

SIDELIGHTS ON WELCOMING THE ASIANS FROM UGANDA TO BRITAIN

The villagers in the district of Tavistock and Yelverton in Devon were worried: it was rumoured that British Asians from Uganda were going to be put into Plasterdown Camp on the slopes of Dartmoor nearby. What were Asians like? They had never seen any. Fear and apprehension grew. The Asians came; Plasterdown Camp was found to be bleak, cold and exposed, but the Asians there were a cheerful lot, and the Liaison Officer appointed by the Co-ordinating Committee for the Welfare of the Evacuees from Uganda, Peter Stein, was a local man who knew his Devonshire neighbours. Soon the Asian families were being invited out; to make things interesting Peter would send the families along with a little packet of Indian spices, and suggest that they might like to help with the cooking. Offers of hospitality flowed in. Christmas approached, and great plans were made throughout the neighbourhood for Christmas hospitality. The Uganda Resettlement Board, however, the officers of which had always been worried about the bleakness of Plasterdown, decreed that the camp should be closed down early in December. It took Peter two whole days to cancel his Christmas hospitality arrangements in the neighbourhood, and there was much disappointment. The villagers had enjoyed getting to know the Asians. A number of Asian families were resettled in Plymouth, got homes and work and settled happily.

The same story can be told of almost every one of the 16 camps to which the Asians went in September, October and November 1972. At Maresfield in Sussex the Liaison Officer, John Eldridge, got 400 Asians invited out to lunch on the first Sunday after they had arrived. His catch-word as he phoned round was "Have an Asian for Sunday lunch", and then the inevitable comment was made "I wouldn't know how to cook him", and the joke went round and round the camp enjoyed by the Asians, enjoyed by everyone. John organised literally hundreds of his camp people to Brighton for an excursion; they were to be welcomed by the Mayor, go to the Aquarium and have supper at Sussex University on the way back to camp. On hearing about this I asked anxiously who was going to pay for the transport. "Oh that's all settled" said John, "the local Lions Club". The Lions business men's clubs in Kampala had had many Asian members, and here were the Sussex Lions doing their best to make their brother Ugandan Lions feel at home.

There were not only local hospitality, excursions and parties arranged, but churches got together, and helped the voluntary societies and the local councils which had the major task of finding houses for the new immigrants. Each of the churches in Swindon took on the furnishing of a council house allocated to the newcomers, welcomed the families in and saw that they understood the mysteries of organising life in this new country. Many other towns did likewise. The Kingston-on-Thames Churches' Housing Trust made a special effort and secured two houses, one of which was allotted to a family of 9, and the eldest daughter of this family I had known as one of the women scientist students at Makerere College in Kampala. The father of this family is 75, the mother 49; two elder daughters are nurses; an elder brother hopes to come to help maintain his parents but he is in Belgium at the moment, and unable to come to Britain because he is 'stateless'. Nazrim, aged 20, is at

Sussex University. Aziz, aged 18, is doing his A levels at Christ's Hospital School; he has already played hockey for Uganda and is in his school's first team. The next sister is doing her O levels in Crowborough, and the little sister of 11 is happily at school in New Malden. Kingston Council of Churches had arranged and supplied everything in the house; furniture, bedding, linen, china and cooking utensils; there were flowers in every room and two weeks' supply of food in the larder.

But this is the hardest part of Resettlement, the difficulty of finding housing, and it was this work with the Ugandan Asians which opened my eyes to what must be one of the major social problems in Britain today.

Hannah Stanton.

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For interest!

COMMUNITY CARE ASSOCIATION

(Mortlake/Sheen/Barnes Group)

For the last ten months this group has been meeting informally for a sandwich lunch on the third Wednesday of each month. The 20-or-so of us find it enjoyable and believe that there are probably many others in our area who might join us if they knew what these meetings offer. Kew, too, has a similar local group, and it is hoped that in time all the "townships" within the borough may follow suit.

The parent C.C.A. was established in the mid-1960s in Richmond before the new borough came into being, and since then has served the borough as a whole. Its original impetus came from a member of the Richmond Fellowship, who saw the need for communication between the caring professions (and caring individuals) and for a broad understanding of local resources (or their lack!) if the local community is to function well in supporting its members and preventing breakdowns of many sorts.

In practice the special job of the C.C.A. has been to supplement the work of the Council of Social Service among organisations, by drawing together interested individuals in monthly "Forums". Doctors, clergy, teachers, social workers, and voluntary "helpers" of every kind, meet each other to establish a close personal net-work, as well as to hear talks on local services or ideas from beyond our own boundaries. (These meetings are generally on second Fridays at 51 Sheen Road, Richmond, 12-30 - 2.00 p.m. and are open to all). The C.C.A., also, in the early days, produced a valuable survey of all local services; and as a special operation set up the Youth Project now at 9 Greville Rd., to meet the need of at least a few of the unattached or homeless youngsters in the borough.

In spreading the C.C.A. idea to local neighbourhoods, we hope to meet people where they actually live, or where they work. We have got off to a good start in Barnes/Sheen, with great support from the Borough Social Services and Health Departments and there is a good mixture of clergy and volunteers from varied fields, e.g. "Fish", Toc H, Hard of Hearing, C.A.B. and Housing Associations. At present we meet in a private house (12.30 - 2.00 p.m.) but would move to a suitable small hall if numbers grew. There is no subscription and minimum administration! Coffee is provided and members bring their own sandwiches.

(The Hampton & Sunbury Council of Churches will at its next meeting be considering the possibility of forming such a group in our own area, and it would be helpful if we could have some indication beforehand of the support it might expect to receive. - Ed.)

PARISH MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION

During the summer months it often happens that several of our regular distributors are away on holiday at the same time. This leaves quite a considerable task for the remaining few.

It would be of great assistance therefore, if we could prepare a list of volunteer helpers, who would be prepared to do relief distribution occasionally of about 20 - 30 copies.

If there is anyone who feels they would like to help in this way, please give your name and address to Mrs.P.Young. Tel: 979-5629.

If you are already a regular distributor, it would be a great help if you would notify either Mrs.Young, or whoever usually brings your magazines, if you expect to be away - noting that the magazines should now be out regularly just before the second weekend in each month.

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THE MOTHERS' UNION

On the first Thursday of May we were all enthralled by the vivid account of "Life in Pakistan" given by Mrs.Safia Shoaib. Innumerable questions were asked and comprehensively answered, the meeting went on far beyond our usual time, everyone was reluctant to leave - we would all have listened willingly to our speaker for much longer. The correct way of wearing the Sari was demonstrated - Mrs.Young being the willing model. We hope that our speaker enjoyed being with us as much as we enjoyed having her at Wayside.

A week later four carloads of members had a most enjoyable visit to Guildford - thanks to the four drivers Mesdames Bellingham, Gostling, Severn and Young. On arrival we all went our separate ways - some to the Cathedral others to explore the shops. Lunch at Debenham's followed, then we proceeded to the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre and enjoyed a matinee performance of "George and Margaret" with Dora Bryan in the star role. Glorious weather added to the pleasure of the drive through very attractive country; we are all grateful to Mrs.Edmonds and Mrs.Young who made the arrangements.

Two generous donations have raised the total profit from the Austerity Lunch to £17.10p, the best result since this event was started in 1967. Thanks to all who supported the effort.

Our June meeting will be at 2.30 p.m. on Friday 8th inst., at 40 Gloucester Road, hopefully in the garden.

Deanery Festival will be held at St.Mark's Teddington, at 2.30 p.m. on Monday June 25. The Preacher will be the Rural Dean, the Rev.E.J.Cotgrove

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THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS' LEPRA PROJECT

It was in 1966 that the various departments of the Sunday School joined in a project to support financially a child suffering from leprosy and receiving treatment in hospital.

The first one was a boy, Gandu Muni, who was then in a leprosy hospital in Cuttack, India. This 14 year old boy had infective leprosy all over his body, and for some time had a severe reaction to the drugs. However, as time progressed, he began to respond to the treatment, which continued for two years.

At the end of that time he was sufficiently recovered, and old enough to work and earn money to pay for the rest of his treatment.

The next child was Tongekwa Shija, aged 11, who was being treated in the Sekonge Leprosarium in Tanzania. He was one of a large family of which three other children also had leprosy. After four years' treatment he has been discharged cured and we now have R. James, aged 15, from Tuticorin, India. He has leprosy and also a tuberculoid patch on his face, both conditions being diagnosed by a doctor for whom he was doing some work.

The children of the Sunday School do take a real interest in these boys and ask, spontaneously, about their progress. They are remembered in their prayers and a point is made of saying "thank you" for the progress and recovery of the first two.

At Christmas the Rectory Sunday School children all sign a card which is sent to the boy currently being helped, their only regret being that it is not possible to keep in touch with, and follow the progress of, the other two.

Lepra has now introduced mobile clinics which can tour round and treat many children in their own homes, as this is less unsettling than a spell of several years in hospital. It is, of course, cheaper and thus more children can benefit. Financial help is much needed and an interesting booklet about the work is available, a copy of which I shall be pleased to send to anyone who would like to see it. The address for further information is:-Lepra, 50 Fitzroy St., London, W.1.P. 6 A.L.

H.J.W.

(N.B. Our Whitsun Offerings this year are for Lepra. - Ed).

SOCIAL EVENTS

We would very much like to thank all those who took part in the repeat performance of the concert which was put on primarily for the old people on Friday May 11. In spite of the long gap between the shows, the costumes all turned up, the make-up was at hand, the spot-light in place, the stage-hands were at the ready and all the 80 performers were rehearsed. All went more or less without a hitch. We hope the audience of about 100 people enjoyed the show as much as we did.

The whist drive filled the large room at Wayside and I think it would be true to say we had every standard of whist player there, but no one seemed unduly bothered by having his ace trumped by his partner! The general opinion seemed to be that we should have whist drives more often.

If you missed these functions, why not come to the Vicarage garden on the evening of June 21 when our parish will be entertaining the Methodists from Hampton?

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JUNIOR BADMINTON

The junior and beginners' badminton club has been running now for about twelve years and has introduced many people, both young and not so young, to the game. Four young people even qualified for the Middlesex junior championships at different times. However, in spite of many enthusiastic young people ready to start their season next September this club will probably come to an end unless we can find an adult badminton player who

would be willing to take on the club; some help is readily available but a knowledge of the game is essential with beginners. If there is anyone who feels they might be interested in this would they please contact me for further information.

E. Severn 979 1954

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TIME AND TALENTS (1)

Was it really a year ago that the newly-decorated Parish Hall re-opened? Records quickly confirmed it, and close inspection revealed a commensurate accumulation of dirt on the paintwork, windows and curtains. A "spring-clean" was accordingly advertised for the weekend of 28-29 April, and appeal made for help.

Came the event and all of the paint work, including the walls, was washed, the floors scrubbed, the windows cleaned inside and out, accumulated junk cleared away, and various repairs done including repainting damaged areas.

Warm thanks to the four parishioners who lent their support to a hardcore of six Hall Management Committee members and their spouses in achieving all this

TIME AND TALENTS (2)

It is now more than eight years since Denis Leatherdale and Roy Brooks took on the task of Churchyard Guardians, and over all that period they have faithfully given of their time, regularly, week in and week out, in tending and improving the Churchyard. Others, myself included, have given occasional help, and support from the parish at large has always been forthcoming when "mass attacks" have been organized each year; however, theirs has been the constant effort and purpose. (And this in addition to their work on the Properties and Hall Committees.)

Two comments on this: firstly, none of us is growing younger, and the time is approaching when some new and possibly younger help on a regular basis will be needed if we are to maintain the present condition of the Churchyard. Secondly, the Guardians get a tremendous psychological "lift" when they get good support for a "Mass Attack" - and vice-versa!

This year we have set aside the week of 9 - 16 June (both Saturdays inclusive) to try and trim the whole Churchyard. Can we hope for really massive support during this period? And a demonstration thereby of appreciation?

And lastly - the compost heaps behind the shed and near the St. James's Avenue gate must soon be reduced or removed; these comprise mainly rotted matter which we can spread and level in the grassed areas, but also a lot of debris which must be sorted out and carted away. At a guess, about 12 days work for one man, or pro-rata; if you can lend your muscles for half a day or upwards, offers please to me or Denis Leatherdale.
J.W.Gostling

CONFIRMATION 1973

The Bishop will minister Confirmation at the Parish Communion on the Sunday of our Dedication Festival, December 9. Classes of preparation will shortly be formed, to which people are invited to come without any commitment at this

stage. The Vicar would be glad if all who are interested could meet him on Sunday June 17 to discuss arrangements; adults (18 and over) after Parish Breakfast, younger people after Evensong, in church.

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SUPPORT THE GOOD WORK

On Saturday, June 23 1973, commencing at 2.30 p.m. the BISHOP WAND CHURCH OF ENGLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL will be holding its Summer Fete in the school grounds at Layton's Lane, Sunbury-on-Thames. As many readers will know, the School draws its pupils from a very wide area, covering some 30 parishes, including our own, and since its founding in 1969 the School has rapidly achieved a name for educational "forward thinking" in the widest sense, based on high academic standards and Christian principles. Needless to say, funds are urgently needed for the provision of facilities and equipment which are not financed by Church, State or Local Authority and all profits will be used for such purposes.

Please come and enjoy yourselves on this occasion and at the same time contribute to a very worthwhile cause. Admission is by programme, price 5, which can be obtained from members of the School, the Parent/Teacher Association, or at the gate on June 23. Car parking will be available in the grounds.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

June

- 9 - 16 MASS ATTACK on overgrown vegetation in the churchyard; please give as much help as you can.
- 10 WHITSUNDAY: Sunday arrangements as usual. All non-pledged offerings for leprosy relief through the agency of LEPROA
- 11 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 12 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 14 10.30 a.m. Editorial Board (63, Park Road)
- 17 Short meetings for Confirmation candidates; adults 11.00 a.m. junior candidates 7.30 p.m. (in church)
- 19 SAINT BARNABAS THE APOSTLE: 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion; 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club - Discussion Evening (W).
- 20 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. Deanery Synod (All Saints' Parish Hall, Twickenham).
- 21 8.00 p.m. St. James's 'At Home' to members of the Hampton Methodist Church (Vicarage Garden).
- 23 10.00 a.m. - 12.45 p.m. Annual Stewardship Conference (Holy Trinity Church Hall, Brompton). 2.30 p.m. Summer Fete in grounds of the Bishop Wand School, Sunbury).
- 25 2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Deanery Festival Service (St. Mark's Teddington), 8.00 p.m. Properties Committee (36, St. James's Road).
- 29 SAINT PETER'S DAY; 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 3 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club; Speaker - Chief Superintendent Evans (W).
- 4 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion: 2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Service.
- 17 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club: Social Evening (W): 8.00 p.m. Committee of Hampton & Sunbury Council of Churches (St. Mary's Hall, Hampton)

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BAPTISMS

May

- 20 Simon James Hawkins, 13, Chelsea Close (at the Parish Communion).
- 27 Anna Jane Frances Kemmis, 36, Westbank Road.

MARRIAGE

May

- 19 Stuart Russell Cann to Marilyn Woodcock.