

NEWS *and* VIEWS

OF WOODSIDE PARK

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News and Views

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE
WOODSIDE PARK RATEPAYERS' AND RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION

Volume IX

No. 4

March - April, 1964

LOCKWOOD TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

YOU may have read quite recently that our local exchange, Hillside, is nearly filled to capacity and that a new exchange, called Lockwood, is to be provided. This exchange is to be installed in the same building as Hillside. Since Lockwood seemed to be a rather unusual choice of name, we have written to the local Telephone Manager for some information on the method of selection of titles for post office exchanges.

In his reply, he explained that, as far as possible, the Post Office tried to find a name of geographical significance or one with local associations.

Many years ago when telephones were comparatively few this presented no problem. For example, Finchley and Hendon were allocated to the Finchley and Hendon areas, but when a further exchange was required at North Finchley, some other name had to be chosen. Woodside was not possible as the first three letters of this name clashed with those of Woolwich, and North Finchley was ruled out as there was already a North exchange in the London Directory area, and also because there may have been confusion with the existing Finchley. Hillside was eventually chosen, primarily, because at that time there was no other exchange in the London area beginning with the letters HIL.

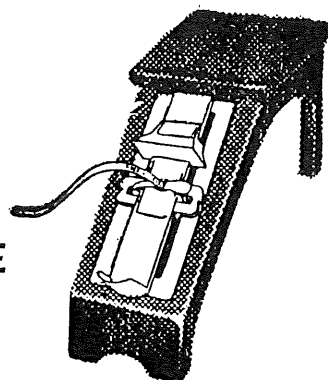
A further complication is that as the dial cannot differentiate between letters and numbers, HIL is equivalent to dialling "445." If you glance at your dial you will observe that the same digits are dialled for HIK, HIJ, GIL, GIK, GIJ, IHL, IHJ and IHK. Hence, once the letters HIL were allocated, the eight combinations mentioned became unusable. It is, therefore, not difficult to envisage that the faster the London network grew, the more and more difficult it became to allocate a letter code which was obviously suitable and yet did not clash with one already in existence. This is the position in which the Post Office finds itself in selecting a name for our exchange. Whetstone is not possible as the first three letters clash with those of Widmore exchange; Dollis Brook is inadmissible as

(Continued on page 3)

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(continued from page 1)

there is already a Dollis Hill exchange; Totteridge would clash with Tottenham; Torrington Park is also ruled out as it may lead to confusion with the exchange called Torrington, in Devon, and calls for our new exchange may be misrouted to that exchange and, of course, *vice versa*. Sometimes, names which appear quite suitable have to be ruled out because when tested over the telephone they are not understood easily, or are confused with other names. As often is the case, the Post Office has to fall back on a list of arbitrary names starting with three-letter combinations not yet in use, and which have proved satisfactory when tested phonetically. From this list the name Lockwood has been chosen for our new exchange.

The area served by Lockwood will be the same as by Hillside, so do not be surprised if you find your new neighbour with a Lockwood number. However, this will not be for some time as the new exchange is not likely to be ready until some time in 1965; it may even be later.

With the opening of the new exchange, subscriber trunk dialling facilities (S.T.D.) will be given on both Lockwood and Hillside. This means that we shall be able to dial many of our trunk calls, and that charging will be automatic and recorded on the same meter as our local calls. At the same time, timing of local calls will be introduced so that instead of a fixed charge for each local call, the charge will be proportional to the duration of the call; it will also vary according to the time of day. Between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. on a week-day the charge will be 2d. for 6 minutes, and during 6 p.m. and 6 a.m., 2d. for 12 minutes. The charge throughout Sunday will also be at the cheaper rate, i.e. 2d. for 12 minutes.

Road Safety and Accidents on the Estate

Your Committee takes a great interest in Road Safety and one of its members, Mr. V. J. J. English, represents the Conference of Rate-payers' Associations of Hendon on the Road Safety Committee. Regrettably there have been a number of accidents on the estate in recent weeks and it has occurred to us that it might be valuable in any future negotiations with the Council to have a list of such accidents. We would be grateful, therefore, if anyone who sees an accident would send a short written report to the Honorary Secretary.

Local Drama Company's Ambitious Production

On Friday and Saturday, 1st and 2nd May, the St. Barnabas company will be celebrating the Shakespeare Quater-centenary with a production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" under the direction of Eric Stevens. To their many supporters who have expressed disappointment that they will not be staging a pantomime this year they say in this work of the Bard there is the sublimest of pantomime. The company is worthy of your support as few other amateur players are celebrating the quater-centenary.

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THE PEOPLE AROUND US

6, INGLIS BARRACKS, MILL HILL (*continued*)

By Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E.

The Middlesex Regt. (D.C.O.)

Curator of the Regimental Museum at Deansbrook Road, Edgware

November 1922 saw the unveiling of the Regimental Memorial in the presence of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of the Middlesex Regiment. The barracks were gaily decorated and crowded with relatives of the fallen and guests and friends of the Regiment. All local dignitaries were there and so were the kindly neighbours whose unselfishness and cheerful help to the lonely soldier made the stay at Mill Hill bearable for so many.

So far the barracks had no name except 'The Barracks, Mill Hill'. Writing paper embossed 'Albuhera Barracks' can certainly be found amongst old correspondence but the name was never official. The different roads within the gates were named after notable personalities in the regiment and such names as 'Inglis Road', 'Picton Road', 'Jackson Road', 'Veitch Road', (the last two named after the two Ensigns who carried the Colours at Albuhera) 'Marsh and Arabian Roads' commemorating the names of two Colonels who formed the 57th and 77th Regiments in the eighteenth century, were known by all ranks who enlisted between the two world wars. It was not until the end of World War II that the Barracks were officially designated 'Inglis Barracks' after the gallant commander who called out to his men to 'die-hard' on that sanguinary field of Albuhera in 1811.

1939 did not see a repetition of 1914 but nevertheless the place was a hive of activity. The regiment was now a Machine Gun Regiment and as no ground for training existed locally, the men were moved to Chester. For a time in 1941 and '42 a company of the London Irish Rifles occupied some of the barrack rooms, although the band of the 2nd Bn. Middlesex Regiment and Depot H.Q. Party still remained.

The Royal Army Ordnance Corps then moved in and in 1942 a new unit, the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers was formed from specialists of the Royal Engineers, Royal Army Service Corps and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. A very interesting ceremony took place on the Drill Square on this occasion. The personnel of the R.A.O.C. who were to transfer to the new corps formed up and marched past the senior officer, receiving the command, "Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Eyes . . .", as they paid compliments. On reaching the far side of the square they halted, turned and stood at ease. All then removed the badge of the R.A.O.C. from their headdress and replaced it with that of the R.E.M.E. They then marched past the senior officer, paying compliments to the command, "Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Eyes . . .". Not only had Mill Hill seen the birth of a Barracks, it had seen the birth of a

(*continued on page 7*)

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regiment. On the square the badge of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps was buried. It remains there to this day.

After the end of the war of 1939-45, the army was re-organised and the barracks became a training depot under the heading '57 Primary Training Centre'. Before this could take place, the inhabitants had to be transferred. What a mixed bag it was too. The writer, who was the officer who was moved in for the task, found the Regimental Band, a party of R.E.M.E., some Royal Engineers, a detachment of the Free Polish Army, German Prisoners of War and each day a squad of A.T.S. would arrive from their camp for clerical duties and of course there was also the Regimental Depot Party.

The Jubilee year 1955 was commemorated by the erection of new gates at the main entrance, the ceremony being performed by the Mayor of Hendon, Councillor S. Sharpe. He said, "Many famous soldiers have entered these portals. I am sure many more will go out of here and do honour in the world". That can well be so. The Middlesex Regiment have now moved out and the buildings taken over by the Home Postal Depot, Royal Engineers, a Unit whose work brings joy to the soldier stationed in all parts of the world. The Tommy — and his commander — will work without pay, little or no tobacco, and little or no rest from his labours, but as long as he receives his letter from home you have a man who is content and will face all difficulties with a smile.

On January 31st, 1961, the Regimental Flag of the Middlesex Regiment was hauled down for the last time in the presence of the small Depot Party and a contingent of old comrades, one of them being a local old soldier and Boer War veteran who entered the gates in April 1905 with the original men from Hounslow.

The barracks (later Inglis Barracks) had been the only home the County Regiment had in the whole of its history to call its own. It now returns to what it had done from its birth in 1755 until 1905, that is to share a training establishment with other units in another County.

The Home Postal Depot, Royal Engineers are a Unit descended from the 24th Middlesex Rifle Volunteers (Post Office Rifles) so their occupying the old Depot of the Middlesex Regiment is akin to a member of the family taking over a part of the family estate. The new buildings will also house a battalion of the Women's Royal Army Corps. This is as it should be. The borders of Middlesex and Hertfordshire are claimed by the authorities to be the scene of the last action of that British Warrior Queen Boadicea. In this part of Middlesex are also two places known as 'Boadicea's Grave', therefore it is apt that Britain's Women Soldiers of today should be billeted near to where Britain's greatest warrior queen and general lived and soldiered nineteen hundred years ago.

Near the barracks so euphonious that they trip off the tongue, are Cissbury Ring, Chanctonbury Way, and Lullington Garth, the mere

(continued on page 8)

sound that makes the feet twinkle. The pleasant surroundings plus the history that has seen its birth in Inglis Barracks, takes one's mind back to what the historian says of the County: "A wild and lovely county this in olden time, haunted by witches and warlocks, by Egyptians and conjuring folk as well as kings and queens and grim spectres that flittered around Camlet Moat".

Note: The name Inglis is pronounced by the family in the Scottish way, i.e. Ingles. The 'Egyptians' in the last paragraph refer to our present-day gypsies.

R.W.J.S.

Horticultural Hints

Although previously in these notes I have written on Chrysanthemum culture, an "Encore" may be of advantage, the more so because I am sure that the percentage of people who grow Chrysanthemums as a speciality is still comparatively small. The fact that large and beautiful blooms can be grown outdoors should be an inducement to more of you to grow a few plants this year; even if you have to buy them. I hope that the following condensed description of the general procedure will be of assistance.

The best plants are undoubtedly grown from cuttings, which may be taken as soon as they are available. They can be rooted in boxes or pots containing compost, or in vermiculite, a material in which they acquire a wonderful root system. Before planting, the base of the cuttings should be dipped in hormone powder. When they have rooted they should be transferred to separate pots, but if there is insufficient growing time they can be planted directly into the open ground. There is another form of cuttings known as "Irishmans," which are the suckers with roots which are detached from the parent plant. They may be potted on, or planted out and usually make quite good plants.

The ground in which the plants are to be grown should be suitably prepared as early in the spring as possible. Manure or compost with bone meal should be dug in. On the subject of feeding, when the plants are well established they should be top dressed regularly about every ten days with a suitable fertiliser. Feeding should continue until the buds show colour.

Planting out should be done during May and the plants may be spaced as closely as one foot in rows two to three feet apart.

When the plants are about six inches high, they should be stopped by picking out the growing tip in order to encourage the growth of side shoots. Eventually a cluster of buds will form at the top of each side shoot which should be disbudded, leaving only the centre bud to develop. Spray as necessary to keep plants free from aphids.

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Civil Defence — National and Local

By A. C. W. DAY, Civil Defence Officer, Hendon

LAST Autumn, the Home Office Civil Defence Department held, as it has each Autumn in recent years, a recruiting campaign with the object of attracting more men and women to join, in a voluntary capacity, one of the various Divisions of Civil Defence throughout the country.

The Publicity set out to give a clear picture of the scope and purpose of home defence preparations and the reason why more volunteers of the right calibre are needed, and in the opening paragraphs of a frank public report on 'The state of Civil Defence to-day' the Government asked three questions (which so many rate-payers must themselves have asked) — why do we need Civil Defence? — what could it do? — is it worthwhile?

The statement made it clear that if a nuclear attack were made on Britain large parts of the country would probably suffer enormous and immediate devastation and there would be tremendous loss of life, but nevertheless that it is the firm conclusion of leading scientists that large areas would escape devastation, and that millions of people would survive.

So long as there is the slightest risk of war it is clearly the duty of any government to make preparations for survival after attack, preparations which would enable those who escaped to help those who were injured, preparations which would enable the country to set about the staggering problem of rehabilitation and recovery.

These preparations, which cover many aspects of national life, including Food, Water, Fuel and Power, Transport, Hospital Services, etc. are collectively called for convenience 'Civil Defence.' That part of the preparations most concerned with local effort, with the organisation of life-saving operations, the control of forces of different types, the control of welfare work for the homeless and the hungry, is the responsibility of the Civil Defence Corps.

The Middlesex County Council is a Civil Defence "Corps Authority," statutorily responsible for organising a Division of the Corps, and it has delegated much of this responsibility to each of the district Councils.

The detailed work of organising Civil Defence in Hendon is carried out by the Civil Defence Section of the Town Clerk's Department, and the men and women enrolled into Civil Defence become members of the "Hendon Sub-Division" of the Corps. They are trained in the work of one of five main sections, according to their own choice, and the functions of these sections, very briefly, are as follows:—

The Warden Section — comprises men and women knowing their own locality, capable of leading others and advising the public

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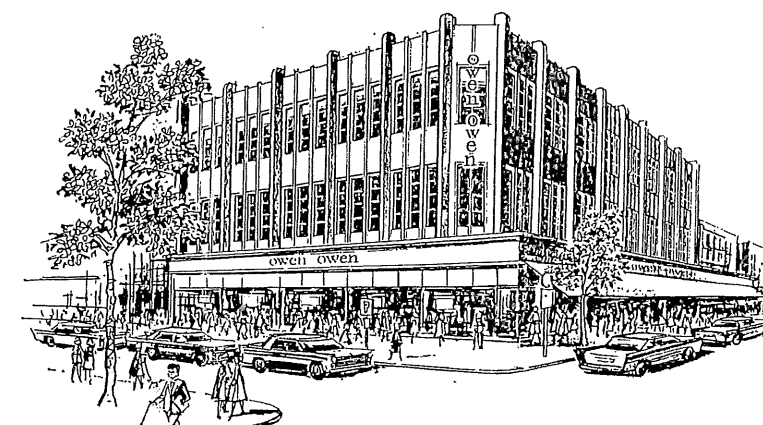


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16-22 London Co-op Chemists, 845 High Road, N.12.
23-29 R. H. Nind, 808 High Road, N.12.

30 MARCH - 5 APRIL

Timothy Whites and Taylors, 730 High Road, N.12.

APRIL

- 6-12 Boots Cash Chemists, 788 High Road, N.12.
13-19 H. G. Brockhurst Ltd., 787 High Road, N.12.
20-26 Olins Chemists Ltd., 321 Ballards Lane, N.12.
27 APRIL - 3 MAY A. Leiter, 601 High Road, N.12.

MAY 4-10 C. W. Leaversuch, 73 Woodhouse Road, N.12.

In addition the following branches of Boots Cash Chemists are open as follows:—

60-62 Kilburn High Road, N.W.6 (Daily to 9 p.m.).
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what to do, and organising the local community. The Warden is the first link in the chain of control and communications.

The Headquarters Section — consists of three sub-sections, one providing personnel responsible for overall direction of services and assessment of problems (Intelligence and Operations sub-section), another providing personnel responsible for communications provided by telephone, wireless, field telephone or despatch rider (Signals sub-section) and the third, providing personnel trained to obtain and assess technical and scientific information (Scientific and Reconnaissance Sub-section).

The Rescue Section — Comprises tough, intelligent men who can work skilfully with modern equipment to release trapped persons, injured and uninjured.

The Ambulance and First Aid Section — the task of members is to provide immediate medical care before doctors and surgeons take over and to transport casualties to medical aid units and hospital.

Welfare Section — the personnel have responsibilities concerned with food, shelter, clothing, providing everyone with information, particularly the frightened and the homeless.

The volunteers train at the Civil Defence Headquarters, which is near the Town Hall in The Burroughs, N.W.4, or at the Training Centre at Daws Lane, Mill Hill (adjacent to the swimming pool). Most training, including a ten-hour course on first aid, takes about 50 hours and is carried out in evening sessions of two hours from 8 p.m. - 10 p.m. usually held weekly but sometimes fortnightly on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays, according to the subject.

Occasionally indoor or outdoor exercises are held or perhaps a visit is paid to the Divisional Training Ground at Hayes.

Sometimes a larger combined exercise or training activity is held — usually on a Sunday as for example the week-end course which was held in mid-summer 1962, when personnel from Hendon, with others from Finchley, Barnet and Elstree travelled in convoy, completely self-supporting, spending the night at an Aerodrome and then proceeding to Norwich where a practical exercise for all sections was held before the columns returned home. Or the 'one day training school' held as recently as November, 1963, when nearly 300 volunteers travelled to the Divisional Training Ground and took part in individual and combined training.

After initial or "Standard" training a volunteer may take a test which if passed enables him to go forward to Advanced Training for which, subject to certain simple conditions, he may qualify to be paid a bounty of £10 per annum, or in the case of Officers, £12 or £15 per annum.

Although the grim nature of the possibilities of nuclear attack are not under-rated it is a fact that volunteers in training are seldom

bothered about the possibility of having to put into practice in such conditions the skills they are learning and members quickly make friends and enjoy the companionship offered during the class training.

The social side is mainly the care of the Hendon Civil Defence Association which provides social amenities of various kinds and Friday night at the Headquarters is always set aside for social activity.

Much of the work of planning civil defence 'preparations' proceeds quietly and the results are not 'published' — for example, buildings which would be needed for use, in emergency, as a Welfare Rest Centre or a Warden's Post, are earmarked and only if the emergency seems likely to arise will such information become generally known.

Civil Defence training has an accepted place in peace time because in such emergencies as railway accidents or aircraft crashes, or flooding of homes etc., members of the Corps can be mobilised to assist the normal peace time civilian services. There have been many instances when such assistance has been given.

Civil Defence cannot reduce the inevitable destruction of a nuclear attack, but it could provide an organisation upon which would be based the work of helping the injured and sick and the homeless, and provides training now for men and women who, in an emergency, peace or war, would want to try to help others. It could do much to minimise the chaos resulting from a nuclear attack by providing a system of communications and control when no other system was available, by providing information about fall-out of radioactivity and by providing through the many different organisations e.g. the Auxiliary Fire Service, the Industrial Civil Defence Service, the National Hospital Service Reserve, the Women's Voluntary Services, etc., the co-ordination of all the public services the basic organisation upon which the survival of the nation might very well depend.

Civil Defence *is* worthwhile because it is a form of 'insurance' which would provide relief for the survivors of a nuclear attack.

LATE NEWS

The much-discussed open verandahs at Frith Manor School are to be enclosed next year—Crossing facilities outside the School are still a major topic among parents, the Association has now been asked to press for a tunnel beneath the road—More on these matters in the next issue.

A

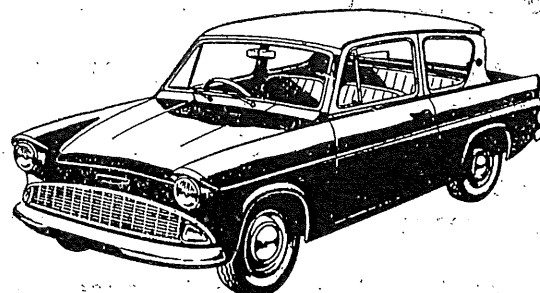
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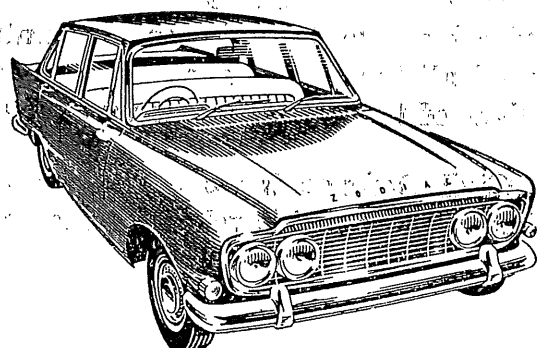
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