Leavesden Hospital Newsheet

CHRISTMAS EDITION

DEC 1987

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem. Come and behold Him, born the King of angels; O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above. Glory to God in the highest, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord. WI54 You CAROLS



EDITORIAL TEAM



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Mr. J. Brewer	6 - 184
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Mr. J. Edwards

Mrs. T. Mills



The Editorial staff hope you will enjoy the last edition of Contact for 1987 and would like to thank all those who, by their contributions, have helped to make the magazine a success.

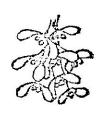
We hope to get the first 1988 edition published early in the New Year and look forward to receiving your comments, articles, letters, etc.

"Habit is the enemy of growth and awareness"

Ted Simon

WISHING ALL OUR READERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!





COMPETITION

COLOUR THE PICTURE ON THE NEXT PAGE AND RETURN IT

TO THE EDITOR, TOGETHER WITH THE SLIP BELOW, BY

FRIDAY - 18th DECEMBER 1987

THREE PRIZES ARE BEING GIVEN FOR THE BEST ENTRIES

NAMES OF WINNERS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT EDITION OF CONTACT



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O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem. come and behold Him, born the King of angels; O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above. Glory to God in the highest, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.



FROM THE HOSPITAL MANAGER





In this issue of "Contact", I want to write about first impressions.

You will all have noticed the improvements to the Main Reception Area. I hope you will agree that it is a change for the better! Somehow the entrance was very bleak, and gave a general feeling of neglect. Leavesden is going to be an important part of the service for people with a mental handicap for a number of years yet, and it's important that we present the right impression to people visiting the Hospital, so a "face-lift" seemed appropriate. Fortunately, some money was available from last year's underspendings, and so I decided to plough it into This was a difficult decision to take, as I am only too aware that there are many other parts of the Hospital which need money, but the benefit of "doing up" Reception is not purely cosmetic, as it is also a means to enable the desk to be manned more constantly than it has been, which will facilitate people collecting their post, and will help when visitors arrive, as they can be directed to where I am immensely grateful to the staff and residents they want to go. in the Day Care Departments who have provided us with such interesting the people at Brambles have made a things for the display cabinet; Thank you magnificent collage, which really brightens up the area. all.

Another aspect of first impressions is the name of the Hospital. I would therefore value your comments about the possibility of changing "Leavesden Hospital" to something else. Several people have mentioned this to me – nurses, doctors and other staff. What do you think?

Mental handicap hospitals in general have acquired rather a bad name over the years, and as the whole ethos of the Hospital has been changing in recent times, I wonder whether a change of name would help to change people's perception of the place.

During the course of some recent interviews, this subject came up. One of the nurses being interviewed suggested – out of the blue – that we should drop "Hospital" and substitute "Rehabilitation Unit". Another idea is to replace "Hospital" with "Residential and Rehabilitation Unit".









A further suggestion has been put forward, that we should have an even more radical change, and should alter the "Leavesden" part to something different. It has been proposed that we should use the name of a resident to the title. The person who wrote to me on this subject said "I think that it should be the name of a resident because that would indicate our acceptance of their importance, and right to be accepted by society. To put in the name of a famous mental handicap doctor/nurse/manager/benefactor would somehow emphasise the importance of people who aren't mentally handicapped. I would suggest the person whose name is used is dead, and that he or she is not famous or particularly successful. Perhaps the name of the first patient ever admitted, or the one who lived the longest?"

Please let me know your views about the idea of changing the name. If it is something that together we decide is worthwhile, I will then take the matter through the various stages of consultation with the Health Authority.

While we're on the subject of naming things, I have been asked to give some thought to re-titling the Male and Female Corridors. Whilst appreciating that some of our residents, having been here a very long time, will persist in calling them by those names, the labels are both inaccurate and somehow sound like a legacy from another era. One suggestion I have had is to link the new names in with the "subject matter" of the names of the wards in the corridors - for example, Garden Row or Bird Walk. What do you think?

Furthermore, we have a naming problem about the roads in the Hospital grounds. As many of you will know, Brent House and Sunnyside will shortly be re-furbished, ready for some residents to move into. Also, the flats and the house in the Drive will be opening in the New Year: they too will need a full address if visitors are ever to find their way around our vast site. We want to re-do the map of the Hospital to help visitors and new staff, and so this seems an appropriate moment to be thinking about naming the roads.

PLEASE let me know some bright ideas! We shall offer a Gift Token to each person who submits a name that is adopted - so suggestions,







please (preferably not too facetious!) for new names for:-

- a) The Female Corridor
- b) The Male Corridor
- c) The road with Brent House and Sunnyside in it
- d) The Drive both the part where Voluntary Services used to be, and
- e) The part where John Gallagher and Mario Re's offices used to be.

5 gift tokens are waiting to be handed over - I look forward to receiving your ideas.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you a very happy Christmas. I have heard a great deal about how wonderful Christmas is at Leavesden, and I much look forward to my first Christmas here.

Thank you for all you have done to make my first six months here so interesting and enjoyable; I look forward to building on the foundations of these first few months in 1988. Happy New Year, too!





Jane Reynolds









A LETTER TO THE HOSPITAL MANAGER

Dear Miss Reynolds,

We were most amused to read your two contradictory statements in the last issue of the Contact Magazine when you asked for people to write and tell you about trivial binding rules imposed to the detriment of residents. Are you trying to turn us all into potential ramblers? Perhaps if you place a mattress either side of the closed gate, more bruises, cuts and grazes could have been prevented.

The hospital shop closes on a Monday for stock-taking. surely one of the busiest days of the week and when closed means that the resident have to go to the shop across the road for their daily Surely we could have fought for a pedestrian smokes, sweets, etc. Problems aren't solved by locking - the problem is the road. crossing. Could something be done to reduce the speed of the traffic along College Road in order that our residents and staff may cross the road safely? We are sure you've been told about that futile campaign - the trivial binding fact is that "ten normally have to die on the road before a Pelican crossing is even considered". Isn't it about time we fought for the right for residents to be considered by the authorities as people? The main factor is that we are trying to train people to live normal Residents cannot go into the lives and road safety is part of it. Community searching for tunnels in order to cross roads. How many subways are there in Watford, Abbots Langley or Hemel Hempstead?

We feel that you have not thought this idea through and have done the residents a disservice.

From a group of dedicated Nurses

ADDENDUM:

Miss Reynolds intends to write about the gate in the next issue of "Contact" following the planned evaluation of the benefits (or otherwise) of it's closure.

With regard to the closure of the hospital shop for stock-taking, she has asked Mr. Humphrey to reply. His response will follow in the next issue.







LEAVESDEN CHAPEL OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

11.15 a.m. - 20th December Sunday

- SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

NO AFTERNOON SERVICE

11.15 a.m. - Christmas Day

- SUNG KUCHARIST

11.15 a.m. - 27th December Sunday

- SUNG EUCHARIST

NO AFTERNOON SERVICE

ROMAN CATHOLIC SERVICES

9.30 a.m. - Christmas Day

- MASS

The Chaplain's Thoughts

The Mood for Prayer

Have you noticed that there has been a lot of movement in the hospital lately? Have you noticed that a lot of people have been uptight about moving offices, wards and departments.

I have tried to pass on the message to those people concerned to "pray hard about it" to obtain some peace of mind but it has been difficult even for me to catch the right mood for prayer.

Many of us wait until we "feel right" before we start to pray.

We excuse ourselves from prayer sessions if we feel a little "down" and turn away from God because we're unhappy - or perhaps a little off colour. We shut God out because we are driven frantic by external pressures.

The most common temptation, perhaps, is to postpone prayer until we have got through all those other niggling essential things that might distract us if we tried to ignore them.

It sounds like an admirable idea, but the postponment tends to become indefinite. We never actually get round to praying because we never finish all those other things.

The truth is that the mood for prayer is not one that comes naturally upon us. We have to seize the slightest opportunity. If this opportunity occurs when we are sick and angry and someone is missing, then we should take it.



The Chaplain's Thoughts (Cont'd)

God likes sick and angry prayers because they tend to be more honest than carefully thought out praise and petitions. They are also more likely to receive a swift and obvious response. Like naive children, we try to put on our best behaviour for God - as if he didn't know us from top to bottom.

It is not surprising that he is delighted when we turn to him in our sickness, anger, pain, irritation and depression. He knows these things happen and we feel like that, and he wants to deal with it.

He can only deal with it if we come to him openly - when we don't feel like praying.

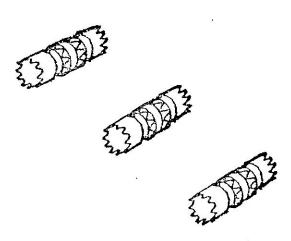
Denying ourselves by waiting for a period of equanimity is no good at all.

Roman Catholic News

We welcome to our chapel and to the hospital, Father Danny Burns, who has joined us from Southwark.

You will no doubt see him around the hospital visiting and at the Chapel Services. Please make him feel at home and we wish him every blessing in his work here.

Fr. George Mead Hospital Chaplain



OBITUARY

MRS ANNE LIVINGSTONE

It is with great sadness that we record the death on November 23rd of Mrs. Anne Livingstone, Senior Radiographer of Leavesden X-ray Department, after a long illness, bravely borne.

Anne, married, with a grown up family was known and loved by staff and patients alike for her caring attitude and help so freely given over 17 years of service. Anne was a unique character and will be sorely missed by us all.

"What we are to others, God will be to us". CHS.

Although flowers were sent by the hospital, should anyone wish to make their own donation in memory of Anne, it will be given to the Scanner Appeal at Watford General Hospital. Donations should be sent to Mrs. B. Simkins, Radiographer, X-ray Dept., Leavesden Hospital.

ANNE

During the time I have worked in the hospital (about 8 years) I have seen Anne out and about round the corridors. In all that time, I can truthfully say, I never saw her looking miserable or unhappy. She was always cheerful and always spoke, wishing me Good Morning and exchanging a few words. I can't say I was a great friend of hers but to me, she was a nice lady, (she X-rayed my arm once when I thought it was broken, to save me the trouble of having to go to Watford General) and as mentioned above was always very helpful and kind.

I shall miss seeing her walking around and dashing off in her funny little car.

Wherever she is, I wish her well!

Anon.

VOLUNTARY SERVICES' NEWS





CHRISTMAS

Though we raised less money at the Fete this year, we are still giving each ward a £40 Voucher for Christmas. Our thanks to all who helped at the Fete and we hope that next year we can raise even more money and thus increase the value of the Voucher next Christmas.

VOLUNTARY SERVICES

For those new to Leavesden (or those who can't find us), we have moved to new offices in the basement beneath Kingfisher Ward, though our telephone numbers have remained the same.

For those who are new to Leavesden, we felt that an outline of the service and function of the Voluntary Services Department would be helpful.

There are four staff members in the department - Full-time Co-ordinator, Full-time Deputy Co-ordinator, Parttime Assistant and Part-time Secretary.

We interview all potential volunteers and try to make sure that a good working relationship with the volunteer, resident and staff is established. Referrals that we receive from the wards for volunteers are advertised on the notice board in the entrance of the department for visitors to see and when appropriate in the "Time on your Hands" column Many volunteers in the local paper. are also recruited from the friends and families of existing volunteers.

We are also on the C.V.S. list of speakers and go out to clubs etc., talking about life at Leavesden. A lot of voluntary help etc. comes to us from those visits.

All volunteers are given a booklet about mental handicap and some of its causes, a quidebook and a badge. We have also issued to all wards and "HOW3 departments, a quidebook on to make the most of your Volunteer".



We hope that all staff will read this booklet, we have extra copies in the department for those who have not read the one that should be on each ward and department.

The requests we receive for pieces of equipment etc., from fish tank filters, hair dryers, special medical aids to Parker Baths and electric irons, are kept on file in the department and when money becomes available we purchase the articles required, but remember that <u>all</u> the money that we spend has to be raised We have from voluntary sources. no budget from the Health Service, so we have to rely heavily on your help with our fund raising efforts by asking you to help in any way you can and also spreading the word among friends, relatives and This is the only way neighbours. we can advertise ourselves without going to great expense.

We also have a link with local schools and colleges, Garston, Watford, Kings Langley, Hemel Hempstead and Elstree areas. pupils come for between one and Those on work two hours a week. experience are here for a much longer period; many of our staff are recruited from these pupils. We know that these visits are gradually managing to change for the better some of the attitudes of these young people and their friends and relatives towards those of us with a mental handicap.

We ensure that flowers are sent to the funerals of residents without relatives and we also attend many of the funerals.

The clothing etc. which is very regularly donated, is sorted in the department and as far as we are able, sent to the appropriate Some of this is also places. stored and sold at the Friends and Relatives Bazaar and the annual Summer Fete.

ANY

Voluntary Services' News (Cont'd)

Each Sunday from the end of November and through December up to Christmas, we attend 15 Church Gift Services. The gifts we receive from these services are distributed among the wards and departments in addition to the cash voucher.

We hope this article will not only interest you but will inspire you to help us to look after our volunt-eers who regularly give us their time and their money asking nothing in return, beyond being of help to all of us.

* * * * * * * * * *

FATHER CHRISTMAS COSTUME

Please can you book your Father Christmas costume as soon as possible, with the Voluntary Services Department. You will have to collect them either from the department or the ward or department who used it before you. This, you will be told, nearer the date of your booking. We only have three outfits, so a lot of juggling is usually needed.

We made washable beards for hygenic reasons. Please wash the beard. We ask you please to hang the costume up so as not to crease it and return it in a clean condition. You wouldn't like to wear something soiled!



Happy Christmas!!!

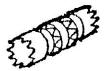
Voluntary Services Department















THE CRITICI! I



Hellow! I'm Hon. Dogs. Bod (Trinity College, Oxford) and I am the one as wot is going to critic the things wot goes in the "Contact" mag.

As I am the one as does a lot of the typing of this stuff, I think I am the one as can critic it.

At the present time, I think as wot there is a lot of sad and sorry stuff in it. Nobody seems to want to laff any more and everybody seems to want to write stuff that is sad. I think as wot there should be something more happy in the mag. like "Wiffin the Wizard" and "Playgirl mag." I liked the thing wot the engineers rote (I could understand that as it was rote proper).

As you can see, I also had plenty of college and got sum degreas in english and riting and things, so I can rite some good stuff.

Ennyway, as I said before, I am going to critic things so you had better wotch out wot you rite and do it good.

As you all know, it's nearly Xmas (I hope as how you have all got your pay rise by now. Sum peeple don't seem to care if we got money to spend at Xmas or not) and I hope as wot you all got your Xmas shopping by now.

Ennyway, as this is my first bit of riting for the mag. I will make it pritty short so you wont get fed up with reeding it and I will be criticing proper later on (Bernard Levin wont have nothing on me when I gets started proper and I bet half of you dont even know who he is!!)

See you in the Noo yeear.

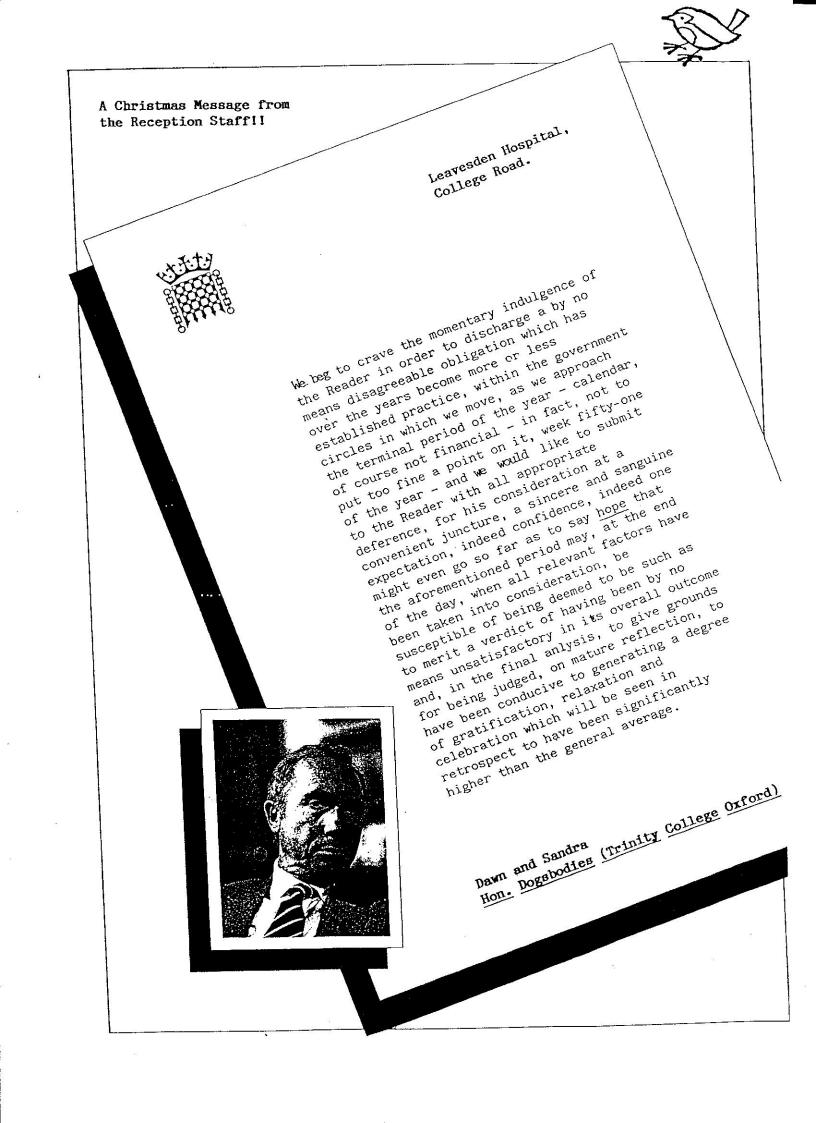
Hon. Dogs. Bod. (Trinity College, Oxford (Or is it Cambridge?))

P.S. I cant critic ennything in the last two mags. becos I didd'nt reed them proper (I got a bit fed up cos my brain was overworked trying to reed things like "humanism and utopitarian" (wot does all that mean?)











The following poem was taken from a book of poems called

"REFLECTIONS IN VERSE" by Doreen Jones

Doreen Jones was a farmer's wife from a place called TREFNANNEY in mid-Wales who died after suffering a long time with cancer. During her illness she committed many of her last years to this collection of poetry. The proceeds from the book all go to Cancer Research.

A GREY SQUIRREL 29th JANUARY 1983

I stood by my sitting room window this morning after breakfast was done, and from among the sheep on the field I watched a grey squirrel come. Where was he going, I wondered, as he zigzagged up to the bungalow and so I waited to see which way he would decide to go.

He paused at the edge of the lawn, but when he caught sight of me he turned to his left and made off quite suddenly. Was he hungry, I wondered and went to the back door to find that the thought of food that morning had never entered his mind.

He darted across the lawn
'till he came to its other edge
then ran its entire length
in the shelter of the hedge.
He seemed in an awful hurry
perhaps he had made a date
and like the white rabbit in Alice
his watch had said he was late.

But whatever his reason
on his journey he was intent
for when he came to the gate in the field
through it he went.
An he bounded up the road
in the direction of Penllyn
but when he went over the brow of the hill
I saw him no more.

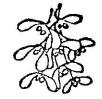
He barely said "Good morning" ...
before he said "Goodbye"
and he left me all the ponderables where from, where to and why?

Published and printed by P.S. Llanfyllin (0691 84) 375.. Llanymynech(0691) 830067..

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WHAT A WIND

WHAT A HEADACHE



A few weeks ago we had a night of very strong winds that created distruction and havoc all over the South of England.

Leavesden did not escape the wind. The groundsmen were up and about from 2am trying to repair and clear away the effects of the wind, the wind as we know was on this occasion the winner.

The damage done to the telephones and the electric supply was extensive throughout the Hospital, yet the only building that was hit was Brambles Unit, (see below) it was found with a tree through its roof, causing extensive damage to the room and hallway.

The roof and the wall were both badly damaged which led to the rain getting in causing the extra damage.

Praise must go to all the Services in the Hospital that acted so quickly in doing the repairs etc so that the Unit was only closed for a mere two weeks.

My thanks also go to the nursing staff from Brambles that found themselves having to work under awkward circumstances for the time of the repairs.



John G. Edwards



THE LITTLE GATE

I understand that it has been brought to the attention of one of the Unions that I have been watching staff climb the closed little gate. I have to admit that it is true and I will explain why later.

In 1985 there were a large number of residents involved in RTA's or near misses on College Road. I have attended cases immediately after accidents and seen those that have survived as they struggle to return, often unsuccessfully, to normal after they came Because of my concern, I made a list of the residents who had been injured by ringing around all the wards and asking long standing staff including the gate porters, the names of those I was then able they could remember. to confirm the details by checking the resident's notes.

The list showed that although more incidents took place outside the main gate, a significant number took place outside the little gate and that one resident had been killed there. fact it was only three weeks before the little gate was closed that Dennis Palmer was crossing and decided that he would turn and talk to someone behind when he was halfway across and a car coming down the hill very nearly When Management recently hit him. asked me what measure could be taken to reduce the number of residents who were being injured, I repeated suggestion I had made two years ago; namely to close the little gate. very much regret the inconvenience this must be for the staff who find this exit useful - were I in their. position, I would find it a very great In my defence, pain in the neck. at the same time I suggested an alternative gate be created in the top most corner of that boundary (past Jasmine) to facilitate access to Abbots Langley.

As a doctor, it is my job to save lives or at least relieve suffering and preventative medicine is very much the modern way of practising. I am not a member of management, and the reason I have watched people climbing the gate is pure (shameful) curiosity. It is the residents I am paid to look after - the staff can enter and exit the hospital by Arriane rocket as far as I am concerned (but if they do, don't expect me not to watch).

One last point; we have a record of past RTA's. If we find the incidents rising clearly, we will have to discover why and then make recommendations so that Management can put it right. I think that closing the little gate will lead to the use of the tunnel becoming second nature to all but the very few, most stubborn residents; and as a result, in there will be fewer incidents at the main gate as well.

Dr. P.L. Hall







Leavesden says "Thank you" to Sister Jordan and How!!



It is with disgust that I report the lack of response to Sister Jordan's retirement party.

Firstly, the party was arranged 3 weeks after Sister's date of leaving so she had to return to say goodbye.

When she did return, there was a massive turnout of 22 people to wish her well. Included in this number were 2 Services Managers and 3 Support Services Officers.

There was no representative from District; mind you, Sister Jordan had only done 30 years here and was after all, only a Ward Sister.

Not like another farewell party I went to recently! This particular person had only been here 3 and a bit years and was well above a mere Sister. The place was so top heavy, you could not park your push-bike outside for Volvo's, Mercedes and Rolls Royces.

I wonder if the elite brigade was notified of the 30 years' service of Sister Jordan as I know that many areas in the hospital knew of the retirement party only after the event.

Do not worry Sister Jordan, the people that matter all wished you well even though we be the menials, that is, your ward colleagues, your friends and your residents.

Good luck to you

THIRTY YEARS AT LEAVESDEN

In September 1957, a young snip of a girl arrived at Leavesden from Barbados to devote her life to working for the Mentally Handicapped, firstly as an assistant nurse.

It was not long before this young lady decided to make nursing a career and took up nurse training in April 1958.

Having qualified in Leavesden, Sister Jordan then went on to register as a General Nurse returning to Leavesden in 1965. From 1968 she was promoted to Sister, Sister Jordan has taken charge of many wards; Magnolia, Cedar and Sycamore.

Sister Jordan always gave of her best for her residents and the residents were all the better for her presence.

You will be sadly missed by the residents for whom you cared, Sister Jordan, and best wishes go to you from the people who loved you, for a long and happy retirement.

John G. Edwards







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A THANK YOU MESSAGE

MRS. PERLINE MACFARLANE WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE FOR THEIR CARDS, LETTERS AND FLOWERS SENT TO HER DURING HER RECENT ILLNESS. SHE IS AT HOME NOW AND ALL YOUR KIND THOUGHTS, ETC. ARE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.





CONGRATULATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENT NURSES WHO HAVE JUST PASSED THEIR STATE FINAL EXAMINATION:

CAROL ATTWOOD

KATE DALTON

NOREEN O'CONNELL

DONNA SHELLEY

CAROLE WEEKS

WELL DONE! FROM ALL THE STAFF AT THE SCHOOL OF NURSING







34 Years as a Voluntary Helper

I've been attached to V.S. for 34 years now, doing the first Red Cross trolley with a great lady Mrs. Ruth Cannon. How the years fly by; I've seen such a lot of changes.

I've been doing the flower arrangeing in the House of the Good Shepherd for many a year now. My first time in the chapel was with John What a great man he Robbins. He always put others before It was a special day himself. for me when I went to John to see what he wanted. John said to me "Joan I have not got time to do Can you do the flowers today. Of course, I said them for me? but I don't know much about how to do them. Well just put them in the vases that are around. That will be alright" said John. The flowers were brought up on a trolley there were so many of I wondered what I had let muself in for. I still carried on and did my best. It took me a good three hours before the task was complete. 7 p.m. that same night, I got a 'phone call from John Robbins saying how pleased he was with the flowers and asking me if it was possible for me to It is now do them every week. 1987 and I still have the job of doing the flowers for the House of the Good Shepherd.

The last two years of doing the flowers I have had the help of Mrs. Maureen Brown. We now do 38 settings for the church between us, this on a Friday. If there is a special occasion, we do many more settings and can be there for 2 or 3 days.

I must tell you what happened to me the other day. It started when my husband passed away in February When making arrangeof this year. ments for his cremation, the undertaker was talking of the old times and what used to happen and what he did in his spare time. Cooking was his favourite pastime and bread pudding his favourite dish. son said that I made this every week once, but not any more, so Mr. M.G. said he would make one and bring This is what happened today. it up. I had had a restless night and did not get up until I heard the doorbell ring. I gingerly got out of bed, looked out of the window and to my amazement, there was a hearse outside my house and Mr. M.G. was getting back in and driving away. How I People thought laughed at this. "he's come for the money she's not paid him for poor old Jim".

When I got down and opened the front door, there was a parcel. Yes, you've guessed it "MY BREAD PUDDING" with a note attached:-

Funeral Directors & Monumental Masons.

With compliments.

AS PROMISED!!!

J.W.H. Welling (Mrs)







THE CONVERSION COURSE - THE STORY SO FAR!!



Those of you reading this article will, I am sure, be saying to yourselves, "about time too!" is to say, this article is long overdue and I can only apologise for the delay that I assure you was not The reason for not intentional. being able to provide any concrete information until now has mainly been due to the fact that over the last year, both the E.N.B. and U.K.C.C. have been issuing new and revised guidelines as to the way in which Conversion Courses may operation. This has meant that the Curriculum Group responsible for developing the Course has had to modify and re-define some vital areas with respect to the organisation of the Course.

The other factor which has delayed the communication of details, is a still yet to be resolved problem of appointing a course tutor. I shall clarify this point further towards the end of this article.

Before I go any further, I thought I might just explain for those people who may not be aware as to what exactly this Conversion Course is all about, Conversion Courses are generally Courses designed to enable people who hold an Enrolled Nurse Qualification to become qualified as a Registered Nurse within their speciality, which in our case is naturally the care of people with a mental handicap.

The need for Conversion Courses in themselves has evolved as a result of the U.K.C.C. proposals for the future pattern of Nurse Education which is laid out in the various documents that have been entitled "Project 2000". One of the fundamental principles of Project 2000 is the creation of a single level for entry into nursing. It is envisaged that

this new care practitioner will "embrace much of the work of the present two levels of nurse". (U.K.C.C. Document PS&D 87/01 -Project 2000 : The Final Proposals). What this means in effect is that the current "two tier" system of Basic Nurse Education i.e. Registered and Enrolled Courses, will eventually be abandoned and replaced by a Foundation Programme for Common all who wish to enter the Nursing Profession and followed by a further Course (Branch Programme) in one of the following Care Specialities: Mental Health, Mental Handicap, Nursing of the Adult and Nursing of the Child.

In moving towards this "Single Level of Nurse" the U.K.C.C. has recommended that "current Enrolled Nurse Training should end at an early date to agreed", alongside of which conversion "a strategy for E.N. arrangements" needs to be adopted. I might add, at this point, that the "Final Proposals" are currently being discussed at Government level and as yet have not been adopted by the Profession. Therefore, please don't go away with the idea that because we have developed a Conversion Course that we necessarthe proposals ily believe that are a foregone conclusion or that proposals we fully support the that are outlined. We, as a team, have many reservations about the proposals and specifically about the cessation of Enrolled Nurse We, as Educationalists Training. have traditionally valued the role of the Enrolled Nurse and if that were not the case, we would not have continued to maintain Enrolled Nurse Courses in the face of a growing National trend to abandon such Courses.



The Conversion Course (Cont'd)



Further to which we have revised, resubmitted and gained approval for a new Enrolled Nurse Course Structure which has been operational since May of this year.

The reasons, therefore, for developing our Conversion Course are threefold.

- To be in the forefront with respect to offering such a Course whether or not the Project 2000 proposals are accepted and implemented.
- 2. To take advantage of the "shorter route" by which Enrolled Nurses may acquire a Registered Nurse Qualification (traditionally such Courses have been approximately 2½ years in length whereas the Conversion course will be 1 year in length).
- 3. To demonstrate our loyalty to Enrolled Nurse (particularly here at Leavesden) in offering an "on site" opportunity to further their professional careers and educational opportunities.

Those of you who hold Enrolled Nurse that Qualifications will recognise the Course you undertook to qualified was chosen because it either your own personal aptitudes or because for one reason or another you did not possess the qualifications to enter a Registered Nurse Course. The Conversion Course, at the end of the day, is designed to develop the Student into a Registered Nurse Practitioner, which means that we must ensure that those people who enter the course the appropriate "qualities" in order to potentially succeed in acquiring that Registration. The qualities referred to are seen to be both personal However, we recognise and academic. that academic ability is not just reflected ed by the possession of strings of 'O' and 'A' Levels, and as such some developed academically have people through opportunities and experience after qualifying as an Enrolled Nurse or through the Enrolled Nurse Course We believe and we know that itself.

there are some people, particularly those that have come through our own courses, that are able to demonstrate this but equally there are many, if not the majority, who have not managed to develop these abilities and may never do so,

In designing our Conversion Course we have tried to ensure that those Enrolled Nurses who are able to their personal demonstrate both and academic ability (regardless of paper qualifications) are provided with the opportunity to potentially be considered to enter the Conversion Nevertheless, it is anticipated that those people who are able to demonstrate these capabilities to the Course Admissions Panel will still be very much a minority. This "fact of life" is recognised fully within the proposals of Project 2000 which stated that "those Enrolled Nurses who will not choose to or be unable to "Convert" should be given the opportunity "to develop expertise to the highest their What this means possible extent". is that if Project 2000 becomes reality all those Enrolled Nurses who are unable for whatever reason to enter Conversion Courses should be provided with opportunities extend anđ enhance to develop, In-Service skills through and Post Basic educational opportunities.

In conjunction with my colleagues in the Continuing Education Department, I have arranged to hold a few Seminars with respect to the specific details regarding our Conversion Course which by the time this is published, I believe, will already have taken place.

In conclusion, I would like to: take this opportunity to try and clear up some apparent confusion that has resulted from the unavoidable delay in providing information that I referred to right at the beginning.

/Cont'd.

The Conversion Course (Cont'd)



Work began in developing the Conversion Course back in the early part of 1986. Following which (as indicated) the "rules of the game" as dictated by both the E.N.B. and U.K.C.C. has changed the way in which such Courses can Many people throughout operate. this period have made both formal and informal enquiries as to their eligibility to enter the course. The majority, if not all, of these enquiries, were made prior to may taking up the position as Senior Tutor. Following taking up my post, I wrote to all those who had made contact with the School of Nursing to indicate what at that time was the situation with respect to the Conversion Course. The situation at this present moment in time is this:-

The Conversion Course received its approval from the E.N.B. in July of The Course has been approved this year. However the to operate from 1988. E.N.B. have stated that courses may not operate until a Scheme Tutor especially for the course has been appointed. Despite advertising widely, up to this point in time, no Tutor has been able to be appointed. fortunately, as a result of this situation, it is almost certain that the Course itself will not be able to commence in April as envisaged. However, if all goes well and an appointment is made soon, then the Course may be able to commence in August Until the Tutor or December 1988. is appointed, there will be no formal interviewing and therefore no applicants offered places until that situation Once we arrive . has been resolved. at this point, I intend to contact all those people on our records who have made enquiries (prior to my taking up my current position) in order to indicate that they were now eligible to make formal application to the Course and be considered alongside candidates. prospective allother

My colleagues and I are acutely aware of the need to establish the Conversion Course as quickly as possible. I

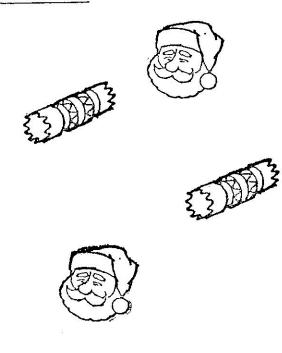
can only reassure currently qualified Enrolled Nurses and those presently undertaking courses that everything possible is being done to make this happen.

In my next article, I propose to present the specific entry requirements and admissions process which would have been presented at the seminars that took place in November. Following this, I shall be looking forward to announcing a firm date for the Course to commence. Thank you for your patience in this matter and the considerable interest shown in the progress of the Course.

David Weinrabe (Senior Tutor, Basic Nurse Education).

On behalf of the teaching team and Curriculum Development Group.

November 1987





DEVELOPMENT PLAN



Since I last wrote we have had tenders in for 2 schemes, the Education Centre (beside Cayford House) and the PDU Complex. The latter includes the Progressive Development Unit, Physical Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy and Both tenders have shown that will be sited on the edge of the cricket field. building costs are rising more rapidly. This has meant that we have had to see what savings could be made on the schemes which would not affect the new This, and the negotiations with Region has obviously created delays, so that work on the Education Centre will not start on site until This scheme has been able to proceed thanks to the beginning of January. We have yet to hear from Region Region providing some additional money. regarding whether they will approve the extra costs of the PDU Complex. With Block 1, some savings have been made and we are currently going out to This has again created delays so work is not likely to start on site until the end of February.

Work is progressing well on the new Dental Department and Clinic and it is hoped that they will be opened in January and that the two houses will be completed and ready for residents by March.

Detailed planning is under way for the Reception and Despatch point (Stores), the new shop and hospital street, the resiting of the Clothing Department and alterations to the Laundry and the new lift between Blocks 1 and 3. In order to provide a cheaper lift in Block 1 which will be quicker to build than the one between Blocks 9 and 11, the new block will have a painted steel finish which is currently very popular in view of its appearance and cost.

Discussions regarding the remaining patient training areas and the new Friendly Leaves are continuing and it is hoped that these will be agreed by the beginning of January. The old main stores is an attractive building situated in the centre of the hospital and with some money spent on it, it will have great potential. Detailed planning on this and the upgrading of Bryony Ward should start in January.

With regard to Springfield School, the current view is that the school should remain where it is. This however will mean that additional transport and escorts will be needed and an application has been made for this additional money.

On the subject of communications, I have, through the year, been meeting with Managers so in addition to these reports you should have been receiving updates from them. There will again be a series of meetings at the beginning of January with staff to update them on the Development Plan so that I hope you will be able to attend these. Finally, if you have any thoughts, ideas or criticisms of the Development Plan, then please let me know, so that we can either make use of your suggestions or explain the reasons behind certain plans.

Hugh Dulley, Unit Project & Development Manager

Internal Telephone 6-104.

27th November 1987



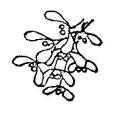


I start wishing people "Happy Christmas" as soon as the I like Christmas. summer holiday is over. I like Santa Claus and Nativity scenes and pantomimes. I even like raffle tickets although I dread winning some of the prizes offered. I like the special foods that never appear at other times of the year - or it they do, appear so strangely out of place that I wonder what they are doing there, except for Christmas puddings that is. Our house is a year long shrine My husband dotes on them and buys them up by the to the Christmas pudding. They appear theregross ("Special Reduced Offer") after Christmas is over. after throughout the year, whatever the occasion, or even without one. used to be quite fond of them but I think I might be tiring of them now. We've got Christmas puddings waiting to be eaten this Christmas that we bought I feel they've become part of the family now. on Boxing Day of last year!! I often see them in the fridge and greet them by name having christened two of them at about Easter time (Chloe and David for those who share our special interest in puddings).

My brother-in-law also delights in Christmas puddings. If he calls, any meal will be a success if a Christmas pudding is involved in it somewhere - preferably with custard. Members of the family know that a pudding will make "that special gift" for him that brings real delight. We all know that those strangely shaped parcels rolling lumpily about under the Christmas tree means that everyone has settled for the same idea once again and he's about to be innundated with another selection of puddings.

Yet, despite the Christmas puddings, I still think that Christmas is a special time. I think Christmas is for people, especially children but animals obviously like the idea too. They were there at the beginning of course, in the stable and the donkey even before that. The reindeer are there as well, with Santa, playing a special part, but I'm a bit cynical about the reindeer. I know if they ever come near my house, they'll knock dozens of slates off the roof and leave piles of reindeer manure on the front lawn. I've been looking out for special anti-reindeer pellets this year to surround the house with and provide an odour sufficiently unpallatable to reindeers to keep them away. Santa can send to me by post as far as I'm concerned which seems to me to be a much more reliable and efficient option and the Post Office doesn't clank about with bells in the middle of the night!

Still, I don't expect to see the reindeer but I know I'll see the dogs. exotically named "Zoe" who we agreed to look after for two weeks four years She is still the same morose and ungrateful dog we ago is still with us. offered our hearts and home to and still shows no signs of becoming cheerful I'm sure if somebody had taken me in in times of stress and and grateful. fed me and cared for me, I would have hinted at appreciation. Not Zoe - she's I can't help admiring her indifference to me and her made of sterner stuff. grudging acceptance of our hospitality. That dog has certainly got character. She's also got a birthday coming up on Boxing Day (15 years old!) and my 5 year old daughter has already made her a lavish birthday cake complete with I don't know what gift is intended but it's sure to cost more than I suggested that we give her a Christmas pudding but I doubt I wanted to pay. if that idea will gain much support!







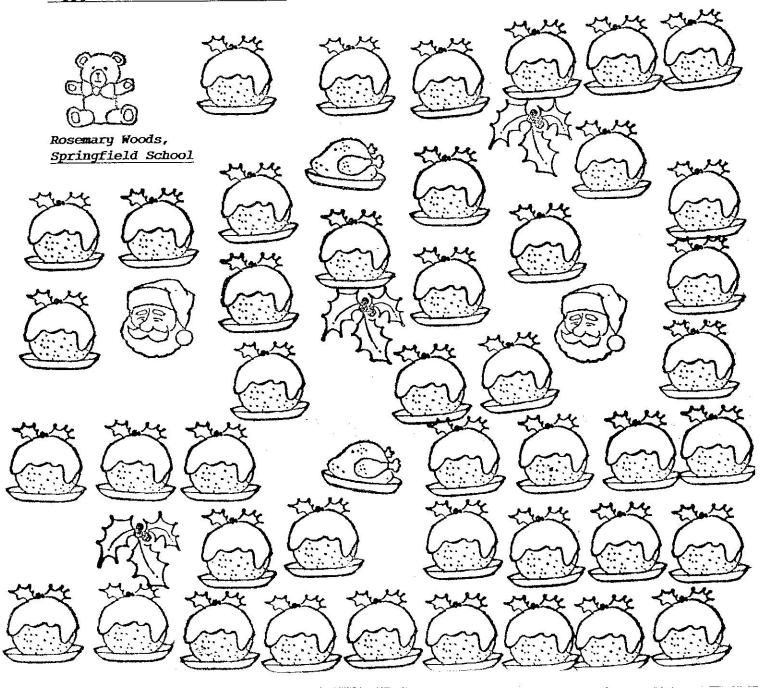




A Personal View of Christmas (Cont)

We still have Joseph too, a young, enthusiastic, open hearted and healthy dog. He doesn't have a birthday coming up but he still makes his presence felt. The artifical Christmas tree is at risk (he's already killed the real one in the garden with his doggy response to a well placed tree). He loves Christmas. He loves jumping up at all the people who call and lying on top of the Christmas presents under the tree. He loves going for a walk at the crack of dawn just when it might be reasonable to expect to greet Christmas day softly and calmly. He loves rushing about in the living room, knocking people over like skittles then springing on them to join in the fun he thinks they have started. still likes moulting best of all and does it incessantly, shedding whole layers I might settle him of hair in parts of the house he has never even entered. down with a well aimed Christmas pudding this year, hoping for mild concussion that will just quieten him enough to allow Christmas dinner to proceed sensibly. After all, we don't want to be distracted by animals when there is the Christmas pudding to concentrate on.

Happy Christmas Zoe and Joseph!!



KEEP BRITAIN TIDY - A Ramble through the NEW WORLD



What a laugh! If any of you are ramblers, you will know what I mean.

Going walking most days and every week-end, I have found that the footpaths through the countryside where one should find the wren, the red fox and the occasional shy grass snake, have been turned into the local rubbish dump.

Now for your pleasure there is the old yellow Ford Escortium which has been cut in nice "boot" size pieces. This annual usually emerges at the end of August, needs little or no extra maintenance and will rust just as well in any position, light or shade.

Further along the footpath, we come across a new addition to the flora, the Sofa a la Loose Spring. This variety is a fast-spreading plant if put in a damp spot with the stuffing and springs, giving ground cover for many feet around and comes in many colours. Within a short ramble from here, there is the perennial, all season, Black Plasticus Bagilonus of the Trashet family. This particular variety appears to be a very fertile plan, for it's numbers double weekly. It is well advised that you do not pick this variety for your own garden or you will have Trashet up to your asset.

The next 50 yards are very boring as there are no new varieties at all, only the old primrose, bluebell, strawberry, celandine, ragged robin, campion, etc., just the same old annual flora.

Now we come to the real beauty spot by the M25 bridge. For your delight and enjoyment, you will find the Roverena Burnoutica Wreckinus. This delightful cultured looking flora is very much a loner I believe; I could find no reference in my books on this variety.

It seems as if only one is allowed to grow at any one time. This could or course be due to the size of the plot in which it grows. The amazing fact is, that as soon as you dig this one up, lo and behold the next day you will find a new Burntoutica Wreckinus but not necessarily of the Roverena variety.

To see all these wonderful new varieties, you do not have to go far. They can all be seen along East Lane, the lane that goes past the cemetery.

John G. Edwards

CEMETERY

As I have just mentioned the cemetery I wish to say how pleased I am to see that at last something is being done to tidy this up.

/Cont'd ...



Cemetery (Cont'd)



I call in at the cemetery quite frequently to see old friends and have in the past, had to strain to see the memorial plaques.

Now this is being altered as there is a clean-up programme being carried out by the Community Services Volunteers and so far they are making very good progress. Well done for them!

Soon it will be possible for all friends and relatives to visit their loved ones in amicable surroundings. Congratulations to the work force and to the organisers of this project.

John G. Edwards

Answers to Crosswords



No. 93
ACROSS: 1. coax (sound of cokes)
3. editor 8. article (two mngs.) 9. fat
10. go scot-free 13. free-for-all 15. Leo
16. anemone 18. Exeter 19. flee
DOWN: 1. charge (two mngs.) 2. ant
4. deep-frozen 5. taffeta 6. rite (sound of right) 7. act one's age 11. Scrooge
12. sleeve 14. blue (two mngs.) 17. owl



No. 94
ACROSS: 1. locate 4. non-U 7. ail
(sound of ale) 8. torment 10. mum and
dad 13. days of old 15. naïvet (hidden)
17. elk 18. stew 19 Edison (rev. of no-side)
DOWN: 1. lean 2. calumny 3. totem
pole 5. ore (O+re) 6. untidy 9. run to
seed 11. dodgems 12. Adonis
(A+don+is) 14. skin 16. ire



A HELPING HAND WHEN THINGS GO WRONG!!

Hi de Hill

So you got a problem! Your car won't start. The reasons for this can be split into two main groups.

The battery is probably the biggest cause of starting problems, particularly when neglected. A set of jump leads connected negative to negative and positive to positive will get you going if the battery is flat or low charged.

Charge the battery as soon as possible and find out why it goes flat. There may be a fault in the charging system.

A dodgy engine earth can, and will, always turn over the engine slowly. However if the battery is good, a bad earth or faulty, broken, or wrong connection will cause choke and the cables to get hot, so the earth connection is very important.

If, however, the starter turns well but the engine won't fire, then it's most likely to be the ignition system.

Bad weather is bad news for the ignition. It causes current to track to earth rather than travel to the spark plugs and fire the engine. So, clean all H.T. leads (High Tension), coil and distributor cap, inside and out.

With the distributor cap off, check the contact breaker points. Make sure they are opened when engine turns over and check the gap, using a feeler gauge. Replace if burnt or pitted. Clean or replace plugs if necessary since it could well be flooded after so many turns.

Please see following pages for diagnostic diagrams.









INVITATION



SUE AND SHEILA INVITE YOU TO:-



THE IN-SERVICE TRAINING DEPT:

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS LOOK AT THE MONTHLY

PROGRAMME SHEET. WHICH IS SENT TO CHERY WARD +

DEPARTMENT. THEN JUST PICK YOUR SUBJECT.

WE PROVIDE INTERESTING. RELEVANT INFORMATION

ON A WIDE VARIETY OF TOPICS. FILL YOU HAVE TO DO

IS COME ALONG! ALL THIS FOR FREE!

WHY NOT TRY IT - YOU'LL LIKE IT!

P.S. IF YOU LET US KNOW YOUR GOING TO ATTEND (BY
BEING NOMINITED) IT CAN SAVE US CANCELLING
SESSIONS!



FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS



This is a timed test!!

You have 3 minutes only to complete it

- Read everything carefully before doing anything.
- Put your name in the upper right-hand corner of this paper.
- 3. Circle the word NAME in sentence number 2.
- 4. Draw 5 small squares in the upper left-hand corner.
- Put an 'X' in each square.
- Sign your name under the title of this text.
- Put an 'X' in the lower left-hand corner of this paper.
- 8. Draw a triangle around the 'X' you just put down.
- On the back of this paper multiply 703 by 66.
- 10. Draw a rectangle around the word "corner" in sentence number 4.
- 11. Loudly call out your first name when you get this far.
- 12. If you have followed the direction carefully to this point, call out "I have".
- 13. On the reverse side of this paper, add 8950 and 9805.
- 14. Put a circle around your answer and tick it if you think it is correct.
- 15. In your normal speaking voice, count from 10 to 1 backwards.
- 16. Punch three small holes in the top of this paper with your pencil point.
- 17. If you believe you are the first person to reach this point, <u>loudly</u> call out "I am the first person reach this point".
- 18. Underline all even numbers on the left side of this paper.
- 19. Loudly call out "I am nearly finished. I have followed instructions".
- 20. Now that you have finished reading everything carefully, do only sentences one and two.

THEN KEEP QUIET! OTHER PEOPLE MAY STILL BE WORKING!

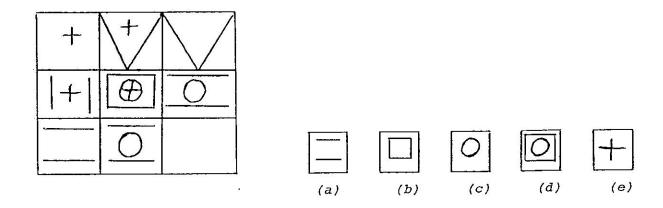




ARE YOU READY FOR MENSA?

You should attempt to complete the 20 questions in less than 25 minutes.

1. Which figure from squares (a) to (e) below belongs in the empty square?



2. A woman arrived home and found a note from her husband. It had been accidentally torn into four pieces, each with four letters on it. The pieces are shown below. What did the message say?

	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
WCHS	1000	LMMO	LEEN
1 5	E I	1 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 1	<u> </u>

3. A man receives 25% of his gross income of £12,000 as a tax-free allowance. He pays income tax on the remainder at a rate of 30p in the pound. What does he pay in tax?

- (a) £2,750 (b) £2,900 (c) £2,700 (d) £3,500 (e) £2,150.
- 4. The first two squares show four numbers that are related to one another through the use of a rule or principle. Fill in the blank in the third example using the same rule.

1	2	3 2	2 3
3	9	3 15	2 ?





/Cont'd..

	2×
6.	Reach a total of 100 adding as few numbers as possible from those given below. Each number may be used only once.
	5 17 19 37 39 46 66
7.	In logical sequence, what should the next figure be?
8.	Which item in the following series does not belong?
	(a) telephone
	(b) cooker
	(c) radio
	(d) telegraph
	(e) television
9.	It may take longer according to a cookery book, but can you turn BEAN into SOUP in five steps, changing only one letter each time? Each change must make a new word (e.g. CAP to HAT - CAP, CAT, HAT).
	B E A N
	·
	=
9	<u> </u>
	$oldsymbol{\mathcal{S}} = oldsymbol{\mathcal{O}} = oldsymbol{\mathcal{U}} = oldsymbol{\mathcal{P}}$
10.	What number comes next in the following series?
	9, 12, 21, 48,
11.	If M is above N and O, and N is above O and below P, which one of the following statements is correct?
	(a) M is not above O and P
	(b) O is above N
	(c) P is above O
	(c) O is above P
12.	The owner of a hardware shop marks prices according to his own unusual system. He charges 20p for a bulb, 25p for a catch, 25p for a hinge and 15p for a nut. Using his system, how much will a sponge cost?

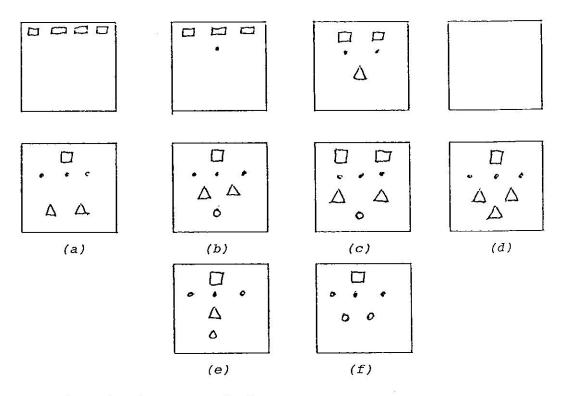
BAD CEF DIG FOH

13.

What comes next in the series below?-



- 14. A woman buys one dozen oranges and two dozen apples. She uses 6 oranges for juices and 12 apples for a pie. When she goes shopping again, she buys half as many apples and oranges as she has left. How many pieces of fruit does she then have altogether?
- 15. Which of the lower boxes best completes the series on the top?

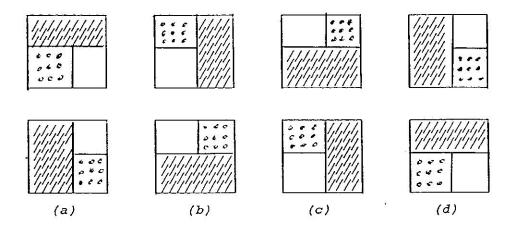


- 16. "A stitch in time saves nine" means:
 - (a) If you put off a job, it may get done for you.
 - (b) It is necessary to sew carefully to finish your work.
 - (c) You can always rip, but you can't always mend.
 - (d) A small problem you solve today won't turn into a big problem tomorrow.
 - (e) None of the above.
- 17. Television ratings indicate that more men that women watch sport. It may be concluded from this that:
 - (a) Men understand sport better than women do.
 - (b) Men understand sport better than they understand women.
 - (c) Men are better at sport than women are.
 - (d) Men and women are equally capable of understanding sport but men just spend more time watching.
 - (e) There is insufficient evidence to justify any of the above conclusions.

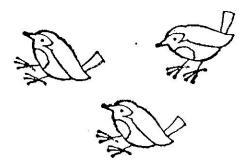


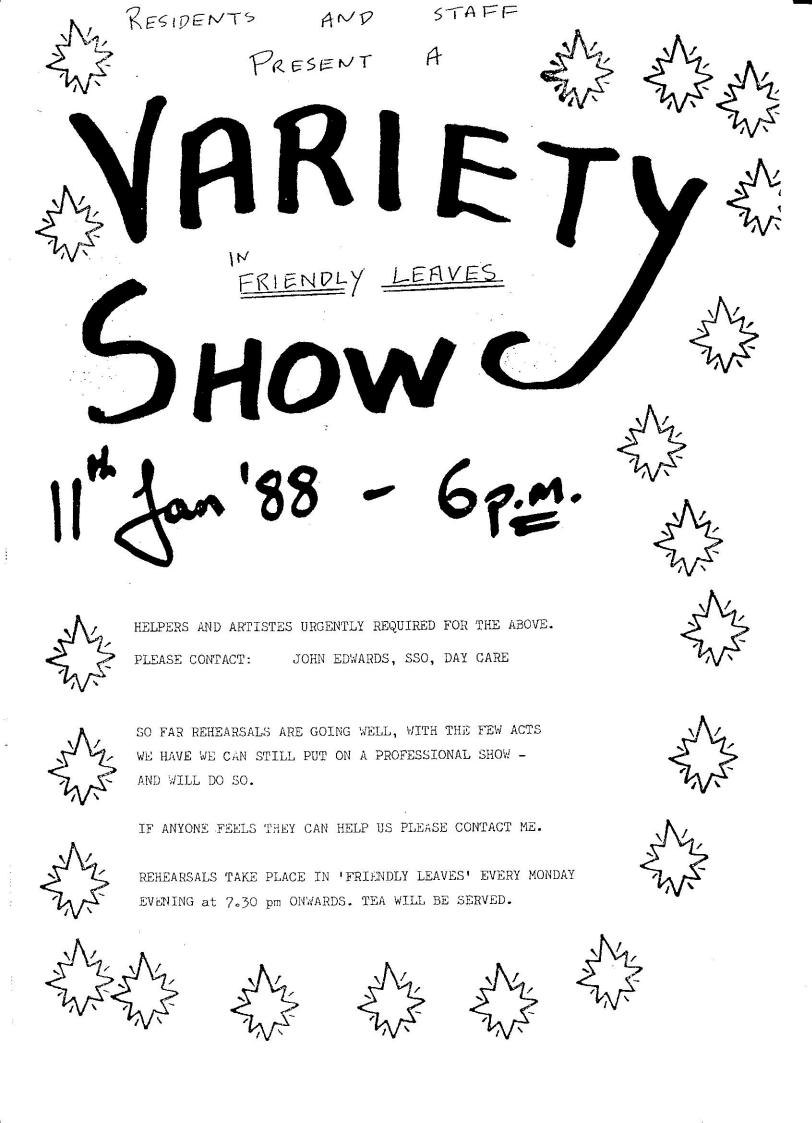


- 18. Which of the following is least like the others?
 - (a) Planet
 - (b) Constellation
 - (c) Sun
 - (d) Moon
 - (e) Star
- 19. Next week I am going to have lunch in the Strand, visit an art gallery, go to the dentist and see the Inspector of Taxes. The restaurant is closed on Wednesdays; the Inland Revenue doesn't work at the week-end; the art gallery opens on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; the dentist is free only on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday. On which day of the week can I complete my programme?
- 20. Which of the lower boxes best completes the sequence on the top?



P.S. ANSWERS WILL FOLLOW IN NEXT MONTH'S "CONTACT"







LEAVESDEN'S TOP 60!!

Reception:

You keep a knocking but you can't come in.

District H.Q:

Hey big spender.

Day Care:

Ready or not, here I come.

Garage:

Magical Mystery Tour.

Gate House:

Walk on by.

Switchboard:

Ring a ding girl.

Works Dept:

Give me just a little more time.

Vol. Services:

Cathy's Clown.

Wards:

That's living alright.

Requisitions:

Substitute.

Hospital Manager:

Sorry I'm a Lady.

Director Mental

Handicap:

Tom, Tom, turn around.

Petitioners:

Open up those Pearly Gates.

The Gate Hoppers:

Stairway to Heaven.

Hairdresser:

Dragnet.

Home Warden:

Let's have another party.

Painters:

Black is Black.

Computer Room:

Give me back my brain.

Records Office:

Don't forget to remember.

School of Nursing:

Scary monsters and super creeps.

Nursing Admin:

All I need is everything.

Plumbers:

I'm forever blowing bubbles.

Pharmacy:

Don't take it lying down.

Portering:

I'm leaning on the lamp-post at the corner of the

/Cont'd.....

street.

Springfield School:

It's hard to be humble.

Supplies:

I can't get no satisfaction.

Social Work:

High hopes.

Hospital Shop:

I want candy.

Occ. Health Dept:

Hooray! Hooray! it's a holiday.

Psychiatrist:

Another funny honeymoon.

Committee Room:

A Pub with no beer.

Dental:

Good vibrations.

Nursing:

Be thankful for what you've got.

Psychology:

Wide awake in a dream.

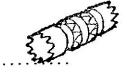












Leavesden's Top 60 Cont'd

Groundsman:

The Land of Make Believe.

Consultant:

God only knows.

Doctors:

Go Deh Yaka.

Community:

They're coming to take me away ha ha.

Butcher:

Shake your rump.

Kitchen:

Strange brew.

Cafeteria:

Spanish Harlem.

Clothing:

Rag Mama Rag.

Therapy:

I just don't know what to do with myself.

Boiler House:

High in the sky.

Accommodation:

Heatbreak hotel.

Administration:

I'm going to sit right down and write myself a

letter.

Chapel of the

Good Shepherd:

Chapel of Love.

Domestic:

We shall not be moved.

Electricians:

High energy.

Engineers:

I wouldn't trade you for the world.

Staffr Club:

Saturday night at the duck pond. Sing if you're glad to be gay.

Church:

Heart of Glass.

Glaziers:
Personnel:

Will you still love me, will you still need me

when I'm 64.

Laundry:

Splish Splash.

Fire Dept:

Waterloo.

If you can think of more titles, send them in for publication!!

John G. Edwards.



















