RUGELEY TIMES

COLTON VILLAGE In the NEWS

Press Cuttings Volume I

COLTON

SCRAP BOOK

LOCAL CUTTINGS

AND

OTHER NEWS ITEMS.

MISS COLTON

30/4/56



The picture shows Miss Maureen Shipley, aged 18, of 21, Heathway, Colton, who was chosen as "Miss Colton" at the Reading Room, Colton.

MISSIONARY TALK AT COLTON M.U.

The April meeting of Colton Mothers' Union was held in the Reading Room on Tuesday when Miss Sherwood gave a talk on "Missionary work in the Lalore Diocese of India." She was thanked by Mrs Hilda Williscroft.

Members were informed that for the May meeting Colton branch will, at the invitation of Blithfield branch, join them in Admaston Village Hall to meet the Rev. P. L. Vaughan, Rector of Tixall, and hear about Mission work in Melanesia.

TIMES 25/4/59

PRAYER. — Over 80 women of various denominations attended the Women's World Day of Prayer service held in the Methodist Church last Friday. The order of service followed that prepared for all nations by the women of Canada. Mrs J. Duncan opened the service with the call to worship and after the congregational hymn, "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven," had been sung, Mrs H. Laird read psalm 103. Responsive prayers of confession and penitence were led by Mrs M. Nicolson, the congregation sang the hymn "We have not known Thee as we ought," and Mrs R. McConnell conducted an act of dedication. This was followed by the hymn, "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee," and intercessory prayers led by Mrs S. Fraser. After another hymn had been sung, "Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me," Mrs H. R. Bowes gave a short address on the theme "Labourers together with God." The offering was taken by Mrs G. Fullerton and Mrs J. Slater and dedicated by Mrs A. J. Mowat. The closing hymn, "The Day Thou Gavest", was sung and the service ended with the Benediction. The organist was Mrs J. A. Watt, bell ringer, Mrs J. Moore. The collection, which amounted to £6 10/- was in aid of the provision of Christian literature.

THE good old days! Were they really? I think they were.

All we children were happy in our little village of Colton, near Rugeley. We always had plenty of good, pure food.

Even if most of us little boys had patches on our trousers we were protected, because in our days the master was authorised to use the cane, and he did.

And it did not do us any harm: it hardened us to face the future.

The families in our village were large—the average was about eight.

There were ten of us. Our dad's wage was fifteen shillings.

Beer was twopence a pint, ale threepence. Rents were two shillings per week to two-and-six.

Villagers had large gardens, kept fowls, and many had a pig and a few a cow.

Dad would periodically have a pig killed and mother used to cry. The pig would follow mother up the yard to the butcher's bench and then she would go into the house and shut the door.

After the pig had been hanging for a week the butcher would come and cut it up and receive his fee—one shilling and sixpence and a fry supper.

On the cottage wall was a large photograph of Queen Victoria—(Mother's Treasure) and next to her Mr. Gladstone—(Mother's Idol).

On the mantlepiece were pictures of Boer War heroes Gen. Buller, Lord French, Lord "Bobs" Roberts, and Baden-Powell.

Yes! I think they were GOOD old days.

How times have changed. —HARRY WALKDEN, 52 Brookvale Park Road, Birmingham.

CORRESPONDENCE

TIMES 29/9/59

COLTON YOUTH CLUB NEED

Sir,—With reference to the article which appeared in last week's "Rugeley Times," concerning Colton youth club, may I say that the statement made by the Rev. A. S. Towlson, that the closing of the club was due to the lack of helpers is incorrect.

As one of the co-leaders, I can state that lack of interest and falling attendances were the sole reasons that forced the decision to close the club.

G. F. Upton.

Margaret Eva Cottage, Colton.

Colton election results

TIMES 17/5/58

At Colton there were 10 candidates for seven seats on the parish council, and the following were elected:— B. Bettson (114); A. N. Felton (133); F. Hardcastle (120); L. Mellor (159); R. Morrall (161); Mrs. J. Taylor (132); and A. S. Towlson (131).

The unsuccessful candidates were: A. V. Hardcastle (97); F. Norman (99); and G. Upton (101).

In the Rural Council election at Colton Mr. Richard Morrall was elected with 148 votes. His opponent, Mr. F. Hardcastle polled 106 votes.

There were no candidates

Colwich now has Produce Guild

TIMES 1/10/60

AT a meeting held in the school hall on Thursday of last week a Produce Guild was formed for the village. County officials and members of the neighbouring guild at Colton were present.

Mr. K. Wain, who proposed that a guild be formed, after those present had heard talks and seen films, was later made chairman of the new guild.

Mrs. N. W. Alderson, of Little Haywood, volunteered to act as secretary, and the following were elected to the committee:— Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Bannister, Mrs. B. Bowen, Miss German, Mr. and Mrs. J. Flackett, Mr. and Mrs. J. Lewis.

Sixteen Colwich people were present at the meeting on a very wet evening, which made Mr. F. W. Farrer, chairman of the Staffordshire Federation, say they must be very keen to join a guild.

Mr. D. M. Gibb, county secretary, and Mr. C. Horton, Staffordshire representative on the national committee, were present.

Mr. Farrer showed a colour film, "The Gardens of England," which portrayed a range of gardens from historic Hampton Court down to the humble cottage garden. He followed this with a brief outline of the growth of village produce guilds.

War effort

They were started, he said, in Staffordshire 20 years ago as a war effort. But there was still a need for food, especially home-grown food, which was usually superior to the commercial vegetables, which were often in shops and markets for some days.

He explained how the guild ran competitions, films, quizzes, taught floral decoration and provided talks at the monthly meetings on a variety of subjects, including cookery. An advantage was the 20 per cent reduction in seeds and equipment for members ordering through the guild.

Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Timmins, of Colton, showed their film of the recent garden competition at Colton, which was very much appreciated—especially the commentary by Mr. Timmins.

Mr. Gibb, inviting questions, said there was a need for a guild in Colwich and he had yet to find an organisation with as much to offer as the village produce guilds which had something to offer to all age groups.

FUNERAL OF EX-COUNTY ANALYST

Senior

The funeral took place at Berkswich, Stafford, of Mr. Ernest Victor Jones, of The Croft, Milford, former county analyst, who died in hospital at Lichfield.

He was 79.

A native of Wolverhampton, Mr. Jones was appointed Deputy Public Analyst for Staffordshire in 1908, and succeeded his father, the late Mr E. T. Jones, as county analyst in 1922.

In his younger days he was an outstanding sportsman, playing hockey for England and being captain of the

15/11/58 COLTON

PRODUCE GUILD.—At the November meeting of the Colton Produce Guild, held at the Reading Room, and at which the Chairman (Mr. R. A. Brundle) presided, an interesting talk was given by Mr. Farrar on "Winter work in the garden." The competition for a buttonhole, judged by Mr. Farrar, was won by Mr. Brundle with a pink rosebud.

TORIES AT WHIST.—A whist drive held in the Reading Room, Colton, on Friday was organised by the Colton branch of the Lichfield and Tamworth Conservative and Unionist Association. Mr Fred Norman was M.C. and the prospective candidate, Dr. Roberts (who was introduced by Mr. W. J. Jones) presented the prizes to: Mrs. Ede, Mr. G. Hampson, Mrs. Bettson, Mr. F. H. Bannister, Mrs. F. Nicklin, Mrs. Sargeant, Mrs. J. Shipley, Master Tony Clarke, Mrs. Hampson, Mr. John Webb and Mr. W. Houldcroft. The competition for a bottle of sherry was won by Mr. J. H. Wright. The four ladies and four gents with the highest scores are entitled to play in the final whist drive at Lichfield.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FUND WHIST DRIVE

A whist drive for Sunday school

COLTON

F.C. WHIST DRIVE

The committee of Colton St. Mary's football club organised a whist drive, which was held in the Reading Room of Friday of last week. Mr. Len Devalle was M.C. and Mrs. Parker presented the prizes to Mrs. J. Devalle, Mrs. Felton, Mrs. Jackson, Mr. Greaves, Mr. D. Thacker and Mr. W. Hewitt, Mrs. Ravenscroft and Mr. Tom Leek (lowest scores), Mr. Follows (mystery prize), and Mrs. Ravenscroft (score card prize).

Friday, 3/11/58. The Rugeley Mercury

WHIST DRIVE

Trustees of Colton Reading Room organised a whist drive for the benefit of the upkeep of the room on Friday of last week. Mr. Fred Norman was M.C. and Mrs. Parker distributed the prizes to Mrs. Vivian (Abbots Bromley), Miss D. Jones, Mrs. Ravenscroft, Mr. J. Hooley, Mr. Roy Goodall and Mr. F. W. Cooper. Lowest scores, Miss L. Norman and Mr. W. J. Parr; mystery prize. Mr. Smith (Uttoxeter).

The rector (the Rev. H. H. Goodin) thanked all who had helped to make the effort a success.

Rugeley Times 13/4/51

13/4/51 COLTON

Whist.—The Trustees of Colton Reading Room held another whist drive in support of the funds for the up-keep of the room. On Friday Mr. Fred Norman was M.C. and Mrs. Parker presented prizes to Mrs. Vivian, Abbots Bromley, Miss D Jones, Mrs. Ravenscroft, Miss L Norman, Mr. J. Hooley, Mr. Roy Goodall, Mr. F. W. Cooper

Fri: 20th Sept. 1929.

RUGELEY FARMER'S TRAGIC DEATH.

COLLISION WITH MOTOR-LORRY.

JURY AND SLEEPY DRIVERS.

A tragic fatality occurred on the Armitage Road, Rugeley, on Saturday morning which resulted in the death of Clement Charles Mellor (48), a well-known farmer in the district, of Manor Farm, Colton. It appears that deceased was driving a horse and trap towards Rugeley when a motor-lorry with a van in tow, in endeavouring to pass in the same direction, struck the trap, which overturned. Mellor was thrown to the ground and sustained severe injuries, from which he expired in a few minutes.

Sitting with a jury, of which Mr. C. J. Price was the foreman, the inquest was conducted at the Rugeley District Hospital on Tuesday afternoon by the Deputy-Coroner (Mr. W. W. Morgan). Mr. F. W. Hawthorne (Uttoxeter) represented deceased's relatives, and Mr. F. Collis (Burslem) appeared for the owners of the lorry, Messrs. J. Beresford and Son, Ltd., High Street, Tunstall, and the driver, Frank Thomas; whilst Mr. Howard Baker (Messrs. Phillip Baker and Co., Birmingham) appeared for Percy Roger Shufflebotham, the driver of the van being towed by the other vehicle. Chief-Superintendent Heath watched the proceedings on behalf of the police.

Evidence of identification was given by George Mellor, Manor Farm, Colton, a brother, who said the horse deceased was driving was a quiet one and used to motors.

Mr. Collis: Was deceased a married man?—Witness: Not that I am aware of.

Mr. Baker: He had no one dependent upon him?—He did all the buying and selling on the farm.—I did not ask you that. Has he any dependents?—Yes, he keeps my sister.—Do you keep your sister as well?—Well, I work on the farm. We were partners.

Oliver Clipstone, a grocer's assistant, of 324, Tamworth Road, Kettlebrook, stated that at about 11.50 a.m. on Saturday he was cycling towards Rugeley, and after going over the bridge which had been under alterations he saw a trap in front of him. The lorry, with a van in tow, then passed witness, the trap then being 100 yards away on its proper side. The lorry was going at a moderate speed and was also on the proper side. When passing the trap it seemed to witness that the swerve of the tow hit the rear of the trap, and witness at that time could not see the lorry because the van was a high one. The trap was turned over and the driver was pinned underneath.

The Coroner: Was there any other traffic about?—Witness: Not that I saw.—Did you notice whether the horse of the trap swerved out at all?—No.—Did the horse get excited?—Yes, afterwards.—Is it a straight piece of road and the surface good?—Yes.—What happened to the lorry?—It ran into the hedge after the impact.—Did you hear a horn sounded?—Yes, when the lorry passed me, and I suppose the driver also sounded it when he passed the other people.

Mr. Baker: You won't swear that the towed van collided with the trap?—No, I would not swear to it. It appeared to me as if the lorry hit it.—Did the lorry run into the hedge after the crash?—Yes.—But the van kept on for a considerable distance?—Yes.

COLTON

Whist Drive.—A whist drive was held in the Reading Room on Friday in aid of the Sunday School Funds. Mr. Fred Norman was M.C. and Mrs. Taylor distributed prizes to Mrs. Morral, Mrs. Curtiss, Miss M. Hooley, Mr. B. Bettson, Mr. A. Devall, Mr. J. Hooley, jun., Mrs. Sargeant, Mr. R. Myatt and Mrs. Able. QC [illegible] 10 [illegible]

the deceased on the ground. The latter, thinking witness was the driver, said: "Oh dear, what were you doing?"

Mr. Hawthorne: You said the lorry appeared to be out of control?—That was my opinion. I thought the steering had gone wrong.—There was no reason otherwise why the lorry should not have kept on its right side?—No.

Mr. Baker: When the lorry itself went into the left side the van following continued straight on?—It came from the rear into the front of it.

James Wain, a miner, of 33, Upper Cross Roads, Rugeley, said it was the rear part of the lorry which struck the trap.

The Coroner: Are you certain of that?—Yes, it was not the trailer, which came round afterwards and did not touch the trap.

Mr. Collis: A swerve of the trap would cause the middle part of the lorry to come into contact with it.—It was the middle part of the lorry that I saw strike it.

Chief-Superintendent Heath: When the lorry struck the trap, what position was the horse in?—It appeared that the horse's head was towards the hedge.

Dr. James McIntyre stated that deceased was dead on arrival at the Rugeley Hospital, and at the post mortem witness discovered that on the left side the third to seventh (inclusive) and on the right side the sixth to eleventh ribs were broken. On the left side there was a rupture of the lung and a flow of blood in the pluval cavity. The cause of death was shock and internal haemorrhage due to the injuries.

P.c. Matthews gave particulars of the road measurements, and said the front near-side mudwing of the lorry, which was made of wood, was splintered towards the bottom and a piece was broken off. The near-side running-board was also broken and badly damaged. On the front near-side wheel there were six nuts round the centre hub, and they were all grazed as if they had brushed against something. The bottom of the cab door was also grazed. Witness found the towed vehicle about 30ft. in front of the point of the collision, but there was no damage done to it except that the offside front wheel was punctured. In a statement Thomas, the driver of the lorry, said he would be about 100 yards away when he first saw the horse and trap. When about to pass it he pulled out gradually to the offside to give the trap plenty of room, but when alongside the driver he felt the steering wheel knocked out of his hand, which sent the lorry through the hedge. He heard the man, who was lying on the ground, say: "My back is broken." Witness said Thomas also said he was a teetotaller. He was rather on the sleepy side at the time, but was capable of driving his machine. When asked when he had any sleep last, Thomas said on Thursday afternoon.

In reply to the foreman of the jury, the constable said from the wheel tracks of the lorry there was 6ft. clear on the off side and 5ft. 10in. on the near side.

Mrs. Eliza Lewis, The Basin, Armitage Road, Rugeley, said she was standing on the doorstep of her house and had a very clear view of the road. The lorry and the trap were side by side, when the horse reared on its hind legs. The trap then swerved towards the back of the lorry and then to its own side again. The horse was on its hind legs before the swerve and appeared as if it had been frightened.

Percy Roger Shufflebotham, of 20, Ashford Street, Shelton, and the driver of the van in tow, said the lorry was level with the trap when the latter vehicle turned over. Thomas pulled out to pass the trap, but witness could not say what caused the trap to go over. He was positive, however, that it was not his van which hit it. The speed of the lorry would be about ten miles an hour at the time.

At this stage the Coroner said he understood the driver Thomas relied on his statement to the police.

Mr. Collis: He does for the purpose of the inquest.

Addressing the jury, the Coroner said as they had heard the driver relied on a statement which was made quite voluntary almost immediately after the collision, and he had no time to connect a story. They would wonder why an accident occurred like that on a perfectly straight road, and when there was no other traffic about. He thought it would almost be waste of time to go through the evidence again. They must, however, in cases of that kind be a difference between cases for compensation, a civil case, and a case of negligence which would amount to manslaughter. There was a vast difference between a civil case and a manslaughter case. There were various terms of negligence, gross, wicked and manslaughter, but he thought whatever term they used they must give attention to the difference of civil negligence and manslaughter. In that case there was conflicting evidence from the various witnesses. He must, however, draw attention to the hours that the man Thomas had been driving, and as he told the constable he had had no sleep since Thursday afternoon. He (the Coroner) thought representations should be made to the firm on that point, as want of sleep seemed to be courting disaster in a lot of cases.

The members of the jury agreed with this recommendation, the foreman remarking that it was out of all reason, and Mr. Collis said he would make the representation to his clients with pleasure.

After the jury had retired the foreman announced that there was negligence on the part of the driver of the lorry, but not criminal negligence, and they were of opinion that the negligence was contributed to a great deal by the long hours that the man had been at work, and they wished to place that on record. The jury also wished to express their sympathy with the relatives of the deceased, and also to commend the police on the plans they had made, and the way they had brought that case forward.

Mr. Collis and Mr. Baker also associated themselves with the expression of sympathy, and Mr. Hawthorn returned thanks, remarking that the relatives wished to thank the police for their kindness and the great assistance they had rendered, and also the hospital authorities.

The Coroner also expressed his sympathy, and endorsed the remarks with regard to the police.

Chief Supt. Heath replied to the latter remarks on behalf of the Chief Constable.

A verdict of "Accidental death with negligence, not amounting to criminal negligence, on the part of Thomas was returned, the Coroner saying that the question of the hours of drivers should be taken up with the Home Secretary.

3/1/30. **COLTON.**

Dance — [illegible] was held in the [illegible] Night in aid of th[illegible] organised by the [illegible] There was a g[illegible] Parker being M[illegible] Messrs. J[illegible] and L[illegible] were [illegible]

Fancy Dress Ball

dress [illegible] ing Room [illegible] the entries [illegible] fewer than [illegible] Smith [illegible]

DEATH OF CAPTAIN C. D. OLDHAM.

FUNERAL AT COLTON.

The death took place in a nursing home at Stafford, on Wednesday last week, of Capt. Charles Skinner Darley Oldham, of Bellamour Lodge, Rugeley, after a very short illness. The deceased gentleman, who was 73 years of age, was only taken ill two days previous to his death.

He took an active interest in the affairs of the village of Colton, in which parish his residence was situated. He was appointed a churchwarden for St. Mary's Parish Church in May, 1909, and had continued to hold the position of people's warden ever since. He was also chairman of the Colton Parish Trust, which office he had held since the date of the death of the late rector (the Rev. F. P. Parker). He was also a member of the Parochial Church Council, and for a short period was a member of the Colton Parish Council. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the County of Stafford in April, 1912, and was a member of the Rugeley Petty Sessional Bench. He was also for many years a Governor of the Rugeley Grammar School.

He was well-known not only in Rugeley district but throughout the county, and was held in high esteem, especially at Colton, where he did much good work and was a generous supporter of any good cause. His widow is also very well known throughout the county, especially in connection with her work as Divisional Commissioner of the Staffordshire Girl Guides and much sympathy is felt with her in her sad bereavement.

The Funeral.

The funeral took place at St. Mary's Parish Church, Colton, on Saturday afternoon, amid many manifestations of the esteem in which the deceased was held by a large circle of friends. The service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. D. R. S. Holmes), assisted by the Rev. H. Wilton, of Foye, Ross, Herefordshire, and the Rev. W. J. Stanton, of Eaton Lodge, Rugeley.

The choir was in attendance, the 90th Psalm and the hymns "The King of Love" and "There is a Land of Pure Delight" being sung. The lesson was read by the Rev. Wilton, and the service at the grave was taken by the Rev. Stanton.

The principal mourners were the widow, Captain Lloyd (Shrewsbury), Mr. Symonds Tayler (Hereford), and Miss Tomkins, who represented the staff at Bellamour Lodge.

The bearers were Messrs. E. Cooper, G. Horobin, A. E. Upton and J. Farley. Two detachments of Girl Guides from Rugeley and Colton also attended the service. Among others present were Sir F. Villiers Forster, Bart. (chairman of the Rugeley Bench), Mr. J. W. Gardner (Magistrates' Clerk), Rev. H. Langham Muriel (Vicar of Rugeley and Chairman of the Governors of the Rugeley Grammar School), Mr. R. H. Landor (Clerk to the Governors), Mr. E. S. Blore (Chairman of the Colton Parish Council), Mr. J. T. Wint (co-churchwarden), Colonel W. A. Wetherall, J.P. (Rugeley), Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Bruxner (Rugeley), Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Broun (Rugeley), Mr. H. L. Horsfall, Miss Horsfall (Colwich), Rev. B. Coussmaker (Great Haywood), Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Wolseley (Wolseley Hall), Major Wood and Miss Akroyd (Bishton Hall), Mr. L. Neighbour and Miss Neighbour (Blithfield), Dr. B. L. Paton (Rugeley), Mr. J. Richards (Colton House), Miss Parker (Colton Rectory), Rev. F. L. Barnwell and the Misses E. and V. Barnwell (Stramshall), [illegible] E. Colvill Lyons (Cheslyn Hay), Mrs. J. W. Gardner, [illegible] and Mrs. Brooks (Penkridge), Mr. [illegible] C. [illegible] G. H. [illegible]

Colton 26/3/59.

AT Colton Women' Institute last week Mrs. T. Preston presided. The secretry, Mrs. Buckley, reported on the year's activities and was thanked by Mrs. R. Bannister and Mrs. Sargeant. Mrs. Mills, presented a statement of accounts for which she was thanked by Mrs. C. Jones, and Mrs. Westmacott. The election of officers and committe for the coming year resulted as follows :— President, Mrs. T. Preston, vice-presidents, Mrs. R. Banister, and Mrs. C. Jones; secretary, Mrs. Buckley: assistant secretary and press correspondent, Mrs. Atkin,; treasurer, Mrs Sargeant: committee, Miss Rotchell, Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. G. Willisoroft.

The president conveyed congratulations and good wishes on behalf of Institute members to Mrs. Toolley a member, on the occasion of her golden wedding.

Mrs. Westmacott agreed to attend the Spring Council meeting in Stafford on April 7 as delegate. A rummage sale was arranged for April 11

The evening concluded with games and musica organised by Mr. and Mrs. R. Bannister.

Hostesses for the evening were Mrs. Collier, Mrs. A. Devalle and Mrs. Felton.

COLTON BRIDE AT RUGELEY

Miss Helen Margaret Hurley, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ivor Hurley of 17 Heathways, Colton, was married on May 19, to Brian G. Farwell of Weymouth. The service was held at Rugeley Roman Catholic Church. The Rev. Father McSwiney officiated.

The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a dress of white net over taffeta, with a brocade bodice.

She was attended by Miss Maureen Shipley, a friend, Misses Patricia and Irene Hurley, sisters and Miss Maureen Turnet, a cousin of the bride.

They wore turquoise blue nylon dresses and carried bouquets of sweet peas. The smallest bridesmaid was in pink. Mr Brian Peter Jenkins, of 62 Conway Road, Newport, Monmouthshire, was best man.

The reception was held at the Greyhound Inn, Colton. 31/5/56

Colton, Rugeley 24/1/56

MRS. PRESTON presided at a meeting in the Reading Room last Wednesday. The county letter and other business matters were discussed, and final arrangements were made for the outing to Denman College at the end of the month. It was arranged to hold a summer party on July 23. A proposal to admit girls of school-leaving age as Institute members was carried unanimously. Mrs. C. Jones gave an account of her visit to the A.G.M. in London as delegate. Mrs. J. L. Taylor proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Jones, which was seconded by Mrs. Brundle. Hostesses for the evening were the Misses A. Jones, W. Parr, Rotchell and Mrs. Parr. Mrs. Bettson won the mystery parcel. A competition, organised by Mrs. C. Jones for the longest list of place names ending in "ton" was won by Mrs. Towlson.

24/7/53 **COLTON**

Mothers' Union.—There was a good attendance at the July meeting of the Mothers' Union, held in the Rectory on Tuesday afternoon.

An interesting talk was given by Lady Bagot on her impressions of the Coronation. She brought her robes and coronet, etc., and dressed in them for members to see. She had also brought along Lord Bagot's Coronation attire.

Thanks were extended to Lady Bagot for her kindness in coming along. Small items of business were dealt with and tea followed.

31/7/57 **COLTON** Mercury

PRODUCE GUILD OUTING

Two coach-loads of Colton people spent an enjoyable day at Weston-under-Lizard on Sunday. The trip was organised by the Village Produce Guild in lieu of

Lord Bagot.

* * *

Lord Bagot (Sir William Bagot), of Bagots Bromley, Staffordshire, was 73 on Sunday. He is the fourth baron and succeeded his father in 1887. Lord Bagot formerly held a commission in the 3rd Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment and in the Staffordshire Yeomanry, was on the staff of the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Canada. 1879-84, a lord-in-waiting, 1896-01, and was also gentleman usher of the privy chamber. He married. in 1903, Lilian Mary, daughter of the late Mr. Henry May, Maryland, U.S.A., and has a daughter. The Bagots are an old Staffordshire family. A Bagot held Bramshall from Robert de Stafford when Domesday Book was made out by order of the Conqueror, and one of the family was the ancestor of the extinct family of which the Earls of Buckingham —not the present family—were the head. Sir Hervet Bagot, the first baronet, was raised to that dignity in 1627, and the sixth baronet was advanced to the peerage in 1780

Mercury - Fri. 24/1/30.

COLTON GOLDEN WEDDING.

Mercury. 14/2/30.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Bull.

One of the happiest of old couples are Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Bull, of Colton, who on Saturday celebrated their golden wedding. Mr. and Mrs. Bull are both septuagenarians, Mr. Bull being 73 years of age and his wife two years younger, and both are natives of Colton. They were married on February 9th, 1880, at the parsh church Colton, by the late Rector, the Rev. F. P. Parker. Mr. Bull, who is a retired railwayman, joined the service of the L.M.S. Railway (then the London and North-Western Railway) as long ago as 1881, and after completing forty-one year's service retired on superannuation on April 30th, 1922. During the whole of his service he was stationed at the Rugeley Trent Valley, and saw many changes both in the railway system and at the Rugeley Trent Valley Station.

Mr. and Mrs. Bull recall happy memories of the "good old days" when the lord and lady of the manor took such a great interest in the entertainment and welfare of the villagers; in fact, their chief regret in the history of the village is the passing of one of the stateliest houses in England when Bellamour Hall unfortunately had to be demolished. Mr. Bull is also a keen Oddfellow, and was initiated a member of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows at the early age of 17, and upon the inauguration of the Oldham Lodge in the Lichfield District in 1905 he transferred to that lodge and is privileged as one of the oldest members.

On Monday evening a happy re-union took place in celebration of the event. Amongst the many friends and relatives present were Mr. and Mrs. A. Thorns, Mr. and Mrs. Bellfield, Mrs. Baylis, Mr. and Mrs. Hand, Mr. and Mrs. W. Downs, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hibbs, Mr. and Mrs. N. Thorns, Mr. and Mrs. E. Devalle, Miss Molly Hand. and Miss Ivy Bennett. Mr. J. Degg, on behalf of the company, in a few well-chosen words proposed the health of Mr. and Mrs. Bull, after which all contributed to the singing of "For he's a jolly good fellow." After dinner a most enjoyable evening was spent in singing and entertainment.

The fortunate couple, both of whom are hale and hearty, are held in the very highest esteem by the many relatives and friends they possess.

Sunday. **COLTON** 9/2/30.

Golden Wedding. — Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Bull, of Colton, on Sunday celebrated their golden wedding. Mr. Bull is 73 years of age and Mrs. Bull 71, and both claim the village of Colton as their native place. They were married on Feb. 9, 1880, at the Parish Church at Colton. Mr. Bull, who is a retired railwayman, joined the service of the L.M. and S. Railway as long ago as April, 1881, and after 41 years' service, during the whole of which period he was stationed at Rugeley Trent Valley, he retired in April 1922. Mr. Bull is a keen Oddfellow, and was initiated a member of the Manchester Unity at the early age of 17, and upon the inauguration of the Oldham Lodge in the Lichfield district in 1905 transferred to the latter, and is one of its oldest members. A happy re-union dinner took place on Monday evening, and amongst the many relatives and friends in attendance were the following relatives: Mr. and Mrs. A. Thorn, Mr. and Mrs. Belfield, Mrs. Baylis, Mr. and Mrs. Hand, Mr. and Mrs. W. Downs, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hibbs, Mr. and Mrs. N. Thorns, Mr. and Mrs. E. Devalle, Miss Molly Hand, and Miss Ivy Bennett. Mr. J. Degg proposed the health of Mr. Bull and his wife, and all joined in the singing of "For he's a jolly good fellow."

Advertiser.

Now Mr. Best takes over

Staffs. 22/10/29

SEVENTY-four-years-old Mr. J. A. Best, who recently took over as secretary of the Association of the Friends of Cannock Chase will have a high standard to keep up. His predecessor, Dr. P. H. Jennings, was an efficient person who was well liked in the association and always worked diligently.

But he has now left the country and gone to Canada to gain more experience in metallurgy, so he can come back to England and take up another teaching post. He was teaching at Wednesbury before he left.

Mr. Best lives at Bellamour, Rugeley, and was a farm owner before he retired. Speaking to the "Advertiser," he said: "I have always been interested in Cannock Chase because from where I am living I can see it anytime. This job I am taking with the association is a lot for a person of my age, but I will try my best to carry it out successfully. It means a lot of clerical work and for the latter part of my life I have been a farmer. Still. I feel everything will work out all right."

Mr. Best has lived in the Rugeley area for over 20 years and while he has been in the Friends of Cannock Chase, has made a model of the area which he presented to them. This model was on show at the Town and Country Planning Exhibition in Stafford recently.

COLTON DEDICATION SERVIC

Mercury. 17/2/3

Electric Light Installation.

On Tuesday evening a formal serv of dedication of the electric light inst lation in the parish church of St. Mar was held. Mrs. Oldham, of Bellamo Lodge, is the kindly benefactress of t splendid innovation, and it is almost conceivable that a more useful project the memory of her late husband cou have been conceived. A bronze tabl made by Messrs. R. Bridgeman and So of Lichfield, bearing the following scription: "In gratitude to God for t dear memory of my husband, Captain S. D. Oldham, J.P., who died Janu 9th, 1930, aged 75, the electric light is stalled in this church.

"They need no candle,
Neither the light of the sun";

is also affixed to the south wall.

The light was switched on prior to the commencement and presented a marked contrasted to the ancient, though picturesque, arrangement of candle light, and it was evidenced by the huge congregation which filled the church that the parishioners very much appreciate Mrs. Oldham's well-meditated gift. The service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. D. R. S. Holmes), assisted by the Rev. W. J. Stanton and the Vicar of Rugeley (the Rev. H. L. Muriel). The Rev. R. de Coussmaker (Great Haywood) and the Rev. J. Paris (Blithfield) were also present. A procession of the choir and clergy, followed by the Girl Guides' Colour Party (bearing the colours presented to them by the late Captain Oldham), to the hymn "Through the night of doubt and sorrow," preceded a very appropriate address by the Rector, who referred concisely to the great interest the late Captain took in the affairs of the village and the able manner in which he carried out his duties in connection with it.

Special prayers for the occasion were read by the Rev. W. J. Stanton, who then proceeded to the south wall for the benediction and dedication of the tablet, upon the completion of which the hymn "The King of Love" was sung. Psalm 121 was included in the remainder of the service to a chant by Lord Mornington, and the lesson was read from Isaiah 60, verses 1—7 inclusive. After the blessing the choir and clergy returned to their places to the hymn "Praise my soul." Many friends of the late Captain and Mrs. Oldham attended, including Major Wood, [illegible] and Mrs. and Miss Main-

Colton.—Addressing the annual meeting in the Reading Room Mrs. Bullows, V.C.O., said that every W.I. member has a great responsibility to her Institute and should enter with enthusiasm into all its activities. The secretary's report and the treasurer's financial statement were presented. Highest points in the competition, three mince-pies were awarded by Mrs. Bullows to Mrs. Buckley. A new member, Miss M. Hooley was welcomed. Officers elected were: President, Mrs. Taylor; vice-presidents, Mrs. Preston, Mrs. Bannister; secretary, Mrs. Jackson; assistant secretary, Mrs. Jones; treasurer, Mrs. Parker; Press correspondent, Mrs. Jones. 19/12/29

Miss Mary Reader married

The wedding took place at All Saints' Church, Chebsey, of Mr. Lewis C. S. Turner, son of Mrs. J. Turner and the late Mr. B. Turner of Shawman's-lane, Haughton, and Miss Mary Elizabeth Reader, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. B Reader, of Eccleshall-road Great Bridgeford.

The Vicar (the Rev. C. A. Payton) officiated at th choral service, and Mr. T. Pearson was the organist.

Given away by her fath the bride wore a full-leng dress of white lace ove taffeta trimmed with flocke nylon. Her waist-length nylo veil was secured by a coron of pearl flowers. Her bouqu was of pink roses and mixe flowers.

She was attended by Mi Anne Reader (bride's siste and Miss Janet Turne (bridegroom's sister). Th were dressed in blue flocke nylon dresses, pink head dresses and white shoes They carried posies of mixe flowers edged with pi Italian lace.

OLDHAM

THE interment took place on Tuesday, July 3, at Colton Churchyard, of Mrs. Maud Oldham, who died on Friday, June 29. Mrs. Oldham was the widow of Capt. Charles S. D. O. Oldham, of Bellamour Lodge, Colton, who died on January 9, 1930, at the age of 73. Mrs. Oldham continued in residence at the Lodge for a considerable number of years following the death of her husband. Eventually she disposed of Bellamour Lodge by sale, and had been living in the Cheltenham district for some years past.

Both the late captain and his widow were well-known as benefactors to the Church of St. Mary at Colton, and as a memorial to her husband, who was people's churchwarden over a period of years, Mrs. Oldham had the existing electric lighting system installed in the church 25 years ago this year. Before then the church had been lighted by candles.

In pre-war days, Mrs. Oldham was actively interested in the Girl Guide movement, and at one time there was an appreciative membership in the Colton branch, which had the Lodge as its headquarters.

Mrs. Oldham was at one time a member of Colton Parish Lands Trust and also acted as one of the churchwardens at St. Mary's Church for a number of years. One of her last acts, for which she will be remembered in local circles for many years, was her recent generous dedication of a piece of the Peace for the county of Stafford, and sat on the Rugeley Bench for some years. He was well-known for his fondness of fishing in local rivers and streams.

Mrs. Oldham, who leaves no children, was 85 years of age.

vants, O God, to be set on fire with
d by Thy power, illumined by Thy
ıy grace, and to go forward by Thine
ord, a right faith, perfect love, true

, that there may be in us simple affec-
rsevering obedience, perpetual peace, a
clean heart, a good will, a holy con-
unction, ghostly strength, a life unspotted
after having manfully finished our course,
opily to enter into Thy Kingdom.

Amen.

The Benediction :

We bless, hallow and dedicate this gift to be used in the worship of Almighty God, and for the service of His House. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Amen.

Hymn, A. & M. 197.

The Lord's Prayer.

Psalm 121.

Lesson, Isaiah 60, 1—7 inclusive.

The Magnificat.

The Creed.

Remained Hymn 298

Maud Oldham

A COLTON BENEFACTRESS

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Mothers' Union.—The Novembe
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" Miss Ellen Mi
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the proceeds
to the Church

Colton School open day

Mercury 3/12/60

An open day was arranged at St. Mary's Church School on Monday, when a good number of parents and friends were welcomed in the gaily decorated class rooms. Also present were the Rector (Rev. A. S. Towlson), Mr. Fred Hardcastle (Chairman of the Parish Council) and Mrs. Hardcastle, Mr. B. Bettson (Churchwarden) and Mrs. Bettson.

Mrs. M. S. Toy's infants' class again did their Nativity Play: "How far is it to Bethlehem," in which taking part were:—Doreen Atkin (the Narrator); Delia Knight (Mary); Audrey Stretton (Joseph); Trudy Grimley, Glynnis Jones and Teresa Ritchie (Angels); Lynne Peake, Elaine Leek and Christine Bennett (Shepherds). The Three Kings were Michael Preston, John Norman and Maxwell Cooper.

The parts of Children who made the journey to Behlehem were taken by Aldo Monticoli, Judy Evans, Rosemary Slater and Enid Fowell. The same infants gave a dancing display. The older children sang songs from "Singing Together" and "Rhythm and Melody" books, and Beethoven's song "Creation." Three carols were played on recorders by Mr. D. E. Waters, Dianne Grimley Pamela Jones and Gwendoline Ravenscroft.

The programme ended with the short service usually held each Friday afternoon before school closes for the week-end. The Rector gave the Blessing

...ooms.

Colton

Advertiser 2/12/60

The first of the Christmas Services at St. Mary's, Colton took place on Friday afternoon, when the pupils of Colton St. Mary's School went to church for their Carol Service and Nativity play. The organist was Mrs D. Shaw, prayers were said by Mr D. E. Waters and the Rector. The play 'How far is it to Be...ehem' was very well acted by the infant class under the leadership of their teache Mrs. M. S. Toy.

The announcer was Elizabeth Cooper, readers were Ian Cooper, Patricia Shipley, Helen Myatt, Melvyn Collins, Shirley Tittensor, Gwendoline N. Ravenscroft, Barry Peake and the Rector.

Carols were played on recorders by Dianne Grimley, Pamela Jones, Kathleen Norman, and Gwendoline Ravenscroft. They were helped by Mr Waters. A large company of parents and friends attended the service

8 at Hanley House 7/3/57. TIMES



Hounds frisking in the sunshine at the meet of the South Staffordshire Hunt at Colton. Mounted are the Master, Mr. Kenneth Beeston (centre), and Mr. Tim Pearson (huntsman).

LOCAL WILLS

Mercury 3/8/56

Mr. William Francis Keenahan, of Upfields Farm, Rugeley, Staffs., farmer, who died on March 7, following a tractor accident, intestate, aged 45 years, left £7,886 3s. 3d. gross, £7,133 6s. 2d. net value. (Duty paid £173). Letters of administration have been granted to his widow Mrs. Helen A. Keenahan, of the same address, and John Keenahan, farmer, of Newlands Farm, near Rugeley.

Mr. Austin John Toy, of 14, Upper Brook Street, Rugeley, Staffs., butcher, who died on March 18, aged 92 years, left £4,615 13s. 8d. gross, £4,528 13s. 8d. net value. (Duty paid £90). Probate has been granted to his sons Joseph V. Toy, of the same address, and George W. Toy, of Wynberg, Talbot Street, Rugeley, butchers.

Presentation to Colton Postwoman

Mercury 20/7/56

Residents of Colton, near Rugeley, subscribed more than £20 for a farewell presentation to Miss Helen Rotchell, who has been the village postwoman there for 42 years.

The presentation was organised by Mrs. G. Upton and Mrs. P. M. Buckley and consisted of an umbrella and a gift of money.

Miss Rotchell, who has walked 180,000 miles delivering letters, returned from a short holiday on Tuesday to retire from the Post Office on reaching her 60th birthday.

Her neighbours organised a birthday party in her honour.



PIANO practice before leaving for school every morning has brought its reward to six years-old Elizabeth Cooper (pictured above). Elizabeth had passed the initial stage of the Trinity College of Music examination with merit — one of the youngest girls ever to achieve this success.

Elizabeth's early accomplishment is not surprising for her mother, Mrs. Mary Cooper, of Manor Farm, Admaston, holds a gold medal and numerous certificates for successes obtained in the college examinations. Mrs. Cooper in fact was a pupil at the same music school as her daughter more than 20 years ago. She told the "Rugeley Times" this week that she hopes Elizabeth, who shows tremendous keenness, will one day become a professional concert pianist. 1/12/56

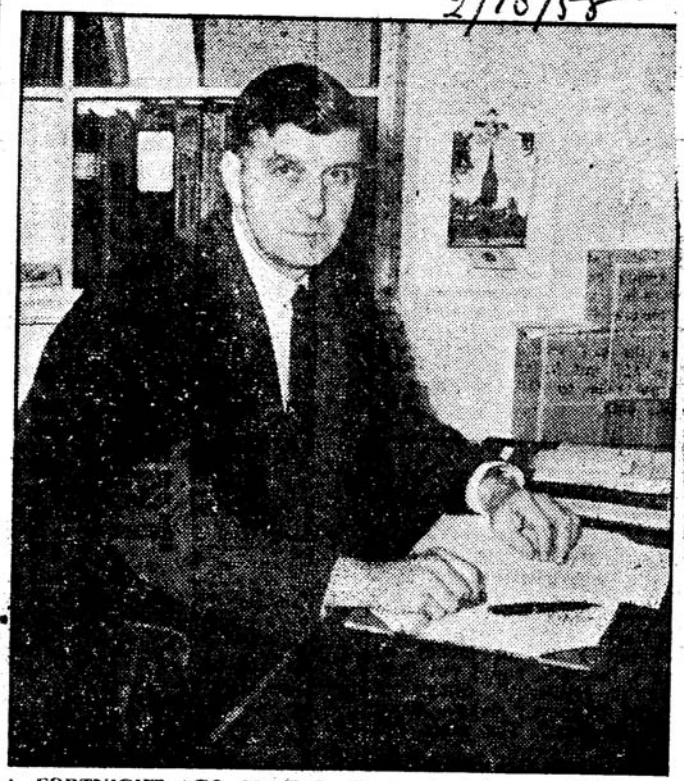
FILMS SHOWN AT CHURCH SERVICE

Times 2/11/60

At the evening service at St. Mary's Church, Colton, on Sunday, the Rev. J. Radley showed films of his work with the Missions to Seamen. Prayers were conducted by Mr. Radley and by Mr. D. E. Waters and the collection was for the Missions to Seamen.

Head of his old school

2/10/58



A FORTNIGHT AGO, Mr. T. B. Smart was appointed headmaster of Rugeley Grammar School, where he had been a pupil, and senior English master for many years.

He is a native of Cannock, where he still lives, and is a son of the late Mr. B. Smart and Mrs. Smart, 153, Hednesford Road.

Educated first of all at Walsall Road School, Cannock, he was head boy of Rugeley Grammar School for two years and captain of all games.

In 1932 he went to Sheffield University where he took a First Class B.A. degree in 1935 and his teaching diploma in 1936.

He remained there until 1938, when he succeeded Mr. A. H. Radwell, senior English master at Rugeley Grammar School for over 40 years.

The war intervened and in 1940 Mr. Smart joined the R.A.F. He became an armaments officer and left as a flight-lieutenant in 1946, returning to his old post at Rugeley.

For a number of years he was Sixth Form Master, and earlier this year was appointed deputy headmaster. When Mr. A. J. Holt retired last term, Mr. Smart became acting headmaster.

He has taken an active part in the athletic side of school life, with

M.U. PARTY AT COLTON

Mercury 7/2/56

On Shrove Tuesday the Mothers Union held their annual party in the Reading Room, each member being able to ask one guest. There were not as many there as usual, owing to the weather and illness. After tea Mrs. Parker arranged short whist and beetle drives. Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Best gave an enjoyable film show of local places and people and of their holidays in Scotland.

Colton W.I. elects officials

24/12/55

Colton Women's Institute held their monthly meeting in the Reading Room, on Wednesday of last week when officers were elected for the coming year. Mrs. Cawthorne was elected president. Invitations to Christmas Parties at Etching Hill and Slitting Mill were received and accepted. Arrangements were made to visit a Birmingham theatre early in the New Year.

The prize for an arrangement of winter twigs was won by Mrs. Jackson, and the mystery prize by Mrs. Atkin.

The meeting ended with members taking part in a beetle drive and whist. TIMES

COLTON WHIST DRIVE PRIZE-WINNERS

24/12/55

The fourth in the series of six whist drives in aid of the Colton Reading Room funds was held in the Reading Room on Tuesday. Mr. Fred Norman was M.C. and Mrs. B. Bettson presented prizes to the following:—

Mrs. B. Jackson, Mr. J. Shipley, Mrs. F. Vicklin, Mr. P. Westhorpe, Mrs. J. Shipley, and Mr. W. Preston. Lowest scores: Miss Helen Hurley and Mr. J. Barker. Miniatures: Mrs. Vicklin and Mrs. R. Bannister.

held. Mrs. Oldham, of Bellamour Lodge, is the benefactress of this splendid innovation as a memorial to her late husband. A bronze tablet, made by Mr. Robert Bridgeman, Lichfield, bearing the following inscription is attached to the south wall: "In gratitude to God for the dear memory of my husband, Capt. C. S. D. Oldham, J.P., who died January 9, 1930, aged 73, the electric light is installed in this church. 'They need no candle, neither light of the sun.'" The light was switched on prior to the commencement and presented a marked contrast to the ancient though picturesque arrangement of candle light. The service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. D. R. S. Holmes), assisted by the Rev. W. J. Stanton and the Vicar of Rugeley (the Rev. H. L. Muriel). The Rev. R. de B. Coussmaker (Great Haywood) and the Rev. J. Paris (Blithfield) were also present. A procession of the choir and clergy, followed by the Girl Guides' colour party, bearing the colours presented to them by the late Capt. Oldham, singing the hymn, "Through the night of doubt and sorrow," preceded an appropriate address by the Rector, who referred to the great interest the late Capt. Oldham took in the affairs of the village and the able manner in which he carried out his duties. Special prayers for the occasion were read by the Rev. W. J. Stanton, who then proceeded to the south wall for the Benediction and dedication of the tablet upon completion of which the hymn "The King of Love" was sung. Psalm 121 was included in the remainder of the service to a chant by Lord Mornington, and the Lesson was read from Isaiah 60, v. 1—7 inclusive. After the blessing the choir and clergy retired singing the hymn "Praise my Soul." Many friends of the late Capt. Oldham and of Mrs. Oldham attended, including Major Wood, Capt. Lloyd and Mrs. Lloyd and Mrs. and Miss Mainwaring. The Trent Valley and High Peak Electricity Company were also represented. The design of the electric fittings was obtained from Prestbury Church, near Cheltenham.

3/6/60

to Sabbath

THE Bishop of Lichfield, Dr. A. S. Reeve, in his Presidential address at the Lichfield Diocesan Conference on Wednesday defended the Royal family over their attitude towards the Sabbath Day—but hoped that fully organised football and cricket on a Sunday would be resisted.

In his address, Dr. Reeve commented:—

"I noticed in the newspapers last week that by a majority vote of 44 to 40, the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland decided to include in their Loyal Address to the Queen a statement of their dissatisfaction at the attitude of the Royal Family towards the Sabbath Day.

"While we all respect the sturdy defence by many Scottish people of the Lord's Day as being one which should be regarded as being very different from the other days of the week, I feel bound to say that this particular resolution is in my view open to very considerable objection. That the resolution will be greeted with derision by non-Churchgoers is of course obvious, but that is not the point.

"What I feel should also be said is that this resolution does not represent the feelings of many thousands of loyal Church people, and I think it would be a great pity if any misconception of our attitude were permitted to spread.

"The fact is that the Royal Family consistently set an example to the nation in the matter of regular attendance at church. There is hardly a Sunday on which the Queen and other members of the Royal Family are not present at public worship, and I myself would say that the vast majority of us, so far from being dissatisfied by the example in this matter which is set by the Royal Family, are on the contrary most thankful to Almighty God that they show the nation year in and year out that public worship on Sunday should be regarded as an obligation by all Christian people.

"Doubtless this particular resolution arises from the fact that sometimes the Duke of Edinburgh indulges in a game of polo on Sunday afternoons. He does this after he has discharged his obligations as regards church attendance, and for the life of me I personally cannot see very much harm in what he does.

ORGANISED SPORT

"Fully organised sport on Sunday, such as large football and cricket matches involving professionalism, is I am sure to be resisted. They create an immense amount of work for large numbers of people, and the spectacle they provide is but another temptation to the young, and especially to the children, to give up any idea of going to church or Sunday School, and thus lose all touch with religion in the early stages of their lives.

"I therefore repeat the hope which I have expressed before now, that the Football Association and the Marylebone Cricket Club will resist the agitation which crops up from time to time that fully organised football and cricket should be played on Sundays. It also seems to me a pity that village cricket on Sunday afternoons should be allowed to go on to such an hour that attendance at Evensong becomes virtually impossible for those who are participating."

Dr. Reeve went on "This however, seems to me to be quite different from a friendly game on a Sunday afternoon indulged in by people who have already put the obligation of worship in church in the first place, and I think it should be said that there are surely very large numbers of us who do not agree with this carping criticism of the Royal Family.

"Their job can never be an easy one, performed as it is in the constant limelight of publicity, and I repeat that we should be grateful for the example of worship which they set. They are most certainly not merely members of the Church of England in name only, and it is only some people who call themselves members of our Church who do not honour the obligation of worship and observe Sunday as do the Royal Family we should have very much for which to be thankful." GMR attended this

COLTON

22/11/56

WHIST DRIVE.—The annual whist drive, organised by the headmaster and teachers of Colton School, to give the children a party and presents at Christmas, was held in the Reading Room on November 16. Mr. Fred. Norman was the M.C, and the prizes were presented by Mrs. J. Shipley, of Newton, as follows: Mrs. B. Bettson, Mr. T. A. James, Mrs. A. Slater, Mrs. G. Vernon, Miss G. Lyons, Mrs. Brotherton, Mrs. B. Heasman and Mr. Andrews Miniatures: Mrs. Bettson and Mr. James. The competition prizes were won by Mr. G. E. D. Atkin (sen.), Mrs. F. Middleton, Mrs. T Preston, Miss Hazel Bloor, Mrs. A. Deacon, Master Roger Bannister, Mrs. W. Preston and Mr. Geoffrey Goodall The effort was a great success and the children look forward to a good party

Colton drive aids Reading Room funds

Times 22/12/56

Organised by the Colton Reading Room trustees, a whist drive was held in aid of the general funds of the room, the lettings of which do not cover expenses.

Mr. Fred Norman was M.C. and the prizes were distributed by Mrs. F. Norman to: Mrs. P. L. Bannister, Mr. T. A. James, Mrs. Cope, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Westhorpe, Mr. F. Cope, Miss D. M. Jones, Mr. G. Hampson; miniatures: Mrs. Hall and Mr. Cope; sealed numbers: Mrs. D. M. Atkin and Mr. A. Rowe. The competition prizes were won by Mr. J. W. Hooley, Mrs. M. Bloor, Mrs. M. F. Upton.

Mr. Bernard Bettson thanked all who had helped in any way to make the effort a success.

Colton

23/2/56

DESPITE wintry weather, there was a good attendance at the February meeting, held in the Reading Room on Wednesday evening. Mrs. Cawthorne presided. The county rally, to be held in June at Sandon Hall, was discussed, and also the arrangements for the group meeting to be held on March 26 at Marchington. Miss Plummer gave a talk about Sweden, beautifully illustrated with coloured slides she took during a recent visit. She also brought a selection of the crafts of the country, mostly woodwork. The hostesses were Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Preston, Mrs. Porter and Miss Webb.

The monthly meeting of Colton W.I. was presided over by Mrs. Taylor. Mrs. Broughton was chosen as delegate to attend the Spring Council meeting at Stafford, and arrangements for members attending the group meeting at Abbots Bromley were discussed.

Mr. Hollowood, principal of the County School of Art, gave an interesting talk on decoration in the home

The competition for the best pencil sketch was won by Mrs Buckley, and the winner of the mystery parcel was Mrs E Devall.

Hostesses were Mrs. Amys, Mrs Williscroft, Miss Webb and Mrs Westhorpe. 23/3/56

13/8/32. **COLTON** Staffordshire Sentinel

The Late Miss E. K. N. Horsfall

The death occurred suddenly, whilst staying with her sister at Lavender Lodge, Colwich, of Miss Eva Kathleen Nolan Horsfall, daughter of the late Mr. Thomas Berry Horsfall, and Mrs. Lucy Martha Horsfall, of Bellamour Hall. Her family, who are well known throughout the county, took an active interest in local affairs, their benevolence to Colton people attaining for them the greatest esteem. In former years, the deceased lady bestowed much attention to the Reading Room (which was afterwards given to the village by Mr. H. L. Horsfall), woodwork classes and other courses of instruction being instituted there under the supervision of her mother and herself. The funeral took place at Colton, and by request no bell was tolled or mourning worn. Her bier from Colwich consisted of a horse and dray driven by Mr. William Lowndes, of Old Wood, and the beautiful coffin, environed with laurels, together with its cortege, on its final journey passed through the picturesque grounds of the Park, where deceased was born and resided for many years and which she cherished so dearly. The service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. D. R. S. Holmes), the Rev. Preb. W. V. Chilwell (Colwich) assisting. The Rev. R. de B. Coussmaker (Great Haywood) also attended. Selected hymns "The King of Love" and "Jesu Lover of my Soul" were sung in church, from whence the priests and choir headed the procession to the cemetery, where deceased was interred next to her late mother. The principal mourners were the Misses Beatrice, Gwendoline and Gertrude Horsfall, Mr. Henry L. Horsfall and Mr. G. Horsfall. Among those also present were the Rev. W. J. Stanton, Major C. E. W. Wood, Miss Parker, Mrs. Oldham, Mrs. James Gardner, Dr. Harrowell, Mrs. Chilwell, Mrs. Coussmaker, Mr. L. Neighbour, Mr. Henry Wootton, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Wint, Mr. and Mrs. Barnwell, Mrs. Wilson, Mr. E. S. Blore, Miss E. E. Wetherall, Miss Hopkins, Mrs. Bull (Bishton) and Miss Watts (deceased's maid) and also many former hall employees and tenants of the Bellamour estate. There were many beautiful floral tributes.

DERRINGTON

Parish Lands (Charitable) Trust as at December 31, 1958. After enquiries by Mr. Hardcastle and the Clerk (Parish Council) concerning certain items in the account had been answered, the assembly heard that arising out of the minutes of last year's annual parish assembly the position respecting the light about halfway along the big blue wall at the Trent Valley Railway Station was that the negotiations between the M.E.B. and the G.P.O. for the fixing of this on an existing telegraph pole failed to secure agreement. Eventually the matter was looked into further and a site decided upon near to and on the same side as the drive leading to Parchfields Farm, occupied by Messrs. Roberts Bros. The light was accordingly fixed at the end of January, and came into operation as a lighting unit last month. This now completed the installation of the six lights — five in the village and this one along the big blue wall — which the Parish Council agreed upon some time since with a view to settling this much-debated subject. The assembly gave sanction to the Parish Council to exceed the 4d. rate limit (but not more than 8d. in the £), if necessary, during the coming financial year. This was to allow for the possibility of providing a bus shelter or shelters in the village which the Parish Council had under consideration at the moment. In regard to Staffordshire Rural Community Council's "Best-kept Village" competition, 1959, as there were only two local government members present besides members of the Parish Council, it was decided not to pursue this matter further. At the Parish Council meeting which immediately followed the close of the assembly it was reported that no further communication was yet to hand regarding flooding at the brook bridge between Bellamour Corner and the School. In accordance with the resolution made at last meeting, the Clerk (Mr. Cecil J. Ravenscroft) said that Mr. S. J. Timmins, of "The Paddocks," Colton, had been notified of his appointment as successor to himself to the office of Clerk to the Parish Council as from April 1, and his attendance that evening was in the way of a little introduction to the job. After referring to a long period of family service to the Parish Council and to the interest which the job had afforded to him during the time he had been with the Council, Mr. Ravenscroft said he was pleased they had come across someone who felt that he might perhaps find the work of a type which might appeal to him. Respecting the County Council's scheme of voluntary delegation to Parish Councils of responsibility for minor repairs and replacements to public footpaths and bridleways, it was stated that a letter had come to hand from the Clerk's Department of the County Council acknowledging receipt of the Parish Council's application to join the scheme and mentioning that a further communication would be addressed to the Parish Council in due course. Concerning three protecting posts on the Marsh side of the wicket and wicketway leading out of the Martlin into the Marsh, designed to prevent cattle from standing in the wicketway, the chairman (Mr. Morrall) reported that if it was proposed that these should remain, they would definitely require attention or replacement. The Clerk said that as regarded the condition of the culvert which passes beneath this wicket-way, a point which was raised at last meeting, apart from whose responsibility it was, he could not see that anything required doing to this. As to the three protecting posts, he suggested that these should be left over to be considered after the County Council's scheme which the Parish Council had joined had come into operation, and to this the meeting agreed. Members heard that a letter had been received from the organising secretary of Staffordshire Rural Community Council acknowledging the Parish Council's voluntary donation of 10s. to their funds. Information and papers relating to 'bus shelters, got together in the interval since last meeting, were gone into and the matter further discussed. Eventually it was decided that all available papers and particulars be studied by the chairman and passed for the same purpose between members in the interval prior to next meeting, and that the whole matter be considered further at a later meeting. Mr. Towlson revived the question of extension of line of road reflector studs, otherwise "cats-eyes," at the bend near to Trent Valley Engineering factory in the Blithbury Road, which was raised by Mr. Felton at last meeting, and the Clerk received instructions to take this matter up with the County Surveyor's Department with a view to securing an extension of this line of studs for the more complete guidance of users of motor vehicles. In connection with the forthcoming review of borough, urban district and rural district boundaries and local government set-up in the West Midlands General Review Area, the East Midlands Special Review Area and the East Midlands Review Area, which is to be undertaken by the Local Government Boundaries Commission under the Local Government Act, 1958,

Julia L. Taylor, widow of the last mentioned, who was for many years a member of Colton Parish Council and chairman of that body for many years up until his death.

Floral tributes included the following: Brother Luke and family, Nottingham; Julia, Frank, Monica, Hassan and little Mike; George and Greta; Luke and Margery; little Jane; little Joanna; auntie Emmie, Barbara and Charlie; Charlie, Mabel and family; Freda, Luke and family Elsie and family; Ben, Nellie and family; Annie, Bill and family; George and Gladys; Herbert, Annie and family; Mary and Wilfred; Holland; Elsie and Peter; Ruth Boycott and family; Mr. and Mrs. H. Challinor; the girls; Mr. and Mrs. J. Hooley and family; Annie and Arthur Smithard; Jack and Norah James; Molly and Geoff; Bernard and Lizzie Bettson; Molly Guy and family; Mr. and Mrs. H. Rushton and family; C. and E. Willis, Rugeley; Bobby Bernard and family; Nancy, Norman and family; baby Nicholas; Mrs. Bradley, Mr. and Mrs. Craddock, and Mr. and Mrs. Atkins; Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Blore and family also Mr. C. Blore Uttoxeter; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Parker and family; Mrs. Jane Hardcastle; Mike, Frank and Steve; H. W. Hunt and Son, Great Haywood; James Taylor, Leightons; W. Gwennap, Agriculture, Ltd.; Hardcastle



The wedding took place quietly at Penkridge Parish Church, on Saturday, of Mrs. Jessie Evans, of Market Square, Penkridge, and Alderman A. N. Hillier, of Moreton near Newport. Both Mrs. Hillier and her mother, Mrs. Stevenson, are well known in Cannock, where the family lived for many years.

Mrs. Hillier and her husband are prominent in local government in Staffordshire. She is well known to many parish councillors as secretary of Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association and of Staffordshire Rural Community Council.

The bridegroom is an alderman of the County Council, to which he was elected in 1949. He helped to found the county Parish Councils Association, and is its president.



TIMES 31/10/59

Mr. T. B. Smart, headmaster, pictured after morning assembly at Rugeley Grammar School on Friday, when the new lectern in memory of Mr. B. H. Brumwell was used for the first time. Mr. Brumwell was a teacher at the school from 1905 until 1940, and was deputy head when he died. The lectern is of oak, and bears the school crest and motto. Old boys of the school were present at the ceremony. To the right of lectern can be seen Councillor T. E. Cowlishaw, (chairman of governors) and Colonel H. H. Hutchinson, former headmaster.

guild progress

Colton Village Produce Guild held its second meeting in the Reading Room at Colton on Thursday of last week, when 21 people, attended, 17 of whom were enrolled as members.

Mr. J. W. Jones, county chairman, gave a brief talk on the functions and activities of Produce Guilds and stressed that there were many advantages to be gained from belonging to such a group.

Mr. R. K. Mowforth, the Staffordshire Farm Institute, Rodbaston, afterwards gave an interesting and enlightening talk on gardening

A VILLAGE DEFENDS ITS YOUTH

Express & Star. 4/9/59

RESIDENTS of the pretty village of Colton, near Rugeley (population 500), have come to the defence of local youths who have been accused of rowdyism.

A few folk in the village have complained that the youths shatter the peace of summer evening by racing motor cycles up and down its streets.

They also say that the young people shout and sing in the streets after village social functions.

FEW BUSES

But today, Mrs. J. H. Wright, wife of the licensee of the Greyhound Inn, said: "The lads here are certainly high-spirited but they are not rowdies. There are few buses, and they have to have motor cycles to get to work. It is obvious that they are going to go round on them on fine evenings, but they certainly have not disturbed my peace."

Although the parish council has asked for more police patrols in the village, the chairman, Mr. R. Morrall, was against the move.

"We have received only one official complaint," he said. "I put down what little noise [illegible] been to exuberance, and [illegible] that the noise from motor [illegible] stop when the light eve[illegible] to an end."

PUBLIC-SPIRITED

The rector, the Rev. A. S. [illegible] son, defended the youths. "I think they are a public-spirited crowd, not rowdies," he said. "They are always ready to help any good cause, and have worked hard to help tidy up our churchyard.

"I must admit that the [illegible] cycles are noisy, but I do not [illegible] the lads. I blame the manufacturers for not fitting efficient silen[illegible]

att.

Colun

Parkside Group

W.I. members from Abbots Bromley, Blithfield, Colton, Great Haywood and Marchington Woodlands, joined members of Kingstone W.I for the Spring meeting of the Parkside Group of Women's Institutes held at Kingstone on Monday evening.

Mrs. Prince, County Executive representative, Mrs. Taylor, group convenor, and all guests were welcomed by the chairman, Mrs. Lowe, president of Kingstone.

Details of forthcoming County Federation activities were given by Mrs. Prince, who asked members to give wholehearted support to the W.I. section planned for this year's County Show.

It was announced that the next group meeting would be held at Marchington Woodlands. The date agreed on was Tuesday, October 6.

"Choosing our food for health and good looks" was the subject of a talk given by Miss Ann Roberts B.Sc., Nutrition (London), dietician lecturer of the Flour Advisory Bureau, Ltd.

Her advice on how to do this was listened to with close attention by her audience, evidence of the interest that most women have in food value. A well balanced diet, said Miss Roberts, was necessary to maintain the health and vigour of the human body, and figure conscious members were warned of the danger of over indulgence in foods causing excess fat.

Different varieties of bread, including a home-made loaf baked in a plant pot, were displayed by the speaker, who mentioned that in the vicinity of the London office no less than 97 different kinds could be bought.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Kingstone and seconded by Blithfield. Following an interval for refreshments the results of competitions, judged by Mrs. Prince and Miss Roberts, were given. Mrs. Buckley, Colton, won a prize for the best peg bag and Mrs. Excell was awarded the prize for scores.

A further competition prize was won by Mrs Smith, Abbots Bromley.

The meeting concluded with a musical quiz, organised by the hostess Institute, who was thanked for a most enjoyable evening.

Cake-ising demonstration

A demonstration of cake icing was given to members of Colton W.I. at their November meeting by Mrs. Preston, of Etching Hill. She was thanked by Mrs. Westmacote and Mrs. Jones.

The president, Mrs. Preston, announced that the institute had been invited to attend the B.B.C. gardening brains trust in Colton in January and the secretary was asked to accept on behalf of the members.

Mrs. Preston gave her report on the autumn council meeting at Stafford and was thanked by Mrs. Buckley.

The competition for a fruit flan was won by Mrs. Buckley and the mystery prize was won by Mrs. Deacon.

Tea hostesses were Mrs. Westmacote, Mrs. Williscroft and Mrs. McConky.

COLTON

Harvest Festival.—Thanksgiving services were held at St. Mary's Church on Sunday, when the rector, the Rev. H. H. Goodin, was the preacher at morning service. In the evening the service was conducted by the rector, and the Lessons read by the Rev. Frank Best, who also addressed the congregation. An afternoon service for children was conducted by Mrs. Goodin, the rector's wife. Thanks were expressed to all who had made gifts, and assisted in decorating the church. Collections were for the Cancer Research Fund and S.P.G. Medical Missions.

COLTON

Dance.—On Monday, there gathering at the Reading dance in aid of the Football A. Cartwright was M.C., and dance band were responsible for an excellent programme of music. Refreshments were provided.

COLTON

Fancy Dress Dance.—There was a large company at the children's annual fancy dress dance, held in the Reading Room on the 13th inst., the proceeds this year being for the Football Club. This is a great attraction for the children, and nearly all were attired in fancy costumes. Mrs. Oldham (Bellamour Lodge) and Miss Tomkins assisted as judges and the former lady presented the prizes to the winners as follows:—Girls, 10-14 years: 1, Miss Flaherty (Japanese); 2, Enid Bentley (Queen of the Night); 3, Marjory Upton (Pierrette); 4, Miss Glenn (Buy British). Boys, 10-14: 1, Harry Norman (Scarecrow); 2, Robert Norman (Golden Shred); 3, I. Morris (Red Indian); 4, Guy Talbot (Redskin). Boys and girls, 7-9: 1, Miss Degg (Gipsy Girl); 2, Master A. Davies (Drummer Boy); 3, Miss Joan Mills and Master J. Meddings (Jack and Jill); 4, Miss K. Thorns (Season's Greetings); 5, Teddy Meddings (Safety First); 6, Master E. Devalle (Painter). Under seven: 1, Miss P. Cartwright (Dancing Doll); 2, Master A. Hardcastle (Christmas Crackers); 3, Miss J. Middleton (Twink Dyes); 4, Miss M. Andrews (Ace of Hearts); 5, Luke Mellor (Eat More Fruit); 6, Master A. James (Chinaman); 7, Master R. Meddings (Redskin); 8, Miss J. Cartwright (Toy Soldier). In addition, each child not included in the above received a consolation prize. A vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. F. Hardcastle on behalf of the club, was accorded to the judges

Recognition of life's work for Savings Movement

THE National Savings Movement has decided to make recognition of the long service to Savings made by Mr. G. Broughton, recently retired from the headship of Colton Church School and now living in Uttoxeter Road, Handsacre, by presenting him with a 40 years' long-service badge.

The District Commissioner of the National Savings Movement has informed the "Times" that he is making arrangements for Mr. Broughton to be presented with the badge as he knew of no other headmaster who had given more devoted service to the movement, and the way he had influenced the whole village with regard to savings was practically unique.

In a special interview, Mr. Broughton, 36½ years headmaster of Colton School, said it has been a tremendous upheaval leaving Colton.

"In reviewing my school career I readily acknowledge that National Savings have played quite a part in it and have contributed much happiness and satisfaction.

Penny Bank

"All my teaching career has been connected with some form of savings in schools. At first it was the Penny Bank and then, soon after 1918, I was connected with National Savings and enjoyed the collection of money on Monday mornings. Early in 1923, as headmaster of Colton School, I started a savings group which proved a great success".

Mr. Broughton spoke of how, in the last war, savings had played a greater part than ever in the school and in the life of the village. "The great week was 'Salute the Soldier Week', when I collected £3,582 7s. I visited every house in the parish and not a house refused to give me money to buy Savings Certificates. Every night I arrived home with about £600 in notes and silver, not forgetting the 'brass' threepenny pieces out of babies' money-boxes. My strong bag was heavy with money and each night it was after midnight before I had balanced up, made out the certificates and stuck them into the blue books".

Mr. Broughton said that when he finally left the school in August he had collected and issued certificates to the total value of £22,500, but although it had meant a lot of work, he did not mind. "If men and women could give their lives for their country, so could I give my leisure", he said.

A great event for Mr. Broughton was when he went with the late Mr. G. F. Benlow, of Rugeley, to the Buckingham Palace garden party for Savings workers. When wandering round and mixing with the people, quite by chance he came upon King George VI, who shook hands with him and chatted for a few minutes with a crowd of savings workers round them.

"I was really and truly happy. I went close to our present Queen, who was then a lovely, sparkling princess who mixed with the people, along with her lovely sister, Princess Margaret".

Mr. Broughton described the Victory Parade which he was able to witness from the foot of Constitution Hill on the same visit. Those were two days he will never forget, he said.

Mr. Broughton paid tribute to his wife, who had helped considerably in his Savings work. She checked everything to see that no mistake had been made, but it was never found necessary to make any corrections.

Schoolmaster appointed. — Mr Donald Edward Waters will take over the duties of schoolmaster when Colton (Church of England) Primary School re-assembles after the summer holidays. This was decided at a recent meeting of the School Managers consisting of the Rector of St. Mary's Church, two appointees of Lichfield (Church of England) Diocesan Education Council, one appointed by St. Mary's Parochial Church Council, one representative of Colton Parish Council and one representative on behalf of the local Education Authority.

There were 55 applications and Mr Waters, who resides at, and is a native of, Wombwell, near Barnsley, Yorkshire, was chosen as the man for the job out of a short list of six of the applicants.

He is a young man, aged 30, is married, and has one child, a son, Kevin, now aged two years. Mr Waters is at present a teacher in charge of backward classes at a large secondary school, Wombwell County Secondary School. His own period of education was spent at Barnsley Grammar School and as a pupil at St. John's College, York. A period of National Service was spent in the Royal Army Educational Corps, mainly in Egypt.

Mr Waters' father and two sisters also reside at Wombwell. His mother died in 1952. It is understood that Mr Waters is a church lay reader. When he comes to Colton he will be taking up residence at the schoolmaster's cottage, Elm Cottage. The new schoolmaster succeeds Mr Ernest Broughton, who will be retiring at the end of this term after a period of 36 years' service at Colton.

Mr Waters, with his wife and child, paid a visit to the village on Wednesday last week. They stayed for

COLTON FANCY DRESS PARADE WINNERS

A children's fancy dress parade attracted considerable interest at a dance held in the Reading Room, Colton, on Friday evening. There was a large attendance, and Mr. J. L. Stretton was M.C.

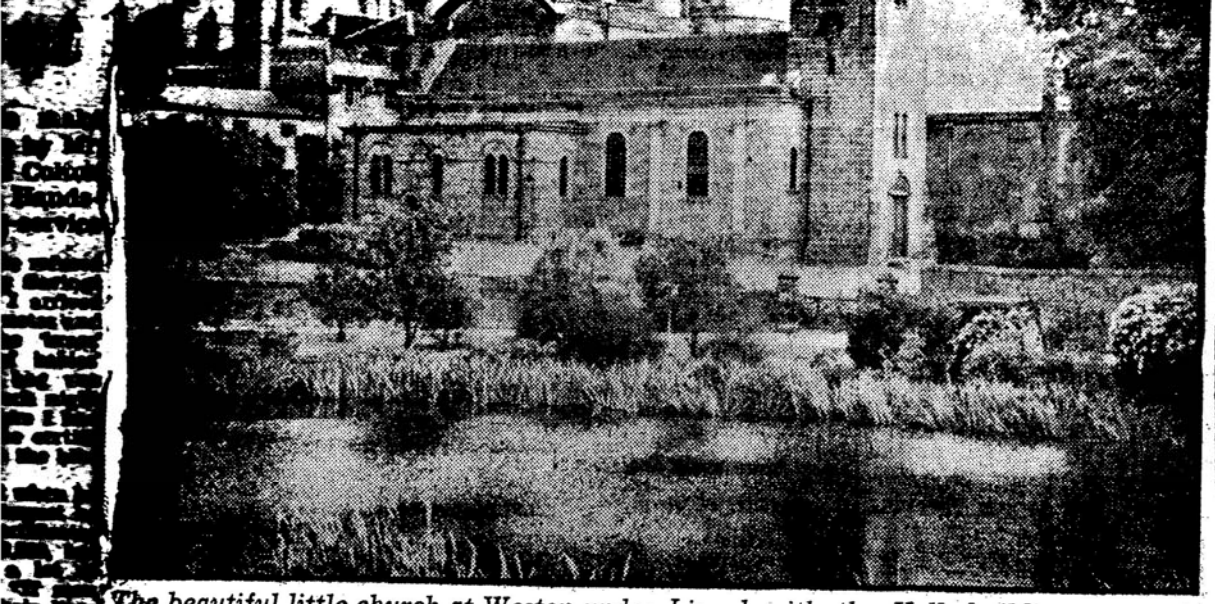
The winners were: Eight years and under: 1, Glenys Jones (White Rabbit); 2, Elaine Leeke (Doll in the Box); 3, Trudy Grimley (Red Riding Hood).

Over eight years: 1, Christine Leeke (Teddy Girl); 2, Dianne Grimley (Robin Hood); 3, Annette Martin (Chinese).

Premier prize, awarded irrespective of age, was won by Pamela Jones and Christine Leeke (Ugly Sisters). Consolation prizes were awarded to all the other competitors. The adjudicators were Mrs. Timmins, Mrs. Peatfield and Mrs. Waters. Entertainment was provided by pupils of the Rugeley Studio of Dancing.

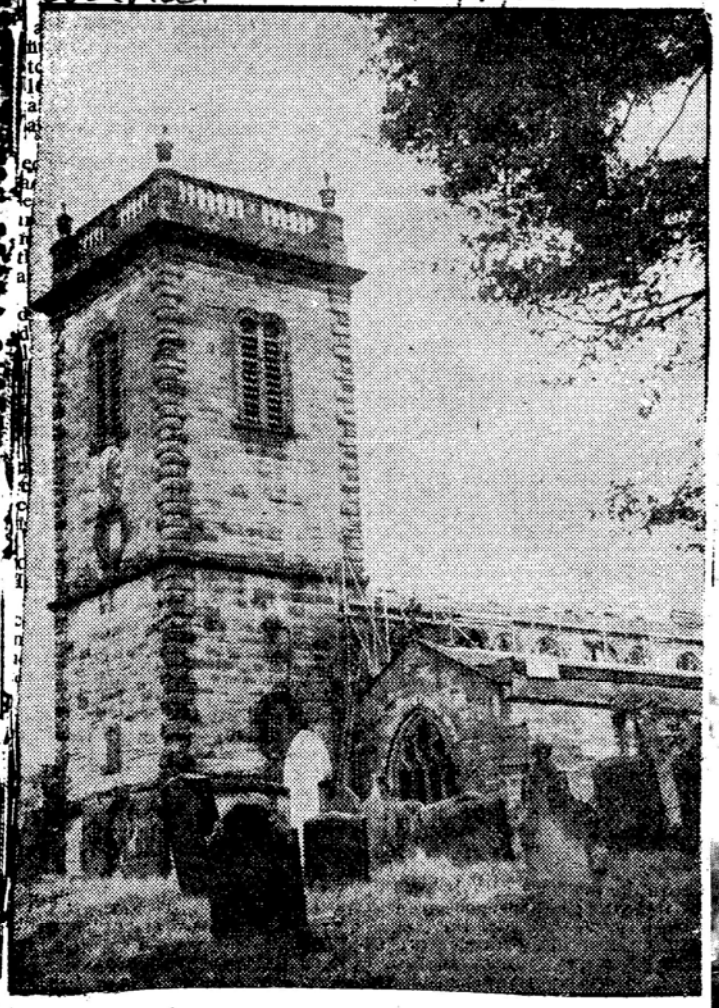
The winner of the ladies' watch was Miss A. McVittie, of Kinetown, Warwickshire.

The effort raised about £31 for St. Mary's Church Appeal Fund.



The beautiful little church at Weston-under-Lizard with the Hall buildings immediately behind

RESTORATION OF ANCIENT ABBOTS BROMLEY CHURCH



Dr. Salter from Abbots Bromley was warmly welcomed. The subject chosen was "Turned out of house and home." It was very interesting, being his personal experience of the work of U.N.R.R.A. for displaced persons and refugees during the last war. The Doctor was thanked by Mrs. Broughton, seconded by Mrs. Jackson.

The mystery prize was won by Miss Rotchell. The competition for the three best jam tarts was won by Mrs. Sargeant. The hostesses for the evening were Mrs. E. Devalle, Mrs. John Devalle, Mrs. Dunkey, Mrs. Felton.

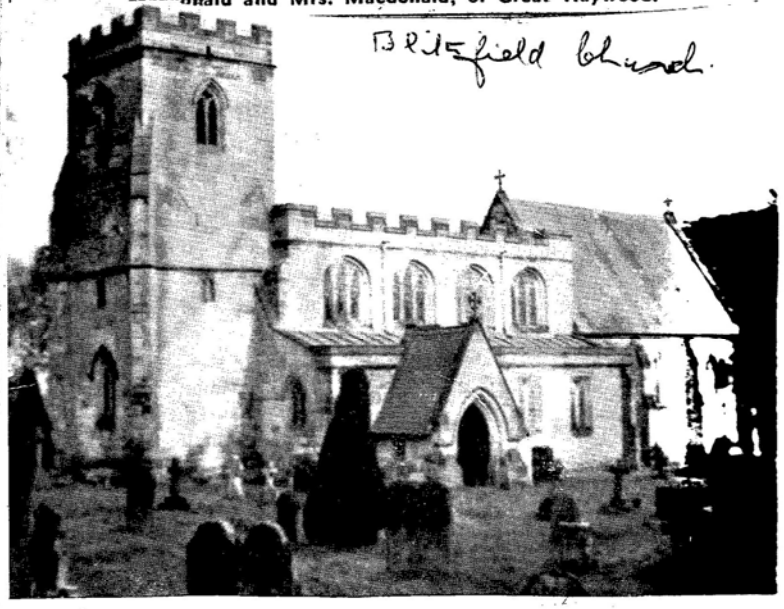
Colton whist proceeds for Sunday school

Proceeds from a whist drive held in Colton Reading Room on Friday evening was in aid of Sunday school funds. Mr. Fred Norman was M.C. and Mrs. Goodin distributed the prizes to Mrs. J. Shipley, Miss Sheila Westhorpe, Mrs. G. Hampson, Mr. A. W. Haynes, Mrs. T. Preston, and Mr. J. Shipley; lowest scorers Mrs. Ravencroft and Mr. B. Andrews.

The mystery prize was won by Mrs. Wisdom. Mrs. Goodin thanked all who had assisted in the effort.



Organisers of the successful marquee ball, the Rector of Colton, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, and Mrs. Towlson are pictured above with Dr. A. D. Macdonald and Mrs. Macdonald, of Great Haywood.





Colton's reward for tidiness

Mrs. M. S. Toy, chairman of Colton's Best Kept Village Competition Committee, is to attend the presentation ceremony at [illegible] ning village, Barlaston, Needwood, on Wednesday.

As one of the finalists in the small villages section [illegible] competition, Colton's [illegible]

"Staffs Advertiser".
31/12/32.

DEATH OF LORD BAGOT

Distinguished Head of Ancient County Family

We regret to record the death, which occurred at his Staffordshire residence, Blithfield Hall, near Rugeley, on the 23rd inst., of the Rt. Hon. Lord Bagot, D.L., J.P., who belonged to a very ancient county family, and had a distinguished Court, diplomatic, and military career. His Lordship could trace his lineage back to Bagot, Lord of Bromley, who flourished about the tenth century, and one of whose descendants assumed the name of Stafford, and was progenitor of the Earls of Stafford and Dukes of Buckingham.

Baron Bagot, who was born on January 19, 1857, and was thus in his 76th year, succeeded to the title on the death of his father, the third baron, in 1887. Educated at Eton, he began his military career in the 1st King's Own Staffordshire Militia, of which he was lieutenant from December 4, 1875, to April 13, 1876. Then he joined the Queen's Own Royal Regiment of Staffordshire Yeomany, and for four years served in the regiment as lieutenant. He was gazetted captain on February 21, 1880, major May 11, 1898, and hon. lieutenant-colonel on February 22, 1899. In December, 1901, when the regiment was reorganised, his lordship resigned his commission on account of ill-health, and was granted permission to retain his rank of major and hon. lieut.-colonel, and to wear the uniform. His father commanded the regiment for the long period of 20 years—from 1854 to 1874—and it was a source of keen regret that the son was unable to follow in the paternal footsteps.

From 1878 to 1883 Lord Bagot was A.D.C. to the Governor-General of Canada, the Marquis of Lorne, and from 1885 to 1887 he served as Gentleman Usher of the Privy Chamber to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, while for six years commencing 1895 he was Lord-in-Waiting to the Queen, succeeding Earl Waldegrave, who resigned.

Among Lord Bagot's chief recreations were the study of botany, and he was also well known in antiquarian circles, being a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and a Fellow of the Linnean Society. In his younger days he was an enthusiastic member of the Hunt, and was also expert at shooting and fishing.

In 1903 the late Baron married Lilian, daughter of the late Henry May, of Maryland, U.S.A., and a daughter was born to them in 1905. Lord Bagot had seats at Blithfield and at Pool Park, Ruthin, North Wales. The heir to the title is Mr. ~~Claude Leveson~~ Bagot, cousin of the late Baron, who was born in 1865.

GREAT ANTIQUITY OF THE FAMILY

The Bagots have been seated at Blithfield for more than 500 years. Few families can show so long and uninterrupted a tenure, not only of one estate but to all intents and purposes of one house, for Blithfield Hall is an exceedingly old house, although its unbroken ownership for so long a period by the Bagots reduces somewhat the compass of its history. As far back as the period when Domesday Book was compiled we find Bagots at Bagots Bromley, adjoining Blithfield. The fact of their having given their name to a township as long ago as the 11th century is another evidence of the great antiquity of the family. Blithfield came into their possession by the marriage in 1367 of Sir Ralph Bagot with Elizabeth de Blithfield, whose family had possessed it probably from Newcastle-under-Lyme. On his death in 1768 he was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Wm. Bagot, who also represented Staffordshire in five Parliaments from 1754 to 1780. In October of the latter year he was created a peer with the title of Baron Bagot, of Bagot's Bromley. His brother, Lewis Bagot, was Dean of Christ Church, and successively Bishop of Bristol, Norwich, and St. Asaph.

The first Lord Bagot, who died in 1793, was succeeded by his son, William, who had a distinguished university career and had the degree of LL.D. conferred upon him at the installation of the Duke of Wellington as Chancellor of Oxford in 1834. He was succeeded in 1856 by his son, William, Lord Bagot, third baron, who represented Denbigh in Parliament from 1835 to 1852, and held the posts of Lord of the Bedchamber to the Prince Consort and Lord-in-Waiting to Queen Victoria.

TREASURES AT BLITHFIELD HOUSE

Blithfield House, the residence of the late peer, is a picturesque mansion, and there are few examples of old English domestic architecture of such early date that remain so typical or so well preserved as this. Built round a quadrangle which provided a means of defence in the turbulent days of English history, it is long, low, many-gabled and full of quaint corners. Clusters of tall, massive chimneys break the roof-line, while huge bays and ample oriels diversify the facade. Features of the interior are the panelled and tapestried chambers.

The following description of the interior of the mansion and its contents is culled from an article which appeared in the "Staffordshire Advertiser" many years ago:—

"The old dining-hall is perhaps the finest room at Blithfield, although it retains by no means all its ancient features. Over the chimneypiece is a sculptured representation of King John signing Magna Charta. It is a tradition in Lord Bagot's family that in the early days of Elizabeth the hall was reduced in size and the present library formed of the detached portion. This is said to have been done to obtain an additional entertaining room upon a visit to Blithfield of Walter Devereux, first Earl of Essex, the father of Queen Elizabeth's favourite. With the exception of this one alteration the great hall retained its ancient baronial characteristics until the time of Sir Walter Wagstaffe Bagot, who lived in the reign of George II. Until then it still contained the elevated "high table" common to these great dining halls; a dozen suits of armour hung upon the walls; the windows were filled with armorial glass; the buttery hatch, with the pantry and "cellaret" [illegible] opened into the apartment.

"In 1740 Sir W. W. Bagot had [illegible] taste to alter all this, and [illegible] mained in a somewhat barren [illegible] 1822, when the second Lord Bagot restored it to some semblance of its former self. The architect he employed was Bernasconi. The hall is now 40ft. long, 26ft. wide and 23ft. high. On the north-eastern side are three large windows, set high in the wall, in which is placed some of the ancient painted glass which was in the hall windows previous to Sir Wagstaffe Bagot's alterations."

A famous collection of coins was preserved at Blithfield, but it was sold under the hammer in 1824 and realised £1,242



COLTON 26/12/59

CONSECRATED. — During morning service at St. Mary's Church on Sunday, the Rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson) consecrated two oak collection plates, which were anonymously given. They were commended to the care of the Churchwardens, Mr. Bernard Bettson (Rector's Warden) and Mr. Maurice Williscroft (People's Warden).

MOTHERS' UNION.—At a meeting of the Mothers' Union in the Reading Room, Mrs. J. L. Taylor (Enrolling Member) welcomed the Rev. B. Matthews (Vicar of Colwich) who conducted the service and gave an interesting talk. The thanks of members was voiced by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. It was decided that lilies for the decoration of the Altar at Easter should be collected by Miss E. Rotchell.

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE collection in aid of Dr. Barnardo's Homes, organised by Mrs. J. L. Taylor, raised £10 10s. Collectors were Miss E. Rotchell, Mrs. H. M. Felton and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft.

Surprise gifts for Colton W.I.

19/9/59

A surprise gift from New Zealand was welcomed by members of Colton W.I. at their September meeting. It was a tablecloth with designs of different birds, a gift from Mrs. Parr's sister.

Another surprise was a letter and card from the past treasurer, and a gift of 10s. towards the Institute's funds.

Mrs. Preston presided at the meeting, and the speaker was Mr. Pratt from a nearby biscuit factory, who gave a talk and showed a film on biscuit making. He was thanked by Miss Dorothy Jones and Mrs. Atkin.

The competition for a Swiss roll, which was won by Mrs. Buckley, was judged by Mr. Pratt.

The mystery prize was won by Mrs. Hutchinson and the tea hostesses were Mrs. Rochell, Mrs. W. Norman, Mrs. J. Meddings and Mrs. Taylor.

TIMES

Colton 17/1/57

THE January meeting was held in the Reading Room, Mrs. Broughton, chairman, opened the meeting. Members chose the date for the October group meeting. Colton will be the hostess. Institute on October 7. Many members decided for the pantomime at Coventry.

The competition of the best three mincepies, was judged by Miss Greenfield. The winner was Mrs. Bannister junr.

An interesting account of caving and also pot-holing on the Yorkshire fellside, was given by Mrs. Broughton. A hearty vote of thanks was given by Mrs. Preston and Miss D. Jones.

objected by reason of [illegible] the Stuarts.

In the time of Edward the Confessor, Blithfield was the inheritance of one, Eadmund, but was at the Conquest given to Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Arundel and Shrewsbury. The estate was held under him by Heremannus, Lord also of Chartley, who was succeeded by his son, William, who had three sons, one of whom, named John, derived from his father the Manor of Blithfield, thereupon taking the surname of Blithfield and the arms of the old and then extinct family of the De Blithfields. A descendant of John, bearing the same Christian name, succeeded as Lord de Blithfield in 1320. His son, Richard, married Catharine de Baliden, and their daughter and heir, Elizabeth, married Sir Ralph Bagot, Knight, of Bagot's Bromley, 1367, Lord of Bromley, and possessed of lands before the Conquest.

In the reign of Richard 1st, Hervey Bagot married Millicent de Stafford, sister and sole heir to Robert Baron Stafford. Hervey Bagot assumed the name of Stafford and their son, Richard Bagot-Stafford, became Earl of Stafford, and First Duke of Buckingham. Prior to the marriage of Sir Ralph Bagot with Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Richard de Blithfield, the Bagots resided at Bagot's Bromley, but after Sir Ralph's marriage he left there and took up his residence at Blithfield. Sir John Bagot was a distinguished personage during the reigns of Richard II. and the three succeeding monarchies, serving for some years as Lieutenant of Calais, as Sheriff of Staffordshire, and as one of the Knights of the County in several Parliaments during Richard II.'s reign.

A LONG LINE OF SHERIFFS

Sir Lewis Bagot, Knight, was Esquire of the Body to King Henry VII. and Sheriff of Staffordshire in the same reign. He was created Knight of the Bath at the marriage of Prince Arthur, son of Henry VII., and again held office as sheriff of the county in the reign of Henry VIII. A strong friendship existed between Richard Bagot and the first and second Earl of Essex, of the House of Devereux (Lord High Steward of Stafford). He was a trusted nobleman of Queen Elizabeth's days, held the stewardship of Her Majesty's Manors in Staffordshire, and was a deputy-lieutenant and sheriff for the county during her reign. The office of Sheriff was also held by Walter Bagot twice during Elizabeth's reign and once after the accession of King James: he also represented the borough of Tamworth in Parliament.

An outstanding member of the family was Hervey Bagot, upon whom a baronetcy was conferred by Charles the First in 1627, and who in the following year was a Parliamentary representative for the county. He was re-elected in 1640, but two years later was disqualified for raising forces against Parliament.

DEFENCE OF LICHFIELD IN THE CIVIL WAR

In 1643 Col. Hervey Bagot, son of Sir Hervey Bagot, Bart., was appointed by Prince Rupert as Governor of the Cathedral Close at Lichfield, and was in command there when Lord Brooke was killed by a bullet from the central tower of the Cathedral. The repeated attacks seriously weakened the defences of the Close, but the defence held out until the early part of 1646, being the last of the Staffordshire Garrisons in the Great Civil War between the King and Parliament to surrender to the enemy. Col. Bagot was killed at the battle of Naseby, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Edward Bagot, who married Mary, daughter of William Lambard, Esquire. They had a family of twelve sons and five daughters. Sir Edward represented the county in Parliament in 1660, and on his death in 1673 he was succeeded by his third and eldest surviving son, Sir Walter Bagot, who was returned for the county to Parliament no fewer than six times between the years 1678 and 1698. At his death in 1704 he was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Edward Bagot, who was Member for the county from 1698 to 1710, and died in 1712. The title then passed to his son, Sir Walter-Wagstaffe Bagot, who married the Lady Barbara Legge, eldest daughter of William, Earl of Dartmouth, and sat in the House of Commons during five successive Parliaments, viz., from 1724 to 1754. For three years of this period he represented

The great [illegible] attraction of the mansion is the exceedingly fine collection of pictures by old masters. Among those specially mentioned in the "Advertiser" article were portraits of Lord Treasurer Burleigh, son of the first Lord Salisbury, vested with the George and the Collar of the Garter; Henry, Earl of Huntington, another Knight of the Garter; Sir Walter Aston, of Tixall, Ambassador at Madrid; Walter, Earl of Essex, wearing a complete suit of armour richly chased and inlaid; a portrait of Walter Chetwynd, of Ingestre; and a study of an "old man reading," by Viscountess Dowager Anson.

Of the many family portraits which adorn various parts of the house, a notable example is that of Col. Richard Bagot, Governor of Lichfield Cathedral. Others include a curious old portrait of Mrs. Salisbury, of Bachynbedd, wearing a high Welsh sugar-loaf hat and neckerchief bordered with ermine. There are also portraits of two of her grandchildren —Sir Edward Bagot and Elizabeth, Countess of Uxbridge. Mrs. Salisbury's daughter, Jane, married Sir Walter Bagot, to whom she carried her family's Welsh estate. A striking portrait by Hudson represents Mary, Countess of Aylesford, at an advanced age. Another portrait is that of a noted beauty—Mary, daughter of Hervey Bagot, of Pipehall, who was a favourite of the Court of Charles II. and was twice married—first to Charles, Earl of Falmouth, and afterwards to Charles, Earl of Dorset.

Numerous valuable old books and a priceless collection of letters and documents, illustrative of the Elizabethan period, are also among the treasures of this historic house.

FUNERAL AT BLITHFIELD

The funeral took place in the ancient church of St. Leonard's, Blithfield, on Monday afternoon, when there was a large and representative attendance, which included most of the late peer's many tenants and servants on his Staffordshire estate. The service was of a simple character, and included the 23rd Psalm and the hymns "Abide with me" and "For ever with the Lord." The "Dead March" was played at the conclusion of the service in the church by the Organist, Miss Cooper.

The clergy taking part in the service were the Rev. E. T. R. Jones (rector of Blithfield), the Rev. A. [illegible] (rector of Abbots Bromley), the Rev. D. R. S. Holmes (rector of Colton), and the Rev. Gerald Goodwin (vicar of Leigh).

The principal mourners were Sir Francis and Lady Newdegate (brother-in-law and sister), the Hon. Mrs. Shaw (sister), Sir William and Lady Noreen Bass, Mr. Charles Bagot, Mr. Cecil Bagot, Lieut. Bagot (North Staffordshire Regiment), the Baroness Burton, Mr. H. M. F. White (solicitor), and Mr. Lancelot Neighbour (agent).

Others present at the church included Sir Edric Wolseley, Bart. (Wolseley Hall), Major C. E. Wood (Bishton Hall), Col. Francis Meynell (Hoar Cross), Major Thompson (secretary of the Meynell Hunt), Mr. T. P. Kempson (Sudbury), Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Neighbour (Blithfield), Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Smith (Admaston), Mr. J. Shipley (churchwarden), Mr. C. Hawksford (Shrewsbury), Mr. S. Hawksford (Cheltenham), Mrs. W. W. Allport (Uttoxeter), Mr. B. Harris (Rugeley), Mr. F. Wint (St. Stephen's Hill), Mr. G. H. Brown (Rugeley), Mr. J. H. Prince (Field), Messrs. W. G. Archer, H. P. Prince, H. Kent, G. Mellor, R. Houldcroft, T. Holdcroft, H. Lane, W. Heathcote, J. T. Derry, J. A. Bradford, D. W. Griffiths, Misses Neighbour, Miss Hampshire, Miss Bannerman, indoor and outdoor staff of Blithfield Hall, and others.

The bearers were Messrs. C. Bevans, A. Brown, S. Pye, J. Stoneham, F. Mould, W. Kendrick, and F. Tabenor.

The grave was lined with yew, but there were no flowers, which was the wish of the late Baron. The coffin was made of old Blithfield oak sawn in the year 1909 and selected by the late Baron himself. The coffin bore no inscription.

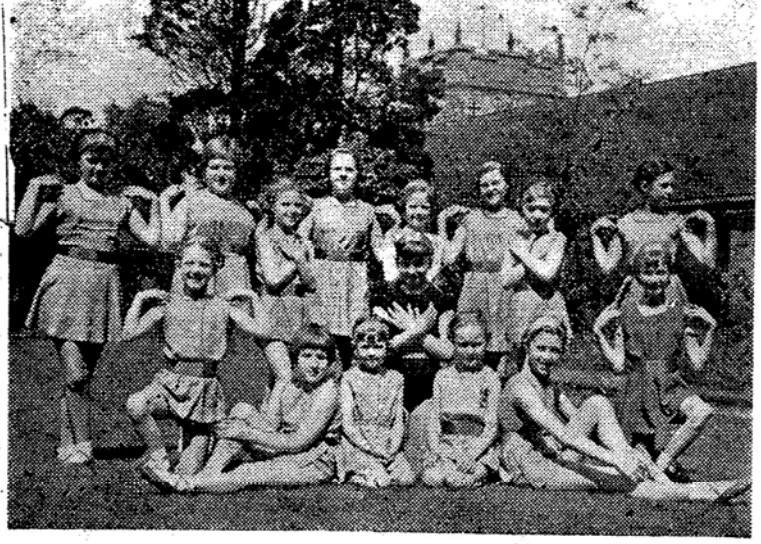
the vase when she gets to her new home. Mrs. Bettson spoke of the regret members feel to see Mrs. Mills go from their branch; she had always been ready to help in any way possible and had been a most loyal church worker. The rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson) remarked that Colton's loss would be the gain of the new parish of Mr. and Mrs. Mills

Installed as Licensed Reader

Sunday was a memorable day for Mr. D. E. Waters, the newly-appointed Headmaster of the Primary C. of E. School at Colton, for at the morning service at St. Mary's Parish Church he was admitted and installed as a Licensed Reader for the parishes of Blithfield and Colton.

The large congregation included the churchwardens and many churchgoers from Blithfield as well as Colton; also the teaching staff of Colton School, and the Rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson) who officiated at the service.

Mr. Waters, his wife and two-years-old son are staying temporarily at Littlehay Manor Farm. Later, they will move to the schoolmaster's residence, Elm Cottage.



(Photo: Jones, Rugeley.)

Left to Right: Moria Jadach, Susan Hollins, Pauline Simkins, Sandra Groves, Ann Brookes, Irene Kulynycz, Shirley Tittensor, Laura Rees.

Front: Anne Madders, Jane Hollins, Patricia Brookes, Hazel Bloor, Gwendoline Ravenscroft, Patricia Keen, Kathleen Norman.

At the Summer session of the Royal Academy of Dancing Ballet-In-Education examinations held at Colton, Near Rugeley, the following candidates, all pupils of the Rugeley Studio of Dancing, were successful: Grade 3, Olga [illegible], Patricia Brookes, Jane Kathleen Norman (honours); Hazel Bloor (highly commended); Primary, Sandra Groves, Shirley Tittensor, Irene Kulynycz (honours), Pauline Simkins (highly commended), Susan Hollins, Gwen Ravenscroft (commended), Maria [illegible], Patricia Brookes, Jane

PARTY AT COLTON

A children's fancy dress parade formed one of several additional attractions at the church garden party held as usual at Colton Rectory on Wednesday of last week in fine weather. Mrs. MacDonald, wife of Dr. A. D. MacDonald of Great Haywood, acted as judge for the fancy dress and the prizes went to: 1, Glenys Jones (Rabbit) and Elaine Leeke (Doll in Box); 2, Gwendoline N. Ravenscroft (Fuchsia) and Ann Madders (Littie Miss Muffit); 3, Keith Williscroft (Robin Hood) and Hazel Bloor (Swedish Lady). In addition, each child competitor received a small consolation prize.

The event was opened by Dr. MacDonald who was introduced by the Rector. Dr. MacDonald was thanked on behalf of the Parochial Church Council and church-goers by Mr. B. Maurice Williscroft (People's Churchwarden), Keith Williscroft tendering him a box of chocolates and a buttonhole. Lady Bagot was given a bouquet by Marilyn Collins.

A display of ballet dancing was given by pupils of the Rugeley School of Dancing (Principal Mrs. V. M. Towlson).

Considerable support for the proceeds came from the produce stalls. The stalls and their attendants were: Needlework, Produce etc: Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, Mrs. P. B. Best, Miss E. Rotchell, Miss C. N. L. Williscroft, Mrs. L. K. Parr and Mrs. Smith. China: Mrs. J. L. Taylor. Cakes: Mrs. M. A. Westhorpe, Mrs. S. J. Ball and Mrs. D. Timmins. Soft drinks: Mrs. Sheila A. Deacon and Mrs. M. Parr. Mystery stall and Bran Tub: Mrs. V. Collins, Miss Edna Lycett and Miss Angela Collins.

Sideshows and sports section was made up and manned as follows: Hoop-la: Mrs. M. S. Toy and Mrs. E. Knight. Treasure Map and Roll Penny: Miss A. L. I. Hoare. Darts Mr. W. Yeomans. Clock Golf: Miss D. M. Jones. Skittles: Mr. Bernard Bettson, Rector's Churchwarden. Bowling for pig — won by Mrs. J. Perry — Mr. E. S. Blore. Kagle: Mr. B. Maurice Williscroft (later Mr. J. H. Toy). A cocoa-nut shy: Mr. A. N. Felton, appeared for the first time at the fete and provided a temptation to many people to 'have a go.'

Further support was derived from competitions run by: Rectory (cake), winner Mrs. A. Blore, (chicken), Mrs. Emmerson; Miss Rotchell (chicken), won by Rev. A. S. Towlson (Rector); Mrs. R. Boycott (port), won by Mrs. V. M. Towlson; Mrs. R. Boycott (sherry), won by Mrs. M. A. Hutchinson; Mrs. J. L. Taylor (chocolates), won by Mrs. J. Greatrix; Tea Tent (parcel of groceries) won by Mrs. D. Deacon: Mrs. Jane Hardcastle (tea service), won by Marilyn Collins.

As in previous years a team of ladies dealt quite capably with the running of the tea tent. This year's helpers were: Mrs. L. Bettson, Mrs. H. Williscroft, Mrs. G. Jones, Mrs. H. M. Felton, Mrs. Ivy Preston, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mrs. D. Deacon, Miss L. Norman, Mrs. Winifred A. Norman, Mrs. R. O. Devall, Mrs. P. L. Bannister, Mrs. E. Griffin and Mrs. C. M. Amyes.

Mr. F. W. Cooper acted as gate attendant and Mr. R. A. Brundle as cashier.

Gross proceeds, including several donations from people who were not present, amounted to £170/3/5 and expenses are expected to work out at approximately £20. The nett amount this year will be applied to ordinary week-to-week church expenses as distinct from the repairs, renovations and alterations appeal fund which was launched last summer.



TIMES 30/5/59

Parting gift to Colton W.I. treasurer

Members of Colton Women's Institute gathered on Monday to express their appreciation of the services of one of their retiring officers.

Retiring after 21 years as treasurer was Mrs. C. Mills, and the members had subscribed to present her with a handbag and bank-notes. Mrs. Mills, who was a founder member of the Colton W.I. is leaving to live in the south of England.

She will be greatly missed, not only for her work as treasurer, but also because she has always taken a leading part in organising social events.

The presentation was made by the president, Mrs. T. Preston, and refreshments were served by the committee.

Mrs. P. Bannister, junior, agreed to take over the duties of treasurer for a year.

A talk was given by Mrs. Rees, of Uttoxeter, on a visit to London, and she was thanked by Mrs. Taylor and Miss Jones.

Arrangements for a visit to a glass factory were discussed.

A competition for the best arrangement of flowers was won by Mrs. Ravenscroft, and the mystery prize went to Mrs. Bettson.

Tea hostesses were Mrs. Jones,



THE new headmaster of Colton Church School, Mr. D. E. Waters, visited the village on Wednesday with Mrs. Waters. He will take up his duties at the commencement of the September term, after the retirement of Mr. E. Broughton, who has been headmaster for 36 years.

Mr. Waters's present address is at Wombwell, Yorkshire, and he was officially appointed as successor to Mr. Broughton on May 9.

30/5/59 TIMES

In our picture, taken on Wednesday, Mr. and Mrs. Waters are seen with the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, and three other school managers and trustees. They are (left to right): Mr. B. Bettson, Mr. M. Williscroft and Mr. L. Mellor.

15

DANCING GIRLS TURN TA

TO
ACC



e young players pictured above those who appeared in "The incess and the Woodcutter," the Colton concert. Right: The finale.

COLTON CHURCH app
by £20 as the result
Reading Room on Fri
Brigade of the church,
Studio of Dancing, prov
had been produced by th
who is principal of the d

Considering the size of
stage, 12 feet wide and only a
six feet deep, this was a
creditable achievement, both
the players and the producer.
is no mean feat to design dan
steps capable of being perfor
in such limited space. The r
was crowded at each per
mance, about 250 in all attend
the concert.

The programme opened wit
piano solo by Mrs. Finnem



COLTON

27/11/58

Aid for Church.—The second whist drive in a series of three to benefit the 'Friends of Colton Church' scheme, was held in the Reading Room on the 20th November. Mr. Fred Norman was MC and the Rector (The Revd. A. S. Towlson) presented prizes to Mr. G. Deacon) (2. Mrs. Sheila Deacon (2) Mrs. P. L. Bannister, Mr. S. Peake, Mrs. Sargeant, and Mr. J. Shipley. The Rector extended thanks to all who helped in any way. The following evening a dance took place in the reading room also in aid of the 'Friends' scheme. The MC was Mr. J. L. Stetton. Mr. A. I D.' Collins was the door attendant and music was supplied by the Abbotonians dance band Competition winners in connection with both evenings efforts were, sack, of potatoes, Mr. Fred Norman, Box of chocolates, Miss Edna Lycett.

WHIST DRIVE AIDS COLTON M.U. FUNDS

9/11/58

A whist drive held in Colton Reading Room on Friday, was organised by the Mothers' Union for their funds. Mr. Fred Norman was M.C., and the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, presented prizes to Mrs. L. Wilson, Mrs. Hampson, Miss B. Stretton, Mrs. Westhorpe, Mr. B. Bettson, Mr. W. Norman; miniatures, Mrs. G. Hampson and Mr. Bettson; competition, Mr. G. Amyes and Mrs. Boycott.

Yeast cookery demonstrated at Colton W.I.

27/11/58

At Colton Women's Institute November meeting, Mrs. Preston presiding, Mrs. Atkin gave her report on the autumn council meeting at Stafford, which she attended as delegate. She was thanked by Mrs. Cawthorn.

Miss Meddins, of the Farm Institute, Rodbaston, gave a demonstration of yeast cookery.

Mrs. Westmacott proposed the vote of thanks, which was seconded by Mrs. Bannister.

The competition was sponsored by a firm of flour manufacturers



ALENT GOOD COUNT

1/11/58 TIMES.

appeal fund for £2,500 is better off ;ult of a concert given in the village Friday and Saturday. The Girls' h, assisted by pupils of the Rugeley)rovided the entertainment, which the wife of the rector, Mrs. Towlson, .e dancing school.

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Members of the Girls' Brigade then presented a play, "The Princess and the Woodcutter." The part of the woodcutter was played by Irene Martin with Ruth Ravenscroft as the attractive Princess whose hand was sought by three princes. The King was played by Angela Collins and the Queen by Wendy Norman. The three Princes were: Blue Prince, Susan Hibbs; Red Prince, Edna Lycett; Yellow Prince, Jocelyn Cubitt. The royal attendants were Christine Leeke and Kathleen Norman, and the part of a little dancing rabbit was excellently played by Pamela Jones.

Singing and ballet

After the interval, during which refreshments were served, the programme was resumed with another piano solo by Mrs. Finnemore. Then came June Bannister singing and dancing to "The Shoemaker's Shop," followed by the Highland Fling by Susan Lathom, who also delighted with a ballet dance.

"Sugar in the Morning" was sung and danced in a faultlessly slick style by Pamela Jones, Christine Leeke and Kathleen Norman. "Little Miss Muffit" was well danced and characterised by Anne Madders, while Janet Read's interpretive dance of Hans Anderson's "Match Girl" was beautifully mimed.

Keen musical sense of rhythm was shown by Annette Martin in her Tarentella dance. Then followed two national dances: a Swedish dance in playful manner was presented by Hazel Bloor, and





Contributing to the Colton concert programme were the young dancers in the picturesque costumes pictured above. They are (left to right): Hazel Bloor (Swedish), Olga Sawczuk (Russian), Susan Lathom (ballet), Annette Martin (Tarentella), and Janet Read (Anderson's Match Girl). Right: The final scene, in which members of the Girls' Club sang "Bless this House." Left to right: Ruth Ravenscroft, Irene Martin, Jocelyn Cubitt Hilda Stretton.

Olga Sawczuk portrayed the sad and gay, lively moods of a Russian peasant. A song and dance duet "Willie can you do the things I ask you?" was cutely sung and danced, with excellent voice and timing, by Pamela Jones and Kathleen Norman.

To conclude the programme, the Colton Girls' Club joined in a song medley. Solos were sung by Ruth Ravenscroft, Susan Hibbs, Jocelyn Cubitt and Hilda Stretton. "Bless this House" was rendered as a duet by Irene Martin and Wendy Norman, both members of Colton church choir, as the finale.

The accompanist was the Recto of Colton, the Rev. A. Stanley Towlson. Others helpers included Mrs. F. Ballard (piano) and Mr. F. Ballard (lighting).

The programme was produced by Valerie M. Towlson, principal of the Rugeley Studio of Dancing, after only eight weeks' preparation. The ages of the young players taking part averaged 11½ years.

Prizes were won by Mrs. Clews, Mr. H. T. Starkey and Mrs. Lucas

ing service. The rector (the Rev. H. H. Goodin) was the preacher at the morning service. The evening service was conducted by the rector and the Lessons were read by the Rev. Frank Best who also preached.

A service for children in the afternoon was conducted by Mrs. Goodin. Thanks were expressed to all who had given flowers, fruit, vegetables and corn, to all who had helped to decorate the church and to all who assisted in cleaning brasses, etc.

Collections were for the Cancer Research Fund and S. P. G. medical missions.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE WHIST DRIVE

A whist drive was held in the Reading Room on Friday last, organised by the Women's Institute.

Mr. Fred Norman was M.C. and Mrs. B. Bettson presented prizes to Mrs. Bettson, Mrs. Stretton, Miss M. Hooley, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. T. Preston, Mr. W. J. Parr, Mrs. Ravenscroft and Mr. F. Taylor, Mrs. S. Jones and Miss Williscroft.

spoke on the "Wars of the Roses," and "The Reign of Richard III."

A vote of thanks for a most interesting talk was proposed by Mrs. Broughton.

A report on the autumn council meeting held at Stafford was presented by Mrs. Preston, who was thanked by Mrs. Alison-Beer.

Forthcoming programme arrangements were discussed and it was decided to organise a pantomime outing for early February.

Mr. Toye had the difficult task of judging a potato peeling competition and declared Mrs. J. Devall jnr., and Miss Webb to be joint winners.

Hostesses were Mesdames J. Meddings, A. Meddings, Middleton and Miss M. Mellor. TIMES. 22/10/32.

Tribute From Bench.

SUCCESSOR APPOINTED.

At Rugeley Police Court yesterday (Thursday), the Chairman (Mr. W. N. Landor) said before the Court began the business he had to report that they had received a letter from their Clerk (Mr. J. W. Gardner) resigning his appointment as Clerk as from December 31st next.

It was with very great regret that the Bench had received the letter, and that his age had made it necessary for him to resign the post. They wished him every good wish in his retirement, and hoped that he and Mrs. Gardner would still enjoy life quietly for many years to come. A few months ago they expressed appreciation of his services, and therefore there was nothing further for him to say. They had also that day appointed Mr. A. P. Selman as his successor as from January 1st next, and they were confident he would prove a most excellent and admirable successor.

The Deputy Chief Constable (Mr. R. Heath) said on behalf of the police he wished to associate himself with the remarks and good wishes. They also welcomed the appointment of the new Clerk, and he wished to say the police would endeavour to give him all the help they could during his office.

Mr. Selman, returning thanks, said he would do his best to assist the magistrates in all matters that came before them. He also thanked Mr. Heath, and would like to say he felt very sorry indeed that Mr. Gardner felt he must give up the appointment. He hoped that Mr. Gardner would still give his valuable advice and assistance in the future.

Mr. Gardner said he had already expressed his thanks for the courtesy with which he had always been treated by the Bench, and it was a great wrench for him to give up the post. He felt, however, that after more than fifty years in the occupation of that appointment, he could not carry it on any longer.

...story of Staffor... the late seventeenth ce... aks of them as having been in the ... hundred years before ...

COLTON

Correspondent: Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft, Colton, near Stafford.

Girl Guides' Entertainment.—A very enjoyable entertainment in aid of Colton Girl Guides' funds took place in the Reading Room on Wednesday last week. The Guides and their friends had worked very ambitiously to make the event a success, and there was an excellent attendance. During the interval Mrs. Oldham, a well-known local figure in the Guides' movement, expressed her thanks and those of the troup for the very fine response their efforts had met with, and she reminded the audience of the untiring efforts of their popular Captain, Miss Wheat, who had endeavoured to uphold the prestige of the Troup. The programme was a varied one, contributed to by the 1st Colton Troup, 1st Colwich, the Rev. W. E. Clarke, Mrs. Hutchinson, Mr. R. R. Lloyd-Williams, and Mr. L. A. Belcher. A cake, made and presented by Mrs. R. Bentley, realised £1 13s. 4d., and was won by Mrs. E. Cope. As a result the funds will benefit by upwards of £5.

COLTON

Fancy Dress Dance. — A fancy dress dance was held in the Reading Room on the 20th ult. in aid of the Memorial Fund. Mrs. and Miss Jackson (Colton House) assisted as judges and Mrs. Jackson presented the prizes as follow:—1, W. Eaton (Min and Bill); 2, H. Robson and Mrs. B. Middleton (Darby and Joan); 3, Mrs. Wright (Eliza Comes to Stay); 4, Miss W. Devall (Evening Toff); 5, Mrs. F. Myatt (Dutch Boy) and Mrs. C. Upton (Dutch Girl). A vote of thanks to Mrs. and Miss Jackson was proposed by Mr. F. Hardcastle, to which Mrs. Jackson replied. For the dance Mr. R. P. Houldey acted as M.C. and the Colton Band supplied the music.

Advertiser 6/1/34.

Colton.—At the New Year party, held in the Reading Room, Mrs. Caythorne (president), welcomed visitors from Etching Hill and Kingstone.

Highest marks gained during the past year for the monthly competitions, were won by Mrs. Buckley. Tea was followed by games, when the winners were:—beetle drive was won by Miss M. Jones and Mrs. Lamb; whist drive, Mrs. R. Bannister, Mrs. Barlett, Mrs. R. Deavalle and Mrs. June Meddings; musical chairs, E. Sargeant, Mrs. Atkin, Mr. Bettison and Mrs. Deakin; treasure hunt, Miss Webb; fancy dress, Mrs. Harry Webb, Mrs. M. Lockley and Miss Griffiths; musical game, Mrs. Causer and Miss Bettison. Miss D. Jones was the pianist. Light refreshments were served. Thanks were voiced for a enjoyable even-

COLTON

For the Sunday School.—A whist drive in aid of Sunday School funds was held in the Reading Room, Colton, on Friday and was a great success. Mr. Fred Norman was M.C. and Mrs. Goodin handed out the prizes to: Mrs. B. Bettson, Mrs. Peach, Miss Heathcote, Mr. G. E. D. Atkin, sen., Mrs. A. N. Felton, Master Rushton, Mrs. C. J. Ravenscroft and Mr. Arnold James. The mystery prize (a bottle of wine) was won by Mrs. Brown. The amount realised was £18 14s. 10d. gross, net £16 17s. 4d. 30/1/34

20

WOODMAN'S SHOCK
DEATH

Advertiser 6/1

The Danger of Circul

The dangerous practice of
circular saw without it bei
guarded was emphasised by
(Mr. W. W. Morgan) at an
Colton, near Rugeley, on Tu
cerning the death of Cecil B
years, of Pendeford Cotta
near Wolverhampton, who
lying dead in a lonely wood
Estate at Colton on the pre
day.

Police-constable Simmond
he went to Sherricop Wood
Saturday, in company with
and there found the body
lying on some timber with
to a circular saw. Witne
the bench of the saw, whic
iron, and discovered that t
draw plate or guard of any
The table was broken acros
and the saw had burst,
missing. A portion of th
been broken away, which w
with having been struck
Deceased had evidently be
the side of the face and ne
of the saw when it burst.
morning witness was sh
piece of the saw embedded
in the next field across t
being about 100 yards fr
It had apparently struck
Witness understood that
been told by several people
plate. Deceased had had
the bearings and had a
belts.

Frank Norman said he w
the yard of Crab Tree F
about 200 yards away from
Friday afternoon when he
Witness said to his maste
does not seem to be getting on very well
with his timber," but they did not take
any particular notice, as they had heard
so many noises from the wood in the
felling of the timber. On the following
Sunday witness found the piece of saw
produced embedded in an adjoining field
and notified the police.

Edward Thomas Norman, said on
Saturday afternoon he noticed a bicycle
in the wood and thinking he saw the
figure of a man, got over the fence and
found the deceased lying dead.

Dr. L. D. Roberts, said when he arrived
on the scene on Saturday afternoon
deceased had probably been dead 24
hours. He had a severe injury to the
right side of the head as if a clean cut
had been made. The cause of death was
due to shock from hæmorrhage whilst
unconscious and injury to the head.
Deceased could not have lived more than
a minute after the accident owing to a
severed artery. Witness had never seen
anything like it before, and was certain
that deceased must have been struck by
the flying piece of saw.

Silas Thomas Ball, a brother, said
deceased was rather short of money for
getting a proper outfit, and had not the
necessary machinery.

The Coroner: Apart from the accident
was it advisable to work machinery with-
out assistance?

Mr. Entwistle, H.M. Inspector: It is
better to have someone else there,
although scores of men work saws by
themselves. It would not have prevented
that accident.

The Coroner: I think it was due to
the fault of the machinery he was using.

Mr. Entwistle: I think there was a dis-
turbance of the bearings, and then the
pulley slid out of position causing the
belt to slip.

In recording a verdict of accidental
death, the Coroner said he hoped it
would be a lesson to anyone else engaged
in a similar occupation. Undoubtedly a
circular saw was a dangerous thing,
and ought to be used with the utmost

Colton Rector under fire

ADVERTISER 15/9/60

PLANS FOR NEW CHURCHYARD "OUT OF HAND"

VILLAGERS are "up in arms" about the development of a new churchyard at St. Mary's Church, Colton. It is generally felt that plans have got out of hand, and that work being carried out at present might have an adverse effect on the old-world charm of the village—one of the finalists in the small villages section of Staffordshire's "Best-kept Village" competition.

The only man who can answer forthright questions now being put by parochial church councillors, parish councillors and indignant residents, is the Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson . . . . and he is away on holiday.

In order to find the true position, Colton Parish Council called a special open meeting last week. The rector—he is a member of the council—sent his apologies for not attending, saying that he was due to go on holiday the following morning.

In his absence, Mr. F. Hardcastle, chairman of the Parish Council is reported as saying that it was unfortunate Mr. Towlson could not be there as it seemed he carried "a large responsibility for the work which had been put through up to now."

Vice-chairman, Mr. A. N. Felton, explained to the meeting that the "first stage" of the development consisted of bulldozing operations for levelling purposes on part of a field which lies between the church, the village brook bridge and the adjoining village green. This stage also covered the building of a retaining wall at a cost of £250.

£1,200 BILL

It was also pointed out that of the £1,500 raised in the past two and a half years by the Church Restoration Appeal for £2,500, initiated by the rector, a sum of £1,200 had already been utilised chiefly in the cleaning, general overhaul and improvement of the church organ, of repairs including re-plastering and renovations to the interior of the church, vacuum cleaning of the inside of the roof and additional church heating facilities.

Thus, after the "first stage" had balance of something like £50 to the Appeal Fund.

Members of the Parochial Church Council attending the meeting admitted that they had been present at a meeting when the "firsts stage" was discussed, but they had not visualised operations on the scale they were now witnessing.

Mr. J. Peet—a parishioner—asked, what instructions had been left as to carrying on with operations while the rector was away? He suggested that the meeting should recommend deferment till intentions had been made clear.

Others asked why matters should have gone so far as removing three or four ash trees and several hedgerows and making an offer to dedicate land between the Improvement Line and the old boundary to the County Council?

ROAD WIDENING SCHEME

It was understood that the County Council would be giving consideration to a proposal for carrying out a road widening scheme on that particular frontage in the course of the next 12 months.

After Mr. Hardcastle had challenged the propriety of including "the green" in the levelling operations—ownership of this land still appears to be in doubt — a five-point resolution was framed which reads, in full:—

1—That the Clerk to the Parish Council acquaint the County Roads and Bridges Department of the disapproval of the meeting at the manner in which the new churchyard was being developed, including removal of hedgerows and trees; and regretting the apparent move to effect a highway improvement on this frontage which altogether might have an adverse effect on the old-world appearance of the village.

2—That the attention of the County Roads and Bridges Department be drawn to the danger emanating from mud and sludge which appeared to be encroaching on the highway at the bend on this frontage following the bulldozing operations, and that such department be urged to take any steps necessary for ensuring the cleaning up of the carriageway at this point.

3—To acquaint the hon. secretary of St. Mary's Church Council and

It is further believed that the P.C.C. plan to call an emergency meeting immediately the rector returns from holiday.

COLTON FOOTPATH COMPLAINT

After Colton Parish Council members had been told at a meeting on Monday night that the footpath adjoining Heathway, Colton, was in a "shocking state for pedestrians," it was decided to request the owners, the Lichfield Laundry, to put a hard core over the path.

The chairman, (Councillor F. Hardcastle) commented: "I made a journey there yesterday, and I consider that the complaints about the path are quite justified." He explained that a bulldozer was working there, and that drainage conditions were bad. 5/11/60

COLTON

2/11/60

School Whist Drive.—The annual whist drive organised by the headmaster and teachers of Colton St. Mary's School took place in the School the proceeds to be devoted to giving a party and a Present to the pupils of the school at Christmas. There was a very good attendance. Mr. Percy Westhorpe carried out the duties of MC., and the prizes were presented by Mr. Bernard Bettson, a school manager, to: Mrs. G. Hampson, Mrs. R. O. Devall, Mrs. F. Norman, Mr. Foster, Miss Christine Hoult, Mr. J. A. Hooley, Mrs. H. M. Felton, Mr. A. N. Felton, Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. A. Evans; miniatures, Mrs. Norman, Mr. G. Hampson, jnr.; sealed numbers, Mrs. Jean Fowell, Mr. F. S. Knight; lowest scores, Mrs. H. Cope and Mr. J. W. Hooley; competition prizes went to Mrs. Gordon Shipley (bottle of wine); grocery parcels to Mrs Shipley, Mrs E. M. Houldcroft, Melvyn Collins, Mrs. Hilda Williscroft, Mr. J. Taberner, Richard Knight, Mrs. J. Fowell, Mr. E. Rowe and Mr. J. Cowlishaw. Mr. D. E. Waters (headmaster) expressed thanks to anyone who had helped in any way to make the effort the success it was, therefore making a good party possible for the children at Christmas.

Mothers' Union.—For the October meeting of the Mothers' Union, Colton members joined Blithfield members in a corporate Communion service in St. Leonard's Church, conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson). The hymns sung were "Oh, My Savious Lifted" and "Thou Whose Almighty Word," Miss Rosa Hampson being at the organ. A collection was taken for the S.P.G. Medical Missions. Afterwards, all were enterained to tea by Mrs. F. Gee at Blithfield Old Rectory.



Entrants in the fancy dress contest at Colton Garden Fete are Pamela Jones, Susan Latham, Judith Hodkinson. Kneeling is Gwen Ravenscroft.

Colton Church fete

THE first "wet" Colton Church Garden Fete that anyon could remember, produced a £100 "boost" to the churc funds despite the weather.

Fancy dress winners.—Premier prize, Janet Read (tramp). Age over 10: 1 Irena Kulynycz (Polish Krakovian); 2 Pamela Jones and Judith Hodgkinson (Jack and Jill); 3 Kathleen Norman (Barbara Moore). Under 10: 1 Pauline Simkins (Eliza Doolittle); 2 Mark Farwell (Waggon Train); 3 Peter Clewes (Scarecrow). Dances by Rugeley Studio of Dancing: Fairy Ring, Kathleen Norman, Gwen Ravenscroft, Shirley Tittensor, Pamela Jones: little Match Girl, Janet Read; Tarantella, Christine Leeke, Irena Kulynycz; hungarian branch dance, Noeline Davidson; Russian peasant dance, Olga Sawczuck; mazurka, Gill Holdcroft, Valerie Southwell; "Out of town", Pamela Jones, Kathleen Norman; Swedish dance, Shirley Tittensor; Highland fling, Annette Martin, Janet Read; Little Miss Muffet, Anne Madders; Jola, Susan Latham; Sailors' hornpipe, Margaret Jervis, Judith Hodgkinson, Pauline Simkins, Valerie Lycett.

Stallholders were Mrs. E. Knight, Mrs. J. H. Toy, Mrs. V. Collins, Leslie Collins, Mrs. A. Cooper, Mrs. P. M. Buckley, Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, Miss E. Rochell, Mrs. J. A. Best, Mrs. S. Deacon, Mr. W. L. Yeoman, Miss A. Hall, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Miss E. Myatt, Mrs. A. Bradley, Mrs. E. S. Blore, Miss D. M. Jones, Mrs. M. Williscroft, Mr. W. Betson, Mrs. G. Felton, Mr. W. Norman, Mr. J. Brown, Miss M. Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Waters, Mrs. W. Betson, Mrs. M. Williscroft, Mrs. N. Felton, Mrs. G. Deacon, Mrs. G. Amies, Mrs. E. Griffin, Mrs. I. Preston, Mrs. C. J. Ravenscroft, Mrs. A. James, Mrs. F. Norman, Mrs. N. Westhorpe, Mrs. S. Ball and Mrs. D. Timmins.

ADVERTISER 11/8/60



A honeymoon in the Lake District followed the wedding at St. Joseph and Ethelfreda Roman Catholic Church at Rugeley of Miss Sheila Mary Preston, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. Preston, of Old Wood Farm, Rugeley, to Mr. James Bergin, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. D. Bergin, of 13, The Drive, Doxey, Stafford.

The bride, who is a member of Rugeley Amateur Operatic Society, and a former secretary of Rugeley Mixed Youth Club, was given away by her father. Bridesmaids were Miss A. Preston and Miss J. Preston (sisters of bride), best man was Mr. R. Roobottom, and ushers were Mr. J. Bergin and Mr. P. Preston. The ceremony was conducted by the Rev. Fr. W. Bouchier. A reception was held in Etching Hill Village Hall. 11/8/60 ADVERTISER



The Queen-Mother plants a commemorative oak tree in the grounds of historic Blithfield H all, where she had lunched with Lord and Lady Bagot, and a distinguished company.

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Hoare, and the Parish Council had no alternative means of assisting her to find accommodation at present. It did not mean that she must return to the cottage she had previously occupied, as one of the others might be in a better condition.

Obituary 24/8/60

MRS. GRIMLEY OF GREENWAYS

THE FUNERAL of Mrs Grimley of Greenways, Rugeley, took place at St Mary's Church Colton on May 18. The family mourners included the widowe ; Mr and Mrs J. Grimley, son and daughter-in-law; Mr and Mrs W. J. Honet, daughter and son-in-law; Mr and Mrs G. Cooper, daughter and son-in-law; Mr R. Grimley, son; Mr and Mrs Roobottom, Mrs A. J. Wannop, Mr and Mrs Peach, Mr L. Roobottom, Mr and Mrs H. Dorman, Mr and Mrs E. Grimley, Mrs Eldon, Mrs Lawrence, W W. Roobottom.

Also John Grimley, Geoffrey and David Cooper, grandson; Mrs Fletcher Mr G. Roobottom, Mrs Frances, Mrs J Hall, Mr and Mrs C. Wannop, Mr A. Wannop, nephews and nieces.

Many other friends attended including members of the Mothers' Union Hymns were played by Miss Bird (friend).

There were many floral tributes, including the following: Jack, husband; Jack, Beryl, John; Judy, May and John; George, Mary, Geoffrey and David; Bob and Friedy; Christine and Alan; Dianne and Trudy; Elizabeth; Harry and Dorothy; May and Charlie; Harold and Mary; Mrs Robins; Mr and Mrs Lowndes; Muriel and Jerv; St Mary's Church Council; Mr and Mrs W Sproston; Miss M. G. Andrews; John, Sybil and the boys; Dorey and Arthur, Mr and Mrs Mack-Allen; Mr and Mrs Felton; Ernie, Neilie and Peter; Mr and Mrs F. Williams.

Mr and Mrs Taylor and family; Mrs Kent, Lucy and Eric; Mrs S. E. Hoult; Mr and Mrs A. H. Cooper and Frances; Mr and Mrs Price; Colton Mothers' Union; Marie, Jenny, Dorey and George; Arthur and Mabel; Harold, Mary and Hazel; Arthur, Barbara Chris and June and Lily; Mr and Mrs W Finnimore; Mr and Mrs Johnson and family

COLTON 60

MOTHERS' UNION.— Colton Mothers' Union joined their friends at Blithfield in a corporate communion service in St. Leonard's Church, conducted by the Rev. A. S. Towlson (Rector). The collection was for the S.P.G. Medical Missions. Afterwards, the members were entertained to tea by Mrs. F. Gee, of Blithfield Old Rectory, who was thanked, on behalf of the Colton members, by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. Mrs. Gee thanked the Blithfield members for their assistance.

WHIST DRIVE. — The annual whist drive organised by the Headmaster and staff of Colton St. Mary's School in aid of the school Christmas party was held on Friday, Mr. Percy Westhorpe was M.C. and prizes were presented by Mr. Bernard Bettson, a School Manager, to: Mrs. G. Hampson, Mrs. R. O. Devall, Mrs. F. Norman, Mr. Foster, Miss Christine Hoult, Mr. J. A. Hooley, Mrs. H. M. Felton, Mr. A. N. Felton, Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. A. Evans, Mrs. Norman, Mr. G. Hampson jun., Mrs. Jean Fowell, Mrs. F. S. Knight, Mrs. H. Cope and Mr. J. W. Hooley. Competition prizes went to Mrs. Gordon Shipley, Mrs. Shipley, Mrs. E. M. Houldcroft, Mr. Melvyn Collins, Mrs. Hilda Williscroft, Mr. J. Tabernor, Mr. Richard Knight, Mrs. J. Fowell, Mr. E. Rowe and Mr. J. Cowlishaw. Mr. D. E. Waters (Headmaster) thanked the helpers.

Advtsr. **COLTON** 3/2/34.

Whist Drive.—There was a crowded attendance at the Reading Room on Friday for the first whist drive and dance organised by Colton's League of Youth, in aid of Stafford Infirmary Bazaar. Mr. D. Jones officiated as M.C. at the drive, and Mrs. Oldham, founder of the league, presented the prizes to: Ladies, 1, Mrs. Trentham; 2, Mrs. Manifold; 3, Mrs. Preston. Gentlemen, 1, G. Mellor; 2, C. Eyre; 3, Mr. Devalle. Mrs. Sear and Mr. H. Talbot won score card prizes. For the dance, Messrs. L. Devalle and J. Grimley, jun., acted as M.C.'s, and premier honours in the waltzing competition went to Miss W. Webb and Mr. A. Nelson, the judges for which were Mrs. Oldham, Miss Horsfall, and Miss Wint. Mr. W. Grimley obtained the prize for the balloon dance, whilst Mr. L. Devalle held the successful cake ticket. Music was provided by Colton Dance Band, and the buffét was ably run by Mrs. G. Mellor. A sum of £16 was realised.



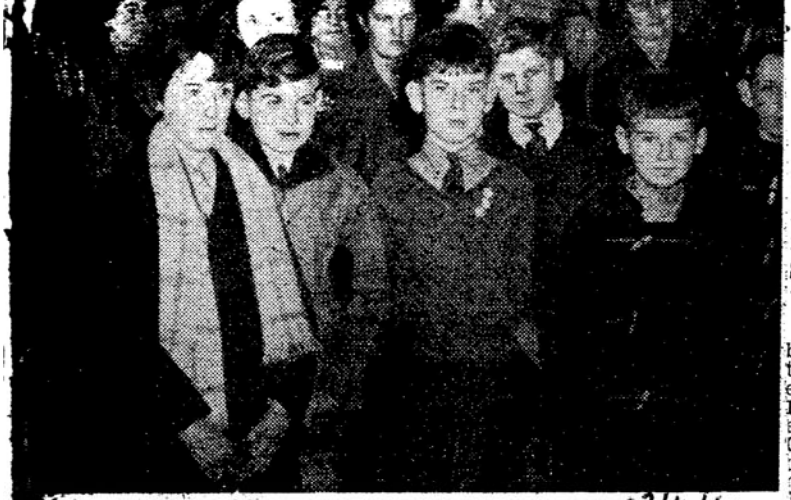
Mr. J. W. Jones (Chairman), on behalf of members of the Staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds, presenting a cheque to Mrs. A. N. Hillier, who has retired after 13 years as Secretary. The presentation was made at the association's annual meeting, held at Keele on Saturday. Also in the picture are Miss N. Woolley (Treasurer), Mr. D. B. Gibb (new Secretary), Professor A. R. Gemmell and Mr. Hillier.

Colton.

On Friday last there was a good [illegible] audience in the schoolroom to witness an effort held under the auspices of Colton's League of Youth and organized for the benefit of Staffordshire General Infirmary. The programme, which was in the nature of a Variety entertainment included popular songs by the ladies of Youth Chorus violin solos and comic songs by Mr. G. Morris, humorous recitations by Mr. H. Webb, Hungarian Dance (Miss Margaret Sears) pianoforte solos (Miss Mary Grimley) and two short plays the first by the ladies [illegible] and the second by [illegible] performed by Miss Ray Grimley with Mr. D. Jones. The Rev. E. R. H. Holmes also contributed to the programme. Miss Ray Grimley read the winning number for the Chair. Mrs. Oldham, on behalf of the League of Youth, thanked the company for their patronage. A short dance held in the reading room concluded the entertainment.

Date [illegible] 14/4/34.

(Newspaper, Colton).



...e of Colwich turned out in strength to support the bazaar

12/11/60

Poultry expert talks to Colton Produce Guild

At the November meeting of the Colton Village Produce Guild, held in the Reading Room on Thursday of last week, Mrs. Groom, of the Staffordshire Farm Institute, Rodaston, gave a talk on poultry-keeping for egg production.

Mr. J. H. Toy presided and the speaker was thanked by Mr. J. F. ...t.

Mrs. Groom also judged the competition for Brussel sprouts and awarded the prize to Mr. Roy ...ridgens.

It was decided that a letter should be sent to the newly-formed Colwich Guild expressing sympathy with the members in the death of their chairman, Mr. K. M. Wain.

Following the invitation from Abbots Bromley Guild to form a team of two men and two women to compete with a team from Bromley on November 17, in a gardening quiz, Mr. Alfred Meddings, Mr. F. Peet, Mrs. Ivy James and Mrs. Edith Preston were elected to represent Colton. Arrangements are being made for about 25 Colton members to attend the quiz.

It was decided to accept an invitation from Maer and District Guild, for six members to attend their B.B.C. recording of "Gardeners' Question Time" on December 3.

Refreshments were provided by Mrs. Ivy Preston, Mrs. E. Preston, Mr. Peet and Michael Garwood.

COLTON

Harvest Thanksgiving.—At Evensong, Mr. D. E. Waters (schoolmaster and licenced lay reader) took part in the service, the Rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson) reading the lesson and addressed a moderate attendance of people. The next morning schoolchildren were in attendance at a service conducted by the Rector, who received gifts of fruit, vegetables, eggs, butter and other produce from the children at the altar. This time Mr. Waters read the lesson. Mrs. D. Shaw (school teacher) acting as organist.

Following choral communion in the morning on Sunday, administered by the Rector, Mr. Towlson also officiated at Evensong. There were good congregations at the Sunday services. Miss R. Hampson played the organ in the morning, Mrs. G. E. Finnemore in the evening.

Collections at all harvest services were in aid of the church restoration and burial ground appeal fund.

TIME? 12/11/60

COLTON W.I. HOLD RUMMAGE SALE

A successful rummage and produce sale was held in Colton Reading Room on Saturday. Organised by the Women's Institute, the effort was made to raise funds for the Institute and to send a donation to Denman College.

The stalls were in charge of Mrs. I. Preston, Mrs. N. Jones, Mrs. P. L. Bannister, Mrs. M. L. Waters, Mrs. A. Meddings, Mrs. P. M. Buckley and Mrs. D. Deacon, and refreshments were served by Mrs. L. Bettson, Mrs. H. M. Felton, Mrs. E. M. Sargeant and Miss D. M. Jones. Mrs. B. Ravenscroft was in charge of the competition, the winners of which were Mrs. D. Deacon and Mrs. M. S. Toy, and Miss Ellen Rochell was door stewardess.

... to Parkside Group

THE autumn meeting of the Parkside Group of Women's Institutes was held in the Village Institute, Abbots Bromley, on Monday. More than 100 members from Blithfield, Colton, Great Haywood, Kingstone and Marchington Woodlands Institutes were present, and Mrs. W. M. Snelson (president of Abbots Bromley W.I.) was introduced by Mrs. J. Taylor (convener).

Mrs. R. G. Prince, of Newborough, gave details of the further activities of the County Federation, mentioning the Christmas Fair to be held at Stafford on November 29. There will also be two County meetings the autumn one on October 25, and the Spring meeting on March 21 next year. The meetings will be held at Stafford.

Mrs. N. Widdows, the speaker illustrated her talk by exhibiting numerous dolls dressed in period costume. Her topic was "Dress through the Ages."

A vote of thanks was proposed to the speaker by Mrs. C. Vivian (vice-president of Abbots Bromley W.I.) and seconded by Mrs. T. Rees (president of Blithfield W.I.).

Tea was served by the hostess Institute, Abbots Bromley, and the competition for a Madeira cake was judged by Mr. R. Tomlinson who awarded prizes to Mrs. F. Charlesworth (Woodlands W.I.) and Mrs. F. Foster (Great Haywood W.I.).

The second competition for a dressed wooden spoon was judged by Mrs. Widdows and Mrs. Prince, and the prizewinners were Mrs. C. Ashley and Mrs. T. Hibberd, junr., both of Woodlands W.I. The winner of a box of fruit was Mrs. E. Hepburn of Great Haywood.

The social programme was arranged by Mrs. E. E. Lyons (vice-president of Abbots Bromley), who produced a short play called "Monday's Washing Day." Those taking part were Mrs. D. Harley, Mrs. I. Raine, Mrs. M. Adey, Mrs. M. Brown, Miss D. Raine and Mrs. B. Beard.

A vote of thanks to the judges was proposed by Mrs. B. Ravenscroft, of Colton, and seconded by Mrs. D. Hopper, of Great Haywood.

Thanks were accorded to the hostess Institute by Mrs. E. Cotton, of Kingstone, seconded by Mrs. D. Latchford, of Woodlands.

The meeting concluded with the singing of the national anthem.

COLTON

At the November meeting of Colton W.I. held in the Reading Room, and presided over by Mrs. I. Preston, after reading the County letter, Mrs. Preston welcomed Mrs. Wildblood, V.C.O., who gave an interesting talk on the County Federation. She was also pleased to answer any questions put by members. A vote of thanks to Mrs. Wildblood was proposed by Mrs. M. L. Waters and seconded by Mrs. Hilda Williscroft. Mrs. Wildblood judged the competition for a knitted bonnet or hat, and awarded the prize to Mrs. Waters. Mrs. Preston, who gave her report of the Autumn Council meeting was thanked by Mrs. P. M. Buckley. Business matters included the arrangements for a Christmas Fare whist drive on December 9. Mrs. M. S. Toy informed members that it had been decided that the present "Best Kept Village Committee" should continue in office for three years. The stall was in the charge of Mrs. D. Deacon. Hostesses were Mrs. Toy, Miss Jones and Mrs. Ravenscroft. The mystery prize went to Mrs. Preston.

12/11/60

Colton M.U.

The November meeting of the Mothers' Union was held in the Reading Room on Tuesday when Mrs. J. L. Taylor (Enrolling Member) welcomed and introduced Mrs. Hardy, wife of the Vicar of Uttoxeter, who conducted a short service, and gave an inspiring talk on the Mothers' Union Overseas. Mrs. J. Hardcastle thanked her. Miss Ellen Rotchell had a small stall from which she sold a few oddments left over from the Garden Party, the proceeds of which will be put to the Church Expenses account.

3

Colton

4/10/60

Harvest thanksgiving began at Colton on Thursday last, when at Evensong in St. Mary's Church the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson preached and Mr. D. E. Waters, diocesan reader, assisted in the service.

The next morning saw all the schoolchildren present in the church with many parents, for a special service conducted by the Rector, who received gifts of fruit, vegetables, eggs, butter and other produce. Mr. D. E. Waters, as headmaster of the Church School, read the lesson and Mrs. D. Shaw, school teacher, played the organ.

The rector preached at the Sunday evening service after officiating at the choral communion service during the morning. There were good congregations. Miss R. Hampson played the organ in the morning and Mrs. G. E. Finnemore in the evening. The church was decorated by ladies of the congregation. Collections at all the services were for the church restoration and burial ground funds.





One of the prettiest corners of Colton, winner of the area Best Kept Village Competition, is near Heathway, where Ye Olde Dun Cow has been given a face-lift and a modernised interior. The garden is gay with flowers and rustic seats and table invite customers to linger in the summer sunshine. The children in the picture are Helen Myatt and Charlotte Wilson.

Judges name best kept villages

COLTON, Abbots Bromley and King's Bromley are among the area winners in the Best Kept Village Competition. On its first entry into the competition, Colton gained first prize in Eastern "E" area, and King's Bromley shared second prize with Hopwas in Eastern "F" area, both in the small villages' section. Abbots Bromley came second in the Eastern "E" area, large villages' section.

Barton-under-Needwood gained first prize in the large village section, Brewood and Kinver coming second and third. In the small village section Denstone was awarded first prize, followed by Enville and Hints.

Colton's effort is praiseworthy because it is the first time the village has been entered. The county was divided into large and small villages and six areas, as 49 villages had entered. In Colton's section were Anslow, Dunstall, Rangemore and Tattenhill.

The competition is organised annually by the Staffordshire Rural Community Council. The judges, it is stated, were most impressed by the high standards of the villages taking part and had great difficulty in reaching their decisions.

The judges noted "the many evidences of corporate endeavours to beautify the villages, including attractive notice boards, and litter bins." They highly commended the many efforts made to provide additional beauty through window-boxes, hanging baskets and flowers in unexpected places.

On the other hand, with certain exceptions, marks were lost by [illegible] roundings of [illegible] and church- [illegible] ciating the [illegible] he judges [illegible] rts which [illegible] in most [illegible] marks, [illegible] amount [illegible] winning [illegible] s by its

Rector resigns from parish council

Disagreements over the proposed new burial ground have led to the resignation of the Rector of Colton (the Rev. A. S. Towlson) from the Parish Council.

The Rector, in a statement read at the meeting, said he had come to the conclusion that the village would be better off without a Parish Council—at least for a trial period of three years. During that time interests of the parish would be adequately catered for by the County Council and the Rural District Council.

Mr. Hardcastle (Chairman) said he understood that when the matter came before the Parochial Church Council no objection was raised to the general idea of the proposed new burial ground. A progress, and it was these operations which had given rise to the present situation.

The Parish Council, he went on, felt it their duty to co-operate with the Parochial Church Council in getting things put on an even keel and he considered that the committee appointed by the Church Council should call a meeting to which they might invite the Parish Council in order to reconcile differences.

A resolution was passed recommending that the committee appointed to consider the question should meet on the lines suggested.

A LETTER

The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from the County Roads and Bridges Department which, though noting the Parish Council disapproval of the

IMPROVED BUS SERVICE FOR COLTON?

HOPES of a better 'bus service for Colton villagers — completely "'bus-less" some days of the week — have been given a fillip. Councillor I. E. Cowlishaw, in his capacity as a County Councillor, has been engaged in trying to get the service improved for several weeks, and on Saturday he received a letter from Mr. C. J. Whieldon, proprietor of Rugeley Green 'Bus Service, stating that he is to apply to the Traffic Commissioners for a regular daily service.

Councillor Cowlishaw had informed Mr. Whieldon that investigations showed the need for more 'buses to and from the village. He expects that Mr. Whieldon will have no opposition from the Midland "Red" Company, as they have already refused to run a service.

Villagers 'Demanded' Explanation by Rector

Residents in the village of Colton, near Rugeley, at a meeting of the Parish Council last night to which the public were admitted, recommended that a delegation of the Parochial Church Council should interview the Rector, the Rev. A. Stanley Towlson, and "demand an explanation" for his conduct.

Controversy has arisen in the village because the Rector ordered the removal by bulldozer of trees and hedges from a field, which he was understood to have the Parochial Church Council's permission to develop as a burial ground extension.

Resignation

Before the public were admitted last night it was announced that the Rector had resigned from the Parish Council.

In a statement read by the Clerk the Rector wrote: "I have come to the conclusion that Colton would be better off without a Parish Council for a trial period of three years."

The chairman, Mr. F. Hardcastle, commented: "It is a disaster that the Rector has not come here to take away some of the animosity which has arisen between his church and the parishioners.

"In urging the abolition of the parish council, he is asking that we should throw away our right to elect members except only to a powerless body."

Permission Doubted

After the public had been admitted, several of those present revealed that they belonged to the Parochial Church Council's sub-committee which had been placed in charge of the field that had been bulldozed.

They said that the sub-committee had never met officially to give the Rector authority to extend the burial ground to the field, and that he had broached the scheme to each of them individually.

Coun. [illegible] Hardcastle commented: "If this is so there seems to be a doubt whether the Rector really had permis-

A new look angers an old world village

COLTON, near Rugeley, one of the finalists in the small villages section of Staffordshire's best-kept village competition, is in danger of losing its old world charm, claim villagers, because of the nature of a new churchyard development.

A fieldu near St. Mary's Church, at the Rugeley approach to the village has been bulldozed. Trees and hedgerows have been removed.

NOT VISUALISED

Now members of the praochial church council have declared that they had not visualised operations on such a scale when the first sage of the development was discussed.

The vicar, the Rev. A. S.

met that action has been taken by a pecial parish meeting to restrict erations.

he meetin asked why matters had gce so far as the removal, and the meing of an offer to dedicate land tohe county council for a possible rod-widening scheme.

VIAR AWAY

was regretted that the vicar, wh is a member of the parish concil, could not be present to answer questions.

he parish council decided to express its disapproval to the county oads and bridges department, the secretary of St. Mary's Church ouncil, and to the Lichfield Dio esan board of finance about th anner in which the new chu

Members of Colton and Abbots Bromley Village Produce Guilds took part in a quiz in the Church House. Abbots Bromley, on Thur- day of last week.

Mr. A. A. Amphlett, chairman of the Abbots Bromley Guild, welcomed the Colton visitors and supporters. The Colton team consisted of Mr. A. Meddings, Mr. J. P. Peet, Mrs. I. James and Mrs. E. Preston. The home team was Mr. G. Arnold, Mr. W. Fleeman, Mrs. Hewison and Mrs. Meadows. Colton were the winners by 6 points to 51.

Mr. F. W. Farrar, country chairman, was the question-master and Mr. R. Mowforth was the judge, assisted by Mr. D. M. Gibb, county secretary.

Mr. Amphlett thanked all taking part in the quiz.

Mr. Gibb presented prizes to the teams, and Mr. J. Toy, Colton chairman, thanked the Abbots Bromley Guild for a pleasant evening. Refreshments were provided by Abbots Bromley Guild.

FIRST RUGELEY B

For the first time in th
own a broadcast of a Rug
n Tuesday evening over
he Rugeley Town Hall to
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ished to "listen-in" to
ds of the earth.

The Rugeley Flitch
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nly as a novelty, but as
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was an attempt to int
the Rugeley Hospital (
crease the funds raised
r weeks past preparat
ade, claimants had been
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ew to pleading before a
ing
fulfilled all anticipation by
judicial role with dignity
humour not always allied t

In all this the British
Corporation aided and abe
that earned the very sincer
the Rugeley Carnival Co
originator of the sugge
Rugeley Flitch Trial shoul
Mr. Harold Morgan, and it
great measure to his unbou
asm that the trial was so s
that the broadcast took pla

The British Broadcasting
through the Birmingham s
were not only helpful, bu
kind. The regional directo
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liminaries. A preliminar
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that the acoustics of the To
satisfactory and that the
amateur actors, if not o
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sociate with the silver-tong
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least transmissable. Mr. Gre
side producer of the Midl
transmitting station, visite
more than one occasion, an
tributable much of the s
attended the broadcast, for
mainly to his kindly advice
the principals attained suc
came their way.

TOWN HALL PA

Some considerable time
hour for the commencemen

COLTON

ADVERTISER 17/9/59

Personal.—Sunday was a memorable day in the activities of St. Mary's Church, for at the service the morning Mr. D. E. Waters, the newly appointed headmaster of the Primary (Church of England) School at Colton was, before a large congregation, which included the churchwardens and many churchmembers from Blithfield as well as Colton, and also the teaching staff of Colton School, admitted and installed as a Licenced Reader for the parishes of Blithfield and Colton. The Rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson) officiated at the service. Mr. Waters (who took up his duties following the summer holidays on Wednesday last week) and his wife and son (aged 2) are temporarily staying at Littlehay Manor Farm. Later they will move to the schoolmaster's residence, Elm Cottage.

Fancy Dresss.— The children's fancy dress parade attracted considerable interest at a dance in the Reading Room on Friday evening of last week, at which there was a large attendance. The "Abbotonians" Dance Band attended, and Mr J. L. Stretton was M.C. The winning entrants were: Aged 8 and under: 1, Glenys Jones (White Rabbit); 2, Elaine Leeke (Doll in the Box); 3, Trudy Grimley (Red Riding Hood). Over 8 years: 1, Christine Leeke (Teddy Girl); 2, Dianne Grinley (Robin Hood); 3, Annette Martin (Chinese), Premier prize awarded irrespective of age was won by Pamela Jones and Christine Leeke (Ugly Sisters). Consolation prizes were awarded to all the other competitors. The adjudicators in the event were Mrs. Timmins, Mrs. Peatfield and Mrs. Waters. Further entertainment was provided by pupils of the Rugeley Studio of Dancing (Principal, Mrs. V. M. Towlson). A lady's watch, the prize in a competition, was unsealed by Mr. J. Tittensor, and it was found to have stopped at exactly 5 o'clock. The winner was Miss A McVittie, of Banbury Road, Kirtown, Warwickshire. Altogether Mary's Church Appeal Fund the better off by about £31.

St. Mary's Church, an "interim" letter arising out of the Parish Council's resolution at the last meeting from the county surveyor's department informed the Parish Council that further consideration was being given to this problem, and the Parish Council would receive another letter on this matter in the course of the next few weeks.

Concerning a wicket gate, which requires re-hanging, improvement of a stile, including a suggested step and replacement of the footboard of a footbridge on the public footpath which commences at the field known as the Coneygreave at Bellamour, and proceeds past the Foxholes and out at Moor Lane, Hamley, which were under consideration at the previous meeting, the clerk suggested that these be left over for the present, so that if the Parish Council decided to join the County Council's scheme for dealing with minor repairs and replacements to public footways, these items might be carried out to advantage under the scheme. This was agreed to.

NEW CLERK

The clerk said that having intimated, at a meeting a year ago, his wish to retire from the clerkship at the end of the current financial year, one application for the position had so far been received. This was from Mr S. J. Timmins, of The Paddocks, Colton. In proposing that Mr. Timmins be appointed, the Rev. A. S. Towlson said he would like to couple with it a vote of thanks to the present clerk, Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft, for his services over the many years in the past. The chairman having associated himself with the remarks, Mr. Timmins was unanimously elected to take office as clerk as from April 1 next.

The meeting was informed that Mr. George B. Williscroft was agreeable, when cutting the grass at the war memorials, to include in future the trimming of the new yellow privet hedge, and would accept the additional acknowledgment of 5s. a year which the Parish Council wished to offer him for so doing.

Concerning maintenance of public footpaths and bridleways under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949, Mr. Hardcastle and the clerk reported attending — in accordance with their appointment at the last meeting — the conference which took place at Stafford on November 8. Held under the auspices of Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association, the county surveyor (Mr. F. Jepson) outlined a scheme proposed by the County Council to cover repairs and replacements of a minor nature. Under this scheme, parish councils would undertake responsibility for these, in return for which they would have the benefit of a yearly grant from the County Council.

The scheme, it was stated, should encourage parish councils to undertake responsibility for the smaller type of work required to footpaths and footbridges, and should enable them to deal with small drainage matters such as laying pipes across a footpath, firming-up muddy areas, cutting back nettles and other growth, and the repair of steps to stiles, etc. It was pointed out at the conference that parish councils should not, however, undertake repairs and replacements to stiles themselves or field gates. Stiles and field-gates were interpreted as a part of the fencing itself, and if a stile disappeared, the farmer or other occupier or the owner of the land was under no obligation to provide a new one, if, for instance, he wished to leave an open space as access for agricultural livestock and users of the public footpath from one field of land to another. If, however, he made up the gap where the stile existed by erecting a new

the conference, a ... that it be reviewed after ... three years having first ... ted, and it had now been approved by the appropriate committee of the county authority and the executive committee of Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association recommended all parish councils in the county to join up and take advantage of the benefits afforded by the scheme.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to include the parish of Colton in the scheme.

The chairman reported that the smallholders (Messrs. William J. Parr and Son), who had erected the three protecting posts on the Marsh side of the wicket leading out of the Martlin into the Marsh (on the public footway leading from the Pinfold across fields and out opposite the Railway Cottages), had been approached, but they were not now interested in re-fixing the posts, which were designed at the time to prevent cattle standing in the wicketway. In the circumstances it raised the query as to whether these posts should be ... Messrs. R. Morrall (chairman) and F. Hardcastle were appointed to inspect these posts, and also the culvert at this wicket-way, and to report on their findings at the next meeting.

The chairman, as parish representative on the Rural District Council of Lichfield, and the clerk, gave the news that the question of the public sewer in the village had moved considerably since the resolution of the Parish Council at the last meeting.

First, the request was considered by the Health and Planning Committee on December 5, who referred it to a meeting of the Water and Sewerage Committee on December 15. After considering a report of the council's engineer and surveyor, the committee decided to recommend the Health and Planning Committee to ask the engineer and surveyor to prepare a detailed scheme to provide for separate drainage for road water and foul sewage, and also to construct a sewage disposal plant. It was estimated that the details of the scheme would be ready for submission to the appropriate Government department for approval towards the end of this year.

In connection with the Staffordshire Rural Community Council's appeal to parish councils and other local authorities for voluntary contributions, it was mentioned that for every £2 raised locally a grant of £1 was made to the Community Council by H.M. Development Commission. The Parish Council decided that, as in the past two years, they would make a voluntary contribution of 10s. in respect of the year 1958/59.

SHELTERS WANTED

Mr. Morrall brought up the subject of 'bus shelters, and said he would like to see two installed in the village. After a preliminary discussion, it was thought best to get together as much information as could be obtained, and to go into the subject in detail at the next meeting.

Mr. Morrall asked if anyone knew if the public refuse tip in the first pithole in the Martlin Hill was still in use. This tip had been in existence for many years at a rental — paid by the Rural District Council, the authority concerned — of £2 per annum. The clerk said he felt it was desirable that the tip should be kept in existence, as it would be useful for the public to deposit large and unwieldy articles which normally the refuse collection vehicles might classify as outside the definition of household dry refuse, and refuse to handle. No one at the meeting knew if the Rural District Council refuse collectors ever made use of this tip themselves, and the clerk suggested that the subject remain open whilst enquiries were made of the R.D.C. and the latter's definition as to what types of refuse the collectors would accept and what they might refuse had been ascertained. The Parish Council decided that in view of the existing public refuse collection scheme, the R.D.C. be recommended to discontinue the use of this tip and to terminate the arrangement on the grounds of redundancy.

A member of the Institute of Journalists he had great literary ability, and was the author of a series of local guides and handbooks.

Twelve months ago he retired from the position of Editor Manager on the "Tamworth Herald," and would have celebrated his 73rd birthday to-morrow (Saturday). On the 28th of this month Morton would have celebrated golden wedding.
widow and four sons.
nt at the funeral included
e Corporation, including
Councillor J. H. White-
nan T. W. Woodcock,
French, Alderman F. G.
illors Miss A. E. Argyle,
hes, A. E. Colbourne, C.
M. R. Turner, T. H. Sut-
rown, W. J. Webb, J. S.
W. Morgan, and A. H.
y Mayor), with the Town
. Wood), the Borough
Ir. F. Alderson), the
eyor (Mr. A. O. Mar-
e Sanitary Inspector (Mr.
).

ed in next column).

July 25 1925.

THE

"THE RUGELEY FLITCH"

Local Claimants In North Court

AMUSING TRIAL BY JURY

TO Mr. H. Morgan falls the honour of having conceived and put into effect a scheme which has had the three-fold effect of putting Rugeley on the broadcasting map; producing a "house full" notice in front of the Town Hall on Tuesday evening, and providing a story which will be talked about for many days.

Four couples appeared before "his lordship" (Major J. Selby Gardner) and claimed that they had not quarrelled for a year and a day, and after a searching trial, the Flitch, presented by the managers and staffs of the local Banks, was awarded to Mr. and Mrs. William Cope, Park View Terrace, Rugeley.

THE LOVE BIRDS SING

"INCREDIBLE" STORIES OF DOMESTIC HAPPINESS

The counsel for the claimants were Mr. Wallace Copland and Councillor J. K. Fergusson, and for The Flitch, Mr. B. Burrell Davis (of Cannock) and Mr. E. H. Pascoe.

The trial, naturally produced a fund of spontaneous humour, and the two bona fide solicitors (Mr. Copland and Mr. Davis) made full use of their opportunity for legal wit.

The effort was well organised and was the most successful amateur effort the town has ever seen.

Part of the trial was broadcast, a "dummy" case in which Mr. Ananias Truthfull (Mr. H. Wootton) and Sapphira his "wife" (Councillor F. Fisher) claimed The Flitch, being staged for this purpose. The B.B.C. were extremely gratified at the result, and, granted the continuance of the "custom," Rugeley will possibly be "on the air" again.

AN AWE-INSPIRING SCENE

Rugeley Police Court in all its history has never presented such an awe-inspiring appearance as did the Town Hall on Tuesday evening.

Above the Bench were blazoned the Royal Arms while they were repeated on a ground of purple before the rostrum. To His Lordship's left lay the traditional nosegay of sweet herbs.

Immediately below the dais in the centre of the stage stood a table for the clerk and his deputies, the principal furnishings being a number of massive tomes of legal appearance, a gallon-can conspicuously labelled ink and a supply of quill pens. The tables for the counsel were similarly furnished except that the ink-can was absent. The jury-box was on the left of the platform.

Five B.B.C. microphones on the familiar stands bore further evidence to the unique importance of the occasion.

The Flitch was prominently displayed.

Both doors were guarded by Police Officers (Messrs. Brinkworth and Crutchley).

The entry of Councillor G. Brown in tricorn hat and gown brought the "gallery" of some 500 people to attention; the jury followed almost immediately, then came in sequence the Clerk to the Court (Mr. H. S.

You have done the house-work, washing-up, cleaning, etc.? — Yes.

And, no doub., broken things. Was your wife pleased then? — Yes. (Laughter).

She had a good laugh when you showed her a broken cup? — Yes. (Laughter).

When she had the stall you used to carry the produce. Didn't you get a bit fed-up? — No, we were pleased with it.

You thought your wife did the gossiping while you stayed at home and did the work: did that please you? (Laughter).

Did you approve of your wife gossiping while you broke the saucepans? — No reply.

If she gossiped it meant that you had to carry more produce back? — Yes.

Has she never been late with you meals? — No.

Always "on the dot"? — Yes.

Your wife is perfect? — Yes.

A perfect gossip? — No.

You went to Tamworth with the Legion outing? — Yes.

You took the wife? — Yes.

Couldn't she let you go that far alone? (Laughter).

Mr. E. H. Pascoe then addressed the Court on behalf of The Flitch.

ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

The case of Mr. and Mrs. Truthfull v. The Flitch was broadcast.

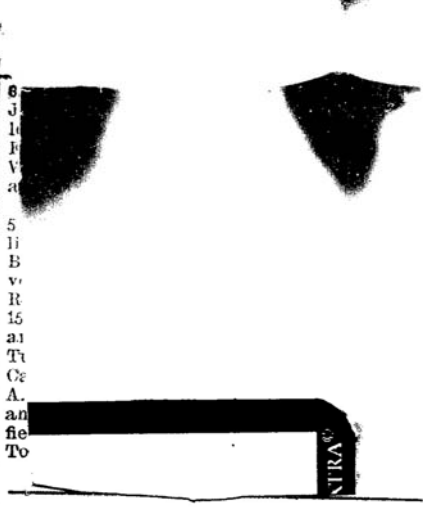
Opening the case Mr. Wallace Copland said that the applicants were "a well-known Rugeley couple" who came before them with the greatest possible confidence.

Their names were Ananias and Sapphira Truthfull, and they had spent not only the whole of their married life but the whole of their natural lives in Rugeley, the husband having been born in Floodgate while the wife first saw light in Blood's Yard. Their present address was The Love Nest, Love Lane, where they had lived in perfect happiness ever since their wedding day which was, as nearly as either of them could remember, April 1st, 1925.

'Mr. Ananias Truthfull is too honest a man to seek to mislead the court and he will tell you that there have been times when he has been tempted to a disagreement with his wife. It is to his credit that he has never given way.

"One of the earliest of these temptations was when he found himself on the point of comparing the face of his mother-in-law to that of a rat.

"On another occasion, returning home



...ing accompanied ... with any evil ... joined him in order ... of those boards down ... roll their pennies in the ... wealth.

... gazing into the eyes of ... admiration while she, ... infatuation was merrily ... after time to the very ... reward. Could anything be

SERIOUSLY HAPPY!"

... will tell you that she ... completely and even deliriously happy in married life. The birth of the youngest child on Jubilee Day caused great joy, and the christening of little Ananias Judas Jubilee Truthfull, in which the Chairman of the Urban District Council acted as chief god-parent was an occasion of public rejoicing."

Counsel went on to describe an occasion on which Ananias had let his child fall into a filter bed but had secured some tomatoes—growing nearby—as a peace-offering to Saphhira.

Cross-examined by Councillor Fergusson on the fairground incident, Mr. Truthfull said that everything his wife did that day was in his interests.

Will you tell me exactly what you saw when you reached the fairground?

Mr. Truthfull: Coconut shies.

And what else? Roundabouts.

Whereabouts, did you say?

Whereabouts.

And anything further?

I see'd a gypsy looking at my missus as though he could eat her, and her busy winning pennies.

After further questions Mr. Davis, in his closing speech for The Flitch, asked the jury not to award it to Mr. and Mrs. Truthfull.

"I invite you to say that they shall never savour that succulent delicacy; shall never taste that toothsome tit-bit. I suggest that the so-called Love Nest is a nest of thorny twigs and horse chestnuts. The case was merely a foolish feint to fetch the flitch."

GHOST OF WILLIAM PALMER!

Summing-up, His Lordshop remarked that the last trial which had aroused such a keen interest in Rugeley had ended in a man finishing on the swings at Stafford one early morning!

The case of Cope v. The Flitch was opened by Councillor J. K. Fergusson, who stated that William Cope was 47 and his wife, Emma, 42. She was born at Wolverhampton and worked at English Electric at Stafford. They were married in 1911.

"There was first a girl and then a boy, and this followed at fairly regular intervals until they had amassed three of each." After living in Harvey's Entry, they moved to a Council House in Park View Terrace. They had always been happy, although their times had not been over-fortunate. He had fallen ill and Mrs. Cope had done her best to bring her children up, and this was greatly appreciated by her husband, who was known as "Tich."

Their chief pastime was taking walks together and this was not likely to lead to quarrels.

"It is a habit I commend to the jury—I suggest that they try going for walks together."

Mr. and Mrs. Cope did the shopping together, she going into the shop and showing the qualities of the capable housewife while he waited dutifully outside—"no slipping to the nearest pub for a 'quick one'."

In their examination-in-chief Mr. Cope said that he and his wife had always pulled together. Mrs. Cope was not glad to get rid of him when he went to meetings of the British Legion.

In cross-examination he denied that they had to leave Harvey's Entry because they had knocked the house about in their quarrels. (Laughter).

How did you get the soubriquet of "Tich"?

His Lordship: I think you might use "pri kranc."

Mr. [illegible]: I got it as a boy when I used [illegible] organ at the Band of

... for contempt. A voice ... state that he was "attending ..."

JURY'S QUAINT SWEARING-IN

The jury were then sworn as follows:—

"Jury of Rugeley are we
And heartily do we agree,
With one accord
The Flitch to award
To the happiest couple there be."

His Lordship then announced the rules ... governing the trial.

The claimants ... will live within the ... served by ... Hospital Carnival; ... prove that ... have not quarrelled ... months and a day; (3) shall ... themselves for trial to-night; (4) ... prepared to answer reasonable ... (5) shall agree to the case being ... a jury of their fellow townsmen ... (6) a flitch of bacon shall be ... the winning couple.

... pose your lordship, may I call ...?

... and Mrs. Harvey!

... trial had begun.

CASE FOR CLAIMANT

... opening statement for the claimants ... of Norman v. The Flitch, Mr. ... Leland stated that Mr. and Mrs. ... were married on December 27th, ... had two children, both boys. The ... was a miner, but on account of bad ... was no longer able to work down ... and had to content himself with ... pit-bank for only 24s. per week. ... decided to start a small stall in ... Market Place on Saturdays and ... Whenever these days were ... the pit her husband invari... to Rugeley from Colton, where ... to help her with the stall. He ... home and did the housework ... returned to Rugeley to help his ... home whatever produce was ...

... Unfortunately Mrs. Norman fell seriously ... and had to give up the stall, the ... carrying on with his work.

... these adverse circumstances they ... used to have been extremely happy and ... considered themselves worthy applicants for ...

... being sworn the applicants were ... by Councillor Fergusson and ... amusement by producing a most ... addition to their family—a dressed ...

... you looked after the house and ... to your satisfaction Mrs. Norman? ... I ought to have been ill longer. ... great attention to you? — Yes. ... been very devoted to you at all ... Yes.

... encourage Mr. Norman to go to the ... Legion meetings? — Yes, that is ... time he goes out; I feel rather ... when he is away.

... you appreciate his presence all ... when he returns? — Yes.

... that for a year and a day ... no quarrel between you?

CROSS-EXAMINATION

... then made as if to leave ...

... One moment, it is not ... that. (Laughter).

... is a long time; you ... long? — None what-

... Legion frequently?

... to rid of

(Continued from column 2).

That is what attracted Mrs. Cope perha...

Mr. B. B. Davis: As to this Band ... Hope I suggest it has coloured his wi... life for he is still hopeful, and his nickn... should not have been "Tich" but "Flitc... (Laughter).

After an application to be allowed to sm... was declined the case of Harvey v. ... Flitch was called.

YEARS OF CONTENTMENT

Councillor Fergusson stated tha... Mr. ... Mrs. Harry Harvey, of Park View Terra... Rugeley, had had 19 years of contentm... together. He was 47 years old that day ... it would be a happy birth day if they co... carry away the flitch.

Mr. Harvey was born in the U.S.A., ... came to England when 5 years old and ... worked in coal mines at Brereton, etc.

Mrs. Harveys maiden name was Wai... which was rather unfortunate because th... were three people of that name on the jur...

Mrs. Harvey was perfectly happy at ho... but her husband who was a member of ... "Big Un" (Rugeley W.M.C.), and ... entitled to two outings each years, alw... insisted that she should take them as ... did not go out much and he had his holi... in camp with the Territorials!

SIX DAYS' HONEYMOON!

A laugh was caused when counse... explained that Mr. Harvey, serving in ... Army, had decided to marry as soon as ... got leave: "After waiting 20 months b... seven days."

His Lordship asked if it were hard labo... or merely imprisonment.

Counsel: On one day he tied himself ... for life and on six spent his honeymoon...

Mr. Pascoe submitted that the couple ... not fulfill the conditions as Mr. Harvey ... not born in England, and as he had b... away from his wife for a fortnight's holid...

The case of Mary Anne Cowlishaw a... Forester Cowlishaw v. The Flitch was ... most amusing case tried. The well-kno... local couple were heartily thanked at t... end by Mr. Davis, who said that if they ... not take the Flitch they certainly took t... biscuit!

Mrs. Cowlishaw, in answer to a questi... as to whether her husband provided th... qualities she looked for in a perfect husba... replied: He had to, sir.

Councillor Fergusson: There have be... many opportunities for you to fail in ... temptation, Mr. Cowlishaw, you we... amongst many charming girls? — Yes ... fine girls.

And they are inclined to look on you ... more than a friend? — Yes, sir; ... asked me to go for a walk with her. I s... "Not while my wife is alive!"

THINKS MORE OF THE DOG!

You think a great deal of your husba... Mrs. Cowlishaw? — I think more of ... dog. (Laughter).

Do not people of the town describe y... as Darby and Joan? — Of course, we set... all "those little things" at home! He t... threatened me, but dare not do ... (Laughter).

Mr. Cowlishaw added that he dare ... quarrel but they "had a word or two son... times."

And so on.

PRESENTATION OF THE FLITCH

The jury unanimously returned a verd... for Mr. William and Mrs. Emma Cope t...

"High Street, Colton – Road Widening Scheme"
Acquisition from CJR. of land ----------"

Colton road scheme start

An urgent much-needed scheme to cost more than £44,000 is to be started this year on the widening of High Street, Colton. There will be new footpaths and a drainage system.

The work has been passed by Staffordshire Roads and Bridges Committee.

A petition signed by 263 local residents last year, pressed for the work to be done as soon as possible, and the parish council also urged an early start on the scheme.

The work will extend along High Street from its junction with Bellamour Road, to the north. There are hardly any footpaths and the road is flanked by high banks without any refuge or roadside verge. Four trees will have to be felled.

Improvements are also proposed for Heathway.



An impression of the narrow Colton High Street, with banks on each side, which is to be widened and provided with footpaths.



UEST of honour at last night's dinner of the Old Rugeleians, Mrs. Catherine Hutchinson, wife of former geley Grammar School headmaster, Col. H. H. Hutchinson, also the first woman honorary life member the association as ever had. For though it is a new name, Old Rugeleians the mixed successor of Rugeley Grammar School Old Boys' sociation. Yesterday's function was their first "mixed" nner.

A native of Sunderland and daughter of a very well-known d talented local amateur singer, Mrs. Hutchinson met her sband while he was serving in the Forces during the first rld war and they married in 1920. They have two sons, two ughters and 10 grandchildren—and are very proud of them . They now live in retirement at Rose Hill, Wolseley Road, sight of the school which was their home for 32 years.

During the 1914-18 war, Mrs. Hutchinson became super- or in a recruiting office in Sunderland under the Ministry National Service, having charge of a staff of 200. A member Sunderland Amateur Operatic Society, she took part in eir 1918 production of "The Mikado" and later took the prano lead in "Dorothy". A talented pianist, always terested in music, always moving in musical circles, she tributes her interest — and accomplishments — to her ther and her family's musical background.

On her husband's appointment as headmaster at Rugeley 1920 she set up home in the school house. Frequently ed upon to perform many of the duties that might be d of a matron in a boarding school, she did them willingly cheerfully. During part of her time at the school she o took charge of catering and school meals.

Mrs. Hutchinson took the lead in Stafford Amateur eratic Society's productions about the year 1930, par- ularly in "Princess Ida". She frequently sang at school each days, often with Mr. Charles Harrison, music master d B.B.C. singer, before the second World War. She has re recently been a leading light in Rugeley Amateur eratic Society, of which she is musical director. Until two ars ago she was also conductor.

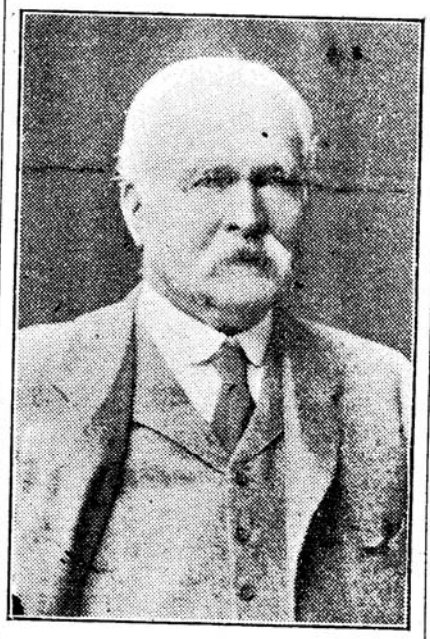
From 1940 until 1953 Mrs. Hutchinson taught music in e Grammar School and since then at St. Augustine's Schools now Churchfield School. Loved and admired by a whole neration of R.G.S. boys, she still helps with their school oductions and on special occasions, such as the recent dication service, when she coached the choir.

The decision of Mrs. Hutchinson and her husband to spend eir retirement in Rugeley has proved a great benefit to the wn, for her interests go even wider than musical circles. ey include, for example, the Inner Wheel Club, of which e is an honorary member, and more recently she has come interested in the work of the Landor Society.

DEATH OF MR. JAMES W. GARDNER OF RUGELEY

The death of Mr. James William Gardner occurred at his residence the Stone House, Rugeley, on Saturday, after a very brief illness.

A son of the late Mr. James Gardner, he was born at Hamilton Lodge, now



The Late Mr. J. W. Gardner

known as Eaton Lodge, Rugeley, on April 22, 1850, his parents removing to the Stone House two years later, and there Mr. Gardner has lived for 83 years. It is a delightful spot, dating back, it is believed, to Elizabethan times, and from its windows may be seen one of the finest views of Cannock Chase.

After attending Rugeley Grammar School—of which he was the oldest surviving boy—he went to Rugby in 1864. Of fine athletic talents, he gained many distinctions on the sports fields. He played in the school cricket eleven, and was champion of athletic competitions, gaining firsts for the 100 yards and 200 yards races, the standing jump, hurdles, and throwing the cricket ball A year later he won the quarter-mile and long jump.

In 1869 Mr. Gardner went to Brasenose College, Oxford, and he was proud of the fact that in 1872 he was chosen to play in the first Rugby football match between Oxford and Cambridge. In 1873 he took his degree, and became articled to his father in the legal profession. He was admitted a solicitor in 1876 and later became a member of the firm of Messrs. Gardner and Sons, of Rugeley, of which firm he was senior partner for many years until he retired nearly fifteen years ago. In 1882 he was appointed clerk to the Rugeley Petty Sessional Division, which office he filled with exceptional ability for over fifty years, until his retirement two years ago. After concluding fifty years' service as Magistrates' Clerk in April 1932, he was presented on August 18 following, by the Rugeley magistrates with an illuminated address, which was inscribed as follows:—"To James William Gardner Esq.: appointed clerk to the Rugeley Petty Sessional Division, 17th April, 1882. We, the present justices for the Rugeley

Petty Sessional Division of Staffordshire feel that we cannot allow this year to end without recording out great and sincere appreciation of the manner in which you have assisted our predecessors and ourselves to carry out the duties of our office during the past 50 years. Unfortunately, not one of those magistrates by whom you were originally appointed has survived to join us in this letter, but we are confident that we are expressing our feelings as well as those of our successors and our own when we state that we have all recognised the soundness of your legal knowledge, which has never led us astray, and are very grateful for the unfailing readiness you have always shown to help us in every possible way. Rugeley, August, 1932." The address was signed by the following magistrates:—W. A. Wetherall, W. N. Landor, A. W. Whitworth, H. R. Bruxner, A. R. Tunnicliffe, F. Hill, J. Till, C. W. W. Broun, H. W. Bush and G. Averill.

Fifty-five years ago Mr. Gardner was appointed Registrar of the Rugeley County Court, and he discharged those duties with tact and ability until the business of the Court was transferred to Stafford and Lichfield about fifteen years ago.

Among Mr. Gardner's industrial interests were his directorship of the Cannock and Rugeley Colliery Company, Limited, Hednesford, and chairmanship of the Rugeley Gas Company, both of which offices he held for a very long period.

For more than half a century he took an active and prominent part in public affairs, not only in the Rugeley district, but throughout the county. For many years he was chairman of the Rugeley Local Board, and later became representative for the town on the Staffordshire County Council, and was an alderman. He had served on the Brereton Parish Council for over fifty years, and was chairman of that body for nearly thirty years. He was also for many years a member of the Rugeley and Brereton Joint Burials Board, and was chairman at the time of his retirement.

He has always taken a great interest in the progress of education throughout the county, having served on the Staffordshire Education Committee for a long period, and at one time he was vice-chairman of that committee. Following the example of his father, he has taken a special interest in the Rugeley Grammar School, having been chairman of the Governors for over twenty years. He has also served at one time or another as a local school manager of practically all the elementary schools in the Rugeley district.

During the war years Mr. Gardner rendered valuable service to his country on the County Military Tribunal, which sat at various places in the county.

For 29 years he was captain of the Rugeley Cricket Club, being succeeded by his son, Major J. Selby Gardner. The war scattered the players, and unfortunately it has not been possible to revive the old club.

On July 22, 1880, Mr. Gardner married Miss Mary Wrigley, of Aigburth Hall, Liverpool, and they celebrated their golden wedding five years ago.

In politics he was a keen supporter of the Conservative cause, and in his younger days was an enthusiastic member of the executive of the Lichfield Divisional Unionist and Conservative Association. He was chairman of the Rugeley sub-district, while Mrs. Gardner was Dame President of the Rugeley Branch of the Primrose League.

A staunch Churchman, he took special interest in the little village church at Slitting Mill, which was managed by his wife for about forty years.

Mr. Gardner is survived by his widow, two sons—Major J. Selby Gardner, and

CONTINUED IN NEXT COLUMN

CONTINUED FROM PRECEDING COLUMN

Dr. A. Duncan Gardner—and one daughter, Mrs. Cecily F. Harker.

THE FUNERAL

The funeral took place at St. Augustine's Parish Church, Rugeley, on Wednesday afternoon, and was largely attended. The service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. H. L. Muriel), and the choir was in attendance. As the cortege entered the church, Handel's Largo was played by the organist (Miss M. G. Andrews). Two hymns were sung, "Peace, Perfect Peace," and "Abide with me," and as the funeral procession left the church for the cemetery, Chopin's Funeral March was played.

The grave was lined with ivy and evergreens, and the coffin, which was of oak with brass fittings, bore the inscription: "James William Gardner, 22nd April, 1850, 3rd August, 1935."

The family mourners were:—Mrs. M. Gardner (widow), Major and Mrs. J. Selby Gardner (son and daughter-in-law), Dr. and Mrs. A. Duncan Gardner (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Harker (son-in-law and daughter), Miss Dorothy Gardner (niece), Col. and Mrs. W. E. Harrison, Mrs. Healing, Mrs. Ritchie, Mr. F. Waterfield, and Mr. D. Gardner, and members of the household staff at Stone House.

Amongst others present were:—The Earl of Lichfield, Lady Berkeley Paget, Mrs. M. Twentyman (Codsall), Mr. W. W. M. Morgan (Stafford), Mr. F. S. Heath (Stone), Sir Edric Wolseley, Bart. (Wolseley Hall), Capt. H. S. Stokes (Longdon), Miss Horsfall (Colwich), Commander H. B. McGhie (Rugeley), Mr. W. N. Landor (chairman of the Rugeley Magistrates), Capt. T. V. Peake (General Manager of the Cannock and Rugeley Colliery Company, Limited), Messrs. J. H. Borton, J. F. Phillips and G. J. Bradbury (Cannock and Rugeley Colliery Company, Limited), Mrs. H. R. Bruxner (Chaseley), Mr. and Mrs. Guy Burnett (Oxford), Dr. and Mrs. Paton (Rugeley), Mr. and Mrs. C. W. W. Broun (Rugeley), Major C. E. Wood (Bishton Hall), Mr. E. Colvill Lyons (Eccleshall), Mr. G. H. Grummitt (Rugeley), the Misses Carmichael (Rugeley), Mr. J. G. Taylor (Hednesford), Messrs. L. Neighbour, L. W. Neighbour, A. P. Selman, J. Dix (chairman of Rugeley Urban District Council), F. Hill, A. R. Tunnicliffe, G. Averill, H. Upton, F. R. Speechly, F. Fisher, A. Evans (Clerk to the Rugeley Urban Council), W. H. Beresford (Clerk to Brindley Heath Parish Council), H. Renshaw, W. H. Stevens, J. P. Salmon, H. W. Bush, F. Hardcastle, R. Crowther (secretary and manager Rugeley Gas Company), W. J. Rundle (manager Trent Valley and High Peak Electricity Company, Ltd.), R. J. Davis and A. Wycheriey (churchwardens), Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Simkin; Messrs. R. Lacey, H. L. Oakes, G. H. Brown, A. W. Whitworth, J. W. Whitworth, W. A. Fowell, Mr. A. E. Phillips (Birmingham), Mrs. Thorneycroft, Mrs. Mainwaring, Mrs. Muriel, Mrs. Illingworth, Mr. and Mrs. J. Morgan, Mrs. Oldham, Messrs. W. Shropshall, T. H. Simmonds, A. C. Hitchiner, H. Shephard, C. J. Ravenscroft, G. Webster, Capt. W. T. Carter, Rev. R. F. Curry (Brereton), Messrs. J. Wright, H. S. Woodman, F. Wood, E. Martin, Major H. B. Wetherall, Miss Hampshire, Miss Lees, Miss Hall, Miss Pardoe, Miss Lampitt, Miss Coston, Miss C. Beasley, and Nurse Calder.

Representatives of Court 3086 of the Ancient Order of Foresters (of which deceased was an honorary member) and Court Mary Gardner (Rugeley).

The wreaths and floral tributes numbered about 60, and included the following:—Chairman, members, and officials of the Rugeley Urban District Council; Rugeley Grammar School Old Boys' Association; Staff of Slitting Mill Council School; Directors of the Cannock and Rugeley Colliery Co., Ltd; Management and Staff of the Colliery; Directors of the Rugeley Gas Company; Secretary and Staff of the Rugeley Gas Company.

COLWICH GUILD GROWING

COLWICH and District Produce Guild's membership increases at every meeting. On Tuesday, Mr. W. G. Torrance gave a talk on apples, commencing with the origin and history of apples in England. His talk embraced both the natural varieties of bygone days and the present-day methods of raising and propagating. He also told stories of some famous apples and gave advice on methods of storing.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Torrance was proposed by Mr. H. Stockton. This was the first meeting of the Guild on their new evening — the first Tuesday of each month.

Mr. J. Lewis (chairman) announced that Colton Guild had accepted their invitation to attend a social evening on January 3, in place of the usual meeting.

Colton had also agreed to take part in a gardening quiz, and Mrs. M. Castellan, Mrs. Hopper, Mr. Bannister and Mr. S. Gibson expressed their willingness to form the Colwich team.

Members were reminded that there would also be a bring and buy stall and that each member could invite a friend, provided the officials were informed by December 28, the date of the committee meeting.

It was suggested that spring and summer meeting nights should be spent in visiting gardens, instead of holding indoor meetings. Members promised prizes for the Guild whist drive on [illegible]

RUGELEY COFFEE EVENING AND DANCING DISPLAY

The combined coffee evening and dancing display organised by Mrs. C. J. Whieldon, of Hagley Hall, Rugeley, and Mrs. V. M. Towlson, of Colton, in aid of the Hoar Cross Children's Home drew a large crowd to Churchfields school, Rugeley, on Thursday evening last week.

Among those present were Lord and Lady Bagot, of Blithfield H[illegible] Lady Bagot has shown partic[illegible] interest in the Hoar Cross Home since the formation of a Rugeley committee to provide funds several years ago.

Pupils of the Rugeley Studio of Dancing gave an excellent dancing display, the Rev. A. S. Towlson being at the piano, with Miss Dorothy Cooper as compere. Items given were as follows:—Russian Peasant Dance, Olga Sawczuk; The Little Match-girl, Janet Read; Jota (Spanish dance), Susan Latham; The Dawn Nymph, Annette Martin; Out of Town, Pamela Jones and Kathleen Norman; Little Miss Muffet, Sheila Morrissey; Polish Krakovian dance, Irena Kulynycz; "Fete Day" Mazurka, Gillian Houldcroft and Valerie Southwell; Swedish dance, Shirley Tittensor; "Where the fairies play," Kathleen Norman, Pamela Jones, Patricia Shipley and Gwen Ravenscroft.

After an interval for coffee and biscuits came the second half of the programme:— "Coppelia" Waltz, Olga Sawczuk and Susan Latham "Cygnets" pas de deux, Annette Martin and Janet Read; The Pixie Pipers, Linda and Jacqueline McClintock; Highland Fling, Anne Madders; Tarentella, Christine Leake; St. Vincent Hornpipe, Margaret Jervis, Valerie Lycett, Judith Hodgkinson and Pauline Simkins; Christmas Alphabet, Pamela Jones and Kathleen Norman; Hungarian

AND SAXON SETTLERS

THE River Trent, as it flows through the rich, highly cultivated country reclaimed from the ancient Forest of Cannock, provides a notable example of how the waterways, as the trunk routes of migration, had the greatest influence in determining the distribution of the early Saxon settlements

In the low-lying parts of this well defined area are a number of villages which look very much alike in plan, because of the desirability of the planners to have frontages to the Trent or the confluence of one or other of its tributaries.

The long, straggling village of Colton, near Rugeley, with its pale stone houses, standing amidst wooded river scenery, is typical of those places carved out of stretches of primitive jungle, and grown out of a group of hutments near a patch of cultivated forest clearing. The old names, Marsh Flats and The Bogs at Stockwell Heath recall these conditions to mind.



The Church of St. Mary, Colton, a small building in the Early English and Decorated styles, is of Saxon origin but has undergone many reconstructions during the centuries

In three parts

In Mercian times the manor of Colton was in three parts, each part being held by a Saxon freeman, but as a result of the Norman Conquest it became a double manor and as such is twice mentioned in the Domesday Book, as "Coltune," presumably as a township and manor held under two different tenures.

The part containing the mill was held by Gosfrid of the barony of Stafford, and the part containing the church, which included the separate [illegible] of "Little Hay," was held by [illegible] of the barony of Earl Roger [illegible]digomery, progenitor of the Earls of Shrewsbury.

The church manor being the most important, the descendants of Azeline, who were of the family of Mavesyn, took the name of the place, becoming the de Coltons. The part devolved on the family of de Gastonois or Westeneys.

In the course of time the de Colton's manorial rights passed to the family of Gresley, who merged the two manors into one by marriage in the 14th century. In the 17th century one of the Gresleys sold the manorial rights to Sir Walter Aston, of Tixall, and some years later the greater part of Colton came into the possession of the Chetwynd family of Ingestre.

Meanwhile the separate estate of Little Hay, having descended through a branch of the de Coltons had been purchased by Sir Richard Blythefield, whose granddaughter carried it by marriage to the Bagot family.

When the Astons sold out to the Chetwynds, they retained Bellamore and Newlands estate, but on the death of the fifth Lord Aston, the lands passed to a daughter, Lady Blount, who, about the beginning of the 18th century, built a larger house.

In 1824, Bellamore Hall became the property of Mr James Oldham, a retired Indian judge, and it was later occupied by Mr T. B. Horsfall, a one-time Member of Parliament for Liverpool, whose family were great benefactors to both the church and the village schools.

High standard

White's Directory of Staffordshire, published in 1851, speaks in praise of the high standard of farming in the parish, and mentions that Mr H. W. Holland, occupier of the Manor House Farm, owned by Lord Bagot, won first prize in the Staf-

of the lower part of the tower, the west end of the south nave, the south wall of the chapel, all simple Early English work believed to be of the 13th century, the church has been made anew. The last major restoration was in 1851 from the designs of G. E. Street, R.A.

In the old church was a walled-up pre-Reformation sedilla and piscina and an ancient leaden font. Amongst the architectural features still remaining is a low-side opening in the south wall of the chapel, east of the chancel arch and west of the old priest's doorway. It is thought that at one time there existed a sanctus bell-cote, but all evidence of it has disappeared.

Colton Church is frequently mentioned in medieval documents, and was the subject of much litigation between the various lords of the triplicate manor, who each claimed the advowson and the right of presentation to the rectorate.

A protracted dispute between Nicolas de Colton and a number of other claimants was heard at Lichfield Assizes in 1205, but the action was referred to the Bishop, who decided in favour of Richard Griffin, whose wife Alice was a daughter of Gerald, who presented the previous vacancy.

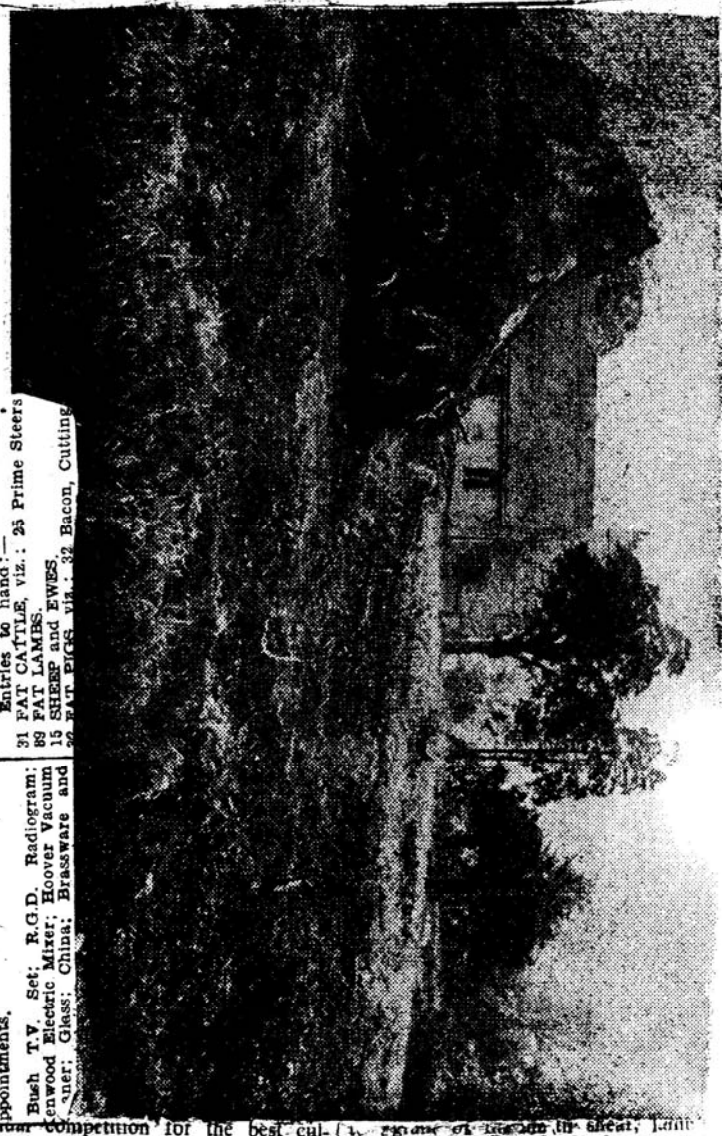
Sanctuary

Right from Norman time Colton Church was a sanctuary to which persons who had committed crime might escape and enjoy temporary security. In 1263 a Nicolas de Colton, son of William de Colton, stabbed to death Adam, son of Herward, and took sanctuary in the church. The murderer was, however, allowed to get away and for this the whole village was heavily fined.

This was not the only murder in the parish. In 1271, John, chaplain of Colton — probably serving the chapel on the site of Bellamoore Lodge—killed Christine, wife of Nicolas de Colton. John fled from justice and was outlawed, the villagers being again fined.

From a record in the Register of Roger de Norbury, Bishop of Lichfield, from 1322 to 1358, it seems that the people of Abbots Bromley were obliged to attend certain services at Colton. The record requests the Dean of Stafford and Newport "to cite the parishioners of Abbots Bromley for not appearing at Colton Church, and to pronounce them excommunicated."

When Edward III in 1341 ordered



Entries to hand:—
31 FAT CATTLE, viz.: 25 Prime Steers
89 FAT LAMBS.
15 SHEEP and EWES.
[illegible] FAT PIGS, viz.: 32 Bacon, Cutting

Spring Mattresses and other Bedroom
Appointments.
Bush T.V. Set; R.G.D. Radiogram;
Kenwood Electric Mixer; Hoover Vacuum
Cleaner; Glass; China; Brassware and

[illegible] competition for the best cultivated farm.

The same source says that the Free School was founded and endowed, partly with money subscribed, and partly with parochial levies laid out in 1764 in the purchase of the school house.

The master had the interest from the letting of certain land as well as the interest "proceeding from a

[illegible] of land in Great, Land and fleece for two years for carrying a the French wars, for some reason or other "the chapel of the Blessed Mary of Colton" was not taxed.

Sir William de Wasteney made grants of land in the manor to St. Thomas's Priory at Stafford, these including "the Grange, commonly known as Boughey Hall Farm; the

TOP SCORE AT COLTON DRIVE WINS GOOSE

A Christmas fare whist drive held in the Reading Room, Colton, on Friday, was organised by the Women's Institute to benefit their funds. Mr. Fred Norman was M.C. and the prizes were presented by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft.

The premier prize of a goose was won by Mr. T. Jones. Other winners were: Miss D. M. Jones, Mr. G. E. D. Atkin, senr., Mrs. Williams, Mr. S. Hall, Mrs. Bloor, Mr. Percy Westhorpe, Mrs. Westhorpe, Mrs. Ivy Preston, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor and Mr. T. Jones (miniatures). Lowest scores: Mrs. L. Jackson and Mr. J. Bloor; travelling prizes: Mrs. Ravenscroft and Mrs. Preston.

The competition prizes were won by Mrs. A. Meddings (iced cake), Mrs. E. M. Sargeant (dressed doll), and Roger Bannister (chocolates).

Helping with the refreshments were Miss Ellen Rochell, Mrs. C. M. Amyes, Mrs. M. L. Water, Mrs. E. Atkin, Miss Judith Preston and Miss Ruth Ravenscroft.

Mrs. I. Preston, the W.I. president, thanked all who had supported the drive.

COLTON

Correspondent: Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft, Colton, near Stafford.

SOCIAL.

On Monday evening, in the Reading Room, the company indulged in a round of social gaiety, including community singing of familiar airs. During the interval refreshments were handed round. The contributions were of a variety. Miss Grimley and Miss Sears were the artistes in a very amusing sketch; there were recitations by Mr. H. Webb, and songs by Miss Harris, songs and ballet dances by Joan Cartwright, a musical parcel (accompanist Miss M. Grimley), and a Sir Roger de Coverley (Miss Morris accompanist), pianoforte music by Misses Grimley and E. Morris and Master W. J. Cook, and pianoforte duets (Misses Joan Mills and Sybil Upton and the Misses Lowndes), and finally the company joined in popular carols. An additional attraction was sent by Mr. Paterson in the nature of a prettily decorated Christmas tree from which Miss Ann Paterso presents to the local Brow

BLOXWICH FARMER'S FAILURE.

Bur P. 1936.

DEFICIENCY ESTIMATED AT OVER £4,200.

A first meeting of the creditors of Charles Yates, a farmer, residing and carrying on business at Yieldfields Hall Farm, Stafford Road, Bloxwich, was held at the office of the Official Receiver in Birmingham yesterday.

The statement of affairs showed gross liabilities of £5,466 14s. 3d., expected to rank for dividend at £4,501 7s. 7d., assets of £233 0s. 10d., and a deficiency of £4,268 6s. 9d.

The causes of failure alleged by debtor are: "Poor condition of farm land; death of cattle; and losses on cattle dealings."

The matter is being dealt with by the Official Receiver.

'Service' seats on co

TIMES 19/9/59

suggests ex-P.C. clerk

IF a parish councillor had given devoted service for at least six years, was it right that, if he failed to get re-elected, this should be the end of his association with the parish council?

Speaking at a gathering in Colton Reading Room on Thursday of last week, when he was presented with a bookcase as a memento of his 25 years' clerkship, Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft said in such circumstances it was "tantamount to being dismissed after six years of good service and conduct."

The effect of finding oneself elected was pleasurable and the member settled down to take an interest in the business and procedure at meetings. At the end of three years, if one was still sufficiently interested and succeeded in "riding the wave" again, another three years were spent in office.

After six years in office, many were disappointed if they were not re-elected, owing to what might seem a lack of appreciation by the public of the service they had given.

When the next election came round they were often found to be "fed up" with their previous displacement and lost all interest in parish councils. Thus a good, steady member might be lost, said Mr. Ravenscroft.

A solution

A solution he offered for consideration of all parish councils was that after a period of six years or more had been served, a member who secured at least 20 per cent. of votes but failed to gain a seat should be given a seat for one or more periods in acknowledgment of past services.

It should then be necessary for him to serve six more years, through election, before qualifying for the concession again.

This would steady the existing uncertainty of security of tenure and would help to preserve an interest in parish councils. He did not think the corresponding increase in the number of councillors would matter.

Mr. Ravenscroft was replying to tributes paid to him when he was presented with an oak bookcase in recognition of his 25 years as clerk to Colton Parish Council and 32 years as organist at St. Mary's Church.

Mr. R. Morrall, chairman of the Parish Council, spoke of his almost life-long association with Mr. Ravenscroft and the happy days they spent together as village footballers and boxers. In more recent years his association with him was of an entirely different nature, and he had found him reliable and sympathetic to work with and always ready to help in any way he could.

Mr. B. Bettson, as rector's warden a senior member and former chair-

Bishop and a Colton dispute

When the proposed new burial ground for Colton was again considered by Colton Parish Council a letter was read from the Bishop of Lichfield, who stated:—

"While I regret that there should be any ill-feeling concerning these matters, it would clearly be impossible for me to say whether anyone is to blame, and certainly I could have no authority to settle disputes or differences between the Rector and the Parish Council, the latter being a secular body."

Mr. Hardcastle (Chairman) remarked that he did not, at this stage, fancy acceding to a request made by the Rector that they should immediately enter into negotiations with the County Council. He would first like to see agreement reached between the Rector and the Church Council as to the extent and nature of operations yet to be carried out. He accordingly moved that the County Council be advised on these lines. Mr. R. Worrall supported this move, which was carried unanimously.

Sentinel 30/12/60

Presentation at Colton

18/9/59

TO MR. C. J. RAVENSCROFT

Appreciation of the many years of service rendered to the parish of Colton by Mr. Cecil John Ravenscroft was expressed at the Reading Room, Colton, on Thursday last week.

Mr. Ravenscroft, who was the Clerk to Colton Parish Council for 25 years and organist at St. Mary's Church, Colton, for 32 years, was presented with an oak bookcase.

Tributes to Mr. Ravenscroft's services were paid by Mr. R. Morrall (Chairman, Parish Council) and Mr. B. Bettson (a former Chairman of the Parish Council and now the senior member) and the Rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson).



COLTON EVENTS

Mercury 30/12/60

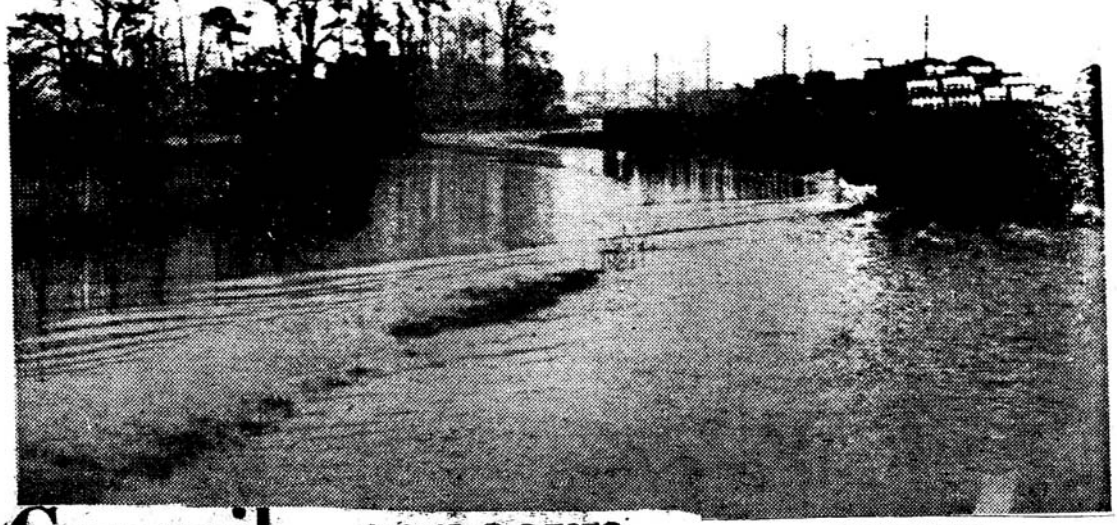
The pupils of St. Mary's Church School had their Christmas party on Tuesday last week, the last day at school before the holidays. As is usual, children who will be starting school in the next few months were invited, and a happy time was spent. Presents of books were handed out by Father Christmas.

The same evening, members of Colton Youth Club held a Christmas party organised by their leader, Mr. D. E. Waters, when games were played, including musical parcel, for which the winner was Clifford Preston. The evening ended with dancing. Following the collection organised by Mr. Waters (with the help of some of the club members) for the blind, over £5 was sent by

COLTON

Personal.—Sunday was a memorable day in the activities of St. Mary's Church, for at the service in the morning Mr. D. E. Waters, the newly appointed headmaster of the Primary (Church of England) School at Colton was, before a large congregation, which included the churchwardens and many churchgoers from Blithfield as well as Colton, and also the teaching staff of Colton School, admitted and installed as a Licenced Reader for the parishes of Blithfield and Colton. The Rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson) officiated at the service. Mr. Waters (who took up his duties following the summer holidays on Wednesday last week) and his wife and son (aged 2) are temporarily staying at Littlehay Manor Farm. Later they will move to the schoolmaster's residence, Elm Cottage.

Fancy Dresss.— The children's fancy dress parade attracted considerable interest at a dance in the Reading Room on Friday evening of last week, at which there was a large attendance. The "Abbotonians" Dance Band attended, and Mr J. L. Stretton was M.C. The winning entrants were: Aged 8 and under 1, Glenys Jones (White Rabbit); Elaine Leeke (Doll in the Box); Trudy Grimley (Red Riding Hood). Over 8 years: 1, Christine Lee (Teddy Girl); 2, Dianne Grinl (Robin Hood); 3, Annette Mar (Chinese). Premier prize awarc irrespective of age was won Pamela Jones and Christine Le (Ugly Sisters). Consolation pr were awarded to all the other c petitors. The adjudicators in event were Mrs. Timmins, Peatfield and Mrs. Waters. Fur entertainment was provided pupils of the Rugeley Studic Dancing (Principal, Mrs. V. Towlson). A lady's watch, prize in a competition, was uns ed by Mr. J. Tittensor, and it found to have stopped at exa 5 o'clock. The winner was Mis McVittie, of Banbury Road, K town, Warwickshire. Altogethe Mary's Church Appeal Fund wi the better off by about £31.



Council concern for housing disabled woman

A RECOMMENDATION that Colton Parish Lands (Charitable) Trust be asked to allow two single people to return to their former home at Stockwell Heath almshouse, was approved by Colton Parish Council on Thursday of last week. The couple are Miss A. L. I. Hoare, a disabled person, and Mr. W. Yeomans, who formerly lodged with Miss Hoare and her late mother.

Mr. F. Hardcastle, chairman of the Parish Council, said Miss Hoare and her mother, both disabled persons, had been parishioners for many years. On the death of Mrs. Hoare in February, Miss Hoare and their lodger, Mr. W. Yeomans, without whose help the two disabled women would not have been able to carry on, outside hospital, left the almshouses. They were the only persons remaining in residence in the row of almshouses and were under the impression that they could not remain there after the death of Mrs. Hoare.

They went to live with Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Kempshall, at Rugeley, said Mr. Hardcastle, "people who took a considerable interest in such cases and who had rendered great succour both to Miss Hoare and her mother during the latter's last illness".

Miss Hoare had continued to receive hospitality at the hands of these people since February, said Mr. Hardcastle, but a letter to the parish council from Mr. Kempshall now made it clear that their circumstances were such that, notwithstanding their great sympathy for Miss Hoare, they would not be in a position to accommodate her after November next.

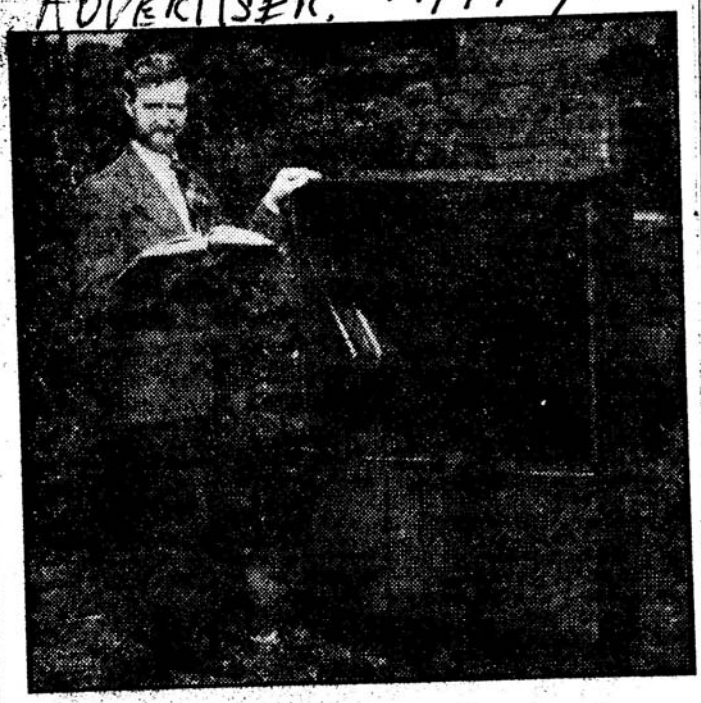
Miss Hoare's great desire was to continue to live outside hospital and, unless she was compelled to enter hospital, the only alternative seemed to be to consider allowing her to return to her former home at the old and empty almshouse from which her furniture had never been removed.

It was realised that Miss Hoare, being an invalid, could not return to live there alone, and the point arose as to whether the former lodger and friend, Mr. Yeomans, should also be allowed to return so that he could look after her.

The Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson said he understool when Miss Hoare left Stockwell Heath after her mother's death, that she was contemplating eventually returning to Tamworth, whence the family had originated and where her married brother lived. Apparently this had not materialised.

On the proposition of Mr. R. Morrall, seconded by Mr. A. N. Felton, it was decided on a majority vote to recommend that Miss Hoare and Mr. Yeomans be allowed to return to their former home, if they desired.

Colton says 'Thank you



During 25 years' service as clerk to Colton Parish Council, Mr. Cecil John Ravenscroft, the celrk, never missed a meeting. Last Thursday evening he was thanked for his ready help and hard work over this period when he received an oak bookcase to mark his retirement.

The parishioners' gift was handed over by Mr. Richard Morrall, present chairman of the council, at a presentation in the village reading room.

Mr. Ravenscroft came to live in the parish in 1920, and since then has also held the position of organist at St. Mary's, Colton Church, for 32 years, and secretary of Colton Football Club. He relinquished his post as organist last autumn.

COLTON

Mothers' Union.—The November meeing of the Mothers' Union was held in the Reading Room, when Mrs J. L. Taylor (Enrolling Member) welcomed and introduced Mrs Hardy, wife of the Vicar of Uttoxeter, who conducted a short service, and gave a most inspiring talk on the Mothers' Union overseas. Mrs J. Hardcastle voiced the thanks of members to Mrs Hardy for so kindly coming to Colton to address them. The hymn sung was "Firmly I believe and truly." Miss Ellen Mitchell had a small stall from which she sold a few oddments left over from the Garden Party, the proceeds of which will be put to the Church Expenses account.

ABBOTS BROMLEY

Garden Quiz.—The Abbots Bromley Guild members entertained Colton Guild about 25 in number. Mr A. A. Amphlett (chairman) warmly welcomed the guests. A quiz was held between the two Guilds, and Mr F. W. Farrar, County chairman, kindly acted as quiz mater, and Mrs R. K. Mowforth as judge. Both were given a warm welcome.

The scorers were: Mr W. J. Wilson and Mrs F. Pratt, Cofton team: Mr H. Meddings, Mr J. Peet, Mrs I. James and Mrs E. Preston. A Bromley team: Mr J. Arnold, Mr W. Fleeman, Miss J. Meadows, Miss E. Hewison. Colton were the winners with 61 points. A. Bromley 51.

Mr Farrar congratulated the winners also the losers, both teams received prizes. Mr D. M. Gibb the County Secretary, arrived later. This was his first visit to A. Bromley and he read a warm welcome.

Refreshments had been provided by the Guild members and served by Mrs Talbot, Mrs E. Lyons, Mrs Hughes and Miss J. Meadows. Thanks were expressed by Mr Farrar and also Mr J. H. Toy, Colton Guild chairman, for a very pleasant evening.

MR. S. J. Timmins and Mr. J. A. Best gave a film show, including the film taken during the judging in the Best Kept Village Competition, at the December meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild on Thursday of last week.

Mr. J. H. Toy presided at invitation by the Colwich ... trict Guild to take part ... was accepted. Mr J. E. ... T. Preston, Mrs. D. Timmins ... Miss Mary Preston were ... represent Colton.

Mr. Best gave a talk on "... nock Chase," and another mem... Mr. J. Poynton, gave an interesting and amusing tape-recording of an event in Guild life.

Mr. Roy Bridgens thanked Mr. Poynton, Mr. Best and Mr. Timmins for a most enjoyable programme.

The chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Fred Hardcastle, and Mrs. Hardcastle were present.

The competition for three parsnips was judged by Mr. Mowforth, who awarded the prize to Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft.

Tea hostesses were Mrs. M. S. Toy, Mrs. D. Timmins and Mrs. M. E. Hibbs.

Members were informed that seed catalogues were available and that orders, with cash, must be in by the middle of January.

AT COLTON

There was a good congregation at St. Mary's Church to pay tribute to the dead King, and the Rector (the Rev. D. R. S. Holmes) conducted an impressive service. The service included Psalms 23 and 27 and the hymns "Jesus Lives," "O God, Our Help," and "Jerusalem on High." In his address the Rector said that first and foremost throughout a great national life King George set a good Christian example to all of his countrymen. He had been greatly devoted to his mother, herself a kindly, earnest and God-fearing woman, and he regularly turned his attention to the Scriptures, a maternal rule during early boyhood, which he had determinuted, in a very busy life, to endeavour to keep up.

At the conclusion "Abide With Me" was sung, and the Dead March in "Saul" was played.



Pictured above are some of the Friends of Cannock Chase who

Produce Guild. — The October meeting of the Colton Village Produce Guild took place in the Reading Room, the chairman, Mr. J. H. Toy, presiding. After the reading of the minutes of the last meeting by the hon. secretary, Miss D. M. Jones, business matters followed. The chairman mentioned that Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McConkey had left the area and went on to explain that Mr. McConkey, having been a committee member, his place needed filling. Therefore, Mr. Ben Jackson had been co-opted on to the committee. Mr. Roy Bridgens (show chairman) and Mr. Jack Meddings (show secretary) have expressed their wish to retire from the show committee. Mr. Toy asked for nominations of two members to fill their places. It was proposed by Mr. B. M. Ravenscroft and seconded by Mr. A. N. Felton that Mr. S. J. Timmins be appointed; also it was proposed that Mr. David Garwood be invited to fill the other vacancy. Members were reminded that the rest of the show committee is as for the past year, Mr. J. H. Toy, Mr. A. N. Felton (treasurer), Mr. Alfred Meddings, Mr. G. E. D. Atkin, snr., Mrs. Ivy Preston, Miss D. M. Jones and Mrs B. Ravenscroft. The chairman remarked that the annual social will be held in January, and even that sounded a long way ahead it is not too soon to start with the planning for it and hunting for hidden talent many members may have. Mr. R. A. Brundle (vice-chairman) showed films which he had borrowed from the Educational Offices. Mr. Tom Preston proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Brundle, seconded by Miss Jones. There was a very keenly contested competition for a flower arrangement, the judge was Mrs. George Hampson of Oakfields, Admaston, who awarded the prize to Mrs. Ravenscroft. Thanks to Mrs. Hampson were proposed by Miss Mary

BURIAL GROUND CONTROVERSY

Sir,—It was interesting to read Mr. Frank Cooper's reply to criticism from the village of Colton concerning operations round the church. It was interesting because it is the first time the public, or, it seems, representatives of the public in the form of the Parish Council, have been made aware of the rector's viewpoint and aims.

An expansion of the burial ground has been anticipated for a number of years and it has long been assumed that the site chosen would, in fact, become the expansion. But I cannot see why it should entail all the comparatively massive geographical upheaval that has occurred.

I was frankly horrified when my family and I, returning from a few days in Wales, were met, not by the curving lane into the village, edged with large-branched trees, mature hedges and yew growth, through which peeped the ancient stone of the church, but by a vast, open space, naked to the point of being embarrassed.

It is true, I understand, that some time ago the Parish Council suggested to the County Council that the bend opposite the school be lessened slightly, but since the suggestion was turned down by the County Council, the Parish Council was surely entitled to have second thoughts about it, as I believe they did, and to decided that the bend in its original form was dangerous only when used dangerously.

What has annoyed me, as a parishioner of 21 years, has been the speed with which the rector has acted, reminiscent of an "improvement plan" by some totalitarian authority. The rector should have realised that villagers may be even proud of their village, and consequently feel entitled to be approached before large areas of it, the most beautiful at that, are torn up, and altered completely out of character.

With a 40-foot wide sweep it no longer looks like the entrance to a very old English village, but reminds one of an attempt by some progressive urban authority to retain a measure of rurality in a modern, architecturally-designed "new town," and anyone able to appreciate genuine natural development knows how abysmally inadequate such constructions can be.

It is, of course, distressing to learn that the rector found maintenance round the church a difficult problem, but I venture gently to suggest that none of his predecessors found any such problem.

I think he has shown a deplorable lack of good manners in running off so quickly with this enterprise. The church is part of the village and it and the village have existed for a very long time, belonging officially to the villagers, who in the past have held strongly to one of our proudest national traditions that an Englishman acts slowly and thoughtfully, preferring to consider a move, rather than leaping blindly.

This attitude of his can result only in alienation between himself and the people who lived in Colton before he came and who will still be there after he has left.

J. F. Peet

Pertinent questions at Colton parish meeting

CHURCHYARD DEVELOPMENT PROPOSA

Concern and apprehension at the nature of the development of the new churchyard or burial ground near the church, the school and the village green at Colton was expressed at a meeting at the school last week.

So that all parishioners could take part in the discussion the Chairman of the Parish Council (Mr. F. Hardcastle) had declared the meeting open.

An apology was received from the Rector of St. Mary's (the Rev. A. S. Towlson).

Questions were asked about the removal of three or four large ash trees and several hedgerows, and an offer to dedicate land to the County Council for road widening.

FIRST STAGE

Mr. A. N. Felton explained that the first stage of the development consisted of bulldozing operations for levelling, and the building of a retaining wall, at a cost of £250.

It was also mentioned that of the £1,500 raised for

considered by the church council they had not visualised operations on so big a scale.

Mr. J. Peet asked what instructions had been left for carrying on with operations while the Rector was away on holiday, and suggested that the matter be deferred until the intention had been clarified.

CHALLENGED

The Chairman said he thought he was interpreting the feelings of the meeting in expressing disappointment that Mr. Towlson was not present to reply to the queries. He also challenged the authority for including the green in the operations because, he said, its ownership still appeared to be in doubt.

FIVE POINTS

It was finally agreed that the Clerk to the Parish Council be instructed to:

(1) acquaint the County Roads and Bridges Department of the disapproval of the meeting at the manner in which the new churchyard was being developed, including removal of the hedgerows and trees, and

emanating from mud sludge which appeared be encroaching on highway at the bend this frontage following bulldozing operations urge the department take any steps necessary to ensure the cleaning of the carriageway at this point;

(3) acquaint the Hon Secretary of St. Mary's Church Council and also the Secretary of the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance respecting (1) and (2) and to bring to their notice the impression gained at the meeting that members of the Church Council did not appear to be fully conversant with the scheme in the light of the operations so far effected, and that this being so, pressure be brought to bear to defer any more work on the new churchyard so as to afford the Parochial Church Council an opportunity for reviewing the situation in the light of what has already been done.

(4) ask the Parochial Church

Mr. S. Hare and Miss O. M. Jackson.

A PRETTY wedding was solemnised in St. Mary's Church, Colton, on Saturday, at which the Rector (the Rev. D. R. S. Holmes) officiated.

The bride was Miss Olive Maud Jackson, daughter of the late Mr. Walter Bertram Jackson, dental surgeon, and Mrs. Eleanor Maud Jackson, of Colton House, near Rugeley, and the bridegroom was Mr. Sidney Hare, of Rushall Hall, Rushall, near Walsall, electrical engineer, and son of the late Mr. Sidney Hare, and Mrs. Hare.

Attired in a pale blue and silver dress, with blue net veil and blue and silver head dress halo, and carrying a bouquet of pink carnations, the bride was attended by four bridesmaids, Miss Irene Nadin, of Derby, and Misses Betty Adey, Brenda Westmacott and P. Halgraves, all of Birmingham, who were dressed in pale pink lace, with gold and silver headdress. Each had a bouquet of anemones. A cousin of the bride's mother, Mr. D. H. Mills, of Stanmore, London, an active associate of the League of Nations Union, gave the bride away, and Mr. Michael Talbot, of Walsall, barrister-at-law, and son of the Vicar of Rushall, acted as best man.

The service was choral, and included the hymns "Lead us Heavenly Father" and "Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost," and Mendelssohn's Wedding March was played as the happy couple left the church. A peal was rung on the bells to celebrate the occasion.

Areception held at the Town Hall, Rugeley, was attended by a hundred guests. Sir Frederick Hobday was unavoidably absent owing to the critical condition of Lady Hobday, who met with a serious accident some three weeks ago.

A reception held at the Town Hall. left for their honeymoon in Paris.

The bridegroom's present to the bride was an emerald and diamond brooch, and the bride's present to the bridegroom a diamond sapphire pin. Each bridesmaid received a gift from the bridegroom of a platinum brooch with turquoise.

The bride's mother's gifts were a dyed ermine coat and Chinese bedroom suite, and a black and gold lacquer bedroom suite, while a cheque was given by the bridegroom's mother. Cheques were also received from the two Misses Hare, Mis Amy Hare and Mr. Reggie Hare.

Altogether about 130 presents were received from relatives and friends.

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...s place at St. Mary's Church, Colton, on Saturday. The bride, who was given away by Mr. D. H. Mills, of Stanmore, London, wore a dress of pale blue and silver. Her blue net veil fell from a headdress of blue and silver halo, and she carried a sheaf of pink carnations. She was attended by the Misses Irene Nadin (Derby), and Betty Adey, Brenda Westmacott and P. Holgraves (Birmingham). They were attired in pale pink lace with gold and silver headdress, and each had a bouquet of anemones and wore a platinum brooch, with turquoise, the gift of the bridegroom. Mr. Michael Talbot, of Walsall, acted as best man, and the Rector (the Rev. W. R. S. Holmes) officiated. The service was choral, the hymns being, "Lead us Heavenly Father," and "Gracious Spirit," and the happy couple left the church to the strains of Mendelssohn's "Wedding March." The belis were rung to celebrate the occasion. A reception held at the Town Hall, Rugeley, was attended by 100 guests. Owing to an accident in which Lady Hobday sustained serious injuries, Sir Frederick Hobday was unable to be present. The newly-married couple afterwards left for Paris. The bridegroom gave his bride an emerald and diamond brooch, and the bride's present to the bridegroom was a diamond sapphire pin.

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COLTON

Wedding of Miss Olive Jackson

A wedding which attracted a great deal of interest took place in Colton Church on Saturday, when Mr. Sidney Hare, of Rushall Hall, Rushall, nr Walsall, electrical engineer, son of the late Mr. Sidney and Mrs. S. Hare, was married to Miss Olive Maude Jackson, daughter of the late Mr. Walter Bertram Jackson, dental surgeon, and Mrs. Eleanor Maud Jackson, of Colton House, nr Rugeley. The bride, who was given away by Mr. D. H. Mills, of Stanmore, London, a cousin of the bride's mother, and a prominent member of the League of Nation's Union, wore a dress of pale blue and silver. Her blue net veil fell from a headdress halo of blue and silver, and she carried a sheaf of pink carnations. She was attended by the Misses Irene Nadin (Derby) and Betty Adey, Brenda Westmacott and P. Holgraves (Birmingham) as bridesmaids. The bridesmaids were attired in pale pink lace with gold and silver headdress and each had a bouquet of anemones and wore a platinum brooch with turquoise, the gift of the bridegroom. Mr. Michael Talbot, of Walsall, barrister-at-law, and son of the Vicar of Rushall, acted as best man, and the Rector (the Rev. W. R. S. Holmes) officiated. The service was choral, and a peal was rung to celebrate the occasion. The reception, held at the Town Hall, Rugeley, was attended by a 100 guests. Owing to an accident in which Lady Hobday sustained serious injuries, Sir Frederick Hobday was unable to be present. The newly married couple later left for Paris. The bridegroom gave his bride an emerald and diamond brooch, and the bride's present to the bridegroom was a diamond sapphire pin. The bride's mother's gifts were a dyed ermine coat and Chinese bedroom suite, and black and gold lacquer bedroom suite, while a cheque was given by the bridegroom's mother. Cheques were likewise received from the Misses Hare, Miss Amy Hare and Mr. Reggie Hare. Altogether some 130 presents were received.

Colton W.I. members knit bonnets

TIMES 19/11/60

At the November meeting of Colton Women's Institute, presided over by Mrs. I. Preston. Mrs. Preston welcomed Mrs. Wildblood (V.C.O.) who gave an interesting talk on the "County Federation." She was thanked by Mrs. M. L. Waters and Mrs. Hilda Williscroft.

Mrs. Wildblood judged the competition for a knitted bonnet, or hat, and awarded the prize to Mrs. Waters.

Mrs. Preston gave her report on the autumn council meeting and was thanked by Mrs. P. M. Buckley.

Business matters included arrangements for a Christmas fare whist drive on December 9, and members were told that gifts for the county Christmas fair at Stafford could be left at the Reading Room on November 28. Members who will help at the fair as stewards are Mrs. Preston, Mrs. N. Jones, Miss D. M. Jones, and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft.

Mrs. M. S. Toy informed members that it had been decided that the present "Best Kept Village Committee' should continue in office for three years.

The stall was in charge of Mrs. D. Deacon. Hostesses were Mrs. Toy, Miss Jones, and Mrs. Ravenscroft, and the mystery prize went to Mrs. Preston.



BWR 1934

rector, urges Colton meeting

FEELING in Colton is still running high over the action taken by the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, in connection with the burial ground development scheme. The bulldozing of a piece of ground near the entrance to the village raised a storm of criticism, which remains unabated.

The matter was further ventilated when Colton Parish Council met on Monday night and the meeting was later thrown open to the public.

After considerable discussion, two courses of action were approved. It was decided to ask the Parochial Church Council's special sub-committee formed to discuss the burial ground scheme to demand a meeting with the rector. Further, it was decided that an approach should be made to the Parochial Church Council so that the two councils could work out a compromise

In a letter read by the clerk (Mr. S. J. Timmins) at Monday's meeting the rector tendered his resignation from the council. He declared that he no longer wished to associate himself with it.

His resignation was accepted by the council.

Also read to the meeting was an earlier statement made by Mr. Towlson. In this he said that Colton had a "bogey" which tried to thwart every attempt to make progress in the village. Members of the Parish Council, he claimed, had been un-co-operative, and recently had refused to attend or call a meeting of the Parochial Church Council

"I have come to the conclusion that Colton would be better off without a Parish council for a trial period of three years," wrote the rector. In its place he urged the creation of a debating society, where those who liked to hear themselves talk "and argue for the sake of arguement" could give vent to their feelings without bringing unnecessary suffering upon others.

He added that anyone who wished might try to "take the mickey" out of the parson of Colton, but in doing so they risked doing damage to their own souls.

Mr. F. Hardcastle, chairman of the council, commented: "It is a disaster that the rector has not come here to take away some of the animosity which has arisen between his church and the parishioners."

"Amazing epistle"

Referring to the rector's statement, a copy of which has been sent to the Bishop of Lichfield (Dr. A. S. Reeve) he said: "This is an amazing epistle. In urging the abolition of the Parish Council he is asking that we should throw away our right to elect members except to a powerless body. It would be to discard one of the oldest parts of the constitution.

"The rector has been approached to try and heal the breach between himself and the parishioners, but he has emphatically refused to co-operate. I hope that by saying these words, I shall not damage my soul."

After the Parish Council meeting had been thrown open to the public, several of those present revealed that they belonged to the Parochial Church Council sub-committee, the body placed in charge of the field which has been bulldozed. They affirmed that the sub-committee had never met officially to discuss the burial ground scheme, but the rector had broached the scheme to each of them individually.

Mr. J. F. Peet said he thought they ought to stop messing around with democratic niceties. "While we are trying to settle the matter in a democratic manner the rector is forging ahead with his plans. I say we should ask for his removal. He is only a passing figure, and he owns neither our village nor our church. He has not desired to work with the village, the Parish Council or the Parochial Church Council."

Councillor Hardcastle said he had no personal grievance with the rector, but he did not agree with his views.

It was at this point that Mr. Peet exclaimed: "We must form a deputation, go round to the rectory, and demand entrance."

Referring to what had been stated earlier by members of the special sub-committee, Councillor Hardcastle commented: "If what we have heard in this case, there seems to be an element of doubt whether the rector really ever had permission to go ahead with the scheme."

Blithfield W.I. enjoy Christmas social

TIMES 17/12/60

ABOUT 40 members of Blithfield Women's Institute and friends attended the Christmas social organised by the president, Mrs. T. Reece, and held in Newton Hall on Monday.

Visitors were welcomed from Abbots Bromley, Colton, Kingstone and Marchington Woodlands. Members from Great Haywood and Stowe-by-Chartley W.I's. were prevented by thick fog from attending.

A welcome guest was Mr. Wilmot Martin, of Hixon, who sang one of Sir Harry Lauder's favourite songs.

Miss E. R. H. Rees (assistant secretary) and Miss K. Devine of Burton-on-Trent organised the games, which included a "musical matchbox," won by Miss Nellie Lane, a Bingo drive, winners being Mrs. A. Slater, Miss Nash (Woodlands W.I.), Mrs. A. Capewell, Miss M. Hampson, Miss June Lucas, Mrs. R. Grice, Mrs. Street (Woodlands), Mrs. B. Talbot (Abbots Bromley), Mrs. B. Heasman and Anthony Bentley.

Teas were served by Mrs. F. Perkin, Mrs. E. Green, Mrs. M. Kent and Miss N. Lane.

The evening was brought to a close with a conjuring act by Miss K. Devine and the singing of carols and the National Anthem.

MERCURY, COLTON. AA 10/1936

Correspondent: Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft, Colton, near Stafford.

READING ROOM CONCERT.

A successful concert for the benefit of the Reading Room funds was held in the Room on Tuesday of last week. The programme included severy amusing and thoroughly enjoyable sketches. The first, entitled "St Valentine's Day," was done by the Misses. M. E. and Mary Grimley, who also took part in "Uncle Joseph," another sketch, along with the Misses L. Evans, F. Cooper, M. Cooper, and H. Sear. Appropriate dresses added to an impressive scene, entitled "The Wedding of the Painted Doll," by a small party of children, and little Joan Cartwright danced and sang. Other interesting items included recitations (Mr. H. Webb), humorous songs (Misses M. E. Grimley and H. Sear) and ...

35-

COLTON READING ROOM.

VARIETY CONCERT

31st March 1936

Producer. Madam J. Williski!
Gowns. Madam Heleski!
(Famous dress)
designer!

Music. Madam. M. Geogrinski
(Famous Continental)
Pianist!

Programme 1st

1. Pierrotte Chorus.

2. Song (by) The children

3. Song — S. Cooper

4. Sketch "St Valentines Day" (M.E. & M. Grimley)

5. Song & Dance. J. Cartwright.

6. Sketch "Uncle Joseph"

Characters.

Mr Samuel Smith — L. Evans

elina (his wife) F. Cooper

tty (their daughter) M. Grimley.

ek (Kitty's lover) M. Cooper

e Tubb (sailor) H. Sear.

ne (the General) M. E. Grimley

Recitation — H. Webb.

Interval 10 mins

8. Song. H. Sear & M.E. Grimley

9. Sketch. "Too Many Brides"

Characters

George Bellamy (Barrister) C. Cooper.

Talbot (his friend) S. Cooper

Mrs Harrigan (Irish landlady) M. Cooper

Uncle Dick — G. Cooper

Mildred — M. Grimley

10. Recitation — H. Webb

11. Song & Dance — J. Cartwright

12. Comic Songs. H. Sear & M.E. Grimley.

13. Duet. S. & C. Cooper.

14. Pierrotte Chorus.

God save the King.



Married at St. Mary's Church, Colwich, on Saturday, were Miss Sheila Westhorpe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Westhorpe, of Aspley House, Colton, and Mr. John Maurice Deacon, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Deacon, of Stockwell Heath, Colton.

The bride wore a dress of witchcraft lace over pink tulle.

Her bridesmaids were Miss Rosa Hampson and Miss Vernon, who wore dresses of turquoise tulle over taffeta, with matching head-dresses.

The service was conducted by the Rev. B. Matthews. Mr. C. Ravenscroft was organist.

COLTON ATTENDED

FLORAL BEAUTY

But did not compete July 1958



The two judges, Miss Schofield and Miss Aldersley, appraise one of the exhibits at the Staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds flower arrangement competition, held at Great Bridgeford on Friday. The team for Standon won



Bellamour Lodge.

Two footbridges for Colton's field paths

6/6/57

AT the initial meeting of Colton Parish Council for the year 1957-58, in the Reading Room on Thursday of last week, the first business on the agenda was to appoint a chairman. In unanimously electing Mrs. Julia L. Taylor to this position the Parish Council expressed appreciation to Mr. B. Bettson for the very able manner in which he had filled this office during the past three years.

Although not laying down any rigid rule on the matter the Parish Council decided that in future when appointing a chairman they would take into consideration length of service and the desirability of effecting a change after a year or at any rate two consecutive years' service.

Messrs F Norman and A. N Felton were unanimously re-elected as the Parish Council's usual two members on the Committee of Management of the Reading Room, and Mr F. Hardcastle was appointed to act as Snow-clearing (Contingency) Supervisor for the winter season, 1957-58.

Messrs. B. Bettson and F. Hardcastle will be this year's delegates to the 18th annual conference of Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association at Stafford on the afternoon of Saturday, June 15, and Mr Norman will act as third delegate if convenient.

For the triennial (fifth) conference of the National Parish Councils' Association at Westminster, on October 3 and 4, the delegate is Mr Hardcastle Mr Bettson was appointed to accompany him, if convenient.

In regard to matters arising out of the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly in March, Mr R W. Parr, the late clerk to Colton Parish Lands (Charitable) Trust, submitted a copy of the last statement of accounts of the Trust, as arranged.

County Council act

Concerning the question of repair of the footbridge (where the Moreton Brook divides into two) carrying the public footpath round the brook side into the Marsh, a letter from the Council Council Clerk's Department, was laid by the Clerk (Mr C. J Ravenscroft) before the Parish Council. This was in reply to the Parish Council's letter asking if the County Council, as an interested authority under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949, would be good enough to take over responsibility for repairing the bridge on this occasion.

The letter from the County Council gave the information that the matter had been before the appropriate committee of the County Council, who had decided to undertake responsibility for the work at an estimated cost of £30. The Parish Council expressed satisfaction with the outcome of their overtures.

A letter from the Clerk to Lichfield R.D.C., in reply to the Parish Council's request for a review of the decision of the Rural District authority not to accede to the Parish Council's wish for the re-siting of the public lamp at the entrance to Heath Way and fixing it near to Mr Challinor's residence, explained that the Engineer and Surveyor had been consulted and he had nothing further to add to previous observations.

Following considerable discussion, it was decided that a further letter be addressed to the Clerk to the Lichfield R.D.C., stating that the Parish Council were disappointed with the siting of one light at the entrance to Heath Way, which was not in accordance with their recommendation. The R.D.C. to be asked if in the circumstances they would further review the situation with a view to acceding to the Parish Council's request and re-siting this light near to Mr H. Challinor's residence.

Regarding the footbridge (over the Moreton Brook old course) which carries the public footpath from along the west side of the field of land known as the Marsh in to the field known as the Little Holme, a letter from the Clerk's Department of the County Council, gave the news that the appropriate committee had agreed to set to this bridge being put in order and would undertake to met the cost at an estimated figure of £35. Appreciation was expressed at this decision. It was pointed out that the County Council's decision over the two footbridges meant a saving of approximately £65 to the Parish Council's rating funds.

Mr Norman raised the matter of the need for attention to wickets on the public footpath from Moor Lane to Hamley, past the Fox Holes to Bellamour, and a resolution appointed Messrs F Hardcastle and F Norman to inspect this path and report at next meeting as to any rpairs which seemed necessary.

ADVERTISER

Colton whist drive

7/11/60

The annual whist drive organised by the headmaster and teachers of Colton St. Mary's School took place in the school on Friday in aid of a party and a present for the pupils of the school at Christmas. There was a very good attendance, Mr. Percy Westhorpe being the M.C. The prizes were presented by Mr. Bernard Bettson (a School Manager) to Mrs. G. Hampson, Mrs. R. O. Devall, Mrs. F. Norman, Mr. Foster, Miss Christine Hoult, Mr. J. A. Hooley, Mrs. H. M. Felton, Mr. A. N. Felton, Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. A. Evans. Miniatures Mrs. Norman, Mr. G. Hampson (junr.). Sealed numbers, Mrs. Jean Fowell, Mr. F. S. Knight. Lowest score, Mrs. H. Cope and Mr. J. Hooley.

Competition prizes went to Mrs. Gordon Shipley (wine), and grocery parcels to Mrs. Shipley, Mrs. E. M. Houldcroft, Melvyn Collins, Mrs. Hilda Williscroft, Mr. J. Tabernor, Richard Knight, Mrs. J. Fowell, Mr. E. Rowe and Mr. J. Cowlishaw.

Mr. D. E. Waters (Headmaster) expressed thanks to any one who had helped in any way to make

Plea for the preservation of trees

7/11/60

Colton Parish Council received a letter from a local dent, Mr. J. F. Peet, asking tl Tree Preservation Order be in Colton, because, he claims unneccessary destruction of trees is having "a most d mental effect on the beauty of village."

Mr. Peet described the pre indiscriminate felling of trees "vandalism", and warned the village was in danger of coming "like a city suburb."

On the proposition of the ch man, Councillor F. Hardcastle, sideration of the suggestion tained in the letter was defe until a later meeting.

Mr. Peet offered to supply dozen trees, free of cost, planting in the area near burial ground extension. This, claimed, was a public right-of-v

been confined to his bedroom for some considerable time. Major John Mark O'Keeffe was a [illegible] son of a well-known Irish [illegible] family which have been associated with the Army. His ancestry goes back to Eochaidh Areamh, third Christian king of Munster. The surname is from the Irish word "Caomh" meaning comely, and in this respect may be compared with the Gaelic form of O'Hanley, surname of poor Colleen Bawn (Ainnle), meaning beautiful. Major O'Keeffe joined the Royal Army Service Corps in April, 1881, when he was eighteen, and had a long and distinguished career with that Corps. He had seen military service in many places abroad. Prior to the Great War the major held various responsible positions, including those of transport officer in Dublin, and supply officer in South Africa (as a first-class staff sergeant-major). He spent five years in Africa, three years in Gibraltar, and eighteen months in Egypt. He went to South Africa when the Boer War started and took part in several of the major engagements during the campaign. When war broke out in August, 1914, he went to France in the same month as a lieutenant-quartermaster, being promoted to the rank of captain in the following December. After considerable service at the front he was invalided home in 1915, and on his discharge from hospital was promoted major and sent to Rugeley to take charge of the camp which was being erected there. After a period of service, which extended over thirty-nine years, deceased retired following his engagement at Rugeley Camp, where he was officer in charge of barracks until the camp was closed in 1920. He held the Egyptian Medal of 1884-5-6, together with the Khedive's Bronze Star. He wore the Queen's Medal with five bars, and the King's Medal with two. The engagements respecting the former were Orange Free State, Belfast, Relief of Ladysmith, Relief of Mafeking, and Tugela Heights. The bars to the King's Medal are inscribed 1901 and 1902. Major O'Keefe, who was then a warrant officer, was the only soldier of the R.A.S.C., who received both the Relief Medals. Major and Mrs. O'Keeffe were married at the Rotunda Church, Aldershot, on May 12, 1886, and it was only last May that they celebrated the golden anniversary of their wedding. Prior to taking up their present residence they lived for some time in Church Street, Rugeley. The Major possessed a steel engraving of one of his more recent ancestors, John O'Keeffe (1747—1833), who was one of the foremost dramatists of his time, and had a number of plays produced at the Haymarket and Covent Garden theatres. This O'Keeffe was author of the famous song, "I am a friar of orders grey," and was pensioned by King George IV. The O'Keeffes were churchmen as well as soldiers. A descendant of Art Oge O'Keeffe became Bishop of Limerick, and was the means of establishing three houses in the College of Lombards in Paris for educating Catholic clergy. Constantine O'Keeffe was Provincial of the Dominicans in Ireland in 1681. In 1770 the Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin was John O'Keeffe, and he was succeeded by his kinsman, James, who died in 1786. The Arms of the family bear the motto "Forti et fideli nihil difficile" ("to the strong and faithful nothing is difficult"). The funeral took place at Colton on Tuesday afternoon. The service was conducted by the Rector of Colton, and in addition to the widow the mourners were Mrs. Challoner (Colton), Miss D. Norman (Colton), Mr. F. Palfreyman (Rugeley), Mr. T. Richardson (Rugeley), Mr. F. Hall (Walsall), Mr. Malcolm Challin (Walsall), Mr. Jack Challin (Walsall), Mr. A. W. Gee (Colton), Mr. M. Harris (Walsall), Mr. F. Buckley (Rugeley). Ex-Service men were represented by Mr. F. R. Speechley, Mr. A. Wycherley, and Mr. E. H. Pascoe.

SOCIAL EVENING.

An enjoyable social evening, organised by the Misses Grimley, was spent in the Reading Room on Monday, and there was a good attendance. The programme included community singing, songs by Miss May Grimley and Miss Sears, songs and dances by Miss Joan Cartwright, pianoforte solos by Miss Enid Morris, songs by a number of boys and girls, accompanied on the pianoforte by Miss Mary Grimley and Miss E. Morris. The antics of about a dozen small boys in a bun-eating competition were an amusing feature, and Master E. Meddings won this event. Other items were "Little Bo-peep," Miss Mary Thorneycroft, accompanied on the piano by Master Edginton; "Where are you going to, my pretty Maid," the Misses Frances and Elsie Exton; dualogue, the Misses Cooper; pianoforte solos, Miss Joan Mills and Miss Sybol Upton; pianoforte duets, Miss Madge Fearns and Miss M. Norman, and the Misses Lowndes; songs by four boys; and "Ten little Brownie Girls" (girls); followed by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne." Refreshments were provided at the interval, and there was a dance afterwards.

A rector bulldozes his way into a row

A STORMY meeting of Colton Parish Council is expected at the end of this month when the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, who is also a parish councillor, is likely to be asked to explain why he had a field near the parish church bulldozed.

The field, it is understood, was bought on behalf of the parochial church council some years ago, as a future burial ground for the picturesque, 1,000-year-old village.

It appears that Mr. Towlson obtained permission from the P.C.C. to develop the field, but to the villagers' consternation, the work has proceeded much further than they envisaged.

Bulldozers have been at work in the field, and a hedge and and several old trees have been pulled out. Local feeling is that this ruins the Rugeley approach to the village, one of the finalists in the small village section of Staffordshire's best - kept village competition.

Mr. J. Timmins, clerk to the parish council, said the whole scheme was "just against the village's wishes."

He alleged that the rector's original intention was to put in a driveway for hearses, but instead, it leads directly to Mr. Towlson's garage.

"The whole thing really rests with the parochial church council, and the parish council can only try and persuade them to adopt some procedure to the liking of everyone.

"A BIT TOO FAR"

"At the last meeting, they passed a resolution to write to various people, and it transpired that the rector had offered part of this land to the county council without the authority of the parochial church council.

"Personally, I do think the rector has carried it a bit too far and kept his own parochial council in the dark too much," Parish Councillor Mr. L. Mellor commented.

Mr. Towlson: "I have nothing to say at the moment. This thing will grow whiskers if we say much more about it," he told a reporter.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

COLTON

The October meeting of the W.I. held in the Reading Room was well attended, Mrs. I. Preston (President) presiding and reading the County letter. Mrs. A. M. Cooper was welcomed to the Institute. Business included arrangements for the Rummage and Produce Sale to take place on November 5 for W.I. funds and a donation to Denman College. The delegate to the Autumn meeting at Stafford will be Mrs. Preston and visitor Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. Arrangements regarding the visit of members to the "Express and Star," at Wolverhampton next month were discussed. The speaker should have been Mr. Mowforth, but he being unable to attend, Miss Meddings, of Rodbaston Farm Institute gave an interesting talk on preparing for shows, commencing with general points to be observed, and following up with fruit bottling, jams, jellies and marmalade. Miss Meddings invited questions. Mrs. M. S. Toy proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Meddings for such helpful advice; this being seconded by Miss D. M. Jones. The competition for an arrangement of Autumn leaves and fruits was won by Mrs. P. M. Buckley with Mrs. Hilda Williscroft's exhibit commended. The mystery prize went to Mrs. P. L. Bannister. Tea hostesses were Mrs. M. L. Waters, Mrs. Nellie Williscroft and Mrs. Hilda Williscroft, and the stall was in the charge of Mrs. June Meddings.



Taking a well-earned break from their endeavours to tidy up Colton churchyard, are the Rector, Rev. A. S. Toweson, leaning on a spade, and a group of boys from the village. The bulldozer which eased their task provides a welcome seat during the rest period

ADVERTISER

Rugeley's 'Dairy Maid'

ADVERTISER



Miss Dorothy Cooper, aged 22, of Bank Top, Colton, near Rugeley was chosen "Rugeley Dairy Maid" at Rugeley Young Farmers' Dance last week. Miss Cooper, is a teacher at a school in Rugeley.

COUNCIL DISCUSSES CHURCHYARD PLANS

TIMES

AT Colton Parish Council meeting on Thursday of last week, the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, produced a plan of the proposed new churchyard on part of the field between the church and the school.

Some members agreed with the idea of a footway being cut through the site, to serve as a shorter route to the church, but stressed that this should be limited to a footway, on the grounds of economy in finance and land.

It was suggested that the green between the church drive and the brook bridge, together with a portion of the field classed as unsuitable for burials, should be made into a car park. The question of ownership of the green, and the future maintenance of the prospective car park, were also discussed.

The Rector said that the first stage of the scheme would be restricted to bulldozing operations and the building of stone retaining walls on the new fence lines.

It was pointed out that a large part of the field between Colton House wall, the Rectory garden and the school would continue in use as agricultural land, and that it might be needed as additional burial ground in years to come.

The chairman, Mr. F. Hardcastle, expressed appreciation of the efforts that had earned Colton the area prize for the Best Kept Village.

The Clerk, Mr. S J. Timmins, read a copy of a letter from the County Roads and Bridges Department to Councillor T. E. Cowlishaw, who had been approached regarding the cleaning out of the ford at the brook bridge.

The letter stated that it was difficult to understand the request as the ford was no longer used and the adjoining grass verges had been cut.

The council decided to press for the ford and brook course to be cleaned out, to allow flood water freer passage.

CONGRATULATIONS to Colton for achieving first prize in its area in the Best Kept Village Competition, and to Abbots Bromley and King's Bromley for maintaining second places at least, in their respective areas.

Prime object of the competition, sponsored by the Rural Community Council, is, of course, to make the villages of Staffordshire tidier places to live in. What a pity we don't have a best kept town competition also!

One is tempted to ask why do not all the villages enter for the competition? They have as far as I know, nothing to lose but everything to gain—a tidier greater village. Even if they stand no chance of winning, their village will have less litter, a few more flowers, a coat of paint here and there, and notices will get taken away as they become out of date.

January 10, 1959.

Produce Guild film show

The first meeting of the Village Produce Guild for 1959 was held in the Reading Room on New Year's Day. Mr. F. H. Bannister (vice-chairman) presided, and Miss D. M. Jones presented accounts in connection with the recent social.

Mr. C. Jones, of Rugeley gave an

ECHO OF COLTON

TIMES

COMPLAINTS OF ROWDYISM

5-12-57.

QUESTIONS asked at last week's meeting of Colton Parish Council revived complaints about a tendency towards rowdyism in the village which were made at the August meeting, though it appeared that the trouble itself had abated. The council had then decided to ask the police for a more frequent patrol of the village.

Concerning the comments made to the Press by the chairman and vice-chairman of the Parish Council and other local people, Mr. Luke Mellor contended that the chairman had gone beyond his rights and duties towards the Parish Council in expressing the views that he did.

Replying, Mr. Morrall (chairman) said that when he was approached by a representative of a newspaper (not the "Times"), he gave the reasons why he had felt unable to associate himself with the resolution which the Parish Council had supported.

"Good public comment"

He was satisfied that what he said was good public comment which, for that matter, he was entitled to express as much as anyone else. He suggested that Mr. Mellor was under a misapprehension as to how far a chairman's rights extended in expressing his opinion on a subject.

Referring to comments made to the Press by the Rev. A. S. Towlson, Mr. F. Hardcastle asked if Mr. Towlson might explain what he meant when he said he thought the Parish Council were "making a mountain out of a molehill?" He pointed out that Mr. Towlson had not been present at the original meeting when the subject was discussed.

The Rev. A. S. Towlson, replying, claimed to have been misquoted in this respect, saying the actual words he used were: "I think the Press are making a mountain out of a molehill". He said that at the time the comments were published he rang up the chairman, the clerk and one or two other members and particular newspaper concerned on this point, and if he was prepared to take the matter up with them now, Mr. Towlson said he was unable to speak for their side but would try to find out.

In our interview with the Rev. A. S. Towlson on the question of complaints of rowdiness, the words used by the Rector were: "I think it is making a mountain out of a molehill", and this was interpreted as a reference to the council's action on the matter. The use of the word "it" could have led to misinterpretation.—Editor.

BLITHFIELD

ADVERTISER

Members and friends gathered in Newton Hall for their Christmas social, Mrs. E. Rees and Miss Rees journeyed through thick fog, also Miss K. Devine, who motored from Burton-on-Trent. The president, Mrs. Rees, warmly welcomed the guests from Abbots Bromley, Colton, Kingstone and Marchington Woodlands. Great Haywood and Stone were unable to attend. Another welcome guest was Mr. Willmot Martin, M.B.E., of Hixon, who is a regular visitor.

Miss E. Rees and Miss K. Devine organised the games, a radiogram provided the music. The game, musical matchbox, was won by Miss N. Lane. A bingo drive followed, and prizes were won by Mrs. A. Slater, Miss Nash (Woodlands W.I.), Mrs. A. Campbell, Miss M. Hampson, Mrs. R. Grice, Miss J. Lucas, Mrs. Street (Woodlands), Mrs. B. Heasman, Mrs. B. Talbot (Abbots Bromley W.I.) and Anthony Bent-

ROWDYISM IN COLTON

COMPLAINTS of rowdyism in Colton, together with the racing of motor-cycles through the village which came before the Parish Council last week, have brought division to the village and letters and comments to the "Times". Counter-claims have been made of the crying need for a youth club in the village.

The Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, has denied the allegation that the club he formed had to be closed because of rowdyism.

He has pointed out that it was a Boys' Brigade which he formed. Lack of helpers forced it to close down, but the girls' Club, attached to the church, is still functioning. He said: "I think the Parish Council is making a mountain out of a molehill".

"Public spirited"

Defending the youth of the village, he claims that they are "a public-spirited crowd, not rowdies", and always ready to help in a good cause. The proposal for a police patrol had been brought up before, he said, because the council wanted Colton to be progressive, and practically every other village in the area has either a policeman or some sort of patrol.

Admitting that motor-cycles were noisy, he said he did not blame the lads but the manufacturers for not fitting efficient silencers.

The chairman of the Parish Council, Mr. R. Morrall, who made a statement to the Press earlier this week, to the effect that he was against the move, said he had nothing further to add. "We have received only one official complaint. I put down what little noise there has been to exuberance, and I am sure the noise from motor-cycles will stop when the light evenings come to an end".

Asked by the "Times" how many teenagers there were in the village, he said he did not know, because he lived outside, at the Trent Valley.

Mr. F. Hardcastle, vice-chairman of the Parish Council, told the "Times" that one official complaint was brought forward to the meeting, but the clerk had received several verbal ones. Another councillor had also received verbal complaints.

He said the resolution of the council meeting, which was carried by a majority vote, was that a suggestion be made to the police that they periodically divert a constable from his beat to go through the village of Colton.

It merited their attention as parish councillors, said Mr. Hardcastle because there had been an occasion recently when someone had to call out the police.

Teenager's view

A letter to the "Times" from "A Disgusted Teenager" asks for an opportunity of replying to the Parish Council's comments on their behaviour and suggests that they should help the youth to find somewhere to go "and not be bothered by grown-ups".

"Until a few weeks ago our meeting place was the Brook Bridge, but we had to move because someone claimed they could hear us, although their house is

(Continued on page 6)

generation".

Another correspondent, [illegible] the nom-de-plume "Householder" asks: Would it not be more in keeping with the spirit of a village community if these councillors started a youth club, instead of calling on an over-worked, undermanned, police force?

"Colton is lacking in any youth club, and though some teenagers attend Colwich and Rugeley clubs this often entails a four-mile ride on wet and cold winter evenings.

"Surely it is time that some responsible body organised a club to keep these boys and girls off the streets—but they will only attend such a club if relaxation is provided.

"Is there not anyone in the village with a dart board, table tennis equipment, a bagatelle table or a record player they could give or loan, to start such a club?"

The writer adds that it is true that the Rector tried to get a Boys' Brigade going, but the boys did not feel enough time was given to games, etc., "also the factor that attendance at church was a necessity to belong to the brigade soon dispelled the first flush of enthusiasm".

Concluding, "Householder" suggests that if a few village leaders got together, opened up the Village Hall and provided a bright, friendly atmosphere, the village streets would soon be as empty as the village guardians desire.

Inquiries in the village by a "Times" reporter revealed that while many feel there is cause for complaint, very few speak their minds in public. It is generally agreed that the teenagers are "all right" but that they badly need a youth club or something similar in the village.

Allegations have been made that motor-cycle races have been held through the village. One villager said she had counted 40 motor-cycles in the village, of which only three or four belonged to teenagers.

Another, 40 years resident in the village, expressed the opinion that present day youth were a decent crowd who would do anything to help. She thought many of the motor-cyclists came from Rugeley.

When asked by the "Times" for a police comment, Inspector G. Powell said: "The village is patrolled".

QUESTIONED

"WHY has the income of Colton Parish Lands (Charitable) Trust been allowed to accumulate and not be distributed?" asked Mr. F. Hardcastle at Colton Parish Council's meeting. He contended that the correct method of using any balance from the Trust was by distribution between deserving and necessitous cases in the parish.

Mr. B. Bettson, who has been Parish Lands trustee for many years, said he remembered that at one time the trustees were faced with the prospects of a considerable diminution of income. They decided to built the two new houses in Hollow Lane on the site of those which had to be demolished.

A large sum of money was borrowed by mortgage and this had to be repaid out of income. The Trust was better off through this passing police of the trustees.

Mr. Hardcastle asked: "But what about the latest accumulations of £500 which have been applied towards alterations and improvements at present being carried out on Oldham's Cottages?" He claimed that this should have been distributed from time to time.

No easy task

Mr. R. Morrall, chairman, said that although, as one of the trustees, he had had feelings like Mr. Hardcastle, he did realise it was not an easy task to decide on the proper people to receive benefit in this way.

He and his fellow trustees (most of whom are parish councillors) had been led to believe that the cause for which they had used the present balance was as much in order as that of distribution. The trustees had jointly accepted responsibility for adopting it as an alternative way of dealing with the money.

Mr. Hardcastle said he felt the trustees may have acted under some influence and may not have been altogether familiar with the procedure laid down for dealing with balance of income. He asked for an assurance that they would in future deal with such balances as they should do, otherwise he would feel compeled to pursue the matter further.

The Rev. A. S. Towlson, chairman of the Trust, said there was no doubt that the money was being properly allocated. Nevertheless he felt justified in giving the assurance asked, that the balance would be "properly allocated."

Answer is awaited

Questions were asked by Mr. F. Hardcastle at last week's meeting of Colton Parish Council about the portion of the balance from the funds of Colwich Parochial Charities, which had been passed to the Rector of St. Mary's Church, Colton, for distribution among people in Colton who were usually recognised as entitled to them by reason of the old parish of Colwich extending into parts of Colton village.

Those concerned had not, he claimed, received anything for the past year or two.

The rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson), explained that he had now returned the money to Colwich Parochial Charities because he felt some uncertainty as to whether it was correct for the people in the particular properties in Colton to continue to receive assistance in the light of the changed conditions.

As far as he was aware, none of the properties concerned was regarded any longer as being in Colwich. The people paid their rates as parishioners of Colton, not Colwich, and for purposes of baptisms, marriages, funerals, and for church worship in general, Colton was recognised as their parish church.

Mr. Towlson said he thought it only right that this point should be cleared up and the trustees of the charities had agreed. The matter had accordingly gone to the Charity Commissioners for consideration and their observations were now awaited.

He suggested that anyone wishing to pursue this matter further should take it up with the secretary of Colwich Parochial Charities.

Talk at WI Group Meeting at Mavesyn Ridware Headlands October 1959 also film show



Mr. and Mrs. David Hall display some mink pelts



TIMES 18/6/60

Death of Mr. Archer.—Many of the older generation in Gnosall will learn with regret of the death of Mr. Samuel Archer, of Greenacre, Uttoxeter, and late of Lea Lane House, Admaston, near Rugeley.

Mr. Archer had associations of long standing with Gnosall. He married the late Miss Florence Lillian Malpass, of Coton Bank Farm which has been in the Malpass family for a century and is now farmed and owned by Mr. Arthur Malpass, nephew of the deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Archer were closely connected with Gnosall Methodist Church, and foundation stones were laid by Mrs. Archer and her family when the church was erected. The funeral service took place at the Methodist Church, Uttoxeter, on November 11 and was attended by many friends and relations from the Uttoxeter, Rugeley, and Gnosall districts. A.W. Times 11/12/60

Marquee ball and barbecue raise £200 at Colton

MAKING their first appearance in Staffordshire after their visit to Australia, Lord and Lady Bagot were among the 200 patrons at the Marquee Ball held at Colton on Thursday of last week. It was organised by the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, and Mrs. Towlson, in aid of the £2,500 restoration fund for the village church, and the marquee for dancing was erected on the Rectory lawn.

The weather during the earlier part of the evening [illegible] provided the music for the

Autograph hunters keep Jerry Allen, of T.V. Lunch Box fame, busy at Colton barbecue on Saturday.

TRIPLE COMING-OF-AGE CELEBRATION

Times 10/12/60

A TRIPLE 21st birthday celebration on Saturday marked the official opening of The New Room, in Horse Fair, Rugeley, a dance hall recently erected by Mr. and Mrs. F. McNeill at the rear of the Moka-Ris Coffee Bar.

The young people celebrating their coming of age were Miss Carol Mary Toye, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Toye, of Chase View, Hednesford Road, Rugeley; Miss Sheila Mary Preston, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. Preston, of No. 7 Holding, Old Wood Farm, [illegible]reston's friend, [illegible]n of Mr. and [illegible]3, The Drive, Doxey, Stafford.

About 100 guests were present and the master of ceremonies was Mr. Toye. An elaborate buffet, including a glazed boar's head, was provided by the management, and dancing and games followed the buffet supper.

The health of the three young people was proposed by Mr. Toye.

The actual birthdays were not on Saturday itself, Miss Toye's being on the following day, Miss Preston on December 30 and Mr. Berg[illegible] on January 6. The coffee bar was closed to the public for the event, an occasional licence being obtained for the celebrations.

Value Of Village Produce Guilds

Uttoxeter 24/9/60.





Officials at Staffordshire Village Produce Guild annual meeting at Lotus Hall, Stone, on Saturday. Left to right: Mr. A. Holmes (Vice-Chairman), Miss N. Woolley (Treasurer), Mr. F. W. Farrer (Chairman), Mr. D. M. Gibb (Secretary) and Mr. C. F. Horton (national representative).

"The real purpose of our work in these days of mass entertainment is to emphasise the value of what you are doing in your Guilds," Mr. D. M. Gibb (Secretary) told members at the annual meeting of the Staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds at Stone on Saturday.

Real creative work was not association's activities up to date and to pursue a progressive policy in establishing new guilds. They were hoping to start a new guild at Colwich in the coming week.

Consideration had been given by the committee as to whether the amount of work put into the county show exhibit was disproportionate to tion as the people attending such a function would be more likely to be interested in the activities of Village Produce Guilds than the public at a county show.

Mr. F. C. Horton was elected to represent the Association on the National Council of the Federation of Village Produce Association.



Afterwards the [illegible] tea in the [illegible] Mrs. R[illegible] to [illegible] In the Reading Room there was a knife and fork luncheon, the [illegible] for which had been delegated [illegible] Committee to a ladies' [illegible] An invitation to everybody was [illegible] and both rooms were attractively [illegible]. At 10 p.m. Mrs. Riley lighted a [illegible] in the Martin Hill and a display of fireworks followed. A dance in the Reading Room completed the celebrations.

Mr. E. J. Blore was Chairman of the Celebrations Committee. The funds were a parish collection undertaken by members of the committee and augmented by a generous contribution by Mr. Riley, a Parish Council grant and the proceeds of a concert.

[illegible] sports were arranged by Mr. and Mrs. Riley and the Misses Riley, of Bellamour Lodge. The children were also entertained to tea in the school. Each child was given a mug and a beaker (the former the gift of Mrs. Riley). The festivities also included a knife and fork luncheon at the Reading Room. All were invited and both rooms were gaily decorated. Mrs. Riley set fire to a bonfire at 10 o'clock, where there was a special firework display. The festivities concluded with a dance in the Reading Room. The celebrations were organised by a committee, Mr. E. S. Blore being chairman.

Miss Preston weds at Rugeley

TIMES 6/8/60



MISS Sheila Mary Preston, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. Preston, of Old Wood Farm, Rugeley, was married on Saturday to Mr. James Bergin, son of Mr. and Mrs. [illegible] Bergin, of 13, The Drive, Foxey, Stafford.

The ceremony took place at Ss. Joseph's and Ethel[illegible] the Rev. Father W. Bouchier officiating.

Given away by her father, the bride wore a cream brocade dress with a short veil and a diamante coronet. Her bouquet was of pink roses.

The bridesmaids were the Misses [illegible] Preston (sisters of the bride), and they wore dresses of gold brocade and carried bouquets of pink carnations.

Mr. Roy Roobottom was the best man.

The reception was held at Etching Hill Village Hall, after which the couple left for a honeymoon in the Lake District.





1933 Millicent Army Macpherson (Bartley) mother of Lynn.

Action pictures at Highfield School sports show, on the left, Lynn Macpherson (nine), winning the junior girls' skipping race. O[illegible]

STAFF ADVERTISER

Guild interest in pig keeping

TIMES 12/9/59

At Colton Village Produce Guild meeting held in the Reading Room on Thursday of last week a talk on pig-keeping was given by Mr. J. Matthews, of Rodbaston Farm Institute.

The questions put by members drew, at times, amusing answers, and all present, even those who knew little about pigs, were almost interested in the talk.

The meeting was presided over by the chairman Mr R A. Brundle and Mr. J. H. Toy thanked Mr Matthews.

Three new members were welcomed, and arrrangements were made for those wishing to attend the annual rally at Keele Hall to travel with the Abbots Bromley members.

It was announced that the annual dinner of the Guild will be held at the Dog and Doublet, Sandon, in October

Mr. Toy suggested that the Guild should consider the possibility of holding a show next year.

The competition for six runner beans, judged by Mr. Matthews, was won by Mr. Alfred Meddings.

Tea hostesses were Mrs. B M. Ravenscroft and Mrs. M. E. Hibbs.

AT a meeting of Colton Parish Council, the clerk Mr. S. J. Timmis, was instructed to ask the Midlands Electricity Board what steps were being taken to improve the supply of electricity to the village.

The Rev. A. S. Towlson, who raised the matter, said he had been in communication with the Board over a considerable period, on behalf of the church and others, concerning the need for an improved supply. He had received assurances that it was the desire of the Board to effect the desired improvement, but up to the present nothing had been done.

Mr. Towlson, raising another complaint, said it appeared to him that sewage (he thought from the vicinity of the Pinfold) was being dumped by a sewage tanker at the brook bridge between Bellamour Corner and the school.

Councillor Morrall, as the council's representative on the Lichfield Rural Council, said he would make inquiries as to why this was being done.

Councillor L. Mellor said that several mothers had drawn his attention to the risk of children playing on the iron hand-rail intended as a support when walking on the steps of the Long Stile on the public footpath leading from the stile to Blackwell and Carp Woods.

The chairman, and Councillors Mellor and Hardcastle were appointed to investigate and report to the next meeting.

The Clerk reported that the County Roads and Bridges Department of the County Council had given an undertaking that the problem of flooding at the Brook Bridge between Bellamour Corner and the school would be looked into.

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25 YEARS' PUBLIC SERVICE AT COLTON

PRESENTATION TO MR. E. S. BLORE

CHAIRMAN OF PARISH COUNCIL FOR 17 YEARS

THE satisfaction of having completed a quarter of a century's public service has fallen to Mr. E. S. Blore, the Chairman of Colton Parish Council, and at Monday's dance at the Reading Room the parishioners took the opportunity of presenting him with a memento in recognition of his services and on his retirement from the chairmanship of the Parish Council and other offices he has held.

Mr. Farley (Vice-Chairman of the Council), on behalf of the Parish Council and parishioners, said most of them were aware Mr. Blore had now completed twenty-five years' membership of the Parish Council, for the greater part of which he had acted as Chairman, and they all felt that they could not allow the year of hs retirement to pass without some recognition of his services. On behalf of the people of Colton and all who had assisted and contributed to the success of the presentation fund, he wished to record their sincere appreciation of the manner in which Mr. Blore had always assisted and in the very admirable way in which he had endeavoured to carry out the duties of Chairman.

It was not only in connection with his association with the Parish Council, however, that Mr. Blore would be remembered, he went on; he had also done faithful service as a parish land trustee and as a school trustee, and as everybody knew, he had in recent years on a vacancy occurring taken over the duties of Churchwarden. They were all very grateful for the unfailing readiness he had always shown to help them in any way possible, and there was no doubt that he would be greatly missed.

Mr. G. Mellor (Parish Councillor) associated himself with Mr. Farley's remarks, and said they all wished Mr. Blore and his family health and happiness in their new home.

Mrs. Mellor then presented Mr. Blore with a gold demi-hunter watch representing the gift of the parishioners. The watch was engraved as follows:—"Presented by the Parishioners of Colton to Mr. E. S. Blore, April 18th, 1938, for twenty-five years' public service."

Mr. Blore suitably replied, and said that he was very sorry to be leaving them, but he thanked them for their very great kindness, and he would always have very pleasant memories of his association in the affairs of the village. He thanked them for the gift that they had made to him; it would be most useful, and one which he would always treasure. It would always be a reminder to him.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Mrs. Mellor.

The company joined in the singing of "For he's a jolly good fellow" and "Auld Lang Syne."

Mr. Blore's daughters, the Misses Muriel and Margaret Blore, were present.

Mr. Blore was born in the early eighties, shortly before his parents went to reside at Colton Hall. He is well-known in the district, and his farm at the Hall was an extensive one. He was appointed a member of the Parish Council in 1913, and in 1919 succeeded the late Captain Oldham as chairman. In all he has been Chairman for seventeen years. Mr. Blore has now taken up residence at Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire. Mr. Blore's father, the late Mr. Simon Blore, was a member of the

COLTE

Presentation to M

The satisfaction of h quarter of a century's fallen to Mr. E. S. Blore, Colton Parish Council. at the Reading Room th the opportunity of pres little memento in re services and on his re chairmanship of the P other offices he has held Chairman of the Counc Council and parishion them were aware Mr completed 25 years' m Council, for the greate had acted as Chairman, allow his retirement recognition of his serv the people of Colton assisted and contribut the presentation fund, re their sincere appreciat in which Mr. Blore he He had also done fa Parish Land Trustee, and as Churchwarde associated himself remarks. In the abse Mrs. Mellor made the engraved gold de representing the gift Mr. Blore said that he leaving them but he th their very great kindn always have very pleas association with the v (the Rev. D. R. S. Hol good wishes for Mr. Bl joined in the singing o good fellow" and "Aul Blore's daughters, the Margaret Blore, were was born in the early before his parents wen Hall. He is well knew his farm at the Hall w He has now taken up Mowbray, Leicestersh good attendance at th for the upkeep of the Mr. F. Hardcastle ac

COLTON DIAMOND WEDDING

TWO OCTOGENARIANS' QUIET CELEBRATION

On Friday last Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Bull were the recipients of many congratulations and felicitations from relatives and friends on the diamond anniversary of their wedding which took place at the Parish Church at Colton on February 9th, 1880.

Mr. Bull is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bull, of Colton, and is the survivor of a family of five children. Mrs. Bull is one of the four surviving children of the late Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Thorns. One of her brothers and a sister also reside at Colton.

Mr. Bull is 83 years of age, and his wife two years younger, and both claim the village of Colton as their native place. From the time of his birth until he was sixty-six years of age Mr. Bull lived in a cottage formerly part of the old School buildings. During his childhood this school was carried on by the late Miss Garner. Both Mr. and Mrs. Bull were pupils of what was then known as Mrs. Williscroft's school. Mr. Bull and his wife now reside in one of the Almshouses erected in memory of the late Miss Oldham.

Prior to settling down in their present home they lived at Armitage for four years. Both have a very keen memory and Mr. Bull can recall the old barn where the present school is now erected. He is a retired railwayman, and on retirement on superannuation in 1922, had completed forty-one years' service on the L.M.S. Railway. He commenced work on the railway as a horse driver at the Trent Valley station.

After six years in this occupation he went to work in the Goods department and continued there until his retirement. He saw many changes both in the railway system and at the Trent Valley Station.

Mr. and Mrs. Bull recall many happy events of their younger days, including the Victoria Jubilee. Of local Volunteers (then known as the 21st Company) who were present at the review at Windsor Great Park on 9th July, 1831, before Queen Victoria and the late King Edward VII (then Prince of Wales), Mr. Bull and Mr. Fred Brass, of Rugeley, are the only two still living.

Mr. Bull is also the oldest member of Oldham (Colton) Lodge of Oddfellows. He was initiated a member of the Manch Unity at the age of 17, and upon inauguration of the Oldham lodge in the field District in 1935 he transferred the latter lodge.

The happy pair spent Friday in a quiet way, in contrast to the celebration of their golden wedding when a happy re-union of relatives and friends took place. They enjoy fairly good health for their ages although, largely owing to the weather Bull has not been able to get about so much during the last few weeks.

Rugeley Signed Feb F

1/1932 Blackwell



Bl. Hild Rectory 1/6/32 B.T.Re ANNMET Reader



Same pair on 2/7/34 at Abbots Bromley with Nash

was at a dance on Monday presented with a gold demi-hunter watch, suitably inscribed, on his retirement from the chairmanship and other offices. Mr. Farley (vice-chairman), on behalf of the Council and parishioners said he wished to record their sincere appreciation of the manner in which Mr. Blore had always assisted, and the admirable way in which he had carried out the duties of chairman. Mr. Blore had also done faithful service as a parish land trustee, school trustee, and churchwarden. He would be greatly missed. Mr. G. Mellor associated himself with these remarks, and wished Mr. Blore and his family health and happiness in their new home. In the absence of Mrs. Riley (Bellamour Lodge) through indisposition, Mrs. Mellor made the presentation. Mr. Blore said he was sorry to be leaving, and thanked all of them for their great kindness. He should always have pleasant memories of his association with the village. The Rector (the Rev. D. R. S. Holmes) expressed gratefulness for all that Mr. Blore had done as churchwarden. Mr. Blore was born in the early "eighties," shortly before his parents went to reside at Colton Hall. He is well known in the district, and his farm at the hall was an extensive one. He was appointed to the Parish Council in 1913 and has been chairman since 1919. His father, the late Mr. Simon Blore, was a member of the Council for many years. Mr. Blore has taken up residence at Melton Mowbray. There was a good attendance at the dance, which was in aid of the funds for the upkeep of the war memorial and Mr. F. Hardcastle was M.C. Music was provided by Mrs. Buckingham (pianoforte), Mr. F. J. Wright (violin), and Mr. B. Jackson (timpani).

THE 'STAFFORDSHIRE ADVERTISER". APL 23/1938

weather

MERCURY

CUPS PRESENTED BY LADY BAGOT

27/8/48

THE bringing forward of the date of the Colton horticultural and floral show, sports and dance by one month as compared with last year afforded no guarantee against the weather. On Saturday rain fell heavily for the greater part of the time, and as a result the attendance was very greatly restricted. The two shows which have so far been held have not been blessed by weather conditions. Last year heavy showers persisted nearly all day after a heavy rainfall on the preceding Friday, although there were a few fair intervals. On Saturday an attempt was made to get the sports programme going, and a few of the items were held, after which this part of the proceedings was abandoned.

Messrs Percival (Penkridge) and Amphlett (Abbots Bromley) acted as judges, and the show was held by permission of Mrs. Jackson (Colton House) and Mr. Richard Morrall in the field at the rear of Colton House. Refreshments were in the capable hands of a ladies' committee, and arrangements for the show in general were carried through by a show committee consisting of certain members of Colton St. Mary's F.C., assisted by other local people, the surplus (if any) of the funds being intended for the football club.

The show was opened by Lord and Lady Bagot, who were introduced by the Rev. H. H. Goodin.

Owing to the adverse conditions most attention attached to the tent exhibits, there being 144 class entries, as compared with 84 last year. The quality of many of the exhibits was encouraging, although, curiously, there were not any entries for lettuces, as against one only in this class last year. Onions and celery were particularly good, but entries in other classes could be mentioned with almost equality of commendation.

AWARDS

The prize-winners were:—

Six white round potatoes: 1, Eric Devalle, Colton; 2, Ben Jackson, Colton; 3, J. Middleton, Great Haywood. Six round potatoes, any colour: 1, Percy Myatt, Abbots Bromley; 2, J. Middleton. Six kidney potatoes, any colour: 2, E. J. Middleton, Great Haywood; 3, J. Middleton. Six kidney potatoes, white: 1, Percy Myatt; 2, Maurice Willis-croft, Colton; 3, Ernest Hewitt, Colton. Six carrots, long: 1, E. J. Middleton; 2, J. Middleton. Six carrots, short: 1, Charles Robinson, Fog Cottages, Colton; 2, Ronald Myatt, Colton. Six onions: 1, E. J. Middleton; 2, J. Middleton; 3, Ronald Myatt. Six tomatoes: 3, Alfred James, Colton. Twelve runner beans: 1, Fred Green, Brereton; 2, J. Middleton; 3, Mrs. J. Middleton. Twelve dwarf beans: 2, Ben Jackson; 3, Mrs. L. Jackson. Four parsnips: 2, J. Middleton. Two sticks of celery: 1, J. Middleton; 2, E. J. Middleton. Four leeks: 2, J. Middleton. Two cauliflowers: 3, J. Middleton. Two white cabbage: 1, Kenneth Morrall, Colton Farm; 2, D. Salt, Rugeley; Mrs. J. Middleton, 2nd, Brereton Farm, Colton; Florence Four culinary: 1, J. Middleton; 3, Mrs. J. Middleton. Four Middleton, 2nd; 3, Mrs. J. Middleton. Four Bog. Mrs. J. Middleton; 2, J. Middleton (Colton). Four Hardcastle (Colton). Four eggs: No exhibits.

Diamond Wedding

[illegible] Mr. and Mrs. A[illegible] celebrated the anni[illegible] their wedding, which took [illegible] Parish Church at Colton on 9th, 1880. Mr. Bull is the late Mr. and Mrs. [illegible], of Colton, and is the [illegible] a family of five children, [illegible] one of the four surviving [illegible] the late Mr. and Mrs. [illegible]orns. One of her brothers [illegible] also reside at Colton. Mr. [illegible] years of age, and Mrs. Bull [illegible]Mr. and Mrs. Bull claim the [illegible]olton as their native place. [illegible] time of his birth until he [illegible]rs of age, Mr. Bull lived in [illegible]which was formerly part of [illegible]ool buildings. Mr. Bull and [illegible]ow reside in one of the [illegible] erected in memory of Miss [illegible]Mr. Bull is a retired rail[illegible]nd on retirement on super[illegible]n April 30th, 1922, he had [illegible]41 years' service with the [illegible]l North Western Railway. [illegible]oldest member of the Old[illegible]n) Lodge of Oddfellows. [illegible]itiated a member of the Unity of Oddfellows at the [illegible]nd, upon the inauguration [illegible]am Lodge in the Lichfield [illegible]1905, he transferred to the [illegible] Both Mr. and Mrs. Bull [illegible] good health. STAFFS WEE[illegible]

COLTON

Hospital Dance.—At a dance on Friday on behalf of Rugeley hospital, the selection of "Miss Colton" and "Princess Colton" for this year's hospital carnival was made. The judges, Mr. H. S. Woodman and Miss Betty Woodman (Rugeley) and Mr. and Mrs. Paton (Cannock) selected Miss Annie Hardcastle as "Miss Colton" for a third year, and the title of "Princess Colton," fell to little Eleanor Hardcastle. The music for dancing was played by the Colton Dance Band. Mr. F. Hardcastle was M.C.

[illegible]SHIRE STONE[illegible]SER" 25/1938

COLTON

[illegible]MOND WEDDING

[illegible]rs. Alfred Bull celebrated [illegible]nd wedding on Friday. [illegible] married at the Parish [illegible]ton, on February 9, 1880. [illegible]he son of the late Mr. and [illegible]s Bull, Colton, and Mrs. [illegible]of four surviving children [illegible]e Mr. and Mrs. Nelson [illegible]e of her brothers and a [illegible]side at Colton.

[illegible]83 years of age, and Mrs. [illegible]ears his junior. From the [illegible]irth until he was 66 years [illegible]ull lived in a cottage, for[illegible]f the old school buildings. [illegible]his wife now occupy o[illegible]houses erected in memory [illegible]Miss Oldham. Prior to [illegible]n in their present home [illegible]t Armitage for four years. [illegible]s for 41 years in the ser[illegible]e L.M.S. Railway (then [illegible]Railway). Of local volun[illegible]known as the 21st Com[illegible]were present at the review [illegible]Great Park on July 9, [illegible]Queen Victoria and the [illegible]dward VII. (then Prince [illegible]Mr. Bull and Mr. Fred [illegible]ley, are the only two still [illegible]Bull is the oldest member [illegible]m (Colton) Lodge of Odd[illegible]

[illegible]RS. ADVERTISER



Park B Rugeley 6/8/52 Colton Show Garden Potato Wheelbarrow Prize Bouquet

No Opener.

Mrs F M Sargeant at Stall.



B.M.R. Colwich Show 1952

ix)

Church Bells Restoration Effort



Rugeley Mercury (Rgld Mercury, Ltd.) 14/8/1953.

(Photo: Jones, Little Haywood)

Lady Bagot receiving bouquet from Misses Judith Preston and Margaret Finnemore at the opening of the annual garden party held in the rectory grounds at Colton in aid of the funds for the restoration of the bells of St. Mary's Church (reported on page five of this issue).

Reading from left to right: Mr. J. Parker, Mr. and Mrs. R. Bettson, Mrs. Goodin, Lady Bagot and Lord Bagot.

14/8/1953



A group at the opening, by Lady Bagot, of Colton garden party, held in the Rectory grounds. Left to right are Mr. J. Parker, Mr. B. Bettson, Mrs. Bettson, Mrs. Goodin, Lady Bagot, the Rev. H. H. Goodin (Rector), and Lord Bagot.

The Staffordshire Weekly Sentinel (County Edn), Staffordshire Sentinel newspapers Ltd.

...ster & Lichfield Mercury & Staffordshire Advertiser, 14/8/53

NEWS FR...

COLTON

...Garden Party.—After raining all ...rning the weather improved and ...re was a very encouraging at... ...dance at the annual garden ...ty held in the Rectory grounds Wednesday last week.

...s at last year's effort, the pro... ...ds were for the restoration of ... bells of St. Mary's, which are ...present with a firm of bell... ...nders.

...he opening this year was per... ...ned by Lady Bagot. Mr. John ...ker (people's churchwarden) ...posed a vote of thanks to Lady ...ot seconded by the rector's ...den, Mr. Bernard Bettson. A ...quet consisting chiefly of ...ilioli, which was given by a ...on family, was handed to ...y Bagot by the Misses Judith ...ston and Margaret Finnemore.

...allholders:—Handiwork, Mrs. ...odin, Mrs. J. W. Grimley, Mrs. ...gent, Mrs. R. Grimley and Miss ...e Bird; produce, Miss C. N. L. ...liscroft, Miss Ellen Rotchell, ... W. J. Parr, Mrs. F. H. Ban... ...er and Mrs. J. A. Best; china, ... Julia L. Taylor; ices and soft ...ks, Mrs. George S. Collier, the ...day school girls looked after ...bran tub and balloon stall; ...es, Miss Mary Jones and ...ers.

...deshows: Bowls, Mr. Bernard ...son; clock golf, Mrs. Beatrice ...; giant skittles, Mr. F .W. ...per; hoop-la, Mrs. J. H. Tay ... Mrs. F. Knight, treasure-hunt, ...s Winifred Parr.

...mpetitions. Cake, Mrs. Jane ...dcastle; Mrs. Dorothy Atkin ...ket of fruit); Mrs. Alice Blaze ...hions); Mrs. G. S. Collier ...e and cushion); Mrs. Mar... ...t Florence Norman (duck); ... W. J. Parr (chicken).

...e refreshments marquee was ...bly managed by Mesdames J. ...er and B. Bettson and helpers.

...r. Ben Jackson's band ...n in attendance.

...ross takings were a li... ...(including £18 from ...

Bells Restoration

COLTON GARDEN PARTY REALISES £195

After raining all morning the weather improved and there was a very encouraging attendance at the annual garden party held in the rectory grounds at Colton on Wednesday of last week.

As at last year's effort the proceeds were in augmentation of the funds for the restoration of the bells of St. Mary's, which are at present with a firm of bell-founders.

The opening ceremony was performed by Lady Bagot, Mr. John Parker (people's churchwarden) according a vote of thanks to the opener, seconded by the rector's warden (Mr. Bernard Bettson). A bouquet consisting chiefly of gladioli, given by a Colton family, was handed to Lady Bagot by the Misses Judith Preston and Margaret Finnemore.

In charge of the stalls section were Mrs. Goodin, Mrs. J. W. Grimley and Mrs. Sargent. Mrs. R. Grimley and Miss Elsie Bird were in charge of an excellently laid out work stall whilst a well supported produce stall had as its attendents Miss C. N. L. Willis-croft, Miss Ellen Rotchell, Mrs. W. J. Parr, Mrs. F. H. Bannister and Mrs. J. A. Best. Mrs. Julia L. Taylor was at the china stall and the attendant at the ices and soft drinks stall was again Mrs. George S. Collier. The Sunday school girls looked after the bran tub and balloons stall. Cakes stall: Miss Mary Jones and helpers.

The side shows included bowls (attendant Mr. Bernard Bettson), clock golf (Mrs. Beatrice Hill), giant skittles (Mr. F. W. Cooper), Hoop-la (Mrs. J. H. Tay and Miss F. Knight), treasure hunt (Miss Winifred Parr).

Competitions included cake (Mrs. Jane Hardcastle), Mrs. Dorothy Atkin (basket of fruit), Mrs. Alice Blare (cushions), Mrs. G. S. Collier (cake and cushion), Mrs. Margaret Florence Norman (duck), Mrs. W. J. Parr (chicken).

The refreshments marquee was capably managed by Mesdames J. Parker and B. Bettson and helpers.

Mr. Ben Jackson's band was again in attendance.

Gross takings were a little over £220 (including the proceeds of the rummage sale a few weeks ago) and the approximate figure of expenses is £25 leaving a net amount realised of approximately £195. An excellent result reflecting great credit on all concerned.

Wheatwan... for a fire
Mr. Collins.

Staffordshire Weekly Sentinel
Country Friday 27/11/53.

...rs of the Mothers Union.

Staffs Advertiser 3rd COLTON Dec 1953

Whist Drive.—A whist drive in aid of funds for the Sunday School was held in the Reading Room on Friday, and was a great success. Mr. Fred Norman was the M.C., and Mrs. Goodin handed out the prizes to Mrs. Bettson, Mrs. Peach, Miss Heathcote, Mr. G. E D. Atkin, sen., Mrs. Felton, and Master Rushton Lowest scores prizes: Mrs. Ravenscroft and Mr. Arnold James. Mystery prize of a bottle of wine Mrs. Brown. The amount realised was over £18.

UTTOXETER

...y Mrs. Goodin. Thanks were ex... in the Matron by Mrs. Taylor. Arrangements were made for the Sunday-school children's Xmas party.

WHIST DRIVE

A whist drive organised by the headmaster and teachers of Colton School took place in the Reading Room on Friday last. Proceeds were for the school-children's Christmas party.

Mr. Fred Norman was M.C. and the prizes were presented by Mrs. Gordon Shipley, of Newton.

Winners were Mrs. Slater, Mr. W. Green, Mrs. A. Rowe, Mr. Capewell, Mrs. G. Deacon, Mr. C. Sanders, Miss Mary Hardcastle, Mr. E. L. Devalle, Mrs. P. Heasman, Mr. J. Bentley, Mrs. G. Hampson, Master David Atkins, Mrs. A. Slater and Mr. H. Perkins. Mystery prizes went to Mrs. G. Shipley, Mr. R. Bannister, Mrs. Slack, Mrs. F. Excell, Miss Ruth Woodward, Master Hugh Wheawalls, Mrs. Preston and Mr. Collins.

Mercury 27/11/53.

Chairman Weds at Colton

Staffs Advertiser 27/11/53

The chairman of Stafford Young Farmers, Mr. George David Sykes, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Sykes, of Bickford Grange, Penkridge, was married on Thursday to Miss Margaret Emma Jones, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Jones, of Lea Hall Farm, Admaston.

The service, at Colton Parish Church, was conducted by the Rev. H. H. Goodin. Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft was at the organ.

Given away by her father, the bride wore a gown of cream brocade embroidered with gold thread



and a cream tulle veil, and carried a bouquet of cream roses and freesias.

She was attended by her sister (Miss Mary Jones), and by the sister of the bridegroom (Miss Elizabeth Sykes), both of whom wore gold net over satin dresses, with brown velvet stoles, and carried bouquets of cream carnations and freesias.

Mr. Roger Lea (friend of the bridegroom), was best man.

Following a reception held at the Eaton Lodge Country Club, the couple left for a honeymoon on the Continent. Their future address will be Walton Holt, Walton-by-Kimcote, Leicestershire.

The wedding took place at St. Mary's Church, Colton, on November 19th, of Miss Margaret Emma Jones, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Jones, of Lea Hall Farm, Admaston, and Mr. George David Sykes, son of Mr. and Mrs G. Sykes, of Bickford Grange, Penkridge. The Rev. H. H. Goodin officiated at the choral service and Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft was at the organ.

The bridegroom is Chairman of Stafford branch of the Young Farmers.

Given away by her father, the bride wore a dress of cream brocade with a cream tulle veil, and carried a bouquet of cream roses and freesias. The bridesmaids were Miss Mary Jones (bride's sister) and Miss Elizabeth Sykes (bridegroom's sister), who wore dresses of gold net over satin, with brown velvet stoles, and carried bouquets of cream carnations and freesias. The best man was Mr. Roger Lea.

The reception was held at Eaton Lodge Country Club. Afterwards Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Sykes left for the honeymoon on the continent. The couple are to reside at Walton Holt, Walton - by - Kimcote, Leicestershire.

Sentinel

Mercury 14/12/53

COLTON

GIFT OF STAVES

At Sunday evening's service at St. Mary's Church a pair of churchwarden's staves, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Bettson, was dedicated by the rector (the Rev. H. H. Goodin).

Mr. Bettson, who farmed at Newlands, Colton, for some twenty-five years or so and went to reside at Uttoxeter about three years ago has been rector's warden for the last seventeen years.

At the conclusion of the service the staves were taken by Mr. Bettson from the chancel and placed in their sockets at the end of the pews occupied by the churchwardens.

READING ROOM WHIST DRIVE

A whist drive, organised by the Trustees, was held in the reading room on Friday of last week. Mr. Fred Norman was M.C. and Mrs. F. Taylor presented the prizes to Miss M. Hampson, Mr. W. Green, Miss L. Norman, Mr. S. Peake, Mrs. R. Morrall, Miss Mary Mellor, Mrs. G. M. Upton, Mr. W. T. Farley, Miss Sheila Preston (lowest score) and Mr. Norman Myatt (lowest score). The mystery prize went to Mr. Stone, of Newton.

...evening's service ...y Church, at which ...s' Rev. H. H. Goodin. a of churchwarden's ...d of Mr. Bernard ...nd wife, were dedicate...re who farmed at N...y. parish and went to ...ce ...eter about three ...n. been Rector's Waite... 17 years. At the ...d. the service the sta...e, by Mr Bettson ...ie and placed in socket... the pews occupied ... wardens, where th...n; by members of th...y they left the chu...es

Whist Winners.—...at was held in the ...ist on Friday. Orgam...tees for the up...khe Mr. Fred Norma...or and Mrs. Taylor an... prizes to Miss H. ...ck Green, Miss Lucy ...at Peake, Mrs. R. Morra... Mellor, Mrs. G. M. Upton, Mr. W. T. Farley. Lowest scores, Miss Sheila Preston and Mr. Norman Myatt. The mystery prize went to Mr. Stone, of Newton.

...the Hon. ...

...LTON ...3.

Bells.—Colton ... their bells for ... t must be three ... since they were ...fe to ring and so ...ication that the ...anology existed ...e was the few ...e of a single ...g that divine ... just about to ... this ceased ... months ago—in ...hade impossible ...ee bells were ... by a Lough... of bellfounders ... Advantage has ... the present act ... of restoration to bring the system into line with modern ideas. Steel framework has taken the place of wood, and space has been provided for, it is hoped, the introduction of three lighter bells at a later date to make a more complete set. Before work to the bells could be justified complete restoration of the tower was called for. This was effected at a cost of £565. Altogether £661 has been spent in the restoration of the bells including the bells floor and work necessary to the girders, making a total outlay in this connection in the last three years of some £1,226. which has taken no small effort to raise. On Sunday evening the new Bishop of Lichfield re-dedicated the bells.

COLTON 3/1/54

Fancy Dress Prizes—Following a party given to all the children of Colton by Mr. J. Thompson and helpers a fancy dress dance was held in the Reading Room on New Year's Eve. Mr. Ben Jackson's band supplied the music, and Mr. Stretton was the M.C.

The judges were Mr. Smith (Manager, N.C.B. Brereton Unit) and Mrs. Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Wildblood, and they awarded the prizes to the following:—

Under 5 years of age: Melvin Collins, Dominoes; Rosemary Preston, Northern Lights.

Girls, 5 to 10: Sheila Duncan, Doll-in-the-box; Christine Leeke, Queen Elizabeth 1st; Irene Hurley, Spirit.

Boys, 5 to 10: Roderick Hodgekiss, Sabu, King of the Jungle; Christopher Buckley, Cockerel; Leslie Collins, Eat More Fruit.

Girls, 10 to 15: Nona Lycett, Jumble Sale; Gilliam Machin, Welsh Girl, Beatrice Stretton, Spanish Girl.

Boys, 10 to 15: Clifford Preston, Snow Man; Michael Beaumont, Scrooge; Christopher Hibbs, Big Chief Dirty Face.

The special prize went to the Doll-in-the-box, Sheila Duncan. Father Christmas was present and handed an orange to all the children present, and Mr. Fred Hardcastle thanked the judges and everyone who had given assistance in any way.

Children's Party.—A very enjoyable party was held in the Reading Room on December 29th arranged by the Mothers' Union and one or two other friends, for Colton Sunday School children. After a very good tea, carols were sung, and games followed, arranged by Miss D. M. Jones, assisted by Miss H. Round and Mrs. Parker.

Mrs. Goodin presented gifts from the Christmas tree to all the children, and prizes for attendance to Joan Devalle, June Collyer, Judith Preston, Margaret Griffiths, and Peter Griffiths. A special prize was given by Mrs. Taylor for the girl with the longest unbroken attendance record, and was won by Ann Preston.

Gifts were also given to Mrs. Goodin, Mis E. Rotchell, Miss D. N. Jones and Miss Sheila Preston. On leaving each child had an apple, an orange and a mince pie.

Fancy Dress Dance at Colto

N.C.B. UNIT MANAG A JUDGE

Following a party given the children of Colton by Thompson and helpers, a dress dance was held in the ing Room on New Year's E

Mr. Ben Jackson's band and Mr. Stretton was M.C.

The Judges were Mr. (manager N.C.B. Brereton and Mrs. Smith and Mr. an Wildblood. They awarded to the following: Unde years, Melvin Collins, Dor Dianne Grimley, Gypsy; mary Preston, Northern Girls five to ten: Sheila L Doll-in-the-Box; Christine Queen Elizabeth I; Irene Spiv.

Boys five to ten: R Hodgkiss, Sabre King Jungle; Christopher Cockerel; Leslie Collin More Fruit.

Girls 10 to 15: Norma Jumble Sale; Gillian Welsh Girl; Beatrice Spanish Girl.

Boys 10 to 15: Clifford Snow Man; Michael Be Scrooge and Christophe Big Chief Dirty Face. Th prize went to the Doll-in-t (Sheila Duncan).

Father Christmas was and presented oranges t children. Mr. Fred H thanked the judges and who had given assistanc

Mercury 3/1/54

COLTON

TORY WHIST DRIVE

Colton branch of the Conservative Association held a whist drive on Thursday of last week at the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Jones, at Lea Hall Farm, Admaston.

Mr. Fred Norman was M.C. and the prizes were presented by Mrs. Blow, mother of the divisional prospective Conservative candidate, Mr. Jonathan Blow, who owing to a prior engagement was unable to be present. Mr. Lockwood (agent) was present.

Prizes were won by Mrs. F. Taylor, Mr. Vincent Charles, Mrs. W. Price, Mr. Luke Mellor (Blithbury), Mrs. J. Devalle, Mr. E. S. Blore, Mrs. F. Hardcastle, Mr. A. N. Felton, Mrs. Taylor and Mr. Mellor (Blithbury). A duck was won by Mr. R. Bannister.

Thanks were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Jones for the use of their home and Mr. Jones (chairman of the Colton branch) in return thanked all who had assisted in any way to make the effort the success it was.

J[illegible] their home, Lea Hall Farm, Admaston. Mr. Fred Norman was the M.C., and the prizes were presented by Mrs. Blow, mother of the prospective Conservative candidate for the Lichfield and Tamworth Division, Mr. Jonathan Blow. Mr. Lockwood,

Lichfield Mercury 25/12/53

STAFFORDSHIRE ADVERTISER. De

COLTON BELLS RING AGAIN AT CHRISTMAS

COLTON will have their bells for Christmas. It must be three four years since they were dared unsafe to ring and so the ly indication that the art of mpanology existed in the village as the few minutes chime of a ngle bell sending out the mesge that divine service was just out to begin. Even this small anifestation ceased some months so when all three bells were taken way by a Loughborough firm of llfounders for re-tuning.

Advantage has been taken during e restoration to bring the system to line with modern ideas. Steel amework has taken the place of ood, and space has been provided r, it is hoped the introduction of ree lighter bells at a later date make a more complete set.

Before work on the bells could e justified complete restoration of e tower was called for. This was fected at a cost of £565. The tal outlay has been £1,226, which as taken no small effort to raise.

Colton have had an early visit om the new Bishop of Lichfield hen on Sunday evening he was esent at a service of re-dedicaon of the bells. In an address, e theme of which was bellringg, Dr. Reeve said that with a rticular place in his heart for untry churches he had been lookg forward to this visit, he having en brought up in a country rish where his father was rector. hoped that some future occasion ght see him present at the inallation of an additional trio of ls. The bishop praised the effort generosty of those concerned the raising of so large an unt in so small a place.

At the conclusion of the services the bells were rung by bellringers Arthur Deacon, Maurice Deacon (son), and Eric Devall. The two last mentioned are new to the job.

COLT

Coronation Fu Decisions.—At a Colton Coronatic tions Committee Taylor (Hon. Secretary) presented the final statement of account., showing gross receipts at £261 14s. 6½d, and total expenditure at £199 13s. 9½d. A public meeting followed to decide what to do with the £62 0s. 9d. surplus, and the following proposals were adopted: A golden privet hedge to be planted as a background to the war memorial in the Pinfold; a seat, 8ft. long, of Burma teak, with suitable Coronation inscription on brass plate, to be purchased and placed in the Pinfold; a new electrically-heated copper to be installed in the Reading Room; 15 further chairs to be purchased for the Reading Room; anything left over to be handed to the Committee of Management of the Reading Room on the express understanding that it be earmarked for use on some occasion for the purpose of improving the ladies'

ld. ler ite rt; ed ed re et es 's ce ho ta os s. r. he y y- e ll s. n

Coronation [illegible] Colton Coronation Committee, followed by meeting, took place in ing room on Wednesday of last week.

Mr. F. Taylor (secretary) presented the final statement of account. This showed gross receipts at £261 14s. 6½d., and total expenditure to be £199 13s. 9½d. A vote of thanks was proposed by the chairman (Mr. W. J. Parr), to all who had contributed to this success.

The public meeting met to decide what to do with the £62 0s. 9d. surplus. The following proposals were adopted by majority votes:—A golden privet hedge to be planted as a background to the war memorial in the Pinfold; a seat eight feet long, of Burma teak, with suitable coronation inscription on brass plate, to be purchased and placed in the Pinfold; a new electrically - heated copper to be installed in the reading room; fifteen further chairs to be purchased for the reading room;

Kidderminster Shuttle (Christmas issue) 1953

CHURCH BEL
Xmas 1953
RE-DEDICAT

Bishop of Dioc Visits Colton

COLTON will have its c bells ringing for C mas.

It must be three or four since the church bells were clared unsafe to ring an only indication that the a campanology existed in th lage was the few minutes' t of a single bell indicating divine worship was abou begin. Even this small manif tion ceased entirely some m ago. In fact it was made in sible when the three bells taken away by a Loughbor firm of bellfounders for re-tu

Advantage has been take the present act of restoratio bring the system into line modern ideas. Steel frame has taken the place of wood, space has been provided for, hoped, the introduction of th lighter bells at a later date make a more complete set.

Before work to the bells co be justified complete restorat of the tower was called for. T was effected at a cost of £565. A toge her £661 has been spent on th restoration of the bells includin the bells, floor and work nece sary to the girders, making total outlay in this connection i the last three years of som £1,226, which has taken no sma effort to raise.

Colton have had an early visi from the new Bishop of the Lichfield diocese (the Right Rev A. S. Reeve, D.D.) when on Sunday evening he was present at a service of re-dedication of the bells.

In an address, the theme of which was bellringing, Bishop Reeve said that with a particular place in his heart for country churches he had been looking forward to the visit. He had been brought up in a country parish where his father was rector. He hoped that some future occasion might see him present at the installation of an additional trio of bells.

Bishop Reeve remarked on the effort and generosity of those concerned in the raising of so large an amount in so small a place.

At the conclusion of the service the bells were rung by Messrs. Arthur Deacon, Maurice Deacon and Eric Devall. The two last-mentioned are new bellringers.

£62 SURPLUS ON CORONATION

Colton Meeting Decision

A MEETING of Colton Coronation Celebrations committee followed by a public meeting took place recently in the Reading Room.

At the committee meeting Mr. . Taylor (hon. secretary) presented the final statement of account. This showed gross receipts of £261 14s. 6½d. and the expenditure £199 13s. 9½d. A vote of thanks was proposed by the chairman (Mr. W. J. Parr) to all who had contributed towards this extraordinary success.

The purpose of the public meeting was to decide how to dispose of the £62 0s. 9d. surplus. Suggestions were invited and the following proposals were adopted: A golden privet hedge to be planted as a background to the war memorial in the Pinfold; a seat 8 feet long of Burma teak with suitable coronation inscription on a brass plate to be purchased and placed in the Pinfold; a new electrically heated copper to be installed in the Reading Room; fifteen chairs to be purchased for the Reading Room; and the surplus to be handed over to the committee of management of the Reading Room on the express understanding that it is earmarked for use on some occasion for the purpose of improving the ladies' toilet.

The meeting made a gift of wine glasses to the Women's Institute on the understanding that if there was any desire on the part of other organisations or parties to use the wine glasses on occasions, the Women's Institute would sympathetically consider hiring them at a small charge.

It was decided to present the surplus five or six mugs to the first five or six children in the parish born after Coronation Day.

A sub-committee was formed to deal with matters arising out of the meeting's decisions for disposal of the balance.

COLTON

Shrove Tuesday Party.—An enjoyable evening was spent in the reading room on Shrove Tuesday when the Mothers' Union held their annual party, each member inviting a guest. On sitting down to tea, Mrs. Goodwin welcomed the guests. Afterwards a short drive was held, Mrs. Parker being M.C., and a beetle drive Miss D. M. Jones being M.C. for that. The winners at whist were Mrs. J. Devall, Miss Mary Jones and Miss W. Parr, and Mr. W. T. Farley. Mrs. S. Jones was the winner in the beetle drive.

COLTON

MOTHERS' UNION PARTY

An enjoyable evening was spent on Shrove Tuesday in the Reading Room, when the Mothers' Union held their annual party, each member inviting a guest.

Mrs. Goodin welcomed the guests at tea. Afterwards there was a whist drive with Mrs. Parker as M.C. and a beetle drive for which Miss D. M. Jones was M.C. Whist winners were Mrs. J. Devall, Miss Mary Jones, Miss W. Parr and Mr. W. T. Farley. Mrs. S. Jones won the beetle drive.

Games of musical chairs, musical walking sticks and musical bats were enjoyed, also community singing, Miss D. M. Jones playing the piano.

Refreshments were handed round before the party ended.

COLTON TO HAVE LIGHTS

Parish Meeting Adopts Act

BY an overwhelming majority the annual parish meeting at Colton on Thursday evening of last week voted in favour of adopting the Lighting and Watching Act of 1833 for the introduction of public lighting in the parish.

The meeting in the Reading Room was presided over by Mr. W. J. Parr, chairman of the parish council.

A reply to a letter to the Midlands Electricity Board stated that in the absence of precise details of the suggested positions of the various lamps, it was not possible to give accurate estimates of the cost of providing street lighting, but as a guide and a basis for discussion a figure of approximately £6 per lamp per lighting season was suggested.

The letter also stated that whilst it was possible to arrange for the street lamps to be extinguished during moonlit nights, the capital charges which would have to be included in the Board's hire charges would more than offset the saving in electricity consumed.

PROBABLE COST

For the information of the meeting, mention was made that as a 1d. rate in the £ in the parish realised approximately £8, four lights at an approximate cost of £6 each would mean a special rate of 3d. in the £, six lights a 4½d. rate, three lights a 2¾d. rate and two lights a 1½d. rate.

In reply to a question if it was possible to form an opinion as to how the average householder's rates would be affected in the future, an illustration was given of the effect it would have on a rateable value of £8. It was pointed out that on this figure, with the county rate going up by 1s. 6d. in the £ for the year commencing April 1, it would mean an increase of 12s. for a year, and if one added the cost of lighting to this, the total increase would amount to about 15s. On houses let to tenants, the rent could be risen by about 3½d. or 4d. a week to cover the rate additions.

There were thirty-three votes for the adoption of the Act and two against.

A proposition that there should be nine lights was seconded and carried, there being thirty in favour and three against.

Mr. Hardcastle proposed that the nine lights should be positioned as follows: Half-way along the big blue wall at Trent Valley Station; at the school; near the Reading Room; at the Pinfold; at Apsley House corner; at the foot of Bank Top; just above the Long Stile; near Heath Way; and at Stockwell Heath. This was carried as amended by a proposal by Mr. F. W. Cooper and seconded by Mr. T. Alfred James that in place of a light at the school there should be two lights instead of one between Apsley House corner and Heath Way.

SPRAYING OF WEEDS

The parish council were authorised to adopt a tenth light if they should consider it necessary when they come to carry out the scheme. The scheme decided upon will involve a special rate of approximately 7d. or 8d. in the £.

The meeting sanctioned the parish council's precept on the

COLTON

Annual Parish Assembly.—By an overwhelming majority the Annual Parish Assembly on Thursday evening last week voted in favour of adopting the Lighting and Watching Act of 1833 for the introduction of public lighting in the parish.

A reply to a letter to the Midlands Electricity Board stated that in the absence of precise details of the suggested positions of the various lamps, it was not possible to give accurate estimates of the probable cost of providing street lighting, but as a guide and a basis for discussion, a figure of approximately £6 per lamp per lighting season was suggested.

The letter also stated that whilst it was possible to arrange for the street lamps to be extinguished during moonlit nights, the capital charges which would have to be included in the Board's hire charges would more than offset the saving in electricity consumed.

For the information of the meeting, mention was made that as a 1d. rate in the £ in the parish of Colton realised approximately £8, four lights at an approximate cost of £6 each would mean a special rate of 3d. in the £, six lights would mean a 4½d. rate.

A proposition that there should be nine lights was seconded and carried, there being 30 in favour and three against.

Mr. Hardcastle proposed that the nine lights be positioned as follows: Halfway along the big blue wall at the Trent Valley Station, the School, near the Reading Room, the Pinfold, Apsley House Corner, at foot of Bank Top, just above the Long Stile, near Heath Way, and one at Stockwell Heath. This was carried as amended by a proposal by Mr. F. W. Cooper, seconded by Mr. L. Alfred James, that in place of the one at the school there be two lights instead of one between Apsley House Corner and Heath Way.

The parish council were authorised to adopt a tenth light if they should consider it necessary when they came to carry out the scheme.

The scheme decided upon will involve a special rate of 7d. or 8d. approximately in the £.

FIRST TIME CHAIRMAN

Public Lighting Problem

CHAIRMAN for the first time of Colton parish council, Mr. Bernard Bettson, has been a member of the council for many years.

Concerning the use of weed-killer in dealing with noxious weeds on parish road sides, the council has received a letter from the county's department of the Surveyor to the effect that the matter raised at the annual parish assembly in March had been referred to the County Surveyor. The type of weed-killer to be used is not powder but a liquid which was diluted before use. The assurance could safely be given that it was non-poisonous and non-injurious to health and vegetation.

Concerning the hump-backed bridge over the Moreton Brook between Hellamour to Admaston and Hamley, a reply from the County Council stated that the matter had been referred to the county surveyor who had given the information that provision had been included in the current year's approved maintenance estimate for carrying out certain work on this road. This would eliminate the hump over the bridge.

RURAL COUNCIL LETTER

In connection with the decision at the annual parish assembly to adopt the Lighting and Watching Act of 1833 and for nine public lights to be installed with the possibility of a tenth, mention was made by the clerk that the clerk of Lichfield Rural District Council had subsequently written pointing out that powers of administering public lighting in the parish had been acquired by that authority under the provisions of section 161 of the Public Health Act, 1875. Application should be made to the rural council for consideration of any proposals to extend public lighting in the parish.

Discussion ensued regarding the proceedings at the annual parish assembly in the matter of the information contained

BONUS SCHEME FOR WORKERS

olton Public
hting Problem

meeting of Colton parish
ouncil on Thursday of last
a letter was read from
ld R.D.C. regarding the
al of nightsoil.

as pointed out that the
had instituted an incen-
nus scheme for workers
d on the emptying of pail
The scheme would come
the beginning of
and it was hoped that as
the emptying scheme at
operated in part of the
could be extended.
uccess of the scheme de-
upon the extent to which
concerned took advan-
it, but the matter would
under review by the
health committee.

E TO BE INSPECTED

ling the small wooden
e over the stream off
ne, Messrs. F. W. Cooper
Hardcastle reported on
ction they had made.
e of opinion that a more
al bridge with handrails
ired. After viewing the
embers will discuss the
rther at the next meet-

rk (Mr. C. J. Ravens-
duced a reply from the
Lichfield Rural District
the points put forward
arish council in refer-
e question of extension
lighting. The letter
t whilst it was the re-
y of the rural district
decide as to the num-
its to be erected, in all
re making a decision
give full consideration
ommendations and ob-
of the parish council
cal representatives.
the proposal for the
of ten lamps would
the rural council's ap-
ey desired to be in-
ow many lamps the
ncil considered should
.

er confirmed that the
blic lighting would be
special rate on the

ble discussion took
how far public light-
be extended in the
the council decided
committing them-
cial assembly of local
electors should be

DRIVE BEING ISUSED

n (chairman) men-
had been brought to
hat motor traffic-
ield reservoir was
drive leading to
smallholding. The
to ask the County
have a signpost
entrance to Park
ll Heath, bearing
through road for

e overgrown con-
lic footpath round
leading to the
by Mr. R. Morrell
s accepted.
decided that the
Lichfield R.D.C.
n to the present
on of house ref-
causing some in-
arishioners.
e post box at
it was pointed
n weather effort
t letters into the
to be asked to
little more con-
e by elderly

Mercury 5-Jul-47

COLTON PUBLIC LIGHTING

Parish Meeting Backs Proposals

A COLTON parish meeting in the Reading Room on Thursday of last week decided by 26 votes to 11 in favour of additional local public lighting.

The clerk to the parish council referred to the decision to call a parish meeting to further consider the matter before adopting proposals put forward at the annual assembly.

Mr. E. S. Blore stated a case for the non-extension of lighting on the grounds of economy. His views were supported by Mr. W. J. Parr.

TABLED AN AMENDMENT

Mr. F. Hardcastle tabled an amendment and called upon the assembly to back proposals for nine additional lights, with the possibility of a tenth, which were decided upon at the annual parish assembly.

Mr. Charles Robinson supported Mr. Hardcastle's amendment.

Mr. F. W. Cooper asked the gathering not to forget, in deciding how far they were prepared to go with a scheme for the extension of public lighting, that there would be other subjects more significant than this, such as sewerage, which would eventually be coming along and would make further considerable calls upon ratepayers.

Mr. G. E. D. Atkin, senior, queried the proposals for lights in the village when the rest of the parish would be managing without. He felt it was a case where the cost should be met by that part of the village which would be lighted and that the rest of the parish should not be charged.

Mr. F. Felton asked for a modification of the number of lights proposed.

Mr. Victor Hardcastle wondered if Mr. Blore was willing to provide torches to old age pensioners as he seemed to be so concerned about saving the ratepayers' pockets.

Mr. J. W. Grimley, senior, said he hoped it was realised that rents could be raised to meet the cost of lights.

Mrs. Henry B. Webb thought if further money was to be spent it could be better spent on other matters, such as alleviating flooding. Parishioners on the outskirts of the parish would get no benefit from lights, but flooding seemed to her more a matter of priority.

MODIFICATION PLEA

Mr. Fred Norman supported Mr. Felton in asking for a modification of the number of lights which had been suggested.

Mrs. Eleanor S. D. Herbert said mention had been made that part only of the parish would be lighted, but all would have to pay. She pointed out that this was the position in other rural parishes where lighting was in operation and Colton would therefore be no exception.

On the matter being put to the assembly, twenty six held up their hands in support of the amendment in support of the proposed scheme and eleven against. There were five abstentions.

The Rugeley Mercury 13/8/54.

Colton Favoured With Fine Weather

CHURCH GARDEN PARTY RAISES OVER £200

This year Colton dispensed
h an official opening of its gar-
party held on Wednesday of
t week at the Rectory in aid of
Mary's Church funds. Chief
ason for this decision was the
ess of the rector, the Rev. H.
Goodin, and in the absence of
special opener Mr. Bernard
ttson, the rector's church-
rden, extended a welcome to
ose present and invited them
patronise the stalls.

The sudden improvement in
ther after a dismal wet
Holiday week-end again
ayed a very considerable part
the success of the effort, as a
sult of which the admirable
m of something like £210 has
en added to the credit side of
e church's accounts.

There were many old features
this annual event, manned
most entirely by familiar help-
s of the past few years.

An attractively laid out work
all was again attended by Mrs.
odin, Mrs. John W. Grimley,
nr., Mrs. Sargent, Miss Elsie
rd and Mrs. Robert Grimley,
rs. Greta Chapman being an
ditional helper.

As last year, Miss C. N. L.
illiscroft, Miss Ellen Rotchell,
rs. W. J. Parr, Mrs. F. H. Ban-
ister and Miss J. A. Best looked
ter the produce stall, whilst
rs. Julia L. Taylor was again
sponsible for the china stall,
nd Mrs. G. S. Collier, assisted by
Mrs. David Collier and Miss Col-
ier, for the ices and soft drinks
talls. A bran tub and stall were
again run by the Sunday School
girls. The Misses Mary and Agnes
Jones and Miss Dorothy Cooper
this time took charge of the cakes
stall.

After being dispensed with last
year the rummage stall was again
given a run, attended by Mrs.
Alice Meddings and Mrs. A. Louise
Devall.

The side-shows were as in previous years with Mr. Bettson again in charge of bowls. Clock golf attendant, Miss Dorothy Jones; giant skittles, Mr. F. W. Cooper, assisted by Mr. E. S. Blore; hoop-la, Mrs. J. H. Toy and Mrs. F. Knight; treasure hunt, Miss Winifred Parr.

Competitions run by Mrs. Collier, Mrs. Price, Mrs. Alice Blore, Mrs. M. F. Norman, Mrs. Jane Hardcastle, Mrs. Ruth Boycott, Mrs. Grimley, Mrs. Goodin, Mrs. W. J. Parr, Miss A. L. I. Hoare and the Sunday School all added to the enjoyment of the occasion besides making a noteworthy contribution to the proceeds.

Mr. W. T. Farley and Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft were again on the "gate," assisted by Mr. Arthur Deacon. In the refreshments marquee Mrs. Bettson, Mrs. J. Parker and helpers again catered for the company.

Mr. Ben Jackson's band contributed to the pleasure of the party.

Actual gross takings were approximately £234, the result comparing very favourably with previous years.

series of six
ised by the
was held in
last Friday.
as M.C. and
ted by Mrs.

man was the M.C., and Mrs. Capewell, of Newton, presented the prizes to: Mrs. G. Vernon, Mr. B. Bettson, Mrs. R. H. Bloor, Mr. S. Woodward, Mrs. J. Bentley, Mr. P.

ADVERTISER 6/8/54
COLTON

Wedding.— The wedding to
place on Monday at Colton
Mary's Church, between M
Doreen Valentine Eaton, on
daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willia
Eaton, of Bank House, Colton, ar
Mr. Reginald William Matthew
youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. W
Matthews, of Penkridge Bank
Rugeley. The service, which was
choral, was conducted by the
Rev. Need, Vicar of Mavesyn Rid-
ware. The bride, who was given
away by her father was in Ivory
figured taffeta and head-dress of
Orange Blossom and Pearls, and
carried a bouquet of red tea roses.
She was attended by six brides-
maids, Miss Cynthia Nicklin
(friend of bride) and Miss
Maureen Shipley (bride's cousin),
were dressed in mauve taffeta
under net, and had bouquets of
pink carnations. Miss Dorothy
Smith (bride's cousin), Miss Hil-
da Pitt (niece of bridegroom),
were dressed in lemon taffeta and
carried bouquets of pink carna-
tion. Miss Christine Leeke (cousin
of bride) and Miss Dianne Grim-
ley (friend) were in white figured
Taffeta, and carried baskets of
flowers. The best man was Mr. E.
Room. The mother of the bride
was attired in a blue two-piece
with black accessories and the
mother of the bridegroom was in
green with brown accessories. A
reception was held in the reading
room, at which about 90 guests
were present. The honeymoon is
being spent at Llandudno, the
bride going away in a blue silk
coat and white dress and match-
ing accessories. Mr. and Mrs. R.
W. Matthews' future residence will
be at Silver Trees, Penkridge
Bank, Rugeley.

A whist drive was held in the Reading Room last Friday. It was organised by the Women's Institute and was the first of a series of six. Mr. Fred Norman was M.C. and Mrs. B. Jackson presented the prizes. Winners were Mrs. W. J. Myatt, Mr. J. Devall, Mrs. Felton, Mr. W. J. Sproston, Miss W. Heathcote, Mr. G. Amyes; lowest scores, Mrs. J. W. Harvey and Mr. Gibson; mystery, Miss Heathcote.

Rugeley Mercury, Friday, Oct 8th 1954.

COLTON

A whist drive, held in the Rea
ing Room last Friday, was orga
ised by the Mothers' Union ar
friends for Sunday-school funds
Mr. Fred Norman was M.C. ar
Mrs. Goodin presented the prize
Winners were Miss M. Hampso
Mr. B. Bettson, Mrs. G. Deaco
Mr. Andrews, Mrs. B. Jackso
Mr. E. Rowe; lowest scores, Mr
Lakin and Mr. F. Taylor; an
mystery prizes, Miss W. Parr an
Mrs. F. H. Bannister.
Mrs. Goodin thanked all wh
had helped in any way to make
success of the effort.

Mercury 22/10/54.

TON 19/11/54
Whist Drive

was held in the
Friday, organ-
eadmaster and
n School. The
are to provide a
nd gifts for the

LIGHTING

Summer Period to be Excluded

MEETING in the parish room on Wednesday of last week. Colton parish council further discussed the question of modifying proposals for public lighting extensions.

It was pointed out, however, that the resolutions agreed to at parish assemblies could only be altered by a majority at an assembly of local government electors. They could not be varied by the parish council.

On the option given by parish assemblies to the parish council to recommend the installation of a tenth light if the parish council should feel this desirable, it was decided that consideration of this should be deferred.

The meeting decided to recommend to Lichfield Rural District Council that the lamps should be lighted half an hour after sunset and to remain on until midnight, and that there should be no lighting from May to September (inclusive).

Mr. F. Hardcastle was appointed the council's representative to meet the engineer and surveyor of Lichfield Rural District Council and the area surveyor, Staffordshire County Council, County Roads and Bridges Dept., Uttoxeter area, to agree to the siting of the lamps.

PARK LANE SIGNPOST

A letter was read from the clerk to Staffordshire County Council concerning the erection of a signpost in Park Lane, Stockwell Heath, with a view to preventing motor vehicles from misusing the drive leading to Park Barn smallholding. The County Surveyor was arranging for the provision of a "No Through Road" sign in accordance with the request of the council.

Concerning the resolution made at the last meeting as to approaching Lichfield Rural District Council for regularising the emptying of refuse bins, it was pointed out that a bonus scheme was being operated in this connection. The meeting arranged that the matter should be reviewed later.

Another resolution called upon the County Council to proceed forthwith with the cleaning out of the Moreton Brook from the footbridge round the brookside leading into the Marsh to the highway bridge over the brook between the school and Bellamour Corner.

Another resolution, arising out of a request by Mr. F. W. Cooper, directed the clerk to write to the County Council asking for the reinstatement of the white broken line on the highway between Rugeley Trent Valley Station and Bellamour End, with the addition of cats-eyes at Gipsy's Corner for extra guidance during fog.

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friends. After a good tea, carols were sung and games played. Miss D. M. Jones playing the piano.

Then Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Best gave a very much enjoyed film show, local items of which always provide much amusement. Gifts were presented to all children from the Christmas tree by the Rev. and Mrs. H. H. Goodin.

The special prize given by Mrs. F. Taylor for attendance was won by Ruth Ravenscroft, and other prizes for unbroken attendance for the year were won by Ann Preston, June Collyer, and Judith Preston. On leaving the children were given balloons, oranges, apples and mincepies.

ECCLESHALL

Wednesday.

COLTON

CHURCH SUNDAY-SCHOOL CHILDREN'S PARTY

Sunday-school children of St. Mary's Church, Colton, had an enjoyable party in the Reading Room on Wednesday of last week. It was arranged by Mothers' Union members and friends.

After a good tea, carols were sung and games played. Miss D. M. Jones was the pianist. Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Best gave a film show. Gifts were presented to the children from a Christmas tree by the Rev. and Mrs. H. H. Goodin. A special attendance prize, given by Mrs. F. Taylor, was won by Ruth Ravenscroft. Other prizes for unbroken attendance during the year went to Ann Preston, June Collyer and Judith Preston.

On leaving, the children were given balloons, oranges, apples and mince pies.

... of the committee.

COLTON (4)

Snowball Whist

The fourth in the series of snowball whist drives arranged by the Women's Institute for their funds was held in the Reading Room on Friday. Mr. Fred Norman was the M.C., and the president, Mrs. F. Cawthorne, presented the prizes to Mrs. L. C..., Mr. Neil Udale, Mrs. W. J. ..., Mrs. J. Devall, Mrs. C. J. Ravenscroft, Mr. J. W. Harvey; ... scores, Miss Lucy Norman, Miss Sheila Preston. The mystery prize (a bottle of wine) was won by Mr. F. Norman.

ECCLESHALL

COLTON

SUNDAY SCHOOL WHIST

... annual whist drive for ... School funds was organ... the Church Council and ... and held in the Reading ... on Friday. Mr. Fred Nor... was M.C. and the prizes were ... ed by Miss Ellen Rotchell ... s a long period of service ... nday School teacher. Prize ... were:— Miss Lucy Nor..., Mr. T. Jones, Mrs. B. M..., croft, Mr. G. E. D. Atkin..., Mrs. Felton, Miss D. M. ..., ...tures, Miss Marion ... nd Mr. T. Jones. Travelling ... Mrs. G. M. Upton and Mr. ... Smithers. The mystery ... bottle of port), went to ... n Hill of Abbots Bromley.

... the Council ... to meet the Engineer and Surveyor of Lichfield Rural District Council and the Area Surveyor, Staffordshire County Council, County Roads and Bridges Dept., Uttoxeter Area, to agree the siting of the lamps.

Another resolution, arising out of a request by Mr. F. W. Cooper, directed the Clerk to write to the County Council as highway authority and ask for the re-instatement of the white broken line on the highway between Rugeley Trent Valley Station and Bellamour End with the addition of cats-eyes at Gipsy's Corner for extra guidance during fog.

A w... Readi... ised b... Club ... Chris... outine ... M.C., ... sente... Mary's ... Mrs. ... Mrs. ... Mrs. ... lowes... Mr. Nicholson. The miniature prizes were won by Mrs. Bettson and Mrs. Westhorpe, and the mystery prize went to Mr. Nicholson.

COLTON 17/12/54

...or Reading Room

...rustees of the Reading ... ganised a whist drive on ... he proceeds being for the ... of the Room. Mr. Fred ... was the M.C. and Mrs. ... r presented the prizes to ... Devall, Mr. R. Bannister, ... Eaton, Mr. P. Westhorpe, ... Bettson, Mr. E. S. Blore; ... Mrs. B. ... lowest scores, Mrs. B. Jackson and Mr. B. Bettson. The mystery prizes went to Mrs. V. Collins and Mr. Bettson.

... to illness and the weather it ... not so well attended as us... After a good tea a whist dr... was held, the winners being M... Eaton, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. J. De..., and Mrs. King. Mr. and Mrs. ... A. Best gave one of their popu... film shows which was much ... joyed.

COLTON

W.I. WHIST DRIVE

The last of a series of six snowball whist drives arranged by ... Women's Institute for their fu... was held in the Reading room ... Friday of last week. Mr. F. Norman was M.C. and Mrs. Bettson presented the prizes ... Mrs. Sargeant, Mrs. J. Park..., Miss M. Webb, Mr. R. G. Bl..., Mrs. B. Jackson, Mr. Geo... Hampson, Mrs. C. J. Ravenscr... and Mr. F. Norman. Myst... prizes were won by Mrs. Ins... and Mr. W. J. Parr.

Mercury 11/3/55

COLTON

LIGHTING SCHEME.—Before ... annual parish assembly at the R... ing Room on March 24 was a l... from the clerk to Lichfield R... District Council regarding the ... posed extended scheme of p... lighting. This stated that the M... lands Electricity Board were prep... to provide ten lamps at an an... charge of £7 per lamp, equivalen... an 8d. rate. The letter stated ... the matter would be considered ... the Finance Committee of the R... District Council on April 7, ... asked for the observations of ... Parish Council. Mr. Fred Hardca... proposed and Mr. F. W. Coo... seconded. That the quotation of ... per light be accepted for light... nine lamps, with the recommendat... that the Rural District Council ... the Midlands Electricity Board fo... reduction in cost. Mr. William ... Jones (Lea Hall Farm, Admasto...) moved an amendment which ... seconded by Mr. W. J. Parr, t... the Lichfield Rural District Cou... be recommended not to accept ... quotation of £7, but to press ... M.E.B. for a reduced quotation. ... being put to the gathering 13 vot... in favour of the amendment and ... against. Mr. Bernard Bettson, ... chairman of the Parish Council, pr... sided over the meeting.

... to extend public lighting at ... ton, was read at the annual p... meeting on Thursday of ... week.

The letter stated that the ... lands Electricity Board were ... pared to provide, erect and ... mission ten lamps in the posi... agreed at an annual charg... £7 per lamp, equivalent to a... rate. The matter would be ... sidered by the Finance Com... tee of the rural council on ... 7 and the observations of ... parish council were sought.

After discussion Mr. Fred H... castle proposed and Mr. F. ... Cooper seconded that the ... tation of £7 per light shoul... accepted for lighting nine la... with the recommendation tha... rural council should ask the ... lands Electricity Board for ... duction in cost.

Mr. William J. Jones (Ad... ton) moved an amendment ... was seconded by Mr. W. J. ... that the rural council shoul... recommended not to accept ... quotation of £7, but to pres... M.E.B. for a reduced quotati...

Thirteen voted in favour o... amendment and 10 against.

Mr. Bernard Bettson (chai... of the parish council), preside...

... recommended ... the parish ... system ... Colton Parish Council last week. Mr. Blore said that he had it on reliable authority that a parish assembly could only act in an advisory capacity, and put forward suggestions and recommendations for consideration by the parish council; it could not in itself transact parish business independently of the parish council.

The meeting decided to take the opinion of Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association on this question, and to defer any business to do with public lighting in the interim.

It was agreed, however, that the recommendation of the annual parish assembly held on March 24, concerning the cost of public lighting must be sent forward for consideration by Lichfield R.D.C.

Satisfaction was expressed that arrangements for the removal by Lichfield Rural District Council of night soil extended so as to include the whole of the parish of Colton, particularly where the pail system was in use, continued to be satisfactory since the introduction of the bonus scheme.

Regarding the proposed improvement at the junction of roads at the top of Hurstwood Hill, it was reported that the corner of the grass verge had not as yet been taken off. A resolution was made on the proposition of Mr. Cooper, seconded by Mr. Bettson, that the Clerk be directed to draw the attention of the County Council, as highway authority, to the effect that this job has not as yet been completed.

Regarding house refuse collection in the parish, the meeting expressed the opinion that this continued to be satisfactory. As to the post-box near the Colton Parish Lands Trust's row of cottages at Stockwell Heath, and the question of slightly adjusting its position, the Clerk read a letter received from the Head Postmaster, Greengate, Stafford, reporting that the box had now been securely affixed to a telegraph pole some 25 yards from the original site. The posting box was now at the far end of the cottages and on the opposite side of the road.

A reply from the County Surveyor's Department dealing with the Parish Council's request that the stretch of the Moreton Brook which lies between the brook bridge on the highway and the footbridge leading over the brook into the field called the Marsh, where the brook divides into two, be again cleaned out so as to alleviate flooding on the highway between Bellamour Corner and Colton School, stated that an inspection had been made, and it was agreed that the practical method of alleviating the flooding conditions was to carry out cleansing of the brook course in a similar manner as was done some years ago with satisfactory results.

As regards the parish council's further inquiry, the letter explained that the brook does not come within the jurisdiction of the Trent River Board, but it was understood that the Board were or would be seeking powers to take these tributaries over, and this would be a step in the right direction when this took place.

The letter concluded by explaining that the Chief Drainage Officer of the Agricultural Executive Committee was being consulted, and the Parish Council would be advised in due course as to the results.

A further letter gave the information that the Chief Drainage Officer of the Agricultural Executive Committee finds that the trouble is due to lack of maintenance of the water course. He had therefore written to the various riparian owners asking them to carry out the necessary maintenance and he had promised to let the County Surveyor know the result of these enquiries.

The County Surveyor comm... in his second letter that he h... doubt ... appreciate...

COLTON PUBLI LIGHTING

A Legal Positio Explained

AT the annual meeting of ton parish council on Th day of last week, Mr. B. Bett was re-elected as chairman.

Mr. W. J. Parr was appoir one of the council's two repres tatives on Colton Parish La Trust for four years in place Mr. F. W. Cooper. Regard representatives on the mana ment committee of the read room, Messrs. B. Bettson and Norman were appointed in pl of Messrs. F. W. Cooper and Hardcastle. Mr. A. N. Felton elected a third representative a year or until the present o future people's warden of Mary's Church expresses his her desire to exercise his or rights to a place on the com tee. Mr. Farley was re-elected three years as the council's re sentative on Colton school m agement. Delegates appointed the 16th annual conference Staffordshire Parish Councils' sociation were Messrs. R. Mor and F. Hardcastle.

It was reported that no r was as yet forthcoming from county roads and bridges dep ment concerning completion the improvement at the junc of the roads at the top of Ht wood Hill.

CONTROLLING AUTHORI

Regarding extending pl lighting to various points in parish, the clerk (Mr. C. Ravenscroft) said he had ta the opinion of Staffordshire Pa Councils' Association concer the legal position as betwee assembly of local governi electors of the parish and parish council. The reply rece stated that, generally speal the parish council were the trolling authority in the pa Beyond certain specified insta resolutions and deliberations parish council were indefea and a parish assembly could over-reach a decision of the cou cil. In the case where the rural district council referred matters to the parish for their views, it would be the views of the parish council, as the local authority for the parish, that they were seeking. If the parish elected a parish council, then they should have sufficient faith in its members to carry out the affairs of the parish in the best possible way. If the parish council did not live up to their expectations, the remedy was in the electors' hands at the next election.

The meeting was reminded that in furtherance of the scheme for nine lights, with the possibility of a tenth, the parish council had resolved on December 15 to defer the institution of a tenth light and made certain recommendations to Lichfield Rural District Council, such as at what hour the lights should be extinguished at night and the close season. At that meeting there were five parish councillors, two of whom abstained from voting on the resolutions and recommendations. Of the other three, possibly two, but at least one, voted for the resolution and recommendations with the mistaken impression that the decision of the parish assembly was indefeasible, and this being so, no option was left but to put the scheme into effect.

ADVERTISER & CHRONICLE 9/6/55

COLTON

PARISH COUNCIL. — At the initial meeting of the newly-elected parish council held in the Reading Room on June 2, Mr. B. Bettson was re-elected for a second year's term of office as chairman on a unanimous decision. Mr. W. J. Parr was appointed one of the parish council's two representatives on Colton Parish Lands Trust for the usual statutory period of four years, in place of Mr. F. W. Cooper, whose four years of office expired this year. In regard to the representatives on the Committee of Management of the Reading Room, Messrs. B. Bettson and F. Norman were appointed in the places of Messrs. F. W. Cooper and F. Hardcastle for the ensuing year. Mr. A. N. Felton was elected a third representative (Mr. E. S. Blore's year having expired) to hold office as a member of the committee for a year or until the present or a future people's warden of St. Mary's Church expresses his or her desire to exercise his or her rights to a place on the committee. The clerk (Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft) stated that Mr. Farley's three years' period as the parish council's representative on Colton School Management was up this year. Resolved that Mr. Farley be re-appointed for the next three years. Delegates appointed to the 16th annual conference of Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association were Messrs. R. Morrall and F. Hardcastle. It was reported that still no reply was as yet forthcoming from the county roads and bridges department concerning completion of the improvement at the junction of the roads at top of Hurstwood Hill. On the question of extension of public lighting to various further points in the parish the clerk said he had taken the opinion of the Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association concerning the legal position between an assembly of the local Government electors of the parish and the parish council as arranged, and the reply received stated that generally speaking the parish council were the controlling authority in the parish, not the parish assembly otherwise parish meeting. Beyond certain specified instances resolutions and deliberations of a parish council were indefeasible, and a parish assembly could not overreach a decision of the parish council. The reply continues as follows: "In the case where the rural district council refers matters to the parish for their views it would, in my opinion, be the views of the parish council, as the local authority for the parish that they are seeking. If the parish elect a parish council then they should have sufficient faith in its members to carry out the affairs of the parish in the best possible way. If the parish council do not live up to their expectations the remedy is in the electors' hands at the next election." With respect to the resolution of the parish assembly, held on October 28 last, the meeting was reminded that in furtherance of the scheme for nine lights, with the possibility of a tenth, the parish council, at their meeting on December 15, resolved to defer the institution of a tenth light, and made certain recommendations to Lichfield Rural District Council—in whom are vested the powers of lighting in the parish—such as at what hour the lights should be extinguished at night and the close season, that is, the period in the summer when it is considered there should be no lighting. At this meeting there were five parish councillors, two of whom abstained altogether from the resolutions and recommendations. Of the other three, possibly two, but at least one, voted for the resolution and recommendations, with the mistaken impression that the decision of the parish assembly was indefeasible, and this being so, no option was left but to put the scheme into effect. Before, therefore, the parish council could recommend a modification of the nine lights proposals it would be necessary to get rid of the resolution and recommendations of December 15 on this subject. Mr. Parr accordingly proposed, and Mr. Noramn seconded, that owing to mis-impression such resolution and recommendations be rescinded. This was carried by five votes to one, there being no seconder to an attempted amendment by Mr. Hardcastle that the minutes of the meeting on December 15 remain as read and passed. The meeting was informed that a period of six months must elapse following rescission before any further resolution or recommendations on this subject could be carried through. The clerk gave the information that the balance in hand at the end of the year 1954/55 was £23 10s. 3d. The meeting agreed unanimously to make a precept upon the rating authority for £40. On Mr. Parr's proposition, which was seconded by Mr. Norman, the clerk was directed to approach Staffordshire County Council county roads and bridges department, as to provision of a "halt" sign near Apsley House corner.

ADVERTISER 14/5/55

COLTON

WEDDING.—The wedding took place on Saturday at St. Mary's Church, Colton, of Miss Laura Yates, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Yates, of 6, Heathway, Colton, and Mr. Henry Probyn, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Probyn, of Stile Cottage, Etching Hill, Rugeley. The rector, Rev. H. H. Goodin, conducted the service, which was choral, Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft being at the organ. The hymns were "Lead Us, Heavenly Father" and "The King of Love." The bride, given away by her father, was dressed in white tulle and lace, and a head-dress of orange blossom and rhinestone, and carried a bouquet of lilies and carnations. The bridesmaids were Miss Phylls Yates and Miss Pamela Yates, sisters of the bride. They were dressed in white nylon and net over taffeta, with pink ribbon sashes and head-dresses of pink rosebuds and lily of the valley. They carried posies of pink tulips. The best man was Mr. Boyce Probyn, brother of the bridegroom.

ADVERTISER

AVERAGE—10 MILES A DAY



TO have averaged a ten miles walk a day for 41 years is the record of Miss Helen Rotchell, of Berry Cottage, Colton, postwoman for the village. Here she is seen delivering a letter to Mr. J. H. Jones, who, at 87, is believed to be the oldest active man in the village.

It was in December, 1915, when women all over Britain were doing men's work, that Miss Rotchall began her postal deliveries in the Colton district. Then her daily round was eight and a half miles. Now she completes 14 miles a day—and still likes walking off duty.

In all that time and in all weathers, she has only lost 20 months due to sickness, two of the occasions being in recent years when she broke her wrist twice in two years.

She has also found time to be a Sunday School teacher for 30 years, a member of the Women's Institute for 11 years, and a member of the W.I. Committee for eight years.

ADVERTISER 110/55

COLT

THANKSGIVING. anksgiving services ary's Church, Colt e rector (the Rev. ficiated at 8.15 a.m., on, at morning servi er celebration of H ich followed matins young at a service afternoon were M d Miss Ellen Rotch

R. Ladell, vicar o urch, Abbots Bro lton for evensong, ing in charge of bots Bromley. Co divided between th Missions and the search Fund. Th essed for the care and trouble and e several ladies and a gentleman d taken in preparing and arranging decorations.

READING ROOM.—The trustees the Reading Room held a meeting September 28 to discuss how to se funds for the upkeep of the om which has just been done up, luding re-painting and decorating, h inside and out, the cost of the ne being approximately £130. It s decided as well as welcoming scriptions, to hold a series of six

Mrs. Harris, Mr. H. Rushton, Mr. Scott and Mrs. R. Knight.

Mr. Blow thanked Mr. and Mrs. Jones for the use of their home for the effort and to all who gave prizes or helped in any way to make the evening the success it was.

W.I. WHIST DRIVE

The fifth of a series of snowball whist drives arranged by the Women's Institute for their funds was held in the Reading Room on Friday of last week.

Mr. Fred Norman was M.C. and Miss M. Hampson presented the prizes to Miss Hampson, Mr. F. Norman, Miss D. Rowe, Mr. W. J. Parr, Mrs. P. Cawthorne, Mr. B. Bettson, Mrs. R. Bannister, Mrs. Woolley and Mrs. H. G. Buckley.

the Reading Room on Friday, when Mr. Fred Norman was M.C. Mrs. Mary Bloor, presented the prizes to :— Mrs. A. Lakin, Mr. Shipley, Mrs. B. Jackson, Mr. V. Andrews, Miss Patricia Hurley, Mr. S. Peake, Mrs. Bloor, Mr. Stanley Upton, Mrs. P. Goodall and Mr. D. Garwood. Lowest scores Mrs. G. Deacon and Mr. Capewell. Miniatures, Mrs. G. Morrall and Mr. Upton. The mystery prizes were won by Mr. Leonard Rowe, Mrs. C. Amyes, Miss Pamela Jones.

23/6/55

Mr. A. Devall, of Colton

AT St. Mary's Church, Colton, on Saturday, the funeral took place of Mr. Albert Devall, late of School Cottages, Colton, near Rugeley. He was 63.

A native of Colton, he worked for many years as a local roadman. The son of the late Mr. William Devall, who was sexton at Colton Church for some time, he leaves a widow and one son.

The Rev. H. H. Goodwin, Rector of Colton, officiated at the service. Organist was Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft.

Family mourners were: Mrs. A. L. Devall (widow), Mr. Eric Devall (son),

weather was no small factor in making the garden party at the Rectory on Wednesday of last week the huge success it was. Colton has been very fortunate in this respect for the past few years, and even last year the weather turned out to be most propitious for the occasion. So much so, that the takings constituted a record since this annual event was first promoted. Yet another step has been taken in this direction, the proceeds this year being slightly higher at £210 gross, added to which the £30 realised at the recent rummage sale makes a gross total of £240. At the moment of writing, the exact expenses are not known. They are, however, estimated at £25, so that the total nett figure is likely to work out at £215

Lady Bagot, who was introduced by the rector (the Rev. H. H. Goodin) and was accompanied by Lord Bagot, opened the fete. In her opening words she spoke of past achievements, and congratulated all concerned on their accomplishments. This year the money was to be devoted towards improving the church heating system, she said. One could usually manage to keep cool in church buildings, but to keep warm was a more difficult and expensive task. The improved heating would not only make things more amenable for those attending church, but would do the building itself good, she remarked. Lord and Lady Bagot were accorded a vote of thanks on the proposition of Mr. John Parker (people's warden) and Mr. Bernard Bettson (rector's warden). A bouquet, the donor of which was Mrs. Goodin, was presented to Lady Bagot by Dianne Grimley. Lord Bagot accepted a buttonhole offered by Pamela Jones.

Stallholders and those in attendance were as follows:—Work stall: Mrs. E. M. Goodin, Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, Mrs. E. W. Grimley and Mrs. F. Grimley, Mrs. D. M. Atkin and Miss E. Bird; produce, etc., stall: Mrs. P. B. Best, Mrs. W. A. Bannister, Miss C. N. L. Williscroft, Mrs. L. K. Parr and Miss E. Rotchell; china stall: Mrs. J. L. Taylor; cake stall: Miss Agnes Jones, Mrs. Westhorpe and Mrs. E. Knight; ices and soft drinks: Mrs. M. L. Collier, Mrs. M. Collier and helpers; rummage stall: Mrs. A. Meddings and Mrs. A. L. Devall; Sunday School stall, bran tub, balloons, buttonholes and lavender bags: Sunday School members. Amusements:—Hoop-la stall: Mrs. M. S. Toy, Mrs. E. Knight and Mrs. Westhorpe; bowling: Mr. B. Bettson and Mr E. S. Blore; clock golf: Miss Dorothy Jones; treasure hunt, Miss W. L. Parr.

Prizes given for purposes of competitions were won by Miss Godwin (Hednesford), Mrs. Parrott, Mr. Sanders (Rugeley), Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Miss Agnes Jones, Mrs. G. Upton, Mr. H. G. Buckley, Mrs. E. E. Lycett, Master Alan Myatt, Miss E. Rotchell and Mrs. A E. Morris.

Mr. Colin Sargeant did a good trade with pony riding, and Mrs. J. Degg created amusement with "fortune-telling." Mr. Maurice Williscroft conducted a limited sports programme for children, and Mr. W. J. Parr and Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft assisted as "gate" attendants.

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and [illegible] stall: Mrs. A. Meddings and Mrs. A. L. Devall; Sunday School stall, bran tub, balloons, buttonholes and lavender bags: Sunday School members. Amusements:—Hoop-la stall: Mrs. M. S. Toy, Mrs. E. Knight and Mrs. Westhorpe; bowling: Mr. B. Bettson and Mr E. S. Blore; clock golf: Miss Dorothy Jones; treasure hunt, Miss W. L. Parr.

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Mr. Colin Sargeant did a good trade with pony riding, and Mrs. J. Degg created amusement with "fortune-[illegible] Mr. Maurice

PARISH COUNCIL.—All of the seven members were present when the Parish Council met at the Reading Room on Thursday of last week. Re[illegible] improvement of the junction of the roads at the top of Hurstwood Hill it was reported that the corner of the [illegible] on the Colton side did not appear to have been taken off as [illegible]. The Parish Council decided to take this matter up further with the County Council as highway authority. As to the question of alleviation of flooding of the road between Bellamour Corner and the school, the clerk was directed to write to the County Council and enquire the result of their approaches to the riparian landowners regarding the cleansing of their stretches of the Moreton Brook. Further that the County Council be again approached as to the desirability of inviting the River Trent Catchment Board to take over responsibility for the cleansing of this tributary. In the absence of any satisfactory move in these two directions the meeting resolved to communicate with the County Roads and Bridges Department requesting that the latter should consider raising the level of the highway sufficiently to eliminate the flooding or at any rate to reduce it to a minimum. The Parish Council noted with satisfaction that following the laying of the continuous white line the fixing of the promised "catseyes" road reflector studs had now improved road conditions at Gipsies' Corner. Regarding the Parish Council's request for the erection of a "Halt" sign at [illegible] a letter from the county surveyor's department was read stating that the department had conferred with the superintendent of police and it was not considered that the volume of traffic, or the conditions, justified the provision of a "Halt" sign. The superintendent of police had stated that the chief constable thought that a "Slow" sign on the minor road should be sufficient. Arrangements were therefore being made for the provision of such a sign. A detailed statement from the returning officer of expenses of the triennial election of parish councillors and a representative on the Rural District Council in May last was produced. The Parish Council resolved to pay the total shown on the statement, amounting to £17 8s. 2d. A circular letter from Shenstone Parish Council solicited the support of all the parishes in the rural district of Lichfield to the principle of the establishment of litter baskets in those parishes which felt there was an urgent need for some such provision. It was emphasised that this did not mean that Shenstone were asking that each parish should apply for litter baskets. Their intention was to demonstrate to the Rural District Council, who appeared so far to have flatly refused the provision of such baskets, that all the parishes were in agreement with the principle that those who desired them should be supplied with same. The Parish Council resolved that the matter remain in abeyance for the time being. Members, while appreciating the improvement carried out a little while since at the junction of Bellamour Lane with the Rugeley-Uttoxeter road, near Bellamour Lane Farmhouse, when the existing holly hedge was replaced by an open type of fencing considerably enhancing visibility at this point, decided to again press for the provision of a "Keep Left" arrangement on an island at this junction. Mr. Norman advised the meeting that the occupier of Park Barn smallholding at Stockwell Heath, had effected a great deal of improvement—no doubt at considerable expense—to that section of Park Lane which lies beyond the entrance to Crab Tree Farm drive. On his proposal, which was seconded by Mr. Bettson (chairman), the clerk was instructed to write and request that the County Council as highway authority, be now good enough to take over such section and assume responsibility for its future maintenance. This was carried unanimously. A resolution was made that the Rural District Council be approached regarding the question of the provision of a telephone kiosk at the top end of the village, in view of the [illegible] housing development which had taken place in that part of the parish since the last war.

Parish Council and [illegible] flooding at Colton

ADVERTISER 3/11/55

Sir,—Might I be allowed to correct an error in last week's issue of the Rugeley "Times" the report reads — "Following earlier complaints, the Parish Council asked the County Council they would instruct landowners to clean their stretches of the brook, to alleviate the flooding Actually the Parish Council if they ask the County Council if they would instruct landowners to clear their stretches of the brook. P[illegible] the last meeting the Parish Council had resolved that the County Council be asked to make further cleansing operations between the brook bridge on the highway and the footbridge on the brookside leading into the [illegible] known as the Marsh.

A reply was received from the County Roads and Bridges Department advising that the site had been inspected and agreeing on the practical method of alleviating the flooding conditions was to carry out cleansing of the brook in course in a similar manner as was done some years ago with satisfactory results.

A further letter came to hand stating that the County Roads and Bridges Department had been in contact with the chief drainage officer of the Agricultural Executive Committee and he had made an inspection of the Moreton Brook at Colton and found that the trouble was due to lack of maintenance of the watercourse. He had, therefore, written to the various riparian owners asking them to carry out the necessary maintenance. The chief drainage officer had promised to let the County Roads and Bridges Department know the results of these enquiries and the department said they had no doubt something could be done if the various riparian landowners were prepared to carry out the work on a voluntary basis. It will thus be seen that it was the chief drainage officer's own idea to contact the riparian landowners and that aspect of the matter had nothing to do with the Parish Council.

This was the position when the subject came up for further discussion at our last meeting on October 6, and it was then that the Parish Council decided, after enquiring the result of the approaches to the riparian landowners it had been decided to make, to again request that the County Council to invite the River Trent Catchment Board to take over responsibility for the cleansing of this tributary and to consider raising the level of the highway sufficiently to alleviate the flooding.

I trust that this explanation may correct and misimpression in the minds of your readers concerning the Parish Council's attitude and will help the matter to be seen in its true perspective.

C. J. RAVENSCROFT
Clerk to the Parish Council.

COLTON

WHIST.—The first of the series of six whist drives to benefit the Reading Room funds was held in the Reading Room on October 25. As explained by the rector (the Rev. H. H. Goodin). the room was left in 1921 by the late Mr. Henry Horsfall and another member of the Horsfall family, to be run by a committee of management of five people in the interests of the parish, on the conditions laid down at the time. Whilst this was a most cherished possession, and such gifts are not easily come by, it nevertheless placed a responsibility on the parish for its upkeep and maintenance, the like of which the parish had not previously had to bear. Since the room left the possession of the Horsfall family and they ceased to maintain it, in the absence of an endowment fund this committee, with the assistance of other bodies and persons in the parish, have organised efforts on many occasions, which, due to the generosity of the public, have always resulted in the room having paid its way. The committee, he said, have just found it necessary, in the interests of the room and the parish itself, to have certain further work done, and there seemed little doubt that everyone would appreciate the "new look" the room has received following the recent application of the paint-brush and other decorating facilities, both inside and out.

The committee decided they would go ahead with them, in the knowledge that they had been able to rely on the goodwill of the parishioners in similar instances in the past, and they were confident that the required funds would not be lacking on this present occasion. With this object in view, therefore, the trustees and committee has decided to launch the present series of whist drives, and it was a matter of great encouragement to the committee to find such splendid support forthcoming at the initial effort on Tuesday evening. If a similar result could be achieved at the remaining five whist drives, the committee had little doubt that they would be well on the way to being placed on the right side financially.

An added interest to the present series of games is a silver cup, which will be presented to the player obtaining the highest grand score over the whole series. The following were well off at the start of Tuesday's evening game, when the prizes were presented by Mrs. E. M. Goodin as follows: Miss Lucy Norman, Mr. B. Bettson, Mrs. E. Talbot, Mr. W. J. Sproston, Mrs. M. Bloor, Mr. R. G. Harris, miniature, Mrs. I. Horrall and Mr. E. L. Devalle; lowest scores, Miss Agnes Jones and Mr. R. G. Blore. The mystery prize went to Mr. W. T. Farley. Mr. Fred Norman carried out the duties of M.C.

MOTHERS' UNION. — The Mothers' Union met at the Rectory on Tuesday afternoon, when speaker was Mrs. Bagot, of Blithf She gave a very interesting talk work in the W.V.S. during t Coast floods in 1953.

COLTON

WHIST DRIVE

The second in the series of six Whist Drives to benefit Reading Room funds, was held in the Reading Room on Tuesday evening. Mr. Fred Norman was M.C., and Mrs. J. L. Taylor presented the prizes to: Hiss Helen Huriey, Miss Sheila Westhorpe, Mrs. Stretton, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Bettson and Mr. B. Bettson. Lowest scores, Mrs. W. J. Sproston and Mr. J. W. Grimley; Miniatures, Mrs. A. Rowe and Miss Westhorpe. The mystery prize, a box of fruit, [illegible] to Mrs. M. Williscroft.

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6/1/56 COLTON ADVER 15 FEB

WHIST.—The third in the series of six whist drives for Reading Room funds, was held in the Reading Room on December 6. Mr Fred Norman was the M.C. and Mrs A. N. Felton presented the prizes as follows: Mrs Felton, Mr J. Perry, Mrs Sproston, Mr W. J. Sproston, Mrs E. Talbot, Mr B. Bettson; lowest scores, Mrs R. Grimley and Mr Vincent Charles; miniatures, Mrs Bettson and Mr Perry. The mystery prize, a bottle of port wine, went to Mrs C. Upton.

Tamworth Herald 7/1/56

COLTON

CHILDREN' CHRISTMAS PARTY

An enjoyable time was spe by Colton St. Mary's Sunda School children at their annu Christmas party held in the Rea ing Room on Thursday of la week. Tea was followed by car and games. Miss Eileen Deval played the piano and Mrs. Parke organised the games. Mr. an Mrs. J. A. Best gave a film sho of local places and events. Th Rector (the Revd. H. H. Goodin handed out presents from th Christmas Tree to all the chil ren and prizes for unbroke attendance were gained by th Misses Ann Preston, Ruth Raven croft and June Collyer. The Bib given by Mrs. J. L. Taylor, wen to Master Colin Sergeant. O leaving, the children were give Mince Pies, Oranges and Apple



Balloons make an irresistible appeal to children, and in t picture above a young visitor is seen making a purchase Colton bring-and-buy bazaar. The balloon girls are Lesley a Gillian Way.

Colton bazaar raises £37

A bring-and buy bazaar held in Colton Reading Room on Saturday afternoon raised £37 4s. It was decided that £10 should be sent to the Church of England Children's Society, and the remainder will be donated to the Reading Room, after expenses have been met.

A large number of people attended the bazaar, and the stalls were well patronised during the afternoon.

Stallholders were as follows: Bring and buy stall: Mrs. Goodin, Mrs. J. Grimley, Miss E. Rochell and Mrs. Way. Cakes: Mrs. J. H. Toy, Mrs. F. Knight, Mrs. and Miss Westhorpe. Rummage: Mrs. A. Meddings, Mrs. J. Devall, Miss J. Deacon, Miss Lucy Norman and Miss L. Bull. Fancy stall and brantub: Miss Agnes Jones and Miss Eileen Devall. Balloons: Misses Lesley and Gillian Way. Competition: Miss F. Rochell and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft.

The cake, given by Mrs. Price, was won by Mrs. Wisdom, and the chocolates, given by Mrs. J. L. Taylor, were won by Mr. J. A. Best. The cake on stall was won by Miss Rosemary Preston.

Teas were served by Mrs. Bettson, Mrs. Sargent, Mrs. Felton and Mrs. F. Cooper.

COLTON READING ROOM IS FREE OF DEBT

The final of the series of six whist drives organised in aid of Colton Reading Room funds, was held on Tuesday evening. Wintry weather conditions kept many regular players away.

Mr. Fred Norman was M.C., and Mrs. Parker presented prizes to the following: Silver cup, given by Mr. Norman, for the highest total score at the six drives, Mr. Bernard Bettson; Mrs. Mary Bloor, Mr. R. G. Blore, Mrs. J. Webb, Mr. P. Westhorpe, Miss Helen Hurley, Mr. R Bannister; lowest scores, Mrs. B. Bettson and Mr. M. Deacon. Mystery prizes were won by Mr. Fred Norman and Mrs. A. Meddings.

The rector (the Rev. H. H. Goodwin) thanked all who had helped to pay off the debt on the Reading Room, and mentioned

COLTON FLOOD PREVENTION

AT a meeting of the parish council on Thursday last week satisfaction was expressed that the work on the improvement at the junction of the roads at the top of Hurstwood Hill had now been finished off.

An estimate for repairs to the footbridge round the brookside leading over the Moreton Brook into the field known as the Marsh including the iron handrails on one side of the bridge and a concrete reinforcement to the embankment almost adjoining the bridge was received and accepted.

Having got rid of the previous minutes and secured a clean slate, the parish council after further discussion decided unanimously not to rule out altogether the subject of public lighting. The effect on rates of the new Rating Valuation which comes into operation on April 1, was considered and bearing on this point the question of what number of lights might be recommended for instanation was deferred until the next meeting of the council.

As regards the occurrence of flooding of the highway between Bellamour Corner and the school from the Moreton Brook in times of heavy rain, the Clerk reported that letters were to hand from the County Roads and Bridges Department of the County Council concerning this subject. It appeared that so far the approaches made by the Chief Drainage Officer of the Agricultural Executive Committee as regards a voluntary scheme between the Committee and riparian landowners for the cleansing of the latters' portions of the brook had not met with sufficient agreement to allow for the work to be carried out. The Chief Drainage Officer, was again taking the matter up with the landowners concerned in the hope that satisfactory agreement could be reached. The result of the enquiry made of the Trent River Board was that a report was being prepared, but only major tributaries were under consideration at this stage. It was doubtful if the Moreton Brook would come under this category and as regards minor tributaries it was not likely that these would come under the jurisdiction of the Board for some number of years to come. The Clerk was instructed to write to the County Surveyor's Department pointing out that whilst it was appreciated that no such suggestion had been made the p council desired to make it clear they did not favour the applic of compulsory measures of clea against the riparian landowners to ask for a reply to point (3) of letter dealing with the questio the raising of the level of the roa each side of the bridge with a to alleviating the flooding.

The Clerk mentioned that foll the last meeting he sent forwar parish council's proposals for a scheme of "Keep Left" signs junction of the road from Village and Rugeley to Admaste the road from Wolseley Bridg Bellamour Lane, at Bellamour reply directed attention to a letter sent out by the County C in December, which stated th cept in cases of extreme urgen further road schemes of an est cost of less than £5,000, were d for a period of 12 months, wh situation would be again revie

The County Council whilst ting this necessity had been co to arrive at this decision as of lack of sufficient funds, of labour, and acute shortage engineers and clerks of wo others. Also there was a con number of approved schemes standing, some of which h waiting to be carried out for four years.

As regards the matter raise parish council regarding an ment at this junction, the opi expressed that this could not sidered a case of extreme particularly as the Chief C Department had informed th Surveyor's Department that no record of any accident h curred during the past 12 mo meeting decided to leave t in abeyance in the circumst

A letter from the Clerk field R.D.C. gave the i that the parish council's for the provision of a ss phone kiosk in the village Way—had the support of and had been added to t mitted to the R.D.C.'s The letter explained, however some considerable time w before the kiosk was erec number of kiosks allocate tion in rural areas was st

Rugeley Mercury

Colton Parish Council 27/1/56

SATISFACTION A ROAD WORK

Satisfaction was expressed a meeting of Colton Parish Coun on Thursday last week, that th work on the improvement at th junction of the roads at the top of Hurstwood Hill had now been finished.

The effect on rates of the new Valuation which comes into operation on April 1 was considered and bearing on this point the question of what number of lights might be recommended for installation was deferred until the next meeting of the Council.

A letter from the Sanitary Inspector's Department of Lichfield R.D.C. stated that the drain under the south side of Hollow Lane between the two detached houses belonging to Mr. T. A. James and Apsley House corner did not belong to the R.D.C. However following approaches made by the Parish Council and in order to assist in abating the nuisance of the drain-water running along the side on the surface of the highway, the Council's Surveyor had the drain exposed at various points but attempts to rod it sufficiently clear had turned out abortive. The foreman's report was that the drain was silted solidly at every point he tried and additionally was composed of a medley of pipes of different sizes. Short of Mr. James placing this drain in order at his own expense the report suggested alternative arrangements Mr. James might make to remed- the trouble

Mr. R. W. N. Dawe as chairn Holidays at Home with the ss Society, said it started in 1945 head, reviewing the life of The Chairman, Mr. H. Holl over to the same Society. mission of the donors, be han In addition, the Cups, with pr Handicraft Competition. Ploughing Match and Ski them in running the Lichfi Agricultural Society, to as sall District of the Staffordsh balance should be handed over the Lichfield, Tamworth and W it was also decided that the c

The Staffordshire

Rugeley Times 7/1/56

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Rugeley Times 28/1/1956

WHY ROAD SCHEMES ARE BEING HELD UP

Lack of funds and labour, Colton Council told

COLTON Parish Council's proposal that "Keep left" signs should be erected at the junction of Bellamour Lane the main Rugeley road has been rejected by Stafford-County Council. This was reported to members of Parish Council at their meeting in Colton Reading on Thursday of last week.

County Council informed uncil that, except in cases of ne urgency, all further road es costing less than £5,000 een deferred for 12 months. that time the County Council review the position. Regret- the decision, the County il explained that it was ary because of "lack of shortage of labour, and an shortage of road engineers erks of works." It was also d out that there was a con- ble number of approved es still outstanding.

arding the Parish Council's e for improvement at the nour Lane junction, it was that this could not be ered as a case of extreme y, particularly as the Chief ible's department had in- l the county surveyor that was no record of any accident occurred there during the 2 months.

clerk (Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft) it had been questioned r heavy vehicles travelling Rugeley to Uttoxeter would to negotiate a "Keep left" if one were erected. After an ion of the site, however, it greed that heavy traffic have no difficulty, although a lorry with a trailer would need to do more manoeuvring.

A further letter had been written to the county surveyor's department pointing this out, and suggesting as an alternative to the "Keep left" signs the removal of a section of the high brick and stone wall at the corner, the cutting back of the yew trees and deciduous saplings growing immediately behind the wall, and the substitution of open type fencing.

This would open out visibility on the bend in the same way that visibility had been improved on th bend in the road to Uttoxeter. The clerk suggested that if the highway authority decided that this scheme justified the necessary expenditure the "Keep left" signs would not b needed.

Earlier, members had expresse satisfaction at the improvement carried out at the junction of th roads at the top of Hurstwood Hil

Road flooding

Referring to the flooding of th road between Bellamour Corne and Colton school, the clerk sai he had received letters from th County Roads and Bridges depart ment of the County Council. I appeared, he said, that attempt made by the chief drainage officer of the Agricultural Executive Com-

stated, whether Moreton Brook would come into this category. Minor tributaries were not likely to come under the Board's jurisdiction for some years.

The clerk was instructed to inform the county surveyor that while no such suggestion had been made, the Parish Council did not favour the use of compulsory measures to force landowners to cleanse their stretches of the brook.

The clerk read a reply to the Parish Council's letter in which it was suggested that the level of the road on each side of the bridge might be raised to alleviate flooding.

With regard to the Parish Council's application for an additional telephone kiosk in the village, the Rural Council wrote giving its support, but pointing out that it would be some considerable time before the kiosk could be erected because the allocation to rural districts was still restricted.

The council decided to defer the question of public lighting until their next meeting when the new rating valuation will be considered in relation to the number of lights that might be recommended.

COLTON

WHIST DRIVE

A whist drive organised by Mr J. L. Taylor, in aid of the Britis Empire Cancer Campaign toc place in the Reading Room on Fri day. Mr. Fred Norman was M.C. and Mrs. Taylor presented the prizes to Mrs. J. Charles, Mr. F. Norman, Miss Mary Mellor, Mr. W. J. Sproston, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Miss Sheila Westhorpe, lowest scores, Mrs. Stretton and Mr. S. Peake. The mystery prizes were won by Mrs. D. G. Mellor (Sherry) and Mrs. G. M. Upton (chocolates).

13/7/56 Mercury

Colton B.A. Success

A native of Colton and a former

ev. H. H. Goodin), and prizes r good attendance were re- ived by Ann Preston, Ruth venscroft and June Collifer. A ble, given annually by Mrs. J. Taylor to the child making the st attendance of the year, was arded to Colin Sargeant. On leaving, the children were en mince-pies, oranges and ples.

Colton whist drive

A whist drive organised by Mrs. L. Taylor in aid of the British mpire Cancer Campaign took ace in the Reading Room at olton on Friday. Mr. Fred Norman as M.C., and Mrs. Taylor presen- d the prizes to the following:— rs. Charles, Mr. F. Norman, Miss ary Mellor, Mr. W. J. Sproston, rs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Miss Sheila esthorpe; lowest scores: Mrs. retton and Mr. S. Peake. Mystery izes were won by Mr. D. G. Mellor id Mrs. G. M. Upton.

Rugeley Times 14/4/56

Colton whist drive

A whist drive organised by Mrs. L. Taylor in aid of the British mpire Cancer Campaign took lace in the Reading Room at olton on Friday. Mr. Fred Norman as M.C., and Mrs. Taylor presen- d the prizes to the following:— Mrs. Charles, Mr. F. Norman, Miss Mary Mellor, Mr. W. J. Sproston, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Miss Sheila Westhorpe; lowest scores: Mrs. Stretton and Mr. S. Peake. Mystery prizes were won by Mr. D. G. Mellor and Mrs. G. M. Upton.

Rugeley Times 14/4/1956

24/1/56

COLTON

PARTING GIFTS.—On Tuesday, May 15, the Mothers' Union met at the Rectory, when an interesting talk was given by Miss Sherwood on mission work in India. After the talk, Mrs. J. L. Taylor presented Mrs. E.

Public lighting for Colton discussed by Parish Assembly

STREET lighting was again discussed at a Parish Assembly held in Colton Reading Room on Thursday. The chairman of the Parish Council, Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft, explained that an attempt to get a reduction in a quotation of £7 per lamp had been taken up with Lichfield Rural Council and the Midlands Electricity Board without success.

It was pointed out that the Parish Council would now consider street lighting in reation to the new rating valuation which comes into effect on April 1.

As in other places, said Mr. Ravenscroft, there had been a very great increase in rateable values in Colton. The total rateable value had been £2,311, and it would now become £3,834. In other words, there had been an increase of 66 per cent., which meant an increase of two-thirds in total rateable values.

Future demands

That did not mean that there would necessarily be an enormous increase in the actual rates in the parish The rate in the £, Mr. Ravenscroft pointed out, might fall from its present high level of 18s. 6d. in the £, as a result of the extraordinary increase in assessments, assuming that there was not an immediate rise in the requirements of local authorities, to pay for various social services.

Mr. Ravenscroft indicated that, despite the anticipated fall in the amount of rate payable in the £, people whose assessments had gone up might find themselves paying more than at present:

Rates were pretty high, Mr. Ravenscroft continued, but if the requirements of local authorities were increased from time to time in the future, to meet new or extended public services, it would mean that more money would be wanted from the rates.

Council's duty

This explained the parish council's cautious attitude towards the question of public lighting. In considering any new public service, the council had a duty to consider what benefit the ratepayers would derive as against the amount of money that would have to be paid for it.

Mr. F. W. Cooper, a former member of the Parish Council, proposed that the light at Stockwell Heath should be omitted from recommendations made at previous Parish Assemblies. He thought the Assembly should favour the installation of eight lights instead of nine.

Mr. Cooper's proposal was seconded by Mr. Ivor Hurley.

Mr. W. J. Parr, a Colton parish councillor and a member of Lichfield Rural Council, moved an amendment that four lights should be installed instead of nine. His motion was seconded by Mr. E. S. Blore, a former member and chairman of Colton Parish Council.

The amendment was defeated after a show of hands: five voting for and nine against. The Parish Assembly has, therefore, recommended that the council should provide eight lights instead of nine.

When the parish rate requirement was raised, the clerk pointed out that the council had had a remarkably low expenditure during the past year. The total was estimated at £30 12s. 8d., which included more than £17 for election expenses. In actual fact, therefore, the expenditure for the year was less than a fourpenny rate.

The Assembly gave the council a similar sanction for the year 1956/57.

Mr. F. W. Cooper called attention to a broken drain between Mr. T. Alfred James' property at Hollow Lane and Apsley House corner. He contended that as this was a public drain it should be put in order by Lichfield Rural Council, to abate the nuisance of drain water continually flowing along the south side of the road.

A letter received from the Sanitary Inspector's department of the Lichfield Rural Council stated that from investigations carried out by the department it was evident that the drain was originally a road drain and now disused. The Lichfield council's surveyor was of the opinion that the drain was not a public sewer. To connect Mr. James' property at Hollow Lane to the public sewer at Apsley House corner, a distance of approximately 150 yards, would cost about £350. The

COLTON

W.I. WHIST

A whist drive took place in the Reading Room, on Friday arranged by the Womens Institute when Mr. Fred Norman was M.C. and Mrs. P. L. Cawthorne presented the prizes to :— Mrs. B. Bettson, Mr. F. Norman, Mrs. D. Deacon. Mr. A. N. Felton, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Mrs. Insley. Following the whist a dance was held for the purpose of choosing Miss Colton at the British Legion Carnival at Rugeley. The judges were Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Barham and Mr. E. Brinkworth and their choice was Miss Maureen Shipley, of 18, Heathway, Colton. The mystery prizes went to Mr. Jack Brown and Mr. Roy Birch. Mr. J. Wright was M.C. and Mr. Ben Jacksons band supplied the music.

Lichfield Fire Brigade received 20 calls since last Saturday, most of them being grass and bracken fires. The only fires of any consequence were the two at Rugeley, which they attended on all three days.

COLTON WILL HAVE PUBLIC LIGHTING

11 O'CLOCK BLACK-OUT IS COUNCIL'S ECONOMY MOVE

COLTON Parish Council, meeting in the Reading Room on Thursday of last week, reached a decision regarding number and siting of public lights in the parish. The ber of lights to be installed is six, and the council's mmendations are to be forwarded to Lichfield Rura cil, which is the lighting authority for the area.

Mr. F. Hardcastle had to find a seconder to his tion that eight lights should ided, it was decided, on the ion of Mr. R. Morrall, d by Mr. F. Norman, that ts should be installed as One about half-way gue wall at Trent Valley station; one at the Rir at Apsley; one outside hallinor's house, and one Way (approximately in J. J. Parr, a parish coun nd representative on le Rural Council, proposed tiardcastle seconded, that wl should be extinguished th. instead of midnight, g 42 burning hours a Ha was agreed, and it was Fed that public lighting Co suspended between May mast 31, thus ensuring a Nod of eight months leg par

shoad flooding

Par rted that a reply had tha d from the county Coli partment dealing with in ised by the Parish the the desirability of vel of the road each rook bridge with a ating flooding or re- minimum. ointed out that any his nature would to take into account tion of the bridge. were made to con- ood water to the he capacity of the and the increased not be ignored. eme had not been a possible altern- cleaning out or ons, nevertheless, to the relatively e limited labour ources available, ven high priority amme when con- ven to the large es to be under- of high traffic

that the drain- e Agricultural tee would be at the earliest a voluntary gested further or drainage d relieve the ccurring from

atter

this, o nstructed to meetings.

Roads and that the rongly that consideration aising of the d be kept in

COL

HARVEST TH

Corn, vegetables, fl been arranged to effect in the Church of St. Mary for Sunday's services which this year were as follows. Holy Communion at 8.15 a.m., the Rev. H. A. Pattenden (Curate, St. Augustine's Church, Rugeley) officiating; children's service at 3 p.m. taken by the Rev. H. L. H. Townshend (Vicar, St. Augustine's Rugeley) and Evening Service (6.30 p.m.) conducted by the

the foreground with a view putting a scheme into effect at early date as a matter of c siderable urgency. If it seem unlikely that a scheme would put into effect in the near futur the council were consider approachin

Regarding the broken drain under the south side of Hollow Lane between Mr. T. A. James's property and Apsley House Corner a further letter was read from the sanitary inspector's department of Lichfield R.D.C. After explaining the careful investigations which had been made by the department the view was expressed that th drain was not a public sewer. Th drain was originally a road dra which was now disused. Inspe tions revealed that the road wat entered the pipe at its top en which used to be open, but had fa many years been silted up. It wo not found possible to trace th point of discharge.

If Mr. James's property was be connected to the sewer, would mean an extension Hollow Lane for a distance approximately 150 yards at a of about £350. Certain alt ative suggestions had been to Mr. James with a view to ing the nuisance, and a rd approach was being made in this connection.

On a majority vote the decided that it could n the view that the drain public sewer.

The clerk to the Cou wrote stating that authority could not Parish Council's req remainder of Park tion beyond Crab T should be taken County Council authority and in as a county road.

tion of a new n. He has served on a num- local committees.

Goodin, with help, has ted the Sunday School. A few years ago which y incapacitated her, did event her continuing her astic activities in the run- the local branch of the Union and her services body and to the Sunday ere recently recognised by gifts.

's gathering was pre- a meeting of the Church Council, when ent stood in silence a nts as a mark of res- he late Mrs. E. W. member of the Council ears.

Mercury 17/8/56

News

COLTON

ARISH COUNCIL.—Mr. B. Bett- was unanimously re-elected chair- at the initial meeting of the Parish ncil for the year 1956-57 held in Reading Room on Thursday of last , at which all seven members were ent. Mr. W. J. Farr, appointed year as one of the Parish Council's representatives on Colton Parish ls Trust, not having taken office Mr. E. S. Blore's four-years' term ffice having expired at this meet- Mrs Julia L. Taylor and Mr. A. e.ton were appointed as the Parish ncil's two representatives on the on Parish Lands Trust, each being ed to a four-years' period of office. ding Mr. Farr, the meeting was med that it had been established he was not eligible to act owing he fact that the firm of Messrs. Parr and Son, smallholders, in n firm he still retained an interest, tenants of certain lands comprised e Trust. Messrs. F. Norman and N. Felton were elected as the cil's usual two representatives on Committee of Management of the ing Room. Last year these ap- ments were held by Messrs. Bett- and Norman. Regarding the third ntment, held in the past year by Felton, the council were reminded this was only a temporary appoint- in place of the late people's chwarden, Mr. John Parker, who expressed his wish not to exercise ght to act on the committee. As s considered that Mr. F. Taylor, assists as hon. secretary to the mittee would wish to exercise his to membership, a third appoint- by the Parish Council was rdingly not made. The post of clearing (contingency) supervisor appointment made in accordance the wishes of the highway ority—is, for the winter season -57, refilled by Mr. Norman. s. F. Hardcastle and C. J. nscroft (clerk) are the Parish ncil's delegates to the 17th annual erence of Staffordshire Parish ncils' Association to be held at ord on Saturday, June 16. Mr. on was chosen as a third delegate the time he finds it convenient to d. A matter arising out of the utes concerned the flooding from Moreton Brook which occurs be- n Belalmour corner and the School. clerk said that in reply to the sh Council's last letter the County veyor's Department had written ng that it had been decided to take e surveying levels with a view to ng some idea of what the cost of heme would be for raising the level he highway. The letter also asked he Parish Council possessed any il- concerning the flooding which ht be useful as that department d find no records relating to same heir office. This aspect of the ter was left for the clerk to supply information he had available which ht be helpful and at the same time ay that in times of heavy rain the sh Council considered this was one he first places in the district where ding occurred. Regarding the post- at Heathway, it was arranged for Norman to enquire if a slab or macadam surface could be provided tand on when posting letters. The k explained that the balance in d at the year ending March 31 last £31 4s. 4d. A precept was issued the rating authority (Lichfield D.C.) for £35. Under the old valua- this would have been a 4d. rate. der the new and increased valuation ch came into effect on April 1 it ked out at 2½d. in the £. Mr. r raised the question of the brick- t brook bridge in the centre of the sh over which the public footpath n Pinfold to the Fog Cottages ses. This, Mr Parr said, was be- ng to show signs of needing repair. same member raised a similar nt respecting a gateway through ch there is a similar public way at gley. The Parish Council decided

Successful Colton Garden Fete

WEATHER REMAINS FINE

FORTUNATELY fine weather prevailed for the Garden Fete held, as usual, on the Wednesday following August Bank Holiday, at the Rectory.

Opening the event, Mrs. Arnold, Deanery President of the Mothers' Union, was introduced by the Rev. D. K. Robertson (Rector of St. Luke's Church, Cannock, and Rural Dean of Rugeley), at whose invitation Lord Bagot made a short speech. A vote of thanks to Mrs. Arnold was proposed by Mr. F. Taylor (People's Churchwarden), seconded by Mr. B. Bettson (Rector's Churchwarden). Miss Susan Hibbs presented Mrs. Arnold with a bouquet, and a buttonhole was handed to Mr. Robertson by Miss Janet Bradbury.

Stallholders and attendants were: Work Stall, Mrs. E. M. Sergeant, Miss E. Bird and Mrs. D. M. Atkin; Produce Stall, Mrs. P. B. Best, Mrs. W. A. Bannister, Miss C. N. L. Williscroft, Mrs. L. K. Parr and Miss E. Rotchell; China Stall, Mrs. J. L. Taylor; Cakes Stall, Miss Agnes Jones, Mrs. M. A. Westhorpe and Mrs. S. J. Ball; Ices & Soft drinks, Miss Sheila A. Westhorpe; Rummage Stall, Mrs. Alice Meddings, Miss Lucy Bull and Mrs. A. L. Devall; Stall, Bran Tub, Balloons, Buttonholes and Sprays of Lavender, Sunday School members; Small Bookstall, etc., The Misses Lesley and Gillian Way and Miss Yvonne Chinnock.

Amusements: Hoop-la Stall, Mrs. M. S. Toy, Mrs. E. Knight and Mrs. G. E. Finnemore; Bowling, Mr. B. Bettson; Other Bowling, Mr. E. S. Blore; Kagle, Mr. F. W. Cooper; Clock Golf and Treasure Hunt, Miss D. M. Jones, assisted by Miss Dorothy Cooper; Darts, Miss A. L. I. Hoare and Mr. W. Yeomans.

PONY RIDES

Mr. Colin Sergeant again plied his pony for rides and Mrs. J. Degg attended as "fortune teller", she had as assistant, Mrs. P. Buckley. Gate attendants were Mr. W. T. Farley and Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft.

Competition prize donaters and winners were: Mrs. F. M. Norman (Dressed Chicken), won by Mr. Harvey; Mrs. J. A. Priee (Bellamour Lodge, Fruit Set and Table Mats), Mrs. L. Deacon; Mrs. R. Boycott (Port), Mrs. I. Preston; Mrs. F. Grimley (Blouse), Mrs. G. R. Goodall; Mrs. Alice Blore (Cushions), E. Sharratt; Mrs. E. M. Sergeant (Fruit), Mrs. Millicent Jones; Mrs. J. Hardcastle (Cake), Mr. D. Evans; Miss A. L. I. Hoare (Eggs), Mrs. Alice Cooper (Bank Top); Mrs. W. J. Parr (Port), Mrs. A. F. W. Parker.

Teas were arranged by Mrs. A. F. W. Parker and Mrs. Bettson, who had as helpers Mrs. G. Jones, Mrs. H. M. Felton, Mrs. I. Preston, Mrs. Alice Cooper, Mrs. D. Deacon, Miss Lucy Norman, Mrs. E. Nicklin, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mrs. E. Way, Mrs. E. M. Dunkey, Mrs. A. Shipley, Mrs. M. E. Hibbs, Mrs. R. O. Devall, Mrs. M. Jones and Miss G. Mouseley.

Gross takings were approximately £170, added to which £22 from the rummage sale recently organised by members of the Mothers' Union, makes a gross total of £192. Expenses are estimated at £25.

The proceeds are in augmentation of St. Mary's Church general funds.

Lyons, Mrs. Brotherton, Mrs. D. Heasman and Mr. Andrews. Miniatures, Mrs. Bettson and Mr.

Rugeley Times 18/8

Colton wedding of Miss Williscroft

The wedding took place at Mary's Church, Colton, on Sa day, of Mr. Sidney John Cu son of Mrs. H. Mathews, of King Street, Rugeley, and Josephine Priscilla Willisc eldest daughter of Mr. and George Williscroft, of 2, Rose V Colton. The choral service conducted by the Rev. Frank with Mr. C. J. Ravensc organist.

The bride, who was given a by her father, wore a dress of w lace over taffeta, with a short, and coronet of orange blos She carried a white prayer b and a spray of freesias.

The bridesmaids, Misses Mau and Kathleen Conyon (cousin the groom) wore dresses of quoise taffeta and carried bouq of sweet-peas. Also in attenda was the bride's cousin, Yvonne Chinnock, dressed salmon pink taffeta, carryin bouquet of sweet-peas.

Mr. Malcolm Williscroft, brot of the bride, was best man.

The bride's mother wore a g suit with blue accessories, and bridegroom's mother chose a na shantung two-piece with p accessories.

After the wedding the bride w presented with silver horsesh by Miss Stella Williscroft (sist and Keith Williscroft (cousin).

A reception was held in t Reading Room, Colton. Later t couple left for a honeymoon Southsea. The bride travelled in navy and white suit with wh accessories.

COLTON

CONSERVATIVE WHIST DRIVE

A whist drive arranged by Colton branch of the Lichfield Tamworth Division Conserva and Unionist Association was in the Reading Room on Fri Mr. Fred Norman was the and the prizes were presented Mr. N. L. Lockwood (agent) t Mrs. E. M. Bradbury, Mr. Geo Hampson, Mrs. G. Vernon, Mrs Westhorpe, Mrs. J. Shipley Mrs. Hollinshead. Miniatures, M Rosa Hampson and Mrs. W thorpe. The mystery prize (a du was won by Mr. W. Bolton.

COLTON

WHIST DRIVE

A whist drive was held in t Reading Room on Thursday la week arranged by the Readi Room Trustees for general fun of the Room as lettings do n cover expenses. Mr. Fred Norma was M.C. and the prizes were pr sented by Mrs. F. Norman to:- Mrs. P. L. Bannister, Mr. T. James, Mrs. Cope, Mrs. Parke Mrs. Westhorpe, Mr. F. Cope, Mis D. M. Jones, Mr. G. Hampson Miniatures, Mrs. Hall and Mr Cope; Competition numbers, Mrs D. M. Atkin, and Mr. The competition prizes by Mr. J. W. Hooley Mrs. M. Bloor (cigar M. F. Upton (choco Bernard Pettson thank had helped to make t success.

1956

Advertiser 31/1/57

COLTON LIGHTING DELAY EXPLAINED

At a meeting of Colton Parish Council in the Reading Room on 24th January, presided over by the chairman, Mr. B. Bettson, the Clerk reported that, concerning the brook footbridge round the brookside (where the Moreton Brook divides into two) leading into the field called the Marsh, he was in communication with the County Council, County Roads and Bridges Department, respecting repairs and that department had written to say they were looking into the matter and would communicate with the Parish Council again in due course.

As regards public lighting, the Clerk explained that enquiries revealed that the reason why the lights were not installed and in operation until November 8th and 9th, instead of September 1st, the commencement of the lighting season, as had been hoped, was the protracted delivery of brackets and columns at the commencement of the lighting season. In other words, it seemed as though demand exceeded supply.

Regarding the light which had been erected at the entrance to Heath Way, the Clerk was instructed to write to the Lichfield Rural District Council, the lighting authority for the parish, and point out that this position did not accord with the recommendation of the Parish Council. The Clerk was to ask that the R.D.C. reconsider the position of this light with a view to its being re-sited near to Mr. H. Challinor's residence in time for the commencement of the next lighting season.

Referring to the light to be erected on the opposite side of the road to the big blue wall at the Trent Valley Railway Station, the letter from the Clerk to the Lichfield R.D.C. gave the information that it appeared necessary for the Electricity Board to enter into an agreement with the G.P.O. before the light could be fixed to the po but it was hoped that this lamp would be commissioned in the not-too-distant future and the Board had been asked to expedite same.

The Clerk explained that fur information as to the flooding of highway at the brook bridge Bellamour Corner and the ch near the school had been which migh. be useful to the Council.

Further news at the me that Colton Parish Lands owners of the land, had d meet the whole of the co occasio of work req brick bridge—with i side—over the Mo course) in the cen over which the way.

As to th laid in into Lo Lan as re that s Trus owne d decided tak ty for ma nt of this es. This d ce with the expressed by that the short concerned was in ute towards the drain Common.

embers heard that th ertaken by the Parish half of the Hungarian Revolution Relief Fund ready response in the parish total amount of subscriptions was £37.

Servi... Read...

WHAT occas took place evening pr Room. The entirely o allowance allow for Sunday. lighted, the warm, and the continue the Rev. L. Next Sunda held in chur

The method of heating the pipe-

Colton Parish Council "awaits developments" on flooding hazard

AT this year's annual parish assembly, held at Colton Reading Room on March 21, Mr. B. Bettson, chairman of the Parish Council, presided. The Clerk explained that the sanction given by last year's annual parish assembly to the Parish Council to exceed an expenditure of 4d. in the £, but not more than 8d., in respect of the current year ending March 31, had turned out to be unnecessary — in fact the actual expenditure — at approximately £15 15s. 9d. amounted to scarcely more than a rate of 1d. in the £ under the new rating valuation register. The estimated balance in hand at March 31 is £50 8s. 7d. In the circumstances the Parish Council would not wish to seek similar sanction for the coming year 1957-58.

A proposition by Mr. Hardcastle, which was seconded by Mr. Morrall and carried unanimously called upon the Clerk to Colton Parish Lands (Charitable) Trust to forward a copy of the last complete statement of account of the Trust to the next meeting of the Parish Council, and asked that in future the Clerk of the Trust be good enough, as required by law, to forward a copy for the information of the annual parish assembly in March each year.

Concerning papers received from Staffordshire Rural Community Council relating to their "Best-kept Village" competition, 1957, as only one local government elector—who, incidentally, left before this item was discussed—besides the seven parish councillors, was presen at the assembly, it was decided it was not worthwhile coensidering entering the competition.

A parish council meeting followed the assembly, at which meeting a letter was read from the Clerk to Lichfield Rural District Council dealing with public lighting. This stated that an inspection had been made of the lighting at Colton and the Council's Surveyor advised that he could not recommend the R.D.C. as lighting authority to re-site the lamp at present situate at the entrance to Heathway in a position near to Mr H. Challinor's residence. The Surveyor stated that if the light referred to was re-sited a black spot would be created. He suggested the provision of an additional lamp near Mr Challinor's residence to meet the parish council's requirements.

In reply o a member, it was explained that this did not mean the R.D.C. would stand the cost of the additional light. After some discussion a resolution proposed by Mr Hardcastle and seconded by Mr Felton was made that in the opinion of the Parish Council, the light at the entrance to Heath Way would be better sited near to Mr Challinor's residence and asking that the R.D.C. re-consider their decision not to alter it. Five voted in favour of this resolution, one against and one abstained from voting.

FLOODING

A letter dated February 12, from the County Surveyor's Department was read thanking the parish council for most useful further information as to flooding at the brook bridge near the church. The letter stattd that the exetnt of the flooding was, without doubt due to a lack of cleansing, which prevented the flood water getting away as quickly as it would if the water-course were unobstructed. To raise the level of the road above the height of the flood water, apart from being most expensive, was not, in the opinion of that Department, the correct sollution to the problem. This water-course should be made adequate to carry the flood water except perhaps in the most exceptional circumstances. The letter concluded by saying that the Department was again taking this matter up with the Chief Drainage Officer of the Agricultural Executive Committee, and the parish council would be kept advised of the positieon as the danger and inconvenience caused to the travelling public by the flooding was fully appreciated.

In view of this letter, the parish council decided to await further developments.

Concerning a circular letter, dated January 11, from the chairman of Staffordshire Rural Community Council asking if the parish council would be kind enough to consider making a small contribution of from say 5s. to 10s. towards meeting that body's expenses, which was before the parish council at their last meeting, Mr Ravenscroft (clerk) said that the question of whether the parish council would be in ordtr to make a small contribution from their official rating fund had been taken up with the secretary of the Community Council. From her reply, dated March 6, subscriptions to the Rural Community Council out of official rating funds appeared to be in order. The reply added that some parish councils had regularly subscribed to the Community Council; also other and older established Rural Community Councils in other acounties had quite a number of regular subscriptions from parish councils.

Mr Hardcastle accordingly proposed, and Mr F. Norman seconded, that a contribution of 10s. be made towards the expenses of the Community Council. On the chairman putting the matter to the meeting, were in favour and there were abstention.

COLTON FOLK RAISED £12

IN response to an urgent appeal on behalf of Dr. Bardardo's Homes, a house-to-house collection organised in Colton by Mrs. J. L. Taylor, has resulted in £12 15s. 4d. being sent to his reserving cause. The collectors were Miss Ellen Rotchell, Mrs. H. L. Felton, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Mrs. Lilian Deacon.

Colton Collection For Seamen's Mission

The house-to-house collection in the Colton Parish in aid of the Missions to Deep Sea Fishermen has resulted in £6 17s. 0d. being sent to the London Headquarters. The collectors were Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Mrs. M. E. Hibbs.

COLTON

HIST DRIVE. — A whist drive place in the Reading Room on uary 8. Organised by the Mothers' n, proceeds of which are to be ed between the Mothers' Union s and the Church of England na Missionary Society. The M.C. Mr. Fred Norman, and Mrs. Bett- presented the prizes to: Mrs. R. Devall, Mrs. G. Hampson, Miss Norms, Mr. R. Bannister, Miss Hampson, Mr. F. Norman; itures, Miss M. F. Webb and Mr. . Wisdom. The competition prizes won by Miss R. Hampson (box chocolates- and Mr. T. Jones rettes). Mrs. Taylor extended cs to all helpers

COLTON

WHIST DRIVE

second whist drive organ- by Mr. J. H. Wright and s for the Colton children's funds, was held in the ng Room on Friday, when red Norman was the M.C., is wife presented the prizes rs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mr. F. an, Mrs. Stretton, Mrs. F. n, Mrs. G. Deacon, Mr. A. aynes. The competition for of chocolates was won by P. M. Buckley. 22/2/1957

Colton funeral of Mr. Grimley

funeral of Mr. John William nley, senr., who was found l at his residence "Greenways," t Valley, near Rugeley, on day of last week, took place at Mary's Church, Colton, on rday.

r. Grimley, who was 70 years of was at one time a well-known l farmer, carrying on business what is now known as Rydal n, Trent Valley. In Mr. Grim- farming days this farm was d New House Farm. He later ied on farming for some years is own holding, Parchfields y Farm, Trent Valley. For a t time he lived at Hamley ge, Stockwell Heath, Colton. n retirement some years ago, Grimley and his late wife, . E. W. Grimley, moved to their home Greenways, which he had erected near to Parch- is Dairy Farm. Mr. Grimley had tinued to live here since his 's death nearly a year ago.

he funeral service, which was oral, was conducted by the car of Rugeley, the Rev. H. L. H. ownshend.

The family mourners were: Mr. John W. H. Grimley and Mrs. Grimley (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. J. Hoult (daughter and son-in-law), Mr. and Mrs G. Cooper (son-in-law and daughter); Mr. and Mrs. R. Grimley (son and daughter-in-law); Mr and Mrs. Ernest Grimley (brother and sister-in-law); Mrs. D. Eldon (sister), Mrs. M. L. Roobottom (sister-in-law); Mr. and Mrs. H. Norman; Mr. W. H. Roobottom (brother-in law); Mr. and Mrs. A. Wannoppand; Mr. and Mrs. C. Peach.

Also present were many friends and former farming associates of the late Mr. Grimley including the following: Mr. and Mrs. Brinkler, Mr. J. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. G. Brown, Mr. P T. Davies, Mr. T. James, Messrs. B. Hewitt and J. Orton (Bowling Club), Mr. H. Mellor, Mrs. Kenwright (Car and General Insurance Co. Ltd.), Mr. and Mrs. J McKellor, Mr. and Mrs. E. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Best, Mr. and Mrs. B. Bettson, Mr. W. T Farley, Mr. E. S. Blore, Mr. G. Peach, Miss E. Bird, Mrs. A. H. Cooper, senr., and Mrs. W. Finnemore.

Messrs. S. A. Johnson, R. Morrall, W. Finnemore and R. W. Parr acted as bearers, and Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft officiated at the organ.

Deceased was interred in the

Colton Parish Council 1/2

It was reported to the meeting of Colton Parish Council held in the Reading Room on Thursday last week, that the County Council were considering the repair which were considered necessary to the brook footbridge where Moreton Brook divides into two.

The Clerk, explained that the reason why the public lighting was not installed and in operation until November 8/9, instead of September 1 (as hoped) was the protracted delivery of brackets and columns at that time of year.

The Clerk explained that further information on the flooding of the highway at the brook bridge between Bellamour Corner and the churchyard near the school, had been obtained, which might be useful to the County Council.

Colton Parish Lands Trust, the owners of the land, had decided to meet the whole of the cost on this occasion, of work required to the brick bridge—with iron railings each side—over the Moreton Brook (new course) in the centre of the Marsh and over which there is a public right of way.

As to the short length of drain pipes laid in line with the field gate leading into Longley Common from Longley Lane (Bank Top side), it was reported that Colton Parish Lands Trust, as owners of the land, had decided to take entire responsibility for maintenance and replacement of this short length of drainpipes.

Members heard that the effort undertaken by the Parish Council on behalf of the Hungarian Relief Fund, met with a ready response in the parish, subscriptions totalling £37.

Fuel Shortage Hits Colton Church

What must have been a unique occasion for Colton churchgoers took place on Sunday evening when evening prayer was held in the Reading Room. The change occurred because of oil rationing the allowance not being enough to heat the church every Sunday. With two fires lighted, the room was comfortably warm, and the minister officiating in the continued absence of a rector, the Rev. L. E. H. Caller of Lichfield. Next Sunday the services are to be held in church.

The method of heating the pipe water was changed from coke to oil at considerable cost last winter.

COLTON

WHIST DRIVE

A whist drive was held in the leading Room on Thursday last week organised by the committee of the Village Produce Guild with their general funds. Mr. Fr Norman was M.C., and Mrs. T resented the prizes to: Mrs. Bannister, Mr. J. Shipley, Mr. Norman, Miss D. M. Jon Mrs. B. Jackson, Mr. F. H. Ba ister; lowest scores, Mr argeant and Mr. A. N. Felto ravelling prizes, Mrs. F. annister and Mr. T. Simm ystery prize, Mr. Geo ernon. All who assisted w anked by Mr. R. A. Brundle.

COLTON

Collection. — The house-to-house collection, in aid of the British Empire Cancer Campaign, in the Colton area raised £8 14s. 4d. The collectors were Mrs. J. L.

Colton Parish Council

At the first meeting in the new municipal year, of Colton Parish Council, Mrs. Julia L. Taylor was unanimously appointed chairman, while thanks were expressed to the retiring chairman, Mr. B. Bettson, for the able way he had fulfilled the office in the past three years.

Messrs. F. Norman and A. N. Felton were unanimously re-elected to the Committee of Management of the Reading Room, and Mr. F. Hardcastle was appointed to act as snow-clearing (contingency) supervisor for the winter season 1957/58. Messrs. B. Bettson and F. Hardcastle will be this year's delegates to the 18th annual conference of Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association at Stafford on June 15.

For the Triennial (5th.) conference of the National Parish Councils' Association at Westminster in October the delegate is Mr. Hardcastle.

Regarding the footbridge (over the Moreton Brook old course) which carries the public footpath from along the west side of the field known as the Marsh, into the field known as the Little Holme, a letter from the County Council said that the appropriate Committee had agreed to see to this bridge being put in order and would undertake to meet the cost at an estimated figure of £35.

Appreciation was expressed at this decision. It was pointed out that the County Council's decision over the two footbridges meant a saving of approximately £65 to the Parish Council's rating funds.

Mr. Norman raised the matter of the need for attention to wickets on the public footpath from Moor Lane, Hamley, past the Fox Holes to Bellamour, and a resolution appointed Messrs. F. Hardcastle and F. Norman to inspect this path and report at next meeting as to any repairs which seemed necessary.

being the

companies.

COLTON

New Rector.—Colton's new Rector is the Rev. A. S. Towlson who was inducted at a service at St. Mary's Church by the Archdeacon of Stafford (the Ven. W. A. Parker). The former Rector of Ingestre with Tixall, the Rev. A. S. Towlson now has charge of the parishes of St. Leonard's (Blithfield) and St. Mary's (Colton). Amongst those present at the induction ceremony were the Rural Dean the Rev. D. K. Robertson), the Revs. H. L. H. Townshend (Vicar of Rugeley), E. W. Vickery (Vicar of Longdon), and B. Matthews (Vicar of Colwich), also Mr. William Stokes (Licensed Lay Reader) and Mr. Owens (both of Rugeley). Afterwards, a reception, arranged by the Churchwardens, was held in the Reading Room, where refreshments were provided.



Miss Kathleen Gladys Keating and Mr. John Thomas Pugh in a group after their wedding at Rugeley Roman Catholic Church, on Saturday.

COLTON FETE MADE £186 FOR ST. MARY'S

THIS year the new Rector of Colton, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, opened the annual garden fete in aid of St. Mary's Church funds. The event took place, as usual, in the Rectory grounds on the Wednesday following August Bank Holiday.

Each year the organisers have been remarkably fortunate to have had not only fine, but mostly fair weather, and this year was no exception in this respect.

Altogether the gross takings this year amounted to approximately £180, to which has to be added the proceeds, £31, of a rummage sale held a few Saturdays ago, making a grand gross total of something like £211. The approximate net figure is £186, after deducting estimated expenses £25.

Stallholders and attendants were: Work stall, Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, Miss E. Bird, Mrs. E. Dunkey, Mrs. D. M. Atkin; produce stall, Mrs. P. D. Best, Mrs. L. K. Parr, Miss C. N. L. Williscroft; china stall, Mrs Julia L. Taylor, Mrs. Luke Mellor (Littlehay); cakes stall, Miss Agnes Jones, Mrs. M. A. Westhorpe, Mrs. S. J. Ball; ices and soft drinks, Mrs. Sheila A. Deacon; rummage stall, Mrs. Alice Meddings, Miss Lucy Bull; stall, bran tub, balloons, and sprays of lavender, Miss E. Rotchell and Sunday School members.

Amusements: Hoop-la stall, Mrs. M. S. Toy, Mrs. E. Knight and Mrs. G. E. Finnemore; bowling, Mr. B. Bettson; other bowling (through hole), Mr. E. S. Blore; kagle, Mrs. F. W. Cooper, helped by Miss D. Cooper; clock golf, Miss D. M. Jones; darts, Miss A. L. L. Hoare and Mr. W. Yeomans; fortune telling, Mrs. J. Degg, assisted by Mrs. P. Buckley; treasure hunt, Mrs. B. Hill, helper Mrs. H. Jones; gate attendants, Mr. W. T. Farley and Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft.

Competition prize donators and winners were: Mrs. Towlson (material for dress and pair of nylon stockings) won by Mrs. R. W. Parr and Mrs. S. Woodward, respectively; Mrs. M. F. Norman (chicken dinner), won by Mrs. P. Buckley; Mrs. L. K. Parr (portwnie), Mrs. Wisdom; Mrs. J. Hardcastle (cake), Miss D. Curtis; Mrs. Alice Blore (two cushions), Mr. J. H. Jones and Mrs. M. Brandrick; Mrs. F. Grimley (tablecloth), Mr. John Allen; Miss A. L. L. Hoare (eggs), winning ticket No. 70.

Teas were arranged by Mrs. A. F. W. Parker and Mrs. Bettson, and they were helped by Mrs. G. Jones, Mrs. H. M. Felton, Mrs. I. Preston, Mrs. Alice Cooper, Mrs. D. Deacon, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mrs. M. E. Hibbs, Mrs. R. O. Devall, Mrs. J. Brundle, Mrs. P. Bannister, Mrs. M. Williscroft, Mrs. S. Hewitt, Mrs. E. Hodgkiss.

A small scale sports event for children was run by Mr. M. B. Williscroft.

Lichfield Advertiser & Chronicle 8/8/1957.

COLTON HELPS FISHERMEN

The house-to-house collection in the Colton parish in aid of the Missio nto Deep Sea Fishermen has resulted in £6 17s. 0d. being sent to the London headquarters. The collectors were Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Mrs. M. E. Hibbs.

COLTON

PARISH COUNCIL. The Parish Council met at the Reading Room on Thursday evening of last week, under the chairmanship of Mrs Julia L. Taylor. It was reported that Messrs B. Bettson (late chairman) and F. Hardcastle, two of the three delegates appointed to represent the Parish Council, attended the 18th annual conference of Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association, on June 15 at Stafford. The third delegate was ill at the time and was unable to go. Regarding the brook bridge (where the Moreton Brook divides into two) carrying the public footpath round the brookside into Marsh it was reported that the ... and of supporting walls of the ... been carried out. The ... (Mr C. J. Ravenscroft) ... that a letter bearing the ... July 24, from the Clerk of ... Rural District Council, ... that the Parish Council's third ... as to removing the light at ... entrance to the Heath Way and ... it near Mr H. Challinor's ... had been submitted to the ... committee, who, after ... question was to remain ... it is at present sited. The ... was told that the foot... (over the Moreton Brook old ... carrying the public footpath ... along the west side of the field ... known as the Marsh into the ... which the County Council ... agreed to accept responsibility ... had now been done and it ... to have had a reasonably ... made of it. Mr Felton ... the question of the signpost ... used to stand at the junction ... Valley Road with the Blithfield ... Road (opposite the Railway ... It was resolved that the County ... authority be ... as highly ... they would be good enough ... again erecting a sign... this point.

COLTON

Produce Guild. — The monthly meeting of the Village Produce Guild took place in the Reading Room, Mr. R. A. Brundle (Chairman) presiding. An interesting talk was given by Mr. Tattersfield, of Rodbaston, on general vegetable growing. Mr. F. H. Bannister was elected Vice-Chairman and Mr. J. F. Peet Assistant Secretary. It was decided to visit Alton Towers on August 11th, in lieu of the usual monthly m eeting. It was agreed that in future, if a member could not attend, one of his family could represent him. Competition winner was Mr. Bannister

COLTON

GUILD SOCIAL.—Instead of the usual monthly meeting, the Colton Village Produce Guild spent an enjoyable social evening, thanks to hard work on the part of the Committee. The County Chairman (Mr. Jones) and Mrs. Jones, the Vice-Chairman (Mr. Holmes) and Mrs. Holmes and a few members of the Abbots Bromley Guild were present. Various games and competitions were played, the winners of which afterwards paraded in fancy dress. The prizewinners were Mrs. Edith Preston (Grandma) and Mr. Jack Brown (Wee Willie Winkie). The others who paraded and received consolation prizes were Mrs. Peet (Flapper), Mrs. Starbuck (Edwardian Lady) Mr. Starbuck (cowman) and Mr. Eric Devall (The Seven Veils). Mr. Jack Brown, the Staffordshire representative of the English Folk Dancing Society, danced a jig, Mrs. Brown providing the music. Mr. R. A. Brundle gave accordion solos, Miss D. M. Jones played the piano for the games, and for the dancing music was provided by Mrs. Toy (piano), Mr. Brundle (accordion) and Mr. R. Bannister (violin).. Refreshments were served and a cake was cut by Mrs. Jones (wife of the County Chairman) and handed round.

[illegible] Mrs J. L. Taylor (the enrolling member) [illegible] a welcome to all

Parish Council discusses bridges and lighting

RURAL WELFARE SERVICE MEETING AT COLTON

MEMBERS of eleven village organisations will attend a meeting in Colton Reading Room on February 20, to hear details of the Staffordshire Rural Community Council's Rural Advice and Welfare Service.

The date for this important meeting — and details of local people invited to attend—were given at last week's meeting of Colton Parish Council, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Julia L. Taylor.

Members were informed by the Clerk, that, in regard to Colton Parish Lands (Charitable) Trust, he had asked the Clerk of the Trust for a copy of statement of account of the Trust for the half year to October, 1957. This, when to hand, together with the one or the half year to April last supplied by the late Clerk, should assist in forming some idea of a year's financial working of the Trust.

Regarding the brook bridge (where the Moreton Brook divides into two) carrying the public footpath round the brookside into the field known as the Marsh, the Clerk said that as arranged a letter was written to the Couny Council expressing appreciation that the iron handrails and supporting walls had been put right but drawing attention to omission to provide a concrete reinforcement of the embankment where a cavity existed at a point adjoining the bridge, and asking that the County Council be good enough to see that this item was also given attention.

The Clerk explained that a letter came to hand from the County Surveyor's Department to the effect that that Department was not clear as to what the item was which the Parish Council stated had not been done and requesting further particulars and if possible a sketch plan. The Clerk said he had accordingly written to the County Surveyor's Dept. enclosing a sketch plan showing the situation of the cavity. The position remained at this for the moment.

Concerning public lighting, mention was made that the Rural District Council of Lichfield had had under consideration the method of reporting public lamps operating incorrectly or out of commission. In this connection a supply of prepaid cards had been received from the Midlands Electricity Board for the purpose of notifying the latter if it came to the Parish Council's knowledge that a lamp was operating incorrectly, or was out of commission save over-lamping, i.e., two or more members reporting the same lamp a suggestion was made that instead of these cards being handed to two or three parish councillors, one person, centrally situated, should hold all the cards, and that any member or anyone else knew of a faulty lamp, he or she should report it to the holder of the postcards and the latter could then send one of the postcards to the M.E.B.

Accordingly, Mr. Morrall proposed Mr. Hardcastle seconded: that Clerk hold the postcards, and notification be dealt with on the above basis.

This resolution was carried unanimously.

BRIDLEPATH

Respecting bridlepath No. BP 33, that section of Longley Lane which leads from the Blithbury side Bank Top to Longley Common,

revealed that the Trust had arranged for several of the Trustees to view the lane and, so far as the Trust were concerned, this was the latest information to hand at the moment. It was understood that the other two parties concerned in using the lane with wheeled traffic had expressed their readiness to help, and in fact one of these had already done certain work.

In regard to the question of providing a slab or tarmacadam surface to stand on when posting letters at Heath Way post-box, it was reported that the ground at the foot of the post-box was in good condition on the evening before the meeting notwithstanding the muddy conditions brought about by the rapid thaw the previous weekend. The Parish Council resolved not to pursue this matter any further.

The next item on the agenda was to do with Staffordshire Rural Community Council's — and North and South Staffordshire Councils of Social Service — Rural Advice and Welfare Service. In this connection Mr. Ravenscroft, the Clerk, said that arising out of the last meeting, several dates on which the Reading Room would be available for the meeting suggested by the Rural Community Council were sent forward to the Secretary of the latter, and the Rural Community Council had accordingly chosen Thursday, February 20 for the meeting. In her letter, the Secretary (Mrs. Jessie Evans) said that what was intended was not that the meeting should be of the nature of a parish assembly but, at this stage, an ad hoc meeting of those people and organizations either connected directly or indirectly with personal welfare who would be instrumental in bringing to the notice of all households in the parish the various services which could be obtained through the Rural Community Council. Guided by a list supplied by the latter of offices and positions held by local people and of certain organisations in the parish, the Parish Council decided to invite the following to the meeting on February 20th: Mr. George H. Brown, local County County representative; Mr. W. J. Parr, Rural District Council representative for the parish; the Rev. A. S. Towlson Rector of St. Mary's Church, Colton; Mr. E. Broughton, Schoolmaster; the Women's Institute; Mr. A. Deacon, Sub-Postmaster; Old People's Club; Area Welfare Officer, Mr. W. A. Brookes, Lichfield; Miss Hollins (Health Visitor); Colton Village Produce Guild; Mothers' Union; also local Red Cross representative (if any).

The letter from the Rural Community Council intimated that it was hoped the Secretary of that body (Mrs. Evans); with possibly the Chairman of the Standing Joint Committee for Rural Welfare Services and Mr. Symonds, Secretary of the South Staffordshire Council of Social Service, would be attending the meeting.

VISIBILITY

A set of explanatory papers, kindly provided by the Rural Community Council, was handed to each parish councillor present, and arrangements were made for a set to be also sent to each party and organization to be invited to the meeting.

Regarding visibility across the ford at the brook-bridge near the church, which it was mentioned at the last meeting of the parish council, was obscured by the lower boughs of saplings when in leaf, the meeting was informed that this point had received attention, and a very good job had been made of trimming the boughs in question.

In communicating with the C...

asked if they would consider re-erecting this signpost in such a manner as to avoid interfering with free visibility at this corner. The Clerk reported that the signpost would appear to have been so erected.

Another item before the Parish Council concerned the Lount Farm drive or lane. This, it was stated, would be the subject of an inquiry as to whether there was a public right of way over it leading into Moreton Lane (scheduled as a bridle-path) which passes on one side of the Lount Farm homestead and comes out at Moreton in the parish of Colwich. Mr. F. Hardcastle was appointed to represent the Parish Council at the enquiry as and when it is held by the County Council Sub-Committee dealing with Public Rights of Way. It was reported that notice had been given by the Parish Council to the Trustee-Owner of the farm and the occupiers in case both or either were interested in the enquiry.

A letter from Staffordshire Rural Community Council gave the information that the Parish Council's voluntary contribution of 10s together with other voluntary contributions from a few rural district councils and a large number of parish councils greatly helped the Rural Community Council to meet their comitments last year. The letter asked if the Parish Council would consider making a contribution this year, whereupon on the proposition of Mr Norman, which was seconded by Mr Morrall, the Parish Council unanimously decided to make a contribution of 10s. in respect of the current year.

Another matter related to a resolution which was put forward by Staffordshire Parish Councils Association at the Triennial (5th) Conference of Parish Councillors held at Westminster on October 3rd and 4th 1957, and was passed by a very large majority. This asked that Parish Councils should have a say in the election of a proportion of the Governors of Secondary Schools. A letter from the Staffordshire Parish Councils Association advised that this item was to be considered at a meeting of the County Education Committee on Saturday, February 1st and the letter suggested that Parish Councils should get in touch with their local representative on the Education Committee or County Council with a view to securing his or her support for the motion. The Clerk accordingly arranged to bring the point to the notice of Mr. G H. Brown, as local representative on the County Council.

BRIDGE DOWN

The Parish Council heard a report respecting the collapse following the heavy rains which culminated in flooding on or about September 27, and again on November 5, of the wooden footbridge, with handrail, over the Moreton Brook old course near Parchfields Dairy Farm, Trent Valley, occupied by Mr. R. H. Bloor The Parish Council resolved that the County Council be approached as to their undertaking to replace this footbridge. Mention was made that in the meantime the Parish Council had secured the consent of the owned an occupier of the farm to the use by the public of the farm cartbridge about 50 yards upstream from the collapsed footbridge, and notices had been put up accordingly

COLTON

WHIST.—A whist drive was held in the Reading Room on January 30, organised by the Women's Institute, for their general funds. Mr Fred Norman was the M.C. and Mrs G... ...freshments...

Colton Accepts Rural Community Scheme

At the invitation and under the auspices of Staffordshire Rural Community Council, Colton Parish Council called a meeting in the Reading Room on Thursday evening of last week.

Invited were people holding certain offices in the locality and representatives of various organisations in the parish, to hear, from representatives of the Community Council, about the services provided by and through and available on application to the Community Council.

In attendance were Mr. B. Bettson, Mr. W. J. Parr, Mrs. Julia L. Taylor, Mr. F. Norman and Mr. A. N. Felton, Parish Councillors, and Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft (Clerk), Mr. E. Broughton (Schoolmaster, Colton Church of England School), Mrs. J. Brundle (Hon. Secretary Colton W.I.); Mrs. Winifred A Bannister (Colton Darby and Joan Club); and Miss D. M. Jones (Hon. Secretary, Colton Village Produce Guild). In the absence of Mrs. P. Best through indisposition Mrs. Taylor represented Colton Branch of the Mothers' Union.

Mrs. Jessie Evans, Organising Secretary of the County Rural Community Council, introduced by Mrs. Taylor (who, as chairman of the Parish Council, presided over the meeting) illustrated her explanation of the aims and objectives of the Community Council by referring to several instances where people having differing personal problems had already been helped either by or through the offices of the Rural Community Council.

Advice on such problems as affected finance, matrimony, housing, child welfare, elderly people, handicapped folk, law, employment, education and service regulations was a speciality to be obtained from or through the Community Council.

Alderman A. N. Hillier, Chairman, Staffordshire Rural Community Council Standing Joint Committee for Rural Welfare Services also spoke on the Service.

The meeting unanimously decided that the proposed scheme should be brought into service in Colton and a further resolution recommended to the Community Council, Mr. Broughton and Mrs. Bannister for consideration as representatives for the parish. Mr. F. Hardcastle (Parish Councillor) was suggested as a likely third representative. Mr. Parr and Mrs. Bannister thanked the two visitors.

Colton Produce Guild plan summer outing

The monthly meeting of the Village Produce Guild took place in the Reading Room on April 3. Mr. R. A. Brundle presided. Miss D. M. Jones read the minutes of the last meeting and items of business were discussed including summer outings, the first early in June to Hodnet Hall. Exhibits for the Produce Guilds section at the County Show were invited.

The speaker was Miss Schofield, of Rodbaston Farm Institute, who gave a very interesting talk on the history and development of gardens. Members were interested in the collection of flowers and shrubs Miss Schofield brought along. She was thanked by Mr. A. N. Felton.

The competition for a bunch of flowers was won by Mrs. Garwood.

COLTON PRODUCE GUILD MEETING

The monthly meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild was held in the Reading Room, Mr. R. A. Brundle presiding.

Members were asked to enter exhibits for the Produce Guilds' section at the County Show. Suggestions were invited for an outdoor social evening to which members could take their children. It was stated that it was hoped to arrange such an outing in August, and that an effort will be made to take members to the County Competition for Floral Decoration at Great Bridgeford on July 11.

Mr. P. Ferguson, gardener at Ingestre Hall, gave an interesting and helpful talk on seasonal work in the garden. He brought a good collection to illustrate his talk, after which he answered questions. He was thanked by Mr. F. H. Bannister. The competition for rhubarb was won by Mrs. Felton.

Supply Times 10/5/58



With the help of Mr. C. Ravenscroft (left), the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson (right) has built ... choir (pictured a...

TIMES 12/4/58

COLTON PRODUCE GUILD

The monthly meeting of the Village Produce Guild was held in the Reading Room on Thursday last week. Mr. R. A. Brundle presiding. Mr. A. Meddings reported on the recent whist drive, which thanks to willing helpers was a success. Exhibits for the Produce Guilds section at the County Show were still asked for, and names were taken for the June outing to Hodnet Hall. An effort will be made to convey interested members to the County competition for Floral Decoration at Great Bridgeford on July 11. The speaker was Mr. P. Ferguson from Ingestre Hall gardens on seasonal work in the garden both with vegetables and flowers. He displayed a good collection to illustrate his talk and was thanked by Mr. F. H. Bannister. The competition for rhubarb was won by Mrs. Felton.





Members of the Girls' Brigade (above) rehearse a play "Win or Lose", which they are presenting at a village concert. They are (left to right): Irene Martin, Janet Jones, Dorothy Cooper and Joclyn Cubbitt. Left: Di...

TIMES 10/5/58

COLTON

...mbly.— The Annual ...cal Government Elec... ...arish of Colton this ...ce last week at the ... and consisted entire... ...of the Parish Council ...of Mrs. Julia L. Tay... ...of the Parish Council ...illness, Mr. Richard ...hairman) was unani... ...to the chair.

...e accounts of the Col... ...ds(Charitable) Trust ...ment of account of the ...half-year to October, ...eceived from the new ...Henry Webb, together ...for the half year to ...ained some time since ...lerk, Mr. Reginald W ...nded to one member ...home.

...y unanimously decided ...k to send a reminder ...l Rural District Coun... ...t that the prospective ...lf way along the big ...e Trent Valley Rail... ...d not as yet been es... ...ording to the minutes, ... which preceded this ...lacing of this light on ...graph pole had neces... ...ion for a satisfactory ...ween the M.E.B. and

...n on the agenda for ...was the Staffordshire ...nity Council's 'Best... ...mpetiion 1958'. There ...ish councillors present, ...to take no action in ...cipating in the compe...

...h Council meeting ...l, satisfaction was ex... ...having already had ...replaced and abutment ...walls of the footbridge ...e County Council had ...cavity in the embank... ...nt adjoining the bridge ...he provision of a con... ...ment It was pointed out ...completed all the work ...this footbridge which ...round the brookside ...e Marsh at the point ...oreton Brook divides

...rted no further news ...hand as yet as regards ...the Moreton Brook ...mour Corner and the

...of the Parish Council ...venscroft) reported that ...that part of Longley ...ads from the highway ...Top and Hurstwood ...ley Common revealed ...ment having been ef... ...middle part. Something ...of this section of the ...some re-condtioning. ...ad been used in filling

to one long rut or wheeltrack. The Parish Council heard from Mr. Felton, one of the two Parish Council's representatives on the Colton Parish Lands (Charitable) Trust, that the latter were prepared to make a contribution of £5 towards the re-conditioning of this section. It was arranged by the Parish Council that Mr. Felton should again see one of the parties concerned, viz: Mr. W. Finnemore, as to his participating in the re-conditioning of this section of lane.

Dealing with the Staffordshire Rural Community Council's (and North and South Staffordshire Councils of Social Service) scheme of rural advice and welfare service, the Clerk said that, following the special meeting on this subject on February 20, he interviewed Mr. F. Hardcastle (who was unable to attend the meeting owing to an accident the previous day) regarding his appointment as a third representative for the purpose of bringing cases needing help and assistance to the notice of the Community Council and Mr. Hardcastle had expressed his willingness to so act. His confirmation had accordingly been sent forward to the Community Council for consideration.

Mr. Hardcastle stated that, at the hearing he had that day attended at Stafford as the Parish Council's representative, the Sub-Committee of the County Council dealing with 'queried' Public Rights of Way in the rural district of Lichfield were satisfied from the available evidence that the Lount Farm drive or cartway could be classified as usable by the public — as a footway only, and the provisional registration was accordingly confirmed by the Sub-Committee. It was pointed out that a considerable section of the way to the Lount Farm was already recognised by the County Council as a public highway — namely, from the Admaston Road at Hamley to the gateway leading into the first field — and as such was maintained by the County Council. The inclusion of the drive or cartway itself — as a footpath only gave the public access to Moreton Lane — already scheduled as a bridle path — into which it ran. The Parish Council decided that the Clerk should write to the Ramblers Association, one of the parties interested in the matter, and at the same time acquaint the County Council concerning a statement attributed to one of its members the accuracy of which was in question.

Another items to do with public rights of way concerned those sections of the Trent and Mersey Canal towing path which lay within the Parish of Colton. These were included as public rights of way when the Parish Council carried out their draft Survey and Record in 1951/52

31/7/58

THE ADVERTISER, THU

Landor Society hear talk on Colton Church

[O]N Wednesday week, the Landor Society of Rugeley met at St. Mary's Church to listen to a talk by Mr. E. C. Toye [(]History Master, Rugeley Grammar School), on matters of [h]istorical and of architectural interest relating to Colton [C]hurch.

Mr. Toye, as a basis for his [a]ddress, took information [o]btained by him from a book [c]ompiled in about 1870 by the [la]te Rev. F. P. Parker, a [fo]rmer rector of the parish, as [a]mplified by Mr. Parker's [su]ccessor in office, the late [R]ev. D. R. S. Holmes, who [ha]d also given much consider[at]ion to the subject.

The oldest parts of the church, [ex]plained the speaker, were the [to]wer and the south chancel, which [ha]d had considerable restoration [w]ork carried out on them on several [oc]casions. Notwithstanding this, [h]owever, both still fortunately car[ri]ed traces of their Norman origin

Mr. Toye here compared examples [of] early English architecture with a [si]milar style to be found in the [ch]ancel and tower of the old church [of] St. Augustine at Rugeley. The [to]wer of Colton Church was of [ex]traordinary strength and structure [fo]r a church of its size, the walls [be]ing four feet thick at the base. [Th]e reason for this was the marshy [co]ndition of the ground.

Very great structural and restora[tio]n work took place on the church [in] 1851.

Speaking about the three bells, [th]e earliest of which—the tenor bell [wa]s dated 1705, Mr. Toye remarked [tha]t this seemed a frequently met [wi]th period in the history of church [be]lls.

Referring to the story of St. [Ni]cholas, who was the patron saint [at] the time of a former Lord of the [Ma]nor (Colton having had some [co]nnection with the de Mavesyns of [the] neighbouring Ridware parish [wh]ere is to be seen the church of [St.] Nicholas), the wall of the south ...

frescoes, a type of mural picture—in outline only—of the saint, and the three supposedly murdered boys in the legend, which the speaker narrated together with its alternative version.

These frescoes, unfortunately, got whitewashed over many, many years ago.

Other items in the church worth noting were a churchwarden's chest; some exquisitely decorative workmanship in the nature of three miserere seats fitted in the chancel (these latter came from Tenby, but with very little doubt were originally used for workship in a monastery); and the several stained glass windows, outstanding in which are the east windows of the chancel and the south or old chancel.

Subsequently, a tour of the interior and exterior of the church was made during which Mr. F. W. Cooper (church clerk) showed the company the various items of interest.

On behalf of the society, the chairman, the Rev. E. W. Vickery (Longdon) accorded a vote of thanks to the rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson) who introduced and assisted the party, and to Mr. Cooper.

Itl having been announced that it would be an open meeting, quite a number of local people were among those present.

Colton church repair fund

TO help finance an extensive repair and improvement scheme at the Parish Church, the people of Colton last week adopted a "Friends of Colton Church" scheme. Those who join will pay a voluntary contribution of 1s. per week.

The target in mind, said the rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, was £2,500 and the aim is to raise an extra average amount of £500 a year during the next five years. This would be over and above the usual church collections from which an average of about £4 per week was needed to meet ordinary maintenance expenses.

In addition to the "Friends" scheme, there will be the usual garden party, rummage sale and other social functions. Another idea is the "sale" to the public at, says 2s each, of concrete blocks to be used in the erection of a permanent boundary wall round the new burial ground, the donor of money to be provided with a souvenir.

Objects of the appeal are roof repairs, plastering, woodwork treatment vacuum cleaning process, complete overhauling and improvements to organ (estimated cost £650, £300 priority), improvement to the old churchyard, laying out the new burial ground, and repayment of the £700 balance of the £750 mortgage to the Church Commissioners, the proportion of local contribution of the cost of alterations to the rectory.

The other item allowed for in the scheme is to provide a reserve fund to meet unforeseen requirements and emergency work.

Advertiser 6/6/58

COLTON

Girls' Brigade.—During the [winter] and spring St. Mary's Church G[irls'] Brigade have put in a good dea[l of] time and effort on subjects of [an] entertaining nature which culmin[ated] in a somewha enjoyable public [per]formance at the Reading Room [on] Monday evening. There was a [very] good attendance and the cu[rtain] opened—following a pianoforte [solo] by Mrs Olive Ballard—a Girls' [Bri]gade worker—with "Nicholas Ny[e]" — recited by Ruth B. Ravensc[roft]. "The Shoemaker's Shop" — [an] action song—was ably presented [by] June Bannister (accompanist, [Mrs] Ballard) and Susan Hibbs follo[wed] with a recitation headed "[A] Spring Morning." Angela Co[...] was responsible for a diversio[n by] way of a Swedish dance and she [was] accompanied on the piano by [Mrs] Ballard. Other items before the [inter]val were: "The Scarecrow—rec[i]tation — Edna Lycett; Waltz i[n ...] flat (F. Chopin) (piano) — [Mrs] Ballard; "Someone" — recit[ation] — Hilda Stretton; "Sun in [the] Morning"—song—Pat Martin [(ac]companist, the Rev. A. S. Tow[lson); "]Sailors' Hornpipe" — P[...] Richardson and Margaret Finne[y] (accompanist, the Rev. A. S. T[owl]son); medley of songs—by the G[...] Club members already menti[oned] and Dorothy Dolman, inclu[ding] solos by June Bannister ("Ride [a] Bike"); Ruth B. Raven[scroft] ("Whatevaer will be, will be"); Joscelyn Cubbitt ("True Lo[ve]") and Hilda Stretton and Pat M[artin] ("A the end of the Day")—[accom]panist: Mrs Ballard. The sec[ond] half of the concert consisted of [an] amusing one-act play, "Wi[n or] Lose." Characters: Mrs [...] (Dorothy Cooper); Mrs H[...] (Irene Martin); Elsie Bride ([...] Jones); Millie Jordan (Joscelyn C[ub]bitt); and Mrs Jordan (Be[...] Stretton). Light refreshments [were] provided and he evening's pro[ceeds] were in aid of church funds.

Advertiser 10/7/58

COLTON

Produce Guild. — The monthly meeting of the Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room on July 3, was well attended. Miss D. M. Jones gave an account of the County Show, giving details of the exhibits from various guilds. Final arrangements for conveying members to the floral arrangement competition at Great Bridgeford were made, and it was decided to accept Abbots Bromley's invitation to fill up vacant seats on their coach. Mr. A. Meddings gave a talk on work which should be done in the garden during July, following which a gardeners' forum was held, with Mr. R. A. Brundle as the question master, and Mr. A. Meddings, Mr. F. H. Bannister, Mr. David Goodall and Mr. Jack Meddings as the panel. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. A. N. Felton. The competition for lettuce was won by Mr. Bannister.

Cancer research. — The house-to-house collections on behalf of the British Empire Cancer Campaign in Colton parish was organised by Mrs. J. L. Taylor, and the collectors were Miss E. Rotchell, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mrs. A. Shipley and Miss Ann Preston. The total amount collected was £7 10s. 0d.

Rummage sale. — The rummage sale arranged for church funds by the Parochial Church Council and ...

COLTON

Mothers' Union. — The July [meet]ing of the Mothers' Union [took] place at Lea Hall Farm, Admaston, by kind invitation [of] Mrs. W. J. Jones, and was [well] attended. A service was condu[cted] by the Rev. H. Perrins, of Armit[age], who gave a most inspiring talk [on] the Psalms. A vote of thanks [was] given to Mr. Perrins on behalf [of] members by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscr[oft] and Mrs. J. L. Taylor thanked M[rs.] Jones and Miss Agnes Jones for the trouble they had taken to [give] the members such an enjoya[ble] afternoon.

Advertiser 24/7/58

... E.B. for adjustment of the lighting season from September 1 to March 31, as at present, to September 21 to April 21. This, it was pointed out, would carry the lighting season on to the commencement of summer time, and the later date for commencing of lighting would not be so noticeable with lighting not having already commenced. The Clerk (Mr C. J. Ravenscroft) having intimated his desire to relinquish the office of clerk at the end of the present financial year (March, 1959), it was resolved to put up a notice or two in the parish inviting applicants to send in their aplications for the clerkship to the Clerk.

Guild outing. — Instead of the usual monthly meeting in June, the committee of the Village Produce Guild arranged na outing to Hodnet Hall, Shropshire. This took place on June 7, when two coach loads l[eft] Colton in the early afternoon. T[he] outing was much enjoyed, includi[ng] a most interesting conducted tour [of] the house. Heavy rain fell, b[ut] cleared up for a tour of the ground[s] after tea.

12/6/58 Advertiser & Chronicle

27/6/58 Mercury

Colton Church's Five-year Plan

IF church life is to be allowed to continue to function under reasonably healthy conditions, much spadework lies before Colton people during the next few years.

The position appertaining to church affairs was outlined by the Rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson) when he presided at an open meeting on Wednesday evening last week at which suggestions as to ways and means of raising the required funds were invited.

[...] plastering; woodwork [trea]tment; vacuum cleaning pro[cess]; complete overhauling (last [done] was in 1924) and improve[me]nts to the organ (estimated at [...] of which something like £300 [f]or priority work); laying out [the] old churchyard round the [chu]rch; laying out the new burial ...

4/9/58

COLTON

Choir outing.— Two coachloads of people consisting primarily of members of St. Mary's Junior Church Girls' Church Brigade and church choir, took part in their second annual outing on Friday last week, the ...

Rugeley Times 13/9/58

Colton dance aids church funds

A successful dance was held in the Reading Room on Saturday, to benefit The Friends of Colton Church scheme. The main feature of the evening was a children's fancy dress parade, judged by Dr. and Mrs. Stack. Prizewinners were: Children up to seven years:— 1, Judith Norman (witch); 2, Keith Williscroft (Robin); 3, Marilyn Collins (Snow Queen), Seven to 12: 1, Pamela Jones and Christine Peake (the Ugly Sisters); 2, Gwendoline N. Ravencroft (cracker); 3, Victor Chell (wheatsheaf). Twelve to 15: 1, Angela Collins (1958 ...

COLTON PRODUC[E] GUILD

Colton Village Produce G[uild] held their monthly meeting [in] the Reading Room on Thurs[day], Mr. R. A. Brundle presiding. [Miss] D. M. Jones gave a report on [a] visit to Webbs trial grounds.

Names were taken of mem[bers] wishing to attend the Cou[nty] Rally at Rodbaston Farm [In]stitute on September 20.

An interesting talk was gi[ven] by Mrs. Horton of Lichfield, w[ho] was accompanied by her husba[nd] Mr. C. F. Horton, the coun[ty] representative to the Natio[nal] Federation. The topic of Mr[s.] Horton's address was "Custo[ms] and Village Life in France" which is her native country.

Miss Jones thanked the speake[r].

The competition for a bunch o[f] flowers was won by Mrs. Garwoo[d] with mixed flowers.

COLTON 'FRIENDS' RALLY TO HELP VILLAGE CHURCH

COLTON Church is a priceless heritage which the villagers must preserve intact, said Miss D. F. N. Landor, when opening the garden fete at Colton Rectory in bright sunshine on Wednesday afternoon. She appealed for more people to join the Friends of Colton Church by giving 1/- per week until the £2,500 appeal was completed. She recalled that the last time she was at a Colton fete was many years ago, when Mrs. Oldham opened it. "It was more like a happy family party and I hope today's fete will be the same."

Miss Landor went on to speak of her family's association with Colton Church, over the last 200 years, saying two of her ancestors were rectors, John for 39 years, and Charles Savage Landor, brother of the poet, for 43 years. She was pleased to see two old tablets to their memory still in the church. Referring to the very ancient character of the church, she also mentioned two even older objects in the village—the two stones which are at the ends of the bridge over the stream, relics of the glacial age.

The rector also appealed for generous support, and asked everyone to patronise the "well-stocked stalls." In thanking Miss Landor, he asked people to "act as Christian people—as friends of the church."

The vote of thanks was seconded by Mr. Bettson, a churchwarden, and a bouquet was presented to Lady Bagot, who was accompanied by Lord Bagot, by Gwendoline Ravenscroft, and a box of chocolates and a buttonhole were handed to Miss Landor by six year-old Keith Williscroft.

Stallholders

Stalls were in charge of the following:—China: Mrs. Taylor; produce: Mrs. Best, Mrs. Parr, Miss Williscroft; work stall: Mrs. Sargeant, Mrs. Dunkey and Mrs. Atkin; cakes: Miss Jones, Mrs. Westhorpe, Mrs. Ball; rummage: Mrs. J. Meddings senior, Miss Ball; bran-tub: Miss Rotchell; mystery stall: Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Ballard.

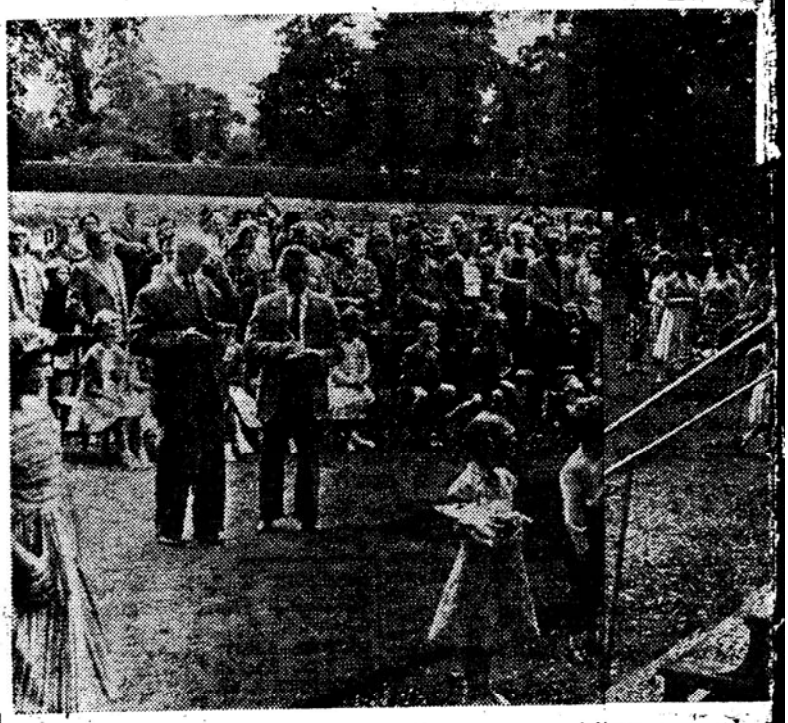
The Friends of Colton Church had a stall, staffed by Miss Cooper, for the sale of "stones" for the new churchyard wall at 2s. each.

Sideshows included treasure island, Miss A. Hoare; hoopla: Mrs. J. H. Toy and Mrs. F. Knight; bowls: Mr. Bloor; kagle: Mr. F. Cooper; skittles: Mr. Bettson; clock golf and hidden treasure: Miss D. Jones.

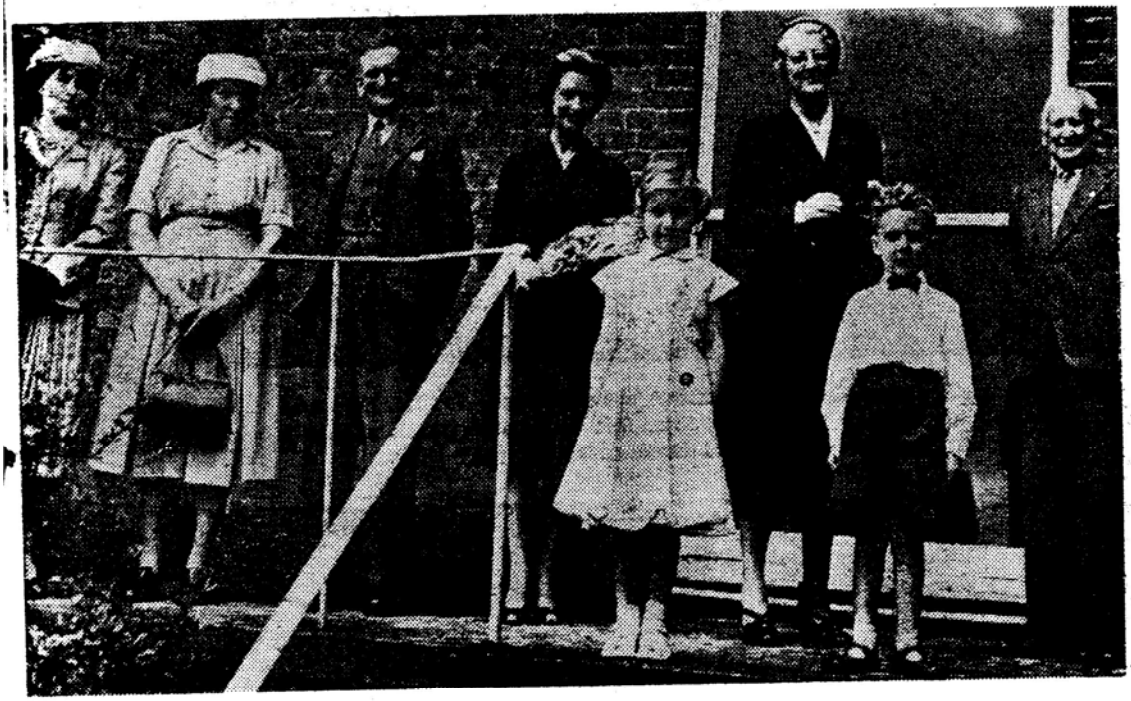
Rides for the children were given by Misses Lesley Mifflin and Elizabeth Toy on a pony lent by Mr. Knights. "Petrelengo," was also in attendance.

After tea there was a display of dancing by the Church Girls' Brigade, trained by Mrs. Towlson and Miss Cooper, with Mrs. Ballard at the piano. Teas in the marquee were served by a group of ladies with Mrs. Bettson in charge. Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft was gate steward.

The arrangements were in the hands of the recently formed Friends of Colton Church, with the rector as chairman, and Mr. J. A. Best as treasurer. In the one month that has elapsed since its inauguration of the scheme, 56 members have been enrolled, which means the fund already benefits to the extent of £2 16s. per week.



Villagers and visitors grouped in the lawn as Miss Landor is about to perform the opening ceremony at Colton garden fete.



In the picture above are seen (left to right) Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Bettson, Mr. Bettson (churchwarden), Lady Bagot, Miss Landor and Lord Bagot. In the foreground are Gwendoline Ravenscroft and Keith Williscroft.

Mid-week fe[te] raised £186

BLESSED with fair weather th[e] Fete anticipated a goodly a[t] the annual open-air event held Wednesday in August Bank Hol[s]

The opening ceremony was of particular interest in that it was performed by a descendant of two former rectors of the parish, Miss D. F. N. Landor, of Church Street, Rugeley, there being memorials in the church to their memory.

Miss Landor referred to the recent local appeal for funds to meet various church objectives and remarked that when she last attended the fete some years ago when it was opened by the late Mrs. M. Oldham, it was quite a pleasurable afternoon for her and she trusted that this one would be just as enjoyable for all present.

Miss Landor was accompanied on the platform by Lord and Lady Bagot, Mr. B. Bettson (rector's churchwarden) and Mrs. Bettson, and by Mr. F. Taylor (people's warden) and Mrs. Taylor.

On behalf of the "Friends of Colton Church," the organisers, Miss Landor was thanked by the rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson) who said that generous support of the stalls and sideshows would be gratifying to all concerned in the effort to raise the money needed for the church. Mr. Bettson seconded the vote of thanks, Miss Landor afterwards receiving a box of chocolates and a buttonhole from six-years-old Keith Williscroft while Gwendoline Ravenscroft (aged seven years) tendered a bouquet which was accepted by Lady Bagot.

...ton Parish Council

...s of Colton Parish ...passed a resolution at ...eting on Tuesday last ...ing for urgent "positive ...y the County Council to ...the flooding from More... at the Brook Bridge. ...Morrall presided at the ...where members heard ...County Roads and ...Committee had ...nsideration the prospects ...ing the wooden foot... ...er the Moreton Brook ...near Parchfields Dairy ...ent Valley, occupied by ...Bloor, with a concrete ...y had obtained an esti...

COMMENTS ON G...

The 38/64 Staffordshire ... which is the combined uni... North and South Staffs ...

Result:
Lichfield Police .....
No. 2 C.I.C. .....

...by half-time were goals to one.

After the change roun... field Police took good ad... of the slight slope and m... score even with a pen... HAYCOCK and another ... REYNOLDS.

In the closing stages ... game both teams played ... extent and a draw seeme... able, but the C.I.C. press... to add to their score, a... ceeded a few minutes fr... with a shot that Simms, th... goalkeeper, failed to coll... before the ball crossed the...

Rovers, B.R.C. "A" and N... Amateurs "A" and ... could not be admitte... League.

A cheque for £40 has ... forwarded to the ... Playing Fields Assoc... Executive Commit... Pageant Cup Comm...

This ... were ...

Moreton Brook flooding "matter of urgency"

THE Colton Parish Council held a meeting in the Reading Room on Tuesday evening of last week, Mr. R. Morrall presiding. Regarding the question of flooding from the Moreton Brook at the Brook Bridge, a resolution was made which called for positive action on the part of the County Council as highway authority for alleviation of the flooding as a matter of urgency. The clerk was also asked to enquire if the County Council could furnish the Parish Council with particulars of the survey it is understood had been carried out in connection with the investigations made in this matter.

Regarding a wooden footbridge (with iron handrail) on supporting walls which carries a public footpath (from Bellamour past the Foxholes to Moor Lane at Hamley) over a ditch in the middle of one field, the meeting was informed that this had a large crack along its length. The chairman was accordingly authorised to give instructions to a firm of wheelwrights tto replace the existing footboard with a more substantial one in view of the depth of the ditch.

In regard to Staffordshire Rural Community Council's Rural Advice and Welfare Service Scheme for the parish, the Clerk (Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft) reported that the yellow informative leafets supplied by the Coummunity Council had now been distributed amongst a number of places in the parish, while confidential type of forms for use where people wish to apply direct for assistance in lieu of approaching one of the three representatives appointed, had been deposited with and were only obtainable from the local post office.

DEFERRED

The meeting heard that the County Roads and Bridges Committee (to whom this item was passed by the Parish Council) had had under consideration the prospects of replacing the wooden footbridge over the Moreton Brook old course near Parchfields Dairy Farm, Trent Valley, occupied by Mr. R. H. Bloor with a concrete one, and had obtained an estimate, but as this worked out at £75, the matter had been deferred for the present.

A letter from the Clerk to Lichfield R.D.C. gave the information that a lamp could be installed about half-way (near Parchfields Farm drive) along the big blue wall at the Trent Valley railway station at a charge of £8 per lighting season. As this would complete the originally intended lighting programme of six lights in the parish, the Parish Council unanimously decided to recommend to the R.D.C. acceptance of this offer.

Installation of this light has been held up considerably pending efforts on the part of the M.E.B. to obtain sanction for the light to be fixed on a telegraph pole.

Mr. F. Hardcastle was appointed the Parish Council's delegate to the half-yearly meeting of Staffordshire Rural Community Council on October 18 at Stafford.

A scheme was outlined for an understanding between the County Council and Parish Councils concerning maintenance and repairs and replacements of and on public footpaths under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949. Under the scheme the promoters, that is, the County Council, wouldl undertake to pay for all major works of reconstruction, repairs and replacements whilst work of a minor nature would be the responsibility of the Parish Councils. Mr. Hardcastle and the Clerk were appointed as the Parish Council's two official delegates to attend a conference under the auspices of Staffordshire Parish Council's Association at Stafford on Saturday, November 8, to consider advisability of adopting the scheme.

The scheme provides for annual contributions by the County Council to Parish Councils, towards the latter's expenses in effecting minor repairs and replacements. The prospective contributions are based on a table according to the mileage of public footpaths and bridleways in the parish.

It was mentioned to the Parish Council that three cattle prevention posts on the Marsh side of the wicket and wicketway leading out of the Martlin into the Marsh were loose and the consequence was that the wicket-way was no longer proof against cattle.

It was mentioned that these protecting posts were fixed there a year or two ago by the farmer-occupants of the Martlin and the Parish Council therefore arranged for the Chairman to interview the last-mentioned as to whether they would re-fix the posts on a firmer basis.

Great concern having been expressed at the present unsatisfactory state of the public sewer down the village, a resolution was made calling on Lichfield R.D.C. to take immediate steps to re-construct the whole of the system and to pursue the matter to a satisfactory solution, having regard to the fact that fresh additions are continually being made to the present system.

Golden anniversary



FRIDAY, JULY 11, passed quietly with Mr. Walter T. Farley and Mrs. Amy Farley, of Williscroft Place, Colton, although it was the anniversary of their golden wedding.

There is a difference of six or seven years between them—Mr. Farley was born at Farnborough, Hampshire, 84 years ago, being one of a family of nine boys and four girls. He has two brothers still living, both octogenarians like himself, and two sisters, each in their seventies.

Mrs. Farley's native place is Greatham, in Sussex. She is 76 years of age, and has one brother and one sister still living; both are over 70.

Her sister, who is staying with Mr. and Mrs. Farley at present and is 79, was a bridesmaid at the wedding which took place at Amberley, Sussex, about four miles from where Mrs. Farley was born. At that time Mr. Farley was butler at the home of the late General Rideout, of Hove.

It was in 1914 that Mr. Farley and his wife came to Colton, and they have resided in the parish ever since. Mr. Farley came at that time to take up the situation of butler at the now demolished Bellamour Hall.

After the first world war, Mr. Farley joined the staff of Central Mills, Bees Lane, Rugeley, and he remained in this occupation until his retirement at the age of 72, travelling to work at the firm's Hednesford premises for the first 20 years of this period.

The couple have one son, who is married and is employed at a pressed steel works at Oxford. Their only daughter is also married and resides at Epsom.

Turning to local activities, Mr. Farley was a member of St. Mary's Parochial Church Council for a great many years. He retired from the office of bellringer after over 20 years' service when the order to cease ringing came into effect on the outbreak of World War II.

A parish councillor for 29 years, Mr. Farley retired from this office in 1952 after serving for the last eight and a half years as chairman.

Under appointment from the Parish Council, Mr. Farley served for six years as a Colton Church of England School manager—a position he only relinquished early last month.

Mr. Farley also served for a number of years as one of the Parish Council's two representatives on the Colton Parish Lands (Charitable) Trust.

Mrs. Farley was a member of Colton Women's Institute for a period of years.



Mr. and Mrs. Farley.

COLTON

Produce.—The October meeting of the Village Produce Guild which was a week later than usual on account of the harvest festival, was held in the Reading Room on October 9 Mr. F. H. Bannister (vice-chairman) presiding. Anyone interested in taking part in the digging match were asked to give in their names, also those wishing to attend the County Dinner at Sandon in November. Suggestions were invited for games or competitions to take place at the social in December. A talk was given by Mrs. Castellan of Wolseley Bridge on 'weeds'. She explained how one could tell quality of soil by the type of weeds growing on it

COLTON

Harvest. — Services at St. Mary's Church, Colton, were held on Thursday evening last eek, and on Sunday. The rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson) officiated at all the services, the address at evening service on Thursday being given by the Rev. B. Matgift service for children occupied the afternoon on Sunday. Thanks were accorded the several ladies who had so ably done the decorating, and also to the donors of flowers, vegetables, fruit and corn. Collections, which amounted in all to £17 1s. 11d., are to go to the 'Friends of Colton Church" Scheme specially earmarked for allocation to the fund

COLTON

Produce Guild.—The November meeting of the Village Produce Guild, which was well attended, was held in the Reading Room on November 6, Mr. R. A. Brundle presiding. Business discussed included arrangements regarding the county dinner at the "Dog and Doublet," Sandon on November 13. Names were taken of those wishing to take part in the county digging match. The social was fixed to take place on December 13. Each member may take one guest on the payment of one shilling only A subcommittee was formed to attend to all arrangements. The speaker for the evening was Dr. Mason, of Fisons Fertilisers, who gave a most interesting and helpful lecture on

Rugeley Mercury 31/10/1958.

'arish Assembly. — The annual ish assembly of local government rs took place on Thursday evening "eek at the Reading Room. The S. Towlson handed round ntement of account of Colton s (Charitable) Trust as at 958. After enquiries by d the Clerk (Parish ems in the assembl

Advertiser 30/10/58

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from K... partnersh... first with... Mr. Clemen... Mr. George ... deaths, with ... Julia L. Taylo... mentioned, who w... a member of Colto... and chairman of that ... years ... his de... in...



Members of Colton Church Girls Brigade in a scene from "The Princess and the Woodcutter" which they gave at the week-end

Colton children give concert

A DELIGHTFUL concert was held in Colton Reading Room on Friday and Saturday, given by members of Colton Church Girls' Brigade, assisted by pupils of the Rugeley Studio of Dancing, in aid of the Friends of Colton Church £2,500 Appeal Fund.

The programme began with a musical item, followed by a song by Hilda Stretton. Members of the Girls' Brigade then presented "The Princess and the Woodcutter." The part of the woodcutter was ably played by Irene Martin, with Ruth Ravenscroft as the dainty, attractive princess.

The king was in the capable hands of Angela Collins, while the queen was taken by Wendy Norman. The three princes were as follows: Blue Prince, Susan Hibbs; Red Prince, Edna Lycett; Yellow Prince, Jocelyn Cubitt. Christine Leeke and Kathleen Norman were the royal atendants, and Pamela Jones excelled in her part as the rabbit.

After the interval, during which light refreshments were served, June Bannister sang and danced "Shoemaker's Shop." The Highland fling and ballet solo were well danced by Susan Lathom. Then came "Sugar in the morning," presented by Pamela Jones, Christine Leeke and Kathleen Norman. "Little Miss Muffet" was well danced and characterised by Anne Madders, while Janet Read's interpretive dance of Hans Andersen's "Match-girl" was beautifully mimed, and met with much approval.

Keen musical sense of rhythm was shown by Annette Martin in her Tarentella dance. Next followed two national dances: a Swedish dance in playful manner was presented by Hazel Bloor, and Olga Sawczuk portrayed the sad and gay, lively mood of a Russian peasant. A song and dance duet, "Willie, can you do the things I ask you?" was cutely sung and danced by Pamela Jones and Kathleen Norman.

To conclude the evening, the Colton Girls' Club all joined together for a song medley. Solos were sung by Ruth Ravenscroft, Susan Hibbs, Jocelyn Cubitt and Hilda Stretton. To finish with, "Bless this House" was well rendered by Irene Martin and Wendy Norman (both members of Colton Church choir).

The accompanist was the rector of Colton (the Rev. A. Stanley Towlson). Other helpers included Mrs. W. Finnemore and Mrs. F. Ballard (piano) and Mr. F. Ballard (lighting). The programme was produced by Valerie M. Towlson, principal of the Rugeley Studio of Dancing.

The sum of approximately £20 was raised towards the Appeal Fund, and a most commendable effort was enjoyed by the performers and audience alike.

COLTON

Whist drive. — A very successful whist drive was held in the Reading Room, organised by the headmaster and teachers of Colton School to give the children a Christmas party and presents of books. Mr. Fred Norman was M.C., and Mrs. Broughton presented prizes to: Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mr. E. Rowe, Miss N Lane, Mr G. Vernon, Mrs. P L. Bannister, Mr E. Hewitt, Mrs. L. Myatt and Mr. G. Hampson; miniatures, Miss Pat Hurley and Mr. J Hurley; lowest scores, Mrs. M. E. Cordon and Mr W. J. Sproston. Competition winners were Mr. Archer (Cannock), Mrs. Rudd, Miss Lindop, Delia Knight, Mrs. D. Evans, Mrs Bancroft, Mr. J. Webb, Mrs. A. J Smith and Mrs. L. Myatt. Mr. E Broughton (headmaster) extended grateful thanks to all who had assisted in any way to make a success of the effort.

COLTON RECTOR DEDICATES GIFT

During morning service at St. ...'s Church, Colton, on Sunday, ... Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, ...icated the new Trinity "Burse ... Veil", which has been ...nymously given for use during ... communion service. The Rector ...mended the gift to the care of ... churchwardens, Mr. Bernard ...tson and Mr. Maurice Willis-

3/5/59 TIMES

26/3/59.

Colton.—There was a good attendance at the March meeting, which was also the annual meeting. Mrs. Preston, who presided, was re-elected as President; the Committee were also re-elected *en bloc*. Congratulations and good wishes were extended to Mrs. Tooley, a comparatively new member, who was celebrating her golden wedding anniversary. The competition for a hyacinth in

Rugeley Times 18/10/58

Rector dedicates altar frontal

At Colton parish communion service on Sunday morning the new green Trinity Altar Frontal was dedicated by the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson. The frontal, a gift from the Colton branch of the Mothers' Union, was presented to the rector by the enrolling member, Mrs. J. L. Taylor.

The rector commended the frontal to the care of the church wardens, which Mr. B. Bettson (rector's warden), who was supported by the deputy people's warden, Mr. J. A. Best, acknowledged.

The Mothers' Union banner was carried by Mrs. B. Bettson, with Mrs. P. B. Best and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft as escorts.

Broken Link

WHEN Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft retires as clerk to Colton, near Rugeley, parish council at the end of this month, a 65-year-old family link with the office will be broken. Ever since parish councils were set up by the Local Government Act of 1894, a member of his family has been clerk to the Colton Council.

26/3/59

The first clerk, Mr. John Upton, handed over in 1906 to his son, Mr. A. E. Upton, who held the office until his death in 1933. Then Mr. Ravenscroft, nephew of Mr. A. E. Upton, took over, and has served the council ever since.

Mr. Ravenscroft is proud of the fact that in his 25 years service he has never missed a parish council or parish assembly meeting.

Express & Star

COLTON

7/3/59

COLLECTION

The house to house collection in Colton in aid of Dr. Barnardo's Homes, organised by Mrs. J. L. Taylor, has resulted in £10/10s being sent to the headquarters. The collectors were Miss E. Rotchell, Mrs. H. M. Felton and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft.

COLLECTION PLATES CONSECRATED

During morning ...

£20 Raised at Colton Concert

ONE of the outstanding features of a concert which took place in the Reading Room at Colton on Friday and Saturday evenings was the hard work which the artistes and their trainers had put in to make it such a successful event, both in performance and financially.

As an introduction Mrs. G. E. Finnemore gave a pianoforte solo entitled "Country Garden" (Percy Grainger) and a play entitled "The Princess and the Woodcutter" absorbed the remainder of the first half, after a song had been sung by Hilda Stretton entitled "The Queen of Melody". Performers in this play were: the Misses Ruth B. Ravenscroft (Princess), Irene Martin (Woodcutter), Angela Collins (King), Wendy Norman (Queen), Edna Lycett (Red Prince), Joscelyn Cubitt (Yellow Prince), Susan Hibbs (Blue Prince), Pamela Jones (Rabbit), Christine Leeke and Kathleen Norman (Pages).

Light refreshments were served at the interval and "The Blue Danube" another pianoforte piece played by Mrs. Finnemore marked the opening of Part II. Then followed a series of items—all well staged—as follows:—"Shoemaker's Shop," sung and danced by June Bannister; the Highland Fling and Ballet Solo, danced by Susan Latham; "Sugar in the Morning", presented by Pamela Jones, Christine Leeke and Kathleen Norman; "Little Miss Muffett" danced by Anne Madders; interpretation of Hans Anderson's "Matchgirl", danced by Janet Read; Tarentella dance, danced by Annette Martin; a Swedish dance, Hazel Bloor; Russian Peasant by Olga Sawczuk; "Polly buys a hat", Christine Leeke; "Willie, can you do the things I ask you", sung and danced by Pamela Jones and Kathleen Norman; Song Medley by St. Mary's Church Girls' Brigade or Club including solos by Ruth B. Ravenscroft, Susan Hibbs, Joscelyn Cubitt and Hilda Stretton and "Bless this House" sung jointly by Irene Martin and Wendy Norman.

Mrs. O. Ballard played the piano for "Shoemaker's Shop" and the accompanist for the remainder of the above items was the Rev. A. S. Towlson (Rector of St. Mary's Church).

The effort was a joint one by St. Mary's Church Girls' Club and members of the Rugeley Studio of Dancing (Principal, Mrs. Valerie M. Towlson).

Total proceeds were £20 and are in augmentation of the "Friends of Colton Church" funds.

16/9/59 TIMES

New Colton head takes up duties

Sunday was a memorable day at St. Mary's Church, Colton. At the morning service Mr. D. E. Waters, newly appointed headmaster of Colton Church School, was installed as a licensed reader for the parishes of Colton and Blithfield. The Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, officiated.

The large congregation included the churchwardens and many

COLTON

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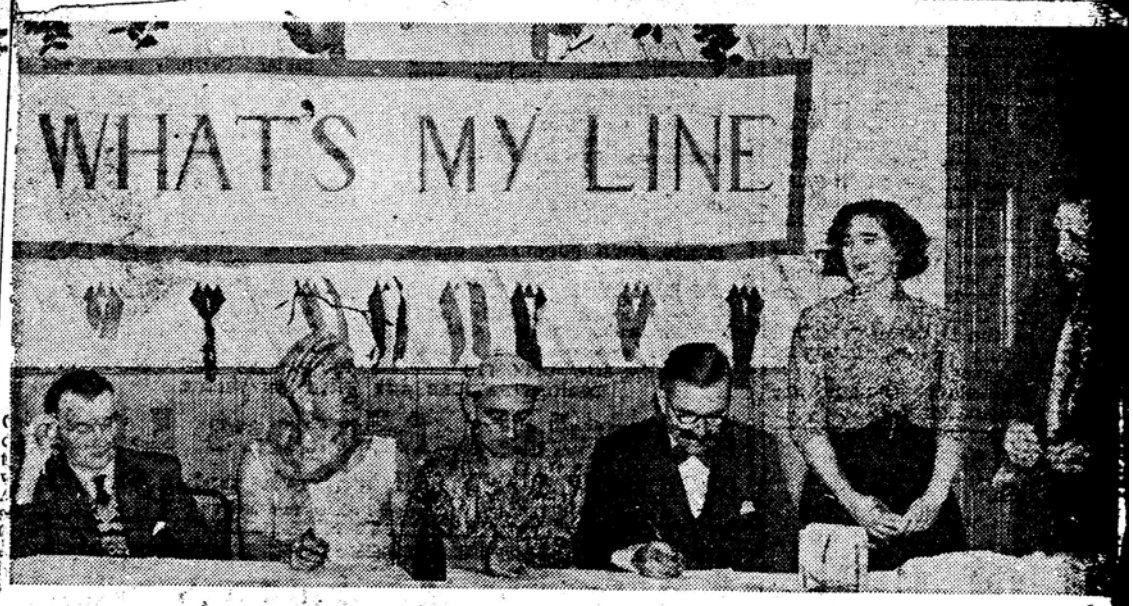
Party.—Both Colton and Blithfield Church choirs were entertained at a Christmas party on Friday evening, when refreshments were provided and members spent an enjoyable evening indulging in games and dancing. The event took place at the Rectory at Colton.



COLTON PRODUCE GUILD

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Mr. W. G. Torrance, of Uttoxeter, gave an interesting talk on the formation of new plants, telling members how new varieties are introduced both by accident and by science. Mr. Torrance was thanked by Mr. T Preston. Tea hostesses were Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Mrs. M. E. Hibbs.

The competition for a cabbage, was won by Miss Jones.

COLTON

Guild Social.—Colton Village Produce Guild held their annual social evening in the reading room on December 13. The room was very tastefully decorated for the occasion. Music for dancing and games was played by Mr. R. A. Brundle (piano accordion), Mr. R. H. Bannister (violin) and Miss D. M. Jones and Mrs. J. H. Toy taking turns at the piano. The company enjoyed "What's My Line," with the following taking part as Lady Isobel Barnett (Mr. R. A. Brundle), Gilbert Harding (Mr. J. H. Toy), Barbara Kelly (Mr. J. F. Peet), Farmer Moult (Mr. T. Preston) and Eamonn Andrews (Mr. A. N. Felton). Mrs. J. F. Peet tried to beat the panel as "A prison wardress," Mr. A. Starbuck "An earwig catcher," Miss D. M. Jones "Black pudding maker" and Mr. Colin Sargeant "A milk inspector."

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Refreshments were hand round, and Mrs. F. H. Bannister the Christmas cake.

The competition for a bottle sherry was won by Mr. Den Clarkson.

Colton council extends scope of maintenance work

COLTON Parish Council decided at a meeting held on Thursday of last week to include the parish in the proposed County Council scheme under which parish councils will undertake the maintenance of public footpaths and bridleways under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949, the county authority to make an annual grant towards the cost of the work.

Mr. Hardcastle and the clerk, Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft, reported having attended a conference at Stafford when the scheme was unanimously adopted Parish councils were recommended to join and take advantage of the scheme.

The scheme it was stated, should encourage parish councils to undertake responsibility for the smaller type of work required to footpaths and footbridges and should enable them to deal with small drainage matters such as laying pipes across a footpath, firming up muddy areas, cutting back nettles and other growth, the repair of steps to stiles, &c.

Mr. R. Morrall, who presided at the meeting, raised the question of the need for bus shelters in the village and said he would like to see two erected

It was decided that inquiries should be made and that the matter should again be considered at the next meeting.

Refuse tip

The meeting was informed of progress with the village sewerage scheme, details of which, it was estimated, would be ready for submission to the appropriate Government department by the end of the year.

The clerk, who had intimated his wish to retire from the clerkship at the end of the current financial year, reported that one application had been received for the post.

The applicant was Mr. S. J Timmis, of The Paddocks, Colton, and the meeting approved his appointment, to take effect as from April 1.

The Rev A. S. Towlson, who proposed the appointment of Mr Timmis, paid tribute to the services rendered by Mr. Ravenscroft, as clerk, for many years, and the chairman associated himself with his remarks.

COLTON

Confirmation. — A year ago next Sunday a confirmation service took place in St. Mary's Church in the afternoon. Had he have attended that service it would have been one of Dr. L. D. Hammond's last confirmations, for he was due for retirement the following month. But illness prevented the late Bishop of Stafford from 'making' it on that occasion, and the church was fortunate in securing the servi s of Bishop Norman Tubbs, he b ing in residence in a semi-retired capacity near to Wolverhampton. It was, however, a robed Dr. Hammond who surprised candidates and congregation at a similar service in the same church on Friday evening. Not that his visit was really intentional—he was there in the place of the Bishop of Shrewsbury (Bishop Hodson), whose turn it was to be indisposed. After last year's disappointment, it must have been a happy occasion for Dr. Hammond, although there must have been a sympathetic feeling for the inability of Bishop Hodson to be present. Seventeen candidates were confirmed — four boys, seven girls and six adults (one man, five ladies), some of whom came from the adjoining parish of Blithfield. The newly-confirmed were invited to make their first Communion in the same church on Sunday morning.

COLTON

Shrove Tuesday party. — Colton branch of the Mothers' Union held their annual party on Shrove Tuesday in the Reading Room, when Mrs. J. L. Taylor, the enrolling member, extended a welcome to members, their husbands, children and friends. After tea, Mr J. A Best gave one of his ever-popular film shows, always enjoyed by adults and children alike. Various games followed, arranged by Mrs Mills. Miss D. M. Jones played the piano for musical items. The rector (the Rev A. S. Towlson, extended thanks to those Mothers' Union members who provided the excellent meal, and to Mr Best for his film show. The competition for a box of shortbread was won by Mr. Maurice Williscroft.

COLTON

Mothers' Union. — A meeting of the Colton branch of the Mothers' Union took place in the Reading

COLTON

Mothers' Union. — The April meeting of the Mothers' Union was held in the Reading Room on April 21: Mrs. Bettson welcomed Miss Sherwood, who gave a talk on missionary work in the Lahore diocese

Produce Guild.—The committee of Colton Village Produce Guild organised a whist drive in the Reading Room on April 3, for Guild funds Mr Percy Westhorpe was the M.C. and Miss Dorothy M. Jones presented thde prizes to: premier, Mr A. Meddings; Mrs B. Bettson, Mr J. H. Toy, Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft, Mr F. H. Bannister, Mrs W. A. Bannister, Mr A. N. Felton; minitures, Mrs June Meddings, and Mr A. Meddings. The competition for ½cwt. potatoes was won by Mr Felton.

Mothers' Union. — The Colton branch of the Mothers' Union held

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COLTON

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COLTON

Produce Guild. — The annual general meeting of the Colton village produce guild was held in the reading room on March 5, Mr. R. A. Brundle presiding. Mr. Jack Meddings read the minutes of the last meeting. Mr. Brundle read the secretary's report for the past year (Miss Jones herself being absent owing to illness). The treasurer's report was also presented and approved, showing a balance of a little over £5. Mr. Brundle then gave an outline of the county activities for the year. Two representatives were asked to attend a meeting at Stafford on March 14, to make arrangements re the produce guild's exhibition stand at the County Show. It is hoped that Miss D. M. Jones and Mrs. M. S. Toy will be able to go, they being last year's representatives. Mrs. W. A. Bannister is willing to go failing either of those, so is Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. The guild hope to compete in the floral arrangement competition at Great Bridgeford in July. The next item on the evening's agenda was the election of a new committee but as there were no nominations the same committee as before are in office. Mr. R. A Brundle is again chairman; Miss D. M Jones, secretary; Mr. A. Meddings, treasurer: Mr. F. H Bannister, vice-chairman; and Mr. Jack Meddings, assistant secretary. The following complete the committee: Mrs. W. A. Bannister, Mr. J. H. Toy, Mr. A. N. Felton, Mr. J. F. Peet, Mr. David Goodall and Mrs. Ravenscroft, press correspondent. Mrs. Bannister gave a short talk about the national conference at Roehampton, which she attended, and very much enjoyed. She was thanked by Mr. A. Toy. A whist drive is arranged to take place the first week in April, and gifts of prizes and refreshments will be welcome. The tea hostesses for the evening were Mrs. Sargeant and Mrs. McConkey.

COLTON

Mothers' Union. — A meeting of the Mothers' Union took place in the Reading Room on March 17. Mrs. J. L. Taylor (enrolling member) welcomed the Rev. B. Matthews, vicar of Colwich, who conducted the service and gave an interesting talk. The thanks of members to Mr. Matthews for so kindly giving of his time to visit them was voiced by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. Mrs. Taylor asked members if it is their wish to give lilies for the decoration of the altar at Easter, which custom has been carried out each year since Mrs. Goodin introduced the idea some years ago, members agreed and Miss E. Rotchell will have her usual job of collecting for the same. It was decided to hold a small rummage sale and also a bring and buy sale in Easter week for Mothers' Union funds, which are at the moment in need of support.

Collection. — The house to house collection in the parish of Colton in aid of Dr. Barnardo's Homes, organised by Mrs. J. L. Taylor, has resulted in £10 10s. being sent to the headquarters. The collectors were Miss E. Rotchell, Mrs. H. M. Felton and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft.

Gifts consecrated. — During morning service at St. Mary's Church on Sunday, the rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, consecrated two oak collection plates, which were anonymously given. They were commended to the care of the churchwardens, Mr. Bernard Bettsons, rector's warden, and Mr. Maurice Williscroft, the newly-elected people's warden.

COLTON

Produce Guild.—The June meeting of the Village Produce Guild was held in the Reading Room, Mr. F. H. Bannister (vice-chairman) presiding. Business matters discussed included taking bookings for the outing to Gregory's rose nurseries on July 18, and entries for the garden competition. Also it is hoped that Colton Guild will compete in the county floral arrangement competition on July 17. Those chosen to make up the team are Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mrs. I. R. Brown, Mr. A. N. Felton and Mr. T. Preston.

APRIL 16th, 1959.

COLTON GUILD PLANS ROSE GARDEN TRIP

THE April meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild which had to be a week later than usual, on account of the whist drive being held the previous week, was held in the Reading Room on April 9. Mr R. A. Brundle presided, after Miss D. M. Jones had read the minutes of the March meeting a few items of business were discussed.

Mr J. H. Toy proposed and Mr T. Preston seconded that 10s. be sent towards the county whist drive at Ashley. Mrs M. S. Toy gave her report of the meeting at Stafford, which she and Mrs W. A. Bannister attended re the Produce Guilds' section at the County Show. Exhibits are invited for the show, and many members who are willing to take duty turns at the show are asked to give in their names by the next meeting.

It is hoped to arrange an outing to Gregorys Rose Gardens, near Nottingham, in July. The main feature of the meeting was a film show of Shell Mex and B.P., films loaned by the Education Committee, and shown by Mr Brundle. The films included: Mechanised and Livestock Farming; Frost; Scrapbook for the Year, and a journey by a Shell Mex and B.P. tanker in the mountains of Switzerland.

Miss Jones thanked Mr Brundle for his kindness in showing the films, which he managed very well. The competition was for a bunch of mixed spring flowers, judged by Mr Tom Preston and Mr David Goodall, the winner being Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft, with 18 varieties in the bunch.

The tea hostesses were Mrs P. L. Bannister and Miss Rotchell.

COLTON

Produce Guild. — The May meeting of the Village Produce Guild was held in the Reading Room on May 7. The vice-chairman, Mr. F. H. Bannister presided. Business discussed included the Produce Guild's stand at the County Show exhibits being invited to help make the idea of the "Soil to the Cupboard" project a success. Members who are willing to take duty turns as stewards in the tent are Mr. A. Meddings Mr. T. Preston, Mr. J. H. Toy, Mrs. W. A. Bannister, Mrs. B M. Ravenscroft and Mrs. E. Preston. The proposed visit to Gregorys Rose Gardens will be on July 18. The committee have suggested that a Garden Competition take place on July 25. There will be three prizes and members pay 1s. to enter. Judges will be Mr Farrar and Mr. Mowforth. The competition for broccoli or spring cabbage was won by Mr. F. H. Bannister with a broccoli. Tea hostesses were Mrs. Ivy Preston and Mrs. C. M. Amyes.

COLTON

House-to-House.— The House to-House Collection made in the Colton Area for the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, has resulted in the sum of £6 3s. 9d. being sent up to the London Head Office. The collectors were Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft (Auxiliary Secretary) and Miss Joyce Dolman. The Midland Regional Organiser is Mr W. J. Jackson.

Colton Mothers' Union

The July meeting of the Mothers' Union was held at the Manor Farm by invitation of Mrs. J. L. Taylor, the enrolling member, who welcomed the Rev. H. A. Pattenden, Vicar of St. Peter's, Rickerscote. Mr. Pattenden gave an inspiring talk and was thanked by Mrs. Bettson. It was decided that the collection for that day be sent to help Diocesan Moral Welfare work Mrs. F. Nicklin thanked Mrs



Mrs. J. Ford, of Hanchurch (left), and Mrs. S. Ravenscroft, two of the competitors in the Staffordshire County flower arrangement competi-

Entries for the Staffordshire Association of Village Guilds third competi... Vill... hig...

COLTON

At the initial meeting of the Colton Parish Council for the year 1959-60, held in the Reading Room, on Thursday last week, Mr Richard Morrall was unanimously elected chairman for a second year of office.

Messrs. F. Hardcastle and L. Mellor were re-appointed as the Parish Council's two representatives on the Committee of Management of the Reading Room. Both acted in a similar capacity last year. Mr F Hardcastle was re-appointed Snow-Clearing (Contingency) Supervisor for the winter season 1959-60.

Notice having been received that the 20th annual conference o Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association would take place this year at Stafford on Saturday, June 13, Mr Hardcastle, and the chairman and Mr C. J. Ravenscroft (late Clerk) were elected as the Parish Council's three delegates to the conference.

Concerning flooding at the brook bridge between Bellamour Corner and the School a letter from the County Surveyor's Department stated that this matter was discussed with County Agricultural Executive Committee's Land Drainage Officer recently, who pointed out that in any scheme of cleansing they were unable to clean out the portion of the brook between such bridge and the footbridge round the brookside leading into the Marsh to the same depth as they had cleaned out other parts when they carried out the scheme of voluntary cleansing in 1949.

The reason for this was that there was a pipeline round the brookside which conveyed water from the brook to feed Bellamour Pool and if this easement was interfered with it might lead to a claim for damages.

The letter ended up by saying that there was no change in the Trent River Board's policy which was to the effect that the Board were only contemplating taking over major tributaries of the River Trent in the near future and that minor tributaries such as the Moreton Brook were not likely to be considered for many years.

The letter stated that in the circumstances the responsibility for a scheme of cleansing rested with the riparian landowners and as and when they were prepared to make a move in the matter something could be done.

The Parish Council decided to continue to press the County Surveyor's Department for some positive action on the part of the highway authority to relieve the flooding and the chairman added that the fall in the brook being only slight was not calculated to help matters.

Making his first appearance as the new Clerk, Mr S. J. Timmins gave the information that in regard to the maintenance of public footpaths and bridleways he had received a form of agreement from the Clerk's Department of the County Council. This related to the County Council's scheme of voluntary delegation to Parish Councils of responsibility for minor replacements and repairs [illegible]

volved in the provision of bus shelters, the Parish Council might be wise to avoid a hasty move to obtain shelters, and to review the question in about twelve months time. In the meantime the Parish Council would have plenty to do in the matter—they could get all arrangements for provision of the shelters ready, bar placing actual orders for them.

From the information available the design which seemed to be most favoured by members was the one with an open front only and the type brick-built and tiled—the shelter opposite the "Red Cow" Inn on the Abbots Bromley-Uttoxeter road being cited as a typical example.

As to sites, it having been decided to pursue the matter on the basis of one shelter only for the time being it was agreed that the Clerk should in the first place, approach Lichfield R.D.C. or the County Council as highway authority and ask if, through the appropriate Surveyor, such authority would recommend the most suitable spot at the top of the village for the erection of a shelter.

Respecting extension of line of road reflector studs otherwise cats-eyes, at the bend near to Trent Valley Engineering factory in the Blithbury Road, a letter dated April 14, 1959, from the County Surveyor's Department gave the information that an order had been placed for reflecting road studs and when these were received a number would be laid down at the above bend. It was reported at the meeting by several present that the work had now been carried out.

The Clerk was instructed to contact the County Surveyor's Department concerning the next item "on the board," and to ask that the County Council as highway authority, be good enough to consider effecting an improvement at the bend in the road at the school.

The Clerk read a letter dated May 11, from Mr A. Hardie, a parishioner, enclosing a duplicate of one of the same date he had written to Lichfield R.D.C. This asked that a definite day in the week should be fixed for the collection of dry refuse, and on the proposition of Mr Hardcastle, seconded by Mr Felton, the Clerk was asked to convey the Parish Council's recommendation to Lichfield R.D.C. that the latter make every effort to fix a certain day in the week for collection and to see that this was adhered to as far as possible.

The chairman (Mr Morrall) enquired if, in selecting a short list of six applicants for final consideration from the original 55 applicants for the position of new schoolmaster the original applicants had been made to understand that preference would be given to those prepared to undertake certain church duties at the same time.

Mr Hardcastle supported this query and in replying, Mr Towlson said that this was not so and that no such conditions attached to the new schoolmaster's appointment. He said

31/8/59 Advertiser

PRODUCE GUILD.—The garden competition arranged by the Guild was held on July 25th. The judges were Mr Farrer of the commiittee of the Village Produce County Education Dept., and Mr. Mowforth from Rodbaston Farm Institute, who were introduced by the chairman, Mr R. A. Brundle. The meeting afterwards was at Hamley Lodge by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs J. H. Toy. Mr Farrer presented the awards to the winners who were: 1, Mr David Goodall Stockwell Heath; 2, Mr. Jack Meddings, Heathway; 3, Mr. Alfred Meddings, Williscroft Place, with Mr J. H Toy as the runner up. Mr Mowforth addressed those present, and explained the various headings under which points had been awarded. Vegetables for use all the year, fruit for the housewifes use, flowers for colour. Both judges congratulated the guild on their efforts, and said that they had seen some excellent gardens. Mr Toy expressed the thanks of the guild to the judges and Mr Farrer thanked Mr and Mrs Toy for their kindness in allowing the use of the garden etc. for the meeting. It was a very enjoyable afternoon for all concerned.

July has been a busy month for the guild with the County Flower Arrangement Competition on the 17th, the outing to Gregory's Rose Fields on 18th, and last but not least the garden competition.

1/7/59

Colton Garden Competition

The Garden Competition arranged by the committee of Colton Village Produce Guild was held on Saturday when the judges were Mr. Farrer, of the County Educational Department and Mr. Mowforth from Rodbaston Farm Institute, who were introduced by the Chairman Mr. R. A. Brundle. The meeting afterwards was at Hamley Lodge by invitation of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Toy. Mr. Farrer presented the awards to the winners who were, 1 Mr. David Goodall of Stockwell Heath, 2 Mr. Jack Meddings, Heathway, and 3 Mr. Alfred Meddings, Williscroft Place, with Mr. J. H. Toy as the runner-up. Mr. Mowforth addressed those present and explained the various headings under which points had been awarded. Both judges congratulated the guild on their efforts, and said that they had seen some excellent gardens. Mr. Toy thanked the judges, and Mr. Farrer thanked Mr. and Mrs. Toy for allowing the use of their garden.

Colton Presentation

A good company of well-wishers was present on Tuesday last week to say farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Broughton, and to present to Mr. Broughton a Testimonial on completion of his term of office as headmaster of Colton C. of E. School—a post he [...]s.

[...]comed by the [...] S. Towlson [...] the School [...] were bou[...]hton. [...] voiced the [...] and present [...]hton, for all [...] them on lifes [...]ackley spoke [...]inner wagon [...] presented to [...] the hymn [...]ill we meet.

25/9/59 ADVERTISER

COLT[ON]

Rummage made £16.—The annual rummage sale arranged by the Mothers' Union and Parochial Church Council for church funds, was held in the Reading Room on September 19. Proceeds which amounted to £16 15s. 0d. net are to be devoted to the church expenses account. The competition for a box of fruit given by members of the Mothers' Union, was won by Mrs. D. M. W[illegible]dom. Helpers included Mrs. F. Nicklin (doorkeeper); stalls, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Mrs. and Miss D. A. Cooper, Mrs. V. M. Towlson, Mrs. D. Deacon, Mrs. E. Griffin and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft; teas, Mrs. L. Bettson, Mrs. H. Williscroft, [...]n, Mrs. Sargeant, Mrs. [...] Miss D. M. Jones. Com-[...] Mrs. Ravenscroft and Mrs. [...]

[...] **Union.**—The September [...] the Mothers' Union was [...] Little Hay Manor Farm by [...]ation of Mrs. J. L. Taylor, [...]ded a welcome to Mrs. M [...]e deanery presiding mem-[...]s. Arnold gave a most in-[...]lk on the syllabus, "Make [...]es homes of peace and [...]he was thanked by Mrs. E. [...]ant. A sincere "Thank [...] Mrs. Taylor for a pleasan[t ...] was voiced on behalf [...] by Mrs. L. Bettson

17/8/59

[...] raises £150

A children's fancy dress parade was one of the attractions at the Colton Church garden party at the Rectory. Mrs. MacDonald, wife of Dr. A. D. MacDonald, of Great Haywood, was the judge. The event raised £150.

Prizes went to 1, Glenys Jones (rabbit) and Elaine Leeke (doll in box); 2, Gwendoline N. Ravenscroft (fuchsia) and Ann Madders (Little Miss Muffet); 3. Keith Williscroft (Robin Hood) and Hazel Bloor (Swedish lady).

The event was opened by Dr. MacDonald. He was thanked by Mr. B. Maurice Williscroft. Keith Williscroft handed him a box of chocolates and a buttonhole. Lady Bagot was given a bouquet by Marilyn Collins.

Pupils of the Rugeley School of Dancing provided a ballet dancing display.

HELPERS

Stallholders were Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, Mrs. P. B. Best, Miss E. Rotchell, Miss C. N. L. Williscroft, Mrs. L. K. Parr, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Mrs. M. A. Westhorpe, Mrs. S. J. Ball, Mrs. D. Timmins, Mrs. Sheila A. Deacon, Mrs. M. Parr, Mrs. V. Collins, Miss Edna Lycett, Miss Angela Collins were manned by Mrs. M. S. Toy, Mrs. E. Knight, Miss A. L. I. Hoare, Mr. W. Yeomans, Miss D. M. Jones, Mr. Bernard Bettson, Mr. E. S. Blore, Mr. B. Maurice Williscroft, Mr. J. H. Toy, Mr. A. N. Felton.

Competitions winners were Mrs. A. Blore, Mrs. Emmerson, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, Mrs. V. M. Towlson, Mr. M. A. Hutchinson, Mrs. J. Greatrix, Mr. D. Deacon and Marilyn Collins

Tea helpers were Mrs. L. Bettson, Mrs. H. Williscroft, Mrs. G. Jones, Mrs. H. M. Felton, Mrs. Ivy Preston, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mrs. D. Deacon, Miss L. Norman, Mrs. Winifred A. Norman, Mrs. R. O. Devall, Mrs. P. L. Bannister, Mrs. E. Griffin, and Mrs. C. M. Amyes.

Mr. F. W. Cooper was the gate attendant, and Mr. R. A. Brundle the cashier.

The proceeds will go to church expenses.

[...] a clerical position in the [Co]unty surveyor's department Stafford.

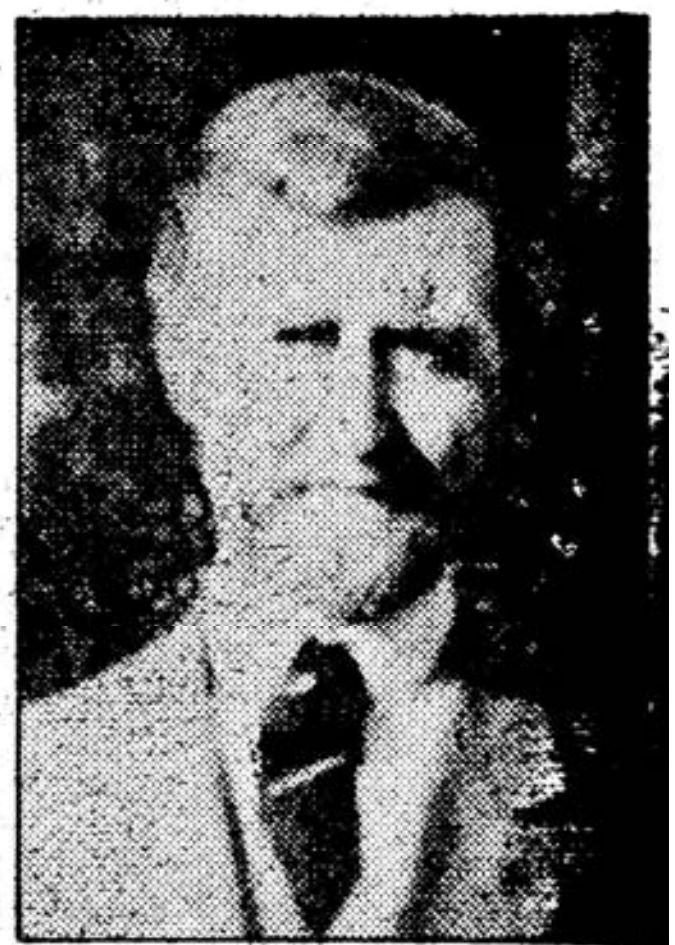
At an early age he cultivated [a] keen interest for church [m]usic, and after serving [a]s a chorister and choirman he [b]ecame organist at the village [c]hurch, a position from which [h]e retired in November last, [a]fter 32 years' service.

Keenly interested in football and cricket, Mr. Ravenscroft was for some years secretary of [t]he Colton St. Mary's Football Club when they were members of the Stafford and District [...]

ADVERTISER 2/4/59

Fine record of family service at Colton

FROM those now distant days when Parish Councils came into being under the Local Government Act of 1894 up to the present year, the clerkship of Colton Parish Council has been held successively by three members of one family. They are: the late Mr. John Upton; his son, the late Mr. A. Ernest Upton; and Mr. Cecil J. Ravenscroft (grandson and nephew respectively of the two previous clerks).



Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft

The first mentioned gentlemen (who acted as bailiff at the one time County Court holden at Rugeley) carried out the duties for the first 11 years life of the Parish Council. He was at the same time assistant overseer of the poor rate for the parish and on his retirement in 1906 these same two offices were taken over by the late Mr. A. E. Upton who resided later at "Chase View," Colton.

Previous to 1926 two local people were appointed by the Parish Council as overseers for the poor rate in the parish, and the responsibility for the poor law was in their hands. The assistant rating overseer for the Poor Law was their officer appointed by them or the Parish Council to undertake the duties of collection of the poor rate on their behalf.

It was not until the year 1926 that it fell to rural district councils — including of course, the Rural District Council of Lichfield — to assume the role of rating authority in general and to take over the collector of rates themselves. This saw the last of the two rating overseers and their officer, the assistant rating overseer, and Mr. A. E. Upton, was awarded a small pension of 10s. a week for loss of office brought about by the coming into effect of the Rating and Valuation Act, 1925. [...] the Parish Council(until his death in August, 1933.

Some months later, the present retiring clerk, Mr. Ravenscroft, who resides at Holly Cottage, Colton, became clerk, and attended his first meeting in April, 1934 the first in the then new financial year.

In those days parish councillors were elected by the annual Parish Assembly, under a proper procedure laid down for the purpose, but this differed from the post-war system of polling by being carried through by a show of hands (unless under certain circumstances a poll was demanded).

Interesting work

Altogether, therefore, it totals up that the three family members have rendered 65 years' service to the parish in the capacity of clerk to the Parish Council.

This is increased to 77 years' service with the council when the 12 years which John Upton put in as a member (concurrent with his son's clerkship) immediately following his retirement from the post of clerk is reckoned in.

So far as the present retiring clerk is concerned, looking back on his 25 years of office—officially ended on March 31—Mr. Ravenscroft has found the work very interesting, and he would not have liked to have missed the job, which, as he says, has been the source of much information and education to him.

At his last meeting as clerk on March 19 (following the annual Parish Assembly on the same evening), the retiring clerk paid a tribute to the sympathetic consideration and courtesy afforded to him by the various members who have held office as chairman from time to time during his period of service. These were: Mr. Elijah S. Blire, the late Mr. George Mellor, Mr. Walter T. Farley Mr. William J. Parr, Mr. [...]

[...]cording. One Saturday evening [...] the September of that year, he w[as] returning home across the fields [...] Railway Cottages to the Pin[...] Colton, after spending the after[noon] and evening on the job, when in [a] field known as the Little Hol[...] suddenly had the bright idea th[at he] might "get another one in be[fore] dark." It was then dusk, [...] straightaway proceeded to follow [...] other footway in the direction [of] Parchfields Farm and Parch[fields] Dairy Farm, and when abo[ut ...] yards [...] to be a temporary type [of] fence thrown across one field for the purpose of temporarily partitioning the field. So Mr. Ravenscroft, kneeling down on the ground and wi[th] the aid of his flashlamp (as darkness had by then fallen) proceede[d] to mark in the temorary fence on [his] plan he was carrying. It was then that he noticed a man standing out[side] Parchfields Dairy Farm house calling the farmer, and drawing the latter's attention to the figure on the ground. "I wonder who it is an[d] what he is doing?" they were conjecturing. One suggested it might be somebody up to "a spot of na[...] good," as there was a fowl-house close at hand, and the other man offered the theory that it might b[e] a hiker who had got out of his wa[y] and got lost.

Presently, the hedgecutter and the farmer decided to investigate, an[d] started to walk towards the figur[e] on the ground. Having marked i[t] in pencil on the plan he was carrying, the temporary fence, Mr. Ravenscroft switched off his light, got up and continued his walk towards the farmhouse from whence the two men were advancing, to complete his walk over this footpath. When about 5[0] yards from him and realising that he was approaching them, the two men stopped, and one called "What's the matter, mate, hast got lost?"

By now Mr. Ravenscroft was quite sure who the two men were, and they turned and walked back on to the drive in front of the farmhouse. When he emerged at this point and they saw who it was, and Mr. Ravenscroft narrated to them what he was doing all three enjoyed the joke.

Family home

A native of Darlaston in the Black Country, Mr. Ravenscroft used to accompany his family every holiday almost without fail to Colton, which was the home of his mother's [...]

Colton Parish Council discusses flooding, rowdyism—and dead hens

FLOODING, rowdyism and the disposal of carcases were three of the items discussed by Colton Parish Council at their recent meeting.

The clerk of the council, Mr. S. J. Timmins, reported that, as instructed, he had again approached the County Roads and Bridges Department regarding the question of alleviating flooding at the brook bridge between Bellamour Corner and the school.

It appears, however, that in existing circumstances the only practical method of dealing with the trouble would be by cleansing the brook. After discussion, the council decided to ask the county authorities concerned to consider cleansing the brook, but that if the proviso for contribution by the riparian landowners of part of the cost was repeated, the matter be deferred for further discussion by the council.

DELEGATION

With regard to Staffordshire County Council's scheme for the delegation to parish councils of responsibility for repairs and replacements of a minor nature to public footways and bridleways, information had been received that there were 21.875 miles of such ways in the parish, so entitling the council to a grant of £12 10s. each year under the scheme.

There was some discussion regarding a tendency to rowdyism in certain parts of the village in the evenings, and the meeting decided to ask the police for a more frequent patrol of the village. It was thought this would be conducive in keeping better order.

DEAD FOWLS

The clerk referred to a number of complaints concerning the method of disposal of the carcases of dead fowls at a farm in the village where poultry farming is carried on on an extensive scale. As a result he wrote to Lichfield Rural Council so as to be in a position to record their views on the subject at the present meeting.

The reply elicited the information that the complaint had been brought to the attention of the Council's Public Health Department by the local county councillor. The sanitary Public Health Inspector had accordingly paid a visit to the farm in company with the County Public Health Inspector, and they could find very little cause for complaint.

They had discussed the position with the farm manager and he had made the suggestion that if the owners would provide an incinerator it would materially assist him in disposing of waste products. No information had yet been received of any steps taken to improve conditions, and it was agreed that the matter should be deferred until the next meeting.

The final item on the agenda was a reference to Mr. Ernest Broughton's retirement after 36 years from the post of schoolmaster at the County Primary School in the village. The council have sent a letter to Mr. Broughton expressing appreciation of his services.

COLTON FANCY DRESS PARADE

The Children's Fancy Dress Parade attracted considerable interest at a dance in Colton Reading Room on Friday evening at which there was a large attendance. The "Abbotonians" Dance Band attended and Mr. J. L. Stretton was M.C.

The winning entrants were:—

Aged 8 and under: 1, Glenys Jones (White Rabbit); 2, Elaine Leeke (Doll in the Box); 3, Trudy Grimley (Red Riding Hood).

Over 8 years: 1, Christine Leeke (Teddy Girl); 2, Dianne Grimley (Robin Hood); 3, Annette Martin (Chinese).

Premier prize awarded irrespective of age was won by Pamela Jones and Christine Leeke (Ugly Sisters).

Consolation prizes were awarded to all the other competitors. The adjudicators in the event were Mrs. Timmins, Mrs. Peatfield and Mrs. Waters. Further entertainment was provided by pupils of the Rugeley Studio of Dancing (Principal, Mrs. V. M. Towlson).

A lady's watch, the prize in a competition, was unsealed by Mr. J. Tittensor and it was found to have stopped at exactly 5 o'clock. The winner was Miss A. McVittie of Banbury Road, Kinetown, Warwickshire, who estimated the time of stopping at 5.02.

Altogether St. Mary's Church Appeal Fund will be the better off by about £31.

New Colton Head Installed as Lay Reader

Sunday was a memorable day in the activities of St. Mary's Church, for at the service in the morning, Mr. D. E. Waters, the newly appointed headmaster of the Primary (Church of England) School at Colton, was, before a large congregation, which included the Church Wardens and many churchgoers from Blithfield as well as Colton, and also the teaching staff of Colton School, admitted and installed as a Licensed Reader for the Parishes of Blithfield and Colton.

The Rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson) officiated at the service.

Mr. Waters (who took up his duties following the summer holidays on Wednesday last week) and his wife and son (aged 2) are temporarily staying at Littlehay Manor Farm. Later they will move to the schoolmaster's residence, Elm Cottage.

COLTON

Produce Guild.—Pig keeping was the subject of a talk given to members of Colton Village Produce Guild Mr. J. Matthews of Rodbaston Farm Institute on Thursday last. Introduced by Mr. R. A. Brundle, the speaker was thanked by Mr. J. H. Toy who said he had been trying for the past year to get a speaker on a subject apart from gardening topics.

Three new members were welcomed to the meeting and arrangements made for the annual rally, which this year will be held at Keele University on Saturday. It was also announced that the annual dinner would again be held at the Dog and Doublet, Sandon, in October. Mr. Brundle reminded members that any points they would like discussed at County meetings should be mentioned to him for discussion at executive meetings. Mr. Toy also put forward

COLTON

PRODUCE GUILD.—At the October meeting of the Village Produce Guild Mr. R. A. Brundle (Chairman) presided and welcomed Mrs Miller, who gave an interesting talk and demonstration on flower arrangements for the home. She was thanked by Mrs. M. S. Toy. Mrs. Miller judged the competition, a flower arrangement, Mrs. P. M. Buckley being the winner. Hostesses were Mrs. H. M. Felton and Miss Ellen Rotchell. It was agreed to follow up Mr. J. H. Toy's suggestion, and hold a small show next year and to invite the Women's Institute to take part. A sub-committee was formed to deal with arrangements. Mr. R. Bridgen will be Chairman and other members will be Mr. Alfred Meddings, Miss D. M. Jones, Mr. J. H. Toy, Mr. Jack Meddings, Mrs. Ivy Preston and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. A note of thanks is to be sent to Mrs. Ivy James for her offer of a parcel of groceries for a competition for guild funds.

"Gardeners' Question Time" to come from Colton

THE B.B.C. programme "Gardeners' Question Time" is to come from Colton on January 9 next year.

This was reported at the October meeting of Colton Produce Guild on Thursday last week where it was stated that the B.B.C. had agreed to the Guild's request for a recording—a request made two years ago.

The meeting was held in St. Mary's Church School when Mr. R. A. Brundle (Chairman) presided over a good attendance and welcomed Mrs. Miller, better known to Guild members as Miss P. Aldersley of Rodbaston Farm Institute, who gave a helpful and interesting talk and demonstration on flower arrangements for the home.

She was thanked on members behalf by Mrs. M. S. Toy.

Mrs. Miller judged the competition which was for a flower arrangement, Mrs. P. M. Buckley being the winner. Mrs. Miller spoke of the high standard of all the exhibits of which there were a good number.

After tea and biscuits, the hostesses being Mrs. H. M. Felton and Miss Ellen Rotchell, business matters were discussed. It was agreed to follow up Mr. J. H. Toy's suggestion, and hold a small show next year, and to invite the Women's Institute to take part. A Sub-Committee was formed to deal with arrangements with Mr. R. Bridgen as Chairman and the following as members, Mr. Alfred Meddings, Miss D. M. Jones, Mr. J. H. Toy, Mr. Jack Meddings, Mrs. Ivy Preston and Mrs. B. M. Ravens-

COLTON

Produce.—The October meeting of the Village Produce Guild which had to be postponed for a fortnight was held in St. Mary's Church School, on October 15th. Mr. R. A. Brundle (chairman) presided over a good attendance and welcomed Mrs Miller, betttr known to Guild members as Miss P. Aldersley, of Rodbaston Farm Institute, who gave a most helpful and interesting talk and demonstration on flower arrangements for the home. She was thanked on members behalf by Mrs M. S. Toy. Mrs. Miller judged the competition which was a flower arrangement, Mrs. P. M. Buckley being the winner. After tea and biscuits, the hostesses being Mrs. H. M. Felton and Miss Ellen Rotchell, quite a lot of business matters were discussed. Names were taken for the Annual County Dinner at the "Dog and Doublet" on Oct. 22nd. It was decided to have next year's seeds from Suttons, a representative of that firm being a Guild member. It was agreed to follow up Mr. J. H. Toy's suggestion, and hold a small show next year, and to invite the Women's Institute to take part. A sub-committee was formed to deal with arrangements. Mr. R. Bridgen agreed to be chairman, and the following are members: Mr. Alfred Meddings, Miss D. M. Jones, Mr. J. H. Toy, Mr. Jack Meddings, Mrs. Ivy Preston, and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. A letter from the B.B.C. stated that the Guild's request for a "Gardeners Question Time" recording made some two years since, will take place at Colton on January 9th, 1960, details of which will be settled later. A proposal was made that a note of thanks be sent to Mrs. Ivy James for her offer of a parcel of groceries for a competition for Guild Funds.

W. I.—Despite the fact they had to move their venue, members of Colton Women's Institute turned up in force to their monthly meeting held in the School. Mrs Preston presided and during the meeting everyone agreed to take odd ounces of knitting wool to the next meeting as a contribution to World Refugee Year. An interesting talk on flower arrangement was given by Mrs Prince—a visitor from Newborough. A vote of thanks was given by Mrs Ravenscorft and was seconded by Mrs Jackson. A competition for the best arrangement of flowers or berries in a potato was won by Mrs Buckley and tea hostesses were Mrs Toy, Mrs Bannister and Miss Jones. Mrs Preston very kindly offered to represent the group at the autumn council meeting to be held in Stafford.

COLTON GUILD TO HOLD SHOW NEXT YEAR

The B.B.C. will make a recording at Colton on January 9, 1960, for the programme "Gardeners' Question Time", it was announced at the Village Produce Guild's October meeting on Thursday of last week. It is two years since the Colton Guild last invited the B.B.C. to visit them.

The meeting was presided over by Mr. R. A. Brundle, and the speaker was Mrs. Miller, better known to Guild members as Miss P. Aldersley, of Rodbaston Farm Institute. She gave a talk and demonstration on flower arrange-

COLTON

Produce Guild.—December meeting of the Village Produce Guild was held in school, and fairly well attended. Mr. R. A. Brundle presided and showed two films "Farming Scrapbook for the Year," and "Speed the Plough." Business matters included arrangements for the visit by the B.B.C. on January 9th. Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Toy kindly promised to entertain the team to a meal before the recording. Allocation of the few remaining seats was left in the hands of the committee, and entrance will be by ticket (not transferable). After much discussion it was agreed to fix the entrance fee to the show to be held in August at sixpence. Competition for the box of groceries was won by Mrs. Grice, of Newton, and the box of chocolates by Mr. J. H. Toy. Mrs Ivy James was thanked for her gift of groceries and Miss D. M. Jones for the chocolates. Tea hostesses were Mrs. Ivy Preston, Mrs. M. McConky, and Mrs. P. L. Bannister. Mr. Brundle told members that the Guild's offer to

Colton Parish Council

WAS it the first time a meeting of Colton Parish Council had been held in the school? At any rate it was the first for at least 26 years when Mr. Richard Morrall (Chairman) presided on Wednesday last week.

All seven members present heard a report from Mr. S. J. Timmins (new Clerk) on correspondence with the County Roads and Bridges Department about the problem of flooding at the Brook Bridge between Bellamour Corner and the School; which said the Department would go further into the question of a cleansing of a section of the brook, with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Drainage Department.

Regarding 'bus shelters the Clerk reported he had written to Lichfield R.D.C. and whose reply on design and type of shelter was now awaited.

A letter from the County Roads and Bridges Department about the Parish Council's wish for an improvement at the bend in the road at the Primary (Church of England) School, stated: "although visibility on the inside of the bend is somewhat restricted by the hedge and hedge bank, the width of the carriageway is adequate for two lanes of traffic, being as much as 25 feet at the centre of the bend. There is also a footpath 4 feet 6 inches wide on the north side including the frontage to the school, and as traffic is relatively light I am afraid it would be difficult to justify any high priority, having regard to the need for improvement on many other bends on similar roads in the County."

Mr. L. Mellor, commenting on the public footway leading from the Long Stile into fields known as Blackwell and Carp Woods, said one or two mothers had drawn his attention to the risk to children playing on the iron handrail, intended as support when walking up and down the steps of the Long Stile. The Chairman, Mr. Handcastle and Mr. Mellor agreed to inspect access to the footpath.

Mr. Timmis (Clerk) said a litter basket had been fixed up near the entrance to Heath Way. Lichfield R.D.C. stated they would welcome any assistance the Parish Council might be able to give in ensuring damage was not done to the basket.

Mr. Towlson said it appeared to him that sewage—he thought from the vicinity of the Pinfold—was being dumped by a sewage tanker into the Moreton Brook at the brook bridge between Bellamour Corner and the School. Mr. Morrall (Chairman) as the parish's representative on Lichfield R.D.C. said he would make enquiries of the R.D.C. as to why this was being done.

The Council asked the Clerk to inquire from the M.E.B. District Office, Cannock, what steps were being taken to improve the supply of electricity to the village. Mr. Towlson said he had been in touch with the Board for some time on behalf of the Church and others about the need for an improvement, but despite assurances none seemed to have materialised.

Films shown at M.U. meeting

Mr. J. A. Best, of Bellamour, gave a film show to members of Colton Mothers' Union at their meeting held at Little Hay Manor Farm. Films which he had taken of the various garden parties over the

10/12/59

COLTON

Funeral. — There was a large gathering of people at St. Mary's Church on Saturday to pay a last tribute to the late Mr. Arthur Deacon. Mr. Deacon died last week following a long illness. The Rev. A. S. Towlson (Rector) conducted the service, and Mrs. G. E. Finnemore was organist. At the conclusion of the service the church bells were rung in memory of the considerable number of years Mr. Deacon served as a bellringer at St. Mary's Church. Among relatives and others present was a contingent of members of Rugeley and district branch of the British Legion (of which the deceased had been a member) and members of St. Mary's Parochial Church Council. Mr. Deacon was also at one time a sidesman at church and for many years he had occupied the position of sub-postmaster at the village sub-post office at his residence. Mr. Deacon, who worked at the tenancy of Stokes and Co. Ltd. at Rugeley for 29 years until it closed down, leaves a widow, son (only child) and daughter-in-law and grandson, and by his mother and several brothers and sisters. He was 62 years old. There were many floral tributes at the interment which took place in the churchyard near the school.

6/11/59

Colton Whist Drive

A whist drive took place in Colton school on Friday arranged by the Mothers' Union for their funds. Mr. Fred Norman was the M.C., and Mrs. J. L. Taylor presented the prizes to: Mrs. F. Norman, Mr. Percy Westhorpe, Mrs. L. Bettson, Mrs. M. A. Westhorpe, Mrs. D. Deacon, Mrs. Fry. Miniatures: Mrs. Bettson, Mr. A. N. Felton. Lowest scores: Miss Mary Hardcastle and Mrs. Sheila Deacon. Competition prizes were won by Miss M. J. Holbrook (biscuits) and Mrs. G. Hampson (sweets). Mrs. Taylor thanked those who had helped, and who had given prizes and refreshments. Mercury.

4/12/59. Mercury

Colton Whist Drive

A whist drive was held in Colton School on Friday organised by the Colton Women's Institute for their funds. Mr. Fred Norman was the M.C. and Mrs. G. Hanson presented the prizes to, M Hampson, Mr. Eric Sargeant, M B. M. Ravenscroft, Mr. G. Hanson, Miss Ann Preston, Mr. Col Sargeant. Miniatures, Mrs. Sargeant and Mrs. P. L. Banniste Lowest scores, Mrs. June Med ings and Mrs. Colder. Competiti winners were, Mrs. R. O. Dev (sherry) and Mr. Gordon Wari (chocolates). Mrs. Ivy Prest (Bra[illegible] thanked all w assisted.

Advertiser

COLTON

Whist. — A whist drive, held in the school, was organised by Colton Women's Institute for their funds. Mr. Fred Norman was M.C. and Mrs. G. Hampson presented prizes to the winners: Mrs. Hampson, Mr. Eric Sargeant, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mr. G. Hampson, Miss Ann Preston, Mr. Colin Sargeant; miniatures, Mrs. Sargeant and Mrs. P. L. Bannister; lowest scores, Mrs June Meddings and Mrs. Colder. Competition winners were: Mrs. R O. Devall and Mr. Gordon Waring

10/12/59

COLTON

Mothers' Union. — At the November meeting in The Rectory. Mrs. J. L. Taylor extended a welcome to Mrs. Crofts, of Cannock. The rector, the Rev. A. S Towlson,

Colton Produce Guild

November meeting of [illegible] Produce Guild was held in [illegible]chool on Thursday last week, [illegible]. A. Brundle presiding, when [illegible] to fog several apologies received, but there was still [illegible]od attendance. New members welcomed were Mrs. D. [illegible]ins, Mrs. Maud Cooper and [illegible]and Mrs. P. Tabernor. The [illegible] recording of "Gardeners [illegible]ion Time" was talked over, [illegible]ions and the members to ask being invited.

[illegible] was agreed that the annual [illegible] evening be postponed owing [illegible]e Reading Room being out [illegible]e to the public at present. A [illegible]osal was made by Mr. H. [illegible]onky, and seconded by Mr. T. [illegible]ton, that the Garden competi[illegible] as held last summer, be made [illegible] annual event. Members agreed [illegible] next year July is the month [illegible]ed on.

[illegible]e date decided for the pro[illegible] show is August 20; sug[illegible]ons put forward by the Guild [illegible] Committee were accepted [illegible]he Guild and the Women's [illegible]tute, and the committee are [illegible]proceed with arrangements. [illegible] hostesses were Mrs. L. Jack[illegible] and Miss E. Rotchell.

[illegible]olton Whist Drive

[illegible]st drive was held in the [illegible]n Friday organised by the [illegible]ter and teachers of [illegible]School for the children's [illegible]s party. Mr. Percy [illegible]be was the M.C. and the [illegible]ere presented by Mrs. M. [illegible]rs (wife of the Head[illegible] to Mrs. D. Deacon, Mr. [illegible], Mrs. M. A. Westhorpe, [illegible] Rowe, Mrs. E. M. Sar[illegible]Mrs. Sheila Deacon, Mrs. [illegible]on, Mr. F. S. Knight, Mrs. [illegible]y, Mr. G. Vernon; minia[illegible]rs. Z. Rowe and Mrs. S. [illegible] lowest scores, Mrs. L. [illegible] and Mrs. T. M. Charles; [illegible]sitters Miss M. Hampson G. Hampson.

[illegible]tition winners were:— [illegible]geant (sack of potatoes) [illegible]cery parcels to Miss [illegible]ft, Mrs. Wisdom, Mrs. N. [illegible]Mr. Nott, Marilyn Collins [illegible]s B. Roberts. Mr. D. E. [illegible] thanked all who had [illegible] to make the effort a

Mercury 20/11/59.

COLTON

January meeting of the Mothers' Union was held last week and took the form of an Admission Service in St. Mary's Church conducted by the Rector (Rec. A .S. Towlson). New members presented for admission into the Mothers' Union by the Enrolling Member (Mrs. J. L. Taylor) were: Mrs Louisa May Cooper, Mrs Mary Ann Hutchinson.

The Rector mentioned the late Mrs Alice Anne Meddings, who had been a faithful member for many years After the service members had tea at the Rectory and also discussed small items of business Arrangements for the Shrovetide party will be settled at the next meeting

28/1/60

Advertiser

[illegible]

[illegible]Mothers' Union introduces [illegible]QUESTION TIME [illegible]affordshire [illegible]y members of the [illegible]Produce Guild are [illegible]Fred Loads, Bill [illegible]Arthur Billitt [illegible]eter D. Anderson [illegible]ecording)

Presentation to Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft at Colton

APPRECIATION of many years service in the parish of Colton was shown on Thursday evening last week when at the Reading Room a presentation took place to Mr. Cecil John Ravenscroft who has recently retired as Clerk to the Parish Council and as organist at St. Mary's Church, Colton.

Mr. Richard Morrall, as Chairman of the Parish Council and representative for Lichfield R.D.C. spoke of an almost life-long knowledge of Mr. Ravenscroft and referred to the many happy Saturday afternoons they spent together as village footballers, Mr. Ravenscroft at one time having acted as secretary to one Colton Club.

He had found Mr. Ravenscroft reliable and sympathetic to work with and always ready to help in any way he could. On behalf of the Parish Council and local government electors he extended him every good wish in his retirement.

Mr. Bernard Bettson as Rector's Churchwarden for many years and as senior member as well as a late chairman of the Parish Council endorsed Mr. Morrall's remarks and said that over his (the late Clerk's) 25 years of office Mr. Ravenscroft had carried out his duties very ably as Clerk to the Parish Council.

The presentation was of a handsome bookcase in dark oak with sliding glass doors to the three adjustable shelves.

Replying, Mr. Ravenscroft expressed his appreciation and gratitude to all to do with the Parish Council and the Church who had organised and carried out the effort and to all parishioners and others who had so kindly subscribed to this testimonial on his behalf.

Then in an amusing and thoughtful speech he dealt with many aspects of church and council work and of his various experiences in the village in connection with them.

Mr. Ravenscroft concluded by thanking them all for "the most handsome and acceptable gift" and for the trouble they had gone [illegible], which he said would make the evening one for him to remember and for which he should have regard all the rest of his life.

He said he also would like to say how grateful he was for having been given the opportunity of suggesting something he would like — in this way they could all be assured that he was getting something which would be really useful to him.

The Rector (the Rev. A. S Towlson) wound up the proceedings with a few pertinent remarks coinciding with the rest in thanking Mr. Ravenscroft for the very long period of service which he had contributed to the parish. Thanks were also expressed to those who carried out the parish collection subscriptions which totalled nearly £23.

COLTON WHIST PRIZEWINNERS

At the whist drive held in Colton School on Friday in aid of Mother's Union funds, Mr. F. Norman was M.C. and Mrs. J. L. Taylor presented prizes to the following:—Mrs. F. Norman, Mr. P. Westhorpe, Mrs. L. Bettson, Mrs. M. A. Westhorpe, Mrs. D. Deacon, Mrs. Fry, minatures, Mrs. Bettson and Mr. A. N. Felton, lowest scores Miss M. Hardcastle

Colton voices will be 'on the air' in B.B.C.'s 'Gardeners' question time

COLTON SCHOOL was packed on Saturday, when the radio programme, "Gardener's Question Time," was recorded there. About 170 people crowded into the building, and any non-gardeners might have been surprised to find themselves enjoying the evening.

Colton Produce Guild were the hosts to the B.B.C. Among the guests were Alderman and Mrs. A. N. Hillier (representatives of the Staffordshire Rural Community Council), Mr. F. W. Farrer, Mr. D. M. Gibb, Miss Woolley (Rural Community Council); Mr. C. F. Horton (National Produce Guild Association); Mr. A. Amphlett (Abbots Bromley Produce Guild); Mr. Ferguson (Ingestre [illegible]); Mrs. L. Wilson (Abbots Bromley Guild); Mr. and Mrs. Torrence (Uttoxeter); Mr. and Mrs. Wallace (Hanchurch Guild) and Mrs. G. Castellan. Colton Parish Council was also represented.

The producer of the show, Mr. Peter Anderson, has a good recipe for "warming up" an audience before the recording starts, and he was soon raising laughs. He thanked the Guild for arranging a first-class turnout and stressed that the audience was there to enjoy itself. He pointed out that only seven or eight of the 14 questions asked would b heard on the air.

He organised a rehearsal for those asking the questions, with Mr. Roy Bridgens as a demonstrator. The "drill" was for each of the 14 questioners to step up to a microphone facing the panel, ask their question, and then stand by to help the team further.

There was also explained by Mr. Anderson, a "roving mike" in the audience, and if anyone wanted to ask a supplementary question — so long as it was connected with the original — they could do so with its aid.

The panel

Freddy Grisewood introduced the panel took their place and Mr. members, for the 420th programme.

Mr. Fred Loads, of Burnley, was in the first programme in 1947. Gardening is his only hobby. He

ent seedsman and nurseryman in the Manchester area. He has other hobbies besides gardening — golf, small cars, and Manchester United.

The third member of the panel was Mr. Arthur Billitt, who works for a wel known firm of Chemists and has a pedigree poultry farm in Boreley, Worcestershire. His special interests in gardening are the raising of tomatoes and chrysanthemums by the Ring Culture method. He has broadcast on the radio many times and has frequently appeared on television.

Mr. Grisewood himself has been question master of "Gardeners' Question Time" since 1953. He travels up and down the country helping to make the recordings. He might have to a catch a sleeper train at a place as far distant as Penzance after the Friday evening broadcast of the programme "Any Questions", and then travel maybe as far as Newcastle, to make a "Gardeners' Question Time."

The questions

The 14 questions put were as follows: From Mr. Roy Bridgens (agent for a seed firm), "Last summer I had great trouble with the spotted millipede, which attacked my parsnips, carrots and onions. Will the team tell me how to cope with this?"

Mr. Jack Brown, grocer and representative of the English Folk Dance Society, asked why he could not grow celery with complete hearts as he had done a few years ago.

Mr. A. N. Felton, smallholder, asked why his peas had failed to grow or crop during the last three seasons in very heavy clay.

Mrs. L. Jackson, housewife, wanted to know if daffodil bulbs joined at the base with a thick crust should be divided.



Mr. Freddy Grisewood (centre) is seen in the picture above with Mr. Loads and Mr. Billitt, and behind him on his left Mr. Somerbutts. Also in the picture are Miss Yeadon and members of the Colton Guild.

Mercury 15/1/60

B.B.C. "GARDENERS' QUESTION TIME" RECORDED AT COLTON

A RECORDING for the popular B.B.C. programme "Gardeners' Question Time" was made at Colton, near Rugeley, on Saturday night, ready to be heard on the Home Service this coming Sunday (January 17).

A crowded schoolroom was present to hear the well-known panel of Fred Loads, Bill Sowerbutts and Arthur Billett, with Freddy Grisewood as question-master, in what was the 420th edition of the programme.

The panel was questioned by members of Colton Village Produce Guild.

The questions began with Mr. Roy Bridgen's inquiry as to what could be done to rid beds of carrots, parsnips, and onions, of the spotted millipede pest, and was completed with school-boy Michael Garwood's query as to how to protect hydrangeas from frost damage.

out a plot of 20 yards by five yard in front of the local Alms House The plot has a northernly aspec He asked the team for sugge tions for the plot, bearing in mir that future maintenance must kept to a minimum.

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Michael Garwood, 13-years-o schoolboy, wanted advice on pr tecting hydrangeas (in tubs) fro frost, and also wanted to kno if, after flowering, the flowers ha to be cut off.

Guild's first show

With the recording over, Mr. A. Brundle thanked the team fo

few of whom are also Guild members), the Chairman and members and Clerk of the Parish Council, and members of Abbots Bromley Guild.

The producer of the programme was Mr. Peter Anderson, and the team were introduced by Mr. Grisewood. Mr R A Brundle was the proposer of a vote of thanks to the B.B.C.

A meal was provided for the

G. Castellan [illegible] Parish Council was also represented.

The producer of the show, Mr. Peter Anderson, had a good recipe for "warming up" the audience before the recording started and he was soon raising laughs. He thanked the Guild for arranging a first-class turnout and stressed that the audience was there to enjoy itself. He pointed out that only seven or eight of the 14 questions asked would be heard on the air.

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The panel

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Mr. Fred Loads, of Burnley, was in the first programme in 1947. Gardening is his only hobby. His special subjects are slugs and tomatoes. He is a pioneer of soil blocks and water culture in this country and has experimented in vernalisation. He has worked all his life in gardens or as a writer on gardening.

Bill Sowerbutts, another member of the original team is a prominent open.

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Mr. A. N. Felton, smallholder, asked why his peas had failed to grow or crop during the last three seasons in very heavy clay.

Mrs. L. Jackson, housewife, wanted to know if daffodil bulbs joined at the base with a thick crust should be divided.

Mrs. I. James a housewife skilled in floral arrangements, asked the team to tell her the correct time and method to take a young shoot from a tree peony.

Mr. J. Meddings, railwayman and assistant secretary to Colton Produce Guild, asked why leaves on plumbs and cherries sometimes turn yellow and wither quite suddenly after which the tree dies.

Mrs. E. Preston, housewife, wanted to know if a clematis (Jackmani) she owns had died down because she had treated a blue hydrangea in the same bed, with a colourant.

Her daughter, Miss Mary Preston asked if a couch grass killer like Dalapon is suitable for using freely among growing crops, as it is only supposed to kill grasses.

Home-grown mistletoe

Mr. J. T. Toy, poultry farmer, had a question which caused plenty of amusement. He asked how to grow mistletoe "as the kind we buy in the shops doesn't attract the girls like a bit of home-grown".

Mrs. Toy, a teacher, asked why manure, when applied to her rhubarb when it was three inches high had the effect of covering it with small white balls.

Miss D. M. Jones teacher and Guild secretary, said she had been given a maidenhair fern which filled a large plantpot, and wanted to know the best time to cut it down and divide into two or more smaller plants.

Mr. R. A. Brundle, accountant and Guild chairman, said the Guild had offered to dig and lay out a plot of 20 yards by five yards in front of the local Alms House. The plot has a northernly aspect. He asked the team for suggestions for the plot, bearing in mind that future maintenance must be kept to a minimum.

Mr. F. H. Bannister, retired farmer asked for the quickest way to get rid of convulvus major.

Michael Garwood, 13-years-old schoolboy, wanted advice on protecting hydrangeas (in tubs) from frost, and also wanted to know if, after flowering, the flowers had to be cut off.

Guild's first show

With the recording over Mr. R. A. Brundle thanked the team for an enjoyable evening. He hoped to see some of the results of the team's advice in the village.

He took the opportunity to get in a "plug" for the Guild's first ever show, which will be held this year, on August 20. The Guild now boasts 64 members after starting in 1957 with nine members.

Mr. Grisewood, in turn, thanked the Guild for their hospitality, particularly Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Toy for providing an excellent tea.

The recording can be heard on the B.B.C. Midland at 2 p.m. tomorrow (Sunday).



Miss Sheila Yeadon (standing) demonstrates the use of the "roving mike" with the assistance of Mrs. [illegible]ash, of Abbots Bromley (seated).

Mr. Freddy Grisewood (centre) is seen in the picture above with Mr. Loads and Mr. Billitt, and behind him on his left Mr. Somerbutts. Also in the picture are Miss Yeadon and members of the Colton Guild.

Mercury 15/1/60

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The panel was questioned by members of Colton Village Produce Guild.

The questions began with Mr. Roy Bridgen's inquiry as to what could be done to rid beds of carrots, parsnips, and onions, of the spotted millipede pest, and was completed with school-boy Michael Garwood's query as to how to protect hydrangeas from frost damage.

The other questions were put by Mr. Jack Brown (Staffordshire representative of the English Folk Dance Society), Mr. A. N. Felton, Mrs. L. Jackson, Mrs. Ivy James, Mr. Jack Meddings, Mrs. E. Preston, Miss Mary Preston, Mr. J. H. Toy, Mrs. M. S. Toy, Miss Dorothy M. Jones (Secretary to the Guild), Mr. R. A. Brundie (Guild Chairman) and Mr. F. H. Bannister. Supplemental questions were asked by Alderman A. N. Hillier and Mr. S. J. Timmins.

History was made at Colton on Saturday when a fully occupied schoolroom was well entertained by a panel consisting of such familiar voices as Fred Loads (Burnley), Bill Sowerbutts (Ashton-under-Lyne), Arthurs Billett (Lenton Experimental Station), and Freddy Grisewood, question-master.

Occasion was a recording of "Gardeners Question Time," which marked the 420th edition of this familiar B.B.C. radio quiz. It had been arranged by Colton village Produce Guild, and a number of members put the questions.

Among them were Mr. Jack Brown (Staffordshire representative of the English Folk Dance Society), Mr. A. N. Felton, Mrs. L. Jackson, Mrs. Ivy James, Mr. Jack Meddings, Mrs. E. Preston, Miss Mary Preston, Mr. J. H. Toy, Mr. M. S. Toy, Miss Dorothy M. Jones (secretary to the Guild) Mr. R. A. Brundle (Guild chairman), and supplemental questions were asked by Alderman A. N. Hillier and Mr. S. J. Timmins, Mr. F. H. Bannister.

A selected part of the programme will be heard on the Home Service at 2 p.m. on Sunday next. Altogether something like 170 people were quite comfortably accommodated in the school building.

COLTON ADVERTISER 14/1/60

Producer was Mr. Peter D. Anderson, and the team was introduced by Freddy Grisewood. Mr. R. A. Brundle was the proposer of a vote of thanks to the B.B.C. A meal was provided for the team at Hamley Lodge, home of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Toy.

The evening was most enjoyable, and thanks are due to the Guild Committee for the amount of thought and planning they had to give to make the occasion the success it turned out to be. Mr. Brundle said he hoped all present would be at the guild's first show in August.

Alderman and Mrs. [illegible], Mr. and Mrs. Castellan (Wolseley Bridge), Mr. and Mrs. G. Shaw (Great Haywood), Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Mowforth (Rodbaston Farm Institute), Mr. A. Amphlett (Chairman of Abbots Bromley Guild) and Mrs. Amphlett, Mrs. Laura Wilson (Secretary of Abbots Bromley Guild), Mr. P. Fergusan (Ingestre), Mr. and Mrs. Torrance (Uttoxeter), Mr. and Mrs. Wallace (Hanchurch Guild), Mr. and Mrs. Pointon (Burntwood), members of Colton Women's Institute (a good few of whom are also Guild members), the Chairman and members and Clerk of the Parish Council, and members of Abbots Bromley Guild.

The producer of the programme was Mr. Peter Anderson, and the team were introduced by Mr. Grisewood. Mr. R. A. Brundle was the proposer of a vote of thanks to the B.B.C.

A meal was provided for the team at Hamley Lodge, the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Toy. Freddie Grisewood and Peter Anderson extended a most hearty thank-you to Mr. and Mrs. Toy for their hospitality.

The evening was a very enjoyable one, and thanks are due to the Guild Committee for the amount of thought and planning they had to give to make the occasion the success it turned out to be. Mr. Brundle said he hoped all present would be at the Guild's first show in August.

[illegible] See item [illegible]

Colton Mothers' Union

The February meeting of Colton Mothers' Union was held at The Rectory on Tuesday when a short service commencing with the singing of "Thou whose Almighty Word" was conducted by Mr. D. J. Waters (headmaster of Colton School), who also gave an inspiring talk on mission work of the Church. Then followed the hymn "Firmly I believe and truly" which the Rector (Rev. A. S. Towlson) accompanied on the piano. Mrs. J. L. Taylor and the Rector thanked Mr. Waters.

The Shrove Tuesday party will take place in the school, to which each member may invite a guest and take their children. A suggestion was made about a visit to Shallowford Retreat House later in the year.

7R

MEN'S INSTITUTES

COLTON

The February meeting of Colton W.I. held in the School was fairly well attended. Mrs. Ivy Preston (president) was in the chair. Mrs. Preston was chosen as delegate to the National A.G.M. in London. The nomination of a delegate to the Spring Council Meeting at Stafford was left over till the next meeting. Mrs. Preston introduced Mr. Hourd, who gave an interesting talk on flowers, how some of our well known flowers got to this country and the origin of their names. Mrs. W. A. Bannister and Mrs. H. M. Felton thanked Mr. Hourd. The monthly competition was for a Valentine card Mrs. P. M. Buckley being the winner. The bulb competition which this year was for hyacinths was won by Mrs. I. Preston, and the mystery prize went to Mrs. H. A. Williscroft. Tea hostesses were Mrs. W. A. Bannister, Mrs. J. Brundle and Mrs. Buckley. Mrs. P. L. Bannister (Treasurer) presented a report of the Christmas Party accounts, and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft agreed to take on the press correspondents work, Mrs. D. M. Atkins being obliged to give it up for domestic reasons. A visitor, Mrs. M. L. Waters, was welcomed to the meeting.

COLTON

Produce Guild.—February meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild was held in the school and many members were present. In the absence of the chairman, Mr. Brundle(who appeared later following another engagement), Mr. J. H. Toy presided.

After the minutes had been read and confirmed, Mr. Toy introduced Mr. Edwards, of Rodbaston Farm Institute, who gave a most interesting and helpful talk on preparing for the coming show giving some ideas of various points judges would look for, and warning members that no amount of doctoring up on show day itself would make up for neglect in the cultivation of vegetables, flower, and fruit in the weeks and months before the show.

Mr. Edwards urged members to make use of the free advisory service which they can get at Rodbaston. He also answered many and varied questions. Mrs. D. Timmins proposed a vote of thanks on members' behalf to Mr. Edwards.

After tea and biscuits the hostesses being Mrs. C M. Amyes and Mrs. D. Deacon, buiness matters were discussed. Mr. T. Preston and Mr. Jack Meddings agreed to represent the guild on any sub-committee which may be formed in connection with the "Best Kept Village" competition. Miss D. M Jones (hon secretary) asked for seed orders to be left with her in the next few days. A letter was read from the B.B.C expressing thanks to the guild for such a good recording of the "Gardeners' Question Time" programme.

A letter was read from a lady living near Chester who had spent her childhood holidays at Colton. She said that hearing the programme on the radio on January 17 brought Colton memories back to her. I was agreed that a letter be sent to her and also that a letter of grateful thanks be sent to Mr. Harry Jones for his gift of a rich fruit cake to be used in a competition for guild funds.

Last item on the agenda was a reminder that the March meeting will as usual be the annual general meeting and all officers and committee retire, so it is hoped there will be a record attendance to decide the guild's welfare for next year. Those not interested in nomination for committee were asked to cross off their names from the list which is in charge of Miss Jones, the hon. secretary.

Express & Star 25/1/60



3/2/60

Schoolchildren had this flooded stretch of road to negotiate on their journey from Colton to

COLTON

February meeting of Colton Women's Institute was held in the school and fairly well attended. Mrs Ivy Preston (president) was in the chair. Minutes were read and confirmed, and the County Letter was read, arising from which it was decided to proceed with the Insurance Scheme. Mrs. Preston was chosen as delegate to the national annual general meeting in London.

Nomination of a delegate to the Spring Council Meeting at Stafford was left over till the next meeting, and members were reminded that the nomination list was displayed. Next meeting is the A.G.M. when voting will take place for new committee and officers.

Mrs. Preston next introduced Mr. Hourd, who gave a very interesting talk on flowers. Mrs. W. A. Bannister proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Hourd, seconded by Mrs. H. M Felton. Monthly competition was for a Valentine card. Mrs. P. M. Buckley being the winner. The bulb competition which this year was for Hyacinths, was won by Mrs I. Preston, and the mystery prize went to Mrs. H. A. Williscroft. Tea hostesses were Mrs. W A. Bannister, Mrs J. Brundle, and Mrs. Buckley.

A few arrangements were made regarding Parkside Group meeting this time to be held at Colton in March. Mrs. P. L. Bannister (treasurer) presented a report of the Christmas Party accounts, and Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft agreed to take on the press correspondent's work. Mrs. D. M. Atkin being obliged to give it up for domestic reasons. A visitor, Mrs. M. L Waters, was welcomed to the meeting.

COLTON

MOTHERS' UNION.—The February meeting of the Mothers' Union was held at the Rectory. A short service was conducted by Mr. D. E. Waters (Headmaster of Colton School) who also gave a talk on mission work. The Rector (the Rev. A. S Towlson) accompanied the singing on the piano. Mrs J. L. Taylor and the Rector thanked Mr. Waters. Collecting boxes of the S.P.G. Medical Missions were handed out by Mr. Waters.

PRODUCE GUILD.—At the annual meeting it was reported that since the Guild was formed three years ago membership had risen from nine to over 60. Elected to the committee were Mr. G. E. D. Atkin, sen., Mr. Roy Bridgens, Mr. R. A. Brundle, Miss Dorothy M. Jones, Mr. Hugh McConky, Mr. A. N. Felton, Mr. T. Preston, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mrs. Dorothy Timmins, and Mr. J. H. Toy. Officers elected were:—Chairman, Mr. Toy; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Brundle; Secretary, Miss Jones; Assistant Secretary and Press Correspondent, Mrs. Ravenscroft; Treasurer, Mr. Felton. Mr. Toy proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Brundle, the Chairman for the three years, and Mr. Brundle paid tribute to the Secretary, Miss D. M. Jones. A vote of thanks to Mr. A. Meddings, Treasurer for three years, was proposed by Mrs. Ivy Preston. A talk about soft fruit was given by Mr. A. A. Amphlett, Chairman of Abbots Bromley Guild.

MOTHERS' UNION held their annual party in the school and Mrs. J. L. Taylor

Colton M.U.

The March meeting of the Colton Mothers' Union took place at the Rectory on Tuesday and was conducted by the Rector (Rev. A. S. Towlson), who gave an interesting talk on the work of the Church Army. The hymns, "Firmly I believe and truly" and "Father, hear the prayer we offer," were sung, the Rector accompany-

Colton Mothers' Union

The April meeting of Colton Mothers' Union took the form of a Lenten Service in St. Mary's Church, when the members of Blithfield joined with Colton members. The service was conducted

MERCURY

Colton Village Produce Guild

The February meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild was held in the School on Thursday last week when a good gathering of members was present. In the absence of the Chairman Mr. Brundle (who however, appeared later following another engagement,) and also the Vice-chairman, Mr. J. H. Toy presided.

Mr. Toy introduced Mr. Edwards of Rodbaston Farm Institute, who gave an interesting and helpful talk on preparing for the coming show, giving some ideas of various points judges would look for, and warning members that no amount of doctoring up on show day itself would make up for neglect in the cultivation of vegetables, flowers, and fruit in the weeks and months before the show. Mr. Edwards urged members to make use of the free advisory service which they can get at Rodbaston, such as soil testing. He also answered many and varied questions.

Mrs. D. Timmins proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Edwards. After tea and biscuits the hostesses being Mrs. C. M. Amyes and Mrs. D. Deacon, business matters were discussed, Mr. T. Preston and Mr. Jack Meddings agreed to represent the Guild on any sub committee which may be formed in connection with the "Best Kept Village" competition.

Miss D. M. Jones (Hon. Secretary) asked for seed orders to be left with her in the next few days.

A letter was read from the B.B.C., expressing thanks to the Guild for such a good recording of the "Gardeners Question Time" programme and it was proposed and agreed that the members thanks to all who assisted in any way on January 9 be recorded in the minutes.

A letter had also been received by the chairman from a lady living near Chester who had spent

Times 13/2/60

SHOW DAY ADVICE TO COLTON GUILD

AT a meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild on Thursday last, Mr. R. E. Edwards, of Rodbaston Farm Institute, gave a talk on preparations for August show, giving an idea of the various points judges would look for. He was introduced by Mr. J. H. Toy.

Mr. Edwards warned members that no amount of "doctoring-up" on show day would make up for neglect in the cultivation of vegetables, flowers, and fruit in the weeks and months beforehand. He urged members to make use of the free advisory services, such as soil testing, which they can get at Rodbaston, and he answered many and varied questions. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. D. Timmins.

Mr. T. Preston and Mr. Jack Meddings agreed to represent the village on any sub-committee which may be formed in connection with the entry of Colton in the Best-Kept Village competition.

A letter from the B.B.C. was read, expressing thanks for the good recording of the "Gardeners question Time" programme. Another letter, which created interest among the older members, was from a person living near Chester who had spent her childhood holidays at Colton. She said that hearing the programme on the radio brought back many childhood memories to her.

It was announced that the next meeting would be the annual

Rugeley Times 13/2/60



CHILDREN attending Colton Church of England School may soon be wearing school uniforms. A move has already been made by the headmaster, Mr. D. E. Waters, who is pictured above with Mrs. G. Shaw fitting "models" with specimen blazers, caps, berets and ties. Gwen Ravenscroft and Stephen Smith are the "models."

Mr. Waters told the "Times" that he is inviting parents to see the specimen uniforms which have been supplied by a clothing firm and he hopes to take orders in time to introduce the uniform after the Easter holidays. "This is only an experiment," he said.

The uniform will consist of a deep blue blazer with a tie, a beret for girls and a cap for boys. The lettering will be in white. Suggestons for a school badge design are also being invited.

Colton W.I. re-elects president

THE March meeting of Colton W.I., being the annual meeting, saw the election of the new committee and the appointment of officers. The president, Mrs. I. Preston, presided and first read the County Letter and gave details about exhibits at the County Show.

Mrs. P. M. Buckley, secretary gave a report on the year's activities, and was thanked by Mrs J. L. Taylor and Mrs. L. Bettson. Mrs. P. L. Bannister, treasurer, presented the financial report and was thanked by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Mrs. N. Jones.

Thanks to the president were expressed by Mrs. Tooley and Miss D. M. Jones.

It was decided that Mrs. Buckley and either Mrs. M. S. Toy or Mrs. Hilda Williscroft be appointed representatives on any sub-committee which may be formed for the Best-Kept Village Competition.

The voting for the new committee resulted in the following being elected:— Mesdames D. M. Atkin, P. L. Bannister, P. M. Buckley, N. Jones, I. Preston, B. M. Ravenscroft, E. M. Sargeant, J. L. Taylor and N. Williscroft, Miss D. M. Jones and Miss E. Rotchell.

Officers subsequently appointed were: Mrs. I. Preston (president), Mrs. Jones and Miss D. M. Jones (vice-presidents), Mrs. Buckley (secretary), Mrs. Williscroft (assistant secretary), Mrs. Bannister (treasurer), Mrs. Sargeant (assistant treasurer), and Mrs. Ravenscroft (Press ccrrespondent).

Mrs. Preston expressed thanks to Mr. Williscroft for his assistance.

Mrs. M. L. Waters was elected as a new member. It was agreed that an invitation from Great Haywood be accepted by Mrs. Sargeant and Mrs. Ravenscroft, details were settled regarding the group meeting, and Mrs. Preston was appointed delegate to the spring council meeting at Stafford.

For the social half-hour a beetle drive was organised by Miss Jones, the winners being Mrs. M. A. Boyle and Mrs. H. Williscroft. Mrs. Bannister won the competition for an egg cosy, and the winner of the mystery prize was Mrs. Jones, who was also in attendance at the stall.

Tea hostesses were Mrs. P. B. Best, Mrs. Bettson and Mrs. D. Deacon.

COLTON

The annual meeting of Colton W.I. was held in the school on Wednesday last week when Mrs. I. Preston (president), read the County letter. Mrs. P. M. Buckley (hon. secretary) reported on the year's activities for which she was thanked by Mrs. J. L. Taylor, and Mrs. L. Bettson. Mrs. P. L. Bannister (treasurer) presented the financial report; a vote of thanks to Mrs. Bannister for her work was proposed by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, seconded by Mrs. N. Jones. Thanks to the president were expressed by Mrs. Tooley and Miss D. M. Jones. Representatives to any sub-committee which may be formed in connection with the best kept village competition will be Mrs. Buckley, Mrs. M. S. Toy or Mrs. Hilda Williscroft. Voting took place for the new committee, Mr. Maurice Williscroft acting as teller. Those elected are Mrs. D. M. Atkin, Mrs. P. L. Bannister, Mrs. P. M. Buckley, Miss Dorothy M. Jones, Mrs. Norah Jones, Mrs. Ivy Preston, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Miss Ellen Rotchell, Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, Mrs. J. L. Taylor and Mrs. Nellie Williscroft. Mrs. Preston will again be president, and Mrs. Jones 1st vice president, Miss Jones 2nd vice president, Mrs. Buckley, hon. secretary, Mrs. Williscroft, assistant hon. secretary, Mrs. Bannister, hon. treasurer, Mrs. Sargeant, assistant hon. treasurer and Mrs. Ravenscroft, press correspondent. Mrs. M. L. Waters was welcomed as a new member. Tea hostesses were Mrs. P. B. Best, Mrs. Bettson, and Mrs. Dora Deacon. For the social half hour, Miss Jones organised a beetle drive, the winners being

COLTON

Women's Institute.—March meeting of Colton Women's Institute was held in the school and was the A.G.M. Mrs. I. Preston (president) read the County letter, and gave details in connection with the W.I. exhibits at the County Show. Mrs. P. M. Buckley (hon. secretary) gave a clear report of the year's activities for which she was thanked by Mrs. J. L. Taylor, seconded by Mrs. L. Bettson.

Mrs. P. L. Bannister (treasurer presented the financial report. A vote of thanks to Mrs. Bannister for her work was proposed by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, seconded by Mrs. N. Jones. Thanks to the president were expressed by Mrs. Tooley stconded by Miss D. M. Jones.

Representatives to any sub committee which may be formed in connection with the Best Kept Village competition will be Mrs. Buckley and, it was suggested, Mrs. M. S. Toy. Failing Mrs. Toy Mrs. Hilda Williscroft agreed to represent the W.I.

Voting next took place for the new committee, Mr. Maurice Williscroft acting as teller. Those elected were: Mrs. D. M. Atkin, Mrs. P. L. Bannister, Mrs. P. M. Buckley, Miss Dorothy M. Jones, Mrs. Norah Jones, Mrs. Ivy Preston, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Miss Ellen Rotchell, Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Mrs. Nellie Williscroft.

Mrs. Preston will again be president, and Mrs. Jones first vice-president, Miss Jones second vice-president, Mrs. Buckley hon. secretary, Mrs. Williscroft assistant hon. secretary, Mrs. Bannister hon. treasurer Mrs. Sargeant assistant hon. treasurer, and Mrs. Ravenscroft, Pre[ss] correspondent. Mrs. Preston e[x]tended thanks to Mr. Williscroft f[or] his assistance and Mrs. M. L. Wat[ers] was welcomed as a new member.

Tea hostesses were Mrs. P. B. Be[st], Mrs. Bettson and Mrs. Dora Deac[on]. By way of a social half hour, M[iss] Jones organised a beetle drive, w[in]ners being Mrs. M. A. Boyle, a[nd] Mrs. Hilda Williscroft. Mrs. B[an]nister won the competition for [an] egg cosy, and winner of the myst[ery] prize was Mrs. Jones.

An invitation from Great Haywo[od] was accepted by Mrs. Sargeant a[nd] Mrs Ravenscroft, and details sett[led] with regard to the Group meeti[ng]. Mrs. Preston will be delegate to

Advert. 16/3/60

COLTON

Mothers' Union.—The Mothers' Union held their annual party in the school Mrs. J. L. Taylor (Enrolling Member) welcomed the gathering. After tea, Mr. J. A. Best entertained the company with one of his popular film shows. Included in the programme were the Garden Parties (in the Rectory Grounds) of 1947, 1958, and 1959. The one of 1947 was of interest to those present who were children at the time the film was taken. A vote of thanks to Mr. Best and to those M.U members who had provided the meal and worked so hard was proposed by the Rector.

March meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild was the annual general meeting. Mr. R. A. Brundle (chairman) presided and explained for the benefit of new members that the rule of the guild was for all officers and committee to resign and a new committee elected by secret ballot. Six of the existing committee were unable for various reasons to offer themselves for re-election.

After the reading and confirming of minutes of the last meeting, hon. secretary, Miss D. M. Jones gave her report of the year's work. It had been a successful year in every way and Miss Jones was congratulated for such a clear report.

Hon. treasurer, Mr. Alfred Meddings presented his report, and this proved that financial affairs were on the right side.

Voting was next item on the agenda, teller being Mr. D. E. Waters. Those elected for the committee were: Mr. G. E. D. Atkin (sen.), Mr Roy Bridgens, Mr. R. A. Brundle, Miss Dorothy M. Jones, Mr. Hugh McConky, Mr. A. N. Felton, Mr. T. Preston, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mrs. Dorothy Timmins, Mr. J. H. Toy.

The new committee retired to decide on their officers, who will be: Chairman, Mr. Toy; vice-chairman, Mr. Brundle; hon. secretary, Miss Jones; assistant hon. secretary and Press correspondent, Mrs. Ravenscroft; hon. treasurer, Mr. Felton.

On returning to the general meeting, Mr. Toy said he would like to propose a vote of thanks to Mr. Brundle for his efforts during his three years as chairman, since the formation of the guild which started just three years ago with nine members and now had between 60 and [7]0 members.

In reply, Mr. Brundle thanked Mr. Toy for his kind remarks, and said he could not have managed all that had been accomplished without the help of Miss Jones. Mrs. Ivy Preston proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. A. Meddings who for three years has held the office of treasurer. She also thanked Mr. Jack Meddings, for his committee work. Speaker was Mr. A. A. Amphlett, chairman of Abbots Bromley Guild, his subject being "Soft Fruit." Mrs. W. A. Bannister extended the thanks of members to Mr. Amphlett for his most interesting talk. Tea hostesses were Mrs. M. S. Toy and Mrs. D. Timmins.

Times 23/4/60

for competition

Ways and means of gaining the active co-operation of the villagers of Colton in generally improving the appearance of the village, which has been entered for the Best Kept Village Competition this year, were discussed by the Women's Institute at their April meeting, after a report had been given by Mrs. M. S. Toy, who was thanked by Mrs. I. Preston, president.

A demonstration on the making of paper flowers was given by Mrs. M. Buckley, who was thanked Mrs. E. M. Sargeant.

[Th]e competition for a miniature [flow]er arrangement, judged by Mr. Meddings was won by Mrs. N. [Jone]s. The vote of thanks to the [speak]e was proposed by Mrs. [Buc]kley.

Advertiser 7/4/60

COLTON

Women's Institute.—First of the Women's Institute good deeds for the year has been the recent house to house collection for Dr. Barnardo's Homes, organised by Mrs. J. L. Taylor. The sum of £9 has been for-

Colton M.U. talk

ADVERTISER.
16 31/3/60

'Bus shelter programme will cover two years

COLTON PARISH COUNCIL met at the school on Thursday last, and Mr. Timmins (clerk), gave information that the three protecting posts on the Marsh side, designed to prevent cattle from standing in the wicket-way between Martlin and the Marsh, on the public footpath leading from Pinfold to Railway Cottages, had now been replaced with four posts at a cost of £5 15s. 4d.

Concerning the wooden footbridge (with iron handrail) carrying the public footpath from Bellamour past the Foxholes to Moor Lane at Hamley over a ditch about halfway along the north-west side of field Ordnance Survey No. 411 (1902 Sdn.) the meeting heard that the County Council had now had the footboard replaced, and also the one adjoining the iron wicket leading into this field.

Regarding omnibus passenger shelters, the Clerk explained that a further letter on this subject had been received from Lichfield R.D.C. to the effect that a scheme had been agreed by which the costs of providing shelters in various parishes in the rural district would be defrayed by them.

A two-year programme was being arranged and consideration given to priority needs for the first year. The Clerk was directed to write further to the R.D.C. as to the type of shelter they proposed to provide.

"BEST KEPT VILLAGE"

Regarding appointment by the Parish Council at the Annual Parish Assembly on the evening previous to this meeting) of Messrs. F. Hardcastle L. Mellor and the Clerk (Mr. S. J. Timmins) to represent the parish council on the Best-kept Village Competition (1960) Committee, Mr. Timmins said he had no objection if some other member would like to take his place.

The Chairman, Mr. Morrall, offered to act and was appointed in place of Mr. Timmins as third representative.

Mr. Morrall said that, as representative on the R.D.C., he had enquired, as arranged, into the statement made at last parish council meeting that sewage—believed from the vicinity of the Pinfold — was being dumped by a sewage tanker into Moreton Brook at the brook bridge between Bellamour Corner and the school.

Mr. Morrall said he had not been able to carry the matter beyond a statement by the Engineer and Surveyor of the R.D.C. that he had no knowledge whatever of the matter.

EMERGENCY PROBLEM

Members considered the possibility that it might have been [illegible] an emergency problem of the [illegible] ent as a result of possible difficulties met with by R.D.C staff in course of excavations in the Pi[illegible] at the time.

The Clerk said he wrote to [illegible] lands Electricity Board concer[illegible] the query raised at last meetin[illegible] to improvement of supply of [illegible] tricity to the villa[illegible] Their r[illegible] was.

"We wish to thank you for [illegible] letter of the 1st December, [illegible] would inform you that at the [illegible] sent moment we have under c[illegible]

struction a high voltage reinforcement scheme to improve supply conditions at the Bellamour end of Colton.

"This scheme will be in commission before the end of January and a general improvement in conditions will result. If you will let us have names and addresses of the consumers from whom complaints have been received of the need to replace bulbs too often, we will investigate these matters individually to ensure that our present scheme does in fact make everyone's supply satisfactory."

For the Sixth Triennial National Conference of Parish Councillors to be held at Westminster on September 29 and 30 Mr. Hardcastle was appointed as the council's official delegate. Mr. Mellor was provisionally appointed as a second delegate if nearer the time he found he could conveniently arrange to go.

The Clerk produced a letter and papers received from Lichfield R.D.C. enclosing rules to be observed in respect of the licensing of halls for the production of stage plays cinematograph shows etc. It appeared that halls used for such purposes must be licensed by the Rural District Council.

Further work carried out under the agreement with the County Council for maintenance (minor repairs and replacements) of public footpaths was reported.

STORM WATER

Mr. Hardcastle raised the question of storm water coming down Cawarden Springs Farm drive Blithbury Road. He explained that there was a grid on the Trent Valley side of the entrance to this drive which took some of the water, but there was no grid on the lodge side.

Consequently water ran down into the hollow (in the direction of Blithbury) causing considerable inconvenience. It was decided that the matter be brought to the notice of the County Roads and Bridges Department.

Initial meeting for the year 1960-61 was provisionally arranged for May 26.



Rugeley Times 5/3/60

of England School provide this happy picture which also shows lusicians in the making. The pupils are concentrating on ecorder—not an easy instrument to play.



ures village competition

PARKSIDE W.I. GROUP MEETI

Wolverhampton Advertiser 31/3/60

The spring meeting of the Parkside Group was held in Colton School on March 22, Colton being the hostess Institute and Mrs. J. L. Taylor the convener.

Mrs. Ivy Preston (President of Colton) welcomed a good gathering of members from Abbots Bromley, Blithfield, Great Haywood, Kingstone, and Marchington Woodlands. Visitors were Mrs. Howarth, V.C.O. (County Treasurer), Mrs. N. James (President of Brereton W.I.), and Mr. E. C. Toye (History Master of Rugeley Grammar School). The guest speaker was Miss Hilda Jones, of Wolverhampton, her topic being Canada. The talk was illustrated by colour transparencies and Miss Jones was thanked by Mrs. N. Jones (Colton) and by a Kingstone representative.

Mrs. Taylor read the minutes of the last meeting of the group which was at Marchington Woodlands in October, and gave the financial statement, after which Mrs. Howarth went through various matters concerning the county.

After refreshments had been served Mrs. Sybil McGill, of Etching Hill, and her concert party, gave a very amusing entertainment, which was much enjoyed by all present. Mrs. [illegible] proposed thanks to them. [illegible] for cheese fingers was [illegible]es Howarth and N. James. [illegible]sdames M. L. Waters and

[illegible] the Parkside Group was [illegible] Toye, winners being Mes[illegible]y and I. Preston. A vote [illegible]ges was proposed by Mrs. [illegible]f Blithfield W.I., in her

MELTON Village Produce Guild members, meeting on Thursday of last week under the chairmanship of Mr. I. Toy, heard a report on the recent meeting of the mittee which is preparing the village for entry in the ; Kept Village Competition.

was stated that Mrs. M. S. had been appointed chairman, that Lichfield Rural Council to be asked to supply more baskets for the village.

e meeting was reminded that co-operation of the general public was most important for success in the competition.

A report was also given on progress with the laying out of the ground at the modernised Ol[illegible]

This is to be placed near the cottages.

A collection was taken, which covered the cost of the seat.

Names were taken for the Rodbaston course, on April 23, on the propagation of fruit trees by grafting, and on pot plant propagation.

Mr. Toy welcomed a new member, and also Councillor W. J. Owens, of Brereton Gardeners'

16

[illegible]eting at [illegible]ton

[illegible]eting of the Col[illegible]itute, held in the [illegible] Preston (presi[illegible] read the County [illegible] Buckley (hon. [illegible]d the minutes of [illegible]Mrs. Preston gave Spring Council [illegible] thanked by Mrs [illegible]y good and clear

[illegible]y next gave her [illegible]ommittee meeting [illegible]e "Best Kept Vil[illegible] and was thanked

[illegible]owed as to ways [illegible]ning the active co[illegible] general public [illegible]minded about the [illegible]duce, etc., sale on [illegible] Reading Room. [illegible] Buckley gave a [illegible] the making [illegible]ich are very like [illegible] Mrs E. M Sar[illegible]rs. Buckley. [illegible] for a miniature [illegible]t', which was [illegible] Alfred Meddings. [illegible] N. Jones, thanks [illegible] Mr. Meddings by

[illegible]rize went to Mrs [illegible]rs H. M. Felton. [illegible] Mrs A. Meddings

[illegible]t Chester

[illegible] took place at [illegible]urch, Chester, of [illegible]d Corby, younger [illegible] Mrs. G. Corby, of [illegible] Vicar's Cross. [illegible]ss Edith Madeline [illegible]ter of Mrs. Nash [illegible] A. G. Nash, for[illegible]ok and High Elms [illegible]omley, near Uttox

[illegible]her uncle, Mr J. [illegible]n Oaks, Kent, the [illegible] full-length white [illegible] lace overdress, a [illegible]d a coronet of [illegible] She carried a [illegible] carnations and

TIMES 20/3/60



Pictured above are some of the W.I. members who attended the Parkside Group meeting at Colton on Tuesday. The picture below shows Mr. E. C. Toye judging entries for the poetry competition, with him are Mrs. James, president of Brereton W.I. (left) and Mrs. L. Howorth (county treasurer).

Colton W.I. hostess to Parkside Group

THE Spring Meeting of the Parkside Group of Women's Institutes, was held in Colton School, on Tuesday, Colton being the hostess institute. The convener was Mrs. J. L. Taylor.

Mrs. Ivy Preston (president of Colton W.I.) welcomed a good attendance of members from Abbots Bromley, Blithfield, Great Haywood, Kingstone and Marchington Woodlands. Visitors were Mrs. Howorth (V.C.O.), who is county treasurer, Mrs. N. James (President of Brereton W.I.), and Mr. E. C. Toye (history master of Rugeley Grammar School). The guest speaker was Miss Hilda Jones, of Wolverhampton, whose subject was Canada.

Mrs. Taylor read the minutes of the last meeting, which was held at Marchington Woodlands in October, and gave the financial statement.

Miss Jones illustrated her talk wtih interesting film slides of Canada.

After refreshments had been served, Mrs. Sybil McGill, of Etching Hill, and her concert party entertained the members, and they were thanked by Mrs. Tooley (Colton W.I.).

The competition for cheese fingers was judged by Mrs. Howorth and Mrs. N. James, and the winners were Mrs. M. L. Waters and Mrs. E. M. Sargeant.

The rhyme on the Parkside Group was judged by Mr. E. C. Toye, the winners being Mrs. P. M. Buckley and Mrs. I. Preston.

Mrs. Rees, president of Blithfield W.I., proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Toye, and this was seconded by the delegate from Marchington Woodlands.

The winner of the mystery prize was Mrs. Mary McConky.

The vote of thanks to the hostess institute was proposed by Abbots Bromley and seconded by Great Haywood.

The singing of "Jerusalem" at the commencement of the meeting and of the National Anthem at the close was accompanied by Miss D. M. Jones.

Colton Village Produce Guild

24/4/60

COLTON Village Produce Guild discussed the rummage and produce sale to be held jointly with the Women's Institute on April 30 when they met for their April meeting in the school. Object is to raise funds for show expenses.

A report was given on the newly formed "Best Kept Village" competition committee of which Mrs M. S. Toy is chairman.

Lichfield R.D.C is to be approached for the provision of more litter baskets and it should be remembered that support of the general public is most important.

Lay-out work in the grounds of Oldhams Cottages progresses, and a rustic seat has been purchased.

Many members go to Rodbaston Farm Institute on Saturday next for the arranged horticultural course on "Propogation of Fruit Trees by Grafting."

Newcomer to the Guild. Mr John Finnemore was welcomed by Mr Toy. Visitor to the meeting. Mr Owen of Brereton Chrysanthemun Society, gave a short talk Tea hostesses were Mrs P L. Bannister and Mrs P. M. Buckley.

Colton Mothers' Union party

TIMES 5/5/60

Colton Mothers' Union held their annual party in the school on Shrove Tuesday, when a good number of members and their children and guests were present.

Mrs. J. L. Taylor, enrolling member, welcomed the members and guests, and the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson said grace.

After tea, Mr. J. A. Best entertained with one of his



COLTON

31/3/60

Women's Institute. — Spring meeting of Parkside Group was held in Colton School last week, Colton being the hostess Institute. Mrs. J. L. Taylor was the convenor. Mrs. Ivy Preston (president of Colton) welcomed a good gathering of members from Abbots Bromley, Blithfield, Great Haywood, Kingstone and Marchington Woodlands. Visitors were Mrs Howorth, V.C.O. (the county treasurer), Mrs. N. James (president of Brereton W.I.), Mr. E. C. Toye (history master of Rugeley Grammar School).

Guest speaker was Miss Hilda Jones of Wolverhampton, her topic being "Canada."

Mrs. Taylor read the minutes of the last meeting of the group, which was at Marchington Woodlands in October, and gave a statement of the financial affairs, after which Mrs. Howorth went through various matters concerning the county.

Next item on the agenda was Miss Jones's talk, illustrated with most interesting film slides of Canada. A vote of thanks to Miss Jones was proposed by Mrs. N. Jones (Colton W.I.) and seconded by Kingstone.

After refreshments had been served Mrs. Sybil McGill, of Etching Hill, and her concert party gave a very amusing entertainment, much enjoyed by all present. A vote of thanks to the concert party was proposed by Mrs. Tooley (Colton W.I.).

Competition for cheese fingers was judged by Mrs. Howorth and Mrs. N. James, and winners were Mrs. M. L. Waters and Mrs. E. M. Sargeant. The rhyme, on the Parkside, was judged by Mr. E. C. Toye, winners being Mrs. P. M. Buckley and Mrs. I. Preston.

A vote of thanks to the judges was proposed by Mrs. Rees, president of Blithfield W.I. (in her usual lively manner), and was seconded by Marchington Woodlands. Winner of the mystery prize was Mrs. Mary McConkey. Vote of thanks to the hostess Institute was proposed by Abbots Bromley and seconded by Great Haywood.

ADVERTISER

RUSTIC SEAT WAS GIFT OF COLTON GUILD

At the meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild, held in the Reading Room on Thursday of last week, Mr. H. Toy presiding, a letter was received from the Rev. A. S. Towlson, as chairman of the trustees of Oldhams Cottages thanking the Guild for the gift of a rustic seat. This had been offered for the benefit of the old people at the cottages.

Thanks were expressed to Mrs. Edith Preston for providing a brass plate to be fixed on the seat.

It was announced that Mrs. A. M. Hillier had accepted the Guild's invitation to open the show in August.

Mr. Hill, of Stafford, gave a talk on "Bees" and answered questions. He was thanked by Miss D. M. Jones.

The competition for spring flowers was judged by Mr. R. Bridgens, who gave the award to Mrs. D. Timmins.

Tea hostesses were Miss E. Rotchell and Mrs. E. M. Sargeant.

M.U. AND CHURCH LIFE IN COLTON

The May meeting of Colton Mothers' Union was held in the Reading Room, when the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, presided in the absence of the enrolling member, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, who is visiting her daughter in Persia. A short service, a general took place, during which were invited to put for- tions or suggestions con- ith the Mothers' Union ch life as a whole in the

B. Best asked members ed to attend the Deaner

3/6/60

Re-organisation of Colton Charities and Trusts proposed

COMPLETE re-organization of Colton Charities and Charitable Trusts was one of the main topics of discussion at this year's Annual Parish Assembly held at Colton School on Wednesday last week.

The Rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson) as chairman and a trustee of the several charities concerned said he had given a good deal of thought to this idea over the past twelve months, and he had every confidence that the proposals, which he outlined to quite a good attendance of local government electors, could be carried into effect.

Mr. Towlson said he hoped it was appreciated that a good job had been done to Oldham's Cottages (almshouses) and that the structural alterations and improvements which the trustees (himself and the two churchwardens) had had carried out there at a cost of something like £4,000, would be reflected in the added comfort and convenience of the elderly people for whom they were intended. Mr. J. H. Toy expressed agreement with this view.

The suggestions the rector put forward would, he said, affect the following charitable trusts: Colton (Church of England) School Trust (comprising school premises, house property, land and investments); the Mrs. Elizabeth Harland Trust (controlling Oldham's Cottages and some freehold land at the rear of the Clerk's House and garden); Colton Parish Lands Trust (which owns two semi-detached houes (modern type) Hollow Lane, the row of almshouses at Stockwell Heath, about 55 acres of land, and some small investments; Reading Room Trust (parish hall); and several minor trusts.

He began his outline of the new proposals by referring to the need for futher almshouses. The suggestion, he said, was to erect six ground floor flats for pensioners with three flats above for letting to others at proper rentals. There would be three garages at the back to go with the three flats. At the rear of the garages block it was hoped there would be enough room to lay out a bowling green with pavilion. At this site also a 'common' or community type of room might be included where elderly people could meet for social purposes. This could also be used by parishioners generally for meetings and small events.

CLERK'S HOUSE

The land for this part of the scheme would be found by demolishing the Clerk's House (belonging to the Trust for the benefit of the Clerk-Verger of the Church) and the old School House and school Cottage adjoining the Wars Memorial and merging the site, or part of the site, of the said school property and gardens with the site of the Clerk's House and garden.

The next part of the suggested scheme dealt with the school premises, and included modernization of the school buildings and the erection of an Assembly Hall at the rear.

Referring to the Reading Room Mr. Towlson explained that this would be replaced by the provision of the suggested common room and assembly hall. The Reading Room was in the unfortunate position of having no modern conveniences, no car park, no endowment funds to meet the cost of upkeep and restoration work, it was not in the best of repair at present and it had no unbuilt-on

Rugeley Times 2/4/60

Vision behind Colton scheme to improve amenities for villagers

PROPOSALS for a £27,000 scheme of amenity building at Colton, dependant on the reorganisation of Colton arities and trusts, were put forward by the Rev. A. S. owlson, rector, at the annual Parish Assembly.

They include the demolition of ree properties and building on e site six ground floor pension- s' flats, three upstairs flats, three rages, a common room, and a vilion and laying a bowling een. In addition, an assembly ll would be added to the school, be available in the evenings for blic functions.

The Rector said he had, as chairan of the various charities ncerned, given a good deal of ought to this idea over the past months and he had every con- fidence that the proposals could be carried into effect.

They would affect the following charitable trusts: Colton Church of England School Trust (comprising school premises, house property, land and investments); the Elizabeth Harland Trust (controlling Oldhams cottages and freehold land at the rear of the Clerk's House and garden), Colton Parish Lands Trust (which owns two semi-detached houses in Hollow Lane, a row of almshouses at Stockwell Heath, 559 acres of land and some small investments); the Reading Room Trust and several minor trusts.

Mr. Towlson in outlining the new proposals, referred to the need for further almshouses. He suggested the building of six ground-floor flats for pensioners with three flats above for letting to others at proper rentals, and with three garages at the rear.

At the rear of the garage block he thought there would be enough room to lay out a bowling green with a pavilion. At this site also a "common" or community-type room might be included where elderly people could meet for social purposes, this could also be used by parishioners generally for meetings and small events.

The land for this scheme would be found by demolishing Clerk's House, belonging to the Trust, and the old School House and School Cottage, and merging the sites.

Assembly hall

The new almshouses trust would then buy at valuation from the Clerk's Trust the site of Clerk's House and garden, together with the site of the School House and Cottage.

Mr. Towlson said it was estimated that the cost of modernisation of the school and provision of assembly hall would cost £13,500, which was almost all already provided for financially.

The almshouses at Stockwell Heath would be demolished and the site sold. The Reading Room premises could also be sold, the proceeds being allocated toward the cost of building the school assembly hall or the common room.

"Very fortunate"

Concluding, the Rector said Colton could consider itself very fortunate in the charities it possessed. Many of those present at the parish assembly took part in the discussion which followed, when questions were answered by the Rector.

Mr. Towlson announced that the accounts for the Parish Lands Trust were still with the auditors and would be available for inspection at the next meeting the parish council in May.

The parish councillors present agreed to bring forward to that meeting the appointment of three councillors to serve on the village committee for the Best Kept Village Competition, and Mr. Hardcastle, Mr. R. Mellor and Mr. S. J. Timmins were appointed.

It was agreed that Mrs M. Toy's complaint of delay in removing dumps after the conversion of the Hamley bridge, should be taken up with the County Roads and Bridges Department.

Mr. R. Morrall promised to take up with Lichfield Rural Council the development of an unauthorised dump at Blithbury Road, which Mr. T. Preston had complained about. Mr. F. W. Cooper said he thought people outside the parish were responsible.

Colton.—At the May meeting at which the President (Mrs. I. Preston) presided, Woman Police Constable Beardmore, of Cannock, spoke on "Crime prevention." She gave various tips and hints on how to make things more difficult for the would-be thief and housebreaker. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. I. R. Brown and seconded by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. The tea hostesses were Mrs. N. Jones, Mrs. Tooley and Mrs. Meddings. The competition for coconut pyramids, judged by Mrs. Brown, was won by Mrs. Hilda Williscroft, and the mystery prize went to Mrs. Preston. The stall was in charge of Mrs. Dora Deacon and the proceeds are for World Refugee Year. 20/4/60 Rugeley Times

COLTON

Women's Institute.—At the May meeting of the Women's Institute held once more in the Reading Room, the President (Mrs I. Preston) presided, but owing to her loss of voice. Mrs Norah Jones (firstand vice-president) read the County letter, and introduced the speaker, who was Woman Police Constable Beardmore, of Cannock, her topic being Crime Prevention. She gave various tips and hints to make things more difficult for the would-be thief, and housebreaker. A vote of thanks to W.P.C. Beardmore was proposed by Mrs I. R. Brown, and seconded by Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft. Mrs P. M. Buckley being unable to attend, the duties of Secretary were carried out by Mrs Nellie Williscroft (Assistant Secretary). Miss D. M. Jones (second Vice-President) read out the committee suggestions for the County Show Exhibit, and after much discussion details were settled. Tea Hostesses were Mrs N. Jones, Mrs Tooley, and Mrs Meddings. The competition for Coconut Pyramids, which was judged by Mrs Brown, was won by Mrs Hilda Williscroft, and the mystery prize went to Mrs Preston. The Stall was attended by Mrs Dora Deacon and the proceeds are for World Refugees Year.

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£24 Raised For Colton Show

A successful rummage and produce sale was held in Colton Reading Room on Saturday. Organised jointly by the Village Produce Guild and the Women's Institute, to provide funds for the show to be held in August, it brought in over £24.

Doorkeeper was Mr. G. E. D. Atkin (senior) and the competition winners were Mr. L. Stretton (cake given by Mr. Harry Jones), and Mrs

TRUSTEES SAY "THANKS"

COLTON Village Produce Guild held their May meeting in the Reading Room and Mr J. H. Toy (chairman) presided.

A letter was read from the Rector, chairman of the trustees to Oldhams Cottages, saying that they were pleased to accept the gift of a rustic seat for the benefit of old people. Thanks were expressed to Mrs Edith Preston for making a brass plate which will be fixed on the seat.

Mrs A. N. Hillier (formerly Mrs Jessie Evans) had written to thank the Guild for the invitation to open the August show.

Mr Hill of Stafford then gave a talk on "Bees," and thanks to the speaker were expressed by Miss Dorothy M. Jones. Spring flower

20/5/60 **COLTON**

OFFER OF SEAT.—At the May meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild—Mr. J. H. Toy (Chairman) presiding—a letter was read from the Rector (Chairman of the Trustees to the Oldham's Cottages) saying that the Trustees were pleased to accept the gift of the rustic seat the Guild had offered for the benefit of the old people at Oldham's Cottages. Thanks were extended to Mrs. Edith Preston for making a brass plate to be fixed on the back of the seat. An interesting talk on bees was given by Mr. Hill, of Stafford. Thanks were voiced by Miss Dorothy M. Jones, who is herself a bee-

Advertiser 26/5/60
COLTON

Parish Council.—After an absence of nearly nine months during which meetings have been held in the school, the Parish Council returned to its old rendezvous, the Reading Room.

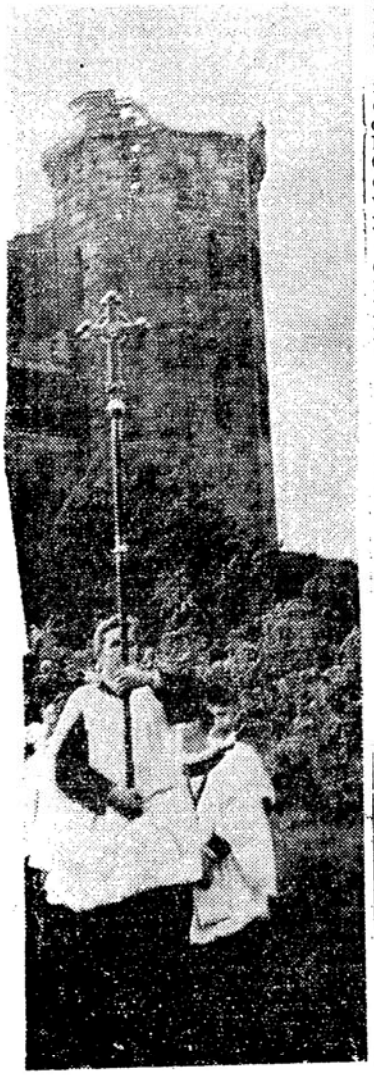
The occasion was a special meeting, the object being to discuss, in deference to the wishes of the recently appointed local Best-Kept Village Competition Committee, certain aspects of the competition for which Colton entered this year.

First item considered was the question of provision of litter baskets additional to the one recently supplied and fixed at the entrance to Heathway by Lichfield Rural District Council. In this connection the meeting decided to ask the R.D.C for three further baskets to be provided namely: outside 'The Greyhound' Inn; at Apsley House Corner; and one at Heathway.

The meeting adopted a further resolution — on the proposition of Mr Luke Mellor—that one be recommended outside the school—as a means of engendering the anti-litter idea into the minds of children but open also for use by the general public. The Clerk, Mr. S. J. Timmins, was asked to bring this idea to the notice of the school managers.

As regards the unremoved portion of butt of a windfall tree on the verge outside the churchyard near the school, it was pointed out that this would appear to be a matter for the Parochial Church Council St Mary's Church. Mr B. Bettson (Restor's Warden) offer to bring this to the notice of those cotncerned was accepted.

The condition of certain verges at Heathway and the position as to the hedgebanks fronting the five new houses opposite the entrance to Little Hay Manor Farm drive was raised, the Clerk being instructed to



ord Castle provide a fitting he choir and congregation of

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Recorder 20/5/60

COLTON

At the May meeting of Colton W.I., held once more in the Reading Room, the President (Mrs. I. Preston) presided, but owing to her loss of voice, Mrs Nora Jones (first Vice-President) read the County letter and introduced the speaker, who was Woman Police Constable Beardmore, of Cannock, her topic being Crime Prevention. She gave various tips and hints to make things more difficult for the would-be thief and housebreaker. A vote of thanks to W.P.C Beardmore was proposed by Mrs I. R. Brown, and seconded by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. Mrs. P M. Buckley being unable to attend, the duties of secretary were carried out by Mrs. Nellie Williscroft (assistant secretary). Miss D. M. Jones (second Vice-President) read out the committee suggestions for the County Show exhibit, and after much discussion details were settled. Tea hostesses were Mrs. N. Jones Mrs. Tooley and Mrs. Meddings The competition for coconut pyramids, which was judged by Mrs. Brown, was won by Mrs Hilda Williscroft, and the mystery prize went to Mrs. Preston The stall was attended by Mrs Dora Deacon, and the proceeds are for World Refugee Year.

SPECIAL COLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

AFTER an absence of nearly nine months during which meetings have been held in the school, Colton Parish Council returned to its old rendezvous, the Reading Room, on Tuesday evening.

The occasion was a special meeting, the object being to discuss, in deference to the wishes of the recently appointed local Best-Kept Village Competition Committee, certain aspects of the competition, for which the village of Colton is entered this year.

First item considered was the question of provision of litter recently supplied and fixed at the entrance to Heathway by Lichfield R.D.C.. It was decided to ask the R.D.C. for three further baskets to be provided, namely: outside "The Greyhound" inn; at Apsley House Corner; and one at Heathway.

The meeting adopted a further resolution — on the proposition of Mr. Luke Mellor—that one be recommended outside the school — to plant the anti-litter idea into the minds of children, but open also for use by the general public. The Clerk, Mr. S. J. Timmins, was asked to bring this idea to the notice of the school managers.

The condition of certain verges at Heathway and the position as to the hedgebanks fronting the five new houses opposite the entrance to Little Hay Manor Farm drive was raised, the Clerk being instructed to take these points up with the County Roads and Bridges Department as highway authority.

The question of the overgrown state of the now little used ford at the brook bridge between Bellamour Corner and the school was gone into by members. It was decided to ask the County Roads and Bridges Dept. if they could undertake the cleaning out of this section of the brook.

Mr. R. Morrall, Chairman, who presided over the meeting, and parish representative on the R.D.C., and who is also a member of the Competition Committee said he had drawn the attention of the R.D.C. (as owners of the

Colton Council want village tidied up

TIMES. 21/5/60

COLTON Parish Council held a special meeting in the Reading Room, on Tuesday, to discuss preliminary plans for tidying up the village in readiness for the Best-Kept Village Competition, in which Colton has been entered for the first time. The meeting was called at the request of the Competition Committee.

Discussing the need for additional litter baskets, it was decided to ask Lichfield Rural Council to supply three baskets in addition to the one at the entrance to Heathway. The council considered that they were needed outside the Greyhound Inn, at Apsley House corner and at Heathway.

The meeting passed a further resolution, on the proposition of Mr. Luke Mellor, that a receptacle, be recommended for outside the school, to help to instil the anti-litter idea into the minds of children, as well as for the use of the general public.

The clerk, Mr. S. J. Timmins, was asked to place this suggestion before the school managers.

Mr. B. Bettson, rector's warden, agreed to bring to the notice of the Parochial Church Council the need for removing the portion of the stump of a windfall tree from the verge outside the churchyard.

The condition of verges at Heathway and the position regarding the hedgebanks fronting five new houses near Little Hay Manor Farm drive were also mentioned, and the clerk was instructed to take up these points with the County Roads and Bridges Department.

Unsightly pit

The council were unanimous in the view that the roadside water pit at the summit of Bank Top was unsightly and decided to investigate the possibility of having it filled in. Pending this, the question of fencing the pit from the highway was deferred.

It was decided to ask the Roads and Bridges Department if they could undertake the cleaning out of the section of brook at the ford near Bellamour corner, which, it was pointed out, was overgrown and very little used.

It was decided to consider favourably a request for a small grant towards the expenses of the Competition Committee.

Mr. R. Morrall ((chairman) said he had drawn the attention of Lichfield Rural Council, of which he is a member, to the broken windows in a disused cottage in Lloyds Row which they own.

The council decided to instruct a local firm to repair the wall surrounding the war memorial and to ask if the cemetery near the school could be mown before the competition judges visit Colton in July.

W.I. told how crime can be prevented

TIMES. 21/5/60

At the May meeting of Colton W.I., held in the Reading Room, Woman police-constable Beardmore of Cannock, gave a talk on "Crime prevention." She advised on how householders can make more difficult the operations of the would-be thief and housebreaker.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. I. R. Brown and seconded by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. She had been introduced by Mrs. N. Jones, vice-president, who read the County Letter.

Miss D. M. Jones, vice-president, outlined the committee's suggestions for the County Show exhibit.

The competition for coconut pyramids, which was judged by Mrs. Brown, was won by Mrs. H. Williscroft, and the mystery prize went to Mrs. Preston. The stall, which was attended by Mrs. D. Deacon, provided a donation towards World Refugee Year funds.

Tea hostesses were Mrs. N. Jones Mrs. Tooley and Mrs. Meddings and Mrs. N. Williscroft deputised as secretary for Mrs. P. M. Buckley

COLTON 1960

Oldham's Cottages. — At the invitation of the Rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson) on behalf of the trustees, the Archdeacon of Stafford (the Ven. Basil Straiton) was, on Thursday evening of last week, present at a service of re-dedication of Oldham's Cottages 'to the glory of the work for God' following their reconstruction, conversion and modernisation, work on which was recently carried out at a cost of £4,000 To the gathering in church the Rector announced some change in the arrangements due to the break in the hot dry weather.

He said that now that the rain had come there would not be a formal procession led by the choir, as originally intended Instead, he asked everyone to make their way informally to the cottages on leaving the church.

At the front of Oldham's Cottages, where the re-dedication was concluded, the Archdeacon was introduced to each of the present occupiers of the cottages. He was also taken to the rear of the premises where, as well as at the front, a lawn was recently laid out by members of the Village Produce Guild

17/6/60 COLTON

MOTHERS' UNION

A most enjoyable afternoon was spent by Mothers' Union members when they met for their June meeting at Wharf Cottage, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Best. The visiting speaker was the Rev. P. L. Vaughan (Rector of Tixall and Ingestre), who gave a very interesting talk on People in the Diocese of Melanesia. The collection was devoted to Mission work in that part of the world. The Rector proposed thanks to Mr Vaughan and also to Mr and Mrs Best. After tea Mr Best took members

Express 26/5/60

PARENTS VISIT COLTON SCHOOL

The headmaster and staff of St. ary's Church School, Colton, anged an open day at the school Wednesday of last week, when arents were able to see their ildren's work and meet the staff. ost of the parents took advantage this opportunity and the



Three occupiers of Oldhams Cottages, Colton, try out the new rustic seat presented by the Village Produce Guild. Mr. M. Williscroft, seen on the left, received the seat as a trustee of the Cottages. Looking on are the members of the Guild who interrupted their meeting to attend the handing over of the seat.

Rustic seat for enjoyment of Colton cottagers

THE business of Colton Village Produce Guild was interrupted on Thursday of last week for the members to take part in a pleasing ceremony. They made their way to Oldham Cottages, taking with them the rustic seat, purchased by the Guild for the use of elderly people living in the cottages. The seat was handed over to Mr. Maurice Williscroft, one of the trustees.

A cine film of the presentation was made by Mr. J. A. Best, and members are looking forward to seeing this during the winter evenings.

At the meeting, which was held in the Reading Room, Mr. J. H. Toy presided and welcomed Mr. Ralph Edwards, of Rodbaston Farm Institute, who gave an instructive and interesting talk on "The growing and care of tomatoes." He answered members' questions, and was thanked by Mr. T. Preston.

Business matters discussed included arrangements for an evening outing to a nursery at Kimber on June 24.

Miss D. M. Jones asked those who were entering for the best kept garden competition, to be held in July, to inform her as soon as possible. She said that vegetable and flower gardens would be judged separately.

The Best Kept Village Competition was discussed at length and it was decided that if the weather was suitable, the time of the next meeting should be spent in tidying one or two parts of the village.

The competition for the evening was an arrangement of flowers in a basin. Mr. Edwards judged the exhibits and awarded the prize to Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft.

Tea hostesses were Mrs. M. E. Hibbs and Mrs. Ravenscroft.

Colton Produce Guild

Colton Village Produce Guild members assembled in good numbers at the June meeting held in the Reading Room on Thursday last week. Mr. J. H. Toy presided and welcomed Mr. Ralph Edwards of Rodbaston Farm Institute, who gave an interesting talk on the growing and care of tomatoes. He answered members' questions and was warmly thanked by Mr. Tom Preston. Afterwards the gathering went over to Oldhams Cottages with the rustic seat (purchased by the Guild for the use of the old people living in the cottages) which was handed over to Mr. Maurice Williscroft, one of the Trustees of Oldhams Cottages.

On returning to the Reading Room, various business matters were discussed including arrangements for an evening outing to a Nursery at Kimber on June 24. Miss D. M. Jones asked those members entering for the Best Kept Garden Competition to be held in July, to inform her as soon as possible. This year vegetable and flower garden will be judged separately. The best kept village competition was discussed and it was decided that if the weather is suitable, the next meeting should be spent in an effort to tidy up one or two parts of the village. The competition for the evening was "An arrangement of flowers in a basin" which Mr. Edwards judged, and awarded the prize to Mrs. Ravenscroft. Tea hostesses were Mrs. M. E. Hibbs and Mrs. Ravenscroft.

Women's Institute. — The June meeting of Colton Women's Institute took place in the Reading Room. The president, Mrs. I. Preston, still suffering from loss of voice, had to rely on Mrs. N. Jones (first vice-president) to read the county letter and a few other matters. Miss Dorothy M. Jones (second vice-president) read Mrs. Preston's report of the annual general meeting, which she attended as delegate for Colton and Blithfield. Mrs. M. S. Toy proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Preston for a wonderful picture of her journey and visit to London and of the great meeting of W.I. delegates. Mrs Toy also thanked Miss Jones for reading the report and was seconded by Mrs. L. Jackson. Mrs. Whitmore from Denstone gave a talk on the history of Staffordshire villages, also explaining the origin of some of their names. Sincere thanks to Mrs. Whitmore were expressed on members' behalf by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. The competition for "a sweet in a tumbler" was judged by Mrs. Whitmore, and, remarking that she had a difficult task, decided the prize should be shared by Mrs. P. L. Bannister and Mrs. Ravenscroft. The mystery

Mothers' Union. — A most enjoyable afternoon was spent by Colton Mothers' Union members when they met for their June meeting at Wharf Cottage by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Best. The visiting speaker was the Rev. P. L. Vaughan (Rector of Tixall and Ingestre). The Rector (Rev. A. S. Towlson) introduced Mr. Vaughan, who gave a very interesting talk on people in the Diocese of Melanesia. The collection was devoted to Mission work in that part of the world. The Rector proposed thanks to Mr. Vaughan, and also to Mr. and Mrs. Best. The meeting and tea was held in the shade of trees by the side of the Canal, and after tea Mr. Best took members in his motor boat for trips along the Canal as far as Wolseley Bridge, this being much enjoyed by all.

Colton Mothers' Union meeting

Mrs. M. Arnold the Deanery presiding member, was welcomed by Mrs. J. L. Taylor, the enrolling member, at the July meeting of Colton St. Mary's Mothers' Union held in the Reading Room on Tuesday. Mrs. Arnold gave a talk and conducted a short service.

Mrs. P. Best, secretary, thanked Mrs. Arnold.

COLTON

Parish Council.—This year's initial meeting of the Parish Council took place in the Reading Room, on Friday of last week. First business on the agenda consisted of the appointment of chairman for the year 1960-61.

In accordance with a previous resolution of the Parish Council that a change of chairman be considered yearly or at any rate that a re-appointed a chairman should not hold office for more than two years in succession except in exceptional circumstances. The Rev. A. S. Towlson proposed, and Mr. Morrall (retiring chairman) seconded, that the latter, having now held office for two years, last year's vice-chairman, Mr. F. Hardcastle, be appointed chairman, and this was carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Morrall for his services over the past two years having been incorporated in the resolution.

A further resolution appointed Mr. A. N. Felton as vice-chairman of the Council.

After a legal period of four years office as appointees of the Parish Council on the Colton Parish Lands (Charitable) Trust, Mrs. Julia L. Taylor and Mr. Felton were unanimously re-elected for a further term of four years, subject to Mrs. Taylor's (who is at present out of the country) confirmation of her willingness to continue as one of the Parish Council's appointees on this Trust.

Mr. Hardcastle and Mr L. Mell were re-elected as the Parish Council's two representatives on the committee of management of the Reading Room.

Mr Hardcastle was re-appointed to act as Snow Clearing (Contingency) Supervisor, for the purpose of co-operating with the County Council, for the winter season 1960-61.

Owing to other engagements, the Parish Council were unable to appoint their full complement of three delegates to the 21st Annual Conference of Staffordshire Parish Councils Association scheduled to take place at Stafford on the afternoon of Saturday, June 11th. In the circumstances Mr. Hardcastle was elected as sole delegate to this conference.

A copy of the minutes of the last ordinary meeting were accepted as read and confirmed. Mr. Timming read out the minutes of the special meeting on May 17th (re Best Kept Village Competition, 1960) and these were accepted as read and confirmed.

Arising out of the minutes, Mr. Towlson mentioned that unless additional help was forthcoming to the small band of workers in the churchyard round the church he could not envisage the laying out of this churchyard being completed in time for the Best-kept Village Competition, judging for which, it was understood, is to take place in July.

Mr. Morrall said that in view of the competition they must aim at getting this churchyard mown and tidied up before July.

In reply to Mr. Felton, Mr Towlson said that having regard to the work being carried out there he did not anticipate the sexton being called upon to carry out any mowing in the churchyard round the church. Mr. Bettson (Rector's Churchwarden) replying to a further query, confirmed it was part of the sexton's duties to mow the churchyard near the school.

Mr. Felton accordingly suggested that in view of these answers it seemed reasonable to ask the sexton, bearing in mind the preparations for the competition, if every endeavour could be made to have the mowing carried out in the course of the next few weeks.

The Clerk read a letter from Staffordshire Rural Communities Council referring to the Parish Council's previous two or three annual contributions towards meeting the Community Council's expenses and appealing to the Parish Council for a renewal of their generosity. The letter pointed out that a grant of £1 was forthcoming from H.M. Development Comm

JUDGES PRAISE COLTON GARDENS



...e of the winners in the Colton Village Produce Guild gardens competition pictured with fellow-members at Hamley Lodge on Saturday.

AN important event in the programme of Colton Village Produce Guild took place on Saturday, when the competition was held for the best kept ... Mr. F. W. Farrar, county man of the Village Produce and Mr. R. K. Mowforth, Staffordshire Farm Institute, Rodbaston, were the judges.

They were taken round the gardens entered in the competition by Mr. R. A. Brundle, chairman of the Guild. Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Timmins also accompanied them to take cine-film of the judging.

Afterwards the judges and officers of the Guild were entertained to tea at Hamley Lodge, home of Mr. J. H. Toy, chairman. A few of the members gathered on the lawn to hear the results announced by Mr. Farrar and the awards presented by Mrs. Timmins. They were as follows:—

Vegetable section: 1, Mr. D. Goodall, Stockwell Heath; 2, Mr. A. Meddings, Williscroft Place; 3, Mr. T. Preston, No. 7 Holding, Blithbury Road.

Flowers section: 1, Mr. J. A. Best, Wharf Cottage; 2, Mr. R. A. Brundle, Manor View; 3, Mr. W. Preston, Etching Hill.

Mr. Mowforth commented on judging points and remarked on the high standard they had found, saying that it was easy to decide on the first prizewinners, but more difficult to allot the third prizes.

The judges were thanked by Mr. Toy, seconded by Mr. R. Bridgens, and they in turn expressed thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Toy and Mr. and Mrs. Brundle for their hospitality.

Reconstruction cost £4,000

OLDHAM'S COTTAGES RE-DEDICATED AT COLTON

AT the invitation of the Recto (the Rev. A. S. Towlson) o behalf of the Trustees, the Arch deacon of Stafford (the Ven. Basi Stratton) was, on Thursday ever ing of last week present at service of re-dedication of Ol ham's Cottages 'to the glory the work for God' following thei reconstruction, conversion an modernisation, work on which wa recently carried out at a cost o £4,000.

To the gathering in church th Rector announced some change i the arrangements due to the breal in the hot, dry weather. He sai that now that the rain had com there would not be a formal pro cession led by the choir a originally intended. Instead, h asked everyone to make their wa informally to the cottages o leaving the church.

The Archdeacon chose as th text of his address 'And who d you think was neighbour to hin that fell among thieves?' 'Hi that showed mercy on him'. 'G and do thou likewise'. He com pared this story of the Goo Samaritan with the gesture goodwill towards the elder people living at Oldham's Cottag in attempting to give them much comfort as possible in the homes.

At the front of Oldham's Co tages, where the re-dedication w concluded, the Archdeacon w introduced to each of the prese

Colton Parish Council

Members of Colton Parish Council at their meeting on Friday discussed at some length the Best Kept Village Competition, judging for which is to take place in July.

After the minutes had been read of a special meeting which had taken place concerning the competition the rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson said unless additional help was forthcoming to the small band of workers in the churchyard he could not envisage the laying out of the churchyard being completed in time for the competition.

He referred to the Sexton's present commitments, including work he was doing in the churchyard and to the difficulties of mowing near the school, due to the presence of gravestones.

Mr. Morrall, the retiring chairman, said in view of the competition they must aim at getting the churchyard mown and tidied up before July.

Mr. T. Preston explained that at the last meeting of the village produce guild certain of the members arranged to cut back the bushwood growing through the railings on the side of the churchyard adjoining Boughey Hall Lane.

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION

The clerk read a letter from Staffs. Rural Community Council referring to the Parish Council's previous two or three annual contributions towards meeting the Community Council's expenses and appealing to them for a renewal of their generosity. The letter pointed out that a grant of £1 was forthcoming from H.M. Development Commission for every £2 which the Community Council could raise voluntarily. Members were reminded that previous donations had been of 10s and it was decided to raise the donation to £1.

The new chairman, Mr. F. Hardcastle then threw open the meeting for all to participate reminding members this was to accord with the arrangement made at the recent annual parish assembly. It was usual and a legal requirement, he continued, for copies of the accounts of parochial charities to be laid before that assembly and as a copy of the last statement of account of Colton Parish Lands (Charitable) Trust had not been available it was decided that its

Produce Guild. — A most enjoyable evening outing took place last Friday when Colton Village Produce Guild members went by coach to Mr. Avery's Nurseries at Enville and Gardens, about six miles from Bridgnorth, the visit being arranged by Mr. Roy Bridgens. After a most interesting walk round the grounds, the company were entertained to welcome refreshments by Mr. and Mrs. Avery and their helpers, to whom all the visitors extended a hearty thankyou for such a pleasant ...

COLTON

Women's Institute. — The July meeting of the Colton Women's Institute took place in the Reading Room. Mrs I. Preston (President) presiding. After the singing of 'Jerusalem' the minutes were read and signed, and Mrs. N. Jones read the County Letter. A new members was welcomed and Mrs. D. Timmins was a visitor. Arrangements were made for the evening outing (which is instead of the usual birthday party) and the route decided on to be through Leeke to Rudyard Lake. Mrs. H. S. Toy gave a most interesting demonstration on fruit canning.

Miss D. M. Jones voiced the members thanks to Mrs. Toy. The competition for botled sof fruit judged by Mrs. Toy was won by Mrs. C. M. Amyes. The mystery prize went to Miss E. Rotchell. Mrs. Amyes was in charge of the stall, and tea hostesses were Miss Rotchell, Mrs. J. E. Norman and Mrs. V. M. Towlson. The total of £4 has been collected for World Refugees.

COLTON

Produce Guild.—The enthusiasm of a few members of Colton village Produce Guild is to be commended in their efforts to tidy up the churchyard near the school. On many evenings Mr. J. H. Toy (chairman), Mr. Tom Preston (with his farm tractor), Mr. Hugh McConkey and Mr. Ben Jackson, cut down saplings and brushwood.

On Friday evening last week the workers were joined by Mr. A. N. Felton, Mr. R. A. Brundle, Miss D. M. Jones, Mrs. M. S. Toy, Mrs. L. Jackson, and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. Mr. J. A. Best was at work with his cine-camera. The rector and Mrs. Towlson have also assisted.

It is hoped to be able to proceed with the good work tonight in place of the usual monthly meeting. Efforts of two members' nine-year-old children in trying to clear away weeds from around a derelict cottage in Lloyds Row was noted on Saturday evening. They were Stephen R. Hibbs and Gwendoline

School Sports.—On Friday of last week a complete change was enjoyed by the pupils of Colton St. Mary's Church School, when they held a sports day organised by the headmaster Mr. D. E Waters, with Mrs. Shaw, the judge and Mrs. Toy the starter. Eric Cooper and Stephen Hibbs were recorders. Winners were, sprint races boys over 10, Ian Hall; over 9, Ian Evans; over 8, Stanley Hawthorne; over 7, Peter Clews; over 6, Roger Bannister; over 5 years, Michael Preston; girls over 10, Kathleen Norman; over 9, Paline Haycock and Patricia Shipley over 8 years, udith Norman; over 7, Philippa Upton; over 6, Marilyn Collins and Wendy Evans; over 5, years, Maria Greatrix, and Delia night.

Wheelbarrow races, boys, over 10, Ian Hall and Anthony Bentley; over 9 years, Peter Margetson and Vernon Norman; over 8 years, Nigel Knight, and Michael Vernon; egg and spoon races, girls over 10 years Kathleen Norman; over 9, Margaret Hall; over 8, Patricia Hart; over 7, June Sargeant; the bunny hop race, girls over 6, Wendy Evans; over 5, Delia Knight; boys over 6, Roger Bannister; over 5, Aldo Monticla; sack races, over 10 years, Ian Hall; over 9, Vernon Norman; over 8 years Nigel night and Stanley Hawthorne; three legged races, Kathleen Norman and Christine Peake, Gwendoline Ravenscroft and Margaret Hall, and Patricia Hart and Carol Wisdom.

Produce Guild.— One of the important events in the life of Colton Village Produce Guild, took place on Saturday this was the competition for the 'Best Kept Garden'. The judges were Mr. F. W. Farrar, County Chairman Village Produce Associations, and Mr. R. K. Mowforth, of The Staffordshire Farm Institute, Rodbaston, who were taken round the 21 gardens entered in the competition by Mr. R. A. Brundle, Guild vice-chairman; Mr and Mrs. S. J. Timmins also went along to take films with their cine-camera.

The judges and a few of the Guild Officers concerened were entertained to tea at Hamley Lodge, the home of the chairman, Mr. J. H. Toy, after which a few of the members bathered on the lawn to hear the results, which were announced by Mr. Farrar, and the awards were presented by Mrs. Dorothy Timins, as follows :—

Vegetable section: Mr. David Goodhall, Stockwell Heath; Mr. Alfred Meddings, Williscroft Place, and Mr. Tom Preston No. 7 Holding Blithbury Road.

Flowers Section: Mr. J. A. Best, Wharf Cottage, Mr. R. A. Brundle, Manor View, and Mr. W Preston, Etching Hill.

Mr. Toy thanked the judges for their work, this was seconded by Mr. Roy Bridgens. Both judges ex-

Colton garden competition

One of the important events in the life of Colton Village Produce Guild took place on Saturday, namely the competition for the 'Best Kept Garden.'

The judges were Mr. F. W. Farrar, County Chairman Village Produce Associations, and Mr. R. K. Mowforth of the Staffordshire Farm Institute, Rodbaston, who were taken round the 21 gardens entered in the competition by Mr. R. A. Brundle, Guild Vice-Chairman. Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Timmins also went along to take films with their cine-camera.

The judges and a few of the Guild Officers concerned were entertained to tea at Hamley Lodge, the home of the Chairman, Mr. J. H. Toy. The results were announced by Mr. Farrar, and the awards were presented by Mrs. Dorothy Timmins to:—Vegetable section, Mr. David Goodall, Stockwell Heath; Mr. Alfred Meddings, Williscroft Place, and Mr. Tom Preston, No. 7 Holding, Blithbury Road. Flower section, Mr. J. A. Best, Wharf Cottage; Mr. R. A. Brundle, Manor View, and Mr. W. Preston, Etching Hill.

Mr. Mowforth gave the comments on the judging, and remarked on the high standard they had found, saying that in the case of first prizes it was easy to decide, but much more difficult with the third prizes. Mr. Toy and Mr. Roy Bridgens thanked the judges for their work. Both judges extended their thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Toy and Mr. and Mrs. Brundle for their hospitality.

Celebration and—no washing up!

Members of Colton W.I. and their friends enjoyed the Institute's birthday celebration particularly this year, for by way of a change it took the form of an evening outing to Rudyard Lake.

In fine weather the journey was made through Uttoxeter, Cheadle and Leek, returning via Meir, Sandon, Weston and Great Haywood.

Some of the usual party helpers were heard to remark that the outing was a pleasant change from "washing up!"

Colton W.I. talk on Staffordshire villages

At the June meeting of Colton W.I., held in the Reading Room, Mrs. I Preston, the president, had to rely once again on the voices of her two vice-presidents, due to the loss of her own voice. Mrs. N. Jones read the County Letter and other items, and Miss D. M. Jones read the report of the annual meeting of the Federation, prepared by Mrs. Preston, who attended as delegate, for Colton and Blithfield.

Mrs. M. S. Toy proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Preston for "such a wonderful picture of her journey and visit to London and of the meeting of W.I. delegates." She also thanked Miss Jones for reading the report, remarks which were seconded by Mrs. L. Jackson.

Mrs. Whitmore, of Denstone, gave a talk on "The history of Staffordshire villages" and explained the origin of some of their names.

Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft thanked her on behalf of the members.

The competition for a sweet in a tumbler was judged by Mrs. Whitmore, who, remarking that she had had a difficult task, decided that the prize should be shared by Mrs. P. L. Bannister and Mrs. Ravenscroft.

The mystery prize was won by Mrs. D. Deacon, and tea hostesses were Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, Mrs. J. Meddings and Mrs. Jackson.

An idea put forward for consideration, that an evening coach tour be held instead of a birthday party, met with the approval of the members.

Colton school sports

A complete change was enjoyed by the pupils of Colton St. Marys Church School on Friday when they held a sports day organised by the headmaster, Mr. D. E. Waters, with Mrs. Shaw the judge and Mrs. Toy the starter; Eric Cooper and Stephen Hibbs were recorders.

Winners were: Sprint races, boys over 10: Ian Hall; over 9: Ian Evans; over 8: Stanley Hawthorne; over 7: Peter Clews; over 6: Roger Bannister; over 5: Michael Preston.

Girls over 10: Kathleen Norman; over 9; Pauline Haycock and Patricia Shipley; over 8: Judith Norman; over 7: Philippa Upton; over 6: Marilyn Collins and Wendy Evans; over 5, Maria Greatrix and Delia Knight.

Wheel barrow races, boys over 10: Ian Hall and Anthony Bentley; over 9: Peter Margetson and Vernon Norman; over 8: Nigel Knight and Michael Vernon.

Egg and Spoon races, girls over 10: Kathleen Norman; over 9: Margaret Hall; over 8: Patricia Hart; over 7, June Sargeant.

The Bunny Hop race, girls over 6: Wendy Evans; over 5: Delia Knight. Boys over 6: Roger Bannister; over 5: Aldo Monticla.

Sack races, over 10: Ian Hall; over 9: Vernon Norman; over 8: Nigel Knight and Stanley Hawthorne.

Three legged races, Kathleen Norman and Christine Peake, and Gwendoline Ravenscroft and Margaret Hall, and Patricia Hart and Carol Wisdom.

Fruit Canning demonstrated at Colton W.

Mrs. I Preston (president) sided at the July meeting of Co Women's Institute, which was i in the Reading Room. Instead the usual birthday party, it decided to have an evening ou to Rudyard Lake, travelling Leek.

Mrs. N. Jones read the Co Letter, and Mrs. M. S. Toy a talk and demonstration on canning, using rhubarb, berries and raspberries.

She was thanked by Miss D. Jones.

The competition for bottled fruit, judged by Mrs. Toy, was by Mrs. C. M. Amyes.

The mystery prize went to E. Rotchell.

Tea hostesses were Rotchell, Mrs. J. E. Norman Mrs. V. M. Towlson.

A total of £4 was collecte World Refugee Year.

Tidying up Colton

The enthusiasm of a few bers of Colton Village Pro Guild is to be commended in efforts to tidy up the church near the school, and what be a very pretty spot by brook bridge, but which until the past week very grown, being a sort of "no land."

Evening after evening Mr H. Toy (the Chairman), Mr. Preston (with his farm trac Mr. Hugh McConkey and Ben Jackson have been cut down saplings and brush which had grown up both and along the outside of Churchyard, and removing mowings and the unsightly bish heap which had colle over the years.

On Friday evening last the workers were joined by A. N. Felton, Mr. R. A. Bru Miss D. M. Jones, Mrs. M. S. Mrs. L. Jackson and Mrs. B. Ravenscroft, when they fo Mr. J. A. Best at work with cine-camera; the Rector Mrs. Towlson have also hel Mrs. Towlson being kept burning rubbish.

Miss Jones and Mrs. Jack spent a few hours in a tidy effort around the phone box public seat; the provision litter baskets would help siderably, but as yet they not appeared.

The efforts of two memb nine-year-old children in tr to clear away weeds, etc., around a derelict cottage Lloyds Row, were noted on urday evening. The kiddies Stephen R. Hibbs and Gwe line N. Ravenscroft.

OPERATION TIDYING UP AT COLTON

Business matters were kept brief when Colton Village Produce Guild met for their July meeting, in order that they could get to work tidying the village in preparation for judging in the Best Kept Village competition. Mr. J. H. Toy, chairman, presided.

The business included the garden competition which is to be judged today (Saturday) by Mr. Farrar and Mr. Mowforth. They will be entertained afterwards at Hamley Lodge, when the winners will be presented with their awards.

Details regarding the county bulb show were announced, but members seemed undecided about entering, for the show takes place in February, when bad weather may make it difficult to attend. Members were reminded about the schedules for their own show on August 20.

Most of the members then went to work, clearing weeds from along the wall between the brook bridge and Bellamour Corner, Mr. Preston's tractor again coming in useful.

Saplings and weeds were removed from near the Reading Room facing Williscroft Place, and the cleared ground was planted. Membefs were served with refreshments in the Reading Room by Mrs. I. Preston and Mrs. M. McConkey.

It was noted that litter baskets had now been provided in the village, but there was not one by the seat in the Pinfold. Members expressed the hope that the Parochial Church Council would provide a dustbin for the churchyard refuse.

Colton Cancer Collection

The recent house-to-house collection for the British Empire Cancer Research Campaign held in Colton Parish resulted in Mrs. J. L. Taylor being able to send £5 15s. to H.Q. The collectors were Miss Ellen Rotchell, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mrs. Ivy Preston and Mrs. P. L. Bannister. The collection this year is listed as a Women's Institute "good deed."

Colton Mothers' Union

Colton St. Mary's Mothers' Union members met for their July meeting in the Reading Room, when Mrs. J. L. Taylor (Enrolling Member) welcomed the Deanery Presiding Member, Mrs. M. Arnold, who conducted a short service and gave an inspiring talk. The hymns "Fill Thou My Life" and "Firmly I Believe" were sung. The thanks of members to Mrs. Arnold was voiced by Mrs. P. B. Best (secretary).

Business matters were discussed including the annual donation to overseas work and a contribution towards a testimonial to Mrs. Sherwin, the Diocesan Secretary, who is retiring. Details concerned with the Garden Party on August 3 were settled, and members were told about the Rally at St. Editha's Church, Tamworth in

COLTON

Produce Guild.—Business matters were made as brief as possible when members of Colton Village Produce Guild met for their July meeting in the Reading Room to enable them to get out to their work in helping tidy up parts of the village.

Mr. J. H. Toy presided over the short meeting, business included the Garden Competition which owing to one of the Judges being unable to attend on July 23 must be held the week before. The Judges will be Mr Farrar and Mr Mowforth, they will be entertained afterwards at Hamley Lodge the home of the chairman, when the winners will be presented with their awards.

Details regarding the County Bulb Show were announced, but as yet members are very undecided about taking part in the competition the reason for this being, the show being held in February when the weather may be bad if it was held too great a distance away, the journey would not be possible.

Members were reminded about the schedules for the show to be held on August 20, they will besides admitting one person per schedule to the show, give all details of various classes, etc. These matters settled most members present went to work.

The weeds were removed from the wall side between the brook bridge and Bellamour Corner, Mr. Preston's tractor again came in useful. Saplings and weeds from the side of the Reading Room facing Williscroft Place and various plants were put on the cleared strip of ground. Members then went into the Reading Room for welcome refreshments, the hostesses being Mrs. I. Preston, and Mrs. M. McConkey.

Members are pleased to see that two or three litter baskets have beeen placed in the village during the past week, but there not being one by the seat in the Pinfold, Miss Jones seems to have a regular job picking up paper, etc., from that vicinity.

It is also hoped that the Parochial Church Council will be able to provide a dustbin for the corner of the Churchyard, for the dead flowers, paper, bottles, etc., that collect there.

Colton service for children leaving school

A school leavers' service wh it is hoped will be held annu in the future, took place at Mary's Church, Colton, before end of the term. It was conduc by the Rector, the Rev. A. Towlson, and Mrs. D. R. S played the organ.

The lesson, taken from Sermon on the Mount, was r by the six leavers — Ian H Clive Sparks, Anthony Bent Valerie Hart, Angela Cooper Christine Peake.

In his address, the rector minded the school-leavers that

Colton W.I. Outing

Members of Colton W.I. and friends enjoyed their birthday celebration which was an evening outing to Rudyard Lake. The weather was favourable and the journey there was via Uttoxeter,

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

COLTON

The July meeting of the Colton W.I. took place in the Reading Room with Mrs. I. Preston (president), presiding. Mrs. N. Jones read the County letter. A new member was welcomed, and Mrs. D. Timmins was a visitor. Arrangements were made for the evening outing (which is instead of the usual birthday party) to Rudyard Lake, Mrs. M. S. Toy gave an interesting demonstration on fruit canning. Miss D. M. Jones voiced members thanks to Mrs. Toy. The competition for bottled soft fruit judged by Mrs. Toy was won by Mrs. C. M. Amyes. The mystery prize went to Miss E. Rotchell. Mrs. Amyes was in charge of the stall and tea hostesses were Miss Rotchell, Mrs. J. E. Norman and Mrs. V. M. Towlson. The total of £4 has been collected for World Refugees.

Colton School-leavers' Service

A service which it is hoped will become an annual event, took place at Colton St. Mary's Church last week. It was a school-leavers' service, conducted by the Rector (Rev. A .S. Towlson) and Mrs. D. R. Shaw, the organist. The service began with a hymn and the lesson taken from the first part of the sermon on the mount was read in sections by the six leavers, Ian Hall, Clive Sparks, Anthony Bentley, Valerie Hart, Angela Cooper and Christine Peake. In his address the Rector reminded the leavers of how during the past six years they had grown in knowledge, pointing out it was a church school they had attended and the religious teaching they had received would help them to be useful members of the church all their lives.

11/8/60 **COLTON**

Produce Guild.—During the three years life of the Colton Village Produce Guild no meeting has been held in the holiday month of August, although this year an August meeting was fixed (it being considered advisable with the first annual show being held on August 20th) quite a good number of members turned up and the decision was fully justified.

In fact, business having been reduced to a minimum, members had an "August holiday" entertainment, "all home produced."

The chairman (Mr. J. H. Toy) presided and congratulated the winners in the recent best kept garden competition, and introduced the speaker, Mr. Trevor Preston.

Mr. Preston gave a talk on the work of the students and staff in general at Kew Gardens. Mr. Preston's father is a well known local smallholder. His mother is president of Colton Women's Institute, and both his parents who were present, are active members of the Guild.

Asked if the Guild decided on a visit to Kew next year when would be the best time to go, Mr. Preston said August was a good month. He added that if the Guild did make a visit, he would be delighted to have a day off and show the company round.

Mrs. D. Wilson proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Preston on members' behalf.

The evening concluded with a film show sponsored and conducted by Mr. J. A. Best and Mr. S. J. Timmins, all films being of local events.

The first film was the Garden Party of 1959 at the Rectory. It showed school sports were also seen, and certain guild members in action preparing for the Best Kept Village competition. A team of Guild members at work on the ground at Oldham's Cottages and the handing

Approx £100 raised at Colton Garden Party

BUT WEATHER NOT KIND

SINCE the annual Colton Church Garden Party was initiated at the Rectory to augment church funds in 1942, it has always been held on the Wednesday in August Bank Holiday week, and always the weather has contributed in a greater or lesser degree to its success.

Last Wednesday proved the most unfavourable day so far experienced, but having regard to the blessing bestowed by the weather man on their past efforts the organisers of the fete and members of St. Mary's Church could not appear ungrateful, and though conditions were far from ideal they could have been much worse.

Though certain precautions were taken because of the wet weather a considerable part of the programme was held out of doors as planned.

Proceeds from the event will be not far short of £100.

After Mrs. H. Main (Southport) the Rector's mother-in-law, introduced by the Rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson) had declared the fete open, she was thanked by the two churchwardens, Mr. B. Bettson and Mr. B. Maurice Williscroft, and was presented with a bouquet by Marilyn Collins, made and given by Mrs. F. Baker, of Rugeley (formerly of Colton).

THE STALLHOLDERS

Stalls and stallholders were:—Needlework, Produce, etc: Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, Mrs. P. B. Best, Miss E. Rotchell, Mrs. Sheila Deacon; China: Mrs. Julia L. Taylor, Mrs. Bradley and Miss Elsie Myatt; Cakes: Mrs. M. A. Westthorpe, Mrs. S. J. Ball and Mrs. D. Timmins; Handkerchief Lady: Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Waters; Bran Tub and Balloons: Mrs. Vera Collins; White Elephant Stall: Mrs. L. May Cooper, assisted by Mrs. P. M. Buckley.

Side-shows and Sports were made up and manned as follows: Hoop-la: Mrs. M. S. Toy & Mrs. Enid Knight; Treasure Map and Roll Penny: Miss A. L. I. Hoare; Throw at Policeman: Mr. W. Yeomans; Clock Golf: Miss D. M. Jones; Skittles: Mr. B. Bettson; Bowling through hole: Mr. E. S. Blore; Kagle: Mr. B. Maurice Williscroft; Cocoa-nut Shy (2nd year): Mr. A. N. Felton and Mr. Walter A. Norman.

Support was also derived from competitions run by: Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Felton (Brushed Nylon Nightdress), winner Mrs. G. E. Finnemore; Miss E. Rotchell (chicken), winner Mrs. Sheila Deacon; Tea Tent (Groceries), winner Mrs. M. S. Toy; Mr. C. Boycott (Sherry), winner Mrs. D. Mottram, Hill Ridware; Mr. F. Grimley (Towels), Mrs. Doris Leeke.

Following on last year's success in the same field, one of the afternoon's attractions took the form of a fancy dress parade for children. There were over twenty entrants, and the prizes were gained by:— Premier prize: Janet Read (Tramp); Aged 10 and over: (1) Irena Kulynycz (Krakovian); (2) Pamela Jones and Judith Hodgkinson (Jack and Jill); (3) Kathleen Norman (Dr. Barbara Moore). Under 10: (1) Pauline Simkins (My Fair Lady), (2) Mark Farwell (Waggon Train), (3) Peter Clews (Scarecrow).

Judging for this was carried out by Mrs. Main, who also presented the prizes. A consolation prize was awarded to each of the

COLTON PRODUCE GUILD

12/8/60

Speaking at the August meeting of the Colton Produce Guild (where the Chairman, Mr. J. H. Toy, presided) was Mr. Trevor Preston, a Colton man who was trained at Rodbaston Horticultural Institute, who is now on a student course at Kew Gardens, London, and is hoping later to move to Reading University.

Mr. Preston's father is a well known local smallholder, his mother is President of Colton Women's Institute, and both his parents who were present, are active members of the Guild.

Mr. Preston described how some of the staff go out into all parts of the world exploring and sending home (to Kew) all sorts of plants for determining their species and variety, for study and experiment.

Asked if the Guild decided on a visit to Kew next year when would be the best time to go, Mr. Preston said August was a good month.

Mrs. D. Wilson proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Preston.

The evening concluded with an interesting film show sponsored and conducted by Mr. J. A. Best and Mr. S. J. Timmins, all the films being of local events, and some of the characters being present at the showing.

The final film was the one taken by Mr. and Mrs. Timmins of the judging and presenting of awards in the best kept garden competition starting with the meeting of the judges at Wolseley Bridge. Mr. R. A. Brundle (Guild Vice-Chairman) voiced the thanks of the company to Mr. Best and Mr. Timmins.

Women's Institute.—At the September meeting of the Colton Women's Institute held in the Reading Room, Mrs. I. Preston (assisted by Mrs. N. Jones) presided. Mrs. M. Bennett was welcomed as a new member. Business matters included final arrangements regarding the Parkside Group meeting at Abbots Bromley on October 3rd. Mrs Jones welcomed Mr. Simcock and his assistant from the "Express and Star" who gave a film show, the first being "News Travels Fast," giving members a clear idea of the thought and work which is involved before they get their newspapers. Mrs. Jones extended thanks to Mr. Simcock, who in return invited members to visit him at the "Express and Star" in November. This was accepted with much pleasure. The competition for a "Humorous Snapshot" was won by Mrs. Jones. Miss D. M. Jones was in charge of the stall.

22/9/60 **COLTON**

Mothers Union.—September meeting of the Colton Mothers Union was held in the Reading Room, when Mrs. J. L. Taylor (enrolling member) welcomed the Rev. H. Perrins, Rector of Armitage, also extending good wishes from Colton branch on his recent marriage. The Rev. Perrins conducted a short service and gave an address. Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft proposed the vote of thanks on members' behalf to the Rev. Perrins.

Fifteen members of Colton travelled with Abbots Bromley and Blithfield by coach (two more going by train) to the Mothers Union Rally and Service at St. Editha's Church, Tamworth, some joining in the procession from the Castle grounds to the church with clergy and M.U. banners, Mrs. J. L. Taylor being the Colton banner bearer. Over 1,000 members of branches in the Archdeaconry of Stafford attended this most inspiring service, the address and blessing being given by the Chaplain to the Mothers' Union, the Rt. Rev The Bishop of Croydon.

The Rugeley Times, Sat

13/9/60

COLTON GU... INSIGHT INTO WORK AT KEW GARDENS

A COLTON man now attending a student course at Kew Gardens, Mr. Trevor Preston, addressed members of the Village Produce Guild at their August meeting. This was the first time the Guild had met in August, and the good attendance justified the venture.

Mr. J. H. Toy, chairman, who presided, congratulated the winners of the recently held best kept garden competition.

Welcoming the speaker, Mr. Toy said Mr. Preston was a local boy who attended St. Mary's School and Rugeley Grammar School. He later received training at Rodbaston Farm Institute, and having decided to make horticulture his career, he spent a period in the Wolverhampton parks. He was now attending a student course at Kew Gardens, and hoped to move on to Reading University.

Mr. Preston's father is a well-known local smallholder and his mother is president of Colton Women's Institute. Both are active members of the Produce Guild.

Members showed keen interest in Mr. Preston's description of life and work at Kew. He explained that some members visit different parts of the world for the purpose of exploring and sending back to Kew various plants for determination of their species and variety, which are also used for study and experimentation. Some of Kew's plants, he said, were despatched to botanical gardens in other parts of the world.

Mr. Preston told the members that if they decided to visit Kew next year, August would be the most suitable time, and he would be pleased to show them around.

S. J. Timmins, featuring local events.

The first film was the 1959 garden party at the Rectory (Mr. Best has filmed the last 13 of these events). This was followed by the school sports, and other shots showed Guild members preparing for the Best Kept Village Competition.

A team of Guild members at work on the ground at Oldham Cottages and the handing over of the rustic seat to the trustees were also seen, after which the film taken by Mr. and Mrs. Timmins of the judging and presentation of awards for the Best Kept Garden Competition was shown.

Mr. R. A. Brundle, vice-chairman, thanked Mr. Best and Mr. Timmins for showing the films.

The members discussed final details of the show, which is being held jointly with the Women's Institute on August 20.

13/9/60

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

COLTON

At the September meeting of Colton W.I. held in the Reading Room, Mrs. I. Preston (assisted by Mrs. N. Jones) presided. Mrs. M. Bennett was welcomed as a

CHURCH WORKERS AND CHILDREN COMBINE IN COLTON FETE SUCCESS

HOUGH it broke a record run of 18 years with not a single wet afternoon for Colton fete, Wednesday's zzle, following night-time downpours, did nothing to mpen the spirits of St. Mary's workers. Their optimism s rewarded, for they were able to continue with their tdoor programme as planned.

Visitors to the Rectory were able see the progress made with the evelopment of the churchyard an open plan. A green sward met eye and the removal of obstruc-ns brought a new view of the rch, one perhaps not seen for turies. The fete was in aid of rch expenses.

The south lawn of the Rectory s surrounded by stalls and side-ws, with the centre clear for ancing display and a fancy dress ade.

The Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towl-, welcoming everyone who had ne because of the opportunity it e them to help the village rch, introduced Mrs. H. Main, Southport—his mother-in-law—the opener of the fete.

Irs. Main likened garden parties l fetes to a meal. They needed t of preparation and at the end re should be nothing left—only clearing away.

he was presented with a bouquet Marilyn Collins and the two rchwardens. Mr. M. Williscroft Mr. W. Bettson, proposed and nded the vote of thanks.

The stallholders were as follows: Hoopla: Mrs. J. H. Toy, Mrs. E. Knight; bran-tub, Mrs. V. Collier; balloons, Leslie Collier; rummage, Mrs. A. Cooper, Miss P. M. Buckley; general stall, Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, Mrs. S. Deacon, Mrs. J. A. Best, Miss E. Rochell; handkerchiefs, Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Waters; cakes: Mrs. N. Westhorpe, Mrs. S. Ball, Mrs. D. Timmins; crockery: Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Mrs. A. Bradley, Miss E. Myatt; minerals and confectionery: Mr. Jack Brown, Miss M. Phillips.

Sideshows: skittles: Mr. W. Bettson; kagle: Mr. M. Williscroft; clock golf: Miss D. M. Jones; bowling through hole: Mr. E. S. Blore; coconut shy: Mr. G. Felton, Mr. W. Norman; penny roll and treasure hunt: Miss A. Hoare; throw at policeman: Mr. B. Yeomans.

Refresments, in a marquee, were prepared and served by Mesdames W. Bettson, M. Williscroft, N. Felton, G. Deacon, G. Amies, E. Griffin, I. Preston, C. J. Ravenscroft, G. James and F. Norman.

Fancy dress winners

The fancy dress parade was held during the afternoon and 21 children took part. The premier prize was won by Janet Read, as a tramp, and the others were as follows:— Age 10 and over: 1, Irena Kulynycz (Krakovian); 2, Pamela Jones and Judith Hodgkinson (Jack and Jill); 3, Kathleen Norman (Dr. Barbara Moore. Under 10: 1, Pauline Simkins (My Fair Lady); 2, Mark Farwell (Waggon Train); 3, Peter Clewes (Scarecrow).

Mrs. Main judged the entries and presented the prizes. In addition to the named winners, all other entrants received consolation prizes.

There was also a dancing display by pupils of the Rugeley Studio of Dancing, of which Mrs. Towlson is principal. Kathleen Norman, Gwen Ravenscroft, Shirley Tittensor and Pamela James danced the Fairy Ring, Janet Read the Little Match Girl, Christine Leeke the Tarantella and Irene Kulynycz a Krakovian dance.

Others were: Hungarian branch dance (Noeline Davidson); Russian peasant dance (Olga Sawczuk); Mazurka (Gill Holdcroft and Valerie Southwell); Swedish dance (Shirley Tittensor); Highland Fling (Annette Martin, Janet Read); Jota (Susan Latham); "Out of Town" (Pamela James, Kathleen Norman); Little Miss Muffet (Anne Madders). The finale was the Sailors' Hornpipe, danced by Margaret Jervis, Judith Hodgkinson, Pauline Simkins and Valerie Lycett.

The profit fell short of that made in previous years, fewer people attending because of the weather but it is hoped to clear £100.



The picture above shows some of the church workers and visitors at the opening of Colton Church fete on the Rectory lawn on Wednesday. In the foreground are some of the children who helped to entertain the company with a dancing display.





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Mrs. Main, who opened the fete, is seen holding a bouquet presented to her by Marilyn Collins. Also in the picture are (left to right) Mr. and Mrs. W. Bettson, the Rector, Mr. Main and Mr. and Mrs. M. Williscroft.

TIMES 10/9/60

Colton Guild show made profit of £25

A talk on forestry and the general uses of various kinds of timber, illustrated by a film strip, was given by Mr. Wilson to Colton Village Produce Guild on Thursday of last week. He was thanked by Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft.

The meeting was well attended, and the chairman, Mr. J. H. Toy, welcomed two new members—Mr. J. Devall and Mr. P. Preston.

Business matters were discussed, including the balance sheet on the recent horticultural show run by the Guild and the Women's Institute. This disclosed a credit balance of £25.

It was decided that the same committee should organise the 1961 show.

Tightening up

The chairman referred to a recommendation by the show committee that certain rules should be "tightened up" for future shows. Points made were that all exhibits should be grown by the exhibitors; that gardens be open for inspection by the committee if desired; and that intending exhibitors should have been members of the Guild or the W.I. for about six months before the show and should have attended at least two or three ordinary meetings during the year.

It was announced that the committee would welcome ideas, suggestions or criticisms put forward by members.

Mr. Toy congratulated winners at the show and thanked those who had worked for its success.

It was decided to stage a bulb show in February, and arrangements were completed for attending the county meeting at Lotus Hall, Stone, on September 17. Members were invited to a meeting to be held at Colwich on September 22.

Mr. R. A. Brundle and Miss D. M. Jones were re-appointed county representatives.

The competition was judged by fMr. Wilson, and other winners were: Mrs. E. Tabernor (chrysanthemums) and Mr. P. Preston (potatoes).

Tea hostesses were Mrs. C. M. Amyes and Mrs. J. Garwood.

Worst weather yet for Colton fete

SENTINEL 12/8/60

The weather for the annual garden party of St. Mary's Church, Colton, held at the Rectory last week, was the worst experienced since the event was first staged, 18 years ago.

Conditions could have been much worse, however, and though certain precautions were taken because of the rain, a considerable part of the programme was held out of doors as originally planned.

The proceeds, for church funds, are expected to be down on previous years, but it is hoped that the final figure will not be far short of £100—a satisfying achievement in view of the bad weather.

Mrs. H. Main, of Southport, mother-in-law of the Rector of Colton, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, opened the garden party. She was thanked by the churchwardens, Mr. B. Bettson and Mr. B. Maurice Williscroft, and was presented with a bouquet by Marilyn Collins.

The bouquet was made and given by Mrs. F. Baker, of Rugeley, and formerly of Colton.

FANCY DRESS

Organised again because of its success last year, one of the afternoon's biggest attractions was a fancy dress parade for children. There were over 20 entrants and prizes were won by:—

Premier award.—Janet Read (Tramp). Aged 10 and over: 1, Irena Kulynycz (Krakovian); 2, Pamela Jones and Judith Hodgkinson (Jack and Jill); 3, Kathleen Norman (Dr. Barbara Moore). Under 10: 1, Pauline Simkins (My Fair Lady); 2, Mark Farwell (Wagon Train); 3, Peter Clewes (Scarecrow).

The judge was Mrs. Main, who also presented the prizes. A consolation prize was given to each of the other competitors.

A dancing display was given by pupils of the Rugeley School of Dancing, whose Principal is Mrs. V. M. Towlson. Taking part were:—

Kathleen Norman, Gwendoline Ravenscroft, Shirley Tittensor, Pamela Jones, Janet Read, Christine Leeke, Irena Kulynycz, Noeline Davidson, Olga Sawczuk, Gill Holdcroft, Valerie Southwell, Annette Martin, Susan Latham, Anne Madders, Margaret Jervis, Judith Hodgkinson, Pauline Simkins and Valerie Lycett.

STALLHOLDERS

Stallholders and sideshow attendants were: Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, Mrs. P. B. Best, Miss E. Rotchell, Mrs. Sheila Deacon, Mrs. Julia L. Taylor, Mrs. Bradley, Miss Elsie Myatt, Mrs. M. A. Westhorpe, Mrs. S. J. Ball, Mrs. D. Timmins, Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Waters, Mrs. Vera Collins, Mrs. L. May Cooper, Mrs. P. M. Buckley, Mrs. M. S. Toy, Mrs. Enid Knight, Miss A. L. I. Hoare, Mr. W. Yeomans, Miss D. M. Jones, Mr. B. Bettson, Mr. E. S. Biore, Mr. B. Maurice Williscroft, Mr. A. N. Felton and Mr. Walter A. Norman.

Competitions were run by Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Felton (brushed nylon nightdress, won by Mrs. G. E. Finnemore), Miss E. Rotchell (chicken, Mrs. Sheila Deacon), tea tent (groceries, Mrs. M. S. Toy), Mr. C. Boycott (sherry, Mrs. D. Mottram) and Mrs. F. Grimley (towels, Mrs. Doris Leeke).

Helpers in the tea tent were: Mrs. L. Bettson, Mrs. Hilda Williscroft, Mrs. G. Jones, Mrs. H. M. Felton, Mrs. Ivy Preston, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mrs. D. Deacon, Mrs. E. Griffin, Mrs. C. M. Amyes, Mrs. Waters, Miss R. B. Ravenscroft, Mrs. M. E. Hibbs, Miss S. M. Hibbs and Mr. Irving Collins.

Mr. F. W. Cooper was gate attendant, and Mr. R. A. Brundle cashier.

"JUSTICE" IS DONE

22/9/60



Mr. Cecil J. Ravenscroft has one prominent feature that places him in the same category as film star James Robertson Justice—his full beard! It was his beard that procured him a free seat at the Odeon Cinema, Stafford, last week, when

Colton Parish Council offer helping hand to invalid parishioner

Advertiser 15/8/60

AT Colton Parish Council meeting, the case of an invalid parishioner, Miss A. Hoare, was discussed, and resulted in an offer of help to have her accommodated in her previous almshouse home as the alternative to living in a hospital.

Previously resident in the almshouses with her mother and their lodger, Miss Hoare had left on the death of her mother under the impression that she could not remain.

Both Miss Hoare and the lodger, Mr. Yeomans, went to live with Mr and Mrs. Hempshaw of Rugeley.

A letter from Mr. Hempshaw to the chairman of the Parish Council now explained that their circumstances were such that, notwithstanding the very great sympathy they had felt for Miss Hoare, they very much regretted that they would not be in a position to accommodate Miss Hoare beyond November next at the latest.

ONLY ALTERNATIVE

Mr. Hardcastle said that Miss Hoare's very great desire was to continue to live out of hospital, and unless she was to be made to go into hospital greatly against her will, the only alternative he could see at the moment was to consider allowing her to return to her recent home for many years at the old and empty almshouses at Stockwell Heath, from which her furniture had never been removed.

The Chairman said he realised Miss Hoare, being an invalid, could not go back to live on her own and the point arose as to whether Miss Hoare's and her late mother's former lodger and friend, Mr. Yeomans, should also be allowed to return so as to look after her.

Mr. Morrall said that after listening to the chairman and taking into account the unfortunate and unhappy circumstances in which Miss Hoare appeared to be placed he would move that a recommendation be made to Colton Parish Lands (Charitable) Trust, as owners of the property, that the two people be allowed to return to their former home in the almshouses at Stockwell Heath, if they expressed a desire to do so.

CARRIED

Mr. Felton agreed to second the proposition and, on being put to the meeting, the recommendation to be placed before the Parish Lands Trustees was carried.

The council expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the best kept village competition in which Colton was placed first in the small villages in its area in the preliminary judging.

The chairman of the parish council (Mr. F. Hardcastle) expressed appreciation of the great amount of effort, both personal on private property, and in public parts of the village, by "corporate" endeavour (members of the village produce guild) in this encouraging achievement in the first year of entry.

It is understood that, through the help of the Stafford College of Arts certificates are to be presented, not only to winners and finalists (which include Colton) of this year's competition, but also to all villages which have reached the final round of the competition since its commencement in Staffordshire.

Points which arose in connection with preparation for the competition were dealt with.

Regarding the condition of the ford at the Brook Bridge between Bellamour Corner and the school, a letter from County Roads and Bridges Committee was read which stated that it was difficult to appreciate the parish council's suggestion that this should be cleaned and improved.

The ford was, so far as was known, no longer used, and the grass verges [illegible] recently been cut in connection with other verges in the area. The letter added that the [illegible] should be a little more [illegible]

tion at a previous meeting of the parish council having been made that this should be filled in) the same letter explained that in 1953 the Colton Parish Lands (Charitable) Trust offered to dedicate this pit to the County Council, but it subsequently transpired that they could not prove title to it, and although extensive enquiries were made, the actual ownership of the pit could not be established.

No further action could be taken, and the matter lapsed in 1956.

Mr. L. Mellor having mentioned that it was possible that, when the contractors of the prospective council houses in substitution for Lloyds Cottages opposite Apsley House Corner commenced work they might have for disposal excavated soil and/or subsoil.

It was resolved to leave it to Mr. Mellor to approach the contractors and ask if they would be prepared to help on the filling in of this redundant waterpit.

Answering the chairman, who asked if vouchers had ever been forthcoming for an item of £10 shown as expenses in the 1958 state-

Mercury

Colton Produce Guild meeting

10/9/60

There was a good attendance at the September meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room on Thursday last week when Mr. J. H. Toy (Chairman) presided and welcomed two new members, Mr. J. Devall and Mr. Peter Preston.

Mr. Toy introduced the speaker, Mr. Wilson who showed a film strip and gave a short talk on Forestery, and the general uses of various kinds of timber. Mr. Wilson also invited and answered a number of questions.

A vote of thanks on members' behalf, was proposed by Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft.

Business matters discussed included the presentation of a balance sheet, dealing with the financial side of the recent Horticultural Show run by the Guild and the Women's Institute. This disclosed a satisfactory balance of about £25. It was proposed by Mrs. W. A. Bannister and seconded by Mr. Jack Brown that the present show committee carry on for the 1961 show.

The Chairman referred to a strong recommendation of the show committee for a tightening up of the rules of any future shows. Points made in the recommendation are, 1, all exhibits to be grown by the exhibitor; 2, gardens to be open for inspection by the committee if desired; 3, intending exhibitors to have been a member of the Guild or W.I. for about six months, certainly not later than the annual general meeting early in March, and 4, to have attended at least two or three ordinary meetings in the year.

The committee welcome any ideas, suggestions or criticisms put forward by members for consideration. Mr. Toy congratulated all winners at the show and extended thanks to all those who worked in any way to make the

COLTON GUILD STAGES A FINE SHOW OF PRODUCE

THE first annual vegetable, flower and produce show staged by Colton Village Produce Guild in conjunction with Colton Women's Institute, on Saturday, was a great success. The classes for vegetables and flowers were well filled, and fruit and other produce were also well represented.



The show was opened by Mrs. Jessie Hillier, former secretary of the Staffordshire Rural Community Council and the Staffordshire Village Produce Guilds Association, who was welcomed by Mr. J. H. Toy, chairman of the Colton Guild.

Mrs. [illegible] said she considered it an honour to have been asked to open the Guild's first show. She congratulated the members on the high standard of the produce exhibited, which was worthy of entry in a show like Brewood.

Thirteen years-old Judith Preston presented a bouquet to Mrs. Hillier, who was thanked by Mr. R. A. Brundle, former chairman and vice-chairman of the Guild, for opening the show. Mr. Brundle also thanked all who had worked for the success of their first show.

The horticultural exhibits were judged by Mr. Peter Fergusson, head gardener at Ingestre Hall; Miss Harper, of the West Midlands Gas Board staff, judged the Baking and cookery exhibits; and the handicrafts were judged by Mrs. P. Salter, of Abbots Bromley. They were thanked by Miss D. M. Jones, hon. secretary of the Guild, and second vice-president of the Women's Institute.

Four years-old Stephen Brundle stands proudly with the prizewinning heaviest marrow grown by Mrs. Baker, of Rugeley.

Cups awarded for the highest number of points gained were won by Mr. T. Preston and Mrs. D. Timmins, respectively.

Potatoes, white: 1, Mrs. P. L. Bannister; 2, J. H. Toy; 3, T. Preston. Potatoes coloured: 1, M. Williscroft; 2, A. Towlson, senr.; 3, Towlson.

Tomatoes: 1, Mrs. F. Baker; 2, Mrs. S. Jones, senr.; 3, Mrs. D. Deacon. Onions grown from seed: 1, A. Meddings; 2, J. Meddings; 3, J. H. Toy. Onions grown from sets: 1, R. Bannister; 2, P. Tabernor; 3, W. C. Preston. Shallots: 1, M. Garwood; 2, Mrs. P. L. Bannister; 3, T. Preston.

Beet, globe: 1, Mrs. P. L. Bannister; 2, Mrs. D. Deacon; 3, Miss D. M. Jones. Runner beans: 1, M. Garwood; 2, J. Meddings; 3, M Garwood. Peas: 1, A. Meddings; 2, T. Simms; 3, J. Brown. Carrots: 1, C. J. Ravenscroft; 2, Mrs. M. Bennett; 3, Mrs. P. L. Bannister. Parsnips: 1, J. Meddings; 2, A. Meddings; 3, C. J. Ravenscroft.

Cauliflower: 1, Mrs. D. Atkin; 2, Mrs. D. Deacon. Lettuce, cabbage: 1, Mrs. F. Baker; 2, A. Meddings; 3, J. Meddings. Cabbage: 1, G. E. D. Atkin, senr.; 2, M. Williscroft; 3, T. Simms. Marrow, heaviest: 1, Mrs. F. Baker; 2, C. J. Ravenscroft; 3, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. Collection of vegetables: 1, Mrs. F. Baker; 2, T. Preston; 3, Mrs. S. Jones, senr.

Apples, dessert: 1, Mrs. D. Timmins; 2, S. J. Timmins; 3, Mrs. D. Timmins. Apples, cooking: 1, T. Preston; 2, J. Brown; 3, T. Preston. Pears: 1, Mrs. D. Timmins; 2, T. Preston; 3, Mrs. D. Deacon. Plums: 1, Mrs. D. Deacon; 2, D. Goodall; 3, Mrs. D. Atkin.

FLOWERS

Gladioli: 1, T. Preston; 2, Mrs. D. Wilson; 3, Mrs. M. A. Westhorpe. Dahlias: 1, Mrs. E. J. Pointon; 2, Miss D. M. Jones; 3, S. J. Timmins. Annuals: 1, Mrs. D. Timmins; 2, Mrs. M. Toy; 3, S. J. Timmins; h.c.: A. N. Felton. Sweet peas, 12 blooms: 1, Mrs. D. Timmins; 2, S. J. Timmins; 3, Mrs. D. Timmins. Roses, six blooms: 1, T. Preston; 2, and 3, Mrs. E. Tabernor. Carnations, six blooms: 2, A. N. Felton. House plant in flower or foliage: 1, Mrs. D. Deacon (gloxinia); 2, A. Meddings (aspidistra); 3, Mrs. I. Preston (tradescantia). One Pedestal decoration: 1, Mrs. P. M. Buckley; 2, Mrs. M. S. Toy; 3, Mrs. I. R. Brown.



Performing the opening ceremony of the Guild's Show is Mrs. Jessie Hillier. Others in the picture (left to right) are Mr. G. E. D. Atkins, senr., Mrs. Ravenscroft, Miss Jones, secretary of the Guild, Mrs. Toy, Mrs. Timmins, Mr. R. A. Brundle, Mr. J. Meddings, Mr. Tom Preston, Mr. Peter Ferguson (judge) and Mr. A. N. Hillier.

OTHER PRODUCE

Bottled fruit, apricots: 1, Mrs. E. Tabernor. Jam, strawberry: 1, Mrs. D. Wilson; 2 and 3, Mrs. R. Bridgens. Lemon curd: 1, Mrs. M. McConkey; 2, Mrs. D. Timmins; 3, Mrs. L. Jackson. Honey: 1 and 2, Miss D. M. Jones; 3, Mrs. D. Deacon. Pickles: 1, Mrs. E. Preston; 2, Mrs. I. Preston. Chutney: 1, Mrs. P. M. Buckley; 2, Mrs. D. Timmins; 3, A. Meddings. Cakes, jam sandwich: 1, Mrs. M. L. Waters; 2, Mrs. D. Timmins; 3, Mrs. Roy Bridgens. Fruit flan: Sponge case: 1, Mrs. P. M. Buckley; 2, Mrs. Roy Bridgens; 3, Mrs. D. Timmins. Savoury flan, pastry case: 1, Miss D. M. Jones; 2, Mrs. M. S. Toy; 3, Mrs. D. Timmins. Sweet in a tumbler: 1, Mrs P. M. Buckley; 2, Mrs. R. Bridgens; 3, Mrs. A. Meddings; special, S. J. Timmins. Bread, currant loaf: 1, Mrs. Norman; 2, Mrs. H. Williscroft; 3, Mrs. M. L. Waters. Home-made wine: 1, Miss D. M. Jones; 2, Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Mrs. P. L. Bannister. Assorted fancy cakes: 1, Mrs. M. L. Waters; 2, Mrs. I. Preston; 3, Mrs. P. M. Buckley.

Knitted cardigan for child: 1, Mrs. P. M. Buckley; 2, Mrs. I. R. Brown; 3, Miss D. M. Jones. Thrift article, something new from something old: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Mrs. P. L. Bannister. Embroidered tray cloth: 1, Mrs. P. M. Buckley; 2, Mrs. C. Jones. Crochet: 1, 2 and 3, Mrs. Tooley. Eggs, white: 1, Mrs. M. McConkey; 2, Mrs. D. Timmins; 3, Mrs. D. Atkin. Eggs, brown: 1, Mrs. M. McConkey; 2, S. J. Timmins; 3, A. N. Felton.

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

Wild flowers: 1, Gwedoline N. Ravenscroft; 2, Kathleen Norman; 3, Keith Williscroft.

Children, aged five to nine, crayon or painting of anything connected with gardening: 1, Gwendoline N. Ravenscroft; 2, Stephen Hibbs; 3, Stephen Brundle. Children aged 10 to 15, any medium: 1, Judith Preston.

Competitions for a duck and a table lamp were won respectively by Mr. B. Jackson and Mrs. Gamble.

Refreshments were served by lady members of the Guild.

Most of the exhibits were sold in aid of Guid funds.



Mrs. Jessie Hillier presents the ladies' cup to Mrs. D. Timmins. Also in the picture holding his cup is Mr. Tom Preston and [illegible]

Colton's first annual produce show

EXCELLENT STANDARD OF EXHIBITS

THE first annual vegetable, flower and produce Show staged by Colton Village Produce Guild in conjunction with Colton Women's Institute got off to a real flying start on Saturday afternoon.

Members competing turned up with flowers in profusion and there was an abundance of entries in the vegetable section. Fruit and other produce were also well represented, and the judges had more to get through in the time at their disposal than they bargained for.

On behalf of the organisers, Miss D. M. Jones, as Hon. Sec. of the Guild and Second Vice-President of the W.I. thanked Mr. Peter Ferguson (Head Gardener at Ingestre Hall), Miss Harper (W.M. Gas Board), and Mrs. P. Salter (wife of Dr. Salter, of Abbots Bromley) for their services. Mr. Ferguson had judged the horticultural side of the show, Miss Harper the baking and cooking exhibits, and Mrs. Salter handicrafts.

At the outset Mr. J. H. Toy, as Guild Chairman had welcomed Mrs. Jessie Hillier (late Hon. Secretary Staffordshire Rural Community Council and Staffordshire Village Produce Guilds Association) who came to open the show. Mrs. Hillier said she felt it something of an honour to have been asked to this first effort and to see such good class produce, so much of which would have justified entry in a show like Brewood.

The speaker commented on the absence of one subject which she said always seemed to do well in their garden. Disclosing that this was groundsel, Mrs. Hillier jocularly remarked that had there been an open class for this she was sure she could have done credit to the show. Mrs. Hillier said she realised the enormous amount of work that had gone into the effort.

Two cups for the highest number of points in the show were presented to the winners by Mrs. Hillier (who was accompanied by her husband, Alderman A. N. Hillier). Mrs. Dorothy Timmins carried off the ladies cup, and Mr. T. Preston likewise gents. The latter's youngest daughter, Judith Preston, presented a bouquet to Mrs. Hillier and Mr. R. A. Brundle (late Chairman) as the present Vice-Chairman of the Guild followed this up with a thank you to Mrs. Hillier which he said he wished to extend to all those members who had worked and helped in any way to make the show a success.

THE RESULTS

Winning entries were:—

Potatoes, white: 1, Mrs. P. L. Bannister 2 Mr. J. H. Toy; 3, Mr. T. Preston.

Potatoes, coloured: 1, Mr. Maurice Williscroft; 2 & 3, Mr. Arthur Towlson, senr.

Tomatoes: 1, Mrs. F. Baker; 2, Mrs. Sam Jones, senr.; 3, Mrs. D. Deacon.

Onions, grown from seed, with top: 1, Mr. A. Meddings; 2, Mr. J. Meddings; 3, Mr. J. H. Toy .

Onions grown from sets: 1, Mr. R. Bannister; 2, Mr. P. Tabernor; 3, Mr. Wm. C. Preston.

Shallots: 1, Mr. M. Garwood; 2, Mrs. P. L. Bannister; 3, Mr. T. Preston.

Beet, globe, with top: 1, Mrs. P. L. Bannister; 2, Mrs. D. Deacon; 3, Miss D. M. Jones.

Runner Beans: 1, Mr. M. Garwood; 2, Mr. J. Meddings; 3, Mr. M. Garwood.

Cauliflower: 1, Mrs. D. Atkin; 2 Mrs. D. Deacon.

Lettuce, cabbage: 1, Mrs. F. Baker; 2, Mr. A. Meddings; 3, Mr. J. Meddings.

Cabbage: 1, Mr. G. E. D. Atkin, senr.; 2, Mr. Maurice Williscroft; 3, Mr. T. Simms.

Marrow, the heaviest: 1. Mrs. F. Baker; 2, Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft; 3, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft.

Collection of 4 vegetables, staged on a tray: 1, Mrs. F. Baker; 2, Mr. T. Preston; 3, Mrs. S. Jones, senr.

Apples, eating: 1, Mrs. D. Timmins; 2, Mr. S. J. Timmins; 3, Mrs. D. Timmins.

Apples, cooking: 1, Mr. T. Preston; 2, Mr. J. Brown; 3, Mr. T. Preston.

Pears: 1 Mrs. D. Timmins; 2, Mr. T. Preston; 3, Mrs. D. Deacon.

Plums: 1, Mrs. D. Deacon; 2, Mr. D. Goodall; 3, Mrs. D. Atkin.

FLOWERS

Gladioli: 1, Mr. T. Preston; 2, Mrs. D. Wilson; 3, Mrs. M. A. Westhorpe.

Dahlias: 1, Mrs. E. J. Pointon; 2, Miss D. M. Jones; 3, Mr. S. J. Timmins.

Annuals, a mixed vase: 1, Mrs. D. Timmins; 2, Mrs. M. Toy; 3, Mr. S. J. Timmins: highly commended: Mr. A. N. Felton.

Sweet Peas, vase of 12 blooms: 1, Mrs. D. Timmins; 2, Mr. S. J. Timmins; 3, Mrs. D. Timmins.

Roses, vase of 6 blooms: 1 Mr. T. Preston; 2, Mrs. E. Tabernor; 3, Mrs. E. Tabernor.

Carnations, vase of 6 blooms: 2nd only: Mr. A. N. Felton.

A house plant in flower or foliage (exhibitor must have had this plant for six weeks before show): 1, Mrs. Dora Deacon (Gloxinia); 2, Mr. A. Meddings (Aspidistra); 3, Mrs. I. Preston (Tradescantia).

One pedestal decoration, vase or jug not exceeding 12in.: 1, Mrs. P. M. Buckley; 2, Mrs. M. S. Toy; 3, Mrs. I. R. Brown.

OTHER PRODUCE

Bottled fruit, Apricots: 1, Mrs. E. Tabernor.

Jam, strawberry: 1, Mrs. D. Wilson; 2 & 3, Mrs. Roy Bridgens.

Lemon Curd: 1, Mrs. Mary McConkey; 2, Mrs. D. Timmins; 3, Mrs. L. Jackson.

Honey: 1, Miss D. M. Jones; 2, Miss D. M. Jones; 3, Mrs. Dora Deacon.

Pickles: 1, Mrs. E. Preston; 2, Mrs. Ivy Preston.

Chutney: 1, Mrs. P. M. Buckley; 2, Mrs. D. Timmins; 3, Mrs. A. Meddings.

Cakes, Viota Jam Sandwich: 1, Mrs. M. L. Waters; 2, Mrs. D. Timmins; 2, Mrs. Roy Bridgens.

Fruit Flan, sponge case: 1, Mrs. P. M. Buckley 2, Mrs. Roy Bridgens; 3, Mrs. D. Timmins.

Savoury Flan, pastry case: 1 Miss D. M. Jones; 2, Mrs. M. S Toy; 3, Mrs. D. Timmins.

Sweet in a tumbler: 1, Mrs. P M. Buckley; 2, Mrs. Roy Bridgens; 3,Mrs. A. Meddings; specia[l] prize, Mr. S. J. Timmins.

Bread Class—Currant loaf to [a] given recipe: 1, Mrs. Norman; [2] Mrs. Hilda Williscroft; 3, Mrs M. L. Waters.

Home-made Wine: 1, Miss D. M. Jones; 2, Mrs. Edith Preston 3, Mrs. P. L. Bannister.

Assorted Fancy Cakes: 1, Mrs M. L. Waters; 2, Mrs. I. Preston 3, Mrs. P. M. Buckley.

Knitted Cardigan for a Child 1, Mrs. P. M. Buckley; 2, Mr[s.] I. R. Brown; 3, Miss D. M Jones.

Thrift Article—something ne[w] from something old: 1, Mrs. Preston; 2, Mrs. P. L. Banniste[r]

Embroidered Tray Cloth: Mrs. P. M. Buckley; 2, Mrs. (Jones.

Crochet: 1, Mrs. Tooley; 2, Mr Tooley; 3, Mrs. Tooley.

Six eggs, white: 1, Mrs. M McConkey; 2, Mrs. D. Timmin[s] 3, Mrs. D. Atkin.

Six eggs, brown: 1, Mrs. M McConkey; 2, Mr. S. J. Timmin[s] 3 Mr. A. N. Felton.

FIRST COLTON SHOW SETS HIGH STANDARD

The first annual vegetable, flower and produce show staged by Colton Village Produce Guild in conjunction with Colton Women's Institute was held in the village school, and attracted many high-quality entries.

Two cups for the highest number of points gained in the show were won by Mrs. Dorothy Timmins (Ladies' Cup), and Mr. T. Preston (Gents' Cup).

Mrs. Jessie Hillier, former Secretary of Staffordshire Rural Community Council and Staffordshire Village Produce Guilds Association opened the show. Mr. Peter Fergusson (Head gardener at Ingestre Hall), Miss Harper and Mrs. P. Salter were the judges. Results:—

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Potatoes, white: 1, Mrs. P. L. Bannister; 2, J. H. Toy; 3, T. Preston.

Potatoes, coloured: 1, Maurice Williscroft; 2 and 3, Arthur Towlson sen.

Tomatoes: 1, Mrs. F. Baker; 2, Mrs. Sam Jones sen.; 3, Mrs. D. Deacon.

Onions, grown from seed, with top: 1, A. Meddings; 2, J. Meddings; 3, J. H. Toy.

Onions, grown from sets: 1, R. Bannister; 2, P. Tabernor; 3, W. C. Preston.

Shallots: 1, M. Garwood; 2, Mrs. P. L. Bannister; 3, T. Preston.

Beet, globe, with top: 1, Mrs. P. L. Bannister; 2, Mrs. D. Deacon; 3, Miss D. M. Jones.

Runner beans: 1, M. Garwood; 2, J. Meddings; 3, M. Garwood.

Peas: 1, A. Meddings; 2, T. Simms; 3, J. Brown.

Carrots, with top: 1, C. J. Ravenscroft; 2, Mrs. M. Bennett; 3, Mrs. P. L. Bannister.

Parsnips, with top: 1, J. Meddings; 2, A. Meddings; 3, C. J. Ravenscroft.

Cauliflower: 1, Mrs. D. Atkin; 2, Mrs. D. Deacon .

Lettuce, cabbage: 1, Mrs. F. Baker; 2, A. Meddings; 3, J. Meddings.

Cabbage.—1, G. E. D. Atkin, sen.; 2, Maurice Williscroft; 3, T. Simms.

Marrow, the heaviest.—1, Mrs. F. Baker; 2, C. J. Ravenscroft; 3, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft.

Collection of four vegetables.—1, Mrs. F. Baker; 2, T. Preston; 3, Mrs. S. Jones, sen.

Apples, eating. — 1, Mrs. D. Timmins; 2, S. J. Timmins; 3, Mrs. D. Timmins.

Apples, cooking.—1, T. Preston; 2, J. Brown; 3, T. Preston.

Pears.—1, Mrs. D Timmins; 2, T. Preston; 3, Mrs. D Deacon.

Plums.—1, Mrs. D. Deacon; 2, D. Goodall; 3, Mrs. D. Atkin.

FLOWERS

Gladioli.—1, T. Preston; 2, Mrs. D. Wilson; 3, Mrs M. A. Westhorpe.

Dahlias.—1, Mrs. E. J. Pointon; 2, Miss D. M. Jones; 3, S. J. Timmins.

Annuals, mixed vase.—1. Mrs. D. Timmins; 2, Mrs. M. S. Toy; 3, S. J. Timmins.

Sweet peas, vase of 12 blooms.—1, Mrs. D. Timmins; 2, S. J. Timmins; 3, Mrs. D. Timmins.

Roses, vase of 6 blooms.—1, T. Preston; 2 and 3, Mrs. T. Tabernor.

Carnations, vase of six blooms.—Second prize only, A. N. Felton.

House plant in flower or foliage, exhibitor must have had plant six weeks before show.—1, Mrs. Dora Deacon (gloxinia); 2, A. Meddings (aspidistra); 3, Mrs. I. Preston (tradescantia).

Pedestal decoration vase or jug not exceeding 12in.—1, Mrs. P. M. Buckley; 2, Mrs. M. S. Toy; 3, Mrs. I. R. Brown.

OTHER PRODUCE

Bottled fruit, apricots.—1, Mrs. E. Tabernor.

Jam, strawberry.—1, Mrs. D Wilson; 2 and 3, Mrs. Roy Bridgens.

Lemon curd.—1, Mrs. Mary McConkey; 2, Mrs. D. Timmins; 3, Mrs. L. Jackson.

Honey.—1 and 2, Miss D. M. Jones; 3, Mrs. Dora Deacon.

Pickles.—1, Mrs. E. Preston; 2, Mrs. Ivy Preston.

Chutney. — 1, Mrs. P. M. Buckley; 2, Mrs. D. Timmins; 3, Mrs. A. Meddings.

Cakes, Jam Sandwich.—1, Mrs. M. L. Waters; 2, Mrs. D. Timmins; 3, Mrs. Roy Bridgens.

Fruit flan, sponge case.—1, Mrs. P. M. Buckley; 2, Mrs. Roy Bridgens; 3, Mrs. D. Timmins.

Savoury flan, pastry case.—1, Miss D. M. Jones; 2, Mrs. M. S. Toy; 3, Mrs. D. Timmins.

Sweet in tumbler.—1, Mrs. P. M. Buckley; 2, Mrs. Roy Bridgens; 3, Mrs. A. Meddings.

Bread, currant loaf, given recipe.—1, Mrs. Walter Norman; 2, Mrs. Hilda Williscroft; 3, Mrs. M. L. Waters.

Home-made wine. — 1, Miss D. M. Jones; 2, Mrs. Edith Preston; 3, Mrs. P. L. Bannister.

Five assorted fancy cakes.—1, Mrs. M. L. Waters; 2, Mrs. I. Preston; 3, Mrs. P. M. Buckley.

Knitted cardigan for a child.—1, Mrs. P. M. Buckley; 2, Mrs. I. R. Brown; 3, Miss D. M. Jones.

Thrift article, something new from something old ...

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

Greatest number of wild flowers in 2lb. jam jar.—1, Gwendoline N. Ravenscroft; 2, Kathleen Norman; 3, Keith Williscroft.

Children aged 5 to 9, crayon or painting of anything connected with gardening. — 1, Gwendoline N. Ravenscroft; 2, Stephen Hibbs; 3, Stephen Brundle.

Children, aged 10 to 15, garden picture, any medium.—1, Judith Preston.

Concern at development at Colton

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DISCUSSION

MUCH concern and apprehension was voiced at a recent meeting of Colton Parish Council at the nature of the development of the new churchyard or burial ground on part of the field which lies between the church, the school and the brook bridge, and for this item of the agenda the chairman (Mr. F. Hardcastle) had declared the meeting open so that those present who were not members of the Parish Council could also take part in the discussion.

The Rector of St. Mary's Church (the Rev. A. S. Towlson) who is a member of the Parish Council, was not able to be present due to his holiday.

Some who attended the meeting asked why matters should have gone so far as removing the three or four large ash trees and several hedgerows, and making an offer to dedicate the land between the improvement line and the old boundary to the County Council, which body would be giving consideration to a proposal for carrying out a road widening scheme on this frontage in the course of the next twelve months.

Mr. J. Peet asked what instructions had been left as to carrying on with operations while the Rector was away and suggested that the meeting should recommend deferment until intentions had been made clear.

NOT VISUALISED

One or two members of the Parochial Church Council said that when this "first stage" was considered at a meeting of the church council they were afraid they had not visualised operations on the scale they were now witnessing.

Mr. A. N. Felton then explained that the "first stage" of the development consisted of bulldozing operations for levelling purposes and the building of a re-

7/11/60 COLTON

The November meeting of the Colton Women's Institute held in the Reading Room, was presided over by Mrs. I. Preston. After the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, and of the County letter, Mrs Preston welcomed Mrs Wildblood, V.C.O., who gave a most interesting and enlightening talk on the County Federation. She was also pleased to answer any questions put by members. A vote of thanks to Mrs. Wildblood was proposed by Mrs M L. Waters, and seconded by Mrs. Hilda Williscroft. Mrs Wildblood judged the competition for a knitted bonnet or hat, and awarded the prize to Mrs. Waters.

Mrs. Preston gave her report of the Autumn Council meeting, in her usual comprehensive way, and she was thanked by Mrs. P. M. Buckley. Business matters included the arrangements for a Christmas Fare Whist Drive, on December 9th.

Members were informed that the small room at the Reading Room will be open on the afternoon of the 28th, where they may leave any gifts they have for the County Christmas Fare at Stafford the next day. Members who have agreed to do a duty turn as stewards at this Fare are Mrs. P eston, Mrs. N. Jones, Miss D. M. Jones, and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft.

Mrs. M. S. Toy informed members that it had been decided that the present "Best Kept Village Committee" should continue in office for three years. The stall was in charge of Mrs. D. Deacon. Hostesses were Mrs Toy, Miss Jones, and Mrs. Ravenscroft, and the mystery prize went to Mrs. Preston.

Trees gift to Colton

10/11/60

COLTON is to have 12 young hardwood trees to replace a considerable number of old trees felled recently. They have been given to Colton Parish Council free of charge by a local nurseryman, Mr. J. F. Peet of Eden Nurseries.

In a letter addressed to the council, Mr. Peet referred to the recent loss of trees in the parish, and asked that sympathetic consideration be given to the question of applying for a Tree Preservation Order on all remaining trees in and, within the vicinity of the village.

He felt that the village—once very beautiful and still retaining a measure of beauty—was in danger of becoming like a city suburb.

Chairman, Mr. F. Hardcastle said that while he had some measure of sympathy with the need for a policy which would conserve trees in the interests of parish amenities, he felt that the whole problem required very careful thought before any satisfactory decision could be made. In the circumstances, he moved that the matter be shelved till the next meeting.

COLTON

VILLAGE SUCCESS.—The certificate won by the village in the recent Best-Kept Village Competition was handed over to Mrs. M. S. Toy (Chairman, local Best-Kept Village Committee) by Mrs. Amery, one of the judges in the contest. Mrs. Amery, and Mr. S. M. Gibb, who accompanied her, received from Mrs. Toy a jar of Colton-produced honey. Mr. Fred Hardcastle (Chairman of the Parish Council), thanked Mrs. Amery and Mr. Gibb and said that Colton might some day win the main trophy. The presentation took place during the interval of a whist drive organised by the Produce Guild, who were congratulated on their efforts in the Best-Kept Village Competition. Mr. Percy Westhorpe was M.C. and Mrs. E. Hardcastle presented prizes to Mrs. S. J. Jenkins, Mrs. R. O. Devall, Miss K. Leadbetter, Mrs. E. Preston, Mrs. H. M. Felton, Mr. R. Knight, Miss Mary Preston, Mr. J. Tabernor, Mrs. Ivy James and Mr. A. N. Felton. The competition for an iced cake was won by Mrs. R. O. Devall.

PRODUCE GUILD.—At a meeting of the Colton Produce Guild, held in the Reading Room, Mr. J. H. Toy (who presided), announced that Mr. Ben Jackson had been co-opted to fill the vacancy on the committee caused by the departure from the district of Mr. Hugh McConkey. Mr. Roy Bridgens (Show Chairman) and Mr. Jack Meddings (Show Secretary) having expressed their wish to retire from the Show Committee, Mr. S. J. Timmins was appointed to fill one of the vacancies. The rest of the Show Committee is as last year. Mr. R. A. Brundle (Vice-Chairman), showed films and was thanked by Mr. Tom Preston and Miss Jones. Mrs. Ravenscroft won the prize for a flower arrangement competition judged by Mrs. George Hampson, of Admaston, who was thanked by Miss Mary Preston. The tea hostesses were Miss Jones, Mrs. L. Jackson, Miss Ruth Ravenscroft and Mrs. Ravenscroft.

COLLECTION.—The recent house-to-house collection in Colton parish for the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen realised £8 8s. Collectors were Mrs. Ivy Preston and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft.

COLTON M.U. SERVICE

For the October meeting of the Mothers' Union, Colton joined Blithfield members in a corporate communion service in St. Leonard's Church, conducted by the Rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson). The hymns sung were "Oh my Saviour lifted" and "Thou whose almighty word," Miss Rosa Hampson being at the organ. A collection was taken for the S.P.G. Medical Missions. Afterwards all were entertained to tea by Mrs. F. Gee at Blithfield Old Rectory. Thanks to Mrs. Gee for her hospitality were expressed on behalf of Colton members by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft; Mrs. Gee thanked Blithfield committee members for their assistance.

11/11/60

Colton whist drive

A successful whist drive held in the Reading Room on Friday was organised by Colton Village Produce Guild for their funds, Mr. Percy Westhorpe being the M.C. During the interval the Certificate won by Colton as a finalist in the Best Kept Village contest was formally handed over. Mr. Fred Hardcastle (Chairman of the Parish Council) introduced Mrs. Amery and Mr. D. M. Gibb, and Mrs. Amery (who said she had been one of the judges who visited Colton) said she was very impressed by the efforts made in connection with the competition. She presented the certificate to Mrs. M. S. Toy (Chairman of the Best Kept Village Committee). Mrs. Toy in turn presented both Mrs. Amery and Mr. Gibb with a jar of Colton-produced honey. Mr. Hardcastle extended thanks to Mrs. Amery and Mr. Gibb for coming along that evening. The prizes for the whist drive were presented by Mrs. F. E. Hardcastle to Mrs. S. J. Jenkins of Colwich, Mrs. R. O. Devall, Miss K. Leadbetter, Mrs. E. Preston, Mrs. H. M. Felton, Mr. R. Knight of Gratwich; Miniatures, Miss Mary Preston and Mr. J. Tabernor (of Moreton). Sealed numbers were won by Mrs. Ivy James and Mr. A. N. Felton. The competition for an iced cake was won by Mrs. R. O. Devall.

10/11/60

COLTON

Produce Guild. — At the November meeting of the Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room, Mr. J. H. Toy presided, and after the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, introduced Mrs. Groom, of Rodbaston Farm Institute, who gave a talk on the main systems of poultry keeping for egg production, an entirely new topic for the Guild

Mrs. Groom invited questions from members, and she was accorded a hearty vote of thanks by Mr. F. J. Peet. Mrs. Groom next judged the competition for six Brussel sprouts on a plate, and awarded the prize to Mr. Roy Bridgens.

Business matters followed and included the presentation of the balance sheet regarding the recent successful whist drive by Mr. A. N. Felton, treasurer. It was decided that a letter of sympathy be sent to the newly formed Guild at Colwich on the sad news of the death of their chairman, Mr. K. M. Wain.

A letter was read from Mrs. D. Timmins thanking the Guild for their letter to her of sympathy in her recent bereavements

Regarding the invitation from Abbots Bromley Guild to form a team of two ladies, and two gents, to compete with a team from their members on the 17th, in the arranged quiz on garden topics, Mr. Alfred Meddings, Mr. J. F. Peat, Mrs. Ivy James and Mrs. Edith Preston, were elected to represent Colton. Arrangements were made for about 25 members to attend the event.

It was decided to accept an invitation from Maer and District Guild, for six members to attend their B.B.C. recording of "Gardeners Question Time," on December 3

Colton Produce Guild meeting

The October meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild took place in the Reading Room on Thursday last week was attended, the Chairman Mr. J. Toy presiding. Mr. Toy referred to the regret members felt Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McConkey had left the area, and expressed thanks to them for all they had done for the Guild. Mr. McConkey having been a Committee member, Mr. Ben Jackson has been co-opted on to the committee.

Mr. Roy Bridgens (Show Chairman) and Mr. Jack Meddings (Show Secretary) having expressed their wish to retire from the show committee, Mr. Toy asked for nominations of two members to fill their places. It was decided Mr. S. J. Timmins be appointed and that Mr. [illegible] Garwood be invited to fill the other vacancy. Members were reminded that the rest of the Show Committee is as for the past year, Mr. J. H. Toy, Mr. A. N. Felton (Treasurer), Mr. Alfred Meddings, Mr. G. [illegible] Atkins, senr., Mrs. Ivy Preston, Miss D. M. Jones and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft.

Details regarding the whist drive on Thursday this week were settled, when the certificate won by Colton in the recent "Best Kept Village" competition will be presented.

The annual social will be held in January.

Mr. R. A. Brundle (Vice-Chairman) showed films which he had borrowed from the Education Offices, and which included those of the Royal Show. Mrs. Preston and Miss Jones thanked Mr. Brundle.

In a keenly contested competition for a flower arrangement the judge was Mrs. George Hampson, of Oakfields, Admaston, who awarded the prize to Mrs. Ravenscroft. Thanks to Mrs. Hampson were expressed by Miss Mary Preston. Tea hostesses were Miss Jones, Mrs. L. Jackson, Miss Ruth Ravenscroft and Mrs. Ravenscroft.

14/11/60

COLTON PRODUCE GUILD

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It was decided to accept an invitation from Maer and District Guild, for six members to attend their B.B.C. recording of "Gar-

Colton given village contest certificate

ADVERTISER 20/11/60

COLTON received its certificate as a finalist in the best kept village competition from Mrs. Amery, one of the contest judges, at the Reading Room, Colton, last week.

Chairman of the parish council, Mr Fred Hardcastle, introduced Mrs Amery and Mr D. M. Gibb (secretary of the Staffordshire Rural Community Council under whose auspices the contest was held).

Mrs. Amery said she had been one of the judges and had visited Colton during the contest. She had been very impressed by the efforts of the village in the competition. She presented the certificate to Mrs M. S. Toy (chairman of the best-kept village committee) who in turn presented Mrs Amery and Mr Gibb with a jar of Colton produced

been able to visit the winning village when the Trophy was presented and after a good look round the village he had formed the opinion that Colton ought some day to be the winner of the Trophy

Mr. Gibb congratulated the Guild on the work some of their members had put in to the effort of Best Kept Village, also on their best kept garden competitions held the past two years.

The presentation was made during the interval of a whist drive, which had been organised by the village produce guild in aid of their

FEBRUARY BRIDES

1 16



Mr. Rodney J. N. Williams and Miss Ruth Blanche Ravenscroft after their wedding at Colton, near Rugeley.

Williams–Ravenscroft

The wedding took place on Saturday, at St. Mary's Church, Colton, near Rugeley, of Mr. Rodney John Nelson Williams, only son of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Williams, of 36, Douglas-road West, Stafford, and Miss Ruth Blanche Ravenscroft, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Ravenscroft, of Holly Cottage, 45, High-street, Colton. The Rev. A. S. Towlson officiated.

The bride, given away by her father, wore a full-length white figured velvet dress, a crystal tiara, and carried a bouquet of lilies of the valley, freesias and carnations.

She was attended by Miss Gwendoline Ravenscroft (sister) and Miss Sharn Charles. They both wore French-blue dresses, white fur headbands and white fur muffs.

Best man was Mr. Allan Charles.

A reception was held at 51, High-street, Colton, after which the couple left for a touring honeymoon. The bride wore a going-away suit in black and white tweed, with a white fur hat and black accessories.

The bride is secretary of the youth section of the Friends of Cannock Chase and a voluntary warden. Both bride and groom are members of Colton Village Produce Guild.

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MRS. J. H. TOY

9/7/60



"A COMPLETE convert from city to village life" is how Mrs. J. H. Toy, of Hamley Lodge, near Colton, describes herself. It is a far cry from the metropolis to Stockwell Heath, her home since 1945, but she is now nothing but a countrywoman and very proud of it.

Buckinghamshire born, and named Margaret Sears, she came with her family to Staffordshire at the age of five, was educated at Selwyn House School, in the Horse Fair, and Stafford High School. She then entered Gipsy Hill Training College, London, where she became student chairman during her last year.

Before the war she taught in London schools and in 1939 was appointed head of the Jellicoe Nursery School, one of the oldest in London. Wartime evacuation turned the school into a residential one and it settled first at Ditchley Park, Oxfordshire, home of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Tree, where the Eden family were frequent visitors and their sons, Simon and Nicholas, used to help mind the babies occasionally. Later the school moved to Surrey, where it was bombed.

Mrs. Toy left to get married in 1943, and she and her husband settled in Kingsley Wood Road, moving two years later to Hamley Lodge. For the past 10 years she has been teaching, first at St. Michael's, Brereton, and at Colton Church School for the past two years.

She joined Colton Women's Institute when she first came to the village and for three years was secretary. She was a founder member of Colton Village Produce Guild, of which her husband is chairman, and entertained Freddie Grisewood and the B.B.C. party a few months' ago, when they recorded Gardeners' Question Time in the village. She has helped to organise gardeners' exhibits for County Shows.

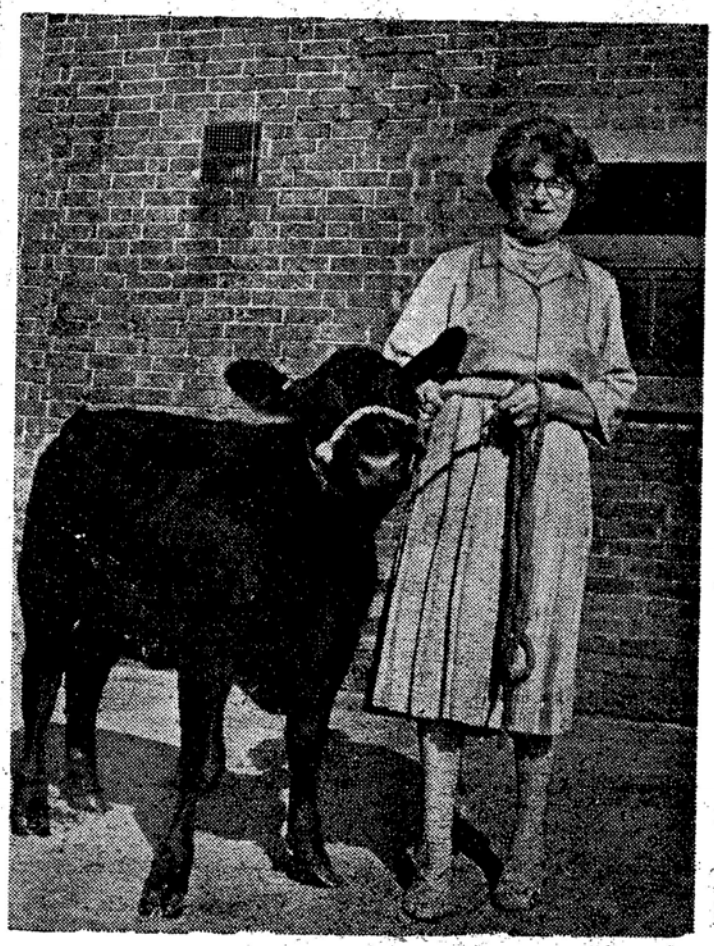
A chance remark while serving tea at a Guild committee meeting in her home: "Why don't you enter the village in the Best Kept Village Competition?" bore fruit. The Produce Guild put forward the suggestion, the village adopted it and Mrs. Toy was made chairman of the combined committee, comprising members of the Parish Council, the Guild and the W.I.

It follows that Mrs. Toy is keen on all country pursuits — gardening, bottling and canning fruit and vegetables, making wine — a favourite being elder flower champagne —

Personalities

Rugeley Times 2/9/60

MRS. J. L. TAYLOR



RECENTLY returned from Persia is Mrs. Julia L. Taylor, of Little Hay Manor, Colton. Her journey to Persia was made in order to visit her daughter, Mrs. Monica Fateh, who was married three years ago to a Persian civil engineer whom she met at university in England.

Mrs. Taylor had some very interesting experiences on her flying visit, which lasted about six weeks. She flew out in a Britannia and her return by Comet, took just 12 hours from Teheran to Colton! After leaving at 2-40 a.m., and calling at Istanbul and Frankfurt, she arrived at home in time for a late lunch, at 2-40 p.m.

Coming from a local family, she married the late Mr. George Mellor, and went to live at the Manor in 1920, assisting her husband in the farming of 411 acres. The estate has since been reduced to 200 acres. The Manor is the third residence to occupy the site, and a relic of the first is a fine Elizabethan chimney stack preserved in the garden.

Since 1943, when Mr. Mellor died, the two sons, George and Luke, have assisted their mother in the management of the farm—"my two grand sons," she calls them. Twelve years ago she married again, but Mr. Taylor is a constructional engineer and so leaves the farming side to Mrs. Taylor and her sons. The pride of the farm at present, is its pedigree herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle.

Mrs. Taylor has always taken an active part in village life and for at least 15 years she has been a parish councillor—the only woman member—and she has occupied the chairmanship A founder member of the Women's Institute in Colton, she has long served on its committee, and for eight years she was president. She is also convener for the Parkside Group of W.I.s.

Since the departure of Mrs. Goodin about four years ago, Mrs. Taylor has held the position of enrolling member in St. Mary's branch of the Mothers' Union. She has also been a Parochial Church Council member for more than 15 years.

Mrs. Taylor is frequently called upon to organise charity collections, appeals and the like in the village. For hobbies, she finds little spare time, like most farmers, but is keen on needlework and gardening. She is a member of the Village Produce Guild, but confesses to being "not very active in the guild." With a Manor House, 200 acres and a pedigree herd to look after, she already has plenty to occupy her time.



With thanks and appreciation to

Ruth Williams & Gwen Johnson

for allowing us to copy their father's scrap book