

BROWNHILLS GAZETTE

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The Technology Initiative and Brownhills School

On 4th March 1992 the Government announced that Brownhills Community School was successful in its bid to become a centre of excellence for Technology and was

awarded a grant of £250,000 to be spent on the refurbishment and enhancement of the Design Technology teaching within the school.

A great deal of planning and hard work over the summer has meant that our Design and Technology Department can be officially opened this month.

£250,000 has meant that pupils at Brownhills Community School will have the very best facilities, a superior suite of rooms and active industrial involvement to prepare them for adult life.

We are proud to be one of only six schools in the Midlands to have Technology status and pleased to announce the first school to open its doors to the Government's Technology Initiative.

The official opening of the first Technology School in the country was undertaken by Richard Shepherd, M.P., on 16th October 1992. The school has also invited the Mayor of Walsall, local industrialists and the many sponsors of the school to the official opening.



Richard Shepherd MP after opening the new Technology Suite at Brownhills School

"The Community Cemetery" (Or is it?)

Dear residents of Brownhills,

Many thanks to the nine young people from St. James who spent a whole Saturday morning helping clear part of Great Charles Street cemetery, also to the three others from the church who helped. Together we cleared about a sixth of the cemetery and uncovered some graves that hadn't seen the light of day for a long time (alongside bottles, cans, shoes and undelivered local papers).

However, I was hugely disappointed by the poor response (an understatement considering no-one outside the church fellowship came in a town of 10,000!) to publicity asking people to come and help tidy

Great Charles Street cemetery. As the vicar and I visit around the parish we get endless complaints from people about the state of the cemetery on the assumption that it is their cemetery and that we ought to keep it tidy. The church does spend hundreds of pounds doing what we can and we have volunteers who give up their free time cutting and strimming, but it is a huge task. I have little sympathy with people who are only too quick to complain but when they have the opportunity to do something themselves they are "too busy" or "someone else should do it".

Perhaps next time you're about to complain about your

cemetery or someone complains to you, stop and think - it is OUR cemetery, what could we or I do to show our respect for the dead and those with living memories of the dead? It does seem that people see Great Charles Street cemetery as 'our cemetery' when it comes to their friend/family burial but 'the church's cemetery' when it comes to tidying it up, even when there is virtually no income coming in for the upkeep of that cemetery.

Would you like to 'adopt' and keep clear a headstone and 6ft by 3ft area of grass to show you DO care? Why not contact me.

Reverend Stephen Girling (Curate)

The First Technology School to Open its Doors

We now have:

New Design Rooms.

New Resources Centre featuring the latest IBM PC Computers and all the hardware, e.g. scanners, colour printers, lazer printers.

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New Food Technology rooms featuring the latest gadgets.

A school wide Computer Network and two extensively equipped Computer Rooms featuring the very latest RM Nimbus 3865X machines.

A new VI Form Study Room.

A new Textile Machine Room.

BROWNHILLS GAZETTE

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Back to Ravenscourt

It was a coincidence that Graeme Hewes and myself wrote our "Bits" at the same time. Somebody had to say something and the results are encouraging.

I make no secret of the fact that I would like to see the Chamber of Trade, or something similar back in operation, if this eventually comes about I will be happy. In the meantime a handful of enthusiastic individuals have accepted the hospitality of Mr. Bob Whitehouse of the Crown Inn to have a little informal chat to see if there was any way we, as individuals, could tidy up the precinct. I knew that Councillor Graham Walker had put in some time endeavouring to do something about the toilets, I had a chat with him. I also had a chat with a Police Sergeant at Aldridge, to my absolute amazement on the day Superintendent Evans and Chief Inspector Nicholls put in an appearance, this indeed is a very welcoming response. It was all done in three days by word of mouth.

Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns Grow -

Arrangements are being made for the Traders to be circulated so that feelings can be assessed. If these are favourable then we have the blessing of Mr. Jarrett, Headmaster of Brownhills Community School who will allow us to use school accommodation for a meeting.



Supt. K. Evans of Aldridge and our own Brian Stringer

Mr. Jarrett told me that he would like Traders to be more involved with the School and the School to be more involved with the community. In fact he suggested that the repairing of the benches in the precinct could possibly become a Community Project for the School.

Councillor Graham Walker has come up with some further information regarding the Precinct and so maybe we can look forward to a brighter spring next year than this one has been. When we are all bright and clear - let's hope we can keep it that way!

So it's over to you folks - what are we going to do?

Where do we go from here?

POSTBAG



Merry Hill? more like Merry Hell!

Dear Brian,

Did you really have to write this article?

My husband has always believed that he enjoyed shopping, now he has started to play up and make excuses. I may not forgive you for a long time!

Lorraine

Re-Opening of the Job Centre

At last the Job Centre has reopened, no one realises how valuable a thing is until it's lost. I know it has not been completely lost but it's not the same as being open on to the High Street. The job centre gives a sense of security. Even though miracles can't be worked every time at least the knowledge that the opportunity is there is a great support. I know how much it meant to me and the Job Club, and Incomm Training, without

these very valuable stepping stones I would not have climbed out of the depths of despair. All I wanted, like many other people, was to work, unfortunately I didn't fit into any category, my training was out of date and I felt like a hopeless case, at last here I am still struggling, but with a purpose and that is the difference.

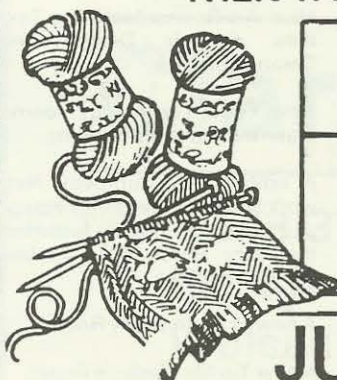
I went to the morning breakfast time open day (unfortunately I couldn't stay for break-

fast) but I saw enough to know that all that can be done, will be done and I wish the staff all success possible for the future and I hope that we can have regular feedback as to how they are going on.

I sincerely wish all the people who visit the best of luck, don't give up trying. I can tell you quite a lot about "How to be an overnight success" after twenty years of struggling. It often takes a little time.

IF KNITTING IS YOUR HOBBY

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Flashback to Brownhills Gazette April 1990

I would like to thank Brian Stringer for the help and support he gave to Pelsall Road Community Group in the struggle to prevent the raising of the levels at Birch Coppice. Over the years there have been some very difficult times and support and friendship has indeed been very much appreciated. I refer particularly to his article (reproduced) published in the Brownhills Gazette dated April, 1990.

During the Autumn of this year we have received the attached (reproduced) letter, I think this speaks for itself. There will be further reports when information is available. This is not a win or lose situation, but thankfully, a compromise has been reached. Our troubles are not yet completely over, nor will they be for a very long time but a step in the right direction is encouraging.

Thank you, Brian

Birch Coppice site visit

THE BROWNHILLS GAZETTE, APRIL 1990

Members of the Pelsall Road Community Group, Councillors, Council officials and representatives of Leigh Interests, met for a site inspection of Birch Coppice on Monday 28th March. The visit was prior to an in depth discussion, later that day at the council offices on the proposals of more tipping on the site although the agreed term has been fulfilled.

The visit led by Councillor Rick Gamble, inspected the site with Leigh representatives and council officers, then reported back to residents who had waited at the entrance. A spokesman for Leigh gave his reasons for extending the tipping, but angry residents demanded an end to operations now.

Mr. and Mrs Jones of 92 Pelsall Road complained of, eyes streaming because of fumes, and of people with sensitive skin breaking out in a rash, while Mr. Keith Gittings asked, if it was

right that local residents should have to sit with their windows shut on summer evenings.

Mr. Ted Hassall of Albion Road said "I have seen lorries tipping after dark and when I have asked about the contents been told to mind my own business" and Mr. David Carver who has 3 factory units nearby, stressed that he was not happy with the way the site was managed. "It does not help when trying to run a business, to be in close proximity to all the paper and rubbish that is left lying around," he stated, and I tend to share the views of the residents that, enough is enough."

At the public meeting held later that night it was agreed that more questions would have to be answered and more problems probed before any concluding decisions could be reached, which would be in about 2 months time.



Councillors and residents at site entrance



Part of Birch Coppice site

Dear Resident

Leigh Environmental Limited are now undertaking the capping and restoration of the Birch Coppice Landfill Site.

The Company will not be applying to raise the levels and landfilling at Birch Coppice will cease for good.

The Company wishes to thank the local residents for their co-operation during the life of this site.

Andy Morris
Landfill Environmental
Manager

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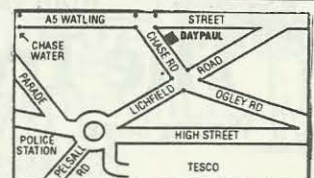
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Brownhills Central Townswomens Guild

I am pleased to report that the Guild Autumn Fashion Show was an unqualified success and tickets for this, our main fund raising event of the year, in aid of Rainbow House Childrens' Hospice, were completely sold out.

The Show took place in the elegant Champagne Suite, by kind permission of the Management of Baron's Court, and the fabulous fashions were supplied by Tres Bon of Aldridge. The flower arrangements were loaned by The Secret Garden Flower Shop of Lichfield and added the final touches to a setting every bit as glamorous as one could expect for such a glittering occasion.

The gorgeous models, whose sizes ranged from 10 to 18, displayed outfits from Fashion Houses such as Grazia, Carmel, Bianco, Paul Separates, Bader, Laurie Coats, Ladies Pride and Ottoman. Barbara Webb, who has been on the staff of Tres Bon for many years, compered the Show with considerable flair, as there were dozens of outfits on view. Barbara said that 99% of the fashions were British and made in the U.K., the other 1% were Italian. However, most of the outfits could be obtained in sizes from 10 to 20, and some garments up to size 24, so that larger ladies were also catered for. She emphasised that Tres Bon could get any garment altered if required and it was usually possible for items to be had on approval for a few days. Barbara works at Tres Bon Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, while her colleague Nancy Ruston works Monday and Tuesday and Lesley works Saturday mornings. Gloria Hobman is the proprietor, she keeps a close eye on the latest fashion trends and does the bulk of the buying.

Barbara then introduced a very comprehensive range of autumn fashions ranging from trousers and ski-pants at £29.99 to dresses and two-pieces at around £180. Dresses and suits in bold check fabrics were a prominent feature of the show and several dresses had detachable collars so making it possible to ring the changes. There were three-quarter and full length coats in beautiful uncrushable cashmere which were affordably priced at between £150 and £180. There was also a wide range of separates and designer sweaters (one size)

which could be worn with trousers or a skirt. Most of the blouses were in 'warm to touch' fabrics some very reasonably priced at £30. Several outfits suitable for that special dinner date were modelled, price in the region of £60. Barbara suggested that many of the items would make ideal Christmas presents and I am sure none of the ladies present would disagree with her on that point. Tres Bon also stock a wide range of costume jewellery and fashion accessories to complement any outfit.

Margaret Lee, Guild Chairman, thanked the ladies from Tres Bon for putting on such a magnificent show and the Management of Barons Court for the use of The Champagne Suite which had provided such a beautiful setting for the evening. She then thanked all those people who had bought tickets for the Fashion Show, without whose support the event would not have been possible. As Chairman of the Guild she then went on to thank all Members who had been involved with the event, especially Arts and Crafts Secretary, Bridget Brookes, who was responsible for the overall organisation. Finally, she thanked the ladies who had modelled the outfits so beautifully, Gloria for her unstinting support, and Barbara for her expertise in compering the Show. Each of the ladies was then presented with a flower arrangement as a token of appreciation.

There were about a dozen raffle prizes, some donated by local shopkeepers and our thanks go to Chemicare, Poxons, Martins Fruit and Flowers, Kitty Nevin Beauty Consultant and Readec for so generously supporting us.

Several Guild Members donated raffle prizes personally. Many thanks to Hilda who donated a Marks and Spencer gift voucher, Julia and Iris who donated a basket of fruit, Margaret Lee a bottle of wine, Alice a cookery book.

A special thank you goes to Mr. Alan Dyche, whose spontaneous gift of £28 in coppers is greatly appreciated.

Also we would like to thank The Secret Garden Flower Shop, Lichfield, for the loan of the delightful flower arrangements.

The Fashion Show turned out to be a great success, thoroughly enjoyed by everyone taking part. Guild Members would like to thank all those who came to the Show and all those whose efforts contributed towards its success.

Proceeds will go to Rainbow House Childrens' Hospice and further details will be announced in the next issue.

Stella M. Hodgkiss,
Press Officer

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IN THE
GAZETTE
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Local Scouts radio links

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) is an annual event when with the help of licensed radio amateurs who have the technical and resource skills, Scouts have an opportunity to talk to Scouts and Guides in many other parts of the world.

Walsall Wood Scouts have for several years set up their radio station on Shire Oak Park, parents helped with pitching the tents and aerials so that the Station could be operating for 14.30 hours on Saturday, 17 October 1992. Their station, GB2 WWG was operated by Clive Roberts GO FBO and Steve Ellison G7 APS who are both members of the Cannock Chase Amateur Radio Society.

First contact was with Budapest in Hungary followed by contacts with stations throughout Europe, Russia and America. Over the weekend contacts were made with more than 50 other stations in a total of 17 countries.

Transmitter

As a preparation to the weekend and their Communication Badge the Scouts had built a simple transmitter from parts salvaged from an old television set.

More than 50 visitors called in at the Station during the weekend including Helen Kennedy of the Walsall Countryside



Rangers who gave permission for the use of Shire Oak Park.

Picture shows the 1st Walsall Group Scout Leader, Malcolm Orton, with Cub Scout Edward Carter highlighting on their map another radio link.

"Come to a Thunderbird Christmas Party and Christingle Service"

If you are 7 - 11 years old you are invited to a Thunderbird party in St. James Church Hall, whether or not you came to the Thunderbird holiday club back in August (if you were a trooper, bring your gear). There will be games, a quiz, food, drink and prizes. After the party we shall go straight into church for our Christingle Service when we will sing the songs (yes even 'Father

Admiral' and 'Be Bold, Be Strong'), receive Christingles (Candles, fruit and nuts in oranges) and hear the story behind Christ's birthday. All the family are invited to the service (and the party if they want to help).

Here's the plan:

DATE: Sunday 29th November

TIME: Party: 5 p.m. to 6.20 p.m.

Service: 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

AGES: Party: 7 to 11 year olds

Service: All the family

PLEASE NOTE: Please let us know if you are coming to the party so we know how much food to prepare.

Contact Stephen Girling (50 Lichfield Road, 378542), or Margaret Powell (145 Great Charles Street, 371396).

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.

IN MEMORY

SAMUEL WATSON November 4th 1968 - Treasured memories tenderly kept of a dear dad we will never forget. Loved and remembered always. Son John, Daughter-in-Law Ann and Grandchildren.

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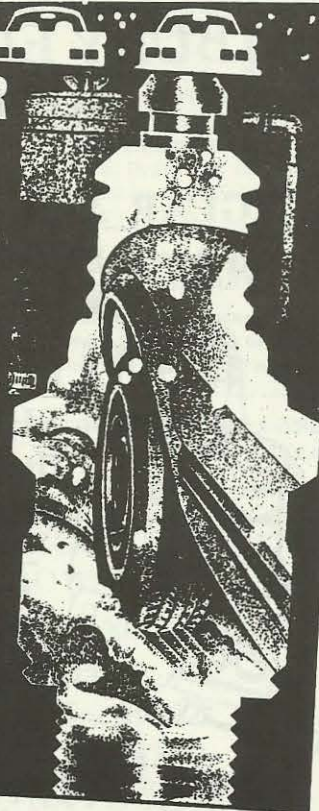
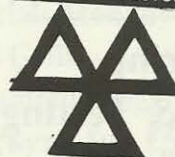
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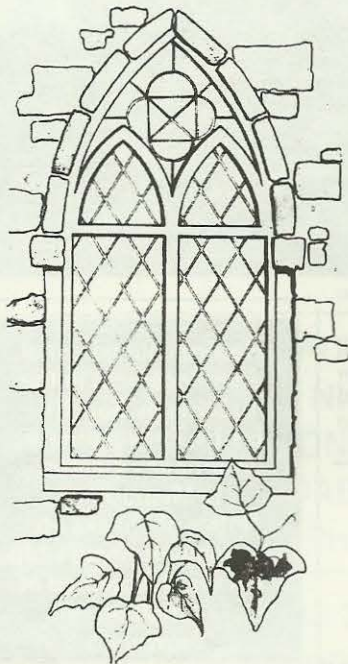


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People who care

The Ombudsman - Who's He?

If you've ever tried to complain about a Local Government service such as a Council Department or Police Authority you'll understand that complaining to the same department about its own staff's failure to administer your rights and requirements can be intimidating and, more often than not, pointless.

Approaching your Local Councillor is sometimes effective, but how often do you find one who interviews away from a local government building, there are those that do and this can be the first sign of a supportive service.

If you are not satisfied with your councillor's service, the most effective step is to approach the Local Government **OMBUDSMAN**, but only with reference to complaints about mal-administration. You can ask the Local Government Ombudsman to investigate to see if you have suffered injustice by maladministration. The Ombudsman is independent and impartial, gives a service which is confidential and free of charge, and has the same powers as the High Court to require people to provide information or produce documents for the investigation.

If it is found that injustice has been caused by maladministration, the Ombudsman usually suggests how the injustice can be put right. The form which enables you to submit your

Complaint about the Council?

How to complain to

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN

The booklet for
a complete form is available

complaint is available from your local Citizens Advice Bureau. You may find this form difficult to obtain from Neighbourhood Offices, and other council run departments, so approach the Citizens Advice Bureau or write to Local Government Ombudsman, 21 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9BU, asking for the Ombudsman complaint booklet.

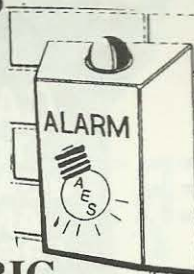
Remember YOU the public have a right to complain, so don't be treated unfairly, exercise your rights, be compensated and effect a change. It is YOU the public that fund these Local Government services, make them serve you and not themselves.

**M. R. Greveson
Advisor**

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New Mother & Toddler Club

I have been delighted to learn recently that there is going to be a new Mother and Toddler Club in Brownhills. It is to be officially opened on the 20th November, 1992, and stems from the Nursery School in Bricklin Street, but the actual venue will be at Ogley School.

The Mayor - Mrs O'Hare will be launching the occasion at 9.30am on Friday the 20th November, 1992.

A lot of work has been done by the Committee and Mums to

make the area safe and sure for the toddlers. Help has come from the Nursery School and also the Family Centre at Bailey House has been very forthcoming with help and equipment.

An entrance fee of 25 pence will be made and there will be books, puzzles, push along toys, above all congenial company both for the children and the mums. Minibus trips may also be on the agenda.

I THINK IT IS A WONDERFUL IDEA!

OGLEY HAY NURSERY SCHOOL

Bricklin Street, Brownhills

CHRISTMAS FAYRE
Saturday November 28th

10.00 a.m. to 12 Noon

Admission: 10p

A modest man in our midst!

Not many people know this, but I found out in a round about sort of way because the man himself was too modest to tell me. Did you know that one of our own local Doctors accompanied the previous trip to war-torn former Yugoslavia? Also that he is off again on Friday on the next one. I don't wish to embarrass Dr. Jose of Pelsall Road too much, but I am very proud indeed that Brownhills is represented in the effort to help others in need. I wish the group well and look forward on their return to sharing some of their experiences with you, perhaps we could do a little more to help on the next trip!

Also I had the pleasure and privilege very recently of spending an evening with Mr. David Lloyd-Price at his home in Can-

nock, together with a companion, when I interviewed him about some of the good works he does in the course of his busy life. I found him to be charming, witty, hardworking and a great inspiration to young people. I heard some of his music which I found enthralling, perhaps because it was my kind of music and his story was very interesting, (more at a later date). I hope he meant it when he said I could call again!

Mr. Lloyd-Price is the man who wrote the Aid Convoys song of hope "HANDS OF LOVE".

The Mayor - Mrs Dorothy O'Hare must be congratulated on her consistent support of so much that goes on around us I wish I had her energy.

Good luck to all!!

Crime until mid-October

Not too bad for crime in our area this time. Burglaries firstly were at the following premises:

A flat in Bailey House where fishing tackle was stolen, three shops in the centre of Brownhills, and two addresses occupied by pensioners were entered by a man and woman who stole money from these people. The couple "conned" their way into the homes by convincing the people that they were old friends of their family. Please do advise your elderly relatives not to allow anyone they do not know into their homes and to always check their identity properly if they state that they are from an official organisation.

Also please advise them to use door chains.

Factory premises in Brownhills had two young men "sneak in" to their office premises and a wallet was stolen, one morning.

A green horse box was stolen from Brownhills - have you seen it?

The following vehicles were stolen from our area - a grey BMW saloon from the Lichfield

Road area; a Maxi saloon from Silver Court Gardens and another vehicle was stolen from ALDI car park; vehicles were broken into in Chapel Street, Brownhills, Lichfield Road and Shannon Drive.

Two pedal cycles were stolen, one a "Raleigh YUKEN" from High Street, Brownhills and one a "GIANT" Mountain Bike from BARNETTS Lane in Brownhills.

Anne Dickinson

Clayhanger Community Association

Clayhanger Community Association has a new club starting on 13th November. Interested people have the chance to come along to a free "keep-fit" session, on Friday night 8.00 p.m. till 9.15 p.m. In the Community Centre. Then if you enjoy that session you will have the opportunity to enrol for further sessions. £1.25 single session or 4 sessions for £4.00. Refreshments will be available. The class will be taken by a qualified Keep-fit instructor, and a "weigh-in" facility will also be available for those who need an incentive to lose weight as well!!

The following clubs are up and running and any new members are welcome -

Clangers:

Monday evenings & Friday evenings
5.30 till 7.30 p.m.
20p session - Age groups 5-11 years

Junior Youth Clubs:

Mondays 7.30 till 10.00 pm

Senior Youth Clubs:

Thursdays 6.30 till 10.30 pm
20p session:
Age groups 10-15 years
15 years - 22 years

Mother & Toddler Club:

Thursday mornings 10.30 till 12.00. 50p child, which includes tea or coffee, juice and biscuits. The children are able to enjoy painting, sand play etc. in a friendly environment.

P.S.

Fathers' are welcome too! For further details ring the Centre on Brownhills 374642 or come along to the relevant clubs.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Book Sale: Ideal Christmas Presents
Thursday 19th November
8.00 p.m.

TABLE TOP SALE ON SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER AT 10.00 A.M.
BOOK A TABLE ON: 374642

Christmas Decoration Class
Wednesday 2nd December at 11.00 a.m.

£1 inc. coffee, biscuits and photo copy of demonstration

Grand Xmas Draw - Raffle Prizes - Turkey - Whisky - Brandy - Xmas Pud and various other prizes. Tickets available at the Centre. Draw will take place at the Fete on 12th December.

CLAYHANGER CHRISTMAS FETE

Saturday 12th December in the Community Centre at 2.00 p.m. Bring the children to see Santa.

YOUTH CLUB XMAS DISCO
21st December at 7.30 p.m.

Carers Support Group

A carers support group has recently been formed in the Walsall Wood area. The fortnightly meetings give carers the opportunity to share experiences and to receive advice on services, benefit and support that is available to them. In the future, it is hoped that guest speakers will be invited to address the group members on specialised issues related to caring.

All carers are welcome. At present the group consists of

people who are caring for elderly parents, spouses and children with special needs.

The group meet on alternate Thursdays at the Community Room, 27 Druids Walk, Walsall Wood, between 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Remaining dates for this year are 12 November, 26 November and 10 December.

Anyone interested can call at the Community Room on these dates, or contact Jane or Martin on Pelsall 685811.



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2 x 1/2 Chickens for £5.50 - SAVE £2.40

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We now serve Home Cooked Sunday Lunch £3.95

Ansells Traditional Beers

ORDERS NOW BEING TAKEN FOR CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Golden Wedding Surprise

If ever there was a fairy tale experience this was it. Wartime weddings of necessity had to be within certain parameters, but this was proof if ever there was any needed that it is never too late to make an effort and create a wonderful experience.

Earlier this year Mr. and Mrs. Dennis of 84, Whitehorse Road, Brownhills, celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. I met them earlier on another matter and promised to return nearer the date to see how they were getting on. I have to say that the time I spent with them has been among the most pleasurable.

To begin with they went to Park View Methodist Chapel to reaffirm their vows, and give thanks for the years they had spent together, their family and friends. I know from experience how moving an experience this can be and was quite overwhelmed with their telling of it.

After the service they were transported to the Reception in a vintage Rolls Royce, they certainly made it in style. The lady wore a cream lace suit with such elegance that no one could pos-

sibly believe that that she was the age she must surely be, she didn't even look 50 let alone a bit older and the groom of fifty years certainly didn't let her down they made a super couple as photographs have since proved. The Reception was held at Swifen Hall, Lichfield, where they spent the night in the Samuel Johnson Suite.

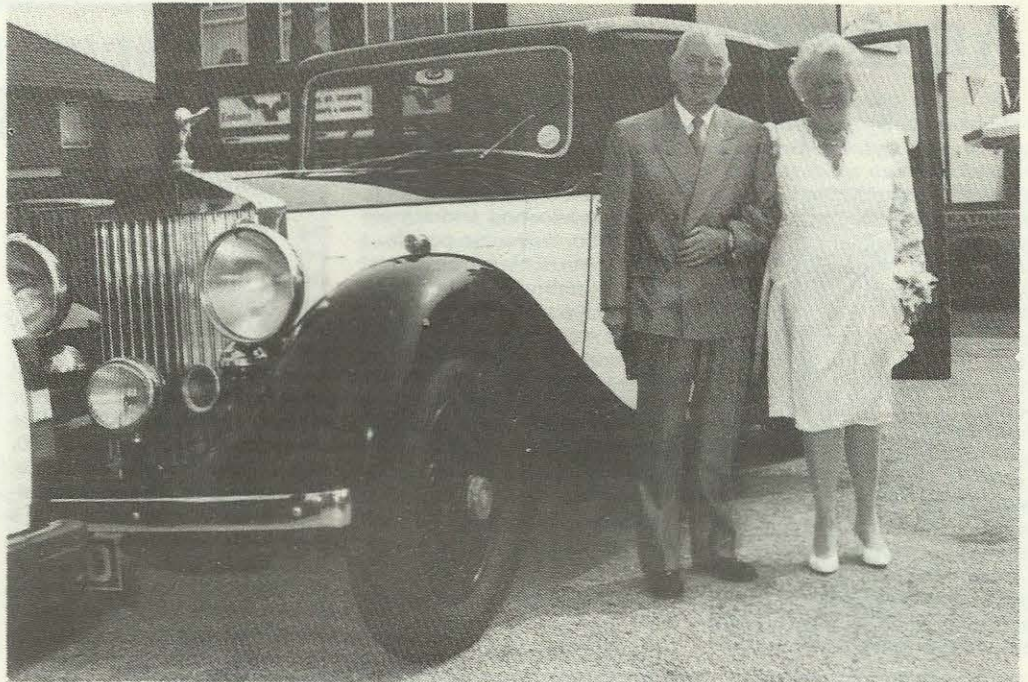
On the day a large framed picture of the couple's original wedding day photograph

greeted them on arrival at the hotel, this picture now hangs in their home and I must say I think it was a lovely idea, it was a surprise to them.

At the original wedding a chocolate cake was the order of the day because of a shortage of icing sugar and this time the cake was presented by Cadburys together with 60 individual cakes for the guests, this was delivered in a refrigerated van.

The couple have three children - 1 son and 2 daughters, and two grand children, who organised a second honeymoon for them on a Greek Island including a three day cruise.

This was to be a holiday of a lifetime, unfortunately I have since learned that Mr. Dennis has Shingles and was unable to make the journey. This is a very sad note to end on and I do hope that it will not be too long before the holiday can be re-arranged.



Enjoy your night out at Christmas - Book your transport early!

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SHIRE OAK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Shire Oak Community School's Parents Vote YES for G.M.S.

The parents of pupils at Shire Oak Community School have voted by a massive margin for the school to seek Grant Maintained Status.

The full result of the parental ballot was reported by the Electoral Reform Society at 3.45 p.m. on 19th October 1992. 72% of those eligible voted: 69% voted YES, 31% NO.

The school now has to put forward formal proposals to the Secretary of State for Education, and his decision should be known in the near future.

Mrs. C. Bryan, Headteacher, stated:

"I am most encouraged and

impressed that so many of our parents took part in the democratic process, and that such a high proportion have supported their governing body in deciding to seek Grant Maintained Status for the school. Once again it is testimony to the fact that our parents play a full part in determining what is best for the school. It is absolutely clear now that all elements of the school are united in believing that the school's interests will be best served by becoming Grant Maintained."

It is believed that the proportion of parents who voted represents one of the higher recorded

figures for any parental ballot that there has been. Similarly the figure of 69% voting yes is a far more decisive proportion than has been the case in most ballots. Mrs. Bryan added, "This can only help the school's case when its proposals are put to the Secretary of State."

If the application is successful Shire Oak will become only the third Walsall Comprehensive School to be given Grant Maintained Status, following Streetly and St. Thomas More.

Parents Decide

Councillor Rick Gamble, one of the Governors of the School said he was pleased with the decision. "I am delighted that the parents have taken this opportunity to ensure local democracy in the running of

their own School. The future of the School is now fairly and squarely in the hands of parents, Governors and staff. I am sure it will be a success" he said.

The School now has to prepare proposals to put to the Secretary of State for Education detailing how it intends to run itself.

Wendy Collins, the only Governor opposed to this move, expressed her concern that if it is approved the School will lose its role in the community. "I can see the arguments for and against opting out and clearly if this is what the parents want so be it, but I hope that at a later date they do not feel they acted without being fully informed", she told the Gazette.

Governors meet shortly to discuss the proposals.

Out and About with the School Geography Department

I am certain that over the last few weeks many Shire Oak parents will have been asked to sign parental consent forms for their children to take part in Geography fieldwork trips.

Since September the Geography Department, led by Mr. Evans, have taken over two hundred and seventy pupils away to Snowdonia or Church Stretton. Just as important they all came back as well!

The pupils taking Geography in years 10 and 11 travelled up to Snowdonia to study the glaciated landscape around Cwm Idwal and the Nant Ffron Valley.

All year 9 pupils were taken to the Church Stretton area so that they could undertake some fieldwork based on stream characteristics.

In both cases the trips involved pupils in measuring and recording in the field to complement the work they have done in the classroom.

It has certainly been a busy time for the Geography Department this term. In addition to the above field trips we have been involved with pupils from a number of Junior Schools. As part of Shire Oak Open Days junior school pupils worked extremely hard and enthusiastically to produce a map of the area outside the Geography room using a mapping technique known as plane tabling. The map was produced in record time and the pupils left full of enthusiasm for their trip to Shire Oak.

Year 7 and 8 pupils visited the Shire Oak Park Nature Reserve to see how an old quarry has

been converted to provide the area with a leisure amenity.

All these activities should be seen not as "days off", but rather that they support the work of pupils as they follow courses in National Curriculum Geography.

A display of pupils' follow-up work and a visual record of the various trips are displayed at Shire Oak for parents and pupils to see.

R. V. Taylor
Geography Department

IF IT'S GLASS AND GLAZING WE DO IT!

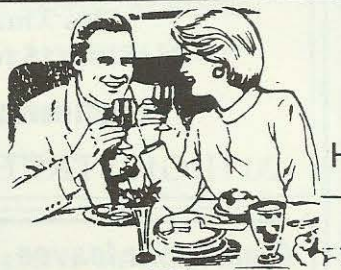
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BROWNHILLS SCHOOL & COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

Superb Examination Results at Brownhills School

Pupils at Brownhills Community School achieved the best results ever by any Comprehensive School in Walsall in the GCSE Summer Examinations of 1992.

A report to the Education Committee in November by the Director of Education, Mr. Mike Quinn, highlighted the fact that 44.1% of pupils in Year 11 at the school achieved 5 or more GCSE passes at the higher grades - equivalent to the old "O" level pass. 53.6% of all entries in this year's group achieved a higher grade.

The average percentage of pupils nationally achieving 5 or more high grades was 38% for

1992 and in Walsall the average was 32%.

Headteachers, Allan Jarrett, commented that the friendly businesslike atmosphere at the school produced the correct environment for staff and pupils to work together to achieved these superb results.

Individual results included one pupil with 10 passes at the higher grades and another with 9 passes - all at Grade A. All pupils in the school in Year 11 during the Summer Term gained at least one or more passes in GCSE compared to 91% nationally and 92% in Walsall.

Good results at "A" level resulted in 48% of all pupils entering Further Education and 32% moving directly into employment. One student gained 4 passes at "A" level - 2 at Grade A, 1 at Grade B and 1 at Grade C.

Governors congratulated the pupils of the school on their wonderful achievements and they look forward to another successful year in 1993.

Florida visit by school?

We may be taking another visit to Florida, USA next May. If you are interested in receiving further details please contact Mrs Jackson at the school on Brownhills 452886.

300 Club winners

AUGUST

£50	V J Barrasford	No 69
£25	Mrs Whitehouse	No 156
£15	Mrs Westwood	No 139
£10	Mrs Reade	No 86

SEPTEMBER

£200	G A Stokes	No 92
£200	P Bloore	No 22
£100	D Willenbruch	No 16
£50	Mrs Ward	No 30
£25	B Barnett	No 145
£15	E Hill	No 99
£10	Mrs Burton	No 137

OCTOBER

£50	Lisa Grimmit	N 130
£25	Ian Coates	No 105
£15	Mrs Beard	No 127
£10	Mrs Powell	No 57

If anyone would like the chance to win on our 300 Club draw, please do not hesitate to contact Brownhills School on 0543 452886. December's prize money amounts to £1000!!!

School to receive National Award

Headteacher, Allan Jarrett and two representatives of the students will travel to London on Tuesday, 24th November to receive the National Curriculum Award for Community Education.

This Award was granted the school in recognition of its work and very close ties with Brownhills Community Association. The party will be received at the Barbican Centre, London and the Award will be presented in front of an audience.

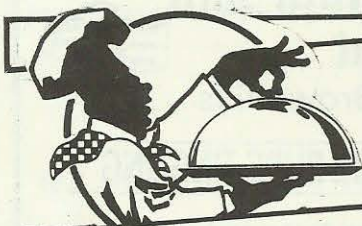
Christmas Fayre

Christmas Fayre...Christmas Fayre...Christmas Fayre....

We will be holding our Annual Christmas Fayre on Monday, 7th December at 7.00pm. Parents can expect the usual lively evening of games to play, stalls to browse through, competitions and entertainment. Please come along and join in the fun.



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BROWNHILLS SCHOOL & COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

Brownhills Community Association

Adult Education Courses

January 1993

The following courses will commence this week starting 11th January 1993, subject to there being sufficient enrolments:

Tuesdays: 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm: (10 weeks)

Bricklaying from Basics: to be held at the Activities Centre, Chester Road, Brownhills.

Wednesdays: 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm:

Intermediate Standard Machine Knitting (15 weeks): Deakin Avenue, Brownhills

Beginners Computers (10 weeks:) Deakin Avenue, Brownhills

Thursdays: 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm:

First Aid (St John's Certified) (10 weeks): Deakin Avenue, Brownhills

Fees: £16 per 10 weeks + £1 enrolment fee

Further details ring Brownhills 452119.

Awards Day

On Monday, 23rd November, Brownhills Community School will celebrate the success of this year with its Eighth Annual Awards Day. During the afternoon Mrs Doreen Marlow, Headteacher of Holy Trinity Infants School will present the awards to pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9. In the evening Mr David Moorcroft, the Olympic runner and television sports commentator will present the awards to pupils in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 as well as members of the community.

This event is to reward industry, bravery and progress in the fields of education, sport, leisure and the community. Anyone wishing to attend please contact Mrs A Jackson at the school on Brownhills 452886 for tickets.

Roller Disco

Roller Disco comes to Brownhills on Monday, 30th November in the school's Sports Hall with the following sessions:

Junior Under 14 session
5.00 pm - 6.30 pm
Family session
6.30 pm - 8.00 pm
Senior session
8.00 pm - 9.30 pm

Roller skates are provided and the cost per person will be £1.50 per session.

Brownhills Community Events

Thurs - Sat, 26 - 28 Nov:

Brownhills Players presents: "An Englishman's Home" a play by Stephen Mallabatt at Brownhills Community School Theatre: 7.30 pm Adults £2.50: Children £1.50: Tickets available at the Community Office.

Sat, 28th Nov:

"Old Time Music Hall" Community Lounge, Brownhills Community School, Deakin Avenue, Brownhills. With Aynuk and Ayli (Black Country Comedians) Tony Vincent/Tony Randle/The Anvil Chorus (Barber Shop Quartet) and "Lizzie Wiggins" (Comedian)
Tickets £5 - Ring 0543 452119

Wed - Sat, 6 - 9 Jan:

The Bernard Parr Organisation presents: "Sinbad the Sailor" (Pantomime)

Brownhills School Calendar

23rd November Awards Day
26th November Baker Day
27th November Occasional Day
7th December Christmas Fayre
15th December Christmas Concert and Senior Citizens' Party
16th December Christmas Concert
18th December School closes for Christmas



Brownhills Community School

Deakin Avenue, Brownhills

Walsall. WS8 7QG

Tel: (0543) 452886/452450

Head: A. Jarrett B.Sc

We cordially invite you to attend our

PROSPECTIVE PARENTS EVENING

Tuesday, 17th November 1992
at 7.15 pm



Schools Curriculum Award
1992

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1992

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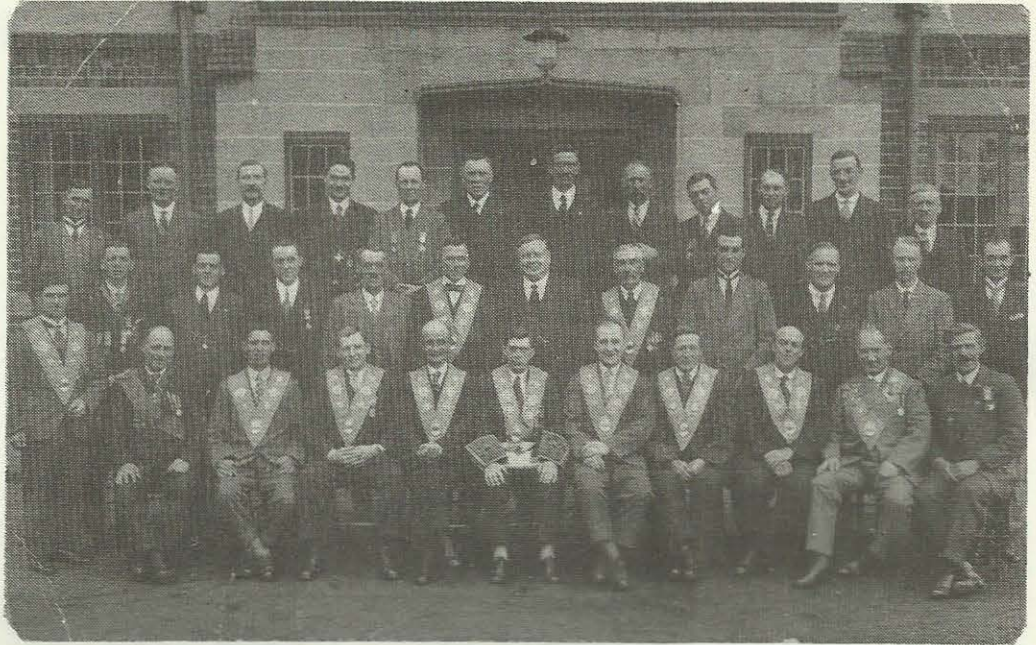
BROWNHILLS ARCHIVES

Two photographs for you this month. The first sent in by Mr. Harold Leek of Humphries House, and it shows the Royal Antlavan Order of the Buffaloes pictured outside their new headquarters soon after it was built in 1926.

He has named the following - TICH GREEN (Schoolteacher), MR. BRADBURY, MR. MASON (the tenant of The Station Hotel), MR. HAYNES (Butcher), MR. HILL, MR. PLANT, BILL HEATH, MR. COOPER, MR. CHALLIES, MR. SADLER (Sadler Road is named after him), MR. DALTON, and HAROLD'S FATHER, HARRY LEEK, who is the first man seated on the left.

The second one will bring back a lot of memories for Clayhanger folk who will immediately recognise flooding under the railway bridge that used to cross the road near the junction of High Street and Bridge Street.

We had to wade through that lot every day we had heavy rain, to get to Ogle or the Central Schools. But who cares when you're kids. We rode bikes through it, sailed on it, made stepping stones, and enjoyed every minute of it.



Royal Antlavan Order of the Buffaloes 1926

You can also see the high bank of waste (slag) on the right hand side of the road under the bridge that used to attract coal pickers in droves. You may also notice the modern style lamp post on the right by the telegraph pole, which appears to be on the

embankment. In fact it was on the Colliery tip road that was allowed access over the road by one side of the bridge to start their tipping on the left hand side. They used massive Euclid lorries that worked all through the night.

The picture was sent to us by Mrs. Dunn of Pelsall Road, and printed by permission of THE WALSALL OBSERVER who took the original.

Recognise any of the three lads? Drop a line to The Gazette if you do.



CLAYHANGER RAILWAY BRIDGE FLOOD



Former Shire Oak pupil marries

The marriage of Mr. Timothy Stringer and Miss Andrea Beddows took place at St. Michael's and All Angels, Pelsall, on the 26th September.

The bride is the youngest daughter of Mr. & Mrs. D. Beddows of Chapel Street, Pelsall, and the groom is the only son of Mr. & Mrs. B. Stringer of Park Close, Brownhills.

The bride, who is an R.N.M.H. at St. Margarets Hospital, Great Barr, and a former pupil of Pelsall Comprehensive, wore a full

length ivory dress of Dupion silk. Her bridesmaids, Jill Stringer, the groom's sister, and Mandy Beddows, the bride's sister, wore ballerina length dresses in a pink floral design.

The groom is an ex-Shire Oak pupil and works as a coachbuilder for the West Midlands Passenger Transport Executive.

The best man was Mr. Gary Wood.

The couple took their honeymoon in Turkey.

Some of our Yesterdays

30th October, 1942, saw the start of the Battle of El Alamein with one thousand guns thundering into action before dawn. The Afrika Korps being desperately short of supplies, particularly petrol, proved no match for the Eight Army and couldn't halt the advance into Tobruk by the 13th November, 1942. On the 15th November, bells were ringing out through the length and breadth of the land signalling the victorious outcome of the battle, which proved to be the turning point of the war with Germany and her allies.

The 29th November, was a bad day for the Americans - coffee rationing began!

25 years later the news wasn't quite so euphoric, but just as important to the man in the street. 19th November, saw the devaluation of the pound and Harold Wilson's famous television broadcast telling us "It does not mean, of course, that the pound in your pocket or purse or in your bank has been devalued."

The Bank rate also rose from 5.5 to 6 per cent.

Briefly, on the 5th October, the British Lawn Tennis Association abolished the distinction between amateurs and professionals, leading the way to the millionaire professionals we have today.

The 25th October, saw the Abortion Bill passed by Parliament and three days later all Horse racing in the U.K. was suspended due to an outbreak of foot and mouth disease.

It doesn't seem ten years that Mrs. Thatcher told the Conservative Conference in Brighton "The National Health Service is safe with us".

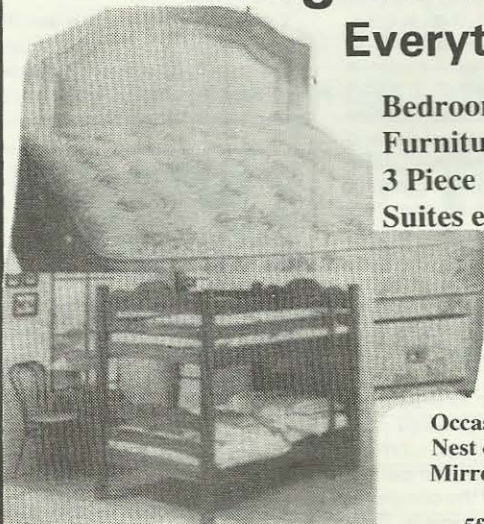
Prince Andrew cut short a holiday on the island of Mustique with actress Koo Stark due to the attention from the media.

It was on the 2nd November, that Channel 4 went on the air and it was on the 22nd the pound dropped to \$1.581 after the Government said it would not intervene to support it. When Harold Wilson devalued the pound 15 years earlier it was then \$2.40.

Finally, the much loved British comedian Arthur Askey died on 16th November, aged 82.

Closing Down Sale Due To Retirement

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PROMOTION PRICE: **£299** Normally £400

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Top Part Exchange Allowance on your Old Suite

Orthopaedic High Seat - High Back Chairs **£99.00**

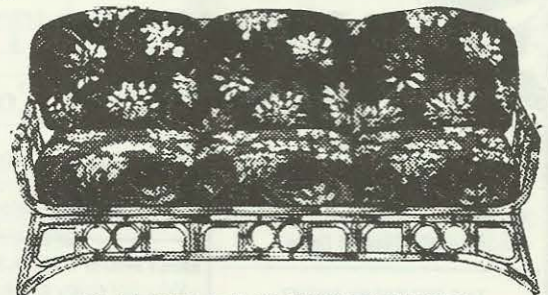
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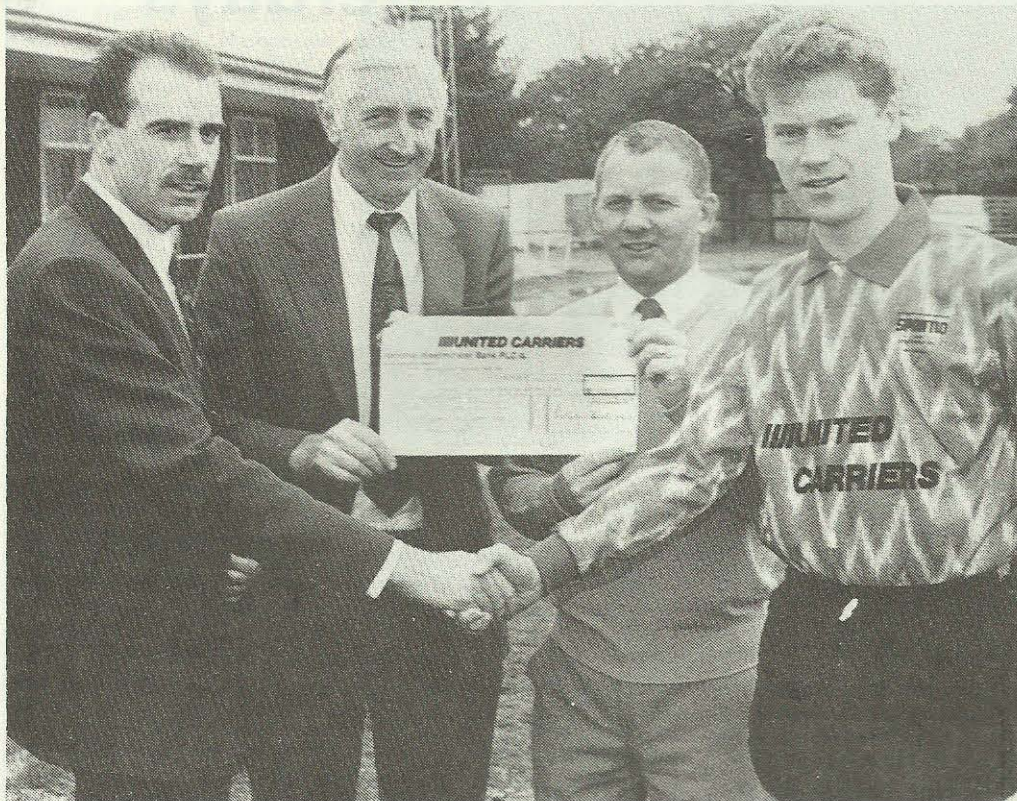
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Choice of 16 patterns **£179.50**

United Carriers Sponsor Walsall Wood FC



United Carriers dept manager Phil Mai shakes hands with David Reed the clubs Captain, who is wearing the new kit for the first time while club Chairman, John Sylvester and manager Micky Speake held the cheque presented to them.

Mixed fortunes for Town

Town played 5 games in October winning 3 and losing 2. The first defeat was at Martial Arts where Town were unlucky, conceding 2 goals in 2 minutes, but having all the play in the 2nd half. However, they squandered chance after chance. Town's other defeat was at the hands of the reigning league champions, Bilston Comm. College 0-4. Again Town conceded 2 goals in the first 5 minutes and then a goal either side of half time. Town also had their chances in the game, having 2 balls cleared off the line and twice hitting the cross bar, another game Town should have come away with at least a point.

On the brighter side Town progressed into the semi-finals of the Bloxwich Charity Cup. After being level 4-4 in normal time, Town looked in complete control in extra time scoring 7 goals to win 11-4 against Bloxwich Town. Scorers Brian Hendron 3, Mark Gnosell 2, Gary Hill 3, Lee Dennis, Adam Powell and Ade Hughes 1 each. In the Walsall Challenge Cup Town went into the last 8 with a convincing 5-0 win over Hawkins Sports, with Gnosell again leading the way with 3 goals and Brian Hendron and Wayne Taylor 1 each.

Town's best win of the month was against 2nd in the table G.E.C. Stafford who Town beat 3-0 away, Gnosell again scoring 2, and the other an own goal.

United Carriers have agreed to sponsor Walsall Wood, Football Club this season, and the club are delighted that a company situated in Walsall Wood are prepared to become associated with them.

Terry Brumpton the former club's Commercial Manager and close friend of Chairman John Sylvester was instrumental in setting up the deal for the club, and the committee are hoping this is the beginning of a long and happy association, with the club determined to ensure United Carriers will be only too happy to continue and increase their involvement.

Phil Mai depot manager at Walsall Wood is pleased that United Carriers are becoming involved as it is the Company's policy to be part of the community in which they operate, they will also be able to use the facilities at Walsall Wood should they so wish.

**Christmas Bookings
Now being taken at
THE ROYAL OAK**

**Christmas Menu
from 23rd November
for all the family**

ALMA'S PANTRY
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The Brownhills Community Colts Column

Good Performances

With the season well under way some of the Colts teams are putting in some good performances. The Under 11 have won 3 out of the last 3, scoring sixteen goals. The U12 played their best game of the season so far by winning 3-2 against Mid Cannock with Huw Turner getting a hat trick, then a 2-2 draw with Lane Head showed Colts to be a very good side. The Under 13A won 3-2 against Aeo Lucas in a tight game, and best Hilltop 4-1

with Chris Mario man of the match. The under 13B had some poor results in the league, but in the Staffs Cup won 3 goals to 2 against Alveley Lions and should have won easier, man of match Andy Hackett. The under 14A had two wins against Harriers and Lane Head, then in the Staffs Cup won 4-0 against Forrest Falcons. A good performance with a penalty save from Gavin Barrow when it was 1-0 and kept the result safe.

The results of 200 Club Draw

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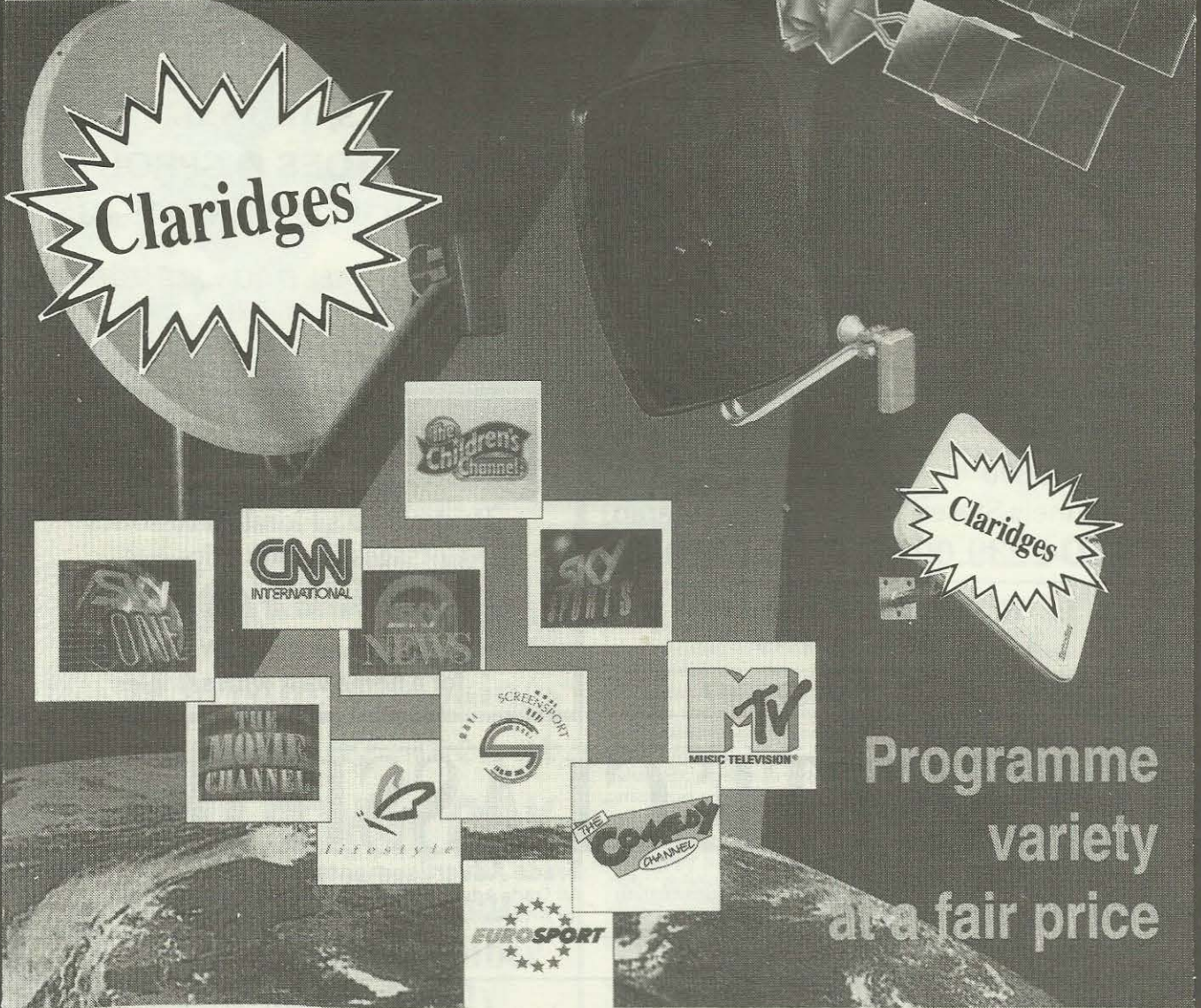
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