



Pictured before their 2-0 victory over Pirelli on Saturday are Brading's Hampshire League squad. Back, from left, R. Roper, manager, A. Glaysher, S. Wright, I. Bennett, M. Hodge, G. Smythers, M. Wetherick, J. Page, I. Murray, trainer. Front, W. Greenhalgh, L. Edmonston, D. Brown, captain, J. Deacon and B. Layton.

# BRAVE SHOW BY PIRELLI, BUT CONFIDENT BRADING COAST TO VICTORY

**Brading Town 2, Pirelli 0.**  
**STILL** struggling to find replacements following an end of season exodus of players, Pirelli put on a brave show at Vicarage Lane. They forced the pace to claim a fair share of the attacking play but they failed to match the combined skills of Brading.

Brading, who were without the suspended Peter Warren, played with verve and displayed a confidence that must have pleased general manager John Jupe and his colleague Roger Roper.

From goalkeeper Malcolm Hodge to Scott Wright, who wore the No. 11 strip, all players combined to give a commendable team performance.

Ian Bennett, brought into the reshuffled squad for Peter Warren, more than justified his selection and Wright and Lawrence Edmonston were in fine attacking form.

Both were unlucky not to get goals in the first half.

Brading forged ahead late in the game through an own-goal conceded when defenders waited for the referee to uphold an infringement signal from a linesman.

WRIGHT got Brading's second goal.

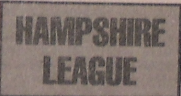
**Brading Town:** Hodge; Deacon, Layton, Greenhalgh,

Wetherick; D. Brown, Smythers, Glaysher; Edmonston, Bennett, Wright. Sub. Jupe.

East Coves Vics 4, Malshanger 0.

Champions East Coves Vics had problems through club suspensions but Malshanger were in deeper trouble.

They arrived at Whippingham short of a couple of players.



Their manager filled one of the gaps and an outfield player went in goal.

A CHARITY football match is being held at Vicarage Lane, Brading, tonight, with the kick-off at 6.15, between Brading Town Football Club and Brading Town Past XI. The match is in aid of Stephen Ravington, of Lake and the Hillsborough Appeal. Admission is by programme at the ground. Barbecued food will be available.

THERE was a good turnout for last Friday's charity football match between Brading Town Football Club and Brading Town Past XI. It was an entertaining game, even though no goals were scored. Over £100 was raised which will be donated to the Stephen Ravington Fund.

BRAADING Town FC is holding a grand summer fayre, including a car boot sale and the 1989 Brading Baby Show on Sunday. The fayre opens at 11 am. Admission is by programme at the ground, with children admitted free. On offer will be donkey rides, a barbecue, races, six-a-side football, stalls and games.

Locals and visitors are welcome to enter the baby show. Entry is free and there are two categories — under and over six months.

AFTER several years absence, a tradition was renewed with a tug-of-war across the River Yar at Brading between two of the local pubs, the Anglers Inn and the Wheatsheaf. The contest was won by the Anglers.

# BRAIDING RESERVES TAKE BINSTEAD TO A REPLAY

AN EXCITEMENT-packed IW Challenge Cup encounter at Vicarage Lane saw Brading Reserves and Binstead share six goals in 120 minutes of hard, uncompromising football.

Kevin Faithfull gave the visitors the lead before Kelvin Wright's equaliser took the tie to extra time.

Brading went ahead in the first period but Nicky Searles pulled one back for Binstead, who then regained the lead through Steve Dixon.

Peter Warren then earned Town the replay in a game which saw four bookings and one sending-off.

# BRAIDING SNATCH DRAMATIC WIN

**Brading Town 3, Midanbury 2.**  
**TWO GOALS** in a dramatic 91 second spell, after Midanbury had taken the lead, and a third strike in the 87th minute with the score at 2-2 earned Brading desperately needed points in this Vicarage Lane thriller.

It was only their second win in a critical season and a reward for a gutsy performance.

"The lads battled all the way and even when Midanbury levelled late in the game, they responded to the challenge and I knew they were going to win," praised manager Mick Edmonston.

Edmonston has problems to solve but at least the Midanbury game proved the side has the determination to rise from near the bottom of the division in a fiercely competitive campaign.

Paul Green, a new signing from East Coves Vics, came on for hard working Kevin



Aaron Lamb (above) scored Brading's first equaliser.

Smythers, in the closing stages, and showed some nice touches.

Green came close to making a sensational scoring debut, clipping the base of the woodwork with his first shot.

Midanbury's most dangerous forward, Andy WHEELER snapped up a chance in the 12th minute to put them in front but in the 29th minute Aaron LAMB staked his claim for a regular place in the Brading side with the equaliser.

Brading took the lead immediately afterwards, SMYTHERS, connected with Mark Joyce's cross.

Playing up the slope, and against a strong wind, in the second half the odds were stacked against Brading.

Midanbury attacked early on and Warner saved at full length from Wheeler.

But Brading gradually began to get on top and Joyce, Dave Brown, Darren Abbott and John Batchelor went close. Nigel Murray and Keith Glaysher shone for Brading in defence and midfield.

In the 74th minute, Midanbury levelled when, from a corner, the ball glanced off defender Warren GREENHALGH, who had a splendid game, for an own goal.

Then came Brading's exciting matchwinner. After a run by Lamb, the ball was passed to

# BRAIDING BACK ON VICTORY TRAIL

**Awbriidge 0, Brading Town 3.**  
**THIS** victory over Awbridge got Brading Town back on the victory trail after two defeats and a draw.

"The conditions were pretty grim with players and the ball skidding all over the place," said Brading manager Mick Edmonston.

Lawrence Edmonston made two promising scoring bids and Mick Bolland and Mark Joyce had shots turned away before Darren ABBOTT lobbed Brading ahead in the 40th minute.

JOYCE headed the second goal in the 60th minute soaring above defenders to meet the ball flicked on by Warren Greenhalgh from Abbott's corner.

EDMONSTON rounded off the scoring in the 80th minute.

The Awbridge 'keeper booted clear as the speedy Edmonston stormed in but the ball was returned by Joyce for the striker to hammer the net.

The Brading defence remained solid. But Awbridge had a shot cleared off the line by Greenhalgh and there were two splendid saves by Eddie Hurst.

**Brading Town:** Hurst; Greenhalgh, Jupe, Wetherick, Legg, Abbott, Ford, Dixon, Bolland, Joyce, Edmonston, Subs: Murray, Newton.

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**SPORT**

**AGONY and ECSTASY**



A disconsolate Alan Reed (left) leads the way, and other Vics players — Fred Martin, Mike Shiner and Andy Glaysher — follow at the end of a hard match.

The agony of defeat is etched in their faces — but it is all so different on the right.

The delighted Brading skipper Chris Cheverton is hoisted shoulder high by team-mates Martin Simmonds and Ian Hailes.

Meanwhile (front right) Peter Warren attempts to awaken manager Reg Langdon, who appears to have dozed off during the celebrations.



**AS BRADING WIN THE SENIOR CUP**

**BRADING TOWN 4 EAST COWES VICS 1**

Brading ended the season with something to remember it by, when they captured the IW Gold Cup in the replay at Partlands. It may be a golden memory for Brading, but for Vics, and in particular left-back Al Reed, it will be something of a nightmare. Reed did everything. Put Vics ahead with a fine drive, missed a penalty at the turning point of the game and then lobbed the ball over Doug Stephens' head for an own goal. But the game never lived up to the heights of the

first encounter, though the 1,000-plus crowd certainly had their share of thrills. Vics struck first in the third minute when Barry Allen tapped a free kick to REED whose low 25-yard shot screamed through a ruck of players to beat Phil Moore's dive. After 20 minutes Brading levelled when Ian HAILES rapped home a penalty after a Vics player had handled in a goalmouth melee. Right on half-time John CARRAGHER struck the killer blow with his first goal of the season when he volleyed in Ian Russell's corner. However, a minute into the second-half Vics

should have drawn level when the referee awarded a penalty for Moore's challenge on Allen. Reed hit the kick to Moore's right but the 'keeper pulled off a great save. The game was wrapped-up when Pete WARREN headed in Brading's third from Oscar Stretch's great centre and REED lobbing his back-pass over Stephens. Peter Hayward, president of the IWFA presented the trophy to Brading skipper Chris Cheverton. For Cheverton who masterminded Vics downfall, it was rumoured to be his last game before retiring, but those ageless legs will no doubt be running out at

Vicarage Lane next season. "All credit to Vics, they are a great team for the future, but I am glad to win it for our fans and committee," was the verdict from Brading boss, Reg Langdon. Brading — Moore, Cheverton, Carragher, Widdler, Simmonds, Hailes, Stretch, Warren, Sothcott, Warrick, Russell, Sub, Wartow. Vics — Stephens, Glaysher, Watson, Dyer, Reed, Shiner, Martin, Brown, Squibb, Allen, Chiverton. Brading MoM — Chris Cheverton. Vics MoM — Andy Glaysher.

BRADING TOWN'S Hampshire County Press cameraman before their home match with Eastleigh. The result of the game was a 2-0 defeat for the visitors. Four of division I clubs, from left, in pictures: (back row) John Wright, K. Stephens, M. W. Whittaker, W. Greenhalgh, S. Widdler, M. Cheverton, M. Carragher and manager Peter Roper; (front row) I. Bennett, J. Conway, D. Brown (captain), F. Pearson, S. Hailes.



14/3/90  
14/2/90

**Unlucky Brading draw**

Downton 1, Brading Town 1.

WITH TWO consecutive wins and full credit after a disappointing performance of Brading are beginning to recover their early season flat. chances, this selfless skill and should have been rewarded with Manager Peter Edmondson gave his squad credit for a "Ball display" throughout the front of goal and had to settle for a draw. "I am so sympathetic for the hammering inflicted on the sides on the first half

**Promotion clinched for Brading Youth**

14/3/90

first half, Brading were well on top. Richard Hurrell and Richard Pardey both brought great saves from the Wootton 'keeper. Shaun Riley opened the scoring when he netted from a Dave Pugh corner. Pardey grabbed both second half goals for Youth, including a rare header. Gary Beauchamp made his first appearance in goal for Brading this season and pulled off a couple of superb saves.

28/1/90

**FANCY DRESS AT BRADING**

BRADING Town players and supporters on Saturday night at the Vicarage Lane clubhouse on Saturday. The event was organised by the social committee and club members turned up in fancy dress depicting famous characters. Top award for men went to Dave Brown, costumed as TV Personality Amanda Rice and for women to Mrs. Edna Heister (Hodge's Queen Elizabeth II). Best couple were Roger Pardey and Janet (Missy) and Minnie Mousley.

### HOW THE ROMAN VILLA AT BRADING WAS DISCOVERED.

From historians, antiquarians, and perhaps even from laymen delving into the past to discover the facts about historical objects or personages, one often hears regret expressed that no worthy has ever seen fit to record the actual happenings of the period. It is some 80 years now since the Roman villa at Morton was discovered by a farm hand driving a stake into the ground and ultimately finding a wealth of mosaic paving. Beyond the record of this mere fact nothing was written at the time of the excitement caused in the King's Town of Brading and the island generally by the discovery. The late Mr. John Fardell, of Morton Manor, who was a brother-in-law of the distinguished island antiquarian, Mr. Percy Stone, had collected certain records, but they dealt mainly with the antiquarian side of the story. Mr. George Cox, of Brading, who is in his 82nd year, was at the time a coachman in the employ of the late Lady Oglender and well remembers the occasion, and Mr. Fardell had suggested that it might be well to place his recollections on record. This, however, he never did, but in an interview with our correspondent recently he agreed to the publication of his conversation, a copy of which he has approved. The story is in the vernacular as follows:

It was towards the middle of December that I visited Mr. Cox late in the afternoon, and found him sitting by his fireside in reminiscent mood. He told me that he was the last surviving member of Sir Henry Oglender's employees, and came to Nunwell after being only a few months in his service before he died. We came to the subject of the Roman villa and I asked him what he knew about it, and his face lit up with pride as he remarked "I don't suppose there is anybody alive now save myself who remembers the occasion. If there is they have gone away from Brading, but I doubt if any remain." He added "It always seemed strange to me that no one wrote down anything about what happened on that Good Friday in 1880. I well remember it because they were going to plant potatoes nearby the field where the villa is. It belonged to Mrs. Munns, of Morton Farm, and the discovery was made by her son William, who was a shepherd. Sheep were feeding on awodes there and had almost finished the field. William, and I believe it was his son, were going to plant the potatoes and took a spade with them, which they set down by the gate, because first of all they were going to fold the sheep in a corner of the field they might. He then went on and drove an iron bar into the ground in preparation for the erection of a hurdle, but he found there was some obstruction."

He continued "That were nothing unusual because on previous occasions they had found some obstruction, but William Munns' curiosity this time got the better of him, so he sent his boy down to the gate to fetch the spade. I remember him telling me they had ploughed up stones there before and William's brother John told me, and these are his own words, 'I've ploughed up stones there just where the hedge come across, and we throws them into the ditch by the side.' These stones were, of course, part of the paving, and as a matter of fact they used to call it Stoney Field. Well, William he been, and it so happened that he went through on to the pavement on what was afterwards found to be the outside room of the villa, and practically on the figure of the man with the cock's head. You can guess William's excitement when he come to this."

## BRADING ROMAN VILLA

William, and I believe it was his son, were going to plant the potatoes and took a spade with them, which they left down by the gate, because first of all they were going to fold the sheep in a corner of the field that night. He then went on and drove an iron bar into the ground in preparation for the erection of a hurdle, but he found there was some obstruction."

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"And what about folding the sheep then?" I asked. "Oh, they was folded in the field that night until the next day," he replied, "but William filled up the hole again and went off down to Capt. John Thorpe, who was living at St. Wilfrid's in the new road, and told him what he had found, and Captain says to him 'Look here, I will come over to-morrow morning and see what you really have found there,' and William, so he told me, told him that he did not want him mucking about over there that day because they were going to sow barley or oats, as it was pretty well the last fold of sheep in the field."

"Next morning," he continued, "Capt. Thorpe went over there with a lantern. I believe he got someone else to go with him, and William Munns was there, and I believe his brother as well, and they dug a bigger hole, it being dark at the time. That was what William told me, but how I first come to hear about it was when our odd man at Nunwell Park, Daniel Harbour by name, who lived at a cottage at Morton, arrived next morning. He used to come to Nunwell to clean the flies in the kitchen on Saturday morning regular, and arrived about 4 o'clock."

"It was about 7 o'clock when I saw him and some of the servants were there, and he says 'George, I don't know what they've found over 'other side of the down, but old Capt. Thorpe is over there with a candle lantern and they're making a hole there.' 'Oh,' I says, very interested, 'then we must go and have a look for ourselves.' I was 23 at the time and pretty nimble, so I hurried off across the fields immediately, leaving the girls to go round by the road, and when I got there there was only William Munns to be seen, and I says to him 'Haven't you found something here?' and he says rather cautiously 'Yes,' and he says 'where is it then?' I says, and he

says 'under the hurdle down in that hole.' Just afterwards the girls arrived and one of them, Louisa Bartlett by name, says 'What have you got there, young George?' and I replied 'Mr. Munns has found something here,' still not knowing what it was. And she says 'But can't we see?' whereupon William Munns says 'Yes, if you she says, and I says 'Well, I have'; you see coachman in those days because carried money in those days because of the toll gates. So I gave William Munns a florin for the four of us, and that was the first money ever received for viewing the Roman villa. While we were looking in we heard someone whistling, and looking up the downs we saw a man with his fingers in his mouth blowing as hard as he could."

"That looks like Sam Bell, the footman," I says, 'I hope there is nothing wrong with Missis,' meaning Miss Charlotte Oglender, who was an invalid. 'No, she's all right,' says Louisa. 'That's Sam,' I says, and ran up and down, and so I says 'I'd better run on.' When I came within earshot he says 'Here young George, her ladyship wants you,' meaning Lady Oglender. 'What does she want for this time of the day?' I asks and he says 'she wanted to come over and see what was there as Capt. Thorpe had sent up to Nunwell. I says 'But she's not up yet?' and he says 'Oh yes she is, and they're pulling out the carriage.' So I ran back to Nunwell and got into my livery pretty quickly and went round with the carriage to the front door, where was her ladyship, who says 'Well George, this is early, and I says, somewhat surprised to see her, 'Yes, m'Lady.' She told me that Capt. Thorpe wanted her to go over as quickly as possible, and that we must call at his house as we went along. I told her I had just been over there, and she expressed surprise and says 'But you have had no breakfast,' and so she waited till I had a cup of tea and a piece of bread and butter. We then started off, her ladyship driving, and we did move by golly. After picking up Capt. Thorpe we went up to the field where they were already ploughing and throwing of it double furrow or whatever they call it. As we went into the field the men came and steadied the carriage because the ground was so rough, and her ladyship was unable to alight as she had only one foot. While I led the pony Capt. Thorpe got out and she leaned on his shoulder to steady herself because the carriage was wobbling about all over the place."

When she got to the hole she had a good look at what they had found, and I remember her giving William Munns some money, which we had reason to believe was a good deal. Later they fenced in the corner of the field, but after further excavations it was found that the larger part of the villa was in the adjoining field, which was on the Oglender estate."

In 1983 after her work in raising "The Mary Rose" Dr. Margaret Rule excavated the mosaic pictured below and found it had been laid over rubbish pits causing it to subside. It was re-laid using modern methods in 1985.

In Room 2 the mosaic seems to have been inserted into an earlier pavement with a simple diamond pattern. The later mosaic was severely burnt, and today only five of the original nine panels survive. A unique panel shows a figure, half human and half chicken. Steps lead to a building guarded by animals. Some believe it indicates the religious beliefs of the villa owner, and that the main figure is possibly the demi-god Abraxas. Others think it is merely decorative, showing fabulous creatures, which were a popular subject in Roman art and literature. Other panels show two male busts, a fox running past a tree towards a building, and gladiators locked in combat.



contd. SEE OVER - - -

# 200 years on — a family firm with staying power



Tim Stay and his seven-year-old son William, whom he hopes might take over the business in the future.

TWO hundred years ago, William Stay set himself up as a blacksmith in Brading. This year the event is being celebrated by his descendant, Tim Stay, who continues to run W. Stay & Son, Blacksmiths, Welders and Agricultural Contractors, thought to be the oldest family firm on the Island.

Next month, Tim and nearly 200 friends, customers and suppliers will celebrate the bicentenary at a dinner dance at a Sandown hotel.

He hopes that on his retirement the business will again pass into the hands of a William Stay — although he is adamant that his son, William, seven, will not be pressurised into it.

Little is known about the early years of the business but in the early 1900s, Wilfred Stay, Tim's grandfather, was the proprietor and it was based in a building in West Street, Brading, that is now used for parking council refuse lorries.

On an invoice dated 1912

By SUE LUPTON

the business is described as W. Stay, Shoeing and General Smith, Cycle Agent and Repairer.

In the intervening years, the main activities have changed significantly, and the firm is now known as W. Stay & Son, Blacksmiths, Welders and Agricultural Contractors.

Surprisingly, a photograph of the Brading workshop dating back 60 years or more portrays a scene quite similar to that of the Sandown workshop today.

In the 1930s Wilfred Stay's son, George, joined him in the firm, then served in the navy during the last war. During the war he married Joan, who had come to the Island to work at Brading Station.

After the war, George returned to the firm and took over when his father retired.

At first he did a lot of shoeing of horses, leaving home at 5 am on his bicycle to shoe farmhouses, but the demand for this service dwindled and he developed a love of wrought ironwork.

Tim Stay joined his father in 1962, at the age of 15. By

then the firm was based in Wilkes Road, Sandown, and in 1964 it moved to newly-built premises off nearby Avenue Road, where the company is still located.

George Stay died suddenly of a heart attack in 1966, leaving the business to his wife.

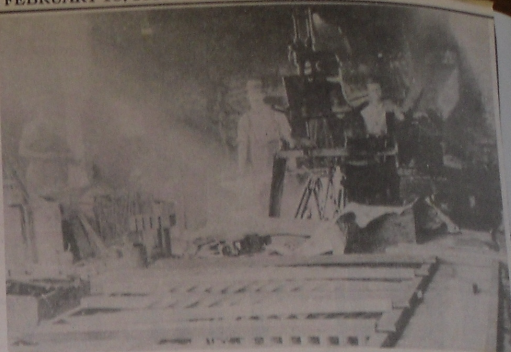
Tim was only 18, and with the help of two other workers, mother and son kept the business going. Mrs. Stay looked after the paperwork, while Tim ran the workshop.

It was quite a struggle, but I wanted to keep the business in the family," recalls Mrs. Stay, 73, who still lives in Brading, and only retired five years ago.

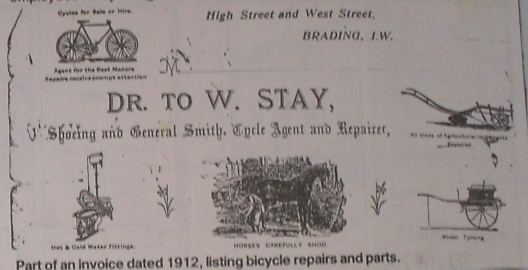
The firm has grown into a flourishing business and Tim Stay has expanded the premises, building storage areas and accommodation for tractors and harvesters used in agricultural contracting.

He is fortunate to have inherited a business that provides both a reasonable living and plenty of job satisfaction.

In a nutshell, he says, "I wouldn't choose any other sort of work." And he is pleased to observe that young William is starting to show a keen interest in all the machinery in the workshop.



The scene in the W. Stay workshop in the 1930s. On the right is George Stay, father of Tim Stay, the firm's present proprietor. On the left is one of the employees Harry "Dinger" Street.



Part of an invoice dated 1912, listing bicycle repairs and parts.

## Was villa once pagan religious centre .. ?

By GAYNOR BALDWIN



Mr. Mark Tosdevin with the controversial mosaic.

THE ROMAN Villa at Brading may have been built as a pagan religious centre, dedicated to the worship of the god Bacchus, according to two top archaeologists.

The two, who are leading authorities on Roman Britain and Roman religion, have cast doubts on the origins of at least seven major villa sites in Britain, which they now think may have been pagan religious centres.

Dr. Graham Webster and Dr. Martin Henig are challenging the long-held beliefs that Britain's Roman villas were just "posh rural residences".

They believe, following new discoveries at excavations at Littlecote, near Hungerford, Berkshire, that Bacchic evidence at other sites, including Brading, may mean they were used as pre-Christian religious centres.

The Brading villa, they describe as another apparently Bacchic site with mosaics of the Bacchic prophet Orpheus and the paganism version of the Jewish God Jahweh — the "Jahweh" mosaic.

Discovered in 1879 and excavated in 1880-1, the Brading villa now attracts around 25,000 visitors each summer.

ROMAN VILLA contd.

## Mosaic area falls victim to flooding

MARCH flooding in the Brading area brought a sea of mud washing into the Roman villa, covering areas of delicate mosaics.

Though the worst of it was quickly removed, the residue leached into the complicated patterns.

Now, a team of archaeological specialists is engaged on an inch-by-inch cleaning operation.

Field officer Frank Basford said, "It is slow going, but we're getting there."

Not the first time the ides of March have brought misfortune to a Roman scene.



One of the many kinds of aircraft - including The Red Arrows - which flew round and over Brading during the one-time annual Bembridge Air Show

C. Burton



# RED CROSS HQ NOW IN USE



RED CROSS workers have moved into their superbly appointed new local area headquarters at Brading. The combined headquarters in the former medical centre in West Street, is the new home for Red Cross volunteers from Brading, Lake and Sandown. For the past ten years or so the Sandown and Lake members have been grateful for the facilities provided at Lake Clinic, but after every meeting or training session members had to store equipment and so forth in their homes.

Mrs. J. L. Blackham, centre organiser, of Brading, welcoming Mr. D. Naylor, chairman of the IW Health Authority, and other guests at a "house warming" voiced the collective opinion of Red Cross workers. "For us this is a dream come true."

"We have always dreamed of a headquarters such as this," said Mrs. Blackham, who runs the Brading Red Cross Tuesday Club.

Mrs. M. E. Giles, Red Cross director for the Island, said the headquarters would have a minibus available to bring cadets and workers to the premises.

### PLAQUE

She introduced Mrs. L. M. Newton, who unveiled a plaque bearing her name.

Mrs. Giles paid tribute to the dedicated service of Mrs. Newton, who after a fine record of service with the Red Cross in Essex started the Sandown and Lake Detachment in 1973 and was commandant until 1979.

"In appreciation of her outstanding services Mrs. Newton was awarded the Badge of Honour and made a life member."

"She is still very much a member of the Red Cross and always will be. Nowadays she concentrates on welfare work and is always helping people in the highest traditions of the Red Cross."

Mrs. Giles also acknowledged the excellent work of Mrs. P. Knight, successor to Mrs. Newton.

## Walkers help make a dying wish come true

A BRADING widow is near to achieving her late husband's dying wish — to buy equipment for the town's surgery.

Mr Eric Humber, of Station Gardens, who suffered from leukaemia, was admitted to hospital last August a few days before he was due to go on a sponsored walk for that purpose.

His widow, Pauline, who is superintendent of St. Mary's Sunday School, said, "Eric knew he was dying and I promised him that I would raise the money with the help of the people of Brading."

"Dr. Jane Brand from the Brading surgery walked on to Shanklin with us and her husband, county councillor Dr. Peter Brand, treated children to ice cream and orange drinks," said Mrs. Humber.

A collection was taken along the route. Mrs. Humber said, "The people of Brading have been marvellous and I have also received a £30 donation from Sandown and Shanklin Lions and contributions from various parts of the Island and mainland."

She is keeping the fund open for the next fortnight or so. "Primarily more friends would like to make donations," said Mrs. Humber.

The final figure could be in the region of £1,000. "Together with friends and children who took part in the walk I am hoping to hand over the cheque to the Brading Surgery."

Mr. Humber said the money would be used to buy a new machine for the surgery. "Eric received so much kindness there as a patient in the last few years of his life," she said.

## Shoe shining cash



MEMBERS of the 1st Brading Cub Scout Pack recently took part in a national shoe shine competition as part of their annual fund-raising activities for Scout Job Week. The six packs who cleaned the most pairs of shoes during the job week will each win a prize of £100, donated by a national shoe-polish manufacturer.

Mrs. A. Eldridge, pack leader, said that shoe shining had traditionally been a key fund-raising activity for the cubs. Money earned from the venture would go towards local group funds.

Pack members are pictured cleaning the shoes of Dawn O'Sullivan (right) outside Brading Town Hall. Mrs. Eldridge is second from right.

## Trolls star in show

BRADING Church of England Primary School has a reputation for its Christmas show spectacles!

This year's ambitious offering, which delighted family members and friends, was Tarfa and the Trolls based on "Schode" television.

About 100 pupils including musicians took part.

The staff and some mothers were involved in the production which was under the direction of Mrs. Diana Evans who also wrote the script.

Mrs. Caroline De Belder was music director and the impressive sets were by Mrs. Janet O'Mara.



Brading primary pupils dressed as trolls for the school's Christmas show. In the front are Michael Firth and Rebecca Drudge as the king and princess.

# Fair profits help provide a holiday

THERE were daddy bears, mummy bears, and baby bears! They were brought from all parts of the Island on Sunday by their young owners (and some not so young!) to share the fun at the Teddy Bears Summer Fair at Brading.

The Island's biggest-ever rally of teddy bears was held at Rowborough, home of Brading Youth Old Boys FC.

The event was staged by staff at Richmond Row, the IW County Council's children's home at Brading.

"Profits from the fair will provide a New Forest camping holiday for our children this summer," said Mr. C. Goldstraw, who is in charge of the home.

Teddy bears tableaux were dotted all over the Rowborough field. These included teddies enjoying picnics, camping and at work and play.

Mrs. Goldstraw baked a huge teddy bear as a competition prize.

## CANCELLED

Because of the high wind and rain squalls some of the star attractions had to be cancelled, including a model helicopter display.

The 1st Sandown and Lake Company, The Boys' Brigade Band entertained and so did Morris dancers, The Oyster Girls, in their colourful costumes.

In addition to the Richmond Row stalls and sideshows other organisations and groups had stalls at the fair.

These included Lake Village Association, the 1st East Wight Air Scouts, Fairway Gymnastics Club, Friends of Watergate School, the Heidi Prince Fund for Sick Children, Action for the Crippled Child, Ryde Sea Scouts, Cowes Rotaract, Brading Brownies, Brading Sunday School and St. Mary's Church.

Mr. A. A. Monk, the mayor of Brading, presented the fair awards.

Beverley Brooks got the prize for the owner of the smallest teddy bear and Lucy Torrance, the award for the biggest.

The prize for the best dressed teddy went to Victoria Clark and awards for the oldest teddies



went to Kerry Jarman, Anna Jones and Deborah Stay.

The teddy bears were judged by Mrs. Munday Whittaker, of The Dolls Museum, Brading.

Other award winners included Mrs. Helen Pope (giant teddy bear cake) and Mrs. Shepherd (teddy bear competition).

The event was organised by Mr. M. Buckett, senior house parent, who sported a bear's costume during the fair, and fellow members of staff Mrs. D. Lines, Mrs. J. James and Mrs. K. Barnard.

Mr. Goldstraw said, "They

formed themselves into a fund raising committee only recently and since then have been running sales and coffee mornings to help the home.

"They are doing a marvellous job."

More than 70 businesses in Brading, Sandown and Ryde made donations to the fair and garden centres also supported the event.

Mr. Goldstraw estimated that the event raised about £200.

Six-year-old Vickie Waddington, of Brading (left), is pictured at the teddy bears' picnic with her sister Nancy, three.

# Picnic time again for teddy bears

SCORES of teddy bears and their owners swelled crowds flocking to the annual Teddy Bear's Summer Fayre at Brading.

The fayre, organised by the staff of the local IW County Council's children's home at Richmond Row and held at Rowborough, home of Brading Youth Old Boys FC, raised a record £1,126 for the children's holiday fund.

The proceeds will ensure the children at Richmond Row will enjoy a holiday in Derbyshire and will also help toward the cost of their trips by their various schools.

In addition to Richmond Row stalls, various Island organisations had sideshows and other fund raisers at the fayre.

These included the Riversiders, Sandown-Shanklin Lions, Cystic Fibrosis, Leukemia Research, Sandown RNLI, People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, Ryde Carnival and St. Mary's, Brading Sunday School.

There were races and novelty games for children and arena

attractions included displays by the Sandown section of the fire service, the IW Dog Training Society and a combat team from Wolfguard.

Children also enjoyed rides in a cart drawn by Welsh mountain pony Dan-y-lan Siroch. For Mrs. Marianne Sullivan, mayor of Brading, the fayre was her first official function and she was accompanied by her five-year-old twins Cornelius and John Christian, with their teddy bears.

## TEDDY BEAR RESULTS

Up to eight years — 1 Lisa Lusted (Nurse), Newport, 2 Alan Ephick (Soldier), Gurnard Pines, 3 Mandy Skeldon and Robin Hanco (Scout), Brading.  
Nine to 14 years — 1 Vickie Waddington (Nurse), Brading, 2 Kate Blanchard (Soldier), East Cowes, 3 Stewart Derry (Pilot), Brading.  
Adults — 1 Mrs. Doreen Fallows (Soldier), Yarmouth.

## PLAYER TAKEN

A radio cassette player worth £245 was stolen from a car at Hungryhill car park, Newport, during Tuesday.

9/6/89

# Charlie in a hole



Charlotte Harbour, 7, comforts Charlie after his ordeal. Picture: VICKI COUCHMAN

A FIRE crew rushed to the rescue of Charlie, a three-year-old Springer spaniel, after he had fallen down a nine-foot deep hole in Station Road, Brading, on Monday.

The IW Fire and Rescue Service was called out by the RSPCA, because its Island inspector, Stuart Farmer, was on holiday.

Mrs. Debbie Harbour, whose husband, Robert, keeps Charlie and Springer bitch, Ruby, as working gun dogs, waited anxiously as Charlie was rescued from the hole with the aid of the fire crew's ladder.

Mrs. Harbour, of Station Gardens, said both dogs had got out of the garden and she had been frantically searching for them in nearby gardens and allotments.

"I could hear a dog barking but I

just couldn't see him," she said. "Then I went round the side of the allotments and found him down this deep hole."

"It was about four feet wide at the top and I could see Charlie sitting and trembling. There was some grass in the hole, and I didn't know I he was injured."

Mrs. Harbour rang the RSPCA and was rather surprised when the fire crew arrived. A neighbour at the fire service, Jim Bullock, who, alerted by the sirens had come to see what was happening, volunteered to go down the ladder to fetch Charlie as he knew him.

"The vet told us Charlie was probably lucky to be alive," said Mrs. Harbour. "He probably lost consciousness down there and at the moment is feeling sorry for himself and has a sore ear."

# Mums set up shop to ease price of children's clothes

By CHRISTINE TINDALL



Surrounded by an array of good quality, nearly-new children's clothes are, left, Mrs. Terry Sands and her seven-month-old twin boys, Henry and Thomas, with her friend Mrs. Tamara Tansley with son Dietrich, three, and daughter Olana, 16 months.

YOUNG children grow so quickly that mothers always seem to be delving into their purses to buy new clothes. The problem is highlighted these days when families are often heavily mortgaged or struggling to bring up children on their own. That is why two Brading mothers — Mrs. Tamara Tansley of High Street and Mrs. Terry Sands of The Ball Ring — have decided to buy and sell nearly-new children's clothes at ridiculously cheap prices. Once a month they run their shop in Brading Town Hall. Everything they sell is in pristine condition, washed, starched if necessary, ironed and slipped into polythene bags. A pretty, velvet party dress can be bought for £3, there is a snowsuit, hardly worn, in corduroy, selling for £6, a velvet boy's suit which cost £40 can be bought for £10 and there is a wide choice of trousers and shirts, all costing around £1.50. "Any profit we made goes back into expanding the scheme and we give 20 percent of our takings to the Foetal Heart Moni-

tor Fund at St. Mary's," explains Tamara, an American who came to live on the Island with her English husband, Peter, 18 months ago. They now have two young children — Olana, 16 months, and Dietrich who is three — and are repaying a substantial mortgage on their Georgian cottage bought last September. "My mother in Florida used to send boxes of beautiful clothes from Macey's and Bloomingdales for my daughter, some of which didn't fit or clashed with her red hair," said Tamara who decided to sell the things she could not use herself. The business evolved with the help of her friend, Terry Sands, who has seven-month-old twin sons, Henry and Thomas. "We realised there were lots of young mothers in the area who wanted to buy and sell their children's clothes as much as we did and because we have no overheads we can keep our prices low," explained Tamara. At the moment they are con-

centrating on clothes for the under sixes and small equipment like bottle sterilisers, carriers and high chairs. "But we hope to include school uniforms soon and perhaps bigger equipment later. Storage is our big problem at the moment," said Tamara. The two mothers recently held their third town hall event when, as well as nearly-new clothes, they sold children's knitwear made on Terry's mother-in-law's knitting machine. Buying and selling clothes in Brading is a sharp contrast for an American used to bright lights and glamour of New York and the sunny beaches of California where Tamara met her husband who was there on an extended holiday. "I wouldn't go back there for anything now," said Tamara. "I adore the Island and the people here are much friendlier. It's a beautiful place to bring up a family, the children are safe and know the names of all the tradesmen. You wouldn't get that in America now. There nobody in the street smiles and says good morning."

# Feast of fun tucking in the Roman way



A Cupid's kiss for Becky Drudge, nine, from David O'Mara, also nine, during the Roman feast held as part of a studies project at Brading Primary School.

ENTERTAINMENT and feasting with a Roman theme provided the highlight of a Roman studies project for the two top classes at Brading Primary School. Pupils watched a performance of Shaw's Androcles and the Lion by class C, and Roman dancing presented by class D. Sporting events included a high jump competition, with five children managing to clear one metre. They were Jamie Smith, Faye Morey, Claire Ball, John Bowles and Simon Shaw, all aged eight. There was also a knuckle bones tournament, similar to the game jacks, which was won by David Phillips, eight, of Lower Furlongs. Dressed for the day in togas and laurel wreaths, the 60 children lounged on the floor, Roman style, for a special feast cooked by the school cook, Auntie Pat. Culinary delights included Caliputan cheese on a bed of salad, Roman rolls, Olympian fruit platter and Bacchus's cup, a grape juice drink. Other goodies, made by the children themselves during lessons, were Juno's oat cookies, Caesar's cinnamon slices and Cupid's kisses.



An orgy of food — Roman style — as pupils tuck into a varied menu for Roman Feast Day. Pictures; VICKI COUCHMAN.

# Sweetshop owner, 81, stocks up on the past

L.O.W. COUNTY PRESS APRIL 1993

IN THESE day of high-profile marketing, Florence Hewson's shop in Brading is something of a revelation.

No brightly-painted shop-front beckons invitingly. There is, indeed, nothing to indicate that this is a shop and the window display is unassuming to the point of reticence.

You could easily miss those old jars on your way to the beaming welcome of the supermarket a few doors further up the High Street.

But Miss Hewson's customers are not interested in the gaudy trappings of the retail world. What they are interested in is sherbet lemons.

They are also interested in Pontefract cakes, pear drops, winter mixture, humbugs and clove balls. Happiness to Miss Hewson's clientele is a liquorice face or a giant goliath.

For Miss Hewson runs a sweet shop. But this is not your average confectioner's store. From the moment the metal bell jangles on the back of the door as you enter, your cheeks bulging happily with a lump of treacle toffee, you are transported into another world.

And Miss Hewson's world owes nothing to conformity. True, the jars of sticky goodies — a dentist's nightmare — are neatly arranged around the shelves.

The Jelly Alphabets have been mastered into line with the Chocolate Beans. But there is also an old bike propped up by the window.

An invalid carriage, all canvas and heavy iron, sits in a corner. There are old tins and medicine bottles, less on display than in fossilised residence.

There are notices and advertisements from pre-war days and old black-and-white photographs tucked into dusty trunks. An ornate straw basket dangles from the ceiling.

Miss Hewson thinks the basket came from Fiji or possibly Tonga. She has visited both of these places.

Florence Hewson celebrated her 81st birthday last month and would think nothing of trotting off to Fiji or Tonga to buy another decoration.

Last year, however, she holidayed in Cyprus — having done a bit of walking around Eastern Turkey.

But her real love is in singing

By CHARLOTTE HOFTON

and she is a member of three choirs on the Island — Cantata, Bembridge Choral Society and the choir at Holy Trinity Church, Bembridge.

These groups are fortunate to have such an experienced soprano as Miss Hewson.

Before settling on the Island some 20 years ago, she worked with several of London's most prestigious choirs, including the Royal Choral Society and sang under the baton of Sir Malcolm Sargent and with such musical luminaries as Owen Brannigan and Heddie Nash.

Born and educated in London, Miss Hewson worked until retirement with Lloyds Bank.

"That was my bread and butter and it enabled me to do the things I really enjoyed in my spare time."

When she went for her interview at Lloyds, she saw an "old boy who asked if I'd had any illness or fallen off my boyfriend's bike."

He also eyed her school hat and said, "You will have to get a hat which makes you look a bit older than that."

During the war she moved to the Midlands, where she learned to ride her own bicycle.

"I fell off into every sort of hedge and on every sort of road, but I've cycled ever since and still use my bike."

Miss Hewson's parents owned the shop and house that is now home to their daughter, and she moved to the Island to care for her elderly mother before taking sole charge of the shop.

The senior Mrs Hewson was clearly another indomitable figure.

"I think she would call this interview making an exhibition of myself."

But Florence Hewson is not an exhibitionist — she is simply a most remarkable lady. She rises at 5.30 every morning, often to do some gardening before a day's work in the shop



Brading's sweet link with the past — Miss Florence Hewson, 81. CD 9/4/98

and regular singing activities in the evening.

"People are very kind, you know. They give me lifts to rehearsals." She seems rather surprised at the notion. "Really, I could easily get there on the bus."

It is small wonder that holidaymakers who discover her shop pay regular return visits.

"They tell me that they never see shops like mine anywhere else."

Asked why she carries on working at over 80, she said, "Oh well, not many people would be daft enough to work all day for nothing."

How does she view the modern child? "Well, there are nice ones and nasty ones. But I do think children get too much, too

early — everything just comes to them."

It is a lucky child who gets the benefit of Florence Hewson's sweet shop, with its serried rows of jars and its legacy of a bygone age, where you can buy sweets for a penny and receive them carefully wrapped in a twist of waxed paper.

Describing the extraordinary fireplace that stands in her sitting room — a singular relic of neo-classic plasterwork that she rescued from a basement, Miss Hewson said with some glee that it had "the Hewson touch."

The Hewson touch is something to be treasured with its mixture of gentility, unconventionality and a resilient spirit. I can recommend the clove balls,

## Ex-Wren meets with wartime colleagues after 50 years

A BRADING woman who served as a Wren in the second world war met up with colleagues she had not seen for 50 years at a D-Day dinner.

Mrs Margaret Whitaker, of Park Road, Brading, who was in charge of the pay of all the Wren ratings on the Island, said she was looking at people's name tags before the dinner at Northwood House, Cowes, when she discovered two women with whom she had served.

Mrs Edna Nelson-Ward had travelled to Cowes from Trinidad especially for the commemoration events and Mrs Edna Foxon from Chester.

"We have been chatting about the money we used to have," said Mrs Whitaker. "We got between £1 and £2 a week which seems amazing now."

The three women served at HMS Vectis at Cowes and have vivid memories of D-Day.

"The sight was really amazing," said Mrs Whitaker, who was in Hyde on the day. "There were thousands and thousands of ships. You could almost have walked across the Solent from one to another."

Mrs Foxon said there were similar sights from Culver cliff where she was stationed on D-Day.

About 75 people, including former Wrens and their families,



Re-united at Cowes, former Wrens (from left) Mrs Edna Foxon, Mrs Margaret Whitaker, and Mrs Edna Nelson-Ward.

ies, attended the annual dinner for Wrens who served at HMS Vectis, the date of which was changed this year to coincide with the D-Day anniversary.

Mrs Iris Preston, secretary, said, "HMS Vectis and Cowes are special to all of us who served there and members came from America and Trinidad and all corners of the United Kingdom for the weekend."

Mrs Lena Capelin, a ship's

cook during the war and who lives on the Island, made a commemoration cake for the occasion complete with anchors and lifebelts.

Also during the visit of the Wrens a kneseler made by Kate Pascoe was dedicated by Rev Roger Walker at Holy Trinity Church, Cowes, in memory of all the Wrens who served on HMS Vectis. The ladies also visited the Royal Yacht Squadron.

SNNSWVS

MAY, 1994

# Protecting the East Yar Valley and its wildlife

Hidden beneath the rolling downs of Brading and Sandown, the River Yar flows towards the sea. The valley is dominated by a variety of wetlands; meadows, pools and reedbeds line its banks. It provides a sanctuary for wildlife; barn owls fly over its rich meadows and nationally rare species can be enjoyed.



The scheme can be enjoyed through a programme of action to enhance the valley. The project aims to co-ordinate the management of wetlands through the provision of practical assistance and advice to landowners in the valley. It will also ensure public interest, and sympathetic management of the valley through the provision of good wetland sites. There will also be opportunities for interpretation and education.

## Why?

**Threatened heritage**  
Rivers and their surrounding habitats are delicate and vulnerable. The majority of the Eastern Yar Valley is permanent pasture with associated fens, pools and carrs. All of these features can be threatened by neglect and drainage. However, a happy medium can be found. Parts of the valley are designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest and they have some statutory protection. There are however equally important areas that have no designation or protection, these depend entirely on sympathetic management by landowners. The Eastern Yar Valley project aims to breach this divide by giving practical assistance to these areas. The project area covers over 3,500 acres of wetland. This



Simon Probert, left, full-time volunteer for the CMS, and CMS ranger Mark Fincham clear willow from the old railway track at Sandown.

extensive area is a key feature of the Island's landscape and is host to regionally and nationally scarce species. The beauty and diversity of the valley justifies all efforts towards conservation and protection.

## Benefits

- The scheme enables the project partners to work together presenting a unified approach towards conservation of the Yar Valley.
- This sets an important precedent for liaison between the public and private sectors.
- The project will connect protected areas (SSSIs) and unprotected areas ensuring a continuity of management for the whole valley.
- The project integrates the management of wildlife, landscape, farmland and quiet recreation in a co-ordinated Management Plan.
- Locals and visitors alike will benefit from the conservation and enhancement of this beautiful valley. Interpretation at the demonstration sites will create greater understanding and enjoyment of the area.
- Parts of the valley may also have potential for "green tourism". The hotels and guest houses of the coast could promote the area to attract visitors interested in wildlife and quiet recreation.

## How YOU can help conserve habitats

THINK ahead by doing something now!

What is satisfying about becoming involved in practical conservation work is that it's fun, it's useful and you learn something new every time you do it, and what's more, it's available to everyone, young or old.

Whether you are a science graduate, unemployed or just wanting something different to do, your time to in helping conserve some of the Island's most vulnerable wildlife habitats is vital to the greater awareness and protection of the countryside and its wildlife for the future.

As with most things, resources are often limited and environmental conservation relies very much upon the support of volunteers to achieve its aims and objectives.

In return we hope that volunteers acquire new skills, perhaps towards a career in conservation, new friends, the satisfaction of working in some of the most attractive corners of the Island's countryside and a useful job well done.

The Countryside Management Service work on many sites across the Island and in the east we're particularly busy. If you would like more information about any of our volunteer projects, please contact Ian Boyd on 822119.

## BITUARY

County Press 7/5/98

### Mr John Lloyd Hunter

FORMER mayor of South and Brading who served as county youth and community officer for 28 years, John Lloyd Hunter, has died at St Mary's Hospital, Newport, aged 74, after a short illness.

Throughout his career in emotional exchange visits, including ones to Germany in the 1950s. His tireless efforts gained him national reputation for outstanding work in the field of emotional youth relationships, and he served as a trustee in the national body Experience in International Living. He moved to the Island in 54 with his wife, Mary, as a member of Brading and Sandown youth clubs and became IW youth and community officer seven years later.

Born and educated in Cardiff, he worked in a city hotel and later as a dental technician before serving with the RAF during the last war. He carried out administrative duties while stationed at Manchester and Tangmere, West Sussex.

On demobilisation Mr Hunter studied for a diploma in youth service work at Bristol University. His first youth post was in the

city, followed by a stint at a youth club at Warmminster, Wiltshire — his last mainland post before moving to the Island. His service as a borough councillor began in 1979 when he was elected as member for Brading ward, and he served as mayor for a year from April 1988.

He had been a member of Brading Town Council since the late 1970s and served two terms as town mayor, the most recent in 1982-83. Mr Hunter, of Lower Adgestone Road, Adgestone, was secretary and treasurer of the IW Association of Parish and Town Councils, chairman of the IW Rural Community Council, vice-president of the IW Scout, Girl Guide and Boys' Brigade Associations, secretary of the IW Oshoboten Twining Association, and a governor at Newport CE Middle School.

A keen sportsman, he was president of Brading Cricket Club, represented the Island on the National Sports Council for 25 years, and helped with the formation of Sandown/Shanklin Hurricanes Rugby Club.

He was also a member of Brading Town Trust, Brading Haven Yacht Club, the IW Welsh Society, Brading branch of the Royal British Legion and the IW branch of the RAF Association.



Mr John Hunter

He was also a member of the IW Post and Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

He was a keen musician and helped form the IW Youth Concert Band in 1969 and belonged to the IW Cantata Choir and St John's Church Choir at Sandown.

In recent years he took an avid interest in the Independent Arts charity, and was one of its trustees.

He is survived by his wife, children Michael, Tricia and Frances, and four grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held at St John's Church, Sandown, followed by cremation, on a date to be arranged.

Donations are requested for Independent Arts.



Dr Jane Brand (centre) accepts the couch from Pauline Humber and Bob Morgan.

THE deaths of two well-loved Brading residents have resulted in a legacy that will make life easier for other people in the town.

The families of Mrs Isobel Morgan, of West Street, who died in May, and Mrs Peg Lindsley, of Station Gardens, who died in September, requested donations rather than flowers be sent by friends and well-wishers.

Those appeals have resulted in a £720 hydraulic couch being presented to the local surgery.

The presentation was made by Mr Bob Morgan, Mrs Morgan's husband, and Mrs Pauline Humber, Mrs Lindsley's daughter.

Dr Jane Brand, who runs the Beech Grove practice with her husband Dr Peter Brand, said the fully adjustable couch would make life easier for many patients, especially the elderly and the disabled.

Both Mrs Morgan and Mrs Lindsley had been extremely active within the Brading community and belonged to many varied local groups, she said.

"Already the town does not feel the same without them."

Dr Brand thanked all who had donated to the couch and also the families of Mrs Morgan and Mrs Lindsley.

22 October 1993



MORGON OLD ROAD - PLANNING APPLICATION 1995?

Looking on the Bns Shelter



1999

**Brading CE Primary School**

Monday, May 23, a walk on Brading Down with the Countryside Management Service, accompanied by Sandown High School sixth formers, to collect information for a trail leaflet. Tuesday, May 24, Lynn Clarke (SWBC Recycling Officer) will give a talk on litter collection and recycling. Wednesday, May 25, pond clearing with Sandown High sixth formers and a visit to 'Save Wood' factory in Cowes to find out about environmentally aware products. Thursday, May 26, the children will take their parents to Brading Down to try out their trail leaflet which they have made. The school will also be exhibiting their plans for the development of the playground throughout the week.

BRADING CE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
1994 14/10/94

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS — FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 1994



Brading crossing lady Mrs Isabel Saban with her granddaughter Rosie, a pupil at Brading Primary School, holding the crossing pole watched by her friends.

**Isabel is pupils' silver lady on Brading roads**

LOLLIPOP lady Mrs Isabel Saban has become a familiar sight each morning in the High Street at Brading.

For the last 25 years Mrs Saban, of Station Gardens, Brading, has been guiding youngsters across the road to the local primary school.

And in all those years the only time she has missed lollipop duty was when she broke her heel — and even then her husband, Albert, stepped in to take over.

Last Friday she was thanked for her service at a special assembly at Brading Primary School.

Pupils presented her with thank-you cards and staff gave her a framed picture of the school.

But despite reaching the age of 65, Mrs Saban has no thoughts of retirement yet.

"I love it. I enjoy meeting all the children and in all my time as a lollipop lady there's never been a time I haven't wanted to turn up," she said.

Born in Brading, Mrs Saban met Albert while working as a conductor on the trolley buses in London.

The couple have three children, Julie, Richard and Douglas, and five grandchildren.



WEST STREET BEFORE 6-30 RING WIDENING  
cont'd. from page 47



THE NEW TOWN HALL - AFTER ALTERATIONS & BULL RINGS IN NEW PLACE  
CHRISTMAS TREE



The Countryside



Some of the information given on the back of this card ~ "The Isle of Wight photographed from NASA's space shuttle Challenger at 10:45 GMT on 11 October 1984 from an altitude of approximately 240 miles. Weather conditions were good at the time with only very small cumulus clouds dotted along the south eastern coast. A smoke plume from the power station at Eawley reveals a gentle breeze blowing from the WNW". NASA image courtesy Space Frontiers Limited

Page 13

### The Island of Wight

There is a little islet, fresh and sweet and green,  
Not very far from England's mother shore.  
To me it is the sweetest ever seen,  
The fairest child Great Britain ever bore.  
It hasn't wandered very far away  
Though centuries have vanished since its birth,  
Within its parent's call it seems to stay  
And stretch a hand across the narrow furth.

O Island of Wight, set like a gem in the sea,  
Rich is thy homestead so bright,  
Ploughland, meadow and lea,  
Glorious in sunshine of gold,  
Silver in moonbeams of night,  
God send thee blessings untold,  
Beautiful Island of Wight.

~~~~~

These are the words of a song which was sung to Lord Alverstone by Fred Fowler (for which he was paid sixpence) early this century when there was a school at Alverstone. Fred was the uncle of Mrs. Betty Howell - a W.I. member - whose aunt, Lillian Read, sang this to her when she was very young.



There were possibly more elms around the north of Brading and they grew thickly along the paths and fields by the Church - as can be seen in some of the watercolours at present in the Town Hall.



During the 1960's-70's, as in the rest of England, we lost all the elm trees which had enhanced our surroundings here in Brading for so many years. Never again shall we see elms of such maturity and grace which were killed along with all the others by Dutch elm disease.



Nothing could be done  
elms. They had to be felled  
where possible, the timber  
otherwise they were bound  
to succumb to the disease.



1973 Spring



Spring



Nothing could be done to save the elms. They had to be felled and, where possible, the timber was used otherwise they were burnt to try to eradicate the disease.

1973 Gone

Then the places where they had been looked so stark and sad —  
But gradually the elms are returning —  
as will be seen, in the last part of this section —



Just some of  
our many wild  
flowers ~

Blackthorn ~ Sloe

Ericaceae



Red Campion & Bluebells



Stitchwort  
or Celandine



Vaccinium



Foxgloves



Elder & Hawthorn



Dog Roses



Marsh Orchid

N. Hunter

As with the rarer mushrooms and other fungi no true country lover will reveal the places where the special orchids grow



Dog Daisies & Buttercups



As seen from Brading Down



The spectacle of poppies in the field on Culver caused much surprise, wonder and delight in the summer of 1991.



Looking across from Culver to Brading Down



This year First World War Veterans as always visited the fields of Flanders for what was the 75<sup>th</sup> year since the Somme offensive, 1<sup>st</sup> July, when it began, 1916

# Hope d work wi



WHO WILL keep the scrub at bay when reclamation work on Brading Down is finished and a Manpower Services Commission team departs? This is the question worrying their project leader.

Unless South Wight Borough Council give urgent consideration to the issue and make provision for its future management, the land will quickly revert to its former wild state.

If this is allowed to happen, a whole year's work by 20 men, paid for with £1.5 million of Government money, will have been in vain.

Mr. Peter Ford, project supervisor, invited the County Press to visit the 80-acre site currently being reclaimed from gorse and bramble and razed to high ground last year, and voiced disappointment that there were still no positive plans for its future.

The Manpower Services Commission's task force comprises men who would otherwise be unemployed and who earn slightly more money than they would on the dole.

They are mostly in their early 20s, a few are over 30 and are middle-aged, and they work in four teams each under the close supervision of an experienced charge hand.

# Hope down clearance work will not be in vain



A few of the team members are pictured on Brading Down on a newly-cleared patch of scrubland. They are (from left) Rik Wood, Trevor Hayward, David Russell, David Wardale and Roy Franklin.

**WHO WILL** keep the scrub at bay when reclamation work on Brading Down is finished and a Manpower Services Commission team departs? This is the question worrying their project leader.

Unless South Wight Borough Council give urgent consideration to the issue and make provision for its future management, the land will quickly revert to its former wild state.

If this is allowed to happen, a wide year's work by 54 men, paid for with £15-million of Government money will have been in vain.

Mr Peter Ford, project supervisor, invited the County Press to visit the 80-acre site currently being reclaimed from gorse and bramble and restored to lush green turf and voiced disappointment that there were still no positive plans for its future.

The Manpower Services Commission task force comprises men who would otherwise be unemployed and who earn slightly more money than they would on the dole.

They are mostly in their early 20s, a few are over 30 and one is middle-aged, and they work in five teams each under the leadership of an experienced chargehand.

### GRADUATE

Mr Ford has worked in farming, estate management and forestry.

He is a forestry graduate who was unemployed before taking on the MSC assignment.

Most of the £15-million project funding is meeting the bill for wages for a year; a small part going on transport, seed, fertiliser, etc.

Mr Ford fully appreciates the financial difficulties facing local authorities and probable impossibility of South Wight paying their own labour force to maintain the land after the team depart in March, but believes sheep to be the answer.

"I realise that grazing sheep does involve fencing but this would require only a small amount of money from the council — probably not more than £6,000 in total for fencing and grids.

Mr Ford has a scheme in mind which he is hoping someone will want to investigate.

In addition to fences, grids, stiles and gates this includes the building of two bridges across the main Newport road to link the areas of pastureland, one of which adjoins neighbouring farmland.

"The scheme would have to be worked out in detail to ensure that when it is completed someone will want to rent it, and they would have to be involved in planning where the fences should be.

"Ponies too could perhaps be grazed there. I think people might be interested in leaving land for them on an individual basis.

## WORK BY youngsters on a Government training scheme restoring Brading Down, has been criticised as a "total disaster" by Mr. E. Hibberd, vice-chairman of South Wight Amenities and Leisure Activities Committee.

Mr Hibberd told the committee that the standard of work carried out — mainly by a Manpower Services Commission

Community Programme team — was "quite appalling".

A large part of the down is to be fenced off to allow cattle and sheep to once again graze there.

At present about half the fencing is complete and the rest should be finished by January to allow cattle to be grazed from February, followed eventually by sheep.

In the past Brading Down has been grazed by flocks of sheep which maintained a close cropped and open chalk grassland turf supporting a rich variety of plant and insect life.

Over the last 30-40 years graz-

"We have just put down £1,000 worth of grass seed and fertiliser in the hope that something will be done to maintain it.

"If not, it will all be wasted," Mr Ford added.

"If the council decide to go ahead with that kind of scheme, we could do all the additional work as part of the present project while we are here and the council would not have any extra labour costs.

"If nothing is done to keep the scrub down it will soon be back in the same state as it was before, with gorse and brambles taking over."



ing ceased and the down became invaded by scrub and rank grasses.

The result has been the loss of biologically important areas of grazed chalk grass land — a habitat that has declined 70 per cent on the Island since 1932.

Brading Down is considered a good example of maritime influenced chalk grassland — nationally a rare and increasingly threatened habitat.

### WOULD BREAK

However, Mr Hibberd said work carried out there so far "looks a total disaster in my opinion."

He said some of the fence posts had not been treated and would break off in a couple of years. They would not be accepted by any Island farmer.

Mr G. McIntyre, borough surveyor, who felt that grazing was the only economical way of protecting the ecology of the down, admitted there had been a mistake over barbed wire being put on the wrong side of the

fence, but disagreed over Mr Hibberd's opinion of the work standard.

It had got better as it had progressed and no stock would be let loose before mistakes were put right.

"I believe in this project and I would hope members will give it a chance to see what happens in two years time," he said.

Local councillor Mr. J. Hunter said in a letter, that the fence was a danger to young children.

However, Mr McIntyre said he could not see another way of putting up a stock-proof fence and there was a similar one all along the down.

Mr Hibberd said he was prepared to give Mr McIntyre 18 months to show the success of the scheme.

Mr A. P. Van Thal added: "We should support Mr McIntyre in this project."

Mr J. Finch said, "Eventually we will get a great improvement there."

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WHERE ALL MAY NOW

SAFELY GRAZE

(SEE PAGE 8)



JOHN HINKS ~ local farm worker

