

the **Heathman**

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ST. PAUL'S CHURCH MOVES HOUSE.

After 123 years, St. Paul's Church, one of our most prominent local landmarks, is to be vacated. On Sunday October 23rd the congregation held their final service in the old church. The usual Eucharist Service was held at St. Paul's, but in the middle the congregation left the building and processed along the Moseley Rd. to the Church of Christ. Here they were met by Mr. Hendry and the members of his church, and were welcomed with the keys and handshakes all round. After this ceremony, the 120-strong congregation of St. Paul's went into the Church of Christ to complete the Eucharist Service.

NEW DEVELOPMENT

Sad though it is, to see the old church pulled down, an exciting new development is to take place. In co-operation with the Church of Christ and the Church of God, St. Paul's Church is to open a new centre in Edward Rd. Plans are not complete, but the centre will hold many things as well as rooms for each church to worship in. An old peoples' day care centre is to be organised, with Miss Elsie Jones, who runs Voluntary Care for the Elderly. In addition there will be flatlets for people who are unable to look after themselves unaided. The churches also hope to appoint a youth leader and to hold youth activities.

A LOT OF LUGGAGE

While the churches are waiting for the new centre, St. Paul's congregation will be sharing the Church of Christ building. Although this is also due to be vacated eventually, it is not in such a bad state of disrepair as St. Paul's. The rising costs of running and repairing the two old buildings have caused the churches to decide on replacement. Moving a church of course, is even more difficult than moving house. The old church organ, for example, could not be taken along, and has been sold. All the memorial plaques and stones, however, will be moving with St. Paul's, together with anything else given to the church in memory of someone. The altar, vestments, and almost everything else moveable will be taken, too. It's a huge task, but church members look forward to a rewarding co-operative venture which has just begun.



NEW SCHOOL BUILDING SOON

Major news affecting the Clifton Road Schools has recently been announced. The City has decided to build a new Infants School building and a new Nursery Unit on the site at present vacant at the bottom of Brunswick Road. These new buildings should be finished by April 1979, and Mrs Nicholas and the Infants School will therefore be moving into brand new premises. The Nursery Unit will be a new venture, since there is no nursery attached to Clifton Schools at the moment. The buildings are being financed through Urban Aid by Central Government and will cost about £350,000.

IS IT RIGHT?

There was at first some local opposition to this proposal, which will involve 'splitting' the Infant and Nursery Units from the Junior School on a different site. Further, local residents had been assured that 75 new housing units would be built on the space now to be occupied by the Infant and Nursery Units, and were disappointed by the change of plans. Finally, the plan for a new Nursery Unit does not seem to have taken into account the existence of St Paul's Nursery nearby, providing day care and nursery schooling. At first sight, then, the new plans did not seem to suggest wise spending of a large sum of money in the area.

MIGHT BE...

Since this first reaction, however, some of the voluntary projects in the area have expressed the belief that a positive Central and Local Government initiative in providing for local needs should not be rejected. The new plans provide an opportunity of close study of all the educational and social resources of the area. The use of old and new facilities could be carefully planned and coordinated and this could mean very considerable development for the community. With this in mind, St Paul's secondary school has applied to the Education Committee for the use of the old Infants' School building on the Clifton Road site. St Paul's School would like to move from its present very cramped accommodation in two terraced houses, and would benefit in various ways from a closer association with Clifton Junior School. Discussions about the ways in which old and new resources can be used, and how they can be linked together constructively, are going ahead with both statutory and voluntary agencies involved in the discussions.

COMMUNITY ARTIST

We are sad to report that the local Community Artist, Frank Triggs, who has helped so many of us with a host of amazingly varied jobs, has resigned his post. On the other hand, the good news is that Frank is not leaving the area but is setting up in business locally (probably in Cromer Road). Frank is going to be making the therapeutic and educational aids, apparatus, toys and structures which we have already seen some examples of, in his workshop at St Paul's Hall. For example, he has just sold to Clifton Road School a Wendy House of splendid design and workmanship. He has also got a commission from a major hospital for the design of a therapeutic play area. We wish Frank all good luck in his new enterprise. Further good news is that an able replacement for Frank as Community Artist has been found, in the shape of Des Berry who is already established in the workshop at St Paul's Hall. Des says:- Is there something you want to make for the home, the garden, maybe a toy - or even realize one of those mad ideas you've had? Would you like to learn to do woodwork, make your own furniture, paint, sculpt, make models, masks, or anything else that might take your fancy? There is a community artist who can help and a COMMUNITY WORKSHOP available for your use. Interested? Have a chat with Des Berry at St Paul's Hall.

Letters

Dear Editor,
On Jubilee Day I watched the service from St Paul's, London, and after lunch visited the house where I was born in Edgbaston Road, Cannon Hill. I then went to the house in Homer Street to which I moved when I was about one year old and left at the age of twenty (45 years ago). I attended Tindal Street School until I started work. I remember the Annual Boys School Concert at Moseley and Balsall Heath Institute - no girls of course, so some of us had to dress up as girls. This concert was held for two nights and was always a sell-out.

I was in the choir at St Paul's Church, Moseley Road, for seven years until my voice broke at age 14. I attended four services on Sunday, and there was a good congregation at each one. At special festivals every seat was occupied and the congregation overflowed into the churchyard, where the doors were left open for them to hear the service.

I could go on reminiscing but am afraid it would fill a book! I would like very much to hear from any old boys of Tindal Street School, but most especially boys who were in St Paul's choir at the same time as me.

Jack P.T. Harris
12 Park Court, Boldmere Road,
Sutton Coldfield,
West Midlands, B73 5DW
(Tel: 021 355 1258)

Dear Editor,
The Jubilee Party held at St Paul's Hall was a great success. This was due to the help of Avice and Phyllis who work at the Nursery. Thanks to them, and to the children of St Paul's School who made the cakes, and Mick Turner for letting us use the Hall, and Dick Atkinson for all the help on the day. Thanks also to Bernard and family, Sheila and Dave of the Playground and last, but not least, neighbours and friends who helped with preparing and serving at tables.

A real community spirit all round!
Thanks a lot.

Mrs Smyth and Mrs Waring

Dear Editor,
I heard that after many years St Paul's Church is going to be knocked down. This seems very sad and I know we shall all miss this local building which is one of the few really old buildings we have got in our area now. I wonder what will happen to the stained glass windows which I think are really very nice. I believe this is the oldest church in the area.

Yours sincerely,
J.P. Simpson (Mrs)

(Editor: The stained glass windows are being removed and stored, we understand. In fact this work has already begun with interesting results. The workmen removing them caused so much dust that someone thought the church was on fire and summoned the Fire Brigade. Fortunately the mistake was discovered before the workmen were deluged with water!)

YOUTH GROUPS

A youth club has started in St Paul's Hall for 15-18 year-olds of both sexes. It is open on Monday evenings from 7.30-9.30 p.m. Activities include badminton, 5-a-side football, table tennis, cooking, craft, woodwork, record sessions and masses of other things. The club is currently expanding to take more members and has some vacant places, especially for girls. Apply to the Organiser at St Paul's Hall. Meanwhile the Thursday Youth Club (for 10-14 year-olds) goes from strength to strength with a list of activities as extensive as the Monday Club's. The Thursday Club is full up at present, but don't despair if you want to join - some of the members will be too old for it soon, and will be going on to the Monday Club instead.

SUMMER HOLIDAY REPORTS:-



WHITEY HARBOUR, ONE OF THE MANY PICTURESQUE STOPS ON THE SCHOOL FIELD TRIP TO YORKSHIRE.

The school trip to Yorkshire was a combined holiday-and-field-trip. So we divided our time between having fun on the beach in Whitby, doing treasure hunts and guerilla attacks on distant objectives across the moors, and visiting places of interest as described in our School report. We stayed in Youth Hostels which were as usual very welcoming and comfortable. A group of four older girls went off on a sub-expedition to walk to and stay at Boggle Hole hostel without any adult supervision or help. They left us in Scarborough and rejoined us about 26 miles and 1½ days later in Whitby! Not that anyone else was exactly idle! Apart from activities already described, everyone did their share of cooking and hostel duties, and kept scrapbook records of the trip.



BALSALL HEATH FARMERS AND UNSUCCESSFUL GOLD MINERS LINE UP FOR A PHOTO TO REMIND THEM OF THEIR HOLIDAY IN WALES

Dave, Gladys, Ron and June (with student helpers) from the Malvern St Playground took a party of children to the Welsh countryside for a week's holiday in August. Their destination was a primitive farmhouse "miles from anywhere". There was plenty of space to play, fields and woods to explore, a nature trail and even a Roman Gold Mine (we're reliably informed there wasn't any gold, though). It wasn't all fun and easy living on the farm. One problem was that all the water for washing etc. had to be collected from the river. Another problem was that the farm was haunted. Everyone saw the ghost, except Dave who was missing at the time (wonder why?!). A day out from the farm ended up at the seaside where everyone could buy presents to take home.



MOST PEOPLE SEEMED TO ENJOY THE PADDLING AT CROMER, BUT SOME TURN THE OTHER CHEEK

For the past four years the Community House and School have run holiday trips to Norfolk for local children. In our last issue we reported that we had not been able to get a grant for these, for the first time. We are now very happy to report that we DID after all get a grant from the City, in the nick of time. We were happy not to have to cut our plans too much. Children from St Paul's Nursery with older brothers and sisters, plus younger brothers, sisters and friends from St Paul's School spent five days at Sheringham. The house in which everyone stayed was only a few yards from the sea. A very popular



HUNTING FOR CRABS AT EAST RUNTON. SEVERAL WERE FOUND, BUT FORTUNATELY NO-ONE WAS BADLY "NIPPED"

"Joke Shop" was just around the corner, while arcades and interesting alleys were all within a short walk. Having two minibuses, the party was able to split into two groups, so the nursery-age children could have a shorter day. The beach at Sheringham being pebbles meant trips out most days for castle building. The favourite for the older children was East Runton, while the younger ones preferred Cromer. Let's hope that next summer it will be possible to organise a longer holiday for more children. We note that the Nursery has already started to plan for such a holiday.



ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL

Report

We have changed the name of our School since the last issue of the Hesthan. Parents, staff and pupils have all decided that they prefer the name St Paul's School to our old name of Balsall Heath Community School. Now that there are so many different kinds of secondary schools called "Community Schools" the old name seemed confusing or misleading. We chose the name St Paul's School as one which many people had in any case been using. Since we decided on the name we have been interested and pleased to learn that there used to be a St Paul's School nearby (just round the corner in Ladypool Road). It is nice to revive a bit of local history. Some of the pupils have recently looked up some of the log-books of the nineteenth century St Paul's School in the Central Library and discovered some remarkable facts about it. For example, a hundred years ago the school had over 300 pupils, of whom, however, one half did not come to school on any given day. This is a record which we certainly will not let history repeat! The log-books also refer fairly often to the failure of various TEACHERS to 'learn their lessons', and rebuke assistant teachers for their habit of spitting at each other and into the inkwells. Again it is encouraging to notice how much progress has been made over the last 100 years!

Vital Help

We have just learned that the Education Committee of Birmingham City Council has awarded our School a grant of £12,000 to enable it to continue its work. All concerned with the School are deeply grateful for their vital help, and for the Education Committee's expression of confidence in us. The Joint Finance Committee, which manages the finances of St Paul's School, St Paul's Nursery, the Malvern St. Adventure Playground and the Community Centre at St Paul's Hall, has been extremely concerned about the difficulties of funding all these projects and is extremely appreciative of the quick and generous response of the Education Committee to their request for support for the School. The Joint Finance Committee wishes to thank Councillor Neil Scrimshaw and his Committee, and its officers.

Exam Successes

Everybody at the School has been delighted by the results obtained in public examinations by the 8 candidates who sat for C.S.E. and 'O' Level examinations this year. Three pupils took examinations a year early and obtained 7 passes between them. These pupils are going on to take further exams this year. Five other pupils took examinations before leaving school, and these obtained a total of 26 passes including 3 at 'O' Level. We are all very proud of these achievements and the hard work which produced them. Our congratulations to Donna Brown, Catherine Gordiner, Desmond Gray, Rena Jan, Yunis Jan, Sylvia Muegrove, Carol Robb and John Stone, and our best wishes for Cathy, Yunis, Desmond, Sylvia and Carol who have now left school.

Hot Summer Knights

We were all overjoyed at our success in the Carnival Float competition when we won first prize with our very authentic portrayal of King Arthur's Court. The knights had a tough time inside their armour in a temperature of about 80°, especially in view of the unmanageable nature of their horses, but this was felt to add to the realism of the whole thing. Un-knightly comments were commendably few. Many thanks to all the kind people who gave us materials to help make costumes and scenery. We shall defend our shield with great vigour next year.

Scarborough Fair

In the summer many of the school pupils and a few of their friends went on a field trip to the Yorkshire coast, visiting the excellent museum at York on the way. We also visited Scarborough Castle, Whitby Abbey and a folk museum, and walked along a Roman road (as well as large stretches of more recent road, field paths and open moors!)

Good Works!

The parents' fund raising committee continues its very successful work for the School and has raised a further £100 for equipment. In addition parents and pupils also helped with fund-raising stalls at the Carnival and at the recent Jumble Sale and Auction. Can we ask finally if anyone else can help us with a particular need we have? We are able to borrow many reading books from the Library and have marvellous help from this service, and of course we also buy essential textbooks. However, we do not have enough REFERENCE BOOKS of any kind permanently available at the School. If, therefore, anyone does have any DICTIONARIES, ENCYCLOPAEDIAS or similar useful books they do not need, we would be very grateful for them. Phone 440-4376 or call at 121 St Paul's Road.

Anita Halliday



On the morning of Friday, 29th October, John, the Co-op milkman, told two local residents that he was very worried about one of his customers who had not taken his milk in for three days. John had not mentioned it sooner because the old man did not have milk delivered every day, and so he had not called at the house for a couple of days. The residents were also very anxious about what had happened to the old man, and immediately phoned both the police and Social Services. The police arrived very quickly, and together with the residents who had called them, went to the old man's house. There they found him lying on the floor near the front door, having evidently fallen and afterwards tried to crawl to the front door for help. The old man was still alive then, but later died in Selly Oak Hospital. The Social Services Dept. were successful in tracing some of the old man's relatives at once, and they were able to look after his house and belongings.

GREAT RISK

Winter is now well on the way, and of course elderly people (especially those living alone) are particularly at risk in the cold weather. The sad accident in St Paul's Road could be repeated many times over. In the case of the old man, John the milkman was observant enough and considerate enough to get help as soon as he realised there was a possible problem. He was also sensible enough to take the risk of being wrong. He and the residents who called the police, the police themselves, and the Social Services Dept. all did as much as they possibly could have done. But what if John had not noticed? The old man was known slightly to the Social Services Dept., but had refused their help, being independent by nature. There are many elderly people who feel that help from Social Services is 'charity' and should not be accepted. Others fear (wrongly) that people will try to persuade them to leave their houses, if they ask for help at all. So there are probably many people alone, in this area, who could fall ill, have an accident, suffer from cold and therefore hypothermia, and be overlooked by everyone. As there are a large number of elderly folk in this area, we think the real answer is an Area Caretaker - one of whose jobs it would be to locate and keep a friendly eye on those who may get into difficulties of this kind.

A DAY TO REMEMBER



There was a vast crowd (1) at the fair. Many people won prizes at sideshows, others bought bargains from the market stalls, everyone enjoyed themselves. The entertainment started at midday with the Procession. The first prize in the Float Competition went to St Paul's School (2) for their "Camelot". But you didn't have to use a lorry to take part (4) many local residents just joined in. At the fair-ground there were a number of displays to be seen. Dancing, karate (3), limbo and much more filled the programme. Many children and adults took part in the sports and competitions. One of the most popular was the inter-pub "tug-of-war" (5). This was eventually won by a team from THE CROWN. The Lord

Mayor, Councillor Freda Cocks, was Guest of Honour. With the aid of Rosemary, our Carnival co-ordinator, the Mayor presented the raffle prizes (6). The day ended with a choice of four socials. A good way to end a really great day.

IF YOU ENJOYED THIS YEAR'S CARNIVAL YOU'LL BE PLEASED TO KNOW THAT THERE'S ANOTHER PLANNED FOR JULY '78. WE'LL BE GIVING MORE DETAILS IN LATER EDITIONS OF THE HEATHAN. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH OUR SECOND CARNIVAL THEN CONTACT EITHER DICK ATKINSON AT 120 ST PAUL'S ROAD OR NICK TURNER AT ST PAUL'S HALL AS PLANS ARE ALREADY UNDER WAY FOR 1978.

OPENING TIMES

MONDAY

TUESDAY CLUB NIGHT WOODWORK
COOKING
SEWING
GAMES

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY TEENAGE CLUB 7.9PM

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

OPEN DURING TERM TIME 4-8PM.

SATURDAYS, SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 10.30-5.30.

This summer, with the help of an extra worker, we took some of our activities away from the playground and up to the avenues off Runcorn Road, in order to encourage the children who live there, especially the Asian children, to use the playground facilities. We spent most of our time working in Elm Ave. and Beech Ave. until hampered by bad weather. Each morning we took equipment for painting and clay work, and then encouraged the children to the playground in the afternoon for a particular activity...some days it was like the Pied Piper returning to the playground. We met lots of parents, especially Asian mums, who kindly supplied us with cups of tea and offers of help.

WHAT WE DID IN THE SUMMER

Despite the bad weather we still had a good summer on the playground. Outside there was plenty of activity with den building—we even had one den with a built-in TV. Other children worked hard with Dave to make the concrete animals by the under 5's area. During the summer many children cleared the garden area ready for the spring, or took part in the nature trail on the playground to discover the wild life on their doorstep. Games were very popular, while for the less energetic there were always craft sessions, ranging from painting to clay work, puppets and drama. We also opened up a truck shop run by the older girls to sell the result of their cooking.

There were also special events each week. We had a visit from the Fire brigade, who let everyone practise with the hoses or sit in the cab. The Police brought their motorbike and car to be tested by the children and later showed us the skills of their dogs. We had a Punch and Judy show which left everyone hoarse, but perhaps the biggest event was when Mr Banana, the movie director, came to the playground. He wanted lots of people for his next movie...so we made plenty of costumes and a few days later the camera crews arrived to film the story of beauty queens being kidnapped by monsters. When it was all over they showed us the film.

We also had two family trips this summer, one to Rhyl and the other to Kinver Edge. Twenty children and six adults enjoyed a weeks holiday at the cottage in Wales, returning with stories of gold mines and ghosts.

Along with the scouts we held a night hike for the teenagers through Elsdon Park, and I'm sure many of them had shivers running up their spines as they passed Elsdon church at midnight.

RAFFLE

We held a raffle this summer and raised £83, which we are going to spend on extra equipment for the playground, so far we have bought a fridge and scales for the kitchen, and a jigsaw for woodwork. So thanks to all those people who helped by selling raffle tickets for us. The lucky winners were....

- 1st...Malcolm Baldwin-----food hamper.
- 2nd...F.Hollins-----bottle of cherry.
- 3rd...Mrs McGermack-----box of chocolates.

MALVERN ST.

PLAYGROUND

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Urban Renewal and Ranpower Services have agreed to improve the football pitch opposite the playground. This will begin shortly....
...see next issue for further details.

CLIFTON SCHOOLS. Netball

The children and one of the staff at Clifton Road Junior School and Infant School have written for us about some of the things they have been doing this term.

Harvest Time

On Friday we held our Harvest Festival. We invited parents and senior citizens and because it was Harvest we made around 500 cakes for the children and visitors! Then after the service Mrs Jones invited the senior citizens up to the staff room to buy a box of food for ten pence. Afterwards we sent this money together with our money which we had collected instead of having biscuits, to "War on Want" because we thought it was not only our harvest but everyone's in the world.

by Debbie Baker, 4P

At harvest we had quite a lot of visitors. We sang our hymns and we gave out the cakes. After that Mr Tatton picked some children to go out into the front and they all sat down and Mr Tatton picked an object which was used a long time ago for picking the corn. The children had to guess what they were used for and made of.

by Joy Hughes, 4P

Museum Trip

In the room there were British animals. Mrs Agnew talked to us about some of them. I liked the fox the best because the canine teeth were showing and because it had some action in it. Soon we started to do some pencil sketches and I drew a rabbit. The rabbit had a shaky ear and the squirrel did not have any at all. The people in the museum gave the animals buttons for eyes. They also stuffed the animals with some sort of hay. They also made them stand with wires. I thought the female stoat was interesting because it is quite small and it can kill a fully grown rabbit and eat it.

by Nikant Makwana

Park Here

On Wednesday, October 12th, the Infant School went to Arrow Valley Park, Redditch. We went to Arrow Valley Park and we went on the hills. I ran and rolled down the hills. The hills in Arrow Valley Park were big. When we went on the bus it bounced up and down and we saw some cows and horses.

by Mandy Brownhill, Class 1

Rural Scene

We went to the country and we saw a lot of things. We saw a horse under the trees and we saw some sheep and some cows. When we got there we collected blackberries and Mrs Taylor collected some red berries.

by Parak Rashid, Class 2

Netball

I am in the Clifton Netball Team. I enjoy playing netball very much and playing matches against other schools. The netball team has played very well in their matches and have won them all so far. The highest score we have got this term was 26 - 0 to Clifton and the lowest was 4 - 1. We have got one more match to play this term then we play all the schools again after Christmas.

by Brenda Campbell

Drama

On October 11th all the second years at Clifton went to see a play at the drama centre. The play was about the lady of the moon who lost the jewel which gave her all her strength. The children themselves were involved in helping the other characters in the play to find the jewel. This was most enjoyable for them, as indeed was the entire play. The outing was very profitable, and we were grateful for having been invited to the drama centre.

by Mrs S. Harries

Witches' Brew

Finally, here's a poem from one of the children which seems appropriate around Halloween time.

This term 4P's subject is "Magic". Most of 4P wrote a spell. Here's mine.

Hubble bubble
Witches brew,
Here's a ball a child once threw.
Here it goes into the pot
Slowly slowly watch it rot.
Hubble bubble, cooking pot.

Hubble bubble
Dead man's blood
Now I'll add a clod of mud.
Pop it in, mix it well
And that's the end of my little spell.

by Paul Horan

FARM CAMP

Of the holidays we haven't picture space for there was an interesting farm trip organised by St Paul's Church. The Rev. John Cooper sent us in a short report:- "The camp was on a farm at Great Witley, Worcestershire, for 5 days - at the summer half-term (5-9 June). Next year we are going to make it a week. We had about 25 kids away with us, all from Balsall Heath. Activities were designed to get them to look closely at the countryside and included a little helping on the farm. We were away for Jubilee Day which was celebrated with an Eucharist at Glasshampton Monastery and with our own party in camp at which we were joined by several visitors. We are now trying to raise money to buy some of our own equipment to avoid hire charges in the future."

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Branching Out

There has recently been formed a local branch of the W.E.A., or, to give it its full and rather "Victorian" title - Workers Educational Association. The W.E.A. is a voluntary-based charity and was founded in 1903 to provide learning opportunities for those who might not otherwise get the chance to develop their interests. There are 21 W.E.A. districts in the U.K. Each is subsidised by the Department of Education and the local authorities. The W.E.A. pays for expert tutors to run courses for local branches; but the tutor is not paid to lecture, rather to act more as a discussion leader. Thus the courses run by the W.E.A. are more friendly and informal than most people's experience of school or night classes.

Photo Finish

Our own, Balsall Heath, Branch of the W.E.A. plans to provide two main types of courses, some being useful and necessary information while others will cater for leisure interests. It is hoped that after Christmas there will be courses on Housing and Welfare Rights, Health and Hygiene, Legal matters and Women's Rights. However, the first course is due to start on the 7th November and will be for leisure interest. The course is on PHOTOGRAPHY and the tutor is BOB MOORE, who is a 'Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society'. The course has been organised with the object of encouraging photographic work in our area, and to set up an exhibition of pictures of the area. You don't need any previous photographic knowledge, just an interest (and a camera). The course will be held, partly, at Tindal School Community Rooms, commencing at 7.30 pm. There will be six meetings at Tindal. These will demonstrate the range of cameras and accessories available, types of films, and how to

process and print them yourself, different methods of lighting a subject, picture composition and presentation of prints. To supplement these meetings there will be four "field trips". These are on Sundays, starting at 11.30 am on the 20th November at the Old Mosely Arms. There is a fee for this first course - £3.80 for all 10 meetings. Let us hope that the Branch will be able to afford to put on later courses, particularly the information ones, at no cost to people attending. For more information about the Balsall Heath Branch of the W.E.A. contact either Lynne at the Lane Neighbourhood Centre or Bernie or Martin at the Balsall Heath Association office, Court Road.

New Scouts

The 59th Birmingham/Moseley Athletic Scout Group has recently been joined by two new members; Martin Steven James of Beech Road, and Paul Jones of Yardley Wood Road. They were invested as Cub Scouts by S. Bentley, "Akala", at the Scout Camp held on the Carnival site. If you or your children are interested in the Scouts, you can get all the details from "Skip" Johnson, 138 Runcorn Road. There's more to scouting than tying knots! Camping, adventure, training and many skills, badges and sports are available to the scout. Why not find out more?

HOME AT LAST

Regular readers will remember the sad story of Mrs Donnelly who, after seven years of trying to move from her damp and decaying home in Clifton Road, was offered a transfer to a house gutted by fire. That was late February and another offer of a new home was promised by Bush House. It's taken another seven months, but at last Mrs Donnelly and her family have been rehoused. "It's a real palace", said Mrs D. "We've got four bedrooms, an inside toilet, a bath and even hot water".

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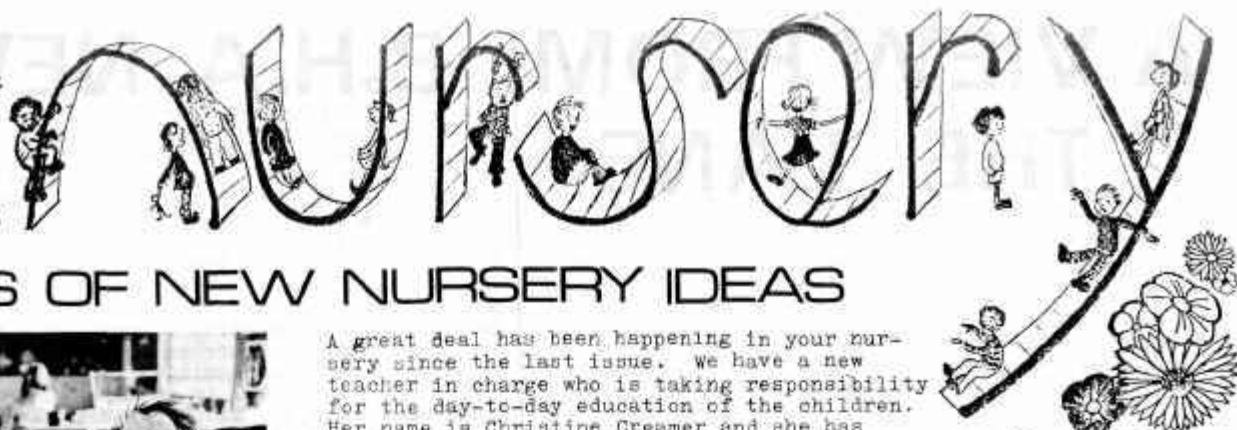
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St.
Paul's



LOTS OF NEW NURSERY IDEAS



The Lord Mayor, Cllr. Freda Cocks, talking with Avice Taylor and some of the children on her visit to St. Paul's Nursery.

A great deal has been happening in your nursery since the last issue. We have a new teacher in charge who is taking responsibility for the day-to-day education of the children. Her name is Christine Creamer and she has brought with her some super ideas about how we can offer the children more interesting and varied activities, more outings and in general ensuring that our children get a good nursery education plus the care they need while Mum and Dad are working. Why not call in and say hello to Christine - you will be very welcome.

KIDS OF THE CASTLES

Some of our children and older brothers and sisters have been to a holiday house in Sheringham, Norfolk. The house is situated very near to the sea and sand, which allowed the children plenty of opportunities for paddling and building elaborate sandcastles. On their return it was obvious that they had enjoyed themselves by their rosy cheeks and their pleasure in displaying the contents of their 'treasure boxes' and presents that they had made for Mum. Next year we hope to repeat the trip with many more children and perhaps more Mums and Dads too. Our Tuesday outings in the mini-bus continue to be enjoyed by children and staff. We made the most of the sunny weather and went fruit picking (and eating) at Evesham, walking in the Lickey Hills and paddling in the park - just a few of the places we have visited.

COME TO COFFEE

The Thursday morning Coffee Club extends an invitation to you and your child. Come and relax for an hour or two and let your child enjoy some of the nursery facilities.

TOY LIBRARY

The Toy Libraries Association have lent us a supply of toys and games, which we in turn want to lend to you and your child. We would like the nursery on either Thursday morning or Friday from 4 to 5.30 pm and borrow the toys for up to a month.

The choice of toys is varied and interesting and they are aimed at teaching your child colour, size, shape, number etc. - all things which will make the learning of reading, writing and number work easier for your child when he goes to school. Toys will be available from the beginning of November and we hope that you - as a parent, playgroup helper or childminder - will make use of this service.

The Nursery Mums' and friends' fund-raising group have reached their total of £1000, and have re-equipped the Nursery with splendid new apparatus and toys. They're now setting a new target to help trips and holidays.

GREAT JUMBLING

A highly successful Jumble Sale and Auction was held at St. Paul's Hall on Sat. 22nd Oct. to raise funds for the Nursery, Playground and School. The total sum raised was nearly £300, and the thanks of all the projects are given to those who gave, collected, sorted and sold jumble. Our photo shows the helpers surrounded by jumble just before it all started.



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A VIEW FROM THE LANE

For those readers who aren't sure of what's been happening to the local Residents Groups and plans to improve the area over the last five years - read on. Others - miss the next two sentences. The part of Balsall Heath between the Moseley Road and Stoney Lane is called "Sparkbrook West 2". The various Residents/Tenants/Street/Improvement Area combined to form a "Residents Council", who meet occasionally with the City's Urban Renewal team to check on the progress of improving our area. The Secretary of the Residents Council since its beginning, Bob Jenkins, has recently moved away from Birmingham. His place as Secretary has been taken over by Lynne Howells, the team leader from the Lane Neighbourhood Centre. Recently Lynne reported on the latest news from the Council to the Heathans: "After a long gap, the Residents Council has published another newsletter. All residents in Sparkbrook West 2 should soon be getting a copy. The main concern of the letter is the progress, or rather lack of it, that is being made in improving the area. The Residents Council needs to keep reminding the Urban Renewal Section and the Housing Department that Sparkbrook West 2 is in desperate need of a face-lift, or it will fall down around everyone's ears. To have a more effective voice, the Residents Council needs more help and support from local people. If there is anyone interested in helping, then please come along to the next Council meeting. It's at 8 p.m. on Monday, 7th November, at the Lane, 422 Ladypool Road. The meeting will discuss what action should be taken to try and get the Improvement Programme speeded up, as many local people are fed up with the lack of progress."

ROSHVEN RESIDENTS

People living in the Roshven General Improvement Area have formed a Residents Association. As the area is a C.I.A. householders and landlords are entitled to a 60% grant towards the cost of improving their houses. However, the Association is trying to get the area declared a "Housing Action Area", as this would increase the grant to 75% and provide a bit extra general help. The housing area next door - Birchwood - has similar problems to Roshven and that's been declared a H.A.A. already, so the new Association has hopes of success.

PINE & WASTE AWAY

Residents around Pine Avenue have been pushing Urban Renewal to do something about the deplorable state of the Avenue. They have already written to local Councillors, the Housing Committee, our M.P., and the Evening Mail in an attempt to publicise the problems. They even took some photos to show just how bad the Avenue looked. There has been some success with the campaign. Several of the tenants have been rehoused, others will be shortly, and then the Avenue can be cleared - hopefully before it falls down.

WOMEN & HOUSING

A group has recently been formed at the Women's Centre, 76 Brighton Road, to discuss, and hopefully help, some of the problems women face over housing conditions. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. at the Centre. If you are interested or need help, please go along.

B.H.A. NEWS

The Balsall Heath Association has recently undergone a few changes. There are new staff to help and new opening hours for the office at 91 Court Road. For Heathen readers who aren't familiar with the "new" B.H.A., here's a Who's Who guide. **BERNIE MASTERSON**, Community Worker - Bernie is a familiar face at Court Road, for she's been involved with the B.H.A. for four years now. Bernie specialises in Housing Advice, and also organises the Legal Advice Centre that's held on Monday and Wednesday evenings. **TAHMINA ISLAM**, Community Counsellor - Mrs Islam is the Balsall Heath Churches worker and concentrates on advice for Asian families in our area. The best time to see Mrs Islam is on Monday, Wednesday or Thursday mornings. **MARTIN REDMAN**, Community Worker - Martin worked at Court Road for a year between 1975 and 1976, rejoining the B.H.A. in July this year. He is available for general advice sessions and is also the person to contact for matters concerned with residents' groups in the area. **JOYCE MCGAREL**, Receptionist/Secretary - Joyce has recently arrived at Court Road and looks after the paperwork and tries to keep the office in working order. **RUTH HODGSON** - is a student from Birmingham Polytechnic. She will be at Court Road for a year, full-time, and is helping Martin with the general advice and information. **BILL PIKE** - is a student from Westhill College and will be working part-time at B.H.A. His main job will be working with residents from the Calthorpe Park Estate.

Opening Times

Monday - 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
1.30 pm - 4.30 pm
7.00 pm - 9.00 pm (for legal advice)
Tuesday - Closed all day
Wednesday - 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
1.30 pm - 4.30 pm
7.00 pm - 9.00 pm (for legal advice)
Thursday - 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
Closed in the afternoon
Friday - Closed all day

BUT even when the office is closed, there will be someone available to answer the telephone. Also, providing you make an appointment first, there will be somebody to discuss problems and give advice.

Newsletter

The B.H.A. have started to publish a short newsletter. It's hoped that this will come out regularly and be able to inform residents on issues of particular interest to Balsall Heath.

Soccer!

The Balsall Heath Bashers, who made their triumphant debut at the Carnival, have recently been training hard. They are hoping to put this training to some use and hereby issue a CHALLENGE to any mixed football team. The games would have to be played on a Sunday and other teams must be prepared to lose, 'cos you can't beat the Bashers. If any Heathen reader wants to take up the challenge, contact Bernie at the B.H.A.

RUBBISH

A reminder to readers about two Council services.
1. If rubbish is cluttering up your street - phone 449 1403 or 449 1159 - the Council should send someone along to clear it up.
2. If you have a problem with rats or mice in your home and you want help to get rid of them - phone 772 7420. If you don't get satisfactory results from your phone call, contact the B.H.A. right away.

Xmas Buy

The B.H.A. are selling some very nice cards at Court Road. They cost 3p each or 10 for 25p. Money raised from the sale of the cards will go to SHELTER, the campaign for the homeless. And it's SHELTER who are helping to provide funds for the B.H.A. So, get your cards from Court Road this year, and help maintain the B.H.A.

TINDAL

HIGHLIGHTS

The ladies who come to Tindal to learn English were largely responsible for an Asian Afternoon, when more than 100 parents and children enjoyed themselves in an atmosphere of Asian singing, dancing and food Jubilee parties were arranged for nursery, infant and playgroup parts of the school, to which many parents and friends came. On June 16th there was a special party for the Juniors provided entirely by local pensioners by way of a 'thank you' for the interest the children have taken in them throughout the year Tindal School entered a Noah's Ark float in the Balsall Heath Carnival - winning 3rd prize, the playgroup mums had a pushchair procession and the nursery staff, children and parents took themselves to the Carnival as Nursery Rhyme characters. Teachers and parents manned stalls during the afternoon and in the evening we had a Grand Carnival Social, with Steel Band, Cabaret, and Disco.... In July we mounted an exhibition of children's work on the theme of "Balsall Heath in the Future". It provided a focal spot on Parents' Evening and Mums and Dads were able to see the interest and hard work their children had put into the project. The local Urban Renewal team provided certificates and prizes, which were presented by Councillor N. Bonner.

HOLIDAY PLAYScheme

Tindal Holiday Playscheme ran from Monday, 25th July to 5th August, inclusive. We used the Tindal Community Rooms, the playgroup room and its facilities, the school hall and playgrounds. Activities included swimming, cooking, badminton, indoor hockey, football, cricket, billiards, table tennis, and table games. This summer we used the playgroup facilities in view of the number of younger children attending - with opportunities for the older children too - dressing up, painting, book corner, etc. It was not run as a playgroup. The Playscheme organised two day trips. One to Weston Park in Shropshire - a country home in magnificent grounds with a pets corner, adventure playground, nature trail and open countryside, and the other a local outing to Manor Farm Park, a City Park with a stream running through it, and woods.

DATES

November 24th - Autumn Fayre from 6-8 - Stalls, Games, Prizes, Refreshments. Every Tuesday afternoon from 3-3.30 - a 'Nearly New Sale'. Tuesdays and Fridays - English Classes. Thursday morning - Cookery - demonstrations and practicals. Wednesday afternoon - Club for Senior Citizens, Dominoes, Darts, Cards, Library, Craft activities, Tea and Coffee. Thursday afternoon - Bingo, friendly people and useful prizes. There is a 'playgroup' every morning at Tindal and a 'Mother and Baby' Club on Wednesday afternoons.

SUMMER CAMP

Nigel Baynes, one of our 4th year teachers took 23 children to camp at Earlswood. Camp is always a great experience, with plenty of fun, and responsibility, and a chance for the children to have a complete change of scene. This year's camp was marred by someone stealing all the food the day the campers joined the rest of us to go on a day trip to Weston Park in Shropshire. Everyone was annoyed that someone could be so selfish and thoughtless.

TUESDAY CLUB

A new venture from 7-9.30 on Tuesdays. This is a club for adults who want to do something - and we are open to any suggestions. At the moment we can offer:- an art class - kitty for paints etc - absolute beginners welcome; dressmaking, soft toy making etc - we have machines, books, and a friendly teacher - again beginners welcome; table tennis tuition, chess and other board games, badminton with tuition for people who want it, and a class in martial arts - this is a class for men and women, you will need to bring trousers and tee-shirts, and you will be taught by Master Sifu Le-Wing-Chew. Tea, coffee, a chance to chat, and a library of novels in Urdu, Punjabi and English - large print books, and books on Cookery, Dressmaking etc. all available for you.

EVENING...

We provide sewing facilities with someone to assist you and give you personal attention. All you have to pay for is the cost of materials. How about coming along and making a new outfit for Christmas or perhaps a few Christmas presents? Downstairs in our woodwork room is an experienced woodwork teacher who will help you to make anything from a book-end to a rocking horse. You can come to woodwork not knowing the difference between a nail and a saw and still achieve great things! Once again, all you have to pay for is the cost of materials, and the finished article is yours to show to your friends.

...ATTRACTIONS

You can also come and Keep Fit with us! We get together to get rid of those extra bits of flab! The exercises are quite gentle so that we don't strain ourselves too much. Or you can just exercise your fingers if you prefer - we have typing classes given by a trained typist/teacher. Then there's the kitchen, where during the last few weeks people have been pickling onions, and making home-made orange squash, among other things. During the next half-term we hope to ice Christmas cakes, and make Christmas puddings, so if you are interested in getting yours done in good company, come along and find out all about it. Finally, if there's anything else you would like to try your hand at which isn't mentioned here - we are always open to suggestions, and if it's possible will have a go at putting it on! (By the way, if anyone feels energetic there are facilities for adults to play badminton, darts, table-tennis etc etc, too!) All this on Wednesdays at St Paul's Hall, 8 p.m. onwards.

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TERM TIME PERFS :- 10.00am, 2.00pm.

SATURDAY'S & HOLIDAY'S :- 2.30pm. (some 10.30am)

"THE SOLITARY OF LLANBEDR-PAINSCASTLE."

NOV. 8th. at 7.30pm.

"PANTOMIME" DEC. 20th. at 7.30pm.

PLAYS FOR TEENAGERS

"SCAB" by SECOND CITY THEATRE
NOV. 9 & 10 :- 10.00, 2.00. NOV. 11 :- 2.00, 7.30. NOV. 12 :- 7.30pm only.

"DO IT YOURSELF" by PUB THEATRE
OCT. 31st To NOV. 4th & NOV. 14th To 18th :- 2.00pm.

"ARIODANTE" - Opera by HANDEL

NOV. 24 To 26. at 7.30. Workshop NOV. 25. at 10.00.

"AMAH! & THE NIGHT VISITORS."

[Christmas Musical] DEC. 14 at 7.30. DEC. 15 at 2.30 & 7.30.

help the
heathans

With information, news,
drawings, letters, photos
Write to: Cannon Hill
120 St. Paul's Rd. Birmingham

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