

Hagley VILLAGE NEWS



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THE JOURNAL OF THE
HAGLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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New Year's resolutions

First of all I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a very happy New Year and hope that you have had a very happy festive season.

I would also like to look forward to 1979 and to mention to you one or two things that the Community Association will be endeavouring to do this year.

As you may be aware, we are planning a Village Fete for Saturday, June 24 on the playing field. This will follow on similar lines to the highly successful Jubilee Fete, held in 1977. From time to time over the next few weeks you should be hearing of the exact plans and those of you who are members of affiliated organisations will be receiving details of how we wish you to help.

I hope sincerely that the fete receives the help and support it deserves, as it has proved in the past to be tremendously successful.

The other major project for 1979 is

the community centre extension, which has received a welcome support boost from the Parish Council over the last few months. Further plans have been prepared setting out two different schemes and I intend shortly to have a meeting of the Management Council to discuss the same.

This scheme is something that I personally am very anxious to see off the ground and I believe that with proper changing facilities for the centre and the playing field much better and more extensive use can be made of the facilities.

There is, therefore, much to look forward to during the coming 12 months and I look forward to receiving both your personal support and that of the various affiliated organisations, so that we can make both ventures as successful as possible.

PETER PETHERBRIDGE
Chairman
Community Association

Yoga classes restart

The Widdowson Yoga and Dance Centre is starting its new term this month at three centres.

In Hagley, there will be classes in St Saviour's Hall on Wednesday afternoons and evenings; in Blakedown Village Hall on Friday afternoons and evenings; and in the Methodist Hall, Stourbridge, on Tuesday afternoons.

For further information, contact Mrs J Smith, 9 Barratts Close, Bewdley (Tel Bewdley 400237) between 3 pm and 5 pm.

Help the Aged appeal

The annual appeal for the district this year will be on January 16 and 17. The collecting centre will be St Saviour's Hall which will be open between 10 am and 8 pm on both of those days, when we would be pleased to receive clean clothing and blankets (no shoes please). Gifts of money will also be collected.

Diary

January 2: Senior Citizens Club, community centre, 2.30 pm.

Young Wives outing to Swan Theatre, Worcester, to see *The Nut Cracker Sweet*.

January 9: Tuesday Club, community centre, 2.30 pm.

Young Wives talk, 'Some Personal Experiences', by Mrs Dumper, wife of the Bishop of Dudley, St Saviour's Hall, 8 pm.

January 11: Evening WI meeting.

Young Wives coffee morning, St Saviour's Hall, 10.30 am.

January 16: Senior Citizens Club, community centre, 2.30 pm.

Young Wives Music Group AGM, St Saviour's Hall, 8 pm.

January 16 & 17: Help the Aged appeal.

January 23: Tuesday Club, community centre, 2.30 pm.

Young Wives illustrated talk on the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, St Saviour's Hall, 8 pm.

January 24: Evening WI paper collection.

January 30: Senior Citizens Club, community centre, 2.30 pm.

Afternoon WI New Year supper, St Saviour's Hall.

January 31: Gardeners Club AGM, Free Church Hall, 8 pm.

LETTERS

to the Village News



Sir,

Mrs Barbara Watson's letter (*Village News*, December) warrants a reply. Hagley Rambler Scouts took over the organisation of the annual bonfire and firework display some seven or eight years ago because the village could not get the people to run such an event.

The fact that over the years it grew somewhat does not mean that it is gruesome. The Scouts' bonfire and firework display, with its tented stalls offering soup, hot dogs, coffee, roast potatoes and so on, is still there for those who wish to enjoy it. For the family with small children, who like to arrive on foot, see the show, have a hot dog and a chat with friends and then leave at about 8.45 pm, the opportunity still exists.

Combining with Hagley and District Round Table, a local organisation which has served the area since 1964, has meant that we can still offer a good evening's entertainment at a very reasonable cost, despite inflation. A family of four can attend for less than the price of one of the fireworks.

The additional attractions are neces-

sary to keep the cost down and they provide more facilities for the teenagers of the village. They have been hailed by many as a jolly good idea and the larger attendance itself signifies the need to service the larger community. The extra revenue from the increased support allows the Round Table to continue its charitable works both in the area and further afield.

We look forward to our 1979 effort in the spirit of the Scout motto: Be Prepared to enjoy it. On the whole, we feel that the new style bonfire night caters for all requirements and follows the Round Table's motto of Adopt, Adapt and Improve.

Yours etc,

RON PIERCY

Group Scout Leader and
Past Chairman of Hagley and District
Round Table

M J O'REARDEN

Hagley and District Round Table
Fund Raising Officer

Senior Citizens

The Hagley Senior Citizens' Club has had another successful year. In December the members were once more invited to Hagley Middle School by Miss M Davis. They were entertained with folk-songs and carols sung by the choir, and then served with a delightful tea, prepared and served by the older girls.

The Club's Christmas Party was held on December 18 and once again the Men's Tuesday Club was invited to join us. We were pleased to welcome the Rev Maurice J Beaver, who played the piano and led the carol singing.

A very varied programme has been arranged for members' entertainment in 1979. New members are always welcome — just come along to the community centre at 2.30 pm. Meetings this month are on January 2, 16 and 30.

The committee would like to express its thanks to the two ladies who responded to our appeal for help with transport. Further offers of help would be greatly appreciated.

Evening W.I.

At the November meeting, our new president was elected: Mrs Doris Gould. Mrs Mitchel VCO took over the proceedings and a full committee was formed.

Mrs Margaret Pritchard, the retiring president thanked the old committee for their hard works through the past year. Mrs Pauline Harris, secretary, reported on a very successful year of outings, produce and handicraft meetings.

The newspaper collection was still being held on the fourth Wednesday in the month.

Our speaker for November was Mr R Clements, who gave a most interesting talk on *The Story of Gilbert & Sullivan*.

Competition for the meeting was a Musical Humor, which was won by Mrs D Gould.

Our January meeting will be on Wednesday, January 17 and the talk will be "Pottering in the Garden with a Camera not a Trowel", by Mr P. J. Allford.

This month in the garden

This can be a very hard month, with frosts and cold winds.

It is not a time really to spend out of doors, unless of course the weather is suitable for digging and manuring, but keep off if its frosted or wet.

When you are planning for spring — and I feel sure that you will be — do remember that brassicas (cabbage, cauliflower, sprouts, etc.) must not be planted in the same place two years running, because of the dreaded club root disease which is so common. Once you get this in your soil it is most difficult to get rid of it. The other old one to remember is that carrots, parsnips and beet do better on unmanured ground.

I like to get my runner bean trench out early and leave it open for the frost to get at it before putting in the necessary compost, to ensure a good crop. If you plant your beans in a single row, dig out a trench about one foot wide to a depth of about 18 inches and as long

as it is required. If you plant a double row, then you will have to take out two trenches, but it is worth this bit of extra effort.

A lot of people plant shallots on the shortest day, but any time this month is a good time. Remember, you are not too late to plant broad beans.

Roses, of course, can be planted now, providing that the soil is in reasonable condition. If the soil is frozen or very wet, delay planting; just dig a hole and heel them in until suitable weather arrives — that is, of course, if they are not container grown.

Beware of the temptation to move plants. Roots dislike disturbance when frosts are about.

It is interesting and important really to plan your programme for 1979: crop rotation is a must. Study the seed catalogues, read all available articles and try something new.

Happy gardening.

J.L.L.

Gardeners Club

On a very cold evening, 41 enthusiasts came along to listen to a talk given by Mr M Guest of Halesowen, who is a member of the Rose Breeders' Society. It was fascinating and enjoyable to listen to such an expert who had such a pleasant way of explaining every detail.

It was a pity that the attendance was so poor and that once again we had to lose money. A vote of thanks was given by Mr Peter Fellows.

Our AGM will be held at the Free Church Hall on Wednesday, January 31, commencing at 8 pm. The purpose of this meeting is, of course, for the selection of officers and committee, without whom the club would not function. Kindly submit names for office to the secretary before this date.

After coffee, we would like an open discussion on the forthcoming outings which we propose to arrange for 1979 and any other matters that members would care to mention.

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BROOME CHURCH Hall available for bookings for parties and functions. Tel Mrs P Fallows, Hagley 3985.

Afternoon W.I.

At the December meeting, Mrs L E Baber, the newly appointed president, welcomed a new member, Mrs F Hill. She also thanked Mrs Bayless for the Christmas arrangement of flowers on her table.

The secretary, Mrs A Akerman, announced that the New Year supper would be held in St Saviour's Hall on January 30. She also said that keep fit classes would continue in January in the community centre at 2.15 pm on Thursdays.

Miss M Bate reported on a meeting in Worcester about the Association of County Women of the World and Mrs D Shaw on an outing to Birmingham Repertory Theatre made by the Drama Group.

Some very nice Christmas gifts were brought by members to be taken to Barnsley Hall.

The competition for the oldest Christmas card was won by Mrs Payne. Second was Mrs M Stephen and third Mrs Payne.

After tea, the president introduced Mr H Wolfenden, who gave an amusing talk about pantomimes and taking members minds back to George Lacy, Evelyn Laye and other well-known stars. Mrs P Harris gave the vote of thanks.

The social time was in the capable hands of Mrs B Luxton and included solos by Mrs Bullas, two readings by Mrs Akerman and Mrs G Handley and a selection of carols led by Mrs M Leszewicz.

The meeting ended with the reading of a beautiful New Year wish by Mrs Akerman on behalf of the president and members of the committee.

United Nations Association

The Rev Patrick Ashe, founder of Project Vietnam Orphans, will talk about the organisation and its work in Broome Church Hall on Monday, February 5, at 8 pm. Project Vietnam Orphans is a Christian outreach to help children in need in South East Asia.

Mr Ashe will have very interesting tales to tell of the wonderful work which is being done in South East Asia and anyone interested will be very welcome at the meeting. We do hope to get a good audience and we shall be pleased to arrange transport for anyone needing it.

Young Wives & Women's Fellowship

Our activities for January begin on Tuesday, January 2 with a visit by members and their children to The Swan Theatre, Worcester to see *The Nut Cracker Sweet*.

On Tuesday, January 9 we are pleased to welcome Mrs Dumper, the wife of the Bishop of Dudley, who will be speaking on 'Some Personal Experiences' at 8 pm in St Saviour's Hall.

The last meeting of the month will be on Tuesday, January 23, with an illustrated talk on the activities of the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind at 8 pm in St Saviour's Hall.

The monthly coffee morning will be on Thursday, January 11 from 10.30 am until 12 noon in St Saviour's Hall.

Music Group: The Annual General meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 16, in St Saviour's Hall at 8 pm.

It is hoped that as many members as possible will come along.

Free Church

Make a clean sweep and let us have all that jumble you have lying around. The Free Church jumble sale will be held in the Free Church Hall on Saturday, February 3, starting at 2.15 pm. Admission will cost 5p.

If you have jumble for collection, please contact one of the following: Milestone Drive, 3184; Long Compton Drive, 4888; Lodge Crescent, 3314 or 3645; Kidderminster Road, 2652; Western Road, 2829; Middlefield Lane, 2059.

Barnardo Helpers League: Once again our thanks are due to all who helped at the coffee morning held in the community centre. A cheque for £600 was given to Mr Cole, Barnardo's district secretary. This was the total raised from boxes, donations and the coffee morning.

Flower Arrangement Society

The Flower Arrangement Society meeting this month, on Monday, January 29, is the society's own evening. The competition will be "In my own way", a design using any natural plant material.

A chance to meet ...

KATHLEEN BENSON

Kathleen Benson married late in life, looking forward as she told me "to several happy years together".

Her husband died within nine months, having suffered renal failure.

To most people it would have been the time to retire quietly into widowhood. For Kathleen it was the time to determine her future life in the pursuit of raising money for kidney machines, a pursuit to which that she still devotes herself fully.

She raises hundreds of pounds each year for the memorial fund of her late husband and also for children in hospital, notwithstanding that she is now over 70 and suffers from an arthritic spine.

Kathleen's first money-raising venture

was a garden party at her own home, but when the tea arrived, the heavens opened and it poured and poured. Everyone had to come inside and the house overflowed with people. That day £82 was raised and within five years she had raised more than £1,000, which with £300 she subscribed herself bought the first kidney machine which was presented to the Wordsley Renal Unit.

Kathleen now lives quietly, occupying herself with making all sorts of things for coffee mornings to provide for other people what was not available to her husband. Had it been, it may well have enabled her to fulfil her expectation of marriage.

PETER PETHERBRIDGE

Historical & Field Society

There was no monthly meeting in December, and the *Village News* went to press before our Christmas Social Evening, 'A Pantomime Party', on December 8.

The last ramble of the year, organised by Mr E Mace, was to Ismere. On account of the wet weather, it was nearly cancelled, but 18 enthusiastic members turned up at the car park all eager to go regardless of the rain, and their enthusiasm was duly rewarded — the rain stopped suddenly. After travelling by car to Blakedown, the party walked over to Ismere, a distance of about three miles, and thoroughly enjoyed it.

Our 1979 programme has now been compiled and covers a wide variety of talks and outings. Our first meeting of the New Year is on January 2, when the speaker will be one of our own members who needs no introduction — Mr John Bartlett. His subject is simply 'Gilbert & Sullivan'.

I think this is a good time to 'blow our own trumpet' a bit. Since its inauguration in 1963, the Society has steadily increased its membership to more than 180, including several juniors, which proves that we can't be too 'stodgy'! We can find room for a few more, so why not make a New Year's resolution to join us?

Ramblers Scout Group

December has been a hectic month in all three sections and Christmas festivities, including the Venture Scout reunion, the Cub Christmas party and the Scout Wide Game, were all well attended and much enjoyed.

The venture scouts are now preparing for their New Year 'Roof of Wales' expedition. Now that the World Jamboree in Iran has been cancelled, we shall await news of the jamborees in other countries to be organised instead. This news will be shared with Scouts and parents as soon as possible.

The Scout Council thanks all members of the Supporters' Association for their hard work during this autumn and congratulates them in their success.

Haybridge High School

The Parent-Teacher Association will meet in the school hall on Tuesday, February 6, at 8 pm, when Mr T Jarratt will give a talk and demonstration on "Wine making in the home".

Members are invited to bring examples of their own home brewing for a cheese and wine after the talk.

Prepare for Burns' Night

For some inexplicable reason, the English consider the haggis to be an offence to good taste.

Ask an objector why and he will usually reply: 'Well, it's all in a sheep's stomach, isn't it?'

In other words, we don't mind our faggots wrapped up in pigs' intestines but, please, not sheep's stomachs.

For the unprejudiced, haggis is indescribably delicious and this is the month to eat it.

January 25 is Burns' Night. (It is also the seventh anniversary of Idi Amin seizing power in Uganda, but please don't feel obliged to celebrate that.)

The ritual of Burns' Night is important: the haggis must be 'piped in', that is, preceded by a piper in full traditional dress, and before it is opened and served must be addressed in the words of Robbie Burns himself. The rich, spicy sausage is then served with mashed neeps (swede) and, of course, 'the juice'.

According to many authorities, 'the juice' is the best part of the meal — especially if it is single malt rather than blended. In any case, only whisky is a suitable accompaniment.

As this year is Burns's 219th birthday, mark the occasion by making your own haggis. You don't need an especially strong stomach (yours, I mean — the sheep's does need to be strong), although one or two of the sights along the way could make temporary vegetarians of the children.

The main difficulty is finding the ingredients. Most butchers have no demand for the necessary offal and will need careful chatting up in advance.

HAGGIS

sheep's pluck (liver, heart and lungs)

sheep's paunch

salt and freshly ground black pepper

½lb pinhead oatmeal

1lb onions

4oz shredded suet

3 level teaspoons dried mixed herbs

1 level teaspoon ground nutmeg

1. Wash pluck well, leave overnight in cold, salted water. Next day, bring large pan of salted water to the boil.

Rinse pluck under cold tap, lower into pan with windpipe hanging over the side. (All the gunge in the lungs will beat a retreat this way.) Cover and boil steadily for about 1½ hours. Leave to cool in the liquid.

2. Wash paunch well under cold running water. Remove the fatty bits from the smooth side. Open the bag out flat, but do not tear the skin. Place in large bowl, cover with boiling water and leave to stand for two to three minutes. Lift out. Rough side up, scrape skin to remove slime and furry lining. Divide into three, rinse and leave overnight in fresh cold water.

3. Spread pinhead oatmeal on a baking sheet and toast gently under the grill until golden brown, turning it occasionally with a fork.

4. Skin onions and cut into small enough pieces for the mincer. Drain pluck and reserve the liquid. Trim away windpipe and any gristle. Cut up the lungs and heart and half the liver into small pieces. (Use other half for a paté.)

5. Mince onions and pluck finely together and put into a large bowl. Stir in oatmeal and suet with herbs and nutmeg. Season really well. Mix in ½ pint pluck stock to give soft consistency like porridge.

6. Drain soaked paunch and pat dry. Use darning needle and coarse button thread to sew each piece into round bag, smooth side inside, leaving an opening (hands up all those who have already finished stitching all the way round!). Half fill each bag with stuffing. This is important — the oatmeal will swell and the bag will shrink. Sew up the remaining seam. Prick with a fine skewer.

7. Bring a large pan of salted water to boil with an old heatproof plate in the bottom. Lower each haggis into pan, prick again and return to boil. Boil gently, uncovered, for three hours, keeping pan topped up. Prick occasionally to prevent haggis bursting. Steam extra stuffing in basin for three to four hours.

Haggis can be stored in the deep freeze. Thaw it for five hours and reheat before serving.

PETER HENSHALL

COMMITTEE

Chairman :	Peter Petherbridge, 150 Kidderminster Road South	Tel. 4670
President :	H. Wolfenden, 17 Meadow Croft	Tel. 4424
Secretary :	Pauline Harris, 10 Cavendish Drive	Tel. 2875
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SECRETARIES OF ORGANISATIONS AFFILIATED TO THE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Afternoon WI	Mrs A Akerman	34 Beech Road, Norton (Stourbridge 77062)
Evening WI	Mrs P Harris	10 Cavendish Drive (Hagley 2875)
British Legion	Mr G H Pardoe	11 Park Road (Hagley 2518)
Let's Do A Play Club	Miss P M Lewis	Dene Cottage, Wychbury Drive (Hagley 3173)
Ladies' Circle	Mrs E Neal	17 Waterlade Road, Hartlebury (Hartlebury 227)
Girl Guides	Miss C Harris	10 Cavendish Drive (Hagley 2875)
Toc H	Mr J Reeve	64 Milestone Drive, Hagley 5392
Young Wives	Mrs Barrett	26 Kidderminster Road (Hagley 2652)
Football Club	Mr M Dickens	94 Dobbins Oak Road, Pedmore, Stourbridge
Cricket Club	Mr P Petherbridge	150 Kidderminster Road South (Hagley 4670)
Rambler Scouts	Mrs B Ellis	1 Summervale Road (Hagley 2197)
Youth Club	Mr M Cartwright	68 Pinewood Avenue (Hagley 4358)
Conservative Association	Mrs K Hodgetts	83 Lodge Crescent
Labour Party	Miss C Spencer	Highlands, Bromsgrove Road
Historical & Field Society	Miss B Crumpton	32 Western Road (Hagley 2574)
Parish Church	Rev J G Davies	The Rectory, Hagley 2442 Church Centre, Hagley 6363
Parochial Church Council	Mr C Hill	19 Woodland Avenue (Hagley 2728)
Old Time Dance Club	Mr J Clark	97 Norton Road, Stourbridge (Stourbridge 4175)
Round Table	Mr D Osmond	33 Portland Drive, Pedmore, Stour- bridge (Hagley 3769)
Young Farmers' Club	Mrs S Barney	42 Lutley Drive, Pedmore, Stour- bridge (Stourbridge 73013)
Flower Arrangement Society	Mrs J Lilley	2 Milestone Drive (Hagley 4850)
Holiday Club	Mrs S Bonas	27 The Greenway (Hagley 5452)
Free Church	Mr F Harper	81 Lodge Crescent (Hagley 3645)
Senior Citizens	Mrs P Jasper	Four Ways, Brake Lane (Hagley 2473)
Gardeners Club	Mr J L Lee	29 Summervale Road (Hagley 2707)
Camping Club	Mr R W Gullick	38 Dunns Bank, Quarry Bank (Lye 4351)
Men's Tuesday Club	Mrs C Iliff	24 South Road (Hagley 3568)
Residents' Association	Mr A Hess	Aran House, Western Road (Hagley 4348)
Badminton Club	Mr I Gordon	45 Willow Close
Play Group	Mrs Jackson	35 James Road, Kidderminster
First School	Mrs Guest	Hagley 3280
Middle School	Miss M Davis	Hagley 4375
Haybridge High School	Mr D Hobson	Hagley 6213
R C High School	Mr K C Bonnaud	Hagley 3193
Parish Council	Mr W Vaughan	2A Haybridge Avenue (Hagley 4283)
Bromsgrove District Council	Mr H Chattin	The Poplars, Whinfield Road, Dodford (Bromsgrove 32240)
County Council	Mr G C Bache Mr P Brinkworth	33 Kidderminster Road (Hagley 3244) East Cottage, Bromsgrove Road, Clent (Hagley 5704)
United Nations Association	Miss M F Bate	73 Worcester Road (Hagley 2349)

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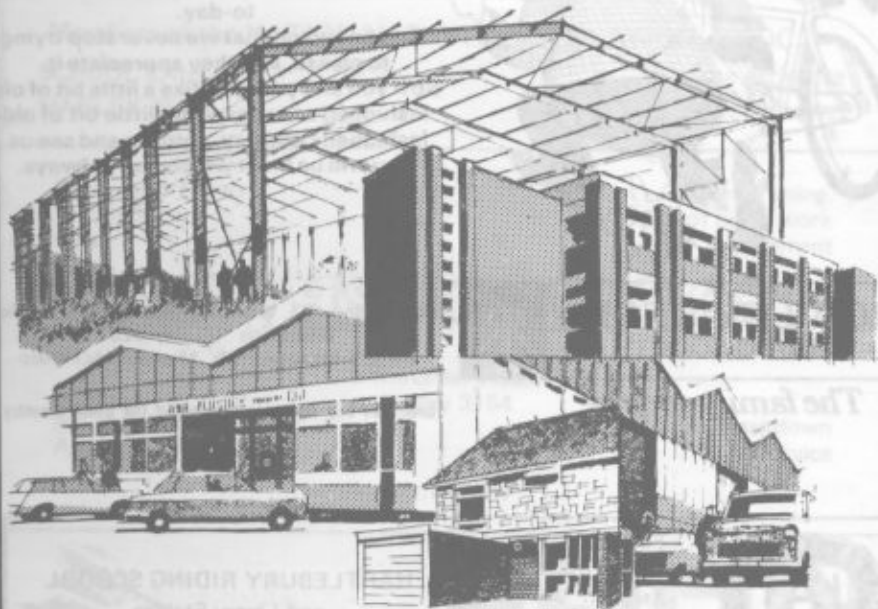
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