

# the Heathman

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## WE NEED MORE POLICE HELP!

Residents in the Court, Cheddar, Clevedon and Jakeman Roads area of Balsall Heath have been suffering in recent months from even more than the usual degree of harassment by burglars, thieves and vandals. They are rapidly reaching the end of their tether. Jenny Rossiter, the Balsall Heath Association's Neighbourhood Worker has had complaints and pleas for help flooding into her office in the past weeks. As the office has itself been broken into twice in this period she and her fellow workers have every sympathy with all the other sufferers. They have collected a list down there which shows that there have been over FORTY instances of break-ins and thefts in this relatively small patch in the last two months or so.

### ONCE IS MORE THAN ENOUGH

Individual stories are both frightening and infuriating. Having one's outside toilet smashed, fences and windows broken, milk and washing stolen, may count as only routine annoyance in some people's eyes. But there are two householders in Cheddar Road who have been burgled four times each! Others are luckier - only two or three times each. There is one shopkeeper in Edward Rd. who only has a lock-up shop, and 'normally' lives in a flat - but does not dare to leave his shop nowadays to go home. Another shop, in Clevedon Rd., was burgled twice in the same week last month. A couple, also living in Clevedon Rd., were due to move house. They packed their things up ready to go, and went out to visit their new house. When they got back they found all their stuff either smashed or stolen. In Jakeman Rd. another couple had a particularly nasty break-in in which what wasn't stolen was wrecked and made filthy.

### STEALING FROM CHARITY

The Heathman talked to various residents in the area. One shopkeeper, Mr. Raja Fazal Ahmed, who has been burgled several times, was having alarms fitted to his shop when we called. He told us how his door has been kicked in several times. One of the things which most upset him was not so much having his stock stolen and his home vandalised (he and his wife live on the premises), but finding that among the things taken were his collecting boxes for various charities, including the Sisters of Nazareth and famine relief, etc. Mr. Ahmed made up the money for charity out of his own hard-hit pocket. He and his wife have nothing but nice things to say about local adults, but say that they are worried constantly about the kids who hang about late at night shouting, swearing and kicking the doors. "There should be more police patrols", said Mr. Ahmed, "a patrol car skips by for a minute or so, and then it's gone."

### PETITION TO HOME SECRETARY!

No-one suggests that all the break-ins and other thefts are by local kids - but a large number ARE, it is felt. One shopkeeper, near Mr. Ahmed, was lucky enough to catch a kid breaking into his place early one morning - but only because he used to be a top-class sprinter! The Balsall Heath Association workers feel it is time the police did more for local residents. They are considering sending a petition to the Home Secretary saying this.

## RESIDENTS SAVE THEIR HOUSES.

Following our report in our last issue about the efforts of various local residents to save their homes from being pulled down, it is good to be able to tell readers that as a result of their efforts a good many of the houses will be preserved after all. For example, the good houses in Tindal St. which were illustrated on our front cover last time will not be destroyed. Nor will Wye Villas. The houses in George St. will probably be retained as suggested by the residents' planning committee, and the school playing field sited on the other side of the road. Most of those residents who wanted to save their houses have now been successful.

## PLANNING DEPT. BLAMED.

Residents in Court Road have noted a scandalous failure by the City's Planning Dept. to carry out its obligation to board up empty property in a satisfactory way to protect it against vandals. (They are supposed to do this even when houses are privately owned, since to allow them to become a prey for vandals affects the entire neighbourhood.) Number 35, Court Rd. was at one time one of the best-kept houses in the street. When it became empty, people familiar with the fate of empty houses made a point of informing the Planning Dept. and requesting them to do a good job of boarding-up. It was suggested that in addition the Council might exercise its powers to acquire the house by compulsory purchase, so that it could be immediately occupied, and risk of damage minimised. However, despite repeated letters and calls to the planners, nothing happened - except that the previously attractive house was attacked by a vicious species of vandal to the point where even the tiles were ripped from the roof. The residents now wonder what you must do to get some people to do their jobs.

# 14,000-MILE ADVENTURE

Four of our local residents (in St. Paul's Road), all brothers, have recently returned to Balsall Heath after a 7-month holiday that has taken them half way around the world. Our stay-at-home reporter has been to see the brothers, and has heard about the adventures of Zaman, Bashir, Mushtaq and L.A. John (the well-known singer!)

## ZAMAN'S STORY

The story of their journey was told to our reporter by Zaman.

"We have always wanted to travel, to return to the country we had first visited as children, and to meet friends and relatives who were living there. My three brothers and I decided to save hard and plan for a long holiday. We intended to make an overland journey right across Europe and into Asia, our destination being the State of Kashmir-whose borders run through the Himalayan Mountains."

## Moving House

We bought a caravanette and installed every accessory we could need: stove, sink, toilet, bed-bunks, lights and even a fridge. One of my brothers, Bashir, is a motor mechanic. He checked over the caravanette, and made sure we had a good supply of spares and a good tool kit. I do some electrical work at times, and so I made up a navigation board to help us on our way. Planning the route was the easiest part of our preparations - we simply wrote to the A.A. and they supplied all the maps, charts and information we could want. Loaded with clothes, medical supplies, food and equipment, we said goodbye to our family (our mother was very worried about the whole idea) and set off in our newly christened LandTrek in November last year.



al routes which are very fast. It took three days to cross Germany; from there we went into Austria, Yugoslavia and then Bulgaria. We had managed to obtain a visa to enter Bulgaria before leaving England, and this saved a lot of delay. We were able to pass through the country fairly quickly.

## Turkish Delight

We were on our way now, and had the best bits to come! It's like going downhill as you pass through Europe - the farther East you travel, the cheaper things become. What we would have paid for food for one meal in Belgium would almost last us for a week in our next country - Turkey. This is a country really worth seeing. It is a land of high mountains and low valleys. The roads seem to go up into the clouds. It is very hard on motor vehicles, of course, and we saw many broken down. My own hobby is collecting rocks, and there are many marvellous stones and crystals lying by the roadside there. We couldn't go more than a few miles without me wanting to stop and collect specimens to bring home - much to the annoyance of my brothers!



BASHIR



MUSHTAQ



L.A. JOHN



ZAMAN

## Fuel Crisis

After crossing the Channel at Dover we landed at Ostend in Belgium after midnight. This gave us a chance to practice driving on the 'wrong' side of the road when there wasn't much traffic about. We had our first camp somewhere in the Belgian countryside - where we also had our first problem. Our LandTrek runs on diesel fuel, and having some difficulty with the language, we got the tank filled with petrol on our first refuelling stop. It all had to be drained out and we had to start again. Leaving Belgium quickly, we reached Germany within a day. We used the main international

## Don't Shoot!

In Turkey we had another of our 'filling up' problems. Someone put diesel oil into our WATER tank, thinking that it was the fuel tank. Although we washed it out, the smell and the taste stayed with us for the next couple of weeks. It couldn't have been worse, for our next country was Iran - a land of deserts and salt water lakes. We needed every drop of water that our twelve-gallon tank would hold. Here we would camp every evening beside the nearest army post. This was for protection from wandering tribesmen who would kill without question.



## Piling It On

In Italy we had our only major breakdown. The propshaft broke. Our LandTrek is an Austin, and spares for this were difficult to find. Another problem was the money. When you are asked for 36 THOUSAND lira it does sound a lot. In fact it IS a big pile of money, but as there are over a thousand lira to the £1 it isn't as bad as you first think. With our transport back on the road again, we began to wish for our days in Iran back again. Diesel there costs about 8p a gallon. There's so much of it about that people light fires from a couple of gallons drained out of tanks. The filling stations are a sea of sandy diesel mud, because no-one cares how much is spilt.

## We Made It

France was probably the most expensive of the European countries - we could afford to do nothing except pass by quickly, on our way to the car ferry and England once again. We arrived home in June, over seven months and some 14,000 miles after we had set off on our holiday. We had survived Mushtaq's cooking, found our way with my navigation and returned without a bump, thanks to Bashir's and L.A.'s driving. We had the most marvellous time - but it's good to be home!

## You, Too?

If the account of this 'holiday of a lifetime' gives you itchy feet, then please note that our reporter says that Bashir hopes to buy a COACH next time (next year, in fact) and will set off once again. This time he'll be looking for passengers. So - what is there to stop you? The answer may be 'money'. But according to Zaman, it's a lot cheaper than you'd think. The four brothers had their holiday for a total cost that was less than ONE return air fare to Kashmir! Sounds tempting, doesn't it?

### FAIR ENOUGH

It was difficult to know where to be on Saturday June 26th when both Tindal School and Highgate School held their Summer Pairs. Both events were highly successful - congratulations to organisers.

## NEW YOUTH CLUB

The first youth activity has started in St. Paul's Hall. Of course, the Nursery uses the hall morning and afternoon. But now, once a week a group of 12 children use it for their Thursday Evening Club. Three older children, Carol, Danna and Desmond, help the leaders to ensure that everyone has a good time. The upstairs room has been renovated and is used for darts, table-tennis, snooker, chess, etc. The main hall is used for badminton and other indoor games. A weekend holiday and a large trip form part of the programme, which finishes in July. Of course, only well-organised, orderly, youth events can be staged in the hall, to safeguard Nursery equipment and to fit in with the adult activities which are already going on. If the Club is successful, then it should lead to more extensive youth activities and the formation of a second club.

### CO-OPERATION

It is the first time that older children have been able to use the hall. It is also the first time that project staff and social workers have co-operated on a joint scheme. Rob and Dick, from Playground and School, have joined with two social workers, Bernard and Jenny, to get things going. It is hoped that this will lead the way to more social workers becoming involved in evening, community-based work. Indeed, Rob and Dick have agreed to help train social workers in some of the necessary skills. It should help them in their job, as well as giving the kids a good time, because of a high adult-child ratio.

Leaving Iran, (Gladly, I should think! Editor) we crossed into Pakistan, and five weeks after saying goodbye to Balseall Heath, we entered Kashmir. The outward trip was one of 6,500 miles, and our LandTrek had, with the exception of a number of punctures, performed faultlessly. During the 4 months we were in Kashmir we explored much of the country, climbed mountains and in general had a most wonderful time. I can't begin to tell you all that we did, but one adventure may be of interest.

There is a story in Kashmir that many hundreds of years ago a great city was swallowed up in an earthquake. We visited the site of this city and having a hand-made metal-detector with us, we set out to look for treasure. We found no gold or silver I'm afraid, but we did find a marvellous carved stone. This looked as if it had been used as an official seal of some kind. It is a flat stone about the size of a postcard. There is a handle set on the back and some carefully carved figures on the face. When we returned home to Balseall Heath we made a mould of the carving, and hope to be able to take it along to the Museum to see if we can get it properly identified.

## Have A Heart

But all good things come to an end, and in April we had to leave Kashmir for the return journey. This time we thought we would take a new route, and visit some of the countries we had not seen on the outward journey. Our return was to prove not quite as straightforward as we had hoped. On the Afghanistan border we were searched for drugs. This is not simply looking in your suitcases, but something far more serious. Customs officials and border guards almost wrecked our caravanette; they took its tyres off, drilled holes in the roof, and even stood with their hands on our hearts to feel if they were beating faster during the search.

## Strictly for the Birds

The Turkish border posed another problem. The official there demanded a passport from the PARROT we were bringing back from Kashmir. At first we thought he was joking....He was serious though, and it took some time to get our pet through safely. Greece was a strange place, too. Everything seemed to move as if it was in a dream. In fact we kept finding ourselves falling asleep at any time during the day. If you want to have a rest, Greece certainly seems to be the place to go. We then drove hundreds of miles along the west coast of Yugoslavia. We camped most of the time by the sea, and the people were most friendly, despite not being able to understand what we were saying, or what we wanted to buy. But sign language will get through to most people - even if you finish up being given a chicken when you really wanted eggs!

from  
the

# COMMUNITY SCHOOL

## WHAT'S ON.

If you're stuck for a bit of entertainment or want to develop a hobby, there is something on every night in St. Paul's Rd. Lots of adults use these facilities, but there are still plenty of places. So here's what's on:

### MONDAY.

Women's social night. (Husbands and boy friends are allowed, too!) This is in the Nursery hall at the top of St. Paul's Rd. There's badminton, darts, cards, chat and refreshments. Not to mention table-tennis.

### TUESDAY.

Bingo Night, of course. Eyes down at 7.30 p.m., also in the Nursery. The Playground has also started a Junior drama club, and the Community School a session for older kids earlier in the evening.

### WEDNESDAY.

Keep Fit classes continue in the Nursery, while at the Community School in 112, St. Paul's Rd. there are cooking, sewing, art, craft and woodwork sessions. Only a few children are allowed to go to these - mostly with their parents. But a growing number of older kids, who have left school are taking the opportunity of working for their O - levels in one of the rooms.

### THURSDAY.

The 'Thursday Evening Group' is now well-established in the Nursery. It contains a group of 12 younger children plus three older ones. The older ones help Rob, Dick and two social workers to run the Club. (See fuller report elsewhere in this issue.)

### FRIDAY.

This evening is still blank. But we are starting family socials soon. We can't decide between Friday and Saturday evenings - any ideas?

### SATURDAY

The Junior Gym Club is now going on Saturday mornings in the Nursery, and the kids benefitting from the horse, buck, trampoline and other gym equipment we've got from a variety of sources. We have also started a market stall in the fore-court of St. Barnabas' Church on Ladypool Rd. on Saturday mornings. Things the children have made, nearly-new clothes, toys, etc. are sold. Its going very well.

### SUNDAY

At the moment Sunday is blank, and there are still rooms and facilities available at the Nursery, Playground or School for any evening or weekend activity you would like to see going. For example, Goody, Paul, Clifton and some of their friends want to book a room to practice and learn karate. Some adults want to start a bulk-buying service. So - just keep watching for new events, etc., and of course do come to any of those already happening.

## Report

Everyone is working very hard. Vino and Carol have just finished their C.S.E. exams; David has left and started work. The teachers are looking forward to their holidays after the annual trips to Norfolk. But the children say the holidays are too long. They get bored and forget quite a lot of what they have learned. How about four terms a year, and more but shorter school holidays? I'm sure that parents would be keen to give the idea a try.

## Introducing Frank Triggs

Frank Triggs has just started working with us. He is a toy and educational aids designer and builder. He's an artist, but a very practical, useful one. You name it, he can build it. He is going to spend part of his time with the School children. They will work with him in the same way that apprentices do, picking up skills from the craftsman and building useful things in the process. Some of Frank's time will be spent at the Nursery and the Playground - its obvious how useful he will be to these two projects. But he is also generally available. The School, Nursery and Playground are not going to hog all his time. He's there to help anyone who could use or learn from his skills, whether its children, adults or even other local schools. I hear that Clifton Rd. School have their eye on him so don't delay too long if there's something you'd like him to do. Frank has drawn us a cartoon about his work - from which you can also see what he looks like, as well as a few of the kinds of things he does.

## SECRETARY NEEDED

There is now so much happening - in the School and the Nursery in the daytime, and with the Playground and lots of adult and community activities in the evening, that the full-time community workers are rushed off their feet. They need lots of help. In particular, they need a part-time Secretary. We haven't any cash left over to pay, so whoever felt like helping out would have to do it for love, not money! ANY OFFERS?

By Dick Atkinson.

## Song of a Shop Assistant

She stays behind that dirty old counter, nearly every day,

But the only day she likes to stay  
is Friday,  
And that's when she gets her pay.

She only has weekends to spend her pay,  
When she goes to bed at night she will often pray,  
That she doesn't have to go behind  
That dirty old counter again.

Behind that dirty old counter, it almost drives her insane,

She thinks again and again,  
What would happen if she did go insane,  
She would only have that dirty old counter to blame.

By Rena Jan.



## GRAIN OF WHEAT

The wind was blowing when a big machine came past and cut my head off. Then I was put in a sack and driven to some place they called a mill. We were weighed by this thing and pulled up by a chain, then stored in a big hole until we got crushed by large stones. Then we were poured down a chute into some barrels. We were made into soft powder and mixed with water and salt. They put us into an oven to get brown, and when we were cooked and cooled off we were sent to the shops, houses, detention centres and prisons, and factories. Well, I was sent to a detention centre, and by the time I was to be eaten I had gone all green and mouldy, so they threw me out into the dustbin, and sent me to the farm, and then I was eaten by a pig.

By Desmond Gray.

## LIVE BREAD

One day a man went into the shop and he picked a loaf of bread. He was just about to cut into it when a voice said, "Do not cut me please." "Who was that?" said the man. "I'm bread." "I don't believe you," said the man, and cut the bread. The bread died and the man died too.

By Andrew Teece.

## SAD AND LONELY

Here I sit, day after day,  
Nowhere to go and spend my pay.  
All I do is sit and sew,  
No-one to talk to,  
Nowhere to go.

I've got no family,  
I've got no friends,  
All I've got is me  
And I'm stuck in a wheelchair,  
Up in the air  
With no-one to cook my tea.

I've got a home help,  
It's good to see,  
And have a little chat  
Over a cup of tea.  
Though she never stays long  
She always chats to me.

My son's in Australia,  
My daughter's in Greece,  
I don't really know  
What happened to my niece.  
My son writes every month  
And my daughter every week.

By Susan Morbey.

A new magazine from the Community School, with pupils' stories, art, photos, songs, etc.

## Working Our Way

Out NOW, price 15p, from 120, St. Paul's Rd., the School office.  
GET YOUR COPY NOW-FIRST ISSUE.

## I AM A MILK BOTTLE

One day I will become a milk bottle and lots of things will happen to me. First, I would have to be made out of glass. When I have been made I will go to a big place where they will sterilise me and put me on a big machine with lots of other milk bottles. Going round and round I get dizzy - then at last something white is put into my head. I feel so hot that I think I am going to burst open. I am being pushed along a long line of milk bottles. Suddenly I am put in a crate on a thing called a milk float. I was left on a doorstep on my own. I wasn't there for long, because a lady came out and picked me up and took me into a big place. I began to be worried - I thought I was being put in another machine. But I was wrong. My milk was put in a milk jug. As soon as I was empty I was put back on the step. I stayed there for a long time. Then a little boy came. I thought he was going to put me somewhere warm, but he started to kick me along the road. I really thought I was going to be broken up and would die. But he left me lying there. It started to rain, and I began to slide along the pavement until I got stuck in a drain. I stayed there a long time. Then I felt myself falling. I twisted round, fell with a crash, broke into pieces. I knew I had to die sooner or later.

By Pamela Bassett.

So just what is a community artist then Frank?

Yes but what for example?

SOMEONE WHO ROLLS UP HIS SLEEVES TO HELP YOU BUILD YOUR DREAMS. MAKE FOR YOURSELF OR OTHERS WHAT'S REALLY NEEDED

I'D REALLY LIKE TO BE ABLE TO MEND THAT OLD CHAIR

THINGS ARE NOT SO DIFFICULT TO FIX WHEN SOMEONE SHOWS YOU HOW

COULD HE GIVE ME ADVICE & HELP ON MY PAINTINGS & SCULPTURES

AND COSTUMES

AND CARNIVAL FLOTS

AND SUNDRIES FOR PLAYS

Yes

HELP US MAKE SOMETHING FOR OUR DISABLED COUSIN

HOW TO PRINT POSTERS AND T-SHIRTS

KEEP OUT THE DRAUGHTS AND KEEP IN THE HEAT

CONVERT THE ATTK INTO A GREEN HOUSE

Yes

PAINT A MURAL

YES

THIS PARTICULAR COMMUNITY ARTIST HAS BEEN A GARDENER, A PAPER, A SURVEYOR, A POINTER & SIGNALS WIRE MAN, AN ADVENTURE GROUND LEADER, AN ART COLLEGE LECTURER, BUILT HOUSES, TOYS, FURNITURE, PLAYGROUNDS & SPECIAL EFFECTS FOR POP GROUPS. IF YOU THINK I MIGHT BE OF SOME HELP TO YOU IN SOME WAY GET IN TOUCH VIA THE SCHOOL - 120, ST PAULS ROAD ST PAULS CENTER. WE HOPE AT THE SCHOOL TO UNDERTAKE WORK FOR THOSE UNABLE TO DO IT THEMSELVES SO IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS IN THAT DIRECTION LET US KNOW. AT THE MOMENT WE HAVE FACILITIES FOR WOODWORKING & SILK SCREEN PRINTING. ALSO THIS JACK OF SOME TRADES DOESN'T KNOW IT ALL, THOSE OF YOU WITH A PARTICULAR SKILL OR CRAFT THAT YOU WANT TO PASS ON MIGHT CONSIDER SHARING IT THROUGH OUR COMMUNITY WORKSHOP.

St.  
Paul's

## SUMMER IDEAS!

With summer here, we've been thinking of ideas for Mums with under-fives: places to go, and things to do at home, that will give the kids a bit of a holiday-at-home feeling.

### AT HOME - WITH WATER.

If your family is housebound this summer, and you have young children, why not make good use of any garden space you have? (And save mess indoors!) Have you considered all the things you can do with water? All you need is the baby bath, or an old sink - and everyone knows how kids love playing in water. The secret is to plan well yourself, and provide all the necessary equipment and things should go smoothly. One day, try 'washing clothes'. Provide them with a washing line and pegs, and plenty of soap, and you'll get all your dusters washed. (You can rinse them out yourself later!) Another day, try washing dolls, or blowing bubbles, or playing with boats and other floating objects. They can do a lot with a selection of jugs, washing-up liquid bottles, and bits of tubing or drinking straws. You could even get the children to scrub clean their own toys. By the way - you can still get the Reckitts Blue to turn the water blue and pretty. One note of WARNING. Stand the tub on something so that the kids can't fall in, don't have the water too deep, and keep them under supervision.

#### SAND, TOO!

Sand, too, is another all-time favourite, because it can be used in so many ways. For example, if it's dry you can pour it, and it feels silky to you - but then, of course, you can't make mud pies with it. So, sometimes have it wet and sometimes dry. Provide plastic shovels and margarine cartons one day, cars and lorries the next, and toy soldiers another day. It will provide hours of fun. You can buy sand from St. Paul's Nursery if you want to take up this idea. It is a good idea to cover up the sand-pit when it's not being used, to keep cats and dogs out.

#### SOWING THE SEEDS.

What about gardening? If you've got a spare patch of ground, and can provide a strong trowel or a child-sized spade, mud pies and worm-hunts give them plenty of amusement. If you're really keen, you can provide mustard and cress seeds, or radishes, beans, peas, and carrot tops. All these grow quickly - this is important because young children are too impatient to wait weeks for things to grow. Or if you've no spare garden, a box of soil will do, or even a large plant pot. (Don't forget to mark the place where the seeds are!)

### NOW YOU SEE IT -

Try making 'water pictures' if you've got tarmac or paving stones. With a 2" household paint brush and a bucket of water they can paint patterns or pictures on the tarmac and watch them drying in the sun.

### USING THE JUNK.

How about a Handy Junk Box? Instead of spending money on expensive kinds of ice-cream or cheap

(and breakable) plastic toys, collect together items for making things. A cardboard box is made attractive and strong by covering it with patches of wallpaper stuck on with wallpaper paste. In it, put: children's scissors (with round ends, at Midland Educational, 10p); Bostik, or 'School Glue' wallpaper paste; brushes for paint and paste; Sellotape; paper clips, etc. Add to this any old wallpaper books or rolls of cheap wallpaper; all your old margarine cartons, egg boxes, polystyrene tiles, scraps of material and silver paper. If your imagination fails you, and you can't think what to do to help your child use all this junk, then you really ought to visit our nursery, or your local playgroup, and just sit and watch the pleasure and learning the children get from cutting, sticking, painting, etc. Here are a few ideas to be going on with, though: (1) With a pen-knife, poke scraps of material into a polystyrene tile till it is covered with different colours and shapes; (2) Sellotape a large sheet of wallpaper to the wall of your house, and stick bits of coloured paper and material on to this; (3) Stick boxes and cartons together with strong glue to make models; (4) Don't forget you could play 'shop' with old food containers - just tape the lids down to make them look new again. (5) Tents are always a big hit - you can rig one up with an old blanket.

### OUT OF THE WAY...

Back to the water again! Did you know that Sparkhill Baths have a special shallow pool for the youngsters? It's well worth a visit this summer, and costs 20p for adults, 12p for kids. It's used a lot by schools in term time, but is free on Wednesday lunchtimes, or from 4 p.m. on.

#### CANALS

You've probably read a lot in the papers about the revival of the canals. It's up to you to decide whether your children can be trusted alongside deep locks and on narrow tow paths, but if the thought doesn't frighten you to death, here are some places to visit: (1) Gas St. Basin - off Broad St. There are always a few gaily decorated narrow boats to see, and there's a pleasant walk. (2) The British Waterways Board - off Broad St. near the Long Boat pub. This has all the information you need about canal walks, and a canal craft shop - it's on the canals so you can walk from there. If you have a car, Tardebigge, near Bromsgrove has a boat-building and repair yard, and a really long tunnel, and Lapworth is very picturesque and has a craft shop. You should try it! It's surprisingly peaceful, and astonishing to see modern Birmingham from the old waterways.

### FURTHER STILL, PERHAPS.

Finally-British Rail do have special cheap day returns to anywhere in Britain. One or two kids can accompany one adult for 25p (the adult pays ordinary day return. Kids under 3 go free.) No room for further suggestions now, but let's look out for more of the successful family trips the Playground and Community School run in summer!

By Gill Southwell and Avion Taylor.

news from  
Malvern St.

# PLAYGROUND

## NEW LOOK!

Once again the playground has had its Spring Clean, with the outside and the inside of the hut re-painted, and the structures in the outdoor space built up. There has also been a 'spring clean' in a different sense, with two new playleaders, Myra and Sheila, who have tons of ideas to put into action and to build up the activities on the playground.

## GETTING BUSY

The small room at the back of the hut has been changed, with plenty of working surfaces built in it. Since the playground re-opened, this room has been used every night for craft activities. On Wednesdays Sheila will be organising costume-making, starting off with masks; on Thursdays Myra will open the craft room for plaster of Paris modelling, etc.; and on Friday night Sheila will be in charge of model-building and puppet-making. On Saturday mornings we intend to start cooking, and at some future date Myra plans to start a junior Gym Club in St. Paul's Nursery Hall. Sheila is also going to the Hall to start Drama on Wednesday nights.

## MORE TO COME

We have lots more ideas - such as collage-making, sewing, soft toy-making, and dyeing. But these, and other things will only be possible if we have YOUR help. If there are any parents, or older brothers and sisters, who want to help with the activities we've talked about, and would be willing to come in and use the craft room on a particular evening and teach the kids some new skills - we need you! There's a big welcome waiting for you at the playground. The new activities will only be successful if more help is given to the playground.

## HOLIDAY EVENTS

Now for the summer holidays! We have arranged two Youth Hostel Association holidays for some of the older kids, and booked the cottage in Wales for a one-week holiday like last year's. There are also over-night camps arranged, and day-trips. We also plan to have PLENTY going on in the playground itself, as we did in the Whitsun holidays - with kite-making, fancy-dress parades, and a Red Indian Hunt (as described by Jimmy Greene on this page!) Again - we need volunteers to make this a really good summer. If there is anyone who would like to work with the kids over the summer, would they please contact Sheila at the playground.

## WE CAN DO WITH IT

One last word. If you are just about to throw out milk bottle tops, yoghurt or other cartons, cereal boxes, etc., etc. STOP! We can use them and also any odd bits of material, wool, and so on. Send them round to the playground with the kids, please - or pop round yourself and see all that's happening. You might want to join in! Hoping very much to see you!

Sheila, Myra and Rob.



Chief Jimmy is 3rd from the right in the hat parade!

### ENOUGH INDIANS?

I was made chief of Indians, because I won a competition. We had to make lots of hats and all other things. Then Myra told us about the Indian Hunt, and we had to get ten things. That is how I won it and came Chief of the Indians and I danced round the fire.

By Chief of Indians, Jimmy Greene.

### OLYMPICS

On Wednesday evening we had the Olympics at the Adventure, and the boys were winning in the first game. Then the girls were winning over the boys, 8 to 2. In the last game we had to have three buckets, and one was full with water, and the two empty buckets had to be full of water. Then we had to get two cups full, and the girls won the boys.

By Jacqueline Hall.

### POP ROUND

If you'd like to see me,  
Meet me anywhere,  
Just pop into the Adventure, where,  
You can meet anyone.  
Just come along, come along,  
Oh please come along.  
You'll have great fun with me around,  
So just pop round and meet me please.

By Janet Hall, aged 10.

Helpers wait for the rush of customers to the Playground Jumble Sale, organised by Mrs. June Stone. It raised more than £30 for the playground. Nice one June.



# CLIFTON SCHOOL.

It has been proved over and over again that children whose parents take an interest in their schooling do better than those whose parents do not bother. It is vitally important for parents to support their children, to help with their education and to get on well with the school. YOU know most about your children, so please help the children and their teachers by supporting the schools. Come into school and visit the classrooms to see your children's work.

## COME AND SEE US

Every now and then something crops up in school that you do not understand. It could be that you want advice about ways you can help your child with school work. Or maybe you receive a form or a letter from school that is difficult to understand. Or perhaps you need help in social matters. If so, please do not hesitate about coming into school.

## THANK YOU

We would like to express our appreciation and many thanks to all those parents who came to visit the schools on Parents' Evening last month. Mrs. Nicholas and Mr. Abbey would be pleased to make a special appointment for those parents who for one reason or another could not make it on that evening, to see the teacher of their child. Parents are cordially invited to use the Clifton Advice Centre in the Infants' School lobby on the following days: MONDAYS, 9 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. TUESDAYS, 9 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., and 3 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.; WEDNESDAYS, 9 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.

By M.U.Dard, (Home/School Liaison Teacher.)

## DAY OUT

On July 13th all the Infants School are going to spend the day at Manor Farm Park, Northfield. All parents are welcome to come and join us!

## Conservation

After an earnest request to home, over fourteen parents turned up one Tuesday morning to begin a Clifton 'Save It' campaign. The objects we were rescuing were their children's reading books. Although these were looking very tatty, with broken spines (the books, that is, not the parents), we knew that with some care, strong glue, and willing hands, a great deal of money could be saved by not having to buy replacements. And this was what was achieved. Thanks to the help of these parents and those who came again in other weeks, we have over 100 re-usable books for years ahead.

By M.J.Tunnicliffe.

## Chess

Clifton Chess Club has just completed an enjoyable and interesting season. During the last few months many children in the Lower School have begun to play the game. We hope to expand the club to over 100 members in September. The younger children have played for our second and third teams, winning over half their matches. ALL the first team gained places in a very strong Birmingham team which came SECOND in the National Association Championship. The first team also got to the final of the Birmingham League, but were beaten by Sacred Heart - and they lost to the same team in the English Primary Schools West Zone Final. This last was a particularly exciting match, with Tony Reid just failing to win the extra ½ we needed after a SEVEN HOUR game. But Gurder Singh beat the West Midland Champion!

## TOP CLASS

Our top five players have been to tournaments in Birmingham, Bedworth and Wolverhampton and always been well-placed - usually in the first ten. Gurder was third in the West Midland Championship and Naim Salam was fourth in the Staffordshire Championship.

## FUTURE PROMISE

Next year's likely team has played well in practice matches, led by Satpal Singh and Raju Odadra who are already experienced players. The Club would like to thank everyone who has helped them this year with instruction and transport, especially Mr. Emery, Mr. Abbey and Mr. Salam. We would also like to extend an invitation to anyone in Balsall Heath who would like to play (or learn) chess with us on club nights - TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, starting in September, to come along.

By Keith Tatton.

## CAPITAL TRIP

On 28th May a group of 65 children and 8 staff set out from Clifton for our one-day visit to London. We travelled by train from New St. to Euston, and arrived in London in time to catch a tube train to Green Park where we ate our packed lunches. After a quick view of Buckingham Palace we made our way to Hyde Park, and walked on along the side of the River Serpentine to the Albert Memorial, where we rested before going on to the Science Museum. Westminster was next on our itinerary, and after looking at the Houses of Parliament and the Abbey, we made our way to Regent's Park for tea. Unfortunately, we were greeted by a rainstorm, so only one group actually ate in the Park! Downing St. and Horse Guards Parade were our next ports of call, while walking up to Trafalgar Square. Here, in a truly traditional manner we duly fed the pigeons, and then made our way back to the tube and Euston. After a very tiring but enjoyable day we arrived back in Birmingham safely at 9 p.m.

By Miss N. Paddock.

## Athletics

The entry of Clifton Athletic team to the Area Sports provided the children with an enjoyable and quite successful afternoon of athletic activity. Children in first or second place in their finals, who gained a place in the District Finals were: Christopher Lawrence and Anthony Amoo (Boys Cricket Ball), Sharon Patterson (Girls Long Jump), Yvette Greaves (Girls Skipping), Jimmy Ellis (Boys Sack Race), Pauline Elton (Girls Sack Race).

By William Emery.

## ENGLISH CLASSES FOR ASIAN LADIES

The English Class for Asian Ladies continues every Tuesday and Thursday from 4-5 p.m. About 10 ladies attend regularly and enjoy these classes which provide an opportunity to practice spoken English, and also to learn to read and write it. Ladies who come can also meet and make new friends and take part in the more social occasions. Last term we held a 'cook-in' in the school staff room, when Miss Eden's sister, a qualified cookery demonstrator, came to show the class how to make a very English tea dish - a Victoria sponge. Then Mrs. Nisay, who was quickly joined by everyone else present, made some delicious parathas. Recipes were exchanged and all samples eaten. This term we are hoping to arrange an outing for the ladies, their friends and children to the Botanical Gardens at Edgbaston with a picnic tea. We would greatly welcome any ladies who would like to join us. There are two classes running together, one for ladies with very little knowledge of English and one for ladies whose English



is more advanced. As well as the obvious benefits to the ladies themselves in attending these classes, we feel that the children in their families also gain, as the result of increased use of English in the home.

By Miss S. Eden and Mrs. J. Brookes.



The experiment in Community Education, supported by the Van Leer Foundation, continues to gather momentum. Two recent appointments are expected to enhance present activities and extend the school into new areas. First, Mrs. Elizabeth Hughes has been appointed by the Social Services Dept. to be attached to the school as Adviser in Child-Minding. It is our wish to give support and help to everyone in the neighbourhood engaged in minding children during the day. This work is responsible and difficult, and it can be lonely and unrewarding. It may be that as a school with a playgroup, a Nursery and an Infant Department, we could have some facilities and expertise that we could share, to the benefit of Child Minders and some of their very young charges. In any case, there is the companionship of meeting other Child Minders. Mrs. Thomas, who can be contacted at the school, will be happy to help, advise and support, as will the rest of the staff.

The second appointment is that of Miss Sarah Eden, who has joined us this term. She comes to work with Rod Parry as Home/School Liaison Teacher. Having formerly taught at Clifton Junior School, and knowing Balsall Heath and some of our children and parents, Miss Eden will be bringing talents and skills that we shall appreciate.

By Alex Hughes.

## NURSERY TO FARM FOR A WEEK

On April 5th an expedition of 15 children and 4 staff set off from Tindal Nursery in a mini-bus and 2 cars, bound for Dodford Children's Holiday Farm. With more luggage than would fit into the vehicles, with fishing nets and boats, the children and staff prepared for a week's enjoyment in the country. What would the weather be like so early in the year, we asked ourselves. It was glorious, with only one morning of rain. We sailed boats and fished in a muddy stream, and several children and one member of staff got stuck in the mud. We visited a local nursery, a church and a motorway bridge. During our walks we were chased by a horse, but saved by Gill Atkinson, talked to a cow, and Jean got stuck on a stile. The meals were marvellous and the children ate like horses - we even had two picnics. The children all settled in well, thanks to the kindness and hard work of the warden, Mrs. Hughes, and her helpers. There was no homesickness among the children - and the staff were visited by husbands, boyfriends, etc., and this prevented any homesickness among the staff! Everyone came back healthy and happy after a week of fresh air and good food.

By Mary Miles.

## SOCIALS

Regular Community Socials at Tindal School are fast becoming a focus for families, school staff and workers in Balsall Heath to come together informally to enjoy themselves in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. During the past year we have held six such socials - the earlier ones in collaboration with local residents' groups, the latter ones organised by a committee of staff, parents and residents. Holding the evenings on a regular basis, and the streamlining by the staff of the organisation involved has helped to make life a little easier.

### FOR EVERYONE!

All our evenings have the same aim - to provide a variety of fun and entertainment to involve whole families. We cannot hope to please everyone all the time, but by providing children's games and dances, old-time and modern dancing, community singing, talent spots, barn dances and disco, we try to strike a balance which will appeal to many. How far do we succeed? Well - if you haven't been to one yet, why not come along to the next one?

### Action against Vandals

The police in our area have recognised the problem of vandalism and are taking special action to deal with the matter. The Sergeant at Edward Road Police Station, has told our paper what they have done so far. He says, "It is a well-known fact that acts of vandalism and damage are on the increase - in 1975 a Home Office body was set up to look at the problem. It was found that of various people asked to supply information, and this included the police of certain areas, none could supply accurate figures of the number of incidents of damage, or give the value of the property damaged. As a result, police throughout the country have been asked to take a closer look at vandalism and try to find ways of fighting it."

### INCREASED FORCE

In this area, an Inspector and a Sergeant working from Edward Rd. Police Station were asked to find out the extent of damage - when they looked at previous reports of damage, it was found that a large number of public bodies such as schools, and those responsible for telephones, street lights, housing, etc., did not tell the police about damage. Their reasons seem to come under two main headings; either they did not want to bother the police, whom they thought were already overworked, or they did not think that anything could be done, if the matter was reported, to find out who the offenders were. These attitudes may also apply to ordinary individuals who suffer damage to their property, and because of this, the officers concerned at Edward Rd. are most concerned to contact as many people as possible and encourage them to REPORT acts of vandalism to the police, so that a more complete picture can be built up and as a result the resources available can be used better to try to reduce the problem. Once the areas of high damage are known, it is hoped to increase the numbers of police officers, both in and out of uniform, in the areas where vandalism is most prevalent."

### KEEPING AT IT

It is good to know that the police acknowledge the seriousness of the problem in the area - the Heath and its correspondents have frequently pointed to the demoralising effect that vandalism has on all local residents. As the police have now set up a special unit in the area to deal with this type of offence, let's hope everyone will help, both by reporting acts of damage and by noticing who is carrying them out!

# Letters

## G.P.O. PLEASE Note

Dear Editor,  
I have just read your newspaper, the *Heathan*, and found it very interesting. I wonder if you could help us with our problem? We badly need a couple of public telephone boxes at our end of the Ladypool Rd. and Ombersley Rd. One is not much good. There is one on its own at the end of St. Paul's Rd, but there always seems to be a small queue waiting, or it is out of order. The next ones are in Brunswick Rd, where there are two, which is better, but it's a long walk for us in Ombersley Rd if you need a phone in a hurry. I know a lady who had a stroke and was found lying on the floor of her kitchen. We had to go even further that time to find a telephone that was usable. On Saturday I met a young mother dashing along Ladypool Rd. to phone the doctor for her baby who was ill. This sort of thing must be going on all the time, so I do think we need a telephone nearer to us.

Yours sincerely,  
Mrs. J. Whittingham.

(Lots of local residents have complained to us about the phone box situation. We do have hopes that the G.P.O. will listen sympathetically to pleas for more public boxes. But the problem is, of course, made worse by attacks by vandals on the boxes which do exist. We hope also therefore that residents will help to protect the boxes by reporting vandals to the police, and stopping them whenever possible. *Editor.*)

## Good Time

Dear Editor,  
May I use your columns to thank the organisers of the St. Paul's Hall Bazaar for inviting me to it? I had a lovely time meeting all the children, and they were all very good. Please invite me again soon.

Yours sincerely,  
'Bo Bo the Clown'.

## Accolade!

Dear *Heathan*,  
We hear a whole lot about community actions and friendly actions. The one action which appears to me should be mentioned - if not acted upon - is connected with a lady who stands and directs traffic under Clifton Rd. railway bridge. Come rain, come shine snow or hail she smilingly calls on or halts the motorists. For this very kind and helpful action she should receive the Community Spirit Accolade for this district!

Yours, etc.  
Vera James, Brunswick Rd.



PAUL  
BY  
JANE  
CORDINER.

## Emotional Oasis

Dear Editor,  
I want to make a point about psychiatric hospitals in Birmingham - having had treatment myself, I find it lacking in many respects. For example, to me the hospital creates an emotional oasis, where people are removed from certain problems, but when discharged they have to go back and face the same thing, which to me is wrong.

Yours sincerely,  
E.J. Milner.

## Can You HELP?

Dear Editor,  
Is there anyone in your area who would be willing to act as a Tribunal Representative? The Birmingham Tribunal Representation Unit are looking for volunteers to represent people at Supplementary Benefit Appeal Tribunals, because we have found that many people are coming to us looking for representation which we are unable to provide because we do not have enough people. Tribunals and appeals are usually more successful if the appellant is represented. We need volunteers for: National Insurance local Tribunals; Rent Tribunals; Rent Assessment Committee; Industrial Tribunals; Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunals; Medical Appeal Tribunals; Immigration Tribunals. It does not matter if you have never represented anyone before, because a full programme of training will be provided for all volunteers. If you are interested, please get in touch with Alan Robinson, c/o, Citizen's Advice Bureau, Dr. Johnson House, Colmore Circus Subway, Birmingham B4 6AJ. Telephone, 021-236-2352.

Yours sincerely,  
Alan Robinson, Secretary,  
Birmingham Tribunal Representation Unit.

## Protest Over Grants

The Balsall Heath Association has sent a letter to the Secretary of State for the Environment protesting that the rateable value below which it is possible to get improvement grants is fixed TOO LOW at £175. This limit means that one-third of the owner-occupiers in Balsall Heath who would otherwise qualify for grants will not be eligible for them. Many will consequently be unable to afford to improve the quality of their houses.

## Better News For Others

There is good news, on the other hand, for those with low incomes, or receiving supplementary benefits, and pensioners. These people can usually get a 90% grant for improving their houses - and in addition, pensioners can get the other 10% as a loan from the Council. The Dept. of Health and Social Security will usually pay the interest on such a loan.

## Don't Be Had!

Finally, if you are buying a house in the area, or improving one, or raising a loan for anything else to do with housing DO CONTACT the Urban Renewal Team at Malcolm House, Moseley Rd., or the Lane Neighbourhood Centre, Ladypool Rd., or the B.H.A. Advice Centre in Court Rd. for help. Too many people are still going to finance companies and paying through the nose for loans which are often to be obtained far more cheaply elsewhere. Others are still being given very bad deals by distinctly shady estate agents. At the centres mentioned above you will be given free and disinterested advice.

## Roving Off

As if there weren't enough road accidents in Edward Rd. anyway, the driver of a Rover 2000 helped in June by parking with the brakes off - result, a flattened lamp-post. How daft can you get?

# UP YOUR STREET

Many people in Balsall Heath live in avenues. Now your avenue can be a lovely place - cosy, peaceful and traffic-free; or on the other hand it can be pretty much of a nightmare. Most of the avenues in Balsall Heath - for example, all those in Runcorn Road and Ombersley Road - are 'unadopted'. What does this mean?

## UNADOPTED (AND UNLOVED?)

To be adopted an avenue has to be 'of use to the general public' and this means it has to have a public road through it. But it will be adopted anyway if the Council owns all the houses in it. Most of our avenues are 'unadopted' because the houses are privately built and owned, and have only a pathway to serve as access.

## CAN BE ANWFUL

The upkeep and maintenance of the adopted avenues is the responsibility of the Council. Unadopted avenues are the joint responsibility of all the OWNERS of the houses, and this can be a real problem. Suppose you live in an avenue which is cluttered up with semi-derelict cars, bits of old iron, and piles of builders' rubbish - all ankle-deep in water when it rains (and I know at least one avenue-dweller, Mr. Ogden, of Vine Avenue, Runcorn Road, who has problems very like this) - what do you do? Well, in the normal course of events, the only solution is to get all the owners to agree to pay a contribution based on the size of their frontage. If owners refuse, you can, of course, take them to court.

## LOOKING UP

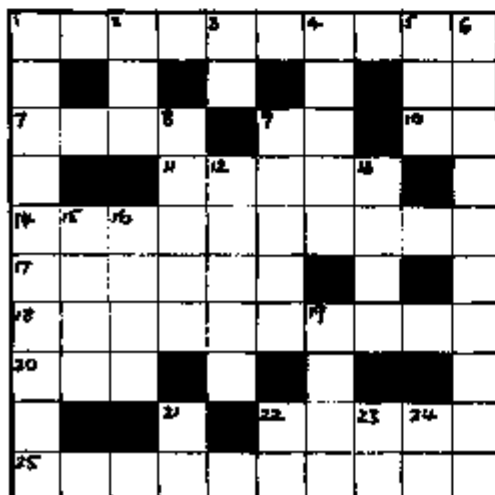
However, Runcorn Rd. and Ombersley Rd. have both been declared General Improvement Areas, and this means that there is a certain amount of money available per house for 'environmental' improvements. This means for things like pavements, trees, grass drains, etc. Residents committees have been set up in these areas, and one thing they insisted on was improvements to the avenues. The contracts are now out, and improvements are on the way.

## SPROUTING

Well, first, we are waiting for the contractors to do the work they have contracted to do. They HAVE started in Ombersley Rd. Second, there is every reason to proceed carefully - after all, there's no point in improving the avenues until builders have done any work necessary on the houses in them! So, don't despair - it looks as if bollards and trees will sprout in our avenues one day before too long, after all. But then, if you want to the meetings of YOUR residents' committee you will know all about all this already!

By Mike Dunkley.

# HEATHAN CROSSWORD



**ACROSS.** 1. Near Cheddar (10). 7. Mixed roan (4) 9. Brief hello (2) 10. Article (2) 11. Sounds spotted! (5) 14. With intent (10) 17. Beethoven's (6) 18. Drugged (10) 20. Pen capital (3) 22. Greek feet (5) 25. Local area (10).  
**DOWN.** 1. Able to get in. (3-7) 2. Stray (3) 3. Gone (2) 4. Sheep-like (5) 5. Local river (3) 6. Mickey's mate (6,4) 8. Jellied in (5) 9. In chair? (2,3) 12. Drink (5) 13. Newts (4) 15. Range (4) 16. Noisy Scot (4) 19. Welshman (4) 21. Ancient city (2) 22. With id! (2) 23. Still in. (2) 24. She was a cow. (2)

The Heathan offers a prize of £1 for the first correct solution opened on August 31st. We also offer another prize of £1 for crosswords with local interest which we can print. These should be on a grid 10 by 10 as in the above example.

## B.H.A. MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Balsall Heath Association was at Tindal School on June 29th. The meeting heard reports which gave plenty of evidence of the vigour and enterprise of the Association and its work. The advice work of the 'shop' in Court Rd. has very much increased, partly because legal advice is now given there, and because of more problems during the present economic crisis. The various residents' groups are working hard to improve the area, supported by the Neighbourhood worker Jenny Rossiter. Officers elected by the meeting for this year were: Chairman, Alex Hughes; Vice-Chairman Chris Paris and Cllr. Stan Banting; Secretary, Henry Hodgins; Treasurer, Ed Hall.

## BROOK OFFERS YOU



**Free Contraception  
& Help with Problems  
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321 Handsworth Road  
Birmingham B15 1DD  
Aston • Tel: 021 359 3611  
University of Aston  
Birmingham B4 7ET

## Number 10

## Solution No 9



# HIGHGATE SCHOOL.

A year ago, everyone connected with Mount Pleasant School and Moseley Road Art School was wondering how the merger would go. The main Mount Pleasant building was still suffering from high alumina cement, and there was doubt about how, and whether, this could be repaired. This presented problems in planning for this school year. However, now, a year later, the building problems have been solved and a successful beginning has been made to the amalgamation. Pupils, teachers and parents of the two former schools are getting to know each other and learning to work together. One sign of this is the new Highgate School Association which brings together parents, teachers and other adults concerned for the children of the school, to work for the school and support it. We hope that the people who read this newspaper will want to help too - by the time it comes out, we shall have had our next big occasion, the School Bazaar, which takes place on the afternoon of Saturday June 26th, but there will be many other occasions on which we hope you will support and help us.

## VARIETY

The first thing that needs to be safeguarded in an amalgamation is the previous curriculum of the two merging schools, and this has been done in this case. The next essential is to see that the pupils in the merging schools have wider opportunities which they can take up if they wish, and this has been done by meshing the fourth year and Sixth Form timetables, so that a wide variety of options is possible.

## HOUSES

The Highgate School is based on a House system of five houses, so that pupils go into a house which contains their brothers and sisters, and where they remain for their school life, so that their Head of house and tutors get to know them really well. It is through the house that we show a detailed concern for the welfare and development of each pupil. We have a teacher counsellor, too, who goes to visit homes as parents and pupils need her. The House tutor group which the pupil enters is also the teaching group for the first year, and in the next two years for those subjects whose teachers prefer it; this is in fact most subjects. Some pupils need remedial help, and are withdrawn from tutor groups for academic subjects for this.

## CAREERS

In the first three years pupils all learn the same subjects, including a foreign language, and those who are particularly gifted linguistically add another language. From the fourth year on the timetable has certain basic compulsory subjects, but also a very wide range of options, including sciences, languages, humanities, art subjects, practical subjects, commercial subjects, and a number of courses specially devised within the school. The choices, and their implications for careers, are discussed over six months between pupils, parents and staff, so that the final choice is as well-informed as possible. The courses that are devised in the school (known as Mode Three's) include child care, auto-engineering, Community Service and Studies, and technology; they count as part of the public examination system and are assessed by representatives of the examining boards. Such subjects are combined with more traditional ones, or a traditional syllabus with a particular bias can be followed. The subjects chosen can be done to the various levels of the examining boards in the Fifth and Sixth

Forms, and pupils can go on to a wide variety of careers, and to further and higher education. In the past few years pupils have gone on to do degree courses in a variety of disciplines, including medicine, fine art, various forms of engineering, fashion, pharmacy, accountancy, economics, graphics, computers, as well as courses which lead more directly from school subjects. General education and activities continue during these examination years so that pupils' interests do not become too narrow.

## DECISIONS

The chief aim of the school is to help each pupil to develop his or her own talents and potential. We build in a good deal of discussion and decision-making, so that pupils realise that each individual's point of view is important, and are given experience of articulating what they think and backing it up reasonably. We have activities each Wednesday afternoon in which teachers and pupils are often exploring and learning together and where pupils have the opportunity to talk with interested adults about what they are doing.

## FELLOWSHIP

We are fortunate in having pupils of many different origins in the school for this gives point to lessons about different parts of the world, helps us all to learn about different cultures and to be aware in real terms of the fellowship that human beings should have with each other. The five linked squares on our new badge represent this fellowship.

By Miss B. Hanks.

## SPRING BAZAAR

ROY HATTERSLEY  
M.P. OPENS THE  
BAZAAR AT ST.  
PAUL'S HALL.



Balsall Heath  
Entertainment  
Group put on  
another splendid event at  
the end of  
April. This  
was a Grand

Bazaar, inside and outside St. Paul's Hall, with a multitude of stalls and sideshows organised by every local group you can think of. Between four and five hundred people enjoyed an afternoon of marvellous variety, ranging from play inflatables and processions for the kids to 'nearly new' and

art and craft stalls. Well over £200 was raised for the groups which took part in the event.



BO BO THE  
CLOWN WAS  
THERE TOO.



# CAN WE HELP?

"CAN WE HELP" CONTINUES the articles to answer some of the problems too many local parents are facing.

## 9. CAN MY CHILD COME HOME ON BAIL?

Yes, but it depends on the attitude of the police to your child and the offence. Your child may be charged and allowed to go home on bail. You, as parents, will have to offer bail (stand surety). This means that you have to promise that your child will appear at court, and that you will pay a certain sum of money if he does not appear. You do not have to pay cash there and then.

## 10. WHAT IS A POLICE CAUTION?

If it is a first or second offence, or not serious, then the Juvenile Bureau may decide to give your child a Caution. This is a kind of official warning. It can be done by letter, or in person at the police station.

It is recorded, and mentioned in court if your child appears in court later on another offence. If your child accepts a caution, it is an admission of guilt, so be careful.

## 11. WHAT IS A SUMMONS?

If the Juvenile Bureau decide that the case should go to court, then you and your child will receive a letter containing a Summons to appear at court on a certain date. You, the parents are named on the summons, because your child must not appear at court on his own.

## 12. WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

Read the summons very carefully, and contact a solicitor and apply for LEGAL AID. Try to get this arranged in time for the court appearance. If you are not ready in time, then ask for an adjournment for legal aid when you and the child appear at court. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOUR CHILD BE REPRESENTED BY A LAWYER IN COURT.

## 13. WHAT IS LEGAL AID?

Legal Aid is a system to help you pay for help from a solicitor. You have to pay a contribution if your income is over a certain level. If you receive Supplementary Benefits of Family Income Supplement you will be eligible, and probably will not have to make a contribution. Collect legal aid application forms for parents and juvenile. Find a solicitor from the telephone directory the Citizens Advice Bureau, from friends etc., or by going straight to a solicitors office that shows the Legal Aid sign. Fill out the forms immediately. You will hear quite quickly if you are eligible.



## 14. WHO WILL TELL THE COURT ABOUT MY CHILD?

Apart from the statements by you and your child and the police, a social worker or probation officer will make a report. You may be visited by a Social Worker/Courts Officer from the local Social Services Department or a Probation Officer before the Court Hearing. They will write a report about your family and your child to present at court. This report will contain a recommendation for sentence (punishment). This might happen after the first court appearance, if the magistrates adjourn the case (set a later date) in order to get reports



The Social Worker or Probation Officer will ask you about your family life and background and will interview you and the child. It is important to co-operate, but listen carefully to everything that is said and try to discuss the recommendation.

## 15. WHAT IS THE JUVENILE COURT?

The Juvenile Court deals with all offenders under 17 years, unless they are remanded from Juvenile Court to a Higher Court, or unless they were arrested and charged with someone who is over 17 years of age. (Then they both appear at adult Magistrates Court.)

The magistrates at Juvenile Court are specially chosen to deal with children. There must be at least 2 in court. Usually there are three. The public are not allowed into Juvenile Court and the newspapers are not allowed to publish the names or addresses of children who appear there.

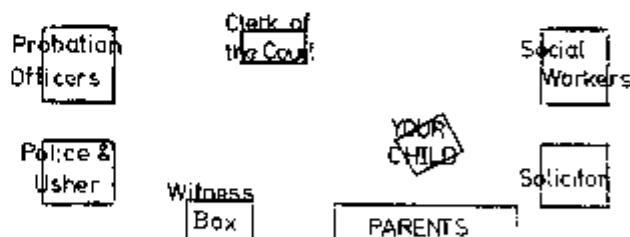
## 16. GOING TO COURT?

If you are a parent on your own, or if only one of you is able to go, then try to take a friend with you. The friend will not be allowed into the court room, but it is very reassuring to have someone to talk to while you are waiting. You may have to wait a long time before your case comes up. Get to court early, and talk to the lawyer who is going to speak for your child in court. The magistrates usually have very conventional ideas, and they expect the children at court to be smartly-dressed, and to speak up politely and confidently when questioned. Try to explain this to your child.

## 17. WHAT IS IT LIKE IN THE COURT-ROOM?

You will have to wait outside in the waiting area until your case is called. When you go in the usher or duty policeman will show you where to go. The court will look roughly like this.

### MAGISTRATES (3)



There will be 2 or 3 magistrates, one of them the Chairman. In front or to one side sits the Clerk of the Court, who is a trained legal expert. He/she will ask your child the questions at the beginning, and advise the magistrate on legal matters. The Clerk will ask your child his name, age and address. He will then read out the charge and ask your child if he did what the charge says (if he is pleading guilty or not guilty). This is known as taking a plea. It is of course very important that you and your child understand the charge and answers correctly. You must get advice about this before court.

## 18. CAN I SPEAK UP FOR MY CHILD IN COURT?

Yes, you have a legal right to defend your child in court. This means that you can question witnesses (eg. the police) and call witnesses yourself. If you do this, then try to get legal advice first, and bring notes of everything that you want to say into court.

In our next issue:-

"What happens in COURT?"

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