

POSTBAG

Take a look at yourselves, Ely

Go East
and
learn,
comrade

A STONE'S-THROW away from the hub of a busy duel carriageway — a walk away from the gaily flower-decked semi-detached, all mod-con society complete with shops, pubs, leisure centre, clinic and every amenity to keep the occupants happy — lies the Genesis of Ely... the Mother Church... Norman and once proud in its surroundings, looking down on what was to be the future generation — Ely.

Wales must honour them

MAY I write in support of the recently launched appeal for £22,000 to build a memorial near the spot where so many young Welshmen were unnecessarily scythed down and slaughtered in 1916, particularly at Mametz Wood in Picardy and just referred to as the Somme.

The Cardiff City Battalion alone lost 350 dead and over 4,000 soldiers of the 38th Welsh Division were killed or wounded — many dying of those wounds months and even years afterwards.

Any kind of comparison is always indelicate to make but more men from Wales were killed in one day on the Somme than civilians killed in five years of air raids on South Wales 1940 to 1944 in the last war.

Living in Wales and scattered around the world there are nearly three million Welsh people and any schoolboy with or without the aid of a pocket calculator could tell you the tiny contribution needed to easily raise the money without detracting from or affecting other charities and causes for the living who are less fortunate than ourselves and need our help continually.

I sincerely hope that prominent and successful Welsh businessmen and superstar show-biz personalities of Welsh birth rally around

ALAN WILSON-GILES
West Lee, Cowbridge Road
East, Cardiff.

Now discarded by the Church it kindled — stoned by the ignorant — graves desecrated by the sick in mind.

Left to disintegrate by a council who could do something to make the site one that people could visit and marvel at, and look upon with pride.

How can these residents in their lace-windowed, grass-lawned semis, live besides this dear old church and its long-lived memorials, and remain unmoved at the fact that gravestones are demolished — in some cases graves dug open. These things don't happen unaided, some mothers' sons or daughters have been responsible.

How can the community council in Ely spend so much time and money on digging out old photographs, and troubling to put on little exhibitions of their findings, when the real heart lay in St Mary's.

How can the council allow this once beautiful mother church of Ely, become the rubbish dump I witnessed this week. A rat-infested, death trap for the curious young, who will never have the opportunity to remember anything of the true ancestry of the pioneers of Ely who worshipped at St Mary's.

How can the Church in Wales sit back and let it happen?

"Thou shalt deny me three"! Those headstones that are still readable scream out this message, the memories of those old hard-working church families, and one very dearly remembered priest of the Parish, Vicar Marsden.

Take a look yourselves — Ely residents — St Mary's Church at Caerau, Ely Sponsor some energy into righting the wrong.

MAJORIE KING
Pencodtre Farmhouse,
Barr.



St Mary's Church — shortly after it was wrecked by vandals in April.

Please don't close our meeting place

Some victory

WE, COOKERY For The Blind, would like to lodge a complaint about the proposed closure of the Howardian High School.

We are horrified to think this school might be closing and we would then have nowhere to go in the evening for lessons and company.

This school is so suitable for our needs and convenient to attend — with good parking for the people who bring us and with no traffic dangers for us to do in and out of.

We don't only come to the cookery classes but some of us attend the music appreciation course held by Mr Joyce of Cardiff College of Music and Drama.

In September we all hope to join this class.

There are not many activities for us. We would like to stress that it is not only blind people who would be affected but physically and mentally handicapped people as well as all other students of this school.

CATHY SHADDOCK, ANN JOB, DAVID LLOYD GEORGE, GWEN JONES, MARK PERI RY

Cookery For The Blind, Howardian Adult Education Centre, Howardian School, Colchester Avenue, Cardiff.

COMMUNIST gun from Penyrheol has long since confirmed suspicions that Tom Hopkins is tomfoolery incognito, but his offering in Postbag on June 26 marks a dizzy descent from single clowning to astonishing crankiness.

"It was the Soviet Union who laid the foundations of modern civilisation" is a statement denoting a serious mental malfunction; yet even worse follows: "... and in World War II they proved the saviours of the new civilisation".

The 20 million people lost "destroying Nazism and Fascism" is impressive presented in isolation. Comrade Hopkins neglects to mention the number of innocents sacrificed in order to impose Communism on the Russians.

His final flourish merely reshapes the most cynical of all modern myths. "The Russian revolution," we are told, "destroyed the capitalist system of private profit which gives power and riches to the few. Power was placed into the hands of the working class in the interest of all the people."

Following a recent visit to the people's paradise, Andrew Neil, editor of the Sunday Times wrote: "Ordinary Russians stand in line for ages outside the few decent restaurants that there are in Moscow, watching in silent resignation as the aristocrats go straight to the head of the queue... There is plenty of fine food and Western consumer durables in the special shops for the top party faithful... In the evening rush hour, senior party members speed home to their dachas and smart apartments in their chauffeur-driven limousines down the centre lane reserved exclusively for them on every main street."

A little travel Eastwards might broaden Comrade Hopkins' mind — or, perhaps, blow it.

PETER FOWLER,
Mynachdy Road, Gabalfa,
Cardiff.