

# 1921 Menu 1971 Brading W.L. GOLDEN JUBILEE

Annular Table December 12th, 1971

Table of Dessert Soup

Small Table of Eight Turkey Dinner  
 Roast & Sea Potatoes  
 Gravy, Spinach  
 Garden Peas

Berry Trifle

Macaroni & Cheese

Coffee

The Royal Toast proposed by the President, Mrs. Easton

Brading Women Institute, proposed by the Chairman of the  
 Table of Eight County Federation, Mrs. Lewis

Response by Mrs. A. Falley, R.L.S.



BRADING JUBILEE SOUP AND CHERRY TREE BY ELLA KING



Medones Blackham Wilkinson Cook, Arthur, Easton, Mrs. Lewis, Falley  
 President 1971 Mrs. Harris  
 Resident 1972



# Singing the praises of W.I. two-day festival



Bradling W.I. members who took part in the All-Island Music Festival, left to right, front: Mesdames M. Berry, P. Donson, P. Price, and P. Chaffrey; back: K. Owen, J. Rodgley, M. Sears, A. Pinlay (leader), L. Scott, G. Chaffrey, and J. Stewart.  
*Dec 9<sup>th</sup> 1971*

The role of Wight Federation of Women's Institutes' two-day music and drama festival — which came in the climax to the Federation's golden jubilee year — was an outstanding success. Westhill Manor Hotel — once a major house — proved an ideal setting for the non-competitive event which brought in entries from a score of institutes.

The first day of the festival was devoted to drama with a wide variety of dialogues, mimes, sketches and plays, and superb costumes. There is offer advice and constructive criticism where needed" said Mr. Peter Williams, Hampshire County Council's assistant speech and drama adviser, who said: "The performances have been varied and well thought out. Mr. Jack Toles, an accomplished musician and organist of Carisbrooke Castle Museum, was present to comment on music, say, when there were performances by choirs, singing groups and solo items. He told The News: "The programme was varied and there was an excellent range of music. "Considering the choice of performance was left to individual institutes it was remarkable that there was no duplication in the event," he said. "The standard of choir training was high and almost every choir produced clear diction."



*SEPTEMBER 1974*  
*BRADLING PLANT SOCIETY*



*BEST KEPT VILLAGE CONTEST 1974*



*AWARD GIVEN BY THE RUSTIC BOARD planted at Bill King by Mrs V. Goodcliffe Mrs M. Pottier Mrs V. Goodcliffe Mrs Verlander Mrs A. Pinlay*

*MARCH 1975*  
*The resulting golden blooms much admired*

Ancient fair  
is revived

May 1975 "Whitson Ales"



Members of the Whitson Ales Club, including Mrs. J. J. Smith, president, and Mrs. J. J. Smith, president, are shown at the annual meeting of the club, held at the Whitson Ales Club, May 1975.



94th birthday

Frances ... 94th birthday ...

Frances ... 94th birthday ...

# Brading art show supports fund

The art show ...

The art show ...

The art show ...



...

Halloween Party 1979



BRADING SINGING WITCHES

## CENTENARIAN WHO EMIGRATED WHEN JUST A MERE 80

AN ISLAND woman who lived most of her life in Brading and who emigrated when she was over 80 years old, has celebrated her 100th birthday in Tasmania.

Mrs. Alice Chaffey (pictured) celebrated the first husband, the late Mr. Eric John Barton, of Brading, who she had two sons, Robert and Eric. Mr. Barton died in 1913 and she married the late Mr. Frank Chaffey, also of Brading, in 1922. He was an undertaker and builder.

For many years the couple lived in New Road, Brading, and Mrs. Chaffey stayed on there after her husband's death until she emigrated in 1961.

She went with her son Robert, a former Island policeman, and his family. Her other son, Eric, a carpenter, and his family had emigrated the previous year. Mr. Robert Chaffey died seven years later.

For some years Mrs. Chaffey, who has five grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren continued to write to friends in Brading. She told a New Zealand reporter who interviewed her on her 100th birthday that she attributed her longevity to "hard work." The reporter added that staff and residents at her home in Sheffield said Mrs. Chaffey was "still active for her age."

## WI WALK TO FINANCE OUTING



Members of Brading Women's Institute hope to raise about £40 from their seven-mile sponsored walk on Saturday.

Twelve members, including Captain Mrs. J. Blackham's dog, left the Brading building for a walk which took them over marshes and down to the sea but only nine finished the walk at Narbridge.

The money is to go towards WI funds for an outing for the old folk in the area during jubilee year.

Pictured are the ladies, with Mrs. Blackham, president, and Cassie, and Mrs. V. Gustafson, secretary, leading.

1977

MRS BLACKHAM MRS GUSTAFSON MRS WHEELER  
MRS SCOTT MRS DOWER MRS PAT CHAFFEY  
MRS JOYCE MORRIS MRS ISOBEL

## Century maker

Mrs Alice Chaffey, of Sheffield, will celebrate her 100th year on Sunday.

And she attributes her long life to hard work.

Mrs. Chaffey, who is the oldest resident at Tandara Lodge, is still active for her age.

She travelled from England to settle in Australia at the age of 81.

She was born at Ryde on the Isle of Wight and lived on the island for most of her life.

In her teens she worked as a barmaid in the Red Lion in Brading, which still stands in the village today.

Her first husband, Eric John Barton died in 1913 and she remarried in 1922.

Mrs Chaffey had two sons by her first marriage. Her son Robert's ill health was the reason for her emigrating in 1961. However, he died seven years later.

Her other son Eric lives at Ralton.

She will travel to Ralton on Sunday for a family celebration.

Mrs Chaffey has five grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.



Mrs Chaffey with one of her 100th birthday cards at Sheffield's Tandara Lodge yesterday.

## BRADING LADIES W.I. OUTING MAY 21 1977 AROUND THE ISLAND W.I.s On foot for mystery tour

There is a change of plan this year at Brading W.I., where instead of the usual Christmas party, senior citizens will be entertained to a mystery lunch tour with tea at the Town Hall some time during September.

To raise the necessary £15 members set off on the Bull Ring on a seven-mile sponsored walk and one in the party, Mrs. C. Blackham's Labrador Jasper, added something in the River Yard Sandown Bay to his sponsorship!

The walk took the form of a circuit through the Marshes Whitecliff, then along the River Downs to Sandown back across the Marshes. There was a sponsored walk, too, on Saturday for nearby Yaverland W.I., whose members went on a five-mile circular route. Proceeds went to the monthly meeting.

At the monthly meeting, Mrs. P. Cole, V.C.O. advised the resolutions and delegations. Mrs. Blackham from Sandown, will vote according to the wishes of the members.

Unsettling weather did not dampen the enjoyment taken and Lake W.I. when they met at the monthly meeting, arranged by Mrs. E. Dunkinson.

At the monthly meeting, congratulations went to the group for the excellent arrangement of the Spring meeting.

A warm welcome was given to Mrs. G. Bunce, O., who explained the resolutions. Members voted their votes for the site at the Albert Hall.

At the recent jubilee sale Mrs. M. O'Donoghue was instructed how to vote at the monthly meeting.

The recent jubilee sale was a success with £16, and a sweet to the open day at the Royal Yacht Squadron took

place. The evening was rounded off with an American supper.

resolutions at Apple W.I., led by Mrs. B. Charlton and Mrs. S. Uwell. Auctioneers raised nearly £11 for the Silver Jubilee fund.

Fortcoming events include a day visit to Bournemouth and a swap shop during June.

Congratulations are due to Mrs. V. Brewlett at Osborne Minnie Cup, and came from Mrs. D. M. Ilton, V.C.O., in success at the choir on their festival.

Thanks were extended to all who helped with and contributed to the April meeting produce stall, which raised about £12.

Thanks, too, at Chale W.I. to all who helped tidy the W.I. Hall garden. Final arrangements were made for the jubilee celebrations and for a coffee morning to be held in June for Cancer Research.

Several members attended a service in the Methodist Church to mark the 34th anniversary of the Sisterhood, Mrs. N. Ward, from Niton, gave the address.

For their resolution meeting, members at Medham W.I. discussed in depth one of the five resolutions. After bringing membership, Mrs. J. Gascoigne, the link delegate from Northwood W.I., was instructed how to vote at the monthly meeting.

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After full discussion, led by members with a summary by Mrs. M. Morris, V.C.O., V. West, N. Estwell, B. Nichols, V. Backmaster, and Mrs. M. Brown.

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Mrs. J. Blackham, president of Brading W.I. (front left), with her dog Jasper, Mrs. V. Gustafson, secretary, lead members at the start of their seven-mile sponsored walk at Brading Bull Ring.

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Details of morning and evening walks were announced, and the W.I.'s participation in the jubilee procession discussed.

On May 30, a publication is being prepared in honor of the jubilee. W.I. members are invited to contribute, if appropriate, to the jubilee.

Published by C. E. 1977. It is a collection of the most powerful of the jubilee. Members will meet at East Cowes ferry terminal, then visit Osborne House for a picnic lunch.

MRS BLACKHAM MRS GUSTAFSON MRS WHEELER MRS SCOTT  
MRS DOWER MRS PAT CHAFFEY MRS JOYCE MORRIS MRS ISOBEL

ESSELTE

# ISLAND W.I. AND GUILDS

## WI ART STANDARD HITS NEW PEAK

Island Women's Institute members demonstrated their skills in art at an exhibition at Rolfe's Gallery, Union Street, Ryde.

Organizers said the show, which opened on Saturday and continues until November 18, maintained the increase in entries and the raising of standards that has been apparent each year it has been held.

Now in its 15th year, the W.I. country art exhibition attracted a record 100 entries from 81 exhibitors whose art was judged by Mr. E. Transley, of Bembridge.

Mr. L. J. Mitchell (County Director of Cultural Services) opened the exhibition. He spoke of the growth of painting in the island and

praised the quality of the W.I. exhibits.

Results: Guntar Cup, portrait — Mrs. P. E. Slee, Seaview; Dongill Cup, landscape — Mrs. M. Wakefield, St Lawrence; Forge, still life — Mrs. D. Sadler; Bunce, interior — Mrs. M. Aspden, Freshwater Bay; Welch, watercolour — Mrs. M. Aspden, Freshwater Bay; Osborne, any other medium — Mrs. L. Lewis, Bembridge; Jubilee drawing — Mrs. M. Waller, Brading.

● Pictured, left to right, are Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Mitchell, Mrs. Waller, Mrs. D. A. Brown (chairman of the federation), Mrs. G. Lloyd-Bunce, Mrs. Slee, Mrs. Aspden, Mrs. Sadler, and Mrs. Wakefield.



## Something to beef about!

● It was not all beer and skittles at Brading W.I. harvest supper. In fact it was nothing like it. Cider and cold BEEF was on the menu, and not cider and beer as reported! Sorry about that, ladies, and our thanks to Mrs. L. Scott, of New Road, Brading, for pointing it out. We hope you enjoyed your evening.



## Blooming good show at Brading!

The Methodist Hall at Brading was a mass of colour last week when members of the Brading Gardening Club brought along their entries for the club's annual show.

The 29 participants had entered a total of 115 exhibits including flowers, pot plants, vegetables, jams and marmalades.

Mrs. Rose Durbridge, a keen gardener, took three first places plus the "best in show" award. She also

won a gold medal for a vase of mixed flowers, the Wilkinson Rose Bowl and the Harris Cup.

Other winners were Mrs. Audrey Finlay (Rosebank Rose Bowl); Mrs. Witley (Rear-Admiral Blackham Cup), and Mrs. Green (East Cup).

The Mayor of South Wight (Major Frederick Pettifer) presented the trophies. His wife is chairman of the club.

● Pictured looking at some of the flowers on display are Mrs. Margery Pettifer (left) and Mrs. Rose Durbridge.

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# DIAMOND JUBILEE



● Singing star Craig Douglas proved a hit when he opened Brading's Whitsun Ales Fair. And the fair was a hit in the town — more than £300 was raised for the organizers diamond jubilee fund. The fair was organized by Brading WI, which celebrates its diamond jubilee in November and chose to revive the fair to raise funds. Originally Whitsun Ales was a festivity celebrated to raise money for parish needs in rural parts of England. Institute members stuck with tradition wearing old-fashioned dress and electing Mrs. Dawn Nott (pictured being carried by Craig Douglas) as Lady of the Ales to preside over the festival where a variety of produce, confectionery, refreshments and second hand goods was sold.

## Housewife Dawn is queen for a day at Brading

A YOUNG housewife became queen for a day at Brading, where she ruled over festivities at the centuries-old township. Mrs. Dawn Nott was filling one of the roles associated with the Whitsun Ales, a fair with its roots in old rural England and once regularly observed at Brading. The Whitsun Ales fair was revived by Brading Women's Institute as part of their diamond jubilee celebrations, and Mrs. Nott's first duty was to meet Craig Douglas, Island born singing star, who opened the event.

The singer, who got a big welcome from autograph hunters, told fair-goers packing the town hall that he was honoured to be asked to perform the opening ceremony. Congratulating the Women's Institute on their diamond jubilee, he said, "Here at Brading the WI does a wonderful job in the community."

shakes put on a 30 minute display in the afternoon, with starring spots being taken by Sharon Wade and Nicola Fahey, silver medalists in the national championships, and by Sarah Bowers and Stefanie Gales. The Flamettes are the reigning Southern Area military champions. More than 20 children entered for the fancy dress competition which followed the majorettes' display. The parade was judged by Mr. A. Arnold and Mr. A. W. Saban.

### ALES FAIR IS REVIVED

#### COSTUMES

He was introduced by Mrs. V. A. Gustafson, Women's Institute president and immediate past mayor of the town, and afterwards presented with a book token by Mrs. Nott. Mrs. Nott, a member of the Women's Institute's award-winning drama group, wore gold-embroidered black bodice and red dress, Victorian heirlooms loaned by Mrs. A. Finlay, a former president of the institute.

All stall-holders and other members of the institute were in period costumes, many in bonnets and shawls. In addition to the many stalls inside the town hall there were others outside, facing the historic Bull Ring.

Railings of the garden and the stonework of the town hall were garlanded. The Flamettes majorettes in brightly coloured uniforms and

First prize went to eight-year-old Rebecca Lee for her witch costume. Christopher Brookes, eight, took second place with "I'm Trying to keep Brading Spick and Span," and Ross Thomas, three, was third as a Devil.

#### 'WONDERFUL'

Three-year-old Bernard Hailey, Cara Wright, eight, and Gayle Elizabeth Tollyre, four, won special prizes.

Special attractions included demonstrations of corn-dolly making by Pat Burgess and of soft-toy making by Mrs. Joy Hunt.

Mrs. Hunt also made the cake for the top competition prize and the ornamental icing including hand-painted flowers.

The cake was won by Kathleen Monk.

A hand-made doll in period costume was won by Celia Button for correctly guessing its name — Henrietta.

Mr. J. L. Hunter, deputy mayor of Brading, congratulating the Women's Institute, told members, "You have put on a wonderful celebration."

The institute, which has links with Commonwealth institutes at Beulah (Manitoba), Sandford (Tasmania) and Wainmaku (New Zealand), has its anniversary in November and members will be celebrating at a diamond jubilee dinner.

Miss Millie Simmonds, former music teacher, now in her 90s, is believed to be the only surviving founder-member.

The Whitsun Ales fair, which was in aid of Women's Institute funds raised £280.

"We are delighted with the success of the day," said Mrs. Gustafson.



BRADING housewife Mrs. Dawn Nott was Lady of the Ales when the town clock was turned back centuries and people enjoyed the festivities of merry England. The occasion they were celebrating was the revival of the Whitsun Ales Fair by Brading Women's Institute, who this year celebrate their diamond jubilee. Dressed in costumes of bygone days, members of the institute manned stalls. Mrs. Nott was filling one of the roles associated with the Whitsun Ales, a fair with its roots in old rural England and once regularly observed in Brading. Island born singing star Craig Douglas, who opened the fair, is pictured with Mrs. Nott (left), and on the right, Mrs. J. Morris, Mrs. L. Saban and Mrs. V. A. Gustafson.

MAY 27 1981



# George returns to his roots

I.W. Weekly Post gardening columnist George Toms went back to his roots last week. Mr. Toms opened the annual horticultural show which has been organized in the town since 1923.

Mr. Toms, now 79, was born and brought up in Brading. But he has lived for many years in Hyde and had not made the journey to his favourite Island horticultural show for some years.

He entered the first 1923 show when he won prizes and this year he was able to survey the standard of a new generation of enthusiastic Brading gardeners among more than 100 people contributing 354 entries.

They included 35-year-old bricklayer Peter Wright, of Station Road, Brading, who took the prized cup for most

vegetable class points. His wife Barbara, who prefers flowers, won a prize for her chrysanthemums.

But his father, Victor, did not enter this year's show: "I took one look at the standard of my son's entries and ducked out!" he said.

The show, run under the auspices of Brading Women's Institute, included fruit, flowers, vegetables, cookery, handicrafts and children's classes open to anyone living in the town.

And it included among the prizes cups and awards won by Mr. Toms in the Hoaring 20's.



● Mr. Bob Morgan, with his prize-winning entry at Brading.

Thursday  
18th  
Nov. 1921  
19th  
Nov 1981

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## Special thanks

At Brading W.I. annual meeting Mrs. V. Gustafson was again voted as president. Miss D. Kent, V.C.O. conducted the voting.

Members were thanked by the president with a special thank-you to the secretary and treasurer, committee, and Mrs. Finlay, a "tower of strength" in organizing the horticultural show.

The treasurer urged members to put a little more in the "flower box" for sick members. Mrs. M. Pettifer thanked Miss Kent. Mrs. Rapkins won both cups for the year's competitions and best blooms.

Mrs. A. Finlay organized the entertainment for the 60th

jubilee meeting. Each member gave a short description of W.I. activities.

Volunteers were sought to plant the 500 bulbs presented to them as a runner-up in the best kept village.

Arrangements were made to visit Wembley Ice Show on February 10. Anyone interested, please contact the secretary, Mrs. C. Blackham. Miss Kent judged the mince pie competition which was won by Mrs. R. Chaffey with Mrs. Gustafson winning best bloom.

The evening ended with thanks extended by Mrs. J. Morris to the president and committee for their hard work.

## JUBILEE

Brading. — Mrs. V. Gustafson was re-elected president at the annual meeting.

The members night, organised by Mrs. A. Finlay to mark the 60th jubilee meeting, included dancing and games.

The president welcomed four visitors and a new member, and praised the achievements of members during the year.

The annual cups for most points in monthly competitions were both won by Mrs. Rapkins, who was in hospital.

Miss D. Kent, VCO, attended, but the ten committee members were returned unopposed.

It was suggested that three Diamond Jubilee rose trees be planted in commemoration, and volunteers were called for to plant the 500 bulbs received as a prize as runner-up in the Best Kept Village competition.

Miss Kent judged the competition for mince pies which was won by Mrs. P. Chaffey, and the best bloom was brought by Mrs. Gustafson.



**EX-BRADING MAYOR AND WI LEADER DIES AT 60**

MRS. VERA Gustafson, of New Road, Brading, for three years a town councillor and who was mayor of Brading last year, died at her home on Sunday, after a short illness, aged 60.

A leading member of the Women's Institute movement in the Island she was president of the Brading Institute and played a notable role in the extensive celebrations marking their diamond jubilee last year.

She also played a leading part in the organisation of the annual horticultural show at Brading, promoted under the auspices of the Women's Institute, and was a former treasurer of the show committee.

She was also treasurer of the women's section of the Royal British Legion.

As a councillor she brought the same dedication of purpose to the council chamber as she did in other areas of service to the township, also a depth of knowledge and a sensitivity to local opinion gained by a lifelong residence.

She shared her fellow councillors deep felt concern for the need to preserve the ancient heritage of Brading while making allowance for controlled and progressive developments.

A lover of the countryside she was working with some other members of the council on a tree planting scheme to preserve the natural beauty of Brading for future generations and to combat the grievous losses of elms.

A widow, she leaves a son and daughter. The funeral was taking place yesterday.

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Among the principal cup-winners at the Brading W.I. Horticultural Show were Mrs. I. Morgan (right) who won the new trophy in memory of Mrs. V. Gustafson, for most points in the show and Mrs. C. Blackham and Mrs. H. Mortimer (left) who shared the cup for the most points in the women's section.

OCTOBER 1982

SHOW CUPS



1983

April 1982



Mrs SUSAN JONES presented this silver Rose Bowl in memory of her mother October 1982

Pictured are Mr. F. Craught with the two cups he won in the vegetable classes, and Mrs. D. Arnold with her trophies for most points in ladies' classes and points in cookery. 1983



**MAY'S HUNDRED**



Mrs May WALLER joined Brading W.I. in 1946 and took keen interest in Art and Drama competing with success. Her drawings at The Roman Villa, and bird paintings can be seen in this book. She was an inspiration to all who knew her over the years. R.I.P. August 1983

One hundred years young! Mrs. May Waller celebrated her birthday on Wednesday, and said it was all due to the full and active life she has led.

Sprightly Mrs. Waller celebrated the occasion with a lunchtime outing with relatives who travelled from various parts of the country, and was expecting a transatlantic phone call from her brother in Canada, who is in his 90's.

Manchester-born Mrs. Waller moved to the Island — her husband's birthplace — following his retirement in 1946.

She used to be a teacher, and it was the Derbyshire peaks near her home that started her interest in climbing and walking. Until she had a hip operation a year ago she was still a keen walker, and used to walk from her Brading home to church in Sandown.

Her interests ranged from rifle and pistol shooting in her younger days to reading, drama and poetry reading, which she still pursues.

A member of the LW. Art Club, she has shown her watercolours in many island exhibitions. Some of her work is on display in a local W.I. exhibition. The town of Brading plans to provide a seat to commemorate Mrs. Waller's century. — Picture 7513-1.



MAY 1983.

W.I. OUTING TO DENMAN COLLEGE 1982



Evening News 15/11/66  
**Brading has  
 a double  
 meaning**

The well-known Isle of Wight phrase "going through Brading," which means getting into financial difficulties, was treated literally by Mr. R. C. A. Flux in a talk to Ventnor Rotary Club.

He said Brading had recently awakened to find that it was a most interesting place, rich in history traceable back 4,000 years.

It had the oldest church in the island, dating back to 685, when it was said St Wilfrid landed at Wight, and the present church was built about 1140.

One of the local families, the Oglanders, had come over at the time of the Norman Conquest, and for many years the village had returned a Member to Parliament.

The hymn "I think when I read that sweet story of old" was written by Jemima Lukes at Brading. The Rev. Leigh Richmond (1797-1805) had immortalized "Little Jane" and described island life of the period in his book "Annals of the Poor." The girl "Little Jane," before she died at the age of 15, reformed many villagers from their dissolute way of life.

Brading was the last village on the island to be lit by oil lamps, and Mr. Flux recommended his hearers to take a walk through the village, which now had a museum.

**This pump is  
 204 years old!**



Mr. F. A. R. Sutton, who purchased 61 High Street, Brading, in August, discovered this ancient water pump in a yard at the rear of the premises. It is hand-made, of solid lead, crudely embossed on the tubular cylinder with the initials "W.C." and the date 1763. Mr. Sutton would be interested to know whether any "County Press" reader can throw any light on the origin, history or value (antique or otherwise) of the pump.

# EXPORT ORDERS FOR ISLAND CRAFTSMEN

## POPULARITY OF SANDOWN WROUGHT IRON WORK

**H**AND-WROUGHT iron work is a dying art. One of the few remaining skilled craftsmen is Mr. George Stay, of Messrs. W. Stay and Son, Fort Mews, Sandown, whose ancestors founded the firm of blacksmiths and ornamental iron workers at Brading 174 years ago in 1790.

Mr. Stay learned his skill at his father's forge in West Street, Brading, where he did most of the shoeing and agricultural repair work. Starting in the business at the age of 13, he recalls that he often had to walk many miles to jobs in various parts of the East Wight, but would cycle whenever he could, carrying the shoes on the bar of his machine. The family lived in High Street, Brading, where Mr. Wilfred Stay, senior, had established an ironmonger's shop. The business is now run by Miss Nancy Stay.

Forty years ago, Mr. Stay, snr., opened a workshop at Wilkes Road, Sandown, where mostly plumbing and acetylene welding were carried out. He was one of the first to introduce electric welding in the island. The forge at Brading remained open until 1937, and it is interesting to note that even then, with the growing popularity of the motor-car, the firm still had 350 horses for regular shoeing on their books. Mr. Stay, snr., died in 1952, and the business was taken over by his son, George. About a month ago the premises in Wilkes Road were closed, and the firm moved into a new and much larger building at Fort Mews, Sandown.

Working with Mr. Stay is his 17-year-old son, Timothy, a former pupil of the Fairway School, who is rapidly acquiring knowledge of his father's skill. "Squibby" and "Scotty" — Mr. R. Squibb, of Station Road, Brading, and Mr. J. Scott, of New Road, Brading — make up the remainder of the staff, both of whom have been with the

firm for many years. "Squibby" is largely responsible for the assembly work, and "Scotty" the plumbing. With Mr. Stay they built the new premises, under the direction of Mr. J. Orchard, of Shanklin.

Many fine examples of wrought iron work are displayed at the forge. Modestly, Mr. Stay told a "County Press" reporter that he seldom works from a set plan, and he goes along. He is, however, always pleased to conform to a sketch or picture of any particular item customers may require. A weather vane, coffee and console tables, dog gates, standard lamps, gates, ornamental hinges, and the complete range of fire furniture, are among the many items he makes. "In fact, I am happy to make anything from a pin to an ornamental elephant," he said.

### A PIONEER

At the Brading forge, soon after the turn of the century, Mr. Stay's father made the frame for the first motor-scooter on the island — a forerunner of the popular machine of today.

One of the most exciting jobs Mr. Stay was called upon to undertake in recent years was the restoration of one of the two large entrance gates at Nunwell Park, Brading. An overhanging tree, which constantly dripped moisture, had caused almost complete erosion. The original gates were the work



Mr. Stay and his son, Timothy, at work on the anvil.

of Italian craftsmen, and Mr. Stay was faced with the problem of fashioning his new section to match the European measurements of the other, working in tenths instead of the customary twelfths-of-an-inch. The gates are a perfect match — a fitting tribute to Mr. Stay's artistry.

The ornamental gates at Arretton Manor are another fine example of Mr. Stay's work. An unusual task he is about to undertake is the copying of some Georgian railings for a house in Ryde.

In recent years Mr. Stay's work has become more widely known. Much of his success he attributes to a chance meeting at Ryde about six years ago with Mr. Ray Brown, of Circular Road, Ryde. Mr. Brown expressed an interest in Mr. Stay's work and advised him to take part in an exhibition which was being staged at Ryde Town Hall by Mr. G. W. Dorley Brown.

Encouraged by his friend Mr. Stay entered competitions at shows in various parts of the country, and to his surprise won an award every time. His most coveted trophy is the third prize he won for his decorative log fork at the Royal Show at Kenilworth in 1963, where he competed in the wrought iron class against 150 blacksmiths from all over Great Britain.



A model of the head of an Ayrshire cow, weighing 7lb., used as a door knocker at Yaverland Manor.

### EXPORT ORDERS

Mr. Stay now receives orders from far and wide. Recently he sent a lantern and bracket to a client in Kenya, and as the result of an exhibition of his work at Hale Park Manor, Fordingbridge,

Hants, he has sold several items to America.

The new forge at Fort Mews — which was designed by Mr. Brown — is one of the most modern of its kind. Paradoxically, apart from an electric motor driving the bellows at the fire hearth, it employs no modern mechanical aids. Many of the tools used there have been in the family for generations.

Mr. Stay, who is 54, lives at Broadstone Crescent, Brading, where his wife looks after the administrative side of the business and does all the book-keeping. He also has a daughter, Elizabeth, who is still at school. He seldom takes a holiday, but during the winter months, accompanied by his springer spaniels, Kim and Tang (the latter named after part of one of the tools of his trade), he will take a day off to indulge his favourite hobby of shooting.

George Stay is a craftsman who obviously takes great pride in the skill he has been proud to inherit. He has little time for imitation, and although wrought iron work is again very much in vogue, he states emphatically that he has no intention of sacrificing that skill for mass production methods resulting in an inferior article. The firm also carry out repairs to agricultural machinery.

# CHOIR ADD A NAUTICAL TOUCH

62



There was a nautical touch to Brading Red Cross group's tenth birthday party for pensioners at the town hall. Members of the local Women's Institute Singers entertained with the concert programme this first presented during

Maritime Year. A company of about 50, including Red Cross helpers, enjoyed the party tea and concert. The birthday cake was made by Mrs. E. G. Rankins. Every fortnight the Red Cross group, led by Mrs. J. L.

Blackham, organises a social afternoon at the town hall for Brading pensioners. "But we would like more men to come along and join us," said Mrs. Blackham. Every year the group holds a summer sale to help toward

expenses. "Later this year we arrange an outing," Blackham. The choir, in costume, are pictured at the party.



## ADA IS 101

Oct 1982

Mrs. Fry celebrated her 101st birthday with a family gathering at her home. Mrs. Fry lives at Field Lane, St Helens, with her daughter, Mrs. Doris Harvey who has looked after her for eight years.

Born in Adgestone Mrs. Fry is a Methodist and among visitors to her home were Methodist ministers. Cards, presents and flowers arrived at her home throughout her birthday. She is pictured with Mrs. Harvey (right) and a niece, Mrs. Edith Loebe. Picture - 7763.

## £200 gift for society

July 1984



BLIND people can enjoy a good book thanks to the IW Society for the Blind. The society have a library of some 400 books recorded on tape, many by famous actors and actresses. The mailing library is just one of the services provided by the

society for the Island's 540 registered blind. The society also provide the cassette players. "A very popular service", Mr. Jack Adamson, a social worker seconded to the society, told members of Brading Women's Institute. Mr. Adamson was presented

with a cheque for £200 as a donation to the library service by Mrs. M. Pettifer, the institute's president. He thanked the Institute for its thoughtfulness and generosity. The IW Society for the Blind were the Institute's charity for the year and the money was

raised from the Institute's May fair. Mrs. A. M. Finlay, past president of the Institute, has served on the society's committee for many years. Mrs. Pettifer is pictured presenting the cheque to Mr. Adamson.

### NOTELET DESIGN EARNS A PRIZE

NOTELETS designed by a member of Brading Women's Institute have become best-sellers! Mrs. H. Lloyd Bunce, the Island Institutes' art chairman, congratulating the artist Mrs. Jill Barton at a meeting of Brading Women's Institute, told members, "The notelets are selling like hot cakes." She said the all-Island Women's Institutes competition for a notelet design on an Island theme attracted 14 entries and the judge, Mr. A. R. Caws, selected the design submitted by Mrs. Barton. Mrs. Barton's prizewinning design was a sketch of the sluice gate on the marshes by the old Brading sea wall. Mrs. Lloyd Bunce presented Mrs. Barton with the design award on behalf of Island WU's. She said the notelet design competition was the first of its kind to be organised under the auspices of county federation's Art Sub-committee.

1982

1983



BRADING TOWN COLTS, who play in the Island Sunday Youth League Under-13 division. Front row (left to right) — Peter  
Lambert, Kevin Hillier, Paul Winderler, Mark Wozencroft, Calvin Wright, Andrew Woodhouse, Richard Pardey, Jason Hopkins.  
Middle row — Richard Kaman, Paul Cock, John Ballard, Dean Hopkins, Martin Howell, Mark Methrick, Paul Deysh, Mark  
Ford, Andrew Shaw. Back row — Alan Draper (manager), Les Winderler (coach), Alex Woodhouse (secretary).

c.1976



ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

From Chris Street,  
56 Burnets,  
Greenmeadow, Cwmbran,  
Gwent, South Wales:  
I WAS delighted to see the  
photographs of the sack  
race in Brading High  
Street (CP All Our  
Yesterdays, 28-01-05) not  
only because my wife and I  
took part but to see so  
many of our friends and  
people we both knew so  
well.

This prompted me to  
find this photo, taken  
about 1947 or 48. It was a  
get together of Sandown,  
Lake and Brading youth  
clubs in the Lake club  
house.

Of the two boys in dark  
suits standing in the  
middle row I am the one on  
the left of the picture.

In the third row from the  
front, wearing a striped  
jumper, is Maureen Bibby,  
my wife of 52 years.

I hope this photograph  
gives as much pleasure and  
memories as we have both  
enjoyed.

In 1934 to 1938 I lived  
with my parents in the  
house by the Brading pump  
it was right outside our  
front door so I do  
remember it very well.

THERE  
to Brading  
tent is  
pensioner  
Members  
Institute  
with the  
they fir



ROWBOROUGH 1986

