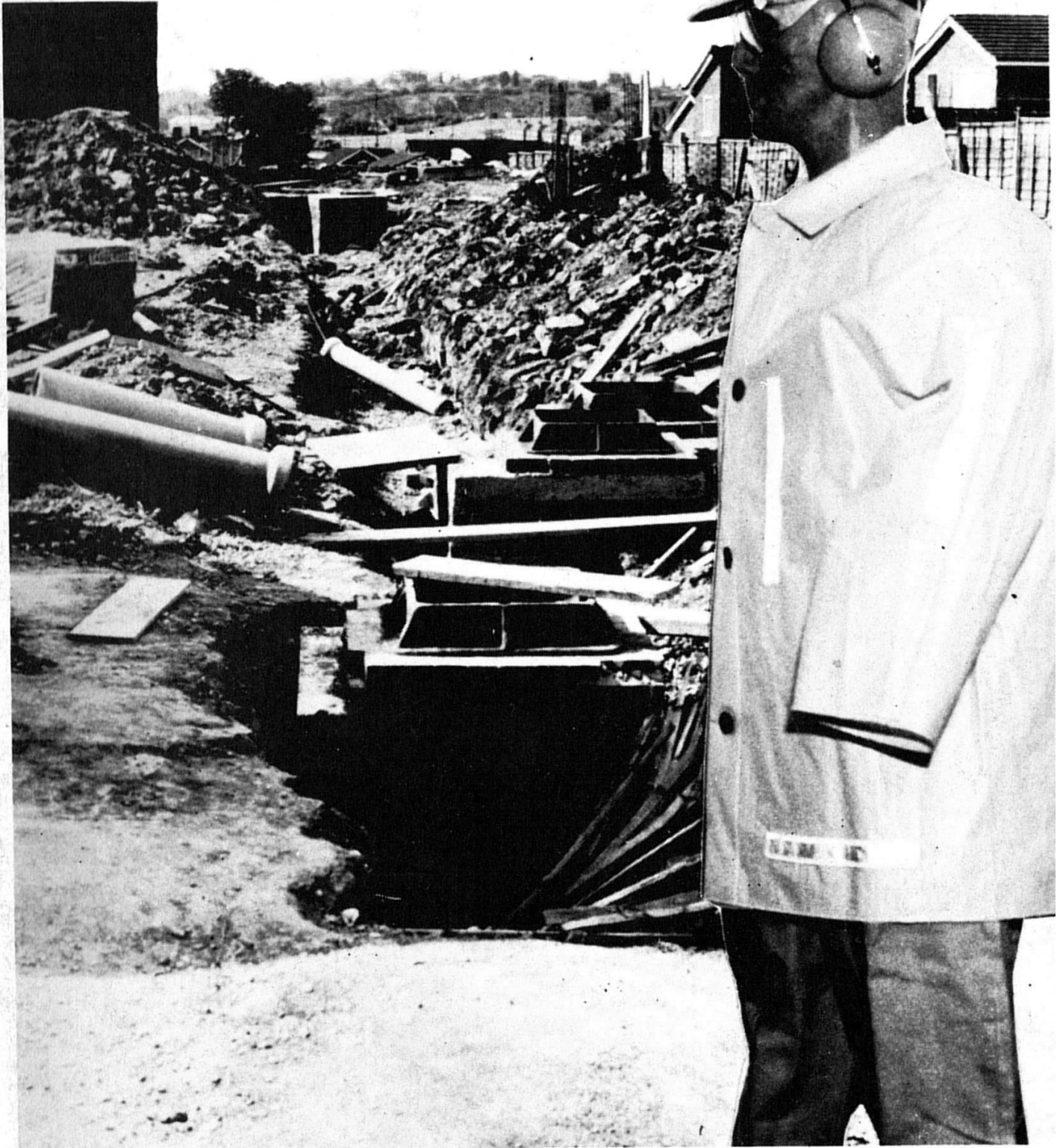


News Review

THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE
WATERWORKS COMPANY

APRIL 1977



AGM OF THE SOCIAL CLUB

The first Annual General Meeting of the newly designated Social Club was held in Birmingham on 24th February and was attended by approximately 19 persons. The occasion provided an opportunity for the Chairman, Mr. W. A. Markham, to describe the initial steps taken to fulfil the broader responsibilities of The Social Club for social and sporting activities throughout the Company arising from the amendments to the Constitution in November 1976. A survey in depth of all such activities had been completed and would be considered at the forthcoming meeting of the Co-ordination Committee. Mr. Markham confirmed the continuing interest of the Executive Committee of The Social Club in moving towards the extension of membership of the Club to all members of the Company and drew attention to the prior need not only to be certain of the views of the members but, also, to resolve the administrative and practical aspects of such a change. He said the new Committee would be looking into these aspects.

The extensive financial support of the Board of Directors for The Social Club and, in particular, for the impending improvements to the Canteen were acknowledged with gratitude.

Amongst other matters, Mr. Markham referred to forthcoming events in 1977 (including a hobbies evening in May, the Annual Outing to London on 10th June and a horticultural show in September). He thanked the members of the Executive Committee for their great help and, in particular, praised the financial control of the Club by Michael Andrews, now with the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company.

The President, Sir Charles Burman, and the Vice-Presidents were re-elected unanimously.

The officers and Club members for 1977 are :-

Chairman :

Mr. W. A. Markham

Vice-Chairman :

Mr. A. Evers

Hon. Secretary :

Mr. J. H. Dixon

Hon. Treasurer :

Mr. T. A. Smith

Committee Members —

Engineer's Dept. :

B. Greenwood, K. Hodson
J. Morrall, J. Wilson

Secretary's Dept. :

A. Alderman, Miss A. Davies
Miss M. Harris, Mrs. C. Leechmere

Area Offices :

Tipton & Hampton Loade : E. Smith
Walsall & Wood Green : A. Cartwright
Burton & Cannock : M. Morgan
Lichfield, Blithfield
and Outside Staff : A. Heath

The Honorary Auditors, Mr. L. V. Quick and Mr. A. Myers, were formally thanked for their assistance and invited to continue for a further term.

Forthcoming Events

March 8th —

Ansells Brewery Visit.

March 12th/13th —

Weekend Away : The Swan's Nest
Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon.

March 25th —

Annual Dinner Dance.

May —

New Canteen Celebration Dance.
Ramble.
Hobbies Evening.

May 28th —

Garden Visit : Bodnant Gardens and
Conway, North Wales.

June 10th —

Annual Outing : Jubilee Week —
Visit to London.

June 18th/19th —

Camping Weekend.

July —

Family Outing.

September —

Horticultural Show.
Joint Function with Tame Division.
Treasure Hunt.

October —

Barn Dance.

November —

Bonfire.

December —

Christmas Dance.

January 1978 —

Children's Christmas Party.

Also : Theatre Trips, Table Tennis, Darts
and Squash Tournaments.

EDITORIAL

This was to have been another 16 page issue, but owing to two planned items being unavailable, some contributions have been held over until next time to avoid further delays. We are finding it very difficult to keep a strict timetable and this will be worse as we move into the holiday season. If anyone wishes to improve the situation, the editor's chair will be swiftly vacated in his or her honour! I think that the interest shown in the News Review is only part of a new upsurge in the social activities of the Company. This may be because of an increasing accent on informality or the 'it's all good clean fun' syndrome — in any case, nothing but good should come of it all.

It keeps raining, doesn't it? Anyone interested in slalom canoeing should have tried the River Blithe when up to 14" of water was coming over the Blithfield Reservoir spillway! There won't be any shortages of water this year. Even Clwedog, down to 20% at the worst part of the drought, is now brim full. Mind you, I'm not complaining about the cold, wet winter . . . it's good for the remaining elm trees and elm is an important timber for building canal boats, and that can only be good. (For those fortunate enough to have avoided an earbending on the subject, your editor is a canal enthusiast).

Our cover pin-up is Charlie, the safety-minded, fully protected bionic dummy. The Company is now spending considerably more money on safety equipment to protect those of us who work in the more hazardous situations like mainlaying sites, pumping stations, treatment works. A series of safety training courses for Distribution Department and Electrical/Mechanical Department is now nearly complete. Regular safety meetings are also held to discuss safety progress, hazards and protective equipment, etc.

The much discussed modernisation of the Head Office canteen is upon us and will be continuing until the end of April. After then haute cuisine will doubtless be the order of the day. For a week commencing March 14th, the canteen was 'caff' had to keep us going. But in May it will be Cod a l'Anglais avec pommes frites — but at the same price, and that can't be bad!

CO-OPERATION ON SAFETY — A WARNING TO ALL

The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act, 1974 is the most important piece of legislation affecting persons at work ever passed.

The emphasis of the Act is placed on total involvement of both the Employer and all Employees to work together to promote safer and healthier working conditions.

The aims of this new Act cannot be met without everyone in the Company co-operating fully to make every work place a safe place of work.

You may ask what is 'co-operation'. The legal definition means:- that if you, as an employee **knowingly** use unsuitable material, use an unsafe system of work, or an unsafe place of work or fail to use or wear protective clothing equipment provided, then you have failed to **co-operate** with the Company. You have also failed in your duties placed on you under Section 7 of the Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974.

Failure to co-operate with the Company in safety matters now could lead to a prosecution by the Health and Safety Executive or in the event of an accident, failure in your claim for damages or, in extreme cases, dismissal for unsafe working practices.

On the cover of this News Review is a model (it is not the Editor, this model works for its living). It is dressed in protective equipment and high visibility clothing. Much work is being done to ensure that the best protective clothing and equipment is purchased, and when obtained, issued. When this equipment is issued all employees, and I stress the words — all employees — will be expected to co-operate fully and wear the protective clothing, etc., putting behind them past dislikes and preferences. To the male employees, some of the equipment issued, you may feel, makes you look silly. In reply to this I would say it is better to be an accident-free unmarked softy than a seriously injured so-called he-man.

Think of your own safety and the safety of your fellow workers and co-operate fully in all safety matters.

R. PERKS,
Safety Officer.

LOOKING BACK

A STRANGE DEATH THAT MADE LEGAL HISTORY

Not only in Birmingham but throughout the country the newspapers of 1817 were occupied with the mysterious death of a young girl called Mary Ashford.

Mary, a gardener's daughter living in Erdington High Street, was found drowned in a pit in Penns Lane, Sutton Coldfield, early on Tuesday 27th of May. She had been to a dance at the Tyburn house on the previous evening and had been in the company of a young man named Abraham Thornton from Castle Bromwich. Suspicion fell on Thornton who was arrested on a charge of murder and eventually committed for trial at the Warwick Summer Assizes.

The trial took place in August. Although the evidence was very conflicting and much of it tended to incriminate Thornton, the jury, without retiring, returned a verdict of 'Not Guilty'. However, Mary's Brother William Ashford was not satisfied with the verdict so he invoked an ancient statute which allowed a process called 'Appeal of Murder'. As a result Thornton was re-arrested on the 9th of October.

Another trial took place at Westminster Hall, London, when on the 17th of November Thornton caused a sensation when asked to plead guilty or not guilty. To this he replied "NOT GUILTY AND I AM READY TO DEFEND THE SAME WITH MY BODY".

At this moment he produced a pair of gauntlets and placed one on his left hand and threw the other on the floor of the court room and demanded TRIAL BY BATTEL. This was something that had not happened in an English court since 1638. William Ashford made it clear he would not fight Thornton and the case was adjourned.

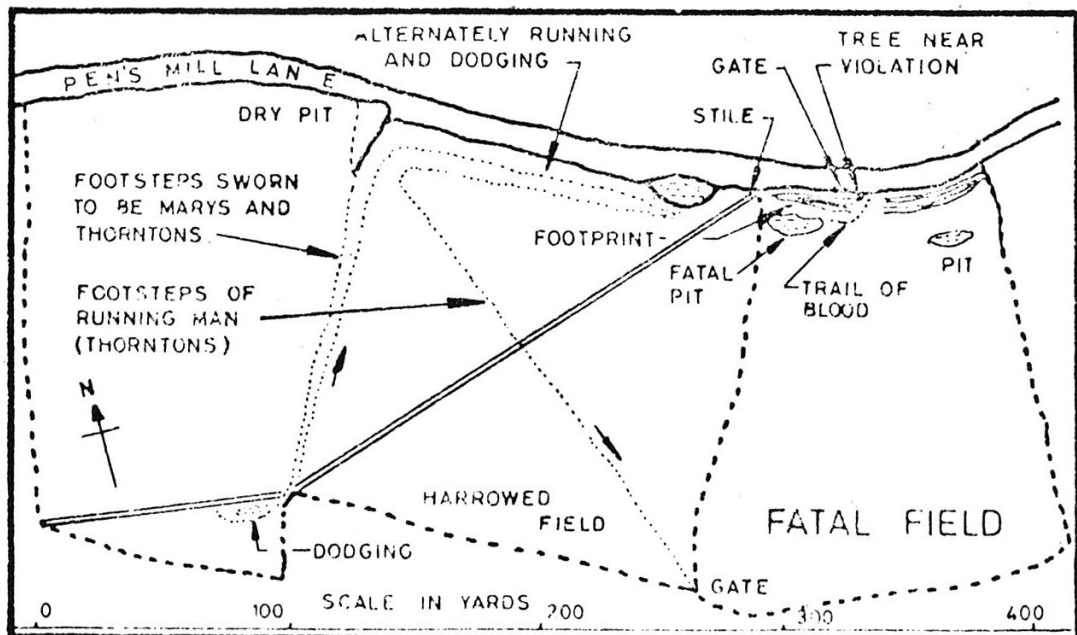
Eventually Abraham Thornton was charged for the third time with the murder in April, 1818, and again pleaded 'NOT GUILTY'. The Lord Chief Justice Ellenborough gave the final judgment which was that the defendant be discharged.

Life for Abraham Thornton at Castle Bromwich became impossible and he decided to emigrate to America. His first attempt ended with him being put ashore when the passengers discovered who he was but his second attempt in September 1818 was successful. It is believed he followed his trade of bricklayer, married and settled in Baltimore where he died about 1860.

Mary Ashford is buried in Sutton Coldfield Parish Churchyard and a stone marks the grave. It can be seen today, although the inscription on it is almost illegible. As a result of Mary's death, two years later 'Appeal of Murder' and 'Trial by Battel' were removed from the Statute Book. William Ashford lived on in Birmingham for many years, carrying on the trade of a fishmonger, and died in January 1867. The gauntlet which was thrown down in the court is still in existence.

John Hill

Route taken
by
Mary Ashford



MINI PUZZLE

There's more to this than meets the I

	1	2	3	4	5
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

ACROSS

1. Drink.
2. Blow.
3. and Judy.
4. Tool.
5. Magazine.

DOWN

1. Vegetables.
2. Female Sheep.
3. Female fowl.
4. Vast expanse of water.
5. Often dropped.

From JOHN BENTLEY, Cannock

DESIDERATA

GO PLACIDLY AMID THE NOISE & HASTE, & REMEMBER WHAT PEACE THERE MAY BE IN SILENCE. AS FAR AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly & clearly; and listen to others, even the dull & ignorant; they too have their story. Avoid loud & aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others you may become vain & bitter; for always there will be greater & lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism. Be yourself.

Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity & disenchantment it is perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue & loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees & the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labors & aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery & broken dreams, it is still a beautiful work. Be careful. Strive to be happy.

FOUND IN OLD SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH, BALTIMORE: DATED 1692.

THE FILING CLERK'S LAMENT

"You must make more room"
Said my boss with a frown,
The cabinets are full to the brim,
And everytime I create a new file,
There's no room to fit the thing in . . .
So without more ado, I had a big purge
(I should get a round of applause)
I took out the old ones, and the ones we
don't use,
Which left several big gaps in my
drawers . . .
One pile of the folders is stacked shoulder
high,
And others are heaped on the floor,
And 'Head Office Corres' and Nitrates' and
such
Lean drunkenly up by the door . . .
Oh, please send some help,
Perhaps a lad with some string
And a trolley to cart them away.
There's a shelf in the Archives
Far away from the door,
Where they won't be in anyone's way.
Thousands of words from erudite men
All banished and hidden from sight,
It's as though we don't care (and I'm
quite sure I don't)
For the facts and the figures they write.
For I sit down here, all on my own,
Working with hardly a pause,
Entering files as fast as I can,
And filling the gaps in my drawers . . .

PEGGY HARRIS
Sandfields

TRAMPS

AN



All the candles lit, the alluring smell of chicken and chips, forty-eight litres of wine poured and waiting to be consumed, the band preparing to inflict a million decibels of 'bopping' music on the unsuspecting guests, all is prepared. At last the first pair arrive — a tramp and a vamp, underneath a carefully desecrated wig, John Bryan, accompanied by a slyph-like figure in black fishnet and fox furs; yet worse to come!

Suddenly the canteen became a mass of tattered trousers, split skirts, matted hair, stockings, meths bottles and high heeled shoes, all the revellers laughing, drinking, eating and staring in amazement at each other. Demure secretaries transformed into facsimilies of Marlene Deit-

rich, respectable engineers unwashed and dishevelled.

Trouble in the foyer. What can only be described loosely as a human being was trying to gatecrash. After a struggle, this ghastly spectre cried out "Please let me in, I've fallen on hard times. Those endless nights of checking faulty stop taps and hydrants have ruined me!" To our horror we realised this remnant of human life was Graham Watkins, a victim of the drought.

By now the dancing was in full swing, Alan Jones having convulsions with Carol Poole, Andy Meadows thrashing about under a 'haystack' wig, and a brace of Willmotts pirouetting across the floor.

An announcement from Albert Charles, "Will all those who dare please prepare





for the grand parade". First the Tramps, liken unto a faded thin red line, trooped around the floor. A mixture of out of work dustmen and sacks of walnuts tied up with string. To whom would go first prize? Ian McPherson, complete with crumpled top hat, Terry Haggerty sporting a dress suit and plimsoles, no — much to everyones surprise a 'thing' liken unto an exploded cream cake took the judges' decision. Yes, that well known Artiste, Len Jackson (well done, Lenny).

Now the ladies (of ill repute?). Slinking across the floor to a chorus of wolf whistles, several calls of "get 'em off" and the sound of heavy breathing. An amalgam of sequins, black stockings, boots and several versions of a well-known device for 'lifting and separating'. The great moment arrives, step to the

front . . . Carol Haggerty, complete with peacock feather and satin, a monument to womanhood (she doesn't dress like that at work unfortunately).

So, the prizes presented and a chance to take a breather, once again to the dance floor. Amidst the flickering candles the intermittent glare of Graham Watkins' camera flash, an everlasting record of the evenings entertainment.

At the stroke of midnight the last dying notes of Albert's band can be heard mingling with the farewells and good-nights.

A special thanks to John Wilson, Albert Charles, Angela Robson and Pete Bosley (complete with broken wrist) for adding their artistic touch to a good night out.

JOHN MORRALL



MINIATURE DARTMOOR WALK

The park of Sutton Coldfield has been described as a miniature Dartmoor. It has certainly, by the strict terms of the famous Royal Charter, remained a rare example of English countryside, virtually unchanged for hundreds of years. The park, consisting of 2,400 acres, was acquired by Bishop Vesey for the townfolk in 1528.

In Mercian days, the area was part of a great chase for hunting. A lodge called Southtun was built on Maney Hill on the edge of Colfield (i.e. the field on the hill).

Sutton Market was established early in the 14th Century by Guy de Beauchamp, then resident of The Manor House. (This was a spacious Norman building just above Wyndley Pool). About 100 years later, the house was let to Sir Ralph Bracebridge who, to cultivate fish, built the dam of the pool now bearing his name. Likewise, in the reign of Henry VI John Holte, Keeper of the Chase, constructed Keepers Pool for Lenten fish. However, the saddest desecration was in 1871. There was a plan by the Midland Railway to connect its line with the South Staffordshire Coalfield, the track was to dissect the park. Despite

much opposition, the Bill passed through the House of Commons on the promise of cheap coal.

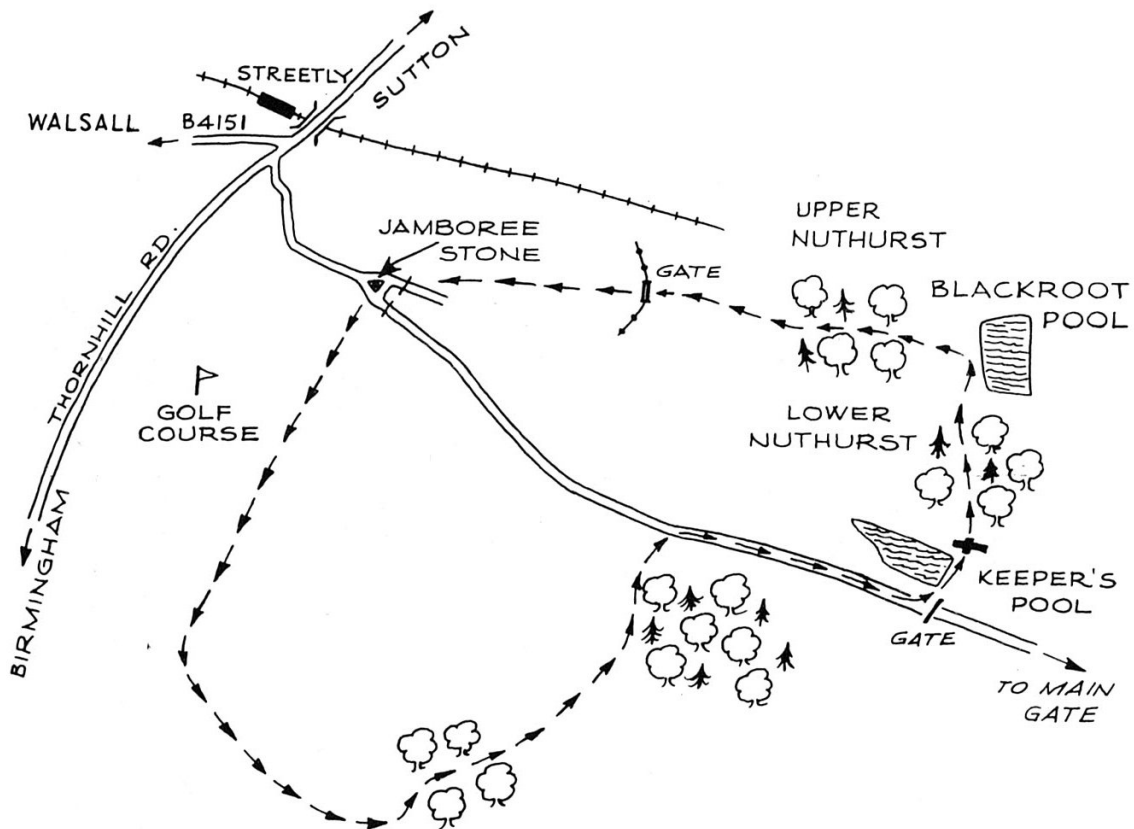
Another chapter on the history of the park was unfolded during 1974 when Sutton and its Chase were amalgamated with Birmingham.

If you wish to appreciate all the beauty of this miniature Dartmoor, then take a short walk.

Enter the park at the Streetly entrance and park at the Jubilee Stone. Take the track to the right of the gated roads. Proceed along this path and then turn left along a freshly made track excavated through the bracken during the summer as a fire break. Bearing left once more and with a steady climb, pass through a small coppice. On reaching the road turn right and proceed to Keeper's Pool, along the dam, over the stile and through the leaf carpeted Lower Nuthurst woodland to Blackroot Pool. Do not walk over the dam but follow the path bearing left up a steady incline through Upper Nuthurst.

On passing through the gate, follow the path which bears slightly left to emerge back at the Scouts' Jamboree Stone after about 1½ hours walking.

ALAN CARTWRIGHT
Wood Green



WELCOME

to newcomers who have joined us since December.

Burton :

SUSAN BROWN, telephonist
PAT SOUTHERD, clerical assistant

Head Office :

CLIVE BATEMAN, clerical assistant
VIVIEN JONES, tracer
JOYCE KETLAND, canteen assistant
KAREN OWEN, junior clerical assistant

Walsall :

MICHAEL RYAN, trainee operative

Tipton :

GEORGE PATTERSON, trenchman

Wednesbury :

DAVID WATTS, painter
DENNIS WOODS, painter
BILL YARNALL, painter

RETIREMENTS

Best wishes for many years of happy retirement go to :

GEORGE GOODE, electrical assistant at Burton.

FRED SAWYER, trunk mains inspector at Walsall.

Both of whom retired at the end of January.

MICHAEL ANDREWS

Michael Andrews left the Secretary's Department at the end of January to join our sister water company East Worcestershire as their new Company Secretary.

Having joined South Staffs 13 years ago, Michael spent many of those early years studying accountancy, qualifying as a Member of the Association of Certified Accountants.

His years of study and application certainly paid off when as one of 38 applicants he applied for the post at East Worcester.

Michael was given a warm send off by his colleagues who presented him with a Waterman pen and a cheque, with which he intended to purchase a tape-deck.

It is with sadness that we learnt from Tipton District Inspector, Dennis Borley, of the death of Walter Winwood's wife, May. Walter, who featured on the cover of News Review October 1975, retired as the last cycling waterman in May 1975. Our deepest sympathy goes to him and his family.

HOBBIES EXHIBITION

The Social Club propose to hold an exhibition in May in the Canteen where employees can show off their hobbies.

We know that we have model makers, painters, map makers, cooks, musicians, collectors, embroiderers, gardeners, soft toy makers, but there must be many we do not know about.

All employees who have a hobby and who would be prepared to display them in the Head Office Canteen on a Friday evening or Saturday afternoon in May are asked to contact Doreen Nash, Admin. Department at Head Office. Ring her up or drop her a note.

Don't be shy. Novices and experts will be equally welcome.

WHOOPS !



With commiserations to the Editor
of New Civil Engineer.

THE TRUNK MAIN WIZARD

On 31st January, 1977, another of our long serving, well-known colleagues retired after 49 yrs 2½ mths.

He is Fred Sawyer from the Three Spires City of Lichfield.

One has to go back to the 7th November, 1927, when Fred first started, at Sandfields, working for 12s. 6d. per week as a General Factotum cleaning filters, brasses and making the occasional visits to Stowe Minster Pool and Hanch Reservoir for sample tests.

In 1936 he was transferred to Walsall Depot to work in one of the mainlaying gangs. In order to start work at 7.30 a.m.



Fred was first required to cycle the 11 miles from Lichfield to Walsall and woe-betide anyone who was late.

With the gathering of War clouds, Seedy Mill's final borehole connection was made and, in the uneasy 'peace', Fred found himself working on the Fradley Aerodrome for the Ministry.

Promotion now came and Fred was once again transferred back to Lichfield to carry out Waterman's Duties on a cycle. No mean task when one realizes that the area covered parts of Burton, Cannock, Walsall and Sutton which all surrounded the then Council controlled City Water Department of Lichfield.

However, good fortune shone on Fred and the Company bought several motor cycles with side-cars, one of which Fred was allowed to use. During this period a certain meter had to be read at Whittington Barracks, where the American Army were in camp and, according to Fred, a

big burly Sergeant realised this too and insisted that he be transported regularly in the side-car to Lichfield for the evening's entertainment.

Reorganisation of the Company's boundaries once again found Fred, now on four wheels, transferred yet again to Walsall Depot, this time as Trunk Mains Inspector. This was when, between 1960 and 1977, his vast experience began to show. The friendly advice to all levels of Management when the chips were down was always available.

To Fred the highlight of his varied career was when with other members of the Company's staff, he was presented to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, at the opening of Blithfield Reservoir.

Now that retirement is here Fred and his wife are to fulfil a life long ambition to visit relations in Canada during the summer of 1977.

On behalf of all his friends throughout the Company and in particular the Staff at Walsall, we wish him and his wife a long and happy retirement.

G. G. BLUNDY

NALGO NEWS

Following the resignation of the previous Branch Chairman, the executive committee elected Alan Baker of E.M.D. as the new Chairman.

The results of a referendum held at Head Office showed that 80% of the staff wish to continue with flexible working hours, accepting that the scheme must involve the use of time recording clocks.

The national overtime ban proposed by a special conference of NALGO is due to take effect from 1st April 1977. Preliminary details have been received from national headquarters and after consultation with the Company, a statement will be communicated to members as soon as possible.

The Government White Paper on the reorganisation of the Water Industry is now expected to be published in April. Recent events in Parliament have hopefully demonstrated the disenchantment of members in the all too frequent guillotining of debate on important issues. Let us hope that, having learned a lesson, the Government will allow full and frank debate on the White Paper which is so important to us all.

COMPETITION

Tipton Area Office

Dear Mr. Editor,

In answer to criticisms about lack of articles, etc., emanating from Tipton Area Office, I enclose a peace offering which may help to fill up the competition page of the next News Review. In addition to the £5 first prize offered by the review, may I suggest that the winner be given the opportunity to buy me a drink in a pub of his or her choosing!

Incidentally, is there any truth in the rumour that the distribution of the October News Review was delayed 'til after the closing date of the competition so as to avoid having to fork out the £5 prize money?

ROGER H. MORGAN
(No. 1 Critic)

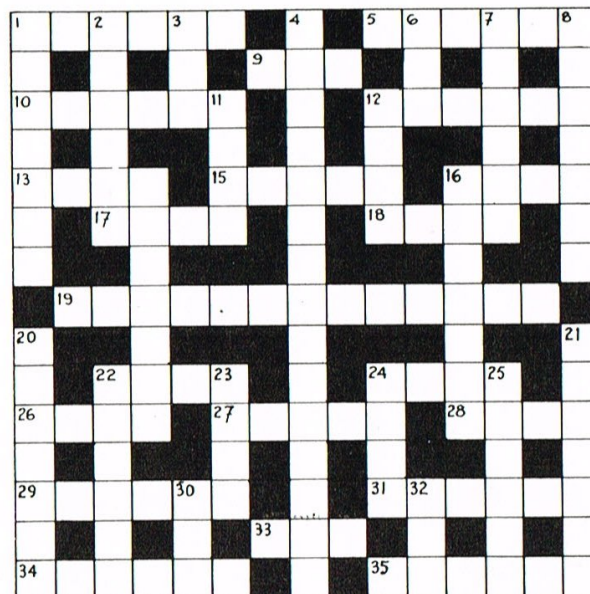
Across

1. Tiptoe, but change direction in the end for a local Venice. (6)
5. Really a difficult job providing an outside meal. (6)
9. Not backward in weighing up problems! (3)
10. Entertain the king; the one who does it. (6)
12. Wood Green having lost a little reverse energy becomes slow. (6)
13. Quiet number one step. (4)
15. The Government discourages it, but the Company has to do it all the same. (3, 2)
16. Small Brother wandering around Northern city of Czechoslovakia. (4)
17. Does to stand at it relieve pain? (4)
18. They see sound agreement in the Commons. (4)

19. Chemically speaking, the nucleus of the Company. (10, 3)
22. A cold author? (4)
24. Difficult animals? (4)
26. The way to Tipperary. (4)
27. Singular part of a meal, onerous though it may be. (5)
28. Northern health! (4)
29. I'm Alan, a mixed up being! (6)
31. Horse gone out; possibly for this drink. (3, 3)
33. Not the gross catch. (3)
34. The good man lied when disturbed, but was put down nonetheless. (6)
35. A well suited area. (6)

Down

1. Somewhat heavier footed than 13. (7)
2. A quiet measure? Far from it! (6)
3. The numerical value of 30. (3)
4. Where the electricity is used at 1? (8, 7)
6. A Japanese sash worn upside down by an African tribe. (3)
7. The bottoms of damaged drains. (6)
8. Where Fred is chased? (7)
11. It never misses a trick in India. (4)
12. What to do after washing. (4)
14. Engrain revision for reward. (7)
16. Calls for the wind, instrument. (7)
20. Control the area. (7)
21. A ring of knowledge and the light source that produces it. (7)
22. Not the fastest types of 29. (6)
23. Place where Etonians hold a ball. (4)
24. Partially conceded as the best. (4)
25. Alpine insect used for bun preparation. (4, 2)
30. Service that just can't be touched. (3)
32. An antelope now heard in Scotland? (3)



ENTRIES TO THE
EDITOR PLEASE
BY MAY 1st.

SPORTS REPORT

Last autumn some employees of SSWW thought that the NALGO competition challenge should be met, with the result that SSWW entered three events, namely darts, table tennis and badminton.

As a result of this, notices appeared on boards and names were appended thereto. Although this was a NALGO inspired competition, it was never intended to exclude non-NALGO members in our preliminary meetings, although only NALGO members could compete in the competition.

However, with full support from our new Social Club Committee, internal competitions for darts and table tennis have been started and racket-carrying types have been seen as far afield as Oak Park Recreation Centre, Walsall Wood, where badminton courts have been booked followed by a pleasant dip in the pool, and out into the snow, ice and rain again.

As a result of these various comings and goings, I have pleasure in reporting the following:-

Darts

Your darts team, namely Messrs. Brian Morrall, Brian Walker, Ron Rainbow and Les Bailey defeated Nuneaton and West Midland Transport, losing to Warwickshire in the quarter finals.

Table Tennis

Having stirred the embers of a once strong sport at SSWW, we produced a team able to beat a strong Wolverhampton side, but unfortunately not strong enough to beat last year's winners — Warwickshire.

Players were Andy Meadows, Geoff Thomason, Terry McAllister and John Wilson.

Badminton

Members of the badminton group so far are:- Margaret Harris, Jane Pettitt, Bron Thurston, Ruth Wyke, Chris Hollis, Alan Lander, Terry McAllister, John Morrall, Steve Russell and John Wilson.

This is why lines suddenly appeared on the canteen floor, we thought before our canteen became utterly modernised that it could be put to good use. Unfortunately the roof was much too low for good badminton, but it served a useful purpose of gathering together a small group of players and also enabled one of our more statesman-like persons to give us a demonstration, braces at the dangle, of how the game should be played (or was it when gamesmanship should be used). Anyway we were grateful. Thank you, R.J.W.

In the NALGO competition we beat both Tamworth and Stafford before rushing up the motorway one very wet evening in January to be defeated by Newcastle. Unfortunately Steve Russell could not play in this match due to a broken leg (football) but he travelled with us. Thanks for the support, Steve, but hope to see you playing again soon.

In conclusion, I think the effort was justified by two of our teams reaching the quarter final stage.

Also the Social Club have arranged a Darts and Table Tennis Competition which has just started, but it's not too late to enter now. Badminton — one or two friendly matches are being arranged.

ANYONE INTERESTED IN THE ABOVE, PLEASE CONTACT THE ASSISTANT EDITOR, BRON THURSTON.

JOHN WILSON

24th February 1977.

FOOTBALL — SSWW, FC

At long last our league performance has hit a high note of consistency. During the past three months the team has only lost two league matches out of nine. This is reflected in our position in the league, a never-before-achieved second (see league table).

Why the sudden change? — Goals! Thirty-one in nine games. At long last our previously much maligned forward line is scoring goals galore!

Hopefully, this consistency will remain with us for our final six league matches, though an improvement on second place is too much to expect, consolidation of this position is our aim, this will then lead to our most successful season to date.

Sat. Div. 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pleck	13	11	0	2	50	16	22
S.S.W.W.	14	9	2	3	42	29	20
Strollers	9	8	1	0	30	9	17
Harden	11	7	2	2	44	14	16
Birlec	11	7	1	3	32	21	15
Saints A	13	7	1	5	32	24	15
But. Al.	14	6	1	7	26	23	13
J.F. Al.	16	4	1	11	28	74	9
Bell	12	4	1	7	31	31	9
W/Watson	12	1	0	11	17	43	2
F. Seasons	14	0	0	14	12	66	0

JOHN MORRALL

(How about some news from 'Waterworks United' F.C. the Burton club? — Ed.)