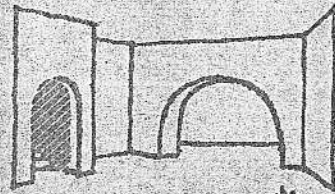
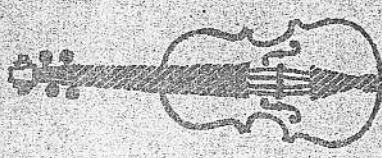


SUMMER 1957 Vol. III. No. 2



THE MAYFLOWER



JV

THE MAYFLOWER

"I am, in plainer words, a bundle of prejudices."

Lamb.

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EDITORIAL

The MAYFLOWER is stimulated and delighted to find that it now has a competitor in the field of Jordans journalism. "The Jordonian" is to appear in school holidays only, and it draws its contributors from the school-attending classes. They are persons of wide interests and capabilities, as the first issue shows. In less than a dozen pages The Jordonian can tell you how the Tipperary Mountains got their name (there is a budding punster here on whom the Dodd mantle might worthily fall), what geology is (but the writer warns you that there is heaps more to it), and how to build a crystal set out of a few simple bits and pieces (such as a .0005 mfd variable condenser and a German diode). It provides a second instalment of the Dusty stories which made their first public appearance in the MAYFLOWER, asks you riddles and reviews books. It tells you about William Penn and gives you a history of Jordans village which will be of particular interest to flat-dwellers. Its Editor is to be congratulated most heartily on the quality of his first number - and on its commercial success, for it was sold out within two hours of publication.

This last feat leaves the MAYFLOWER almost speechless: but luckily not quite. In our case, the sale of 90 copies means solvency; and this was achieved with the Spring number, though not within two hours. Our most grateful thanks are due to Edmund Cooper and Emma Dodd, without whose individual peddling of copies we should still be heading for bankruptcy. We should like also to record the MAYFLOWER'S best thanks to Sheila Sparkes for her very valuable work on the Editorial board until her rapidly growing family (now over six months old) made it necessary to resign her post.

May we also thank, most sincerely, all those who helped with the MAYFLOWER'S second birthday party as well as those who came to it. Particular thanks are due to Mrs. Nicholson, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Vince, John and Sheila Sparkes, Giles and Deirdre

Cooper, John Owen, and Piers Hayman and his Skiffle Group.

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THE NEXT ISSUE will be on sale in October.

ADVERTISEMENTS are welcome.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE are even more welcome.
Reporters of local events are badly needed.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS 6/- for four issues, inclusive of postage.
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ADDRESS: Downfield, Jordans, (Jordans 3121), or the MAYFLOWER
Box at the Village Store.

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O B I T U A R Y

DR. GEORGE B. JEFFERY, F.R.S.

The sudden death of George Jeffery on April 27th was not only a shock to the educational and scientific world but the cause of grief to those of us in Jordans who had been his personal friends and knew how great were his services to our Village. Many tributes in THE TIMES and elsewhere revealed how widely he was known and loved, whether as a learned mathematician, an understanding educationist or, as the Home Secretary wrote, a true craftsman in wood and silver.

George Jeffery had been closely associated with London University since his youth, and it was at University Collage that he obtained his M.A. and Doctorate. In 1922 he was elected Professor of Mathematics at King's College but two years later he returned to University as Astor Professor of Mathematics, a chair he retained for twenty years. In 1927, at the early age of 35, he became Director of the Institute of Education. So bald an outline of George Jeffery's career can give no indication of the many important committees of which he was chairman.

At no time was Jeff - as we called him - a resident of Jordans, and this enabled him to consider our problems objectively when he was elected to the Committee of Management in 1928. He was appointed Chairman of the Society in April, 1932 and continued to fill that post himself until 1939, when he was put in charge of such portions of London University as were evacuated to North Wales. He proved a wise and respected Chairman and thanks to his wisdom and foresight during those ten years the Village finances were placed on a sound basis and various important amenities were secured to the residents. George Jeffery's unassailable integrity and singleness of purpose - the good of Jordans - coupled with firmness of decision and loyalty to principle, were not always acceptable to some who sought less open ways to attain their ends. "Ask me to re-consider our policy and I will do so at once; threaten me and I shall have only one answer", was his reply to one who suggested organising local opposition to some action the Committee of Management had thought it right to take. His chairmanship lasted until 1945 but during the years of the war, owing to his absence on duties in N. Wales, his duties were undertaken by the vice-chairmen, T.F. Williams and A.F. Hazell.

George Jeffery's interment in Jordans burial ground on May 1st was attended by eminent members of London University and other educational bodies, who joined in silent tribute to a great man.

A.L.H.

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F R E D ' S P A G E

"The kingdom of Heaven suffereth violence and the violent man taketh it by storm". As a text this appealed strongly to me in my earlier middle life when, like so many ardent but impatient zealots, I longed for a return to those simple principles which, being based upon material well-being would open the door to a realisation of the things of the spirit. Impatient, I say, and somewhat embittered after years of attritional war when cruelty and violence were alive in men's hearts, (and which, if the truth be told is still as rampant as ever). Into the aftermath years of the 1920s when the guns had temporarily ceased to speak and hopes of better relationships had again taken shape there came the longing for a practical expression

of community life, and values were assessed on the simple things we could all do together, and into this revolutionary world was born the child we have come to know and love as Jordans Village; and we then fondly hoped and believed the babe would grow and flourish with never a pang or pain, sunshine and flowers all the way, and with proper nurture would become a beautiful life and the ugly and selfish creatures would fold their tents like the Arabs and silently steal away. Not so, however, for as our dreams began to take material shape and the wheels began to turn, (if you will forgive the mixed metaphor), so the difficulties inherent in new experiments made their appearance, sometimes as a cloud in the sky no bigger than a man's hand which grew until it burst in storm and tempest upon the bewildered people.

It was while thinking of the recent sudden passing of Dr. G.B. Jeffery that I recalled what was perhaps the most stormy and unsettled period in the history of this Village. G.B. Jeffery was actively associated with the life of Jordans for at least ten years during the 1930s as its Chairman and only relinquished that position because of the second world war. His term of office coincided with this period of recurring storms broken up by welcome days and months of peaceful, constructive and sane development, together with a reconstruction of the Society's financial foundations. How much we owe to his work will probably never be recorded; only posterity will reap the benefit of those years, pock-marked as they were with outbursts of dissension and storm. One recalls the long and tiring, sometimes irritating, meetings, and attempts time after time, to reach agreed decisions. How, at one Annual Meeting G.B. declared with, literally, a sob in his voice, that having given so much of his time to international understanding he had failed to bring about peace in this Village. And in and through all these storms and calms his patient, unruffled, yet strong and undaunted personality came to mean to those who knew and worked with him something to rely upon, a shelter and refuge in difficult days. Although these high spots of dissension are the things he is perhaps most remembered by, and perhaps unjustly judged, it was in the constructive matters he will be also remembered, for instance, how with vigour he "opened" the hard tennis court with a first set, the said court being one of his peaceful achievements, and the dedication of the Wood, The Green and Cherry Tree Corner, and how disappointed he was

that the exigencies of war prevented him at the last moment from performing this act of dedication. I have often thought of Jordans Village as a kind of theatre and on its stage a great crowd of actors, some with only walking-on parts and no lines to say, others merely crowd or background numbers. Or others, and here I count myself with pride, as the stage hands or back-room boys, doing the commonplace and humdrum jobs, so the show can go on.

But coming to the front, from the early days right to the present time, have appeared the star performers, with personality and great gift and real lines to utter. Of this calibre was George Barker Jeffery, scholar, professor, F.R.S., but as we in Jordans knew him a man of simple, unassuming ways and with that rare capacity, being essentially great, of coming down to the level of ordinary folk like ourselves, and moreover, leaving us with something of his friendliness, humour and enthusiasm. A great man, my masters; truly of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.

So long.

F.H.H.

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SOCIETY NOTES

T.M.C.

The TMC Supper, attended by well over a hundred tenants, was followed by impromptu charades, and was a most enjoyable social gathering. During the evening a bouquet was presented to Fred Hancock and Ethel Clerihew to mark their engagement. In March, a reception was arranged by the Committee to welcome Fred and Ethel after their marriage, when they received a cheque as a wedding gift from the Village.

The Spring Show was a happy affair, all exhibits were interesting, many were outstanding. A service arranged by William Moss and Ferdi Hazell was held on Easter Sunday, the collection of £2..13.. 0 being sent to UNICEF. A Village May Fair is in the process of being organised for May 25th. This caters for the amusement and interest of everyone, whether old or young, and the TMC hope that it will be a successful venture.

M. Nicholson.

JORDANS MUSIC CLUB

The Music Club has arranged three concerts since Christmas.

On January 24th Regina Klemperer and Alison Gordon gave a song and piano recital. Regina Klemperer sang groups of lieder

by Schumann, Brahms and Wolf, and Alison Gordon played the posthumous sonata in B flat by Schubert. We are very grateful to these busy professional artists for giving the Music Club members and others this lovely concert.

On March 3rd a members' evening was given by some of the Music Club's younger members, beginning with a trio for piano, clarinet and cello by Susannah Davies, aged 14, played by the composer, Frances Valentine and Angela Bedwell. Anthony Smithson, Oliver Morley, Benjamin Zander, Tess and Nan Miller also played at this concert.

On March 24th, Desiree Newell, Margaret Watkins and Geoffrey Higgins gave a delightful evening of piano trios by Beethoven (C minor) and Brahms (C major).

The Music Club's 14th season of concerts in the Mayflower Barn is as follows:-

- | | |
|----------|---|
| June 1 | The Jacques String Orchestra conducted by Dr. Jacques, with Gareth Morris, flute. |
| June 22 | Larry Adler, harmonica, with the Martin String Quartet, the programme to include the Divertimento for harmonica and String Quartet by Gordon Jacob, and a Beethoven String Quartet, op. 18, no. 2 in G. |
| July 20 | A piano recital by a young French pianist, Eric Heidsieck. |
| Sept. 14 | A song recital by Muriel Smith, American mezzo-soprano, who is singing Carmen at Covent Garden this season. |

J. Cook.

SOCIAL GUILD

At the Annual General Meeting the secretary reported on an active and successful year, claiming modestly that "they did nothing in particular, and did it very well". The committee nevertheless were in some doubt whether there was really a need for such a body as the Guild, or whether its functions could not be discharged without maintaining an organisation to plan a programme of regular events. No member of the existing committee was however prepared to stand for re-election, and only one nomination had been received.

After many expressions of opinion, it was hoped that the Social Guild would continue. It is proposed that a meeting should be convened in the autumn to receive nominations for a committee. Meanwhile, Giles and Deirdre Cooper, Elizabeth

Vince, Fred Hancock and Nellie Harman were asked to solicit names for the new committee and to call the next meeting.

This concluded the business meeting, and Eric Newton then took us with many excellent colour slides through France, Italy and the Dolomites to Venice and back.

FOLK DANCE GROUP

The Folk Dance Group has had a more successful term this Spring than during 1956. New life and vigour has come into the Tuesday practice evenings, largely due to the attendance of several new younger folk. But it is regretted that some of our previous regular dancers have dropped off.

Before these notes are published, the Annual May Festival of Dancing on the Green will be over; but arrangements are all set for this occasion to be a flourishing event with a five-piece band. Saturday, September 7th is also booked for an autumn Barn Dance.

Wilfred G. Bligh

JORDANS ART CLUB

An idea of Mireille Cooper's has been realised by regular meetings of about 20 people interested in the practice of drawing and painting. All the work of organisation, which is both necessary and considerable, has been done by Mireille Cooper and we are all very grateful to her.

The winter session was occupied with indoor water colour sketching and portrait drawing. Some dozen fellow citizens have gallantly sat for an hour and a half, and we have learnt a great deal about human heads - and they have learnt a few things about their own heads, from the conversation. Anyone who would like to undergo this entertaining experience will be gladly accepted as a model.

The painters work more quietly at their own variations on a theme of Mrs. Cooper, or at their own theme on a vase of narcissi. It is always agreed that it is quite difficult; but not enough to sap the confidence. However, one notices that the others are making some progress.

E. Smith

JORDANS LIBERAL PARTY ASSOCIATION

This Association has now been revived with the following Committee:- M.C. Brauer, J.H. Cook, N. Harding, A. Horne, D. Newell and C. McL. Morley (Hon. Sec.). It is hoped to hold a Meeting early in July, date and place to be announced. Membership is invited; subscriptions (2/6d) to Mrs. Brauer, 15, Puers Field.

C. McL. Morley

SOUTH BUCKS CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION - Seer Green & Jordans
Branch.

The Annual New Year Party was held in Seer Green Village Hall on Jan. 4th. It was a most successful affair and so well attended that before the evening was over doors had to be closed to all but ticket holders.

The Annual General Meeting was held in Seer Green Village Hall on March 22nd. We can only wish that the attendance here had been as good as at the Party. In spite of a very busy life, Mr. Ronald Bell spared time to join us and delighted us all with his inspired and informative talk.

Our next event will be the Fete at Seer Green on June 1st at which we hope to see a large number of members and their friends.

New members from Jordans will be welcomed and enrolled at Bromham Cottage.

M.W. Jeffery.

JORDANS LABOUR PARTY this year is holding its business meetings once a quarter and in the other months lectures and discussions are to be arranged. The meeting in May will hear some account of Eric Shearer's visit to the Far East and will discuss some of the political problems of that area. The next business meeting will be on 24th June.

The Local Party is helping with the envelope scheme to raise money for the South Bucks Party's Agent's Fund. This is now urgent as the Party has selected a new Prospective Parliamentary Candidate, Richard Sankey. The Treasurer of the Local Party is now Ernest Moore, of 11, Puers Field, and the Secretary Russell Everett of Corner Cottage, from whom information about the Labour Party can be obtained.

R.E.

FRIENDS OF PONDS

Over £46 has been collected from the sale of milk bottle tops and waste paper. A Committee member will be at the Village Hall with a car on the first Tuesday of each month from about 3.00 to 4.15 p.m. to collect any bottle tops or paper that are brought along.

E. Boon

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THE JORDONIAN

Our Magazine The New Jordonian is for the younger members of the Village. We are going to try to bring it out every holiday

catering for every taste. We need stories, articles on your hobbies and anything that will interest our readers, also jokes and puzzles.

Our first issue was sold out to our great surprise in two hours.

Incidentally the name "Jordonian" is intentional. We prefer it to "Jordanian".

Roger Horne, Editor of The New Jordonian.

UNDER CRUTCHES WOOD

MARRIAGE Ethel Clerihew to Fred Hancock.

BIRTHS To Margaret and Kevin Nash, a daughter, Elizabeth.
To Margaret and Arthur Mowatt, a son, Michael.

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VILLAGE STORE Our best wishes, and our particular thanks for his kindness in selling the MAYFLOWER, go to Robert Bell, who retired from the Village Store at the end of April, and to his successor, Mrs. Stringer.

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We are pleased to welcome to the Village Mrs. Mabon and Robert Mabon, who has hitherto been designing stage sets for the Players, as well as the MAYFLOWER cover, from a base in Kent.

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ARCHITECTURAL NOTE

"A Roman Catholic Church which is to be built at Loughton, Essex, will contain a sound-proof glass cubicle for mothers with babies and young children. Loudspeakers will enable them to follow the service."

THE TIMES, Feb. 6, 1957.

ALMA MATER

"The status of the women teachers today is something to be grateful for and proud of. They are overworked and underpaid!"

Sir Maurice Bowra

The AGM of Jordans Village Ltd. was held on March 20. Of the retiring members of the Management Committee, Mr. H.E. Newton and Mr. J.J. Sparkes were willing to stand for a further term, but Mr. A.F. Hazell did not seek re-election. As only one nomination had been received, that of Mr. W.S. Barrell, no election was necessary. The gratitude of the Committee and the Village was expressed for Mr. Hazell's work and his willingness to bring his technical knowledge to bear on village problems.

The Report and Accounts for 1956 were adopted without discussion. It was agreed that Mr. R. Ravenscroft should be appointed auditor in succession to Mr. Wilfrid E. Litteboy, who was retiring.

These items of business took little time, but with Any Other Business the shareholders came into their own, and by the end of the evening few voices can have been unheard on one subject or another.

Clearance of Crutches Wood. Mrs. Cavett raised this question. The main points made in discussion were that vistas and thickets should be preserved, brambles as well as hollies removed, and the interests of nesting birds remembered. It was reported that the clearance had been put in charge of a sub-committee (G. Cooper, F. Hazell and the Secretary), who were drawing up a plan of the wood before allowing any serious cutting to take place.

Timber garage. Mr. Hickman drew attention to the dilapidation of one garage in the village, and hoped it would be improved.

Trees. Mrs. Newell brought up the question of the oak tree which had been lopped in Seer Green Lane. She and others felt that the Committee should see that the tree was taken right down, while yet others felt that the question was one for the owner of the property concerned. It was finally agreed that the trunk that remained should be given a chance to show what it could do, and that the matter should be further considered if it failed to put out strong shoots.

Parking at Seer Green railway station. Miss Vince raised the question of the Golf Club's refusal to allow cars to park at the station, and the following resolution was passed: That the Management Committee should use their best endeavours to obtain the use of the existing car park at Seer Green railway

station for Jordans residents pending a permanent settlement of the problem.

Bridle Path. Mrs. Doris Newton asked whether anything could be done to improve the condition of the lower end of the Bridle Path (Wilton Lane). The Secretary replied that the County Surveyor had already been approached, and that though he had no funds in hand at the end of the financial year he would be approached again early in the year that was about to begin.

Parking on grass verges. Mr. Hickman suggested that the owners of properties with a grass verge to the road should be requested to make the verges good when they had been damaged by persistent car parking.

Garages. Mrs. Hayward drew attention to the shortage of garages in the village. It was pointed out that this was causing cars to be parked at the side of the road all night without lights. The Chairman said that the Committee intended to put up some garages, possibly on the Wilton Yard site, and undertook to look into the question of the use of this site as a temporary park meanwhile.

Village Hall. The Chairman said that the Committee hoped to call a general meeting devoted exclusively to the question of a new village hall, in three or four weeks' time.

Children's Corner. Mrs. Hayward said that the see-saw needed repair, and suggested that the hollows worn in the ground at each end of it should be filled in. A suggestion that the see-saw was a matter for the TMC was firmly rebutted.

Dogs. Mr. Cavett asked whether the Management Committee were satisfied with the response to the circular letter asking owners to keep their dogs under control. It was suggested in reply that Jordans dogs are now better behaved than they were, whereas children firing arrows had grown worse. A proposal by Mr. Shearer that this problem should be solved by getting the children to fire their arrows at the dogs brought the meeting to a cheerful conclusion.

M.E.V.

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MENU A L'ANGLAISE

"A luncheon was given in Paris today, under the auspices of The Scotch Whisky Association, the Milk Marketing Board and the British Travel and Holidays Association, with the aim of providing an example of British food and cooking".

THE TIMES April 5, 1957.