

Reading 'free prisoners' bid

A BID to get West Pakistanis released from prison camps in India is being made by Reading man Mr Bifaz Mubad and Mr Tariq Hussain, of Bracknell.

Mr Hussain says that the Pakistani community in the Thames Valley area is "most concerned" about the fate of their countrymen, who have been in detention for more than 14 months, with no sign of release.

Mr Hussain, who works for a Bracknell electronics company, is planning a visit to the Indian High Commission in London next week to protest about the

continued imprisonment of "our friends and relatives."

He will be accompanied by Mr Mubad, a machine operator of London Road, Reading.

Letter

They will hand in a letter, calling for the early release of West Pakistanis.

Mr Hussain has already written to Mrs Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, and has also sent a letter to the leader of the Bangladesh, formerly East

Pakistan, asking for the two countries to reach an agreement for the exchange of prisoners taken during the war between India and Pakistan.

Mr Hussain, who came to England four years ago, has two friends who were in the West Pakistan Army, held in prison camps.

He has asked Mr Bill van Stratten, MP for Wokingham and Bracknell, to support a move in the Commons "to help bring this great human

suffering to an end."

Mr Hussain, 39, said yesterday his home in Ashbourne, Great Hollands, Bracknell, "is a time that something was done to get prisoners released."

Distress

"Their continued detention causes distress to everyone concerned. The countries should come to an arrangement quickly, or this could drag on for months, or even years."

The meeting is being held at Slough next Friday and will be attended by Pakistanis from Bracknell and Reading.

CRACKER JILL!



Youth plan 'reedy' in June'

PRELIMINARY work is almost complete in drawing up a five-year development plan for the youth service in Reading.

Proposals are being prepared by a special research and development team set up by Reading Council's youth sub-committee.

These were to have been presented next January but Reading's youth officer, Mr Geoff Munday, told the sub-committee last night the team wanted to report in June, and this was agreed.

The period then covered the five years from April 1974 to March 1979. Because Reading Town Council is being abolished under local government reorganisation most of the proposals will be placed before the new Berkshire County Council for consideration.

Meetings

but some might be brought into operation by the existing local authority.

Mr Munday told the sub-committee that when the draft report on the development plan is ready shortly the youth service would arrange about six or seven meetings around the town to gauge public reaction to the proposals.

Comments made at these meetings would be considered before the final draft of the plan is drawn up and presented to the youth sub-committee for approval in June, he said.

Two of second new youth clubs

TWO new youth clubs instead of just one should be built in Reading within five years, a Reading Council education sub-committee recommended last night.

One should be built at the new Kendrick Comprehensive School on a site close to the Thames near Richfield Avenue.

Evening Post reporter

These were to integrate the club within the proposed Reading cultural centre for St Mary's Butts and a separate site within the Great Knollys Street redevelopment area, away from the school.

Youth sub-committee chairman Coun Bill Mander told the meeting that the Central Club management committee had discussed the matter.

Their first choice was for the new Kendrick School site and if this was not available they planned for the separate site within the Great Knollys Street redevelopment area.

GREAT DANGERS

In his report Mr Thomas said of the proposal to utilize the new Kendrick School site that there was much to commend this particularly if it was intended to develop the school and its facilities for full community use.

"A disadvantage would be that it is too far away from the town centre and the image of the Central Club could suffer

if it is associated with a school," said Mr Thomas. Councillor John Lally said there were "great dangers" in planning anything connected with the Kendrick School site. There was still the possibility that Reading Council's plans for reorganising secondary education, involving Kendrick, could still fail, he said.

Councillor Roger Scate said that Great Knollys Street area would be very much worse off if it did not have some form of youth facility provided.

Education committee vice-chairman Mr Charles Buck said they had to look at the matter in a wider context than just the replacement of the Central Club.

The Great Knollys Street area just did not have facilities of this sort but they would not want a specialised club in that area, he said.

The idea of linking the youth club with the new Kendrick primary school would be that they could share facilities and it could justify the school hall being enlarged.

But in his report Mr Thomas warned that the management problems resulting from dual use would be "considerable."

Meet Crackerjill

Susan Bedford, of Fendred Road, Whitley Wood, Reading, who went with her school friends to watch the BBC children's programme Crackerjack being made, and ended up as Crackerjack champion of the week.

Eleven-year-old Susan, who goes to Shinfield Church of England Primary School, was invited with 45 of her schoolmates to be part of the audience on a Crackerjack programme to be screened on Friday, March 16.

She went on stage with two other schoolmates, Gillian Orman, 11, of Shirley Avenue, Shinfield, and Kathryn Higgs, also 11, of Hyde End Road, Shinfield.

But it was Susan who won all the qualifying games, to take part in the quiz at the end of the programme.

Susan, cheered by her schoolmates, is in the centre of our picture, while Gillian is on the left and Kathryn on the right.

The children were picked up by the BBC and taken home again with champion Susan, who will be going back for the following week's programme to see if she can hold her title.

Headmaster Mr Gerald Jackson commented: "Susan was thrilled to bits with her win, and the whole outing, as were the other children."

"They were entertained by Michael Aspel and two pop groups, and the whole thing didn't cost them a penny."

Late-duty chemists Councillors to quit

TWO LABOUR members of Basingstoke Council have decided not to seek election to the new district council.

They are Councillor Terry Hunt and Councillor Mrs Penny Brown.

Councillor Hunt has decided to stand down because he has been adopted prospective Parliamentary Labour candidate for the area.

He said yesterday that with a General Election due within the next two years he would not be able to cope with both jobs.

Coun Hunt, a 36-year-old schoolteacher, plans to devote

more of his time addressing Trade Union branches and other organisations in the constituency.

"It is more important for me to meet the electorate in this way," he said.

Coun Hunt, of Richmond Road, Basingstoke, has been a member of the council for the past three years.

He emphasised that he will complete his present term of office which ends next year.

LABOUR MEMBERS OPT OUT OF NEW COUNCIL

Coun Mrs Brown of Millard Close, Basingstoke, said she would not be contesting the seat because of domestic reasons.

She was elected a member for Chapel Ward last year. The elections in June will be to form next year.

It will be an amalgamation of three existing districts - Basingstoke Borough Council and Basingstoke and Kingsclere Rural Council.

£27,000 will

Mr Keith Thallon Harding, of Maycroft Cottage, High Street, Wargrave, who died in October, left £27,800 towards the purchase of a house.

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Survey of life in the villages

A SURVEY of life in villages which have had to bear the brunt of major housing expansion is to be undertaken on the orders of Whitehall.

The survey is to cover four villages around Basingstoke. All have been transformed from sleepy rural villages into little dormitory-type communities housing hundreds of families.

Oakley and Overton have been named as two of the villages. It is thought the others will be Kingsclere and Basing.

It is expected that the survey will take two years to complete.

Organiser Miss Margaret Lingwood, research officer for the Hampshire County Council, said she would like to see a further expansion of the survey to other areas.

She said: "As far as I can see a check on the effect of the southern expansion on rural communities like Oakley is one part of the school of thought that seems to have been somewhat neglected."

"Of course, one can't undertake such a survey until the expansion is there."

"It will, of course, be possible to gain a good deal of statistical information from existing records and subsequent to that we shall make what we call a random social survey."

"This involves choosing a series of people taken from completely across the board and covering all walks of life and reactions. Some of these interviews we hope will be in real depth."

"The survey will be really trying to discover 'obviously' the broadest possible sense of reaction to the new life which has been undertaken."

Miss Livingston added: "It will be necessary, for instance, to find out if the newcomer has integrated with the villagers and equally as important — to ascertain the reverse."

"There will be probes into the facilities and amenities all sections of the community and the way in which they are already arising in these new communities."

"After all, one can't see a rural area like Oakley expand as fast as it has done — and I think it has been too fast — without pitfalls of a complex character."

"If we can put our finger on some of these then it will be an important step forward in the way of providing guidelines for future similar developments."

Set for sail

An "experiment" by Marlow Sailing Club will be watched "very closely" by Little Marlow Parish Council.

The club, which has been looking for permanent headquarters for many years, has now obtained permission to sail a tugboat from gravel pit dings at Spode Oak, near Marlow.

The parish council has been told by Wymondbury Rural Council that planning permission is not needed as sailing — an experiment at this stage — will take place on fewer than 20 days per year.

Councillor Geoffrey Moss said: "This marks the of the commercial basis we have been fighting so hard to avoid."

Let us know

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