

**RUGELEY TIMES**

**COLTON  
VILLAGE**

**In the  
NEWS**

**Press Cuttings Volume IV**







Lady Bagot drawing one of the prize-winning tickets from ancient butter-churn. Also in the picture are Lord Bagot and the Rev. A. S. Towlson.

## Big Blithfield church bill

OVER £300 was raised for Blithfield Church Restoration Fund at a coffee morning at Blithfield Hall, on Tuesday, in the presence of Lord and Lady Bagot. There was record attendance, due probably to the general desire of local people to meet Lord and Lady Bagot before they depart for a visit to Australia and before the sale of the hall.

A draw, for which the 16 prize-winning tickets were drawn by Lord and Lady Bagot alternately, and by Mrs. A. S. Towlson, was organised by the treasurer, Mr. G. E. Vernon, of Newton Farm, Admaston, and realised £246 of the total. It was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, and the tickets were contained in an ancient butter churn which was energetically spun by two young girls, June Lucas and Elizabeth Cooper.

The proceeds from the bring-and-buy stall, organised by parishioners, and the admission to the hall, which, together with the coffee and biscuits, was given to the fund by Lady Bagot, totalled £58.

No target figure has been set on the restoration work needed at Blithfield Church, but it will be several thousand pounds, the Rector has informed the "Times."

The main item is the stonework, which will cost about £2,000. Roof repairs will also be costly. Already

the vestry roof has been completed by Bridgman's and the repair of the chancel roof, now in the hands of Charles Brothers, of Abbots Bromley, is nearly complete.

Something has to be done to the nave floor, and the organ requires attention. In addition, the heating system has to be extended and modified.

Outside, there is need for an extension to the burial ground, and Lord Bagot has conveyed a strip of land to the church for this purpose. It is therefore necessary to build a new brick wall round it and to remove the lychgate. These tasks are expected to cost over £400.

The newly-formed choir is to be fitted out with surplices and scarlet cassocks, 18 sets having been ordered. The Rector is hoping they will have arrived in time for the harvest festival services.

The population of Blithfield parish, comprising 3,219 acres, is about 500.

## Bagot christening at Blithfield first for century

ON Christmas Day of last year there came into the Blithfield Hall, home of Lord and Lady Bagot a baby girl. On Wednesday she was christened Caryl Rosemary in the 11th century village church.

The baptism was performed by the Bishop of Shrewsbury, the Right Rev. W. A. Parker, assisted by the Rector of Colton and Blithfield, the Rev. A. Stanley Towlson. Not since 1864, almost a century, had a Bagot baby been baptised in this church.

Lady Bagot told the "Times" that Cara, as she will be called, is about seven months old, and it is intended to celebrate her birthday on Christmas Day, which was her first day at Blithfield.

The nursery at Blithfield Hall, which has not been used for nearly 100 years, has been de-decorated for Cara.

"She has brought us great happiness, and we hope she will be equally happy," said Lady Bagot.

After the baptismal service, the guests of Lord and Lady Bagot, including representatives from the parish, bell ringers, choristers and Blithfield Girl Guides, walked through the rose garden to the Hall, where they drank the baby's health and sampled the christening cake.

The cake had a special interest.

When Messrs. Elkes, of Uttoxeter, made a wedding cake for Princess Margaret they baked some extra cakes from the same mixture, and the christening cake was the last remaining one. It was decorated with yellow roses entwined with blue ribbons, and in the centre was the lettering: Caryl Rosemary, May 30th, 1961.

Of the ancestral Bagot home Lady Bagot said: "Blithfield Hall has been described as 'the stately home that is homely.' It was this happy homely atmosphere that attracted us most when we first stayed here in 1946 and which made us decide to buy back the Hall and gardens and live here.

"Most people who knew the house then would have said we were mad; everything looked so hopelessly decayed and over-

It has been a hard struggle to bring it back to life, and a struggle keeping it alive, have never regretted we have done it. It is a joy to see the house again, and we hope everyone will enjoy it as much as we do. We hope to see you all again soon. Love, Lord and Lady Bagot.

## CHILDREN PORTRAY NATIVITY AT COLTON

CHILDREN of St. Mary's School, Colton, had their annual carol service in the village church on Friday afternoon. It was well attended by parents and friends.

The lessons were read by Vernon Norman, Terence Martin, Gwendoline Ravenscroft and Susan Martin. In the nativity play Patricia Shipley took the part of the Virgin Mary, and Ian Cooper was Joseph. Shepherds: Ian Evans, Philip Creek, Glyn Sargeant, Ian Myatt and Nigel Knight; Wise Men: Brian Nicholas, Stanley Hawthorn and Waldimar Klisch; Angels: June Sargeant and Pearl Haynes. Inn Keeper: Philip Deacon. Mrs. D. R. Shaw was organist.

The collection, for the Church of England Children's Society, was taken by Keith Williscroft, Terence Cooper, Stephen Hibbs and Paul Nicholls.

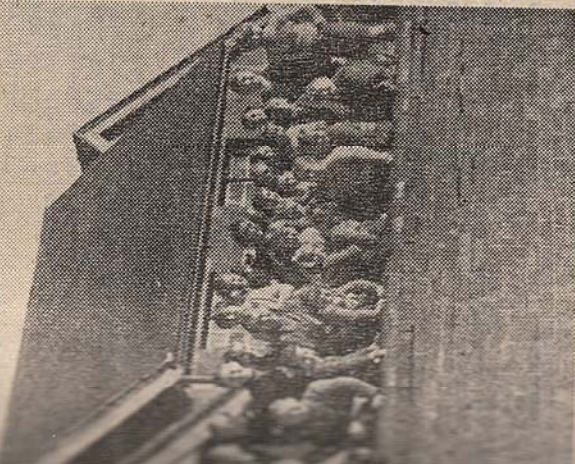
Dec 1961





# COUNTRY SCHOOL WITH PLANS FOR EXPANSION

March 1960



This happy picture which also shows the pupils are concentrating on their work.

THE dwindling population in some villages over recent years has necessitated the closure of a number of small rural schools, but there appears to be no such threat at Colton. On the contrary, the prospects are that within the next two or three years the school population of the village will increase from about 80 to more than 100.

Situated on the main road, Colton school is one of the first buildings the visitor sees on entering the village from Rugely. It is a sizeable building, believed to be nearly 100 years-old, and has three classrooms and a dining hall all under one roof.

But there are big plans for the school's development, the headmaster, Mr. D. E. Waters, told the "Times" this week. Aged 30, Mr. Waters has ambitions for the school, of which he became headmaster in September last. Already a few changes have been made. Money has been spent on making the infants' room gay with the addition of a "Wendy house". This the pupils have aptly named "Colton House".

Mr. Waters has a walk of less than 100 yards from his home at Elm Cottage, Colton, where he lives with his wife and two years-old son. A native of the West Riding, he finds village life very different from that of industrial towns, to which he is more accustomed. However he views it as a change for the better, for both he and his wife like their new home.

## Smaller classes

Having taught in schools with as many as 1,000 children, Mr. Waters feels that in some respects the smaller schools have much in their favour. At Colton, for instance, there are at present 26 pupils divided into three classes which means that each teacher has fewer than 30 children to deal with.

But their ages vary widely. Mr. Waters teaches the infants up to 11-plus. Mrs. D. R. Shaw, of Great Hayward, has the middle stream with children aged between seven and nine, and Mrs. J. T. who also lives in Colton, has the infants.

Waters are aimed to bring about a wider integration of the subjects taught, thereby increasing interest in the studies. For instance, when teaching the children the geography of a country, its history and current affairs are brought in.

## Puppet theatre

There are no facilities at Colton School for the "live" theatre, so with the help of the teachers, the children have built their own puppet theatre. So far they have not been able to make the puppets to go with it, but are gaining much enjoyment from using "bought" puppets and other "props" in the plays they make up or adapt.

The school has joined a linking scheme with the Church of England Missionary Society, and the pupils regularly receive newsletters from abroad.

Another feature introduced by Mr. Waters is the recorder band, and 30 children are receiving

tuition. For a small school, the children are reasonably well equipped for P.T.

The headmaster is hoping to build up a football team. Permission has been obtained to use a nearby field, but one big handicap is that there are not enough boys of the age to form a regular side to play in a school league.

Within a couple of years, however, the number of pupils at the school may well exceed 100. At the end of this school year about five pupils will be leaving, but about 15 have entered during the year.

## COLTON HOUSE



Betty and her doll

The bright atmosphere of the school is reflected in the room pictured above, which accommodates the intermediate age group, under the tuition of Mrs. D. R. Shaw.

It is a very bright room

It is a very bright room





breakfast  
morning  
afternoon  
evening

2nd day  
3rd day  
4th day  
5th day  
6th day  
7th day  
8th day  
9th day  
10th day  
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30th day  
31st day



# VIRILE COUNTRY SCHOOL

March 1960

## PLA EX

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Boys and girls attending Con Church of England school provide this happy picture which also shows the school in the background. Below: Musicians in the making. The pupils are concentrating on entering the recorder—an easy instrument to play.







**R**UGELEY Urban Council park attendants took advantage of the thick ice covering Elmore Park pool during the recent cold spell, to trim the trees and shrubs which overhang the water. They are pictured above clearing away the remaining deadwood with the aid of a boat, but they are again working in leg boots in the deep water.

Mr. B. M. Rollinson, engineer and surveyor, told the "Times" that the island looked untidy, and two old trees had rotted and fallen. The freezing of the pool gave them an opportunity to lop the overhanging branches and clear away a lot of the old wood more easily than if they had to work from a boat. In the process they have exposed a further 15 feet of pool, for that is the extent to which the foliage had encroached.

The workmen have not disturbed the centre of the island too much, as they do not want to discourage the bird population. The council is hoping to acquire some ornamental ducks for the pool, in which case a small "duck house" will be erected in the centre.

It is reputed that the island was the site of the original Hagley Hall, a wooden building erected about 1392.



## A GOLDEN WEDDING AT COLTON

**M**R. and Mrs. Charles William Cooper, of Eva's Cottages, 49, High Street, Colton, celebrated their golden wedding on Saturday in the cottage to which they came immediately after their marriage.

Mr. Cooper was born at Colton, and married Miss Alice Maud Marshall, of Wolverhampton, at St. Andrew's Church, Wolverhampton. He is now 76, and his wife is 71.

A keen gardener, Mr. Cooper worked for many years for Stokes and Company (Tanners), Ltd., Rugeley. Mrs. Cooper is a member of the Mothers' Union, the Women's Institute, and the Village Produce Guild at Colton.

They have a married son, Mr. Reginald Cooper, who lives at

She gained the highest marks in the Birmingham Local Centre when she passed a preparatory examination in 1959, and a year later she again took top marks in the Midlands when passing a junior grade examination.

Dorothy's ambition? She wants to become a teacher of music.





Pictured above are the 13 finalists who competed at the Town Hall, Uttoxeter, on Friday evening for the honour of becoming "Miss Hixon". Below: Dr. T. Stack and his wife crowning Miss Hammond, of Hixon, selected by the judges as the loveliest aspirant for the Hixon throne. Two runners-up in the finals look on admiringly—Miss Sylvia Slater (Colwich) and Miss Jennifer Capewell (Blithfield).

The picture below shows the choir who led the singing at the service conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. Stanley Towilson, at the Golton War Memorial.







Pupils of Rugeley Grammar School have this week given highly successful performances of "The Beggar's Opera", and the picture above shows the gay tavern scene. A notice and more pictures appear on the centre pages of this issue.

## SCHOOL SWIM POOL TARGET IS £5,000

of the ambitions of the  
ter of Rugeley Grammar  
Mr. T. B. Smart, a Head-  
Ball becomes a reality on  
over for the evening by  
Grammar School.

with it is the Parents'  
project of an open-air  
swimming pool for the  
The guild plans to raise  
and have the pool con-  
in the quadrangle, where  
asily be connected to the  
heating system.

profits from the ball will  
ed to the swimming pool  
d Major J. O'Neill, secre-  
the guild, told the "Times"  
(Friday) that tickets  
as well.

## Rector speaks out on school delay

ONE of Colton's major disappointments of last year was the apparent lack of progress with the modernisation scheme for Colton Church School, estimated to cost £16,000, said the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, on Wednesday. But unfortunately there had been a change of ownership in adjoining land needed for the extensions.

Speaking at the annual parochial church meeting, the rector said the planning officers of the Staffordshire County Council were to meet the owners of the land early next week, and he hoped that the meeting would solve the one and only remaining difficulty.

"We must have our school modernised. There is nothing more that anyone can do until agreement can be reached with Lichfield City Laundry, Ltd. over the adjoining land. I do not want to cut across the private vested interests of any individual or limited company, but if these vested interests are going to interfere with the church school and its children, some positive action

will surely have to be taken. We cannot tolerate this protracted state of affairs much longer," he said.

Dr.





# Colton Mill bridge spans the centuries

IN these days of smooth-running, if sometimes irritating, two-tier Local Government, we may not realise just how lucky we are, compared even with our immediate ancestors of the 19th century. In those days it was even more difficult than today to draw the proverbial blood out of the county treasurer's "stone", and when Rugeley decided that it must have an improved road bridge at the Trent Valley it was necessary to appeal to Quarter Sessions and Assizes, and even then pay a quarter of the cost—in advance!

It was on November 20, 1884, that a public meeting was called in the Shrewsbury Arms Hotel "to consider as to the desirability of memorialising the county authorities to lower, widen and improve the county bridge over the River Trent known as Colton Mill Bridge, and situated near to the Rugeley Trent Valley Station, which bridge is now in a very dangerous condition."

Present at the meeting were men bearing names familiar to an older generation: Mr. J. Turnock was elected chairman, Mr. A. Bradford secretary, and others present were: Col. Field and Messrs. G. Nevitt, J. Biddle, Greensmith, G. Buttery, T. Hislop, Tompson, Cope, R. Harris, Grant, Toy, Hill, Player, Woolley, Pascoe, Dilger, W. Williams, and Parkley.

Letters in support were read from Sir Charles Wooley and the Rev. F. P. Parker, rector of Colton. A memorial was drawn up and it was decided to take steps to obtain the signatures of local landowners and large ratepayers.

A copy was sent to each local justice, and it was decided to ask one of them to undertake the presentation of the memorial at the next quarter sessions at Stafford. A committee was formed and the

Local Board were invited to depute some members to serve on it.

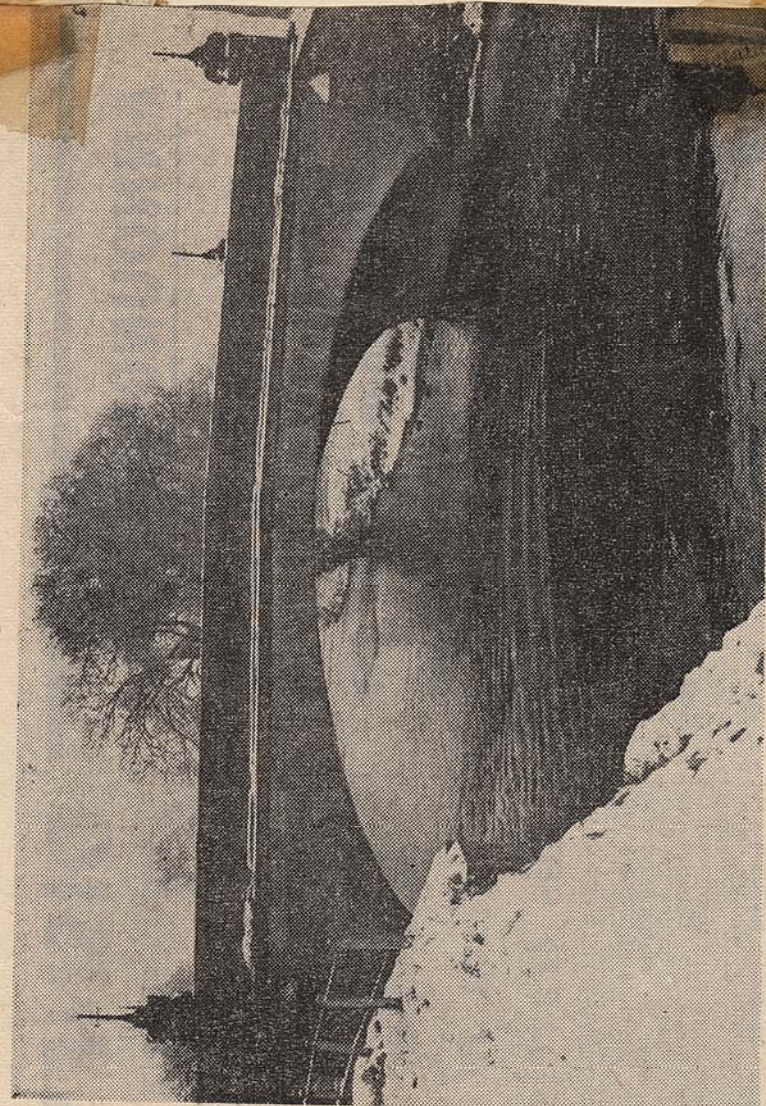
The committee thus constituted was: Messrs. Whitworth, Seabrook and Lees (Local Board), Turnock, Bradford, Greensmith, Buttery, Biddle and Hislop.

At the January, 1885 quarter sessions the memorial was duly presented by a Mr. Fox and was referred to the County Highway Committee. In March, a circular was sent to all local justices asking for their support when the memorial was returned to sessions with the county committee's report. It was stated that 442 signatures had been obtained.

## Share of cost

The court decided that three-quarters of the cost should be contributed from county funds. The remainder to be found locally. Mr. Fox, however, advised the local committee to go in for a presentment from the Grand Jury of Assize against the bridge.

This proved unsuccessful and it was then decided to seek the aid of Lord Lichfield and Lord Anson, but in the meantime circumstances changed and at the July Assize the Grand Jury made a presentment against the bridge, on the ground that it was dangerous and inconvenient.



Pictured above is Colton Mill Bridge, today a graceful structure, which has carried traffic over the River Trent near the Trent Valley railway station for a great many years. The history of the bridge is dealt with in the accompanying article.

should be widened to 28 or 30 ft. Eventually Lord Lichfield agreed to the wider plan.

In April, £385 had been promised for the scheme and the Local Board were asked to consider improving the canal gradient. A scheme of Mr. W. A. Bonney (local surveyor) was accepted needing 600 cubic yards of gravel which the railway company were prepared to sell at 8d. per cubic yard. But the bridge committee had to foot the bill.

In May, £418 had been raised and £400 was paid to the county treasurer. The minute book from which this information has been culled then observed a discreet silence until September 23, when the committee had a very short meeting and decided to ask Mr. Turnock, their chairman, to lay the keystone of the bridge. And that is the end of the minutes.

But no, it is not quite the end. For in the back of the book are pencilled unsigned notes for minutes of a meeting held the following year, July 7, 1887, because the county surveyor was asking for another £50. The committee decided to ask him to supply a statement of accounts showing why

## BLITHFIELD

**CORRECTION.**—Money is still coming in to the St. Leonard's Church, Blithfield, organ fund. About £3 has been received in donations since a coffee morning at Blithfield Hall, home of Nancy Lady Bagot started the fund on September 4. The Rector of Colton and Blithfield, the Rev. A. S. Towson, said last week: "We have not got a target figure for the fund. We shall make necessary repairs as they are needed." The coffee morning raised about £275, not £75 as stated in last week's Advertiser. Its total now stands at about £278, not £500 as also stated.



Mrs. Cooper, of Colton, near a chance to genuine Vic when she Blithfield Hall Whitson.



1962



**COLTON** mothers are up in arms about poor conditions at the village school, and about the delay in improving them.

The toilets are the main object of criticism, with overcrowding a close second.

Alderman John Oxford, chairman of the county education committee, has said: "The work could be started any time between now and 1971." But villagers want action now.

Alderman Oxford agreed that the school had been on a County Council list for improvements since 1957, but explained that others had had priority.

"There has been plenty of talk over the years, but nothing has been done to improve the place," said Mrs. F. M. Upton, of Heathway, Colton.

A neighbour, Mrs. A. Leek, described the toilets as "dreadful." She also advocated a hot water system and a cloakroom where the children could dry their clothes.

### Up to date

"We were happy when we were at school there, but we have been waiting a long time for it to be brought up to date," she said.

Next door, Mrs. V. Collins, whose four children have been to the school, said she thought the toilets were primitive.

At 1, Manor Way, Mrs. D. Wisdom, who has a daughter at the school, said: "If there are no alterations soon the school may as well be pulled down."

Mrs. L. Deacon, a State Registered nurse, whose nine-years-old boy attends the school, said: "It is shocking to think that in 1962 these horrible toilets should still be in use."

### me spreads

**I**NTEREST in the annual Horn Dance which has been performed regularly at Abbots Bromley for the past century, and intermittently before that for hundreds of years, continues to spread. This is probably because, with the advancement of travel, radio and television, it is being brought before ever-widening circles of people. The late Lord Bagot and Nancy, Lady Bagot, his widow, did a lot to bring about the local revival of interest and in 1951 provided the present costumes.

A detailed history of the dance is given in "Abbots Bromley" written by Miss M. A. Rice and published by Wildings (Shrewsbury) in 1939. This is most likely out of print, but the local booklet written by the former Vicar of Abbots Bromley, the Rev. A. R. Ladell, has recently been re-issued and can be obtained in the village. It was in great demand on Monday by distant visitors.

Waiting at Blithfield Hall for the dancers to arrive about midday, I heard that a suggestion had been made that a radio-carbon test would settle for all time the vexed question: "How old are the horns?" They are reputed to be at least 1,000 years old and to be of domesticated reindeer, which were extinct in England before the Conquest.

I was informed that the Vicar of Abbots Bromley, custodian of the horns, had refused permis-

sion for this to be carried out, but Mr. Payton later informed me that no-one had made such a request to him. "I would welcome a test being made to determine their age," he said.

Maybe something definite will come out of the visit of the Deer Section of the Mamma

Sept 13<sup>th</sup> 1962



Sept 1962



Horn dance musician  
Douglas Fowell

## James looks on-for change

The horn dancers step out at Blithfield.

FOR the first time for many years, 75-years-old Mr. James Fowell did not lead the Abbots Bromley horn dancers in their annual ritual on Monday.

Instead, he watched proudly as his 40-year-old son, Bernard, took his place as leader of the twelve dancers keeping up the Fowell family's 450-year-old link with the dance.

James was a horn dancer for 68 years before announcing his retirement last month through ill-health.

This year there was a slight departure from tradition. The dancers entertained old folk who live at Clarke's Crescent, Abbots Bromley, where Mr Fowell senr. lives, on Monday night.

AN "EXTRA."  
Clarke's Crescent is a new estate containing old people's bungalows. The performance there was in addition to the usual one in the main part of the village.

The unique event—no-one knows how old it is—starts from Abbots Bromley Church. The dancers



OFF to London very early this morning was Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft of Colton. She has been selected to represent Staffordshire as delegate to the annual meeting of the National Federation of Village Produce Guilds.

Mrs. Ravenscroft, who incidentally, is the "Times" Colton area correspondent, is gratified that she has been selected to go to the London meeting as this has been one of her ambitions ever since the Colton guild was founded and she became interested in the work done by village produce guilds.

She has an added interest in attending this year because her daughter, Ruth, who has just left school and is still on holiday in the Scilly Isles, has won a prize in a national competition run by the Federation. She expects to receive the prize on her daughter's behalf, today.

Ruth's entry was a 1,000-word story about Cannock Chase in a competition designed to find articles suitable for publication in "Village Life." She failed to win the challenge cup this time, but is receiving a consolation prize.

It is indeed an honour to Colton Guild that an official should be selected to represent the county. But this guild has done a tremendous amount of promotion work for the county association.

Preston, Mr. J. H. Toy, Nancy Smith, Mr. A. J. Cooke, Mrs. J. H. Smith and Mr. G. E. Atkin.



## Barbecue Belle

● Pretty 18-year-old Joan Randles helps herself to some roast at Colton barbecue on Friday.



## Village hall fund gets £150 boost

COLTON'S biggest ever function — a two-day event on Friday and Saturday — was a great success.

The barbecue, fete and two dances, held at Bellamour Hall Farm, the home of Mr. J. C. Price, raised a profit of about £150 for the village hall modernisation fund. Mr. F. Hardcastle, chairman of the organising committee, said: "Bigger towns and organisations could take a leaf out of our book. We have had the co-operation not only of the committee, but of the whole village."

And the only disappointment—apart from the bad weather—was for the Colton women's tug-of-war team. No-one accepted their "We'll take on any women's team" challenge which was to have been a highlight of Saturday's fete.

Constant rain forced Saturday's events into the marquee, although stallholders bravely stayed outside. John Newbold gave his "Beppo the clown" act after opening the fete, and Captain Flemming's "Naughty Cal" chimpanzees scored a big hit.

On Friday the barbecue and dance drew a crowd of 1,200. A whole pig was roasted on a spit, hundreds of sausages were served and there were two dance bands. Among the more unusual attractions were boating on the nearby lake and tossing the sheaf.

Results: Decorated pram: 1 Helen Wyatt, Willow Pattern; 2 Susan Wisdon, English Country Garden; 3 Paul Devall, Burton and Bows; 4 Pearl Haynes, Far More Fruit.

Children of the following ladies won prizes in the baby show: 1 Mrs J E Wyatt, 2 Mrs T Leek, 3 Mrs A MacInden 4 Mrs Shaw. Tossing the sheaf: Michael Reay, Colwich, 14ft. 6in.

Boys' slow bicycle race: 1 Barry Peake, 2 Vernon Norman, 3 Anthony Vent.

Women's slow bicycle race: 1 Miss Kathleen Norman, 2 Mrs Peggy Bannister, 3 Mrs E. King.

Gent's slow bicycle race: 1 Mr R. Wisdon, 2 Mr. L. Jones, 3 Mr G. Watts.

Comic dog show, Wendy, owned by 12-year-old Melvyn Collins. Tug-o'-war: 1, Can-wood Colliery; 2 Bellamoun.

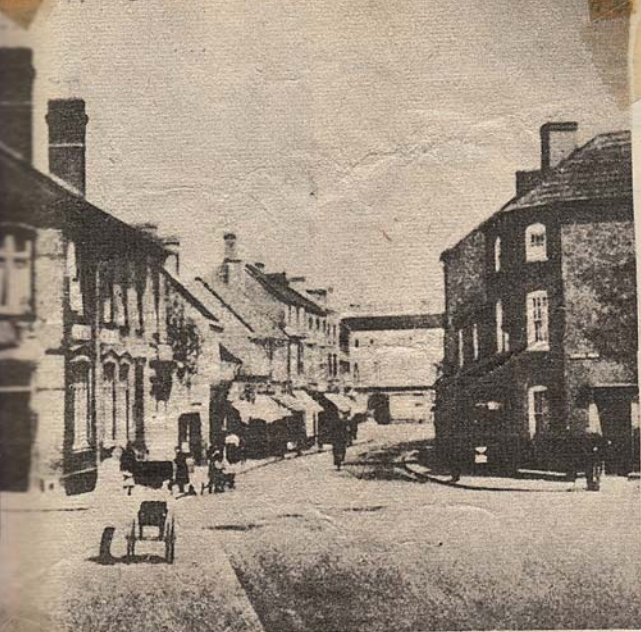
Stallholders: Pony riding, Mr. W. Leake; football, Colton Youth Club; tossing the sheaf, Mr R Evans and Mr R Grimley; bowling for lamb, Miss Pat Martin and Mr J Jones; bowling for pig, Mr B Betson and Mr N Pelton; busta balloon, Miss I Martin and Miss A Collins; crazy kitchen Janet Jones.

John Foster, Colin Sergeant, and Christopher Hibbs; coconut shie, Terry Martin and Christopher Buckley; darts, Colton Youth Club; sweets, Miss Kayning; clothing, Miss D Cooper and Mr and Mrs Brian Jackson; penn roll, Miss B Hoare and Mr B Yeomans; cakes, Colton Women's Institute; hoop-la, Produce Guild; china, Mrs. R Grimley and Miss Diane Grimley; shove a dice, Mrs. D. Schmieglow; raffles, Mr D. Schmieglow; bowl 'em up, Mrs. Haynes; wheel 'em in, Mrs J Peet and Dorian Peet; jazz hall, Mrs. W. Collins.



● Colin George gets down to carving the pig at Colton barbecue, on Friday.





Little girl stands at Globe Corner. Could she have foreseen the flow of traffic round the roundabout and down the by-pass?



Bot Street, Rugeley, half a century ago. The hurry and bustle of modern day traffic was still a thing of the future

## Diversion 'lesser of two evils'

AFTER a long discussion at the meeting of Colton Parish Council, members agreed to support the action of their chairman, Councillor F. Hardcastle, in agreeing to a diversion, suggested by Lichfield Rural Council, of the footpath which runs from the centre of the village to a point near the Trent Valley Station.

A letter from the rural council was read by the clerk, regarding a site visit made by a sub-committee.

Councillor Hardcastle said he agreed to their suggested plans for a diversion as "the lesser of two evils." He told the parish council that he had made it clear to the rural council that he was not speaking for the parish in voting for their plan.

Councillor R. Morrall said he was strongly against any diversion of the path. He thought the people of Colton should be allowed to use the path they had always used.

He was the only dissident when Councillor L. Mellor's proposal, that the action of the chairman be supported, was carried.

The "Times" reported last week that Lichfield Rural Council had decided that the diversion at Rydal Farm should be to the line between the existing farm road which passed through the field in

question, but asked the parish council to confirm that no objection would be raised to the proposal.

Councillor Mellor and G. F. Upton reported that they had not yet had the opportunity to walk the footpath from Stockwell Heath to the yard of Forge House but would do so as soon as possible.

Regarding the road leading from the Rugeley road to Turnover Bridge, it was stated that there was no further development in the matter.

After Councillor Upton had reported a complaint about the lack of a bridge over Moreton Brook at Parchfields, it was decided to ask the County Council to give this their urgent attention, as it was a number of years since the matter was first raised.

The council decided to precept for a fourpenny rate for the coming financial year. They also decided to enter again for the Best Kept Village Competition.

In reply to the rural council's request for views on the reason for the drop in population since the last census, it was decided to put forward Councillor Hardcastle's points: lack of houses, bus services and entertainment.

Councillor Upton added that there was also the difficulty of getting to work and back home that forced people to leave the village.

A large-scale plan of the village sewerage scheme was on view and members agreed that the layout appeared to show a good scheme, apart from the uncertainty that existed regarding the pumping station, which it was proposed to site near the church.

## Colton gift of stained-glass window

At a meeting of Colton Parochial Church Council, the Rector, Rev. A. S. Towilson, announced that the family of the late Mr. W. Cooper, church clerk, proposed to give a stained-glass window for the baptistry, in his memory.

This has been designed by Mr. E. Buss, a London architect, who is an expert in stained-glass, when the design of the proposed window was shown to the members, they were agreed that it was an excellent work of art.

It is hoped that, after the necessary faculty has been granted,

there will be time to have the window in place for the harvest festival season, when it will be dedicated.

The rector suggested that it would be fitting to make an appeal for the church grounds scheme in conjunction with this, as Mr. Cooper had devoted so many hours to that work in his last years.

The council agreed to this being done.

There was a long discussion on the need for work to be carried out on the clerk's house before the new clerk and his wife, Mr. and

Mrs. A. I. D. Collins, could take up residence. It was decided to proceed with the work.

The rector said he felt that £700 would be available, with a grant from Lichfield Rural Council and the sale of land from which the clerk draws the rents. He did not think the Charity Commissioners would refuse this, provided an endowment fund was created.

The work on the house was expected to cost about £1,000. Members were faced with a difficult decision to make but expressed the view that they could not make any other as the new clerk could

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# RE OF CHURCH THROUGH 1,000 YEARS

**E**MPHASIS was laid on the example set by villagers' forefathers when Mrs. H. H. Hutchinson opened Colton Fete in the Rectory garden on Wednesday. She reminded visitors that the church had been in existence for about a thousand years and that each successive generation had played its part in working for its maintenance.

## Death of wife of former Colton Rector

Colton residents learned with regret this week of the death on Monday of Mrs. Ethel Goodin, wife of the Rev. H. H. Goodin, a former rector of Blithfield and Colton. After 10 years in the parish he retired in June, 1956, when he and his wife went to live at Bletchley, Bucks.

Mrs. Goodin carried on her duties as a Sunday School teacher and an enrolling member of the Mothers' Union even when obliged to do so from a wheelchair. Some of the work she started in Colton is still carried on by the Mothers' Union, such as the corporate communion service on the third Sunday in each month, the Shrove Tuesday party, which she felt was a good way of preparing for the solemn season of Lent, and the "in memoriam" donations for lilies to decorate the altar at Easter.

Mrs. Goodin corresponded regularly with several friends in her parish, and had the "Times" posted to her to keep abreast of the village news.

Mrs. Hutchinson concluded by saying that it was the present duty of the parishioners to carry on this tradition and paid tribute to those who had already contributed a good deal of work to the fete. She was introduced by the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlison, and was later presented with a bouquet by Glynnis Jones, Nancy Lady Bagot, who was also in attendance at the opening, received flowers from Lynne Peake.

Expressing thanks to Mrs. Hutchinson, Mr. D. E. Walters (headmaster and deputy church warden) hoped that the fete would boost the free-will offering scheme which assisted payment of the church's everyday expenses.

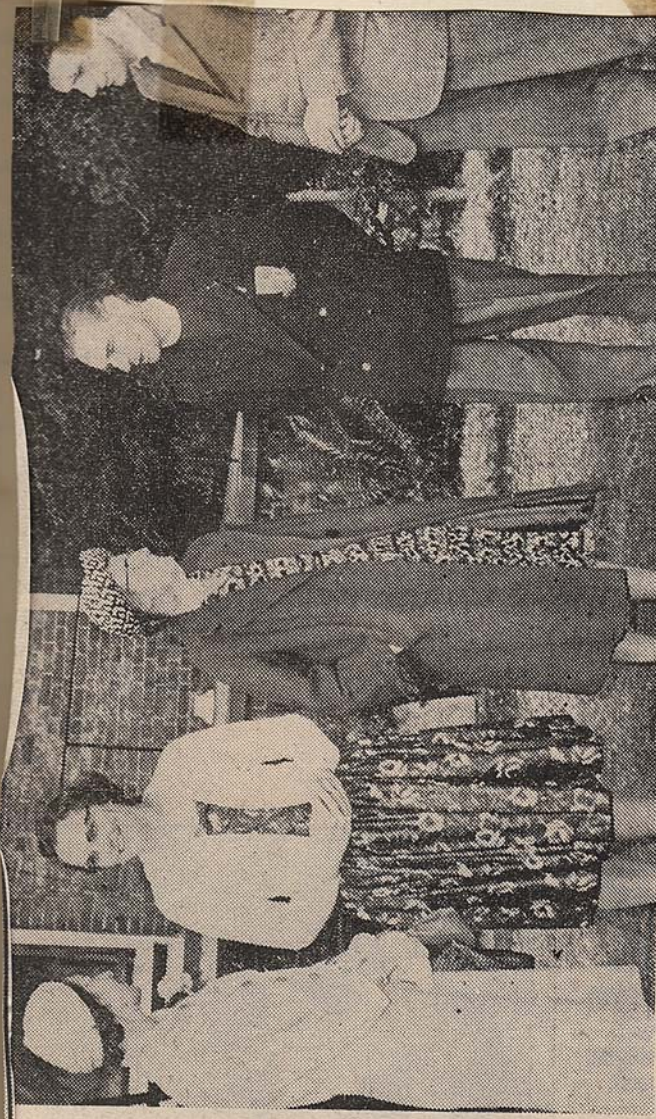
## Model aircraft

Apart from the many sideshows, the attractions included a flying display of model aircraft by Rugeley Aeromodelling Club members led by Mr. W. Parsons. Later there was dancing on the lawn to recorded music. Gross takings from the fete amounted to £123.

Sideshows and stalls were run by the following: — Spinning jenny and darts, Mr. W. Yeomans; roll-a-penny, Miss Alberta Hore; schoola, Mrs. G. E. Martin; bowling, Mr. M. Williscroft; skittles, Mr. C. Boycott; coconut shy, Mr. W. Norman; clock golf, Miss D. Jones; hoop-la, Mr. D. E. Waters.

Bran tub, Mrs. V. Collins; home-made cakes, Mesdames J. Toy, I. James and N. Westhorpe; produce and miscellaneous, Mesdames J. Best, G. Mellow, J. Taylor, J. G. Smith and Miss E. Rochell; handkerchiefs (school stall), Mrs. M. Waters; general stall, Mr. and Mrs. J. Brown.

Refreshments were served by Mesdames H. A. Williscroft, M. E. Hubbs, E. Deacon, P. L. Pannier.



Pictured chatting after the opening ceremony are (left to right): Nancy Lady Bagot, Mrs. A. S. Towlison, Mrs. H. H. Hutchinson, the Rev. A. S. Towlison and Mr. D. E. Waters.



With a look of concentration, Mrs. L. Campbell tries to ring a prize at the hoop-la stall.



Oct 1962



# GUARDING 'NATIONAL HERITAGE' OF THE ANCIENT CHURCHES

ANNUAL meetings are seldom held in such splendid surroundings as that provided by the Great Hall at Blithfield Hall where the Friends of Ancient Staffordshire Churches met on Thursday of last week. Nancy Lady Bagot, although unable to attend herself, made her stately home available for the Friends 10th annual meeting.

The Rector of Blithfield, the Rev. A. S. Towilson, welcomed members on behalf of Nancy Lady Bagot, who, he said, was disappointed that the date clashed with other engagements. "Her interest in ancient churches is much more than academic," explained the Rector, who pointed out that she and the late Lord Bagot did a great deal for the association.

In his chairman's report, the Archdeacon of Stoke-on-Trent, the Ven. G. Youell, said the society was now in its 10th year of existence, during which time it had made "pretty substantial grants on a very small income." In the past year the biggest source of income was the appeal made by Sir Charles Wheeler (President of the Royal Academy).

Although broadcast only on the Midlands Region of B.B.C. television, this appeal raised £686 added the Archdeacon. Other efforts included a coffee morning, a garden party and a fete. A book-mark "which we are able to slip into books in public libraries" helped to draw attention to the Friends. Membership had increased to 72.

## Donations

The society's donations to needy churches could be supplemented not only by the parish concerned and the National Historic Churches Preservation Trust, but by the diocese. The Archdeacon pointed out that "The diocese will do all it can but the Bishop must put at the top of his list the construction of new churches needed on housing schemes."

Mr. S. O. Bonfield (treasurer) reported that for the year ended April 5, the excess of income over expenditure was £295 11s. The balance at that time amounted to £1,084 and during the year £750 in grants had been distributed to various churches.

In the general discussion a member remarked that our churches were a national heritage irrespective of religious denominations and in the drive for increase membership the Friends should make it clear that people who did not belong to the Church of England could join.

Mr. R. D. Birch, of Lichfield, suggested that the society should publish an illustrated brochure of Staffordshire churches similar to those available in other counties. The profits from these booklets would, of course, go into the society's funds.

The Rev. G. E. Weaver, of Dilhorne, near Stoke-on-Trent, speaking on behalf of his parish, expressed gratitude to the Friends for the recent gift to their church. As a form of repayment he offered to make arrangements for a party of members to visit Dilhorne and the village was not sufficient attraction the vicar said he might write the Lord Chancellor on the same day. Sir Reginald Manningham-Buller has also been created Baron Dilhorne of Towcester.

Following the meeting, Mr. J. S. Cooper (secretary) showed coloured

slides of Staffordshire churches and described their architectural features. Among the many churches aided by the Friends over the years are Blithfield, Colwich, Hamstall Ridware, Hoar Cross, Longdon and Alrewas.

## Young farmers elect officials

Rugeley Young Farmers held their annual meeting at the Cabin on Tuesday evening, when the following officers were elected for the coming year: Chairman: E. Barnes; vice-chairman: R. Hubbard; secretaries: Geoff Cooper and W. Costello; treasurer: R. Froggatt; Press officer: G. Brookes; sports officer: R. Hubbard. The retiring chairman, C. Brookes, finished his term of office by winning the County Young Farmers' ploughing match at Hanchurch.

Mr. John Hooley (county vice-chairman), and Miss E. Stubbs, who are getting married and will be leaving the district, were presented with a coffee set in appreciation for the support they have given to Rugeley Young Farmers for a number of years.

6 The Rugeley Times, Saturday, November 10, 1962.

## Condemned houses at Colton an eyesore, complaint

VANDALISM on condemned property in Colton was making empty houses still more of an eyesore, complained Councillor F. Hardcastle at the meeting of Colton Parish Council. He moved a resolution that Lichfield Rural Council be asked if pressure can be brought to expedite their demolition.

Concern was also expressed at the long delay in the improvement of the village's school.

Matters discussed included the Rydal footpath, which was now settled satisfactorily with Mr. G. W. Cooper accepting responsibility; the bridge along the brook side, which appeared to have been repaired; and the bridge at Parchfields, about which there was nothing further to report.

It was decided on the proposition of Councillor Hardcastle, that a further letter be sent, pressing for action.

It was also stated that there was nothing to report regarding the grading of the ground by the brook bridge.

An inspection of the nine wickets on the public footpath leaving from the Pinfold to the Trent Valley had been made, and it was stated that several of these needed renewal or hanging posts, or extensive repairs. Some of the damage appeared to be due to vandalism. A report on the finding of the judges of the Best Kept Village Competition was read, and it was stated that the certificate awarded to Colton had not yet been received.

The chairman, said Mrs. M. S. Toy, was making inquiries to see if this could be presented at the Produce Guild whist drive on November 30.

It was decided to write to the rural council stressing the danger at the bend in the road by the cattle pens at Trent Valley.

A letter from the County Council stated that the question of Bellamour Corner would be reviewed in 12 months.

A letter was read from the Parochial Church Council regarding the service at the war memorial on Sunday next. It was decided that a wreath, at members' expense, should be obtained, and that as many as possible would attend the service.



## Noye's Fludde

**T**HEATRE conscious pupils of Rugeley Grammar School are plunging into the school's most ambitious production wholeheartedly—even to the extent of making their own wind machine. St. Augustine's Church, Rugeley is the setting for the event—"Noye's Fludde," Benjamin Britten's musical version of the Chester miracle play.

Behind the project is Mr Jack Buckley, the school music master, who told me, "This is really a school effort. Scenery is being made in the woodwork and art rooms, and members of the staff are helping in numerous ways."

"Noye's Fludde" in modern English is "Noah's Flood," and throughout the play the ark takes shape. The congregation are brought in by singing three hymns, and another unusual feature are some strange "musical instruments."

They include six china cups used to simulate rainfall. The show goes on on Saturday, December 1, with cast of 63. Heading the cast as the Voice of God, is Rugeley's Vicar, Rev. Norman Torrington.

Robert Boyd, Wednesbury Grammar School music master, is one of several professionals involved. He plays Noye. His wife is sixth former Ruth Nunn.

Mr D. G. Brown, another master at the school, is producer, while Mr Buckley and chemistry master Mr E. J. G. Nunn, conduct.

Said Mr Buckley: "It is the first time the school has tried anything on stage in the church." The performance will be preceded by music from the orchestra.

## Vandals make Colton aged 'afraid to go out'

**I**T was 10-30 p.m. on Monday when Colton Parish Council closed a meeting called to discuss the present wave of vandalism which is causing widespread damage in the village. They decided to ask the local inspector of police to take action in the interests of the public.

At the outset a letter from Lichfield Rural Council was read, stating that the owners of empty houses in the village had been asked to take steps to demolish the unsightly buildings.

Councillor F. Hardcastle said he understood that the owners of one house hoped to renovate it, but that was now out of the question, owing to vandalism. Apart from broken windows, doors and shelves had been taken down and now even the inside walls were being pulled down. Two boys who were recently chased out of the house denied having done any damage.

During the long discussion which followed it was revealed that in the last two or three weeks the public telephone kiosk had been damaged; street lights had been broken by catapults and stone throwing; and electric fences had been cut. Elderly people were becoming too afraid to go out, it was stated.

One even more serious case was the picking up of milk bottles from doorsteps on Hollow Lane corner, smashing them and placing the pieces across the highway along with brickends. Two boys had actually been seen committing this offence, it was stated.

The council agreed to accept Messrs. Williscroft's estimate for replacement and repairs to wickets, etc., along the footpath from the



## ARMITAGE OF

**T**WO members Young Farm were married on Saturday. The bride and groom were Mr. John Armitage of Bank Top Farm, Miss Evelyn Mary Armitage of New Road, Armitage. Mr. Hooley is the son of Mrs. J. W. Hooley, and the daughter of Mr. E. J. Stubbs. The marriage service was conducted by John the Baptist Church. The bride was D. Spiller, the bride.

## COLTON WILL HAVE MODERN SCHOOL

Hopes of speedy improvements to Colton School have been raised this week. Mr. Julian Snow, M.P., is informed the "Times" that arrangements have now been made to bring the site and buildings of the school up to the appropriate standard.

This development follows a meeting on the site between Mr. Snow, the Rector of Colton (the Rev. A. J. Towson), Mr. J. F. Peet, one of the school managers, and the headmaster, Mr. D. E. Waters. The school is a Church of England primary school.

Mr. Snow states that the sub-committee of the county Education Committee responsible for this school has now accepted the terms of purchase of about half-an-acre of land which it will be necessary to acquire in order to bring the school up to modern standards.

It now seems that the overdue renovation of the school can be carried out in the not too distant future, Mr. Snow says.





Nov: 25<sup>th</sup> 1962.

# MEMORIAL TO CHURCH WORKER



THE dedication of a new stained-glass window in Colton Church on Sunday morning was a service which will go down in the history of the church and be long remembered by all present. The window is the gift of Mrs. Alice Cooper and her daughters, the Misses Marjorie and Dorothy Cooper, in memory of their father.

Mr. Frank William Cooper had been parish clerk from 1949 to 1961, when he died at the age of 60. His father before him, Mr. William Ezra Cooper, had been clerk for 10 years, and it was in his memory that the late Mr. Cooper had the electric organ blower installed.

This latest embellishment of the church by the Cooper family is a single-light baptistry window of hand-made glass executed in Old English style, in keeping with the church, by a London artist and architect, Mr. A. E. Buss.

Mr. Buss has become famous for the many stained glass windows which he makes for his firm. He recently completed one for St. Matthew's Church, Walsall. It was only attendance at Ramsgate for the dedication of a Dunkirk window that prevented him coming to Colton last week-end, for he often visits the Rugeley district. Mr. B. Rummey, of Tunnel House, Armitage, is his father-in-law.

The Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, dedicated the window before a choral Eucharist of thanksgiving. Also taking part in the service were two lay readers—Mr.

Mrs. A. Cooper and her two daughters with the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, during the dedication of the new baptistry window in memory of the late Mr. F. W. Cooper.

D. E. Waters, headmaster of the Church School, and Mr. F. Day, a retired headmaster. He was a life-long friend of Mr. Cooper, an old boy of Colton School and Rugeley Grammar School, and a choirbor along with Mr. Cooper.

After a hymn Mrs. Cooper and her daughters formally made the request to the rector to accept the gift, at the chancel steps. The rector committed the gift to the care of the churchwardens, Mr. M. Willisroft and Mr. J. Tittensor.

In his address, the rector spoke of the window and of the gratefulness felt to those who, in generosity of heart, had given "this gift of priceless beauty." It was natural, he said, that in a baptistry the window should depict the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. The sower was the symbol of the spreading of the Word of God on earth. At the top of the design was the open book, the "Word of God," and the picture of St. Mary the Virgin Church, Colton, with its grounds and the brook.

The grapes and corn, he pointed out, were a symbol of Holy Communion, and the sun, moon and stars depicted the Creation of the heavens and earth. The ship was the artist's trade mark, and the beehive and bees were a symbol of those who work together in the Church.

## ESTATE OF MR. L. WATSON, OF RUGELEY

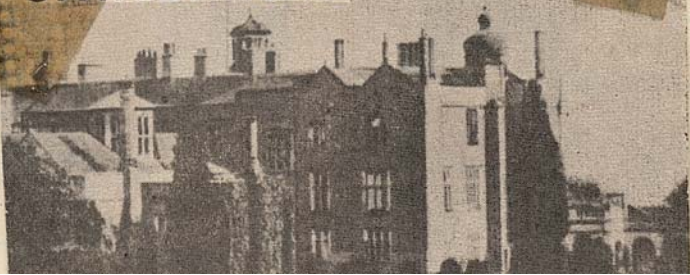
Mr. Leonard Watson, of Wychway, Talbot Street, Rugeley, who died on July 7 last, left £7,522 11s. 8d. gross, £7,448 2s. 0d. net value (duty paid £223). Probate has been granted to his widow, Mrs. Alice Watson of the same address, the sole executrix.

Mr. Elijah Septimus Blore, of Colton Cottage, Colton, near Rugeley, retired farmer, who died on August 25 last, left £6,804 14s. 9d. gross, £6,686 7s. 0d. net value (duty paid £201). He left effects to his wife and the remainder of his property variously to his five children. Probate has been granted to his daughters Miss Muriel M. Blore, of the same address, and Mrs. Margaret A. Foot, of East Farm, Bincombe, Weymouth, Dorset.

Mr. James Leadbitter, of 12, Millington Street, Rugeley, who died on June 21 last left £2,052 19s. 8d. gross, £2,010 9s. 8d. net value. Probate has been granted to Ellis Buckingham, of Hagley Lodge, Hagley Road, Rugeley, and Cecil J. Ravenscroft, of Holly Cottage, Colton, near Rugeley.

Mr. Guy Neville Cornforth, of Blithfield Old Rectory, Blithfield, who died on December 31, 1961, intestate aged 53, left £4,079 9s. gross £3,116 9s. 0d. net value. Letters of administration have been granted to his widow, Mrs. Ruth F. A. Cornforth, of White Hill, Berkhamstead, Herts.

## STATELY HOME





To the Editor

# AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

Sir,—It was distressing to read in your columns this week that the committee of the Rugeley Amateur Operatic Society have decided to go in for a modern "Oklahoma type" of show this year instead of a Gilbert and Sullivan opera. May I suggest that they approach their financial problems with the same courage and determination as shown by Lords Mountarat and Tolloller and the Lord Chancellor in the latter's effort to "win fair lady".

If you go in  
You're sure to win—  
Frocks and "props" must be  
afforded;

Though you are broke,  
As Shephard spoke,  
Faint heart never was applauded!  
Every Society has it's flops—  
Why do American "Monday Pops"?  
Dark the dawn when day is nigh  
Ruddigore's over, don't say die!

Why should you be  
'Fraid of T.V.?  
Hark! "I have a song to sing O!"  
Counting the cost  
You'll be lost.  
Faint heart never beat the bingol!  
Do "The Mikado"! Trial by J?  
Where a will is, there's a way—  
Be your "Object all sublime",  
Singing in best Gilbertian rhyme!

You must take heart  
And make a start—  
"Pirates" play, or "Peer and Peri!"  
"Patience" 'is due,  
"Planforte" too,  
Faint hearts ne'er were Gondolieri!  
Nothing venture, nothing win—  
Oklahoma's rather thin—  
In for a penny, in for a pound—  
G and S makes the world go round!

Mark my words now Donald  
Nutter,

Yours sincerely,

John D. Cutter,  
The Vicarage,  
Rugeley.

To the Editor

# OPERATIC SOCIETY

Sir,—I should like to thank the Rev. J. D. Cutter for his witty and amusing letter in Gilbertian rhyme. May I offer this humble effort in reply?

Here's a how de do  
Farewell Titipu!  
Though G. and S. may be the tops,  
This year we've got to do the  
"pops"

And bring distress to you.  
Here's a how de do.

Here's a bitter pill,  
Theatres we must fill  
"Pirates," "Patience," "Pinafore,"  
Didn't get them through the door.  
"Oklahoma" will.  
Here's a bitter pill.

But here's a welcome change,  
From "trad" to "rock" we'll range,  
"Kismet" now may be our fate,  
"Carousel" or "Kiss me Kate,"  
It's a pretty how de do.  
But let's get up to date.

Cheer up, dear Mr. Cutter.  
Yours sincerely,  
Peggy Nutter.

23, Kingsley Wood Road,  
Rugeley.

# KISMET PROMISES OPERATIC SUCCESS

KISMET is fate. And perhaps in choosing the lavish musical for their October production, Rugeley Amateur Operatic Society will be destined to the success which they have so richly deserved, but rarely had in recent years with their Gilbert and Sullivan productions.

A Society sub-committee's choice of this musical Arabian Night was welcomed by present and prospective members, at a general meeting of the Society on Tuesday evening, but it was pointed out by the producer, Mr. Donald Nutter, and the musical director, Mr. Peter Mellor, that the show would be different if not more difficult than Gilbert and Sullivan.

Kismet has a large cast and this is why any number of new members will be welcome. As there are no chorus pieces as such, each person being more or less a principal, regular attendance at rehearsals is absolutely vital, Mr. Nutter said.

The exciting music of Alexander Borodin in Kismet includes many well known melodies. "Not Since Nineveh," "Stranger in Paradise" and "He's in Love" are from the Polovtsian dances, but even more well known is "Baubles, Bangles and Beads."

Kismet has a romantic plot with Hajj, the poet beggar in the leading role. Hajj becomes Emir of Baghdad in a single day through a series of wonderful happenings.

He gains new wealth, finds a new love, avenges wrongs done to his daughter, triumphs over a wicked Wazir, and rises to a place of true eminence in the fabled city of Baghdad.

Paralleling his story is that of his beautiful daughter, who falls in love with the Caliph, disguised as a gardener.

Coupled with the exciting music of Kismet are the exotic dances of the slave girls, so dancers as well as singers will be needed for Rugeley's production.

Rehearsals for Kismet will be on Tuesday evenings in Rugeley Grammar School dining hall, beginning on March 19.



Bleak midwinter

You don't get winters now like we used to. That's the boast of some old-timers, and here's the picture to prove it. It shows the approach to Colton village half a century ago







# LELD'S BIG YARD FIRE

**£25,000 estimated damage**

A FIERCE fire which swept through a long shed at the scrap metal yard of E. A. Barnes and Sons, Ltd., in Rotten-row, Lichfield, during the night caused damage estimated at £25,000.

And the fire, believed to be one of the worst in Lichfield city for 20 years, could have been much worse but for the barking of a dog.

Danny, a three-year-old spaniel, warned his master, Mr. Arthur Barnes, whose house overlooks the yard, shortly after he went to bed around 11 p.m.

"My wife looked out of the window and saw the yard on fire ... I ran out and dragged clear some gas bottles and drove away a lorry," said Mr. Barnes.

"If the dog hadn't given the alarm the whole yard could have been gutted."

Firemen from Lichfield, Tamworth and Brownhills fought the fire throughout the night. They worked behind barricades because of the intense heat and the danger of exploding oxy-acetylene cylinders. They prevented the fire spreading to a nearby building and new machinery.

The glow was seen by the Brownhills and Tamworth firemen as they turned out.

Lichfield Station Officer W. Evans said: "The shed was burning from end to end when we arrived. Apparently flames leapt through the roof then it all went up. It took us an hour to control the blaze."

At one stage the electricity supply to Rotten-row and Levett's Fields was turned off by M.E.B. workmen.

Men at Lichfield's new ambulance station worked by torchlight.

A senior police officer said inquiries were still being made into the fire.

## DANNY, THE WATCHDOG

Danny, the dog fire watcher, who gave the alarm and, below, firemen and workmen sorting through debris after the fire at Rotten-row, Lichfield, scrap-yard.



## COLTON ROAD DANGER

Sir,—Like Colton Parish Council, I feel strongly about the need for some improvement at the dangerous bend in Colton Road, where the railway "blue" wall ends. Someone will get killed there unless the corner is cut back to improve visibility.

The danger has been increased now that I have established a furniture warehouse nearby, as I have three vans going in and out, thereby adding to the hazards at this point.

I support Colton Parish Council all the way and I am thinking of writing to Mr. Julian Snow, M.P., to see if he can persuade the County Council to reconsider the matter, before a life is lost. There could easily be a temporary improvement by the erection of better warning signs, until such time as the County Council can afford to make the real improvement which is a "must" for the sake of the women and children who have to traverse this bend without the protection of a foot-path.

Bert Warren.



# Garden of Rest plan will beautify burial ground

## Barn dance drew many patrons

Stockwell Heath, Colton, has probably never seen such crowds and activity as on Wednesday evening when, in ideal summer weather, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Toy's tennis court at Hamley Lodge was the venue for a barn dance. It was attended by about 80 people, and proceeds amounting to over £15, will go to the Church of England Children's Home at Hoar Cross.

Mr. Jack Brown was the caller and Mr. Jack Poynton had arranged fairy lights which contributed to a picturesque scene. A film of the dancing was made by Mr. J. A. Best.

In the competition organised by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, the winner of a duck, given by Mr. Toy, was Mrs. Roden, and a bottle of sherry, given by Mr. C. M. Boycott, was won by Mr. Devall.

Among those present were several of the older children from Hoar Cross, and Mr. C. I. Whieldon and Miss Whieldon, of Rugeley. Mrs. Whieldon, chairman of the home's Rugeley committee, thanked everyone for their splendid effort for the home.

Mr. Brown announced that he hoped to resume fortnightly classes on September 30, and that a grand barn dance would be held in December.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. and Miss Whieldon, Mrs. I. Preston, Mrs. E. Preston and Mrs. M. E. Hibbs.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S churchyard may be declared a closed churchyard and be taken over by Rugeley Urban Council, who would then level the graves and turn it into a garden of rest. Such a proposal made by the Parochial Church Council has now been approved in principle by the urban council.

The move to facilitate keeping the now disused churchyard in a tidy condition began just before the departure of the Rev. H. L. H. Townshend from Rugeley. Church members of the Parochial Church Council, assisted by members of the Lander Society, made a plan of the grave spaces and recorded the inscriptions on the tombs and headstones. This was intended as a preliminary to applying for a faculty to remove the stones to the perimeter, as has been done at St. Mary's, Stafford, and St. Mary's Colton.

An urban council may take over a churchyard if it is declared closed by an Order in Council and a certificate is issued by the P.C.C., passing on their responsibilities to the urban council, who then agree to maintain walls and fences under the Local Government Act, 1933.

It is the Open Spaces Act of 1906, however, which gives power to such local authorities to acquire and fully control a burial ground, which power could include turning one into a garden of rest.

In order to acquire a consecrated closed churchyard attached to a parish church it is necessary to petition the bishop for a faculty. A statement has to be prepared describing the tombstones and monuments by name and date, and this has to be placed on deposit, open to inspection by all persons.

Other formalities have to be observed, and if no objections are received, the application is then submitted to the registrar of the diocese jointly by the local authority, the vicar and the churchwardens. The P.C.C. are brought in by the inclusion of a resolution in their minutes approving the proposals of the local authority.

With the petition there has to be a copy of the Order in Council closing the churchyard, a copy of the certificate issued by the P.C.C., a copy of the statement of particulars taken from the tombstones or monuments and a plan of the churchyard defining the area in which the stones are erected.

**"HAPPY AGREEMENT"**

Summarising his report to the urban council of the necessary procedure, outlined above, Mr. F. Williams (clerk) said: "In effect, therefore, the petition is a happy agreement of all the local interested parties, and having arrived at such a happy stage there is little doubt that a faculty will be granted."

It is estimated that the work of turning St. Augustine's churchyard into a garden would cost the urban council between £1,500 and £3,000, depending on whether there are any vault requiring sealing off, whether re-interments are necessary in particular cases, and the materials used in paving the walks in the proposed garden.

Officers of the urban council have been instructed to carry out a more detailed examination of the work entailed and to report back to the Parks and Open Spaces Committee.

A view of St. Augustine's churchyard from the south. The Parochial Church Council are asking Rugeley Urban Council to take it over and turn it into a garden of rest because of the difficulty of maintaining it in good order in its present state.

ONE hundred and three people from the picture postcard parish of Colton, Rugeley, have signed a petition demanding improvements to a road accident black spot near Trent Valley railway station.

The petition, handed to the parish council last week, has been forwarded to the county council with a copy to Mr Julian Snow, M.P. for Lichfield and Tamworth.

The black spot is a corner at the end of what is known locally as the 'big blue wall' fronting the station.

This week, Mr Luke Mellor, chairman of the parish council told the Advertiser: "The parish council has been aware of the dangers of the corner for two and a half years and has been continually pressing for improvements."

With regard to the petition he said: "We feel considerable progress has been made, because at first the county council paid no heed to our requests. Now, they realise the danger and have promised action as soon as they are well enough equipped financially to cope with it."

Pointing out that there had been several accidents at the corner, Mr Mellor said he felt the greatest danger confronted pedestrians because there was no footpath.

"The most pleasing thing," he added "is the fact that the county council has at last seen the danger."



# Commons will hear about Colton danger spot

**THE** dangerous bend on the Rugeley-Colton road at the end of the long blue-brick retaining wall at Trent Valley Station, which Staffordshire County Council say cannot be given a footpath for a long time, is to be the subject of a Parliamentary Question.

Mr. Julian Snow, M.P., who took the matter up after receiving a copy of the petition organised by Mr. B. Warren, has already written to Mr. Ernest Marples, Minister of Transport, about the need for speeding up an improvement. Not being satisfied with Mr. Marples's reply, he is planning to table a question in the House.

The dangerous bend was first the subject of complaint by Colton Parish Council. When they were told that nothing could be done for a long time, Mr. Warren, who has a furniture warehouse near the corner and sees the danger to pedestrians (there is no path at this point) as well as motorists, collected signatures for a petition in support of the parish council's plea.

The matter was also taken up at County Council level by Councillor J. E. Riley, who has told the "Times" that he has strong hopes that the county surveyor will be successful in persuading the Ministry of Transport to make an immediate allocation of money for an improvement.

Already surveyors have been seen measuring the area, and an interim suggestion has been approved for removing a grass bank so that a path can be provided along a section of the danger area.

## "NO FUNDS"

In the letter to Mr. Snow, Mr. Marples explained that the county council were unable to take immediate action in May, when they received representations, because there were no funds available. Funds had already been allocated

to outstanding works required on "more important and more heavily trafficked roads."

Mr. Marples said the carriageway was 18ft. 6in. wide and the highway boundary on the inside of the bend, which is the side where a footpath would be most beneficial, was formed by an 8ft. high wall retaining railway property.

"Any improvement must involve the acquisition of land and setting back the retaining wall. Visibility is very limited, but it is an extremely obvious bend to approaching motorists. The county council are still aware of the need for as improvement there and have a scheme for inclusion in the classified roads programme as soon as circumstances permit. Its timing will depend entirely on the degree of priority that can be accorded to it in comparison with other necessary schemes," said Mr. Marples.

To strengthen Mr. Snow's hand, Mr. Warren is now considering taking a census of traffic passing this point.



# WICKET GATE PROVES 'HURDLE' FOR COLTON PARISH COUNCIL

COLTON Parish Council spent half of its two-hour meeting on Monday discussing the replacement of a wicket gate along the footpath leading from near the Trent Valley Station to the Pinfold in the village. It stands on land owned by Mr. G. W. Cooper.

Councillor L. Mellor reported on an interview with Mr. Cooper regarding the need for repairing an existing wooden wicket, brought to the notice of the council at its last meeting in November.

He said that Mr. Cooper made an alternative suggestion of removing an iron wicket, which would soon become unnecessary because he planned to grub out a hedge and make two fields into one. This wicket, he said, only needed new hinges.

The council at first seemed to favour this course on the grounds of economy and they talked of holding up the work in progress on a new wooden wicket pending further investigation, but Councillor R. Morrall said he did not agree with the parish council having to bear the expense anyway. He considered it should be borne by the Uttoxeter area county council committee.

## Wickets preferred

Councillor F. Hardcastle said they were only obliged to have a stile as access along a footpath, and this should be provided by the owner of the land. In Colton they preferred wickets and so had to pay for them.

Mrs. P. M. Buckley (clerk) proved this point by reading a letter from her file in which the area committee had stated that the onus was on the land owner to provide a stile, and not on the county council.

Unless they decided quickly, she said, and got the work completed by March 31, they would lose the chance of claiming £12 10s. of the cost as a 1962 footpaths grant. These grants were lost if not claimed within the financial year.

Councillor Morrall said the footpath was used extensively, even in the recent weather, not merely by people out walking in summer, but Councillor Hardcastle pointed out that it had been the parish council's custom to maintain these wickets — it was No. 8 that was under discussion — and Councillor Mrs. J. L. Taylor said they were originally a gift to the parish.

Back to the iron wicket. It was agreed that this should be replaced

instead of a new wooden one.

Councillor Mellor next stated that Mr. Cooper had requested that in re-erecting it the wicket should be moved a few feet, to the other side of the gate, as this would make it better for him and for the public using it. "But this constitutes a diversion," Councillor Mellor pointed out.

After further discussion, it was moved by Councillor Hardcastle and seconded by Councillor Morrall, that because of the amount of negotiations involved in getting permission for a diversion, the iron wicket should be re-erected in the same position as the present wooden one. This was carried.

## Public's view

Councillor G. Upton later moved that the parish council should meet Mr. Cooper and see if, from the public's point of view the wicket would be better in a different position, but the chairman, Councillor A. N. Felton, ruled this out of order as they had already voted not to change the position.

Thus ended a 45-minutes' discussion. But later the subject was renewed when a member drew attention to the alleged danger created by the presence of a piece of corrugated iron sheeting at the existing wooden wicket.

It was decided that Councillor Mellor should refer to this when he resumed negotiations with the owner of the land.

At the close of the meeting, at 9.40 p.m., the council reverted to the wicket for the third time. They had forgotten to arrange for estimates for removing the iron one and getting it repaired and re-erected!

GREAVES: HAMPSON. - Married at St. Leonard's Church, Blithfield, on Tuesday, was Mr. Geoffrey Charles Greaves, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Greaves, of Top Farm, Whitgreave, and Miss Rosa Elizabeth Hampson, only daughter of Mr.

and Mrs. G. Hampson of Oakfields, Farm, Admaston, near Rugeley. Both bride and bridegroom have been members of the Uttoxeter Young Farmers Club and the bride has also been an organist at Blithfield Church, a member of the choir and a bellringer. Until recently she was treasurer of Blithfield Mixed Youth Club. The interior of the church was extensively decorated & the service was conducted by the Rev. A. S. Towlson and Miss Eileen Woodward was at the organ. Es-corted to the church by her father, the bride wore a full-length gown of white nylon over net, Swiss-embroidered with sprays of lily of the valley. Her head-dress consisted of a short bouffant veil held in place by a diamante and beaded coronet. Her bouquet was a small spray of three golden roses and sprays of lily of the valley. The chief bridesmaid was Miss Barbara Sargeant and the other attendants were Miss Joyce Wardle, Miss Jean Roberts and Miss Sheila Hampson. All wore full-length dresses of wild golden yellow silk with pale blue head-dresses and gloves. Their bouquets consisted of posies of white carnations and blue anemones. Their silver bangles were the gifts from the bridegroom. Best man was Mr. John Greaves, the bridegroom's brother, and the groomsmen were Messrs. G. Hampson, bride's brother and George Greaves. Following the service 112 guests were entertained at a reception at the Crown Hotel, Stone. For travelling the bride wore a three piece jersey suit in bronze green and had beige and dark brown accessories. On their return they are to reside at Lower Lea Farm, Admaston. The bride received a nest of tables from members of Blithfield Church and a present from members of Blithfield Youth Club.

# 'BEST' YOUNGSTERS LEAVE TOWN

RUGELEY is losing some of its best young people.

So said Mr. T. B. Smart, head-master of Rugeley Grammar School, at the school speech day last week. "Of the ten old girls who have qualified to become teachers and of the 45 ex-girl prefects, not one is earning a living in Rugeley" he said.

He stressed that people, educated in Rugeley and working elsewhere was "really serious to the town", and added: "Rugeley's loss is someone else's gain".

Commenting on the needs of the school Mr. Smart said: "We are frustrated to hear that we had to be knocked off the list for new buildings in 1964-5" and went on to disclose that the weather conditions last winter almost forced the closure of the school for whole days. As it was, hours had to be cut and he felt this had had an adverse effect on G.C.E. results.

The speaker, Miss B. B. Scott, matron of Sely Oak Hospital - the first woman speaker in ten years of the school's co-educational period - spoke on nursing and said its joys came from "Love, service and devo-

tification were presented as follows by Miss Scott: Form prizes: Form VI Arts, Pamela Astbury; form VI Science, 1 F. J. Dale, 2 P. J. Mills; Forms V and VA: 1 G. R. Berridge, Marion Wood, 2 Janet Dawson,



Mr. Smart

Valerie Carter, Janet Read; Form IV: 1 D. A. King, 2 Jennifer Burton; Form IV A: 1 Lorna Smith, 2 Kathleen Fewtrell.

Form III, 1 Susan Lafford, 2 Janice Bali; Form IIIA: 1 M. C. Nott, 2 Anne Gibbs; Form II, 1 C. G. Bell, 2 Kathleen Warner; Form IIA: 1 C. D. Beaumont, 2 K. S. Perrin; Form I: W. R. W. Hor-

way. Subject prizes: English: Pamela Astbury; History: A. Dangerfield; Geography: G. R. Berridge; Scripture: Marion Wood; Art: Susan Latham; Latin: A. Shaw; French: Neeta White, Heather Bradbury; Music: Christine Hindley; German: J. R. Cooper; Maths: G. Lester; Physics: P. J. Mills; Chemistry: F. J. Dale; Biology: F. J. Dale; Woodwork: G. R. Berridge; Domestic Science: Margaret Stanley; Miscellaneous prizes: Alex Payne French conversation prize, Neeta White Heather Bradbury. Old Rugeleians: Memorial prizes: Form IV: Patrick Keen, Barbara Roobottom; Form III, D. C. Watson, Christine Mole; Form II, J. Matthews, Joy Nicholson; Old Rugeleians cricket prize, P. J. Pritchard; football, A. Dangerfield; A. G. B. Owen cup for outstanding qualities and leadership, A. T. Simister, Head boy and Head girl (Salisbury Prize), J. R. Cooper. Pamela Astbury. Lucy Cottrell cup general sportsmanship, boys, A. Dangerfield. Ridout cup, genera-



# DIVORCE DECREE FOR THE COUNTESS OF SHREWSBURY

THE Countess of Shrewsbury, who is now living at Old Riffhams, Danbury, Essex, was granted a decree nisi in the Divorce Court in London on Wednesday. She was not in court to hear Mr. Justice Ormerod grant the decree in her second attempt to end her marriage to Lord Shrewsbury, formerly of Ingestre Hall.

The Earl, now living in Madeira, did not contest the petition alleging his adultery since 1959 with Morris Aileen (Nina) Mortlock. He said the Earl and

Miss Mortlock had been living together as man and wife, and were now together in Madeira.

A considerable difficulty in the case was that in December, 1959 Mr. Justice Collingwood had found that Lady Shrewsbury had committed adultery with Mr. Anthony Lowther, which she still denied.

Lady Shrewsbury had not asked for the court's discretion then, and the judge had not had to consider it.

Notwithstanding that finding, the Countess still denied adultery and had not filed a discretion statement in the present petition.

Absence of a discretion statement did not debar a court from exercising discretion in a proper case.

The only valid ground for refusing to exercise discretion in Lady Shrewsbury's favour would be perjury in the two suits. It was one thing for a judge to conclude that he must infer adultery despite denials, but another to establish as a positive fact that the denial was a lie.

Not to be believed was one thing. It was another to be a liar, the Judge said.

## Not infallible

Judges were not infallible, and such a finding could not be conclusive of the truth in an absolute sense.

The Judge said he was not impugning Mr. Justice Collingwood's decision, nor attempting any reassessment of Lady Shrewsbury's credibility.

Strong though the evidence against Lady Shrewsbury was, there was the possibility that she was telling the truth. It would not, therefore, be right to regard her denial of adultery in the present suit as necessarily a deliberate dishonest statement.

Having been found guilty of adultery, she must rely on discretion, and it was the court's duty to exercise discretion on all the facts.

Mr. Justice Ormerod said he was satisfied with arrangements for the welfare of the four younger children, who were with the countess and were wards of court. He also approved terms of maintenance for the countess and children.

The earl was ordered to pay costs.

## M.U. members form guard of honour at Colton funeral

THE funeral took place at Colton on Saturday, followed by interment at St. John's Churchyard, Kingstone, of 66 years-old Mrs. Julia Lizzie Taylor, of Littlehay Manor Farm, Colton—the Parish Council's only woman member for many years.

Mrs. Taylor died in the Staffordshire General Infirmary, Stafford, on November 27, after a brief illness. Her first husband, Mr. George Mellor, died in 1943, and there are two sons of the marriage, George and Luke Mellor, of Manor Farm, and a daughter, Mrs. Monica Fatch, who is the wife of a Persian civil engineer.

Mrs. Taylor married Mr. Frank Taylor in 1947. He died about two months ago.

Mrs. Taylor was a loyal church member and had served on the Parochial Church Council for many years. At the time of her death she was deputy people's warden. Since June, 1956, she had been enrolling member of Colton Mothers' Union, having given the branch its banner in memory of her first husband.

Mrs. Taylor was a founder member of Colton Women's Institute and had always served on the committee. She had been vice-president and more recently had held office as president. She had also been convener of the Parkside Group of Women's Institutes for a number of years.

The only woman member of the parish council for many years, Mrs. Taylor had been chairman. She was also a member of the Colton Parish Lands Trust and Colton Village Produce Guild.

Various house-to-house collections were organised by Mrs. Taylor and she had been an active helper at St. Mary's Church garden party since it was first held 21 years ago.

The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. A. S. Towlson, and the lesson was read by Mr. D. E. Waters. The organist was Mrs. G. E. Finnemore. The bearers were her four nephews—Messrs. Luke Mellor, G. A. Mellor, H. S. C. Mellor and Charles Mellor.

Members of the Mothers' Union formed a guard of honour, with Mrs. Bettson as banner bearer.

Mourners were: Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Mellor, Mr. and Mrs. Luke Mellor (sons and daughters-in-law); Mrs. M. J. Fatch (daughter); Mr. and Mrs. W. Tassner (brother-in-law and sister); Mr. A. Plant (brother) and Mrs. D. H. Plant (sister-in-law); Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Plant; Mr. Leslie Plant, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Mellor, Mr. and Mrs. L. Mellor, Mr. H. S. C. Mellor, Mr. C. Mellor, Mr. C. Phillips, Miss M. Plant, Miss N. Tassner, Mr. and Mrs. W. Grindey, Mrs. E. Houldcroft.

siding member), Mrs. B. Heasman (also representing Mrs. E. Barton and Blithfield Women's Institute), Mrs. Rock (representing Abbots Bromley Mother's Union), Miss C. N. L. Willisroft (also representing Miss D. M. Jones), Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Bettson, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Best, Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Felton, Mr. and Mrs. T. Preston, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Sargeant, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Knight, senior, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Knight, junior, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Chilton, Mr. and Mrs. H. Rushton, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Parr, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Toy, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hardcastle, Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Westhorpe, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. D. Atkin, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Ravenscroft, Mr. and Mrs. H. Shipley, Mr. and Mrs. J. Charles, Mr. and Mrs. A. I. D. Collins, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Deville, Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Upton, Mrs. W. Eaton, Mrs. A. Leake, Mrs. L. Ecklestone, Mrs. E. M. Challinor, Mrs. C. Willis and Mr. J. R. Willis, Mrs. Mary Parkinson, Mrs. M. Kent, Mrs. G. Vernon, Mrs. R. Morrall, Mrs. F. H. Bannister, Mr. R. W. Parr and Miss W. Parr, Mr. J. Satterthwaite, Mr. Fred Norman, Mrs. Dora Deacon, Mrs. F. W. Cooper and Miss D. A. Cooper, Mr. A. J. Smith and Mr. Alan Smith, Mrs. Maureen Dix, Mrs. F. Grimley, Mrs. L. M. Wain, Miss Ellen Rotehell, Mr. C. Bannister, Mr. B. A. Holmes, Mr. J. Tittensor, Mrs. Waters and Kevin, Mr. W. Finnemore, Mrs. B. T. Jackson, Mr. M. Jones and Miss J. Jones.

Mrs. A. L. Cooper, Mrs. A. Meddings, Mrs. G. M. Upton, Miss Ruth Ravenscroft, Miss Christine Leeke, Miss Sale, Mrs. P. M. Buckley, Mrs. A. Devall, Mrs. Gamble, Miss C. Burns, Mrs. M. Allerton, Mrs. O. Gallimore, Mrs. Warrington and Mrs. G. Willisroft.

Among the floral tributes were wreaths from Colton Mothers' Union; Parochial Church Council; Parish Council; Village Produce Guild; Women's Institute; Village Hall Management Committee; Blithfield Women's Institute; and the Parkside Group of Women's Institutes.



# Colton church fete opened by ex-pupil and chorister

**MAKING** a return visit to Colton on Wednesday afternoon was a former pupil of the village school and of Rugeley Grammar School, Mr. Frank Day. Accompanied by his wife and a visiting preacher from Australia, he opened the church fete in the grounds of the Rectory.

Before leaving Colton, Mr. Day lived at 8, Williscroft Place, and was a Chorister at St. Mary's

Church. On August 25 Mr. Day, who is a licensed lay reader, will be in the church again to conduct the morning service. He left Colton in 1959 to become headmaster of a school at Blythe Bridge, where he has remained since retiring.

Welcoming the visitors, the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towilson, mentioned that it was their 22nd fete in the series.

Although the weather was doubtful, the stalls were soon cleared. Proceeds from the fete, which amounted to £100, which was slightly more than last year, will go to church funds.

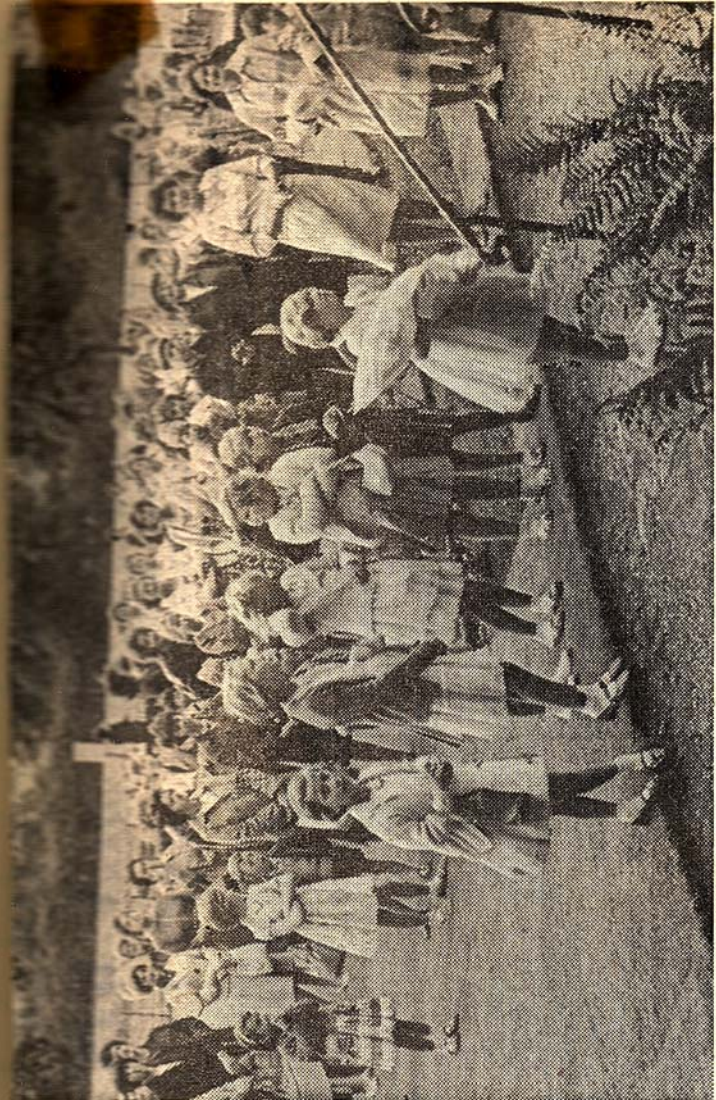
After Mr. Day had opened the fete, Mrs. Day was presented with a bouquet by eight years-old Trudy Grimley, and Mr. Day received a buttonhole from six years-old Kevin Walters.

The headmaster of Colton School, Mr. D. E. Waters, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Day, and this was seconded by Mr. G. Williscroft.

In the evening there was a dance of Morris dancing.

A chicken dinner given by D. M. Atkin was won by Mrs. J. Felton and a duck dinner given by Mrs. F. Hardcastle won an

given by Mrs. Collins, and a



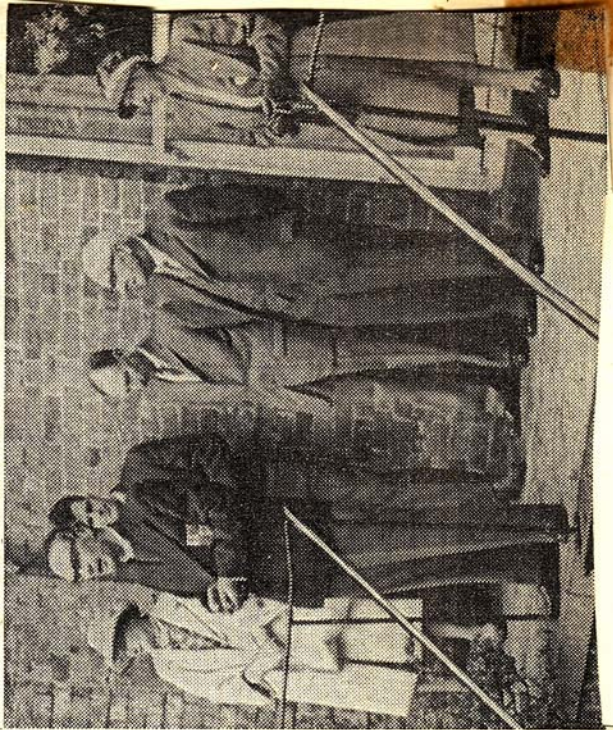
Winners of a bowls competition were Mr. S. Jones and Misses Janet Jones and Ruth Sharratt. Winners of bowling-through-the-hole were Mr. E. Hewitt and Mrs. E. Hustritt. Mr. B. Wain won at school, a Dutch game.

Stallholders were: — miscellaneous, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Mrs. P. B. Best, Miss E. Rotchell, Mrs. G. Mellor and Mrs. S. Deacon; cakes, Mrs. N. Westhorpe and Mrs. M. S. Toy; hoop-la, Mrs. G. E. Finnemore, Mrs. F. Grimley and choir girls; bran tub, Mrs. I. Collins, and Mrs. M. E. Wright; Colton school's bottle tombola, Mrs. M. L. Waters and Mrs. D. R. Shaw; clock golf, Miss D. M. Jones and Mrs. B. Hill; buttonholes, Miss Gwendoline Ravenscroft and Miss Marilyn Collins; roll-a-penny, Miss B. Hoare; darts, Mr. W. Yeomans; ladies bowls Mr. W. Norman; gents bowls Mr. L. Jackson; penny-in-bucket, Miss Kathleen Norman; school, Mrs. C. Schmieglow; bowling-through-a-hole, Mr. G. Williscroft.

Teas were served by Mesdames H. A. Williscroft, H. M. Felton, D. Deacon, P. L. Bannister, R. O. Devall, I. Preston, B. M. Ravenscroft, E. Griffin, M. E. Hibbs, M. Allen, and L. M. Cooper.

Mr. A. N. Felton and Miss Ruth Ravenscroft did gate duty.

Visitors to Colton fete assemble for the opening ceremony, performed by Mr. Frank Day. Holding the bouquet, which she is to present to Mrs. Day, is Trudy Grimley. Below: The Rector the Rev. A. S. Towilson, introduces Mr. Day. Also pictured (left to right) are Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Mr. D. E. Waters, Mr. G. Williscroft and Mrs. Day.







The scene in Colton village school where the barn dance was held on Friday evening. In the group can be seen the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, and Mr. D. M. Gibb, secretary of the Rural Community Council, and Mr. Jack Brown are seated in the foreground with Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Toy.

## Straw and harness gave barn dance atmosphere

IN a room appropriately adorned with straw and harness, dancers of all ages enjoyed a barn dance in Colton Village School on Friday evening. The dance was the culmination of five classes at which Mr. Jack Brown, of Colton, has had a busy time teaching square dancing. The idea of holding a dance came from Mr. J. H. Toy, and £15 of the proceeds was given to the Rural Community Council.

Mr. Toy welcomed the dancers, the youngest of whom were only 12 years old, and later announced that by popular demand it was planned to resume square dancing classes in the autumn.

So that the dancers can "keep in touch" it is hoped to arrange an open air get-together during the summer months at Hamley Lodge, where dancing will take place on the tennis court.

A suggestion had also been made by Mr. Brown that another barn dance be held at Christmas, to the music of old carols.

Among the guests was Mr. D. M. Gibb, secretary of the Rural Community Council, who was welcomed by the chairman of the Village Produce Guild, Mr. T. Preston, who arranged the dance. David Rydall and his band provided music for dancing, and Mr. Brown was caller.

The competition organised by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft was won by Mr. E. Brinkworth (sherry) and Mr. G. E. D. Atkin senior (chocolate), and the Rev. A. S. Towlson (cigarettes).

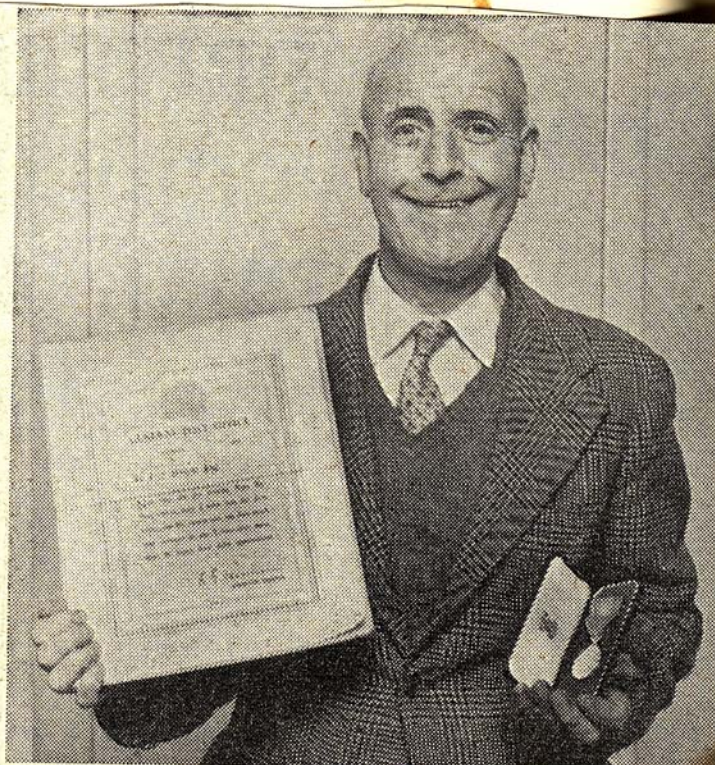
## SURPRISE FOR A RETIRING POSTMAN

THERE was a surprise in store for ex-postman Mr. Fred Wright, of Colton, when he went to a post office staff social at Mansfield House Club on Thursday of last week. He thought he was going to receive a retirement gift from his colleagues. He did not know that he was also to be awarded the Imperial Service Medal.

Col. G. Dennison, head postmaster of Stafford, made the presentation and thanked Mr. Wright for his loyal service to the Crown in his 31 years of established service as a postman.

About 50 former colleagues and friends attended the social evening, during which Mr. H. P. Harkness (postmaster) paid tribute to Mr. Wright's "years of cheerful and loyal service." Miss C. Harris gave him a cheque and gave Mrs. Wright a bouquet, from former colleagues. Mr. A. Caley in a witty speech welcomed Mr. Wright into the ranks of retired postmen.

The social side was arranged by Mr. S. Garner and later in the evening Mr. Wright, accompanied by Mr. C. H. F. Hancock, played the violin and piano, including the last waltz in their repertoire.



Mr. F. Wright with the Imperial Service Medal and citation.





### COLTON

At Colton the church choir and wardens, accompanied by the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson walked from the church to the Memorial for a short service.

Councillor G. F. Upton laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

The procession returned to the church, the Mothers' Union banner being carried by Mrs. E. Bettson, with Mrs. I. Preston and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft as escorts, and members of the congregation followed.

### Colton post office change

Colton Post Office has moved, after 38 years at 1, Martlin Cottages.

Removal, to Cottage Stores, was necessitated by the retirement of Mrs. Constance A. Deacon, who was appointed sub-postmistress on the death of her husband and has attended to village postal duties for 26 years.

With the removal of the postal business to Cottage Stores, Mr. Jack Brown has become sub-postmaster.

### Buses replace trains on Jan. 18

The additional bus services which are being introduced by the Green Bus Company and Walsall Corporation Transport Department when British Railways close the Rugeley to Walsall line to passenger traffic are now to commence on January 18, 1965, a Green Bus spokesman told the "Times" this week. This is a fortnight later than the expected date.

Green Bus and Walsall Corporation undertakings are issuing a combined time-table showing all journeys between Rugeley and Walsall, with connections at Hednesford and Cannock.

*The Rugeley Times, Saturday,*

## Photo-Flashback . . . .



**M**ISS M. G. ANDREWS, who subsequently made her name as a most successful music teacher, is featured in this violin class picture taken at the Prince of Wales's School, Lichfield Street, in about 1902. On the right is one of her brothers, Mr. Syd Andrews, and next to Miss

Front row (left to right): C. Handley, . . . A. Hitchiner, . . . , Thompson, Buckley, Willis.

Middle row: Wood, C. Radford, A. Wood, G. Alington, L. Thomas, H. Mifflin, W. Parker, W.

### FARM SALE

Marsh Farm, Abbots Bromley has been sold by Bagshaw and Co. for £7,250. The property includes the house, farm buildings nearly 13 acres.



# ANOTHER HAZARD!

SLOW  
LORRIES  
TURNING



AFTER months, of agitation and negotiation, reaching even to the Member of Parliament Mr. Julian Snow, a notice has been erected at the danger spot along the Colton road near Trent Valley Station. It was pressed for by Colton Parish Council, supported by Mr. B. Warren, to draw the attention of motorists to the danger of heavy vehicles emerging from concealed exits at a point where there is no footpath.

But now erected, it is causing trouble itself, and though it is in Colton Parish and Lichfield Rural District, it was the subject of com-

plaint and comment at last week's General Purposes Committee meeting of Rugeley Urban Council!

Councillor Mrs. L. M. Sutton said she had heard a complaint that it had created a new danger through being erected on two posts across the narrow footpath. It was difficult in the daytime to get a perambulator past, and at night people were apt to run into it because of the poor lighting, she said.

No action was suggested, of course, because it is out of the Rugeley area, but Alderman T. F. Cowlshaw remarked that people "could not have their cake and eat it."

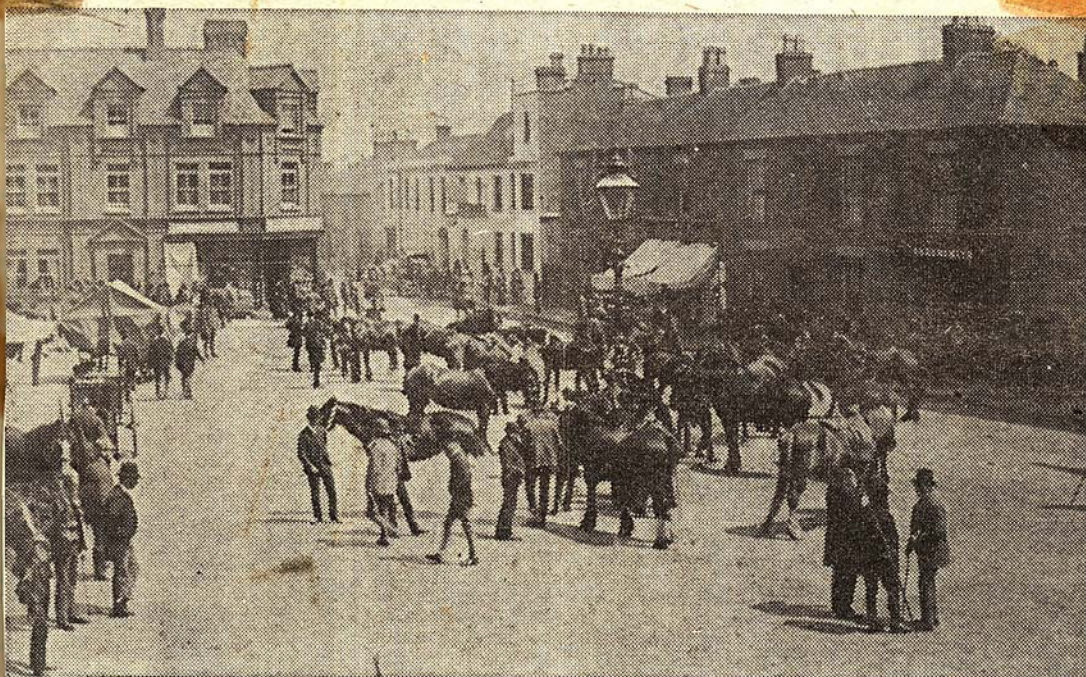
## BLITHFIELD

**FUNERAL.** The funeral took place at St. Leonard's Church of Mrs. Harriet Anne Shipley, wife of Mr. Jack Shipley, of Newton Farm, Admaston, who died in hospital, aged 77. She had been a keen member of the Blithfield Mothers' Union, the Abbots Bromley Village Produce Guild, and also the Blithfield W.I. The service at St. Leonard's Church was conducted by the Rev. A. S. Towson and Mrs. G. C. Greaves was organist. Principal mourners were, the husband, Mr. J. Shipley Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Vernon, son-in-law and daughter; Mr. and Mrs. M. Morrissey, son-in-law and daughter, also rep Mr. and Mrs. C. Gesch (son-in-law and daughter, Australia; Mr. S. Wilson, brother and Mrs. L. Buswell, sister; Mr. Colin Morrissey, Miss Ann Vernon, Master Anthony Vernon, grandchildren; Mrs. E. Kent, sis-

ter-in-law, Miss D. Buswell, Mr. and Mrs. J. Bowyer, Mr. and Mrs. G. Nott, Mrs. J. Jones, nephews and nieces: Mrs. J. Parsons, Mr. and Mrs. H. Arblaster, Mr. and Mrs. K. Parsons, Mr. and Mrs. L. Fletcher, Mrs. M. Kent, also rep Mrs. A. Mardell; Mrs. E. Cooper, Mrs. S. Woodward, Mr. A. Wood, Mrs. L. Wood, Mr. H. Lane, Mrs. Houldcroft, Mr. and Mrs. E. Broughton, and Dr. J. G. Salter. Among the congregation were representatives of the M.U., W.I., and Abbots Bromley VPG and Nancy Lady Bagot, Mr. and Mrs. F. K. Cottrell, Mr. J. Neighbour, (rep Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Neighbour and Miss M. Neighbour), Mr. and Mrs. G. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. K. Williams, Mrs. G. Shipley, Mrs. T. Blore, Mrs. C. J. Blore, Mrs. L. R. Earp, Mr. and Mrs. J. Sargeant, Mr. C. Bradbury Mrs. J. and Miss M. E. Wilson, Mr. A. J. Smith, Mrs. A. A. Smith, Mrs. B. and Miss M. Hampson, Mrs. B. Capewell, Miss F. Cooper (rep Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Cooper), Mrs. E. Knight, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Bettson, Mr. and Mrs. P. Westthorpe, Miss Nellie Lane (rep the Misses M. E. and L. Lane), Mr. Phillips, Uttoxeter, Mr. and Mrs. G. Hampson, Mr. and Mrs. D. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hollins, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Evans, Mrs. W. Bexon, Mr. and Mrs. A. Deakin, Mrs. J. Hunt (rep Mr. J. Hunt and Mrs. E. W. Hunt), Mrs. L. W. Wilson.

Miss J. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. F. Pratt, Mr. and Mrs. J. Artiss, Mr. and Mrs. Oldfield, Mr. John Shipley, Mr. J. Vernon, Mr. T. Rees, Mrs. E. Barto, Mrs. B. Heasman Mr. and Mrs. F. Excell, Mr. J. Bentley, Mr. G. Turner, Mr. W. Green, Mr. R. Atkins, Messrs. D. and L. Kendrick, Mr. K. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. M. Vernon, Mr. and Mrs. B. Bettson (rep the Rev. H. H. Goodin), Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Atkins, Mr. and Mrs. F. Atkins, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Vernon, Mr. and Mrs. Bayliss, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Vernon and others. The bearers were Messrs. S. Woodward, E. Cooper, G. Shipley and Mr. R. Evans. Floral tributes included wreaths from the Abbots Bromley V.P.G., the Blithfield M.U. and Blithfield W.I.

## PHOTO-FLASHBACK



A CHANGE of style for this week's reminiscence, it being June Fair time. The postcard view shows some of the hundreds of horses from all over the British Isles which are brought to the great Rugeley Horse Fair for sale.

Though the sale occupied principally the

square!

A few market or fair stalls can be seen (left) and on the right is Greensmith's, the chemist's shop which is now occupied by Boots. The Co-operative Society had not then taken their Market Square premises and at the time of the picture (1888) part of their site was a furniture



# Modernisation of century-old school

## cost



With their spirits in tune with the almost spring-like weather, these pupils of Colton School pose in their own way for the cameraman. Below: First and second year juniors find a temporary diversion during a geography lesson given by Mrs. D. R. Shaw.



A COMPLETELY new main building in Staffordshire is detracting from the ingenuity of the county architect is about to take place at negotiations between various

Extensions are to be built to the east and north of the existing school, constructed in 1912, without detracting from the pleasant character of the old building, which has an oak porch, a bell turret. Adding to the pleasant appearance are the creeper-clad walls, with diamond-paned windows lending an Elizabethan touch.

The work is to be carried out during this summer and is due for completion by early autumn. It will be facilitated by the temporary evacuation of the pupils to accommodation at Colwich School.

This evacuation was planned for Monday last but was delayed so that improved toilet facilities could be provided at Colwich. The proposed date for the move is February 18, and the work is prefaced by a day's visit to the children, while the staff supervise the moving of all the furniture and equipment to the new classes.

It is proving very useful to have redundant school buildings at Colwich, for the Great Western children were also housed there while their school was being modernised.

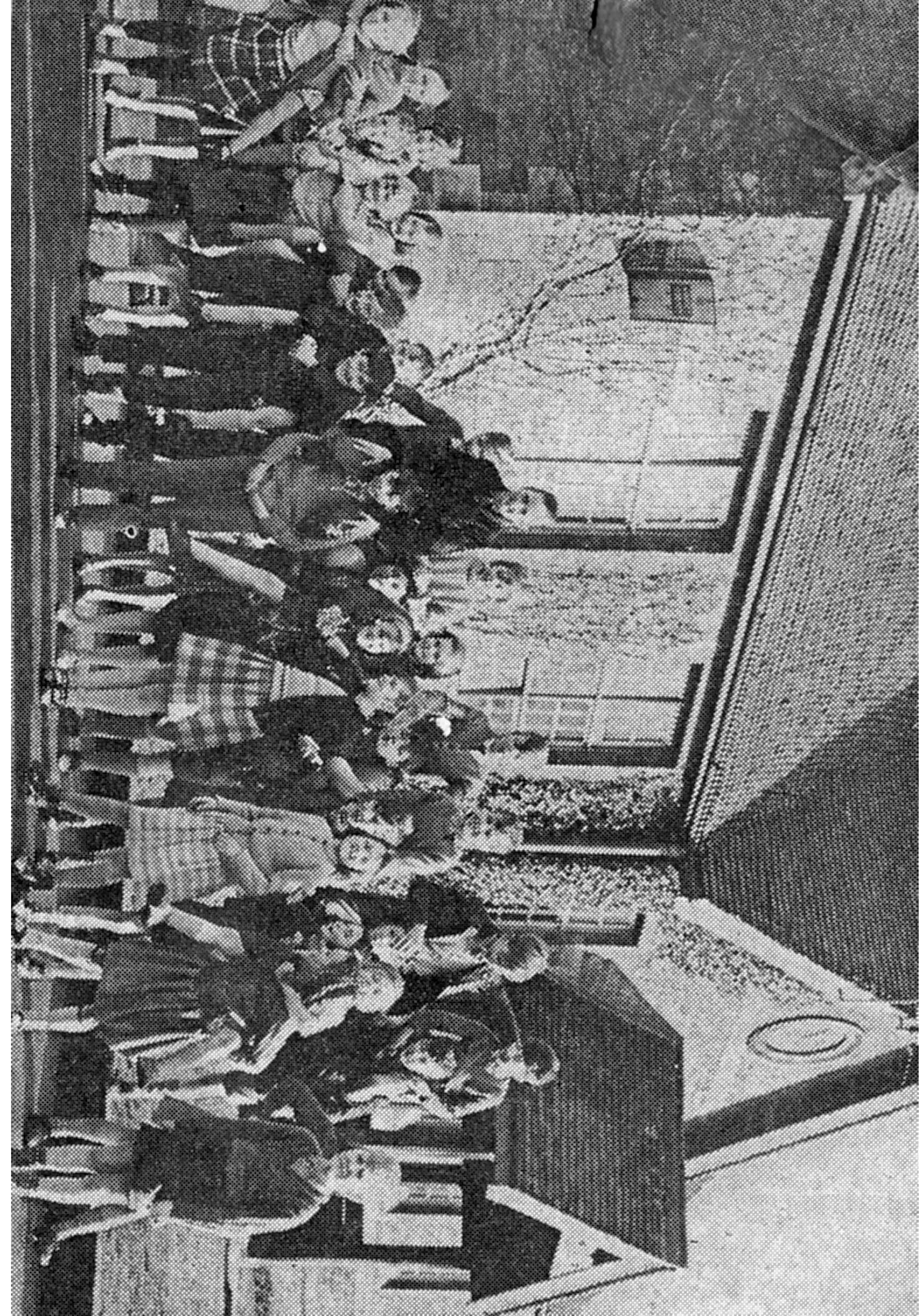
### DAILY TRIP

The children will now travel at Colton each morning and will be taken by bus to the new school for the day. They will be taught in separate classes from the Colwich children, who have a separate meal using the existing facilities.

Because of the alterations to be made to the School it would have













# Old Colton School will cost £25,000

ELY new rural school is frequently being created in Shire out of the shell of an old one, without the external characteristics, thanks to the county architect and his staff. Such a rejuvenation takes place at Colton, after years of protracted negotiations between various bodies.

to be built to the north of the existing school, which was built in 1862, with the old building, a clock tower, a porch, a clock tower. Adding to its appearance are the walls, with diamond-lending an Eliza-

to be carried out in the summer and is due for early autumn. It will be by the temporary school, the pupils to vacant at Colwich School.

on was planned for but was delayed so that toilet facilities could be provided. The latest for the move is and this will be a day's holiday for while the staff super- of all the furniture to Colwich in the resumption of

very useful to have school buildings at the Great Haywood also housed there school was being moder-

## LY TRIP

will meet as usual morning and will bus to their new day. There they will separate classrooms which children and will the mealtime, though the nature of the be made at Colton and have been impos-

sible for the children to remain there, explained the headmaster, Mr. D. E. Waters. The alterations involve, among other things, the demolition of the infants' classroom.

The school is an "aided" one belonging to St. Mary's Church, and the diocesan authorities will have to pay 25 per cent of the cost of the modernisation, the total cost being about £25,000.

Before the school was built Colton had three small schools. One was in the rector's barn, once a tithebarn, another was near the war memorial and still stands as two cottages, and the third was the property known as Webb's Cottages, in High Street, now due for demolition.

In the 102 years of the present school's existence it has had but five headmasters, and the last one, Mr. E. Broughton, was in charge for 36 years until his retirement in 1959, when Mr. Waters took over.

The present roll is 84 and the numbers are expected to increase as house building proceeds in the parish. Formerly the school was an all-age one, but now the 11-plus children who do not proceed to a grammar school are transported to Broadacres Secondary Modern School, Hixon.

Assisting Mr. Waters are Mrs. D. R. Shaw, who teaches the lower juniors, and Mrs. M. E. Toy, who has charge of the infants' class.

## NEW ROOMS

The modernisation plans include the retention of the two existing classrooms, which will be improved,



and the removal of the infants' room on the east, to make way for an entrance hall.

From this there will be three new rooms, the centre one being an activity room which can be opened up into either of the other two classrooms. It will serve as a hall and dining-room and be available for music, dancing, P.E. and the like. Through a hatch there will be direct communication with the kitchen at the rear.

The existing north room, which serves as a dining-room, will be converted into a corridor with toilets leading off, and there will be provision for a staff room, medical inspection and stores.

The exterior primitive toilets will be demolished and a road will be cut through the rear of the site to give direct access to the kitchen.

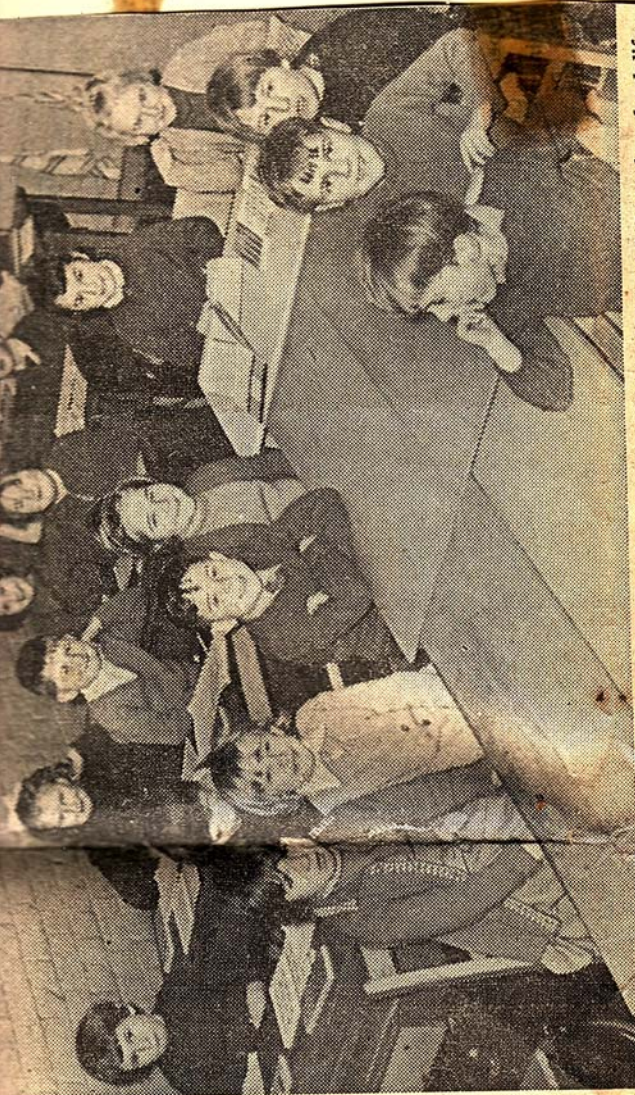
Thus 1964 seems likely to bring fruition to the hopes and plans that have occupied the Parochial Church Council, the rector and the staff, to say nothing of the parents of the pupils, for several years.

The attractive surroundings in which Colton School stands, seen in the picture above. The headmaster is seen with some of the girls during a P.E. lesson.

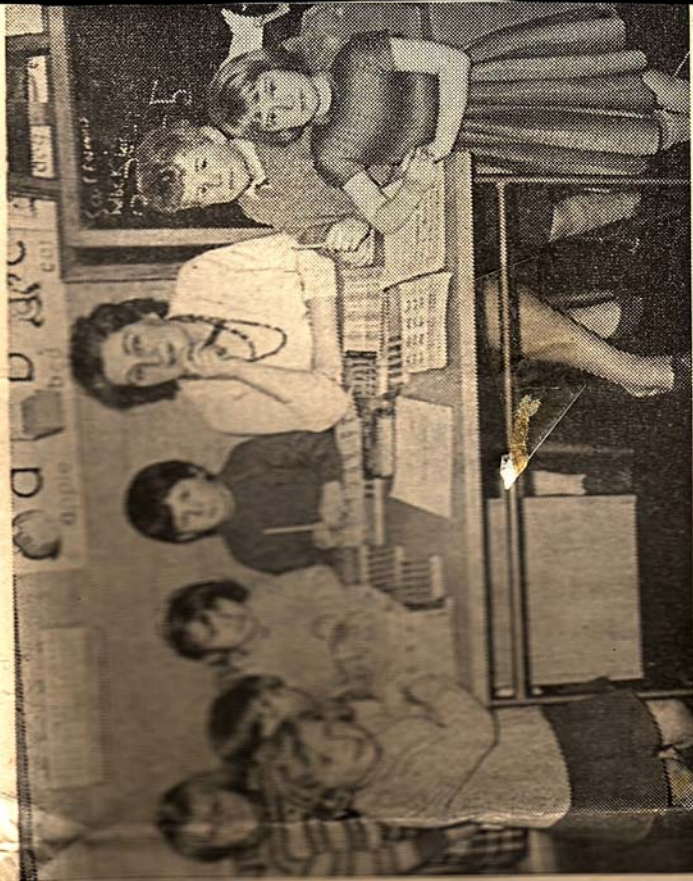
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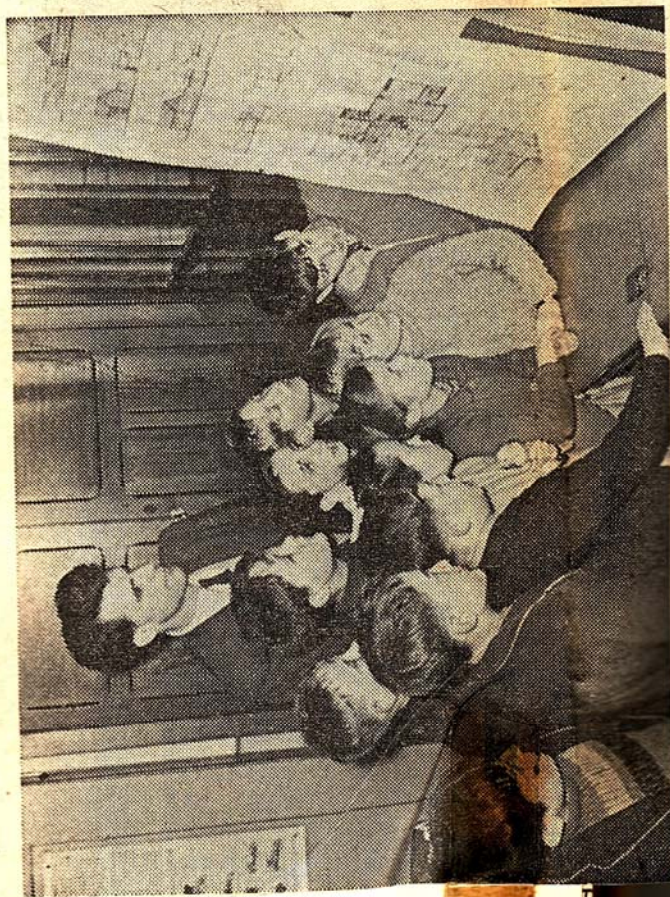




Quarters are rather cramped, but these infants (above) seem to be enjoying their early school life. Left: Mr. D. E. Waters (headmaster) shows a group of boys the plans for modernising their school.



Another group of infants find out all about numbers under the tuition of Mrs. M. E. Toy. The picture (left) shows children having their lunch in the "north" room, which at present serves as a canteen.





# NEGOTIATIONS OVER LAND DELAYS EXTENSION TO COLTON SCHOOL

A DEMAND for the County Council to put a compulsory purchase order on land needed for the modernisation of Colton Church School was made by the Parochial Church Council at their annual meeting on Thursday of last week.

The resolution was the culmination of a long discussion, during which it was decided that a letter should be sent expressing great

concern at the continued delay. It was mentioned that the children should have moved out of the school in February in readiness for work to commence, taking their lessons until autumn at Colwich School, but negotiations with the owner of a plot of land needed for the extensions appeared to have broken down.

The Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, said the delay was the "major disappointment" of the year. The temptation was to blame the church when, in fact, the blame lay elsewhere. Nevertheless, the continued delay did have unfortunate repercussions all round — "a state of affairs we heartily deplore," he said.

He thought it would not be prudent, even if funds were available, to continue at the present time with the churchyard extension until the land requirements for the school were settled.

## OTHER WORK

There were, however, other things which could be done if they had the funds — work in the cemetery which was outlined last year, and church decoration.

He thought a better means should be devised of sharing expenses between "housekeeping" church expenses and capital items and emphasised the freewill offering scheme. He also commended the covenant scheme, which he said had proved so successful in other churches.

"One of the reasons a gift day date has not yet been announced for this year is because it seems to me that the best gift for a church is a regular contribution to the total expenses of the church. Therein the covenant scheme, coupled with the freewill offering scheme, could provide the answer," he said.

The rector told the parishioners that the main achievement of the last year had been the completion of the £2,500 appeal fund which had averaged about £500 a year. If the present rate of progress was to be maintained some other means of financing capital was necessary.

"It is encouraging to note a significant, though small, increase

in church collections, and especially in the freewill offering scheme. Church collections were up by £42 and the fete income up by £7 on last year's figures," said the rector. In spite of the big "freeze", heating and lighting costs were down by £41, which seemed to confirm the wisdom of installing the electric heaters.

He said the number of communicants over the year, 1,128, remained about the same as in the previous year.

Miss D. A. Cooper (secretary) reported that there were now 245 names on the electoral roll. There was no election for membership of the Parochial Church Council because only five names were submitted for the eight seats — Mrs. G. F. Finnemore, Mrs. V. M. Towlson, Miss D. A. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. A. I. D. Collins.

The accounts for the appeal fund and the church expenses were adopted.

Earlier at the annual Vestry meeting, the rector paid tribute to the late Mrs. J. L. Taylor, deputy people's warden. He thanked all the church officers and said it was good to know that for 1,000 years and more the church life had been going on at Colton.

He nominated Mr. J. Tittensor as his warden, with Mr. D. E. Waters as deputy warden.

Mr. M. Williscroft, was re-elected people's warden, and the office of deputy people's warden was left vacant for the time being.

Messrs. B. Bettson, C. M. Boycott, A. N. Felton and W. A. Norman, together with the officers, were appointed sidesmen, with the assistance of Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mrs. H. A. Williscroft, Miss E. Rotchell and the Mothers' Union enrolling member (still to be appointed) as lady collectors.

## Colton Road improvement is given priority

THE road improvement to be carried out at Colton Road, near Trent Valley Station, will consist of a diversion of the road six feet away from the wall. This will allow a continuous footpath to be constructed round the dangerous bend which has been the subject of protracted negotiations, a petition and a question in the House of Commons.

In order to carry out this scheme a small area of adjoining agricultural land will be acquired. Mr. Julian Snow, M.P., has been informed by the clerk to the county council. The cost including the roadworks, will be £2,300.

The clerk has informed Mr. Snow that the Roads and Bridges Committee have allocated the scheme priority in the list of schemes to be carried out on classified roads during the next financial





Because of delay in settlement of a site for Colton School extension, the Parochial Church Council are reserving the plot of land near Colton Church (left of the picture), earmarked for a burial ground, in case a new school has to be built. Alternative plans for extending the existing cemetery were discussed last night (Friday) at a parish "emergency" meeting, as only two grave spaces remain in the cemetery.

## 'Grave' problem is facing Colton emergency meeting

A MATTER of life and death confronting Colton needs to be settled very soon — before three more villagers die, in fact. For unless they are cremated, there will be nowhere in the parish where the third can be buried.

It was at Friday's meeting of Colton Parochial Church Council that attention was drawn to the urgency of the situation by the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson. He said there was now only room in the cemetery for two new graves, though there would be room for many more cremated remains.

The view was expressed that the question of a parish burial ground was one which all should be involved in, not only the P.C.C., who in any case had not sufficient funds to undertake any large-scale development.

If the P.C.C. had to carry out the work, it would mean the "same few" bearing the burden, members claimed.

Outcome of the discussion was a resolution that the Parish Council be asked to call a public emergency meeting as soon as possible.

Several years ago, a site near

the church was earmarked for burial ground extension, but this has not been proceeded with because of another and even more pressing problem—the need for a new or modernised school.

This, too, has been held up owing to the difficulty of obtaining land for the necessary extension of the existing school. The site is now the subject of a compulsory purchase order, following a parish meeting held six months ago and attended by the director of education, Mr. J. H. P. Oxspring.

The rector told the "Times" this week that the school managers, had already put forward alternative proposals which, in the event of the compulsory purchase order not being confirmed would involve the land previously designated as a churchyard extension being used for a new school and playing field.

Mr. Towlson went on to explain that the P.C.C. had therefore ground over an alternative burial site to be discussed at a public meeting.

If a retaining wall would tide on the western boundary, and the ground falls away, and the level was backfilled up to the cemetery, the remainder of the 30 to 40 graves, he explained, of adjoining

## A Rugeley man's dream comes true

AT the age of 12, a Colton boy was finding scrap cycles and around Rugeley, rebuilding and painting them and then selling them at a Lichfield auction. And now, just 11 years later the same boy is an example of "local boy makes good." For he owns a brand new garage right in the centre of Rugeley.

Anson Garage—until recently a wooden front with a corrugated iron roof propped up between the walls of adjoining buildings, now a shiny showroom—is owned by the man who used to sell cycles, 23 years-old Colin James Sargeant.

It was in February of this year that work started on pulling down the old Anson Garage, Anson Street. Colin had been quoted £4,500 for doing this and building a new showroom. He engaged his own labour and did exactly the same job for £2,000. Now four months later, the garage is fully equipped again and is changed beyond all recognition.

Although he has always been a car enthusiast Colin's first job was as a shop assistant "I stuck that, until I was nearly 17," he said. Then I got a job as an agricultural worker with Staffordshire Farmers and this gave me some of the background I needed.

Then bought some secondhand riding tackle and an old bench and started to work for at home in my spare time on agricultural repairs." When almost 19 Colin gave up his job and started in business on at his parents' home, Heath Farm, Colton, Leicestershire. In September 1962, his father, he sunk the then run-down

over the garage he and not much built it up





The boys' urinal. "Summer is a time we dread," says headmaster Waters

# The school where they

## DREAD SUM

**THE big day had almost arrived.**

Everything was set for a start on the long-awaited extensions to the 1862 church school at Colton.

The builders' hut had arrived.

Arrangements had been made for the children to have their lessons at Colwich school, three miles away, while the work was in progress.

But then came disappointment for the Colton school staff and their 88 pupils.

"Somebody said — 'But we haven't got the land' — and so the whole idea had to be scotched", explained the headmaster, Mr. Donald Waters this week.

The blow fell over 11 weeks ago. And this week the children were still at their desks in the "old-look" Colton school.

Mr. Waters talked to the Advertiser about "dreadful" toilet facilities at the school. And some of the school's other problems.

The brick-built toilets at the back of the school have no sewer system. There are eight earth closets and a urinal for the boys.

"Summer is a time we dread" said Mr. Waters, whose seven-year-old is among the school's pupils.

Mr. Waters made it clear that the school caretaker made the best of a bad job. The toilets he said, were kept clean and regularly disinfected. Even though the caretaker had to work by candlelight during the winter.

Mr. Waters continued: "The cloakrooms are my next headache".

He explained that on a wet day there was no way of getting the children's clothes dry, as the coats were hung so close together. Sixty children had to use one small cloakroom, he said.

In another, smaller, cloakroom are two of the four wash-basins which make up the washing facilities. Only cold water is on tap for the children and teaching staff.

In an alcove next to the room used as a dining-hall however, there is an electric



Chairman of the the land



Children, happy and classrooms. But other

water heater reserved for the use of people who handle food. Another problem for Mr. Waters — playing field facilities.

The school has a playground but no games field. "We are a village school in a farming area, yet we haven't a field to play in. These children have no way of letting off steam", said Mr. Waters.

When it is wet outside the children have games in a room indoors. This room also serves for music and movement classes, and as a dining hall.

Two of the school's three classrooms each house about 30 pupils. The other, a much smaller room, holds about 20 of the younger children.

"In the smaller classroom there is not enough room for a proper blackboard" remarked Mr. Waters.

Unshaded light bulbs pro



A youngster helps clean



Youngsters crowd into the cramped cloakroom to hang up their coats

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THE Colton school is a Church of England aided school and the Church is therefore responsible for any modernisations or alterations.

Staffordshire County Council subject to Ministry approval pays 75 per cent of the cost of any work undertaken. The Church pays the rest.



Man of the manor, Mr. Towlson, gazes towards the school across the land on which he hopes a new building will rise

# summer!



Happy and alert in one of the larger But other conditions are not so good

ved for the use handle food. em for Mr. g field facili-

as a play- games field. age school in et we haven't in. These way of letting Mr. Waters. outside the es in a room n also serves vement clas- g hall. hool's three ouse about er, a much s about 24 ren.

classroom room for a remarked

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elps clear the dirty dishes

however, offered to part with the site if the Church would sell him some other land. This offer, he said, had been turned down.

During the meeting, Mr. Waters lashed out at a recently-published county council brochure which dealt with the progress of education building in the county.

"In the face of all this, the county council has the effrontery to send me a fabulous brochure, illustrating the beautiful schools up and down the county", he declared.

He said that when he showed the brochure to his staff, the general reaction was to give it him straight back, or put it in "an odd corner".

"And there are plenty of odd corners around here" added Mr Waters.

Another man with strong views about the school is the Rector of Colton, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, chairman of the school managers.

He told the Advertiser this week that the managers had now found an alternative proposal.

They wanted a new school put up on a site opposite the present school on land belonging to the Church. This he said would cost about £40,000, in comparison with about £24,000 for the modernisation plans.

county council and the rest by the Church. The old school building could then be made into a village hall or church, suggested Mr. Towlson.

He said it was the responsibility of the county council to obtain the land for any improvements, and they (the council) had been "bending over backwards" for the past six years to do this.

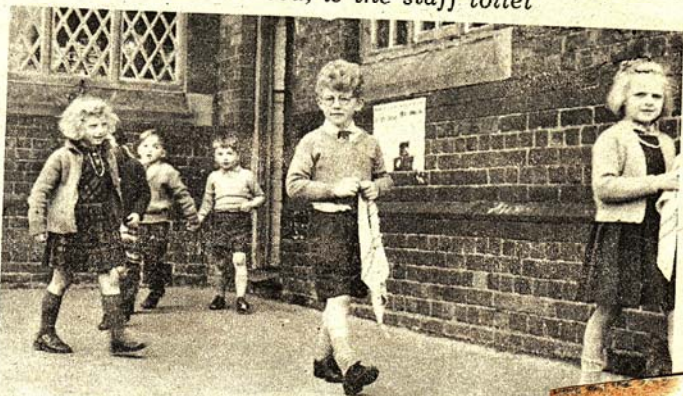
On the other hand, the county council had been reluctant to take out a compulsory purchase order, and so the question had reached a deadlock.

Councillor John Oxford, chairman of the education committee before the county council reshuffle, told the Advertiser that the council "deeply regretted" the delay in modernising the school.

"We have wanted to do that job desperately for some years but friction between one side and another prevented us" he said.



One of the eight earth closets. On the left, its door closed, is the staff toilet



Lunch is over and off go the youngsters to their hands — in cold water





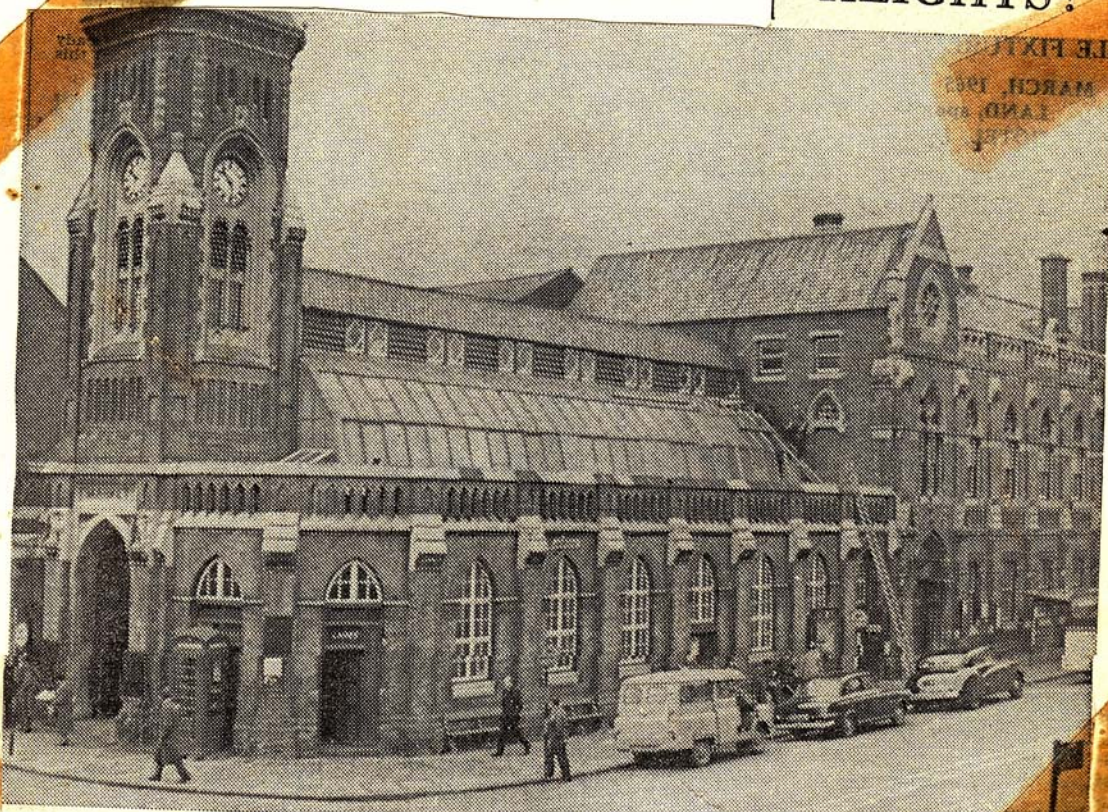
**H**ARVEST festival services at Colton last weekend commenced on Friday with the school service, conducted by the Rev. A. S. Towlson (rector), who received the children's gifts at the altar. Many parents and friends attended the service, at which the lesson was read by the headmaster, Mr.

D. E. Waters and the organ played by one of the teachers, Mrs. D. R. Shaw. Two pupils, Kevin Waters and Maxwell Cooper, took the collection.

Sunday services began with a sung Eucharist and continued with a well-attended evening service followed by Holy Communion. The

rector conducted the services, with Mrs. G. E. Finnemore playing the organ. The lesson at the evening service was read by Mr. J. C. Price and the address was given by Mr. Waters. Collections were for the church expenses fund and gifts were sent to the elderly afterwards.

## WUTHERING HEIGHTS!





June 1965

# The sun graces Colton wedding



**MR. JOHN FINNEMORE**, only son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Finnemore, of Hurst Wood Farm, Blithbury Road, Rugeley, was married on Saturday to Miss Janet Ann Rowley, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Rowley, of Elm View, 3, Brereton Hill Lane, near Rugeley.

The ceremony took place at St. Mary's Colton, and the Rev. A. S. Houlston (rector) officiated. The bride was given away by her father. She wore a full-length dress of white wild silk on classic lines with a train and bouffant veil, a

flowers. She carried a bouquet of pale pink rosebuds and lilies of the valley.

The bridesmaids were the Misses Margaret and Muriel Finnemore (bridegroom's sisters) and Jane Barber (bride's cousin). They wore full-length dresses of turquoise corded satin made on classic lines with white head-dresses and accessories. They carried posies of pale pink rosebuds, freesias and lilies of the valley.

Mr. Richard Froggatt was best man.

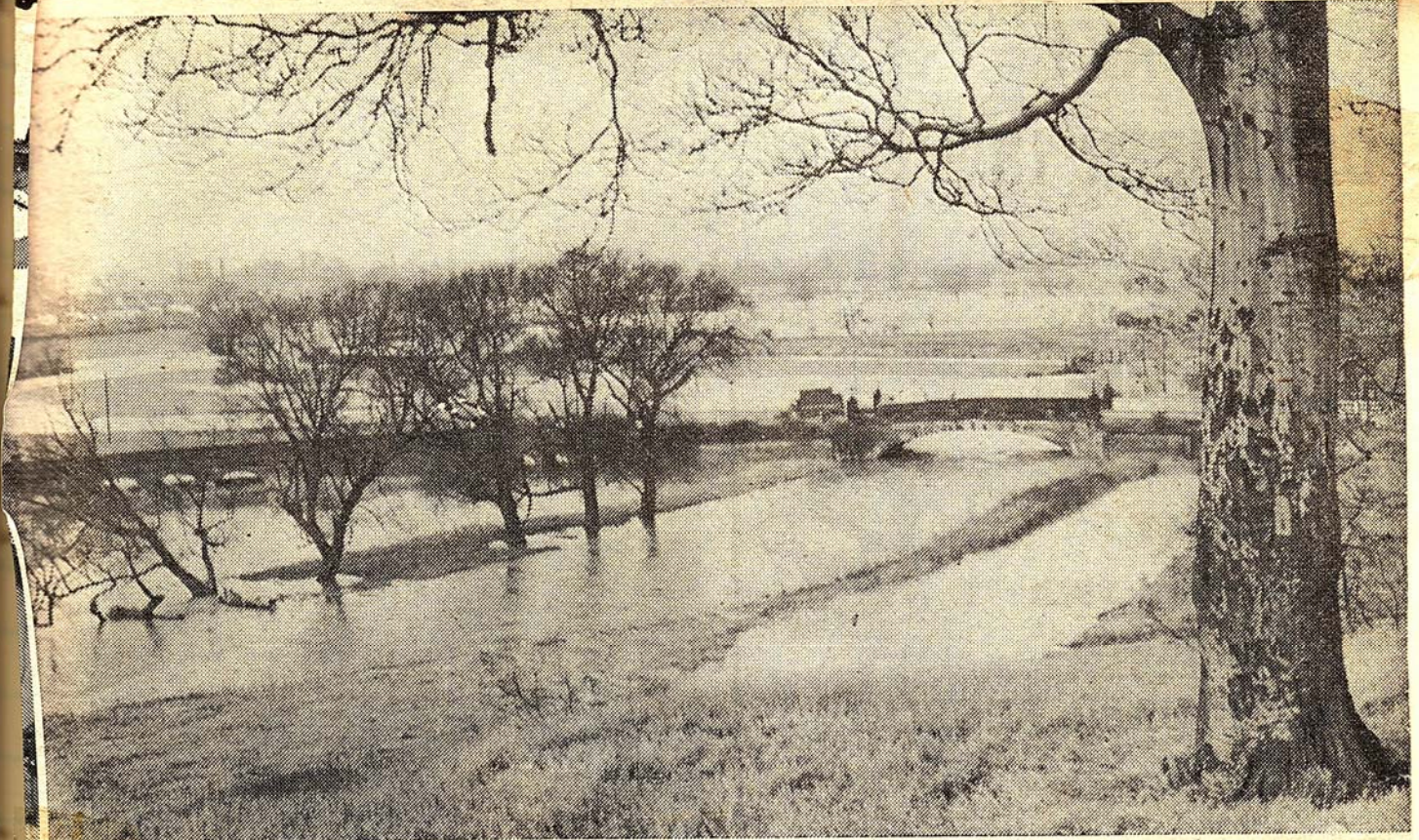
The bridegroom is in business as an agricultural contractor and

the bride is a hair stylist with Betty Stevens, Rugeley. The couple are seen above with the vicar and an attractive group of choir girls.

**KING'S BROMLEY WHIST DRIVE**



# COLTON WAS CUT OFF



Rugeley washlands of the Trent were certainly awash on Friday with most of the low lying land flooded. Some of the farming areas were covered to a depth of two feet. The picture was taken from the Quarry near Trent Valley Station. Below: The occupants of this bungalow in Colton Road, Rugeley, found their back garden turned into a lake overnight.



Although these floods along the Colton road had subsided a lot on Friday, most vehicles still had difficulty in getting to Colton.



## FLOODS FOLLOW DOWNPOUR

This week's heavy rains brought flooding to the areas skirting Rugeley. As is usual at such times, Colton villagers were virtually narrowed.

On Thursday, flooding of Moreton Brook at the village ford, and at Blithbury Road, made a long detour necessary for many motorists. The "wise" ones made the journey via Bank Top and Armitage.

Fields were under water and roads beneath the railway bridge were also flooded.

## Rugeley districts flooded

LIKE so many other areas of the country, the Rugeley district had its share of flooding last week, centred mainly around the low-lying Trent Valley.

Colton was cut off from Rugeley on Thursday evening last, and on Friday only high-built vehicles could get through. Residents of Colton working in Rugeley had to go home through Armitage—an extra six miles' journey.

Mr. George Atkin, of The Lount Farm, Colton, said that all his low-lying meadow ground was flooded to a depth of two feet. "I managed to get around the farm on a tractor," he added.

The cellar of Wilf and Rosa's Tavern, Colton Road, was flooded on Friday last, and Rugeley Fire were called to pump out the water.

Despite these conditions, however, the water did not cause any serious inconvenience and one Colton resident told the "Times": "We have got used to it now."

On the other side of Rugeley there was some flooding at Longdon where the Red Lion cellar was pumped out by firemen from Lichfield.

The road to Hednesford was partially blocked at times and flood warning signs were in evidence in other outlying areas.

Dec: 1965



## Armitage site has modern amenities

A FEW years ago there were just fields at the rear of Lower Lodge, Armitage (now known as the Old Farmhouse Restaurant) but now it is a site for 88 residential caravans. With hard standing, roads, lights, water and sewers; with an inn, a restaurant, a filling station and a small shop handy, the area has become a miniature housing estate.

Developer of the site, which formerly held only a few caravans with fewer amenities, is Mr. J. W. H. Grimley, a Rugeley farmer, of Westring, Etching Hill. "It cost me a little fortune to develop this site properly and bring it up to the standard required for a residential site today," he told the "Times."

But he managed it, after long, frustrating delays patiently borne by those living there at the time. Now each caravan has its own hard standing, a concrete storehouse and toilet block. Beyond are 12 acres of fields on which children may play in safety away from the dangers of public roads.

The people living there seem contented and many would not swap their way of living for a house. Others, on contract work are in the area for perhaps only a year or two, while a job lasts, and for them caravan life in country is the best of two worlds.

## Third time lucky

IT was a third-time-lucky win for Stowe - by - Chartley farmer, 43-year-old Mr. John MacKellar this week.

For on Tuesday it was announced that Mr. MacKellar's 185 head of Ayrshire cattle had won the top award in the Staffordshire Agricultural Society county herds competition.

Mr. MacKellar of Drointon Farms, Stowe-by-Chartley, came third in the competition last year and took fifth place the year before.

"I thought they had quite a good chance this time," he told the Advertiser.

Mr. MacKellar's cattle also received first prize in the herds of over 150 head, and a certificate of merit.

Besides being a big dairy farmer, Mr. MacKellar also farms 130 acres of corn, and keeps a herd of large white pigs.

## Colton school gets go-ahead

AFTER years of negotiations, the modernisation scheme for St. Mary's Church School, Colton, can now go ahead. The firm of solicitors acting for Mr. S. Handford, owner of the adjoining 1.3 acres of farmland needed for the extensions, said this week that plans were now being forwarded to the Minister of Education.

It was in February 1964, that the century-old school was to be enlarged and modernised, including the replacement of the primitive earth toilets with modern sanitation and the building of new classrooms, dining room and kitchen for the 80 pupils. All the arrangements were made, down to transferring the children to another school while work was in progress, when it was discovered that the purchase of the essential land had not been completed.

Protracted negotiations followed with Mr. Handford. Then Mr. Julian Snow, M.P. for Lichfield and Tamworth, took up the matter. He wrote to Mr. Dennis Howell, M.P., and was told that revised plans were being drawn up, modifying the compulsory purchase order to suit both sides.

A spokesman for Mr. Handford's solicitors emphasised this week that there had been no delay on their part in dealing with the matter.

### OUTSTANDING

"The only matter which seemed to me to be outstanding was the question of the plan," he said. "This has been dealt with and the matter can go ahead in the normal way."

The spokesman said that it had been alleged that they had failed to reply to correspondence despite being pressed by the Minister.

"The true position is that the last letter from the Minister to us was received on June 1 and he then forwarded to us a copy of a plan showing revised boundaries. We replied to this letter on June 3, informing the Minister that the plan had been sent to our client's surveyor for approval," he continued. "We have not received any further letters from the Minister until this morning's post and in these circumstances it will be clear that we have not failed to reply to letters and that there has been no

owner has approved the plans for the revised layout then the matter rests in the hands of the Minister to sign the order."

(Continued on Page 5)

## COLTON SCHOOL GO-AHEAD

(Continued from Page 1)

After hearing of the go-ahead at their meeting on Thursday, Colton Parish Council decided to petition the Minister to prevent further delays.

Councillor Hardcastle said "We have achieved something at last and we must not let it slip from our grasp now."

The new clerk, Mr. G. K. Horne, read a letter which had been sent by Staffordshire County Council to the Ministry of Education saying that the situation at the school had been aggravated by a recent outbreak of dysentery.

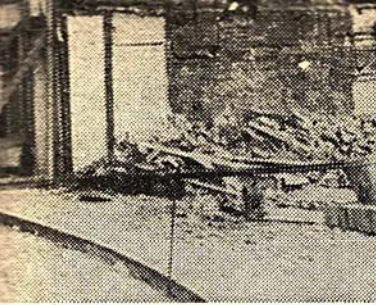
Councillor Mrs. J. Toy commented that the outbreak did not start at the school but since it had caused concern among parents it was mainly responsible for the hurried action over the order.

"It is disgraceful, however, that we had to wait for an outbreak of dysentery before anything should happen," she declared.

Last (Friday) night parish councillors were touring shops, public houses and outlying areas with notices and petition papers.

A general view (above) of Lower Lodge, Armitage, and the developer is asking for 88 mobile homes





the sad and shored-up "Rugeley" taken on Tuesday after council Bow Street. Below: A bulldozer is towards the building during demolishing premises a few days earlier.



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...were found to be damaged and unusable. Holes had appeared in both roofs, and the approach was ankle-deep in bricks and broken tiles flung from an adjacent building on which a demolition gang was working.

On the following Tuesday, returning somewhat apprehensively from their Spring Bank Holiday, reporters were alarmed when water began dripping ominously through the ceiling of their first-floor office and rapidly spread to the shop below.

Basins and buckets were set to catch the shower, which stopped abruptly as it

from the taps. Swift investigation showed that a ball-cock had been removed, apparently by mistake.

That little difficulty was soon ironed out, and staff resumed work. They were quickly devising ways of combating the problems caused by demolition work only a few feet away.

#### WATCHING CROWD

The situation had not changed by Wednesday, but on Thursday afternoon, when a bulldozer was introduced to the scene, it reduced the staff to a state of permanent nervous tension. The machine removed rubble around the building's foundations, then began to demolish walls the men had left untouched. At first the staff worked on, then worried for their safety, temporarily evacuated the offices and joined the watching crowd outside.

But they still had a deadline to meet. Spurred on by the Editor, in Walsall, they returned to work after demolition men had said the building was safe — although watching police advised against it. Minutes later they left again, taking with them the tools of their trade — notebooks and pens — plus shopping, handbags, and the cash box from the advertising department.

After half an hour the all clear persuaded them back, though reluctantly. They evacuated the office minutes later, grabbing up unfinished stories as they left — these were hastily completed by hand on the counter of a nearby shop. Ringing telephones were for once ignored as staff made another hurried exit.

A reporter and the receptionist returned for forgotten pot plants and the office diary — "the newspaper's bible" — and our photographer mana-

crunch really came. A large crack, opening on to the street and demolished buildings below, appeared on the staircase at the 'Times' office. At last reporters and advertising staff were ordered to move out and began to remove office equipment, files, furniture, and anything else they thought necessary. A supply of freshly printed newspapers, ready for distribution to newsagents, were brought from Walsall as usual — the van man stopped and helped with moving operations and did not leave until early evening.

The chief reporter cut short his holiday and returned to the office to help. Eventually everything possible had been transported to alternative premises at Park House, Crossley Stone. Things were still in a turmoil on Monday this week, but eventually offices were allocated, belongings were distributed to their respective owners, and the advertising and editorial staffs settled down to life in their new, if temporary, home. Telephone lines have been transferred and staff can be contacted through the old numbers, Rugeley 3355-6.

The 'Times' thanks everyone who helped with the removals or assisted in any way during Thursday's chaotic afternoon and the even more confused happenings of Friday.

#### Trees fired

Rugeley Fire Brigade fought a blaze believed to have been started deliberately, involving an acre of trees at Wandon Crossroads, for three hours, into the early hours of Sunday morning. A mile away in the direction of Gentleshaw, more trees and timber were ablaze at the rear of Northgate Lodge, Longdon.

## Colton not opposing quarry

No objection is to be raised to an application to turn 75 acres of farmland at Bellamour Lodge Farm, Colton into a sand and gravel quarry, Colton Parish Council decided at a recent meeting. The chairman, Councillor A. V. Hardcastle used his casting vote.

The decision was subject to an assurance being given that no traffic from the workings would pass through the village.

The land is owned by Councillor A. C. Price, who told fellow members that by working 10 and a half hours a day, five hours on a Saturday, 155,000 tons of gravel would be produced in a year.

Oct. 1970  
"It is in my interests, living and farming there, to make this, if possible, a model working site," he said.

Workings would operate for about 11 years and plant would be sunk below ground level, he said, adding that the likelihood of lorries going through the village would be negligible.

Councillor G. Sanders warned that the encroachment into the countryside could be "the thin end of the wedge."

"There are other gravel beds around here and it could create a precedent," he said.

Councillor Price retired while councillors discussed the proposals.





*Mrs. Freda Shipley and her daughter Patsy in the Great Conservatory.*

ing Centre, Brentford, Middlesex. Although the Gardening Centre is only two years old, Syon itself has a long history.

It was near Syon that Julius Caesar is reported to have crossed the Thames in 54 B.C. Recorded

Westminster was buried. Syon times, but it had a culture.



*In the rose garden—a blaze of colour.*

*Dec 28<sup>th</sup> 1970*

## COLTON WEDDING

**Mr. D. Bradbury  
—Miss D. Cooper**

The wedding took place at St. Mary's Church, Colton, on Monday between Mr. David John Bradbury of Rugeley and Miss Dorothy Alice Cooper of Colton, a teacher at Nursery Fields School, Brereton.

Mr. Bradbury is the elder son of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Bradbury of Brindley Bank Pumping Station. He is head of the technical sales department at a Stafford firm. Mr. Bradbury is a member of the North Staffs. Traction Engine Club and the Salop Steam Engine Society and was an instigator of the Traction Engine Rallies which became the popular Midlands Festival of Steam.



Miss Cooper lives at Bank Top, Colton, and is the younger daughter of the late Mr. F. W. Cooper and of Mrs. E. A. Cooper. She is a Colton churchwarden and was clerk of the Colton parochial church council.

Given away by Mr. C. E. Hall, her headmaster, the bride wore a long dress of white crystal satin and carried an all-white bouquet of carnations and freesias.

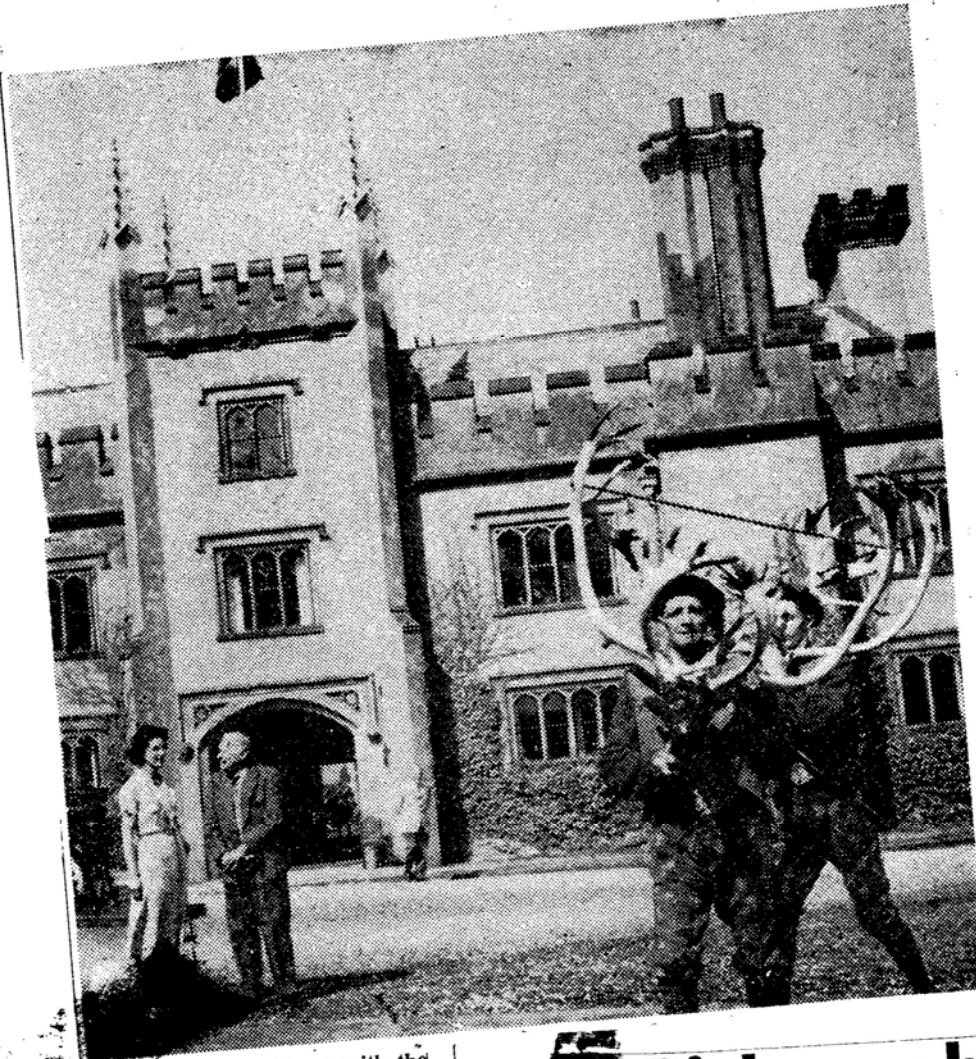
She was attended by her sister, Miss Marjorie Cooper, and by Miss Monica Conner, a friend, who wore long dresses of peacock velvet and carried bouquets of gold roses and freesias.

Mr. John Bradbury, bridegroom's brother, was best man, and the groomsmen were Mr. C. E. Shelley and Mr. G. R. Cox. The Rev. A. G. Clough officiated.

The couple left for their honeymoon after a reception for about 110 guests at the Cedar Tree Hotel, Brereton. They will live at High Street, Colton.



1960



Lord and Lady Bagot with the national horn dance at Blithfield Hall, Rugeley, today.

## An ancient dance at Rugeley Hall

**A**BBOTS BROMLEY'S horn dancers performed their ancient ritual on the lawn at Blithfield Hall, Rugeley, today—11 days before the hall is sold by auction.

Led by spritely 73-year-old Mr. Jim Fowell, the 12 dancers were greeted at the hall by Lord and Lady Bagot, who leave for their nine-month Australian holiday on Saturday.

Today's visit to the hall will not be the dancers' last. Breaking her complete silence over the sale for the first time, Lady Bagot said the hall would be open to the public next summer.

After their first performance in Abbots Bromley market place, early this morning, the dancers set out on their 16-mile tour of nearby farms and houses. They were at Blithfield Hall for lunch and will continue their round until well into the evening.

The dance is very much a Fowell family affair. The dancers included Jim's sons, Dennis and Douglas, and grandsons Michael Fowell (12) and Barry Thacker (16).

The family has been associated with the dancing for well over 400 years.

## Bishop christens Blithfield baby



**F**OR the first time in nearly 100 years a baby's gurgle will be heard in the redecorated nursery of Blithfield "the stately home that's homely."

On Tuesday Lord and Lady Bagot's newly-adopted baby was christened Caryl Rosemary by the Bishop of Shrewsbury. And it was the first Bagot baptism in the estate's 13th century church since 1864.

"We have regretted very much having no children to enjoy our lovely home," said Lady Bagot. "She has brought us great happiness and we hope she will be equally happy."

"Cara"

ing cake — it was made with the same mixture used for Princess Margaret's wedding cake.

The confectioners found they had some of the wedding cake mixture left over, so they made some more with it. Caryl's was the last of the batch.

Friends from all over the county drove to Blithfield Hall on Tuesday to share in the welcome to "Baby of Blithfield."





With thanks and appreciation to  
The Cooper family  
for allowing us to copy their scrap book