to forty-six on the north side and numbers five to forty- three on the south side.

Various controls are imposed on development within conservation areas such as the need for special permission to be sought for any demolition and six weeks' prior notice for work on trees.

A DREAM COMES TRUE AS YOUNG PEOPLE'S HOSTEL IS OPENED

A charity that has spent five years raising funds for a young persons' hostel in Wokingham finally saw the fruits of its labours rewarded at the opening ceremony last Tuesday July 2nd. The hostel, in Seaford Court, was officially opened by the Chairman of the Wokingham District Council, Diana Carpenter, in a ceremony that thanked the numerous organisations involved in its eventual success.

The hostel is to house ten homeless young people, aged between 18 and 25, with a view to them finding a job and then their own accommodation. A number of councils and organisations were involved in the building of the hostel but the brain child was Chris Pape, of Finchampstead Road, who set up the Roman Catholic charity, Caritas, to raise the necessary cash. She said, "there is very little rented accommodation in the Wokingham area and it is too expensive to buy so young people cannot stay in the area." Mrs. Pape became involved after she saw some of her foster children slip through the net after leaving her care.

Bob Wyatt, a district councillor and former Mayor of Wokingham has supported the charity from its beginning and was extremely pleased that the hostel could now be put to use.

The hostel has been a collaboration of many organisations including the district council which donated the land, the Housing Association who submitted the plans,

Berkshire Youth and Community Service who provided funds for paid managers and volunteers and the constructors.

Thur 25th July

LONDON ROAD COTTAGES FLATTENED FOR DEVELOPMENT

The face of Wokingham changed again when Victorian cottages were demolished to make way for new housing development recently. The cottages had stood at Nos. 184-186 London Road for many decades and had become familiar landmarks in the town. Planners gave the go-ahead on June 28th for two four-bedroom houses to be built on the site and the bulldozers moved in two days later to demolish the cottages.

Thur 22nd Aug

MABEL PERKINS (104) DIES

Mabel Perkins died at the age of 104 last Sunday evening. Mabel was born in Burghfield in 1892 during the reign of Queen Victoria and moved to Wokingham in 1916 after getting married to husband, Frank.

The couple first lived in Langborough Road and then in Broad Street where Frank owned a garage. Frank died in 1953 and Mabel continued to reside in Broad Street. Her health was remarkably good and she only moved into a home when she reached 100. She was buried in All Saints' Churchyard.

Thur 5th Sept

CHURCH ORGAN INSTALLATION BLOCKED BY INTERNATIONAL RED TAPE

International red tape has put the stumbling block on the finishing touches to the pride and joy of St. Paul's Church's majestic organ. The church on the Reading Road has had a new organ installed at a cost of approximately £45,000 but last minute paint work which needs to be completed can only be carried out by Australian artist, Mark Noble who is unable to get a work permit to travel to Wokingham to carry out the specialised work.

The project was started in November 1995 and was mostly completed in June when the church held a special concert to celebrate. The Rev. Roger Stillman had asked Mr. Noble, who helped to design the paint work on the organ, to come over in May to do the job. They had estimated that the work would take eight weeks, costing about £4,000. However it soon became apparent that Mr Noble, a citizen of Melbourne and who is a friend of organist, David Pether, was not going to be allowed to work in the U.K. because of his self-employed status. To work in the U.K. one has to have an employer.

The hold up has left the church with very little option other than advertising nationally for artists to take up the job. Father Roger is still intent on battling to bring Mr. Noble over to Britain to carry out the work if a replacement cannot be found.

Thur 12th Sept

Keep Hatch Manor House, Binfield, was burned down last Friday evening. Plastic sheeting covering three sides of the building was on fire giving off acrid smoke. Firemen using two appliances battled with the blaze for two hours before getting the fire under control. The cause of the fire is being treated as suspicious,

Thur 24th Oct

New Waitrose will open its doors at 8.30 am on Tuesday. The first customer will receive flowers.

Thur 31st Oct

NEW LIBRARY A 'WONDERFUL ACHIEVEMENT'

Queues of people were waiting outside Wokingham's new state-of-the-art library for the doors to be officially opened first thing on Monday morning. Staff were on hand to give them a warm welcome after spending the last fortnight transferring books and equipment from the facility's previous site in Montague House.

The new two-storey building is four times larger and in the adults and children's lending library houses 50,000 new books in addition to the original 40,000. The ground floor of the £1.75 million library features a quiet reference and local studies area together with IT facilities, including the internet, and a meeting room which can be hired by the public.

Situated in the corner of Denmark Street and Langborough Road it has been built on land once earmarked for the town's Inner Distribution Road. The idea for a new library was first mooted more than 15 years ago but it was not until 1994 that the decision to go ahead was taken in a joint venture by Berkshire County Council, Wokingham District Council and Wokingham Town Council. The library was officially inaugurated by Heritage Secretary Virginia Bottomley earlier this year when building work was still underway. Corporate sponsorship in the form of terminals and software has been donated by Microsoft and Mitsubishi and CD Roms are available for hire.

John Trimming, the county council's deputy vice-chairman, Diana Carpenter, chairman of Wokingham District Council and Tina Marinos, the Mayor of Wokingham were on hand to jointly open the building on Monday. Before allowing the 50-strong crowd inside, Mr. Trimming told them that the library was a wonderful achievement.

COUNCILLOR HARDING IS THE BUSIEST

In a Wokingham Times survey councillors were asked what their main pastimes were outside District occupations, family commitments and work. The busiest proved to be Cllr. Philip Hudson:--Besides ploughing through council agendas on a daily basis and the compulsory visits to district offices Phil is president of the 1st. Woosehill Scouts; president of Woosehill Tennis Club; vice-president of a football club; a governor of Keep Hatch Junior School; trustee of Wokingham District Counselling Service. He is also involved in W.A.D.E. activities.

A former rugby player and scout leader he once boasted of a Pitman shorthand speed of 180 wpm which he gained after the Second World War.

Thur 21st Nov

WOKINGHAM TO LAUNCH CIVIC AWARDS SCHEME

Wokingham Town Council is to honour the most hard working and caring members of the community with the launch of the town's first ever Civic Awards. Nomination leaflets for the Civic Awards scheme are now available from the town council Help Shop based at the town hall. The Mayor, Cllr. Tina Marinos says the awards, which will be the main civic function of the year, is a way for the town council to say thank you to those who have done good in Wokingham.

Up to 25 people could be presented with the new honour which takes the form of an engraved glass crystal paperweight. The nominations have to be submitted by January

10th, 1997 and the awards will be presented on March 22nd.

1997

Thur 16th Jan

50 NOMINATED FOR CIVIC AWARDS

A Veteran voluntary youth worker and helpful neighbours are just a few of the nominees for Wokingham's first civic awards. The awards are to be given to hard working and caring members of the community by the town council who had fifty entries up to the deadline last Friday. Among the men and women nominated is a retired woman who looks after her ill husband but finds the time to give other lifts around the town. Other nominees include a medical worker who has acted above and beyond the call of duty, helpful neighbours and a special constable. Brian Sansom, aged 66, of Oaklands Drive has been nominated by youth and community worker Tommy Elwood, after dedicating a lot of his free time over 25 years to supervising youngsters who attend local clubs.

Each of the 25 people who are judged to receive an award will get an engraved glass crystal paperweight for their good work. Councillors see the award as an opportunity for the town to say a big thank you to those who work hard and care about those in Wokingham's community. Mayor Tina Marinis was delighted so many nominations had been sent in, evidence that so many people were helping other in the community. The winners will be judged on January 23 with a presentation ceremony at the end of March.

HISTORICAL TREASURE UNEARTHED IN WATER RECORDS

The leather-bound water company ledgers were found abandoned in a skip by a Wokingham resident, and after his death his widow took them to a specialist in selling old books. He suggested she take them to Wokingham Councillor, Bob Wyatt who collects historical books. Mr. Wyatt of Sturges Road is now restoring the treasures to their former glory.

The three volumes give the minutes of the Wokingham and District Water Company Ltd., established in 1878, which tell of the workings and intrigues of the company and its employees.

Thur 23rd Jan

PASSING INTO HISTORY

The end of an era at Arborfield's Army Apprentices College was marked with a special march. The final contingent of REME students to complete a two-year apprenticeship—intake 95A—passed out of the college in style. After the end of term church service they marched smartly and proudly to the gate of Hazelbrouck Barracks while colleagues lined the roadside.

During their time at the college the apprentices studied military skills, military education, leadership, technical studies and vehicle mechanics. They also got the chance to take part in a wide variety of sports and hobbies such as cycling, football, go-karting and playing in the college band.

From now on the college will be running scaled-down eight-month foundation courses for REME and Royal Signals apprentices, who will be joined soon by trainees in the Royal Engineers and the Royal Logistics Corp. They will then go on to complete their apprenticeships at each corps' specialist establishments.

The passing out parade took place on December 20th.

Thur 30th Jan

FRED CLARK LOSES SEAT

Plans for the traditional town mayor making ceremony have been thrown into turmoil when Tory mayor elect Fred Clark was ousted from his seat on the town council following the local elections. He lost by three votes. Invitations had already been sent out for the event next Tuesday, May 16th.

It is the first time that the Lib Dems have seized control of the council and it has led to an unprecedented late change in the choice of this year's mayor. Cllr. Philip Hudson will hand over his chain of office this week and next Tuesday his successor will be selected by the council's new members.

MAYOR TINA ACTS AUCTIONEER

Mayor Tina Marinos took on the role of an auctioneer on Saturday at a 50/50 auction held at All Saints' Church. Dozens of people turned up to bid in the event with proceeds from sales being split between the seller and the church.

Items ranging from bedside cabinets to china plates and a doll were up for sale, Mrs. Marinos enjoyed her role as auctioneer and was pleased to help raise church funds.

The event was organised by Gillian Sutterby who said that around £300 had been made.

Thur 6th Feb

WINGMORE LODGE UP FOR SALE

Wingmore Lodge in Rose Street, has been put up for sale by the owner, Celia Read, for offers of around £200,000. The 10-room lodge dates back to about 1750 and is a listed building. It is reputed to have been the Windsor Forest gamekeeper's lodge. The house has been on the market for two weeks and has so far attracted a high level of interest.

Wokingham historian, Ken Goatley said the lodge, which is surrounded by new development including Waitrose and Row Court shops, was once very private. Planning permission has already been granted to use the house as a tea room.

Thur 27th March

The theme of Tina's mayoral office was working in partnership with the community. The highlights included: Opening the new library of which the town council made a grant of £50,000; re-letting many vacant premises and the new development around Waitrose; holding a successful Winter Carnival; the Mayor's Market was held on only one day and made £2,135; introducing the first Civic Award Ceremony for Unsung Heroes.

Thur 24th April

NEW MAYOR, JACK EARNSHAW IS TERRIFIED

Wokingham's new Lib Dem, Mayor, Cllr. Jack Earnshaw, admits that he is terrified to take over the civic role next month. The Town Councillor for Emmbrook North was elected by secret ballot at a full council meeting last week.

He will be officially inaugurated at the mayor-making ceremony at the town hall on May 13th. The father of three will take over the position from Cllr. Tin Marinos, the town's first Liberal Democrat mayor and insists that he will keep party politics aside as mayor. He has chosen Cllr. Alan Holmes to be his deputy mayor. The mayoress will be his wife Susan.

Thur 1st May

WAR HERO TO BE HONOURED 51 YEARS AFTER HE WAS KILLED

A Wokingham wartime hero is finally having his name included on the town's war memorial 51 years after his death. At a special ceremony attended by the Mayor, Cllr. Tina Marinos, and the Royal British Legion, on Sunday May 11th, Flight Lieutenant George Knapp's name will be included on the Roll of Honour on the War Memorial at the Town Hall.

George Knapp, of Oxford Road was 24 years-old when he was killed in action while stationed in Singapore in October 1945. He was killed two months after VJ day in 1945 and was buried in Kranji War Cemetery in Singapore.

His cousin, David Searle of Farnham Surrey, together with Don Morris, of Wokingham's Royal British Legion, campaigned to have his name put on the War Memorial after several months of research. Mr. Searle found out that his cousin, who attended Ranelagh School in Bracknell had not been included on the town's Second World War honours list after digging around his family tree. Both men had served with the RAF and had corresponded during the war. There was some confusion as to whether Mr. Knapp had been killed in action as he died after VJ day. Many rebels were still fighting.

Thur 15th May

HONOUR AT LAST FOR FALLEN WAR HERO

A long overdue remembrance service was held on Sunday, in honour of a Wokingham wartime hero, fifty-one years after he was killed. Friends and family gathered at the town hall in the Market Place in memory of George Knapp who was killed in action in Asia. The ceremony marked the conclusion to a lengthy project undertaken by Mr. Knapp's Former cousin, David Searle.

Mr. Knapp had lived with his family in Oxford Road when he enlisted in the Royal Air Force in 1941. He was killed in October 1945, and it is believed his body was buried in Kranji War Cemetery in Singapore. Mr. Searle, who was also in the RAF, called for help from Royal British Legion when he discovered his cousin's name missing from the town memorial. After much research, town councillors agreed that the forgotten serviceman should be included.

The event was one of Mayor, Cllr. Marinos's last functions as Town Mayor.

Tina Marinos performed her last civic function on Monday when she officially opened the Edinburgh Wool Mill. The store manager, Amanda Fuller donated £100 to the mayor's charity.

A NEW MARKET MINUS CATTLE AND PIGS.

The heart of Wokingham's community and business has been the market which has been trading since a medieval royal decree in 1219 granted by King Henry III. It has taken many forms over these 778 years from the only place to barter for goods in medieval times to a cattle and pig market up until the middle of this century.

Today after the recent hard times the market is again coming into its own. Mayor Tina Marinos celebrated the market's birthday last Friday with the market superintendent, Colin Hook and Town Crier, Ron Rimmer. They are looking forward to promoting the market and making it a viable competitive business in the town with Great British Market Week in August.

The market has expanded since 1219 and operated four days a week with flower,

fruit and vegetables, cards and jewellery stalls. It is a very different market they had here up until the middle of this century. Cattle were still being driven up Rose Street.

Old byelaws regulating the market activities are still in existence and could still be enforced if they were not so impractical in the 20th century. One byelaw allows cattle and sheep to be penned up at the other side of this market, exactly where Dorothy Perkins is located.

Today's market stands on the original site with the town hall built in 1859/60 and surrounding business and homes encroaching into its space. The market and the town have captured the imagination of television producers who are using it as a backdrop to the programme *Soldier Soldier*. The market is looking into the future to bring more traders and entice more customers. Mr. Hook has issued a questionnaire for the traders to build up a relationship where they can work together to get the market to prosper. The reputation of the market is important to Mr Hook who screens all stallholders and closely examines their products before letting them have a regular pitch.

Thur 22nd May

MISS EFFIE BARKER—A TRIBUTE

Effie Lucile Barker died on May 3rd aged 85. She was born on February 16th 1912. Effie was the epitome of all that is best in a gentlewoman. She followed the principles of fulfilling what she recognised to be the duty of people born into a well-to-do family. She was one of those who was more interested in others than in herself.

She was born in, lived in, and loved the countryside and all that it had to offer. Horses and hunting were her favourite pastime. Indeed, at the age of six she already had a pet donkey, two hound puppies, a terrier, a Pekinese and a beagle.

Effie was born at Stanlake Park, an elegant Georgian house near Twyford, Berkshire situated in a beautiful park. She was the only daughter and last child of Colonel and Mrs. F.G. Barker. Her father was a typical country gentleman; her mother was French, from whom Effie inherited her sense of fun, humour and fluency in the French language.

In the early thirties she formed her own pack of beagles and joined her father as Master of the Garth Hunt, of which she remained for 30 years. Whilst horses and hunting were her major passion, she enjoyed all country sports, as well as being a capable squash and tennis player. She was a line judge at Wimbledon. Her energy was unbounded which, considering that her diet seemed to consist of chocolate biscuits, black coffee, cigarettes and an odd lettuce leaf, was remarkable.

She was an expert judge of horses and judged at the Royal Windsor Horse Show for many years. She continued to judge at many horse shows till she was 80.

However it was for her sympathetic work for others that she will be remembered best. She joined the Red Cross in 1938 and worked during the war at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. In her usual self-deprecating manner she referred to being in charge of B.B and B—baths, bedpans, biscuits. After D-Day, she volunteered for overseas service and was in the first relief group to enter Belsen. She was chairman of the Berkshire Red Cross for many years and received the Red Cross Certificate for Distinguished War Service to add to her other campaign medals, and later the Medal of Honour for exceptional service to the Society.

Amongst much other charitable work was the Presidency of the women's section of the British Legion, chairmanship of charities in the local village of Hurst, Governor of Heathfield School, where she had been head girl. Her endless involvement in the County of Berkshire was recognised in 1978 by her being appointed a Deputy Lieutenant.

Additionally to all these activities, she ran a farm at Knowl Hill, where she had moved in 1952, after most of the family estate had been sold. Here she cultivated things—cattle, horses, dogs, made good hay with a 1947 tractor, grew exotic plants in her ancient greenhouses. Here it was through her kitchen door, which was never closed, streamed endless people. Effie never married and her family of brothers and their wives, nieces and, nephews, great and great, great nieces and nephews were a great joy to her.

All came to laugh, listen and never went away without learning something new, intelligent and practical. No one was ever turned away. She loved people and their interests, old and young, urban or rural, rich or poor, she wanted to know all about them and they, in turn, left feeling brighter and happier.

R. J. Palmer, Swallowfield.

Thur 5th June

CELIA'S LIVING IN A DOLL'S HOUSE

A Wokingham resident has decided to turn her home into a doll's house. Celia Read who lives in Rose Street made the decision after her listed house, Wingmore Lodge, became known locally by that name.

Her interest started a few years ago when the house held a Victorian Day and she joined in by displaying her children's Victorian dolls at the Queen Anne House. After that whenever she tried to remove the dolls from the widow people would ask why. Often people would knock to see if the items were for sale.

Celia has now decided to turn her drawing room into an exclusive small shop selling collectors' artisan porcelain dolls, teddy bears and traditional rocking horses made from mahogany, cherry, walnut and oak. Anyone interested in viewing the items strictly by appointment can call 0118 989 2457.

Thur 12th June

WOKINGHAM CARNIVAL CROSSES THE FINAL FRONTIER

Brightly coloured aliens and astronauts touched down in Wokingham last Saturday. But despite initial alarm, the weird and wonderful visitors did not come to conquer. They had landed in Wokingham especially to participate in the annual carnival with the theme "Space, the Final Frontier".

Budding Buzz Lightyears dressed in costumes of silver foil peacefully co-existed alongside green faced extraterrestrials in the procession, organised by Wokingham Round Table. Eleven inter-galactic floats massed at St. Crispin's School on London Road where they were judged by Wokingham's Mayor Cllr. Jack Earnshaw and Wokingham Round Table chairman Chris Liebert.

The award for the best float in the 18-plus section went to the Red Cross. The Under-18 award went to First Wokingham Scout Group, and the Under-12 section was won by First Wooshill Scout Group.

Following the judging, the procession passed through the town centre slightly behind schedule at 1.15 pm. Hundreds of onlookers lined the streets to wave at the colourful procession. As well as the prize-winning floats, there were entries from Emmbrook After School Club, Wokingham Girls' Brigade, Norreys Evangelical Church, Third Wokingham Scouts and Reading sci-fi club U.S.S. Runnymede.

Music was provided by the St. Sebastian's marching band and drum majorettes from Swindon. The carnival procession was headed by carnival princess, lucky Ria Poole of Ellis Road, Crowthorne.

Before 2 pm the procession arrived at Cantley Field where the fun really began. Thousands of people enjoyed the wide range of stalls and entertainments, Wokingham Playbus, Wokingham Voluntary Centre and the Wokingham Lions were all represented. Highlights included a unicycle-riding fire-eater.

The public were particularly impressed by the space ball which rapidly rotated thrill-seekers through 360 degrees, and the astrojet- a virtual reality white-knuckle ride. Both attracted massive queues throughout the day.

Funds raised from the event will go towards two local charities—Daisy's Dream and Camp Mohawk.

Twyford-based Daisy's Dream is a new charity to help Berkshire children to come to terms with bereavement. Camp Mohawk is based in woods near Wargrave where brain-damaged and autistic children can receive stimulating respite care.

Thur 7th Aug

St. Paul's church's original organ was recently replaced with a Henry Jones instrument from the same era. Marc Noble from Australia has decorated the organ pipes.

Thur 14th Aug

Former Mayor Ernest Bland and his wife Rita celebrated their diamond wedding on the 15th Aug. They now live in Henley and have two daughters: Wendy in Wokingham and Daphne near Swindon. He is now 84 and in a wheelchair and Mrs. Bland is 82.

Thur 21st Aug

RELICS ARE RETURNED TO WOKINGHAM

An alderman's hat and gown dating back to 1900 were brought back to Wokingham from Kent after the owner and granddaughter of a former Wokingham Alderman, Elizabeth Hudson contacted the Town Hall. Together with the purple cloak were the original documents relating to the postponement of Edward VII's coronation in 1902, photographs of Wokingham town Mayors and the order of service of the unveiling of a war memorial.

Thur 4th Sept.

WOKINGHAM GRIEVES FOR PRINCESS DIANA

People across Wokingham and Bracknell have joined the nation in its grief for the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Leading community figures including MPs Councillors, traders, charities and churchmen have paid their last respects to the self-styled people's princess.

The princess's wish to become the Queen of Hearts came true as Wokingham and Bracknell residents felt compelled to make floral tributes to memorials being set up throughout the area. Black books of condolence in Wokingham town and district council offices, and Bracknell Forest Borough Offices are set to be filled with personal messages to Diana's family and then passed on to the Queen.

Union flags outside the police and fire stations, on churches and council offices were flying at half-mast from early on Sunday morning and official meetings at the beginning of the week were postponed as a matter of respect.

Books of Condolence have been set up for Wokingham and Bracknell people to pay their respects. Wokingham Town Hall has created a memorial for the Princess in the annexe where people can go to pray and have a quiet thought for Diana.

Although one Union Flag was flying at half-mast on the town council offices members of the public phoned up to complain that it could not be seen from every angle in Wokingham town centre. The Town Council took the unprecedented step of flying two Union Flags at half-mast which could be seen from every angle in Wokingham town centre.

Thur 13th Nov

TESCO TO WIN THE STORE WAR

Tesco has turned up the heat on the Wokingham super store war unveiling their new secret weapon. Their huge new store in Finchampstead Road opens for business on Monday, November 17th replacing the old shop in Denmark Street and going head to head with the new Waitrose in Wokingham and Sainsbury's in Winnersh. But Tesco have a trick up their sleeve.

The new store comes in two parts with a new restaurant and own food section tacked into the side of the sprawling food section. The new section is the interesting one as it signals Tesco's move into almost every other form of retail there is.

The idea is to give shoppers everything they could possibly need short of a hang glider.

Past the Tesco ToGo take away restaurant which sells everything from pizzas to Sunday roasts is a Woolworth's-style shop where you can have films developed and buy clothes, magazines, computer software and records.

Thur 11th Dec

MR. WOKINGHAM HONOURED

An historian affectionately known as Mr. Wokingham has been awarded the prestigious title of Honorary Townsman. Ken Goatley has been bestowed the honour the highest Wokingham Town Council can award at a civil ceremony on Saturday. Mr. Goatley is only one of 12 to receive the title in the council's 112 year existence.

Mr. Goatley said he was honoured and surprised that he was someone who would get such an award and gave a set of six silver spoons to the town in appreciation. He paid tribute to his wife, Edna, who he said had put up with his love for local history and was given a bunch of flowers.

Mr. Goatley joins the heady ranks of past town Mayors and the 10,000 members of the R.E.M.E. Other honorary townspersons. He was suggested for the title because of his untiring love for Wokingham's history and architecture enthusing to future generations its importance.

In a glowing eulogy, Cllr. Tina Marinos said that Mr. Goatley a worthy recipient of the award because of his dedication. He had been given the title of Mr. Wokingham because of his enthusiasm and unlimited knowledge about the town and the large amount of free time he commits. Ken has produced a number of audio-visual shows which he willingly shows to numerous charities and other groups in the district. Ken is a walking encyclopaedia of much of Wokingham's known history and spends a great deal of time interviewing older residents and taping their recollections of the town.

Additional reasons included his involvement in the Wokingham Society History Group and the Photographic Club, National Heritage Day and keeping an eye on planning applications.

She went on to say how Mr. Goatley had been seen in the town earlier in the day making sure a shop sign had been painted to ensure it fitted into the town's decor. "His service has been outstanding and constant and for all the above reasons I warmly recommend to all my fellow councillors that Ken Goatley be awarded the status of Honorary Townsperson."

1998

Thur 1st Jan

TOWN'S 'HERITAGE' BIKE IS RESTORED TO ITS FORMER GLORY

A hundred year old penny-farthing was restored to its former glory by KC Sports, Barkham Road and will be placed in the Courtyard Market in Wokingham Town Hall. The magnificent example of an early form of personal transport was crafted in the town before the turn of the last century in a blacksmith shop behind the Ship Inn in Peach Street. It was thought to be made for the father of Wokingham bike dealer Jack Trill

Mr. Trill and his brother Percy ran a family bicycle shop in Denmark Street on the site of the empty Tesco store. Mr. Trill gave the penny-farthing to the town as a historic memento and it has been suspended by chains from the courtyard market ceiling ever since.

Jack Trill's daughter, Betty Simpson, who still lives in Wokingham, said she believes the bicycle was made for her grandfather and it was recently ridden in a Wokingham carnival by her daughter. It was kept in their workshop for a long time and then her father gave it to the town

The restoration project took KC Sports, Barkham Road, a year to complete replacing the solid tyres, painting it and polishing the brass.

Thur 15th Jan

MYSTERY AS TOWN'S BUTCHER FAILS TO RETURN FROM LUNCH

Shoppers and traders are baffled by the mysterious disappearance of Wokingham's town centre butchers. Pettit and Brown Family Butcher, who reported good trade over Christmas, suddenly closed down last week—leaving a sign saying 'Gone for lunch' propped up in the window.

Richard Hoare, manager at Jones Laing Auton—the butcher's landlord, said that the company had gone into liquidation although this report has not been confirmed. An officer at the Official Receivers in Reading said that Pettit and Brown family butcher was not on the list of people who have been forced into liquidation or closed down by the courts. But the receivers do not have lists of those companies who go into liquidation voluntarily.

TEMPERATURES WERE THE THIRD HIGHEST IN 116 YEARS

1997 was a year of weather extremes, according to Bracknell's Meteorological office. And it was not as dull or cold as we would like to think. The results collected by Wokingham weather monitors and collated by Bracknell Met office produced extreme weather patterns.

The average daily temperatures of 11.2 degree Celsius (52.2 Fahrenheit) was the third highest in 116 years.

Although the year produced 18 dry spells of five or more consecutive days, summer fared badly. The wettest month was actually August where 88.8mm (3.5 inches) of rain fell. April showers abandoned the county with the longest dry spell between March 26th and April 17th.

Water companies' complaints of water shortages have also been validated by the Met. Office with 38% less rain falling than average. This was coupled with the highest average number of sunshine hours a day, 4.86 hours, the 14th highest in 90 years.

Thur, 22nd Jan

After three years of fundraising the Wokingham branch of the Red Cross officially unveiled its new £30,000 ambulance at the weekend. It was launched by Mayor Jack Earnshaw as a Mobile First Aid Unit in the Market Place.

Thur, 29th Jan

The, 96 year-old Church House on Easthampstead Road is to be demolished.

Thur 26th Feb

MONICA PARSONS DIES

Well known Wokingham Times reporter Monica Parsons died suddenly last weekend because of heart failure. She covered district schools, church and theatre news, and as a long-time resident of Wokingham, she picked up nuggets of information in her travels around the town. She also made many visits to schools giving talks and presentations, and to groups including the Rotary and Lion Clubs.

She often put a brave face on things having battled with a kidney problem, which put her in hospital for a year, and cancer. She was registered blind almost two years ago after a rapid deterioration in her sight and had to use special magnifying equipment at work.

She was married to Leslie for 37 years and had three children: Hannah aged 18; Eleanor aged 22; and Alistair aged 22 who were the focus of her life. The family lived in Ormonde Road.

The cause of her death is not yet clear, but she collapsed suddenly at her home where she was found by her husband on Sunday morning.

A minute's silence was observed for her at the Budget Meeting at Wokingham District Council on Monday night as a tribute to the highly regarded journalist who had done so much for the community over the years. She will be cremated tomorrow (Friday, Feb. 27th.)

TOWN HALL TO GET £700,000 KISS-OF-LIFE

Wokingham's historic Town Hall is to receive a £700,000 face lift. Councillors are putting forward the regeneration plan as their millennium project to create something of a lasting value for the town. They want to hand Wokingham Town Hall back to the people.

Around a £100,000 is required for essential maintenance work to keep the building in shape. Councillors have seized the opportunity to put forward radical plans on grounds that one big refurbishment project will be cheaper than lots of make-do-and-mend schemes in the long run. Also included will be a restaurant and a cafe run by the town's young people.

The outside of the building will be unchanged although the outdoor and indoor markets will be improved.

The Town Hall has fallen into decay over many years and the kitchen and toilets fall short of public health requirements. Another part of the plan will be to provide adequate heating and lighting and attention will be given to musty, damp rooms. A lift and ramps will be installed to provide disabled access to all floors.

The renovations will provide the dilapidated Town Hall with a new lease of life that will take it into the 21st century.

FACELIFT AND NEW NAME FOR PARK

Howard Palmer Park is being given a face-lift and a new name in time for summer. The Wokingham Town Council-run park, off Howard Road has been renamed Howard Palmer Gardens.

The improvements underway include changing the entrance, moving some Victorian-style lampposts, adding benches, enlarging the flower borders and planting broad leaf trees. The council is also running a competition for the junior schoolchildren in the town. The youngsters are being asked to make a picture showing where the nearest town council park is to their school, and what they most like about it—for example trees, flowers, play areas or animals.

Mayor Jack Earnshaw will judge the competition once it has closed on Monday, March 2. The winner's drawing—which could be a collage, painting, drawing, computer graphic or photo will be turned into a poster to go into the Town Hall Help Shop. There will also be a cash prize and a certificate for the winning child.

Thur 9th April

Wokingham FC is to lose its ground in Finchampstead Road. The club directors claim they have been forced to sell to developers to clear mounting debts.

The main hall of Wokingham Town Hall can now be used for marriage ceremonies. Hiring the hall which has been given a special licence to act as a wedding venue will cost £150. The honorary constables will act as ushers.

7th May

FUN IN THE SUN AS FOLK FLOCK TO MAY FARE

Thousands of people reclaimed the town centre from the car for a day at the pack Wokingham May Fayre. Denmark Street and Market Place were heaving with visitors from near and far who enjoyed the warm sunshine, jolly music and colourful stalls. The biggest-ever May Fair included 120 pitches, and more local charities and craft stall than in the last few years. Organiser Gerry Aggett, president of the Wokingham Lions said local organisations were set to take more than £20,000 on the day. Crowds of people in T-shirts and sunglasses wandered around the fair which was split into two—town and country.

A county fair was held at Elms field, behind the old Tesco store, where bouncy castles, a rock climbing wall, and plenty of farm animals were some of the attractions on offer.

Back in the town centre the attention was focussed on May-Pole and Morris dancing and music from the Berkshire Youth Jazz Orchestra.

One of the highlights of the day was the crowning of the May Queen, who this year is Victoria Reason from Yateley. Victoria, aged ten, bought her fetching pink outfit from a charity shop, and her proud father said she looked excellent.

There was also an art and flowers exhibition in the Town Hall, which showed 160 works of art from local artists.

TOWN'S TWINNING LINKS TO BE STRENGTHENED

Links between Wokingham and its twin towns of Viry Chatillon in France and Erfstadt in Germany are set to be strengthened thanks to a directorate of local

organisations.

Wokingham's Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Tina Marinos has just returned from Erfstadt where she discussed forging a closer relationship with the French and German communities. She said that it was a very intensive weekend. "We had a four-hour meeting and thrashed things out. We all decided to ask our relevant councils to complete a directorate of all organisations that would be interested in taking advantage of twinning."

The towns are set to promote twinning via the Internet. They will continue to work closely on cultural activities, activities involving the elderly and disabled sports. And representatives of Erfstadt which is near Boris Becker's home, were keen to revive a tennis tournament for the Wokingham Cup.

Celebrations marking ten years of twinning between Wokingham and Viry Chatillon take place between May 29th and June 1st. These will include a ceremony at Howard Palmer Gardens, a reception at the residence of Wokingham High Steward Lady Elizabeth Godsall and a visit to Portsmouth.

Celebrations will also include Wokingham's Cameo Singers, who will perform with Viry Chatillon's Viry-Chorales and by Chorgemeinschaft from Gymnich.

Tickets available from the Help Shop in the Town Hall are £6 or £4 for concessions. Young visitors aged between 15 and 17 from Erfstadt arrive on Monday, May 11th for a five-day visit.

Families are still sought to put the students up in pairs. The sum of £12 per person per day is payable in return for dinner, bed and breakfast. For more information ring Vera Robson on (0118) 978 5530.

Thus 7th May

MACMILLAN HOUSE EXTENSION IS FORMALLY OPENED.

The £30,000 MacMillan House extension, made possible by the generosity of the people of Wokingham, was officially opened last Wednesday. Many of the community-spirited people who helped the TIMES raise the money last autumn were there to see the fruits of their kindness.

The extension at the cancer care day centre in the grounds of Wokingham Hospital, Barkham Road, includes a reception area, a therapy room and disabled toilet. These vital additions came eight years after Wokingham people raised the massive £150,000 in a TIMES backed campaign to build the centre. In cutting the cord the Town Mayor, Cllr. Jack Earnshaw said, "This is a wonderful extension to the building and I hope it will make everybody more comfortable."

SHOPMOBILITY IS UP AND RUNNING

Wokingham Town Mobility will make four scooters and a manual wheelchair available to anyone with problems getting about. The scheme is a partnership between the town council and local businesses who have also offered to supply volunteers.

The mobility customer will be met at a pre-arranged place. One of these is likely to be outside the former Tesco car park. There will be a period of 15 to 20 minutes training with emphasis upon safety. The town council has given £2,000 towards publicity, insurance and maintenance and £3,000 towards administrative costs.

Luff Group has made a building available in Broad Street Walk to store and charge the scooters.

Thur 14th May

LUFF PROVIDES HOME FOR MOBILITY VEHICLES

A home has been found for Wokingham's pioneering mobility scheme thanks to the generosity of the Luff Group. Peter Luff, chairman, handed over the keys to the garage in Broad Street Walk to Cllr. Jack Earnshaw, Mayor of Wokingham. The garage will be adapted by Wokingham Town Mobility to house scooters and wheelchairs giving a boost to elderly and disabled people who find it difficult to shop in town.

The garage will be equipped with electrical sockets to charge at least ten scooters. A group of volunteers are expected to help give the garage a facelift in the next few weeks.

Town councillor Tina Marinos thanked all the sponsors, including Waitrose, Savacentre and Boots.

Thur 21st May

SOLDIERS MARCH A MILE FOR CHARITY

Hundreds of soldiers jogged a mile at the double in almost all ways imaginable. Students, staff and their families took part in the Macmillan Mile event held at the Arborfield Garrison last Wednesday which was one of the many across the country

Not content with simply jogging, many of the participants dressed up or covered the distance in an unusual way. Some passed a rugby ball between them, others a football or a basketball. Some wore fancy dress and one group even dressed up as Romans and pulled a chariot along. Another group of adventurous souls ran carrying surf boards, and some others carried an egg and spoon.

A serious mile race at 5.30 p.m. Started off the proceedings, which saw the Corps Band marching a "musical mile." Junior soldiers in the waiting platoon at the garrison then had the job of transporting their commanding officer, Lt. Col. Nigel May around the course in 17 different ways which ranged from being carried on a stretcher, on a hospital bed, on the back of a motorbike, and even being shouted at by the regimental police corporal.

The event was a great success and everyone enjoyed it. It appeared to have made more than £1,000 at the end of last week, but money was still coming in.

Thur 4th June

The Tourist Information Centre at the town hall is to close at the end of the month.

Thur 11th June

ARMY TAKES TO PEDAL POWER TO HELP THIRD WORLD COUNTRY

A crack team of eleven Arborfield soldiers cycled all the way to Gambia in West Africa in just five days but the iron-men did not move an inch, because their 3,852 mile effort was confined to the main hall at the Coombes Infant School, in School Road, Arborfield.

They went the distance on three exercise bikes in a marathon attempt to raise about £9,000 for a foetal monitor for the Kuntaur Medical Centre, and has raised money for it in the past. The soldiers from the School of Electronic and Aeronautical Engineering cycled non-stop for 24 hours until Friday afternoon.

Pupils used the riders as impromptu laboratory subjects and monitored their hearts and blood pressure as they rode. Some also helped by riding a few miles on the third bike as part of their science lessons.

The hall where the marathon took place was also used for lessons while the soldiers kept cycling. They sat through dance and P.T. Lessons. Warrant Officer John Canham, whose children go the school, said with the soldiers doing one hour shifts

every five hours, it was a bit of a talk staying awake. Teachers and parents also helped the marathon effort on bike number three. Due to their help the cyclists had to slow down a little on Wednesday night. The idea was finished on Friday at about 2 pm, but they were averaging about 1,000 miles and were well ahead of schedule.

Thur 2nd July

CARNIVAL PROCESSION IS CANCELLED

There will not be a Summer Carnival procession this year because “carnival overkill” has undermined the organisers’ efforts. Managers of this year’s carnival, West Forest Round Table, say there has not been enough enthusiasm to forge ahead with the procession because of possible carnival fatigue. The carnival takes place on July 11th, later in the year because it has to compete with the Town Twinning celebrations, the Donkey Derby, May Fair and Winter Carnival.

Only six organisations expressed an interest in dressing a carnival float.

Thus 9th July

SAFETY BILL STUNS CARNIVAL ORGANISERS

Wokingham Carnival organisers are furious because they have been hit with an £800 bill from Wokingham District Council to cover health and safety monitoring. This will eliminate takings from this Friday’s blues concert at Cantley Field intended for charity. This is also bad news for local charities and organisations hoping for a windfall from carnival profits.

According to a district council spokesman there is a strict legislation on health and safety and nuisance monitoring which the bill will cover. Until a few years ago this service was free to charitable events. Although the council was aware of the carnival, news about the concert came only recently when the application to hold the concert was received.

Thur 16th July

MARKET WAS MAGNIFIQUE

The wonderful smell of fresh baguettes garlic and cheese really pulled in the crowds on Saturday when the travelling French market came to town. Hundreds of people jammed the centre of Wokingham and joined huge queues to get a taste of some of the best food France has to offer. And the jolly atmosphere helped bolster relations with the visiting dignitaries from Viry Chatillon, who came for the weekend to cement their twinning links with Wokingham.

Both Mayors, Philip Harding and Gabriel Amard, walked side by side around the bustling market on Saturday morning admiring the tempting goodies on sale. Mr. Amard said the mix of both nations had really helped to bring the market to life. Cllr. Harding agreed that the market was excellent.

After looking around the market the Mayors and their parties took part in a reaffirmation ceremony in full civic dress in Howard Palmer Gardens, followed by a town walk in the afternoon and an evening concert at All Saints’ Church.

After a visit to Portsmouth on Sunday, the French guests left for home on Monday morning. Among the biggest attractions in the market were a huge bread and cake stall in the centre and cheese stalls nearby. The travelling traders came from all over Normandy and visit English towns throughout the summer. Gilles Colombier who was selling fish and fish pastes and soups said a lot of French Wokingham people had come out to buy his products.

The crepes stall proved very popular as lunch approached and owner Muriel

Charles, from Rouen said Wokingham folk were very generous

COUNCIL CLOSES TENNIS COURTS

The closure of well-used leisure facilities in Elms Road could mark the beginning of the slippery slope towards more housing in the town centre fears a Wokingham town councillor. Cllr Colin King has slammed the closure of the pitch and putt golf course and neighbouring tennis courts as “another nail in the coffin of the Wokingham Town leisure facilities”. He fears if the Wokingham Cricket Club site is released for housing developers could look enviously on the land across the road where the public golf and tennis facilities are.

Wokingham District Council has moth-balled the Elms Road facilities for this season as part of the £9M of budget savings which had to be found earlier this year. The district council says it will reopen the facilities at the earliest opportunity. But Cllr. King felt it was a crying shame that the tennis courts had shut. They were the most high-profile and accessible courts in the town. When Wimbledon was on there was a rush of youngsters to use the courts.

He added that the ruling Tories on the district council had previously off-loaded the Martin’s Pool site beside Milton Road to be concreted over.

Perry Lewis, deputy leader of the district council said that he could not make a commitment on when the pitch and out and tennis courts might be back in use. It would depend on how much money the council was given by central government in future. The facilities continue to be kept in a good state of repair.

ILLNESS FORCES TOWN CRIER TO CALL IT A DAY

Town Crier Ron Rimmer has retired because of ill-health. He had been Town Crier for nine years and was a familiar face at public events. Such was his reputation that Ron’s voice and bell was in demand from a number of authorities. Town Councillors have sent Ron their best wishes and hope he will be well enough to judge the competition for his replacement.

He took over from Chick Biddle. As a lasting tribute to Mr. Rimmer he has been allowed to keep his clock and hat as mementos.

It was not just rain that was drenching people in the “It’s a Knockout” tournament which formed one of the main grandstand attractions Teams competed on the obstacle course and the slippery pole with bags of wet sponges.

Like many of the groups at the carnival the Wokingham Air Cadets, based at the Carnival Pool car park in Wokingham are looking for recruits. Commanding Officer Dave Screen invited any 13 or 14 year-olds who might be interested to ring him on 0118 9621266.

Nearby the Emmbrook School’s stand was full of other teenagers raising money for a mission the cadets would be proud of. Around 40 Emmbrook School pupils and three teachers hope to travel to Zimbabwe next summer for a four-week expedition including trekking and community work. The students had organised the carnival’s answer to horse racing to raise money. Gambling lovers were asked to buy a squirmy friend for 20p for the maggot racing competition which happened throughout the afternoon.

Also on the lookout for corporate sponsorship was Jane Banks, supervisor of the Wokingham Play Bus which is an unusual travelling play group for Wokingham children. The bus was on view at the carnival. She explained that the bus was in need of some work and that there were some vacancies for children.

Barkham Pre-School were pulling in some extra cash with a tombola. The money goes into a pot and helps to buy new toys or whatever else is required.

On the other side of the field volunteers from the Ascot-based Paul Bevan Day Hospice for cancer patients hoped to raise £300 or more in their ongoing £1-a-go Ford Fiesta raffle.

Phil Harding, the Mayor of Wokingham who opened the carnival on Saturday afternoon, praised all the fund-raising efforts. The carnival was arranged by the West Forest Round Table organisers.

Thur 23rd July

A ROYAL APPOINTMENT

Rose Antink of Norreys Avenue was invited with her husband, Christian to attend the first Royal Garden Party of the year because of her years of work as an interpreter for the deaf and hard of hearing. At 4.00 pm she and another twenty-four guests met the Queen who chatted with each for a few minutes.

A week later Ken and Edna Goatley of Peach Street attended the second Royal Garden Party on Tuesday 14th for all the work he had done for charity.

Thur 30th July

LORD LIEUT. OPENS ROYAL BERKS AMBULANCE HQ

Royal Berkshire Ambulance's new headquarters in Finchampstead Road, Wokingham were officially opened by Philip Wroughton, Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire representing the Queen as Lord Lieutenant. He unveiled a plaque at the building on Monday.

The base is already working as the official headquarters and as the emergency medical communications centre for the whole county. The base not only despatches ambulances but also provides a message handling system for three large doctors' cooperatives. The operational management team, training teams and the trust's estates service all operate out of the site.

Thur 27th Aug

DISMAY AS CLINIC IS AXED

The Berkshire Health Authority board has decided to close Wokingham's Family Planning Clinic as part of £200,000 cuts to the family planning budget. Young people will now have to trek to Reading or Bracknell for help.

A Berkshire Health Authority spokesman said that there was no evidence that such a move will lead to more pregnancies. The Wokingham clinic was closed because there were concerns over the level of demand. Young people in particular responded to a survey undertaken a few years ago which revealed that they were quite happy to travel to another area because that safeguarded their anonymity.

The clinic at Wokingham Hospital is due to close on the 1st October when staff will be offered alternative positions by the Royal Berkshire and Battle Hospitals Trust.

Thur 3rd Sept

WOKINGHAM HISTORIAN DIES

A Wokingham historian who brought the town's past to life has died of a sudden heart attack at the age of 77. Dennis Ayres, who lived at Heath Close, was a keen researcher and a leading light with the Wokingham History Society. He also contributed regularly to the Wokingham Historian Journal and the Town Guide and helped to compile a pubs and ale houses book with author Judith Hunter. Mr. Ayres

was described as a reserved but helpful man whose main interest since retiring was local history.

Mr. Ayres moved to Wokingham 16 years ago with his wife Helen from Shenfield in Essex.

TOWN COUNCIL TO TAKE OVER 'DECAYING' LEISURE SITE

Wokingham Town Council has offered to come to the rescue of the beleaguered Elms Road leisure facilities. The town council wants to run the pitch and putt golf course and tennis courts which were both moth-balled by Wokingham District Council as part of a disastrous £9M of cuts.

The town council is to explore whether it can afford to purchase the land and run the pitch and putt and tennis courts under contract. The district council which hoped to reopen the facilities when cash became available has welcomed the idea.

Thus 17th Sept

HISTORIC CHAPEL SERVICES ARE SAVED

Churchgoers were relieved last week when they learned that the monthly public chapel services at Lucas Hospital, off Luckley Road that were under threat, because of the death of a minister, are to continue. At a meeting attended by representatives of many of Wokingham's churches in the chapel last Tuesday it was agreed that the services would continue. The services were traditionally held from 1665.

Volunteers are needed to lead the short services which take place at 3pm every third Sunday of the month and members of different Wokingham churches have agreed to organise them well into next year.

Thur 24th Sept

Major Harding welcomed members of the Wokingham and Woodley RAF Association to the district on Saturday as they collected for ex-servicemen, one of his favourite charities.

Thur 1st Oct

In 1973 Wokingham Borough Council became Wokingham District Council, and in April 1998 the District Council became a unitary authority.

The clinic at Wokingham Hospital and others in Tilehurst and Battle Hospital, Reading, are set to close today as part of a £200,000 cut in the West Berks family planning budget.

Thur 22nd Oct

A TOUCH OF CLASS

Just minutes after a colourful opening ceremony the new £6M Marks & Spencer food hall in Peach Street was heaving with happy customers. At 10 am, Cllr Philip Harding, the Mayor of Wokingham, cut the cord and declared the store open, accompanied by Stuart Brien, the regional manager for Marks and Spencer.

Thur 5th Nov

RON RIMMER DIES

Ron Rimmer has died in hospital after a long battle against leukaemia. Mr. Rimmer, who was town crier for nine years, died at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading on

Tuesday morning aged 75. He had lived in Wokingham for 36 years and worked in Slumberland, Molly Millers Lane, for 22 years until it closed down.

The rest of his career was with British Aerospace as a security sergeant. After his retirement in 1988 he took up the post as Town Crier until February this year. His widow, Avril, said he was a wonderful character and talked to everyone. He took part in two Town Crier championships on the Isle of Wight and Canada where he was accompanied by his wife. They had three sons. He was cremated at East Hampstead Crematorium on Wednesday, 11th November.

TOWN CRIER DEREK AIMS TO BE A ROARING SUCCESS

Wokingham has a new town crier, traffic warden, Derek Bowles. Derek, aged 62, said he had seen previous town criers perform while on traffic warden duty and picked up a few tips. He said that he would like to give something back to the community although I always fancied doing this job a little nearer retirement. I am glad to be doing something in the district which I really want to do and still be involved in the town and meeting people.”

Before being picked out for the post Derek practised his shouting across the Rose pub car park at home although his cats didn't appreciate the noise. Derek succeeds Ron Rimmer who died on Tuesday after a long illness. Derek aged 62 has lived in Wokingham for 18 years. Derek will be representing the town in other areas and expects to compete in a shout-out competition to find the town crier of the year, as well as attending many functions such as carnivals and fetes.

Thur 10th Dec

HERO PILOT SAYS IT WAS ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

Passengers on board a British Airways 747 to Montreal owe their lives to the skill of a Binfield (former Wokingham resident) pilot. In what has been described as one of the most serious incidents of its kind the jumbo jet flown by Rick Craft, slammed into a flock of 40 geese while circling above Montreal's Dorval Airport.

Captain Craft, aged 46, who has been praised for his actions, was forced to make an emergency landing in the dark after two of the aircraft's four engines were knocked out. Visibility for the crew was seriously affected by the remains of dead birds splattered across the front of the flight deck. The impact destroyed the radar cone and damaged the edges of the wings.

Captain Craft shut down the outer starboard engine. The other starboard engine was revving hard but had no propulsion because of a dead bird stuck inside and also had to be shut down.

Capt. Craft said, “all of us have flown through bird strikes before but not multiple bird strikes like this. We felt impact after impact on the flight deck, but the passengers were completely unaware of the extent of it all. I guess as a commercial flight goes, this was an exciting incident but we handled it professionally and calmly. For us it was all in a day's work. It's what we are paid to handle and trained to do”.

The incident occurred at 6.43 pm Canadian time on November 19th, after the jumbo had been told by air traffic control to circle because the runway was not ready.

A BA Spokesman said, “Captain Craft and his crew handled this episode impeccably, drawing on the highest levels of skill and training.”

1999

Thur 28th Jan

SADNESS AT THE LOSS OF EMMBROOK'S LOVELY LADY

News of the death of retired Wokingham Headmistress, who was a kingpin in setting up education in Emmbrook, will bring back memories for many former pupils. Miss Sarah Williams, who was the first headteacher of Emmbrook Infants, died on December 29th at the age of 77. She died at her homeland of Wales, having moved back there from Shinfield to be nearer relatives when her health failed.

But Clifford Wells, who was the first head of the original Emmbrook Primary, has contacted School Report because he feels many in Wokingham will remember her and want to pay tribute to “a lovely lady and loyal colleague, who served the Emmbrook area with distinction.” He wrote:—

“She was wise and poised with a quiet command, which was enriched by a great musical ability and even greater artistic talent. Her rich personality and ability were evident throughout both schools—a lovely lady and loyal colleague, who served the Emmbrook area with distinction.”

Miss Williams’ Emmbrook years spanned from 1965 until 1980. She had been teaching in the copper belt town of Bancroft in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) until 1964 and then at the Calcott Primary School in Wokingham.

In the early 60s, the town was booming and the old Palmer, Wand Wescott primary schools were bursting at the seams. Building began in Emmbrook and the pressure was so great, primary children were taught at first in the almost completed classrooms of the Emmbrook Secondary, while builders worked on their own building.

Mr. Wells had been appointed as head of the new primary and Miss Williams was his first full-time teacher. They got the school up and running despite initial drawbacks like no building, no complete playground but plenty of mud in their temporary home and infant classes of 50 in the afternoons of the first week!

In September 1965, 170 children moved into the new Emmbrook Primary School, with Miss Williams as deputy head with responsibility for the infants. Numbers still grew—it was the fastest growing school in Berkshire—and in 1968, the adjacent junior school was finished. Miss Williams became Infant headmistress and she retired from the position in 1980.

Mr. Wells who now lives in Shropshire paid the final tribute by saying:—”There will be many citizens of Wokingham who will recall happy memories of a dedicated teacher.”

Thur 4th Feb

MOBILITY SCHEME SUCCESS

Demands for scooter rides with Wokingham’s mobility project has reached saturation point leading to calls for a paid co-ordinator to take the scheme on to greater success. Membership of Wokingham Town Mobility and the amount of rides taken per week has increased by 150% in the last three months.

The project confidently projected a minimum of 30 members taking in excess of 15 rides per week by the end of March, in an outline business plan presented to Wokingham Town Council’s finance committee last week.

Wokingham District Council has a budget of £15,000 for boosting district-wide mobility. However, that money has been earmarked for capital use, meaning it can only be spent on an administrator. But Wokingham Volunteer Centre is arguing that before Wokingham Mobility can expand to run more scooters, a paid co-ordinator needs to be in place to cope with the extra workload.

This was described as a catch-22 situation by Cllr. Tina Marinos, chairman of the Town Council’s finance committee, and town council representative on the District’s access group. She called on Wokingham District Council to be more flexible with

how it spent its money and to come up with a more “open ended” arrangement to help get shopmobility off the ground.

The Town Council’s finance committee agreed to grant the volunteer centre £2,500 for the first six months running of the scheme, and a further £4,810 to fund it up until September. It was also decided a meeting should take place between representatives of the town council, Wokingham Volunteer Centre and the district access group to get Wokingham Town Mobility on to a ‘business footing’.

The committee felt the mobility scheme should work towards being self-financing.

EMMBROOK POST OFFICE

The people of Emmbrook will not have to trek all the way into Wokingham to visit the Post Office thanks to a revamped one-stop shop. Emmbrook Post Office and Store, run by Sanjay Odedra and his wife Rekha, was officially reopened on Saturday by the Mayor Cllr. Phil Harding and his wife, Mavis. The store had been undergoing renovation since December.

MOTORISTS LEFT CROSS BY BARRIER

Frustrated drivers have been left fuming again over stuck down barriers at the Starlane crossing in Wokingham. There have been long delays at the crossing in Easthamptead Road, since the automatic half-barriers were replaced by manual full barriers for safety reasons.

But last Tuesday the frustrations of several motorists reached boiling point. Motorists said the crossing remained shut for more than 20 minutes and drivers performed u-turns and sought alternative routes.

Railtrack said the delay was not due to a fault on the line but may have been the result of “an unusual frequency of trains”. A petition has been organised by staff at Holme Grange School in Heathlands Road, signed by 158 people expressing their frustration at the delays.

Wokingham MP John Redwood called on the district council and Railtrack to sort the problem out after he received 150 letters of complaint from constituents.

Railtrack spokesman Jane Terry confirmed the company was aware of the motorists’ frustrations. “I know the level crossing manager is going to look into it to see if there’s any way round the problem.” The difficulty under the new arrangements was the crossing was operated from a signal box using CCTV. For safety reasons a train could not be allowed to progress towards the crossing without the barriers already being down. This led to longer delays for motorists than under the previous system.

ROW OVER DE VITRE HALL’S £50,000 COSTS

The saga of the De Vitre Hall has taken a new twist with the district council threatening to slap a £50,000 bill on the town council to cover costs. The Norreys Hall project was effectively killed off before Christmas when Wokingham Town Council, one of the partners in the project, voted to withdraw its £100,000 of funding because the hall no longer represented value for money.

But the district council’s education and cultural services committee last week voted to reconvene the De Vitre Hall working party, with a view to making the town council pay for the fees incurred on the project.

In what has been termed the “Millennium Bridge effect” after the Wargrave foot and cycle bridge suffered the same fate. Tenders received by the district council for

the De Vitre Hall were far in excess of the budget. The hall had to be redesigned with many of its best features taken out.

Town councillor Tina Marinos laid the blame for the situation at the door of the district. It was its job to keep track of the tenders but it failed to do so. The town council had done the people of Wokingham and Norreys a service by not spending money on a hall that was below specification.

It was also reported to last week's education meeting that no legal agreement was believed to exist between the town and district councils with regard to fees.

Thur 1st April

CASH BOOST FOR SCHOOL REPAIRS

Dilapidated Wokingham schools are set to benefit from an injection of nearly £750,000 towards vital building work. The money announced by the Government on Tuesday under the New Deal for Schools package will further boost the £8M Wokingham District Council has already committed to patching up its school buildings.

Secondary schools to benefit from the £744,000 windfall include Forest Comprehensive School, Winnersh, which is to receive £110,000 towards refurbishing toilets and changing areas.

St. Crispin's, Wokingham will receive £26,000 towards window repairs.

Waingels Copse and Bulmershe Comprehensives, Woodley will receive £115,000 each for replacement alarm systems.

Waingels Copse will get a further £115,000 towards revamping changing rooms.

Primary schools to be boosted include St. Sebastian's C.E. Primary, Emmbrook Junior School. Wokingham, plus St. Dominic Savio R.C. Primary and South Lake Junior School in Woodley, Sonning C.E. Primary and Colleton Primary will also receive money for refurbishment

POLICE BOUNDARIES CHANGE

The long-awaited merger between Wokingham and Reading police is set to "streamline the service," according to chiefs. The new police area covering both the Reading Borough and Wokingham district areas including Woodley, Earley, Twyford and Wargrave came into operation today (Thursday).

Previously Wokingham district was split between the Reading and Bracknell Police areas, but now it all comes under one sector. According to Mick Hart of Wokingham Police the public won't actually see much operational difference but the greater partnership between the local authorities and the police area will mean a better service. The theme is problem-solving. There will now be one point of contact instead of two. Improving the communication between service and authorities has got to be of paramount importance.

The merger follows a Thames Valley Police initiative to align police area boundaries with those of local authorities in accordance with the recent Crime and Disorder Act.

Wokingham Police also has new telephone numbers. If you want to contact the duty officer at the station call (0118) 953 6000 and ask for Wokingham police Station. To report a crime where police attendance is not required, contact the Reading Crime Desk on (1118) 953 6372.

If you want advice and would like to leave a message for officers out of hours contact Reading Help Desk on (118) 953 6180. In the event of an emergency the number to call is still 999.

Thur 8th April

DISTRICT'S BIG BOOST FOR SPORT

A massive £4.57M is being ploughed into Wokingham District's sports centres, in a new partnership deal with a leisure services company. As part of a landmark deal two huge state-of-the-art gyms will open in than a year's time at the St. Crispin's Leisure Centre in London Road, Wokingham and the Carnival Pool in Wellington Road. And the 10year wait for a swimming pool in Earley is now over.

About half the investment will combine with the £1.9M Wokingham District Council has saved for the 25-metre pool at the Loddon Valley Leisure Centre in Chalfont Close. The facility, due to open in 2001, will also have a learner pool, a gym with 90 Machines, a café and a crèche.

The arrangement with the district council and Circa Leisure Plc is believed to be the largest of its kind in the UK. Circa Leisure which already runs the Carnival Pool, will now maintain the district's four leisure centres for 16 years, including the Ryeish Green centre in Shinfield. Residents will be able to use all the new facilities when they wish, and they will not have to fork out to become club members.

The investment package is the end result of the council's decision last May to team up with a company to manage leisure centres amid fears that it did not have the resources to provide the best facilities. After detailed discussions, Circa was picked by councillors last week.

Thur 15th April

40 SCHOOLS TO BENEFIT FROM SPENDING PLAN

Schools and roads will reap the main benefits of a massive £12.5M council spending spree. Wokingham District Council has agreed its capital budget for the coming year and it includes £3.7M to upgrade school buildings and nearly £2M for road and town centre improvements.

About a third of the cash has come from Government approved loans and the rest is from the sale of council property including the Downshire Golf Course and buildings it inherited from the Berkshire County Council. The spending is separate from the council's main ongoing revenue budget.

The cash is for one-off works and cannot be pumped into services or lowering Council Tax. The £22.5M figure is the rounded-up total the council will spend and it includes many schemes already known, such as £450,000 for a new park and ride on the A33.

More than 40 Wokingham district schools will get improvements, from new fire alarms to new classrooms. Thirty-year-old temporary classrooms at the Holt School in Holt Lane, Wokingham, will be replaced at a cost of £345,000.

About £1.4M of the budget will go on upgrading and resurfacing roads, £200,000 will help repair footways and £70,000 will be spent on the California Country Park paddling pool.

It is not all good news because the policy committee at the district council which approved the budget on Monday night, was told it will have only £22M in the next three years to spend on £58M worth of desired schemes.

Thur, 29th April

THE END OF AN ERA

At 4.45pm on Saturday the final whistle will sound on league football at Finchampstead Road after 93 years. Wokingham Town has been forced to sell the

ground to developers because of spiralling debts, and now face three years playing their matches at nearby Windsor & Eton. Over the years, the town ground has seen many great matches, some of which are highlighted in this special edition.

THE HISTORY OF WOKINGHAM TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Wokingham Town Football Club was founded in 1875, which makes it the fourth oldest club in Berkshire, with only Reading, Abingdon and Maidenhead having been formed only a few years earlier. The club's original ground was in Oxford Road, but after a few years a pitch was laid out on the cricket ground in Wellington Road. In 1896 a further switch was made to Langborough Road and some ten years later the club moved to its present ground in Finchampstead Road.

Town entered the Ascot & District League and quickly consolidated its position in local football, so much so, that in the 1909-10 season tickets were selling well at 2s. 6d. Each. In 1910-11 Wokingham Athletics second eleven joined forces with Town and there is little doubt that this paved the way to the club's first championship the following season.

By 1911-12 Wokingham was the unchallenged leaders of local football and the following year it enjoyed its most successful season when it won the Ascot League and the Camberley Hospital Cup.

After the First World War a dispute broke out between Wokingham and the league, which led to the Club's withdrawal and in 1921 it entered two teams in the Reading Temperance League.

In this first season Wokingham reached the semi-finals of the Reading Town Cup and the Berks & Bucks Junior Cup, both for the first time.

The year 1928 was another important milestone in Town's history, for not only was the league championship won for the second time, but also the purchase of the Finchampstead Road ground was completed. The new grandstand and pavilion were built at a cost of £630, and they were officially opened in April with a special match against Chelsea F.C. Who won 5—2 before a crowd of 900.

In 1949 the supporters' club was founded and its remarkable talent for raising funds was largely responsible for Town's mercurial rise from junior to senior football in the years that followed. In 1953 the final of the Berks & Bucks Intermediate Cup was reached for the first time, and the stage was set for entry into senior amateur football.

The club joined the Metropolitan League and subsequently transferred to the Delphian League.

The 1957-58 season brought a memorable Amateur Cup run, which saw the club reach the quarter finals, before losing 3—2 at Crook Town in front of a crowd of nearly 10,000. In 1959 Wokingham were admitted to the Corinthian League, in 1962 the switch was made to the Athenian League, and then to the Isthmian League in 1973.

The year of 1969 saw the club's first success in the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup, when a strong Slough side was defeated in the Final at Loakes Park, High Wycombe.

The club's first floodlights were installed in 1966 and the season was marked by a testimonial game with Fulham. These lights were eventually replaced at the start of season 1980-81. The 1981-92 season saw Wokingham win the Isthmian League Division One title by a clear cut 13 point margin, thereby gaining promotion to the Premier Division.

In its first season in the top flight in 1982-83, Town finished in 17th position, but marked another milestone in their history by reaching the first round proper of the F.A. Cup.

After drawing 1—1 at home to Cardiff City, they eventually lost the replay 3—0 at Ninian Park. This season also saw Town's second success in the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup when it overcame Bracknell Town by two goals to nil in the final at Wexham Park.

The 1983-84 could not have started in a more disastrous fashion, by the time November arrived Town had hardly risen above the bottom two. Nevertheless results improved and the position quickly changed, and an unbeaten run during December and January was then finish in fifth place.

They continued with this progress in the 1984-85 season finishing in 4th position, and also reaching the last 16 of the FA Trophy. Town also won the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup for the second time in three years by defeating Chesham United 1—0 in the Final at Maidenhead United's York Road ground.

1987-88 turned out to be one of the most successful seasons in Town's history, although it just missed out on a trophy. The AC Delco Cup semi-final was reached for the very first time but Town went down 4—1 on aggregate to Hayes.

The Berks & Bucks Senior Cup Final was reached for the third time in six years but a poor first half performance saw them lose 3—2 to Windsor & Eton. However it was in the FA Trophy that Town's really made its mark reaching the semi-final where it was paired with Telford.

Thur 3rd June

FREAK STORM 'WORST FOR MANY YEARS'

Lightning strikes and flash floods hit Berkshire like a monsoon in the tropics, pushing emergency services to full stretch. Dozens of calls were made in the Wokingham area between 4.30 pm and 6.30 pm on Saturday as firefighters were called out from Wokingham, Bracknell, Crowthorne, Wokingham Road and Whitley Wood stations.

The rain was so intense that it was described by some as an African storm. A bolt of lightning struck the chimney of a house in Blount Crescent, Binfield sending bricks tumbling to the ground. The electric pulse travelled down the chimney and jolted through aluminium panels on either side of the hearth blowing screws from ceiling panels and blistering the skirting board. The residents were shocked but unhurt. Firemen were called to remove loose bricks and broken tiles.

At 6.40 pm lightning also set fire to a tree in the grounds of Ludgrove School, Wokingham, killing a pigeon.

Water flooded the rear of Waitrose supermarket in Rectory Road, Wokingham, when roof drainage pipes burst under the pressure of the downpour. The staff reported a noise resembling an explosion when one pipe burst. The clouds were so heavy that the lights in the supermarket area switch on automatically as visibility dropped to ten metres.

OLD FOLK FLEE RESIDENTIAL HOME FIRE

Fifty people had to be evacuated from Kennet Court retirement flats in Sirius Close, Woosehill last Wednesday to escape poisonous smoke which came from an electric meter cupboard. The evacuation went smoothly and there was no panic. Firefighters from Wokingham were called out to tackle the problem.

Thur 10th June

PUBLIC ART UNVEILED AT TOWN LIBRARY

The first piece of 'public art' to go on display in Wokingham has been unveiled outside the town's library. The long-awaited library sculpture was revealed to the public in a ceremony attended by the artist, Lydia Karpinska, and representatives of Wokingham's Town Centre Management Initiative (TCMI).

A piece of 'public art' was included in the original planning application for Wokingham's Denmark Street library, which opened in October 1996. The T.M.C.I. Doubled the £5,000 budget set aside for the sculpture by Wokingham District Council, and following a public appeal for ideas for a theme, children and books emerged as favourites to be included in the design. A Times-supported creative writing competition was launched and the winners have since been immortalised in bronze.

Wokingham Society History Group came up with an idea of how to make the literary theme as close to home as possible. The sculpture is based on children's favourite *The Water Babies*, a story by former vicar of Eversley, Charles Kingsley. The character Tom—who can be seen peeking from the spine of the book which makes up the sculpture's structure—was based on a child sweep James Seaward who lived in Rose Street. A large contingent of Mr. Seaward's descendants attended the ceremony last Friday.

The construction of the bronze and steel sculpture was, according to Mrs. Karpinska, very complex. It was a slow process which required a great deal of communication with the craftsmen making the stainless steel book and casting the bronze figures.

Wed 7th July

RISING COSTS FORCES CLOSURE OF LISTED HOME FOR ELDERLY

The Henry Lucas Hospital, Luckley Road, Wokingham is to close in six months' time. The hospital is the only grade 1 building in Wokingham and is home to twelve elderly residents. The estate managers of the hospital which is owned by the Draper Company and Hanover blamed the closure on costs saying that they could no longer be met.

Both organisations are looking for more accommodation and have also pledged to ensure that the elderly tenants are re-housed in Wokingham or the area of their choice. The old hospital site which dates back to 1665 is being sold but a spokesman said that it was too early to say to whom it was being sold and for what purpose. The residents will remain in the hospital while talks are underway.

Wed 14th July

Last Thursday workmen of Swan Hill Homes began to demolish Wokingham Town Football Club's grounds. The next season, August 14th the team will be playing at Stag Meadow grounds sharing with Windsor and Eton Football Club.

Wed 21st July

TOWN THEATRE GETS GO-AHEAD FOR MAJOR REVAMP

Wokingham Theatre has secured planning permission for an extension to the north and west sides of its premises in Cantley Park, Wokingham. The project will boost the 125-seat capacity auditorium by a further 18. The size of the foyer and bar will be doubled and there will be enough space for a new box office and administration area. Backstage the £170,000 project will create improved lighting and sound facilities as well as more storage space.

The theatre will be able to fund around half the cost of the project and is hoping to raise the rest from businesses in the Wokingham area. Building work will start next summer and should be completed before Christmas 2000. During this period they will continue to stage productions at other theatres.

Wed 11th Aug

BENEFACTRESS LEAVES ESTATE TO WOKINGHAM SOCIETY

Miss Isobel Clifton, former partner in Clifton Ingram, Solicitors, founded by her uncle left £20,000 and most of her estate to the Wokingham Society. She had no connections with the Wokingham Society before her death in October last year so the bequest has baffled and delighted Society members.

She left Wokingham about twenty years ago as the developers moved in and the population swelled and moved to Farnham, Surrey where she died alone. She paved the way for professional women in the town, becoming its first female tax commissioner. Her successor in that job and one time executor of her will, Sue Balchin said that she hated the growth and development of Wokingham with a passion. She bought up a strip of land to stop the development of Elizabeth Park. She felt that the only body likely to do anything helpful for the town was the Wokingham Society.

Wed 3rd Nov

RENEWING OLD FRIENDSHIPS

An exchange which has been running between Wokingham and its twin town Erfstadt in Germany was renewed with a fresh visit. A party of 22 Germans from Freisheim-Erfstadt made a flying visit and were given a whirlwind tour of the town's hotspots. After scoring some strikes at Firstbowl, in Wokingham and a trip to Madame Tussaud's in London, the group partied the night away at a disco and barbeque at the Rides Sports and Social Club in Finchampstead.

Gordon McGrath, bar chairman of the Rides Sports and Social Club explained that the group had been visiting as part of an exchange since 1981. It started when the Californian Boys Football Club started to play football with their German counterparts.

The group which arrived on Thursday left after four days on Sunday.

QUEEN'S PRAISE FOR RAIL HEROES

Paramedics from Wokingham have been honoured by the Queen for their part in the Paddington rail crash rescue. Heroes, Linda Goulding, Andy Weavers and Mike Smith were presented with a telegram from the Queen at an awards ceremony on Thursday, October 28th, at the ambulance headquarters in Finchampstead Road, Wokingham. Fellow paramedic, Tom Michiels was unable to attend the ceremony in person due to work commitments.

Paramedic Mike Smith and trainee paramedic Tom Michiels became the first Berkshire crew to arrive at the scene of the fateful crash on Tuesday, October 5th. They were closely followed by Linda Goulding and Andy Weavers.

Talking of his experiences at the crash scene, Mr. Smith said, "The railway carriage looked like it had been laying on its side for about 20 years, not half an hour. There was a strong burning smell in the air."

Linda Goulding added, "We just went in there and did it. There wasn't any time to think about your own emotions."

The crews were sent down the railway embankment 200 yards from the burnt-out carriage and had to wait for about 45 minutes to take out the next patient. They took a

female patient, who had been trapped for four hours to the Central Middlesex Hospital where she was treated for spinal injuries, abdominal pain and hypothermia.

Presenting the awards, Keith Kerr, chairman of the Royal Berkshire Ambulance N.H.S. Trust said, "I'm sure it was a difficult day for you but I am pleased that the emergency services involved in helping in that incident have been recognised."

The Queen's telegram thanked members of the emergency services for their bravery and courage in helping save lives during a difficult rescue operation.

Wed 10th Nov

EXPLOSIONS ROCK LONDON ROAD

Houses near a Wokingham junk yard were rocked by massive explosions as fire swept through it at the weekend. As 50 foot flames lit up the sky, London Road residents were warned to stay away from their windows as gas cylinders exploded in the mystery blaze at the abandoned car yard at Plough Farm.

Around six or seven propane gas cylinders exploded but firefighters called to the scene at 2.07 pm on Sunday risked their lives to remove even more dangerous acetylene gas cylinders. Described as being like bombs. They were littered around the site.

The acetylene was finally contained by submerging the cylinders in water. A thermal imaging camera was used to determine when the cylinders were safe to be moved.

A fire engine from Wokingham, two from Bracknell and one from Wokingham Road, two police cars and paramedics were on the scene for the three hour battle with the blaze.

PARTY OFFICE INUNDATED AS SIR WILLIAM, 74, DIES

Sir William van Straubenzee who served as MP for the people of Wokingham for 28 years has died at the age of 74. Staff in the Wokingham Conservative Party office were flooded with calls from shocked friends and colleagues wishing to pay tribute to the man who was known for fiercely defending the interests of his constituents.

William Radcliffe van Straubenzee, who was of Dutch-German ancestry, entered Parliament in 1959—the year of Harold Macmillan's electoral triumph. A qualified solicitor, in 1960 he was made parliamentary private secretary to the Minister of Education, Sir David Eccles.

In 1970 Edward Heath appointed him Under Secretary of State for Education, under Margaret Thatcher, an appointment which reflected his lifelong interest in education. In 1972 he was sent to Northern Ireland as /minister of State under William Whitelaw, a man he had great admiration for.

After the double defeat of the Conservatives in 1974 his career ceased to flourish—he was left with his role as a Second Church Estates Commissioner, to which he had been appointed in 1971. He stepped down as MP for Wokingham in 1987 but never severed his ties with the town and the people he knew so well.

He made a point of writing to old friends at times of trouble. Most recently he wrote to a newly widowed party member to express his sadness at her husband's death. When the witty figure celebrated 25 years in office, members of Wokingham Conservatives wanted to present him with a gift. The privately generous man—who purchased the display cabinets still on show in the town council offices limited contributions to 50p.

He was astounded when money was raised to buy a barograph and a hip flask leaving a £100 to spend himself.

Wed 10th Nov

TANNERY SAVED FROM A HIDING HISTORICAL TOWN BUILDING WON'T BE DEMOLISHED

An historical town building has been saved from demolition after developers and planners failed to see eye to eye. Millgate Homes had applied to demolish the former tannery in Eyre Court, Finchampstead Road, Wokingham, so it could redevelop the site as flats. But a meeting of the development control sub-committee, held on Wednesday Nov. 3rd put a halt to the bulldozers. The committee felt the size of the new building—housing 10 flats—would cause problems for existing residents—it would be a loss of light for neighbouring residents. It was decided that negotiations had gone on long enough and the application was refused.

It was thought that the building may have been one of Wokingham's original silk mills but investigations failed to prove this and conservationists were unsuccessful in their bid to name the site as a listed building.

Wed 1st Dec

TOWN'S POLICE STATION IS AXED

The axe is set to fall on Wokingham's police station despite months of speculation and top-level denials. Speaking exclusively to the Wokingham Times yesterday, Inspector Paul Cassell confirmed the Rectory Road station would be replaced with a town centre 'one stop shop'. He told of how morale had been hit hard but he said that in the Wokingham force remained the most dedicated officers he had worked with.

The decision to close the station follows a nationwide review of the viability of police-owned buildings. The proposals to open a police shop—which will be staffed by civilians and open the same hours as the existing station—were unveiled by Inspector Cassell at a meeting of Wokingham Town Council's finance and general purposes committee last Tuesday. The committee decided to write to Chief Supt. Morrison of the Reading with Wokingham police area offering space in the town hall as a possible shop base.

NEW LIBRARY STARTED

The first chapter in the construction of Wokingham's new library began recently. It is hoped that building work will be completed to enable readers to start borrowing from the super-library in autumn 1996. The new premises will be on the former G. K. Motors site on the corner of Denmark Street and Langborough Road. It promises to be three times the size of the current facilities in Montague House and thousands more books are to be bought.

Berkshire County Council sold the Montague House site to developer Peter Luff who has plans to build a Waitrose super-store there. The project has been financed through money from the sale and funding from the Wokingham district and town councils.

Montague House will continue to serve as Wokingham's library until the new building, where work started on September 11th, is finished.