

BROWNHILLS

GAZETTE

ISSUE No. 14
NOVEMBER 1990
12p WHEN SOLD

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WAKE UP BROWNHILLS

Tremendous response from our readers - Not a word from our local elected representatives

Our headlines of WHY? in our last issue certainly provoked some response from a good cross section of the community and some of the replies are printed for you on pages 4 and 5.

What is significant is the lack of any reply from our local elected Councillors, are they treating us with contempt or do they have nothing at all to say on the subject, although we do have a response from the Press Office of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council, could it be that the paid officers are run-

ning the show instead of carrying out the decisions of the elected representatives.

We are also getting another red herring to lead us astray, a new plan for the future, remember the last one and the new ring road to give us a pedestrianised shopping precinct, we are still waiting and how can we have a successful shopping centre when one has to risk life and limb to go from one shop to another.

We the people of Brownhills are fed up to the teeth with

promises, promises, we now want action and we know from the response we have had that a Brownhills Association can be formed and we hope to announce a date in the next issue for a public meeting.

On the leisure side which the council appears to be proud of, could they tell us what has happened to the changing facilities at Ogley Hay playing fields, residents tell us they are fed up with seeing people having to use the hedge as a urinal, and we have correspondence that the council

have received and replied to on this very subject, add to this the lack of changing facilities at Holland Park and Oak Park, these having been pulled down a few years ago and not replaced and we see a complete lack of changing facilities in the area.

In our next issue we shall be investigating as to where the money originated from quoted in the article from the Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council and also comparing the money

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How can we attract shoppers to our town when traffic is continually bounding along the High Street

Wake up Brownhills

FROM PAGE ONE

spent in other areas of the borough.

Naturally certain bodies didn't agree with our revelations and that's to be expected. One was the Neighbourhood Office. A spokesman thought we were being unfair, and went on to give account of millions

being spent on housing in the Town.

Where did we complain about housing? When did we criticise the Neighbourhood Office? Surely it was obvious, that when we highlighted problems of footpaths and shop fronts, and being conned by council officials, we meant the top of the tree boys at Walsall. Like Mr. Southall, who was then of the Highways Department, who told me that "Brownhills High Street is too busy to be tarmacadamed. We shall use blocks to enable it to be replaced neatly when surfaces have to be laid" and "that the

Lyndy Estate planners were waiting to liaise with them, so that Silver Court could be blended in". But head of Lyndy, Mr. Flock knew nothing of this.

And didn't we take half of page nine up praising the refurbishment at Silver Court? And let's bear one thing in mind. Everything we said, was pure feedback from 12 months of listening to the Brownhills Public.

Now read the council's reply carefully and let us know what you think of it. Have we been unjust? Have we been a bit biased?

We are your voice. You tell us.

Dear Ed,

After reading your October issue it prompted me to bring to you my very limited poetic attempt as follows:-

*I stood in shock and great surprise
I just could not believe my eyes
Two men working in the High Street
To make paths safe beneath our feet*

*Two years ago I tripped and fell
And in doing so let out a yell
You see I was in so much pain
The result of this was a nasty sprain*

*And still my ankle is not right
Its keeping me awake at night
My solicitor has made a claim
For neglect of the path which caused the sprain*

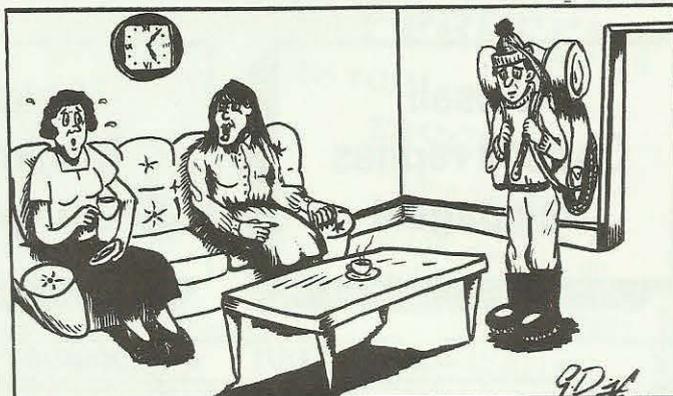
*We read all the time in our Gazette
About accidents poor folk have met
But can we complain to our M.P.
Where must we go to make our plea*

*How much will they pay in compensation
Repairing the path would end some frustration
Will it have to end in fatality
Before the council faces reality*

*All around us the town falls apart
But two lone men had made a start
Is this the end of falls and spills
Has someone remembered about Brownhills?*

Should an association be formed to represent Brownhills and its people I would certainly be interested also my friend Susan Taylor would like to contribute to this cause.

Yours faithfully
Mrs. C. Raybould,
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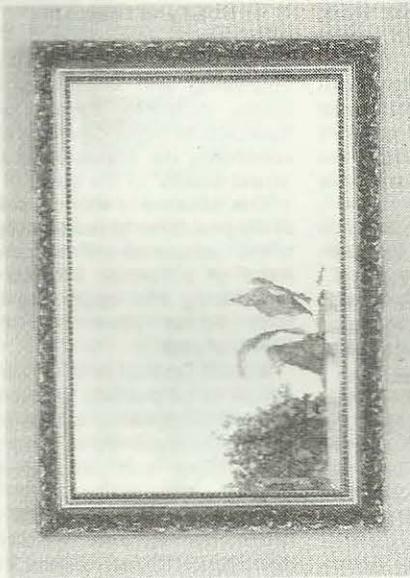
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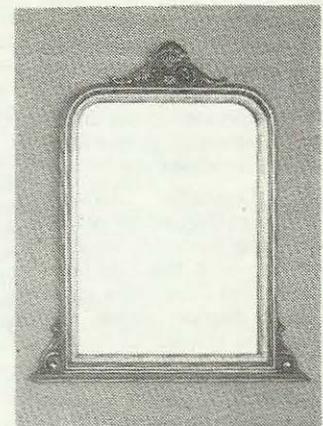
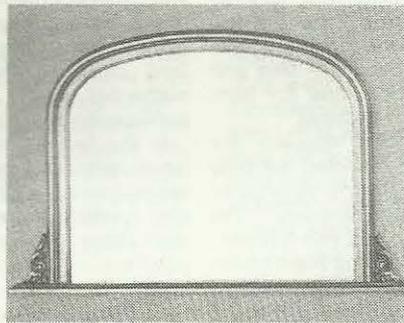


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WAKE UP BROWNHILLS

Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council replies....

One of Walsall Council's top priorities is local accountability and local participation. In short, this means offering people the opportunity to play an active role in the life of their own communities and, perhaps more importantly, listening to what they say.

This priority has been well reflected in the major improvements seen in the Brownhills area since the early 1980s. The Council has recognised and actively responded to the area's needs, as attention to the facts will clearly demonstrate.

The Council's Unitary Development Plan, which will be the planning blueprint for Walsall's future into the 21st Century, identifies Brownhills as an important district centre and commits the council to further significant improvements for the area.

These improvements will continue to enhance, develop and protect Brownhills, highlighting the Council's genuine interest in its future well-being, as well as underlining the considerable work and financial input the authority has already invested in the district.

Housing

In the last six years alone, Walsall Council has invested over £11 million in Brownhills housing stock, over and above the cost of day-to-day repairs.

The area's extensive and varied improvement and refurbishment schemes have included a

window replacement programme, covering nearly 1,000 properties and costing over two and a half million pounds, a modernisation programme for 85 properties, costing over £1 million and OAP block conversions costing £800,000.

A £2,500,000 refurbishment scheme, which included the creation of a new park, play area, community centre facilities and environmental improvements has transformed Silver Court Gardens.

At Waive and Bayley House multi-storey flats there has been major refurbishment work, while at houses and flats all round the area schemes too numerous to mention here have further improved the area and the living conditions for hundreds of local residents.

The Council's concern for Brownhills is reflected not only in monetary terms. Alongside housing improvements the authority has actively encouraged and supported the creation of community associations and residents' groups of all kinds, formed to accurately and directly represent the views of local people.

Shopping/Leisure and Business Facilities

The UDP, which is now out to full public consultation, strengthens the old Aldridge/Brownhills Local Plan commitment to safeguard the retail prosperity of Brownhills and encourage investment.

The Council has been actively pursuing this policy throughout the last decade with a series of initiatives designed to make the town centre a more attractive area, thereby encouraging investment, development and improved shopping facilities.

Major re-development work, which established two major stores, improved parking facilities and made significant highway improvements whilst protecting the town centre's popular features including the market, was carried out in the mid 1980s.

The overall 'feel', appearance and general amenity of the town has been improved by the £1 million reclamation of derelict land close to the canal for numerous sports pitches and public open space areas.

In the last 12 months major landscaping schemes, costing approximately £30,000, have also made a significant difference along High Street and at its junctions with Silver Street and Lindon Drive.

A planned Council 'Action Scheme' will pull together the various initiatives for the town centre. Plans for a major local housing development, new retail and commercial development, improvements for Holland Park and the creation of canalside and open space recreation and leisure facilities will continue the positive progress and development of Brownhills.

The Council has no control over shopping or business facilities that are privately owned - it can only ensure

through its planning policies, general commitment and financial investment that Brownhills continues to develop as a vibrant and attractive district centre. This it has, and will continue, to do.

Road and Footpaths

£100,000 will continue upgrading and improving the roads, footpaths, carpark and forecourt of Silver Court Parade, enhancing the appearance and 'street quality' of the area.

This scheme is solving many of the problems of such concern to the Gazette, as will the investment of a further £40,000 in resurfacing and upgrading the High Street pavements this financial year.

Walsall Council in its determination to be publicly accountable and responsive, invites and welcomes reasoned comments, suggestions and involvement from its communities.

Gazette readers, as are all Brownhills residents, are urged to attend three exhibitions detailing the UDP draft proposals for Brownhills to be staged on November 17th, 19th and 20th at Brownhills Methodist Church, Silver Street. The UDP and supporting information can also be seen at Brownhills Neighbourhood Office.

The exhibitions will offer local people the opportunity to see for themselves the Council's level of commitment to their area and contribute personally to its future development and success.

Joan Hucker replies....

Congratulations on the October issue highlighting the depths to which Brownhills has fallen.

And I will add, you were a lot more polite in your wording than I would have been.

What a pity we cannot turn the clock back to the days when Brownhills was run by its own Urban District Council. O.K. it wasn't perfect, but it was a damn sight better than what we have today.

Not even your photographs show the neglect in its fullest

and surely, if we think back, this degradation began first when Brownhills merged with Aldridge and then later under Walsall M.B. and we all know what a joke the latter has become.

There is only one comment to be made about Walsall M.B. and that is this, had it been a private business, it would have gone bankrupt years ago. I fully agree, that what is needed for Brownhills is an association whose only function is for this area and its residents and headed by people with no political conno-

tations, then this way the association would be answerable only to the people of Brownhills and not first and foremost to a political party.

As things are at the moment, Brownhills is an eyesore. Shop after shop closing because of high rates and what we are left with leaves a lot to be desired. Some having the tackiest signs imaginable. So come on shopkeepers, do your bit by putting neat attractive fronts to your shops. And to the people of Brownhills, instead of us all moaning, lets stand together

and make Brownhills a place to be proud of. Brian Stringer is making an effort, so let's give him the help and support he needs. And finally, at long last, I see the pavements in the High Street are having a face lift. (I wonder who is going to take the credit for it!) Bloody hoo-ray! not before time. I wonder how many people like me will be counting the days, when after completion, either the Gas, Electricity or Water Boards will come and dig it up again. Anyone taking bets?

Mrs. Joan Hucker.

WAKE UP BROWNHILLS

Richard Shepherd M.P. replies....

Dear Brian,

I was, as always, grateful to receive the September and October editions of the Brownhills Gazette. However I could not help but be disappointed to note the question you posed on the front page of the October issue.

Where local issues are concerned, and particularly ones of local expenditure, a Member of Parliament has unfortunately a very limited role. As you will know our locally elected Councillors determine - through the various Committees - the amount of money to be spent on any given project and the priority given to such projects.

You will also know that some of Walsall Council's priorities, such as the Arts and Media Centre, are - given the state not only of Brownhills pavements but also the number of houses in the Borough without inside toilet facilities - very curious.

As you will see from the enclosed correspondence I do try and raise these issues but, at the end of the day, I cannot determine how the various Committees ought to allocate their resources. In many cases I wish I could but that is not how our system of local government works.

In my view part of the problem

lies with the failure of the local electorate to hold the Councillors they elected accountable for their curious priorities and decisions.

I am also mindful of the influence the local press can bring to local issues and I am therefore very grateful for the campaigning stance your paper has undertaken. I will certainly take up some of the points you raised with both the Director of Engineering and Town Planning and the Director of Housing.

Turning to the question you posed, I see many many residents of Brownhills at my regular surgery on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month and in addition visit those who are unable through age or illness to come to me.

I also have correspondence of some 300 letters each week relating to the constituency as well as many telephone calls.

You will also know that the recent Mori poll placed me within the top ten Backbenchers of all parties. I assure you that to the very best of my ability I do endeavour to represent the interests of all my constituents without regard to their political beliefs or where they live.

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely, Richard.

Glyn Holloway replies....

Dear Sir,

In reference to your article "What is the matter with Brownhills", let us take points one at a time.

1. Being from Clayhanger where a village spirit prevailed, I found Brownhills people insulated in themselves, and quite frankly they deserve everything they get. e.g. The carnival. Over the years a couldn't care less attitude has prevailed. We, and I include myself, have allowed our carnival to be taken out of our hands and given over to virtual outsiders. The Brownhills and Burntwood Round Table. Pathetic. We had a good carnival but were too idle to carry on.

2. We are the poor relations of WMB and always will be. Why? Because Walsall are jealous of us. Because at one time we could house a young couple within six weeks of marriage.

How? Look around. We have more old folks accommodation than anywhere in the Midlands, built near their own environment, hence no problem getting them to move and so releasing their old houses to flat dwellers with families, so releasing flats to newly weds. This ceased, on joining Walsall.

3. Chasewater should have been utilised to far more extent than it has been. Why hasn't it? Because it's on the extreme boundary of the borough and the focal point of Walsall is the Arboretum, same with the town.

For a village our common land is superb, our walks plentiful and full of wildlife, and now the reclaimed land in Clayhanger puts Walsall to shame but note, most of the money came from the Coal Board.

4. Do we elect councillors who don't appear to care for our town? To be fair, we get what we deserve. e.g. We have a motor-

way coming shortly. Why? The Government recommended the orange route, through Pelsall, Shelfield and Aldridge. £29 millions cheaper than other routes. Then why Brownhills? Was it too much of a coincidence that two Brownhills councillors, one of whom lived in Shelfield and the other in Pelsall actually proposed and seconded, this route through Brownhills? Aldridge were over the moon.

5. Our M.P. Richard Shepherd. In fairness to him, whenever I have approached him to open functions in Brownhills, he and his family have supported en masse.

There is no reason why a surgery can't be held in Brownhills, but with Labour controlling the schools and offices, life could be made difficult for a Tory M.P.

Do we need an Association to look after the interests of Brownhills? I often hear the names of Danny Marklew, Jonah Deakin, Fred Burt and Len Sadler banded about, but these were big fish in a small pool. Now our representatives are small fish in a large pool. 3 councillors out of 60, and they have to abide by their leaders.

The most one could realistically hope for is to form an Association with the old Brownhills Districts of Rushall, Walsall Wood, Pelsall and Shelfield. We wouldn't take over Walsall, but a balance of power could be created and with the council being evenly split, we would hold a good bartering point with whoever held the majority.

We certainly need something to break this present stupid position we are in.

Glyn Holloway
New Road,
Brownhills.

Jim Salt replies....

Dear Brian,

I note your statement regarding Richard in your issue No.13.

You may not be aware of the fact that Richard did everything possible to serve the various districts by holding surgeries in them some years ago. In fact, we advertised and held surgeries at Brownhills, Pheasey (when it was part of our constituency), Rushall, Pelsall, Walsall Wood, Streetly and Hatherton. We not only advertised in the press, we had leaflets distributed making electors aware that surgeries were held on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings.

Sorry to say it proved to be of no avail; sometimes we never had one person arriving at the surgery, which we advertised for a two-hour session.

It therefore, proved more successful to do what we had done in Walsall for thirty years, to have a central place at specific times and dates so we hold all our surgeries at the Careers

Office, Little Aston Road, Aldridge; which is most convenient to everyone as well as being central, from 5.00 pm to 6.45 pm on the first and third Friday of every month. Richard calls at the homes of constituents who are unable to attend his surgery and obviously, he never refuses to see anyone.

From time to time we advertise the surgeries. If you wish, we will pay for an advertisement in your next issue, something similar to the attached card. Over 1,000 of these were delivered in Brownhills as well as various other districts.

We do have quite a good number of constituents with problems who contact us, in person at the surgery and by telephone.

Yours sincerely
Jim Salt
Agent Secretary

Sylvia Jackson replies....

Dear Sir,

With regard to your article "Wake Up Brownhills", we would support the formation of an association for the town and believe that by having at least one independent, non-political councillor, it generates competition between ward councillors to serve the interests of the residents.

The members of B.R.E.G., a non-political group, are prepared to work with councillors of any political persuasion to achieve environmental improvements. We would like therefore, to say a sincere thank you for all the practical help,

advice and interest shown by Councillor Doug Tomlinson to this group, during his term of office. Doug has a valuable asset in his wife, who, with unflinching courtesy has recorded, sometimes lengthy messages, on our behalf.

As a group we are quite willing to fight our own battles but freely given co-operation from councillors makes an enormous difference and is very much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,
S.T. Jackson (Mrs)
Secretary of Brownhills Residents Environmental Group.

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Her exclusive range contains International Designer Collections, Ravens, Mamut Moden, Summerman, Frede, Hardob, Bianca, Janina Schreck of West Germany, Galleria of Italy, Flora Kunk of New York and many others.

Hats by Della, Connor, Signature, Bermona, Handbags by Marion-Van-Pearl (USA) and

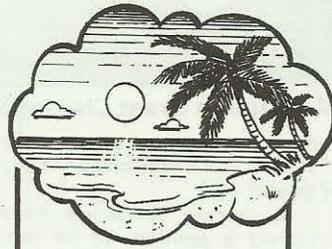
Triad. Gloves and Scarves by Cornelia James, Leisurewear by Fabrizio, Bader and South Lodge. Lingerie by Triumph and Cobbannau and Swimwear by Triumph Gottex of Israel, added to this is an impressive display of costume jewellery. Surprised? You'll be more so, on entering the newly furnished premises, tastefully decorated and gleaming new, where you'll be allowed to browse at leisure with no high pressure selling, among a collection to suit ages from 17-70.

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Opposition to Abattoir extension



The Abattoir in Great Charles Street

Residents living near to a local abattoir are to oppose plans for an extension of the site. Two of the residents leading the campaign are Mr. & Mrs Foster of Gt. Charles Street who are the nearest to the problems that occur. They fear that the troubles they suffer now, would be intensified by any expansion on the site.

"Cattle being delivered in the early hours of the morning, large flies and continuous smells all have to be tolerated," Mrs Foster told us, "And we've already had the health depart-

ment in to try and discover the source of a nauseating fishy smell."

At present 39 people have signed a petition, to be presented to the local planning committee hearing on November 30th at the Town Hall, and before then the list is expected to grow.

"Waste bins were supposed to be emptied undercover," complained Mr. Foster, "but now we've noticed that they are loaded outside and left uncovered again, and this invites cats to drag chunks of meat all over

the nearby gardens. We never know what to expect next, and if the abattoir is enlarged, living conditions in the immediate area will become intolerable. This is why we must fight this."

Cllr. Doug Tomlinson has visited Gt. Charles Street and has promised to take the matter up at a higher level.

We contacted Mr. Poxon, who told us that the planning proposals were necessary in order to comply with the new E.E.C. regulations which have been forced on the industry and will come into effect in late 1992.

Lichfield & Brownhills Cage Bird Society

Lichfield & Brownhills CBS recently held a very successful open show at Burntwood Memorial Institute with just over 640 birds entered.

Principle winners were:- Best Border Canary - Barnett & Chandler; Best Gloster Canary - M. Kelham; Best Norwich Canary - L.R. Weston; Best Yorkshire Canary - C. Kinson; Best New Colour Canary - W. Dean; Best Fife Canary - H. Bradley; Best Lizard Canary - J. Draycott; Best Old Variety Canary - J.G. Hames; Best British Bird - P. Degville; Best Mule or Hybrid - F. Vardy; Best Foreign Bird - R. Carter; Best Zebra Finch - R. Carter; Best Bengalese Finch - K. Morton; Best Budgerigar - J. Hewitt; Best Junior Bird - Mrs S. Barker.

The Society will be holding a members show and sale day on Sunday December 9th 1990 at the Scout Hut, Ironstone Road, Chase Terrace. Birds can be entered on the morning between 8 - 10 am and the show and sale will be open to the public between 12 - 4 pm.

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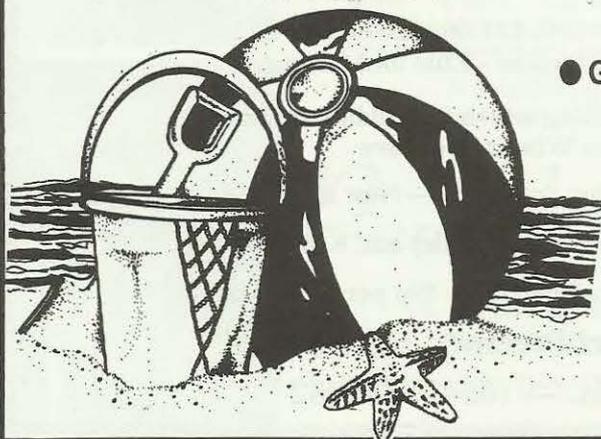
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Golden Wedding



Saturday 27th October saw the celebration of the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Fred and Evelyn Yeomans of Bridge Street, Clayhanger.

Fred who is now 70 and Ev who is 72 met in their teens when she was a friend of his sister.

She lived in The Butts area of Walsall, while Fred hailed from Leamore, and after courting for 4 years they were married at Leamore Methodist Chapel by the Rev. Alan Carter.

They then went to live in Treforest, South Wales, where Fred worked at Helliwells Aero Factory.

He joined the R.A.F. and was demobbed in 1944, the couple then moving to Clayhanger to be nearer Fred's job as a mainte-

nance fitter at Hamstead Colliery. The couple have two sons and one daughter, John, Bill and Mary who have given them eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Both have been active with the Clayhanger Community Association since its formation, and Fred is well known throughout the area for his gardening prowess.

The surprise party at Barons Court was attended by thirty guests which included both bridesmaids at the wedding, one who had travelled down from Edinburgh, and their house in Clayhanger was decorated with balloons, flags, bunting and posters by unknown neighbours. Well, I know who they were.



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Pleased with "Homes" article

Dear Mr. Stringer,

I follow your Gazette monthly and I have nothing but admiration for the wealth of information it contains. Just like yourself, I think it is about time that someone does something to prevent any further neglect of Brownhills. I moved to Brownhills six years ago to set up a small business. Luckily in my business I take care of everything and everyone, so we are proud of our standard. My wife and myself own and manage the Homestead Residential home for the elderly, on the main Ogleby Road. We cater mainly for local residents. I was very pleased to read your article about the other Homes within the area, and I think it is vital that people visit our type of establishment to get an idea what HOMES are all about and the standard that we have set up.

I am not trying to promote my Home, I am only reinforcing your article in issue 13. Many local people do not know much about how to find a place for their elderly relatives, and how to raise funds with the D.S.S. We

as a private enterprise provide this information as part of our services, free, and without any obligation.

All at the Homestead

Yours sincerely
Roger Mungroo.

Last part of Ken Shaw's letter from "Oz"

In all sports, kids start much earlier than in the U.K., any of the ball games have coaching classes from 5 onwards. By the time they are 8 they are put into a regular game, 25 mins per half and progress upwards yearly, till by the time they are 14 some kids have played for nearly ten years. I found this out when coaching a rep side in Maitland Under 14s!, at the next years signing on time, one of my players approached me and told me he was retiring, as he had

played for nearly ten years and wanted to play golf.

This is normal in all sports, because at this time of life they are finding the opposite sex, the beach, a better prospect than hard training under a coach, who generally knows nothing about the game, than chasing up and down the field, no skill, no nothing (generally its one of the players father, who thinks he knows more than all the coaches put together).

This doesn't apply to all sports, because in swimming especially they really put it all together and coaches and kids have to slog it out together! I've seen my grandchildren go out early in a morning before school and train solidly, up and down the pool.

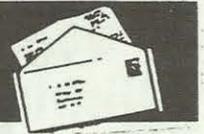
Both of my eldest grandchildren (Debbie and John Arrowsmith, won their grades for two years and even made the Hunter team), but like others they said NO WAY, we want to do what we want to do and now play tennis.

With the weather out here, you can play more or less any sport you choose and know that next day you can go out and participate. The last few years have

been a lot wetter and the soccer was washed out for weeks and the Aussies had to learn how to play in the mud. I think its a global change in the weather, so maybe we will be playing in conditions normal for Poms, but conditions over here make for better players, as dry grounds and ball make for better control and this is why the Aussie players are now making there way into European football, because they can play and only need a good coach to bring out the best in them. I have seen them and said 10 years on from when I came here, they would be making a name for themselves.

Ken Shaw

Ken has been in hospital recently, we hear, necessitating the removal of a kidney and we wish him a speedy recovery.



Brownhills Central Townswomens Guild

The September meeting of Brownhills Townswomens Guild took on a harvest theme. Members bought produce for the sales table, and later enjoyed a Ploughmans supper.

The speaker for the evening was Mrs. Bridget Cuthbert from Leamington Spa. She is the New Zealand Dairyboards Scholar for 1990. She gave a very exciting account of her visit to New Zealand, where she stayed for a month as part of her prize for winning the scholarship. She learned how New Zealand is changing its lifestyle with a view to more healthy eating. She showed some slides of her visit and also donated a dairy parcel for a raffle prize.

Two new members joined the

Guild in September Mrs. Carol Halligan and Mrs. Linda Simms. We hope they will be very happy and join in our very many activities.

In October our guest speaker was Miss K. Whitehouse from Great Wyrley. She gave members a flower demonstration and many handy tips. She worked with real and artificial flowers and the two arrangements she did were raffled off in a free draw.

The sponsored knit-in, which was held at the Activites Centre on September 17th made around £200 for the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council. The knitted squares will be made into blankets.

The Guild has had many outings in the last few months, a skittles night at Elford way back in August, enjoyed by members, husbands and friends.

Mr. Avis husband of Chairman Mrs. Connie Avis won the prize for most points scored, and the booby prize was won by Mrs. Stella Hodgkiss. Two outings in September were enjoyed, firstly to Granada TV Studios.

Everyone had a fantastic time on September 7th, 35 members, husbands and many children walked down the famous Coronation Street. Then on 30th September a coach of 55 went to Wirksworth in Derbyshire to a factory shop and heritage centre and Sunday lunch. The factory shop was featured on the

B.B.C.'s Clothes Show a few weeks later.

In October members went to Cadbury's world in Bourville.

Rehearsals for the Variety Show are well underway, which will take place at Brownhills Comp. on the 29th February, 1,2 March 1991. Anyone interested in purchasing tickets etc. please telephone Brownhills 376743.

If anyone would like to come and see what we get up to, please join one of our meetings, see if it's your cup of tea. We have many young members and old alike, something for everyone. We meet at the Lichfield Suite, the Memo 7.30 p.m. 2nd Monday each month.

Julia Willett.



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Polish doctor visits Brownhills

You may remember that in our March edition of the Gazette we featured an article on Stanislaw Matejczuk who was on a visit here from Poland. A friend of Stan's has been in Brownhills this month, living at the home of Mr. & Mrs Smart in Seeds Lane.

He is Dr. Robert Matyja aged 28 who comes from Katowice in S. Poland.

Robert was born in Oswiecim, which is known to us as Aushwitz. He moved to Katowice in 1981 to take up his studies as an Ear Nose and Throat specialist, married his wife Ela in 1986 and graduated in 1987. Ela works at the same hospital as Robert as an Ophthalmologist. The couple have a 3 year old daughter.

Robert's visit was in order to learn about the use of medical equipment, and find out what was available in the West, secondly to learn about the structure of the Health Service, to enable a complete re-organisation of medical care in Poland, and thirdly to improve his English.

During his 3 weeks stay he has visited Stafford District General Hospital and was introduced to Mr. Reddy the E.N. & T. specialist, was given a tour of the wards and dept's and was allowed to video use of equipment.

On Thursday 25th October he visited the B.U.P.A. hospital at Little Aston where he watched E.N. & T. operations and was again allowed to video. Friday then saw him at Walsall Manor Hospital where he was shown new techniques for examining deaf children, and the operating table, lamp and instruments were demonstrated to him.

Thursday 1st November saw Robert at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Medical Centre observing ear operations and visiting the out-patients clinic, while on Friday he met Mr. John



Dr. Robert Matyja

Rostill, Chairman of the Walsall Health Authority, to gather information about the funding and organisation of our Health Service, and that same evening saw Mr. Stephen Staniszewski to learn about the Polish Community in the Cannock area.

On November 4th he also visited St. James Church who heard about him from the Smart's visit to Poland in May.

These were only a few of his visits in what was a busy but rewarding 3 weeks.

"My English has improved tremendously since I arrived" Robert told us, "and I'm most impressed with the kindness and co-operation shown by everyone. Hospitals have promised to send us some equipment, that has been replaced by better ones in England, but would be of enormous help to us, and the Keston College Support Group are also keen to help in any way they can."

"We are in the process of re-organising the whole structure of medical care in Poland," he explained, "but we have no experience on which to base such changes. Our problems are compounded by the lack of any basic medical equipment and medicines and we are desperately seeking help from the West, in this field."

Changes are being made in Poland but very slowly, with hospital managements still

dominated by Communists, and now unemployment has reared its head, and inflation means that times are still hard. Prices are currently about half, compared to our own, but when you think that Robert's salary as an E.N. & T specialist is £60 a month you begin to realise the enormity of their problems.

B. Stringer



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Coffee Day

Elaine and Joyce Gough are holding a coffee day in their home at 24, Hussey Road, Brownhills on Saturday 24th November from 10 am - 10 pm. There will be a selection of home made cakes, a raffle and a visit from a lady of St Giles Hospice for whom this charity day is organised. All are welcome to drop in.

Carols

Rehearsals for Carol Singing will begin on 25th November. A 30 strong group, all in fancy dress, will be touring local clubs and old peoples homes on 16th

Church News

December to raise money for Rainbow House.

On 17th December the final cheque will be handed over at the Hussey Arms along with the raffle draw. Elaine still needs people to sell tickets at the Co-op supermarket in Hawksgreen, Heath Hayes and invites anyone who can help to ring 378594.

**From the Registers
Baptism**

7th October - Stephanie Yvonne daughter of Tina Lucas

Funerals

11th October - Gladys Burford (aged 69) late of 8, Millfield Road
12th October - Jason Scott Malcom Cumberledge (aged 14) late of 1 Poplar Road

26th October - Dorothy Maud Whitehouse (aged 66 years) late of 45 Cedar Avenue

Dates for the Diary

- 25th November 6.30 pm
Powerhouse Youth Service at St. James
- 30th November 8.15 pm
Torch Band in concert at the Activities Centre
- 1st December 12.00 noon
Christmas Fayre with lunches for those who book them.
- 10th December 8 pm
Parochial Church Council

All Church news taken from St. James Parish Magazine.

Clayhanger Methodist Church

There has been lots of goings on at Clayhanger Methodist Church over the last three months after a very successful Harvest Time in early September. In the middle of September, the Walsall Harmonic Choir gave an evening of Song. This was a most entertaining evening, we hope they will return again in the near future. Gordon and Beatty Taylor shared their Mediterranean cruise with us aboard the "Canberra" (films for us less fortunate only). then there was the 50's and 60's evening (remember the Melachords Dance Band?) Yes, the Jones's are still around entertaining, and for other Methodists who are interested they have a new soloist beginning with M..... (guess

who). What an evening of fun we had. (Thanks Ron). Mrs Snape's Irish eyes did really smile, and of course in between these events we have the Good Companions keeping Gwen busy.

Our last speaker was Miss Wheeler from the Express & Star, what a lot of work goes into a newspaper.

Our thanks go to everyone who supported us. Keep supporting us to keep our little bit of Clayhanger going and who knows in the near future we might see our wooden hut replaced.

Future events - 30th November/Friday 7 p.m. Christmas Fayre. 23rd December Christmas Carols 2.45 p.m.

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Walsall's Draft Unitary Development Plan 1988 - 2001

An explanatory leaflet of the above plan concerning the Brownhills area is currently being circulated throughout the town. The leaflet describes the draft proposals for the Brownhills area including Pelsall, Shelfield, Rushall/Hatherton and Walsall Wood. It outlines some of the more important new proposals and proposed changes to the Local Plans, some of which will be controversial, such as, a **prestige Employment Site at Sandhills**, ie. an industrial and business park development, covering 40 HA's to the north of Shire Oak, which is currently Green Belt.

Housing Development at Clayhanger, the council would like residents views on this matter.

Protecting and making good use of the countryside, landscape improvements, forestry

proposals and countryside recreation.

Brownhills Town Centre, 3 new shopping development opportunities in High Street.

Recreation Space. Future of Chasewater and Nature Conservation.

Minerals and Waste Disposal. Detailed policies set out to control mineral extraction and waste disposal activities at several sites including Birch Coppice and Brownhills Common.

You can visit an exhibition at Brownhills Methodist Church on Saturday 17th November 2.00 - 4.30 p.m. Monday 19th November 2.00 - 8.00 p.m. or Tuesday 20th November 10.00 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

A BIGGER VOLUME IN MORE DETAIL IS ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE LIBRARY IN BRICKILN STREET.

Comments are needed by Friday 7th December.

For further details on Editorial
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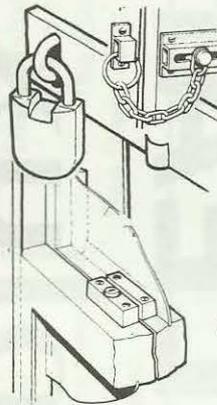
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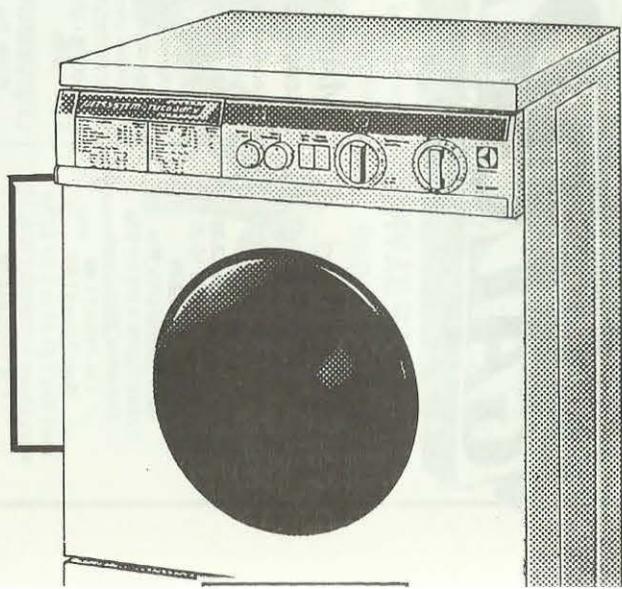
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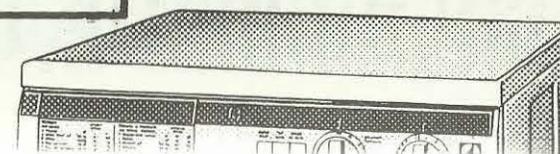
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BROWNHILLS SCHOOL & COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS



Mixed Hockey Match

Brownhills Community Under 16 - 2
Pelsall Community Under 16 - 1

The mixed hockey team from Brownhills travelled to Pelsall for the first mixed match for several years. The game began at a fast rate with both teams getting used to playing on grass.

Brownhills took the lead through Wai Yum Yau after some good work by Philip Albutt in the middle of the pitch. In defence, Tina Davis and Stephen Bevan were playing

well in front of Scott Easton in the Brownhills goal. The Pelsall team began to play more as a team increasing the tempo putting Paul Ireland, Sian Jones and Paul Ingram under some pressure in the defence.

In the second half Brownhills increased their lead when Simon Ansell tapped in from close range after good work down the right wing by Wai Yum Yau. Pelsall pulled a goal back in the last minute with a crashing shot from the edge of the area.

A good first game with all the team playing well.

Community Open Day

Brownhills Community Association and Brownhills Community School are to hold an Open Day on Wednesday, 5th December.

The Morning Session will be attended by mothers with young children and will be used to display the many facilities and opportunities available at the Deakin Avenue Centre. "Return to Learn" sessions can be sampled together with the chance to try retraining classes in Business and Word Processing. The School is providing a free professionally staffed creche and a magician has been booked to entertain the youngsters.

The afternoon session will be for those persons retired from employment. A group of these members of the community regularly meet at the School to play Indoor Bowls, join Keep-fit classes and enjoy Aqua-Aerobics. New members are always welcome and this will be an opportunity for them to sample the provision for them at this thriving Community School.

Lunch will be available for all visitors in the schools canteen.

The evening session is devoted to those parents with youngsters moving to Sec-

dary Education in September 1991. All the School's Departments will be open for inspection by prospective parents and pupils, and this will be an opportunity for them to decide if the education offered at Brownhills is the right one for them.

Brownhills Community School stands for excellence in all fields and each pupil is encouraged to achieve his or her own full potential.

Farewell to the Richard's

A farewell party arranged by the Sixth Formers at Brownhills School proved quite a surprise for Helen Richards who was leaving to go to another school half-way round the world!

Helen and Sadie Richards (a member of the 4th year) now attend in Florida where their parents have bought a Bar, Restaurant and Hotel complex at a Beach resort in the sunshine state.

Brownhills School wish them well in their new school and assure them that school trips now take on a new meaning!!

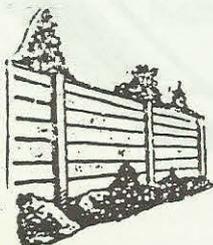
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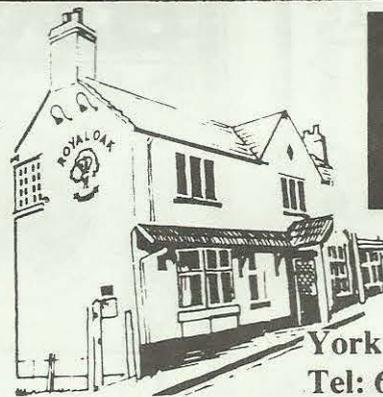


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Drug Education Programme at Brownhills School



Brownhills Community School are still in a state of shock following the death of one of its Year 10 pupils - Jason Cumberledge.

Jason left home on the evening of Thursday, 4th October and was found dead on waste land between Brownhills and Clayhanger the following Friday morning. A post-mortem was carried out at the Manor Hospital, Walsall and the Coronor hopes to complete the Inquest before Christmas depending on receiving the results of a investigation by the Forensic Science Laboratory. However, certain aerosols were found near Jason's body.

Mr. and Mrs. Cumberledge are determined that Jason's death should serve as a warning to other young people and parents about the dangers associated with substance abuse and are fully supporting the school in its programme of Drug Abuse Courses held at the school.

Already one evening session

has been held led by Sue Poole of Walsall's Drug Education Unit. Sue listed the types of substances now being abused by young people and stressed the fact that any one misuse can be fatal. It is not true to assume that if a person survives one session of abusing substances, they will survive a second or subsequent misuse.

Parents must be aware of the dangerous substances in their own homes. Youngsters will use a range of substances readily available in every household. Leaflets explaining the range of substances used and the signs parents should look for are available at the school.

Substance abuse is not confined to any particular group of youngsters or to any one particular area. Research has shown that the majority of those involved are teenagers in the 14 - 17 age group, who are out for kicks or to impress their friends. 134 youngsters died in Britain as a result of substance abuse in 1988 and the rate is rising.



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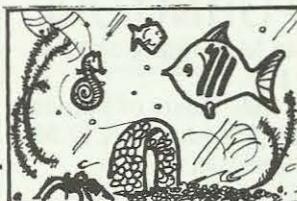
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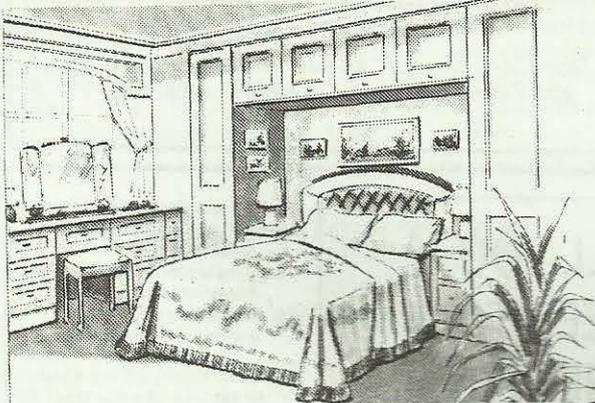
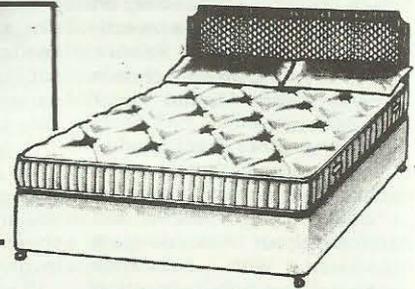
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BROWNHILLS SCHOOL & COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

Brownhills Community School Football

Brownhills Community School first years have enjoyed success in Football matches against other local comprehensive schools this season. From a keen squad of forty plus First Years who train both inside and out, twice a week, teams have been selected for a number of friendly matches.

In the first game, against a strong STREETLY LEAGUE side they narrowly lost 1-0. In successive matches following this defeat they came from 1-0 down at half-time at CHASETOWN COMPREHENSIVE to win by a resounding 4-1, and from 2-2 at half-time against PELSALL COMPREHENSIVE to win by 7-2. Other matches are planned against local schools and club sides.

Particularly pleasing to note is the discipline, sportsmanship and good nature displayed by all the players both in their play and towards the opposition. Win or lose the school is proud of its young footballing ambassadors!!

TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

Pupils from Brownhills Community School visited a remarkable Church in Sutton Coldfield as part of their Religious Education course. The Pews in St James' Church, Mere Green do not have chance to go cold on Sunday for as soon as the Anglican congregation leave, their places are taken by worshippers of the Greek Orthodox tradition.

This is a shared church housing the splendours of two Christian denominations under one roof. In true Christian fashion the Church of England opened its doors to the Orthodox community when they were in need of a place of worship.

Mr. Alex Nicolaides of the Greek community gave pupils a fascinating insight into the beliefs and practices of his faith and each pupil received a print of an icon depicting the birth of Christ as a memento of their visit.

Picture shows the visit to the Greek Orthodox Church



Community Provision

A wide variety of educational and leisure time classes are available at Brownhills Community School during the day and in the evening.

Adult Education classes in the evening range from Oriental Cooking to Personal Survival Swimming and from Calligraphy to Punjabi. Courses are also available during the day in Advanced Level subjects and GCSE subjects. Other courses include RSA Information Technology, Word Processing and Book-keeping.

Teatime classes for the Under 11's provide the opportunity for

youngsters to try Drama, Technology, Gymnastics and Musical Keyboards amongst others.

For those unable to attend the Deakin Avenue site "Open Learning" courses at GCSE are offered in a range of subjects.

Further information on the full range of opportunities available to all members of the community can be obtained from Audrey Jackson on 452886 or Josie Marigold on 452119. Why not call in and talk to one of our Community Education Officers who will be only too pleased to discuss your requirements with you personally.

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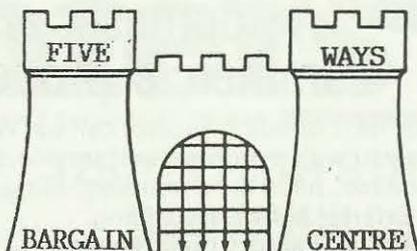


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BROWNHILLS SCHOOL & COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

Brownhills Community Association 10K Race

Brownhills Community Association held a very successful 10k Road Race on Wednesday, 12th September. Over 163 runners took part in the race which took in Chasewater and part of the canal.

The Race will now become an Annual event and the Community Association plan to hold the next one in June, 1991.

Trophies were presented by Chairman of Governors - Mr Fran Hodgkinson and Chairman of the Community Association - Mr Jeff Corfield.

The Main categories and winners were:

1st Man - C Warren (Sutton Colfield) 32 min 10 sec

1st Veteran Man - R Kelly (Sneyd Striders) 32 min 38 sec

1st Woman/1st Veteran Woman - Dot Fellows (Cannock and Staffs AC) 39 min 23 sec

1st Junior Boy - Tim Wright (Cannock and Staffs AC) 39 min 31 sec

1st Junior Girl - Sarah Hall (Cannock and Staffs AC) 45 min 20 sec

Cannock and Stafford AC also won the team prize.

The organisers wish to thank all those who helped make the race such a success, especially the Rambling Club and Brownhills Community Colts FC for supplying the marshalls.

"Fireworks with a difference"

Brownhills Community Association Rambling and Outdoor Activities Club held a special walk on Sunday, 4th November.

A group of 26 set off from Brownhills School at 3.15 pm (a mixed bunch if ever you saw one!) with ages ranging from 9

years to 70 years. The walk followed the course of the 10K run recently centred at the school, taking them along Chasewater South shoreline, passed the narrow gauge railway and out along Norton East Road. On reaching a remote spot the other side of Chasewater a small, but

happy firework display was organised.

The return journey around the Northshore (in the dark) was full of fun with funny masks, luminous hats, headlamps and most of all good humour. The happy band arrived back at 6.15 pm (it took the runners 34 minutes) and after a change of clothing sat down to baked potatoes cheese and ham rolls and lots of hot coffee, all prepared by Georgina Fereday.

The rest of the evening was taken up with Indoor Bowling in the Community Lounge, with 40 members now in attendance, the increase in number being mainly due to the fact that the bar was now open. A Knockout Competition took place with the victorious team comprising of Tony, Shirley, Adam and Spencer, (Adam is the 9 year old) and the Target Bowls being won by Fran Hodgkinson.

This was just one of many events in a full and varied programme organised by a committee under the leadership of Chairman Jeff Corfield, Membership is only £1.50 per year and the Club meets in the Community Lounge at Brownhills School every Tuesday evening.

If you require any further information do not hesitate to contact Terry Clarke in the Community Office - Brownhills 452119.

Awards Day

On Monday, 26th November Brownhills Community School are holding their 6th Annual Awards Day. This is a most enjoyable occasion which seeks to reward a variety of Community achievements.

This year for our afternoon ceremony we are fortunate to have Andy Thompson from Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club as our guest speaker and for the evening ceremony our guest speaker will be Mr Dennis Silk who is Warden of Radley College, Oxfordshire.

Walsall Plan

Walsall's Unitary Development Plan is available for viewing at Brownhills Community School.

Copies of the plan were sent to the school this week together with a selection of information leaflets and postcards for comments.

Members of the public are invited to visit the Deakin Avenue site at any convenient time to look at the planned development in leisure, education and other facilities, especially in the Brownhills area.

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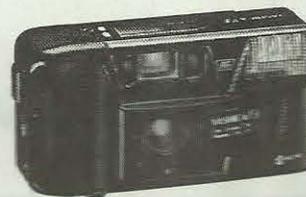
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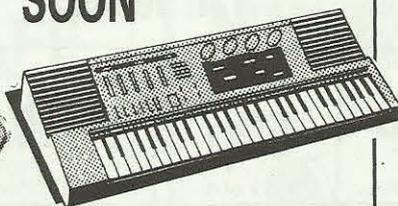
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When the circus came to town

A mate of mine was telling me about the time the circus came to Brownhills just after the war. It was held every year on a field behind the Warreners pub.

One year as usual, the kids rushed out from school on the Friday afternoon to help rig the tent up, to get free tickets for the Friday show.

A good crowd attended and all went well until the lion tamer began his act. Suddenly a chap in the audience, obviously been on the beer all day, started to jeer at the lion tamer with taunts of "Anybody can do that. It's easy."

The lion tamer stuck this for a while, then retorted "O.K. mate if you think you can do better,

come and have a go, come on." Whereupon a sozzled Neil Scarrot, wended his way unsteadily to the front and stood by the cage entrance, watched by an enthralled audience. "Come on then" urged the lion tamer, by now looking a bit bewildered.

At that, Scarrot opened the door, turned to the crowd and announced, "Ladies and gentlemen, for my first trick, I shall loose Leo out of his cage, and then whistle him back again."

With that I'm told, pandemonium broke out, women and children screaming as everyone made a hasty retreat for the exit.

B. Stringer

Brownhills Archives



During a visit to Brownhills High Street, I saw a friend Mrs. Mavis Woodhouse who showed me a photograph and asked if I remembered when it was taken. It bought back many happy memories of the days when my late husband Frank Poxon and I were voluntary youth club leaders with Jack Greenhough and his wife Marjory.

Jack and Marjory were the sports instructors. Frank taught folk dancing and I helped the girls with needlework, hence the pretty skirts the girls are wearing in the picture. In the summer months we used to entertain at local garden parties in return for free refreshments. Also we entered many sports events, as well as Drama Festivals during which time Miss S. Cartwright

was very active at the club along with Joyce Kench who taught elocution.

I would like to hear of anyone who was a youth club member. It was started in 1947 in a new building right next to the Memorial Hall in Lichfield Road, sadly the premises are no longer there.

I think that many of the members went on to do quite well in their professions, such as school teachers, nurses and I believe we had at least one local councillor.

I would also like to think that we as leaders had a hand in helping them to become good citizens. If I remember rightly the club was called the Young Citizens Youth Club.

Inflation! What Inflation

The world famous 50p shop having been in operation all these years are still selling the same items at 50p that they were selling five years ago at 50p. They are endeavouring to maintain this 50p price point wherever they can.

As they have progressed from their first 50p shop which was opened in Brownhills High Street, situated just up from the Post Office, they have eight other branches throughout the

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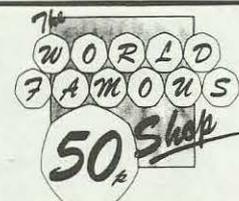


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SHIRE OAK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Food, Glorious, Food!!

No - this week's article does not concern itself with what is on the Menu in our school kitchen, excellent though that may be - but with one member of our Year 10 - David Minoz Kimberley, better known to his friends at the moment as "one of Fagin's Boys". David, of 10SK, lives in Kings Heath Road, Aldridge. His interest in Drama and musicals was inherited from his mother, who in addition to being qualified to teach Drama, has also acted as an amateur on television.

Treading the boards and being under the spotlight is not new to David. He has often been behind the scenes and in theatre dressing rooms, and one of his most vivid recollections as a youngster was "being there when my mum directed Cinderella at the Aldridge Theatre".

David's success in being chosen as one of Fagin's "Pick a pocket or two boys" began not long ago when his other was listening to the Ed Doolan Show. Talent scouts were organising auditions for "Oliver" at the Hippodrome in Birmingham and somewhat reluctantly at first, David went along to try his luck. His rendition of "Food Glorious Food" gained his success and so

began his preparations for the opening night on Tuesday 16th October.

During David's three month rehearsal period every Tuesday he travelled to Birmingham, and gradually steps were put to the words and the chorus took shape. Dressed in ragged costumes Fagin's Boys practised. Hard work it certainly was, but there was time for enjoyment, especially David recalls when trying to climb into a costume in a dressing room shared with a dozen others all anxious to perform the same task. Add to this trying to match actions to the music, concentrate on the words and trying to avoid losing his trousers when his safety pins were constantly popping, and I think readers will understand the lighter side of the art of the theatre.

All the hard work has now been done and the cast are ready to go before the audience. David was looking forward to his first night and when I spoke to him before he left to join the rest of the company I was proud of the mature manner in which he was approaching this opportunity. Much credit must go to David's parents for the support and encouragement of his

talent, and indeed to staff within school who have sought to develop David's confidence in himself.

Schooling today seeks not only to provide pupils with knowledge and understanding which enables them to achieve to the highest level of their academic ability. Another important aspect of what we offer at Shire Oak is the development of skills which will enable a youngster to grow in confi-

dence, and make the most of the opportunities which face them. David's belief in himself has given him the opportunity to use a talent he has been given, - a gift which will not only provide him with personal satisfaction but also pleasure to so many others.

We, as a School are proud of David and our hopes are for a successful run of this classic Musical.

C.M. Bryan

Open Evening for Parents of Prospective Year 7 Pupils in September, 1991

On Wednesday, 12th December, beginning at 7.15 p.m. The Shire Oak Community School will once again be opening its doors to members of the Community. Although the evening is intended for parents of incoming Year 7 pupils, all are welcome to visit, to see and participate in the activities our pupils enjoy as their entitlement.

During the evening the school will be in full swing with practical demonstrations in a variety of areas, displays, a French Cafe and a Christmas Fayre, mounted by students participating on our

Service and Leisure Industries Course. There will be the opportunity to meet and speak with the staff, a short formal address by the Headteacher, and time to hear at first hand, from current Year 7 pupils and others, about the provision the school offers and the care it extends to its pupils.

Why not make a note in your diary now about The Shire Oak Community School's Open Evening? We, all, staff, pupils, existing parents look forward to welcoming you on site. Please join us.

C.M. Bryan



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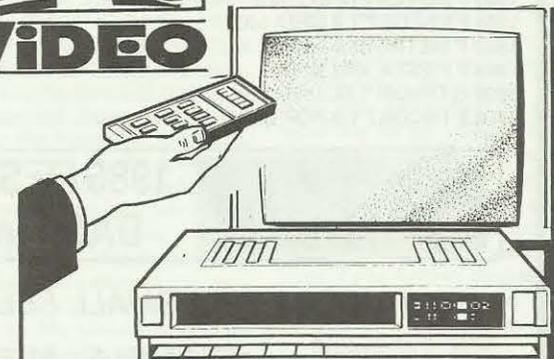
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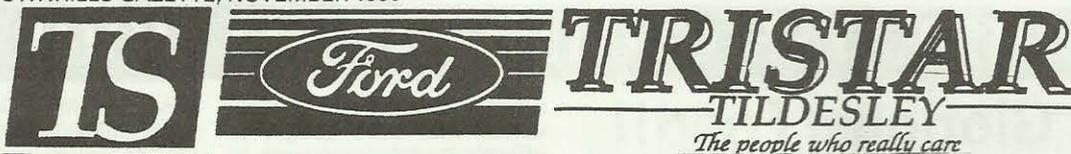
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SHIRE OAK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Sixth for week's Residential

The last week of October saw a group of our sixth form, together with representatives from Brownhills Community School attending the Bryntisilio Outdoor Education Centre. The sleepy hamlet, two miles from Llangollen was host to the thirty young visitors from Walsall, all aiming to make the most of the opportunities the centre offered.

During this week, our students experienced a variety of activities, some embarking on these pursuits for the first time in their lives. The first evening was a real test of initiative and stamina as teams set out to build make-shift shelters from plastic sheeting and wood collected from a nearby forest. To the groups amazement, this is where they were to spend their first evening away from home; actually sleeping under the stars.

The whole five days were liter-

ally action packed with adventure, involving such activities as caving, rock-climbing, hill-walking, navigation and canoeing. The photograph included here shows Kate Boswell skilfully manoeuvring her canoe in somewhat 'choppy' water, but obviously enjoying and overcoming the challenge. Damp though the days may have been, out students' enthusiasm was certainly not dampened, and in spite of the physical exertions of the days, the activities organised for the evenings sessions were grasped wholeheartedly. What then did the two-light sessions involve? These sessions centred on problem solving and group activities and concluded with feed-back sessions on the physical pursuits of the day.

Having been given accounts of the types of pursuits offered to our "resilient" sixth form,

admiration for their efforts must be stressed. On the very first day, they took part in a full day's navigation exercise involving following an eight mile circular course in the wilds of mid-Wales, using maps and compasses to complete the task. In built into this exercise were a series of brain-teasing tasks using equipment they had to find at specific locations. Undaunted by the miserable weather conditions, and approaching their tasks in high spirits, all our students successfully navigated the course, with none falling by the wayside, and all arrived safely at their pre-determined pick up points.

Students from both schools gained much from their experience of the Bryntisilio week, and the demanding situations they had to face stressed the need for cooperation and teamwork. The general consensus on leaving the centre at the end of the five days was that from start to finish it had been a most rewarding and beneficial experience, and should the opportunity arise again, then all would be enthusiastic to participate.

The mature manner in which all students approached the demands of this course must be complimented. All of the thirty young men and women are undoubtedly a credit to their schools, and all represented our conjoint with flying colours. On behalf of the Shire Oak Community School's Sixth Form members who participated, may I express their sincere appreciation to the members of staff who accompanied them - under the stars, in the bowels of the earth, on water, and on the treks. All students enjoyed themselves and gained much from the encouragement they were given. To Mrs. Henderson and Mr. Edwards, I extend my personal thanks for accompanying our party. My sincere appreciation is likewise extended to the

staff of Brownhills Community School for making this week such a memorable series of experiences for our pupils.

C.M. Bryan

Calling all Darts Players - Pairs Darts Challenge Competition

On Saturday 1st December, the school's community centre will be hosting a Pairs Darts Challenge Competition. This is a joint venture organised by the Walsall Wood and Shire Oak Community Association together with guidance and assistance from the West Midlands Darts Association. This day promises to be a most exciting venture. Entries for the competition open at 10.00 a.m. on the day and close at 12.00 noon. The fee for each pair is £4.00, and the first round commences at 12.30 p.m.

In total, there is £1,000 prize money. The first prize is £300, with £180 to the runners up. The losing semi-finalists will receive £85, and the losing quarter finalists £25. For the last 16 losing pairs, the prize will be £10. The losing pairs in the last 32 will have their entry fee returned.

This social event will no doubt appeal to many members of our community, and even if you don't play darts, it will be a spectacle not to be missed from a spectators' point of view. The bar facilities will be open, and food and refreshments will be available. Why not put Saturday, 1st December into your diary now. If any further details about this event are required, please contact the Community Office on Brownhills 373819.

A day not to be forgotten in the life of Gary Llewellyn

"I helped to raise some money for charity and I got a treat I hadn't expected".

Young Gary Llewellyn, of Form 7HE, is a dedicated member of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. On Saturday 13th October he attended his first flea market, organised by Mrs. Ann Kendrick, and in addition to helping out on the flower stall he was given the privilege of presenting a bouquet to the Mayoress of Walsall.

Gary was extremely pleased in having helped to raise a significant sum for charity, and we at school are proud that our youngsters take part in ventures which aim to help others less

fortunate than themselves.

Gary will never forget the part he played on the day, and after taking his turn on the stall and presenting his bouquet, he met the Mayor's chauffeur. Enthralled by the limosine, Gary spent some time finding out a few facts one of which astounded him the car had twenty nine gallon petrol tanks! Gary's obvious interest in cars, was quickly recognised by the Mayor's chauffeur, and when he was offered a ride in the car, he could not believe his good fortune. That ride will never be forgotten by Gary "It was so smooth and quiet, and the car was so comfortable I'll never forget it".

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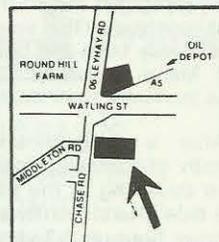
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The Brownhills Community Colts Column

The Colts have had some mixed results showing inconsistency whilst playing some very good football, against very strong sides.

The U18A lost two league games, won one and then beat Trubshaw Valiant 4-1 in the Staffs Cup with Richard Marsh getting a hat trick. U18B won two games in the Walsall Minor League and lost one, they lost 2-1 to Stone in the Staffs Cup.

U14 drew two games and lost one to a very strong Cresswell side.

U13 having had a good start to the season last month the U13s had two heavy defeats in the Walsall Junior Youth League also played a draw 1-1 with Penkrige, then they travelled to Droitwich Spa in the Staffs Cup and after going behind 2-1 in the first half finished up 2-2 full time, and in the penalty shoot-out that followed the Colts were the victors by 5 goals to 4.

The U12C had their first defeat of the season against a very good Forest Star side going down 3-0 then they went on to beat Pelsall and Cresswell in the league. They went out of the Staffs Cup going down 4-0 to Comer Park, D. Lynas playing well in defence.

U12D - The lads drew 1-1 with Gillity, they lost the other two league games before making the long journey to Lye Town in the Staffs Cup only to lose 4-0 to a good team.

U11 Sat. beat Holy Name 4-2 with David Nelson playing very well. They then went on to beat Brewwood 5 goals to 3 before losing 6-1 to Bentley. The team rounded off this months fixtures with a 1-1 draw against Blue Coat, in an all action end to end game, with a draw being a fair result.



U11 Sun. had a good win over Sutton Eagles by 9 goals to nil, then although losing 3-1 to a good Forest Star team, the Colts put up good all round performance and were unlucky not to get a result. They played their Staffs Cup match against the favourites to win the competition, Comer Park, and after a full-time score of 1-1, the Colts went out 4-3 in the penalty shoot-out.

U10 - The lads have had a tough month meeting the best three teams in their division, losing 8-0 to Forest Star then put up a great fight against Cresswell. They showed lots of character only to go down 3 goals to 2 in a very close game. Then they met a very strong Lane Head side and lost 9-0.

Brownhills Juniors U9 played 2-2 draw against Bustlehome then won a great game against Cresswell 3 goals to 2. They then lost their first game, 5-2 against Lane Head although beaten, the Juniors put up a great performance and scored two goals against a team that hadn't conceded a goal before. They beat Burntwood 4-0 with Shaun Derry getting a hat trick.

The results of the 200 Club draw:

- 11.10.90 34 J. Parker £25;
- 11.10.90 41 C. Mario £10;
- 18.10.90 275 Y. Turner £25;

- 18.10.90 316 C. Mario £10;
- 25.10.90 242 P. Wilkinson £25;
- 25.10.90 148 R Allsop £10;
- 1.11.90 160 J. Batson £25;
- 1.11.90 6 D. Keates £10.

The photograph is of Brownhills Community Colts under 14s who play in the Walsall Junior Youth League and are managed by John Schwartz.

OUT OF THE WOOD

After a good start to the season, sceptics were heard to mutter about the possibility of a repeat of last season, when things soon turned sour for Walsall Wood. However they have had to eat their words as the fine form continues into November, and is even improving with a terrific win away from home, to dump last seasons champions, Boldmere out of the Cup, and this was followed with a gutsy display at Chasetown to hold the locals to a 1-1 draw after extra time, in the F.A. Vase and then finish them off with a good display at Oak Park on Tuesday 6th November with the only goal of the game from Phil Haywood in the first period of extra time.

Phil had also notched the equaliser at Chasetown and Woods latest signing is looking every bit as good as his reputation, that has preceded him.

This has set up a mouth-watering home clash with another Bank's league outfit, Rushall Olympic in the next round.

Manager Gary Haines would be the first to admit that the



Phil Haywood Wood's latest signing

team can still be improved, especially in mid field, but his side are showing a lot of character and commitment and are certainly proving tough nuts to crack in defence, which is, always a good platform to work on, and with strikers like Kersley and Haywood, a top six spot and a trophy looks a good bet at the moment.

G. Daniels

Brownhills Shoulder of Mutton FC

Brownhills Shoulder of Mutton's Lichfield and District Football League side have found it hard going in their first ever games together this season. Despite a pre-season friendly victory over Ogley Club, Mutton have struggled to find the form and consistency that would take them away from the bottom of the Mann Broadbent Division Five.

After a disappointing first month of football, including a 15-0 thrashing at the hands of top side Charter Hardware, and a more fired up 6-3 victory the week after against the Cottage of

Content, the Mutton have failed to notch a victory and, apart from their victory over Cottage, they have only managed another point, against Ridley's Young Farmers in a 3-3 draw.

It is Mutton's defence which needs to plug the gaps that have been evident throughout the season so far, but with the mid-field beginning to take shape with captain Richard Reeves and John 'Biffo' Griffiths leading the way, and top scorer Mark Roberts (13 goals) and his striking partner Brian Matthews (4 goals) in fine form in attack, manager John Harris has a platform to build from.



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