



Letters to the editor

► Plenty to do on Sunday

Maureen Sutton's article in the August edition of 'Lincolnshire Life' about the traditional English Sunday, 'when markets, theatres, cinemas and high street stores were closed', with 'dance halls... a no-go area too', will have doubtless brought back many memories for the older generation. Yet was the Sabbath day so bereft of life outside church services?

Alan Dowling's book on the Humberston Fitties recalls the time when the 3rd Battalion of the Manchester Regiment gave sacred concerts on a Sunday evening in winter 1914 on Cleethorpes Pier. Such entertainment was also a feature at Welholme Congregational Chapel (now Welholme Galleries) in the 1920s, with the visiting singer from the secular concert the night before giving a solo performance.

During the summer season of 1936, there were in fact two concerts every Sunday inside Cleethorpes Pier Pavilion, starting at 3pm and 7.45pm. It is not as if either had a sacred orientation - the programme for September 27th shows 'The Student Prince' and 'The Floral Dance' being performed in the afternoon, with 'The Blue Danube' and 'The Desert Song' part of the evening's schedule! For both concerts the soloist was Mr A Osbourne, with Kenneth Collinson being the leader of Bob Walker's Orchestra.

In the Second World War, some local cinemas were open on a Sunday. The 'Grimsby Evening Telegraph' for 6th June, 1944, noted that films starring Flanagan and Allen ('We'll Smile Again') and Jimmie Durante ('The Great Schnozzle') would be shown at the Savoy and the Queen's respectively. Meanwhile the Haydn School of Dancing were to present their show 'Tops Every Time' at the Palace Theatre on Sundays 11th and 18th June.

By February 1953, one can see adverts in the 'Telegraph' for coach excursions run by Granville Tours. These would run from Grimsby's Brighowgate Bus Station to Sheffield (9s6d) and Doncaster (7s6d) on Sunday, 8th February, and to Leicester (11s6d) on 15th February.

Though Sundays have certainly changed, perhaps time makes us under-

play the entertainment that actually took place on that special day years ago.

Tim Mickleburgh, Grimsby

► Warm comfort

It was farming or nothing for me. It was what I was trained for. Serving four years and 221 days in the wartime army told me that what I was about to do was right.

My young wife and I settled into our newly bought farm but soon there was disillusion. My wife was not a country girl. Out of the blue, hard up as we were, I bought her a new Aga without telling her. I couldn't have done better. Within a week the cupboards and shelves began to sag under the weight of bottled fruit. Blackberries were picked and the jam pan bubbled.

To those townies thinking of taking up a small farm, don't hesitate but buy an Aga. You may not be able to put your tired feet up on the mantelshelf, but you will have contentment.

J N Potterton, Pinchbeck.

► Beckingham Shipyard

I am trying to track down anyone who may have worked at the Beckingham Shipyard in the 1930s to 1940s and wonder if any readers may be able to help.

I am doing some research for a forthcoming ITV series called 'The Way We Were', a series of half-hour programmes which takes a look at archive film and tries to find anyone who knows anything about it. We have some lovely film taken at the shipyard showing a number of ships being launched. The film also shows footage of the Trent aegir at various locations between Butterwick and Gainsborough, again during the 1940s.

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► More on Charles Hudson

I much enjoyed the article on the Revd Charles Hudson in the August edition of 'Lincolnshire Life' and seeing again the beautiful windows of Skillington church installed in his memory.

There is another memorial to him in the church which is not seen but often heard. This is the treble bell, weighing 4cwt, hung in the tower and carrying the inscription 'To the memory of Charles Hudson 1866'.

It was cast by Mears and Stainbank, bell founders of London.

The Revd Charles Hudson was very generous in giving the now second bell. This was also cast in London by Mears in 1864 and carries the inscription: 'Presented to the Church of Skillington by the Rev Charles Hudson, Vicar 1864'.

Brian Buttery, Grantham.

► The Brunyees

I am writing with regard to the letter in the June edition of 'Lincolnshire Life' about the Brunyees, sent in by Mrs Stella Hopkins.

I was born and brought up in the Frith Park area of Sheffield though both my parents were from Lincoln. In a row of shops opposite the park was a small confectioners, the proprietor being a Mr Brunyee. He had a wife and at least one child, a boy I believe. Unfortunately, my older brother and sister disagree on one important point.

According to my sister, Mr Brunyee was interned for a period during the Second World War. My brother disagrees. If he was interned, then he could not have been the same Brunyees who are the subject of the letter.

In our local telephone directory there are no Brunyees listed in Sheffield but there are two in Chesterfield and one in Treeton, a village between Sheffield and Rotherham. The dates from which I remember the Brunyees' shop are the late 1940s to 1955. I hope this may help with Mrs Hopkins' research.

My parents came from Lincoln in the late 1920s. My mother's shop, K Troop grocer and confectioner was at 65 High Street and is now, I believe, an office for small businesses. Some readers may remember the shop.

David Burton, Sheffield.

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