

POST OPINION

Drop it!

HEALTH service unions should think again about their plan to stop bread and supplies getting into Reading's Battle Hospital. These are basic foods essential to life. To deprive patients of them would be a callous act that would destroy any sympathy the public may have for the health workers' case.

It is in line with the Cleveland ambulance drivers' insistence that pickets should decide whether anyone taken to hospital is an emergency case. One thing is clear from this dispute — that unions and management must regard health services as special cases and find some way of settling pay demands without gaming with people's lives. What is happening now is degrading in a civilised country.

What a pity

IT is understandable that in her grief Lady Cromwell should have acted impulsively in having her late husband's horses destroyed. But what a pity she did not bow to the pleas of the Master of the Hunt that they should be preserved.

Quotation for today

The greatest of faults, I should say, is that of being too good of none. Thomas Carlyle, Heroes and Hero-Worship

When theatre played its part

AN ENTRY in the Almanac section of the Heritage column in last Saturday's Evening Post took me back to the time when Reading town centre was not given over after 5pm to caretakers, cats and teenagers.

The item recorded the destruction of the Palace of the Arts in Reading in August 1981. It was the second of four occasions when buildings of one of the theatres, perished in flames on what I can only suppose is a site naturally disposed to spontaneous combustion.

In August 1980 the first theatre, the Assembly Rooms, went up in smoke. In 1984 the Royal County Theatre met a similar fate in the same month, and again in January 1987. The shop that rose upon the growing mound of ashes went to blazes a few years ago.

Well, I had not appeared upon the scene in 1984 but the Royal County Theatre was destined to play a small part in its life and career.

I suppose it is necessary to explain that the County Theatre occupied a prime spot at the heart of Reading's night life. It was in Friar Street from the rear end of its road it would have been just about possible for an Olympic-class vehicle to have hurried a grenade on to the stage.

It was a pistol shot away from the Central Cinema across Friar Street, with the Odéon in Cheapside, the variety critic of Reading's "theatre land". The Palace of the Arts, the County Theatre's competitor, was a couple of blocks away next to the present Odéon.

Midweek motororing

By Stuart Birch

Freebie

Does luck or skill land the really big pools? With the football season starting on Saturday the first of £1 million pay-off expected this year, TED HART talks to the lucky punters who have already come within an ace of winning a million.

LAST season, a lucky winner came to within £50,000 of hitting the magic jackpot of £1 million. Punters have dreamed about since football pools were invented over half a century ago... the first £1 million pools win.

Now, as the new soccer season opens on August 28, punters and pool promoters are asking: Is this the season when the £1 million barrier will finally be broken?

And the answer, from two major pools firms, is an enigmatic: "We wouldn't be at all surprised."

So far, there have been sixteen winners who have scooped £750,000 or more, and they virtually all followed the same recipe for success.

They trusted to luck and paid very little attention, if any, to current form.

As David Preston, the man who cracked the world record with a £953,874 jackpot, pointed out: "If you win by following the form book, everybody else wins, too, and so dividends are bound to be small."

He also believes that on the law of averages he had in mind eventually "look at this way," he said, "I use the same numbers every week, for Littlewoods and Vernons, they've got to come some time, and then I win it!"

But the real secret is to change them after a win. I got £100,000 five years before that big jackpot and I changed them then.

I wrote all the numbers on pieces of paper and put them in a cup just picking them out and then away... but you do need luck.

To encourage it, David Preston had a vast array of lucky mascots.

First he got my lucky white heather under my pillow, then there's a lucky glass duck on the sideboard and a plate of wishbones on the dresser.

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Table with columns A through F and rows listing numbers for various pools like TREBLECHA, APEN, etc.

Several recent big-time winners seem to have an almost superstitious belief in luck, including ex-police sergeant Joe Fryer and his wife Mary.

Shortly before their £981,000 win, Mary visited a fortune teller.

"She told me we would win a lot of money and that I would be able to buy a house of my choice," she said.

Now they have that house and Joe, a keen sailor, has been buying a boat.

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By gum... it's a dental revolution

WE'RE all used to gloomy facts and figures and the ones published on the state of our teeth are no exception. 90 per cent of adults have gum disease, 50 per cent have some form of tooth decay.

Yet despite these figures, and the fact that our consumption of harmful white sugar remains alarmingly high, reports are now showing that the level of decay in the teeth of Britain's under 10s has reduced considerably over the past 15 years.

By the year 2000 it could be possible that few children will know the fear of the dentist's drill, and the majority of adults will go through life with a complete set of their own teeth.

Graham Barnby, chairman of the British Dental Health Foundation, and a practising dentist, believes there are three main factors which have contributed to this welcome trend: better education, improved oral conditions and the effects of fluoride.

Children are now taught by their parents, their schools and their dentists the importance of thorough and regular brushing with toothpaste.

Mr Barnby says that the use of fluoride toothpaste is a regular and important part of a routine from an early age and at the same time to limit the amount of sugary confectionery — or sugar consumption.

Fluoride toothpaste is used twice daily — brushing with a soft brush and fluoride toothpaste.

Children should take fluoride tablets if they are in the local health authority's supply and visit the dentist both before and after a year in addition to their regular dental check-ups.

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Viewpoint

Evans, the Vicar of Mirth, Scott and Wilson, Neville Wallace and Norman King who took his name from the vicar who followed him.

My attention was turned, perhaps by the more cultured Theatres at the County Theatre by the low-brow inclinations of my colleagues in my early theatrical activities.

Free tickets for the Palace and the County Theatre were received weekly. Those for the Palace had perhaps gone by custom and land, perhaps what is called mercantile temper.

So every Monday night I found myself entering the brightly lit auditorium of the County Theatre as a member of the staff which happened to be me.

My spell as drama critic ended in indignation one week a very angry lady presented herself at the office, brusque and determined.

It turned out that she was the leading lady in the current County Theatre production, a comedy about losing the mind on a shopping expedition, a mishap and the consequences of which on domestic bliss were not too upon the audience in the County Theatre.

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Cutting rents till it Hertz

ON a calm, hot, summer's day in the rest of the country, the wind is howling at 90 mph and the temperature down to minus 40 degrees at Gaydon in Warwickshire.

But this is not some geophysical freak. This is the home of BL Technology Ltd and the battering gale and the layers of frost are all related in the interests of the motorist.

Gaydon, a former RAF V bomber station, has been changed into a research and development centre for tomorrow's cars.

Behind its high wire are our role in supporting the product-led recovery of BL through re-organising research and development and testing programmes.

By Stuart Birch

EEC ruling on sales delights motorists

LAST week's Common Market ruling on the sale of Germany's ban on home sales of Continental cars has delighted motorists.

Personal imports from EFTA countries will be allowed, but they will be growing year by year.

It is chiefly British servicemen in Germany who are the car makers just smiled and thought nobody else would.

But they soon hollered "unfair" when more and more car buyers realised they could save hundreds.

Right

With Malcolm Deacon

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Star spangled fun for families

SUMMERTIME fun for all the family is assured at the Devon Summer Fayre from Tuesday, August 31 to Saturday, September 4.

Throughout the week a selection of craft stalls including antique glass, pottery, dolls, hand-painted musical boxes.

Children are well catered for all week with a programme of fun and games, including the Mayor's Garden with puppets, and a balloon mauling and much more.

Two stalwart trainee teachers have taken on more than a class full of local children during the school holidays.

Jeremy Kane who is studying at Reading's Bulmershe College and Jane Frost, a student at Winchester, have opened 350 children from Wokingham's Nurves Estate.

September 9, contemporary jewelry at its most advanced level by six British artists.

All these and more can be seen at the exhibition. There is a vertical book devoted to linear geometric jewelry.

By Evelyn Wood

WHAT PRICE A NEW CAR?

How much will a new car cost you? You'll find an up-to-date list of prices of most British and foreign models in our monthly

NEW CAR GUIDE

By Stuart Birch

some of which may be abandoned or redesigned out of all recognition.

At Gaydon, freezing cold or roasting heat can be simulated in the wind tunnel, the only one of its type in the British motor industry in which world-wide driving conditions can be simulated including high speed, high altitude, and low altitude.

A chance for every driver to shine

TURTLE WAX, one of the most famous names in car products, say they've developed a polish which leaves us with no excuses for not giving the car an extra shine.

Yes I agree — most new polishes and waxes are hailed as "revolutionary".

Jewelry show — a gem or a joke?

An exhibition that could rival the furor raised by the famous lot of "bricks" was back at the Tate Gallery in the ornate Victoria Albert Museum.

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