

BROWNHILLS GAZETTE

ISSUE No. 18
MARCH 1991
12p WHEN SOLD

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Canal Towpath being destroyed

Mr. W. Dunn of High Street, Clayhanger has brought to our notice the wanton acts of vandalism that are occurring by the canal footbridge at the bottom of Pier Street.

The area at the bottom of the steps used to be a paved area with boat moorings, and also made a handy place for anglers to fish from, but of late it appears

that the jobs have realised that if you prise one paving block up, the others can soon be loosened and consequently removed. Then if you've got no use for them they make a lovely splash when thrown in the canal. Quite a large area has now been destroyed in this way.

Not satisfied however, they have turned their attention to throwing boards off the market stalls onto the Senior Citizens roof and smashing the no entry signs by the markets' one way system, although, these signs have been damaged for months as we have previously highlighted.

A spokesman from the Council has thanked us for drawing the paved area problems to their attention and has assured us that they will be giving the matter their most urgent attention.

Again it appears that the area comes under the Tesco complex, but an extensive landscaping project for that area is under discussion for the next financial year so hopefully repairs will soon be carried out.

Readers sometimes ring or write pouring scorn on some of the proposed Council's plans and projects, but I would like to take this opportunity to give Walsall M.B.C. a pat on the back for the work on the area so far this year.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Picture shows the amount of vandalism

M.P. CONCERNED AT HOUSING STANDARDS

I have correspondence concerning Housing, from M.P. Richard Shepherd that may be of interest. Mr. Shepherd is fighting an on going battle with the Housing Dept's of Walsall Council over its Housing Modernisation programme.

He is concerned that a start on a modernisation scheme for a

Coalpool Estate seems to be discriminatory towards his constituents of Walsall Wood and some parts of OGLEYS CRES-CENT. He believes that they may have reasonable cause to ask the Local Government Ombudsman to investigate the decision to proceed at Coalpool first.

The Dept. of the Environments definition of fitness regarding housing states that houses should have inside toilet facilities and homes in his constituency don't meet this criteria.

His campaign on this matter he feels has not been dealt with satisfactorily, and the lack of

urgent response to his letters from the Council, is very disturbing.

He urges any of our readers who have not got inside toilets to get in touch with him on 0922: 51449, or write to him at House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.



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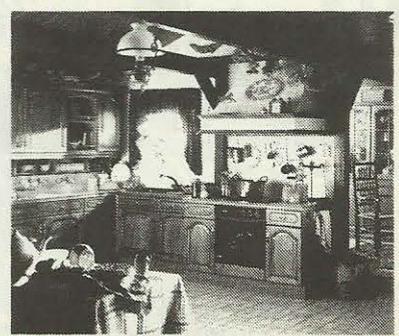
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GAZETTE POSTBAG



More from Councillor Tomlinson

I would like to say a little about "Independents" in politics. It sounds great to say "I am independent", but what does it mean?

In my dictionary it says that among others, the political definitions are:

- (1) To be self governing.
- (2) Not depending on the authority of others.
- (3) Not depending on another person for one's opinion or livelihood, making it unnecessary to earn a living.
- (4) Be unwilling to be under obligation to others and not supported by public funds.

There you have it. How can anyone be independent in politics today.

The fact is that most of the 'independents' are either dissident Labour or Tory people, very often wishful for power.

In past Gazettes, you have reported that some residents complain that we, councillors, are never about, never seen, only at election times. That may be true about a lot of people, but

not us. We are available, to visit homes when asked, to hold surgery every Saturday (except holidays), to attend group meetings, to represent deputations of residents to Committees, and always have a telephone available. Our Saturday surgery has now been moved into the Neighbourhood Office (10-15am - 12 noon) so enabling us to settle some problems on site, rather than having to wait a week.

It seems to work, and we are getting lots of satisfaction from our callers, although obviously some problems we cannot solve overnight.

Cllr. Doug Tomlinson

More from Doug next month

Caring Labour Councillors?

Dear Brian

I see that yet again, the local so called caring Labour Councillors have shown how much they care for the people they are supposed to represent.

I refer to the fact that one Labour Councillor who is meant to represent the Brownhills Ward has voted in favour of a Tertiary College, which would replace 22 sixth forms in Walsall Borough.

This College would be located at an, as yet, unspecified location in Walsall town centre, and involve young people from the Brownhills area having to make a daily journey of 14 miles or more for no apparent reason.

There is even some disagreement within the Labour Party over this issue.

Is this how Labour look after the people they represent.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Eardley
Conservative Candidate
Brownhills Ward

Wrong attitude on School Mini Bus

Dear Sirs,

I have been reading your February issue regarding the new Mini Bus for the School and Community Association. I think it is an unfortunate way of putting it:

"The good news is we have purchased a new mini bus" "The bad news is we need to raise the money to pay for it".

Surely this is encouraging our "Live now - pay later" attitude. What is wrong with fund raising first and buying later, maybe even raising a little in interest on the funds at the local Building Society. I really think an ideal educational lesson has been missed on this project, not to mention the satisfaction the young ones would feel on buying **after** the saving.

Incidentally, I'm not just a killjoy I did donate to one of the Ramblers for their sponsored event.

Worth considering??

Yours sincerely,
M. Hayton

Tribute to Fred Powell

I was saddened to read in your February columns of the death of Mr. Fred Powell.

After knowing him closely for 65 years, I am proud to have been his mate. He had no frills and was a real man in every good way. I shall always remember Fred with affection and deep respect, as I'm sure, will all who really knew him.

Frank Hall

FROM PAGE ONE

The footpaths have been done, as promised, and not only the High Street, but Lindon Road and Church Street with other areas still being attended to. Work too, has begun on the shop fronts at Silver Court and when completed I'm sure will be a much needed boost for traders. New bus stops and railings by the Anchor Bridge look smart, as does the low fence and landscaping in front of Waine House. Attention to the problem of litter is being dealt with on a regular basis, with a workman and his barrow buzzing all over the place doing

a grand job, and if as fast as it's picked up, someone throws some more down you can only blame the scruffs for that, not the Council.

O.K. I know there was, and still is a mess, while work is carried out, but we didn't really expect to wake up one morning and find these jobs done did we? We all had our moan and rightly so, but perhaps things are moving in the right direction, and make no mistake if we see a problem or injustice we shall fight it as hard as ever, but we must always be fair, and the Gazette always tries to be.



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GAZETTE POSTBAG



Clayhanger Teams

Dear Brian,

I refer to your Brownhills Archives with the two Clayhanger teams of days gone by.

Whilst I sent in the older photograph, I feel I can tell your readers more about Brian Handy's team.

Brian being the modest person he is, would not have told you that he achieves considerable fame in the refereeing arena, indeed he was actually up to Football League status, and ran Gt. Wyrley Leisure Centre with considerable success. Mind you I always rated him a superb goalkeeper as well.

Now a little known fact about Ron Sault. He could well have been an athlete of considerable talent. I well remember following him home in the Old Central Brownhills Boys cross country run, in which he won on nearly every occasion, and if it had not been in the war years I feel sure Ernie Myatt would have attracted the attention of top clubs. He and brother Stan were very accomplished footballers.

What makes this picture more remarkable is that at least 8 of

the team played for the Clayhanger Youth Club under the late David James, who inspired all members to higher things. Might I now through your good offices pass a plea on to all the old girls of Clayhanger Youth Club who served with David James's sister Gwen.

Gwen, an invalid all her life, always a smile and a chat, a wonderful woman, is now very much on her own at the 'Homestead' in Ogley Road, Brownhills.

Please make an effort and visit her.

After 60 years helping others, she deserves a wee bit of your time.

All the best
Glyn Holloway

Thanks to Community Group

I would like, through your columns, to thank Pelsall Road Community Group for the lovely basket of fruit for ourselves, after Jim's recent stay in hospital.

I'm pleased to say that Jim is doing fine now.

Yours sincerely,
Jean Pearson

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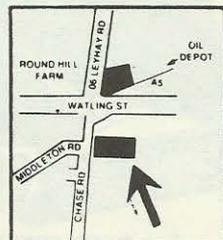
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Brownhills Archives

Last month's Clayhanger Villa photo's got the phone lines jangling, as memories came flooding back. Among the callers was Mrs. Tenant of Clifton Avenue whose husband was on the 1931/2 photo and she tells me she has more on that team along with cups and medals.

First on the 51/2 team was Arthur Baker of Pelsall who played on the right wing for that side. He remembers the Crabtree Cup Final v Rushall Olympic at the Bush well, and recalls the huge crowd that day standing right up to the touchline. "I had to move them back so that I could take the corner kicks" he said "And you were right, Ernie Myatt got the winner from my cross."

He then recalls the A. J. Smith Final the same year when the last league match had to be played on the same day, and had to be won to secure a runners-up medal. (No floodlights or season extensions then).

Manager Billy Wilkinson decided not to risk the cup squad, so he played on the Saturday afternoon with a scratch team made up of the committee and a few local youngsters, who promptly trounced Walsall Unity 9-0 at



Reedswood Park. The cup match against Pelsall Cricket & Sport was on Ogle Hay pitch the same evening. Yes, you've guessed, they lost 3-2. Ah! well, thanks for the memories Arthur.

We also found that Stan and Ernie Myatt are in Telford and Arnold Tarry their brother-in-law is still in the area. More

about them in the Postbag letters.

Some readers may think that we go on a bit about these old photo's, but I make no apologies for this, because, without doubt, we know by feedback, that it is the most popular page in the Gazette and if it pleases so many readers then I'm happy to ramble on. Not only is the Gazette read locally but, because of the Archives page, it is passed round to nearly all the outlying areas. I get calls from Norton Canes, Burntwood, Chasetown, Walsall, Pelsall, Heath Hayes, Bloxwich, Rushall, Walsall Wood and Shelfield, and you may recall last year, one from Helsinki in Finland.

Now to this month's photo, sent in by Mr. G.H. Payne of Hammerwich (see what I mean, add that to the list) accompanied by the following letter.

ATTENTION A.T.C. 1444 SQUADRON

Dear Brian,

I have enclosed a photo of the Brownhills A.T.C. 1444 Squadron football team of 1942.

I am trying to locate a film that was made by the late Edgar Pritchard in 1943 of the 1444 Squadron, it was called "They Want to Fly." The main reason for trying to locate the film is that an Anniversary Dinner is being held at Burntwood Recreation Centre on 11th MAY 1991 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Brownhills A.T.C. 1444 Squadron. If anyone can help I would be very pleased, I can be contacted on Burntwood 685535 or ring us at the Gazette Brownhills 372491

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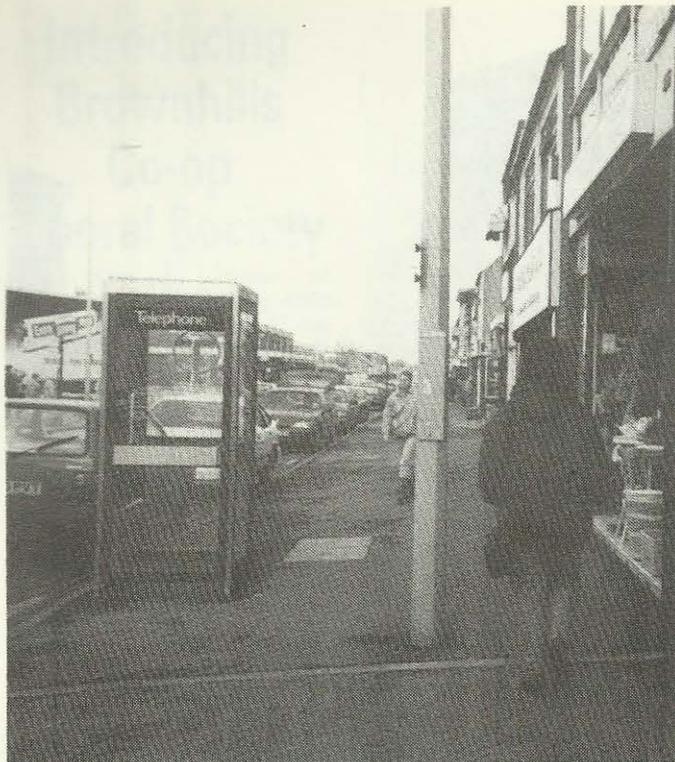
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The pavement round-a-bout

LAMP POSTS A HAZARD?

Mr. Norman Evans sells beds amongst other furniture at his discount store in High Street, Brownhills, but he's thinking of having one permanently laid on for use as a first aid bed. The reason is that he's being overrun with pedestrians injuring themselves while gazing into his window as they walk along, by crashing into the lamp post situated in front of his shop, slap bang in the middle of the footpath. Last week Mr. Evans had to transport one young lady to hospital, after colliding quite forcibly with the post.

"Window shopping, or walking down with head down against the wind or rain, the last place you would expect a lamp post is in the middle of the footpath," said Mr. Evans. "I've contacted the council and been told that if they place the poles back to the wall the light isn't near enough to the road, and if put by the kerb, it interferes with other services underneath, gas, tele-

com etc. Why this post is more near the centre than others lower down, is, perhaps because there is a phone box close to it."

A spokesman for W.M.B.C. confirms that the reasons it's sited there are in fact as told to Mr. Evans, and has added however, that it appears this pole has been in the same position since 1974 and it is policy to site lights 6ft back, and because the footpath is quite wide on that side, 6ft happens to position the post almost dead centre.

Gazette suggestion: If all lights (not posts) are to be in line with the kerb for instance, and all footpath widths vary, couldn't the lengths of the overhanging arms vary, and all posts be well back. It's 1991 and with all modern technology it may be worth a little thought.

In the meantime we urge you to be extra cautious on the Post Office side footpaths and save yourself a few bruises.

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High Street Gusher

Shoppers in Brownhills thought that a new fountain had been incorporated into the plans for Silver Court precinct a couple of weeks ago, but on closer investigation it was revealed to be just a burst water pipe.

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Introducing Brownhills Co-op Choral Society

The musical tradition of Brownhills dates back to 1949 with the amalgamation of the Brownhills Choral Society and Brownhills Co-op Male Voice Choir, to form the Brownhills Co-op Choral Society.

Under the appointed Conductor, Deryck Langford, in 1956, the Choir grew to become one of the top Midlands Choirs with successes in many musical festivals. It has also represented England in the International Eisteddfod at Llangollen several times and in 1977 attained third place when they competed against 19 choirs from 14 countries.

In 1966 the Choir began a now extremely popular and well used format of Brass and Voices concerts and since that time has performed with many of the top United Kingdom's Bands and professional solo artists.

The Choir's repertoire is extremely varied and has, in the past, extended from traditional works such as Messiah, Elijah and Creation to lighter choral music and modern songs.

Travel throughout the United



Fund raisers: Mrs. Cheryl Birch and Mrs Pam Fairclough, look on as Mrs. Jean Watson presents the cheque to Mr. David Coleman who in turn presented a plaque to accompanist Mrs. Linda Smith

Kingdom was commonplace to the Choir in search of new and varied venues. Charity concerts are regularly undertaken and since 1974 this has accumulated in Christmas Community Carol Concerts, the proceeds of which are given to different charities each year chosen by the Choir.

In 1990 Deryck Langford retired from his role of

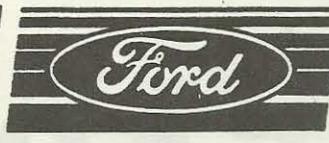
Conductor and handed over the baton to Larry Smith. Deryck still maintains his association as Musical Director.

Mr. R. Watson would like to appeal for more members to come forward to swell the ranks. "We used to boast about 70 members", he told our reporter "but over the years, members have dwindled to about half of

that". So if you are interested in joining the Society meet at Shire Oak Comp every Wednesday at 7.45 pm and you may contact Mr. Watson on (0543) 579143

The Choral Society presented Barnardo's Area Manager Mr. David Coleman with a cheque for £325. The money had been raised at a Choral Concert at Walsall Wood Church.

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1990 G	Montego 1.6L, silver, one owner	4999	4199	1988 F	Fiesta XR2i, crystal blue, one owner, alloys	5999	4999
1987 D	Escort 1.4 Bravo Special Edition, silver	3999	3399	1990 G	Fiesta 1.1LX, 5 door, red, low mileage	5999	4999
1990 G	Escort 1.3L, 5 door, matisse blue, one owner	5499	4699	1990 G	Austin Metro 1.0L Clubman, 5 door, white	4699	3999
1989 G	Fiesta 1.1L (new shape), red, low mileage	4999	3999	1990 G	Sierra Sapphire 1.8LX, blue, 1990/2 model	7199	6199
1990 G	Escort 1.6 Ghia, matisse blue, one owner	6499	5499	1989 G	Sierra 2.0 GL, DOHC, burgundy	6599	5599
1990 H	Fiesta 1.1LX, burgundy red, one owner	6399	5399	1990 G	Escort 1.3 Popular, 3 door, one owner, low mileage	5199	4299
1990 G	Maestro 1.3 Clubman, blue metallic, one owner	4999	3999	1990 H	Fiesta XR2i, radiant red, one owner, alloys	7999	6999
1989 F	Sierra Sapphire 1.6L, maritime blue	5499	4499	1990 H	Escort 1.3 Eclipse, flambeau red, one owner	7499	6499
1988 F	Escort XR3i, red, one owner	6599	5499	1988 E	Orion 1.6 Ghia, burgundy, alloys, fuel computer	5699	4699
1989 G	Orion 1.6GLSi, white, one owner, low mileage	6499	5499	1990 G	Orion 1.3L, blue, stereo, sunroof, one owner	6299	4999
1990 G	Escort 1.3 Eclipse, red, one owner	6999	5999	1990 G	Astra 1.7L diesel, blue, one owner, stereo	7499	6299
1988 E	Orion Ghia i, burgundy red, alloys, fuel comp	5699	4599	1990 G	Fiesta 1.0 Pop. plus, 3 door, blue, one owner	5699	4699
1990 G	Montego 1.6L Estate, blue, one owner, low mileage	6999	5999	1990 H	Escort 1.4L, maritime blue, one owner	6499	5499
1990 G	Escort 1.3LX, mercury grey, one owner	5999	4999	1990 H	Escort 1.4L, white, one owner, sunroof, stereo	6499	5499
				1990 H	Fiesta 1.1 Ghia, grey, one owner, low mileage	7599	6599

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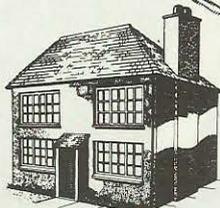
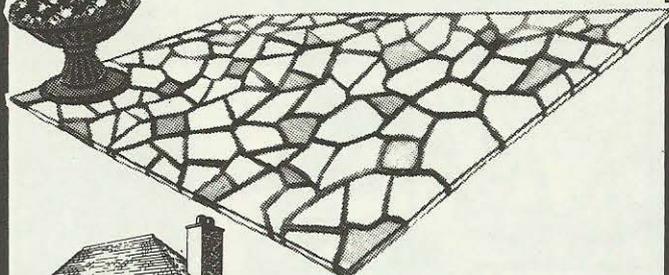
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CLUB NEWS

Brownhills Branch of the British Sugarcraft Guild

The February meeting of the Brownhills Branch of the British Sugarcraft Guild, which meets the first Wednesday every month, took place at a new venue. The Demonstration Theatre at Brownhills Comprehensive School proved to be an excellent room for the Branch's needs. Linda Pawsey from Kings Bromley was our demonstrator this month. As

well as expertly demonstrating Bas Relief, she brought along the ballerina model which recently won Linda a gold medal in a very prestigious competition.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings and forthcoming events are:-

Wednesday 6th March : Veronica Bickley - sugar flowers

Wednesday 3rd April : Sandra Williams - modelling

Thank you very much in anticipation and if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me on Brownhills 370937.

C. Avis (Mrs.)

COUNTRY & WESTERN NIGHT

A Country and Western Evening is being held at the Brownhills Memorial Hall, Lichfield Road, Brownhills on Saturday April 13th 1991. Commencing at 8.00 pm.

Appearing on the show is JOHN ASTON one of Yorkshires top recording artists in the Country and Western field. John is also very humorous and very popular wherever he appears.

Supporting him will be one of the Midlands most popular

bands "The Bryans Country Band".

A licensed bar and refreshments will be available on the night.

Admission by ticket £1.50 each.

For tickets and further information telephone Brownhills 372996 or Brownhills 373725 or Brownhills Memorial Hall Tuesday or Friday Evenings 7.30pm-9.30pm on Brownhills 372148



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THE FUTURE OF BROWNHILLS?

The Concorde Hova lowered itself gently down towards its destination of Shire Oak Airport, and Tim looked down with excitement over the whole of the gleaming vista, 1,000 feet below, which was Brownhills 2030. He was one of over 600 passengers who had flown in on this summers day, from the city of DUNDAS on the West Coast of Greenland, where he had lived for 30 years now, since the equatorial disturbance had thrown the world in turmoil.

His grandson Taroq, who was 10 years old, was looking down with unconcealed awe at the magnificence below, as the huge plane descended as lightly as a feather on to its allotted place on the rota-pad.

The low buzz of the engines died away and, as the rota-pad lowered beneath the ground, making way for the next craft to land, the huge size of this, the worlds first underground airport, was realised. As their rota blade stopped, they were swiftly towed towards the unloading bay and distribution terminal. From here they would have a choice of going into Brownhills City Centre by overhead monorail, moving walkway, or simply float along non gravity glass tubes.

Passengers for other destinations could go direct by hover rail to Grand Central Clock Station or wire zoom directly down to Lichfield Helipad.

"Where to Grandad?" said Taroq urgently "I want to see everything."

"We'll go on the moving pavement to the Humwabay Hotel first, and then I'll show you around," said Tim.

They moved swiftly down Shire Oak, being overtaken frequently by dry-skiers, and soon arrived at the Hotel.

"Wow! this is super Grandad," cried Taroq.

"Yes, and would you believe that it was once 3 blocks of flats called Waine House, Bayley House and Humphries House," said Tim.

After checking in, unpacking and eating a hearty dinner the two visitors started their sight-seeing in earnest.

"We'll go round on the Monorail," said the old man. "We'll see more that way."

They went in the lift and caught the first cab along, paid 5 E.C.U.s, and settled down. Over the High Street, the first thing Taroq noticed was a lack of any traffic. "They're all underground" explained Tim. "Massive parks underneath with lifts to anywhere in the city in seconds."

As they neared the centre, the strains of music could be heard and they soon identified the source, as outside nearly all the pavement cafe's buskers of every nationality were competing for attention.

"Cor! look at those fountains Grandad."

"Sure son, they were installed when Prince Harry opened His Majesty's Theatre over there next to Harrods. That used to be an open air market, and you see that Marina by the swimming baths, just behind the Ten Pin Bowling Alley, well that was just a canal basin when I was a lad."

"Now this was the old Bridge. Look at all those trains. Here we are, the Leisure Centre. I see they're still perserving with the old band stand, but get a good look at that for an Ice Rink. Isn't it magnificent?"

"Where's that" asked the lad.

"Brownhills Cricket Club son" he was told "Rose from the ashes at the turn of the century and they've been playing tests there for 10 years now, and England haven't been beaten on that ground yet."

The cab rode on at a leisurely pace, until, shooting through some trees, they came upon the Chasewater Wonderworld of Aquatics. The boys eyes nearly popped out of his head at the scenes below. Boats of every shape and size, imitation glaciers, waterfalls and fountains, flumes and displays, all combined to make Disneyworld a poor second, even before the equatorial disturbance. They moved on past the Brownhills Bombers Speedway Track, veering left over, what appeared at first to be a large jungle.

"Ah! that used to be Birch Coppice" explained Grandad "and if you look carefully you'll see all sorts of animals, like lions, bears, and cheetahs, because that's been turned into a Wildlife Safari Park. Last time I saw it, it looked like a moon landscape."

On they moved, over an area now called Little Vegas, that was once Clayhanger. Casinos and nightclubs, theatres and cinemas lay below them in an area of night life larger than any in the country.

Then it came on them like a clap of thunder, a cacophony of sound that seemed to erupt from the bowels of the earth. It

dawned on Tim, suddenly realising what date it was, what the sound meant. "It's the 2nd Leg of a European Cup Tie at Oak Park" he shouted "Walsall Wood are playing at home to Reykjavick, they must have just scored, I wish we had come earlier, we might have got a ticket."

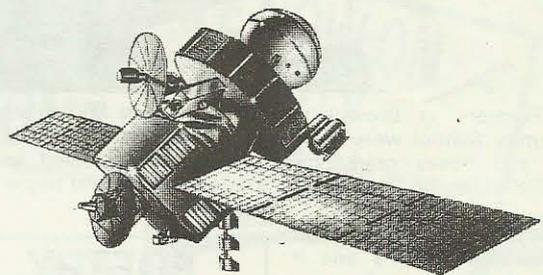
"How many does their ground hold Grandad?" asked the youngster.

"About 150,000 all seated," was the reply.

They were nearly back at the Hotel now and Taroq couldn't hold the question back any longer.

"What happened when the equatorial disturbance occurred?" he said.

"Well, basically the poles moved to the equator and vice versa when a large meteorite hit us in 1999 and it simply meant that, whereas we all used to go to Spain, Turkey or Kenya for our holidays, they're pretty cold now. While the hot places are Alaska and the Polar regions, but fortunately Brownhills was one of the few places that kept its exact temperature, and was chosen to lead the new world into the future, just like your Great-Grandad Stringer predicted way back in 1991."



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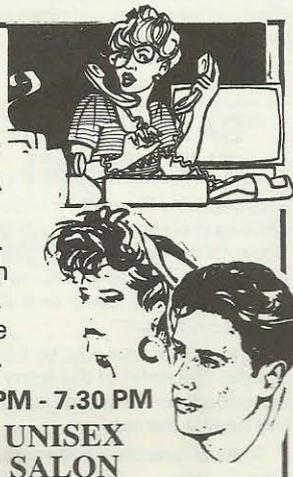
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BROWNHILLS SCHOOL & COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

USA EXCHANGE

On 21st March twelve students and two staff are off on a 3 week exchange visit to Unami Junior High School in Chalfont, Pennsylvania, USA.

The busy programme of school based activities together with planned visits to New York and Washington will be captured on film kindly donated by E E Jones, Photographers of High Street, Brownhills. We are grateful to Jones' for their spon-

sorship of 100 films for this exciting Easter visit.

Exchange visits are seen as unique opportunities to participate in the daily lives of youngsters from other parts of the world. Brownhills already holds regular exchanges with schools in France and Germany. USA is a new venture this year and it is possible that a Spanish exchange will be added to the programme next year.



SCHOOLS' COOKERY COMPETITION 1991

For the 10th Year, Country Life English Butter along with British Gas are organising Schools Cookery Competitions.

The theme this year is Fast and Healthy Eating. Sarah Field and Paul Cooper will be representing Brownhills School in the 14 - 16 year old section and have been invited to London to take part in the finals with 4 other

pairs of pupils. Sarah will be the cook while Paul will have a supporting role answering questions on healthy eating, their choice of menu and cooking with Gas. Their task is to produce a 3 course meal for 5 people in just 2 hours keeping within a budget of £10. At the moment their chosen menu is a closely guarded secret!

Red Nose Day



6th Formers at Brownhills Community School were busy selling red noses ready for Comic Relief Day on Friday 15th March.

Pupils paid 60p for a nose and were asked to pay a fine if caught not wearing one!

Friday 15th March was also "Mufti Day" at the school, when pupils were allowed to wear casual clothes and pay a donation to charity.

"How to get that job"

In May, Brownhills School is to run 3 weekly afternoon sessions on how to make the most of yourself when making applications for jobs.

These will be friendly and informal group sessions, giving plenty of practical advice, time for the preparation of CV's application forms etc, and for interview experience.

We only have 12 places available on the course, which will run on Wednesday, 8th, 15th and 22nd May at 2.00 - 3.30 pm - Costing £1 per session. If you would like to reserve a place on this new course, could you please contact Allan Kettleley or Audrey Jackson at the school on Brownhills 452886, as soon as possible.

POETRY WEEK

It is not every week that Brownhills School holds a Poetry Week but the week of the 11th - 15th February was rather different. Posters appeared all around the school advertising the events and the main idea was to involve as many pupils as possible in writing, reading and listening to poetry.

Poems started appearing in all sorts of strange places, down corridors, on the backs of doors, smothered over windows. In fact we had a real plague of poetry. Lunchtime hummed with pupils composing their personal odes for the school poetry competition and in various dark corners, pupils could be seen rehearsing verses for a sponsored poetry recitation. Various visitors added spice to the week including the school's Library Service and real live poets like Steve Ellis. All in all it was a week that even a Wordsworth or Byron would have enjoyed.

CPVE Residential

CPVE students at Brownhills Community School took part in a residential experience in the Lake District from 5th March to 8th March. They were accompanied by Deputy Headteacher, Mr Dave Willenbruch, and thoroughly enjoyed the week of fending for themselves and facing new challenging situations.

This particular group of pupils are following a broad based vocational course preparing themselves for employment or further training at the end of their one year in the 6th form.

As part of the course the group has formed a mini-company and joined the West Midlands Young Enterprise Scheme. Their products include headed note paper, bedding plants, small craft items and pot pourri.

"BASINFUL OF THE BRINY"

Brownhills Players will be presenting their latest production at Brownhills Community School Theatre on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 21st, 22nd and 23rd March - 7.30 p.m.

Again it is a comedy, by Leslie Sands, "Basinful of the Briny" is described as "another spot of fun beside the sea".

Tickets are available at the Community Office (0543 452119) - Adults £2.00, Children £1.50.



Staff move on to new things

Two members of staff at Brownhills Community School are moving to new teaching posts at Easter.

Mrs Hannah Schaefer is moving to King Edwards School, Lichfield and Mr Roger Tayler is going to be Deputy Headteacher at Aldridge School, Walsall.

Roger joined the staff in 1977 as Head of Biology and has held positions of Head of Science and Director of Post-16 Education. He has involved himself in all aspects of life at Brownhills, teaching adult education classes, looking after lighting systems in the Theatre, and involving himself in many Community Activities. Roger is a keen sailor and will be greatly missed. His promotion is thoroughly deserved.

BROWNHILLS SCHOOL & COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

Brownhills Students hit the road

After a successful "guest appearance" in Staffordshire, students of Brownhills Community School are now looking forward to their "Religious Education Road Show", in which they will be visiting local primary schools and helping pupils there to learn interesting and varied skills from around the world. Using the knowledge and skills they have gained recently in studying aspects of Christianity and other world faiths, they will use music and drama to lead assemblies and "worship sessions", with youngsters taking part in:

...authentic Indian dances (performed to appropriate music and genuine Indian costumes.

...sampling foods from other cultures.

...ancient eastern skills in hand-decorating with Henna.

..."hands on" experience of artefacts from several world faiths.

...games and quizzes to help bring out the meaning of some familiar (and some not so familiar) Bible stories.

It looks as though the girls and boys (aged 11 - 15) will be in great demand with their package of activities "customised" to fit what individual partner primary schools would find useful.

Look out for these and other attractions at Brownhills School's New Intake Parents' Evening on 3rd July 1991.

Brownhills Music at the International Convention Centre

The Music Department of Brownhills School will be amongst the first to use the new International Convention Centre in Birmingham. One of the first events after its opening will be the "British Gas West Midlands Flame of Youth Music Festival", to be opened by Prince Edward, and we have been invited to take part. Pupils from the 4th, 5th and 6th forms will be involved in a workshop displaying the use of information technology in music.

Using our computer-based equipment, pupils will be demonstrating their composing skills in Hall 7 on Saturday 20th April between 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. The festival is open to the public, and admission is free.



Public Speaking Winners

Brownhills Community School pupils won through to the West Midlands Schools Public Speaking Competition on Wednesday, 6th March. The Local Finals were held at Hydesville Towers, Walsall and Vicky Keen 5N, was placed 1st in the Under 19 competition with Neil Warner 5E, being placed 3rd. Both pupils will now go forward to the Regional Final on 28th

April to be held at the Post House Hotel Birmingham.

This was the first competition of its kind entered by both pupils and they competed against pupils from all the Secondary Schools in Walsall. Brownhills Community School is proud of their achievements and wish them every success in the Regional Final.

EUROPEAN EXTRAVAGANZA!!

Britain joins the SEM in 1991. Brownhills School is a year in advance of this. On Tuesday 26th March, pupils and staff of the school will be celebrating a European Extravaganza. At 7.15 pm in the school's Lecture Theatre there will be a concert of items in French and German. Afterwards the school Sports' Hall will be converted into a continental street with continental food and drink, games, competitions and exhibitions.

Tickets are £2.50 for adults, £1.50 for children, and include the price of food and are available from Mr Sydenham at the school. Do not miss this cultural and gastronomic treat!

Brownhills School Calendar

25th March	Governors' Meeting
26th March	Language Extravaganza
26th - 27th March	Swimming Galas
28th March	School Closes for Easter Holidays
15th April	School re-opens for Summer Term
18th April	Fashion Show presented by British Home Stores
28th April	Disabled Sports' Day

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SHIRE OAK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

YEAR 11 PILOT ON WORK EXPERIENCE

No-one is not sending one of our Year 11 students high into the Heavens as the title would imply. We are in fact participating in a new scheme for Work Experience within the Borough. This year, all Year 11 students went out into the world of work for a fortnight beginning on 4th February. A vast variety of placements were utilised by our students and the feedback was certainly extremely positive - both from your sons and daughters and from the industrialists, business enterprises and commercial concerns who provided them with this experience.

The venture could not have been undertaken without the assistance of the Careers Office, but its success was due in the main to the effort, drive and energy of Mr. Bolden, our Pre-Vocational Careers and Work Experience Co-ordinator. Without his tireless efforts this mammoth venture could not have been mounted and on behalf of all the students concerned, I express their thanks.

Our Year 11 students gained so much from being actively involved in the real world of work, and all the staff who visited them complimented their

effort and industry. The benefits gained from this venture in 'block release' have not only been enjoyed by the 'workers' - the staff have likewise gained additional insight in a number of fields, and the many and varied contacts made as a result of their

visits will no doubt see further application of school and industry links within the curriculum.

Well done all members of Year 11! You displayed a most positive and mature outlook in this experience, and we as a school are proud of you!

EQUAL PEOPLE

On Thursday, 21st March, throughout the day Year 9 students will be participating in an Equal People Programme. Expertly and efficiently organised by our T.V.E.I. and I.T. Co-ordinator Mr. J. Simkin, and Miss. Grandfield, Head of Years

9 and 10, our students will be working with and meeting first hand, representatives of the professions once traditionally considered to be the realm of one sex only. It certainly does have the makings of a varied and action packed programme.

"Taming of the Shrew"

at T.P. Riley School

On the 5th December a party of 4th and 6th form students saw the Royal Shakespeare Company's touring performance of "Taming of the Shrew" at T.P. Riley School. This was the first Shakespeare play I had seen and I was very impressed, particularly by the quality of the acting. Gerard Murphy's Petruchia caught me. He brought out his character convincingly and with great presence.

Amanda Harris's Katherina was my favourite performance in the play. Katherina is the "Shrew" of the title and the role is a difficult one to play. To make things more difficult Ms. Harris had taken on the role at very short notice. She rose to her task; her delivery was clear and communicated with shrewish temperamental nature of the character without losing the depth of the role. She was full of energy, jealousy and confusion as she captured Petruchio's heart. The development of Katherina's character was perfectly executed and to my mind, made the play successful.

The set was well designed and constructed and created the "Manor House" look effectively. I particularly liked the attention to detail; candles burning in heavy black holders, elegant

wall hangings and "antique" chairs. Lighting was simple but still created a cosy atmosphere for the manor house part of the set. Lighting was used effectively to bring out the suspense and various tensions in the play.

The costumes confused me at first and, to be honest, took me by surprise. I expected "Shakespearean dress" but at the opening of the play all the actors wore modern dress, even down to their "Nike" trainers. As the play progressed I realised why; the modern clothing of some of the actors distinguished the fact that the plot involved a play within a play. The more traditional costumes looked intricate and elegant. When I saw them close up at the workshop the following day, their true splendour hit me. The costumes seemed to ignite the characters and give them both more appeal and more meaning.

I enjoyed and understood the performance far more than I thought I would, thanks to the quality of the acting. The audience reaction was that of high regard as we were moved through curiosity, suspense, pity and humour.

Andrew Hill (4th year student)

Refurbishment of the South Building

Congratulations must be extended to all students and indeed staff for their tolerance and co-operation over the past two weeks. Work began on the cloakroom area in South Building on the 6th February, and all classes which normally take place in that vicinity had to be re-roomed. A total of some £30,000 is being spent on upgrading this area and the finished product will certainly be a sight worth waiting for.

When completed the ceiling will have been totally renewed with secondary glazing, the floor area carpeted, the seating replaced with more modern

linked chairs, interspaced with tables, the lighting upgraded, the top rails faced and painted, and the whole block re-decorated in keeping with the colour scheme of the floor covering. The finished effect will certainly improve not only the current facilities we offer to our students, but it will be more aesthetically pleasing for all visitors to the school. No doubt all students will be proud of their newly refurbished area - all should be completed by mid-March, so why not come along later that month and have a look for yourself - you will certainly be most welcome; and indeed impressed.

HAIRDRESSING DISPLAY

On Wednesday, 20th March the School Association will be welcoming representatives of The Francesco Hairdressing Franchise in school. The stylists will be demonstrating their talents in the Drama Studio, beginning at 7.30 p.m. and members of the audience who volunteer will be their models. I organised a similar event two years ago, and although the attendance was low, the evening was a tremendous success.

For the price of 50p ticket, you could, if selected, have that new hair style you have been promising yourself! Why not come

along - have a night out, with or indeed without your partner. You will enjoy the event, and their will be refreshments and a raffle should you wish to participate.

All profits from this venture do go towards the Association's Funds, and all students certainly benefit from them. Tickets will be available shortly, but if you do wish to book in advance, please forward your name and you 50p to me at school, or inform Mrs. Rita Ball, our School Association Chairman who has so capably organised this venture for us.

MATHEMATICAL SUCCESS

On Thursday, 7th February, 30 pupils took part in the Fourth U.K. Schools Mathematical Challenge. The Challenge is organised by Birmingham University and is designed for the more able pupils in Mathematics.

We understand, that 60,000 pupils were involved altogether and the best 500 scorers will be invited to take part in the Junior Mathematical Olympiad. Certificates, (Gold, Silver and Bronze)

are also awarded to the highest attaining pupils, and last year we were pleased to obtain 1 silver and 4 bronze awards.

We were allowed to enter pupils up to the age of Year 9, but in fact we actually entered 4 pupils from Year 7 and 3 pupils from Year 8. These pupils have all shown a certain flair for Mathematics and they certainly enjoyed taking part. The results will be known next month.

SHIRE OAK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

DRAMA IN SCIENCE

The title may well imply some possible catastrophe in the Science area within school, but in actuality it refers to a visit of the Gazebo Theatre Workshop on Tuesday, 25th February.

Year 11 students started the day in the laboratory with a brain storming exercise on the topic 'Progress in Science', indicating how developments have been made in more effective and safer drug treatments, space travel, weaponry etc.

The Gazebo Company, in the form of Kathy and Karen then met the group and using a variety of visual aids explored with the students further areas of scientific progress.

This was then followed by the group and the theatre company adjourning to the Drama Studio to see a play set in a prison cell shared by two women. One had been imprisoned for vandalising her place of work when she discovered it was producing lethal chemicals of war, and the other, a research chemist who had been testing the lethal chemicals in a laboratory of the same factory.

This scenario raised a number of issues and produced some most interesting debate on the

part of students, and the resume of the morning's session was most positive to say the least.

Following lunch, the Gazebo Theatre broke the class down into smaller discussion forums to consider the issues raised in greater depth and then they questioned Karen and Kathy as the characters in that prison cell.

The whole day's exercise had been one of enquiry, insight into the motivating forces behind people's personality, hopes, fears and actions with references to some of the more contentious issues of the way Science is progressing.

The reaction of Year 11 students was that all felt it had been a very worthwhile day, enabling them to think about scientific issues there would not be time to cover during their normal lesson schedule. So much of an impact had the Gazebo Theatre visit made that the students concerned hoped that other pupils could have the same experience they had been given in working with Karen and Kathy.

The day finished all too quickly according to the students and they had learned not only a great deal, but they had done so in a thoroughly enjoy-

able manner. Thanks must be extended to Ms. Henderson for organising the visit of the theatre company and indeed to the Gazebo Company themselves.

Finally, thanks must also be extended to all pupils in Year 11 who so willingly and capably participated in considering the issues raised. Nothing gives a Headteacher more pride than in having her pupils commended by visitors to the school. Well done, to all who took part in the day's activities.

CHESS CLUB NEWS

Last week we held the first matches in this year's knockout competition.

Form 10SP beat 8SH by 3 games to 2. Ian Moreton, Paul Phillips and Ian Smith all won for 10SP, whilst James North and Neil Beddow won for 8SH.

9PR also beat 9MS by 4 games to 1. In this match Sandy Lee, Danny Davenhill and Steven Clarke all won their matches.

Soccer Success

Last week the Under 12 and Under 13 soccer teams played Blue Coat School. Both teams realised that if they won their matches then they could win their league for this side of Walsall. Both teams did win their matches. The Year 8 team won by 7 goals to nil and the Year 7 team won by 16 goals to nil ... Yes! you read correctly 16 goals to nil.

We had discovered during last weekend that both teams must now play schools from the other side of Walsall who have won their league, in order to find out who is the overall Walsall league winners. This will be a two leg play off. The under 13's are to play Sneyd School at home on Wednesday. They also play Streetly School in the semi-final of the cup, away on Tuesday. The under 12's are to play Willemhall School, but the venue is yet to be decided.

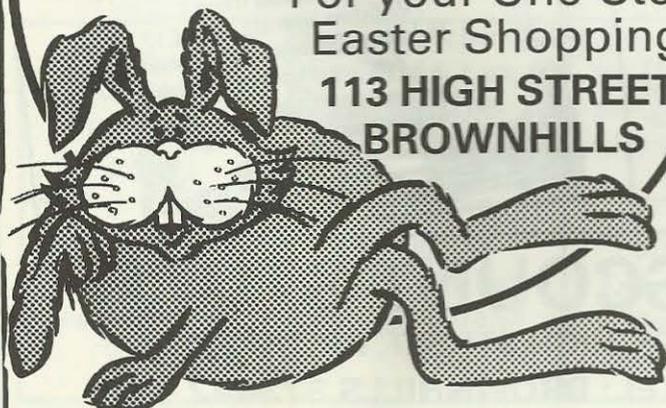
Both teams should be congratulated on the standard they have reached, and the style of football that they have played, in winning their leagues this season. WELL DONE EVERYBODY!

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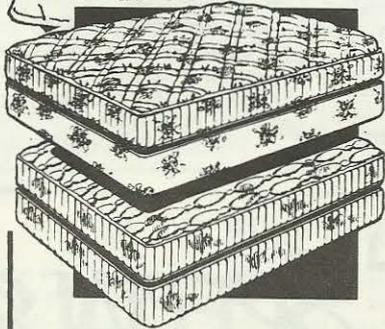
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Church News

The new church extension is now up to roof level and 5 old headstones will shortly be repositioned.

The glasswork in the East and West windows are to be restored.

The Aladdins Dance Concert raised £462.50, and a total of £78.65 has so far been raised by the 5 new pence in the jar appeal, towards the extension fund. Give sacrificially on our Day of Prayer and Gifts on Saturday 23rd March; our target is £3000. Church opens from 8am to 3pm.

St. James Ramblers

Do you like walking? Have you seen the beautiful places around Brownhills?

It is hoped to go out on the third Sunday afternoon of each month from about 2pm - 5pm. Bring cameras and binoculars and see and record God's creations, interested? Then ring Les Poynton on Brownhills 376855.

NEW LIFE TOGETHER (YOUTH) PRESENTS... LIQUID UNKNOWN CHRISTIAN ROCK BAND

7.30pm SATURDAY 20th APRIL
BROWNHILLS ACTIVITIES CENTRE, CHESTER ROAD NORTH, BROWNHILLS

Tickets £1

More details from Dave Gardner
0543 378542

New life together (Youth) is a group of people from a variety of local Churches, including young people themselves, seeking to organise bi-monthly events that will show the relevance of the Christian faith to young people. Events to date have included presenting a local Christian Band TORCH; a local Christian Drama HALF BAKED and the organisation themselves of a ROCK GOSPEL.

From the Registers (taken from the Church Magazine)

Marriage in Congratulations

2nd February - Tamer Keskin and Tracey Anne Arthur (Prayers after a Civil Marriage)
14th February - Jeffrey Alan Coles and Penny Candy Enerton

Funerals

4th February - Ivy Betty Sault (54yrs) late of 38, Whitehorse Road.
11th February - Louis Hall (82yrs) late of 86, Catshill Road.
22nd February - Harold Dennis (75yrs) late of 2, Humphries House.

Diary Dates

28th March: 8.00pm. Maundy Thursday Holy Communion

29th March: 2.00pm. All age gathering 'AT THE CROSS' in the Church Hall. (With refreshments)
8.00pm. Good Friday Meditation

31st March: 8.00am. Easter Day Holy Communion
10.00am. Easter Day Family Communion
6.30pm. Easter Praise Guest Service

METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL

Calling all young people, come and join us at the Methodist Sunday School, Silver Street, Every Sunday morning at 10.45 a.m. Fun - Friends - Fellowship.

A new Junior Choir
Methodist Church, Silver Street,
Sunday 2.30 p.m. - real super music - come and join us.

New Local History Society for Brownhills and Walsall Wood

A new local history society catering for the Brownhills and Walsall Wood areas is to be launched at a public meeting at Brownhills Library Thursday 21st March 1991, starting at 7.30 p.m., with the highlight likely to be a short slide show of old views of the area by local resident Mr. Mayo.

Everyone is invited to attend and ideas on what the Society should aim to do are particularly welcome; besides a programme of talks, there may be interest in trying to preserve records of the area, in particular perhaps photographs, and possibly in researching the history of the area.

Moves to form a society started after the Brownhills Library Open Evening last November revealed that there was great interest in the local history of the area, and have been led by Walsall Local His-

tory Centre in conjunction with the staff at Brownhills and Walsall Wood libraries and with resident Mr. Mayo.

Those not able to attend the first meeting can leave their name and address at either library.



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*I saw the face of a helpless child
 Who's eyes asked, let me live,
 And listened to world's powerful men
 Who had so much to give,
 Worldly treasures all at hand
 Finance, skill and food;
 But all they did was talk and talk
 And work out finance shrewd.
 The child knew not of money world
 Of various race or creed,
 And did not ask to join man's rat race
 His selfishness and greed.
 No, just like others it was born of love
 The reason our lives were given,
 To use to increase world's mankind
 Equal no secrets hidden.
 Yes little child you're small in size
 But yet your need is great,
 I pray the world will think of you
 Before it is too late.
 And in my mind stays a comfort thought,
 Thank God money can't buy life,
 For little child, you would not stand a chance
 In a financial world so rife,
 But as man schemes his need to fill
 And faster goes the pace,
 He must not forget, though an adult he is
 It's a child who makes human race.*

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The Brownhills Community Colts Column

After severe weather and ground conditions the games played this month have been reduced by about half.

U18A - Pride of place this month must go to the U18A who are sponsored by John Cassidy Limited, they went three weeks without a game then had to play the semi final of the Staffs Challenge Cup against Bilston, which they won 1-0 with a Richard Marsh goal, to get to the final.

U18B - Continue with a good run and are now placed near the top of the table. A wonderful all round team effort produced a great result and a 6-1 thrashing of Darlaston, then won 2-1 against Moxley with goals by Mark Millership and Mark Brough.

U14 - Won 4-0 against Spear and Jackson in the league, but took a heavy defeat losing 9-0 in the Cup to Bentley who are in Division One.

U13 - Only played one competitive match and were beaten 3-0 by Bushbury who scored three late goals.

U12D - Played out a nil-nil draw with Lane Head and would have taken both points but for some great goalkeeping from their keeper. Then they beat Pheasey Athletic 4-1 with Van Brotherston getting three goals.

U12C - Only played one match this month, and they were much too strong for Cresswell, winning 8-2 in the Cup with Darren Stanley getting five of the goals.

U11SAT - Fought out a hard game with Wyrley and were unlucky to lose 3-2, but they beat Bluecoat 1-0 in a game they well deserved to win.

U11SUN - Had two convincing results, winning 9-0 against Parklands when L. Dukes was outstanding and a 7-1 victory against Oceans with Robin Keates getting three of the goals.

U10 - Lost 3-0 to Lane Head after playing very well, but found them too strong. Then they won 2-1 against Beechdale with a good team performance and a classic goal from Robert Saunders, then had to play with-



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

out Andrew Clark who was rushed to hospital to have his appendix removed. The Club would like to wish him well and hope that he is back soon.

BROWNHILLS JUNIORS U9

Had an unexpected defeat against Hawthorn going down 3-1. But they overcame this and won 7-1 against Holyname, with Mark Anslow scoring 4 goals.

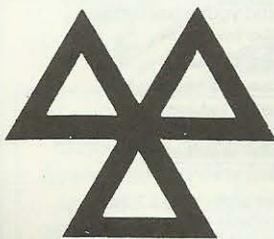
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28.2.91 No. 275 Y. Turner £10

Springtime Servicing

Your car has probably suffered greatly from the effects of the long, hard winter. So before you take your car on a long run this Easter, ensure it has been fully serviced by us.

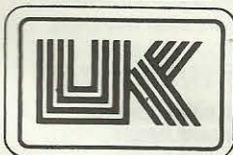
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OUT OF THE WOOD

An air of optimism has surged through Walsall Wood F.C. this month both on and off the field.

On the pitch Gary Haynes' men have roared to second place in the League with a magnificent run of six straight wins, and are now only 1 pt behind leaders Evesham who they beat 3-2 to record their latest victory. The team spirit is high and determination, even higher as they move into the final stages of the season.

The talk of Oak Park, is goalscoring sensation Phil Haywood, who they regard so highly that they have offered a new two year contract, which he has signed, but he would be the first to admit that it is the team in general that has shown an improvement.

Even when they're below par as against Bloxwich when 1-0 down, the fight is there till they get their maximum points.

Off the pitch they've secured another exciting recruit by

appointing Central Televisions sports presenter Phil Mepham as Club President. Phil has been at the Club as a player for 18 months but his new role has fired his enthusiasm for the Wood and he's keen to put a lot of his idea's into operation, and will be working closely with the Club's recently formed Development Committee, and Commercial Manager Terry Brumpton.

The Alpha Tote that has been running for 2 years now provides valuable funds, and signs are that this too is on the increase as other Clubs join in, to boost their own funds with the generous commission offered. Anyone interested in this ideal way of fundraising, without the bother of your own set up, can ring John or Val on Brownhills 372949 and become an agent.

Week No. 9 winners on 4/3/91 Letters M.I.T. (2 winners)



Phil Haywood signs a new contract watched by Manager Gary Haynes and Chairman Brian Stringer



Phil Mepham of Central T.V. being welcomed aboard by Wood Chairman Brian Stringer

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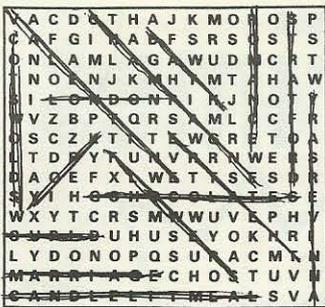
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COMPETITION SOLUTION

And this month's winner, after ploughing through a lot of entries was judged to be J.L. LOBB of 48A, Bridge Street, Clayhanger, who wins PICKFORDS £30 voucher. Thanks to all who took part and we'll have another puzzle shortly.

Record your personal announcement in the Brownhills Gazette - Births, Engagements, Marriages, Deaths, In Memorium, Notice of Thanks etc. All announcements 10p per word, accepted at 183 High Street, Brownhills.

ENGAGEMENT

SADLER - YATES
Joanne Lesley to John on the occasion of Joanne's 18th Birthday March 17th. Congratulations from Mom and Dad, Andrew, Denise, Nan and Sandy.

8 SEATER MINI BUS HIRE



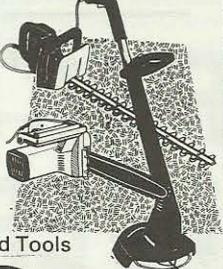
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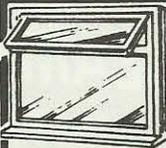
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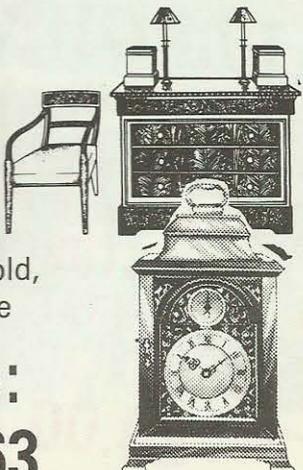
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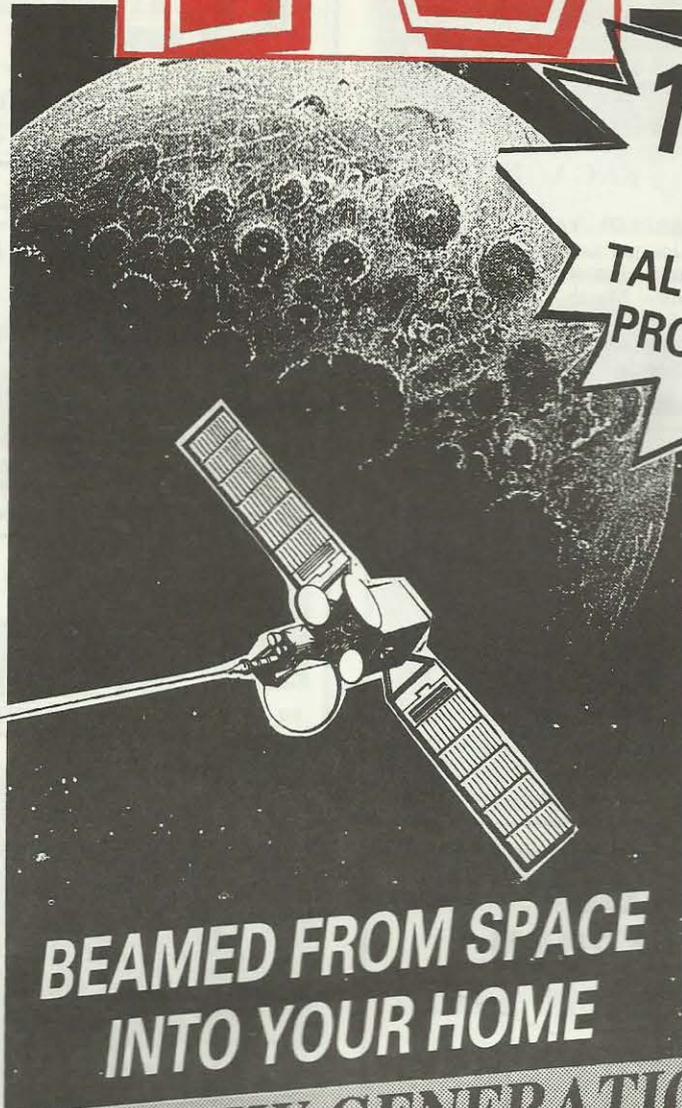
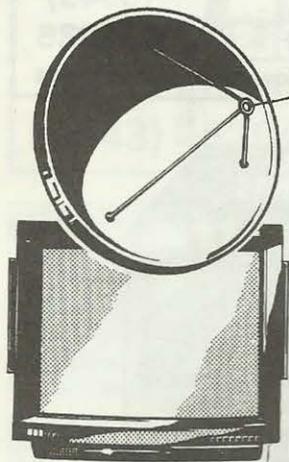
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