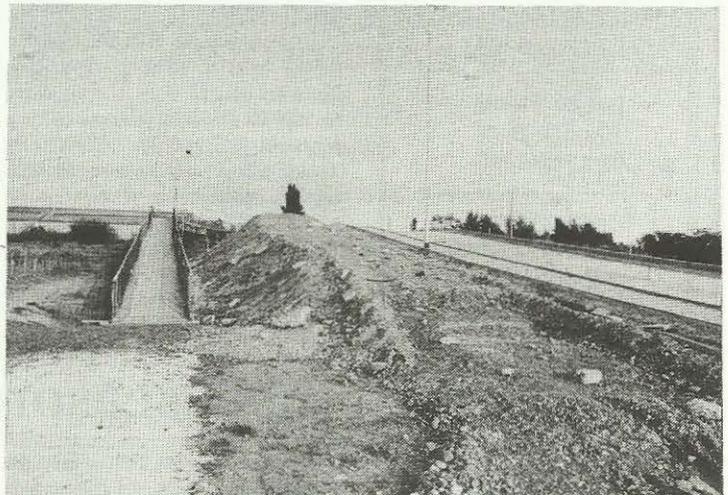
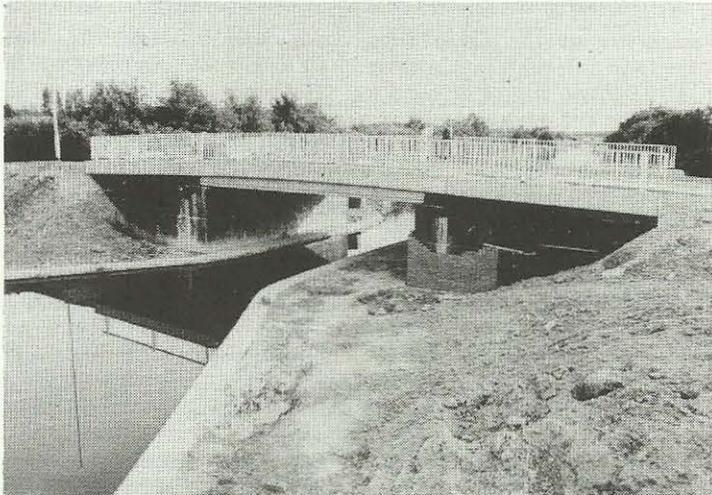


Amazing feat in L.A. - but dragging feet in Clayhanger



Back in November the American city of Los Angeles suffered its biggest earthquake for many years resulting in damage to buildings and roads. Main inter-

state highways were torn apart as flyovers collapsed like a pack of cards and traffic was disrupted over a wide area. Conservative estimates were that it would take

at least 18 months to repair the damage. Amazingly, 6 months later, 12 months ahead of schedule an astonishing feat of engineering and planning has seen the restora-

tion of all the damaged highways. Meanwhile, work on the canal bridge spanning 6 feet of water in Clayhanger, goes on, and on, and on.....

MP Campaigns to get B.N.N.R. report published

Richard Shepherd, MP for Aldridge and Brownhills North, has secured an Ombudsman's investigation into the Government's refusal to publish the Inspector's Report from the 1988 inquiry into the Relief Road. He said, "Because I have been refused a copy of the report over a number of years I was pleased to submit another request. Even though this was again refused I am hopeful that the Ombudsman, Mr William Reid, will support my view that the report ought to be published."

He has also made his views known to the Public Enquiry into the proposed route which began in Walsall on the 21st of June. In a let-

ter to Sir John Fitzpatrick at the Highways Agency in Birmingham, he highlights a number of points favouring a route along the Northern shore of Chasewater rather than the Southern shore. Among these were the need for a bypass to alleviate traffic congestion in Brownhills, the number of homes that would have to be demolished and the serious environmental consequences of the proposed route. He goes on to point out that the refusal to publish the 1988 report has, in his opinion, severely handicapped local action groups who rarely have access to sufficient funds or resources to promote alternative routes.

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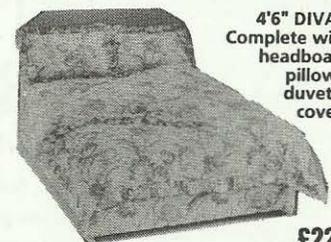


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'Friends of the Earth protesters prepare for long motorway battle'

At the opening of the Public Inquiry into the proposed Birmingham Northern Relief Road on June 21, Friends of the Earth activists and local people from around the region gathered outside the Inquiry venue (The Central Hall Methodist Church, Walsall) to show their opposition to the road.

They demonstrated their determination to fight a vigorous campaign to stop the 27 mile toll road, which, along with the Birmingham Western Orbital, comprises the largest new motorway system in the country.

Gerald Kells of Friends of the Earth West Midlands Transport

Campaign said: 'The Public has clearly shown its opposition to the BNRR. We don't want an M25 round the Midlands, we don't want the pollution, the destruction of our countryside or the congestion it will cause. This is just the beginning of a battle we intend to win'

Calling all young anglers

If you would like to pick up some really useful tips this Summer make a date in your diary for some exciting events taking place in Brownhills. Fletcher's Tackle Shop have sponsored four fishing matches for youngsters on the Tesco's length of the canal. The water, which is owned by Fletcher's, has been made available free of charge to enable boys and girls to compete and pick up some

expertise at the same time. England International Angler, Dave Berrow, will be on hand to give help and advice as well as a number of local match fishermen. Anyone else who wants to lend a hand will be most welcome. The cost for each day will be 50 pence and this will go towards the purchase of prize vouchers for the winners, it's hoped that with sufficient support that no-one will go

away empty handed. The dates are as follows, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st of August and parents are asked to meet with their children behind the Market at 9.30 a.m. on the day and to pick them up at 3.30 p.m.

Anyone who would like more details can ring Steve Thomas on Brownhills 277825 or call in to Fletcher's Tackle on the High Street.

Busy season for Shire Oak Brass Band

On Saturday the 18th of June the Brass Band entertained the crowds at the Radleys Junior School

Summer Fete. It was the first time that the band had visited this event although they had been to the

school on a number of occasions during the Christmas Schoolabout season. The fete was opened by Richard Shepherd MP and everyone enjoyed the two sessions played by the band during the afternoon. The school choir also provided some perfect singing that delighted the audience. Even though it is near the end of term the band has had a very busy schedule playing at a number of fetes and they also appeared at the Pelsall Millennium Carnival. An end of term concert took place on the 20th of July and featured the choir from St John's Church of England School, conducted by Mrs K. Hammond. Shire Oak Brass Band will support any venture, if you would like to enlist their help for a future event please contact Mrs Smith on Brownhills 452518.

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CRIME BULLETIN

Burglaries at houses were down this month and occurred at Watling Street and Tamworth Close, Brownhills, Rose Drive and Church Street, Clayhanger. The burglar at the Church Street break-in was detained by the household-er himself. Property was stolen from a garage in Shannan Drive. Criminal damage was caused to a vehicle parked at Severn House and to shop windows in Brownhills High Street. Thefts from parked cars occurred at Tesco's car park, Poplar Road, Chase Road, Chapel Avenue and Poole Crescent. A Toyota Supra and an Escort Cabriolet were also stolen this month. A pedal cycle

was again stolen from Hednesford Road.

With regard to the youth who was attacked and robbed by three West Indian males, we are still appealing for witnesses. If you have any information or saw anything suspicious please ring 0543 374165. Finally a note of caution. In an adjoining area to Brownhills thieves have stolen large quantities of garden furniture and hanging baskets from gardens. Try to secure yours or take them in at night before the thieves decide to target this area. They may not, but better safe than sorry.

W.P.C. Anne Dickenson

Crime Bureau opens in Walsall

VICTIMS of crime will receive more attention and information when a radical crime-fighting system is launched in Walsall.

The new 'Crime Bureau' will open in a bid to improve the quality of police service to the public.

"We aim to target crimes which have proved to be of most concern to the community. These include the more serious offences, such as assaults on people and drug dealing," said Detective Superintendent John Plimmer, head of criminal investigation in the area.

When a crime has occurred, victims will be given valuable advice and may be referred to specialist agencies, such as Rape Crisis centres and Victim Support. They will also receive a "help desk" telephone number so they can check on how their case is going.

The majority of non-urgent and routine telephone calls from the public do not require a police officer's immediate attention. During the three-month experiment, these queries will be dealt with by 'help

desk' staff, who will also inform witnesses about the progress of their case.

"This not only means more time can be spent on helping victims, but also leaves experienced officers free to detect and prevent crime," said Det Supt Plimmer.

Other information will be pooled into the 'nerve-centre', where crime patterns can be analysed quickly and staff deployed to serve the public better.

"By concentrating on specific areas of public concern, our detectives will become more professional and expert in their field," said Det Supt Plimmer.

Opening of the bureau also means that Walsall officers will have access to the latest in computer technology.

Specialist computer programmes, including fast retrieval systems, will be linked to help police record and access vital intelligence from anywhere in the area.

Pauline Hadley
Press and Publicity Officer



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Is there anything older than Smokey Bacon?

Mrs Yvonne Bacon of High Street, Clayhanger has challenged anyone on the village to come up with a cat that's older than her Smokey. She told me that he was born 18 years ago, and is as fit and healthy as ever, still scrapping in defence of his territory, while at the same time, playing his part in keeping the rodent populace down to manageable proportions.

Smokey was born one of a litter of three, and stood out from the rest by having a letter Y emblazoned on his head, so naturally Yvonne chose him.

I asked, "I suppose you called him Smokey to go with your surname."

"Partly", I was told, "but my friend Barbara Davies suggested it because the kittens were born in a crisp box and this settled it. He seems as if he's been round forever and is definitely one of the family".

She can't define his longevity to his diet however, as he has no truck with special cat food, instead scoffing anything that he's given.



Oldest cat in Clayhanger 'Smokey' Bacon left: Mrs Barbara Davies right: Yvonne Bacon

The grey and white certainly seems to be a bit of a character, as our photographer found out, but I

wonder if any of our readers can top that. Drop us a line if you can. As for Smokey. If you reach

25, let the Gazette know, and I'll see you get a Quarter of a Queen's telegram.

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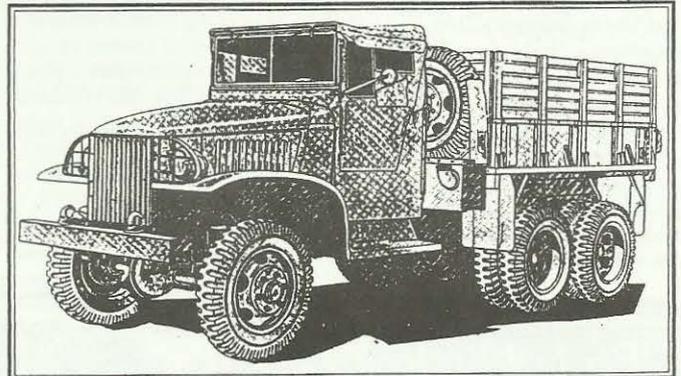
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Brownhills Central Townswomens Guild

Members were pleased to welcome Mrs Jo Stackhouse as visiting speaker at their June meeting. Jo founded the Walsall Breast Cancer Self-Help Group approximately 12 years ago. She herself suffered the trauma of surgery and at that time there was no counselling or support for women diagnosed as suffering from that condition and subsequently undergoing a mastectomy. Nowadays, thanks to Jo and her devoted support team, practical help and advice are only a phone call away. The group is self-financing any money raised is entirely for the needs of the patients and any practical help they may require. She stressed that quality of life was of paramount importance and is one of the main objectives of the group. Only three days before the meeting Jo was thrilled to learn that she had been awarded the M.B.E. Guild members were delighted to be able to congratulate her on the success of the group and the recognition she so obviously deserves. Jo was also pleased to tell the

Guild that the group has been nominated Charity of the Year by Little Aston B.U.P.A. Hospital. The services that this group provide are too numerous to mention here but they include home and hospital visiting, counselling and related services and breast care advice service. There is also a telephone help line, 0543 372805. At the July meeting the Guild will be celebrating its 47th Anniversary, and the delegates to the National Conference will be giving their reports. This year's representatives will be Floss Dickinson and Stella Hodgkiss. There will be no meeting in August as Social Secretary, Laura Watton, is in the process of organising the annual Summer outing. It was decided that a donation of £300 from the Charity Fund and the proceeds of the Dollies Follies be made to both the Air Ambulance Service and Mary Elliot School. The presentation will be made later on this year.

Stella Hodgkiss
Press Officer

Need for Artists' Group

Artist, Margaret Lewellyn, has contacted the Gazette to find out if others in the area would like to start a group in Brownhills. Recently qualifying with a B.A. after five years full-time study she has seen the need for such a group in the area. "It would be very nice to have some permanent premises where artists could meet to exchange ideas, discuss problems and organise exhibitions of work," she said.

If any artists would like to get in touch with Margaret to try to take the project further they can contact her on 0543 370971.

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CHURCH NEWS

Concerns of the Community

One of the concerns of many in our society today is the individualism that destroys community and unity. This is not a concern only of Christians.

Because we have more choices and are generally more mobile, many people have their interests with activities and people who are not part of the community where they live. In one sense there is nothing the matter with this - fulfilment and interest in the activity grow. If there are no real 'roots' in that area the people/activity often do not remain for a very long time. This can be seen in the 'gathered' church where like-minded people come some distance because the worship/people are what they are looking for. As soon as that need is not met many will look elsewhere or go nowhere at all to worship. One of the good principles behind the 'Parish' church is that it relates to a particular area and should seek to minister in an appropriate way to the people of that area. In response the people of that area and members of the Church see it as 'their' Church because of where it is, not primarily because of what it does. If what the Church does is not generally in accord with the members and the people of that area, then the PEOPLE take the responsibility to change things because it is 'their' Church. Sometimes this action is not possible or does not work. This is sometimes because the action planned is selfish and does not as the ASB says 'seek the common good'. Above all we need to be open to what God is saying to us through his Spirit ().

We had an example of trying to 'seek the common good' recently at St James when we sought the opinion of the regular worshippers/electoral roll members about having a women priest at St James. Of the 120 unspoiled voting slips, the results were as follows:-

	YES	NO	NOT YET
Women Vicar	63%	17%	20%
Woman Curate	81%	11%	8%

90% of the people who voted worship weekly, 7% monthly and 3% less often. If any reader has any comments on these figures, put your thoughts in writing to me and we might publish it next month!

Clayhanger Methodist Church

Members of the Church have had a very interesting and rewarding month. A special anniversary in the life of the Church was celebrated with a Festival of Song. This was held on June the 12th and 19th with our own Church members and helpers from other churches in the choir. The musical director was Mr Derek White who, with great professional skill, trained the singers on both Sundays and good congregations enjoyed the beautiful singing and the readings. The Ladies Good Companions prepared the delicious teas and being together in fellowship and friendship added to the success of the festival. The Ladies Good Companions had two very interesting meetings, at the first they were entertained by Brenda and Dyllis Bradbury who sang duets. Brenda also gave a very interesting talk with a Christian message. The second meeting was a trip to Pelsall Methodist Church to join other ladies for Network. Mrs Ann Craddock was the speaker and everyone enjoyed this get-together. The Good Companions were also invited to Brownhills Methodist Church for a Ladies Rally. The speaker on this occasion was Mrs Ruth Price from Penkrige and after the meeting tasty refreshments were served by the Ladies Guild.

The Church Council have met to discuss refurbishment of the church and the replacement of the old wooden hut with a brick built hall. The hut was bought in 1921 from Hednesford Army Camp and for those of us who have attended the chapel for over sixty years holds many happy memories. Gwen H. James writes that it was in this hut she took her last few steps. For eleven years she battled with Stills Disease and did not see the hut during that time. It was going back and joining Clayhanger Girl's Club that re-habilitated her, she says. During the war years there were meetings every night where girls could sit together to write letters, to rest after working in the factories in Birmingham or knit and sew. It was in this hut that they entertained wounded soldiers from the Manor Hospital and the boys who had been sent to recuperate after Arnem at Shootings Butts Camp on Cannock Chase. It was in this hut that the W.V.S. brought the evacuees

from London to be billeted in Clayhanger. It's all changing now, houses are being built around the church and the lovely country lane will disappear for ever as will the beauty of the tall hedges.

Methodist Church

On Saturday July 9th the Methodist Church, Brownhills, was a hive of activity. It was the day of the "Will Ye Come Fayre".

We were supported extremely well by the people of Brownhills and District. A large crowd witnessed the opening ceremony performed by Rotarian Bob and his wife Jean Watson.

The Fayre was extremely colourful with a great number of stalls, some based on luck, others based on skill. Prizes and surprises was the order of the day. Bowling for a Turkey, Shooting - Fishing; Golf; Lucky Dips; Tombola; Home-made Cakes etc., were among the variety of stalls.

Lunches were served by the Wive's Group. Everyone enjoyed a splendid day experiencing a wonderful event.

Our grateful thanks go to Claridge Radio and Television, who sponsored our Fayre. Over £1000 (one thousand) pounds was raised by this delightful occasion.

Lorin Craddock

Summer Holiday Junior Football Fun

St. James Church have invited FA coach Derek Jefferson (Ex. Wolves and Ipswich) to Brownhills to lead three days of fun-packed football skills training for 7-11 yr olds, boys and girls. Ball skills, teamwork, training, competitions: there will be something for everyone, regardless of ability. The event costs £12 per child which includes a free football, T-Shirt, certificate and individual awards. It runs from the 18th to the 20th August, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Ogley Junior School field. Don't miss out on a fun-packed opportunity to improve your way towards the World Cup! Application forms from Brownhills Library or Revd Thomas (37 New Road) or Revd. Girling (50 Lichfield Road).

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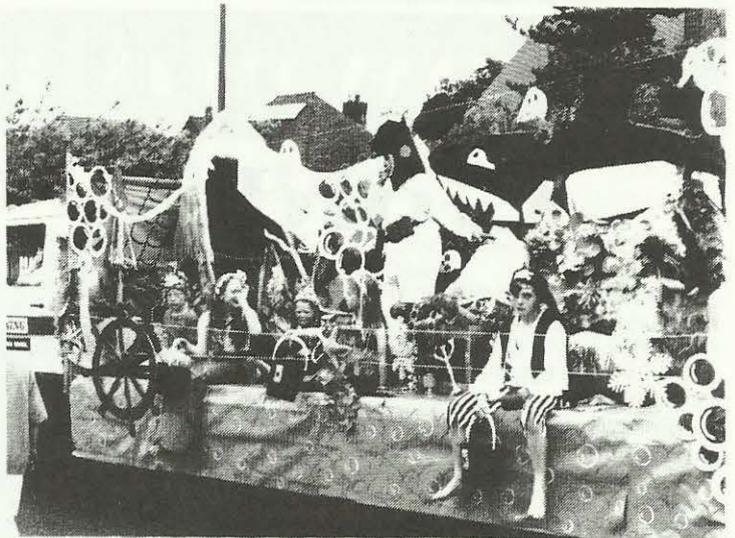
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Brownhills Carnival Success

Crowds lined the streets and traffic came to a standstill to watch the carnival parade pass by in Brownhills this month. Vintage vehicles and a marching band took part in the procession. With a variety of colourful floats depicting everything from the area's coal mining heritage to a day at the seaside it was clear that a great deal of hard work had gone into every entry. All agreed that this year's carnival was a great success. Everyone at the Gazette would like to say congratulations to the organisers and to all those who took part.



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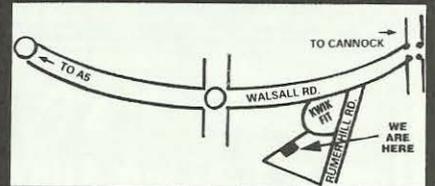
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Brownhills Archives

Golden Wedding

Nancy and Geoff Harrington had one of the nicest surprises of their 50 years together when their daughter Margaret told them that she was taking them to Fuerteventura, one of the Canary Islands, to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Geoff was 22 when he married Nancy 20, at St James Church, Brownhills, at 3 p.m. on the 13th July 1944. The Rev John Hope presided, and the bride was given away by her brother George Perkins, and the bridesmaids were May Tipton and Joyce Anker, while the bestman was Norman Anker.

Geoff used to work at Hardy Spicers, but was called up during the war, and joined the R.A.F. where he did his training at Blackpool before being based at Hereford. It was from here that he was given 2 day's leave to get married, and only two weeks later he was sent abroad to India for 3 years.

At the time of leaving he didn't know what country he would end up in, so he left a sort of coded list for his bride of two weeks. Geoff wrote a

list of local pubs with the name of a country next to them and when he wrote home he said he would have a drink with her in the "Monkey" when he came home. From that she knew he was in India as that was the name next to the Wilkin Inn, which was known locally by that name.

In his younger days Geoff was acclaimed throughout the area when he capped a fine running career by winning the Powderhall Sprint in 1951, and since his racing career ended he has continued to be active in sport through his refereeing duties at Snooker and Billiards.

The couple had their first and only child, daughter Margaret after 9 years of marriage and they now have two grandchildren, Trudi who is 23 and Heidi 18.

Asked their recipe for married life they were both emphatic with their answer, "Give and take".

Here's to many more happy years together with best wishes from all at the Gazette.



Old School friends reunited

A few days ago I had a phone call from an old school friend, her name was Brenda Foulkes (née James) now living in Blackpool, in her school days she lived in Ogle Road, Brownhills, her words to me were, do you realise Vi that it will be 50 years at Xmas since

we left school. I had to admit I hadn't given it a thought until then. She went onto say don't you think it would be a nice idea to have a reunion with our old school friends who left Ogle Hay Senior Girl's School from Christmas 1944 to Easter 1945.

I am putting this letter in the

paper on her behalf as Brenda living in Blackpool is too far away for her to contact all of us.

Now Girls my name is Violet Payne (née Marklew) and I was in 3A Brownhills Senior School, our head teacher was Miss Hall. I left Easter 1945 aged 14 years. I lived at "Coppice Side Farm"

Brownhills. Brenda and I would love to hear from any of our friends who were at school with us, then perhaps we can arrange a get together.

Please contact me, phone 0543.505832 or write to: Vi Payne, "Oak Lodge", 2 Meriden Close, Cannock.

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Brownhills Archives

Archive Updates

Just when it seemed we had exhausted all our info re the Sally Army photo from our May issue, when up pops Mrs Doreen Holden of Frogholl Nr Stoke on Trent. Apparently she got hold of a copy from Mrs Malpass who was on the photo, and who now lives near Warwick, and they both confirmed a lot of the names that we already had. Mrs Malpass is sent the Gazette by her sister who still lives in Brownhills, and she in turn relayed it to Doreen (nee Cope).

Still on our May issue, you may recall us reproducing an article from a local paper dated March 1938, featuring one Horace Jones who was a prominent boxer, runner and footballer. It contained a report on a boxing match he had with Dick Southall of Walsall Wood, who was supposed to have won an Army title in India, and that Jones had won in 7 rounds. Would you believe that we have had word from Dick Southall's daughter who has informed us that he never went to India and in fact lost the fight on a points decision.



The names, in order are Dora, Mrs Marklew, Ann, Sheila, Pat, Hazel, (sister) Beryl, Jessie, and Irene, while seated at the front were Sandra and Ann.

So far we have only had one call on last month's photo and that was from Mrs Wendy Hill who tells me that her gran was on the back row 3rd from the right. She was Mrs Helen Birch (Nelly), who lived in Rose Cottage and she confirmed that it was indeed taken in the Memo in 1947 and she remembers that it was a party held on New Year's Day.

This month we are not going so far back in time, but I think that this photo is a little gem and will bring back a few memories and surprises to a few people, as these "one offs" tend to do. It was accompanied by a letter that we'll let you read in full.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to tell you of the coincidence that occurred in your

March issue of the Brownhill's Gazette.

It was the first time my son Ian Stroud had put a business ad in your paper and in the same issue, to my great surprise was a picture of my Grandad (Ian's Great Grandad) Mr Humphries, pictured with a group from Clayhanger Working Men's Club.

We do not receive the Gazette but my sister passes it on, and I enjoy reading it as it brings back memories from my past, especially the story about Bradbury's shop. This took me back to 1961 when I started work at Craddocks next door.

I have enclosed a photo of the office staff in 1964, and I have included their names. Most of them are still living in the area.

Yours faithfully
Mrs Sheila Stroud

If any of you girls want to get in touch to pass any comments or memories on, give me a ring on 0543 372491.

Archives Letter

Salvation Army Christmas Party

Dear Editor,

My sister always passes your Magazine on to me after she has read it each month, and with regards to the photograph of the Xmas Party at the Salvation Army (Issue No. 56) I feel that I must write and say that the person who sent in the names of the Officers has misinformed you, as the two in the particular photograph are Senior Captain Ivy Farnel & Captain Rosina Matthews.

Although not on the photograph I was the Corps Bandmaster at the time. Then in 1955, my wife and I went to the S.A. International Training College, after which we commanded several Corps, retiring to Cubbington, Leamington Spa, 1991.

I trust that this will clear up the names of the officers, on this particular photo.

Yours sincerely,
W. Eric Malpas
Major R

Scout Group

Dear Sir,

Regarding the scout group picture in your May issue, Mr Bickley was the scout master and Clive Lydal was his assistant.

I would suggest the photograph would be dated around the end of the war. Ray Baresford was a commando and saw action in Europe, as I recall.

The lad holding the union flag is Peter Stannard. I was bestman at his wedding around 1956-57.

I joined the scouts some time after this picture. Wilf Bickley quarrelled with Clive Lydal and left the movements.

Best wishes for the continued success of the Gazette.

George T. Hawkins



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Flowers, a very special gift

The next time you want flowers, why not call in at Coles in the High Street? There is always someone on hand to provide friendly personal service and advice. Getting the right arrangement for any occasion can be difficult, whether it is a bouquet for a wedding, a gift for an anniversary or a tribute to someone close who may have passed away. This florists has the answer. Cut flowers are not the only things on sale, Silk flower arrangements, dried flowers or a pot plant can be that special gift that your loved one can enjoy over and over again. A gift with a difference could be a helium balloon with that special message that will delight anyone. If you want to surprise someone with flowers you can rely on this florists. A member of the Teleflorist Association, they can get your gift to them whether they live locally or anywhere in Britain.

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Why not visit The Royal Exchange?

Hosts Diane and Michael always have a warm welcome waiting for you at this friendly local in Walsall Wood. In the evenings you can enjoy a relaxing drink in good company, at lunchtimes you can enjoy a delicious meal. There is plenty of traditionally prepared food on the menu to choose from. If you are planning to organise a get together or need somewhere for a special occasion there is a small function room available for hire that may be just the job for you. They are throwing down the gauntlet to budding masterminds here as well. A new venture for Monday evenings is a popular quiz night. Teams of four can enter, there is no charge and everyone is welcome.

New venture at The Garden Shop

Proprietor of The Garden Shop, Ken Hodges, is to extend his service to the public by selling high quality greengrocery from the beginning of August. After literally hundreds of requests from members of the public he recognised the need for such a service. Gardeners need have no fears that they will have to go somewhere else for their requirements. There will still be the full range of equipment and materials on sale. With friendly advice and help on hand from the resident gardener you can now combine your food shopping with tips on how to make your garden more colourful and fruitful all year round.

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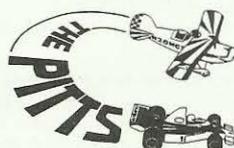


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WALSALL WOOD

The Pitts

Carl Trollope from Lichfield will be celebrating his first year of trading on 5th June. He specialises in all types of models and accessories from manufacturers such as Ervin, OS, ASP, SP, Flair, Futaba, Dynaflight and many more.

He is a fanatic and has been involved in flying since he was knee high. Carl is a highly qualified instructor in model flying and is a member of the British Model Flying Association.

If you are a professional person with little time but interested in model flying, Carl can arrange for your model to be professionally

built. He would also like to invite you to a model flying show with a demonstration by Green Acres Model Flying Club, June 26th at Bosty Lane, Aldridge, commencing 10a.m.

Haden Upholstery

Dave Haden has been trading in Walsall Wood for around ten years, since being made redundant from Leyland. He is a member of the Triumph owners club and has had great success with fullcar restoration, including head linings and carpets for many car clubs including Bentleys. Dave will recover domestic suites including

leather, antique restoration and French Polishing

Jenny's Picture Framing

Jenny Haden opened 'Jenny's' November 1993 and offers a picture framing service with a wide range of frames. She also stocks all types of greetings cards for all occasions, birthday banners, wooden toys and clocks and a variety of ornaments and pictures.

Jenny has just started a new venture and now stocks a range of cross stitch kits and accessories.

She is the wife of a local businessman, Dave of Haden Upholstery

Broadway Tools

Broadway Tools is an engineers tool merchants, they supply manufacturers with tools such as taps, drills, fasteners and reamers, also they supply cleaning materials for domestic and commercial use.

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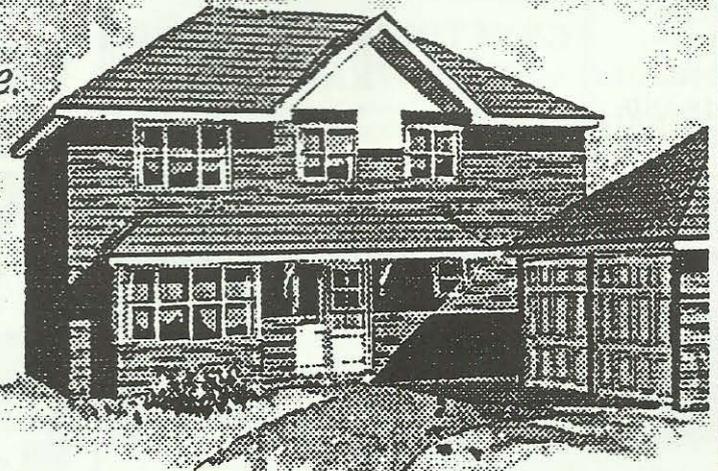
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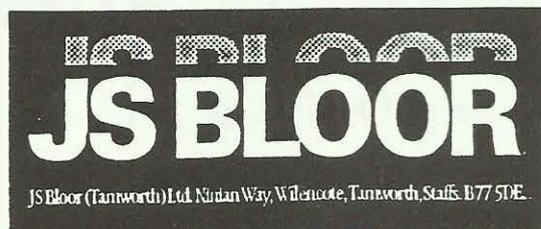


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Wedding of former Shire Oak Pupil



Cindy Talbot married Gary Wood

It was one o'clock on the 25th June when former Shire Oak pupil Gary Wood tied the knot with his bride Cindy Jane Talbot of Kings Road, Rushall. The wedding took place at Rushall Parish Church, and the reception afterwards was at The Hollies Hotel in Cannock.

The bride is the only daughter of Anne and Len Talbot of Kings Road, while the bridegroom is the youngest son of Graham and the late Della Wood of Church Street, Clayhanger.

Cindy wore a dress of Duchess silk with train and her flowers were old gold roses, lilies and freesias. The three bridesmaids who were friends Julie Stringer, Donna Capewell and Jodi Arthur, wore dresses of Dupion silk in Terracotta.

The best man was Mr. Tim

Stringer and the attendant Ushers were Mr. Paul Wood, Mr. Phillips Newman and Mr. Andrew Jones.

Cindy, who attended Sheffield Comp in Mob Lane and now works as a secretary for a firm of Chartered Accountants and Gary who is an Electrician, honeymooned on the Caribbean Island of Antigua.

Why not let the Gazette feature your Wedding. There's no charge, just simply pop your photograph in to us and we'll do the rest.



Lions Club News

The club thanks all those who patronised the stall at Brownhills Carnival to provide takings of £200, a very useful addition to the club charity fund.

A party of disadvantaged school children were taken in June to Wickstead Park near Kettering for a full day out including access to all the attractions. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all taking part and our thanks go to Kettering Lions Club who organised the day at the park for parties from various places.

A sponsored "Swingathon"

over the assault course at Woodlands, near Aldridge organised by the club, and including a club team with a lady Lion participating got all competitors thoroughly soaked and raised approximately £500 for the camp. This will be used to provide improved camp facilities.

Did you see our display award located in the window of the empty shop next to Manorgrove in Brownhills High Street?

Your contact for any questions relating to Lions is John, Tel: 0543 372308.

Silverlinks Association

In June the bi-monthly quiz was held at the Senior Citizen's Centre. In a hard fought and exciting contest the T.G's came out with a winning score of 125 closely followed by the Silverlinks with 115. The next quiz will be held at the centre on Thursday the 4th of August at 2.15 p.m. Teams should consist of no more than 5 members and the entry fee is 50 pence per team. If anyone would like to compete the Association would welcome new teams. The B.R.D. social evening on the 16th of June proved to be an enjoyable night out thanks to all the organising by the Neighbourhood Community Officers. Unfortunately the evening plans for the 15th of September has had to be cancelled because of the lack of support. A fish and chip supper with entertainment has been organised at Yates' on Tuesday the 20th of September and a mystery trip has been booked for Thursday 11th of August, followed by a trip to the Cotswolds on Thursday the 8th of September. Anyone interested in any of the events should contact the Community Officers at Brownhill's Neighbourhood Office. Telephone 452522 between 9.00 and 10.00 a.m. and between 4.00 and 5.00 p.m. Monday to Friday, they will be only too pleased to give you further details.

Unfortunately, due to lack of support, the coffee mornings on the second Tuesday of the month at the Methodist Chapel have had to be cancelled. However, the monthly service conducted by Reverend Colin Thomas or Reverend Stephen Girling are still going ahead. These take place at the Catshill Centre on the second Tuesday of the month and the next one will be on Tuesday the 9th of August at 10.00 a.m., tea and biscuits will be served afterwards.

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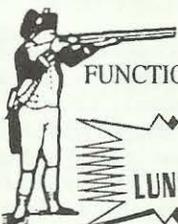
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BROWNHILLS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Brownhills Community Association held its 10th Annual "Community Fortnight" between 28th June and 7th July 1994.

The major events included:

Brownhills Community 10K Race - Tuesday, 28th June

Brownhills Community Association 5-a-side Soccer Tournament - Wed 29th June:

There were 16 teams of very good quality who competed in this annual event. They competed in 4 leagues of 4 teams, the winners of each league qualifying for the semi-finals. In the semi-final round, Brownhills Town FC "A" beat Alpha Sports FC "A" 2-0 and Brownhills Town "B" defeated Hussey Arms FC 1-0.

In the closely fought final Brownhills Town "B" team edged out their Club team-mates 2-0.

The tournament was played throughout with a very good spirit, with the standard of football and refereeing being very good.

Walsall Youth Jazz Orchestra - 30th June:

The Orchestra gave an excellent concert in the Brownhills Community School Theatre, sponsored by Brownhills Community Association and Walsall Community Services. Over 100 people attended this splendid concert and they were treated to a thoroughly entertaining evening of very high quality.

Junior "It's a Knockout" - Wed 6th July:

Having somehow avoided the torrential rain that fell earlier in the day, 12 teams competed very enthusiastically. The teams represented junior schools from Brownhills and Walsall and Brownhills Colts FC (Under 11's).

It was splendidly organised by Brownhills Community Colts FC, with 12 games involving plenty of water catapults, sponges, eggs and even a jigsaw.

There were prizes for the winner of each individual game, so that the "spoils" were shared out.

The overall winners were Park Hall Junior School.

Senior "It's a Knockout" - Thursday, 7th July:

(Organised by Brownhills Community Association)

The following evening saw 7 adult teams representing local clubs and industry. Once again water was the main ingredient with a few tyres, barrels and cones thrown in.

Brownhills Youth Club were this year's winners pipping Edward Rose and Brownhills & Bloxwich Musical Theatre Society finishing third.

Grateful thanks must go to Brownhills Community Colts FC and Brownhills YC for their help. Also to Aldridge Fire Station who filled the big pool on both evenings.

Beacon Radio All Stars Soccer Team at Brownhills Community School

Beacon Radio All-Star Soccer Team will play a combined team of staff and pupils at Brownhills Community School on Thursday, 28th July.

The All-Star Team of disc jockeys and friends agreed to help the school establish a memorial fund in memory of Julia Richards, who so

tragically died at Chasewater Leisure Park on 24th June 1994.

The fund will be used to promote an annual prize for the pupil making the greatest contribution to music at the school. A collection will be held at the match and a raffle held afterwards in the Community Lounge.

Brownhills School and Community Awards Ceremony

This year the Awards Day Ceremony will be held on Monday, 21st November.

Awards are made for academic achievement, excellence and outstanding contributions in all areas of school life and the Brownhills community.

If you feel there is somebody in Brownhills that merits recognition for an award, please contact Mrs. Jackson at Brownhills School on 452886.

Talent show at Brownhills School

Year 10 student, Rachel Perry, organised her fellow pupils for a Talent Show in aid of Rainbow House, Walsall.

The evening was well attended by parents and friends, with a wide range of talent on show.

The inevitable task of judging the contestants fell to Headteacher's wife, Mrs. Christine Jarrett, who, after much deliberation awarded the following prizes:

1st Prize	Gustav Chileya
(Box of Goodies)	
2nd Prize	Sarah Gough
(Box of Goodies)	
3rd Prize	Elki Stackhouse and Rachel Teague
	(Mystery Prize)

JULIA RICHARDS

Julia Richards, a Year 11 pupil at Brownhills Community School, was tragically killed by lightning at Chasewater Leisure Park on the evening of Friday, 24th June.

Julia left home early that evening to join friends on a light hearted game of soccer on a field behind the Go-Kart Track. The friends, all pupils at Brownhills Community School sat close together following their game when the lightning struck. Julia was killed instantly while the others suffered only minor shock and temporary loss of sensation in limbs.

The surviving pupils acted maturely and calmly in the awful

circumstances and sought immediate help in calling the emergency services, but Julia was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital. The surviving pupils were allowed home from hospital after treatment.

Julia was an intelligent well liked pupil with a very bright future in front of her. She planned to enter the 6th Form, and after studying "A" levels, go on to University.

Julia was a talented musician and played the French horn in both the Wind Band and the Orchestra. She also enjoyed painting and recently spent a great deal of her time decorating the Religious Education Department walls with religious murals.

Julia was buried at Streetly Cemetery following a mass at St Bernadette's Church, Brownhills on Wednesday, 6th July. Memorial Services attended by pupils, staff, parents and family were held at Brownhills Community School on Friday, 8th July.

Julia's family and the school are organising a fund in her memory to be used annually to recognise those who contribute significantly to the work on the music department.

Julia will be missed by all who knew her.

Dance Attack

In June a group of pupils from Brownhills Community School put on a Dance Show to raise money for the Cancer Research Campaign.

30 children took part in "Dance Attack" which was performed in the school's theatre. They raised over £200, of which £115 went to Cancer Research.

The production was organised totally by the students taking part under the directorship of Marie Pawley who initiated the project.

Marie is a member of Anni Wilcox, Theatre Dance School, Sheffield and Marie hopes to eventually attend the Walsall Performing Arts College.

Word Processing Results - Brownhills School

Success again for most of the students enrolled on our various Word Processing Courses.

At all stages in RSA, (examinations taken in May), ie Stage I, and III, the majority of adult students gained **DISTINCTIONS!!**

Congratulations to our students, a superb set of results!!

CONTINUED OPPOSITE



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**Ray Williams
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28 SILVER COURT, BROWNHILLS.
TEL: BROWNHILLS 360910



London Trip - Brownhills School

A day trip to London to see the Musical "Hot Shoe Shuffle" went from Brownhills Community School on Saturday, 9th July. It was organised originally to take the Community Tap Class for inspiration - and inspire it did!!

A fantastic show for all would-be tap dancers to go and see. Other pupils and parents joined the trip just to see the sights of London. A good day was had by all. Our thanks go to Linda Jones for organising it.

Another First for Brownhills

A group of pupils from Brownhills Community School have just returned from the Annual Special Needs Department Canal Adventure.

This year they undertook an epic voyage to London on the Walsall Youth Council Narrow Boat A. J. Felgate. (Two years ago Brownhills' pupils were the first to use this new boat when they navigated the Three Counties Ring).

This year the journey from Broad Street Basin, Wolverhampton took seven days to reach Little Venice in Paddington and was the first time the boat, which is used extensively throughout the season has been to London. Most days started at 7.30 am and ended at 9 pm (hardly a holiday) with pupils assisting with all tasks and opening 160 locks! Many boaters on the route were speeded on their way with the aid of our pupils who found muscles

they didn't know they had!

The journey concluded with a trip through Regent's Park and London Zoo, an achievement for all concerned.

The return journey by coach took two and a half hours!!!

The cost of the trip was financed by generous donations from:

- LYNX
- South Staffordshire Water plc.
- The Terrace Restaurant
- Parents
- The Special Needs Catering Group

Brownhills Community 10K Race

Brownhills Community Association held its annual 10K Road Race on 28th June. The results were as follows:

1st Male: (Aldridge)	A Wright 35min 05sec
1st Veteran Male: (Mid Vets)	D Lownes 35min 27 sec
1st Junior Male (Oak Park)	M Wheeler 40min 19sec
1st Woman (Oak Park)	Lois Yates (Oak Park) 48min 59sec
1st Veteran Woman:	Dot Fellows 46min 33sec
(Cannock & Staffs)	Karen Hughes 57min 51sec
1st Junior Woman (Brownhills School)	
Team Prize:	Aldridge Running Club

The event was held in excellent conditions and was again extremely well marshalled. The Association would like to express their appreciation of the help given on the night by the Aldridge Police, St John's Ambulance Brigade, the Rambling Club, the Home and School Association and Brownhills Community Colts.

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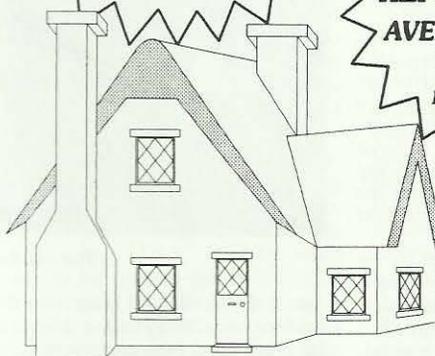
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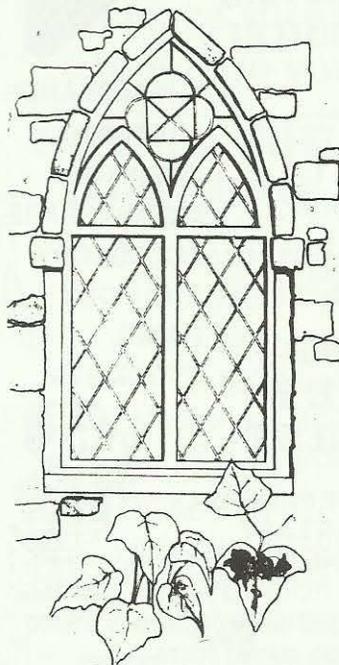
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Brownhills Archives

Pennies from Heaven for Clayhanger Church

Members of Clayhanger Methodist Church in Clayhanger Lane are delighted with the news that at last, they are going to have new building to replace an ex Army hut that they have been using for numerous activities since the first world war.

It has all been made possible by the builders JS Bloor who are erecting 750 houses on ground surrounding the church, when they responded positively to an appeal which pointed out that the hut would be out of character with the smart new homes surrounding it.

After several meetings and lengthy discussions we can reveal that subject to submitted plans being accepted, work will be starting in a few months time.

JS Bloors are to build the new annexe at cost, and have also chipped in with a cash donation, while the



The old hut which has given such amazing service for 70 years.

rest of the money will come from the existing members fund, a donation from the land owners, money from the Brownhills and Pelsall Methodist Circuit and the Methodist Property Division in Manchester.

Over the years the old hut which is thought to be over 100 years old has seen thousands through its doors and has served the community of Clayhanger, and indeed the surrounding area in numerous ways. It has been the home for both the Boys and Girls Youth Clubs and the

Ladies Good Companions, while every child on the village must remember it as a flourishing Sunday School.

Church steward and Treasurer Mrs. Dorothy Bagley spoke for all the Church members when she said, "I'm still finding it hard to believe that it's really happening at last. For years we have been raising funds for this project and often had to abandon it in order to find money just to keep going, but this news is like pennies from heaven. The idea was original-

ly conceived by Mrs. Iris Dalton, who got her daughter Chris to write to Mr. Bloor, and it went from their, so I suppose that she deserves a special vote of thanks, and I know that Gwen James, who ran the girls' club through all the hard times is over the moon to know that the future is secure in her lifetime."

When completed the new building will be joined to the Chapel and will continue to be used for all the Social Activities connected to the Church.

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Rotary Club of Brownhills



New President Walter Lane with David Balmford

A new President has been appointed to lead The Rotary Club of Brownhills.

Walter Lane of Home Farm, Sandhills, Walsall Wood, a well known local farmer, was installed by his predecessor Rotarian David Balmford on the 7th July last at Barons Court Hotel, Walsall Wood.

President Walter pledged the

Club to continue its involvement in the local community during his year in office.

Anyone interested in learning about the Rotary movement and possible membership of the local club should contact Past President Lorin Craddock of "Norcum" 29 Chester Road, Shire Oak, Brownhills (0543 373310).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank You

T.P. Melvin write on behalf of the residents of Deakin Avenue expressing thanks and appreciation for the donation of plants and shrubs for their garden. Nominated by W.P.C. Dickenson, Deakin Avenue, was awarded the donation by P.C. Richard Partridge and Committee at Aldridge Police Station.

D-Day Memories



Mr Claude Woodhouse proudly wearing the medals he was awarded for his brave service during the War.

In last month's issue we ran an article about the D-Day memories of Mr Woodhouse who took part in the landings. I got the name wrong and a lot of people in Brownhills have been going up to CLAUDE Woodhouse asking whether he had a relative who was there as well. Sorry about the confusion, but that's not all! People looked at the photo that said Claude was third from the left and tried hard to recognise him. They would have to try very hard because Claude took the photograph, he was behind the camera!

No excuses, Editor's fault. Well one little excuse, I was enjoying myself at the We'll meet Again evening when I met Claude.

CO-INCIDENCE

When I went to see Claude to return photos and sort out the article he told me that in the very same issue he recognised some family faces. In the archive photo the lady seated on the right of the front row is his mother Helen, the gentleman is his uncle Mr Ashley Parker and the lady third from the left is his aunt Annie Parker. Quite a co-incidence!

Fond Home Town Memories Continued

In last month's issue you may recall that Mr Albert Smith of Pelsall had many fond memories of his home town and some questions too. We have had one phone call from Mr Alan Beetlestone about the Airship sighting. He informs us that it was, in fact, the ill fated R 101. He tells us that it was approximately 1930 and that everyone knew that it was going to fly over because it was announced in all the papers. He remembers all the pupils at Stonnall School going outside to watch.

Albert continues his reminiscences of Ogley Hay F.C. by giving a mention to one of the men who, in his opinion, made the club. He refers to "Shad" Smith with whom he played many times in the reserve team. He goes on to say, he was a great man and was the only reason I ever played in the first team. A special word for the number one fan, Noreen. She was the wife of George Anker and I don't think she ever missed a match. Whatever happened to the A.J. Smith Trophy that the players bought in memory of Shad Smith? Ogley Hay F.C. was a great club to be with and I wish there was room to write about all the other players,

perhaps another time. We also spent many happy times at the club and were sometimes lucky enough to hear the old compere Jimmy Johnson announce that the next artist would be none other than Jack MacDonald. What an entertaining man he was and so popular with all the members.

My final word on football is for those who now live on the old Warreners ground. Stop whatever you are doing one Saturday afternoon and listen hard, you may hear a crowd cheering a goal being scored for Ogley or the brilliant Brownhills in pre-war days. It could be the echo of our stand-in linesman Ernie Plumb running the line with his handkerchief held high. Naive visiting teams thought he was biased towards Ogley but in reality he was an expert in the off-side rule.

In 1932 my family at last got the key to a decent house. We moved to Chase Road and opposite were open fields where we spent many happy hours. My final question is, does anyone remember the air flights we used to have for 7/6 a time from the field by the Chem Stack? What year was that?



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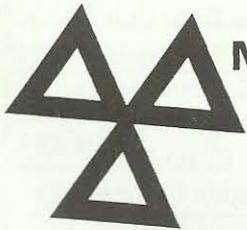
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Out of the Wood

With the news that Walsall Wood had been accepted into the Premier Division of the West Midlands League, staff at the Oak Park ground new that a lot of work had to be done during the close season.

One of the most important things on the agenda was to try and diminish the constant threat of vandalism that has plagued the club so much in the past, and to this end a certain amount of success has been made with the completion of the perimeter fence.

The next step was to improve the decor of the social club in order to attract more members, and stage functions. This work has now been completed with the

installation of a new false ceiling, completely redecorating throughout, and the purchase of new furniture.

This enabled the club to stage two very successful Beer & Skittle nights and make plans for a Quiz night in August.

One sour note however was the outcome of a proposed shirt sponsorship offer that was withdrawn at the last minute for no apparent reason.

Chairman John Seedhouse said, "It was very disappointing, especially when it was then that made the initial offer, but we are quite used to disappointments and are getting quite good at living with them. If we don't get a sponsor

(although with the press coverage we get, it should be called advertising not sponsorship) we shall just plod on without."

Advertising boards around the ground are selling quite well, as firms realise the potential of a prime site, at very competitive prices.

So far ads have been taken out by Claridges Electrical, Kennings, Shire Oak, Alpha Sports, Butler Foundries, Willow Vale Garden and Aquatic Centre and the Waterside Inn, Wilkin Road, with more in the pipeline.

On the playing front manager Mickey Speake is delighted to have retained most of his squad from last season, with the addition

of two or three players that he had been after for some time.

The club are quietly confident that they have at last turned the corner after their self imposed exile, and are quite content to let other clubs bang the big drum while they try to get some stability and restore confidence in their backers.

Of course the big bonus will be if the gates can return to their Midland Combination days size and that will make the revival so much easier.

Latest news is on the training front, were Gary Pendry, who is an old mate of manager Mick Speake, has agreed to help out with training sessions.

Brownhills Town F.C.

Town gained senior league status when being accepted into the Skol Midland Combination after a ground inspection by the Skol Management Committee, their fixtures will start on Saturday 20th August.

The news was just reward for the club after the West Midlands

League Saga and all the hard work by the club officials and players in the closed season to bring the ground up to the necessary standards. This meant the club had to install new showers, rail off the pitch and complete a hospitality room and all the work should be finished by the 2nd week in

August.

In a busy closed season Town entered the Brownhill's Community Association 5-a-side competition with both its A and B teams reaching the final and Town's B Team running out 2-0 winners. Town also entered the Bridgnorth Lions. Raft Race over a 10 miles course down the River Severn. Unfortunately the Raft ran into trouble at 8 miles when it was caught in the current and hit a tree trunk and sank. All eleven crew managed to swim to safety and complete the final mile on foot. The team raised in the region of £300 after race entrance expenses. Town hope to hand over a cheque of £200 to Rainbow House. Childrens Hospice, Walsall.

Town players will report back for training on Sundays and Tuesdays 10.30 a.m. and 7 p.m. respectively at Brownhills Community School. Anyone who would like to attend would be made most welcome on the day or contact Manager Tim Wall 0543 677392. Town now having reached Senior league status would like to enlarge the club committee and have vacancies for a press officer and a commercial manager to work on a commission basis. Also anyone who would like to join or even help on match days would be made most welcome and should contact either club secretary Chris Kelly 0543 374193 or club chairman Alan Payne 0543 279080.

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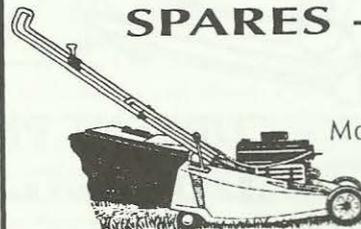
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In Memorium

MEACHAM - Sidney passed away
17th July 1993. Those we love, don't
go away, they walk beside us every
day, unseen, unheard, but always near,
still loved, still missed, still very dear.
God Bless. Pat & Charlie, Trevor & Lily
& Grandchildren.

STANFORD - Reg No card can I send,
no gift can I buy. Oh I wish I could say
Happy Birthday to you, 3rd July a mem-
ory of you will never fade, nor will my
love. Until we meet again from your lov-
ing Wife. Mari xxxx. God Bless Dad
and Happy Birthday. Love Kevin and
Debra. xxx.

TAYLOR - Herbert, 78 years, died 10th
June at Manor Hospital. Peace after
suffering, always remembered. Marian.

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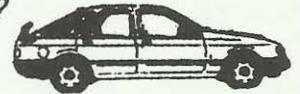
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