

# 1940

Leek Post & Times 'Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> 1940'  
LXVI No. 3592

## Page 3 '**Evacuees Health**'

(Column Six – at the bottom)

We are informed that there has been a remarkable improvement in the health of evacuees transferred from Manchester to Leek on the outbreak of war, definite proof of this fact being the many instances where children have put on weight in astonishing fashion since being moved from their native city. In one case, that of a girl of 12, from Cotty-hurst district of Manchester, an increase in weight of one stone five pounds has been noted within eight weeks, the girl having developed into quite a bonny specimen. This is by no means isolated example, it is stated. During the recent snowy weather, the evacuees were in high flee sledging on the slopes in the district, the sledges having been made at manual classes by themselves.

## Page 4 (Advert)

Top Banner:

Chats with LITTLE PEOPLE by Uncle Nemo  
Are you "NEMONISING" regularly?

Leek Post & Times 'Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> 1940'

## Page 8 '**Parties for 600 Children**'

(Column 4)

### Leek Welfare Committee's Work

Members of the Leek Welfare Committee continued the good work they are doing in the town when they entertain about 660 evacuated children and leek school children to a party on Monday afternoon. Owing to the fact that there is not a hall in Leek big enough to accommodate such a large number of children, those over nine years of age attended the Town Hall and those under nine were catered for at the New Assembly Hall of the Britannia Street Senior School. There were 347 children at the Town Hall and about 250 at the New Assembly Hall.

The proceedings commenced with a tea, and the meal included potted meat sandwiches, pork pies, jellies, mince pies, slab cake, fancy cakes. The long tables were heavily laden with these good things, but with so many little Oliver Twists present wanting more, it was not long before "the cupboard was bare" Christmas crackers aroused wild delight, and their contents, paper hats, added a further festive touch.

Leek and Manchester teachers waited at the tables and had the willing assistance of Mr. Harry Robinson, Mr. C. S. Herd, Mr. J Rowbotham, Mr. G. I. Turner. Others who worked equally hard were Mrs. A. Bentley (Secretary of the Leek Welfare Committee), Mr. C. K. Hyde, Mr Harry Nichols, Mr. W. Pickering, Mr Mear, Miss Walker, Mr Gandy, Mr Wilcock, Mr Jarman and others.

CONCERT

The tea over, the trestle tables were soon removed, and community singing was thoroughly enjoyed. The music for this was provided by a band composed of Leek High School boys with Mrs. Hedley (Cheddleton) at the piano. The musicians, styling themselves the "Nit Wits" were K Tomlinson and J Bloor (accordianists), Rex Hill (guitar), and William Golton (uke-banjo). Such songs as "Roll Out the Barrel," "Hanging Out the Washing" etc, went with a real swing and were needless to say, thoroughly enjoyed.

During the afternoon it was announced that a telegram containing the seasons compliments and best wishes had been received from Manchester. In addition to the community singing, further entertainment was provided by a Punch and Judy show by Mr. Bowman, a conjurer (Roy Clulow, aged 11), and a film show given by Mr. H. B. Robinson.

Mr. C. K. Hyde and Mr. Wilcock acted as MC's at the Town Hall, while similar duties at the New Assembly Hall were carried out by Mr. A. E. Jarman and Miss Walker (Ashton Old Road School).

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

The parties were made possible as a result of public subscriptions, and the members of the Leek Welfare Committee are deeply grateful to all who subscribed to help make the parties such a huge success. The flag day held last month, together with the subscriptions received from the local clubs and public houses in the town, realised the handsome sum £39 5s 5d. The flag day collections were taken by twelve girls from the Loretta Convent School. Individual subscriptions were received from the following: D. J. Povey, 2s 6d; H. F. Rabone, 2s 6d; "Roches," £1; G. E. Waten £2 2s; Miss Digby Smith, 2s 6d; the Rev, and Mrs. S. P. Warren, 5s' P. L. Davenport £2 2s; F. Hobson 6d; J. Gwynne, 10s; Dr Lawson, 10s 6d; Mrs. K. Ward, 10s; H. White, £1 1s; Mrs E. A. wardle, 10s; Dr Davis £1 1s; H. A. Tuttoch £1; F. G. Johnson £2; ball Haye Green Club, 5s; W. Hull, 5s; anonymous, 2s; Mr. W. Shallcross, 2s; anonymous, 10s; A. A. Pilkington, 2s 6d; Arthur Fogg, £1 1s.

The adults party at the Salvation Army Hall proved equally enjoyable Twenty mothers and little children and babies were present. Games were played for an hour and a steak and kidney pie meal was then partaken of, with pudding, mince pies, cakes, jellies and other good things to follow. Mr. Jarman of Ashton Old-road School, distributed toys to the children on behalf of the Welfare Committee, a grant of 1s per child having been made by the Manchester Education Authority. Games were played in the evening and among visitors was Mrs. Bentley (Hon. Secretary). Major Povey and Capt. Hanvey were in charge of the party.

Children from several Manchester Schools also attended matinees at Leek cinemas as a result of the grant by the Manchester education authority, and were provided with a bag of sweets each.

Leek Post & Times and Cheadle News & Times & North Staffs Advertise.  
'Saturday January 20<sup>th</sup> 1940' LXVL No. 3593

Page 2 (Advert)

Top Banner:

Chats with LITTLE PEOPLE by Uncle Nemo  
Are you "NEMONISING" regularly?

Page 6 – **‘Rushtons Evacuee’s Essay’**

(Column 1 mid-Bottom)

A rather interesting essay, written by an evacuee who is at present a pupil at the Rushton Church of England School and contrasting town and village life has been sent to us.

The scholar, Harold Curran, writes as follows:-

I live on a farm in the county of Staffordshire, and it is a different place from the town. It is a different life. We see the cows milked by hand, and some milked by machine. It is an interesting process. The units are the things like a cylinder about six inches long lined with glass and you can see the milk going through. The cooler is like a Venetian blind with milk on the outside and water on the inside, and it cools the milk. In Staffordshire the farmers seem to like roan cows or heifers better. A heifer is a cow which has had no calves or only one. A polly calf is interesting: it has no horns only a lump on the head. Three quartered means the cow only milks in three pups instead of four. A farm sale is by a man who (lives in it) is selling off all his cattle and implements. I have been to a farm sale since I have been here, and it is very interesting. The auctioneer is the man who sells the things, and the bidder is the person who tries to buy.

When we get off the train we were so surprised at seeing farmers driving cows through the streets of Leek going to the market. We got off the train and got into a bus which took us to the little village of Rushton near Macclesfield. There is a church which I attend ever Sunday, which has been there for Centuries. There are mountains here, one of which is called the Cloud, which is over eleven hundred feet high, and our teacher was pleased in taking us to its summit. There is heather on top and rocks as big as buildings, and the rocks crack off in huge blocks. It is the weather which causes it to crack off, the heat causes it to crack and the frost wedges in the cracks and it breaks off. A triangulation station is on the top which is a slab of cement with a brass lid on the top which fixes up the apparatus of the surveyor from which he makes maps of the countryside and hills. Harold Curran

Leek Post and Times ‘Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> Jan 1940’

Page 2

Column 2 + 3

Nemo advert and below ‘Lifes Biggest Surprise’ story for Children. (Key feature in the newspaper directly for children)

Leek Post and Times ‘February 3<sup>rd</sup> 1940’

Page 4 – **‘Happy and Contented’**

(Column 3 – Second to bottom article)

Here is still more evidence of the joy of evacuees are finding in Leek. This is a first letter from Margaret Turley staying at 70 Westminster Road, Leek.

“I am an evacuee. I go to East St School. I have had a good time while I have been in Leek. I think I have started the New Year well by becoming a Nemonite. I am very happy and contented. I have put on weight while I have been in Leek. I have plenty to eat and nothing to worry about. I went to Ashton

Old road school in Manchester. We came to Leek on the first of September. I think the air here is glorious. I live at Openshaw.”

Welcome to Nemonising Margaret. And that goes for all evacuees too. Enter our competitions write letters to Uncle Nemo every week, and join in the rewards too, if you try hard enough.

Leek Post and Times ‘February 10<sup>th</sup> 1940’

### Page 2 ‘Increases’

(Column 3 top article under VIEWS and REVIEWS)

HOUSEWIVES in Leek and district have been deeply concerned during the past week or two at the increase in the prices of numerous commodities, especially of food stuffs. It has been thought that the war has been chiefly responsible for the increased cost of living. No doubt it has, but the abnormal weather conditions have had something to do with it.

- Shortage of meat particularly beef
- Shortage of vegetables
- (four pounds for six pence of potatoes)
- (1s 10d for a rabbit)

Leek Post and Times ‘February 17<sup>th</sup> 1940’

### Page 7 ‘Cheadle Council Topics’

(Column 2 – 3)

Ratepayers’ Letter: Mr. Brunts Request

Fuel Overseers £100 salary

662 evacuees – one of the subheadings (Column 3)

The Billeting Officer (Mr, J, G, Bennett) reported that the evacuated persons in the area totalled 662 and no appeals from householders against responsibility for the care of the children were to hand.

Leek Post and Times ‘March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1940’

3999 LXVII No.

### ‘Evacuees Verses Locals’

(Column 3 + 4+ 5 from top)

The combat is on! Evacuees are gaining a stronghold in Nemonising and every post-bag brings more and better letters from them. But the locals are still holding the fort and the Evacuees, good though they are, have a hard struggle ahead if they are to be the victors. To give you an insight into the present position, I give below ‘snippets’ from recent contributions by both sides – first a letter from an Evacuee, then one from a local and so ... You can decide for yourselves how the combat is going and maybe you will think that so far there’s nothing to choose between them. But of one thing you will be certain – the general standard is high due, no doubt, to the friendly competition between the two combatants.

Made in leek – John Prendergast (evacuee) 46, Holy Road, Leek

Prodigal Son – Peter Robinson 15, Ashbourne Road, Leek

Perfect Weekend – Betty Harper (evacuee) 44, Ashbourne Road, Leek

Faithful Rover – Kathleen Ratcliffe 4, Albion Street, Leek

Faithful Prince – Myra Sayers (evacuee) 6, School Street, Leek

Waiting to be Dug Out – Eva Hambleton 41, Alsap Street, Leek

A Couple of Games – Marion and May Barnes (evacuees) Ash Grove, Cheddleton

A Favourite Pet – Beryl Knott 3, Council Houses, Ipstones

Leek Post and Times '9<sup>th</sup> March 1940'

Page 8 '**Two Girls on Stealing Charge**'

Property of Local J.P

(Column 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> article down)

At a special Leek Police Court yesterday, two girls, aged 12 and the other aged 11, were jointly charged with stealing a piece of bacon, a piece of cheese, a box of crackers, four chocolate teacakes, a jar of fish paste, two oranges, two packets of chewing gum and a quarter of a lb of sweets total value 3s 9d. The property of Mr. C. H. Sheldon J. P. both girls admitted offences.

Police Sergt Clayton said he saw the two girls at Mr. Sheldon's shop where they had been detained. The younger girl told the officer she was an evacuee, which was not true; she also gave a wrong name.

Det-Officer Edwards said when he interviewed the girls they said they were hungry and had only had dry bread to eat that day. There was no food in the house except dry bread.

The father of the girls said he was sorry about what had happened. The children had had nothing to eat apart from dry bread owing to the fact that his money from the Labour Exchange had not come through. Since the offence the father said he had obtained work.

Mrs. Horace Wardle (Chairman) told the girls it had been wrong for them to steal and they would each be placed on probation for 12 months.

In view of the family circumstances, the costs of the case were remitted.

Leek Post and Times '16<sup>th</sup> March 1940'

LXV11. No 4001

Page 1 – **HUGE ADVERT**

(Covers first 3 columns)

Thank you, Mrs. Ruggles ...

We want more like you!

Mrs Ruggles keeps the little sweet and cigarette shop in the village. She's been looking after her "evacuee" for over six months. Extra work? Yes, Johnie's been a handful! ... But she knows she has done the right thing. And think of all the people who have cause to be thanking Mrs. Ruggles. First young Johnie himself. He's out of a danger zone – where desperate peril may come at any minute. And he's healthier and happier and better – behaved now. Perhaps he doesn't say it but he certainly means "Thank you, Mrs. Ruggles."

Then his parents. Think what it means to them: "Whatever happens Johnie is safe. And with such a dear motherly soul too. We often say 'bless you, Mrs. Ruggles.'" The Government too is grateful to Mrs. Ruggles – and to all the 300,000 others who are looking after evacuated children. But many new volunteers are needed – to share the present burden, and to prepare for any crisis that may come. Won't you be one of them? You may be saving another Johnie's life.

The Minister of Health, who has been entrusted by the Government with the conduct of evacuation, asks you urgently to join the Roll of those who are willing to receive children. Please apply to your local Council.

Leek Post and Times '16<sup>th</sup> March 1940'

Page 5 '**The Second Evacuation**'

(Column 3- top article under VIEWS and REVIEWS)

At the last meeting of the Leek Urban District Council Mr. H. C. Bardett Chairman of the Billeting Committee gave his fellow councillors full particulars regarding a second evacuation scheme. The plans for this second scheme have been approved during the past month by the Minister of Health after consultation with the Board of Education. So far as Leek is concerned it will mean, of necessity, another house – to – house canvas in order to ascertain the facilities available for housing the second batch of evacuees.

This work will again be undertaken we understand, by the local teachers and it is up to the residents of the town to make their task as easy as possible. It is not a job the teaching profession relish, yet they know that it has to be done AND ARE WILLING TO DO IT. Householders can help them very materially by volunteering the information they need willingly and readily.

There were occasions during the last house-to-house canvas when householders slammed the door in the faces of the canvassers. That to say the very least was adding insult to injury. The teachers were not, in anyway, acting as busybodies. They were merely doing their duty-and doing it voluntarily. We trust that during the next canvas there will be no repetition of that kind of treatment.

It is understood that the second evacuation will not be ordered until the homes of the children in the vulnerable area are in actual danger from air raids. Shelter for those children will then be urgently needed and Leek Urban District area will be required to billet at least 1000 school children in addition to those evacuees already in the town.

Leek Post and Times '23<sup>rd</sup> March 1940'

Page 1 – **Huge Government Advert**  
(Column 1, 2, 3)

Who'll give a promise to keep this child safe?

Leek Post and Times '23<sup>rd</sup> March 1940'

Page 8 – **The Children are our Richest Asset**  
(Column 6 below an advert)

Message from the Minister of Health

Some time during the past week or so the postman will have dropped into your letter-box a leaflet which has my name at the bottom of it. It is a message to all householders in these districts which are receiving areas under the Government's Evacuation Scheme, and an invitation to "Join the Roll" of those who are willing to take children into their homes as need arises. You have probably read it (if not please do!) and talked it over in the family circle. Perhaps you already have children for whom you have been caring since the outbreak of war. If so, you will soon be receiving from Her Majesty the Queen a personal message expressing her appreciation of the great public spirit you have shown.

Chiefly I wish to speak now to those householders who have room for children, but have not yet taken any, though they volunteered to do so a year ago. The leaflet asks them to "Join the Roll"- to offer "to share in the work of receiving and caring for school children already in the district or who may be sent there under the Government Evacuation Scheme." What does this pledge mean? It means that you enrol yourself in a body of neighbours who are ready to help one another in a task already undertaken by the district as a whole.

As you know, the Government have prepared plans for a further evacuation, which will be of school children only, if aid raids start on our towns and cities. Meanwhile it is important that the 400,000 school children still in the reception area should stay there. This represents a very valuable contribution towards solving our problem of Civil Defence.

Many thousands of householders are content to keep on looking after children who have been happily taken into the family. They know the conveniences and the added responsibilities, but most of these hosts and hostesses find recompense in watching their charges grow and flourish under their care, of feeling that they are "doing their bit."

There are some who feel that they can now fairly ask for some relief. Billets are needed, to meet ordinary movements of children for school and other reasons. If you sign the form, it does not necessarily mean that you will be called upon for immediate service; but you will be helping to spread the burden by contributing to a 'pool' of accommodation available for such needs as arise. It is not right that all the work should fall on one household in four. While local authorities have compulsory powers which some of them have been obliged to use. I believe that fair distribution can be secured by voluntary system, the

British tradition of public services, if the importance and urgency of the problem are realised.

We are doing everything possible to ease the task which falls on the private householder. The billeting allowance for children over 14 has been increased from 8s 6d to 10s 8d. More empty houses are to be used as sick bays or hostels for difficult children. Remember that in caring for children you will be doing a job which is really important, because the "thinning out" or congested centres of population is part of Britain's war strategy. Remember to that the young generation is one of the country's richest assets. One that we must try our utmost to preserve unimpaired. It is to the children of today that the victorious Britain of tomorrow will have to hand over the national tasks and the national heritage.

Nor should you think that because the air raids which we all expected have not yet come; the danger is any less. As the weather improves, it must become greater. We cannot afford to relax, we must stand firmly on guard. On the home front as on the battlefield, surprise is still the most powerful weapon of warfare, and to be prepared in advance is the surest defence.

I would ask you to consider very carefully whether you are willing to Join the Roll. You would be helping the children, you would be helping your neighbour, you would be helping your country. The national effort is built up, like the work of an army, of millions of such efforts of individual service. Walter Elliot.

Leek Post and Times '30th March 1940'

Page 1 – **Government Advert**  
Who'll help Mrs Harrison?

Leek Post and Times '6th April 1940'

Page 6- **Government Advert**  
Someone here is going to need your help.

Leek Post and Times '13th April 1940'

Page 3 – **Government Advert**  
(Column 1-3 bottom left corner)  
Will you share a small burden with your neighbour?

Leek Post and Times '20th April 1940'

Page 4 – **Government Advert**  
(bottom left)  
You've been splendid Mrs Johnson.

Leek Post and Times '8th June 1940'

Page 1- **The Second Evacuation Over 1000 children Efficient Organisation**  
(Column 5-6)

It was not until Saturday Morning Mr. J. Rowbotham Chief Sanitary Inspector and Chief Billeting Officer for Leek received word that a further contingent of evacuees would be sent to the Moorland town on Sunday. However, the preparations for the reception of more evacuees was already well in hand and little time was wasted in putting the machinery for the reception into operation. From 2.40pm on Sunday the train loads of boys and girls chiefly London school children who had previously been evacuated to the East Coast, began to arrive.

#### The first batch

The first train pulled into Leek station at about 2.40pm and the first lot of children for the Leek Urban District were taken in special buses and cars to the schools in the locality where they were provided with tea and cakes after their long and tiring journey. Subsequently they were billeting in the area surrounding the schools to which they had been taken.

Cars were on duty at all billeting distributing centres, and with the exception of the adult evacuees everyone was accommodated in their new homes by 7pm.

#### Organisation

That in itself was a remarkable feat of organisation and reflected the greatest possible credit on Mr. Rowbotham, Mr. G. L. Turner (Assistant Secretary Inspector) and their staff.

A tribute should be paid to the visiting teachers for the excellent behaviour of their charges and the cleanliness of the children in their care. All the evacuees were medically examined before making the journey to Leek, and on arrival those in need of medical treatment were removed to a sick bay where they were detained for overnight attention. Out of the total of 1000 children sent to Leek urban and rural areas only 12 were in need of such attention. Doctor Barnardos Boys.

Leek Post and Times '8th June 1940'

#### Page 5- **More Evacuees**

(Column 3 middle- VIEWS and REVIEWS)

There have been many new faces in Leek this week and the dialects heard have been varied considerably from those usually found in North Staffs. The second evacuation was the reason for these changes. Local residents will always remember the second evacuation goodness knows many of them have done their best to forget the first.

Last September it was pitiful to see some of the tiny tots roaming about the streets of Leek trying to find accommodation but experience is a good teacher. This was proved to the hilt on Sunday last where over 500 children arrived in the town from the East Coast areas. For many of them the transfer was not their first experience of wartime evacuation and they viewed with some apprehension their latest move. That apprehension was mutual but it was quickly allayed on both sides.

Efficient organisation at Leek, coupled with the closest possible co-operation from the teachers in charge of the newcomers, resulting in perfect harmony throughout the whole of the proceedings. The problems of billeting were very

few exceptions, was carried through without a hitch of any kind. There was no fuss, excitement, overlapping or flurry.

One of the chief worries was "How are the residents going to take to the evacuees?" That question has been answered for us by one of the teachers in charge of a group of secondary school boys. He says: "The Leek people have accorded their traditional North Staffordshire hospitality, and the boys and girls who came to your town last Sunday are already thoroughly at home. They are liked and welcomed in their new homes and they like their new billets in return. Up to now I have not heard a single complaint and from what I have seen I do not think that I am likely to."

Leek Post and Times '29th June 1940'

Page 2- **Evacuee Children happy and contented**  
(Column 5 middle)

To the editor

Dear Sir,

We feel it is our duty to express our gratitude to the inhabitants of Leek for the kindness and hospitality shown to us on our arrival at their town. We write on behalf of the evacuated children, who have found comfort and friends in this beautiful country town.

This is our second experience of evacuation. Our original homes are near London. Our first reception area was in North Watsham in Norfolk.

When we alighted at Leek Station we were given a hearty welcome and the scene will always live in our memories.

We attend the Parish Church School, and were welcomed as if we were best children. We are known as "visitors", which makes us feel more at home than if we were called "evacuees." The shops and streets are more like those of our home town.

We have known two different accents and we find the Staffordshire accent the harder to understand. The parks and recreation grounds, are not as large as those in London, but they serve quite the same purpose.

Once more, we express our sincere thanks for your most friendly welcome and care.

Yours truly,

Iris Skells

Joan Macdonald

Edmonton higher grade school

Jeansville

Ladderedge

20 6 49

Leek

Leek Post and Times '29th June 1940'

Page 3- **Evacuee's thanks**  
(Column 2 bottom- VIEWS and REVIEWS)

Elsewhere in this issue will be found a letter, written by two evacuee children (girls) who attend the Parish Church School and live at Ladderedge. These two girls accompanied by the headmaster of the Parish Church School (Mr. H.C.Burdett) handed their letter personally to the editor on Monday. They are both bright and alert children and the headmaster gave his assurance that it was entirely on their own initiative, that the girls wrote to thank the Leek people for the cordial reception which had been given to them on their arrival and the kindness and hospitality which they have since received.

These two girls like many others who have been evacuated to Leek and district, have had a previous experience of evacuation but they are doubtless so greatly impressed by the kindness enumerated in their letter, that they were very moved to express the desire of publicly thanking all the people who have contributed to their happiness since arriving here.

The second and last evacuation scheme, thanks to the splendid spirit in which all concerned entered into it and received it, it has been a gratifying success. Almost all who have evacuated children display the greatest interest in them and are as greatly concerned about their welfare as if they were their own children. This is as it should be and it must be a source of great satisfaction to the billeting officer and his honorary workers- and they are- that everything has proceeded so satisfactorily.

Leek Post and Times '13th June 1940'

Page 4- **Economising**

(Column 3 bottom- Nemonising advert and section)

"I am helping the country's economy by working on an allotment with our school," says Leonard Wilkins (evacuee) of 21 Portland St Leek. "The boys of our class own a small plot on which we grow vegetables. I grow lettuce, carrots, beetroot, parsnips, peas and kidney beans. In addition I collect silver paper and I have cut down sweets and pictures. With the money I save I buy national saving stamps which are now mounting up."

Leek Post and Times '7<sup>th</sup> September 1940'

Page 5-

(Column 3 middle article-VIEWS and REVIEWS)

WHILE on the question of the Spitfire Fund we consider that a special comment should be made regarding the forthcoming effort to be made on its behalf by the boys of Parmitters School. These lads well over a 100 in number, have taken to Leek like ducks take to water. What is more the people of Leek have taken to them. Parmitter's boys and members of the staff came to the town at the beginning of June from North, and even before the 'Battle of Britain' began, it was there candid opinion that they preferred Leek to the East Coast. It is now their turn to show their appreciation of the hospitality which local residents have extended to them. It will take the form of a recent play "I killed the Count" and is to be presented at the New Assembly Hall on Friday and Saturday of next week.

For several weeks past the boys have been rehearsing earnestly, and they are now gradually reaching a very high pitch of perfection. The majority of those set to take part are not strangers to the amateur dramatic stage. While billeted in Norfolk they produced "Julius Caesar" in modern dress. It would be hardly fair to compare the work of Shakespeare with that of Ali Coppel the author of "I killed the Count" yet we can say with confidence that local lovers of the stage will be more than satisfied with the show to be given next weekend.

Admission to the production will be by programme and while the proceeds of these will not cover the expenses incurred, a donation of at least half the total receipts will be given to the Leek Spitfire Fund. Well done Parmitters!

Leek Post and Times '7<sup>th</sup> September 1940'

Page 5-

(Column 3 middle article-VIEWS and REVIEWS)

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Leek Post and Times '16<sup>th</sup> November 1940'

### Page 3- **Wave of juvenile crime in Leek youthful offenders in Court London and Manchester boys**

(Entire column 3-4)

One example: Evacuee brothers in trouble.

The next case concerned two brothers aged 13 and 10 respectively, who it was stated, were evacuees from Manchester. They admitted stealing a malt loaf, valued at 1d the property of Messens J. H. Tatton and Sons.

The case was proved by PC Hobbins, and it was stated that the stealing of the loaf had nothing whatsoever to do with bad feeding at the billets. The parents of the boys were very upset by their sons lapse and were grateful to the people of Staffordshire for all they had done for them since they had been evacuated.

Each boy was put on probation for 2 years, and the chairman expressed the opinion that it would be a good thing if the lads were separated.

Their parents were ordered to pay 10s cost.

Ms J. J. Carding told the boys that they were, by their actions, getting Manchester a bad name. They were disgracing their own town and their parents.

Mr Rushton, probation officer told the Court that the boys mother wished to take the younger lad back with her to Manchester.

Leek Post and Times '14<sup>th</sup> December 1940'

### Page 5- **Schoolboys' Art Exhibition**

(Column 2 middle)

#### Evacuees find display

An interesting exhibition of work by boys of Parmitters school of London (now of Leek) commenced at the Nicholson Institute on Monday last. The exhibition is to remain until December 21<sup>st</sup> and those people who have not yet availed themselves of the opportunity of inspecting the exhibits on view should do so, for they have a treat in store. Already a large number of local teachers have visited the exhibition and admired "the many examples of excellent work." Altogether there are over 400 exhibits many of which have been executed in the past three years. There are however large numbers which have been executed in the past 12 months and under the difficult conditions of evacuation. Considering that the school has been evacuated no less than three times these most recent examples of work are of an exceptionally high standard and speak volumes for the capable manner in which art, in all its forms, is taught at the school...

Other subheadings: Evacuees work, Work Variety

Leek Post and Times '21st December 1940'

#### **Evacuees in billeting**

(Column 3 top- VIEWS and REVIEWS)

Mr. J. Rowbotham the Sanitary Inspector has sent us a letter which printed on another page calling attention of the foster parents in charge of evacuees, to the fact certain schools will be open during the holiday period, it is the thought that this measure will ease the burden of foster parents.

Mr Rowbotham concludes by quoting the message from the committee which is able to speak on behalf of the London Evacuating Authorities it is a message of the warmest thanks to receiving Authorities and through them the kindly householders whom they represent, for their contributed sympathy and loyalty.

The work done by the Reception Authority in Leek and the hospitality of householders is of a very high order and it is not possible to assess its value. There have been problems and difficulties for all those concerned but they have been met cheerfully and manfully and on the whole complaints are rare, which is proof of the grit and forbearance of which all are facing the responsibilities thrust upon them... that our united endeavours prompted so warm an expression of gratitude is an encouragement for the future. New responsibilities and trials may await us, but whatever their gravity, our past experiences and success which has attended them will be our rallying influence.

Leek Post and Times '21st December 1940'

Page 6- **Xmas vacation schools to remain open**  
(Column 6 near bottom)

To the editor

Dear Sir

May I through the medium of your paper, be committed to inform foster parents in charge of evacuees that certain schools will be open during the coming holiday period in order to provide recreational activities to evacuee children attending such schools. This will no doubt ease the burden falling upon foster parents.

I should also like to quote an extract from the Clerk to the London County Council.

"Finally, I am charged with a message from the committee speaking on behalf of all the London Evacuation Authorities it is a message of the warmest thanks to Receiving Authorities and through them to the kindly householders whom they represent, for their continued sympathy and hospitality which have not only contributed generously to happiness and wellbeing of London children parted from their homes but have indeed, in the words of Queens own message to foster parents' helped the State in a work of great value."

Yours faithfully,

J. Rowbotham  
Chief Billeting Officer

Billeting Office  
15 Stockwell St Leek  
18<sup>th</sup> December 1940

# 1941

Leek Post and Times '11<sup>th</sup> January 1941'

Page 1- **200 children and teachers in third evacuation to Leek**  
(Column 2-top)

Local school teachers and members of various local organisations were busily engaged on Thursday last week when approximately 200 children and teachers were evacuated to Leek from Manchester.

This was the third evacuation to the town since the outbreak of hostilities and by 8'o clock the newcomers were safely billeted at their new homes. Before the evacuees were evacuated to their billets in various parts of the town- a task which was undertaken from five centres- they were medically examined and provided with hot drinks.

Leek Post and Times '18<sup>th</sup> January 1941'

Page 1- **Fined for refusing Evacuees**  
(Column 5-6 entire)

For failing to accept two evacuees Mr. William Wardles Sales of Rose Haven, Ashbourne Road Leek was fined two pound and 10|- costs at leek police court on Wednesday. This was the first case of its kind to be heard in a local court. (Argument is his wife's bad health so yes they would like children but could not manage them.)

*Frequent advert- what every child needs this wartime winter- Ovaline*

Leek Post and Times '25<sup>th</sup> January 1941'

Page 4- **Evacuation**  
(Column 3- Nemonising)

"On the Friday before the war started we were to meet at the school at 5am. When we got there we were taken to the classroom and given labels to attach to our coats at about 8.30am we got on board buses which were to take us to the docks. On arriving there we walked through the docks to our boat which was the 'Queen of the Channel'. After all the people were on board the ship started off. Fortunately the sea was calm so we weren't seasick. Sometimes a few destroyers past us and sailors waved us a greeting.

"We arrived at Yarmouth at 4pm and taken to a school where we stayed for four days. We left for the country on Monday September 4<sup>th</sup>, on buses and eventually arrived at the little Parish of Suffield. We stayed there for 10 months and then moved again, this time to Leek."

Alex is liking Leek very much and as you can see is making good use of his leisure by nemonising regularly. Let me take this opportunity in saying again that I hope all other evacuees will write to me every week. They are cordially invited to share our space and prizes. We are happy to know that we can form

a link between them and their home towns. The more evacuees that write to me the stronger that link will become.

Yours affectionate,  
Uncle Nemo

Leek Post and Times '22<sup>nd</sup> February 1941'

Page 5- **Evacuees Sick Bay**  
(Column 1- bottom)

Those who have evacuees will also be interested to know that in the case of illness such children may be admitted to the Sick Bay recently opened at the Alsop Street Mission School, where there is now accommodation for 18 children. In addition to their being relieved of the sick patients, the foster parents can be assured that the evacuees will receive the best medical attention and supervision. A matron and assistant are in residence there, and members of the WVR also render considerable help.

It is common knowledge that many millions of pounds are being spent daily to pursue the war but it is not everyone who realises that a speedier victory when that money is supplemented with voluntary war work, such as is being done by those two splendid organisations; indeed all women owe a duty to their country at the present time- to undertake some form of voluntary work to which and either the W.V.S or the S.S.A.F.A would gladly direct them.

Leek Post and Times '22<sup>nd</sup> March 1941'

Page 1- **Buxton Road accident evacuee injured**  
(Column 1- top)

Geoffery Seeger, an evacuee residing at 30 Stockwell Street Leek was admitted to the Leek Memorial Cottage hospital, on Sunday suffering from injuries to the head and abrasions to the back of the right hand sustained when the pedal cycle he was riding came into collision with Geoffery Cooper, aged 11, Sneyd Street Leek. Seeger was riding down Buxton Road at about 4.15pm on Sunday when Cooper ran from the footpath and collided with the machine. Both were thrown to the ground.

Leek Post and Times '17<sup>th</sup> May 1941'

Page 3- **Horton billeting dispute**  
(Column 1-2- top)

To the editor  
Sir-

I should esteem it a favour if you allow me through the columns of your paper, to bring to the notice of the readers, particularly those in rural areas the fact of a billeting case which is probably without precedent.

On November 6<sup>th</sup> 1940 the following letter was received by prospective billetees from the billeting officer for the Parish of Horton.

“Dear Miss

I am writing to ask a very great favour of you. Could you and your daughter-in-law take two little London evacuees. They have been here since June and the billet has proved very unsuitable. Their mother whose home has been demolished and she herself machine-gunned is in Bradshop. She is in a very bad way but the other day she managed to get over to Rudyard and found the girls in a very poor condition. She has written asking that they be removed. I am told that they are two nice children from a good home. They have been let go since they came here. Could you possibly manage it? I should be grateful. Yours sincerely.”

The children were duly delivered at the new billets on November 13<sup>th</sup>, and readers will be surprised to learn that no billeting allowance has been received.

Two days after the children were delivered the chief billeting officer for the area visited the new billets and stated that no billeting allowance would be payable and the children would have to be returned to the original billets or six new foster parents must co-operate, with him getting them back to London. This might have been done had the people in question collected the children, or had they thought the Government would approve any action in taking them back to London, a very dangerous area at that time. This was followed by several uncalled for remarks including a suggestion that if his instructions were not followed he would have to use force. Surely if his department had muddled matters it was their duty to put them right.

On January 21<sup>st</sup> an appeal was sent to the chairman of the Leek Rural District Council but this was not acknowledged. It was noted however from your paper dated February 8<sup>th</sup> that at a council meeting vague reference was made to the case, but it was not considered suitable for discussion in open council, and was deferred. As far as is known nothing more has been done by this authority. I am prompted here to refer to the comment by your paper dated April 5<sup>th</sup> “the council does not appear strong enough to enforce its resolutions.”

The true facts have been forwarded to the ministry of health but the chief billeting officer has succeeded temporarily in evading responsibility by passing onto the Ministry information which I believe must be contrary to fact and by issuing a billeting order as from April 3<sup>rd</sup>. It is significant that the circular ADG (B1) 7 showing amendments of billeting orders was omitted (possibly by accident). In any case this order does not conform with circumstances or regulations.

As may be seen from the copy letter reproduced above arrangements were made for one child with each of two individuals who each have accommodation for one evacuee only yet this order is made out to the effect that one of these individuals is to accept both the children for 17/- per week. Further, if it were possible to accommodate both at one dwelling an allowance of 10/60 for one child aged 10 and 8/60 for the other aged 5, in accordance with the circular mentioned. There is, of course, no provision made on the farm for the 20 weeks from November 13<sup>th</sup> 1940 to April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1941, and these

unfortunate people are already penalised collectively to the extent of £21, plus the deficiency on the form issued.

If a billeting order was not justified in November why can this be so in April in identical circumstances. One of these people I might mention, has a husband serving in the forces and readers will readily appreciate that with his pay she cannot adequately provide for herself and family plus an evacuee without any allowance.

The Rt Hon Ernest Bevan, in a recent speech said that the care of evacuees in the evacuation areas was essential but in this case it is apparent that the welfare of the children is the last consideration with the local authority. Fortunately the children have not suffered through this financial inconvenience but have been well cared for through the sacrifices of their foster parents. Finally if the Leek Rural District Council Billeting Authorities are in a position to prove their statement to the Ministry of Health that all concerned were informed that the transfer should not take place before children were actually transferred, I will give £5 to any charity they wish and a further £5 if they can prove correctness of the billeting order in question.

Yours sincerely

Walter Heath

72 Haig Road  
Leek  
13<sup>th</sup> May 1941

# 1942

Leek Post and Times '17<sup>th</sup> January 1942'

Page 1- **Evacuees Entertained**  
(Column 4- middle)

A splendid little party was held in the Junior Council School, Westwood Road, Leek,  
On Friday last when Mrs Challinor entertained at tea the boys billeted from the "Barnardo" homes. Mrs Richardson and Mrs Walker who did regularly such splendid work for these entertainments. The boys seemed to enjoy their tea thoroughly and entered in with great spirit- and not a little noise- into all the games, going away before the blackout after singing "God save the King."

Leek Post and Times '31<sup>st</sup> January 1942'

Page 6- **Passing of Evacuee**  
(Column 5- bottom)

Master A.C. Harrison

It is with the deepest sympathy that we record the death which occurred on Thursday of last week, Master Alfred Charles Harrison, aged 12 years. He was the only son of Mrs Harrison of Essex and the late Mr Harrison, and he passed away at the Isolation Hospital, Leek. Alfred was 1 of Leeks first evacuees and was residing at 2 Sandon Street, Leek, with this Mother. He attended the Leek Council School. The funeral took place on Monday afternoon last, a service at St Edwards Parish Church being conducted by the Rev K. W. G. Milward (vicar and rural dean). Principal mourners were Mrs Harrison (Mother), Miss Harrison (Sister), Mrs Baron (Aunt), Mrs McBride, Miss McBride and Mrs Reynolds (Friends).  
Four boys represented the Leek Council School, all of them being evacuees. Floral tributes were received from the following: Mother and Sister; Aunt and Uncle and Family; Friends, Isolation Hospital.

Leek Post and Times '14<sup>th</sup> March 1942'

Page 4- **Staying Put**  
(Column 2-3-VIEWS and REVIEWS)

The Mayor (Mr. J. Bayley) has received a letter from the Chairman of the London County Council asking him to bring his influence to bear in an effort to prevent evacuees returning to the Metropolitan area. Naturally Mr Bayley is in sympathy with the appeal of the Chairman of the L.C.C and is anxious to assist in anyway he can. This can best be done by adequate publicity and he has accordingly handed the letter to us. Here are extracts from it.

The driftback of children to the Metropolitan area, which shows marked signs of steady increase is an ever present anxiety.

The Chief cases – we know continuing immunity from air raids. There may be householders in the reception areas whose patience is flagging under the strain of sharing their home with children not their own but they are a mere fraction of the whole: the kindness of the majority is unlimiting and beyond praise.

By the time the misguided children have already returned to London it is too late to remedy matters: deterrence must operate earlier. This leaves me to say quite simply that we, in London, feel that nothing but good could result from any action which your authority might feel able to take- to inspire the willing householder with a renewed sense of the value of her service, and to encourage any who show signs of losing patience to persist still in the good work – the arguments for “staying put” in reception areas.

Threadbare but incontestable. We have it is true enjoyed quiet nights for a long time now, and the dangers of the future are hiding from us. Thus the temptation to parents and children alike is easily understood. But we have been warned!

*Main Features:*

*Weddings*

*Adverts – tea, potatoes, savings, cinema*

*Blood Transfusions and Donors*

*Pay to get prisoners of war back, missing in action*

# 1943

Leek Post and Times '6<sup>th</sup> August 1943'

Page 1- "**Mrs Churchill Thanks Children**"

(Column 4- middle)

A little girl named Marie Therese Lynch who with her mother is evacuated from Liverpool and is staying in St Georges Street has spent her spare time recently making dish cloths and kettle holders etc. With the object of helping Mrs Churchill's Aid to Russia Fund, Marie (who is 10) was assisted by Vera Brierley (12) and Margaret Gell (11), and £3 was realised by the sale of the articles. This sum was duly sent to Mrs Churchill who in reply, stated:

Dear Children

"Thank you very much for your gift which I have received. I am most grateful to you for the trouble you have taken to help the brave Russians in their most terrible but victorious struggle against the wicked invaders of their country."

Leek Post and Times '31<sup>st</sup> December 1943'

Page 7- "**Evacuees Entertained**"

(Column 2 - top)

Through the kindness of the Billeting Committee the evacuees now billeted in Leek spent an enjoyable time at the Christmas party held on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Each of the evacuees invited, numbered about a 130 was allowed to bring a friend. They were first entertained at the Milward Hall. Where the Committee Opera "Ali Baba and the forty thieves" was produced for their benefit by the Scholars of the Parish Church School. From there the Committee's guests went to the town hall where they were provided with a good tea in the assembly room, after which they were entertained by Mr. H. Bladen and others the former afforded the children rounds of delight with conjuring tricks. There was also community singing and altogether a very happy time was spent by all. The British Restaurant was responsible for the catering and members of the W.V.S helped at the tea. Before separating, each child was handed a bright new silver 6d. bit. The organisation of the party was in the hands of Mr. J. Rowbotham, Billeting Officer, and assistants.

# 1944

Leek Post and Times '4<sup>th</sup> February 1944'

Page 6- "**The New Britain and the Children**"

(Column 3-4- bottom)

What is being done for the Children in the plans for post war reconstruction? Are they to grow up healthy and happy with the chance for lungs and limbs to develop and for their minds as well as bodies to come to full stature? Are they to start life well equipped and with the knowledge that no artificial barriers or social handicaps stand in their way?

If we want them to have fairer prospects we must make great changes especially in that sector of social services which concerns them most.

Education needs a drastic overhaul.

Every child should be as strong and healthy as good food, space and light, and care can make him. This means that the school medical service must be made universal with fair treatment for all defects and ailments. It means even more healthy schoolrooms with furniture suited to young limbs and adequate playing fields. It means, too, basic nutrition – in other words regular milk and well balanced meals. The school meal is invaluable because it develops good habits and tastes and also because of the excellent opportunities for social training.

The habits of healthy living can be formed at an early age in the nursery school, for education does not start with the "3 R's" but with training in good habits, learning the shapes and colours and feel of things and how to do things for ones self and how to get along with others.

Strong, well balanced, and self reliant, that is how we want our children to grow up. But to provide a good enough environment is not enough; education depends on the teacher and more and better teachers are needed to guide and train the growing boy and girl. Trained teachers in the nursery school; fully qualified teachers in charge in the other departments and plenty of them. No more teachers in charge of filthy children each; there cannot be the individual attention that is essential while we have the crowded classrooms which are so common today. More and better schools and teachers. But if we are to be ready in time we must have a plan.

Schools have to be built. Are they to come before banks and cinemas and pubs? Teachers must be elected and trained for the great importance of building the new world. To do all this takes time; it cannot be left to chance. The Board of Education must decide how many will be needed and must offer them for training and the inducement of a task that will be no less important than winning the war is today.

(Continued but irrelevant)

Leek Post and Times '14<sup>th</sup> July 1944'

Page 5- "**Refugees = Mothers and Children Coming to Leek**"

(Column 4- middle)

The billeting officer (Mr. J. Rowbotham) was warned on Thursday afternoon to expect refugees – mothers and children from London and the South. The number has not been specified. The billeting officer is busily engaged making arrangements for the reception of these refugees and as the matter is of vital urgency and importance will be glad to receive the cooperation of the public in the practical form of offers of billets which offers should be left at the billeting office, Stockwell Street, as soon as possible.

Leek Post and Times '28<sup>th</sup> July 1944'

**Page 1- "776 refugees all billeted" (Despite poor response in Leek Urban Area)**

(Column 3- 4)

Leek received its first large influx of refugees from the P-Plane menace on Monday Afternoon when a total number of 776 Mothers and Children from the South arrived at Leek Station on the 3:33 train.

A warm welcome was extended to them at the station by the Chairman of the Billeting Committee Council – H, C, Birdette, Mr, J, Rowbotham, L. U. D. C billeting officer and a number of voluntary helpers.

The contingent for the Leek Rural Area was taken straight from the station to the rest centre at Endon School from which billeting was being done.

150 unaccompanied children were billeted from the Endon Centre on the Monday night after they had been given a meal and a rest and been medically examined. The remainder stayed at the rest centre all night and the billeting was completed by the following evening. The voluntary helpers worked splendidly.

Leek Urban Area received a total of 103 mothers with 121 children under 5 and 87 over 5, making a total of 208 children. There were also 74 unaccompanied children in the charge of 20 escorts. The refugees were divided among the 3 rest centres at the Boys High School, Westwood Road; the Senior Boys Council School and the Senior Girls Council School where willing bands of voluntary helpers were waiting to receive them. At the rest centres they were fed and medically examined, and, with the exception of the unaccompanied children they slept the night there.

All the meals for the Mothers and Children were served at rest centres until they had been billeted.

Billeting was arranged from 7 billeting centres namely, Ball Haye Green School; east Street School; Compton School; Parish Church Senior School; West Street School; Westwood Road Junior School, and St Lukes School.

The work of billeting is largely done by school teachers.

Intending on Tuesday afternoon, Mr J Rowbotham who was in charge of the Leek Urban Billeting arrangements said all the unaccompanied children were billeted on Monday night. The response to the appeal for billets had not been as great as they had wished, and he stated the fact that the refugees were respectable people who had undergone a terrible ordeal and really deserved all the help and sympathy which would be given to them. He paid tribute to the voluntary helpers who were doing a fine job of work.

We understand from information received on Thursday morning that billeting in Leek Urban Area has now been completed, some of the refugees have

been accommodated at Compton House. No information has yet been received of more evacuees coming into the area but it is quite possible that there will be more.

Leek Post and Times '11<sup>th</sup> August 1944'

Page 1- "**Leek Billeting Offences – 3 defendants to pay over 340 in fees and costs**"

(Column 3- 4)

Three Leek people were each charged at Leek Police Court on Wednesday with failing to comply with a billeting notice and total fees and costs amounted to over £40 were imposed. The defence in each case constituted a plea of poor health and in 2 of the cases lack of domestic help also. Mr Horace Bowcock aged 55 of "ATARAXIA" Cheadle Road Leek was charged with failing to comply with a billeting notice on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July, and with a similar offence on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July.

Mr. H. J. Arundel Clerk to the Hustices, read a letter from Mr Bowcock stating he was unable to comply with the notices during the past 5 years (Mr Bowcock stated) his wife has been in poor health and has constantly been receiving medical attention. At the time of the billeting notice they were expecting his wife's unmarried sister who was ill to come from Macclesfield on a visit. They had only 2 bedrooms and a small room which was used as a study. They had offered to billet a boy or a girl but this offer was not even considered. Concluding the letter Mr Bowcock said he felt he had been selected as a scapegoat of Mr Birchall.

Mr. J. M. Shaw prosecuting for the L.U.D.C pointed out that if the person asked to receive the evacuees was agreed by the notice he should still except persons brought to him, and should then state his grievance to a tribunal, who would consider whether or not it was proper for him to have evacuees. He would give notice of objection immediately and a tribunal would sit in about 3 days.

- He was asked to take a woman and three children
- Mr Rowbotham served a notice to Mrs Bowcock – she said they could not possibly take them after having 2 operations since the war and them only having 3 little bedrooms.
- 2 further cases same kind of story.

Leek Post and Times '18<sup>th</sup> August 1944'

Page 5- "**A club for evacuees**"

(Column 3)

The Women's Voluntary service proposed to start a club for the ladies from London. They have engaged a room at the British Legion in Russell Street to

open on Friday evening August 25<sup>th</sup>, from 7 until 10pm. There are facilities for playing cards and table tennis, etc. The W.V.S will start the ball rolling by providing tea and light refreshments on the opening night. They feel that the visitors will appreciate an opportunity to chat together or play games. The W.V.S will be pleased to receive gifts in the way of cleaning or cooking utensils, old furniture not in use, or any article which will help in providing for the evacuees. All articles may be sent to the W.V.S office, Russell Street, Leek. Articles loaned will be returned.

# 1945

Leek Post and Times '12<sup>th</sup> January 1945'

Page 7- "**Grateful evacuee**"  
(Column 1 middle)

To the editor

Dear Sir,

May I express from your column my deep and sincere appreciation of the kindness and affection shown by many people in Leek and district to my youngest daughter, Estelle, who was probably the youngest unaccompanied evacuee to arrive in Leek at the outbreak of war.

She was not quite 4, when she left home with her haversack nearly as big as herself and a determination to carry her own like the older ones.

She is now 9 and is due to return home after living with Mr and Mrs Porter of Strathmore, Higher Woodcroft. Mr and Mrs Porter and their family have indeed done a worthwhile job, and more words cannot really express our gratitude to them and their many friends who took the child to their hearts and helped to build her up into quite a big girl. She will not forget her Leek friends and will probably pay many a visit in the future to the people she has learned to love. To Mr and Mrs Porter, Joyce and Bert, to her Sunday and day school friends and to all who have helped Estelle in her long stay in Leek. I wish to say a great big heartfelt thank you and thank you Leek.

Yours gratefully

George E Greenhalgh

15 Beaufort Avenue

Manchester 20

January 1<sup>st</sup> 1945

Nothing about the war ending or about evacuees being sent back!