

# EAST GRINSTEAD OBSERVER

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## SCIENTOLOGISTS PLACE 22 BUSINESSES OUT OF BOUNDS

TWENTY-TWO businesses have been put 'Out of Bounds' to Scientologists by their Saint Hill headquarters at East Grinstead.

A letter to the members headed 'Executive Directive,' lists the businesses as 'out of bounds,' and says: 'The shops have indicated that they do not wish Scientology to expand in East Grinstead, and we are, therefore, relieving them of the painful experience of taking our money.'

The Press officer at Saint Hill, Mr. H. Dunston, said that the list had come about following 'critical and destructive remarks about our members.'

He said the list represented only 10 per cent. of the traders who had been contacted. Another 90 per cent. had been informed that they were 'regarded highly.' The 'Observer' spoke to several shopkeepers who were mystified. At one of the busi-

nesses, David Argent, of High Street, the manager, Mr. Robin Dival, said he had put up posters for Scientology, but had refused to display their books.

'A Scientologist said if we were not having his books Scientologists would stop coming here.'

But Mr. Dival added that one or two members were still coming to the shop.

A spokesman at the Wilmington Book Shop also said he had refused to display their books.

Another banned business, East Grinstead Coachworks, had refused to sign a petition supporting Scientology, said a director, Mr. Terence A. Casper. 'I do not think we have upset them in any other way,' he added.

Mr. Dunston said he had heard nothing of a petition and added that the present attitude to Scientology had been 'brought about by ourselves.'

'There is insufficient understanding in East Grinstead about Scientology, mainly because we have not had the time to be more informative.'

'We have been so busy work-

ing on existing programmes that we have not been available to the town,' he said. 'This is wrong and we should apologise to the rest of East Grinstead.'

## Scientologist youths told to leave the country

TWO long-haired Swedish youths who for the past month had been studying at Saint Hill Manor, East Grinstead, the headquarters of the Scientology Foundation, appeared before a special East Grinstead Court on Wednesday last week.

Mats Bengtson (18) and Yngue Mokvist (22), both of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to being unlawfully in the U.K. contrary to the Aliens Order of 1953.

They were granted an absolute discharge and bound over in the sum of £5 each, on their own recognisance, to leave the United Kingdom forthwith.

Detective Chief Inspector Robert Marshall said that Bengtson and Mokvist arrived in this country on April 29 this year on the condition that they stayed no longer than one month.

They came to East Grinstead, he said, where they studied at the College of Scientology and through the college applied for an extension of stay. Their application was being considered by the Home Office, when on June 24 they were seen by police officers camping on private ground and taken to East Grinstead Police Station to establish their identity.

Chief Inspector Marshall said that he had personally told them at that time that they had to leave the country by June 29.

However, they were arrested after being seen by a police officer in the vicinity of Saint Hill on July 2 — three days after they were due to return to Sweden.

Bengtson, who when arrested had £44 in his possession, said that he wanted to

leave the country, 'but the scientologists did not give me my passport until 9 p.m. on June 29. I could not leave the country because I was waiting for money from home.'

Mokvist said that when he came to England he had £40 and that he intended staying for about two and a half years. He had intended to borrow about 5,000 dollars from an American girl to help him stay in this country.

# EAST GRINSTEAD OBSERVER

JULY 18, 1968

## Estate agent hits back at the Scientologists

LAST WEEK the 'Observer' announced exclusively that 22 businesses in the town had been placed 'out of bounds' to Scientologists by their headquarters at Saint Hill.

An 'Executive Directive' to their members stated: 'The shops have indicated that they do not wish Scientology to expand in East Grinstead, and we are, therefore, relieving them of the painful experience of taking our money.'

This week one of the 'banned businesses' has hit back at the Scientologists.

Mr S. Adams-Jones, managing director of South Eastern Estate Agents Ltd., has written to the Scientology headquarters welcoming the ban and states:

'With reference to your letter dated July 1, we are pleased to note that you have placed this business out of bounds to members of your cult.

'We have, for some time, contemplated exhibiting a

notice stating that Scientologists are not welcome, but have decided this might be construed as a breach of the Race Relations Act, as you claim your organisation has religious connotations.'

'Your directive has gone some way to solving this problem, and we are most grateful.

'However, we would point out that since receipt of your letter Scientologists have continued to call at this office, and we would ask for your co-operation in preventing any recurrence.'

### DEPLORED

The 'Observer' heard that the Scientologists had this week decided to lift their ban on a number of businesses. Mr. R. G. Jensen, Public Relations Officer to the Hubbard College of Scientology, confirmed that this was correct, but asked how many had been 're-instated,' replied: 'This is a matter between themselves and ourselves.'

East Grinstead Chamber of

Trade called a special meeting of their Executive Committee on Monday and were unanimous in deploring the contents of the letter and executive directive sent by the Scientologists to certain traders.

The president of the Chamber of Trade, Mr. Maurice Taylor, signed the following letter which was sent to the Scientology headquarters after the meeting:

'We wish to place on record that the East Grinstead Chamber of Trade is anxious to provide the best possible service to all the members of the community of East Grinstead and district regardless of their individual beliefs.

'We, however, deplore the contents of the circular letter dated July 1, 1968, and the executive directive ED 1881 WW 264 SH dated June 25, 1968, which have been forwarded by the Public Relations Officer of the Church of Scientology to certain traders in East Grinstead, as we feel that these seek to discriminate unfairly between traders in the town.'

## MANY OBJECTORS TO SAINT HILL DEVELOPMENT Appeal by Scientologists

WHEN THE CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY, CALIFORNIA, MADE AN APPLICATION FOR MAJOR DEVELOPMENT AT THEIR HEAD-QUARTERS AT SAINT HILL, EAST GRINSTEAD, THE URBAN COUNCIL RECEIVED A PETITION SIGNED BY 460 OBJECTORS, IN ADDITION TO WHICH THERE WERE A NUMBER OF OBJECTIONS BY INDIVIDUALS.

The Council refused the application to develop 23,500 square feet to provide extra buildings, and the Scientologists lodged an appeal with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The appeal opened on Tuesday morning at East Grinstead Parish Hall—booked for the occasion because of the large number of objectors—but only 30 members of the public were present.

The hearing was before the Ministry Inspector, Mr. H. V. Loney, and models of the proposed buildings were on display at the hall.

Opposing the appeal apart from the Urban Council were the Council for the Rural Preservation of Sussex, and Mr. John Warde, representing three local residents, Selected London Properties of the Standen

Estate, East Grinstead, and the Peredur Home School, East Grinstead.

Mr. Howard Sharp, opening the appellant's case, said that from the publicity given to the inquiry 'it is likely that this inquiry may go off the rails, away from the requirements of the Town Planning Act.' Some of the publicity was remarkable for its 'journalistic exuberance.'

'We can admire it even if we do not agree with what has been written.'

He later said the inquiry was not 'into the Californian Church of Scientology as such.'

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Only matters relevant to the consideration to the application could be brought into the arena.

Referring to one of the East Grinstead Urban Council's reasons for objecting to the development—that the necessity for a teaching block was not apparent—Mr. Sharp quoted a letter to the Clerk of the Council from the Department of Education and Science.

The letter included the sentence: 'The Secretary of State is advised that, although the training for Scientology does include personal further education, it is so new and unfamiliar that the department is unable to pass judgment on its educational work.'

This was an impartial observation by a department of civil servants, he said.

Mr. Alan Mason, an architect who has prepared drawings for extensions on the site, said an outline planning application had been submitted to the council on September 16, 1964, for the erection of new buildings for solely educational purposes.

The application had added that there would be no change of use of the Manor House.

In a letter with the application Mr. G. A. Ralph, the applicant's surveyor, had pointed out that although planning permission on a site west of the Manor—where four classrooms have been proposed—had been dismissed on appeal by the Minister of Housing, it had been stated that favourable consideration would be given to a fresh application for buildings erected for solely educational purposes.

Mr. Mason said that another of the council's reasons for refusal—that the development was outside the town map area—had little or no importance at all. The effect of successive planning permissions granted by the authority could not be ignored.

The declared planning policy was that the existing uses of the land should remain for the most part undisturbed.

'I feel from these terms that the authority were satisfied that the existing use could be disturbed for the College of Scientology,' he said.

Commenting on a third reason for refusal—the adverse effect of development on nearby properties and amenities—he said the planning authorities, having accepted the predominantly educational use of the whole property with the blessing of the Minister on the previous appeal, were 'attempting to fight a rearguard planning action against the inevitable consequences of these decisions.'

The council had also said the activities of the occupants of the Manor were 'largely commercial.'

He pointed out that the property was described in the valuation rating lists as 'offices, mansion, lodge, chapel, school and premises.' As there was no objection before the addition of the description 'school' the gross value was £650. After the addition it was increased to £1,910.

As there was no objection either to the description of the property or to successive valuations by the Urban Council he assumed the council were satisfied that the activities were not 'largely commercial.'

Mr. Mason cross-examined by Mr. Anthony McCowan for the Urban Council, said the Church of Scientology owned the land. Asked if the Church was an incorporated body, Mr. Mason said they had applied to the Board of Trade and received a certificate which said documents had been registered but no formal certificate was issued in cases of this class.

To use the Manor House as a domestic building was hardly possible nowadays. In order to make it a viable proposition another building had to be erected, he told Mr. McCowan.

There was no suggestion by the appellants that the buildings at present proposed would result in an increase in the number of people there.

His brief was that the buildings were proposed for the existing members and for better facilities for staff and students. There were at present in the region of 350 to 400 students and staff.

Mr. McCowan quoted a letter that Mr. Mason had written. In it he had said: 'It is also not possible to envisage future numbers accurately and this depends on so many variable factors.'

He asked Mr. Mason if there had been a change of policy in numbers. Mr. Mason replied the letter was written at the very beginning of the application. There had been no change in policy.

Mr. Mason said that the number of students attending the College varied according to the time of year. In summer, which was the peak season, the number was considerably higher than in the winter. He did not consider that there were ever more than 350 to 400 students on the premises at any one time.

## CAR PARK

He said that by and large all vehicles entering the premises used the car park which was intended to hold 126 cars. The drive, he said, was not intended for parking purposes and there was only one other car park which held only about four cars.

When told that on two mornings in May in the space of 45 minutes 192 and 162 vehicles had entered the premises, Mr. Mason said that this figure probably did not take into account the number of vehicles also leaving the premises.

He had never, he said, seen queues of cars or coaches waiting to enter the premises.

Mr. Mason did not envisage any growth in the present volume of traffic, which he did not consider constituted a traffic hazard.

Public relations officer, and deputy guardian at Saint Hill, Mrs. Jane Kember, said that the founder, Mr. Ron L. Hubbard, had not lived at the Saint Hill premises for approximately one to one-and-a-half years.

The residential part of the Manor was occupied 'on and off' by Mrs. Hubbard, she said. Also living there was domestic staff and from time to time, the staff from one of his shops would occupy the residential part for short periods, then leave.

Asked whether these staffs were working or on holiday, Mrs. Kember replied 'Really I don't know, because it's not my business. I don't question them.'

The Manor at Saint Hill, she

said, was used to operate the world wide organisation of Scientology.

The publication department which used to be at Saint Hill had now been transferred to Scotland.

The castle was used for storing purposes.

During Tuesday afternoon Mr. Warde read from a pamphlet which, he said, was signed by L. Ron Hubbard, founder of the Church of Scientology.

One passage read: 'We are slowly and carefully teaching the unholy a lesson. It is as follows . . . we will become interested in the crimes of people who seek to stop us. If you oppose Scientology we promptly look up—and will find and expose—your crimes. If you leave us alone we will leave you alone. It's very simple. Even a fool can grasp that.'

## "BETTER LIVES"

'And don't under-rate our ability carrying it out. Our business is helping people to lead better lives—we even help those who have committed crimes for we are not here to punish. But those who try to make life hard for us are at once at risk.'

'We are only interested in doing our job, and we are only interested in the crimes of those who prevent us from doing our job.'

Mr. Warde said he was reading from a pamphlet called 'Certainty' which was circulated in East Grinstead in 1967. The words 'Critics of Scientology' were on the front.

He said he might quite possibly not have read the pamphlet if it had not been for the fact that in the proof of evidence of Mrs. Jane Kember, she stated quite clearly that Scientology was based on humanistic principles.

Of the pamphlet he said: 'I feel that might be regarded as an incitement to blackmail.'

Mr. Warde also quoted the pamphlet as saying 'These is no good reason to oppose Scientology. In our game everybody wins. We have this technical fact. Those that oppose us have crimes to hide . . . try it on your next critic, like everything else it works.'

## 'CAUSED DISTRESS'

Questioning Mrs. Kember, Mr. Warde said he was representing Peredur Home School, for maladjusted and autistic children, situated about half a mile from the appeal site.

He asked Mrs. Kember if it was in her knowledge that Scientologists had visited the school. Mrs. Kember replied 'possibly.'

Did she know if these Scientologists had tried to get the children interested in Scientology?

Mrs. Kember said this was against the principles of Scientology.

Mr. Warde said it had been reported and this had happened and 'Caused distress' to the children and staff.

Earlier Mr. Anthony McCowan asked Mrs. Kember: 'Has there been any attempt on your part to stifle opposition from local people to this project?'

She replied 'That would be a bit hard to do.'

Mr. McCowan: 'Have you tried to?'

Mrs. Kember: 'No.'

She said she recognised a document he produced which was sent out in her name as Deputy Guardian to various businesses in East Grinstead. Mr. McCowan said it contained a list of businesses and read: 'These shops have indicated that they are interested in the project.'

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JULY 18, 1968

## Regarded after theft as 'a suppressive person'

BECAUSE he ran himself into debt, John Andrew McIlvenny (21), of no fixed address, stole two rings valued at £100 and £250 from Helen Irene Violet McKee, of Forest Row, East Grinstead Court heard on Monday.

McIlvenny, at present unemployed, pleaded guilty.

The court heard that during his unemployment he had been studying at Saint Hill Manor, the headquarters of Scientology, and since the theft had been regarded as a 'suppressive person,' which meant that none of his friends could speak on his behalf.

In a statement to the police McIlvenny said that he had run into debt after plans to start a canteen at Saint Hill Manor had fallen through.

He had called to see Helen McKee with three friends and taken the rings. He had sold one ring in London and used the money to clear a debt. He had intended to return the other ring.

Det. Chief Insp. Robert Marshall said that McIlvenny was interviewed officially by a police officer at East Grinstead Police Station, where he had said: 'I am glad I came here, I feel safe here, I do not elsewhere.'

McIlvenny, who told the court: 'None of my friends are allowed to speak for me,' was

remanded in custody for three weeks for medical, psychiatric and probation reports to be obtained.