

RUGELEY TIMES

**COLTON
VILLAGE**

**In the
NEWS**

Press Cuttings Volume V

A social event which is part of Colton life

Church funds increased by about £104 after a fete held on Saturday in the grounds of Colton Rectory. Nancy, Lady Bagot performed the opening ceremony at the village's 29th fete, and was afterwards presented with a bouquet of flowers by Heather Taylor, aged 11, of 10, High Street, Colton.

Lady Bagot said the fete had the well-deserved reputation of being an enjoyable social event and a means of raising money for church funds. It had become a part of the lives of those who had visited it for many years.

Speaking of the Rector and Mrs. Towilson's forthcoming move to Longton, Lady Bagot mentioned some of the outstanding improvements Mr.

Towilson had made in the two parishes. Two years ago Colton won the Best Kept Churchyard competition -- when the Towilsons first arrived in Colton the churchyard and the Rectory garden were a wilderness, she said.

"The Rector made many of the improvements with his own hands. The well-kept churchyard reminds us of the far sightedness with which he made order and beauty out of chaos, and of the faithful and willing helpers who came to aid him with this great task," Lady Bagot said.

CHURCH SCHOOL

She spoke of the church school which seemed at one time in danger of being lost, but said Mr. Towilson fought on and the village now had a modern school. At Blithfield the story had been the same. Lady Bagot said: "Many improvements had been made in the church and the churchyard had been tidied."

"During the time the Rector and his wife have lived amongst us we have been able to see the Christian way of life in their lives," she said.

"They have laughed with us and wept with us, and I know a number of parishioners feel, as I do, that no one could wish for truer or more sympathetic

face of adversity. I know you would like me to wish them happiness and good health in their new home to which they will be going shortly, and to thank them for all they have done here."

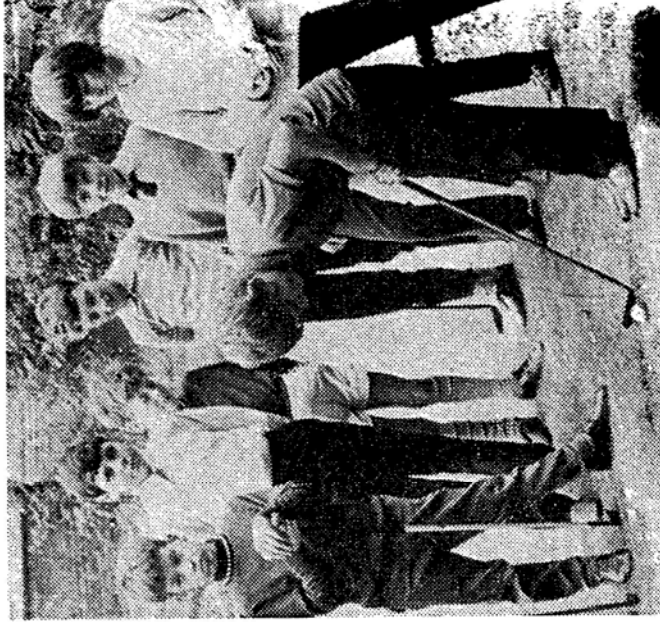
TREASURE MAP

Everyone seemed to enjoy the fete. There was a brisk trade in cakes and bread at the home-made cakes stall, but for those who preferred action to spending there was a golf and bowling, with pony rides for the children.

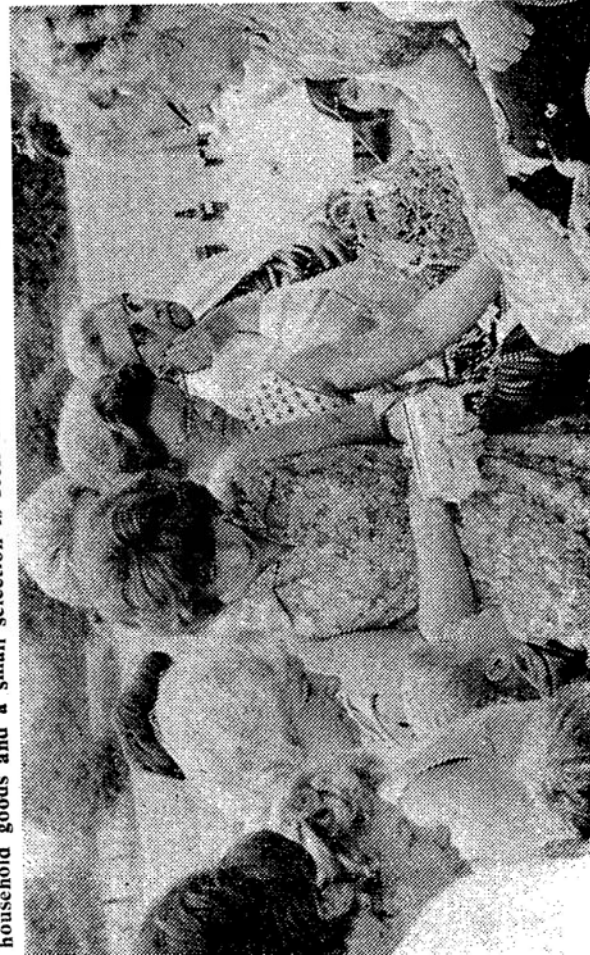
The Rector won the treasure map competition and raffle winners were Miss A. Vernon (sherry), Mrs. D. Deacon (Dundee cake), Dawn Hurd (teddy bear), and Mrs. G. W. Cooper (groceries).

Stallholders were: Mrs. M. S. Toy and Mrs. J. M. Chilton (cakes); Miss E. Rotchell, Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, Mrs. D. M. Atkin and Mrs. M. J. Taylor (produce); Mr. and Mrs. J. James and Miss A. James (bring and buy and treasure map); Mrs. L. Curtis (tombola); Miss D. M. Jones (clock golf); Mr. B. Bettson, Mr. W. Willis (bowls); Miss D. Kendrick (pony rides); Miss S. Atkin (pony rides); Mr. C. L. Ravenscroft (gate

Nancy Lady Bagot, officially opened Colton garden fete. Seen above are, from left, Lady Bagot's daughter, Cara, Miss D. Cooper, church warden, Mr. D. Bradbury, Lady Bagot, Heather Taylor of High Street, Colton, and the Rector and Mrs. Towilson.



loophole is easy if you have the knack of throwing the ring just so -- this boy looks optimistic but we wonder if he ringed that prize. Colton fete offered lots to buy. There were home-made pickles, jams, cakes and bread, potted plants, groceries, books, toys, ornaments, household goods and a small selection is seen below.



The spare, spread-branches of this oak tree pictured in near Blithfield Hall stark reminder to the ways of nature. The surrounding hedges are spout-fresh Spring foliage the old oak lives out its days in a state of constant Autumn.

Two more rotting pictured in the same. No tree preservation can save the gaunt skeletons from their final fate. Their barks peeled and cracked, soon may be considered too safe to be left standing.

Colton main road to have new name

What is in a name? At Colton, quite a lot. Half the village's main street — the lower half — is to be named Beaman Way, the parish council has agreed. And the top half of the road? That will continue to be known as High Street.

The re-naming is planned because of a move to new houses and so ease confusion and local authority. In Colton at present some houses are numbered and some are not. Some are known by names, such as Lionheart Cottage.

Residents will be able to use their old names.

Mr. G. Bradley of Rugeley, guest speaker at the last meeting of Blithfield Mothers' Union, gave a talk on his visit to the Passion Play at Oberammergau last year.

The meeting was held at Newton village hall, and a short service with hymns preceded Mr. Bradley's talk. He also showed films of his holiday. A vote of thanks to him was proposed by Mrs. G. Bradley.

Is he the oldest man still working?

Although his son retired a year ago, 87 years-old Mr. Edward B. Upton is still doing a week's work in his butchers' shop in Albion Street — with no thought yet of retirement!

Mr. Upton has been in the butchery trade since he was 10 years old, and in that time he has noticed many changes. "Meat I paid £12 for when I first started would now cost

He has worked as a butcher at five places. His first 12 months in the

trade were spent at Birmingham. He then worked for two years at Armitage.

Although a little uncertain of the dates, Mr. Upton says he moved to a shop at Horse Fair just before the turn of the century. Then, after marrying in 1911, he went to premises at Lower Brook Street. He was called up in the army in 1915 and after service

present financial state. The hall was built in 1878 and it was used extensively, together with the adjoining market hall, until the last decade, when public entertainment fashions began to change.

There were regular Friday and Saturday night dances packed to the doors, the Saturday ones starting because of a waiting list for Friday nights. These were held in a rooming hall and eventually a compromise agreement that the Town Hall would only have a Saturday dance once a fortnight. This seems to have been the beginning of the decline — plus rock and roll changing the style of dances and dancers.

Next came the new floor and stage improvements, accompanied by an increased rental and several restrictions, including a limitation on numbers for safety reasons. And bookings began to drop.

Moves to get the hall used more have included council-sponsored events through an entertainments manager, but these did not meet with success. Moves to get it used by a Brighter Rugeley committee were also thwarted. The building of several local clubs and the improvement of drama facilities in schools also resulted in a decline in Town Hall bookings.

There are many ways in which the hall could still be used. As it is a focal centre with an clocktower it would be a pity to lose it. Surely it can be maintained by the council as an unprofitable asset like the park and ground?

benefit of agriculture at the Newark and Nottingham County Show recently.

The firm, Agricultural Requisites and Mechanizations Ltd., of Colton Road, entered a roundhouse piggery invented and designed in 1963 by Mr. G. W. Cooper, and developed and marketed by the firm. There are 45 in use throughout Britain.

The trophy — a silver vase, rose bowl, presented to by Mr. G. W. Cooper, president of the firm. An inscribed scroll was also presented to the firm.

There were about 20 entries in the competition coming from a 30-mile radius, including some from national companies.

Mr. R. W. Ray, responsible for marketing, said one reason his firm won the award was that the piggeries were built and erected as a package deal. It even went as far as digging the actual hole.

When Mr. Cooper first designed the piggery, the design was approved by the Agricultural Research Council and a grant was made. Each costs £2,750 and the firm produces one a month.

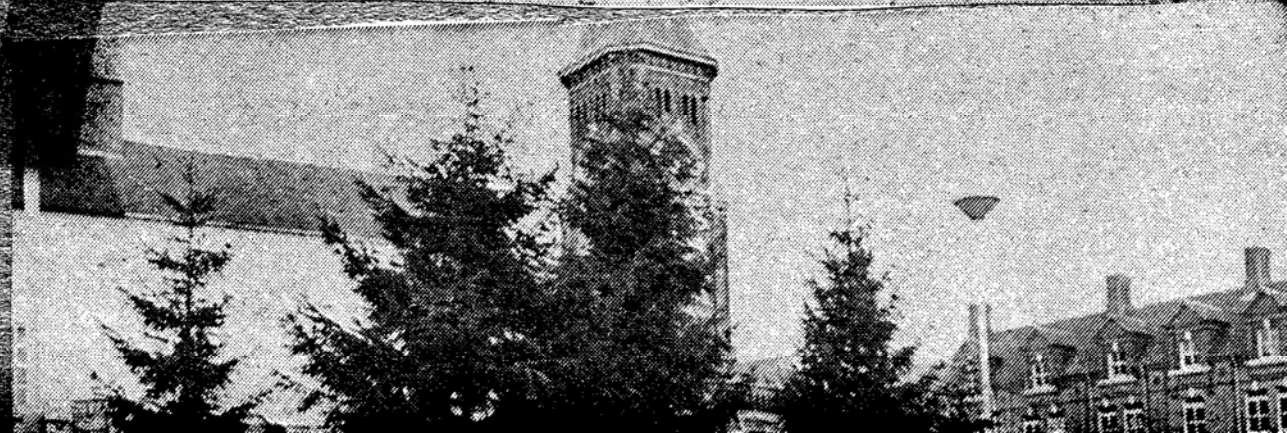
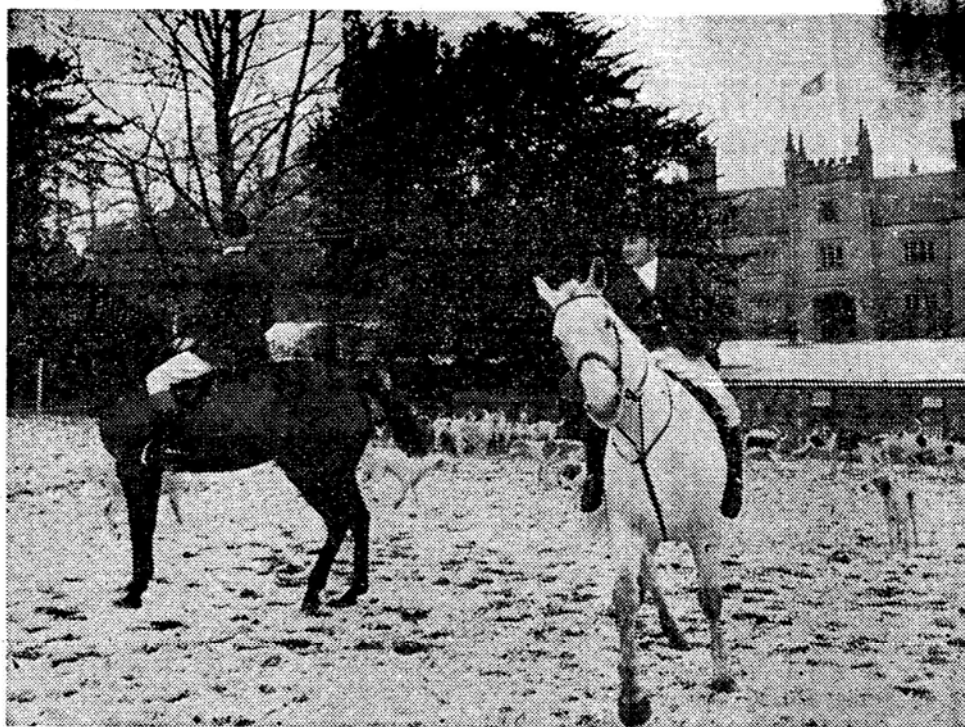
Subsequent modifications have been made. The conventional type of piggery is rectangular, whereas Mr. Cooper's is circular, and can accommodate up to 180 pigs.

Other advantages are floor space can be used the time, with adjustable positions; there is good ventilation due to its shape; central muck store; the piggery can hold gallons and only emptying once a month saving on labour; good round vision means



Boxing Day hunt at Blithfield

In spite of the snow and cold wind there was the usual crowd of onlookers at Blithfield Hall on Boxing Day morning to witness the meet of the Meynell and South Staffordshire Hunt. On the right are the hounds waiting impatiently for the start, before the moat of Blithfield Hall. Below, a section of the crowd, looking towards the stable block.



Harvest to M.

Blithfield Methodist met on Tuesday at Village Hall. The service was conducted by the Rev. L. Sapsford.

The speaker, Mr. Morecroft of Armitage, was introduced by the member, Mrs. G.

Morecroft's talk was on God's promise that the earth remaineth.

The service was held in the Village Hall on Tuesday evening.

TREE BRAN OUT

During the winter months residents cannot help but notice the towering resemblance to the old knock Chase. The trees have sprouted on Globe Island, Eaton Island, Brook Island, and to cap it all, five at Market Square seen on the left.

Why the sudden greenery? Why five in the Market Square. One stood last Christmas.

Rugeley's festive has been arranged by Belcher, Engineer. Instead of adding Christmas cheer to the place, he decided to concentrate in the areas.

'Concentrate' is the positioning of the Globe and Eaton Islands means that travellers and leaving the town a glimpse of Christmas go. And a bonus of floodlights will effectiveness to the trees.

COST £2

COLTON MUM MADE HISTORY

Jan 15 1972



Mrs. Dorothy Bradbury of High Street, Colton, may have made history by giving birth to a baby while she is holding office as churchwarden.

She has been warden at St. Mary's, Colton for six years and before that was secretary for the parochial church council—an office she also still holds.

The baby, born on St. Andrew's Day, was christened Andrew William on Sunday by the Rector of Colton, the Rev. L. W. Sapsford.

He told the "Times" that he was almost certain that Mrs. Bradbury was the first woman churchwarden to give birth to a baby while holding office.

"This is the first time to my knowledge and I think it must be a unique case. I always get a thrill from christening a baby but on Sunday I was tickled pink," he said.

A teacher, Mrs. Bradbury has lived in Colton all her life. She is the second female churchwarden in Colton's history. Among those who sent messages of congratulation were the Bishop of Stafford, the Right Rev. R. G. Clitherow; the Archdeacon of Stafford, the Ven. B. Stratton and the rural dean, the Rev. C. J. A. Payton. None of these had any previous knowledge of a baby being born to a female warden in office.

Mr. D. J. Bradbury, Andrew's father, is chief specifications engineer at Dorman Diesels Ltd., Stafford, a sidesman at Colton Church and several years ago was instigator of the annual Midlands Festival of Steam which raises money for the village hall.

Godparents were Nurse M. A. Cooper, Mrs. Bradbury's sister and Mr. J. J. Bradbury, her brother-in-law. Andrew, pictured with mother and the rector, is wearing a hand-made shawl which was worn by his mother when she was born and has been in the family since 1900.

Work to start on, £250,000 'no cars' shopping centre

Work on building a £250,000 shopping precinct near Rugeley town centre is to start in about four weeks' time. Stretching from Bridge House to Albion Street, it will include a pub, an arcade, shops and restaurants.

Planning permission has been granted to a Rugeley development company which has begun clearing the area between Albion Street and Brewery Street, which will be closed to traffic and made into a "pedestrian-only" area.

It is hoped that part of the development, which also includes car service areas and a car park and units for open-air cafes with overhead canopies, will be finished for Christmas.

A spokesman for the development said there would be

people can sit out in the sunshine at shaded tables."

The president of Rugeley Chamber of Commerce, Mr. R. E. Chilvers, said. "This scheme is a very good thing for Rugeley. I feel it will not only fill a very unsightly gap which has been there for some time, but also add to the amenities of the town."

"It will extend shopping

through the town centre to traffic and so make it, too, a shopping precinct.

Mr. C. E. Belcher, Rugeley Urban Council's engineer and surveyor, said the council had no development of this kind planned at the present moment.

The private development would tie up with future plans for Rugeley town centre envisaged for 1974 when the whole main street from Globe traffic island to Shrewsbury Arms Hotel, Market Street, Market Square, Brook Street, Anson Street to the war memorial, Albion Street and parts of Bow Street and Bees Lane, will be shut to cars, lorries and buses.





Preb. C. J. A. Payton, retiring at the end of August 1972. A single man, Mr. Sadler, 36, and has been Vicar of Saints' Church, Rangemore for seven years. Before that was curate at St. Chas Church, Burton-on-Trent. He was ordained into Ministry 10 years ago.

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Footpath 'through a house' still causing concern

may 27th 1972

Some public footpaths at Colton are not useable because they are obstructed or obliterated by residential building, the parish council heard on Thursday last.

Mrs. F. Brown clerk, reported on a meeting which she and representatives of Lichfield Rural Council and Mr. G. Mellor of Manor Farm, Colton, had attended. It was suggested to Mr. Mellor that a footpath which had been completely wiped-out by residential building 10 years ago should be re-routed across one of his fields, she said.

This would entail Mr. Mellor having a stile put in his hedge where it joined Manor Way, Mrs. Brown added.

"Mr. Mellor was not interested in keeping any footpaths open and would not give permission to have a gap made through his hedge," she said.

TEN YEARS OLD
Lichfield Rural Council are now dealing with the matter of this and two obstructed footpaths, the parish council were told.

This week Mr. P. A. Smithson, Lichfield Rural Council's deputy clerk, confirmed that 10 years' old residential building adjoining Manor Way did obliterate a footpath.

He added that the blame seemed to be divided between the developer, who should provide for an alternative route, and the local planning authority which had a duty to see that an alternative route was provided.

Mr. Smithson explained that the complex of footpaths in Colton was only accessible by means of Manor Way footpath, or one of two other paths — which were obstructed.

"Owners of land over which obstructed paths run have been asked to clear the paths, but have not done so," he said. "The appropriate committee with

a view to taking the necessary action," he said.

Mr. Smithson emphasised that the council could not compel Mr. Mellor to have a re-routed path over his land. He believed that if the other two paths could be opened the parish council would not be so concerned about the Manor Way path.

When asked for his views Mr. Mellor said: "At the moment the footpath goes in someone's back door and out the front. They want to

divert it 60 feet nearer to my house, across my field. My neighbours who live along Manor Way are against it and I have to consider them."

"I am a reasonable man but these people do not realise how much money is tied up in land and animals these days. One loose dog among the sheep or someone turning right instead of left and dropping a match could cause no end of damage," he added.

He said he had never known the footpath used since the war and he did not think there was any use for them nowadays.

may 27th 1972

heritage

Murder !

When considering a church of the antiquity of St. Mary's in Colton, many thoughts may pass through the minds of the observer. Saxons, Normans, vicars of an age long since buried in the dusts of time. Murder is not a thought one usually associates with any church, yet this ancient place of worship has twice been associated with "murder most foul," which puts it one up even on Canterbury Cathedral.

The two incidents are, according to Colton legend and tradition, separate events. However, the reader may be surprised at the various similarities between the two. Similarities which could connect them.

The first incident involves a man by the name of Nicholas, who was described as being the son of William de Colton. This Nicholas became entangled with Adam, described as being the son of Hereward. In the ensuing brawl, Nicholas, the son of William de Colton, is said to have slain his adversary, Adam, the son of Hereward.

The church laws of the Middle Ages allowed for any fugitive to claim the right of sanctuary within the confines of the church. Hence many churches have one "room" known as the sanctuary. The fugitive could not claim this right for an indefinite period, but only from "the first hour to midnight."

Nicholas de Colton is said to have claimed the right of sanctuary at St. Mary's. This would have given him a respite from the hue-and-cry, which would have been called to pursue a murderer. No one would have dared to risk the wrath of God by invading the protection of a church.

Those who had chased Nicholas de Colton to the church would not have been over-duly worried. The priest would have come to the door to inform them that Nicholas

had claimed sanctuary, which he could not refuse. However, the protection of sanctuary was effective only to midnight, after which, Nicholas would have to fend for himself. The pursuers had only to set a watch and wait till their man was turned out of the church.

Nicholas de Colton, however, did escape. Legend has it that his father was instrumental in this escape.

The second of the murders in which St. Mary's was reputedly involved, occurred eight years later, in 1271. According to tradition, John, the chaplain of Colton, is alleged to have murdered Christina, the wife of Nicholas de Colton. This murder is said to have come about while John was interposing between Nicholas and a stranger. No details exist as to how a chaplain came to murder the wife of the man he was arguing with.

However the murder came about, John decided not to hang around to explain but took to his heels.

Both legends raise interesting points which are worth a second thought. In 1263, Nicholas murdered Adam the son of Hereward. In 1271, John was interposing in an argument between Nicholas de Colton and a stranger. Note the existence of Nicholas de Colton in both murders. Add to this that the name Hereward is not local and anyone bearing this name would have probably been considered as a stranger in a close-knit village community.

The first story does not tell us what caused the brawl between Nicholas and Adam. Could it have been over Christina? Did John the chaplain murder Christina or did someone of more influence do the deed and poor John fled because he could not fight against the de Coltons?

Speculation, but

J.A.B.

Farm Women's

Meet Kath...

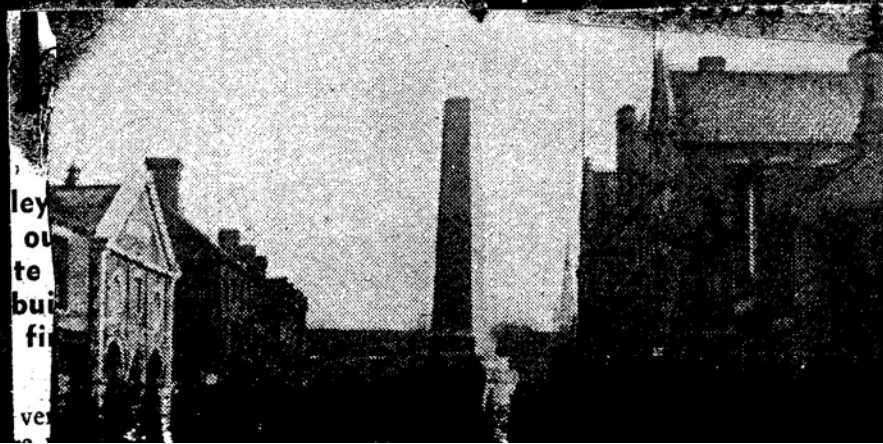
Kath Pratt has been our contact leader in Staffordshire for six years and she has been a club member since the early 1950s.

Married to Frank Pratt who is chairman of the local NFU—they live at Harts Farm, Abbots Bromley—Kath was a teacher before she married.

She has three children. Tim, the eldest, farms with his father, Geoff is a turf accountant, and Anita has recently gained an honours degree in pharmacy.



... and Je



THE BEAUTY WHICH LIES BEYOND THE FRINGE

BEATING the bounds of an artificial "Greater Rugeley" created by "Times" readers in 15 villages brought a new meaning to the phrase, "fringe benefits." It is an apt description of rural rides just beyond the villages which look with some affinity to Rugeley.

Fringe benefits indeed to Rugeley are such places as Beaudesert golf course, the international Scout and Guide camp in Beaudesert Park and Castle Ring; the nearby ancient British encampment.

Turn to the Stafford side and there is a veritable wealth of seats of the nobility—Wolsley, Shugborough, Blithfield, Tixall, Sandon, Ingestre, Chartley. Look to the north-east and in the Needwood Forest area more great estates leave a legacy of stately trees and parkland sprinkled with red-brick mansions of a century ago.

The beauty of the Bromleys, the Ridwares; the busy-ness of Handsacre and Hixon; the industry of Armitage, the commuters' modern dwellings in Haywood; all are matched in a peep through the invisible curtain of greenery which is all that divides "Greater Rugeley" from its "fringe" benefits.

Hixon, in the parish of Stowe, is one fringe village very much in the news. It has of recent years been providing sites on its airfield for many small and some large industries, a few with Rugeley connections. It has a school which is centre of a comprehensive secondary modern controversy through Ministry refusal for its closure.

RAIL TRAGEDY

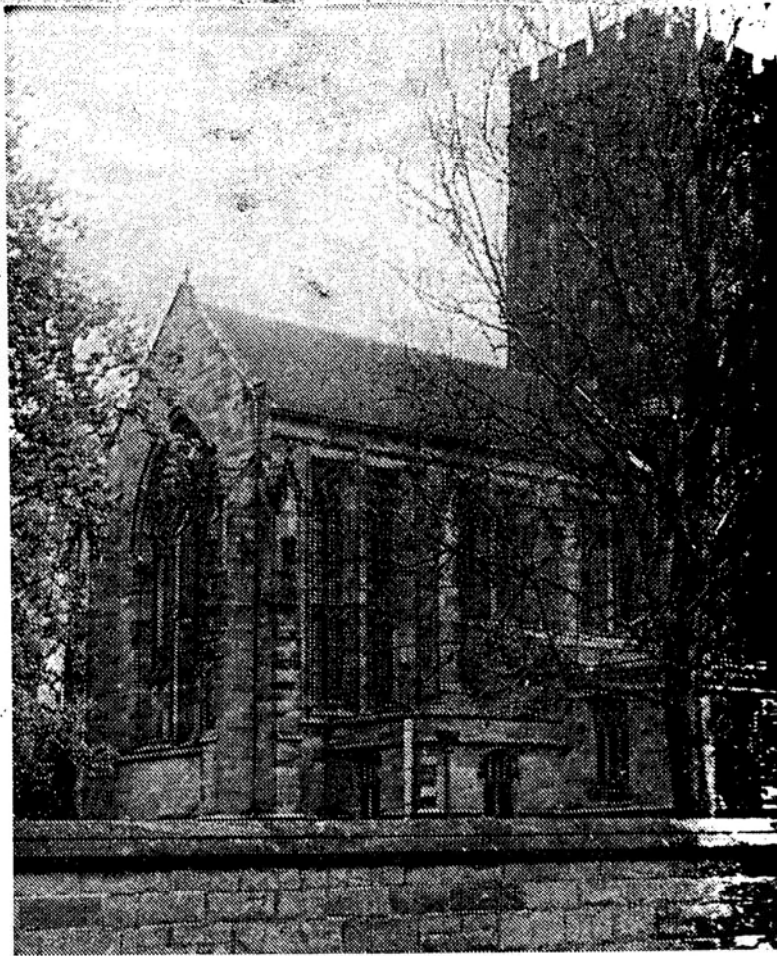
Last year it was suggested as a site for an overspill town and this year opened at Hixon with the rail tragedy and proceeded with a move to get the airfield reopened for businessmen's use.

A fast-growing village with Harry Lauder associations, through the life-work for charities of the late Wilmot Martin, "the Staffordshire Harry Lauder."

Turning eastwards, the hamlet of Newton provides pretty scenery, old cottages and a glimps of the upper extremity of Blithfield reser-

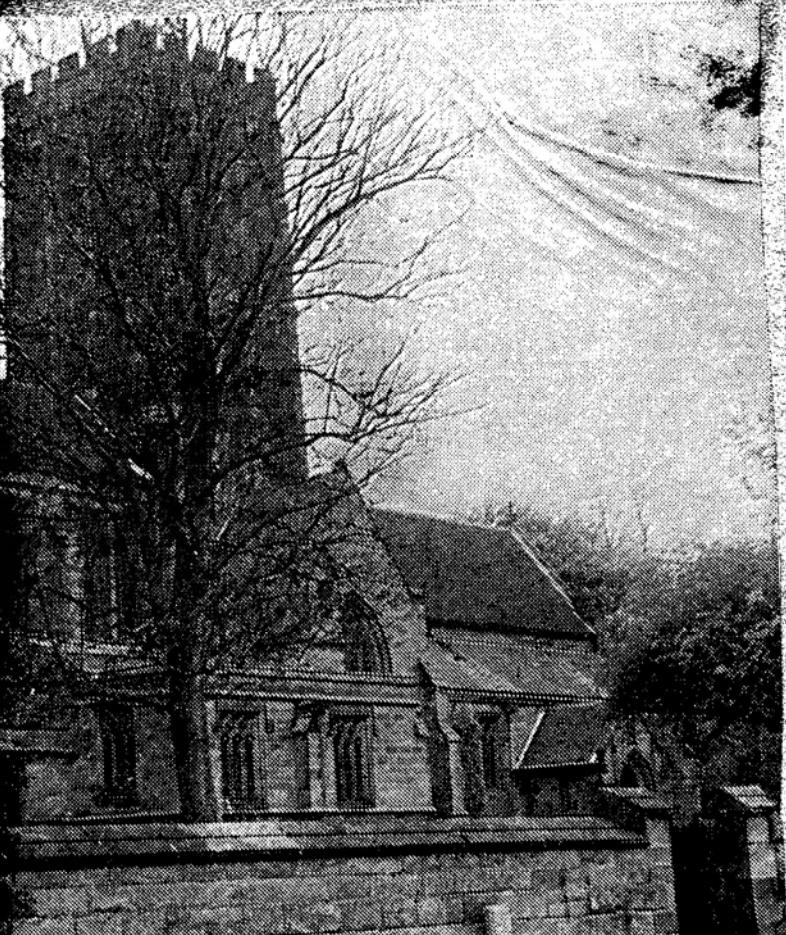
the spot where Dick lived with his pet hare, Bess, who was accidentally killed by Anson hounds. Dick never recovered from the loss and died of melancholia soon afterwards in the workhouse in Chaseley Road.

A step further to Milford and its popular beauty haunts, across the road to Tixall with its fine Gatehouse, thence to Ingestre with its Wren church just restored, its fine mansion which is an educational centre for West Bromwich, and Hixon is just a couple of miles away. The fringe tour is completed.



With its tower, reminiscent of Durham Cathedral, part concealed by in all its majesty from the roadside. It is more like a minster than





thedral, part concealed by a late-leaving tree, Hoar Cross Church is seen
s more like a minster than a village church, being a Meynell memorial.



This timber framed, weather-boarded tithe barn at Mavesyn Rid-
ware has survived four centuries or more, losing its thatch in the
process. Situated near the church and old hall, it is an unusual
feature these days.



s with a teacher from Shugborough
mid-day break in Birches Valley. They
age.



The atmosphere of Yoxall is well represented by this scene near the church and school, where a
17th century half-timbered dwelling selling antiques guards the approach to Victoria Road with its
18th and 19th century terraced houses.

Walter Martin, "The Steel and the
Harry Lauder."

Turning eastwards, the hamlet of Newton provides pretty scenery, old cottages and a glimpse of the upper extremity of Blithfield reservoir as one drives towards Bagots Bromley and the denuded Bagot woods.

Passing through Abbots Bromley, well known in these columns, Hoar Cross Church is seen to preside from 400 feet over majestic countryside to which it adds its own dignity.

Built 1871-76, as a memorial to Hugo Francis Meynell-Ingram, George Bodley the architect was instructed to spare no expense in producing what has been likened to a minister, with a tower reminiscent of Durham.

Hoar Cross Hall is in course of development as an Anglican youth and conference centre, an "away from it all" for city folk. And just behind it St. Michael's House provides a home for 16 children in the care of the Church of England Children's Society, gaining constant support from a Rugeley committee, Lea Hall miners and many other organisations.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Its parent parish was Yoxall, where Wilberforce planned part of his campaign for the abolition of slavery. An attractive large village on the Swerbourn and close to the Trent, Yoxall boasts several fine houses and many half-timbered reminders of Elizabethan times.

Seedy Mill with its large pumping station, Hanch Hall and several more country seats are seen as the narrow lanes to Gentleshaw are traversed. Passing Stoneywell, where the family of Longdon's Reformation-period bishop lived; skirting Beaudesert to Gentleshaw, where a brick church in Norman style has become weatherworn on its 800ft. eminence for 129 years.

Here is more modern development and a modern mineral industry to go with it. Nearby Cannock Wood Colliery provides work for Rugeley miners and Rawnsley of old provided good training for racehorses. There is still an equine atmosphere at Gentleshaw.

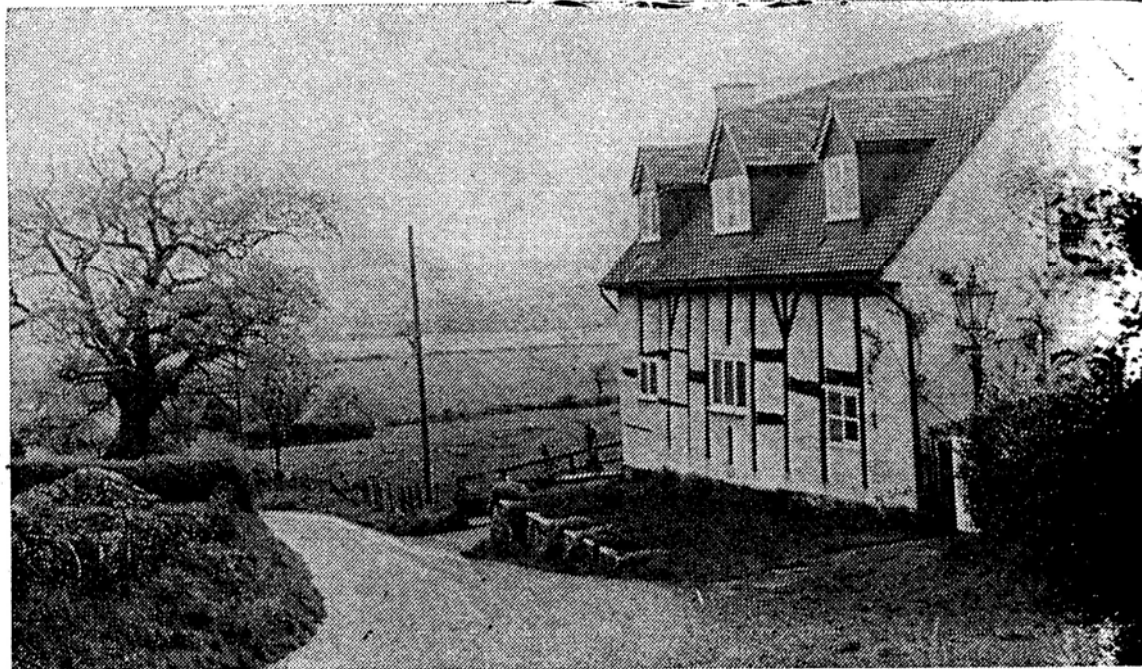
Farewell, another hamlet in the ancient Longdon parish, today has the remains of its church in a farmyard, with some 13th century miserere seats which were in the Cistercian abbey formed there in 1140.

Skirting Hednesford after Hazel Slade, the new post office tower is seen to dominate Cannock Chase with its angel wings. On its northern side two great gaunt crosses and hundreds of small memorials bear silent witness to the follies of war.

One across Sherbrook to Haywood Warren, and the site of Dick Slee's "cave" is always an intriguing search for newcomers. No cave is to be seen, only a hollow beneath a group of tall pine marks



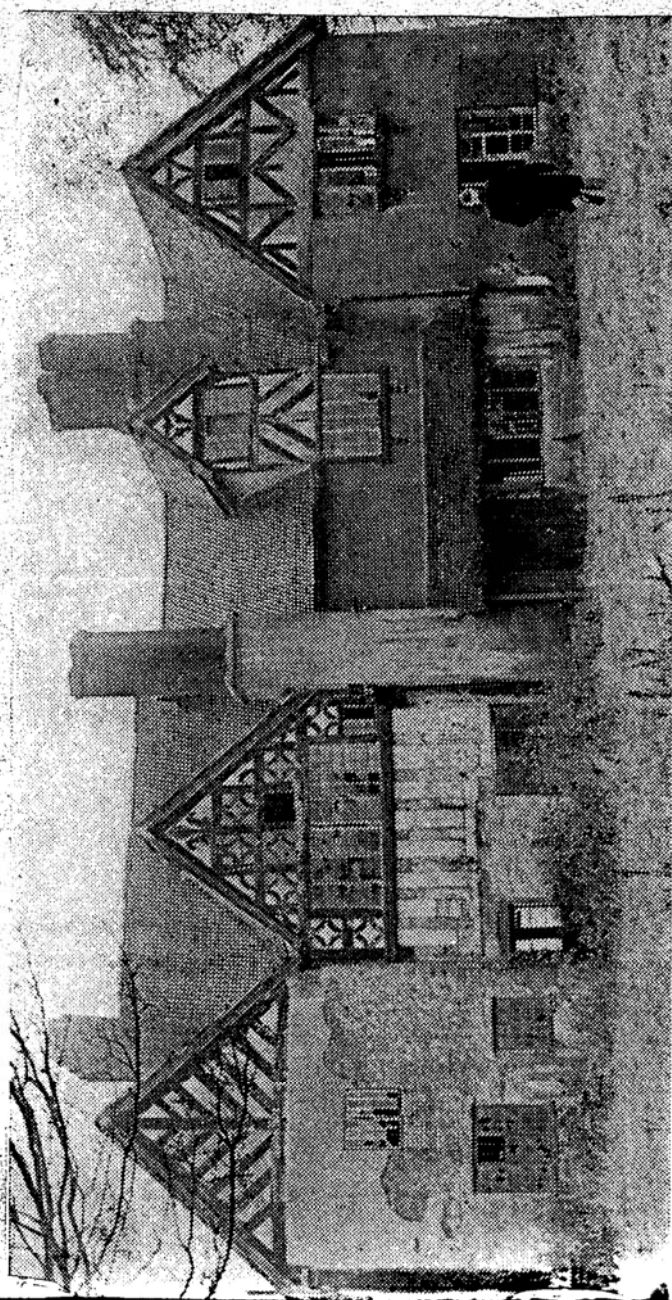
Two camera-shy deer avoided a place on this picture spread but these boys with a teacher from Shugborough Schools Camp on a Cannock Chase hike proved tame enough as they had their mid-day break in Birches Valley, pupils of Wolgarston School, Penkridge.



A peaceful corner of old England found at Newton, just above the top end of Blithfield reservoir. This is one of several fine half-timbered Newton dwellings.



This Hixon Inn with an 18th century look is Bank House. Formerly its own beer was brewed in the building, right, now used for farm purposes. It is just one of several old dwellings that give atmosphere to the area, filling with modern houses.



Moated Handsacre Hall has seen its best days and is now falling victim to vandalism, though the present owner had hopes of effecting a complete restoration of the 16th century hall. Stained glass windows have been removed for safety. Features of the building are its exposed ceiling beams, wood mullioned windows with leaded lights, and the ornamental timbering in the gables. In pre-Reformation days the hall included an oratory.

Beer was brewed in the building that give atmosphere to Hinton.



and of Blithfield reservoir. This is one of the buildings.



with a further from Sarsborough building built in Hinton Valley. The

The atmosphere of Yoxall is well represented by this scene near the 17th century half-timbered dwelling selling antiques guards the approach to 18th and 19th century terraced houses.

HISTORY IS PRESERVED IN ANCIENT BUILDINGS

OFFICIALS in charge of Ministry and local authority planning departments are not the stubborn "no"-men planners are often thought to be. Near to their hearts is the preservation of Britain's stately homes, ancient churches, humble cottages and public buildings — even walls and gateways if they have historical or architectural interest.

With this in view, provisional lists of interesting buildings were prepared shortly after the last war, and gradually, with the aid of local planning authorities, these are being revised and made statutory.

Watchdogs in the form of local history and archaeology societies have been enlisted to add their local knowledge to that of the county men.

In Rugeley and the surrounding parishes served by the "Rugeley Times" the Landor Society is the watchdog. With the voluntary duties of keeping the county planning authority informed of any infringement of the Town and County Planning Act by owners of listed buildings, the society also expressed its opinion on modifications proposed by owners.

For three years now it has been giving its views on proposals of owners, suggesting modifications in some cases to ensure that modern will blend with ancient. It is one of 11 societies in the county which give local opinions to the county planning and development officer.

Apart from the National Trust and Ancient Monument categories, with which may be included Crown properties such as the Roman site at Wall, all out of the scope of this picture story, there are two grades of "listed" buildings which may not be demolished, altered, or

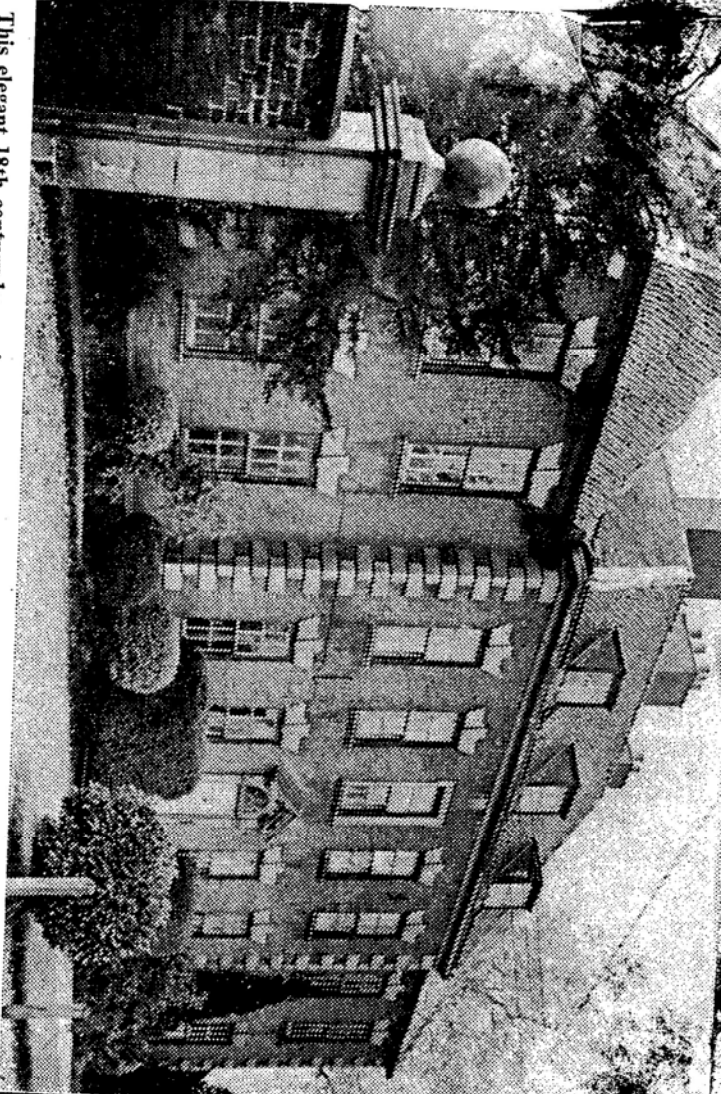
The listed buildings of Britain include the hall, with orange and stabling block, which has been awarded a grant; two far houses, the church and the rectory. Colton's list includes the church, Colton House (18th century, good proportions of a fine doorway). Malthouse farmhouse (14th century), the 400 years chimney stacks remaining at Lihay Manor, and the eight cottages that comprise Williscroft built in 1858.

WOLSELEY BRIDGE

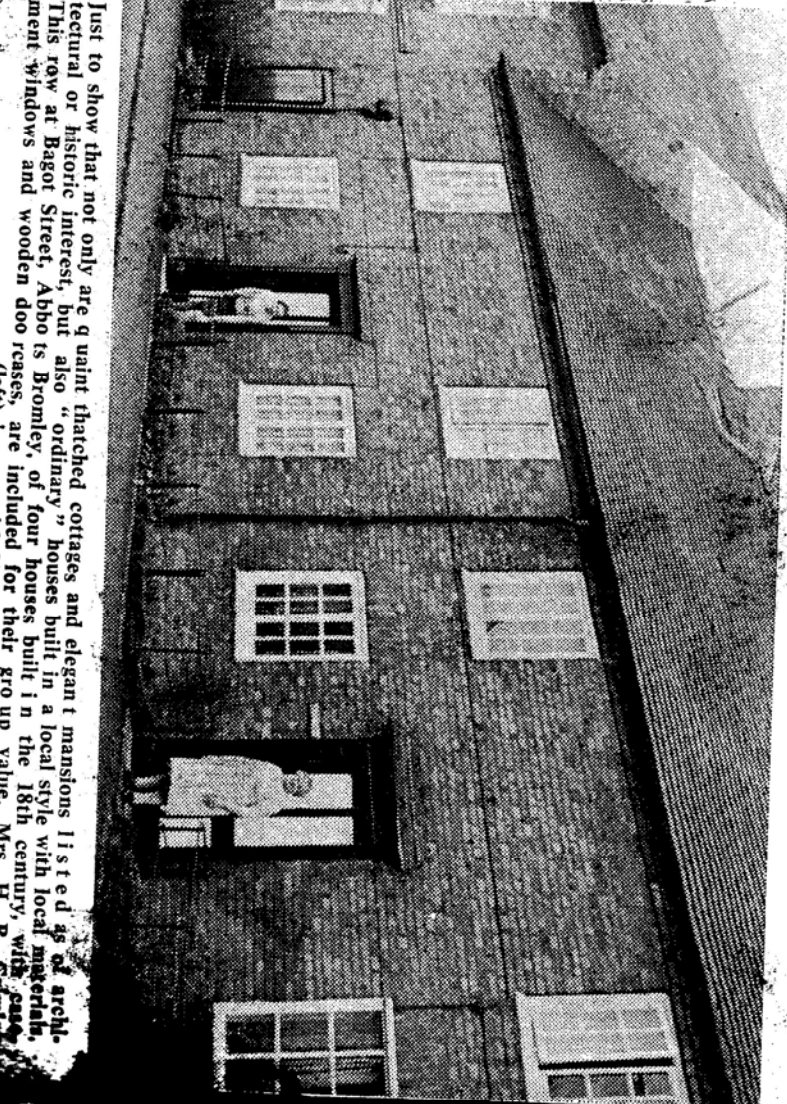
Wolseley Bridge, Bishton Moreton House, Colwich A black and white shop at Colwich, among the listed buildings, while at Great Hay there, besides Shugborough, its monuments and lodges, bridge

houses in Trent Lane, there is St. John's R.C. Church, the House and its stone barn.

Hamstall Ridware's building the church, the Old Rectory the 16th century manor of the Fitzherberts, the Hall, with its gateway, walls buildings and remains of the which was formerly connecte the hall.



This elegant 18th century house is not in a town, as one would expect, but in Colton, where it was built by Mr. F. Bonney and named Colton House. It includes a particularly fine doorway with pilasters and pediment.



Just to show that not only are quaint thatched cottages and elegant mansions listed as architectural or historic interest, but also "ordinary" houses built in a local style with local material. This row at Bagot Street, Abbo is Bromley, of four houses built in the 18th century, with gabled windows and wooden door cases, are included for their structural value. Mrs. H. D.

some care to ensure that modern
of 11 survive in the county which
give local opinions to the county
planning and development officer.

Apart from the National Trust
and Ancient Monument categories,
with which may be included Crown
properties such as the Roman site
at Wall, all out of the scope of this
picture story, there are two grades
of "listed" buildings which may
not be demolished, altered, or
extended without two months'
notice being given to the planning
authority.

Below this there is also a supple-
mentary list of buildings which,
while not regarded as possessing
sufficient interest to justify listing
under the Act, are nevertheless
worthy of preservation if this can
be secured without unduly affect-
ing other and wider interests. The
value of these buildings is usually
in their contribution to a group
effect.

LITTLE KNOWN GEMS

A few years ago the "Times"
portrayed the listed buildings of
Rugeley and from time to time
other well-known buildings, such
as Shugborough Hall, Essex Bridge,
various churches, appear as they
come into the news. But off the
well-trodden tracks are many
gems known only to the postmen,
delivery men, and a close circle
of family friends.

Some of these are pictured on
these pages—one from each parish
in the "Times" area, selected to
produce a cross-section of interest,
not a collection of prettiest and
best-kept buildings. They range
from gateposts to garden features,
cottages to halls, barn to farm-
houses, and they span five cen-
turies.

In Abbots Bromley 26 buildings
are now listed, with 12 more on
the supplementary list. Besides the
church and buttercross, they in-
clude the Royal Oak and Bagot
Arms, houses and cottages. One
range of dwellings in Bagot Street
was included for being good "ver-
nacular" building of the 18th cen-
tury, with group value.

The provisional list for Armitage
parish includes the church and the
High Bridge at Handsacre (1830),
Spode House, Church farm house,
Lower Lodge farmhouse, Marsh-
barn farmhouse, and the thatched
house near the school. In addi-
tion there is included the moated
16th century Handsacre Hall, now
damaged and damaged by van-
dals. The owner, Mr. A. R.
Barnes, had hopes of restoring it
to its former glory and making

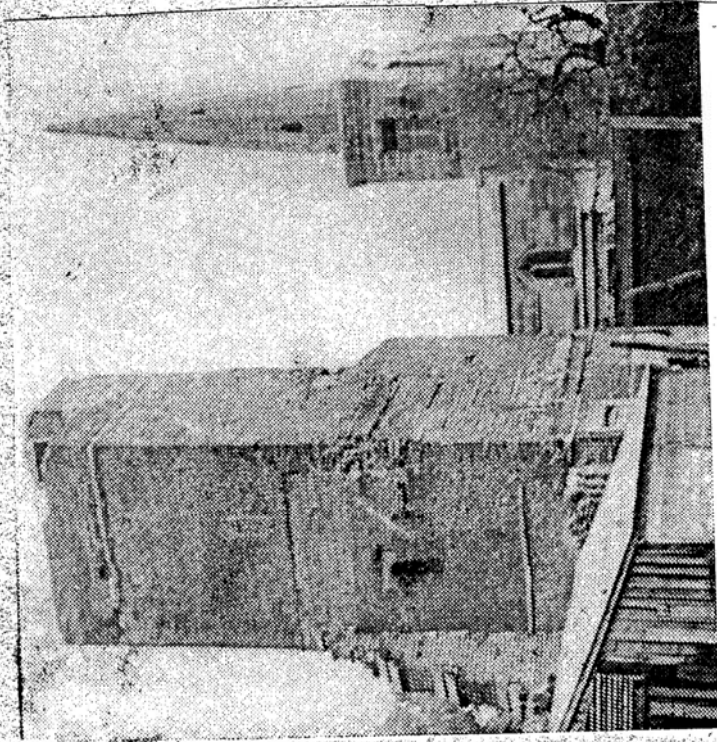
houses in Trent Lane, there is
St. John's R.C. Church, the
House and its stone barn.

Hamstall Ridware's building
the church, the Old Rectory
the 16th century manor of the
tons and Fitzherberts. Ha-
Hall, with its gateway, walls
buildings and remains of the
which was formerly connecte-
the hall.

Historic King's Bromley,
of Leofric and Godiva, later
Lane family, lists 15 buildings
ranging from Yoxall bridge to the
church and including the 18th
century tower which is all that
remains of the ancient manor
house, quaint thatched cottages;
the school house, and several farm-
houses.

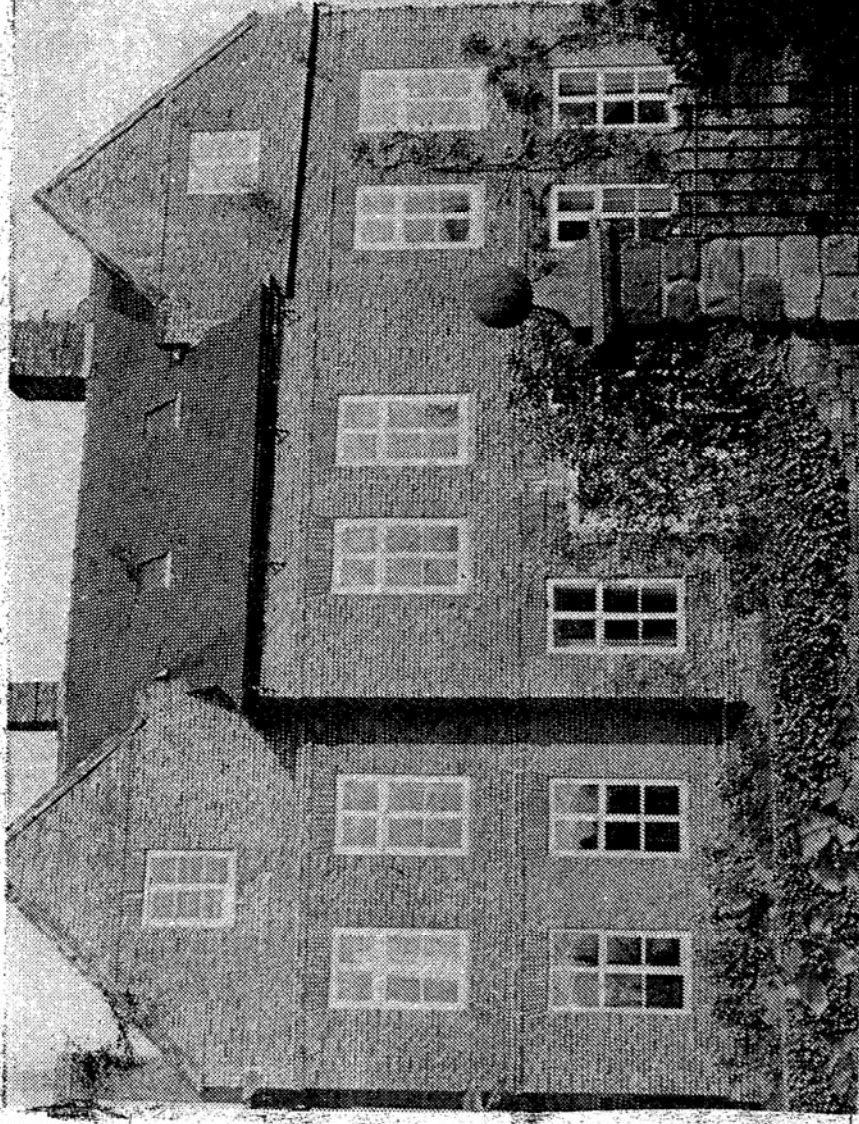
Longdon is rich with 22 listed
buildings, including the remains of
Beadesert, farmhouses, cottages.
Hanch, Lyssways and Longdon Old
Hall, besides a brick barn, pretty
timber-framed houses at Brook
End—and Hilltop farmhouse, with
thatched and tiled farmworkers'
cottages nearby. The farmhouse,
which is well maintained, bears
the date 1727 but is 16th century
in origin.

Finally in the parish of Mavesyn
Ridware there is the church dating
from the 13th century, with nearby
cottages, a 400 years-old timber
tith barn, several farmhouses,
halls, the Chadwick Arms, and the
15th century gatehouse to the Old
Hall, which contains a long post-
roof with original rafters.

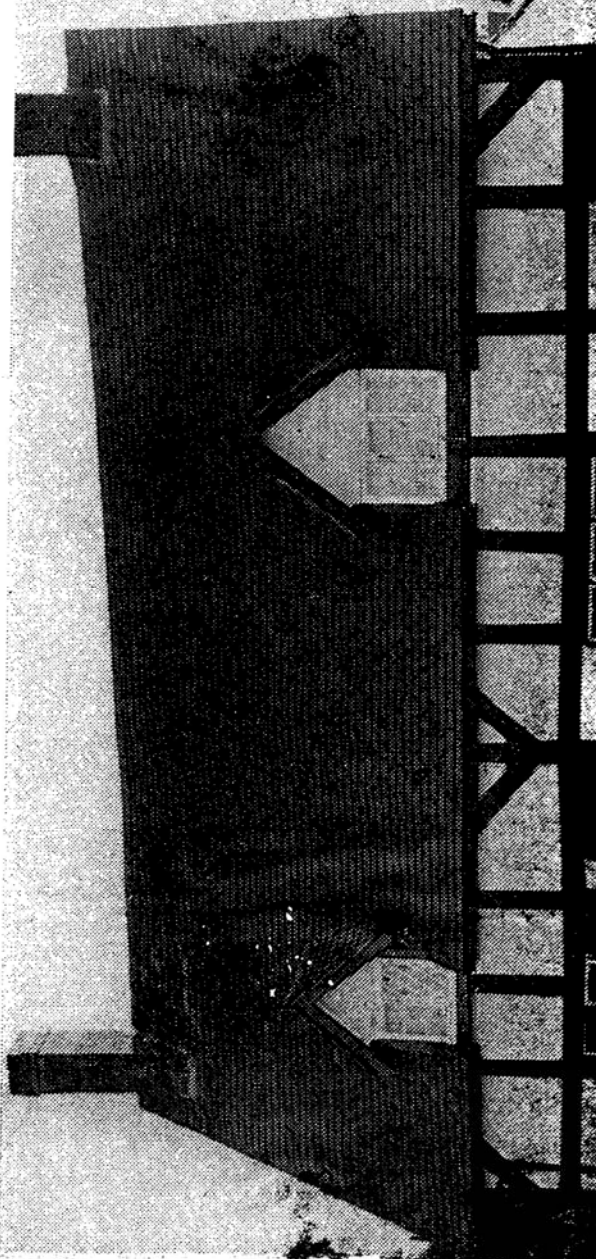


Hamstall Hall, former manor of the Cottons and Fitzherberts, now
consists of the west wing only of the original very extensive range
of buildings, near the 12th century church. All the remains are
"listed" including the gateway on the north, the outbuildings, walls
and the tower pictured above. This was linked to the hall, as can
be seen by the gable marks in the brickwork of the 16th century
tower.

Just to show that not only are quaint thatched cottages and elegant mansions listed as of archi-
tectural or historic interest, but also "ordinary" houses built in a local style with local materials,
Abbots Bromley, of four houses built in the 18th century, with case-
ment windows and wooden door cases, are included for their group value. Mrs. H. R. Grimley
(left), is seen with Mrs. J. Brown.



Off the beaten track at Longdon Green is Hilltop Farmhouse, built in the 17th and refashioned in the 18th century, with the date 1727 visible over the front door. The 18th century stone gate piers are also listed as of architectural interest.



The Lane family, which helped King Charles to escape, lived at King's Bromley Manor, now demolished with the exception of a late 18th century tower and this garden feature, which resembles a dovecote, may originally have been one.

Dec. 1968

Big hopes for new products

AGRICULTURAL Requisites and Mechanizations Ltd., of Colton Road, Rugeley, reports that the target of expansion planned a year ago has been achieved. This has been done in spite of a considerable involvement in manufacture, erection, and layout of new production accommodation and subsequent upheaval caused by removal and installation of all facilities.

The benefits of the new floor space layout are now very apparent especially with respect to improve-

Colton, where it was the doorway with

archi-
tecture,
and the
the door

achieved. This has been done in spite of a considerable involvement in manufacture, erection, and layout of new production accommodation and subsequent upheaval caused by removal and installation of all facilities.

The benefits of the new floor space layout are now very apparent especially with respect to improvements in efficiency of materials handling.

The company's development programme has been somewhat extended due to the priority claim on resources by the new building. However the two main development products have benefited from the subsequent protracted design study. These two products will be launched in 1969 and, if their expected demand is realised the company will exceed its current rate of growth in the coming year.

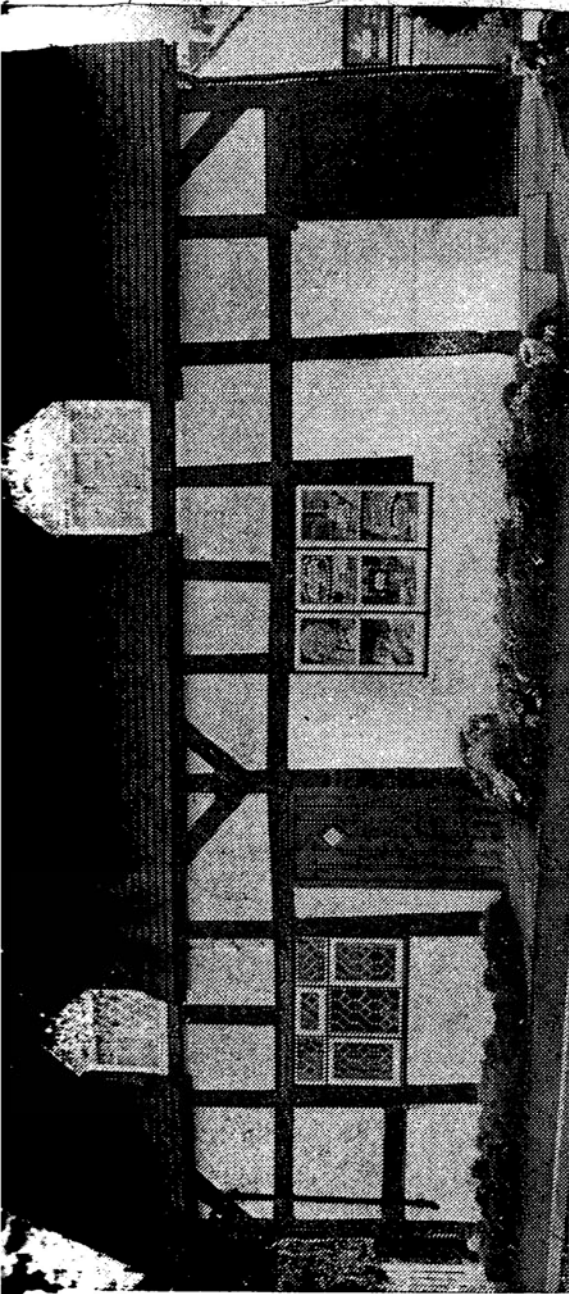
The major growth product is the Roundhouse Piggery, a space-age prefabricated circular building, which is attracting wide attention both in this country and overseas. We are pleased to announce that

one of these units has been commissioned for erection as a permanent display unit at the Royal Show Ground at Stoneliegh.

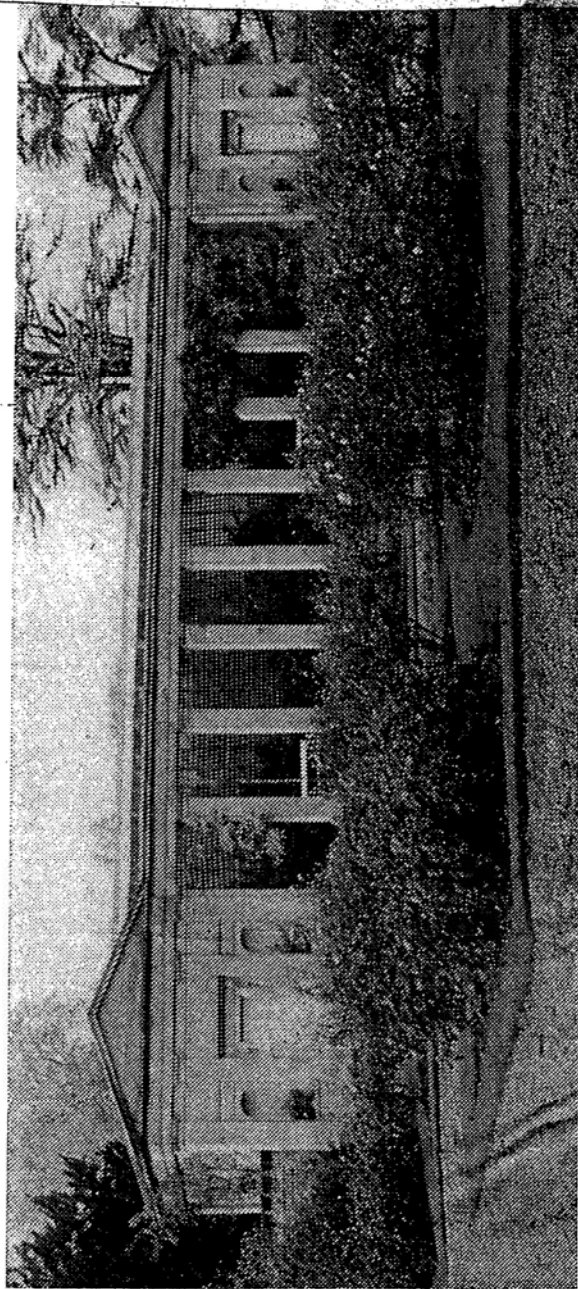
The Company takes pleasure in its success with this piggery in the face of fierce competition and is confident of increasing its lead in this field.

BLITHFIELD M.U.

The December meeting of Blithfield Mothers' Union was held in Newton Village Hall on Tuesday afternoon when the service was conducted by the Rev. B. Matthews (Vicar of Colwich). His talk was called "The Last Nickel." Mrs. G. Vernon thanked Mr. Matthews and his wife for attending the meeting.



Once thatched, until a fire so damaged the roof that tiling was resorted to, this 300 years-old former farmhouse at Colwich has now been restored as a shop and house.



At Blithfield Hall this 18th century orangery with its open stone colonnade facing a rose garden was considered of such group value that the late Lord Bagot received grant aid for its restoration along with the Hall.

from the 12th century, despite its long history to attract visitors. About 30,000 people visit the hall every year and what they spend helps to keep the house in its present beautiful condition.

But it was not always so. "When I first saw it," said Lady Bagot, "it was in an awful state." The place was full of dry rot, there was no electricity, no running water, no

room. "But I fell in love with the romantic atmosphere when I first saw it," she continued, "It is more of a home than most big houses."

The fifth Lord Bagot, who died in 1946, had sold the house to the South Staffordshire Water Board on condition that he could live in the house until his death.

Lady Bagot and her late husband, the sixth Lord Bagot, later travelled from London to supervise the packing of family treasures.

But as they began to clear out the house they felt they couldn't bear to leave the old place in disrepair. "Finally I persuaded Lord Bagot to buy it back from the Water Board," said Lady Bagot.

"But what a job we had ahead of us! There was not one habitable room and the water just poured in when it rained. It seemed madness."

Nevertheless, every room in the hall could be lived in today.

The sixth Lord Bagot died in 1961 aged 84, and the present Lord Bagot does not live at Blithfield. In 1965, Nancy Lady Bagot married Mr. Kenneth Whitehead. She has an adopted daughter, Caryl Rosemary, who is nine years old.

Born and educated near Sydney Australia, Lady Bagot came to England when she was 18 and met the future Lord Bagot on the boat. They married in Sydney in 1940 and returned to England in 1942.

"We felt too much out of the war in Australia," she said. "So we lived in London and tried to take part. I worked in the Red Cross."

So it was not until after the war that Lady Bagot saw the Bagot family home. "Almost every generation had been altering and extending the house to suit their needs," she said. "But when I first saw it, it was a wilderness."

But keenly interested in decorating and antiques, she threw herself into the mammoth task with a will.

With the help of Mr. John Fowler, now Trust Adviser on international matters, she enlisted to help restore the hall to its eighteenth century

state apart from the removal of dry rot, restoration of windows and roofing, and elimination of damp, the original wallpapers had to be matched and special furnishing fabrics woven.

Old drawings of the centre courtyard had to be studied so the original pool could be rebuilt and nineteenth century fireplaces stripped to show the sixteenth century originals.

There is a minimum of staff to run the home efficiently. The present, Major J. O'Neill, supervises the public side of the house. There is a canic staff of two and a cleaner for the extensive children's museum in the upper galleries. The rest Lady Bagot manages with only one daily help.

A capable cook, Lady Bagot favours grills and serves a lot of salads and fresh fruit. "I enjoy entertaining," she says, "but there is not a great deal of time."

But Lady Bagot still manages to help many local organisations. She is president of the Staffordshire R.S.P.C.A. and is on the board of St. Mary's and St. Anne's School, Abbots Bromley.

A widely travelled lecturer with the W.E.A., she is also a member of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England.



Charles Spaniel, really belongs to Caryl, Lord daughter. But he gets a lot of attention.



J. Grimley is seen with J. Rowley (left) and E. Webster waiting.



A striking picture of part of Blithfield Hall, stately home of the Bagot family. Nancy Lady Bagot lives in a modern apartment occupying one wing.



Nancy Lady Bagot in the kitchen of her private apartment.

Our heritage

Colton Hall

Earlier I attempted to show how one can gain an insight into the life led by our Rugeley predecessors by reading adverts announcing the sale of a house. Besides affording the reader with this insight, it can also supply other useful information:

To be sold by auction (on the premises), by Mr. Wilder, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 4th and 5th of January, 1832.

The extensive assemblage of neat and useful Household furniture, kitchen, dairy and brewing utensils, etc., also three very valuable in-calf cows (great milkers), one prime fat cow, a very useful and active bay draught horse, seven years old, a handsome black mare pony, five years old, twenty prime long-woolled wethers, almost fat, in lots, new cart and gearing, capital old and new hay (to go off), pine plants,

potatoes and numerous other valuable effects, the property of Mr. Sheridan, of Colton Hall, aforesaid, who is changing residence.

Order of Sale: First Day — the Cows, Horses, Sheep, Hay, Pine Plants, Potatoes, Cart and Gearing, Implements, Brewing, Dairy and Kitchen Utensils and the Desks and Tables in the School and Dining Rooms.

Second Day: Entrance Hall, Library, Drawing Room and all the Bedrooms, which contain upwards of Twenty Pairs of Capital Bedsteads, with good feather beds and bedding in proportion, of all descriptions.

The sale to commence each morning at ten o'clock precisely. Full particulars and catalogues may be had at the Inns at Rugeley, Wolseley, Haywood, Uttoxeter, at the place of sale and of the auctioneer, Sandon.

station sports and so

While parents played these caravan kids worked off high spirits



Councillor Turner-Southw

A COLTON GRANDMOTHER

WRITES POETRY

IF Mrs. May Bannister is not at home to callers at her Colton semi-detached, she can often be found walking in the nearby countryside. Mrs. Bannister has written poems and stories since she can remember and gains much inspiration from her rural surroundings.

"I showed my poems to the wrong person years ago and they laughed at them. So I threw the lot on the fire," Mrs. Bannister recalled.

But she has now taken up writing again and keeps paper and pencils in every room of her house at 84, High Street, Colton.

Mrs. Bannister said: "Poetry has got to be spontaneous. I have sat absolutely frozen in my bedroom writing about the countryside when I have had an inspiration."

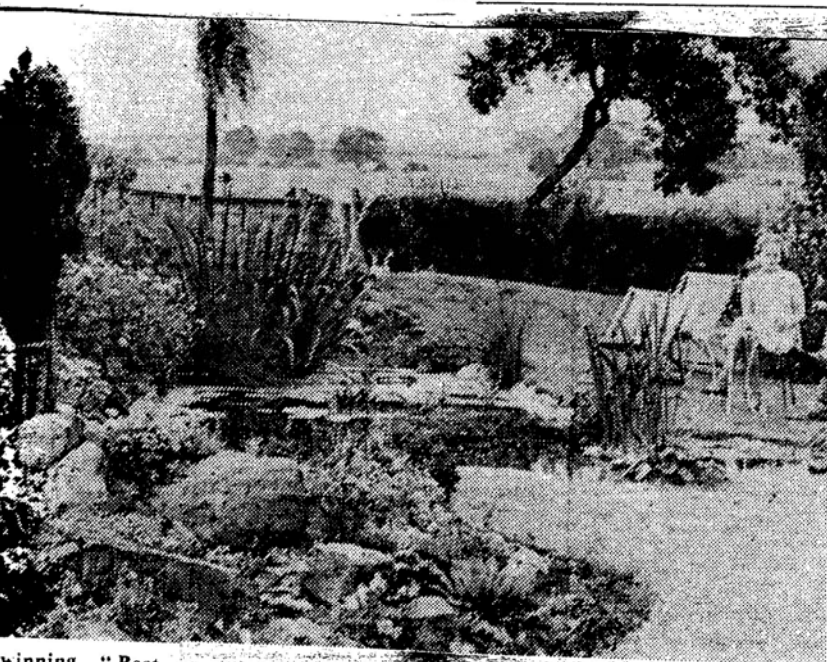
She has tried to get her poetry published, but was told that only already-established authors are accepted. "It is a Cinderella thing and unless your name is known there is no hope — but how are you to get known in the first place?" she asked.

Her three grandchildren — Jane, 13, Jonathan, nine, and three years-old Michael, are avid fans of granny's poems and stories — so much so that Mrs. Bannister has compiled some of her work, specially written for them, into a book which she calls "Tell Us a Story, Nan."

The book has taken her about two to three years to complete and is about 21,000 words long. She would like to see it in print and despite rejections, is determined to continue sending her work around until it is accepted.

A deeply religious person, Mrs. Bannister has a strong belief in God and says this has helped in her writing. "I could not do anything without it. Life wouldn't have any meaning at all," she admitted.

She has been looking after her sick husband, but still found time to write the old story of Bellamour Hall, which won her a trophy in



winning "Best Garden."

ARDEN LTON

Kept Garden" has been won by Mr. Edward Cottage. Nearest rivals — Mr. Pitts of 88, 4 points. Third place was Mr. Holding, Blithfield, was Mr. 84, High Street, Mr. and Mrs. Cottage Stores. The judges were Mr. S. Deakin, Mrs. Deakin, and Mrs. Deakin.

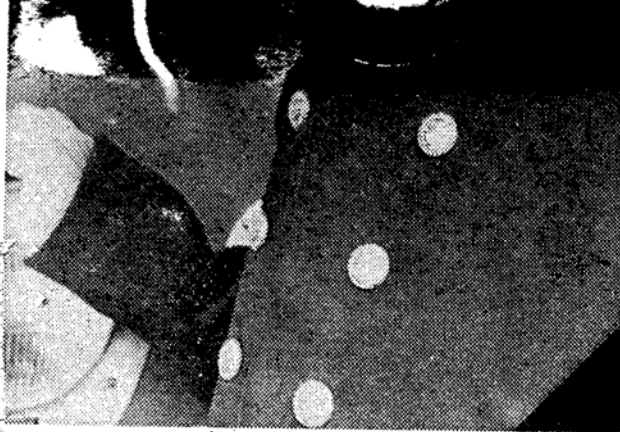
announced at a Village Produce Show last week. Mr. Britten and Mrs. Britten were welcomed. Mr. J. Brown, who entered the County Show, said that Colton was the show's center of thanks. Read from the Midland Festival "home-grown" produce from



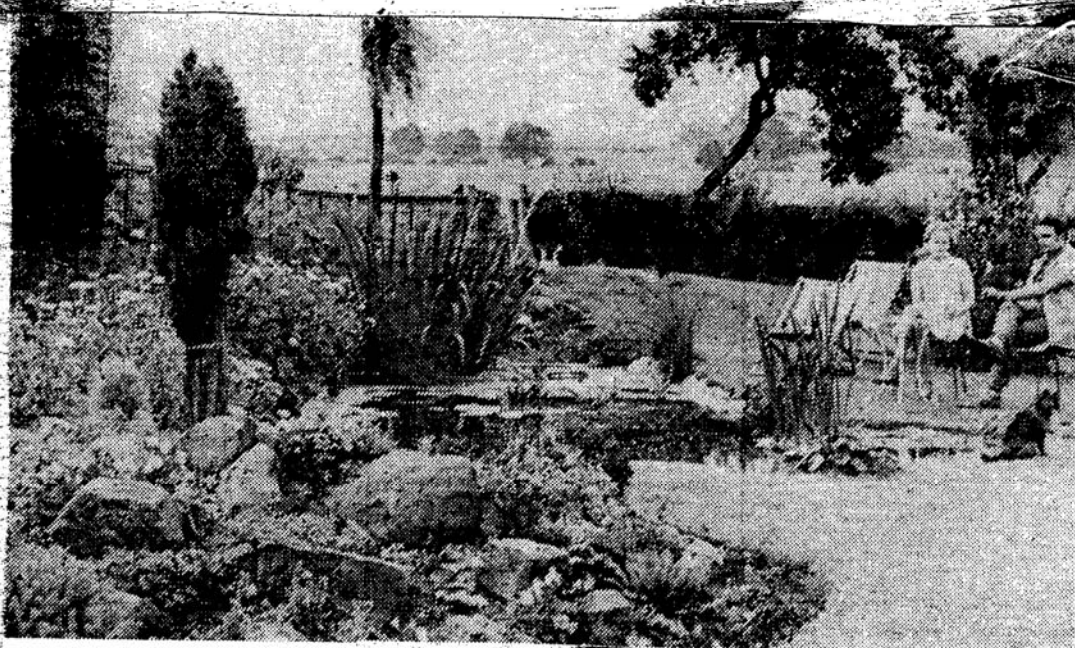
A placid scene on the east bank of Blithfield Reservoir, where by 1970 there may be colourful craft plying along a stretch of the water, their sails, reflecting sunlight, making a pleasant holiday scene for spectators. Mercian Yacht Club, formed at Rugeley with the purpose of campaigning for the use of part of these waters, may soon have this privilege, for South Staffordshire Water Company has now given consent for an area off the east bank to be used for sailing.

Savings work. Through his years that he was at School (1923 to 1937) and since his retirement, when he has been secretary of a street savings group. He joined the movement in 1918.

In all Mr. Broughton has collected £32,000 for National Savings.



Councillor Turner-Southwell



Colton's award-winning "Best Kept Garden."

BEST GARDEN AT COLTON

Colton's "Best Kept Garden" award this year has been won by Mrs. Hilda Bell and Mr. Edward Murcott of Barn Cottage.

They beat their nearest rivals—Mr. and Mrs. David Pitts of 88, High Street—by 54 points. Third place went to Mr. and Mrs. T. Preston of Seven Holding, Blithbury Road, fourth was Mr. Charles Bannister of 84, High Street, and fifth were Mr. and Mrs. J. Brown of the Cottage Stores and Post Office. The judges were Mr. Chudleigh and Mr. S. Deakin of Brereton Gardeners' Association.

Results were announced at a meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild on Thursday last week. New members Mrs. M. Britten and Mrs. A. Stewart were welcomed, then chairman Mr. J. Brown thanked members who entered pot plants in the County Show.

It was announced that Colton were placed third in the show's foliage section. A letter of thanks for assistance was read from the organisers of the Midland Festival of Steam. A "home-grown" date was awarded from Colton on October 9.



A placid scene on the east bank of Blithfield Reservoir, where by 1970 there may be craft plying along a stretch of the water, their sails, reflecting sunlight, making a pleasant scene for spectators. Mercian Yacht Club, formed at Rugeley with the purpose of campaigning for the use of part of these waters, may soon have this privilege, for South Staffordshire Waterways Company has now given consent for an area off the east bank to be used for sailing.



Colton Church garden party raises £133

IN spite of a slightly overcast morning the weather turned out pleasant and sunny and about 400 people attended Colton church garden party on Saturday afternoon in the grounds of the Rectory. The party was opened by Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Birch of Lichfield. Mr. Birch is the Archdeacon's registrar for the Archdeaconry of Stafford.

This was the 29th garden party organised by the combined efforts of Colton Parochial Church Council and helpers from the village. They have been organising such events since 1941 and this year a profit of £133 10s. 8d. was raised for general church funds.

Last year's profit exceeded this amount by £20 although the income from the stalls on Saturday was up on 1968's fete by about £20.

A bouquet was presented to Mrs. Birch by Miss Carol Smith and Mr. Birch received a button-hole from Miss Jean Norman.

Among the varied games and competitions was an ingenious idea of the rector's warden, Miss

D. A. Cooper which entailed each person placing three pennies on the Horsefall Tomb next to the church and then estimating the amount required to cover it. Helping her were her mother, Mrs. E. A. Cooper and Mr. David Bradbury. The man whose guess was the closest to the £8 0s. 5d. needed was Mr. John Mottram with £8 1s.

Other events included a cake raffle won by Mrs. Gould and a raffle for a teddy bear which was won by Mr. Davies. Both are members of the North Staffordshire centre of the Caravan Club.

Other winners were Mrs. Annie Nicklin from Colton (chicken dinner); Miss D. Landor of Rugeley (tin of biscuits). Miss Landor also won the treasure hunt.

In charge of the clock golf competition was Miss D. Jones and it was won by Mr. G. K. Whitehead from Blithfield. The hoop-la was organised by Mrs. R. Greatrix from Rugeley, Miss K. Norman and Miss T. Grimley of Colton.

Winner of the children's clock golf was John Norman of Colton. Mr. C. Norman was the most successful in the skittles competition and received a bottle of whisky.

Mrs. J. M. Chilton and Miss P. Haynes, both of Colton, shared £1 between them when they won the women's skittles contest.

Looking after the tombola were Mrs. R. Curtis and Miss D. Curtis.

Stallholders were Mrs. M. S. Toy, Mrs. J. Chilton and Miss Kathie Chilton (cakes); Mr. and Mrs. J. James (bring and buy); Miss Ellen Rotchell, Mrs. P. Best and Mrs. M. Taylor (miscellaneous) and Mrs. W. Sargeant and Mrs. D. Atkin (miscellaneous).

Sideshows—Mr. W. A. Norman and Mr. R. T. Martin (bowls) and Mr. Bernard Bettson (skittles).

obliging young clock golfer allowed our photographer to "snap" him before sending that ball "down the middle."



of the 400 visitors to Colton Fete on Saturday gathering round to watch the skittles fall.



opening Colton Fete on Saturday in the rectory field, Mr. R. D. Birch paused to chat with Lady Bagot (right) and Amanda (left).



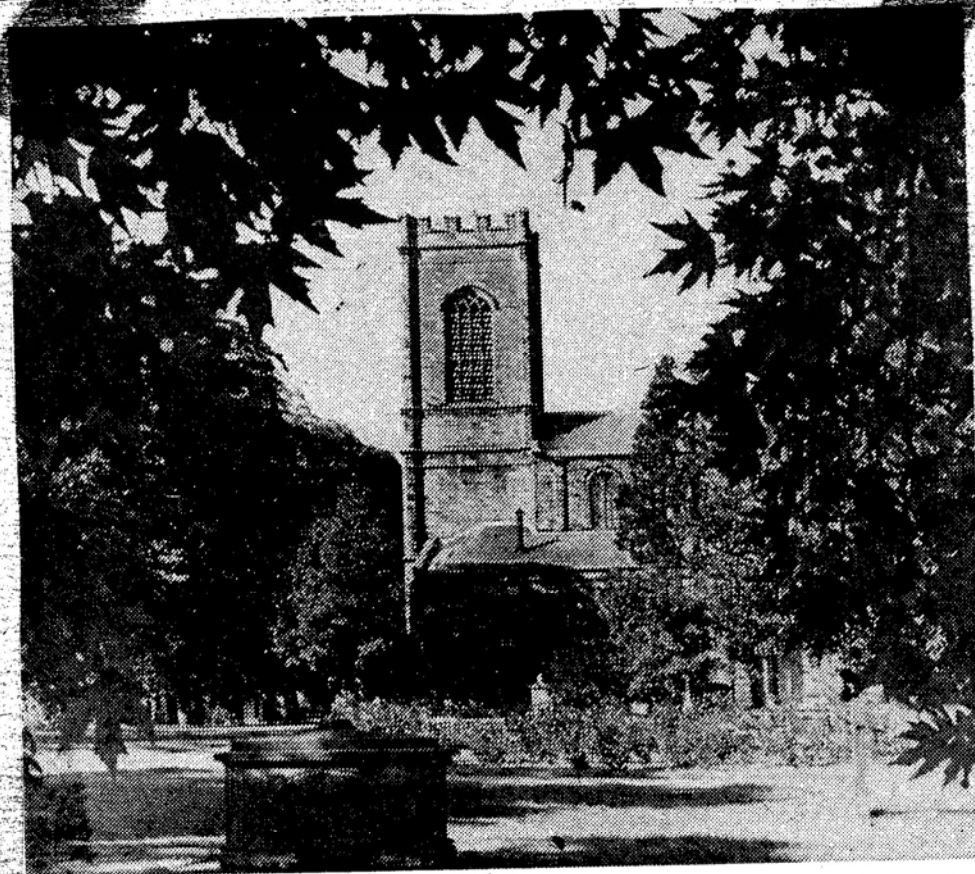
March 8th 1949



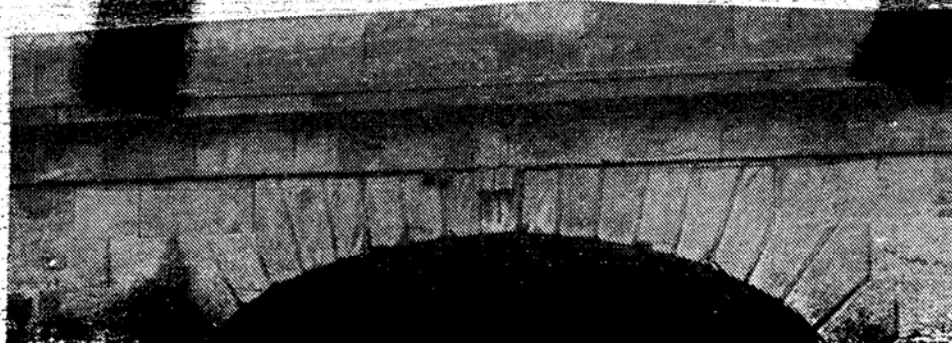
Married at Colton

Mr. R. G. Timmis and
Miss H. M. Bloor

MISS Hazel Mary Bloor, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Bloor of Parchfields Farm, Rugeley was married on Thursday last week to Mr. Richard George Timmis, eldest son of the late Mr. G. Timmis, and Mrs. N. Timmis of Elmhurst Farm, Green Lane, Whitgreave, nr. Stafford. The service was conducted by the Rev. A. G. Clough at St. Mary's Church, Colton. The bride was given away by her father and wore a full length gown of white satin. The embroidered bodice had a roll collar, and her skirt was full forming a train. The outfit was completed with a long veil topped with a headdress of white rosebuds. She carried a bouquet of pink orchids and lilies of the valley. The bridesmaids were Miss Kathleen Richardson, chief bridesmaid; Miss Sheila Vernon, Miss Julie Timmis, Miss Valerie Bloor and Miss Jackelyn Holt. They wore long dresses of Atlantic blue satin and carried bouquets of pink roses and white heather. Mr. John Deane was best man. Ushers were Mr. John Timmis and Mr. John Wardle.



A tree in the churchyard, which is now a Garden of Rest, parts its branches to reveal this summer sunshine glimpse of the early 19th century tower of St. Augustine's Church. The photograph was by Graham Davis, who came across this unexpectedly attractive picture while out to take a photograph of the church hall's exterior.



WELL-LOVED TEACHER



Children usually live for the day when their school "breaks up" for the long summer holiday. This happened on Thursday last at St. Mary's School, Colton, but for pupils, staff and parents alike it was tinged with sadness. It meant "goodbye" to a teacher they had known and loved for years.

Mrs. Diana Shaw, 40 years a teacher, retired from the school at which she has taught for the past 25 years.

A teacher at Great Haywood and Rochester before moving to Colton school, Mrs. Shaw lives at Main Road, Great Haywood. Asked how she planned to spend her retirement, she said simply, "I am going to live."

Before school "broke up" for the holidays, Mrs. Shaw was presented with an electronic tea maker from school and friends, a battery clock, a cheque, and bouquets of summer flowers. Carol Smith and Carol Greaves, oldest and youngest girls at the school, presented her with a sheaf of carnations.

Mrs. Shaw is pictured here saying goodbye to some of the Colton children.



Mr. and Mrs. Stan Dorsett and son Neil in the new lounge bar at the Dun Cow.



Last night saw the first pints in months pulled at a village 'pub' which could well find itself with a new reputation to match its new look. Without trying too hard it could become a trendy meeting-place for those who like their drinks in 'different' surroundings.

The house in question? Ye Olde Dun Cow Inn at Colton, closed since before Christmas but then bought by Rugeley solicitor Mr. J. Taylor and now open for business again with new owner, new licensees, new ideas and a brand new image.

ornaments for the brick fire-place and the fire-place itself, where there used to be an old baking oven.

Modern touches appear in the bullseye glass at the main door, the elegant indoors ladies' cloakroom with its satiny turquoise striped wallpaper and pale turquoise fittings and in



A scene in the Dun Cow at the beginning of alterations —the fireplace and old oven have been retained.

July 2, 1972.



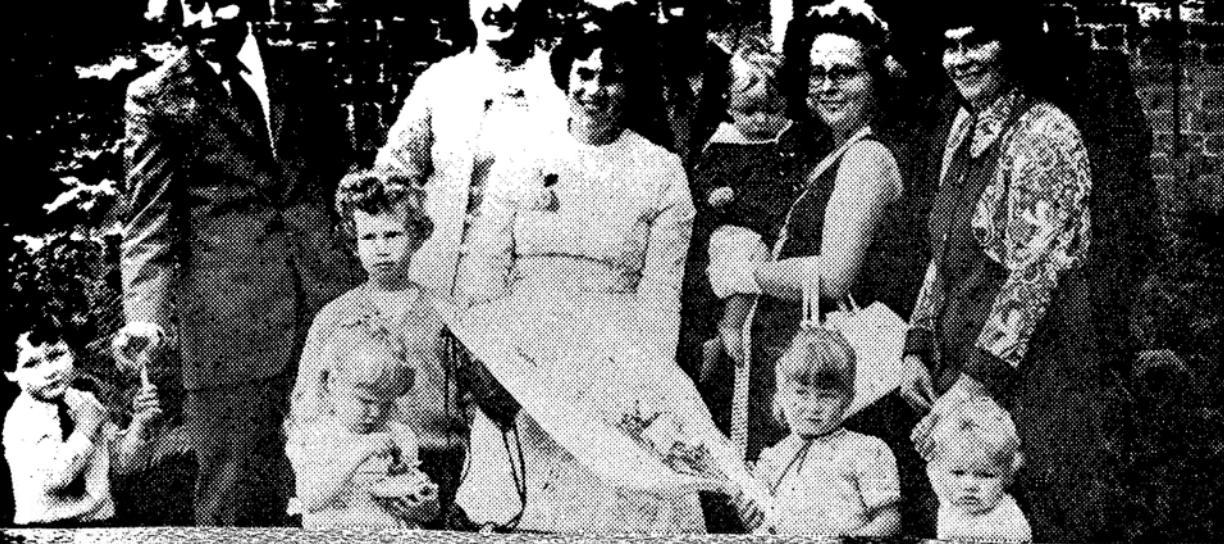
So much for the interior. Outside, the Dun Cow has been given a new 'face' with a material which has a life expectancy of 40 years. A clean white substance; it is a first major spraying job in this area by the Decorative and Protective Spraying Co. Ltd., of Cheltenham.

Now what of the people behind the bar? Local customers may be forgiven for thinking their faces seem familiar — for five years licensee Mr. Stan Dorsett and his wife Joan kept Lea Hall Club. Then they moved to Halesowen but were asked to come to Colton to take over the Dun Cow.

Mr. Dorsett, something of

appetising aromas as they drive into the Dun Cow's roomy car park, it will be son Neil cooking up goddies in the kitchen.

To start with it will be chicken and chips and scampi and chips — in a basket, of course — but later . . . who knows what might be managed? Neil is 21 and a competent cook, having



Little Anna Clendon obviously found some more interesting than the photographer's "Duck and Bird" when she lined up with some of the grown-ups at Colton's Church Garden Fete, on Saturday. The seniors include Mr. M. Clendon, Mrs. M. Sapsford, Mrs. A. Clendon, Mr. G. E. Vernon and Mrs. D. A. Bradbury (Churchwardens), the Rev. L. W. Sapsford, Mrs. M. Vernon, and Mr. D. J. Bradbury.



produce, sweet and provisions stall at Colton fete was well patronised by the many who line up to make their purchases.



throw yet another wet sponge at Simon Bagwood, is one of the many visitors.

role of midwife

M. M. Connor of gave members of Mothers' Union a

Over £200 raised at Colton fete

WELL OVER £200 was raised at Colton Church garden party held on Saturday, in aid of Church Funds.

The Rector, the Rev. W. Sapsford introduced Mr and Mrs M. Clendon, of Great Haywood who opened the fete.

Mrs Anne Clendon (who is Colton Church organist) thanked the Parochial Church Council for asking them to open the fete, which she regarded as an honour. For six years now she had been associated with Colton Church, years she has enjoyed. In urging the visitors to spend well in support of the church she mentioned the existence of a church at Colton since Domesday Book.

Mrs Clendon was thanked by the Rector's warden Mrs Dorothy

A. Bradbury, who said she, like many of the people connected with Colton, could go back to the first fete in 1942, and held annually since. The People's warden, one of the newcomers to the village (this being his second Colton fete) Mr. George E. Vernon, seconded the vote of thanks. His children, 3 year old Mark and 2 year old Rebecca presented a bouquet and button-hole (given and made by Mrs H. Baker of Rugeley) to Mr and Mrs Clendon.

Stalls etc were in the hands of many willing helpers and included - miscellaneous - Mrs E. M. Sargeant, Miss Ellen Rotchell, Mrs V. James, cake stall - Mrs M. S. Toy, Mrs J. M. Chilton, soft drinks, Mrs and Misses Janice and Mary Sapsford, teas - Mrs E. Bettson, Mrs H. A. Willisroft, Mrs Ivy Preston, Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft, Mrs M. E. Hibbs, Mrs Dora Deacon, Mrs E. Griffin, Mrs Norah Martin, Mrs Kathleen Haynes, Mrs Hilda Wigley, Hoopla - Mrs R. Grimley, Mrs D. Greatix, Mrs K. Durose, tombola - Mrs P. L. Bannister, Mrs J. E. Norman, Mrs R. O. Devall, clock golf - Miss D. M. Jones, bowls etc - Mr Bernard Bettson, Mr Maurice Willisroft, air rifles Mr W. A. Norman, and Vernon, kiddies corner Mr Paul R. Jones, handkerchief girls Belinda, and Susan Oliver, spinning, dartboard and stocks, Mr and Mrs G. E. Vernon, gate attendants, Mrs Ruth Williams, Mrs Gwen Johnson, and Miss Susan Hibbs, clay pigeon shoot Mr P. Green, barbecue Mr and Mrs J. C. Price, clock golf, winners were Neil Peake, John Finnemore and John Norman, Mandy Brown won the teddy bear.

Headmaster at M.U.

Special schools was the topic chosen by a local headmaster for his talk to Blithfield Mothers' Union on Tuesday afternoon last.

Mr. A. W. McDowall, headmaster of St. Mary's School, Colton spoke to M.U. members at their September meeting in Newton Village Hall.

OTHER OPER ORIAL

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Rev. L. W. Saps-
Colton, by Miss
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The church elec-
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f Mr. Cooper's
Cooper.

Colton held its 31st annual church garden fete on Saturday under a dull and gloomy sky, but the Rev. L. W. Sapsford said that in his 21 years' experience he had never yet attended a wet fete day.

**STOP ME
AND
BUY ONE!**



Reginald Parties of

His hopes of dry weather were fulfilled. Mr. Sapsford told visitors that the fete was necessary not only to help church funds keep pace with rising costs, but also as an important social event.

Mrs. M. Clendon opened the fete. The church's organist for six years, she urged everyone to spend generously to support a church that was standing before even Domesday Book was compiled.

Her plea, the organisers' hard work, the low prices charged, all helped to make this year's fete a record financial success. Two years ago £109 profit was made. Last year it was £150, but on Saturday takings totalled £209.

How was it done? Well, with not much more than 25p in one's pocket, one could have paid to enter, bought three or four books, a pot of home-made jam, had tea and sandwiches, thrown wet sponges at a "volunteer," and had your fortune told.

PIGEON SHOOT

Trying to hit a small disc travelling away at more than 90 miles an hour soon separates the men from the boys; Basil Fielding (10 years old) from Swymerton scored more hits than many of the adults! Whether you were two years-old and enjoyed nipping about kiddies' corner on a variety of vehicles, or 80, and preferring a more leisurely game of miniature golf, there was something to interest everybody.

Those of gambling nature could put their money on a tombola, revolving

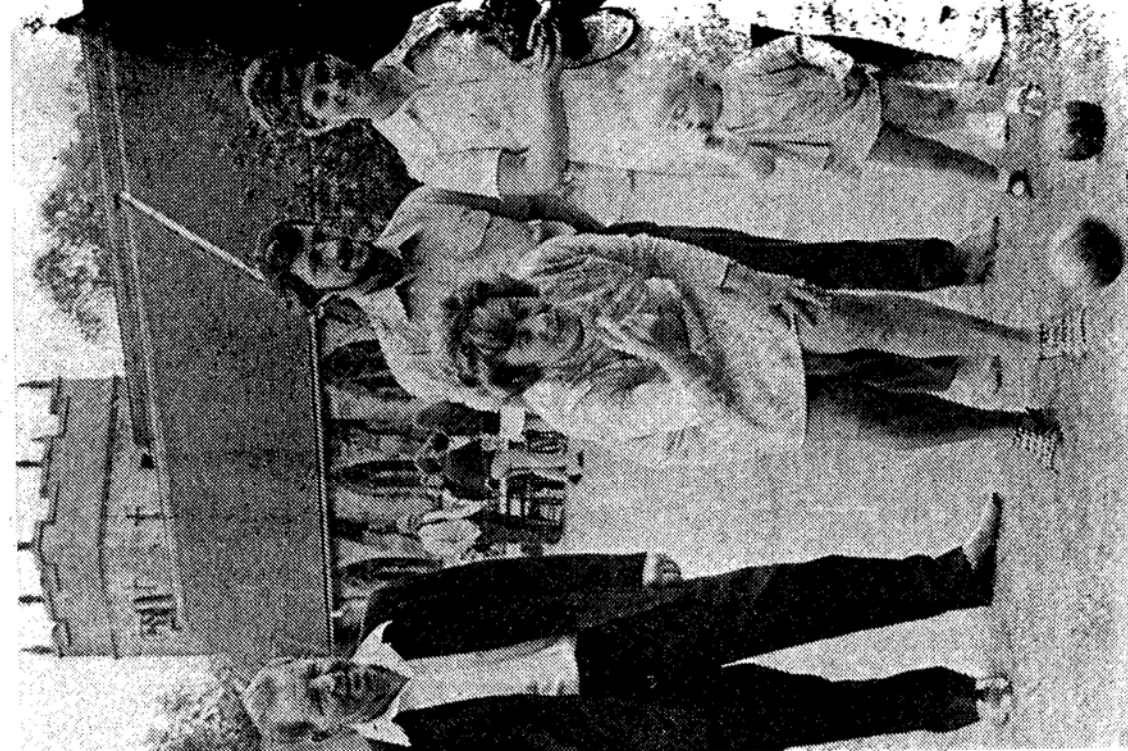
board, or "guess the town." If you had an "eye for the ball" there was miniature golf, ten pin bowling, or hoop-la. "Madame Violetta" enlightened many people as to their future fortunes and for an extra two pence how many more children they were to expect.

With these and many other activities, it was a rare sight to see anybody wandering about aimlessly. More probably they were simply spoilt for choice.

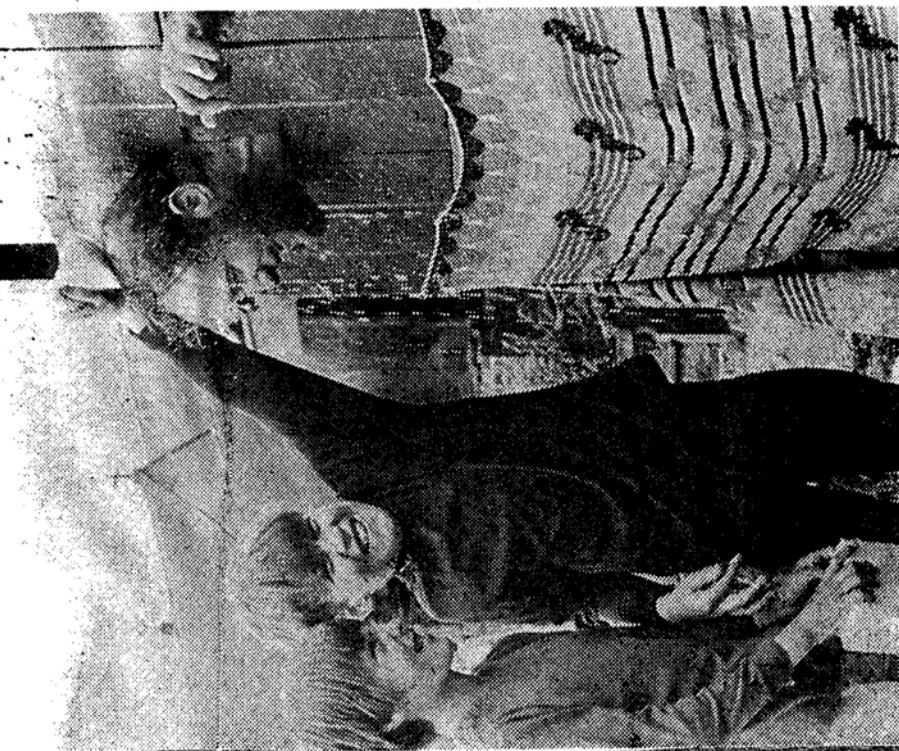
STALLHOLDERS

Stallholders were as follows: Mrs. E. M. Sergeant, Mrs. V. James, Miss Ellen Rotchell (miscellaneous); Mrs. M. S. Toy, Mrs. J. M. Chilton (Cake stall); Mrs. and Misses Janice and Mary Sopford (soft drinks); Mesdames R. Grimley, D. Greatrix, K. Durose (Hoop-la); Mesdames P. L. Bannister, J. E. Norman, R. O. Devall (Tombola); Miss D. M. Jones (Golf); Mr. B. Bettson, Mr. M. Willis (Bowls); Mr. W. A. Norman (Air rifle); Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Vernon (Spinning dart-board and stocks); Mrs. R. Williams, Mrs. G. Johnson and Miss S. Hibbs (Gate attendants); Mr. J. James (Treasure map); mesdames E. Bettson, H. A. Willis (I. Preston, B. M. Ravenscroft, M. E. Hibbs, D. Deacon, E. Griffin, N. Martin, K. Haynes, H. Wigley (Teas); Mr. P. Jones (Kiddies corner); Misses Susan and Belinda (Handkerchief girls); Mr. P. Green (Clay pigeon shoot); Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Price (Barbeque).

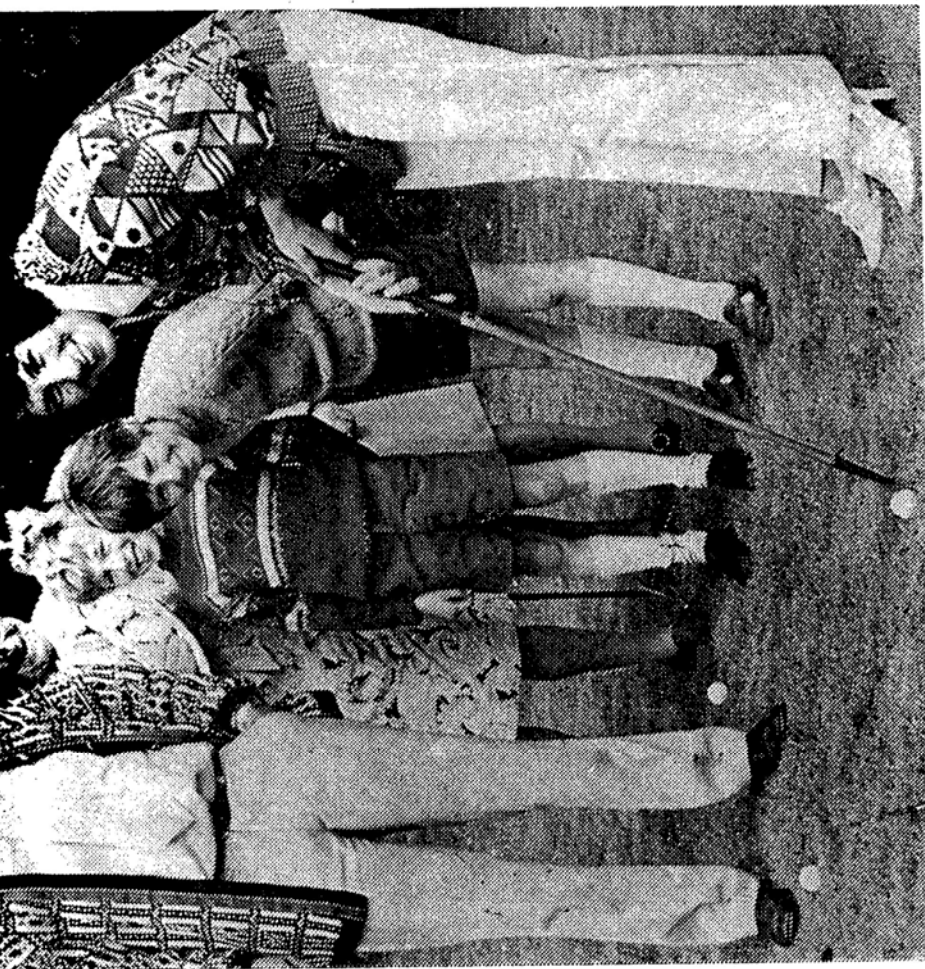
A "duck dinner" raffle was won by Mrs. J. Meddings.



Against the background of St. M. Clendon, who opened the fete church's organist for six years, "On the far right is the Rector, the D. M. Jones, causes some amusement coup de grace.



Two boys anxious not to miss a rare chance to soak their elders. The victim in the stocks is Mr. G. E. Vernon.



Teas were served by the side of the church. Many of the cakes and buns had been home made.

Below, Mrs. R. O. Devall turning the tombola, for which there was never any lack of interest.



Burial space on the rates

Oct:
1972

Colton residents will have to pay a significantly higher parish rate to meet the cost of an urgently required new graveyard, a parish meeting decided on Tuesday.

Cost was a major factor in the discussion at the meeting, called to decide if the Parish Council should take responsibility for the new graveyard as requested by the Parochial Church Council.

Councillor Mrs. M. S. Toy, chairman, said that such an important decision had to be taken by a representative meeting of the parish. She made it clear that under parish council administration the cost of the burial ground and its subsequent upkeep would have to be borne by all parish residents.

URGENT NEED

It took little time for the meeting to decide that there was an urgent need for a new graveyard. The Rev. L. W. Sapsford (Rector) said: "We are running out of grave space in our present cemetery and there is only room for two or three more graves at the most. There has been a larger number of burials here than usual and we would only have to have an epidemic, which would especially affect the older people, and you can imagine the trouble we would be in."

The Church was unable to meet the cost of a new burial ground and Mr. Sapsford felt that the cost of a new cemetery was a fair call upon the rates as, like the present graveyard, it would be for all denominations, he said.

Councillor Mrs. Toy said the P.C.C. had offered to give the piece of land known locally as 'the bomb site' to the parish as a burial ground, along with £265

towards the cost of building a retaining wall around the land. At present the money, specifically earmarked for this purpose, was held by a diocesan trust, she said.

PLANNED IN 1960

Parishioners were told that in 1960 plans had been passed for making the piece of land a graveyard and at that time the cost of building the necessary wall had been estimated at more than £900. Also there were the costs of surveyors' fees; soil testing; preparation of the site and yearly upkeep, they were told.

Councillor A. V. Hardcastle said he had costed the whole enterprise at between £5,000 and £6,000. Councillor Mrs. Toy said the parish

council had already a £1,500 loan for the purchase and development of the play area and repayments on this were more than £200 per year.

Mrs. B. Brown, parish council clerk, said the present rate of 1.7 pence brought in £413 so an increase in the rate would be essential if another loan had to be taken out.

The meeting decided that the parish should take responsibility for a new graveyard and gave its consent to an increase of an unspecified amount to the parish rate.

Councillor Mrs. Toy said the parish council realised the urgency of the matter and would try to act as quickly as possible. As far as meeting the cost was concerned, she said: "The Parish Council can receive gifts towards meeting the expense of this project."

LADY BAGOT MARRIAGE DENIAL

Rumours that Nancy, Lady Bagot of Blithfield Hall, is soon to marry for the third time, were denied by a spokesman for the Blithfield Estate on Thursday.

"It is just a malicious rumour. Lady Bagot herself knows nothing about it," the spokesman said. Lady Bagot was granted a decree nisi from her second husband, Mr. G. K. Whitehead, on July 14 after being separated for two years.

Put Colton 'on the map'

Not one signpost pointing from Rugeley to Colton says so. The signpost at Trent Valley indicating along Colton Road just says "Abbots Bromley and Uttoxeter," it was said at Colton Parish Council's meeting on Tuesday.

Councillor Mrs. M. S. Toy, chairman, said a businessman had complained that no signpost near his premises at Trent Valley showed the way to Colton. At that point Station Road, Colton Road and the Hamsall Ridware road meet.

He had also said there were no road nameplates saying "Colton" and he was "sick" of telling people how to get there.

Councillors agreed that "Colton" should be put on a signpost at Trent Valley and decided to write to the Uttoxeter area, county highways department, saying that public demand warranted such a signpost.

Councillor G. F. Upton said poor signposting seemed to be a general fault with councils all over the country.

Church can't

Carols are to be sung in local villages and town centre by Rugeley Chorus on the evening of December 22.

A similar event so successful the last year decided to make it an annual event, members of the choir will be singing on Thursday last.

The choir will be singing in Rugeley, travel to Colton, the Ridware before returning to Market Square a half hour later.

CAROL SERVICE IN P

Rugeley Urban District Council Carol Service to be held on Tuesday evening, 19.12.72, at 7.30 p.m. in Elmore Road, preceded by a procession to Market Square.

The chairman of the Council, Councillor T. E. East, the Rev. J. East (Rugeley) will be in the procession, which will be led by the Salvation Army band from Aelfgar School and officers of the clergy and guests.

Before the service a turkey will be presented to the Christmas fair in Appleton. It will be the daughter of the applicant for a ch

Oct 26 1972

A graveyard as gateway to Colton

If present plans go ahead, visitors' first view of Colton on approaching from the south will be a graveyard.

Many people have realised that it could be daunting for visitors to be met by a cemetery as they enter the village, but most see no alternative and are ready to adjust their ideas.

Colton urgently needs more grave space and the land in question was left to the Church authority for use as a graveyard — and only as a graveyard.

Colton Parochial Church Council has agreed to give the land to the parish for the purpose and Colton Parish Council has agreed to become

could be made into a cemetery which formed an attractive entrance to the village. He suggested that the provision of a stone retaining wall with a few bordering shrubs and small trees could change the ugly piece of earth into a village asset.

"Memorial tablets flush with the ground would make the graveyard easy to maintain as the mower could go straight over them and it would just be like a large lawn. There is no need to have upright headstones which make the land look obviously like a ceme-

as well erect a sign at the bridge saying "Colton is dead". The resident thought better use of the land could be made by turning it into a village green with a garden and play area for children.

Mr. J. Brown, of The Cottage, Heathway, thought the scheme to make that particular piece of land into the new graveyard is "ridiculous". He said a graveyard could be provided at one-tenth of the cost and the ugly mound turned into a lawned recreational spot.

Present plans would disinte-

grate when the parish council costed the scheme and tried to obtain the money from the Lichfield Rural Council, Mr. Brown claimed.

"Half an acre of land — it could even be outside the parish — could be purchased at a fraction of the cost. The parish council has compulsory purchase powers," he said.

Mr. Brown suggested that land adjacent to the present graveyard be acquired for this purpose. "It would need no retaining wall and only require new fencing and a strip of land for access."

Mr. Brown said the land had been used as a graveyard for many years and that there was no objection to it being used as a graveyard.

"Cattle and sheep could be grazed there. It could be a people's graveyard."

The parish council would proceed with the present plans if the Church Council and the Lichfield Rural Council agreed to the transfer of the land.

The trouble we could be in...
The Church was unable to
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upon the rates as, like the
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Colton Parochial Church Council has offered to give the land to the parish for the purpose and Colton Parish Council has agreed to become the burial authority.

the expense of turning the piece of land (a mound to the right of the bridge and in front of the church) is likely to be high, estimated by some to be £5,000, so a considerable rate increase will be necessary. Colton's rector, the Rev. L. W. Sapsford, said that by using commonsense the mound

as well erect a sign at the bridge saying "Colton is dead". The resident thought better use of the land could be made by turning it into a village green with a garden and play area for children.

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Present plans would disinte-

Mr. Sapsford stressed that he was giving a personal opinion as the parish council was now the burial authority.

MRS. J. R. Hampton of Aspley House agreed that the mound is ugly at present and thinks that a graveyard, if landscaped and planted with choice trees, could make a considerable improvement. She thinks that a "massive" local appeal might help the village meet the cost. Other residents tended to agree with her view that if the land had to be made into a graveyard landscaping could do much to make it attractive.

But two people at the meeting

...but two people at least are questioning the fact that the land has to be made into a graveyard at all. A letter to the "Times" from a Colton resident said the village might

grate when the parish council costed the scheme and tried to obtain the money from the Lichfield Rural Council, Mr. Brown claimed.

"Half an acre of land — it could even be outside the

"Cattle used to graze on it. It could look really pretty and people could relax there," he said.

The parish council cannot proceed further with its present plans until the Parochial Church Council has consulted its solicitor concerning the legal transfer of the land.



Colton rector the Rev. L. W. Sapsford on the brook bridge from which the first view of the village—and the graveyard site—is obtained. He believes that the site can be suitably screened with trees and shrubs.

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Colton rector the Rev. L. W. Sapsford buys a box of Christmas crackers at the crowded fayre.

Reading Room packed for Colton fayre

Is money going out of fashion? One would have thought so at Colton's Christmas fayre on Saturday, for everyone had packed into the Reading Room and

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Cooper of Glaemead, Rydal Farm, opened the proceedings after having been introduced by the Rector of Colton, the Rev. L. W. Sapsford.

Mrs. Cooper said parishioners could be proud of their beautiful old church. They were thanked by Mrs. D. A. Bradbury, rector's warden, and Mrs. Cooper was presented with a pot plant by Joanna Derry, a member of the choir.

Mr. G. E. Vernon, people's warden, and Mrs. Vernon, ran a competition to guess the name of a doll — Mrs. Bettson won it with "Angela." Mrs. Bradbury was in charge of a raffle at which Mrs. J. Willisworth won a prize of sherry and Mrs. G. N. Johnson, biscuits.

Stallholders: Mesdames L. W. Sapsford, P. B. Best, I. Preston, M. J. Taylor, M. S. Toy, J. M. Chilton, B. M. Ravenscroft, E.

£87 raised at Colton Christmas fair

Nov. 25, 1977

The "Christmas Fayre" held at the Rector's Warden, Mrs. A.

bury, rector's warden, and Mrs. Cooper was presented with a pot plant by Joanna Derry, a member of the choir.

Mr. G. E. Vernon, people's warden, and Mrs. Vernon, ran a competition to guess the name of a doll — Mrs. Bettson won it with "Angela." Mrs. Bradbury was in charge of a raffle at which Mrs. J. Williscroft won a prize of sherry and Mrs. G. N. Johnson, biscuits.

Stallholders: Mesdames L. W. Sapsford, P. B. Best, I. Preston, M. J. Taylor, M. S. Toy, J. M. Chilton, B. M. Ravenscroft, E. M. Sargeant, O. M. Ballard, Miss R. Ballard, Heather Taylor, Mrs. J. Meddings, Mrs. J. E. Wright, Mrs. J. E. Norman, Mr. and Mrs. B. Bettson.

Mr. J. James was at the door and refreshments were in the charge of Mrs. M. E. Hibbs and Mrs. E. Griffin.

£87 raised at Colton Christmas fair

Nov. 25 1977

The "Christmas Fayre" held in the Reading Room, and organised by the Parochial Church Council and their gallant band of helpers, can indeed be called a social as well as a financial success. Proceeds for the general expenses of the church amounted to over £87.

The event was opened by Mr and Mrs G. W. Cooper of 'Glaemead', Rydal Farm. They were welcomed and introduced by the Rector Rev. L. W. Sapsford. Mrs Cooper said they felt it a great honour to be asked to perform the opening, that the Parishioners could be proud to have such a beautiful old church, and she urged the visitors to spend as much as possible. Mr Cooper endorsed these remarks. Choir girl Joanna Derry presented Mrs Cooper with a flowering pot plant.

The Rector's Warden, Mrs. A. Bradbury, expressed thanks to Mr and Mrs Cooper.

Helpers at stalls were Mrs Sapsford, Mrs P. B. Best, Mrs Ivy Preston, Mrs M. J. Taylor, Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft, Mrs M. S. Toy, Mrs J. M. Chilton, Mrs E. M. Sargeant, Mrs O. M. and the Misses Ruth and Heather Ballard, Heather Taylor, Mrs J. Meddings, Mrs J. E. Wright, and Mrs J. E. Norman, Tombola. Mr and Mrs B. Bettson, Mr J. James, Door attendant. Refreshments, Mrs M. E. Hibbs and Mrs E. Griffin.

The People's Warden Mr. G. E. Vernon and Mrs Vernon ran a competition to guess the name of the doll, Mrs Bettson was the winner, the name being Angela. The raffle in charge of Mrs Bradbury was won by Mrs Jane Williscroft (bottle of sherry), and Mrs G. N. Johnson (biscuits).

Mothers Union met at the Rectory for their November meeting by invitation of the Rector and Mrs L. W. Sapsford. The short service was conducted by the Rector, who then introduced the guest speaker, Mr T. H. R. James of the Church of England Childrens Society. Mr James spoke on the vast amount of work done by the Society in so many fields. He illustrated his talk with a very good film and Mrs Ivy Preston expressed thanks to Mr James. The raffle given by Mrs Preston, was won by Miss E. Rotchell. The proceeds of this were given as a donation to the Childrens Society. Several members took collecting boxes for the Society. Mrs Sapsford offered to collect and empty these each year. It was agreed to send a donation from funds to The Post Graduates Medical School at Burton-on-Trent in memory (requested instead of flowers) of Mrs Annie Nicklin, who had been a good member for many years. A collection was also taken from members for flowers to decorate the church for the Christmas festive season. Members were reminded that instead of any meeting in December members would as usual join the School pupils at their carol service in church.



One of the villagers to Colton Church Christmas Fair, tries her hand at the 'nine-pin' board, watched by the Vicar, the Rev L. W. Sapsford, and other visitors to the Church Reading Rooms, where the fair was held.

Dec 2nd 1972

Shelter for mums at Colton

Children playing on Colton's new play area may find they have a bigger audience if the parish council goes ahead with a suggestion to provide a small shelter with seating intended mainly for mothers and old people.

Councillor J. C. Price said the shelter 'would encourage the use of the area and mothers would be assured of shelter in the event of rain'.

A grant of £280 is available to Colton Parish Council, and members agreed on Thursday last that as the play area is almost the only public area in the village away from traffic, the money could be well spent on such a project.

Catalogues will be studied and recommendations on which type to buy will be heard at the parish council's next meeting in October.

Land not solely for burials

Staffordshire County Planning Department has rejected a request for all the rough land in front of St. Mary's Church, Colton to be turned into an urgently-needed burial ground as this would violate conservation, Colton Parish Council heard on Monday.

Mrs. I. Brown, clerk, told councillors that after a June site meeting between Colton parish councillors, members of the parochial church council and the planning department, the P.C.C. decided to offer part of the land near Colton House, in front of the Rectory, as the burial ground; while the rest near the road would be levelled, graded and seeded for a village green.

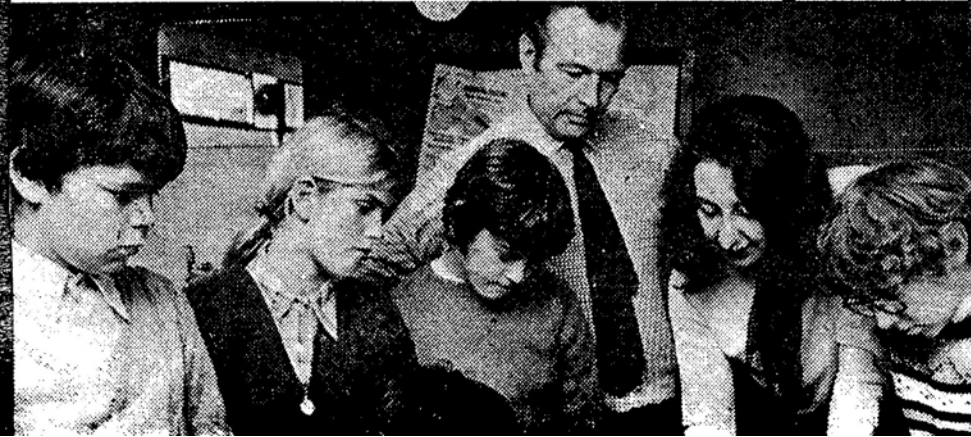
Councillor J. Price explained that the Charity Commissioners had released the land to the P.C.C. for maintenance, not as a gift. Only the land for the village green had been made over to the parish council.

Puzzled councillors decided that a letter should go to the rector, the Rev. L. W. Sapsford, asking him to clarify exactly how much land was to go to the parish council.

"Until we know we are still in the dark. The land would be just a liability, not an asset," said Councillor G. Sanders.

FIRST PRIMARY SCHOOL WITH COMPUTER LINK

Oct. 1972



Bellamour quarry cause of concern

A proposed gravel quarry on 75 acres of farmland off Bellamour Lane is causing concern to some members of Colton Parish Council.

If the application is successful, some 25,000 tons of gravel will be quarried each seven years on land leased by Colton farmer and parish councillor Mr. J. C. Price.

Nuisance to nearby residents and the inevitable increase in heavy traffic were two problems which Councillor G. Sanders was particularly concerned about at a meeting on Thursday last.

During the discussion, while Councillor Price had left the room, all members agreed that the application should be carefully examined. It was agreed that Councillor Sanders should do this and report back to the parish council.

On returning to the room, Councillor Price was able to give members more details of the application himself. Quarrying would be to a depth

of no more than 13 ft., and a finished area would be reclaimed before moving on to another part of the 75 acres, he said.

As to Councillor Sander's concern about an increase in heavy traffic, Councillor Price said 85 per cent of the gravel would go by rail. At the end of the seven years, all the land would return to agricultural use as it is now.

Asked whether the quarry company might try to expand beyond the present application, he said that the belt of gravel did not extend further north and further development south was difficult.

Councillor Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft (chairman) was given details of the application which will be studied by all members before their next meeting in October. Similar, but unsuccessful, applications

in this area have been made before.

● Bellamour Lane, along which 15 per cent of the lorries would start their haul to the Birmingham area, is the subject of a report being sent to the Chief Constable, Police Sgt. C. Brown of Great Haywood, who recently made a survey of the road, said he was 'amazed' at the amount of traffic.

He thought it likely that warning 'bend' signs would be erected and a weight restriction applied.

Brook Square Precinct plan modified

Modifications to the proposed development of Rugeley Town Hall and Brook Square have been agreed with the developers, it was announced this week.

Stonecourt Properties Ltd., who are carrying out the developments, produced revised plans at a meeting held with council representa-

tives recently agreed to approve the plans. They could be subject to full planning approval.

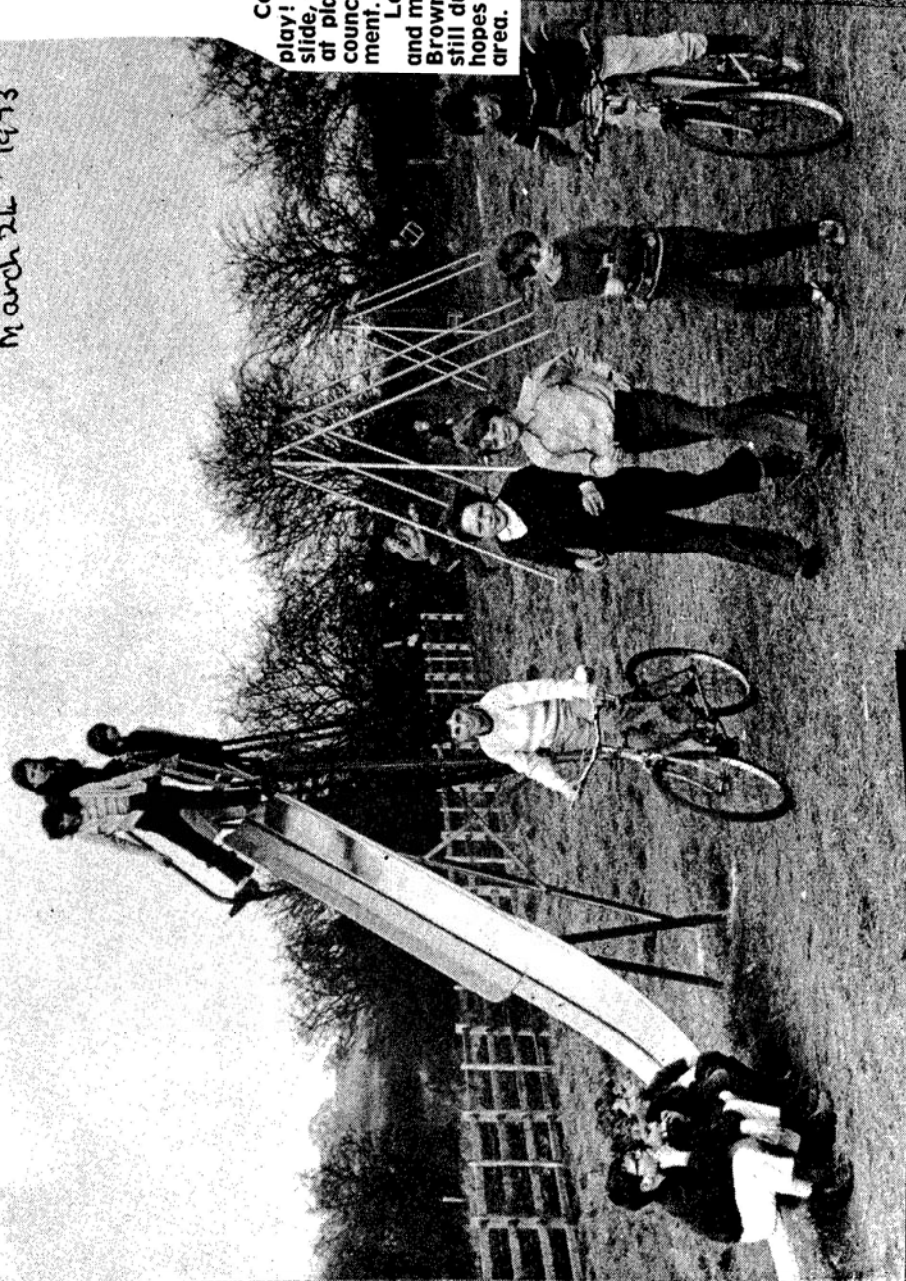
The modifications include a slight alteration of the proposed three-storey and taxi-rank of the Brook Square and other developments. These include the provision of one side of three-storey giving two floors of office space. This facility. This is not considered for a single large than individual.

The modifications include a number of alterations to the arrangements for the development.

The sub-committee to approve the development, and the developers to the planning committee, also asked to provide a detailed appraisal of the development as soon as possible.



March 26, 1973



AT LAST!—A PLAY FIELD FOR COLTON

Colton children have at long last somewhere to play! Their very own playing field has a see-saw, a slide, a goal post and swings galore. Here they are seen at play on the slide, and swings after a long parish council fight to get the field and a grant for the equipment.

Local opinion welcomes the play area as a popular and much-needed addition to the village. But Mrs. I. R. Brown, parish council clerk, complains that people are still dumping rubbish and car wrecks in the field. She hopes this will stop so that it can become a natural play area.

Hall

What is to be the fate of Rugeley's empty town Hall? Indications are that the question will have an answer some time next month, when an announcement is expected.



Lamp goes to museum

A Victorian lamp standard long thought of as a special feature of Rugeley town is soon to be removed to Shugborough Hall.

Rugeley Urban Council decided a few weeks ago to offer the County Museum the cast iron lamp standard, erected on the Rugeley side of the Horse Fair railway arches. Councilors began considering what to do with the lamp after a local man had offered to buy it. They decided that although it was no longer any use to Rugeley, it was part of the history of the town and it is nothing like so big as the

and thinks it could be displayed at Shugborough as part of the railway section of the museum.

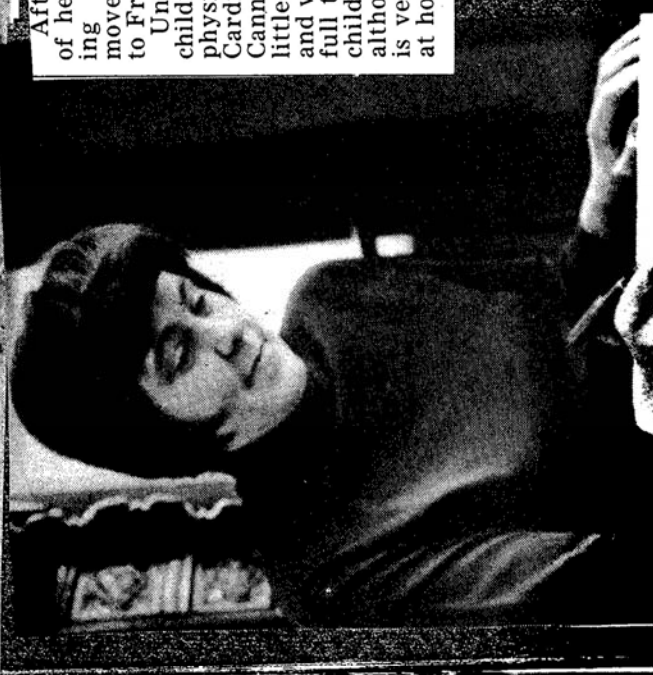
He said the museum would be happy to have the lamp if the council's engineer and surveyor's department can take it down and transport it safely. "It is a very interesting thing. It is such a massive structure for what it does but it is nothing like so big as the

After the tragic death of her father in a farming accident, Frances moved with her mother to Freshfields.

Until the birth of her children, Frances taught physical education at Cardinal Griffin School, Cannock. She has done a little part time teaching and will probably resume full time work when her children are older, although at present she is very happy just to be at home with them.

NO BOREDOM

"A lot of women get bored and long to be back at work, but I am quite contented. I do not sew or knit or have any indoor interests, I just enjoy pottering around the



be saved

Although every effort is made to preserve historic interest in the case of Handsacre Hall, a Staffordshire County Council sub-committee may be faced with no alternative but to effect demolition.

Part of the building is in danger of collapse — the roof has already fallen in. And other parts have been subjected to vandalism.

But Handsacre Hall, which dates from the 16th century, will only be demolished subject to the preservation of its more interesting features so it will not be a complete loss.

The best parts are to be carefully dismantled for resurrection at the Avoncroft Museum of Buildings, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove, where it is the intention of the proprietors to repair and resurrect what timbers survive in a skeletal form. They will preserve and display them and try to demonstrate the original dimensions and volume of the hall.

The County Council's Archaeology and Historic Property Sub-Committee agreed to the demolition of the building when they met recently, but only subject to the preservation.

The Sub-Committee is also planning to secure the control of demolition of buildings in Conservation areas. Consultations are to be held with District Councils concerning this when the Sub-Committee will point out the need for protecting buildings which add to

the quality and interest in the environment in Staffordshire.

Discussions with the County Council will be held to gain a better understanding of the best way of controlling demolition in the Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Act.

The Act makes provision for the local planning authority to control the demolition of buildings or more building reservation Area in order of preserving character or appearance.

Any building which is the subject of a demolition order is protected. Once the order is enforced, the building must be demolished within the time specified in the order.

At a recent meeting of the Archaeology and Historic Property Sub-Committee, it was agreed that the making of such demolition orders should be approved in buildings or areas considered to be of historic interest.

The Sub-Committee will also be asked to consider the character and appearance of the Conservation Area in the county.

Plans were shown to the sub-committee showing the relative positions of areas of special interest in the county. Such action in the past was taken at Bromsgrove, Bagnall, Bromley, Gnosall, Maer, Madeley, White, Horton.



This 16th century building — Handsacre Hall, Armitage — may have to be demolished because parts of it have either collapsed or been attacked by vandals. The photograph was taken before the roof caved in. But because it is listed as being of architectural and historic interest certain features will be preserved — the resurrected parts going to a Bromsgrove museum.

This 16th century building — Handsacre Hall, Armitage — may have to be demolished because parts of it have either collapsed or been attacked by vandals. The photograph was taken before the roof caved in. But because it is listed as being of architectural and historic interest certain features will be preserved — the resurrected parts going to a Bromsgrove museum.

County help with burial problems

Discussions with county planning and development department officials next week may alleviate Colton Parish Council's burial ground problems.

The Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's Church, Colton, want to donate a piece of land to the parish council for a burial ground for the village, but it is not a simple matter. Such a donation is not possible without the sanction of the Charity Commissioners.

Communications have been passing between Colton Parish Council and the Lichfield Diocesan Trust at regular intervals since the donation was first suggested, but the parish council are still in the dark.

At last week's meeting of the parish council a further letter from the diocesan trust did not make the position any clearer. But a letter from the county planning and development department put a completely different light on the matter, as a result of which the parish council will meet their representatives and parochial church council members.

The county planning department are suggesting that the triangular open area bounded by St. Mary's Church, Colton House and the pool 8 an area which includes land proposed for the burial

ground 8 should be left open. They are to ask the parish council and the parochial church council if it is their wish for this area to be developed more fully as a village green.

The department also point out that permission has been previously granted for an extension to the burial ground and this permission period has one more year to run. The parish council were not bound to use this land, but could put forward suggestions more relevant to the present day situation.

The parish council has been asked a number of questions by the Charity Commissioners concerning the plot of land which the parochial church council wish to donate but they are not certain of the answers. There were questions of cost and the amount of land required.

"We cannot decide how much land we want because we are not the burial authority. And we are not certain which section of land the Charity Commissioners are referring to, as a big piece is involved," commented Councillor G. Sanders.

June 23/73

Lady Joan opens Colton fete

June 30/73

St. Mary's Church, Colton annual garden party was opened by Lady Joan Bickerton, sister of the Earl of Shrewsbury and an old friend of the Rector, in the surroundings of the church and rectory on Saturday afternoon.

After her introduction by the Rector, the Rev. L. W. Sapsford, Lady Bickerton pointed out how heavy Church expenses were today.

Lady Bickerton was presented with a bouquet by four years - old Samantha Jones.

A clear profit of £200 is expected for general church funds. The Rector told the congregation at Sunday morning's service that the fellowship and friendship between himself and all those who had worked so hard to make the garden party a "very happy and successful event" had been of great value.

The garden party was held earlier in the year than the usual first Saturday in August as something else was fixed for this date.

One of the afternoon's events was a children's fancy dress competition which was judged by Mrs. N. Vernon of Newton and her sister, Mrs. L. Gesch from Australia.

Winners of the younger children's section were Susan Oliver as "Mary, Mary," Nicholas Doughty as a clown,

and Rachel Vernon as a "Birthday Girl."

Older winners were Ruth Greaves as an Indian girl, Louise Smith as Rupert Bear and Sarah Price as a witch.

After everyone had been round the many stalls and sideshows, bought their raffle tickets, there was still the final events of the day to see — tug of war contests between village youngsters and "Ladies versus Gents."

The men won the latter, held over Moreton Brook, which meant several contestants got wet feet!

Stalls and Sideshows

Mesdames M. J. Taylor and S. J. Ball (cakes); Miss E. Rotchell, Mesdames P. B. Best, V. James, E. M. Sargeant and Susan Atkin (miscellaneous); Mr. J. James (greengrocery); Mrs. V. Hurd (secondhand stall); Mr. F. G. Ballard, Heather Ballard and Heather Taylor (soft drinks, crisps); Mrs. M. Derry and Joanna Derry (hoopla); Belinda Oliver (handkerchiefs); Mesdames J. E. Wright, J. E. Norman and J. Meddings (tombola); Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Vernon (darts); Miss D. M. Jones (clock golf); Messrs. B. Bettson, M. Willisroft, A. E. Hurd and Ian Martin (bowls); Mr.

and Mrs. P. R. Jones Mr. M. Dawe and Mrs. J. Oliver (children's corner) Mesdames Bettson, H. A. Willisroft, I. Preston, D. Deacon, E. Griffin, P. McDowall, K. Haynes, N. Martin, B. M. Ravenscroft and E. D. Goodall (teas); Mrs. V. Collins (iced cake prize); Sharn Charles (grocery raffle); Mrs. P. L. Bannister (teddy bear raffle); C. J. Ravenscroft, Mr. G. N. Johnson (gate stewards); Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Bradbury and Mr. W. A. Norman (prize draw).

Winners.

Mr. F. J. Wright (iced cake); Mrs. D. Deacon (groceries); Mrs. P. Smith (teddy bear); Mrs. J. Charles (whisky); Mr. E. Myatt (eggs); Mrs. A. Lycett (whisky); V. Knapton (salad set); J. Ward (port); Bill Wade (ham); A. Davies (vermouth); Stephen Bennetts (sherry); D. Harratt (sherry); Mrs. M. Parr (port); Mr. N. Baker (eggs); Mrs. M. Norman (fruit); Cyril Massey (sherry); Mrs. B. C. Harper (stationery); Tom Hollins (iced cake); Paul Waring (whisky); Mrs. L. Fisher (tea); Mrs. A. J. Arthur (water set) and Mrs. M. Buckley (towel).

R.A.F. SALU LORD BAGOT AS HIS ASH ARE BURIED

The ashes of Lord Bagot, seventh Baron, brought from London to the family's ancestral Blithfield Hall for interment on Monday.

Lord Bagot, who died at the age of 79 at his London home, had never lived at Blithfield Hall — although a regular visitor there between the wars — yet had expressed a wish to be buried in the grounds of St. Leonard's Church alongside his predecessors.

Born in February 1894 and educated at Marlborough, Lord Bagot, who succeeded to the title in 1961, was a captain and distinguished pilot in the Royal Flying Corps' 16th Squadron during the First World War.

After being shot down and severely wounded in an aerial battle with planes of Baron von Richtofen's squadron, he refused to be invalided out, but continued to serve as a flying instructor.

KING'S MESSENGER

The seventh Baron Bagot was nephew of the fifth baron, and was for some time King's Messenger.

His first wife was Australian, and he elected to live in that country. He married for the second time last November.

Lord Bagot's mother was daughter of Vice-Admiral Henry Bagot and sister to the fifth baron. His father lived for some years in Ceylon where he had property interests. He later moved to Stanton Lacey Manor, where his elder brother Lewis, father of the sixth baron, was vicar. Mr. Bagot lived in Shropshire until his death in 1939.

The late Lord Bagot's ashes were interred at a private ceremony at St. Leonard's Church on Monday, when the

service was conducted by the Rector of Blithfield, the Rev. L. W. Sapsford.

The seventh Baron's squadron was a Force which were both a ceremony.

A last trip of the late baron's aircraft flew dipping its salute.

A keen friend of the family, Lord Bagot, the limelight of the present Museum's heirlooms, embroidered by King's ancestor.

UNPLEASANT

Mr. D. Bagot, friend of the family, from his remembrance of the House of Lords — individual.

Major Ludlow, son of the baron: "I show and get through and was by all who."

The eighth baron, Reginald, in Eastbourne and education College. Royal Marine Wars. Two no children.



Lady Bickerton who opened St. Mary's Church, Colton annual garden party, to a little balloon girl. Behind them from left: the Rector, Nancy Lady Broughton, former village schoolmaster, and Mrs. Broughton. They return to Colton from their Walton home for the annual party.



Mr. & Mrs. B.

Mr. Barrie Ian Shemilt of Longdon and Miss Trudy Grimley of Colton were married recently at St. Mary's Church, Colton. The rector, the Rev. L. W. Sapsford, conducted the ceremony.

head-dressed in pearls and bouquets of pink roses. The ceremony was held in the church.

railway

town could have an efficient passenger railway service with the help of the West Midlands Transport Authority and the Walsall Metropolitan Council to power next April.

Railway Passenger Action Committee is working for some time to re-open the line from Rugeley to Walsall to passengers. Local authorities affected — including Walsall Council — support them and this week are making more powerful support.

Walsall Yapp, new Merrie Council and Passenger Authority was set up to give the £5 million which the council worked out

a 5,500 signpost opening area, the scheme worked out

collected in people in the places plans — Hednesford but it had more than 5,000 Councillors

development is Rugeley, Hednesford, Old Hednesford Road, Cannock, Great Wyrley and Bloxwich. This would cost about £77,000 and no doubt the towns involved would be

areas and Cannock's Merrie England entertainment centre at present being built, say the action committee.

Although the scheme would cost £5 million, it is a lot cheaper than the only viable alternative to serve the growing towns north of Birmingham, it says.

SAVING

That alternative is a second motorway to relieve the already overburdened M6 and such a motorway would cost £15 million and take valuable land. The action committee points out the nuisance and disturbance of a new motorway whereas the railway is there already.

The action committee want to re-open or re-build railway stations at Rugeley, Hednesford, Old Hednesford Road, Cannock, Great Wyrley and Bloxwich. This would cost about £77,000 and no doubt the towns involved would be

asked to contribute. Also three or four new engines would be needed at a cost of £600,000.

Eventually the action committee wants to see the electrification of the line and talks are in progress with the Walsall Borough Council's engineer and surveyors' department to find a method of putting the essential cable under Walsall bridge. Electrification and resignalling would cost £3.5 million and about 11 new engines would have to be bought.

The Rugeley to Walsall rail line is virtually an extension of the Wellington to Walsall line via Wolverhampton and the action committee have worked out a time-table based on the present Wellington to Wolverhampton time-table. The times have been planned to integrate with the electric services both north and south from Wolverhampton.

The first train would leave Rugeley Trent Valley station at 7.18 a.m., get to Walsall at 7.57 a.m. and Wolverhampton at 8.16 a.m. From Wol-

Valley.

These times are based on a diesel service which the action committee want to see implemented first. After electrification the times and frequency could be very much speeded up. The committee say if their ideas are accepted and work begins this year, the line would be fully operational and electrified by 1976/7.

very proud.

And the honesty of the public and its tradespeople is of a very high standard.

When I shop at home, whether locally or in the city, I have to be on a constant watch to check if my handbag is in tact — and the goods in my shopping bag. I once had my purse removed from my handbag while I was being served.

In Rugeley you can leave your shopping bag and move from a counter to look at the shop's display without fear of it being taken.

A few days ago a friend made a purchase in Birmingham of a coffee table. The price was £18.50p and when she said she was paying cash she was told there would be a 50p reduction and was very pleased. I could not tell her that in Rugeley on May 31 I saw the very same table marked at £14.50p. So why leave Rugeley to shop? This is a big saving surely.

I suggest that all housewives and grannies like me shop where prices are good and where you know you can depend on good service, good value and a "thank you, madam." This means a lot whether you spend 10p or 100p.

I am always very happy with what I buy in Rugeley and I look forward to your new town centre and shopping facilities. In Rugeley there is no rush and bustle and you can shop at leisure and you see many friendly and families faces but shopping in the city is lonely.

I used to live at Handsacre some 13 years ago and I appreciate Rugeley far better now than I did then. It is nice to see how the other half live. To me you people in Rugeley are the other half and I prefer to live your way.

Happy hunting shoppers.

Mrs. Mary Moye.

38, Drummond Road, Bordesley Green, Birmingham 9.

Colton teacher dies

The funeral took place on Wednesday of Mrs. Margaret Susan Toy, of Hamley Fields, Stockwell Heath, Colton, who died on Sunday after a long illness.

Mrs. Toy, who was 56, was a teacher of the infants' class at St. Mary's Church of England School for the past 15 years, and had lived at Stockwell Heath for 28 years, first at Hamley Lodge and latterly at Hamley Fields.

A founder member of Colton Village Produce Guild, she was treasurer of the county association of produce guilds for many years. She also served as secretary to the village's Women's Institute for three years.

Mrs. Toy served on the parish council for a total of nine years, and was its chairman for two. Earlier she served as vice-chairman of the council for two years. But after completing her latest term of office as chairman she decided not to stand for the council again, for health reasons.

She and her husband, Mr. J. H. Toy, attended the Royal garden party at Shugborough Hall in May, when Mrs. Toy represented the parish council.

Wednesday's funeral service was followed by cremation. Donations in lieu of flowers are to be used to buy a large memorial Bible for use at the school where Mrs. Toy used to teach.

Georgian building 'neglect'

Colton House — a large Georgian style building now divided into six flats — is in the first stages of neglect and fast becoming dilapidated according to a parish councillor.

The building is listed as Grade 2 and lies in a part of Colton designated as a Conservation Area. Councillor J. C. Price has urged that Lichfield Rural Council examine the building and prevent further deterioration.

If necessary, they could serve a compulsory repairs order on the owner, but should do so before it was too late as happened at Handsacre Hall, he said.

However, on Thursday, a spokesman for the owners agents said they expected the house to be sold soon; the buyer has indicated that he intends to renovate the building.

Meanwhile parish council clerk Mrs. I. R. Brown will ask Lichfield Rural Council to keep the building under review.

The ghost of Bellamour Hall

by May Bannister

I WALKED through the village, alone in the dusk curtains were drawn close at the windows and houses had a closed in guarded look about them—as though they did not want to be disturbed. I walked to the brook bridge and leaned over the wall to watch the moon appearing from behind a cloud by its reflection in the water. The church was silhouetted in the shadows—and a light shone from the Rectory and cast its beams on the lawn. I walked to the end of the road and turned towards the lodge gates, where I paused again to watch the night sky.

An owl hooted and made me jump as it flew from the branches of a tree—then a vixen screamed from across the fields, its uncanny call rending the quiet of the countryside! A shiver ran down my back—someone walking over my grave—I had the feeling that I was not alone . . .

I turned from the gate and walked on, the moonlight was brilliant now—I could almost have read a book. I looked over the old stone wall at the ruins of what had once been an impressive house and thought of the story I had heard some time ago while visiting friends. . . . The story was told to me by a very old lady, who had heard it first hand from a friend.

It was the story of the ghost of Bellamour Hall . . .

“Did you ever hear tell of the ghost, my dear?” asked the old lady.

“No”, I answered, looking inquisitive.

“Well, there was this tall gentleman my dear, he used to wear a deer stalker hat, and a greasy suit with them baggy trousers—what do you call them—plus-fours aint it, and brown boots. Good looking fellow he were”.

“Yes, do go on”.

“Well, it was like this, my friend was housekeeper up at the hall, its a good many years go now—I’m nearly ninety you know, and all this happened when I was a young girl mind you”.

“Yes”.

“Used to go in my friends bed-room he did, and wake her up. He was not a frightening ghost—he was quite gentle—used to tap her shoulder and waken her then beckon to her to follow him, that what he did”.

“What happened then?”.

“He used to go down the stairs and into the library. Then he would open the bureau drawer—looking for for something he were”.

“What else happened?”.

“Well, he used to go down the stairs and out into the garden and stand by the well”.

“Yes”

“He moved all the boots and shoes, sometimes he carried his own boots in his hand, got a thing about footwear he had”.

“Did you ever see him?”

“No, I never did, but most of the family who lived there did so ‘twas said. He used to wake folks up nearly every night clattering about with the footwear”.

“Did he do anything else?”

“No, except walk up and down the stairs in a bewildered sort of way”.

“Was your friend frightened of him?”

“At first she was, but she got used to him after a while”.

“What happened in the end?”

“My friends boss had him exocised”.

“Was it effective?”

“Oh yes! he didn’t ever come no more”.

“Thank you for telling me the story”.

“You going to write about it?”

“I will one day”.

The old lady beamed at me—then settled in her chair for a nap, she was tired after this long conversation.

Bellamour Hall was built by Sir Walter Aston’s son Herbert, who had acted as his fathers secretary while Sir Walter was ambassador to Spain. Herbert married Catherine, daughter of Sir John Thimelby Bart. of Lincolnshire on his return from Spain, and as Sir Walters fortune had been diminished by the Civil War he could only make over a small property in Colton to his son. On this land, in 1634 Herbert built the first Bellamour Hall for his wife, and because of the generous help of their friends the young couple named the house “Bellamore”, which, in Italian means “Good Love”.

The “New Hall” was purchased in 1824 by Mr. J. Oldham, who died in 1857, and the property was sold again, this time to Mr. T. Horsefall. He and his family lived in the hall until 1923 when the house was demolished by his orders. It was this house I was given to understand was haunted. No trace of it is left now except a small lake and a clump of trees which was once part of an extensive garden.

I often walk past the ruins of “Old Bellamour” and it was under the trees in the garden of the “New Hall” that I first thought of the ghost . . . It was under these trees that I had felt that I was not alone . . . I wonder . . .

What had the old lady’s story to do with the truth? Had there been a ghost? Had there been a murder done sometime at the hall, or was the ghost looking for hidden treasure? I have recorded all I know . . .

Colton farmers seek protection

Colton farmers, gripped by the fear of mining under their land, are desperately seeking assurance that they will be protected against subsidence.

However, inquiries to NCB officials and the Severn Trent Water Authority have not been forthcoming.

The parish council is battling on behalf of farmers to have the land drained before any mining takes place. If subsidence occurs, the flooding which has plagued the village in the past should at least be minimised.

While pursuing this bid, the parish council is also writing to councils in Selby and Beverley asking them to have a say in their problems.

Colton youngsters plead for a pitch

For the last three weeks Colton boys — aged between nine and 17 — have been training to play football, coached by Mr. George Vernon and his wife Marion (right).

Every Thursday evening they gather at the Reading Room and do exercises in the hope that they will be fit and ready to form proper league football teams by the autumn—but at the moment there is no proper village league next season.

pitch on which they can play. The football pitch at St. Mary's School is not open to the village generally. Some boys do play on Martin Hill but the ground slopes rather steeply.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon hope that problem can be overcome somehow and they envisage perhaps an under-14 and an under-16 team representing the village, playing in the local league next season.

Craftsman with gift of words

If you don't mind the tea going cold; if you have an understanding boss who doesn't mind you being late back to work or office, then Bernard Jack's "Antique Story Book" is just right for you.

For it's that kind of a book, you pick it up and forget to put it down again. It's 100 - odd pages contain 86 episodes; hardly chapters, many just anecdotes and most with a strong point



June 1975

June 1975

June 1975



May 1978

New priest for two parishes

People of Colton and Blithfield crowded into St. Mary's Church at Colton on Monday evening to see the licensing of a priest - in-charge for the two parishes (above).

Colton and Blithfield have been without a priest of their own since the Rev. L. W. Sapsford retired as rector of both last autumn.

The Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt. Rev. Kenneth Skelton, licensed the Rev. Raymond Wilcox as priest - in - charge in a ceremony unusual to the villagers.

Mr. Wilcox, his wife and four children all took part in the first half of the ceremony.

The Rev. Roger Gilbert of Rugeley who has been taking services at the church, acted as bishop's chaplain.

Also present was the Archdeacon of Stafford, the Ven. Richard Ninis, Rural Dean the Rev. Michael Watkinson and other clergy.

After the licensing of Mr. Wilcox the church wardens of both parishes, Mr. Irvine Collins and Mrs. Dorothy Bradbury of Colton, Mr. George Vernon and Mr. Gordon Shipley of Blithfield, presented the electoral rolls to him.

Mr. David Bradbury presented him with a bible. A cross, a candle and ewer were carried ceremonially to the font by Mrs. Mary Parkinson, Mrs. Betty Cooper and Mrs. B. Hanson respectively.

The bread and wine were carried to the altar by Mr. Maurice Williscroft and Mr. Tom Freeman.

Lessons were read by Mr. Terence Cooper of Blithfield and Mrs. Olive Ballard of Colton.

Parishioners formally welcomed Mr. Wilcox and his family to the parishes by shaking hands.

Welcomes were given in this way by the Rev. David Woodhouse for Colwich; Mr. John Brown of the

Deanery Synod; Father Aidan Deane of Hawkesyard Priory and Mrs. Celia Foote (chairmen of Rugeley and District Council of Churches); Mrs. Kathleen Beech for Colton Roman Catholics; Mrs. Blanche Ravenscroft for Colton Parish Council; Mrs. Frances O'Neill for Blithfield Parish Council and Mrs. Emily Hensley head of Colton School.

After the service refreshments were served in the Reading Room where people had a chance to meet their new priest and his family informally.

Chicken "family" on the move to Colton

THE new Priest-in-Charge of Colton and Blithfield, the Rev. Raymond Wilcox, is preparing for his move in May.

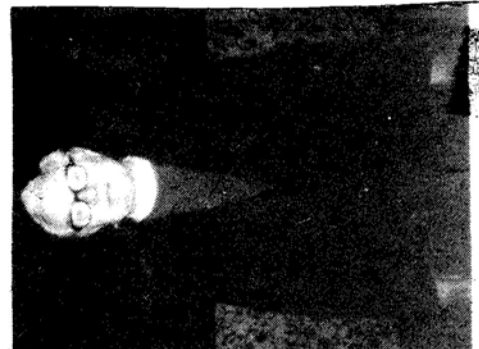
And that is quite a job after 20 years in one place. "I was the first Vicar of Bentley almost 21 years ago and I have collected quite a few things over the years," said Mr. Wilcox, whose parish is near Walsall.

Not only are his wife, Rowena, and their two teenage sons making the move with him — but his "family" of chickens too.

"I have always kept chickens and when they are laying I get about a dozen eggs a day."

"Of course they are not laying at the moment — but I am talking to them nicely and hoping," he said.

Mr. Wilcox will be licensed by the Bishop of Lichfield on May 15 at Colton Church. Among the hobbies he hopes to continue at his new home are reading, watching rugby, gardening and choral singing.



The Rev. Raymond Wilcox

...y before the
hall disappeared from
direct view again. De-
molition contractors
can now work behind
the fins. The council
plans to save much of
the ornamental ma-
sonry.

Burial ground progress — at last

Three Colton parish coun-
cillors have been appointed to
the village burial ground's
management committee.
The parish council are trustees
of the ground, which is ex-
pected to be completed early
next month.

The management committee

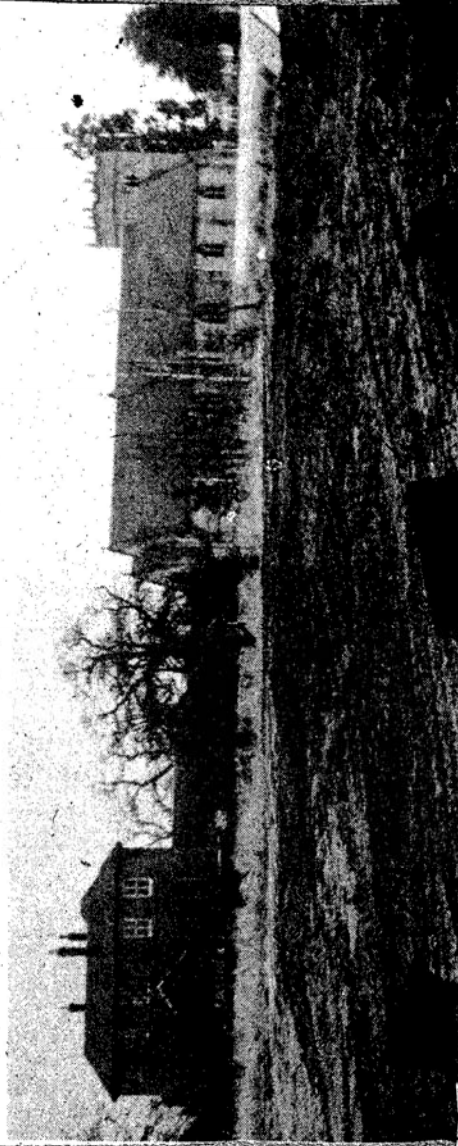
comprises Councillors G. Sanders,
G. E. Vernon and F. G. Ballard, with
Mr. D. J. Bradbury, Mr. T. H.
Freeman and Mrs. M. J. Taylor,
plus secretary Mrs. I. V. Collins.

A report of the burial ground's
progress was given at a parish
council meeting, when clerk Mrs. I.
Brown also reported on a Lea Hall

meeting with the N.C.B.

A plan in which faults had been
marked was on view and councillors
agreed that it would be advisable to
consult the Trent River Board
before arranging a public meeting.

It has been suggested by officials
at the Lea Hall meeting that coun-
cillors should visit them each year.



Royalty at Show

Royalty visited Staf-
fordshire Agricultural
Society's county show
for the first time this
year.

The Duke of Gloucester
who had recovered sooner
than expected from a foot
injury, arrived by heli-
copter. After meeting Mr.
Denys Stubbs, society
chairman, and county

council chairman, Coun-
cillor Arnold Ward, he
toured the 70 acre show-
ground site near Weston.

One of the highlights of
the Duke's visit was his
presentation of trophies
and certificates for long
service to 17 farmworkers
from throughout the
county.

Among them w

years old Mr. Arthur Rowe
who has worked at
Newton Manor Farm,
Admaston, for the last 45
years.

Mr. Geoffrey Parkinson
of Lea Hall Farm,
Admaston, went away
with several prizes.

His young cow Bea-
conside Daybreak 2nd was
supreme champion
Cattle Section, and
won a fistful of other
prizes.

Mrs. Margaret P...
119, Bower Lane...
second in the begi...
choice flower arra...
class, and Miss S. P. C...
of Churchcroft, Station...
Road was third in the same...
class. Mrs. J. P. Crowe of...
the same address was...
placed fourth in the 'A...
Toast to the Society' class...
for pedestal arrange-
ments.

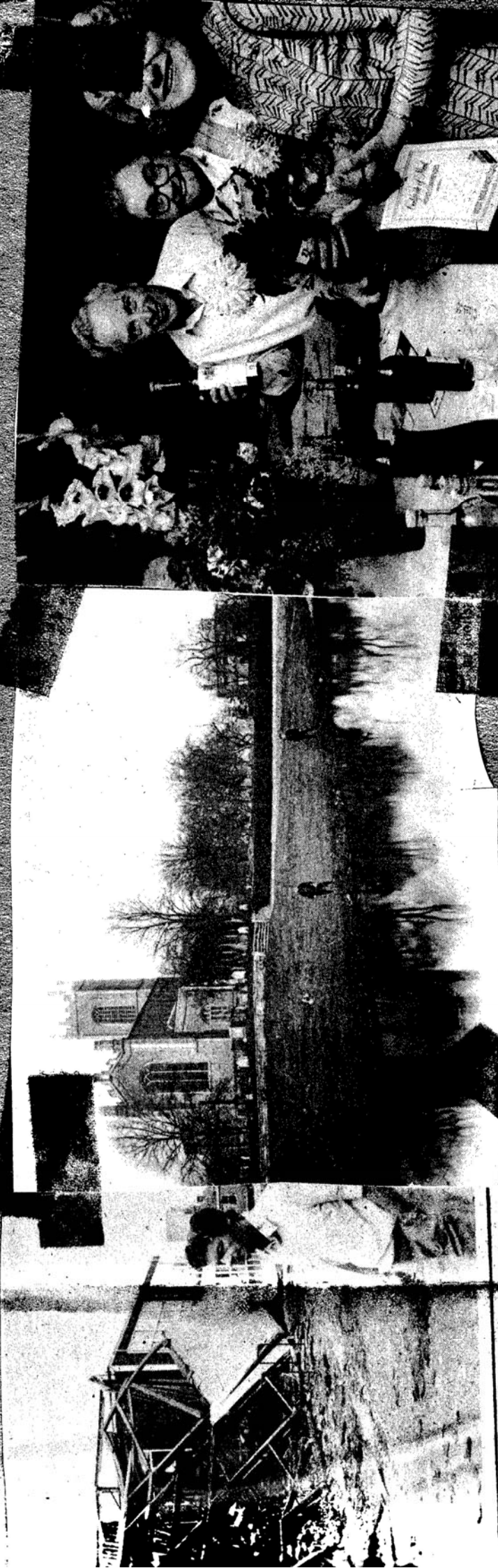
Mrs. Rachel Roobottom
of Cowley Hill Farm,
Hamstall Rdware entered
the cookery and need-
lework section — she and
another woman from
Hamstall were the only

...er's had an interest in the
venture, but withdrew
about three years ago.
Then in November last
year, the Garden Centre
opened their 'no-meat'
Conservatory restaurant
at the premises which is to
stay open.

It was thought that
Blaggs were to take the
Garden Centre's building
yard, but this did not
happen.

On Thursday, Blaggs'
manager told the 'Times':
"At the turn of the year,
the Garden Centre ap-
proached us and we said
we would take the yard on
a short term basis, to see
how it went. We applied
for planning permission
for a change of use, but
while this was in the
council pipeline, the
Garden Centre said, in
March, that they had
changed their minds."

Mr. Mike Swift of the
Garden Centre, was not
available for comment on
Thursday.



Eyesore flats get facelift

The two vacant blocks of modern flats at the corner of Anson Street, empty for several years and a cause of "eyesore" complaints to and by the district council, are being restored for sale as luxury flats.

Named Anson House and Derwent House by the original developers (they were built on the site of Anson House), they are to be renamed Barden Court and are expected to be on the market in five weeks' time.

Aluminium Fabrication Association of Cannock, are carrying out conversion work on the eight years-old flats.

They say they are prepared to pay the five per cent deposit, on the mortgage of the flats, to help out any young couples who have married

Photo Flashback

From a set of old postcards dating from the beginning of the century, lent by Mr. Bill Evans of 34 Grindcobbie Grove, Rugeley, comes this view of St. Augustine's Church from the east, across the canal.

It shows the church just before the chancel and Lady chapel were added. The house on the right is now known as Churchcroft but was formerly Glean Camlas and in the middle of last century was the Palmer family home.

This view of the church is as it was when built in 1823. £45,000 appeal for restoration work is now being raised at present.

Mr. Jack Brown with his winning grape and sulfana wine, Mrs. Ivy Preston, winner of the ladies Silver Cup, and Mrs. Monica Taylor with a fruit loaf which won her the Ruth Williams Trophy at Colton Show.

Sept. 1978



Prize winners at Colton, from left: Mrs. Elizabeth Nixon, Mr. Cecil Ravenscroft, Mr. Neville James, Mrs. Violet James and Mr. Jack James who presented the prizes.

Moving to Pelsall

Oct 7 78

...and how better to spend them, than on this house?

and how better to spend them, than on this house?

'We've put in a swimming pool and a new roof and have had to do up the house,' said Anthony, whose family are said to have spent \$750,000 on improvements, only to have had their beach washed away in this month's storms.

Now chairman of the family-owned J.C.B. firm — his father went into Swiss tax exile four years ago — Anthony plans to spend a month a year at Heron Bay with his wife Carole and their children, Alice, three, and Joseph, one.

We were the underbidders for the property but Mrs Tree preferred to sell to us, rather than to an American hotel.

group and a consortium of developers. It's a family house and won't be available for renting.'

As intermittent showers scattered guests through the house, Mrs Tree introduced the young Bamfords to the island's oldest families and politicians while a band played from the four-postered master bedroom.

At one stage Anthony found himself greeting the unlikely figure of the caftan-clad Mrs Barbara Castle, on holiday with husband 'Lorv' Ted whose own get-up was more beerage than peerage.

Colton c Ruth Ball (tured) has to the final competition - 235. Ruth, whose par High Street of 50 p compete i at Ashing humbria Monday, T Wednesday players we from 200 a Ruth w one of sev competi

The winner the oppo play North

the face of over-competition and a time when all ons are pleading erty, an English- has bought From Bay — the first property in Babados and on the market at \$1.5 mil-

The new owner is Joe unford, who founded

the Staffordshire excavator company; and on Saturday night his son Anthony, 33, was proudly showing 200 guests, including Premier Tom Adams, around the acquisition.

With 20 acres front on to the beach, Heron Bay was put up for sale by Marietta Tree, 61, a former U.S. Ambassador to the UN, who was left the on the death three years ago of her husband, Monte Tree, an ex-MP.

Colton's flooding problem lingers

Colton parish councillors are still trying to get action to stop the flooding of Moreton Brook, which affects the main road through the village as well as agricultural land.

About 17 acres of farming land at that end of the parish and the main road will be affected when Lea Hall mining goes under Colton but parish councillors want action taken before that happens.

At a parish council meeting on Friday they decided to ask the district council to continue pressure on the N.C.B. and Severn Trent Water Authority to agree to a scheme to stop flooding.

They also asked the clerk to sort out a year-old in which the water authority denied responsibility for Moreton Brook. Various schemes have

been suggested for some time to alleviate flooding in that area. Both the district and county councils agree that everything should be done to alleviate flooding problems.

And the parish councillors have been told that the N.C.B. must make arrangements satisfactory to the water authority to make sure the land is all right.

Councillors felt that someone should decide what was to be done about the problem as Severn Trent seemed to be 'dragging their feet'.

Death of retired farmer

Former Colton farmer and keen gardener Mr. William C. Sargeant, died at Burton Infirmary on Tuesday evening at the age of 82.

Mr. Sargeant farmed at Hamley Heath Farm for 26 years before retiring to Yorick, 53, High Street, Colton. He leaves a wife, two sons and a daughter.

Mr. Sargeant entered many local produce shows, winning numerous trophies and in fact he won a trophy every year for 15 years until two years ago when he "retired" from produce showing.

The funeral takes place at St. Mary's Church, Colton on Monday and the family has asked that no flowers be sent but donations be given to the church.

Talk on Samaritans

A joint meeting of Blithfield and Colton Mothers' Unions was held in Newton Village Hall last week.

After a short service conducted by the Rev. R. Wilcox, a talk was given on the work of the Samaritans.

A bring and buy stall raised money for Colton Church.

Gas girl in a man

An 18 years - old Ru oteer in what used to be a man — and has started

Kate Jupp, of Peak has joined the small girls who are looking for a challenging future.

Kate is training to be a student apprentice w And she showed he course at Coventry picking up the Dunlop leading ONC student neering.

A former pupil of A now studying for a de at Salford University, girls in a class of 30.

She and seven oth students who have s in college exa to mark the on and Tr Young.

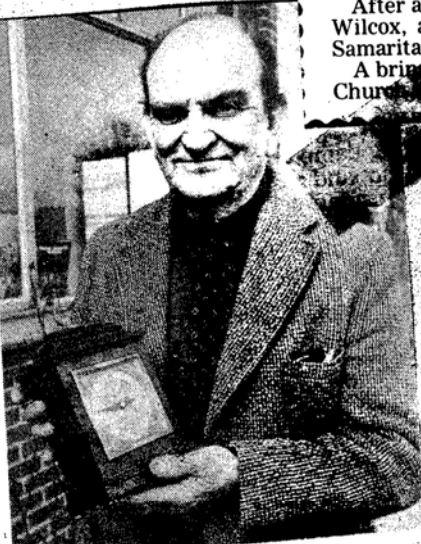
ing service recognised

After teaching in Rugeley schools for more than 30 years, Mr. Donald Nutter was presented with a clock on Friday by Staffordshire County Council.

Mr. Nutter first went to Aelfgar School where he taught English for eight years.

From there he went to Churchfield Primary School where he has remained for 22 years and is now deputy head.

He has been well known locally also for his dramatic and operatic activities.





First at Colton

St. Mary's Church, Colton, held a Civic Service on Sunday attended by members of the Parish Council and also by County Councillor Mr. Frank Lewis. The Rev. Raymond Wilcox conducted the service.

The collection amounted to £30, half of which is to go to the church restoration fund and half to the village hall fund.

Pictured after the service are, from left, the Rev. Raymond Wilcox, Councillor Mrs. Blanche Ravenscroft, County Councillor Mr. Frank Lewis, churchwarden Mr. George Vernon, Councillors Norman Baker, Mrs. Barbara Gagan, David Bradbury and George Upton.

Builder's widow dies

A funeral service for well known church member Mrs. Annie Mason was held on Monday at St. Augustine Church.

Mrs. Mason, who died at the age of 84, lived at The Poplars, Hednesford Road, and leaves a son and daughter. She was the widow of Mr. Arthur Mason, once a partner in the local building firm of that name.

Mrs. Mason had been connected with St. Augustine's for at least 30 years and was a member of the Mothers' Union, the brass guild and the flower rota.

June 1979

Ruby couple were class

A couple who were classmates will be celebrating their Ruby tomorrow.

Mr. Tom Meddings and his wife were married on June 17, 1939, at Colton. They live at 6, Bryan Road, and have two adult sons.

Mr. Meddings comes from Colton — he lived at Bank Top — and his wife was born in a village as a child, having been in Bromley. The two lived opposite each other at St. Mary's School. They had a three-year courtship.

Mrs. Meddings worked at a factory for three years after her retirement three years ago in its casting department, then in its section. Her husband still works at Shanks, as a sliphouse attendant in January.

They have prepared for retirement to occupy their time. Two greenhouses and stretches of garden. Mrs. Meddings' chief interest is in tomatoes while her husband is a dab hand at tomatoes.

He is also a member of the Colton Working Men's Club — his wife is a member — and his wife belongs to the Colton Club.

Mr. Meddings have a definite plan for the future. "Pull together and make the smooth," they say.

Work to start on new market hall

Work on Rugeley's new market hall off the Square shopping centre is due to start on May 14, market traders were told at an annual dinner at

Eaton Lodge Hotel.

The event was organised by the 20 years - old Cannock Market Traders Association, with traders from Rugeley and Hednesford markets being invited as usual.

Mr. Ray Oakley,

outdoor market was being built in the car park in front of the Anglesey Hotel — the old market site being used for a new Co-operative store.

He told the "Times" that Cannock indoor market had proved very good for traders and everyone

Farmer forced to sell family

A Colton farmer who may be forced to leave his life-long home said this week he was "disgusted by the whole business".

Mr. George Moller has

She lived in one part of the farmhouse free of rent, rates and heating expenses plus a "salary" of £2,000.

But last year she sought an order to have the farm sold. And this week Hig-

Colton church gains £280

A turnout of about 200 helped ensure the success of St. Mary's Church fete at Colton on Saturday.

More than £280 was raised for church funds plus another £60 from a disco held at the Village Hall on Saturday night.

Visitors were treated to displays from the ladies keep-fit group, the children's gymnastics club — both are village organisations — and Abbots Bromley Horn Dancers.

There were produce, cake, toy, second-hand and miscellaneous stalls which were manned by villagers, and visitors were invited to try their luck at wet sponge throwing plus the fast-growing sport of "welly wanging".

The Greyhound public house donated a lamb which was won at the skittle stall by Mr. George Davies of Blithbury Road.

The skittle stall raised £32 — the most it has ever amassed in its history according to one fete

organiser.

The fete was opened by the Rev. Raymond Wilcox, priest-in-charge at St. Mary's Church, and his wife.

Mr. Wilcox was presented with a buttonhole and Mrs. Wilcox a bouquet by choirgirls Julie and Margaret Asprey.

Mrs. Monica Taylor won the vegetable prize at the produce stall and Mrs. Winnie Jones won a doll by guessing the date of his birthday.

The birthday competition was organised by Colton Brownies and they chose the birthday of Lady Baden Powell as the winning date.

One raffle prize from the produce stall was unclaimed. That is for a basket of fruit and the winning strip of tickets is 376 to 380.

The winner should contact Mrs. Ruth Jones at the village post office.

In the tombola stall raffle champagne was won by Mrs. Josie Oliver and a cake by Miss Lucy Norman.



Pictured with the Rev. Raymond Wilcox, priest-in-charge at St. Mary's Church, Colton is four years-old Josephine Johnson. Mr. Wilcox and his wife opened the fete and young Josephine helped raise money by selling buttonholes and lavender bags. Left: Churchwarden Mrs. Dorothy Bradbury is seen on the left of this group round the produce stall.



Local winners at the Royal

Life is honey sweet for Harry and Monica Taylor of Colton this week.

The work of their busy bees has won them two cups at the Royal Show for the first time ever.

The couple have been

keeping bees for 23 years. And although they have won prizes at the Royal before, this is the first time a trophy has come their way.

The couple, who live at 16, High Street, Colton, have about 50

hives spread between various farms in the Ru-geley area.

And they bottle and sell all their honey themselves.

"I think the secret of our success lies in taking care how we bottle it. Polishing the jars, making sure the caps are clean and the honey is well strained is important too," said Mrs. Taylor.



Musicians in London

A couple who met while they were both studying at the Royal Academy of Music were married recently in London.

They were Miss R.

own bank, post office, shop, hairdressing salon and launderette. It will even have its own currency.

Pipewood, as it is to be known, opens on January 8. Initially there will be 10 boys and 10 girls between the ages of 14 and 18 at

the school. These are teenagers who have had problems either in their home environment or at school.

As an independent school, Pipewood can only accept pupils recommended by local authorities or Social Service departments within 100 miles of the school.

Pipewood is situated just outside Blithbury on the Hamstall Ridware road. It used to be a National Camps Corporation School and was later acquired by Staffordshire County Council but has been closed for the last five years.

Its lease is now being negotiated from the county council by the Home

Hall School. Mr. Paul Sanders, Principal of Pipewood, told the "Times" that he hoped the village of Blithbury would continue the relationship it had with the previous school and would treat the children as normal adolescents.

Pipewood consists of chalet type buildings providing living accommodation and classrooms.

Each student will have his or her own bedroom in one of two 10 bedroomed chalets as well as the use of a large communal lounge and dining area, with their own kitchen. At the other end of the chalet, there is similar accommodation for house-parents.

Other buildings in the complex include classrooms, an art and craft workshop, rural science laboratories, homecraft rooms, a library and a cafeteria.

system, with which to pay rent to their house-parents, to buy their food and to use other facilities available.

Extra money can be earned by doing odd jobs with the complex such as car cleaning or delivering post, milk or papers.

As all the buildings will not be completed by the time the first students arrive, it is hoped that they will help with painting and decorating still to be done.

As well as providing a full school curriculum, Pipewood offers a wide range of sparetime activities for students. These will be run on the same lines as evening classes and students will enrol for six or seven week courses. Subjects available will include art, drama, music, photography, first aid, pottery, jewellery and yoga.

Admission to the school will be by contract. The number of students should be limited to 20.

also won the raffle prize. The meeting was held at Wharf Cottage, Bel-lamour, home of Mrs. P. B. Best, who was thanked for her hospitality. The Rev. R. Wilcox conducted a short service.

For Zambia

Blithfield and Colton M.U.s raised more than £28 from their combined coffee morning held at Lower Lea Farm by invitation of Mrs. Rosa Greaves.

Members helped raise funds to stock the deanery stall for MU Overseas. A donation from the profits was given to Mrs. Valerie Hurd for a Zambia project in which she and her husband are interested.

Mrs. M. Kent won the raffle. Mrs. Greaves was thanked for her hospitality.



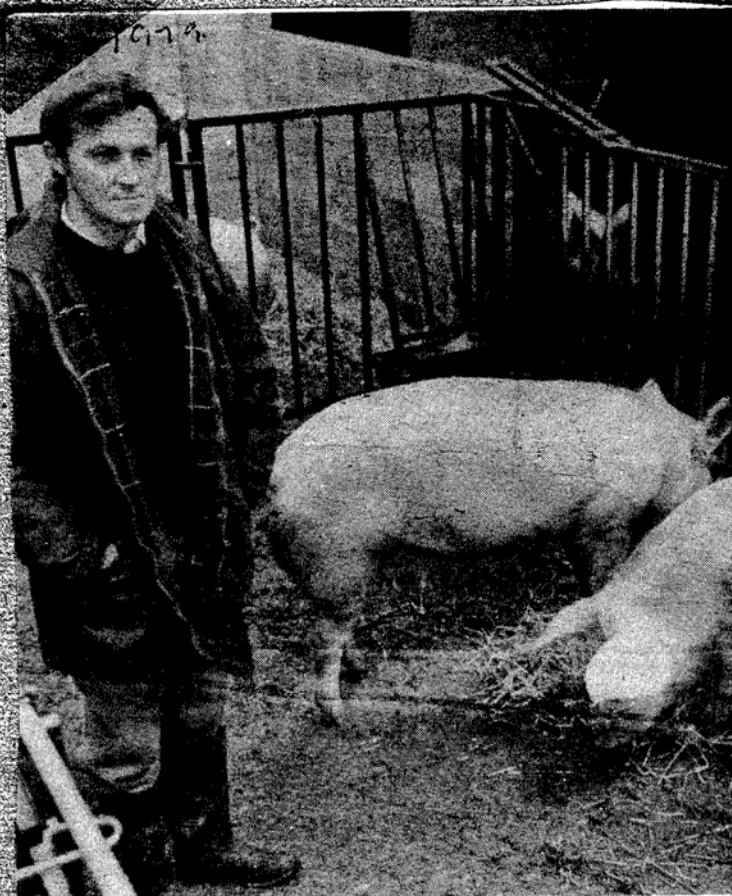
Nov. 1979

Colton gets its long awaited burial ground

Colton parishioners have finally got their new burial ground, after many years of setbacks. It was consecrated on Friday last by the Bishop of Lichfield, the Right Rev. Kenneth Skelton.

The ceremony was attended by Colton Parish Council representatives as trustees of the new ground and also by members of the Parochial Church Council and the administrative committee. Diocesan Registrar Mr. Michael Exham attended to cover the legal details.

The procession round the burial ground for the consecration was led by Councillor David Bradbury, chairman of Colton Parish Council, with the Rev. Raymond Wilcox (priest in charge), Mrs. Dorothy Bradbury (churchwarden), Mrs. Vera Collins (clerk) and others following.



New chairman of the Stowe National Farmers Union branch is Geoff Cooper of Kingstone, pictured above.

One of the very few pig producers in the mid-Staffs area, he runs a 250-sow herd at Kingstone, with their progeny finished to cutter and bacon weights at Colton, Rugeley.

The 140 acres split between the two holdings are used to produce corn for the pigs.

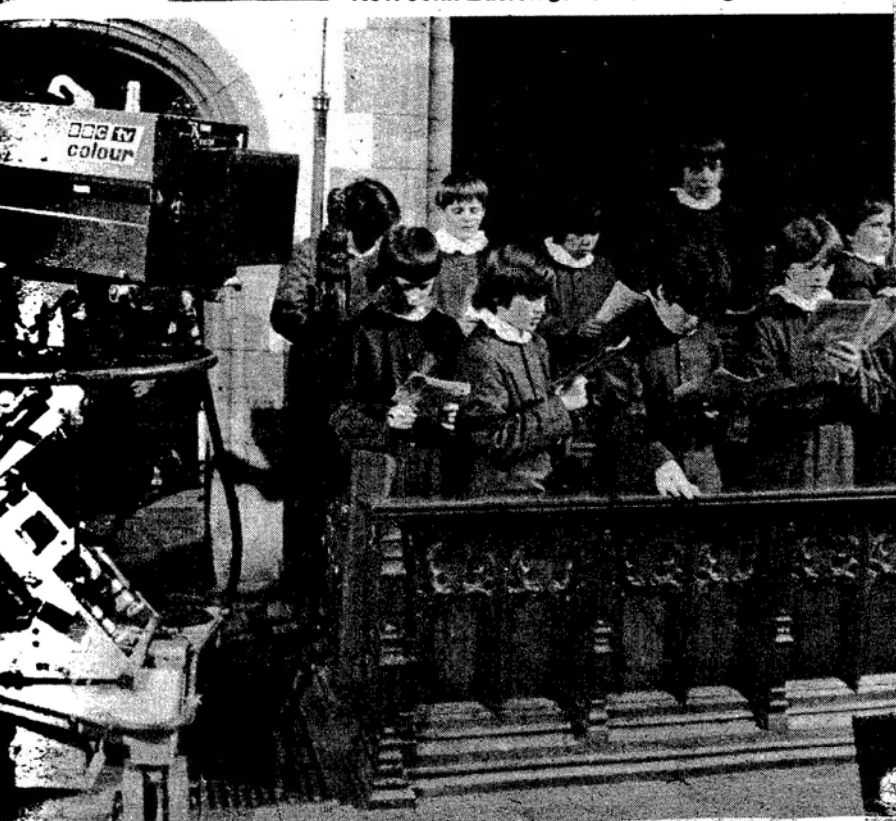
A member of the NFU for nearly 19 years, his grandfather was one of the local founders. Geoff Cooper takes over the branch chair from Geoff Admaston, who continues as a county executive.



church first to rehearse and then for the actual filming.

The eight hymns were sung under the leadership of Mr. John W. R. Taylor, County Music Advisor for schools. Mr. Jonathon Copus acted as 'dummy link' keeping the congregation going and inspired. He also researched the programme and directed the outside filming.

Mr. John Roberts played the organ and the Rev. John Easton gave the blessing.



Factory farm is refused extension

Nov 1990

Stockwell pool's conservation work brings its reward

Oct 1979

Over the Stockwell pool is now results. A has found nymphs and shrimps. Showing

the water quality to be high.

And now the biologist who carried out the survey, Mrs. Mary Pratt of Keele University, is bringing a team of Scouts to the pool to

clear the fern which has spread over the surface and causes a nuisance.

Colton parish councillors agreed at their last meeting to Mrs. Pratt's suggestion that she should return with the Scouts to work on the pond to clear the fern.

The previous Tuesday Mrs. Pratt, who is also the officer for Staffordshire Nature Conservation Trust, met councillors at the pool to survey the flora and fauna.

She told them that clearing and raking the fern from the surface was effective and much more preferable than using chemicals but it would have to be taken care not to be burnt to the spores.

Councillors said that Mrs. Pratt had been most impressed with the quality of the water and the variety of plant and pond life in and around the pool.

Mrs. Pratt suggested a small hawthorn hedge be planted on Lake Cottage side of the pool, to increase cover and that some time in the future the pond should be deepened in the middle to encourage fish life.

Chairman, Councillor David Bradbury said: "It was a very successful meeting and very encouraging. The work that has been done over the years on Stockwell Heath pool is now bringing results."

Permission has been refused for further development at a Colton farm after objections were made by local residents, the parish council and the waterworks company.

Rydal Farm, Colton Road, is used for the manufacture of farm equipment by Agricultural Requisites and Mechanisations Limited.

They applied for permission to use land next to the farm for industrial purposes as an extension of their business.

Fourteen people living in 10 cottages opposite the farm sent a letter of objection to Lichfield District Council pointing out that the site was in a rural area and was top quality agricultural land.

The proposal was for a building 95ft by 100ft and the applicants pointed out that they needed extra factory accommodation for their company and that the ideal site was next to the existing factory at Rydal Farm.

It was said the new development would enable

them to make the most efficient use of their resources and ensure a long term employment for the local population.

There were no objections to the proposal from the County Land Agent as he felt that it would mean the loss of only a very small area of agricultural land.

South Staffordshire Waterworks Co objected on the grounds that it might pollute the underground water supply.

The planning officer pointed out that he was against development unless it was essential to rural activities. He felt that in this case, although the development would help the firm and ease production problems, it was not essential.

There were objections from Colton Parish Council who agreed with the residents that the site was top quality agricultural land and also stressed that the plan would involve industrial expansion in a rural area.

Daily buses for Colton in 'Red' shake-up

Colton could soon have a daily bus service especially for the shoppers.

The Midland Red hope to introduce changes in various routes involving Rugeley, starting on November 29.

The existing Service 842 from Rugeley to Lea Heath via Colton and Admaston will be withdrawn. This comes after lengthy discussions were held between the County Council, the bus company and Colton Parish Council.

The County Council decided that they could not subsidise the operation of this service.

So, Colton will now be provided with a new service — operating from Monday to Saturday including a circular route from Rugeley to Lea

Heath via Colton, Hill Ridware and Handsacre — back to Rugeley as suggested by a Colton parish councillor.

A spokesman for the bus company said this new route will give Colton a good daily shopping service.

The other service affected, is the 824 Lichfield, Rugeley to Stafford service. This is to be withdrawn, and replaced with a new through hourly service via Handsacre and Armitage to Rugeley and Stafford.

"The existing 823 route Lichfield via Longdon to Stafford would continue hourly," he said.

These two services will effectively provide a half-hourly service linking Lichfield, Rugeley and Stafford.

at the hour

At eleven o'clock on the night before the *Farmers Weekly* Meat from Grass Day, Mrs. Phyllis Hoult suddenly decided to make a pâté for competition. She had never made one before, but she was soon hard at work in the kitchen of Newbold Manor, Barton-under-Needwood, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs.

Into the pot went lamb's liver, brandy, cream, flour and just a touch of garlic—and with that combination Mrs. Hoult won first prize in the competition.

"My husband said I was daft to start making the pâté at that time of night, but I thought I ought to have a go."

She was delighted with her prize of a sideboard food warmer.

"We have been wanting

one of these for a long time."

The second prize, a deep chip fryer, went to Mrs. Fred Shipley from Newton Manor Farm, Admaston, Staffs.

The third prize, a set of kitchen scales was won by Mrs. Rachel Roobottom, Coley Hill Farm, Hamstall Ridware, Staffs.

All of the other entrants received a consolation prize of our own cook book, *Farmhouse Fare*. Among them was the only man in the competition, 18-year-old Bob Reid from Beans Farm, Screveton, Notts.

Dutch choir for unique concert

Nov 1975

Abbots Bromley is to honour the patron saint of their 13th century church, St. Nicholas, with a visit from a 30-strong children's choir from St. Nicholas's College, Amsterdam.

It is to be called the First St. Nicholas Day International Festival of Christmas Music and Carols, and will be held on December 6 — St. Nicholas's Day.

It is a unique event, with no other like it in the country. The children from Amsterdam will be housed by helpful people around the village.

The visit sprang from an idea by Mr. Kenneth Oultram, a member of the North West Arts Association, who contacted many churches dedicated to St. Nicholas, and Abbots Bromley was the only one to welcome the choir from across the sea.

He said: "Christmas is a time for children, and I didn't want to see it become totally a commercial department store enterprise."

The Rev. Anthony Slater, Vicar of St. Nicholas's, Abbots Bromley, said that they hope to attract anything up to 500 people for the concert.

"We have seating for more than that if pushed," he said.

"There will be no admission charges, and we have invited the Netherlands Ambassador from London, and the Dutch Consuls from Birmingham and Manchester."



Detail from one of the windows in St. Nicholas's Church.

But Mr. Sadler is also asking for places where the choir can sing.

"It seems a shame if this lovely choir can only sing once while in this country," he said.

"What we are looking for, is places where the choir can give concerts so that as many people as possible can benefit from their talents."

Colton memorial

Nov 1975

Many Colton villages gathered at their memorial on Sunday morning for a Remembrance service led by the Rev. L. W. Sapsford (rector). The names of the dead of two world wars were read and the silence observed.

Members of the parish council were present and their wreath was laid by Councillor G. Upton.

The church choir and Mothers' Union led the procession of worshippers back to St. Mary's for morning service, at which the lesson was read by churchwarden Mrs. Dorothy Bradbury.

DISEASE!

A new disease has been reported from Abbots Bromley; Chancelphobia. The parish magazine of St. Nicholas' Church defines it thus: "A morbid fear of the front of the church, especially of the section near the pulpit. The patient is struck by the attack at the church door and collapses into the nearest pew".

Mothers meet

Nov 1975

A number of Colton members attended the November meeting of Blithfield M.U. when a talk on the new aims and objects of the Mothers' Union was given by Mrs. M. Winfer of Great Wyrley.

Mrs. Winfer won the raffle for a rose bush.



Jan 1976

Colton path clear

A bridle path at Colton has been reopened after it had been blocked by a farmer.

The path, from the Pinfold to Blithbury Road, was obstructed by the farmer owning the land, who claimed it was only a foot-path.

The path was blocked by a locked gate, a chain and electric and barbed wire fences.

Colton Parish Council approached Lichfield District Council who informed Mr. Collier that the path was a bridle path.

"Mr. Collier had trouble from horse riders who were stopping and letting their mounts graze on his land," said Mrs. I. R. Brown, parish council clerk.

"We have been trying to encourage riders to use the bridle paths as opposed to the roads," she said.

Mrs. Brown explained that the bridle paths were a privilege for riders. They should learn the rules of the road.

MARKET MOVE

Rugeley market is to be moved to the site between Albion Street and Brewery Street, as a temporary measure before the area beside the Book Square precinct is finally prepared.

Chairman of Cannock Chase District Council, Councillor Terry Cowlshaw said that it had been in principle to supply a new assembly when fresh market facilities are built.

M.U.s continue joint services

Colton Mothers' Union members hope to join Blithfield members for Communion Services in March, April and October this year.

Planning the year's programme was the main business of the afternoon at Colton's first meeting of 1976.

The Rev. L. W. Sapsford conducted the service and a financial statement was given by the treasurer, Mrs. H. A. Williscroft.

Secretary Mrs. I. Preston read a poem by William Cowper, and Mrs. V. Collins won the raffle prize given by Mrs. Preston.

Showbiz stop

Local show business agent Mr. Walter Pritchard of Shooting Butts Farm, Etching Hill, has bought Great Haywood Country Club.

He plans to turn it into a high class licensed restaurant, but will retain the country club image.

Mr. Pritchard bought the club at Little Ingestre Hall (pictured below) at a Stafford auction last Friday.

The club will also be residential and it is hoped that show business celebrities will use the club as an over-night stop when travelling through the country.

The new club is to be the Balmoral Licensed Restaurant and Country Club, named after one of Mr. Pritchard's famous show-jumping horses.

"The building is superb. The whole place is cent-



COUNTING THE COST



The Force 10 or 11 gale which devastated many parts of the area last Friday night and frightened many younger children in their beds did not involve any local loss of human life but many people will be financially worse off through it.

Insurance companies are being as co-operative as possible builders and their suppliers are working many long hours to carry out repairs but no one can replace the heritage of mature trees blown down.

Local dealers reported that glass and fencing and tiles were selling fast last Saturday.

Builders and television aerial mechanics were out all through the weekend.

A round-up of incidents, which we know must be only part of the saga, appears on our centre pages.

Flying cars at Colton!

A Colton parish councillor has warned that a death could soon occur on the village's hump-backed bridge.

Councillor George Upton told the council last Friday that he had seen motorists travelling so fast over the bridge that their wheels had left the ground.

He said there were always children playing around the bridge, and suggested that better sign-posting leading up to it would warn motorists to reduce speed.

"I have seen some madmen approach the bridge at speed and fly over it off the ground," said Councillor Upton.

Councillor John Price said the council must be careful of ruining the rural character of the village

with too many road signs, but said some may be needed because the present bridge sign was soon to come down.

He said that since zig-zag lines and no-parking signs had been erected at the lower end of High Street it had become much safer.

"Before these improvements High Street was like a race track," he added.

Councillor Upton commented that there was nothing anybody could do about young mad drivers.

Councillor Price expressed worry over the state of Bellamour Corner, saying that loose gravel and had been deposited on the road by passing lorries, making it dangerous for motor-cyclists.

"A motor cycle travelling too fast could go into a

slide on the gravel surface," he said.

Chairman, Councillor G. Sanders, said the road had never been tarmaced at that spot.

Inner Wheel gift

January 10 - Inner Wheel Day and, as is the custom, members of the clubs give a gift to a local charity organisation.

Rugeley Inner Wheel Club gave a wall cabinet to Rugeley Handicapped Centre.

Four representatives of the club went to the centre where Mrs. M. Kenton, welfare worker, received the cabinet from president Mrs. Nancy Vernon (picture above).

rities

ess steel serviette the 25th Rugeley Clubs' Charity Ball Wednesday.

Mrs. N. Vernon and Rugeley Rotherley welcomed

eel district chair- ley Round Table and Rugeley Ladies' Club (seen in picture above) will go to various



Family tradition

Three generations of Rugeley's Toye family are now members of Slitting Mill W.I. the youngest being Fair Oak School pupil Christine Deakin who joined formally just after her 14th birthday in December.

The picture shows Christine with her mother Mrs. Carol Deakin of 4, East Butts Road and her grandmother, Mrs. Helen Toye of 10, St. Anthony's Close.

Mrs. Toye has been a member of Slitting Mill W.I. for 30 years and has seen it grow from a small group to a thriving institute with about 55 members, many of them young people.

It was natural that her daughter Mrs. Dea-



Treasure trail in the mansion

BARRIE Haworth plans a full-scale treasure hunt... in his own home.

But it could become a major task, for the house contains no less than 34 rooms, with cellars, lofts and even secret passages and unexplored trap doors.

Barrie, a property developer, has just spent £17,000 renovating Colton House, which dates back to about 1715, and he now intends to move in with his wife, Elizabeth, and children, Stephen, eight, and Jason, four, in a few weeks' time.

The treasure story stems

from the early 1800s' when Staffordshire High Sheriff John Heyliger Burt, who owned a lot of land in the West Indies, was lost at sea while returning from a visit to his properties.

Local rumour has it that he left hidden treasure in the house.

Pennies

"As soon as we move in I'm going to cover every square inch of the house with a metal detector," said 38-year-old Mr Haworth.

"What with all that history there's got to be something hidden here."

He has already found some 18th Century Coachwheel pennies under

floorboards, but there are still large areas to be searched.

He has estimated there are at least a million bricks in the walls and a secret passageway is said to come up on the other side of the road in the grounds of the old Bellamore Hall.

Colton House, recently valued at £120,000, was once called Mareschal's and Griffyn's Manor.

The Griffyns were a very 'turbulent' family according to records Mr Haworth has unearthed among archives in Birmingham.

They were continually in the law courts arguing about the division of land

between the Church and the Manor.

Other famous owners were the de Coltons, whose family tree has been traced right back to 1160 and who gave the village its name.

Penthouse

The house, which is listed by the Environment Ministry as a historic building, was in serious need of renovation when Mr Haworth bought it three years ago.

Now major works have brought it back into immaculate condition outside, and the interior decoration of the main rooms is nearly complete.

Although there is planning permission to turn it into seven self-contained flats, Mr Haworth intends to live in the whole house, which boasts Adam

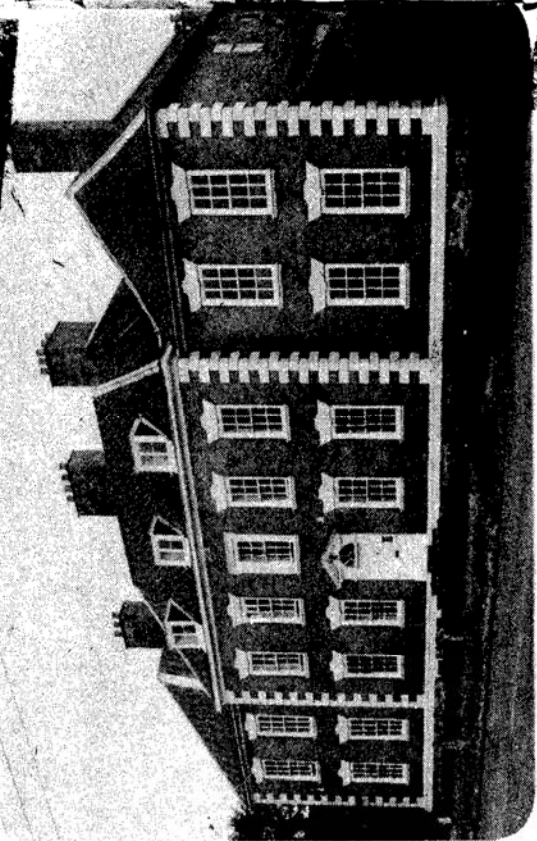
Colton House, recently renovated by Barrie Haworth, has regained its original glory after a £17,000 facelift.

fireplaces and a total of seven bathrooms. He is turning the top floor into a penthouse suite for visitors.

Now Mr Haworth is trying to piece together details of the house's history and is keen to hear from anybody who has ancient records. They may even be able to help identify the ghost which is said to haunt the building - although Mr Haworth hasn't seen it yet.

years ago, chose names for some of the new roads that were reminiscent of horse riding, though these roads and not necessarily on any particular historic site.

The picture showed the staff and some of the more names. The picture showed the staff and some of the more names.



EE!



Mr. Nicholas Budgen M.P. has been given permission to build a house in the orchard of Malt House Farm, Colton although the parish council and villagers have strongly objected to the plan.

The Wolverhampton M.P. bought Malt House Farm, a listed building, in 1973 - a year after permission had been given for two houses to be built on the adjoining land.

In 1975 Mr. Budgen applied to Lichfield for the permission to be renewed. A petition objecting to the plan was organised in the village and the parish council strongly objected. The permission was refused.

Colton Parish Council and the villagers think that their objections to the 1975 plan are equally valid for the new plan to build just one house.

They say that although the site is allocated for residential purposes it is now in a conservation area and a new house would not be in keeping with surrounding buildings — Colton Lodge on the other side of the proposed house is also listed — and would spoil the looks of the area.

People also think the driveway to the new house would have a dangerous junction with narrow Belmore Way and that trees subject to a preservation order would have to be cut down for the house to be built.

Mr. Budgen says he paid considerably more for the house and land because, at that time, there was planning permission for two houses on the site, and he is entitled to a consistent policy from the district council.

He says he has compromised by applying for permission for only one house, so has already accepted a financial loss, Mr. Budgen says he hopes to

live in the area for many years and is therefore as interested as everyone else in preserving the attractiveness of the area.

He has promised to dismantle carefully the front boundary wall and rebuild it to form the entrance to the new driveway.

Councillors decided on Monday to give Mr. Budgen permission to build the house provided the Secretary of State did not want to decide the matter himself because of the conservation area.

But they want Mr. Budgen to have discussions with council officers before submitting detailed plans

We are all right for water — so far

Fears that the continuing low water level at Bithfield Reservoir could be a sign of a thirsty summer for local people were dispelled this week.

A South Staffordshire Waterworks spokesman said: "Although the water is unusually low for the time of year, because of lack of rainfall, we do have other sources and the area will not be short of water. "One of our primary alternative sources is the underground strata."

Frontal dedicated at Colton

A short service of dedication preceded evening service at St. Mary's Church, Colton on Sunday. The occasion was the gift of a new altar frontal by Mrs. Elizabeth Bettson to the memory of her late husband Mr. Bernard Bettson.

Mrs. and Mr. Bettson had been married with

Colton Church for many years and Mrs. Bettson still attends regularly.

In dedicating the new frontal the Rector, the Rev. L. W. Sapsford, expressed the gratitude of the Church to Mrs. Bettson, and said it was especially welcome, as the existing one was beginning to show signs of wear.

Trip of a lifetime

former Rowena Harvey has been chosen to represent Rugeley at July 4 celebrations in Rugeley's twin American town of Western Springs, Illinois.

Rowena, aged 17 and Aelfgar School's head girl, was in a whirl this week after hearing of her selection on Tuesday. There was much to do and little time in which to do it.

Rowena flies from Birmingham Airport to Heathrow on Thursday morning, then goes on to Chicago.

Wednesday saw her taking a break from mock 'A' level G.C.E. examinations — she is taking four — to have compulsory inoculations.

Yesterday she was planning a shopping trip, with a new evening dress and shoes as the top of her

Rugeley's representative at the Western Springs celebrations to write a 500 word essay giving their reasons for wanting to make the trip.

Round Tablers compiled a "short list" of seven students. Each was interviewed by a panel comprised of one Tabler, one outside contributor to the appeal and a district council representative.

Rowena is the elder daughter of Hagley Park School headmaster Mr. Roy Harvey but this was not

known to the selection panel when they interviewed her. She lives at Coachman's Walk, Colton.

A proud Mr. Harvey said of his daughter "I am very pleased indeed. I know Rowena put a lot of effort into her essay and I have always had great confidence in her — but you don't know what the opposition is going to be."

Rowena told the "Times" her essay took about half a day, to write. She is throughout looking forward to visiting Western Springs, never

having been abroad before, and feels that supporting the American town's big day will help to cement relations.

"Since we began this twin town idea I don't think there has been much done about it.

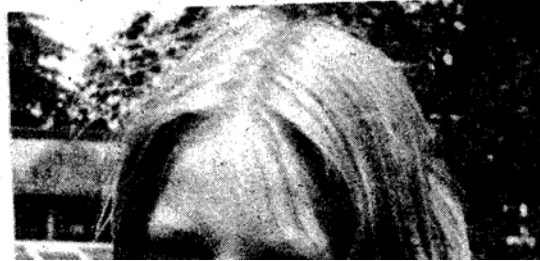
"I feel there could be a lot more trade and I think it could help Americans to understand British people in general," she said.

When she returns to England Rowena will probably contribute a report on her American visit to the school magazine.

She already has eight GCE 'O' level passes to her credit and hopes to go to university before working in town and country planning. But before that she wants to travel.

And that starts on Thursday, when she embarks on the trip of a lifetime.

Mr. David Sault, head



Colton verges to regain colour

Seeds of such wild flowers as cowslip and foxglove are to be planted at Colton in an attempt to preserve the species and beautify village verges.

Wild flowers such as cowslips are becoming increasingly scarce. Now Colton Parish Council has been sent packets of the seeds by Staffordshire Community Council.

Councillor Gerald Sanders, chairman of Colton Village Produce Guild, is to ask if members will give Mother Nature a helping hand by planting the seeds.

Notes will be made of their locations; they will probably go to beautify public verges rather than meadows where no-one can see them.

And the plant population's expansion is not likely to be left to chance. Seeds of several species will probably be sown for a number years, rather than allowing plants to increase by the hit - and - miss method of self - sown seedlings.

Fancy dress a highlight of day

Children and their parents used a lot of imagination to make the fancy dress competitions one of the highlights of the day at St. Mary's Church Colton, garden party on Saturday.

The picture shows the younger children in the fancy dress, with parents and visitors. Clare and Helen Jones won the contest as an Indian squaw and baby squaw, with Rachel Vernon second as "Keep Colton Tidy" and Charlotte Jones third as mermaid.

Elizabeth Hill won the older children's competition as a "Diddy Man" in a huge box hat and painted face on her stomach!

Mrs. M. Budgen, wife of M.P. Mr. Nicholas Budgen, of Malt House Farm, Colton, opened the garden party and said it was an honour to be asked only having lived in the village a short time.

The Rev. L. W. Sapsford, (Rector), said the money raised for the church was divided between the general fund and the restoration fund but costs were increasing so rapidly that more and more money was having to be diverted for the everyday running of the church. The party raised £182.

There were pony rides, a gym display arranged by Mrs. Marion Vernon and the usual sideshow games, competitions and afternoon teas.

July 1976



'Goodbye' to Goats Head

Abbots Bromley licensees Mr. and Mrs. Norman Oldham pulled their last pints this week at the public house which could now become their 'local.'

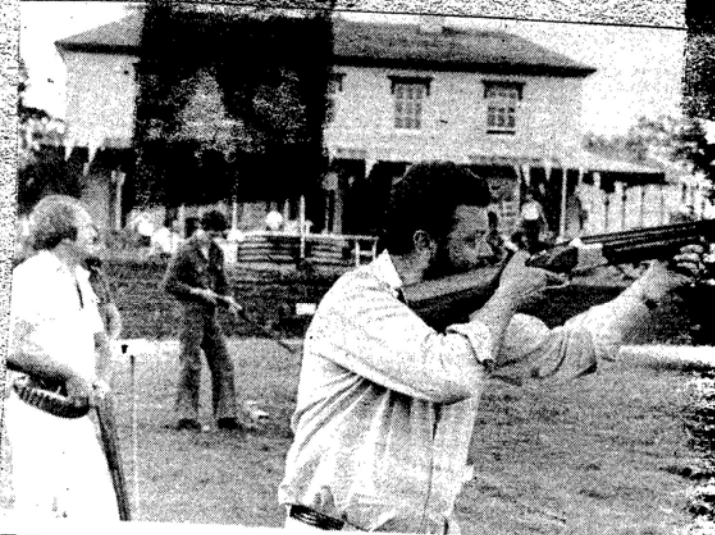
Mr. Oldham and his wife, Lilian, have kept the Goat's Head for 20 years and on Thursday moved out to a cottage at nearby Ashbrook Lane. New proprietors of the Goat's Head are Mr. and Mrs. Tony Sherratt.

Mrs. Oldham has kept several pubs in the county and is now retiring from the public house trade, which she has known all her life.

Mr. Oldham is continuing his daytime work at G.E.C., Stafford, and agrees with his wife that life at the Goat's Head was enjoyable.

"We had a marvellous trade and met such a lovely lot of people. It makes the hard work worthwhile," he said.

All this week the Oldhams have been saying 'goodbye' to wellwishers. They are pictured taking a break during the 'moving out' upheaval.



Not all beer and skittles!

Colton Conservative's annual beer and skittles barbecue was held at Bellamour Lodge, home of chairman Mr. John Price, on Thursday evening last.

During the evening there was a clay pigeon shoot organised by Mr. G. Astbury and one of the contestants is pictured.

The draw was made by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Brown and first prize of £5 went to Coleshill. A half tea service went to Mrs. Stella Lycett, a brace of trout to Mr. R. Barker and cherry to Mrs. Janet Sargeant. Other prizes went to Mr. Brown, Mr. J. Grimley, Mrs. F. Grimley, Mrs. I. Terry, Mrs. E. Utton, M. Sharrett and Mr. N. Brown.

DEATH AT 43 OF FORMER COUNCILLOR

Former councillor Mr. Leslie Madden, once the youngest ever chairman of Rugeley Urban Council and believed to be the youngest in the country, was found dead in bed on Tuesday morning.

He was found by his wife Valerie, who had slept in another room with their young son, who was ill.

Born at Brereton 43 years ago, Mr. Madden became a councillor in 1959 after several years in the Labour movement. A

staunch trade unionist, he later formed his own engineering company to produce machinery for the N.C.B.

Stafford district coroner, Mr. E. Huntbach, decided on Thursday that an inquest should be held because of local public interest and concern.

Deputy coroner, Mr. W. T. Day, opened the inquest for identification only yesterday.

Councillor Terry Cowlishaw, colleague and friend of Mr. Madden for many years, told the "Times": "He was totally dedicated and enthusiastic about the work he did, both as a Labour councillor and within the trade union movement.

He was strong minded and vigorous on the political and administrative side and he was a real champion for the people who went to him in trouble.

"He sometimes alienated people because he was so vigorous and strong minded but he was a damn good councillor."

Mr. Madden stood down from Cannock Chase District Council at the May elections. At Wednesday's Finance Committee meeting Council Chairman Jack Holston said: "We are sorry to hear of the tragic loss of a former colleague of ours, Les Madden." He said a letter expressing regret and sympathy had been sent to Mrs. Madden.

Councillor Len Poole, committee chairman, said: "The manner in which we received the news about Mr. Madden, was, to say the least, a very great shock.

"He was a man to be reckoned with and if he disagreed with you, he did it strongly and vehemently, because he held strong views."

Mr. Madden was committed for trial at Stafford Crown Court two weeks

ago on charges which alleged that he conspired with Councillor George Newman to conceal offences said to have been committed by the latter. Mr. Madden strongly denied the charges.



The late Mr. L. Madden

Colton sale raises cash for dinner

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Grimley of Hollow Lane, Colton, opened Colton's sale of work on Saturday. Proceeds will go towards a Christmas dinner organised for old people by the village welfare committee.

Mr. Ray France, chairman, welcomed the Grimleys and Mrs. Grimley was presented with a bouquet by committee treasurer, Mrs. E. Hardcastle.

Mrs. Wright correctly guessed a cake's weight and Mrs. Vera Collins won a raffle for a doll.

Prize draw winners were Mrs. Hardcastle (cutlery); Dennis (sheet set); Vernon Norman (chopping board); D. Vincent (cigarettes); Miss M. A. Cooper (games board and body shaper); Miss D. Curtis (seed voucher); Cannock (cigarettes); Mrs. Greenwood (tortoise); L. Fisher (cigarettes); Mrs. M. Allerton (perfume); Clifford Brittan (groceries); R. Meddings (jewellery); Mrs. R. M. Jones (knife); Mrs. B. E. Kendrick

(spools sewing thread); Mrs. E. Mason (sheet); W. H. Lycett (travel book); Goodhead Cannock (knife); (Book); L. Do (bathroom scales); H. Wigley (slippers); Grimley (bedspread).

Ex-tea on Race

Abbots Bromley teacher Mrs. L. is to broadcast tomorrow evening. Phil Drabble, aged 88, will be about Christmas past.

Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Pratt, "Times" that "Flashback" was taken in his garden and no Bromley Vic thought.

Apparently then a tea at Church Street a party for M and invited for of the school.

Goods depot for ARM

A warehouse in British Rail's Trent Valley goods yard is to be used for manufacturing livestock buildings.

The premises has stood empty since it was used as a goods transfer depot.

Despite a letter of objection, Lichfield District Council agreed at a meeting on Monday to approve the application of Agricultural Requisites and Mechanisations Ltd., for the use of the warehouse.

A previous application to use the warehouse for light engineering was refused in 1973 because "it would bring industry into a rural area" and Monday's approval is subject to the warehouse not being used for anything but the manufacture of livestock buildings.

Corporate communion for M.U.

The October meeting of Colton Mothers' Union took the form of a corporate communion service at St. Mary's Church. Members were joined by members of

Newton bequests

Nellie Lane, of St. Mary's Mount, Holly Road, Uttoxeter, late of Newton, Admaston, who died on September 11 last, left



The Rev. L. W. Sapsford of St. Mary's Church, Colton; landlords of Cow; Mr. Stan Dorsett and his wife Joan (centre); Mr. Ernest Turvey helped with the auction (left) and pianist Mr. Algie Stubbs, are pictured at the bar with some of the barrow loads of produce which arrived during the weekend.

Produce sale raises cash for church

A harvest produce sale at Colton's Dun Cow Inn on Sunday evening raised £91 for the village church re-

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Mr. Charles was helped by Mr. Ernest Turvey and Mr. Bill Buchanan. Mr.

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Mr. Sapsford restoration of church

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The Rector, Rev. L. W. Sapsford, conducted the service and Mrs. Mary Cooper was the organist.

Collections to be given to St. Luke's Nursing Home, for clergy and their families, in London were taken by Mrs. M. Sapsford.

A raffle given by Mrs. Sapsford was won by Mrs. P. B. Best. Proceeds from this were added to the nursing home collection.

A letter was read from the parish council regarding a public meeting on November 16 in connection with possible Silver Jubilee celebrations.

Thanks to the Colton branch for their hospitality were expressed by Mrs. N. ... Blithfield ... member.

Newton bequests

Nellie Lane, of St. Mary's Mount, Holly Road, Uttoxeter, late of Newton, Admaston, who died on September 11 last, left £47,493.91 gross, £47,184.26 net.

She left £300 each to Percy and Bessie Heasman, of Chase View, Newton, Lucy Cooper and Mary Kent, both of Newton, "as an expression of my thanks for all that they have done for me", £200 to Daisy Rowe, of Abbots Bromley, "as an expression of my thanks for all she has done for me", £300 to Mrs. W. Green, of Newton, "for past services and her help to my brother when he was farming", and £200 to Blithfield Church.

Probate has been granted to Stephen B. H. Herbert and Simon C. Forrest, solicitors, of 9-11 Carter Street, Uttoxeter.



The Rev. L. W. Sapsford of St. Mary's Church, Colton; landlords of the Cow; Mr. Stan Dorsett and his wife Joan (centre); Mr. Ernest Turvey helped with the auction (left) and pianist Mr. Algie Stubbs, are pictured with some of the barrow loads of produce which arrived at the barrow during the weekend.

Produce sale raises cash for church

A harvest produce sale at Colton's Dun Cow Inn on Sunday evening raised £91 for the village church restoration fund.

This is the third year that Mr. and Mrs. Stan Dorsett have held the auction and again it attracted a huge "congregation."

Rev. L. W. Sapsford held a short service and Mr. Alan Charles auctioned produce which varied from bags of mushrooms and trays of vegetables to jars of chutney and pickles.

There was even an original painting donated by a member to the village who had not yet managed

to produce anything worthwhile in his garden!

Mr. Charles was helped by Mr. Ernest Turvey and Mr. Bill Buchanan. Mr. Algie Stubbs played the piano for hymns and community singing.

Unfortunately one of the main organisers, Mr. Charles Bannister, was unable to be present as he had to go into hospital that day.

Mr. Dorsett said they had hoped to raise £100 but the weather had affected the supply of vegetables. There were not any cabbage, cauliflowers or celery.

"But there was a marvellous amount of goods and it was a splendid social evening — a wonderful get

together for hioners," he said.

Mr. Sapsford said restoration fund stood at about £90 with an old church at St. Mary's such a fund a permanent fixture pairs could be done when necessary.

"There is no urgent to do but it quite a considerable amount to do. C work needs to be done the south east c adjustments to the system and the roof south aisle need attention. If these things not done one can be out and have to lay peals for £50,000," he said.

for burial ground

Besides the anticipated 25 per cent rate rise in rural areas of Staffordshire next year, Colton people could have an additional 12p burden to pay for their new burial ground. The parish council thinks £8,000 will be needed for this long awaited project.

The architect's original estimate was for £7,000 but months of delay has pushed up the costs.

On Friday the council decided to try to speed up the Charity Commissioners giving the go-ahead for the trust land to pass from a village trust to the parish council, for the graveyard.

They discussed the best way of raising the money. Mrs. J. Brown, clerk, said: "We could precept for it but it would mean a 12p parish rate."

Councillors Frank Ballard and John Price thought it might be cheaper in the long run to levy a high rate for one year rather than borrow the money and pay it back, plus interest charges, over a longer period.

Councillor Price said it would be difficult for the council to levy such a high rate when everyone was trying to keep rates down.

The people in the parish already faced a 25 per cent increase.

Councillors agreed that the advice of Lichfield District Council treasurer should be sought. Perhaps a mixture of borrowing and precepting would be the best plan.

● The parish council has outlined planning permission for the graveyard, and councillors decided on Friday to submit the plans to the district council and ask for full permission.

Second 'quote' wanted for burial ground

approved architect's plans, Colton parish councillors are now second quote from a contractor for a new burial ground in the

All arrangements for the new burial ground, which will be situated opposite the present one, have been finalised. But Councillor Mr. John Price said: "We regard the issue of spending public money as being extremely vital and we would like a second quote."

Chairman, Councillor Gerald Sanders, pointed out that a clerk, treasurer or secretary may be appointed to deal with fees for other day - to - day affairs.

Under the Burial Act, the parish council is obliged to accept full responsibility for the running of the ground, so it was agreed at a meeting last Friday that they should write to the Staffordshire Parish Councils Association to seek assistance as to the procedure of setting up a Burial Trust.

More of old Rugeley goes

Some of the oldest cottages in Rugeley will soon be just piles of bricks and dust when demolition work presently taking place, is completed.

The cottages, on Elmore Lane, may be replaced by a bus lay - by and an extension to the Garden Centre.

At present negotiations are taking place between the Garden Centre and Cannock Chase District Council, who jointly own the row of cottages, to exchange land to make proposed developments possible.

A spokesman for the council said this week: "The swap takes place we will be able to provide a bus lay - by and the Garden Centre will be able to extend."

Demolition workers starting to clear the cottages.

Colton death

A member of an old Colton family, Mrs. Doris Leeke, died at Staffordshire General Infirmary on Friday last after a sudden short illness.

Mrs. Leeke, formerly Miss Deacon, had lived at the Lodge, Bellamoor Lane, for many years.

Most of her working life was spent in domestic service at Blithfield Hall. She leaves a husband and

Death of Colton man

weeks.

Mr. Deacon leaves a wife and two sons.

The funeral service at St. Mary's, Colton, on Monday was followed by cremation at Stafford.

Dec 76

before the village gets its burial ground.

Feb. 1975



Colton W.I. members who missed Wednesday's meeting were probably kicking themselves when they discovered Esther Rantzen was a surprise guest. Esther is pictured behind the Staffordshire pottery of Mrs. S. Ball (foreground) with Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft in centre.

That's Esther with the post

Television personality Esther Rantzen was helping to deliver post at Colton on Thursday.

Four months ago she visited the village with a camera crew to film some of the confusion caused by the haphazard system of house numbers.

Television viewers later saw Esther interview one of the villagers, Mrs. Blanche Ravenscroft — chairman of the parish council and by coincidence also the village "postie."

So impressed was she that Esther has decided to

put Mrs. Ravenscroft "top of the list of interesting people I have interviewed during my television career" and about which she is now writing a book.

Last month Esther wrote to ask if she could visit Mrs. Ravenscroft and on Wednesday returned to the village for three days, staying at the home of Mrs. Ravenscroft's daughter, Mrs. Gwendoline Johnson of Rose Villa, Bellamour Way.

Thursday morning at 6.30 Esther and Mrs. Ravenscroft set off on bicycles together to deliver the post — and to appreciate some of the village features!

Mrs. Ravenscroft told the "Times" that her unusual guest, even though a Londoner, had been particularly interested in the village history and had closely studied her family scrap book.

Paddy's

plan

superwimpey

Paddy's Superstores has acquired the lease of the Huntsman restaurant, adjacent to its Brewery Street premises, and plans to turn the restaurant into a Wimpy Bar.

A spokesman for Paddy's said the lease contracts had been signed and now the company was negotiating a franchise agreement with Wimpy.

He said further details of the plans would be released when the negotiations were complete.

Farmer

Disabled Colton farmer Mr. Fred Norman will not be able to renovate an old cottage at Stockwell Heath in which to spend his retirement, nor replace it with a bungalow — but Lichfield District Council may allow him to build on a nearby site.

Sixty three years old Mr. Norman who is crippled in one leg, has farmed 53 acres at Colton for 35 years. After the death of his wife he decided to retire and planned to leave his present home, Pool Farm, for a new bungalow on the site of an old cottage for storage.

Burial ground setback

Feb 1975

Colton's long awaited new burial ground has suffered another setback — thanks to muddle over "red tape" procedure.

Pressed by villagers who believe the existing burial ground is almost full, the parish council have been trying for years to obtain the site in front of the church.

This has been approved in principle by the district and county councils, and the Lichfield diocesan authorities. But to meet certain requirements, the parish council were asked to drill boreholes to establish the water table and to have the site valued.

The boreholes were drilled — by the councilors themselves — and at the end of last September the site was valued as instructed.

But four months later the valuers have still not passed on the information, and until the Charity Commissioners are notified the parish council are helpless.

Councillor John Price said last Friday that it could still be at least a year before the village gets its new burial ground.

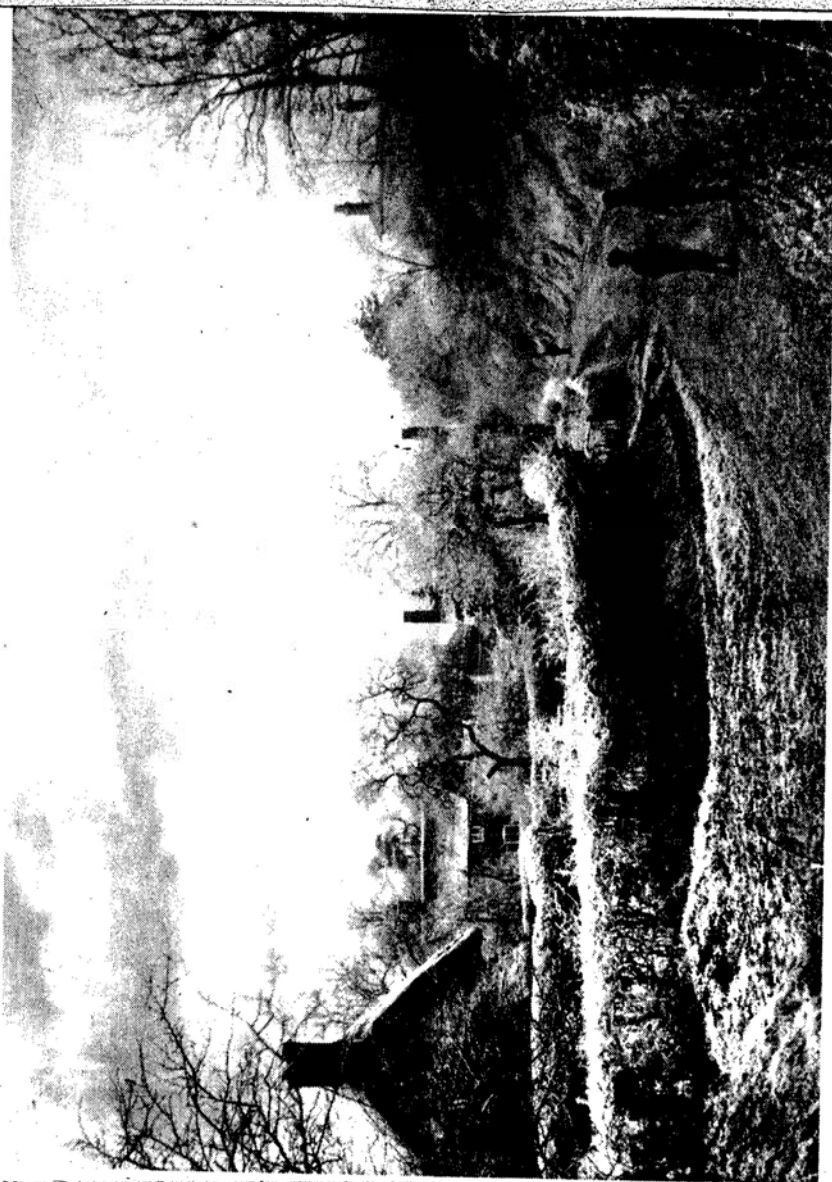


Photo flashback

Though a picture of Hollow Lane, Colton, has already been printed in this feature we think the fine texture and detail of frost brought out by

Mr. Frederic Bonney in this January 1893 photograph worth pub-

lishing. "We don't get prints of that quality today, unfortunately," was the tribute paid by one of our staff photographers who saw the original being processed. It was lent by Miss Radford.

Feb. 1975



Exclusive look at happiness

The Earl of Lichfield and his fiancée, Lady Leonora Grosvenor, in an exclusive Express and Star picture.

The couple are seen during their only visit to Lord Lichfield's home — Shugborough Hall, near Stafford — before their wedding next month.

Lord Lichfield and Lady Leonora, 24-year-old daughter of the Duke of Westminster, announced their engagement on November 27, after denying that they were to marry.

The wedding is to take place at Chester Cathedral on March 8. A reception will follow at Lady Leonora's family home, Eaton Hall, Chester.

Lord Lichfield, a 35-year-old photographer, inherited Shugborough Hall and 10,000 acres, said to be worth about £10,000,000, in 1960. Most of the money is held in trust.

The couple will live at the hall after they marry.

Feb. 1975

Farmer's plan turned down

Disabled Colton farmer Mr. Fred Norman will not be able to renovate an old cottage at Stockwell Heath in which to spend his retirement, nor replace it with a bungalow — but Lichfield District Council may allow him to build on a nearby site.

Sixty three years - old Mr. Norman who is crippled in one leg, has farmed 53 acres at Colton for 50 years. After the death of his wife he decided to retire and planned to leave his present home, Pool Farm, for a new bungalow on the site of an old cottage for storage.

personal and medical circumstances, but he is not convinced that they wholly outweigh planning objections.

ANOTHER SITE

But Mr. Tyers points out that the planning authority have conceded that development might reasonably take place on the east side of Newlands Lane between the house, Hamley Fields, and the junction with Sherracop Lane. Pool Farm has frontages to this part of Newlands Lane.

Determining issues in Mr. Norman's case were whether the proposals

would result in undesirable extension of sporadic residential development in the open country which would be materially detrimental to visual amenities of the locality.

Mr. Tyers was of the opinion that renovation of the old cottage would, in view of its small size and outdated construction, be likely to involve substantial changes, giving the appearance of a new dwelling.

A dwelling on the appeal site, whether near Park Lane or further into the site, would appear as an extension of sporadic residential development in the open country.

Feb. 1975

Queen Street demolition

Demolition work is to start on Queen Street as soon as possible. It was stressed at a Cannock Chase Housing and Housing Management Committee meeting that work should be started as soon as possible as there was a serious vermin problem in the old house.

Paddy's plan

superwimpey

Paddy's Superstores has acquired the lease of the Huntsman restaurant, adjacent to its Brewery Street premises, and plans to turn the restaurant into a Wimpy Bar.

A spokesman for Paddy's said the lease contracts had been signed and now the company was negotiating a franchise agreement with Wimpy. He said further details of plans would be released when the negotiations were complete.

won a Midlands competition for the best dialect writing.

Mr. Toye, who is 71 and lives at 10, St. Anthony's Close won the poetry section of a competition organised by West Midlands Arts to promote interest in dialect writing.

His poem "Owd Ned" centres round the reminiscences of an old miner — based on a Rugeley man — talking to a visitor.

Mr. Toye was born in Sussex but has lived in

Rugeley for the past 44 years. He is a retired school master. Mr. Toye admits that even now he still mixes his accents. But a sharp ear has helped him to learn the Midlands, dialect well, though he believes it to be more an accent than a true dialect.

His favourite extract from the poem, is when the old miner remembers the famous Staffordshire and England cricketer S. F. Barnes, who died a few years ago in Marnock.

glared behind the bail, a twisty frun
To frit yo' out. This an' a dozen yearns
Oi'd tell yo' all, but talkin' makes me droy!"
"Ah! Ta, young mon!
Pr'aps another troy,
After this bostin Bass
yo' can't put along."

conducted by the Rev. L. Sapsford. Mr. Toye gave an account of his recent visit to the BBC studios in Birmingham, where he was declared winner of the Midlands competition for dialect writing.

Mr. Toye recited several poems, as well as his own poem.

March 1975



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rey Evans

white Jacob sheep so she could distinguish them from her husband's flock!

She immediately attracted by the prettily marked animals and bought just five of them.

That was four years ago. Now Mrs. Evans has 45 Jacob sheep and they have changed from a rare

Show where they were given a class of their own last year.

During the years, Mrs. Evans interest in the sheep — which can be traced back to Biblical days — has increased steadily. She is a member of the Jacob Society and sometimes goes to the Chatsworth Sales, devoted to Jacob

tive qualities — some people keep them as pets these days — Jacob sheep are a good commercial proposition.

Mrs. Evans said their wool is valuable and special because it does not need to be dyed. "It has been given a grade of its own and is made into lovely tweeds of various

Horses are a menace at Colton

Colton's young horse lovers were riding roughshod over their parish councillors' agenda last week.

For the councillors are annoyed by the number of children who are allowing their horses to stray from proper bridle paths.

Local farmer Mr. G. H. Collier says he found children letting their ponies graze in one of the fields instead of keeping to the bridle path, and he thought some of the children too young to be in charge of the ponies.

The problem has already hit the village church of St. Mary, where children even brought their horse into the building — leaving behind potent evidence of their visit.

The Rector, the Rev. L. W. Sapsford has been forced to lock the church doors when at about the same time someone threw the top of a cruet through a valuable stained glass window.

Even outside the young horse riders are unwelcome as they are believed to be responsible for marking part of the fine lawns near the Rectory.

Parish councillors, who reckon there are about 20 horses involved, agreed last Friday that they must try to "educate" the young riders to comply with byelaws and stick to the bridle paths.

Maps of several bridle paths in the parish are available from the parish council clerk Mrs. I. R. Brown, of The Cottage.

Colton will enter this year's Best Kept Village competition — and in its correct section after a mix-up last year over population figures.

Councillor John Price is chairman of the sub-committee in charge of encouraging the villagers to take part in preparing for the competition.

The parish council have agreed to contact Staffordshire County Council to "register their concern" at the possible effect of coal mining under the village causing subsidence in the Moreton Brook area. The parish council have already notified the Coal Board and the Severn Trent Water Authority.

Pentabus, the West Midland touring company, are unable to stage a production at Colton despite a request from the parish council. The company are fully-booked for the week they offered at short notice to the parish council.

Councillor G. Sanders said the company should be encouraged to come in future, despite doubts about performances making a profit.

"We shouldn't let people be able to say they've never anything on in the village," he said.

Riders locked out Of bridle path

by Francis Hughes

Colton children "locked out" by their parish council on keeping to bridle paths when riding horses have been locked out by a local farmer.

The gate leading to one of the village's four main bridle paths near the war memorial was chained and padlocked last week by local farmer Mr. George Collier.

Riders who approached the gate last week - end were turned back by Mr. W. J. Parr, who lives nearby at Croft House, and is a friend of Mr. Collier.

When parish council clerk Mrs. Irene Brown heard about the "lock out" she went to the gate armed with a definitive map issued by the County Council, which shows the route to be an official bridle path.

Mrs. Brown tried to persuade Mr. Parr - a former parish councillor and himself a keen horse rider - to become involved, but he refused to look at the map and spread his arms across the gate to prevent Mrs. Brown's daughter Rachel and her horse getting past.

Mr. Collier, who has farmed at Colton for 35 years, told the "Times" this route had never been a bridle path and the map was incorrect. But he suggested there was a proper path at the other side of horses.

If the County Council confirm that the map position of the bridle path in dispute is correct, Mr. Collier said he would accept their decision, provided someone undertakes to maintain the paths in good condition.

Following publicity in the "Times", when parish councillors urged riders to obtain maps of all bridle paths in the area, eight children applied to the parish clerk Mrs. Brown, who gave them a stern lecture on keeping to the paths.



Rotarians help aged

Rugeley Rotarians on Monday presented cash and hospital equipment together worth £100 to help old people living at Abbot's Bromley and Stafford.

A cheque for £60 went first to Abbot's Bromley Residential Hospital - which is in fact an old people's home - and the balance to the local service committee.

The second presentation of a ripple bed worth £40 went to the Kingsmead geriatric hospital at Stafford. Pictured below, from left is Mr. R. Barber, Dr. Abbot, Mr. A. Rowlands, community chairman, and Mr. L. Slack.



Councillor R. Robertson said no letter had ever been written to the parish council asking if stocks could be put on the village green.

"We are not snubbing Lyons's in the slightest but we are representing a village in a conservation area. Once we introduce these new things, where will it end?" he said.

PRECEDENT

Councillor Mrs. E. Robertson said once the parish council agreed to one thing being put on the village green, someone would want to put something else there.

"It would be creating a precedent. Many times in the past we have been asked by people if they can put things on the village green and we have never allowed it," she said.

Councillors thought they could be leaving themselves wide open to children playing on the green and vandalism, but it would be all right for the stocks and pillory to be on the green during the festival.

Councillor Mrs. D. Fage suggested they should wait until after the festival to decide if the stocks and pillory could remain.



Flying seeds menace

A keen Colton gardener is preparing herself for this year's invasion.

This particular one takes place in August and is a menace to the garden.

Colton couple moving to leper colony

A hard, new life among people scarred by one of mankind's most feared diseases will begin soon for a well-known couple and their two children, from Colton.

Mr. Alan Hurd and his wife Valerie, both members of the Salvation Army, are setting off to work for three years in a leper colony in the heart of Africa.

They will take with them their two children, Dawn, aged six, and Ruth, aged four, as many suitcases as they can get into landlocked Zambia - and their washing machine.

Mr. Hurd, who as an engineer, has worked locally, including Rugeley Power Station, will be responsible for installing medical and other equipment, helping to run and maintain transport and seeing to irrigation. In fact, he says, he will be expected to tackle almost any engineering problem that comes along.

In the months before their departure, Mr. Hurd has been working among mentally handicapped adults at a Cannock centre.

Under the auspices of the World Council of Churches, their mission is initially for a three year term: Mr. Hurd said they had not decided what they will do when this ends.

In a shrinking world Mr. Hurd thought it was to everyone's advantage to help the Third World.

WELL-KNOWN

Mrs. Hurd will be working as a playgroup teacher in the colony, for which she is just completing a three-year course at

Flying

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seeds menace

May 1975

A keen Colton gardener is preparing herself for this year's invasion.

This particular one takes place in August, and comes in the form of seeds, thousands of them.

For several years Mrs. Mary Cooper of Glaemead, Colton Road, has been inundated with white fluffy rosebay willow herb seeds which drift on to her garden "like a snowstorm".

The seeds come from a nearby railway bank and overgrown allotment area. They turn Mrs. Cooper's garden into a weed patch and often get into her house, ruining furniture.

"The seeds mean that we have to do twice as much weeding as usual," said Mrs. Cooper's son, David.

GETTING WORSE

"The seeds take to the ground, and seem to grow very easily," he said.

Mrs. Cooper claims that the problem gets steadily worse year after year.

At first it was just a nuisance, but now it is a real inconvenience.

The Coopers have now turned to their parish council for help, and also to British Rail who own the land where the weeds grow.

"British Rail could help the problem by renovating the allotments and getting the weeds out of use — the demand is said to be

Rotarians help aged

Rugeley Rotarians on Monday presented cash and hospital equipment together worth £100 to help old people living at Abbots Bromley and Stafford.

A cheque for £60 went first to Abbots Bromley Residential Hospital — which is in fact an old people's home. It was presented by Rotary president Dr. B. A. Abbott to the Rev. A. Sander.

dler, pictured right with Mr. L. Slack.

The second presentation of a ripple bed worth £40 went to the Kingsmead geriatric hospital at Stafford. Pictured below, from left is Mr. R. Barber, Dr. Abbott, Mr. A. Rowlands, community chairman, Mrs. B. Yearsley, (hospital physiotherapist) and nursing officer Mr. G. Lister.



Formerly postwoman dies

Miss Ellen Rotchell, a woman well known to most Colton people, has died at the age of 78.

Miss Rotchell, who died at Staffordshire General Infirmary on Friday last, was the village postwoman from 1915 until 1956 and a founder member of the village Women's Institute.

She was a Sunday School teacher for many years, an associate member of the Mothers' Union and a member of Colton Produce Guild.

Miss Rotchell, who lived at Lucy Berry Cottage, Bellamoor Way, was buried on Wednesday at St. Mary's Church.

May 1975

that one path is not claimed never to have existed. They are to discuss the problem at their meeting on Thursday.

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WELL-KNOWN

Mrs. Hurd will be working as a playgroup teacher in the colony, for which she is just completing a three-year course at Cannock Technical

couple are well-known locally. Mr. Hurd will work on the village best kept village themselves.

nearest landmark is the Kariba Dam, the couple will be accommodated in a furnished bungalow. Despite the widely held belief, Mr. Hurd pointed out that leprosy was not contagious, although the disease can present a hideous sight.

Under the auspices of the World Council of Churches, their mission is initially for a three year term; Mr. Hurd said they had not decided what they will do when this ends.

In a shrinking world Mr. Hurd thought it was to everyone's advantage to help the Third World countries. He pointed out that although they were going out to help, they would also be training natives to themselves.

£90,996 will

Aug 1975

Mr. John William Pyatt, of Bishton Farm, Wolsley Bridge, who died on September 12, 1973, left £90,996.28 gross, £88,216.28 net. Duty £1,640.

Probate has been granted to Mrs. Edith J. Pyatt, of the same address.

Mr. Harry Crutchley, of 35, Tithebarn Road, Rugeley, who died on April 28, left £8,200 gross, £8,100 net.

Probate has been granted to Mrs. Kathleen M. Cutchley, of the above address.



Mrs. T. Deakin 1975

the Misses Heide and Heder Wealthall, nieces of the bride.

They were long dresses of white crepe trimmed with guipure lace, with a deep frill at the hem-line. They wore matching Juliet caps of white guipure lace flowers with flowing white ribbons.

They carried Victorian posies of green fern, white hyacinth pips and pale pink roses.

The best man was Mr. Terence Cooper, and the ushers were Mr. Nigel Hand, bride's brother, and Mr. Steven Harris, bridegroom's cousin.

The ceremony was conducted by the Rev. E. W. Vickery.

The bridegroom is a mining surveyor for the National Coal Board, and the bride is employed by Colortrend.

The honeymoon will be the Island of Ibiza.

ers help to for cassocks Aug 1975

A disco organised by Vera Collins in Colton Room on Friday week raised £33. This was to pay for new cassocks for the church choir.

Photo flashback

May Day was for many years kept up in Colton on a lavish scale, with a procession, a May Queen and her retinue selected, and of course dancing round the Maypole. This picture taken in 1957 shows the procession coming from the church was lent by Miss Lander.



Photo flashback

Just to show that the men of the 30s dressed smartly, even when they popped into their local for a drink. This picture lent by Mr. C. Robinson of Colton Road (right on the picture) was taken in 1935 at the Railway Hotel, now known as the Yorkshireman, with landlady Mr. Alfred Bates senr. on the doorstep. The other men (from left), E. Beardsmore, H. Gee, J. Morris and Rock.

July 1975

Church filled by Mothers

Mothers' Union members from many branches of the Lichfield Deanery filled St. Leonard's Church, Blithfield on Wednesday at a prayer meeting.

The rector, the Rev. L. W. Sapsford, welcomed members and the service was conducted by Head Deaconess Beryl Morgan. Organist was Mrs. Rosa Greaves.

Afterwards Nancy, Lady Bagot permitted the use of Blithfield Hall, where Blithfield members served tea and biscuits. The collection was given to the Mothers' Union Overseas Mission.

and Bannister at lunchtime last Friday. Mrs. Bannister, who lives in the village and is well known for her hobby of making teddy bears, has been caretaker at the school for 20 years.

She is leaving to help her husband as caretaker of Colwich School, so she will not be moving far away or giving up the work.

The children and staff of St. Mary's collected to buy Mrs. Bannister an electric clock which was presented to her by Mrs. Heasley, the headmistress. The children also presented Mrs. Bannister with flowers.



Photo flashback

The interior shot of St. Mary's Church, Colton, was taken in the 1930s by Mr. Frederic Bonney, who lived at Colton House and was a amateur photographer. The original photograph was lent by Miss Radford.



Mr. & Mrs. T. Deakin

The wedding of Miss Alyson Mary Hand and Mr. Trevor A. Deakin took place at St. James's Church, Longdon on Saturday.

The bride is the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hand of 10, Springfield Avenue, Rugeley.

The bridegroom is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Deakin, of Knowle Farm, Hixon.

Given away by her father, the bride wore a long white dress of white crepe trimmed with guipure lace, falling into a train. The hemline was finished in a deep frill.

Her long guipure lace-trimmed veil was held in place by a headress of white flowers and lilies of the valley. She carried a bouquet of trailing fern, hyacinth pips and pink orchids.

bridesmaids were

the Misses Heide and Heder Wealthall, nieces of the bride.

They wore long dresses of white crepe trimmed with guipure lace, with a deep frill at the hem-line.

They wore matching Juliet caps of white guipure lace flowers with flowing white ribbons.

They carried Victorian posies of green fern, white hyacinth pips and pale pink roses.

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The bridegroom is a mining surveyor for the National Coal Board, and the bride is employed by Colortrend.

The honeymoon was spent on the Island of Ibiza.

Dancers help to pay for cassocks

A disco organised by Mrs. Vera Collins in Colton Reading Room on Friday last week raised £33. This makes £75 raised by Mrs. Collins to pay for new cassocks for the church choir.



A rocking horse made for two

Nancy, 13, Bagot and her 13-year-old daughter adopted love riding stables. So they have four but do not have enough land. Victoria riding school after half-term.

at their home, Blithfield Hall, near Rugeley for stables. So they have four Victoria riding school after half-term.

June 26

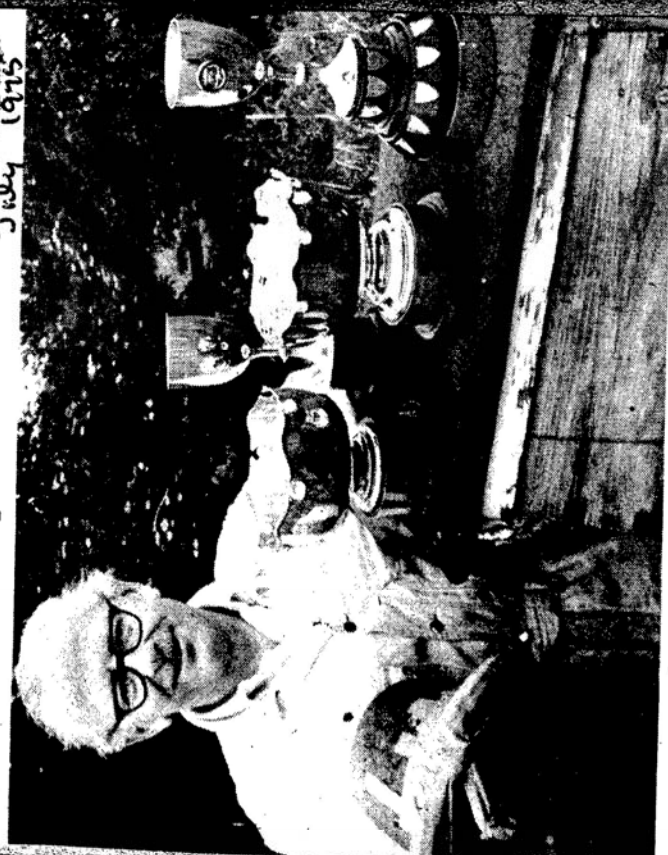
Tractor fire

A tractor burst into flames on Monday as it was pulling a load of hay at a farm near Abbots Bromley. The fire, which was put out by Abbots Bromley firemen, occurred on the Bromley Park farm of Mr. W. G. Carrington. The tractor, valued at £1,300 and extensively damaged, was being driven by his son Mr. Ian Carrington.

The trailer of hay was pulled clear in time to prevent the fire spreading.

Colton specialist wins

July 1975



A local beekeeper won a first prize at the Royal Show for his heather honey.

Mr. Harry Taylor of 16, High Street, Colton is pictured in his garden with the cups he has won for his honey.

Mr. Taylor has lived in Colton — a beekeeping area with six other enthusiasts in the village — since 1967 but he has been keeping bees for 20 years, inspired as a young man by Maeterlinck's "Life of the Honey Bee".

This year's Royal Show Mr. Taylor won third prizes and one for his Staffordshire honey.

the colour and taste indicated what flower was predominant and his bees made sycamore and willow herb honey, besides the heather.

Mr. Taylor has a senior certificate in Apiculture (bee keeping) and is an examiner of the British Beekeepers' Association. In a good year his bees produce 30 or 40 lb. of honey and much of it he sells through local outlets.

He and his wife Monica enjoy the hobby together, visiting different parts of the country to tend their hives — and both themselves to the seasonal sting.



When a 'listed' wall was found to be listing

July 1975

House which, although tenanted, they claim has been falling into disrepair for a number of years. They believe the sale of the house is due to be finalised soon but do not yet know to what purposes the new owners wish to put the property. No new planning applications have been lodged.

Colton people were concerned this week to find that a "listed" wall had been partially demolished.

The wall (shown in the picture) is part of Colton House boundary wall and is subject to a conservation order.

When parish councillors discovered that the wall had been partially knocked down Lichfield District Council was contacted and urged to make sure it was rebuilt.

An incident happened one evening. Mr. Leslie Beech and Mrs. Gordon — the couples in two new houses behind the wall — were going to clear rubble left against the

wall by builders.

The earth and rubble reached half-way up the wall and the couples planned to move it all, level the ground and grass the area.

But due to the pressure of the earth the wall was bulging outwards and as they worked the wall began to slip. Mr. Beech immediately saw the danger to passing traffic and people walking along the road.

He placed chairs along the roadside to keep the cars and people away and the men started to push the wall inwards to avert the danger.

About a third of the wall — the piece opposite Mr. and Mrs. Beech's home — collapsed. Mr. and Mrs. Beech, who knew about

the conservation order, immediately contacted Mrs. Irene Brown, Colton Parish Council clerk.

On Monday they contacted Lichfield District Council and the wall was inspected by a technical officer. Lichfield Council now say the rest of the wall is safe and the demolished part must be rebuilt with the original brick.

Mr. and Mrs. Beech are more than willing to rebuild the wall as it was, even if it means bringing in expert advice at their own expense.

"That wall is our pride and joy. It gives us the privacy we have here which is a great asset of the house," Mrs. Beech said.

Mr. Beech said it was a good thing that the wall had collapsed when it did as it could have fallen on anyone passing.

Gardeners maintain reputation

Aug 1975

Judging is now complete in Colton Parish Council's best kept gardens competition, which is organised each year by Councillor Gerald Sanders. And familiar names appear among the winners, although there are a few new ones.

The parish council cup for the most comprehensive garden was awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Brown, of The Cottage, Heathway. Second was Mr. W. C. Sargeant of Yorick, 53, High Street and third Mr. N. E. James, of Hollow Lane.

The Little Hay rose bowl for the most attractive garden was awarded to the Sargeants (pictured), with Mr. A. C. Preston of 8, Manor Way second and Mr. N. E. James third. Only one point separated these three.

Supplementary prizes awarded to Village Produce Guild members who entered without winning prizes went to Mr. J. James, 2 and 4, Oldhams Cottages, Belamour Way and Mr. J. Meddings, 10, Heathway, in the comprehensive section and to Mr. Ray France, 5, Fair Meadows, High Street and Mr. J. Meddings in the attractive garden section.

Judges were Mr. and Mrs. T. Preston, Mrs. Edith Preston and a friend from Sandbach. Arrangements have been made for the awards to be presented at the annual show in the village on August 16th.





"They thought it was possible that the lack of a supporting pillar at the end of the wall when the driveway was made could have weakened the wall.

Mrs. Freeman said she would prefer the wall half its size and was prepared to have it demolished, not realising that it was "listed."

"I could not understand what all the fuss was about, but now I know I don't think we will touch it, or the earth behind it. We do not want the expense of rebuilding if it falls down," she said.

● Colton Parish Council are concerned that Colton House which, although tenanted, they claim has been falling into disrepair for a number of years. They believe the sale of the house is due to be finalised soon but do not yet know to what purposes the new owners wish to put the property. No new planning applications have been lodged.

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Aug 1975
Gardeners maintain reputation

Aug. 1475

First fete at Colton's new rectory

Although well attended, Colton's annual church fete on Saturday was not such a financial success as last year's, possibly because it did not include the usual raffle.

The afternoon event raised £167 for church funds. About 200 people attended the fete, held for the first time in the grounds of the new Rectory.

There was a tug of war over the village stream, Moreton Brook, and a fancy dress competition.

Mrs. G. E. Vernon, of Blithfield, opened the event and also judged the fancy dress contest.

Results of the fancy dress were — Younger children: 1, Claire Jones (flower); 2, Stephen Gladwin (footballer); 3, Charlotte Jones (white rabbit). Older children: 1, Ruth Greaves (ghost); 2, Samantha Daw ("use your loaf").



The Rev. L. W. Sapsford, Rector of Colton, is pictured above enjoying the church fete with some of the helpers. Below, children try their luck at the hoop-la stall. The bottom picture shows helpers and visitors at the refreshment table, which did a roaring trade during the hot afternoon.

Get your hedge cut!

M.P. Mr. Nicholas Budgen seems to have been having some minor troubles with Colton Parish Council, in whose village main street he owns Malt House Farmhouse, a listed building.

At last week's council meeting he apologised by letter for causing a nuisance recently by lime spraying.

Accepting his apology the council thereupon decided to draw attention to his hedge, which is growing over the footpath at Bellamour Way!



her £50 for sock fund

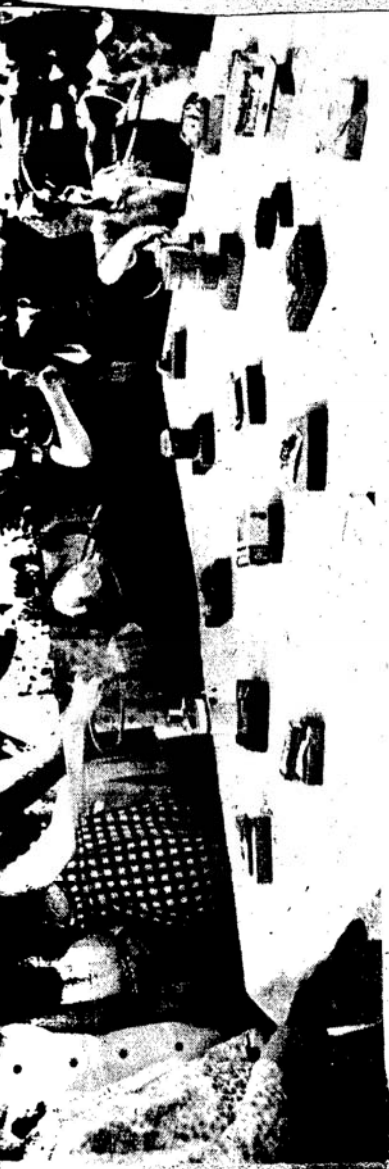
been socks for Colton Church being Vera choir. The donor wants to remain anonymous.



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Another £50 for cassock fund

A gift of £50 has been added to the fund being organised by Mrs. Vera Collins to buy new cas-

Sept. 16/75

Mothers visit rector former church

The September meeting of Colton Mothers' Union took a somewhat different form when they linked with Blithfield members in a visit to St. Thomas's Church, Stafford.

Joined by the Rev. L. W. Sapsford, the party were on a return visit after St. Thomas's M.U. had visited Colton a year ago.

In the new church of St.

Thomas an informal service was conducted by its vicar, the Rev. G. O'Brien. Mrs. Sapsford, whose husband was once vicar there expressed thanks to the hostesses.

COLTON DECLINES A £75 GRANT

A £75 grant from the County Council has been refused by Colton Parish Council because councillors do not feel justified in spending a large amount of public money.

The grant was to be towards the cost of the work needed on the common land near the brook bridge. But the total cost of the scheme is estimated by the councillors to be about £500 to £600.

They agreed at a meeting on Friday that this sort of expenditure was uncalled for during the present economic crisis. They took into consideration what money might have to be spent on the new burial ground when that is established.

Aug. 1975

Farmer County Cup

Roobottom, has cultural Society's first time.

married his wife, a local girl, six ago having helped her run a Sudbury. The couple now wo small children ed five, and Sally,

Roobottom in dairy farm- has 55 cows and a intensive beef unit out 45 bulls.

entered the com- in the class for under 200 acres for four years and has and twice.

his year he has won. ge Cup for the ured farm in the

Murder on the Trent and Mersey

THE BLOODY STEPS



Some local people were so distressed at the murder that they contributed towards the provision of a gravestone so that the memory of the woman should not die. This is one of the few memorials left on its site in the garden of rest at St. Augustine's. The inscription reads: "To the memory of Christina Collins, wife of Robert Collins, London, who having been most barbarously treated was found dead in the canal in this parish on June 17, 1839, aged 37 years. This stone is erected by some individuals of the Rugeley in commemoration of the end of this unhappy woman."

The "Bloody Steps", of which these are the modern replacement, bore no part in the murder of Christina Collins, though no doubt her body was carried up after being found by workmen at the wharf nearby. The original steps were of sandstone, which had become very worn with the passage of time and thousands of feet (for the canal path was until recent years a very popular walk). They stood to the right of the present steps, near the railings. And in pre-war days they bore unmistakable red marks. Youngsters thought this was blood; wiser folk said it was paint, renewed occasionally to keep the legends going. Now we shall never know, for the sandstone steps have completely disappeared. The site, by the way, for the benefit of newer residents, is down the narrow path outside the waterworks railings at Wolseley Road.



The ingredients of a legend are simplicity themselves: an ageing native and ask him his version of the truth; this to your grandchildren with any omissions or inclusion and failing memory may render. Stir gently and simmer several generations.

The 'Bloody Steps' of Rugeley, leading down from Wolseley Road pumping station to the Trent and Mersey is one local legend that has perhaps simmered for a little long. The longer the simmering period, the more distant becomes the truth.

Basically this legend tells of how a woman was murdered, body dragged down these steps, hence their name, and dumped into the canal. Some may expand on this, giving name as Christina Collins whose body lies buried at St. Augustine's. Yet others may tell you that three men were to be executed for the murder but that one was reprieved at the eleventh hour.

As in most legends, there is a certain element of truth in the version which has passed down to us. Being a comparatively recent incident, the legend of the 'Bloody Steps' contains more truth than is usual in older traditions. Nevertheless the passage of time has had its effects on the original story.

By

Julian Bielewicz

her mother ended her days as a nurse somewhere in Nottingham.

Sometime before 1838, Christina married a man whose name, or assumed name, was Dr. Ingleby; and he seems to have styled himself 'emperor of conjurors.' It seems that he introduced his wife to the world of theatre, although there is no evidence to suggest that Christina herself ever appeared on the stage.

What eventually became of this Dr. Ingleby is unknown, but sometime towards the end of 1838 or the beginning of 1839, Christina married an ostler called Robert Collins. They moved to Liverpool where she found lodgings and work with a dressmaker called Elizabeth Grice of 3, Crosshall Street, Liverpool.

Robert Collins spent five months, from January to May 1839, looking for work but was unsuccessful. Towards the end of May he left Liverpool to seek his fortune in London. Here he did find employment and a house at 10, Fredricks Mews, off the Edgware Road.

Around June 9, he sent his wife a sovereign which she was to use to join him in London.

On Saturday, June 15, she left 3, Crosshall Street at 10 o'clock in the morning and took a fly boat to Preston Brook where she was transferred to one of Pickford's canal boats.

The captain of the boat was a James Owen of Brinklow, near Rugby; he was a married man of about 40. The crew

At around 5.15 on the morning of Monday, June 17, 1839, Thomas Grant, a boatman on his way to Shardlow, was nearing Brindley, Bank when he saw something floating in the canal. On closer inspection it proved to be the body of a female.

John Johnson, a wharfinger of Bellamour Wharf, was crossing Colton Aqueduct when he saw Grant pushing the body towards the towpath with a boathook. It was Johnson who pulled the dead woman out of the canal.

Christina Collins was a native of Nottingham. Her father was a Robert Browne, who on May 14th, 1804 patented a device for attaching to Vandyke knitting frames. Besides this 'bobbin and carriage' as his invention was commonly known he appears to have effected several other innovations, all to the good of Nottingham lace industry.

His inventiveness allowed him to give his family a good education, but at some time his fortunes were reversed and the family was reduced in social standing. Christina became sempstress, while

Some local people were so distressed at the murder that they contributed towards the provision of a gravestone so that the memory of the woman should not die. This is one of the few memorials left on its site in the garden of rest at St. Augustine's. The inscription reads: "To the memory of Christina Collins, wife of Robert Collins, London, who having been most barbarously treated was found dead in the canal in this parish on June 17, 1839, aged 37 years. This stone is erected by some individuals of the Rugeley in commemoration of the end of this unhappy woman."

The "Bloody Steps", of which these are the modern replacement, bore no part in the murder of Christina Collins, though no doubt her body was carried up after being found by workmen at the wharf nearby. The original steps were of sandstone, which had become very worn with the passage of time and thousands of feet (for the canal path was until recent years a very popular walk). They stood to the right of the present steps, near the railings. And in pre-war days they bore unmistakable red marks. Youngsters thought this was blood; wiser folk said it was paint, renewed occasionally to keep the legends going. Now we shall never know, for the sandstone steps have completely disappeared. The site, by the way, for the benefit of newer residents, is down the narrow path outside the waterworks railings at Wolseley Road.



At around 5.15 on the morning of Monday, June 17, 1839, Thomas Grant, a boatman on his way to Shardlow, was nearing Brindley, Bank when he saw something floating in the canal. On closer inspection it proved to be the body of a female.

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By

Julian Bielewicz

her mother ended her days as a nurse somewhere in Nottingham.

Sometime before 1838, Christina married a man whose name, or assumed name, was Dr. Ingleby; and he seems to have styled himself 'emperor of conjurors.' It seems that he introduced his wife to the world of theatre, although there is no evidence to suggest that Christina herself ever appeared on the stage.

What eventually became of this Dr. Ingleby is unknown, but sometime towards the end of 1838 or the beginning of 1839, Christina married an ostler called Robert Collins. They moved to Liverpool where she found lodgings and work with a dressmaker called Elizabeth Grace of 3, Crosshall Street, Liverpool.

Robert Collins spent five months, from January to May 1839, looking for work but was unsuccessful. Towards the end of May he left Liverpool to seek his fortune in London. Here he did find employment and a house at 10, Fredricks Mews, off the Edgware Road.

Around June 9, he sent his wife a sovereign which she was to use to join him in London.

On Saturday, June 15, she left 3, Crosshall Street at 10 o'clock in the morning and took a fly boat to Preston Brook where she was transferred to one of Pickford's canal boats.

The captain of the boat was a James Owen of Brinklow, near Rugby; he was a married man of about 40. The crew consisted of George Thomas, alias Dobell, a man in his late twenties from Wombourne, near Wolverhampton; William Ellis, alias Lambert, in his early twenties and also from Brinklow; and William Musson, a lad of about 14 from Chilvers Coton.

Part of the cargo being carried was spirits which the three men soon began to sample, becoming progressively more drunk as they neared Stoke-on-Trent by mid-day Sunday.

At Stone Lock, Christina, worried that they might molest her, left the boat and walked to Aston Lock where she got on board again. She was last seen alive, by anyone other than the crew, at Hoo Mill Lock, where, according to the lock-keeper and his wife, she cried in distress.

It appears that after passing through Colwich Lock all three, the boy excluded, raped her and either the captain, Owen or Dobel pushed her into the canal, where she drowned.

Found guilty of the murder at Stafford Summer Assizes of 1840, all three were given the death sentence. This was postponed once while an appeal was made but a reprieve was granted to William Ellis alone; Owen and Dobel were hanged. Ellis was transported for life to Australia.

recent incident, the legend of the 'Bloody Steps' contains more truth than is usual in older traditions. Nevertheless the passage of time has had its effects on the original story.

Headmaster opens fair

Nov. 1973

Visitors to Colton Church annual Christmas fair at the weekend helped to raise over £67 for church funds.

The fair was opened by the headmaster of Colton's St. Mary's School, Mr. A. W. McDowall, who were welcomed by the Rector, the Rev. L. W. Sapsford. The Rector's warden, Mrs. D. A. Bradbury, presented Mrs. McDowall with a cyclamen house-plant. Helpers and stallholders were: Mrs. M. Sapsford, Mrs. P. B. Best, Mrs. M. J. Taylor, Mrs. I. F. Pearson, Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, Mrs. Ivy Preston, Mrs. V. James and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. Refreshments were managed by Mrs. M. E. Hibbs and Mrs. J. Meddings, and the

tombola was run by Mrs. V. Collins. Competitions were run by Miss D. M. Jones, Mr. B. Bettson, Mr. B. Williscroft, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Vernon, and Mrs. J. E. Jones. Mr. James, with Heather Taylor and Carol Smith, was at the door, and the draw was organised by Mrs. Bradbury. Winners of the draw were Mrs. F. Norman and Mrs. B. Brook, and the raffle for the tin of biscuits was won by Mrs. N. Vernon of Blithfield. ● The picture right shows Mrs. Ravenscroft selling a fern and below is a group of youngsters interested in winning a game.



Old Farm changes

The Old Farm taurant at Armit has earned a pl Consumer "Good Food Guide" years. At Rugeley Court a protection granted to Mr. B a business consu Sutton Coldfield. Mr. and Mrs. have run the res the last 10 years actually leave on 24.

Mr. K. Alexan told Mr. Speight: deep

JUST TO E

The new Rugeley Co Bryans Lane was used for on Wednesday morning monthly juvenile court w In the picture above th gather in front of the main and concrete, flat roofed bu tering the court. They are, Mottram, magistrate; Mrs. man of the juvenile court pector P. G. A. Sheldon; McGinty, deputy chairman bench and Mr. K. Alexan court. The courthouse comprises one smaller which will be juvenile and domestic caser area with a public telepho

Colton push for burials decision

Negotiations to acquire urgently need burial ground for the village of Colton have dragged on for so long that the parish council is now to ask for planning permission in an attempt to speed up proceedings.

Councillors agreed on Tuesday that Lichfield Rural Council should be asked to grant planning permission for them to turn land in front of the rectory into a burial ground, although the parish council still does not own the land. They hope this will press the Lichfield Diocesan Trust and the Charity Commissioners into releasing the land.

The council has been trying to obtain the land — left in trust to the village for use as a graveyard some years ago — since June 1972. Now the situation in the village has reached the stage when there is only room for two more burials in the graveyard at present being used.

Councillors believe the matter to be desperately urgent but have so far failed in attempts to get the land and feel the matter is becoming increasingly complicated.

The land is registered by the Charity Commission and is owned by the Church authorities because at the time of the bequest, the Church was the burial authority.

Councillors agreed that pressure was needed to get things moving and besides asking for planning permission, they are to ask the P.C.C. to put pressure on the Church authorities.

They want to use the north side of the land (near the pumping station) as the burial ground and landscape the rest to make a pleasant entrance to the village.



W.I. give trees to Colton

Members of Colton Women's Institute and their husbands planted two trees in the village on Saturday and now hope more people will make an effort to plant trees to improve appearance of the village.

The trees were bought from W.I. funds and were carefully chosen. A lime tree was planted at the brook bridge at the entrance to the village. Colton has many beekeners and lime

Daddy—

Lord Justice Scarman said, 'A child's interests must surely be that those whom inevitably he will think of as Mummy and Daddy are in fact, and in

Daddy

Lord Justice Scarman said, 'A child's interests must surely be that those whom inevitably he will think of as Mummy and Daddy are in fact, and in law, his parents.'

'In a funny sort of way legal recognition of the status of people does percolate down and influence, strange or discontent the infant mind.'

'Further, it must be of importance to the infant that those who provide his home should have their position clear. And in law as adoptive parents.'

As regards the council's authority, who brought request that I give an estimate of the length of time remaining until no further places are available, I can only say that I am not gifted with that kind of foresight. But I thank you for the compliment.

authority, who brought development of the

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A weeping willow was planted at Stockwell Heath pool at the other end of the village. The W.I. chose the pool because members think the area could be a beauty spot and a great asset to the village if more attention were paid to it.

Mr. T. Preston and Mr. G. Sanders dug the holes and Mrs. Ivy Preston, president (left) officially planted the two trees on the parish land.

verses 1974

An informal meeting of Blithfield Mothers Union was held last week at Newton Farm, Admaston, home of Mrs. Vernon, enrolling member.

Mrs. Vernon conducted the prayers and hymns and members contributed their favourite verses, prayers and quotations. A rough outline of the programme for the year was made, with suggestions for the year.

Lady Bagot gives talk

Nancy, Lady Bagot spoke on the history of her home, Blithfield Hall at a recent meeting of Colwich W.I.

The talk was accompanied by colour slides of the hall and gardens.

Later, names were taken of members wanting to attend the Parkside Garden.

Two more's the limit

Colton has almost run out of burial plots, the parish council heard on Tuesday at its meeting in the Reading Room.

Members believe there is room for two more burials in the churchyard and after that land outside the parish will probably have to be used.

Councillor J. C. Price said the problem has been discussed since June, 1972.

'Now the situation is becoming more and more fraught with danger,' he said.

Mr. Price thought the parish council should make its anxiety known to the Rev. L. W. Sapsford, Rector of Colton.

'If he has some written note of our anxiety he could forward it on. I think we should be getting more support from the church in this matter,' he added.

The parish council, as Burial Authority, was left an area of land in a will for a burial ground inside the parish.

But procedural wrangles have prevented the council from taking control.

Councillor G. Sanders thought the rector should be asked for his estimate of when the first burial would have to take place outside the parish.

Councillor Price: 'I wish an inquiry will be made of the wheels rolling.' The rector also pointed out that space was so tight that people were being buried under a footpath. 'This is most unhygienic because the path is raised and people are buried just two feet under the level of the field.'

The parish council decided to discover just how many burial places were left and how long before these would be exhausted, so they could go ahead making alternative arrangements for burials outside the parish.

Councillor Sanders said the council had tried 'pricking the conscience' to press for land to be made available. He added that even if it was handed over tomorrow it could take six months to prepare.

Councillor J. C. Price commented: 'I think if the P.C.C. treated the matter with as much urgency as we do more pressure could be brought to bear on the authorities concerned.'

Members heard that Colton High Street had been resurfaced but water still collected in various places. Staffordshire County Council said an extra gully would be provided to take the water away.

the matter is becoming increasingly complicated.

The land is registered by the Charity Commission and is owned by the Church authorities because at the time of the bequest, the Church was the burial authority.

on was nshead lerton. each other 18 back in

with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme as West Midlands Regional Officer, and before that he was a youth officer in Cornwall. A qualified teacher, he has worked with maladjusted children in Oxfordshire and been an instructor in climbing and sailing in the Lake District.

But ever since he was a 14 years - old war evacuee when he gave his first puppet show, 47 years - old Mr Hayward has been deeply involved in the world of puppets and today three members of his family have joined him in his absorbing hobby; his wife, Hazel, who looks after commentary tape recordings and lighting, younger daughter, Nicola (17) who operates puppets, and son, Bruce (11) who has just begun working them, scene shifting and changing back cloths.

Yorkshire - born Mr. Hayward has taken over an empty hairdressing salon in the main street, hoping to turn the front half into a puppet theatre.

The family concern uses about 50 kinds of puppets — string marionettes, glove, rod and shadow, all designed and made by Mr. Hayward himself, as were the stage, curtains, scenery and costumes. Mr. Hayward, who has recently been awarded the Arthur Peterson Cup for the best shadow puppet, and the Bulto Cup for the best circus

British puppeteers doing a show in Malvern. He started making puppets, and gave his first and subsequent shows with this man's help.

"I think the attraction is the little miniature world that one can control while giving pleasure to other people," he said.

Mr. Hayward takes his show to schools, W.I.s and Rotary Clubs in Staffordshire.

various parts of the Shadow puppets (see picture below) came from the Far East where cut outs were made of hide leather or painted and shown when the sun shone through a screen; very old marionettes made of clay and terracotta had been found in Egyptian pyramids; early tribes had puppets, and the Chinese and Japanese had elaborate rod puppets.



CROWN JEWELS ON SHOW

Replicas of the Crown Jewels are to be on show at the Midland Hall this winter while their home, the Tower of London is closed for repairs.

The replicas belong to the Church of England Children's Society which display them to raise funds. It will be several years before they can be seen in the Midlands again, said Mr. D. Denham - Cookes, hall manager for Nancy Lady Bagot.

He added that Blithfield would be the only place where the jewels could be seen this winter.

Two years abroad as missionary

Three days ago a young Colton woman set off to work in East Africa with the Catholic Volunteer Missionary Movement. She is 24 years - old Miss Jacqueline Webb of Hamley Cottage Farm.

Jacqueline, a former pupil of St. Joseph's School, Rugeley and St. Joseph's Convent School, Stafford, will work at a Kitale hospital in Kenya as a trainee laboratory technician in gynaecology. Her stay will last two years.

She will have to take a pathology test which involves analysing blood and urine samples from expectant mothers; and train an African girl to take over from her when she leaves.

Jackie is also expected to set a "good example" as a non - preaching lay missionary.

"I am going for lots of reasons, but mainly because it seems such a rat race in this country and people go through life only doing

things for themselves. So two years doing something for others won't do any harm," she explained.

After reading about the post, advertised in a Catholic newspaper, Jackie, with the other volunteer missionaries being sent overseas, attended a month's course in London in November. She has just gained her Higher National Certificate in Biology.

Her career history so far makes fascinating reading. She has had three jobs; firstly in the quality control laboratory of a Brereton electrical engineers, until they closed down five years ago; then for a year at Harwell Atomic Energy Research Establishment as an analytical chemist; and finally for Berkshire Agricultural Research Council for four years doing soil micro - biology and plant physiology.

One black spot marring her overseas stay is that Jackie will be leaving her

fiance behind!

She met him while they were both analytical chemists at Harwell.

"He is not very sympathetic with this kind of thing but he knows it's what I want to do. I shall probably marry when I come back," Jackie added.



A replacement evenso Church day — ward the co The shared childr show their vices. The ducted Rev. L Mrs. organi A le the Mrs. Musio given

Council to safeguard Ice Age relics

March 1974

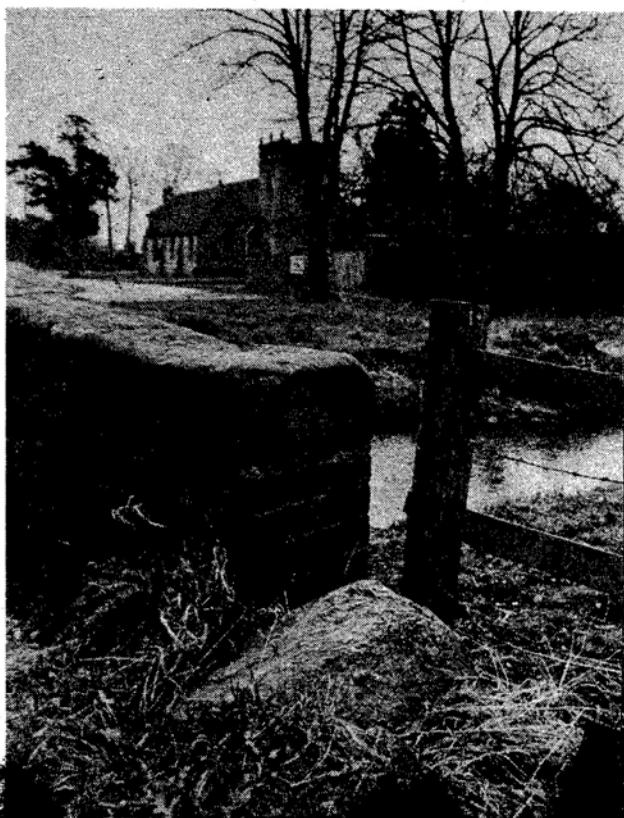


Protecting local features which date back mere centuries is peanuts to Colton Parish Council. This week they set about saving four relics from the Ice Age... or are there just three now?

Colton villagers often pass them but few probably even notice them and very few can know their purpose. To those who have, please don't write them off as four useless stones plonked down at the four corners of the small hump backed bridge.

Having been around for up to 600 million years, they are perhaps entitled to look a little sorry for themselves as they slowly sink below the surface. They may have been stepping stones at the ford before the bridge was built and then were used to stop cartwheels getting too close to the bridge walls.

Miss D. Landor, president of Rugeley's local history society, says the stones were identified as relics of the Ice Age by a leading geologist, Professor F. Bonney who lived at Colton House. The parish council will now raise them to their former glory and search for the missing fourth one.



in
ya

March 1974

International corner

LAZY

HARVESTING

At Eldoret I was left at the wrong school, but the headmaster and mistress (in their twenties) kindly took me to the right place. It was the first time I could talk openly about my surprise at the lazy Europeans. They were surprised too.

The following morning I got a taxi from the market place. It's quite an experience - you are packed in like sardines and have to get out each time they drop someone off. It cost 6s. for over 50 miles. The African women next to me obviously liked the woven string bag I bought in Rugeley because she kept poking it and smiling, but one gets used to this.

This weekend I went to an agricultural development corporation farm run by the Roses. She is from the Seychelles originally, where they speak French, and he is a Scot. They get paid a set figure so if he has a good season he doesn't get a bonus. He says the farm pays very well. I think it's about 10,000 acres.

He grows maize mainly - seed maize has to be sown two rows of one sex to six rows of the other. It then pollinates and

also grows commercial maize for consumption. It is harvested with a combine which he converts. If it is badly laid the women workers go round afterwards to pick up the cobs. It is possible to stook the maize while it is still green, then hand harvest, if it is laid or to prevent too much coming ready at once. It is husked by machine or hand, and cleaned. The chaff can be burnt to produce a really good heat or used for charcoal. If it is ground finely the cattle will eat it.

They are trying to grind it to a fine white basic powder for commercial use in some places. He (Mr. Rose) let me go up on the combine to see it harvested and took me to see it sacked and then on to the dairy farm.

They need about four acres of grass per cow. He has about 450 milking animals. They are always outside, except if they are calving heifers or young calves. He grows and harvests grass and wheat. They grow on rough looking grass in clumps or rows too. It looks very green in comparison to the rest at this time of year. It has to be cut down to prevent it getting too

grows artichokes, cucumber, gerkins, bread fruit, a berry which is like a large raspberry, avocados, paw paws (these have to be grown with a male and female tree side by side, but only one produces edible fruit), pineapples, some other strange round vegetables, a kind of spinach, passion fruit, fig, etc.

As in many of these farmhouses they seem to live in a kind of expensive shabbiness. Everything needs painting and furniture is old (it's difficult to get here). When dinner is served the poor servant does so many trips round the table to serve everyone in the right order that the food's nearly cold before you get it!

'VICTORIAN'

You'd never believe the Victorian rules of living these people have brought with them. One doesn't have a meal at any other than the set time and one cannot pop and make one's self a cuppa because the servants would have to do it.

They are always poor, of course, though they send their children to expensive schools in England. The Roses are very nice though and I think their staff and workers like them a

wasn't cut out for the and I only find it funny waited on. They would go

sleep in the afternoon and went for a walk. I saw lots of hornbills of various sorts, are huge birds, also ground squirrels which look like our grey ones, but I don't think they climb trees.



He served Colton for 25 years

Councillor Fred Hardcastle who resigned only last week after 25 years as a Colton parish councillor and 13 years as a Lichfield rural councillor, has died in hospital after a long illness.

Councillor Hardcastle was 71 when he died in Rugeley District Hospital on Sunday. He leaves a wife, two sons, two daughters and three grandsons.

His funeral service took place on Thursday at St. Mary's Church, Colton, and he was buried at Stafford.

With two years as parish council chairman, Councillor Hardcastle has for years been a champion for keeping Colton rural. However he did win a fight to bring public lighting to Colton.

Manchester-born, Councillor Hardcastle came to Colton in 1910 and attended Colton St. Mary's School.

Not long after starting work on a farm he became apprenticed to a plumber in Market Street, Rugeley and then set up in Wolseley Road

behind the present antique shop, W. J. Hardcastle and Son. Later the business moved to Bow Street.

When his father died, his brother Tom joined the business which became Hardcastle Brothers. On Mr. Tom's death, Councillor Hardcastle's son, Councillor Victor Hardcastle began to share the running of the contractors, builders, plumbers and heating engineers' business, and Mr. Victor took over completely in 1966.

Councillor Hardcastle was a social welfare representative of Colton parish on Staffordshire Rural Community Council since its beginning.

MANY COMMITTEES

He was parish council representative on the village hall management committee and on Colton School management; first chairman of the village hall entertainment committee; chairman of

Colton Youth Club's adult committee, member of the Best Kept Village Committee and of the Parish Councils Association; treasurer and vice-chairman of Colton Conservative branch; and chairman of the Colton Old People's Welfare Committee.

Councillor Hardcastle was also governor of Fair Oak School and Aelfgar School, Rugeley.

A keen sportsman, he played football for 14 years with Abbots Bromley, from 1921 and for Colton St. Mary's in the Uttoxeter, Rugeley and Stafford Leagues as centre forward and half back.

Boxing, athletics, dog racing, greyhound breeding and dancing also took up a lot of his time.

Councillor Hardcastle was a member of the executive committee of Rugeley and District League, Rugeley Playing Fields Committee until 1960 and belonged to Rugeley Athletic Club.

ANTI-ABORTION RALLY 'CYCLING GRANNY' BEATEN BY WEATHER

But she cycled home all the way from London

Colton's anti-abortion crusader Mrs. Hilda Jones, who went on Saturday, the journey well before she reckoned that she could not reach the rally in time by bicycle. St. Albans by the evening, and cycling all day Monday to stay the night with relatives at

Local wills

Mr. Fred Hardcastle, of Bank Top, Colton, near Rugeley, who died on February 17, left £8,970.46 gross, £8,311.77 net.

Probate has been granted to Florence E. Hardcastle, of the same address.

Mr. George Cartwright, of 16, Hagley Drive, Rugeley, who died on November 28, 1973, intestate, left £43,180.07 gross, £36,744.17 net. Duty £2,443.

Letters of Administration have been granted to his widow, Gwenmore P. Cartwright, and Colin C. Cartwright, of Wistaria, Manor Road, Kings Bromley.

Mr. Arthur Charles Mason, of 69, Fortescue Lane, Rugeley, who died on March 12, intestate, left £24,284.89 gross, £23,567.58 net. No duty shown.

Letters of Administration have been granted to his widow Edwina E. M. Mason.

Mr. Thomas John Rogers, of Rest Harrow, Etching Hill, Rugeley, who died on March 4, left £25,635.59 gross, £25,357.01 net. No duty shown.

Probate has been granted to Elsie P. Rogers, of the same address.

Mr. Edmund Jones, of 49, Uttoxeter Road, Hill Ridware, Rugeley, who died on December 13 last year, left £15,243.74 gross, £15,164.54 net. No duty shown.

Probate has been granted to widow Beatrice Jones, of 4, Paul R. Jones, of 4, Paul Street, Colton, Rugeley.

BARN HEART OAK

Innovating the 15th century R. Mills about £2,000. The grants when told the building to the hours.

Times' he had made no a keen model engine building may be used to

ht) with Hamstall Ridware, examining one of which have had to be because one end was

Vandals 'destroy' nature'

Vandals have struck a blow against nature for the third year running at a private reserve at Bellamoor, Colton.

by
Lorraine Doody

Owner of the land, farmer Mr. J. C. Price, has fought to preserve a swan's nest and four eggs for the past three weeks. With his family, friends and farmworkers he has spent hours patrolling the area to keep a watchful eye on the progress of the eggs.

But on Saturday, when Mr. Price was delivering pigs on the South coast and his family were away from the farm, vandals struck. The nest was completely destroyed and the eggs were very near to being smashed.

is the third year this happened and I am so

NATURE LOVER

Mr. Price is not an active member of the Rugeley Field Club or any similar naturalist society, but he is a lover of nature and decries anyone who attempts to destroy it.

"I don't mind these children coming on my land and looking at nature. I like them to take an interest. But I object to the way they destroy it," he said.

On several occasions in the past — usually around school holiday times — Mr. Price has found nests pulled out of hedges and eggs smashed against walls. He believes the culprits to be boys of 11 to 15 years from Rugeley who were in the Colton area and did damage to relieve boredom.

POTTERY DISPLAY FOR M.U.

At Blithfield Mothers' Union June meeting in New-ton Village Hall the Rev. L. Sapsford, conducted a short service, and the enrolling member, Mrs. G. Vernon welcomed the speaker, Mrs. P. Ball of The Newlands, Colton.

Mrs. Ball talked about and also displayed her large collection of Staffordshire pottery.

Mrs. Ball also gave a colourful account of her recent visit to Australia, where, on the outward journey she stayed at Bangkok for a few days. Both talks were much enjoyed by all present.

Colton fear of being over-run

Colton is going to protest about the section of the Staffordshire County Structure Plan which they believe will affect the village. Although the diagram of the plan is not detailed

Secombe king-size ombe — ice with Alton vil- geley, on eight- Palfrey ing up for ade. rector at cesex and e of Col- ne Rev. rned out stelle, of Farm — prize. hoping an £1,000 it repairs the vil- St Mary. from the of Abbe- display.

Two old houses at Horse Fair, Rugeley in being demolished as a further step towards the eastern link road. Eventually a road will emerge at the site of to join Wolseley Road, Bryans Lane, For Lichfield Street with Horse Fair. The district council cannot at present give the road construction will begin — but decided to town centre will come first — but decided to properties because they were becoming an eyesore. The site will be fenced off until the new road is built and off the main A 51 road. The council own the adjacent building — but it is not certain whether it will be sold or leased for a limited period.





They met at Colton village fete, near Rugeley, on Saturday, where eight-year-old Estelle Palfrey pictured, was lining up for a fancy dress parade.

Mr Secombe is rector at Hanwell in Middlesex and related to the wife of Colton's rector, the Rev. Laurie Sapsford.

The meeting turned out to be lucky for Estelle, of Blithfield Park Farm — she won a first prize.

Organisers are hoping to raise more than £1,000 to pay for urgent repairs to stonework at the village church of St Mary.

Four dancers from the nearby village of Abbots Bromley gave a display.

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Although the diagram of the plan is not detailed enough for parish councillors to know exactly how Colton will be affected, it does show proposed development north of the River Trent.

On the diagram it appears that Colton is covered by an orange circle, signifying a proposed housing development for 10,000 to 15,000 people. The development would apparently be an extension of Rugeley.

Parish councillors decided on Friday to protest in writing and attend the public meeting to be held later this year to hear objections to the plan.

They hope they will be able to put in their point of view and their objections to the plan.



SHE'S THE WINNER

coconut shys, decorated bikes and prams and fancy dress competitions.

The fete was opened by the Rev Fred Secombe, brother of singer Harry Secombe.

Highlight of the fete was the tug of war matches over Morton Brook. Competitions were held between girls and boys, but the big match of the night was the battle between all the women and all the men from the village.

All the cash raised at the fete will go towards the church restoration fund.

ESTELLE Palfrey looks a little sheepish on the left about entering the fancy dress competition at Colton church fete on Saturday. But she needn't have worried, for the judges placed her and her lamb, Georgy Porgy, first in the class for under-six-year-olds.

The fete, organised by the Colton Parochial Church Council, was held in the rectory gardens and was well attended. Attractions included skittles, clock golf,



Dorothy Jones (also living at Colton), Eva Jones (Hednesford), Brown Owl Miss Alice Thomlins, Colton Guide Captain and Divisional Commissioner Mrs. Maud Oldham, Mrs. Farley, May Grimley, Win Webb, Nora Hawkins. Middle row: Gabriel Latz, Dori Cooper, Peggy Bloom. Back row: Alice Pendlebury, Lily Preston. Front row: Wil Devalle, Marion Webb, Mrs. Bloom and Mrs. Grimley.

THIRTY YEARS AGO

Thirty years ago this week, Colton gardeners were digging their own contribution to the war effort.

For on Saturday, September 16, 1944 most of the village turned out for "A Grand Vegetable and Agricultural Produce Show" which raised more than £100 "to send Comforts to the Young Men and Girls from Colton who have joined the Fighting Forces, in recognition of the services they are rendering for us all."

One of the main organisers of this show, and others before it, was Mr. Charles Robinson who himself "dug up" specially for the 'Times' one of the original posters from the wealth of family mementoes kept at his home in Colton Road.

Mr. Robinson, who as a member of the Lander Society still retains a keen interest in local history — 50 years ago he submitted a picture which led us to start our "photo flashback" series — believes the shows started in 1941 with profits going into the Colton Services Welfare Fund.

Although memories are faded, Mr. Robinson remembers the strong support the show received, from some far-flung Mr. G. Melton Farm and also



their auctioneer Mr. A. V. Nelson, still living at Trent Valley.

Mr. Robinson says the profits were kept in the fund and distributed to their local servicemen and women when they returned.

Obviously by September 1944 the villagers were in no doubt about a quick finish to the war.

"We are hopeful that the recent wonderful success achieved by the members of ALL SERVICES will make this perhaps the LAST appeal before the enemy is finally defeated. The Committee trust that you will, by your generous support, make this occasion a big "THANK YOU" to our service friends for a job well done," proclaims the poster.



Rotary's Dutch

The English summer lived up to Dutch girls who visited Rugeley this week. Lous Scholten van Aschat and Roelie to England through a Rotary international. They spent a week as Stafford and ended their stay with a week at the home in Etching Hill Road.

They take home with them two which might come as a surprise — and the amount of unspoilt, open country.

Said Roelie, a student nurse from Holland is cheap generally, especially a bit more. I do earn more than nurse much as I would like."

And Lous, who is taking a secret said: "You are concerned over here it is not nearly as bad as Holland. We over the Horse Shoe Pass and we are completely alone."

The picture Roelie Wilms and Lous Scholten rain with Mrs. Muriel Evans, president of Rugeley Rotary Club's donkeys.



Reginald Hunt, of Mill House, Great Haywood, and June Sargeant, of The Rectory Farm, Admaston, Rugeley, married at St Leonard's Church, Blithfield.

Picture: James Browne.

Sept 10, 1974

Food crisis possible for farmers

crisis, a food crisis could be the British people have face if Britain is increasingly dependent on imported food, a farmer said this week.

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usual system should be bypassed.

"Now we have put the facts before those who control the farming industry in no uncertain terms. It is the housewife who will lose out if there is no pig meat. We have made an impact and we have been heard," Mr. Price said.

IN LONDON

This weekend Mr. Price and his federation colleagues will be in London to find out what the new Labour Government intends to do about the pig industry.

Mr. Price believes the British farmer should be encouraged to produce all the food he can:

"At the moment this country spends £4,000 million on imported food. British farmers could cut that bill by £600 million to £1,000 million. We should be as independent and self-sufficient as we can," Mr. Price said.

If the farming industry was allowed to decline and more food imported, a foreign country could easily put up food prices and create another crisis like the oil crisis.

Colton plans to fight development

Colton is to start rallying its troops in an effort to halt the steadily marching threat of rural development.

At a recent County Structure Plan meeting members of Colton Parish Council heard how a proposed housing development, catering for about 4,000 people, is to take place north of the Trent at Rugeley.

The new development would be part of yet more expansion in the Rugeley area.

Though the exact location of the land to be built on has not been revealed, Colton will be fighting it all the way.

No matter where the developments take place, they will certainly be in the Colton parish.

A main Colton argument against the development will be the loss of valuable agricultural land in the area.

"We must keep as much agricultural land for food as possible, with the country in the state it is at the moment," said Councillor J. C. Price, a former

by John Upton

village resident.

"Just to say 'I don't want people living near me' isn't enough. We don't want the development and the loss of land," he said.

It was suggested at Friday's Colton Parish Council meeting that the proposed development could easily have taken place on some of the derelict waste land between Rugeley and West Bromwich. This also would in many ways be more convenient, because these areas are nearer the main centre of industry.

Councillor Price also said Rugeley ought to be satisfied with the developments that have been completed so far.

"Rugeley cannot expand anymore due to its location," he said.

The parish council also

complained that Colton would no longer be a small picturesque village if expansion took place, but more like a town.

Farmers local to Colton have already agreed to help in the fight, and it is likely that a petition will be drawn up by the farmers as well as the Colton residents.

Letters will also be sent to the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Farmers Union, asking them to confirm the viability of the land.

"The farmers will 'stand in the gateway'. They will support us on the grounds that it will be uneconomic to start a new town of 4,000 people in an area which is totally unsuited for this purpose," said Councillor Price.

Members of the parish council are to be chosen to represent agriculture in the village.



Farmers help Family Care

Deanery presiding member Mrs. A. Davies was the guest at Blithfield Mothers' Union meeting. She spoke about the Overseas Conference which she attended recently.

It was announced the October whist drive raised £10 for the Lichfield Diocesan Family Care Association. This has been handed to the Bishop of Lichfield.

Feathered feasters

Wheelers and stealers... gulls herald winter's approach by fal-

Dilatory towards Colton scheme?

Residents of High Street, Colton, are complaining that a statement made by a county council spokesman is "inaccurate" and "shows a dilatory attitude" towards a proposed improvement scheme.

They say they gave a strip of land to the county council on the understanding that a retaining wall was built by the council to hold back the earth banks.

Now a spokesman for the Roads and Bridges Department at Utttoxeter has said these retaining walls are for the individual houseowners to attend to.

Mr. J. W. Doughty of 23, High Street, said he received a signed agreement from the county council about April, 1968 which read: "the county council agree to subsequently erect on the improvement line, a brick retaining wall approximately 6ft. high; such a wall to become my property and responsibility when satisfactorily completed."

'TIMES' STORY

After reading a front page story in last week's "Times" about a two years delay in starting a footpath and road widening scheme and unsatisfactory temporary regrading of the banks, which they allege still made the road a "mess" and a potential danger to their children, 11 High Street residents wrote: "We refer to your report on the state of the High Street, Colton, and to the reported statement of a spokesman for the Roads and Bridges Department, that 'the retaining walls are for the individual houseowners to attend to.'"

In 1967, a complaint was sent to this department, regarding the dangerous state of this strip of High Street. An on-site meeting with Councillor Riley, Councillor Hardcastle and engineers from the Roads and Bridges Department was held. At this meeting the householders concerned were advised that due to the high costs of widening, the quickest way to get these banks down to was to dedicate them to the council. All the undersigned householders agreed to do

An agreement was signed by them, dedicating several yards from each front garden, free, on the undertaking by the Council to build a brick retaining wall as soon as possible. (We note from your report that the money was allocated in the 1969/70 estimates).

"We cannot, therefore, understand the attitude of the council spokesman in this matter. We would also like to point out that there is an urgent need for a footpath along the whole length of the High Street."

And Mr. R. Rooke of No. 15 said: "As an owner of property affected by the proposed road widening scheme, I can only reiterate in the strongest terms the feelings expressed in your article on this subject made by other owners of property affected. 'In addition, however, I must take issue with the reported statement that 'the retaining walls are for the individual houseowners to attend to.' In fact, the land concerned has been dedicated and given up, including the sloped banks, to the County Council, part of which same agreement provided that the Council are to erect a retaining wall approximately six feet high."

"I feel therefore, that the banks and retaining wall running parallel to the road frontage are very much the council's responsibility."

"Such apparently inaccurate statements from presumably responsible spokesmen do nothing to dispel the local feeling that the council has shown nothing but a completely dilatory attitude towards the whole road improvement scheme."

COUNCIL VIEW

The spokesman for the Utttoxeter Roads and Bridges department said the work done at the time was only of a temporary nature, not being

the ultimate improvement scheme.

"The department did all it could, that was possible, at the time," he said.

The spokesman said he did not know the agreement had been made and referred the matter to the county surveyor's department.

A spokesman at that department said there was a scheme prepared for this work within the next 14 days when plans would go to the county valuation officer for him to open negotiations for the necessary acquisition of land.

Steel may his entire h indoors all

THE grazing cow is soon likely to become a thing of the past on a Staffordshire farm carrying one of the top British Friesian herds in the West Midlands.

For the farm's owner, Mr. John C. Price, is looking to the day when his entire pedigree herd will be kept indoor throughout the year.

Already, a huge cotel has been erected on his Bellamur Lodge Farm, on the outskirts of Rugeley, with this in mind.

Said Mr. Price: "If I do decide to keep the herd in all the time this building will present no problems at all."

The building, 180ft. by 90ft. in size, currently houses 80 cows in cubicles, but soon numbers will rise to 160 and ultimately to 200 — a figure Mr. Price believes makes for an economical milking unit.

By the start of this summer automatic feeding arrangements, which have already been installed down the centre of the building will be linked to a haylage tower, material from which, it is anticipated, should easily provide maintenance plus one to 1½ gallons for the cows. At the moment, feeding is by hand.

By turning to an all - the - year - round indoor system, Mr. Price would be able to eliminate severe damaging to his grassland during the summer, which occurs with the paddock grazing currently practised on the farm.

"I would be able to treat my grass purely as a crop, either zero grazing it or putting it in the tower," he said.

"There is no doubt that with paddock grazing there is a terrific spoilage of grass, with zero grazing or haylage you have a very efficient means of bringing grazing to the cattle," he added.

SLURRY

Tower storage is, however, the method Mr. Price likes best.

"The trouble with zero grazing," he says "is that you still have to bring the grass in from the fields everyday."

And the idea of having to do this does not particularly appeal to Mr. Price, for his plan is that the cotel should provide work for only one man.

having to stop the bedding.

For the cotel, Mr. Price chose a 4in. metal, which has a 50 lb strength.

"In addition, 1½in. thick steel is the usual 3in. thick one cubicle in a row and so with this gain four extra he said.

One problem was entered when the first went in.

It was noticed tended to go round the head of the lie down and find they could they could not To prevent

Price and Mr. Ha a breast rail 23in head of the cotel

Farm



Round

Unfortunately, that, while the initial problem cows with sore

So a further made, this time the breast rail

THE C

The building entirely completed by the second-hand and railway material. Price estimates be half the mate for a same size.

A normal probably be in £100 per cow.

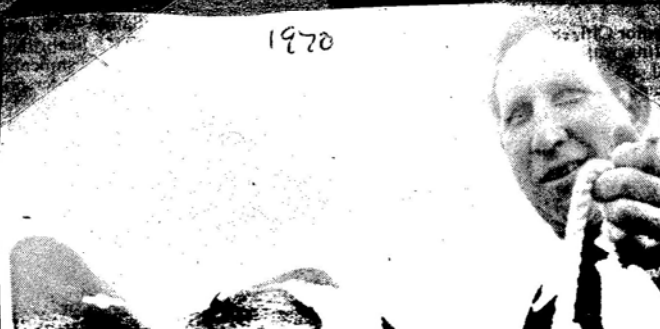
Mr. Price said a Government cost of the structure

It is now 15

Mr. Price Bellamur L At that time had only a Dutch barn for 20 cows.

Extra building course, which was a bit of a problem, but the cotel should provide work for only one man.

1970





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The Cooper family
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