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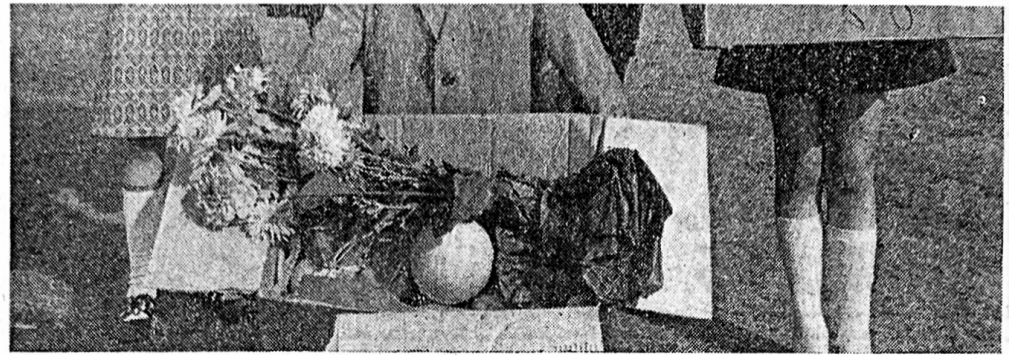
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camp at Greenham after a harvest festival on Thursday.

The harvest service was the first official function for children at the new Fir Tree Primary School. They hope the produce they sent to Greenham will brighten up barrack blocks which are serving as homes for the Asians.

In addition numerous gifts were also distributed to old people after the service.

Parents were invited to go along to the service. After a short address by the Rev. Ernest Clark there was singing with accompaniment from a guitar and accordion, and children read their own harvest poems. Headmaster Mr. Jack Baker concluded with a reading of a modern poem.



A staff member with Fir Tree Lane School children carrying gifts for the Asians.

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## MOBILE SHOP AND BUSES FOR CAMP

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Many of the refugees were eager to buy air mail stationery to write to friends who are still in Uganda.

Meanwhile the Alder Valley Traction Company are running two buses daily between the camp and Newbury.

The service started on Friday and all of the double-decker vehicles are filled. The Asians are charged normal fares.

## MP at camp

Newbury's MP, Mr. John Astor, visited the Greenham

## Asians given 500 razors

Gillette Industries Ltd. have given 500 razors to the refugee Asians at Greenham as a result of an appeal by the Rev. John Gann, Rector of Newbury.

He says that more razors and blades are still required and there is also a need for umbrellas. These and other items, such as warm clothing and toys, can be left at the parish church.

## 'ADOPT' FAMILY FOR A DAY

In an effort to help refugees settle into the British way of life, local churches are arranging for people to "adopt" an Asian family for the day. If you can help, contact your local clergyman or the Rev. John Gann Newbury 326.



Asian refugees read about themselves in last week's 'NWN.'

# Classes for Asians at college

**N**EWBURY'S South Berks College is busily organising classes for newly-arrived Ugandan-Asians at Greenham.

On Monday "O" level maths and English lessons got under way, and it is hoped to begin classes in English Literature, physics and perhaps geography and other subjects within the near future.

Mr. A. Owen, head of the building department, is representing the college at Greenham and is using his experience to advise on further education.

It is hoped to develop adult education with day-time classes and evening classes and to provide a reading room in the further education block.

The college has been nominated as a centre for "O" levels by the Cambridge Board — the body used by Ugandan schools — and is offering exams in November.

About 40 Asians at Greenham had already entered for the November exams in Uganda prior to their departure.

Several students arrived in this country with "A" levels. One girl of 18 has already obtained a place in Harrow College of Technology in science subjects.

The college is recommending engineering students to join courses at the Oxford Polytechnic.

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05/10/72  
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One of the early problems was in teaching the refugees to use toilet facilities.

Voluntary organisations have played a vital role at Greenham. Red Cross, St. John Ambulance, WRVS and Salvation Army members are all involved.

One of the WRVS tasks has been collecting warm clothing which is a necessity for refugees from a hot climate.

Many of the Asians were wrapped in heavy coats yesterday but the WRVS are still appealing for gloves and scarves. Appeals have also gone out for razor blades and umbrellas and any of these items may be left at St. Nicolas Parish Church in Newbury from where they will be forwarded.

More than 130 children turned up when the re-settlement school opened yesterday. Over 80 of these were for the five to 11-year-old section.

Headmaster of the school is Mr. Victor Roussel who has been seconded from Newbury's John Rankin junior school for his term.

The youngsters will be taught English but one of the main aims of the school is to help children relax and get accustomed to the way an English school is run.

meeting a committee of 10 refugees who offered to make themselves responsible for the various aspects of camp life.

Some are helping Ministry of Defence policemen by acting as stewards around the camp.

Volunteers from Newbury churches have been cleaning barrack blocks before each batch of Asians arrives. Anyone who wants to join them for the rest of this week can get a lift to Greenham on a special mini-bus which leaves St. Nicolas Church at 9.30 each morning and returns at noon.

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In Uganda Kiran worked as an engineer in a textile mill and he hopes to find similar work in Britain.

Ganatra Shashikant is also 25 years old. He lived 50 miles from Kampala and worked as an accountant. His father had his own shop in Uganda where he says soldiers looted Asians of their valuables.

"I enjoy being here at Greenham," he says. "The way they are treating us is marvellous."

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Volunteer Derek Reeh notes a refugee family's particulars soon after their arrival at Greenham air base transit camp on Tuesday.

# AIR BASE TAKING 400 MORE ASIANS

## Councillor quits Labour Party in Asians issue

NEWBURY town councillor Dick Easterbrook has resigned from the Labour party because he does not share their views on the housing of refugee Asians from Uganda.

"I think there are certain people who think that my views are being camouflaged to Labour Party principles," says 52-year-old Mr. Easterbrook.

He was one of 60 marchers who recently protested in Reading against bringing Asians to Britain.

At council meetings he has strongly opposed a move to give refugees local council houses. He feels they should not be given priority over others who have been on the house waiting list for a long time.

He says he seriously considered resigning after a constituency Labour party meeting a fortnight ago when he got the impression that his views were an embarrassment to the party.

"I have thought about it a great deal and decided it was such an important issue that I had to resign," he said.

Coun. Easterbrook explains his views in a Letter to the Editor on page 5.

A former electrician, he has supported the Labour movement for a number of years and joined the party about four years ago.

He was elected to the council in May last year and since then he has been one of his main interests.



He was one of the councillors who led the successful fight against the policy of selling council houses.

He says he will continue on the council and at the next election he may consider standing as an independent candidate.

"I shall do my utmost on the council to see that the refugees do not get priority over local people on the housing list," he says.

Coun. Easterbrook would like to see Greenham air base used as accommodation for the local homeless when it finishes its role as a transit camp for the refugees.

In April last year he gave one of his kidneys in a transplant operation which saved the life of his daughter Rosahnd. The family live at 368 London Road, Newbury.

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Equipment will be given a thorough inspection when the original 1,200 capacity is reached. The population of the camp will then be increased by 100 at a time with regular checks on the sewerage works.

A Re-settlement Board spokesman said last night that Brig. Beys had been asked to increase the capacity of the Greenham Camp because every available bed is needed.

Great care would be taken to ensure that all the camp's facilities could cope.

The refugees are settling in well, say officials. The re-settlement school and playgroup opened yesterday and Greenham became the first transit camp to offer educational facilities.

A dozen Department of Employment officials have moved into offices at the base and their efforts have already found new homes and jobs for 19 refugees who have left Greenham.

The first batch of 63 Asians arrived at Greenham just after midnight on Sunday—several hours earlier than had been expected. Most were too tired to eat a meal and after brief health checks they were taken to their quarters in some of the 63 barrack blocks.

After their late breakfast on Monday he made a speech of welcome and then health officials began more stringent checks.

Newbury's medical officer of health, Dr. Robert Handy led a team of doctors and nurses and after early examinations on Monday he said that the refugees appeared to be as fit as a normal cross-section of the British population.

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Adults will be taught the British way of life by the South Berks College of Further Education.

In the canteen the caterers are trying to introduce the refugees gradually to English foods. Meat and vegetable pie was very well received on Tuesday and yesterday apple pie and custard was offered as a sweet.

One of the problems in cooking Indian dishes is that the caterers do not know what they should look like when prepared. But the refugees have shown themselves only too keen to give advice on preparing the foods. Several help by doing odd jobs around the kitchens.

Many of the Asians have shown a willingness to help wherever they can and yesterday Brig. Beys was meeting a committee of 10 refugees who offered to make themselves responsible for the various aspects of camp life.

Some are helping Ministry of Defence policemen by acting as stewards around the camp.

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A welcome cup of tea for one mother and child.

## LIFE OF FEAR IN UGANDA

A WEEK AGO Kiran Patel was living on his nerves in a town 200 miles from the Ugandan capital of Kampala.

Yesterday he was sitting in the autumn sunshine at the refugee transit camp at RAF Greenham and looking forward to a new life in Britain.

Kiran (25) arrived at Greenham on Monday with his wife and 10-week-old baby. For the first time in weeks he is now able to leave them without fearing for their safety.

"I worried 24-hours a day while we were in Uganda," he said. "If you were just walking along the street the soldiers would beat you and hit you with their guns."

In Uganda Kiran worked as an engineer in a textile mill and he hopes to find similar work in Britain.

Ganatra Shashikant is also 25 years old. He lived 50 miles from Kampala and worked as an accountant. His father had his own shop in Uganda where he says soldiers looted Asians of their valuables.

"I enjoy being here at Greenham," he says. "The way they are treating us is marvellous."

## New bus station but no buse

ALDER VALLEY were still operating yesterday — four days after their licence expired. And the company could not move before they could move to new town centre re-development.

All a spokesman would say was that they would move to the new bus station when "appropriate office and staff facilities" were available, the provision of which was currently being discussed with the local authority.

Representatives of Alder Valley are meeting the Town Clerk today to continue negotiations which have lasted over a year.

As long ago as 1969 the bus company had arranged to rent buildings from Ravenscroft, and the Corporation agreed to provide the hard-standing on the site, which they have done.

But last year the company said that in view of their "serious financial position" they could not do this, and asked the corporation to consider providing facilities jointly.

The council's planning committee then agreed to provide the money for a waiting room, enquiry office and left-luggage office, considering that these were facilities to be used by the general public. Alder Valley would rent premises from Ravenscroft for their own facilities such as canteen, kitchen and changing rooms.

But now the bus company has suggested that the council should rent the building for staff

SON D CON A NEW son was fume-filled more Com Monday. He was Sandison, 21- son of Mr. Road practice Graham's by the ward District Coun country park Police found to the exhaust car interior suspect foul is to be held STABLE SA A STABLE sacked trainer's tract house at t should not wheel in the trainer's wife She said Mr. Roddy Ar House, East justified in te year-old Alan along with a staged a symp Mrs. Arms might offer £20 damage but a few decided to g were given th rising, refu promptly sack

## Less traffic at 'Death Junction'

A ROAD COUNT of vehicles carried out by Borough Council officials at the A4-Brummell Road junction last week has revealed a "fair sized" reduction in traffic since a similar count in 1970 — before the M4 was built.

Two years ago the figures for a 12-hour period were 22,963 passenger car units (pcu) as based on one car, with lorries and buses counting more and motor cycles less passing the junction. A total of 495 pedestrians were counted.

The count on Tuesday was conducted for Borough Council by Mr. Alan Hignett, Borough Surveyor's Department. It did not reveal the figures which had been expected, a reduction in traffic of 10 per cent. The pedestrians counted were 495.

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way with islands in the middle to make it less dangerous for turning cars. The stretch of A4 at Brummell Road has become known as "death junction" since a fatal accident about two months ago, and has been the subject of a petition signed by 1,200 local residents.

Speen Parish Council have also taken up the matter and at a meeting last week members were told that no reply had been received to their request for a pedestrian crossing. The clerk agreed to write to the highway authority again.

## CHEMIST

Late service 6 to 7 pm. October 5 and 6 - Hickman and Son Ltd., 21 Market Place, October 9, 10 and 11 and Sunday, October 8 (12 no n till 1 pm) - S. A. Jones, 59 Cheap Street.



## Girl attacked

POLICE have issued this identikit picture of a man who committed a "serious sexual assault" on an 11-year-old girl at Tadley on Sunday.

The girl, who lives in the village, was accosted near the Old Sewage Works in Heath End Lane between 4.40 pm and 5 pm.

Police have appealed for anyone who was in the area at the time to contact them at Basingstoke, Tadley, or at any police station.

The girl described her assailant as being aged 30 to 40, about 5ft. 5ins. tall and of medium build. He had ginger brown hair brushed to one side and extending just below the ears, with a ginger, drooping moustache, long sideboards, spots around the mouth and a soft voice.

The man, was carrying a black knitted tie and wearing a brown woollen polo-neck jumper with two vertical white stripes, charcoal grey trousers, and black ankle-length slip-on boots.

## NO WC REED SENT

All three machines at works had to the day yesterday. lack of orders.

As a result, production unit were laid off.

Although m off for odd day is the first time rent difficult to all three machines affected.

Personnel in Raby said in oration in the which had throughout the past year, intensifying effort orders but the forecast future

## BEATE

An elderly n on the bank. Hungerford C beating with on Tuesday.

He was Mr. (70), of Froxle Farm, Hunge who had been pains in his che natural causes.

**CAR and  
VAN HIRE  
COOPER'S GARAGE**

Tel. Woolhampton  
2329 and 2525

# Newbury Weekly

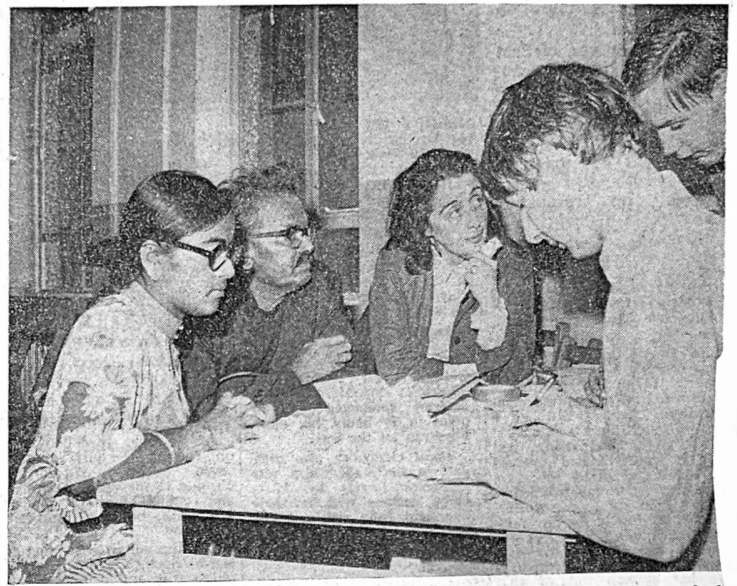
and General Advertiser for South Berks, North-West Hants and East

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1972

No. 5,515 (Estb. 1867)



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Another 400 have left for accommodation arranged by relatives living elsewhere in the country.

Re-settlement work at the camp is just getting into full swing and officials will soon begin placing refugees in jobs and accommodation throughout Britain.

The massive intake of Asians last week — and especially at the weekend — has meant long hours for the medical team who have been administering health checks

Brig. Beys paid special tribute to their work. "I am very proud of the efforts of Dr. Robert Handy, the Medical Officer of Health, his staff and all the volunteers," he said. "We owe them a great debt for their tremendous efforts."

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Brig. Beys says the refugees are settling in well and are showing a great willingness to help wherever possible.

"The whole operation is becoming much more automatic now," he says. "Things are beginning to run like clockwork. For the first time we are having time to think."

Refugees at the camp include a former ladies' hairdresser who is starting her own salon in the same block as the camp laundry. There is also a former Kampala county councillor and a woman who used to run her own driving school.

The Americans have offered the refugees use of their youth club and it will serve as a community centre during the day and youth centre in the evenings. Authorities are appealing for toys, board games and disposable cutlery and cups for use in this centre.

Three televisions have been given for use at the camp. Two have been placed in the recreation area of the canteen and the other will go in the community centre.

## Council may repair houses for Asians

Newbury Town Council are looking into the possibility of renovating two empty properties which could be used to house refugee Asians.

And they will also be considering renting empty properties from private owners which could be sub-let to either Asians or local people.

A special committee formed to look into Asian housing agreed on Monday that council officials should investigate the cost of both ideas.

The houses which may be renovated were bought by the council some time ago with a view to demolition to make way for a new road which has yet to be built.

# NWN SECOND SECTION

# Prayers for those still in Uganda

**REFUGEES** at the Greenham Common transit base are this week celebrating one of the major religious festivals of the Hindu year.

The week started with a special ceremony in the canteen on Sunday when Mrs. Ruby Beyts, wife of the camp administrator, was guest of honour.

With a garland of flowers around her neck, Mrs. Beyts stood in front of a makeshift shrine while Asian women danced around her singing religious songs.

The ceremony included prayers to the Goddess Ambama for the safety of Asian families who are still in Uganda.

There were also traditional prayers that spinsters should have happy marriages and that married women should have children and happiness.

The ceremony was organised by Mrs. Laxmi Patel whose husband is still in Uganda and who is expecting her first child next month.

"Ambama is a figure of strength and we are appealing for strength for our friends who are still in Uganda," she explained.

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Asian women (above) dance around Mrs. Ruby Beyts who was guest of honour at a religious ceremony on Sunday.



A young Asian girl (left) forgets the fears of the past few weeks at the transit camp playgroup.

Below — Lunchtime at Greenham with Asian youths helping canteen staff to serve the food.





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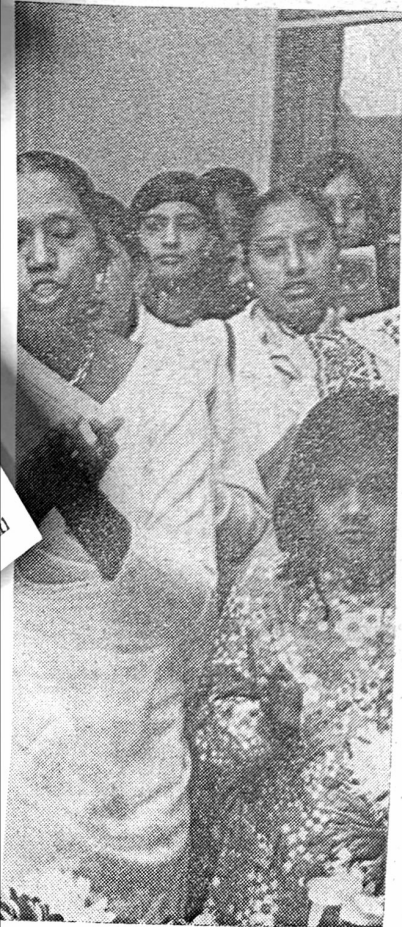
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After only a few hours at the transit camp playgroup these two youngsters were firm friends. The white boy went there with his mother who is one of the helpers.



Asian women (above)

# EAT TO CLOSE

## LINE

...d from Britain's railway  
... a new report on the  
... ct by the Government.

### DUKE OF EDINBURGH COMING TO THATCHAM

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH will be spending the afternoon at Kennet School, Thatcham, on December 1 in connection with his award scheme.

Prince Phillip will meet 800 youngsters from all over the county who will show him the projects they are working on for the scheme.

The school will be closed for the day to allow the exhibits to be displayed in the hall and gymnasium. Pupils from the Kennet will be able to see Prince Phillip after the official visit is finished.

He is expected to arrive at 3.30 pm by helicopter from Oxfordshire, and leave by car at five o'clock.

Mr. George Hurford, headmaster of the Kennet School, is likely to be in the official party to welcome the Duke.

In charge of the visit will be Mr. H. Bramwell, the county council's deputy clerk. Mr. Tony Norman, assistant county youth officer, is responsible for detailed arrangements.



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A special train took the 375 Asians from Newbury Racecourse station to Tonfaunau in North Wales. Alder Valley buses operated a shuttle service to the train.

Brig. Beys says the refugees are settling in well and are showing a great willingness to help wherever possible. "The whole operation is becoming much more automatic now," he says. "Things are beginning to run like clockwork. For the first time we are having time to think."

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Newbury Town Council are looking into the possibility of renovating two empty properties which could be used to house refugee Asians.

And they will also be considering renting empty properties from private owners which could be sub-let to either Asians or local people.

A special committee formed to look into Asian housing agreed on Monday that council officials should investigate the cost of both ideas.

The houses which may be renovated were bought by the council some time ago with a view to demolition to make way for a new road which has yet to be built.

## Storm looms over bus fare concessions

OLD FOLK living east of Newbury are not to be expected to do their weekly shopping in Thatcham unless proposals for a concessionary bus fares scheme are approved by all old folk in the Newbury Rural District Council.

### Classes for Asians at college

NEWBURY'S South Berks College is busily organising classes for newly-arrived Ugandan-Asians at Greenham.

On Monday "O" level maths and English lessons got under way, and it is hoped to begin classes in English Literature, physics and perhaps geography and other subjects within the near future.

Mr. A. Owen, head of the building department, is representing the college at Greenham and is using his experience to advise on further education.

It is hoped to develop adult education with day-time classes and evening classes and to provide a reading room in the further education block.

The college has been nominated as a centre for "O" levels by the Cambridge Board — the body used by Ugandan schools — and is offering exams in November.

About 40 Asians at Greenham had already entered for the November exams in Uganda prior to their departure.

Several students arrived in this country with "A" levels. One girl of 18 has already obtained a place in Harrow College of Technology in science subjects.

The college is recommending engineering students to join courses at the Oxford Polytechnic.

### INSURANCE BROKER FOR 20 YEARS

Newbury's longest serving insurance broker died suddenly yesterday at the age of 65.

Mr. Gilbert William Briddon Bennett was found dead at his home at 94 New Road, Tadley.

Mr. Bennett started his own firm in Newbury in 1952 after having worked for the Norwich Union company in the town for a number of years. He was managing director of the firm which has another office at Basingstoke, run by co-director Mrs. W. J. Vare.

He was born in Oxford and served in the Merchant Navy for a time before going into insurance. He went back to the Navy during the last war.

He was a keen beekeeper and was secretary of the Newbury and District Beekeepers' Association for many years. He held the same post with the Newbury Operatic Society and with the local Sea Cadets.

Funeral details have yet to be arranged.

## description 'ret face' attacker

adley sex attacker is continuing. A description of an identikit picture in *evky News* police now have more

### REEDS BACK TO FULL PRODUCTION

More work has meant that no men have had to be laid off at Reed Board Mills, Thatcham, this week.

On Wednesday last week all three board-making machines had to be shut down and a large number of production and engineering staff were sent home for the day.

### NOISY DOGS

## Protest to Queen on Common Market

A LOCAL schoolmaster has written to the Queen to urge her not to give the royal assent to the European Communities Bill next week. He is Mr. W. E. Bell, a member of the Newbury and District Anti-Common Market Group, who teaches literature at Douai School, Woolhampton.

This latest move is a final bid by Mr. Bell to stop the Bill from becoming law.

The full council will make a final decision on the next Tuesday.

# Asians in protest

## at jobs

## delay

**E**MPLOYMENT officials at the Greenham Common refugee transit camp have been criticised for being "very, very slow" in finding jobs for the Asians expelled from Uganda.

In a radio programme broadcast live from Greenham on Sunday, Asian committee chairman Mr. Sucklackshan Kumar Ahluwalia said the delay in getting jobs was causing a great deal of frustration among his people.

And he told an NWN reporter yesterday that the situation was so bad that he is acting as an unofficial employment exchange, putting his people in touch with employers who contact the camp.

Today he has arranged for a party of 50 to travel to Southampton to be interviewed for a variety of jobs. He has also been in touch with a Reading businessman who has told him that he has 20 jobs and homes to offer.

Up to yesterday the official employment exchange had placed 20 men and three women in jobs and accommodation. Of 576 people interviewed up to Friday 66 had been submitted for jobs and some were still awaiting replies.

Greenham exchange manager, Mr. Samuel Arnold, replied to the criticism yesterday. "I can't see that we can really speed things up," he said. "Accommodation is the key to the whole problem."

He said that a skilled staff of about 10 are working "flat out" to place Asians in jobs.

Mr. Sucklackshan Kumar Ahluwalia was interviewed in the Radio Four current affairs programme "From the Grass Roots." He said that he is a fully qualified teacher with five years experience who applied for a job through the employment exchange at Greenham a fortnight ago but had heard nothing.

The youth and community centre set up at Greenham last week is already being used a great deal during the daytime and evenings and organisers have appealed for indoor games and the use of a mini bus to help them cope with demand.

A county council spokesman says "Life in the camp is somewhat restricted and one of the biggest headaches facing us is boredom and apathy. The heavy demand being made on the centre demonstrates the need of the Asians to occupy and interest themselves."

to cross the street to keep out of their way."

Similar comments came from Brig. Bill Beyts, the camp's chief administrator. "It is just malicious," he said. "I suppose you are bound to get a few people who spread stories like this but generally the Asians are being treated very kindly by local people."

There were about 1,400 Asians in the camp yesterday and Brig. Beyts said it was

church.

A variety of entertainment is being organised for the refugees. The Salvation Army have arranged a full programme of events in the evenings and on Sundays the local Council of Churches holds a popular united service in the dining hall.

A daily bus service brings the Asians into Newbury to shop and a rest room has been set up for them at the Congregational Hall.



## ASIANS' SCHOOLS COSTING £16,000

Cost of setting up schools for Asians at Greenham Air Base will "probably amount to something in the order of £16,000 over the next six months."

This is revealed by Thatcham county councillor Mr. Harry Gray who added that the Government had promised to repay this sum and 75 per cent of money expended on equipment.

He went on to say that housing and employment possibilities in the area did not look encouraging to the Asians, although the question of housing was currently being considered by local government authorities.

Mr. Gray was optimistic over plans for certain Thatcham areas, particularly Lower Way. He said "The county council propose expenditure of about £30,000 on Lower Way and a vast amount of money on other roads."

Referring to Thatcham's new community complex at Bath Road Mr. Gray mentioned the

new public library planned for 1973/74 at a cost of over £20,000. He thought that the new social amenities planned for this area in the next few years will go far to bringing about a happier situation over the Memorial Playing Fields controversy.

"The complex will involve all the community and get us away from the unfortunate attitude that exists with some of the Thatcham clubs that the playing fields belong solely to them."

He said he had asked the parish council to allow access across the fields for children going to school and this had been agreed.

**R**EFUGEE Asian children are getting their first taste of life at an English school this week by joining local youngsters for lessons at Kennet School, Thatcham.

A dozen children from the transit camp at Greenham Common are being taken to and from the Kennet daily in the school's mini-bus.

Different age groups are going to the school every day. They are "adopted" by a pupil of their own age and join in normal lessons.

Headmaster Mr. George Hurford says that when he first learnt that Asians were coming to Greenham he asked his pupils in assembly what they would like to do to help. Inviting Asians to the school was their own idea.

"It is working extremely well so far," he said on Monday. "If any lesson is too complicated for them we allow our pupils to show them around Thatcham or take them around the school."

For the Asians it was school as they have never known it before. But none of them looked too worried.

"It is very different from school in Uganda," said one young girl. "The boys and girls here are very nice."

# Asians' smallpox scare 'malicious rumour' — MoH

October 1947 1972.

**O**FFICIALS at Greenham Common transit camp for refugee Asians hit back this week at "malicious" rumours of a smallpox outbreak at the base.

There had been reports of smallpox cases at the camp and that refugees were taking up so many beds in hospitals that local people could not be admitted.

"This is absolutely ridiculous" declared Dr. Robert Handy, Newbury's Medical Officer of Health. "We have found a few things we did not expect but nothing which is going to affect the public, nothing which is infectious and nothing we cannot deal with. I am horrified by these stories."

He said that about 10 people have been taken to hospital of which three have been pregnancies.

A number of the refugees are suffering from coughs and colds but he said this was only to be expected when they had come to a colder climate. The dry atmosphere at Greenham caused by central heating being set "intolerably high by European standards" was a contributory factor.

"I want to put a stop to these rumours because otherwise when these people come into town we are going to get the situation where people feel they have to cross the street to keep out of their way."

Similar comments came from Brig. Bill Beyts, the camp's chief administrator. "It is just malicious," he said. "I suppose you are bound to get a few people who spread stories like this but generally the Asians are being treated very kindly by local people."

There were about 1,400 Asians in the camp yesterday and Brig. Beyts said it was

impossible to predict when they might reach the 1,600 capacity.

Already 1,000 refugees have moved on from the camp since it opened a fortnight ago. Most of these have gone to homes of friends or to accommodation fixed up by friends elsewhere in the country.

The Department of Employment officials at the camp have so far placed three men and three women in jobs elsewhere in the country.

A spokesman said yesterday that it was proving quite a slow process because of time lags between applications for jobs and replies being received from employers. Even then accommodation had still to be arranged by re-settlement officials.

The process is now getting into full swing and he expects a lot more people to be placed in coming weeks. Some employers are going along to the base to interview refugees themselves.

Brig. Beyts hoped that by the beginning of next year there would be only a few refugees left at Greenham. These would be likely to be problem families without jobs and homes, or youngsters with no parents.

There has been a tremendous response to the appeal for clothing, toys and other equipment for the camp and a lorry had to be called in to clear a huge pile of these items from the parish church.

A variety of entertainments is being organised for the refugees. The Salvation Army have arranged a full programme of events in the evenings and on Sundays the local Council of Churches holds a popular united service in the dining hall.

A daily bus service brings the Asians into Newbury to shop and a rest room has been set up for them at the Congregational Hall.

# MoH AGAIN DENIES ASIANS' SMALLPOX SCARE

**N**EWBURY'S Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Robert Handy has again denounced unfounded rumours that there was a smallpox outbreak at the Ugandan Asian camp at Greenham.

Dr. Handy was explaining to members of the South Berks joint health committee the procedure undertaken to medically "screen" all refugees who arrived at the camp.

Working with a doctor from the county council, Dr. Handy screened the Asians for three purposes. The first of these was to check any possibility of infectious diseases such as smallpox but he told the committee that "there was absolutely none at all and at no time was there ever any public health danger."

He said that several Asians had gone to hospital but this was as a result of the second purpose of the check—to find any acute individual conditions such as pneumonia and diabetes.

He said that diabetic cases among the Asians were considerably high and he felt that the cause was genetic.

The third reason for the medical checks was to look for long-term conditions which might affect the Asians' ability to travel.

Apart from a few stragglers who will be seen as they arrive, checks on all Asians have now been carried out and their general state of health is reasonably good.

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# Churches praise airbase efforts to help Asians

**A**DMIRATION for the way in which the welcome to Ugandan Asians had been organised at Greenham airbase by the social service units and voluntary organisations under the direction of Brig. W. B. Beyts was expressed in a resolution unanimously adopted at the tenth meeting of the Newbury Deanery Synod on Thursday. The resolution went on to pledge the full support of the Anglican parishes in the Newbury Deanery to the operation through to its conclusion.

Synod welcomed to its meeting the Rev. David Ratcliff who was deputising for the circuit minister of the Newbury-Hungerford Methodist Circuit. Anglicans and Methodists in the Newbury area have agreed to exchange delegates to their respective quarterly meetings as one step towards their closer identification following the collapse of the scheme for the reunion of the Anglican and Methodist churches.

The principal business was a debate on a motion proposed by the Rural Dean, the Rev. W. R. Birt, which asked Synod to set up a committee to help resolve the financial problems now facing the Church.

The Rural Dean read a letter from the Diocesan Board of Finance which warned of a 20 per cent increase in 1973 in the 'quotas' required from parishes for the maintenance of the Anglican ministry in the diocese. He gave facts and figures showing that in fact parishes received back for the maintenance of the ministry far more than they paid out: and also pointed out that in the Newbury area the church was already committed to a thorough-going re-appraisal of its own structures and expenditures on church buildings, vicarages and clergy stipends. He urged representatives to carry the message back to their parishes that congregations must be ready both to give more generously to the maintenance of the ministry and to participate to the full in all moves to rationalise resources of manpower and money.

Reports from two of the new Deanery 'Action' Groups were given a warm welcome by Synod. Mr. E. C. Higgins (Brightwalton) gave a review of the work so far achieved by the Social Responsibility group, and Lt.-Col. W. B. E. Brown (Peasemore), chairman of the Deanery Pastoral Committee, informed Synod that it was his

line with the proposed new local government area. The parishes of Midgham and Brimpton are, however, shortly to be transferred to the Bradfield Rural Deanery.

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# Honours even in barefoot soccer

A SCOUT soon became a tenderfoot when he mimicked young Asian refugees playing soccer in their bare feet at the Greenham Common resettlement camp on Saturday.

Although some wore shoes or football boots many of the refugees played in bare feet in matches against the 7th Newbury Cubs and Scouts.

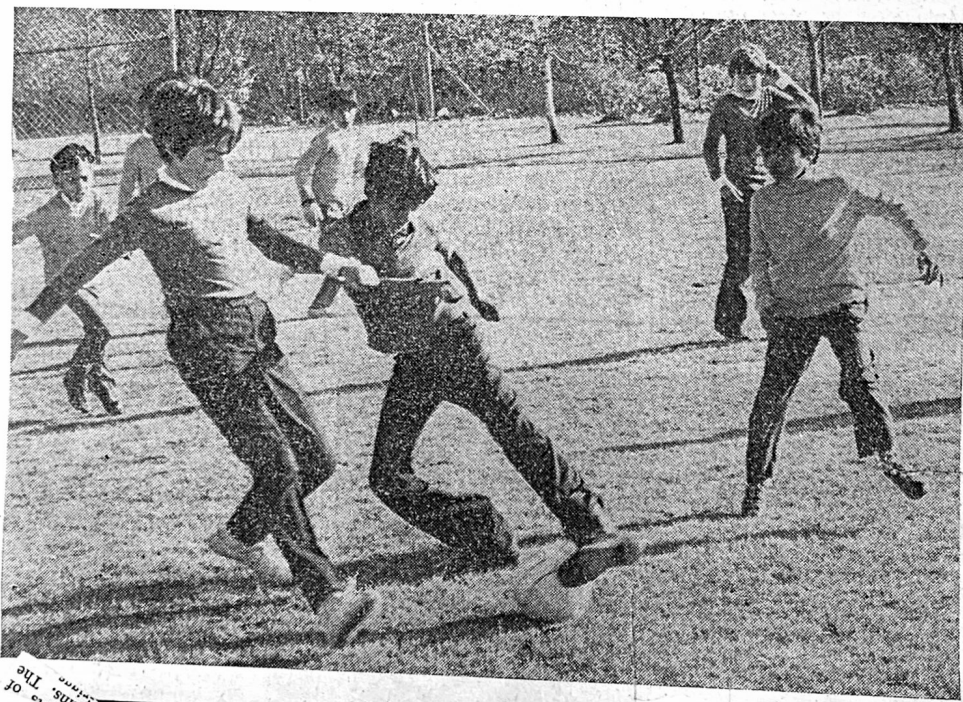
Two matches were played and in the end honours were even.

In a match against a junior side, who were practising for a match against a local school this week, the Cubs and Scouts started strongly and were 2-0 up at the interval but in an even second-half they only managed to beat the agile Greenham 'keeper' once more.

The Cubs and Scouts then took on an older side and were rather outclassed. The local youngsters managed to hold them until the interval but then conceded two goals.

For 7th Newbury the three Abernethy brothers made a fine attacking trio and Nick Cook, in defence, was fearless in stopping attackers much larger than himself.

"Both games were played in a fine spirit," commented Group Scout Leader Aian Hunt. "Greenham Common had a number of natural athletes and good individual players and with the teamwork that comes from experience should be formidable. It is hoped to play a return match in two weeks' time."





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# Asians invited to Chieveley fireworks display

**A**N INVITATION is to be sent to the Ugandan Asians at Greenham to attend the Chieveley Guy Fawkes and Fireworks Display, which will this year be held on Saturday, November 4. The proposal which was made by Dr. P. D. Arnold, was readily agreed at the annual meeting of the Chieveley Centre on Monday.

The evening's programme will begin with a Guy Fawkes competition, and there will be an entertainment in the hall after the bonfire and fireworks, which will as usual be held under carefully controlled conditions to ensure safety.

Presenting the accounts for the year ending April 30, the treasurer, Mr. Tom Bower, said that the excess of income over expenditure was £416—the best it had ever been. The centre had succeeded in remaining independent, but he could foresee that it might be necessary some time in the future to go to the parish council for help. Meantime, the centre depended on continued voluntary effort, the principal fund-raisers being bingo, fireworks, the annual fete, and the dances run by Mr. Booker.

Reports were received from the various sections. Mr. J. Powell reported that material for new, fireproof curtains had been obtained, and the total cost, including making them up, would be around £250. Discussions about the possibility of providing a new cooker, had shown that there was little need for this, and the money had been diverted

# UGANDANS AT ST. JOHN TRAINING DAY

The annual western area cadet training day for St. John Ambulance cadets at Lambourn included instruction in the use and operation of radio sets, lifting and work with stretchers and a special outdoor exercise.

Indoor instruction took place in Lambourn Social Centre and Lambourn Memorial Hall. Hot soup and other refreshments were provided in the latter hall.

The whole operation was planned and supervised by area staff officers R. J. Penfold and Mrs. P. Nugent. They were assisted by about 20 officers and members from the divisions of Western Berkshire.

More than 50 cadets took part from the Wantage, AERE, Hungerford, Lambourn, Didcot, Shrivenham and Abingdon divisions.

Interested observers were three Ugandan Asians, who as St. John members in their own country, are keen to resume their former activities. They contacted local St. John members when the latter were performing duties at Greenham.

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# ASIANS BARRED FROM TEACHING REFUGEES

**Q**UALIFIED Asian teachers among the refugees from Uganda are not allowed to help teach Asian children at the Greenham Common Air Base, it was revealed on Friday. The Ugandan Resettlement Board has ruled that none of the Asians can be employed as salary-paid teachers at the present time.

The matter was raised on Friday at a meeting of Berkshire's Education Committee in Reading by Maj. Harry Gray of Thatcham, who understood that a number of Asians at the camp at the moment were teachers.

"I also understand that these teachers are not permitted to take part as paid staff in the teaching of children at the camp," he added. He asked if he could have more information on the situation.

It was confirmed that the County had drawn the attention of the Department of Education and Science to the fact that there were qualified teachers among the refugees.

The chairman of the committee, Ald. James Francis said that the Resettlement Board had made it quite clear that these teachers were not to be employed as salary-paid staff at the moment. The Department of Education were aware that the county council were more than willing to make use of their qualifications at the camp.

The cost of staffing the special school set up for the Asian children at Greenham would be

about £32,000 in a year, an education sub-committee has reported. The cost of providing books, stationery and materials for the 150 primary school and 220 secondary school children will be about £1,350 for six months.

A sum of nearly £1,000 will also be required to provide lectures and classes at the South Berkshire College of Education for the older refugees.

Berkshire will be repaid in full for any revenue expenditure necessary for the refugees and there will also be a 75 per cent repayment on any capital expenditure.

**At Friday's meeting committee members recorded their appreciation and congratulations to the staff for the speedy way in which they had set up the educational facilities at the camp.**

The school at Greenham was the first school of its kind to be opened in the country, the chairman of the county council, Ald. Richard Seymour said at Saturday's meeting of the county council in Reading.

It was opened within 48 hours of the first arrival of refugees at Greenham and now caters for 370 children between the ages of five and 16, he went on.

"It has become necessary to run the school in two shifts in each day. It is hoped, however, that more accommodation will be made available and this will make it possible to return to a normal school working day."

Ald. Seymour said that apart from the school special instruction was also being given to 30 students who were working for their GCE 'O' and 'A' levels in a variety of subjects.

Playgroups for children under five were organised in accom-

modation adjacent to the school. There were 40 children in two groups under the control of the social services department, with the work carried out by a paid supervisor and ten volunteers.

The chairman told the council that up to last Friday 2,598 Asians had been received at the camp. Of these 1,495 were still there and 1,103 had moved on.

The work being done by the county council departments was not only providing necessary services, but was doing much to maintain the morale of the immigrants, he said.

"I should like to congratulate all members of the staff concerned and I am sure they would wish me to say how much they are indebted to the large number of voluntary workers who have given so unstintingly of their time and energy.

It seems likely that the camp will remain open for some months and during that period the council's services will continue to give all the support they can to Brig. Beyts, the camp administrator, and his staff," added Ald Seymour.

**Speaking later at Newbury, Mr. Gray again referred to the non-employment of Asian teachers and said he believed a similar state of affairs exists with Ugandan Asian doctors. He said "It is important that the arrangements for the Asians at Greenham be considered as purely temporary and that the annual salaries planned for the assistant teachers now employed at the camp amounted to some £27,000 over the next year, these teachers are being drawn from the local area."**

Mr. Gray thought that the employment of Asian teachers as paid staff would be a practicable thing to do. The main reason for non-employment of Asians appeared to be the need to use local teachers who could better explain the new environment to the Asians.

Mr. Gray said an additional objection was that the Asians may not move on to permanent homes as quickly as one would wish, it might take much longer than the initial six months. "Certainly we must meet our moral obligations to these people but Greenham is only a temporary transit arrangement and a long-term permanent establishment must not be allowed to grow."

He thought that the use of the Ugandan Asian teachers as temporary paid staff would underline the temporary nature of the camp.

"I am also concerned that a more definite assurance be given as soon as possible that the money being spent on the resettlement arrangements will be refunded by the government and that this is in turn recovered from the grants we have promised directly to the Uganda Government"