

Loders, Dottery and Askerswell

Looking back on Loders fete is a wholly pleasurable experience this year. The fete coincided with the first fine day after a long spell of rain. To lounge on the lawns of Loders Court in a baking hot sun, and watch the sellers of jumble sweating at their work, or Lady Le Breton coaxing customers to the remote and shady spot where she had parked the ice-cream, was in itself worth the admission fee to people who, the day previous, had been crouching over a fire lamenting that the rain driving against the windows marked the arrival of winter. After the crowded Hut last year, it was good to have the fresh air and spaciousness of a sylvan setting, and to be able to do a walking tour of stalls, handicraft exhibition, flower show and sideshows, shedding most of one's pocket money en route, but saving just enough for Mrs. Harry Legg's tea tabernacle beneath the chestnut tree. Not the least of the pleasures was meeting old friends that we have "loved long since and lost awhile", like the Scotts and the Streatfields, or signing the raffle book of a friend from Askerswell who had come to lend a hand. It was also good to find that the evening social hadn't the rather commercial atmosphere of a dance, but that of a family party in which the young people of the parish were to the fore. The concert party from Bridport Industries turned out to be deft distillers of the convivial spirit, and have promised to visit us again. The financial result was the best we have ever achieved in a fete - gross takings £139. 1s. 3d., profit £120. 4s. 6d. This will go far to meet the expense of repairing the Lady Chapel windows.

The fete balance sheet is as follows:- Receipts: Donations £9.15., Gate £6. 5. 8., Jumble £18.6., New Stall £12.13.3., Produce £10.5., Children's Stall £5. 6. 2., Flowers £5., White Elephant £1. 8. 4., Cakes £7.11. 5., Ices £7. 5. 3., Teas £19. 12. 4., Sideshows £13. 3. 5., Competitions £9. 4.11., Handicrafts £2.17. 3., Flower Show £4. 3. Fancy Dress £1. 3., Social £5. 1. 3., Total Receipts £139. 1. 3. Expenses: Teas £6.19., Advertisements £1. 4., Posters £1. 2. 6., Radiogram 10/-, Skittle Alley £1., Hut 10/-, Prizes £2. 13.9., Flower Show £3. 17. 6., Fancy Dress £1. Total Expenses £18. 16. 9.

Postscript to the Fete. The only person for whom the fete was a disappointment was our local soothsayer, Miss Minnie Crabb, who had promised to do the fortunes, as usual, but on the fete day found herself in Portway Hospital for a serious operation. Loders fete usually finds her in a dim mysterious tent, beneath the sign of the witch and broom, waited on by a queue of clients. So pleased are we to have her safely home again that we will not ask how she managed to be in Portway Hospital on fete day without predicting it.

Puzzling Banns. Loders congregation thought hard, and had to admit defeat, when they were asked if they knew any impediment to the proposed marriage of Eric Joy and Mary Blake "both of this parish". None in the church except the parson knew who Mr. Joy and Miss Blake were. They belonged to that bit of Loders called Pymore, which is three miles away from Loders, on the doorstep of Bridport, having no organic connection with Loders or even with Dottery. That the bridegroom was in the Air Force, and the bride was only a lodger in Pymore, did not help the banns to fulfil their proper function.

A long chapter of suffering bravely borne was closed by the recent death of Mrs. Tom Fitcher, of the Farmers' Arms. Pain could do no more than stifle for a few moments her sense of humour, or her interest in the affairs of Loders. After cremation at Weymouth, her ashes were buried in the grave of her mother in Loders churchyard. On the evening of the funeral the ringers rang half-muffled peals, because she was a ringer's wife.

One way of spending a holiday. Once again Askerswell congregation are indebted to Mr. Cecil Legg for devoting some of his holiday to blacking the church stove, ready for the winter, and also to Mr. C. Gale for supplying the blacking gratis.

Loders Cemetery. The owner of a grave in the cemetery complains that somebody, presumably a child, is in the habit of playing with the shingle in the curbstone, and shovelling it on to the grass. Restoring it to its place is a tedious job.



Their Good Turn. Girl Guides throughout the country have undertaken to do a good deed extraordinary to mark the Coronation year. Askerswell Guides asked if they might be allowed to keep the church clean. The church having no cleaner, the offer was accepted with pathetic eagerness. With a woman's wisdom, the captain saw that a start ought to be made on the tower. She had heard that the tower was a trifle unhygienic, and was somewhat unprepared for the Black Hole of Calcutta in which she and the Guides found themselves. The dirt of half a century included jackdaw's nests (a putload), bell wheels and stays eaten by worms to a powder, fallen plaster and moth-eaten bell ropes. This was pushed down the seventy odd steps of the spiral stairway, and out into the churchyard, where it was burnt. A thick coating of dust about their persons made some of the Guides look like the Devil's assistants as they stoked the fire; the only human touch about them was the constant plain of one "Oh dear, I had my bath last night". This cleaning of the tower has revealed the shocking state of the roof and of the bell frame. It looks as if Askerswell's failure to put in a stitch in time is now going to cost nine. Bells are costly instruments, and they cannot be neglected for years for nothing.

A boom in christenings has occurred since our last issue - three in Loders, two in Dottery and one in Askerswell. Master Hugh Chignall was brought by his father, Dr. Richard Chignell, to be baptised in the family font at Askerswell. Mary Michele Le Breton Laskey was brought from the U.S.A. to her mother's font at Loders, and Mrs. Gill (nee Avril Greening) brought her first-born, Julie Avril, from Melplash. The other neophytes had only the distinction of being local - Philip William Ieons at Loders, and Julia Ann Smith and Glenis Ann Gay at Dottery.

The Inn at Spyway is becoming the resort of thirsty souls from far afield, and we hear that detecting accents is a pastime in the immediate neighbourhood. None of the four Ladies (who give Askerswell its marked air of respectability) is able to venture into The Square without being hailed by some stranger and asked the way to Spyway. The Ladies give the required information with unfailing courtesy, but it is whispered that they are wondering what they have about them that makes strangers think they are authorities on Spyway.

Loders Sunday School chose the only fine day in a week of wet ones for their outing to Weymouth, and had a glorious time. They stuck up their flags on the crowded beach, left their clothes with their parents (who had settled down to broiling in the deck chairs for a change), and made for the water, and only lunch and tea could get them out. Mrs. Willmott invested a shilling in a paddle boat, and gave rides to the tiny tots. In the afternoon there was a motor boat trip to Portland to see the fleet. The children wish to thank those who subscribed to, and collected, the outing fund, which did well in raising £14 so soon after the fete.

Harvest Festival will begin at Askerswell on Sunday September 27th., and continue at Dottery and Loders in October.

Loders church path. has been re-gravelled by two public-spirited gentlemen who wish to remain anonymous. Their names may be hidden under a bushel, but their good work cannot be. To the congregation, who have suffered the winter mire uncomplainingly, the new gravel path will be another Raleigh's cloak, a path through the Red Sea.

Happy Month. For Loders children the Sunday School outing was not the only event in August. The Women's Institute gave them a tea in Mrs. Howell's garden at Yondover, and the tea was followed by packets of sweets and ices.

#### Services for September.

Loders. 6th. H.C.8 & 11.45, Matins 11, Children 2.  
13th. H.C.8, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 6.30.  
20th. H.C.8, Matins 11, Children 2.  
27th. H.C.8, Matins 11, Children 2.  
Dottery 6th. H.C. 9.30, 13th. Evensong 3.  
20th. Evensong 6.30. 27th. Evensong 3.  
Askerswell. 6th. Evensong 7.  
13th. Matins 10.  
20th. Matins 10.  
27th. Harvest Festival, H.C. 9.30. Evensong 7.



Loders, Dottery and Askerswell.

Harvest Festival in this part of Dorset shows no sign of declining popularity. It is still the one festival that can draw nearly the whole population of a village to the parish church. Askerswell harvest, on the last Sunday in September, drew not only the local population but friends from neighbouring parishes as well, and for a few moments the quiet road to the church presented the rare spectacle of a traffic jam. Inside the church the decoration done by the ladies on the day previous had produced the authentic harvest atmosphere, of which the focus was a sheaf, hung with grapes, at the chancel step. Alert eyes detected a Coronation motif in the red, white and blue colour scheme of the font. They also noted a generous contribution of eggs for the sick and aged of the parish. The singing went with a swing, and the choir's anthem, "Fear not, o land", earned them many congratulations. The custom at Dottery is to have the main service on a Thursday at 7.30 p.m. This year it will be October 1st., and will continue on the following Sunday with Communion and hymns at 9.30 a.m. Loders Harvest, on the second Sunday in October, will be about the latest festival in this neighbourhood. Loders choir are working on their anthem to make the festival a fitting finale. The times of services will be Holy Communion 8 and 11.45 a.m., Matins 11 a.m., Children 2 p.m. and Evensong 6.30 p.m.

The Methodist Chapel in Uploders is a newcomer to the harvest scene. After several years of disuse, the chapel has lately been re-opened, and will hold a harvest thanksgiving on Sunday, October 4th., at 6.30 p.m. with Mr. E. Gray, of Powerstock, as the preacher. The harvest services of our three churches have been so arranged that this will be the only harvest service in our district at the time. Mr. Pope, of Bradpole, who is in charge of the chapel, tells us that it was once the custom for the whole parish to support the chapel harvest. He will be grateful for flowers, fruit, vegetables and produce, because these will be auctioned for Chapel funds on Monday, October 5th., at 6.30 p.m. He would like the sale to bring in a substantial sum. Chapel funds are low, and it is faced with the problem of paying for winter lighting and heating, and for overdue repairs to the chapel building. Mrs. Pearl Symes, of Yondover, who feels, like Mr. Pope, that the closed chapel was a reproach to Uploders, would be pleased to receive gifts from Loders people who might not be inclined to make the long journey to the chapel.

A year ago this month nearly fifty of our young people made their confirmation vow before the Bishop of Salisbury in Loders. The way in which the Dottery candidates are trying to live up to their promise is inspiring in these days when vows mean nothing. The candidates are present in a body at the parish communion every month, and when one is absent there is usually good reason for it. This example of perseverance owes something to the gentle encouragement of the parents concerned.

Water from the River Jordan was used for the christening at Dottery of Mrs. Wensley's grand-daughter, Bridget Annette, who was brought by her parents from their home at Symondsburys.

We congratulate Mrs. Farwell, one of the matriarchs of Askerswell, on her splendid recovery from a serious illness, and on having a young grand-daughter able to keep house so efficiently. We offer our sympathy to Mr. Whitehead, of Uploders, who has undergone a major operation in Bridport Hospital.

What to do with the £17 balance of the Coronation Fund was a problem which exercised Loders minds not a little, and produced several suggestions, which all had snags. To the suggestion that the £17 be added to the proceeds of the church fete it could be objected that the fete had done well enough already; to the proposed seat for bus passengers outside the school it could be objected that this would favour only a fraction of the villagers who use the bus; the demerit of the proposal to divide the £17 among the children and the old people was that it would give them no more than a shilling each; and the objection to putting paving beneath the stone seat in the cemetery was that the seat is rarely, if ever, used. Another Coronation "beano" would have been simply an anti-climax. The proposal which had most to be said against it was that using the £17 to inaugurate a fund for building a funeral chapel in the cemetery. The cost



of building and furnishing even the simplest chapel would run into hundreds of pounds, and it might not be used once in a year. In the past six years there have been twenty-three burials in the cemetery, an average of less than four a year, and in every case the preference would have been for the indoor part of the service to be held - as it was - in the old parish church of Loders. Further objections are that having been built at heavy cost, the funeral chapel would have to be maintained, and our historic parish church, and the Methodist chapel, are all that a population of 450 needs, or can be expected to keep in repair. Only one of these proposals was put forward at the parish meeting called to dispose of the Coronation balance, and this gave place to a new proposal which received the almost unanimous vote of the large number of parishioners present. What the parish meeting decided to do with the £17 will be revealed in due season.

Parish Boundaries. The proposal of Bridport borough council to annexe part of Loders was hotly resented by the entire parish meeting, and Mr. Charlie Gale was deputed to express the meeting's views in no uncertain voice at the coming enquiry. The meeting regarded Bridport's proposal as a device to make Loders pay for Bridport's amenities. An announcement that Loders was to have a sewage scheme at some unspecified date was well received by the meeting, especially by Mr. Eric Bunnell, who convulsed the meeting with his urgent personal reason why the scheme should be hurried up. In its desire to stake a claim on footpaths which are in dispute as public rights of way, the meeting went astray. It had been asked in a letter from the County to produce any evidence it might have that certain footpaths were indeed public rights of way, and, instead of doing what it was asked, the meeting voted on what paths it would like to be rights of way, citing the fact that the path was marked on the ordnance map as being sufficient evidence that it was a right of way. But anybody who looks at the foot of a complete ordnance map may see this note: "N.B. - The representation on this map of a road, track or footpath is no evidence of the existence of a right of way". So in the matter of footpaths the parish meeting was like the schoolboy who found written on his examination paper: "This is all very nice, but it does not answer the question - No Marks".

Mr. Gill (a retired architect) and his wife are now settled in the old post office of Loders, and have quickly shewn that they are assets to the parish. They have managed to transform the post office into an exceedingly nice dwelling place without changing its identity. Without intending to, they have posed for Loders the problem that puzzled Zeno, namely - if the planks of a ship were replaced one by one, as they decayed, so that in time none of the original timber was left, would it be the same ship?

Members of the Tolley family, which has honourable association with Loders, have come from Melplash to live in the cottage at Matravers. They are most welcome, and we hope they will stay.

A Jumble Sale, in aid of Loders School fund is to be held at the School on Thursday, October 1st., at 3.30 p.m.

Bellringing, which used to be the preserve of the beer and skittles type, is now being poached by the learned professions. There has existed for some years a guild of parson bellringers, and in consequence bishops, and even archdeacons are occasionally to be found at the rope's end. Now there is an incipient guild of doctor ringers. Eight doctors, including a Harley Street specialist, are shortly to attempt a three-hour peal on the bells of Great Barrow, Essex.

The Vicar humbly begs of the gentlemen who contribute used shirts to the parish jumble sale to have them just a little longer in the sleeve - say an inch.

#### Services for October.

Loders. 4th. H.C.8 & 11.45, Matins 11, Children 2.  
 11th. Harvest Festival, H.C.8 & 11.45, Matins 11, Children 2,  
 18th. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2. /Evensong 6.30.  
 25th. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 6.30.  
Askerswell. 4th. Evensong 8; 11th. Matins 10.  
 18th. Evensong 7; 25th. Matins 10.  
Dottery: 1st. Harvest 7.30 p.m. 4th. Harvest 9.30 a.m.  
 11th. Evensong 3. 18th. Evensong 6. 25th. Evensong 3.