

Now other groups back off cult's fete

CONTROVERSY this week continued to cloud tomorrow's Saint Hill summer fete.

Other groups have now denied links with the Church of Scientology event after Queen Victoria Hospital last week refused to accept cult money from the proceeds.

Advertisements and flyers pushed through East Grinstead letter boxes say the fete, with John Travolta topping the bill, will be

opened by Radio Mercury.

But the station's programme director, Martin Campbell, denied it would attend the event at the organisation's headquarters.

He stressed: "Radio Mercury has no involvement whatsoever with the Church of Scientology or the fete."

Mr Campbell said Radio Mercury was not contacted by Scientologists but had spoken with fete organiser Liz Dalrymple, who acknowledged it was wrong to use the company's name.

He said the station was billed as appearing after a former Radio Mercury presenter, Chris Oxlade,

agreed to attend the fete.

Mr Campbell added: "The agreement was between him and the Church of Scientology. It's nothing to do with us at all."

The Courier last week disclosed that the Queen Victoria Hospital in East Grinstead was "appalled" by advertisements saying money raised would be in aid of its burns unit.

A spokesman for Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, said to be receiving donations, denied links.

He said: "We did receive a gift from the Church of Scientology last year. But we have reviewed the situation and decided it's not in

our best interests to be associated with them. We told them we will decline to accept anything this year."

St John Ambulance officer Roger Leonard, of Felbridge and East Grinstead division, said the volunteer organisation would welcome donations.

"We've no reason to doubt their generosity," he said. "I know they have had a pretty rough ride but maybe that's to do with, ig-

norance and intolerance."

Fete organiser Liz Dalrymple said: "QVH and Great Ormond Street were happy last year with their involvement and with the funds they received.

"This year all groups were told we would like to donate to them. There seemed to be no problem so for them to pull out at the last minute is uncharitable, not to say unkind."

● See also page 8.

Sad loss of cash for Queen Vic

I WAS very saddened by the decision of Mr Jeffrey Park, chairman of the Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Trust, to turn down our offer of fundraising (report and letter, June 17)

As the hospital has been glad to accept our donations in the past, it came as a shock that Mr Park had changed the policy, denying not only Scientologists, but all those who attend our fete, the opportunity to support the hospital.

I have been reassured that the medical staff at the hospital do have a policy of non-discrimination and give their highest standards of health care and nursing to all patients regardless of creed, race or religion. It is a great pity that the management staff do not seem to follow a similar non-discriminatory policy.

Scientologists were among those who supported the Queen Victoria in its recent administrative crises.

We were glad to do so as we appreciate the work done for us by the hospital medical staff.

It is sad, when human rights and tolerance are becoming the norm, that my contribution to my local hospital is restricted by a narrow-minded and poor-spirited decision.

(Mrs) E. DALRYMPLE
Saint Hill Manor
East Grinstead

□ WHAT irresponsible behaviour by chairman Jeffrey Park. A communication problem exists at the Queen Vic, if some of the management knew last year and this year, but others who should have, did not.

Surely most people will regard this fiasco as discourteous, irresponsible and a betrayal of trust to QVH management and the local community?

J.L. HODGSON

Cantelupe Road
East Grinstead

□ DURING the past seven years I have been closely associated with many Scientologists and their families, through my work as a peripatetic teacher, and I have only found them to be friendly, kind, sympathetic, honest and hard working — quite normal in fact.

I am extremely disappointed that the QVH should have been swayed into rejecting much needed fund-raising money from the Saint Hill fete. Surely the health service can't afford to be this fussy?

NAME and ADDRESS
SUPPLIED

Forest Row

□ I HAVE always been an admirer of the Queen Victoria Hospital and in particular its work in burns treatment in the past.

It is extraordinary that I will not be able to contribute to its welfare because of Mr Park's comments. He seems more interested in the politics and PR of the affair, than the rights and wrongs.

M. CHAMPNESS

Eden Vale
East Grinstead

East Grinstead OBSERVER

15p where sold

Wednesday 29 June, 1994

V F D
WINDING UP
MAY 1993

'EVIL CULT STOLE' MY BROTHER!

A GRIEF-stricken man has accused East Grinstead's sinister Scientology cult of stealing his brother from his family.

John Heartbroken Phelan says his brother Tony is now a virtual prisoner of the organisation, slammed by a British judge as "corrupt, immoral brainwashers."

This week officials at the cults European HQ Saint Hill Manor, East Grinstead, refused to discuss the case with the Observer.

Now the anguished Phelan family have threatened to step up their campaign against the Church of Scientology, unless Tony is "released" to them. "We're trying to make as much of a nuisance of ourselves as possible until the Scientist's let him out," said John.

"This evil cult stole my brother from his family, and we want him back"

added the distraught Irishman.

He said Tony, a single man in his 30's took up with the cult in 1989, when he was emotionally vulnerable and consumed with grief over the death of his mother.

Since then, said John, he had put on weight, stopped playing the guitar, and lost his £30,000 a year engin-

ering job.

He said Tony was a changed person coming out with "wired things," and spending his money on courses at Saint Hill and the cult's other premises.

"If I get upset about the cult then Tony will get fiercely angry. You're not getting real contact with him," said John.

The family, from Tip-

perary, Ireland, said Tony is under an "evil form of mind control"

And John claims there have been threats of unspecified reprisals against the family for talking to the Press about the cult.

But in a letter to an Irish newspaper, Scientology officer Gerard Ryan says the allegations of "brainwashing" and Tony being a "prisoner" are "nonsense".

Scientists accused of wrecking family life

Letters to: The Editor,

Cult is evil

I SEE that that disgusting evil cult based up at Saint Hill have been up to their old tricks again, with false advertising about their summer fair.

Surely it is about time that the Scientologists and all of their wicked off shoots ie: Greenfields School and their bookshop were run out of town.

Clear off Cult members you're not welcome in this town.

Name and Address withheld by request.

East Grinstead Courier

Tel: EG 323652

Friday, July 15, 1994

30p

Air your
knowledge of
the town to win
a cash prize

See Page 13

WITH THE COURIER

Second snub for Saint Hill

By David Thompson

ST JOHN Ambulance is refusing to accept donations from the Church of Scientology.

The announcement is another rebuff for the cult after Queen Victoria Hospital, and Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital also turned down proceeds from the cult's recent Saint Hill summer fete.

John Mills, communications director of the volunteer organisation's London head office, said flatly: "We do not want to give credibility to an organisation of which we do not approve. It could bring the good name of St John Ambulance into disrepute."

He stressed: "We will not accept donations from any religious organisation not recognised by the British Council of Churches.

"It is an easy rule to follow. There is no grey area, the Church of Scientology is not recognised."

'We do not want to give credibility to an organisation of which we do not approve'

Advertisements and flyers for the annual Scientology event on June 25 said it was in aid of St John Ambulance and the two hospitals, which have already denied links and refused money.

The promotions also said it would be opened by Radio Mercury, but the station strenuously denied links with the fair. It later emerged that a former station presenter would be attending.

Mr Mills added: "We are not happy that the Church of Scientology used our name on promotional leaflets. We wrote to them saying we did not want any publicity associated with them."

"We gave first aid cover at the Saint Hill fete, as we would for anyone without question, and would ask for donations to cover our expenses."

He added that the East Grinstead and Felbridge division had accepted money in the past but were not fully aware of the overall policy.

Fete organiser Liz Dalrymple said:

"Roger Leonard, of the Felbridge and East Grinstead division of St John Ambulance, was quoted in a previous Courier article saying, 'We've no reason to doubt their generosity. I know they have had a pretty rough ride but maybe that's to do with ignorance and intolerance.'"

"We have been raising money for the St John Ambulance for many years at Saint Hill, and have enjoyed a long warm association with the local division."

"The money was raised in good faith, and given in good faith by many people who, like us, support the good work of the St John brigade and we will ensure that the brigade receives the money. To do otherwise would be an inappropriate re-allocation of charitable funds raised in their name."

● THE Hubbard College of Administration, a management training project which uses techniques developed by Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard, has celebrated its first anniversary with a champagne reception.

CULTS

Many sects have borrowed the '90s gospel of self-help, making them harder than ever to detect

TALKING POINT

new style, old problem

course and the literature. "At the second session, I asked the tutor if the course gave me a proper certificate. He said no, but I would be able to counsel Scientologists. It was only then that I realised who they were.

"I feel like I have been conned. I honestly thought they were nice, but they were just out to get my money," she says. Barbara was not alone in experiencing the downside of cults. Jackie, 32, couldn't believe the change in her lawyer husband David when he returned from a business seminar at three day 1 and a half education course.

"When he came home he was in cloud cuckoo land," says Jackie. "At first I thought he was on drugs. His eyes were dilated and his speech was slurred. He wasn't the person I knew."

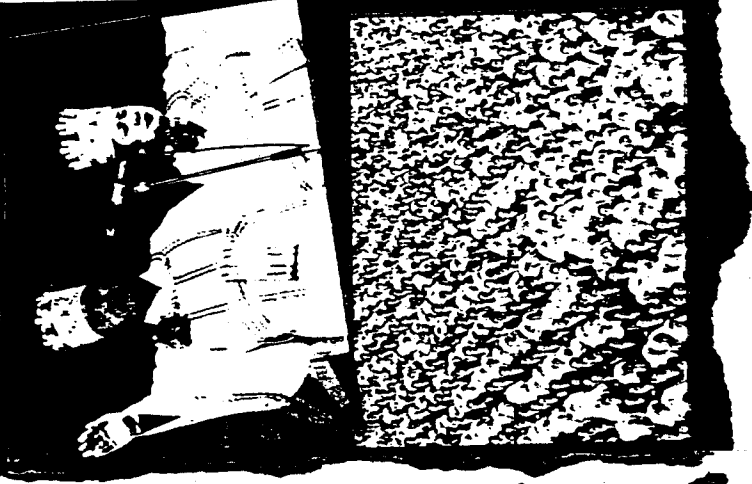
"Then I began to suspect he'd been brainwashed by a cult. He said he'd been looking at our relationship and questioning whether he loved me. He got all while and shaky when I used words he had been told were taboo, such as "disrespect".

Jackie contacted a cult-breaking organisation who suggested ways of getting through to him. After persistent talking and reasoning, David began to question what he'd learnt at 1 and a half Education, which turned out to be an offshoot of the controversial EST cult. Soon his euphoria wore off and he became deeply depressed.

"Eventually I got him back," says Jackie. "But it was very frightening."

Jan Howarth has the last word on the dangers of being sucked into the cult culture: "Some members actually end up in psychiatric wards". It's a chilling warning.

It's a chilling warning. **Emily Compston**



Barbara feels she cannot



Right - the Rev Moon with wife conducts a mass Moonie wedding. The approach is disguised as a Scientology (above) to appeal to middle-management types

you'd never get caught up in one, would you? You've read about the Moonies and the Waco siege. You know that cults are sinister, so-called religions which target lonely, lost people and brainwash them. You think you're far too sensible to fall under their spell.

That's what Geoffrey thought. The 26-year-old insurance clerk from Bristol saw a personality questionnaire in his local newspaper and filled it out just for fun.

He posted the form and didn't think any more about it until he received a letter from a "Research Foundation", inviting him to one of their meetings.

"It sounded like a research company," says Geoffrey. "I went along to see what it was all about. They were offering a course called Success Through Communication which cost £90. I thought it would help me with my work, so I joined up for it."

"The people running it were very easy going," he recalls. "They all seemed to have good jobs and had an air of success about them. They were always so interested in me."

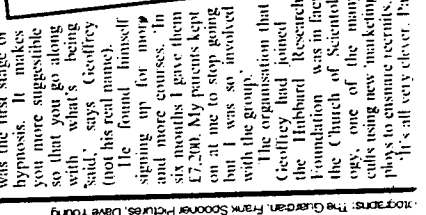
There were long periods of study where students would sit opposite a trainer and repeat the same phrase over and over again. "I now know that it was the first stage of hypnosis. It makes you more suggestible so that you go along with what's being said," says Geoffrey (not his real name).

He found himself signing up for more and more courses. In six months I gave them £7,200. My parents kept on at me to stop going but I was so involved with the group.

The organisation that Geoffrey had joined the Hubbard Research Foundation was in fact the Church of Scientology, one of the many cults using new marketing ploys to entice recruits. "It's all very clever. But

of my training taught me how to deal with oppressors of Scientology," says Geoffrey. "This involved lying, but they called it telling "acceptable truths". If anyone asks you how much you have spent on courses, you don't tell them "£2,000", you say "more than £500".

In the end, Geoffrey managed to break away from the cult after meeting an ex member. "He convinced me that I could end



Geoffrey was trained to counter criticism of Scientology

need help. Narcotism aims to help people come off hard drugs but is in fact a Scientology programme. Unlike many religious cults, these sell help sets do not divorce themselves from everyday life. Their members wear normal clothes, hold down jobs and own houses, which can make them very hard to detect.

Like Geoffrey, Barbara Gardner, 39, was unwittingly caught up in The Church of Scientology. "I had a broken knee and was at home for three months," she recalls. "I was feeling a bit low and I didn't have much to do. To while away some

time, she filled in a personality questionnaire in a newspaper and sent it off. This led on to a £15 self-improvement course with the Hubbard Research Foundation, during which her trainer suggested she follow a cult with a counselling course. "My dream is to work with the NSPCC or with abused children and they said that if I did the course I could achieve that," she says.

She paid out approximately £150 for the

Information Centre has worked for many years with victims and their families. "All cults fit the same bill in that none of them say 'no'," he says. "They are now everything from a stop-smoking course to relaxation and drug rehabilitation programmes."

Sideline, such as communication courses at £150 a day, make a lot of money for an organisation and let participants think they're getting something for their money. Even cults with different names, Lan Howarth of the Cult

up giving Scientology all my money," he says. "Now Geoffrey is committed to encouraging others to leave Scientology. He is also in the process of them say 'no'."

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You & your money



Pack your plastic

Take the tight money cards when holidaying in Britain, then you won't need your money to draw cash. Rules for details. This is how it works. Cash card - no charge if you use it in a machine belonging to your own bank or a bank with which you have an arrangement. For example, Barclays customers can also use bank of Scotland, Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds machines without charge. Otherwise you may have to pay - Halifax customers using non-Halifax Link machines are charged 80p. Credit card - there's usually a handling charge, typically 1.5 per cent (minimum £1.50). Or you may be charged interest from date of withdrawal. Debit card - as with cash cards. Also, when you pay your supermarket bill with Switch or Visa for an extra £10 to £50 and give it to you in cash.

Water meters

Could we save money on water bills by having a water meter installed?

Without a meter, your water charge is based mainly on your rateable value; with a meter, it's on the amount of water used. You should benefit from metering if you're single or a couple without children in a highly rated house. Installing a meter usually costs up to £150. You then pay 1-1p for one flush of the loo, 3-9p for a shower, 3-9p for one dishwasher cycle, 9-5p for a bath, 9-5p for one washing machine cycle and 63-6p for one hour's use of the hose pipe.

Statutory Maternity Pay

I'm a part-time shopworker on average earnings of £50 a week and am expecting a baby in mid-November. Will I be entitled to Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP) under the new rules?

Most women expecting babies on or after October 16, 1994 will get SMP of 90 per cent of earnings for the first six weeks, and £52-50 for up to 12 weeks. They must have been working in the same job for at least 26 weeks and earning at least £57 a week. On £50 a week, you do not qualify. But you do ask your social security office or CAB about other benefits.

Have you heard?

When opening an account at the post office, you now have to give proof of identity (driving licence, passport, photo-identity card, pension or benefit book) and proof of address.