

BROWNHILLS

GAZETTE

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OCTOBER 1992
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Parents to decide

Two meetings were held in September to discuss the possible opting out of Shire Oak School.

The official meeting, held 23rd September, is a legal requirement when opting out is being considered. The first meeting held just two days earlier was called to present the "against" view as it was their opinion that only "pro" speakers would be heard at the official meeting.

This first meeting was very poorly attended - only 9 or 10 parents being present. It was addressed by Wendy Collins, the only Governor against opting out, and Andy Summer of FACE.

The panel expressed concern about the secrecy with which this issue had been discussed by the Governors although this was challenged by some of the parents present.

Brownhills Councillor, Cll. Walker, said he was opposed to the closure of the school, but agreed that no guarantee could be given about the school remaining open either way.

The Wednesday night meeting, organised by the Governors was better attended, with some 200 present to hear Education Chairman, Cll. Wood, detail the extra money available to a Grant Maintained school. He stated that with the local education authority the school's future was in doubt due to low numbers.

His view was contradicted by Walsall's new Director of Education, Mike Quinn, who believed the L.E.A. would protect the school and it would be safer and better resourced under Walsall's Education Department.

Head teacher of newly Grant Maintained St. Thomas Moore, Mr. O'Donoghue, told the meeting there were staffing advantages and better value for money in a school opting out.

Ward Councillor, Cll. Gamble, advocated that parents vote to opt out because they would have more direct control over a school run directly by its Governing body.

A decision will be made by balloting parents and should be known by 19th October.



Representatives of the police meet the public at the meeting to discuss the night closure of the police station

Police Station to stay open

A public meeting was held on the 11th September to discuss the proposed closure of the station at night.

Superintendent Evans explained the position. Currently the station is manned 24 hours per day, but is rarely used between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. The P.C. on duty cannot respond to a call and as all clerical work is done by civilians, the P.C. has nothing to do. By closing the station between those hours an extra "bobby" could join the Brownhills beat. He assured the meeting that there was no intention whatsoever of closing the station totally. The station would be secured and a 'phone would be available for use if anyone should go to the station when closed - the 'phone would

have a direct link to the controller in Aldridge.

When the meeting was opened for comments, it was said that knowing the station was open 24 hours gave the community a feeling of security, that it was a deterrent and if word spread that the station was closed at night, it would invite trouble. It was also suggested that the station and the 'phone would be a target for vandalism.

The Superintendent replied that experience in other areas had shown that vandalism was not a problem, and that the Station would have an alarm fitted which would alert Aldridge Police Station. He also believed that an extra P.C. on the beat would be more effective than a P.C. in an unused Station.

A further question was raised as to why Aldridge is used as the main Station. He explained that this is because firstly it is central to the whole sub-division, and secondly because it is a designated custody station.

After much discussion, the matter was put to the vote, and it came out 21 to 12 in favour of keeping the Station open.

Your Views

What do you think? Should the Station remain open 24 hours per day? Or would you prefer an extra "bobby on the beat". Let us know.

999 Calls

A point to bear in mind. People often err on the side of caution and ring the local station. If you need the Police in an emergency dial 999 - it is the quickest way.

FURTHER POLICE NEWS
ON PAGE 2



Members of the public at the meeting

BROWNHILLS GAZETTE

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Editorial:

Lorraine Stanistreet
Brownhills 373508

or 452840/1

Telephone
Advertising
Brownhills
452840/1

and
021 789 6768

Editor
Gazette Series
Rosalie Bott
021 789 6855

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Lowest crime rate in the West Midlands

Did you realise that the Aldridge/Brownhills sub-division has the lowest crime rate in the West Midlands? It also has the 5th highest detection rate. This was the good news given to us at the public meeting by Inspector Rose.

He also told us that in recent months the number of reports of lost - usually stolen - property has decreased by 60% from 63 reports to 27. Why? Because the Police have informed the public

about what precautions they can take. Clearly the public have taken note!

Crime Prevention

On a similar theme, P.C. Richard Partridge, the Crime Prevention Officer, gave us a few tips on keeping our property safe:-

Cars - If you must leave items in your car, lock them in the boot.

- fit an alarm;
- park in well lit areas;
- lock your car at ALL TIMES;
- join "vehicle watch"

Garden sheds - fit a padlock;
- postcode your valuable tools

Bikes - use a chain;
- mark your bike*

*This can be done at the Police Station first Saturday in each month. 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Charge £1.

Crime information for this month

An attempted break-in occurred at the "Playgroup" in Whitehorse Road, Brownhills, this month.

A house was burgled in Oakenhayes Crescent and jewellery was stolen, also a pub on Brownhills High Street was burgled this month.

A shop in Brownhills High Street was burgled and the windows at Brownhills Clinic were smashed, also a shop in Lichfield Road was burgled at night.

A shop window in High Street was damaged and also the Neighbourhood Office premises were damaged.

Windows have also been smashed at Ogle Junior Mixed Infants School.

A pedal cycle was stolen from Catshill Road - a maroon coloured "Raleigh" cycle, have you seen it?

Sheds again were broken into and lawnmowers and tools stolen from the following locations - Pelsall Road, Croft Crescent.

Cars were stolen or broken into at Tamworth Close, Barnetts Lane, rear of Tesco's car park, Short Street, Brownhills Road, and Great Charles Street.

Washing was stolen from a clothes line in Wrekin Avenue and a vehicle was stolen, driven into Chasewater Pool and set

fire to; a car owner awoke to find paintstripper poured onto his vehicle in Kennett Close, Brownhills.

A robbery occurred around 6.45 p.m. on 19th September 1992 near to Brownhills Com-

prehensive School, when a cycle was stolen following the offender striking the cycle owner in the face - he is described as a white male, six foot, dark hair, chubby face, wearing blue jeans and dirty trainers.

Road through Clayhanger?

A number of residents in Clayhanger recently received letters from the Council in connection with a proposed road through the village.

The issue was taken up by Bob Hickman and others who live in the village and a meeting was held in the School Hall to discuss the matter. It appears that there is a plan to build a road from Silver Street across the canal and the former tip - destroying the pool and the wildlife - and through the village. It results from the plan to build 700 houses in Clayhanger, and it is to service those houses. "Most people have accepted now that these houses will be built but we

do not want the road" Bob Hickman told the Gazette.

Councillor Eardley arranged for Mr. Hickman and two other residents to meet Mike Tole and Paul Nicholson of the Town Planning Department. "We have also set up a committee to fight this, we will be holding further meetings and issuing newsletters to keep everyone informed" said Bob.

The Committee have already made their feelings known at an Area Planning meeting in the public forum, but this issue has yet to be discussed by the Area Planning Committee.

Anyone wanting more details can contact Bob on 371294.

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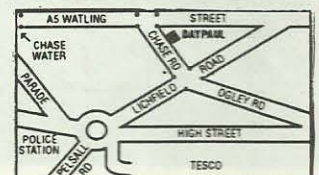
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Avenues get their "Community Centre"

Two houses in the Avenues are to be converted into a community centre for use by residents.

The original application was refused by the Area Planning Committee but it was reconsidered after more details were put to them.

PLAYTHINGS

Conversion should begin in the very near future and it is hoped the centre will open around Christmas. Money has been made available by the Variety Club to buy playthings for the childrens creche, but the centre will also be available for use by the elderly and by the Youth Club.

"We are delighted at the news, it will be a real asset" said Pat Davies who helped in the fight to get the centre. "We are really looking forward to the opening".



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Scouts Promise Appeal Collection

On behalf of Aldridge Brownhills Scout District I would like to express a sincere thank you to everyone who contributed to the Promise Appeal Collection which took place in Tesco's on Friday and Saturday, 18th and 19th September 1992. Over the two days the total collection

amounted to £403.84. 50% of the proceeds go to the Scout Association's Promise Appeal for long term development and 50% to the local District. The publicity stand attracted many enquiries and it was good to see many former members passing through the store.

For further information on Scout Groups in Aldridge-Brownhills District please contact Mr. Geoff Smith, Brownhills 376041.

Mary Mayo, District Secretary,
Aldridge-Brownhills District.

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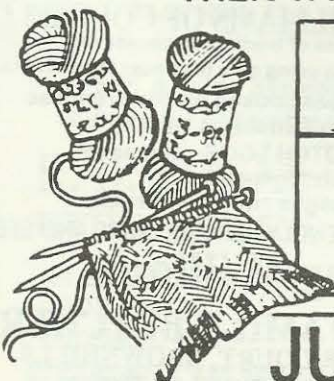
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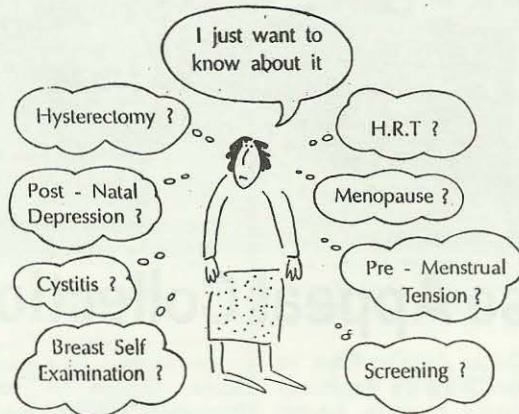


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Who ? Jane Barnard Tel. (0922) 409404
Liz O'Mara Tel. (0922) 721172 Ex 7183
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HEALTH MATTERS

Hormone Replacement Therapy

Among my pet interests at the moment is Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT).

From my experience so far I can only speak in favour and I have never heard a woman complain or regret taking HRT.

I understand many professional women have taken it for years.

However, it would appear that there are mixed feelings among the Medical Profession - some are in favour because it helps to prevent brittle bones after menopause. Others say "NO" for fear of breast cancer.

It would seem that the decision is ours - to take or not to take, but where can we go for a chat among ourselves?

Quite by chance a few days

ago I came across the notice reproduced here - I understand that this is the first group of its kind in Walsall - unless you know differently. If there is anyone who is aware of a self-help group in the area please speak out and let us all share. If not, is there anyone out there who would be prepared to start one? Whoever does would be assured of one member - "me" and I know of at least one other. I really am not joking, I think this is a very important subject and needs exploring - not for vanity reasons, but for health and well being.

Ladies!

Please contact me if you are as anxious as I am.

Lorraine

Charity Football Match

Local Sunday Football Club, Hawthorn Rangers, are this season celebrating their 21st Anniversary.

Hawthorn, whose first team play in the Lichfield & District Premier League, have traditionally been based in the Shelfield/Walsall Wood area and currently play at the Oak Park Stadium of Walsall Wood F.C.

Over 180 local players have appeared for Hawthorn in the 614 games they have played to date, and numerous trophies have been won, both home and abroad. One of the highlights of their history was perhaps when the club were guests of A.C. Milan and given a guided tour of the magnificent San Siro

Stadium.

To celebrate their Anniversary a series of special events are being held throughout the season commencing with a match against the Aston Villa "Old Stars" on Sunday 25 October.

The "Old Stars" line-up will be selected from players such as Denis Mortimer, Tony Morley, Peter Withe, Johnny Dixon, Des Bremner, Alan Deakin, Charlie Aitken, Stan Lynn and Steve Hunt.

Kick-off is at 11 a.m. at Oak Park and admission/programme will be £1, payable either at the gate or in advance from any Hawthorn Rangers player. All proceeds will go to the Rainbow Children's Hospice, Walsall.



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Walsall Wood Youth Centre

Parents of young people aged 11-21 yrs in the Walsall Wood area, are invited to an open evening on Wednesday 18th November 1992, 7.30 - 10 p.m. at the Youth Centre in Brownhills Road. Where they will be able to talk to staff, and also be given the opportunity of looking at the facilities, and discussing the programme of activities available to the youth of the area.

During the evening there will be a presentation by members of the Lantern House team relating to Drug Abuse, with special advice to parents as the main theme. This is part of our series of events during European

Drugs Prevention Week. Nightly video information films aimed at our members, and a quiz on Sunday 22nd November are programmed.

Anyone interested would be welcome to attend. In order to assist with catering arrangements it would be helpful if any one wishing to visit the club would phone 0543 452676 between 7.30 - 10 p.m. Sunday - Thursday evenings, where further information will be given if required.

Douglas O. Birch
Leader in Charge
Walsall Wood Y.C.

Brownhills Inner Wheel Club

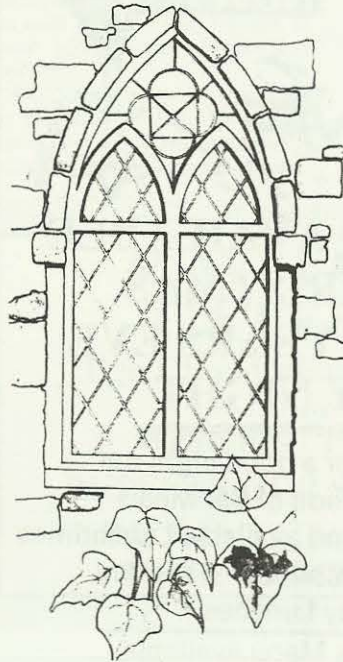
We have had a very enjoyable and successful time recently raising money for several charities. We held a Bavarian Evening at the Nag's Head Hotel, Burntwood, with a Buffet meal and a Bavarian band with singing, competitions and entertainment raising money for the Coronary Care Unit at the Manor Hospital.

We had a very interesting talk at our meeting by Martin Anker who brought his Guide dog,

Rosa, with him - it was so nice to hear of the good work done by the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and we were able to give a donation to them. We have helped the Walsall Wood Parish Church with their appeal for food and money to send help to the children of Yugoslavia.

We are looking forward to a fund raising Coffee Morning to be held at the home of our President Mrs. Gill Gill, who is our President until June.

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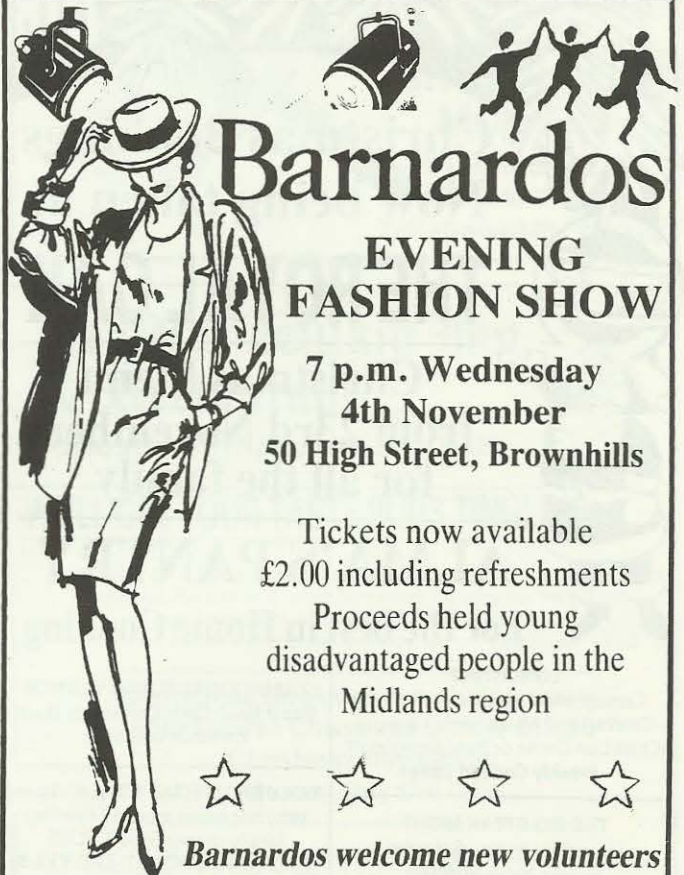
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GAZETTE POSTBAG



**Archives
photograph**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing regarding the photograph of the scouts from Brownhills in the Sept. edition of the Brownhills Gazette.

My son is on the photograph. He is the boy on the front row, far right, standing in front of Leader Alistair Mayo. He is Stephen Boot who is now 35, married with a daughter and he lives in West Bromwich. He is the manager of Oldbury Citizens Advice Bureau. I have telephoned Stephen about the photograph. He remembers going on the trip and can recall some of the boys names. He would be very pleased to hear from any of them, so if anyone wishing to contact him if they would like to 'phone me on the following number I will give

them details. TELEPHONE PELSALL 684570.

Thank you,

Mrs. M. Boot

Break down

Dear Editor,

I would be most grateful if you could print this letter in your next issue of the 'Brownhills Gazette'.

Today I broke down in my car going round Brownhills island. I should very much like to thank the two men that pushed me to get me started. They disappeared before I had chance.

I would also like to say to all the people who didn't stop, especially the horn blowing lorry driver, I hope it never happens to you.

Mrs. T. A. Hazel,
Owner of White Fiesta

Methodist Church Silver Street, Brownhills

***** TO PARENTS *****

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Merry Hill? More like Merry Hell!

About two years ago, we printed an article in the Gazette, sent in by a reader who was still suffering from the after effects of a grocery shopping expedition with his wife. At the time I didn't feel all that sympathetic, as since I entered into the realms of matrimony, I'd come up with all sorts of excuses to be doing "something else" on a Saturday afternoon, or any other time that an expedition looked imminent for that matter.

Alas I was caught off guard, when I had stupidly finished painting the house, with a day of my holiday from work still left.

It started innocently enough. "Could you take me into Merry Hill shopping centre tomorrow, I must get some winter clothes?"

"Why not wait till the January sales?" says I hopefully.

"Oh and freeze in the meantime? Besides they'll be selling the summer stuff then."

She's right you know. It's funny how these department stores can force women to buy clothes when they want them to.

All hope now abandoned it was agreed, and I was determined that I would show just how patient I could be.

I failed!

How on earth can a woman walk through a clothes store containing about a thousand skirts, and decide in 30 seconds that there's nothing she likes. Gritting my teeth, we plod on. Big stores, small stores, little shops, boutiques, ancient and modern, expensive and less so, and after an hour and three quarters guess where we finish up. You're right fellas. Back at the beginning.

So far we had bought some shaving foam and razor blades (for me, not her) but at least we had progressed to the trying on stage. After turning, twisting, feeling and holding it up to the light we finally got to the dressing rooms.

At last I could sit and have a minute while she waited in the queue that still seems permanent, despite the hard times stores are supposed to be going through.

Sit down! I should be so lucky. A mega store with thousands of feet of floor space, and thousands of skirts, suits, dresses, blouses and items of underwear, were the proud owners of ONE chair. And somebody else was sitting on it.

So I thought I'd just lean on a rack full of dresses that nobody seemed interested in. Within 30 seconds I was surrounded by a dozen females who suddenly realised that the item of their desire was surely to be found on my leaning post. I wonder whether they do it deliberately just to make us suffer and move on, like some unwanted budgie amongst a flock of sparrows.

At last the ordeal was over and liking the selected dress we (or I) thought that we could begin to make tracks for home.

"I could do with another bra" I was informed. So over to the underwear department we go. There was about five other chaps there besides myself, all trying desperately to look away and disinterested in the erotic display of silks and lace bits that pass for underwear, as females young and old alike, fat, thin, tall or short ponder for what seems

an age, to select a daring little number, then make sure that it's so well covered that no one is ever going to see it once it's in position

NO man should have to suffer in this way and the marriage vows should be restructured to include something to this effect.

"Do you promise to love, honour and cherish, and allow to go fishing or pigeon flying, every weekend, as long as ye both shall live, till death us do part" "I do."

And so say all of us.

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Brigade Meetings

1st Walsall Wood
Boys' Brigade

Meet at Walsall Wood Methodist Church, (next to Oak Park) Lichfield Road on Tuesday 5.45p.m. - 7.00 p.m. 5 years - 8 years and Friday 6.30p.m. - 8.00 p.m. 8 years - 11 years. 8.00p.m. - 10.00p.m. 11 years - 18 years. New members welcome.

1st Walsall Wood
Girls' Brigade

Meet at Walsall Wood Methodist Church (next to Oak Park) Lichfield Road on Wednesday evening. 5 years - 11 years 6.30p.m. - 8.00p.m. 11 years - 14 years 7.00p.m. - 9.00p.m. New members welcome.



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table d'hôte Menus
For Bookings Telephone: 0543 371193



Brownhills Flower Show



The Annual Show organised by the Brownhills & District Horticultural Society was held on Saturday and Sunday 26th and 27th September at the Activities Centre, Brownhills.

There were 275 exhibits from 51 exhibitors, an increase of 20% on last year.

The vegetable classes were well supported and were of excellent quality but entries in the flower classes were down, particularly dahlias and roses due to the wet and windy weather of recent weeks, while chrysanth growers have suffered badly from a plague of

black-fly which has infested many of their prize winning blooms.

Exhibits in the Floral Art Section were of an exceptionally high standard. One class depicting "A Walk on the Chase" attracted eight entries and was won by Mrs. Fay Bailes of Brownhills for which she won the trophy for the best Floral Art Exhibit in Show.

Over the two days there were a large number of visitors to another highly successful event.

S. J. Bloore
Show Secretary

Annual Show
26 & 27 September 1992

Trophy Winners

British Legion Cup	most points in Classes 1-18	E. Wall Brownhills
Harold Brookes Cup	most points in Dahlia Classes	H. Amphlett Stonnal
Howard Bradshaw Cup	most points in Pot Plant Classes	J. Grindrod Brownhills
Postings Cup	Most Points in Chrysanthemum Classes	A. Wright Brownhills
Tomlinson Rose Bowl	Best Exhibit in Floral Art Classes 64-68	Mrs. F. Bailes Brownhills
Emery Cup	Best Exhibit in Children's Classes	Katie Fitzmaurice Brownhills
Poxon Cup	Best Exhibit in Rose Classes	W. Driscoll Walsall
Garden News Shield	Winner of Master Gardener Class	E. Wall Brownhills
Brian Chambers Shield	Best Vase in Chrysanthemum Section	J. Bourton Willenhall
N.C.S. Silver Medal	Best Bloom in Chrysanthemum Section	J. Bourton
N.D.S. Silver Medal	Best Exhibit in Dahlia Section	H. Amphlett
N.V.S. Medal	Best Vegetable Exhibit	K. J. Wilson

Top Tray Gold Medal - E. Wall
Silver Medal - E. Wall
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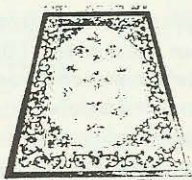
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£353 raised for charity!

Keith Bird of Castle Close, Brownhills, who by day is a butcher at W. J. Robinsons in Chasetown, spends a good deal of his own time raising money for charity by playing his organ and keyboards in local pubs and clubs.

Keith who recently enjoyed his 30th birthday, was unable to speak or hear properly until he was 14, due to Meningitis and feels he owes a lot to hospitals that helped him in his early years.

After playing for the senior citizens in the Chaucer Ward in Heath Lane Hospital, West Bromwich, he decided to raise some money to boost their funds. He raised £353.70 and wants to thank the following for their help - Sankeys, Chase Inn, Ogley Hay Working Mens, Middleton House, Waterside, Rose Villa, Burntwood Community Centre and Young Barbers.

A special thank you goes to friends and relatives who have given their support.



Most successful Wildlife event

Walsall Wildlife Group held its most successful event ever today.

About 90 people turned up for a guided walk over Pelsall North

Common Local Nature Reserve, to see how nature has recolonised which land had up to 400 puddling furnances, 7 mills and forges, 2 blastfurnaces and

associated offices and equipment. Now only the main canal that fronted the works remains.

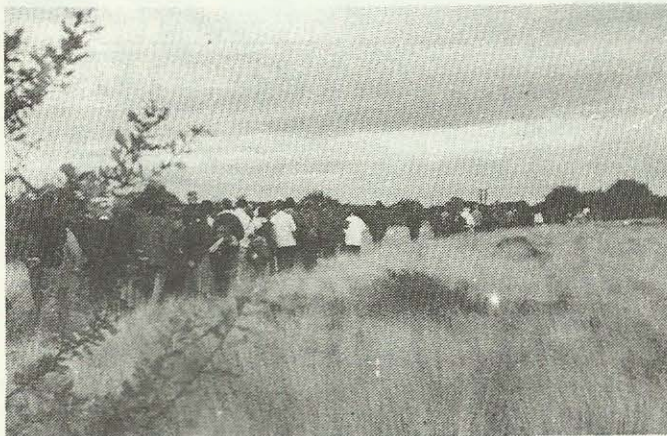
The walk was led by Ann Galbraith from Pelsall History Group who was able to shed light onto the humps and hollows as to their previous use.

The group went away having learned much about this 92 acre

site many intending to come back on their own to revisit the site at other times of the year.

For further information do not hesitate to contact me on work 0922 720824 ex 227 or home 0922 682480.

Peter Orme
Publicity Officer.

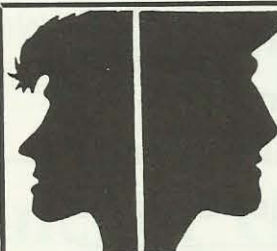


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"Brownhills and Walsall Wood on Old Postcards"

Book published on Friday by Brian Lund at £2.95. It is a selection of postcards with informative captions. The book is based on my postcard collection which has taken over 15 years to collect.

I have long family associations with the area. My maternal grandparents are members of the Collins and Bradbury families. The Collins were well known in Walsall Wood and the Bradbrys were equally well known in Brownhills.

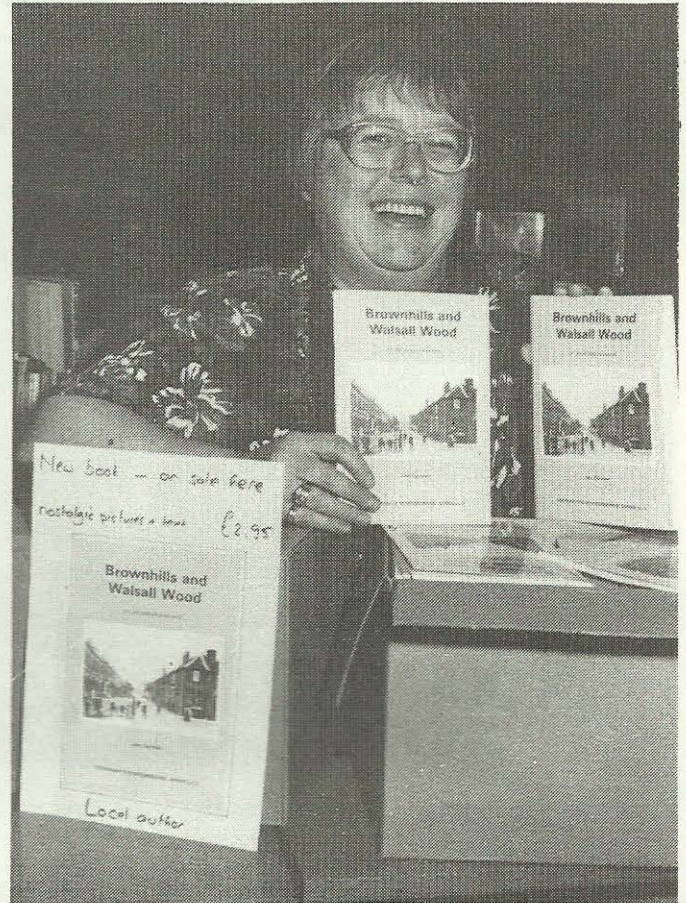
The book went on sale at the

Local History Fair on October 3rd.

It is the first pictorial history of the Brownhills and Walsall Wood area. It features personalities and unusual postcard views which show these "Staffordshire Villages" as they were at the turn of the century.

Some unique industrial scenes including photographs taken below ground at the Walsall Wood Colliery in 1904 are featured in the book.

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Mrs. Jan Farrow with her books

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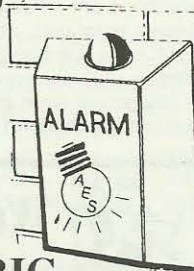
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West Midlands Friends of the Earth - Transport Campaign

'New Motorway won't improve the M6'

Contractors have now admitted the Birmingham Northern Relief Road, the proposed new 6 lane motorway between Colleshill and Cannock, and part of the proposed Birmingham Orbital Motorway (1), will not reduce traffic levels on the M6.

In a letter to Friends of the Earth West Midlands Transport Campaign Midland Expressway Limited stated that: 'It is unlikely that the projected traffic figures on the M6 with or without the BNRR would differ substantially.' (2)

This contradicts their public consultation document released last year in the Midlands which stated that 'The BNRR's main purpose will be to bring much needed relief to the M6 as it runs between Colleshill and Shareshill.' (3)

But it confirms what Friends of the Earth said in their report on the orbital system back in January: "Even if the BNRR took all the through traffic away from the M6 (a highly unlikely outcome), remaining traffic levels would still be high. For example, at the M6/M42 end of the system, the resulting average drop of only 20% would be rapidly eaten up by traffic growth of 4% per annum and by drivers utilis-

ing a slightly less congested route.' (4)

'The contractor's admission is damning evidence of the futility of this scheme.' said Gerald Kells of the Friends of the Earth West Midlands Transport Campaign, 'Attempts to bypass large cities have failed throughout the world because they underestimate the complexity of traffic problems in conurbations. The Birmingham Orbital, like the M25 beforehand, will distract planners from the real issues and leave commuters in the West Midlands worse off than beforehand. It will bring more pollution, more cars, more inner city dereliction but no benefits.' (5)

This is not the first damaging traffic information to come out about the motorway proposals. In July official Department of Transport/AA figures showed that routes into the conurbation from the BNRR would experience little or no reduction in vehicles, and some would actually take more traffic as a result of the motorway. And this was despite the fact that those estimates ignored traffic generated by a number of major developments proposed in the Greenbelt (6).

'There are already new developments being proposed all along the BNRR route.' said Gerald Kells, 'For example the new terminal at Hams Hall will add 20,000 cars to the system, and these were not included in the Department of Transport's calculations. The roads where reductions are still forecast will be just as quickly swamped with new traffic generated by countryside developments along the route.' (7)

West Midlands Friends of the Earth, along with many local groups, will be calling on councils and other bodies in the region to oppose the road when line orders come out in the autumn or spring.

'Frankly, if this new motorway isn't going to reduce traffic on the M6 or on roads into Birmingham it should not be called a Relief Road, and MEL should admit what the purpose of building it really is.' said Gerald Kells, 'It's certainly not an improvement on what we've already got. The only thing that will be bypassed if this proposal goes ahead is the future of the West Midlands.'

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SHIRE OAK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Parental questionnaire highlights School popularity

In June of this year The Shire Oak Community School - Lichfield Road, Walsall Wood - made the brave and innovative decision to send all parents a questionnaire seeking their views on the school and its performance. A professional Market Research Consultant was commissioned to develop the questionnaire and subsequently to analyse the responses from parents.

Of the responses received, a staggering 96% of parents felt that their child was happy at Shire Oak School. Equally impressive, 89% of parents felt that their child was doing well at the school. An even higher proportion, 99%, felt that staff made them welcome when visiting the school. Parents highlighted three areas where they thought the school performed particularly well:-

- the general quality of the teaching;
- offering opportunities to talk to staff;
- ensuring equal opportunities for boys and girls.

Commenting on the survey's findings, the Headteacher, Mrs.

C. M. Bryan, stated, "As the Headteacher I know how hard and effectively the staff and the pupils work. I am also confident that we are well prepared to face the many challenges facing schools at the moment and in the near future. However, it is still gratifying to know how highly the school is rated by the parents of our pupils".

Concerning the reasons for sending out the questionnaire to parents Mrs. Bryan added "In order to ensure that all pupils meet their full potential, I feel that it is essential for a school and its parents to work together in a partnership. The questionnaire is just one example of the many ways in which our parents are involved in the school's development".

The importance of parents playing a part in the school's development is certainly being put to the test at the moment. Parents are currently being balloted on whether to apply to The Secretary of State for Education for the school to be given Grant Maintained Status. The ballot closes on the 16th October and the result should be known on the 19th October.

Shire Oak School opens its doors

As part of its policy of openness, Shire Oak Community School held Open Days on Tuesday 6th and Thursday 8th October. Many present and prospective parents visited the school to see the school in action. Parents were shown around the school and visited classrooms, to speak to teachers and pupils and even to join in with some of the lessons. Many of the parents commented on how very impressed they were with the quality of teaching and learning that they witnessed.

On the afternoon of Wednesday 7th October there were over 200 primary pupils on site from 7 different primary schools; after being entertained by the Shire Oak School Band the pupils were then given a taste of different lessons by the staff of the school.

Wednesday, 7th also saw Open Evening at the school. Prospective parents were

shown around the school by parents of pupils already at the school. Based on what they saw and the honest appraisal of the school by present parents, many prospective parents decided there and then that Shire Oak would be the school for their child in September, 1993.

Mrs. Bryan, Headteacher of the school, commented on how successful the three days had been: "It was wonderful to see so many prospective parents and pupils in the school. It was also most encouraging for my staff and pupils to hear so many complimentary comments being made."

Because of the success of the three days, and a growing interest in the school, there have been enquiries to the school from other prospective parents now wishing to visit the school. Mrs. Bryan stressed that any prospective parent is welcome to visit the school and see it in action.

English Schools Basketball

Throughout the summer the boys in Key Stage 3 have been working hard to develop their basketball skills, so much so that this season the U14 team have entered the English Schools Basketball competition and the West Midlands Area Cup.

The boys played their first game on Thursday, 24th September against Ninestiles School in Acocks Green and came away with a well deserved victory in what is their first real competitive game.

After a nervous start which saw Shire Oak trailing by 4 points, the superior individual skills and all round teamwork of Shire Oak took them into half-time with a six point advantage.

Good rebounding and shooting early in the second half saw Shire Oak take a commanding

lead of 16 points and although Ninestiles fought back in the latter stages of the game with a tight man to man defence, Shire Oak ran out easy winners at 39 points to 18 points.

All the boys should be congratulated on the performance as they have trained very hard over the last few months for this competition.

The Under 14 girls also have some promising performers and we look forward to them competing in some friendly games in the near future.

Anyone who is interested in playing basketball can come to Shire Oak on Saturday mornings and develop their skills from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. in the Sports Hall. Contact Mr. Davidson or Mr. Mansell for details.

Pupil success in National Road Safety Competition

Three pupils in year 9 at the Shire Oak Community School have recently won cycle helmets in a road safety competition run by the Radio Times. To win their prizes they had to design a cycle

helmet for their favourite television character or personality. As part of their technology project they designed for Andi Peters, Garfield and Edd the Duck.

Congratulations!

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SHIRE OAK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Brass Band at Norton Canes

Earlier this year the Shire Oak Brass Band gave a charity concert at Norton Canes High School with all proceeds going to the National Children's Home - the major charity supported by the band.

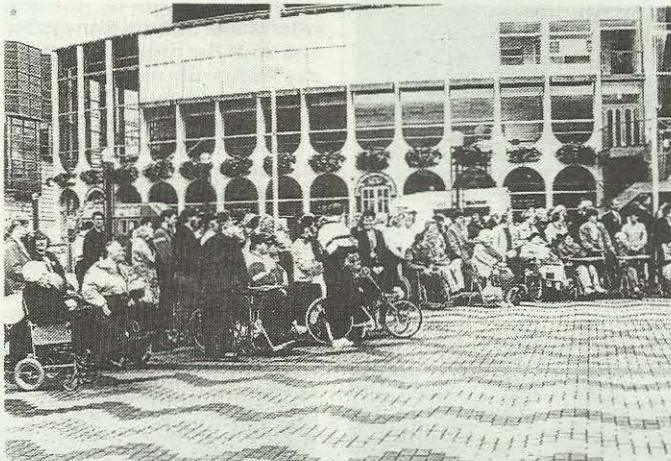
The concert was well attended and raised £162.16 which was forwarded to the school accompanied by a letter from Cllr. Pat McLoughlin who says -

"The concert was immensely enjoyed by all I have spoken to since and we would like to thank all who took part. They are a credit to yourself and your school. With so many reports in the media of youngsters causing trouble, it is reassuring to know that many youngsters are busy doing other more worthwhile things, and unfortunately this does not make the headlines".

Fitting praise indeed for all of the band members who will be carrying on the good work this term with a concert in aid of the Parkinson's Disease Society (Walsall Branch) on Wednesday 11th November. Tickets will be available soon from the school and cost 50p. Please try to come along.



SHIRE OAK BRASS BAND IN CENTENARY SQUARE



A Tribute to Leonard Cheshire

Wednesday 9th September 1992
Centenary Square, Birmingham

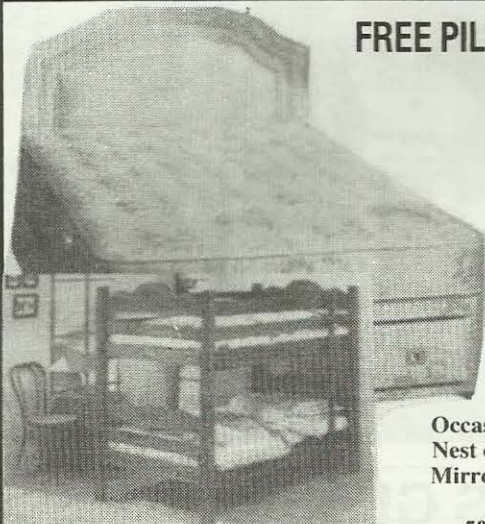
On Wednesday 9th September the Shire Oak Brass Band was very proud to be asked to take part in the "Wheels of Fire" National Wheelchair Rally to salute the late Leonard Cheshire.

The disabled men and women in wheelchairs had been pushing their way from such far flung places as Inverness, Carmarthen, Penzance, Belfast and Maidstone on their way to Le Court near Petersfield - where Leonard Cheshire founded his first home.

On the 9th, these athletes came to Centenary Square to be welcomed by T.V. celebrity Don MacClean, representatives of the church, the Mayor of Birmingham, an olympic athlete and many others from the West Midlands Fire Brigade and British Legion. The athletes were heralded into the Square with a fanfare and marched round to the sound of the band who spent the morning entertaining the visitors and passers by.

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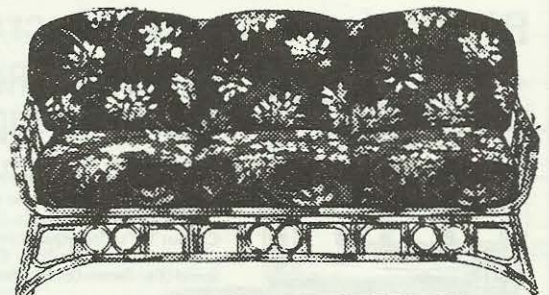
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Christmas in July

One of the perks of this job is that I was invited to a Christmas Party in July, which I thoroughly enjoyed, along with the children and mums and, of course, Father Christmas was there!

I have been asked by Mr. Fran Hodgkinson, Chairman of Brownhills Community Association to thank and congratulate Mrs. Val Morris for the excellent work she does in connection with the Summer Schools for

youngsters. She really must love her work - because the atmosphere is tremendous - I would like to be invited back again next year.

To give us more information I requested that Val should give us a report on what she does during the August holidays, I personally think she is doing a grand job and think that more people should know of the opportunities.



Brownhills Playschemes

The Annual C/A Playschemes started as usual at Brownhills West J.M.I. School, followed by two weeks at Ogle Hay Junior School.

A daily attendance in excess of 40 children at Brownhills West, joining in and helping with all the fun and games on offer. We had a visit from Animal Man, the use of A Tug of War Rope, parachute and inflatable and, of course, the usual craft drawing- painting sessions. For the more energetic there was swimming each day, thanks to Brownhills C/A and all the usual games, outdoor cricket, rounders, football.

Two parties of children were taken to Dovedale by minibus, where most of them managed to end up in the river. On Wednesday August 5th we took a coach party of children and parents to Aerospace Museum at Cosford.

The grand finale of this year's playscheme at Brownhills West was a Christmas Party, a visit from Father Christmas, a fancy dress parade. The three winners were Kayleigh Dance dressed as the Queen of Hearts, Louise Granger as Cinderella, Callum

Hayes as Wee Willie Winkie and a special prize to Martin Barresford dressed as one of the Ugly Sisters. This was followed by jelly, ice cream, cakes, sandwiches and everybody had a present.

We would like to thank all the mums and dads for their help and support and also Mr./Mrs. Fran Hodgkinson for their attendance at our party. So we pack up and move on to Ogle Hay Junior School.

We had a daily attendance in excess of 70 children going on mini bus trips to Cotwall End, Dovedale and Walsall Arboretum. Some also went swimming at Brownhills C/A. The children enjoyed all the same things. The day trip was a coach-mini bus to Matlock. The weather was great.

There was another party of jelly, ice cream, cakes and sandwiches. All had a lucky dip and once again I would like to thank all the mums and dads who came and helped and not forgetting my helpers and those who came voluntary.

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The Brownhills Community Colts Column

The Colts kicked off a new season on Sunday September 6th. The Club now consists of nine teams, two at under 14's, two at under 13's, one under 12's and one at under 11 who all play in the Walsall Junior Youth League. Also there are two teams at under ten, who play in the West Midlands Primary League. Then the new lads at under 9 who are known as Brownhills Juniors and play in a Friendly League on a Sunday morning.

The Results of the 200 Club for the last two months

Date	Winning No	Name	Prize
2.7.92	105	C. Samra	£25
2.7.92	146	G. Williams	£10
9.7.92	119	S. Reeves	£25
9.7.92	190	M. Tonks	£10
16.7.92	334	A. Blackman	£25
16.7.92	180	D. Stanley	£10
23.7.92	81	D. Littlemore	£25
23.7.92	285	N. Reeves	£10
30.7.92	209	E. Wood	£25
30.7.92	98	E. Talbet	£10
6.8.92	116	D. Read	£25
6.8.92	21	J. Fullelove	£10
13.8.92	39	R. Keates	£25
13.8.92	157	G. Barrow	£10
20.8.92	337	C. Holder	£25
20.8.92	31	R. Butler	£10
27.8.92	216	S. Hodges	£25
27.8.92	284	A. Grimsley	£10
3.9.92	22	S. Hodgkins	£25
3.9.92	231	G. Hackett	£10

Brownhills Town F.C.

Brownhills Town, who started the season well with three straight wins, then suffered three defeats against Toll End 1-3, G.E.C. 2-3 and Sikh Hunters 1-3. They then bounced back with a convincing 5-0 win over Hawkins in the Walsall Challenge Cup, and now progress to the last 8.

Town have signed two more local players, Wayne Taylor from Brownhills West and also Martin Edgerton from Norton Canes, both players making their debuts against Sikh Hunters and both giving good accounts of themselves.

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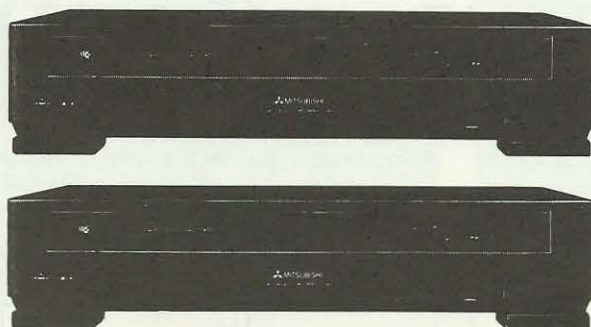
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PMS

TWIN INTELLIGENT PICTURE



- ▶ One Key Programming
- ▶ DJ4 Just Track Heads for improved picture quality in both SP and LP modes
- ▶ Jog/shuttle dial for simple control of tape motion and on-screen programming and menus
- ▶ Twin Intelligent Picture for optimum record and playback quality from all tapes

- ▶ Swift Servo System with quick start time in 0.3 seconds
- ▶ Index and Time search
- ▶ Fitted moulded plug

CLARIDGES RADIO & TV

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