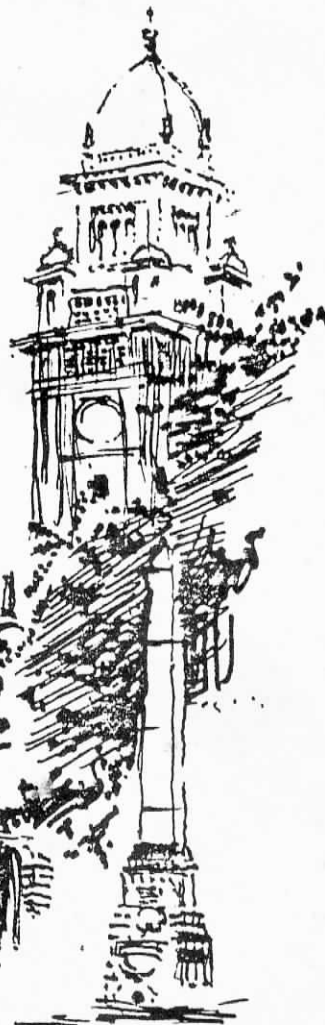
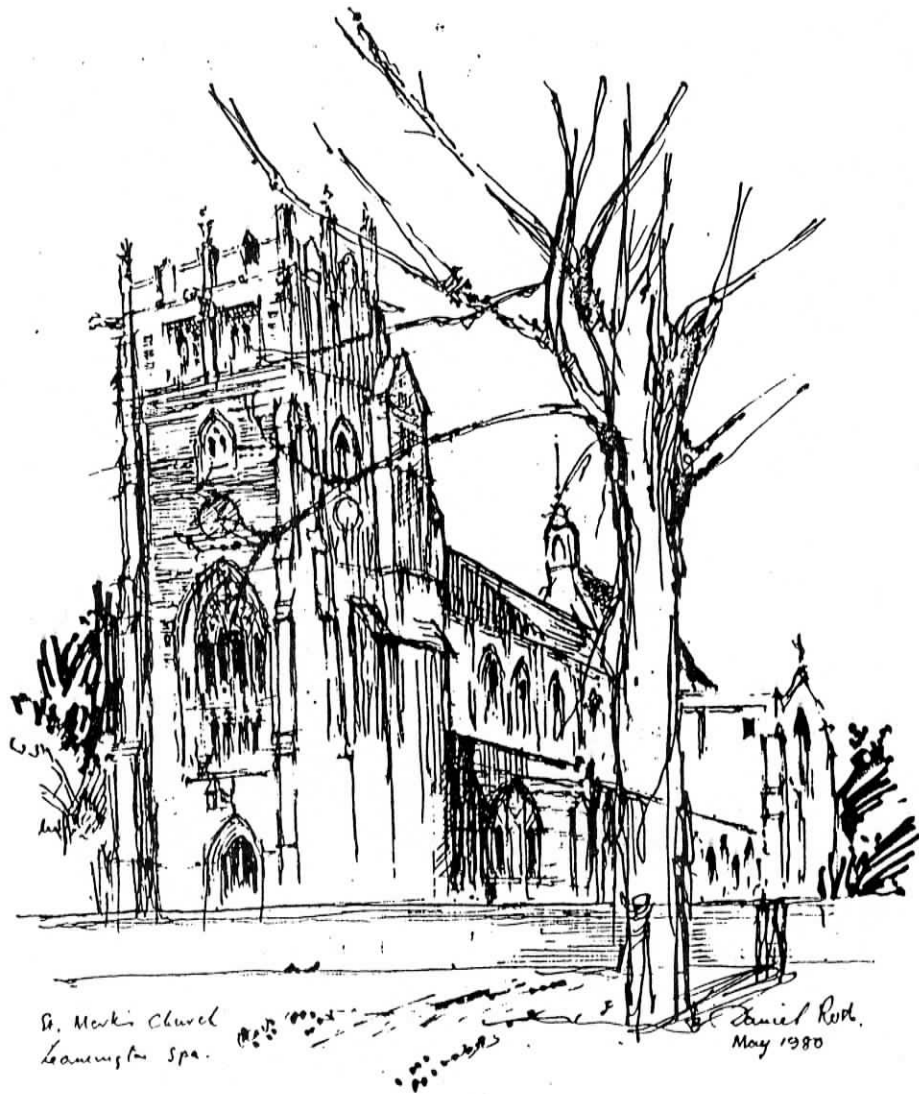




LIFE IN LEAMINGTON

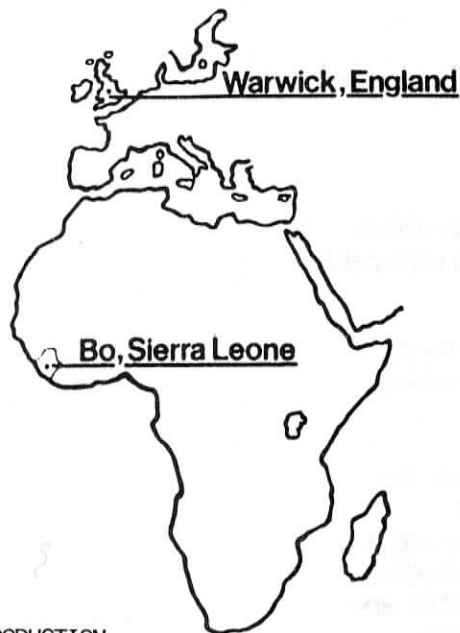
· IN THE HEART OF ENGLAND ·





LIFE IN LEAMINGTON

· IN THE HEART OF ENGLAND ·



INTRODUCTION

The idea for this booklet 'Life in Leamington' came about when it was known that a group of us, 12 Venture Scouts (aged 16 - 20) and 4 leaders from Leamington Spa in the centre of England would be going on a project to Bo in Sierra Leone, West Africa. This would be for 3 weeks in December 1985. We are, as this is being written, preparing to work alongside Scouts from the Bo region, reroofing a Methodist school in the town. We are also learning to make the tiles, using an alternative technology machine powered by a car battery.

We have copies of an excellent booklet on Bo and the Sierra Leonean way of life and want to produce an equally useful booklet on Leamington. The articles have been written by the Venture Scouts, their friends and supporters of this project. In preparing this we have had the advice and encouragement of the One World Link. The very fact of writing the pieces has helped us to be more aware of the pleasures, problems and contradictions of our way of life.

We hope the booklet will lead to interesting conversations with the friends we are about to make while staying in Bo. We will put copies in the Resource Centre there. Teachers may find it adds to class discussion - and pupils may read it to get extra marks in geography exams! Hoping there will be a visit from Bo young people to Leamington Spa, these articles will be an introduction to the town hoping they will recognise it when they arrive!

Many people have helped in the preparation of this booklet. For the cover design, photo's and line drawings we have Jeff Southgate, Bill Gibbons, Dan Roth, the Heart of England Newspapers and Dave Clark to thank. The writers of the articles range from 7 years to considerably older!

Some have gone to considerable effort to collect facts and statistics, busy people have given of their time and others have given of themselves in being so honest. Their contributions are much appreciated. The typing was kindly done by Lyn Christian and Norma Thomson and the printing masterminded by Doris Boyle.

We hope this booklet adds in various ways to the understanding and friendship between the young people of Bo District and Warwick District.

To raise money for "cubox" the Cerdinen Venture Scouts Unit have written to many firms and societies. We are most grateful for their generous help. We have also organised a number of events ourselves.

The first of these was making several hundred sandwiches which we then sold at the Festival of International Understanding and Peace. As well as selling these we also ran a badge machine where people could make their own badges for 20p and we organised a competition to guess the height of an aeroplane which flew over the festival at a specified time: the prize was a flying lesson.

Soon after this event we held a bar-b-que and a barn dance in the village of Barford, which seemed to be enjoyed by everyone.

Our next fund raising activity was a coffee evening at the new Minister's house. This was a great success with many more people turning up than expected, perhaps out of curiosity!!

To get the expedition more widely published we hired a cake stall at Warwick Market. We made a number of cakes and biscuits ourselves at a Venture meeting but the majority were given by people who knew and wanted to support the Bo/Leamington link.

A car "Treasure Hunt" was held next. This was organised by two of the Venture Scouts. There were two courses and in each of the three towns you had to visit you had to answer various questions from clues and bring home certain treasures like names of flowers. A small prize was awarded to the winner and to the person who got the lowest score.

We then cleaned out a garage, an office on the 5th floor and a flat and were paid for our work.

For the last few months the Ventures have also been doing some car washing for a local firm.

Future fund raising events, which the Ventures are helping with are a "Victorian Extravaganza" evening and a craft evening at Dale Street Methodist Church. A few members of the Unit are also taking part in the Leamington sponsored Fun Run in early October. I expect we'll be really stiff next day, but it will be worth it!

We are also having a Craft Demonstration Evening where people will pay a small amount to try a new skill: spinning wool, printing on fabric, making equipment for river fishing and other things.

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One World Link - recent developments

Since 1981 Warwick and district has had a community friendship link with the people of Bo town and district in Sierra Leone in West Africa. The initiative for the link came from individuals and groups interested in improving understanding and contacts with the Third World. Bo, as a community of comparable size with which communication in English was possible, was proposed and, with the approval of the Sierra Leonian authorities, a representative visited Bo in 1981 to see what the response would be.

Luckily there was immediate interest in the idea so committees were formed at both ends to promote the venture and put people into contact with counterparts in the linked community. School links were some of the easiest to establish with exchanges of work, information and letters. Visits of teachers have taken place in both directions. A pack of information about the daily life in Bo, produced jointly by British OWL members and Sierra Leonians resident here has provided a valuable resource to schools.

Another area where the Link has been particularly successful is health where doctors, nurses, primary health workers etc. have taken an interest at both ends. Again personal contacts have been possible and now a joint post for a community health doctor working partly in Warwickshire and partly in Bo is to be established.

Many other links involving libraries, Townswomen's Guild, Rotary Clubs, Scouts and Guides, Craftsmen, and agricultural extension workers have had varying success, and though the initial moves were deliberately to establish grassroots contacts, there has been growing interest from local government. Perhaps the best successes, though inevitably the least widely known, have been the numerous personal friendships which have been established across the communities.

One problem which has led to many misunderstandings and disappointments has been the difficulties with communication through the post. People going to and from Sierra Leone have been very helpful in carrying letters and small items to overcome this and the Link has been grateful for occasional assistance with shipping some fairly bulky consignments from time to time.

Though the basic aim of the Link is friendship, and in the early days there were fears that any substantial element of aid would preclude a relationship on an equal basis, opportunities have naturally arisen to assist our friends. Schools have often been able to help with much needed books, as has Leamington Library. The health group has been able to organise consignments of essential medical supplies. Farmers have sent hand tools. The Warwick OWL Committee has also responded to a request from the Bo OWL Committee to help finance a resource centre for teachers.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the Links is the contact made with students from Sierra Leone, and particularly from the Bo area, who come to Britain to study. This gives a succession of lively minds ready to help and to criticise the Link and provides opportunities for personal and social contacts on a far wider basis than would be possible from actual visits. Their presence at the talks and functions organised to inform and interest members and the wider public is invaluable.

Since the establishment to our Link with Bo a number of other towns have made similar ventures with Third World Communities. In response there is a national organisation which allows them to share experiences and advise people contemplating the idea for themselves.

At the time of writing (September 1985) the many strands of friendship, student contacts, ideas about useful help etc. are coming together in a project in which a group of Leamington Venture Scouts are planning a visit to Bo and to assist a school to repair its roof using a new appropriate roofing material which is being introduced by a friend from Bo returning after two years studying building in Leamington. They hope also to host a similiar group of scouts in return.

It is clear that, despite the difficulties of distance and communication and the early uncertainties, a network of contacts and friendships has developed and truly forged a link which can be the basis of a continuing association between our two countries.

One World Link
32 Bath Street, Leamington Spa
Warwickshire

Britain - the background facts

BRITAIN - background facts

BRITAIN is a temperate country lying between Latitudes 50° N. and 60° N., and between Longitudes 5° E. and 10° W.

LAND AREA is approximately 310,000 sq. kms. (Sierra Leone: 73,326 sq. kms.) The distance from North to South is approximately 960 km., and from East to West it is 800 km. (Sierra Leone: 322 km. by 290 km.)

POPULATION - in 1973, the population was 58,500,000 (Sierra Leone: 3,500,000) The number of employable age was 26,520,000.

LIFE EXPECTANCY At birth is 72 years (compared with 46 years for Sierra Leone)

MAIN OCCUPATIONS Manufacturing (34.5%), general services (25.5%), professional and technical, doctors, teachers etc., (20%), construction (7.5%), others 12.5%.)

TRADE AND AGRICULTURE

Main crops: wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, sugar beet.

Main exports: food, beverages, tobacco, mineral fuels and lubricants, machinery, transport equipment, finished steel, vehicles, aero engines, metals, chemicals.

Main Imports: food, beverages, tobacco, mineral fuels and lubricants, ores, timber, wool, wood pulp petroleum products.

Imports exceed the value of exports.

HISTORY Before the British Isles became separated into England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, and the Romans had left, many Teutonic tribes arrived from Denmark and Germany, these tribes pushed the original inhabitants further back and the boundaries that grew up caused the island to become separated into the different countries of Scotland and Wales.

In 1066, England was invaded by a French army, under William of Normandy. The Normans re-organised the government of England and established trade and industry. England remained an absolute monarchy until the seventeenth century, when civil war broke out, the outcome of which was that England became a democracy whose parliament is changed at least every 5 years, the system of government by this parliament has gradually evolved. To avoid victimisation, voting has been conducted in secret since 1872. Members of parliament were first paid for their work in 1911, and in 1918 it was granted that every man should have the right to vote. Women were included in 1928.

BRITAIN Britain lies between the land masses of Eurasia to the East and the Atlantic Ocean to the West, and our weather depends very much upon what happens over these neighbouring areas. When westerly winds blow they bring the relative mildness of the ocean atmosphere at any time of the year. Easterlies, however, bring different conditions according to the season. They reach after blowing across a land mass which cools and heats more quickly than the sea. When the winter easterlies set in, the wind is knife-edged; yet the same air-streams in summer may bring heat waves.

Spring is normally Britain's driest season even though April is by tradition showery. Cold weather normally lasts no later than mid-April, and there are frequently some very warm days during the second half of the month. By late springtime, daytime temperatures rise considerably, and June is the brightest month of the year for Britain in general. Rainfall tends to increase during July and August. Late summer is often noted for very warm weather, and this may continue into September. The autumn winds eventually move round to the west and north-west, and the weather becomes less settled.

North and north-west winds often bring heavy falls of snow to north Britain during late October or November. These are usually short-lived and it is not until mid-winter (January) that the snows become heavier and more prolonged.

LANDSCAPE

The most striking quality of Britain's landscape is its extraordinary variety. Within a few miles the scenery can change from rolling moorland to rich farmland and from craggy hills to sheltered dales. A quick look at a geological map will soon explain as there is chalk land and clay land, loam and granite, volcanic rocks and gritstone, limestone and slate, gravel beds and glacial remains, flat fenland and iron and coal deposits.

Another aspect of the countryside is the evidence of human activity over a very long time indeed. Ridge and furrow land - a system of farming used in the Middle Ages - can still be seen quite clearly below the pastures of modern farms. In some areas the ancient hedges have been removed to enlarge the fields to allow for bigger machinery. Often, however, the country lanes still wander around in a drunken manner, following the old farm tracks. Other roads still follow those laid down by the Romans about 2000 years ago.

Of course because the geology is so varied, so also are the plants and wild animals. Beech woods are very different from primeval forest, of which only a little remain in Scotland. Many moorlands are now covered by plantations of imported conifers as money-making timber crops. Others remain covered with yellow flowering gorse or all engulfing bracken. In Scotland and parts of Wales the hills are covered with purple flowering heather, a grand sight in August and full of bees seeking that extra special flavour for their honey. Woodlands are favourite places for wildlife - foxes rear their families in lairs in the banks as do badgers, and pheasants strutt around the nearby fields. Rivers and lakes are the haunts of the fish-eating birds like the stately heron and the fly-eating birds.

The coastline reflects the inland variety too, with the chalk cliffs of Dover on the South coast gleaming white and the totally different aspect of the salt marshes of Norfolk on the East coast. Sandy beaches, rocky coves, gravel banks and river mouths are all favoured haunts of many holiday makers seeking Summer sun and idle days.

In contrast with this varied countryside is the vast urban sprawl of London and the large cities. There are new towns, built to house the 'overspill' of London and old market towns built picturesquely of the local stone. Only a small percentage of the population now live in villages. There is little employment there and public transport almost non-existent.

Leamington Spa

Royal Leamington Spa is on the River Leam which flows into the River Avon where Leamington joins Warwick. The two towns grew separately but now look like one. With the town of Kenilworth, eight kilometres north, and the rural area around they make up 'Warwick District'.

Leamington is in a rural county, Warwickshire. It is sixteen kilometres south of Coventry and forty kilometres southeast of Birmingham. These are cities and Birmingham is one of the largest conurbations in Britain. They lie on a plateau to the north of the Avon Valley and to the south are the beautiful Cotswold Hills.

The climate, similar to the rest of Britain, has an average January temperature of 4 °C and a July one of 16 °C. There are about 100 days of frost each year and 10 days of snow lying on the ground. The average rainfall is about 800 mm spread evenly through the year.

The soils near Leamington are generally heavy clay which gives very good grazing land for beef and dairy cattle and sheep. A lot of fruit and vegetables are grown for which cities like Birmingham give a nearby market. In recent years fruit farmers have introduced 'Pick your Own' schemes for the public and this has become popular with a lot of people, especially for strawberries and raspberries. Other farming includes growing crops like wheat and barley, mainly to feed the cattle, and rearing poultry.

Before 1800 Leamington was called 'Leamington Priors'. In 1801 the population was 315. Then the Spa began to grow around springs believed to give healing water. In the Regency times and in the reign of Queen Victoria (Queen Elizabeth's great grandmother) it grew quickly and was given its 'Royal' title.

This is because she enjoyed her visit to the town. After 1890 the Spa was less popular because health ideas changed and Spas in other European countries became easy to get to.

The population declined but grew again after 1930 when transport improved and people working in Coventry could live further from their work.

After World War Two industries grew up in Leamington, especially the motor industry and engineering. New housing estates were built and services such as public transport, schools and shops increased. The town centre, with its houses on broad street in a grid-iron pattern, became a commercial centre and the houses in the town became shops and offices without changing their style much.

The population today is 45,000. If the built-up areas around are included it is over 50,000. The whole Warwick District has a population of 115,000. Just as in other parts of Britain there are now more deaths than births each year so the population is not increasing naturally. However, it is increasing by people moving into the area.

There are more people than the national average in the 15 - 24 age group and also those over 60. This is partly because of a lot of student accommodation for Warwick University (which is in Coventry). Leamington is also a popular place for retirement and there are many nursing homes where elderly people are looked after.

Although Warwickshire is rural, less than 3% working population work on farms. It is the same in the rest of Britain. In 1976 32 % of Warwickshire jobs were manufacturing but since then there have been fewer jobs in the main industries.

In Warwick District there are more people in professional and managerial jobs than the national average (18% compared with 13%). Many of these travel to Coventry and Birmingham. There are 20,000 skilled and semi-skilled manual workers. These include the important motor vehicle components industries in Leamington such as Automotive Products and Ford. Apart from these no other firms employ over 1,500 people. In Warwick District other firms worth noting manufacture heating equipment (Potterton, Flavel, Turfifs); agricultural machinery (Massey Ferguson, Thwaites); concrete machinery (Benfords); and service computers (IBM). Most firms have reduced the number of workers recently and others have closed. An average 1,650 young people leave school in the district each year so unemployment is a problem, as in the rest of Britain. Unemployment is particularly noticeable amongst school leavers. This causes a lot of frustration, depression and real poverty. It can put strains on the young people if they continue to live with families and it is hard for them to find and be able to afford a place of their own in which to live.

New industries are being welcomed on industrial estates. These estates are away from the town centre but the centre itself provides 10,000 jobs, $\frac{1}{3}$ in offices and $\frac{1}{3}$ in shops. Leamington is a tourist centre with its attractive architecture, open spaces and nearness to other places of interest. 5% of the working population is in hotels and catering and this is higher than the national average. It is possible to provide more jobs also in this area as Leamington improves its facilities for visitors to Warwick, Kenilworth, Stratford-on-Avon, National Exhibition Centre near Birmingham and the National Agricultural Centre near Kenilworth.

People want local jobs rather than depending on Coventry and Birmingham. Some people do travel into the area to work from these two cities but also from Stratford, Southam and Rugby.

The Industrial Promotion Unit of the County Council think Leamington is in a good place for transporting goods.

Roads are the most usual way to travel in Britain today. Most journeys to work in Leamington are by car, 1/5 on foot. When people shop too, over half travel by car. Public transport is declining. Leamington has no main or 'trunk' roads passing through it but the A46 Stratford to Coventry road passes west of Warwick and the A41 south of Leamington is linked to it by 'A' roads.

The main Birmingham-London railway line runs through Leamington linking it with the National Exhibition Centre. There are 11 direct trains a day to London and 14 to Reading where an express coach links with Heathrow Airport (Britain's largest serving London).

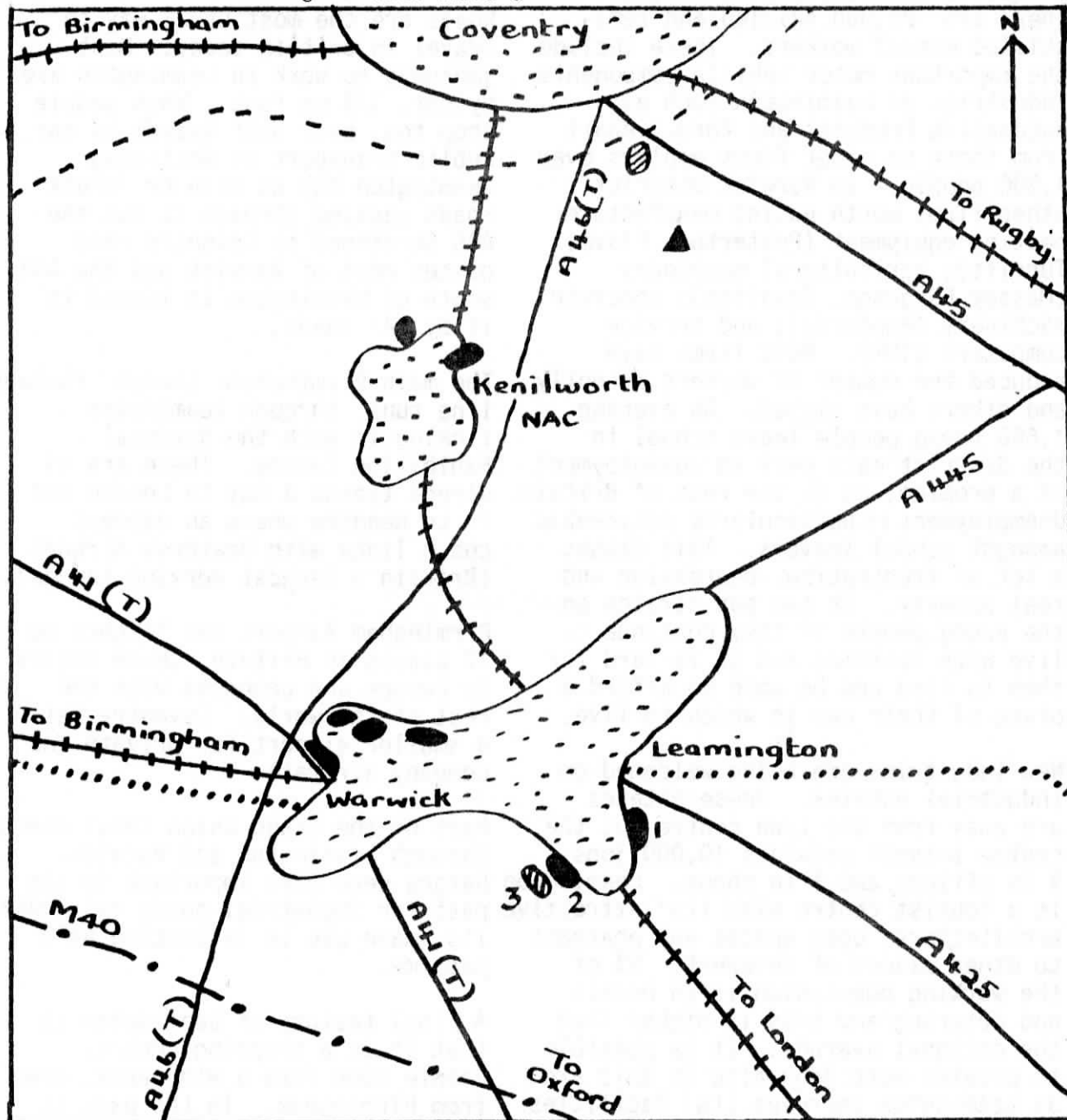
Birmingham Airport has flights to 17 places in Britain, seven cities in Europe and connects with the rest of the world. Coventry has a smaller airport for private and company aircraft.

Part of the Grand Union Canal comes through Leamington and Warwick. Barges were more important in the past for industrial goods and today its main use is in boating as a pastime.

A final feature of Leamington is that it is a shopping centre. People come from a wide area, even from Birmingham. In the past it was known for small high quality shops but today many of these have been taken over by national chain stores which have similar shops all over England. There are fewer small food shops as these have been taken over by supermarkets but more clothes, footwear and household goods shops. This follows the national trend. Most shops are in

the Parade, the main street. Since 1950, an important group of other users have grown here to . These are Building Societies, Estate Agents and Banks. Leamington does have a

good market twice a week but it is sited away from the centre and therefore does not attract as many shoppers as it might.



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|-----|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| | Main Towns | | Inter-City Railway |
| | County Boundary | | Industrial Estate |
| | Main Roads | | Industrial Estate Being Built. |
| | Motorway to be built. | 1 | Sydenham Farm Industrial Estate |
| | Grand Union Canal. | 2 | Queensway Industrial Estate |
| NAC | National Agricultural Centre | 3 | Heathcote. |
| | Coventry Airport. | | |

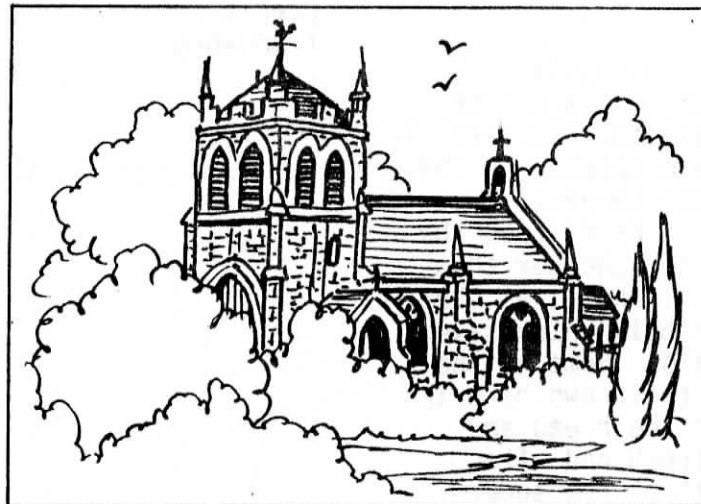
Religion in Leamington

Most of the world's major religions are represented in Leamington. 'Christianity' is the 'national religion' of Britain and all its various denominations are represented in the town. The denominations share a common faith, but each one, worshipping in its own church building, has a different emphasis. The Church of England emphasises sacramental worship. The Roman Catholic Church maintains its links with Rome and the Pope. The Free Churches (e.g. Baptist, Methodist and United Reform Church) emphasise the place of the Bible and personal faith and free orders of worship.

Also in Leamington are the Society of Friends (Quakers), the Salvation Army, Pentecostal Churches, the Spiritualist Church and Jehovah's Witnesses.

A Buddhist group meets locally. A Sikh Temple has recently been built in Leamington. This serves the many townspeople who originated from the Punjab in Northern India. About 10% of Leamington's population are Asian - mainly Sikh. Leamington also has a Hindu Temple for the 500 Hindu's who live locally. The Bah'ai faith has a meeting place in the neighbouring town of Warwick.. It is an offshoot of Islam, and embodies a desire to bring the several religions together. Its adherents help to organise an annual interfaith day in Leamington.

Leamington is a relatively new town, so the oldest churches are only about 150 years old. They are large and beautiful, reflecting the prosperity of the earlier congregations. Unfortunately, the very size which impresses visitors has become a burden to today's worshippers, with the increasing costs of heating and maintenance falling on smaller and smaller congregations. Some Christian churches, despite their older buildings have managed to bring a spontaneity and flexibility into their worship and so halt the trend of declining congregations. It is good to see also that the barriers which have kept the various Christian denominations apart are being broken down by joint ventures and joint meetings of the congregations. In schools there is also more effort to introduce pupils of all ages to the various religions and customs which make up this culturally rich town.



Shopping in Leamington

Leamington has been built up through the years as an affluent town; this is reflected in some of its shopping areas where buildings are large and decoration. The main street in Leamington is called the Parade; this is a road three quarters of a mile long, lined with shops, banks and a few offices; there are several streets running off the Parade containing shops as well.

Every kind of shop can be found in this area, from supermarkets selling all sorts of food and household items to shops selling just cameras or sweets; there are many shops selling shoes, furniture, books, ladies and mens clothes, jewellery and carpets. There is a specialist mother and baby shop, hairdressers and estate agents selling houses. This is the busiest part of Leamington and between 9 am. when the shops open and 5.30 pm. when they close there is a non-stop stream of people in and out of the shops.

In December, at Christmas time, the shop owners donate money so that different coloured lights may be strung backwards and forwards across the Parade. There is usually a large Christmas tree outside the Town Hall where people gather to sing carols and hymns. The inside of the shops are decorated at Christmas, as well as the streets, with more lights, Christmas trees and shiny tinsel.

Most families buy the majority of their weekly shopping from one of three main supermarkets. Two are situated in the main street and the third (which is the largest) is a little out of town. Food from the supermarkets is often cheaper than from the small local shops, as they are able to buy in bulk which saves money, so cuts costs. Some of the supermarkets have their own bakeries on the premises so the bread and cakes are always fresh and often warm. A large part of the supermarket is taken up with refrigerators,

which keep all the fresh and frozen meat, vegetables and dairy products cool.

Most families in Leamington have their milk delivered in bottles early in the morning by a milkman; he can also deliver bread and dairy products if required.

Apart from the main Parade in Leamington there are lots of small shopping areas in the suburbs. These shopping areas usually consist of about four or five small shops such as a butcher, a newsagent, a grocer, a laundry and sometimes a hairdresser or Post Office.

Leamington also has an outdoor market twice a week on Wednesdays and Fridays. There are usually about 40 stalls selling a wide variety of goods such as cloth, shoes, fish, meat and vegetables, a popular stall with children is the one selling sweets.

In the main street there are several shops which sell hot and cold food and drink, which can either be eaten in the shop or taken out. These 'fast food' shops are very popular especially with young people as they often open in the evenings providing a meeting place.

Very few shops close at midday. They stay open so as to be available to people during their lunch break from work.

Entertainment around Leamington

Leamington has a great many entertainments for people of all ages. The very young can play on the playgrounds and in the paddling pools in the three parks.

There are many hobby clubs to join in, all kinds of activities including drama, dancing, music and even marshall arts. There are also plenty of sports facilities where people play tennis, cricket, football, rugby and golf etc. Leamington has a sports stadium, where there are regular athletic meetings. The River Leam flows through the centre of the town on which activities such as canoeing and rowing take place both at leisure and as a serious sport.

There is a swimming pool where friends can meet and afterwards they can go to one of the many cafes and fast food stores in the centre of town.

Leamington boasts of two very good theatres, The Spa Centre and the Loft Theatre, where there are regular musical and dramatic productions. Both theatres encourage junior drama and opera groups who give regular performances in the theatres.. The Hall of the Spa Centre is often converted into a Roller Disco (dancing on skates) where parties are held for the youngsters.

Other places of entertainment include a cinema and, for those of 18 years and over, wine bars, night clubs and pubs.

Seven miles away at Stratford-upon-Avon we have one of the best known theatres in the country: The Royal Shakespeare Theatre holding 3,000 people. This is the home of the Royal Shakespeare Company and many of William Shakespeare's plays are staged here. He is one of our most famous playwrights. The plays are performed by famous actors and actresses. This theatre is especially popular with overseas visitors. The Shakespeare Theatre also stages several ballets performed by some of the world's top ballet companies.

A little further away in the large city of Birmingham it is often possible to see stage shows and musicals which have been popular in London.

Of course one doesn't have to spend money to enjoy yourself. People enjoy visiting each other in their homes, perhaps for a meal or, more often for a drink and a chat - to listen to music. If the weather is good (it doesn't rain all of time) they might go for a walk or a bicycle ride.

A Schoolchild

I get up at 7 o'clock and get dressed.

My school uniform is a grey skirt, blue cardigan, white blouse, white socks and a blue and white tie.

Then I have breakfast which is a bowl of cornflakes and a piece of toast. We get ready for school at ten to nine and then leave. School begins at 9 o'clock. We go into school and take off our coats and then go to our classrooms to sit down (there are 32 children in our class). The teacher takes the register then we go into the hall to have assembly. In assembly we sing a song and listen to our Headmaster talking. For the rest of the morning we do English Comprehension and Maths.

We have a short playtime at 11 o'clock. At 12.20 pm. we have our lunch in the hall then we go into the playground and play games.

Sometimes we have a sewing lesson or do more work and on Friday afternoon we go swimming. School ends at 3.30 pm.

After school on Monday I go to Brownies in a car with my friend, Laura, and after school on Thursday I go to a recorder lesson. Then I have tea and go to bed at 8 pm.

My favourite book is 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'. It is about four children who go into a wardrobe and find themselves in a different land and have lots of adventures there.



A Christian Housewife

I am a housewife and belong to Dale Street Methodist Church. My Family and Christian activities keep me busy.

My day begins at 6.30 am. when the baby of the family, Joanne wakes up wanting her bottle of milk. Daddy normally fetches it upstairs together with a tray of tea for the rest of the family. Our eldest daughter, Helen, usually makes it to the bathroom first, beginning the morning routine of breakfast and getting off to school and work. Daddy has to be in Coventry, a town 10 miles north of Leamington and Helen and Ian, my teenage children, attend the local comprehensive school. Breakfast consists of cereals and toast.

When the older ones have left for school or work, I concentrate on Catherine our five year old child to get her off to school. Joanne comes with us in her pram, she enjoys seeing all the children on the way.

When we return I set about tidying up the house, with a family of six this can be quite a job. Joanne has a sleep while I do the housework, which is made easier with electric machines such as vacuum cleaners, washing machines etc., and tapped hot and cold water.

Ian comes home for his lunch at about 12 o'clock, which consists of such things as eggs, cheese, bread and salads. In the afternoon I might tidy the garden if the weather is dry. We go to fetch Catherine from school at 3.30 pm. When we return home we have a drink of tea and Catherine either watches the television or plays outside with her friends. Their favourite games are skipping, playing with dolls-houses and riding their bicycles. Joanne is crawling now, so she is into everything. She enjoys just being with us and playing with her toys, these being stuffed dolls, teddy bears, plastic beakers and rattles.

Our main meal of the day is dinner at 5.30 pm., chicken is a favourite with all the family. This is a busy time with food to prepare, pots to wash, children to amuse and school homework to be done. Joanne goes to bed first after her bath, Catherine goes soon after, Helen and Ian are up until 10 pm.

As well as running the house I have other activities. On Sundays we attend church worship and I sing in the choir. My husband is a teacher in the Sunday School and I am Secretary.

On Monday Naomi a 2 year old neighbour comes to play while her mother helps at local school. On Tuesday morning we go to a bible study group, at the moment we are looking at the Book of Revelations. On Thursday afternoon I go into Catherine's school to hear the children read, in the evening I go with Helen to a cookery class. Fridays we attend a toddlers club, Joanne is beginning to enjoy this time playing with other children; we also hold a short religious service there.

Wednesday is always a busy evening as this is when we go to the local supermarket to buy our week's supply of food, then my husband and I go to a prayer and praise meeting, which is held in someone's house. We sing and pray and sometimes have a bible study, we both appreciate this quiet time away from the home.

We have an active branch of the National Childbirth Trust here in Leamington, which educates pregnant mothers to help them through childbirth and support the mother and child after the birth. I am a contact mother which means I befriend a new mother and help and advise her through the first few months after her child is born.

Sometime during the day I try to have a 'quick time for prayer'

A Family Doctor

Under the national Health Service, each Family Doctor - known as General Practitioner (or G.P.) is free to organise his day's work to suit himself and his patients, governed by his contract to provide all necessary and appropriate medical services to those 2,500 people who have chosen to register on his list (most G.P.'s are still male, although more younger women G.P.'s are shifting the balance). Most G.P.'s work in groups of 3 - 4 from a building called a surgery (although they rarely do any surgical operations). Usually they see patients for 6 - 8 minutes in a 3 hour consulting session in the morning, starting at 9 am. Patients can come to discuss any sort of medical or personal problem; the G.P. will form an opinion, try and make a diagnosis (a label describing the type and cause of the illness), offer advice on how to manage the illness and possible sorts of treatment. Often they may give prescriptions for medicines to be collected from a nearby chemist, or they could organise physiotherapy (perhaps hydrotherapy in the famous Leamington Spa Pool), or nursing treatment (injections, diets, dressings). For more serious conditions, the G.P. can write a letter to the local specialist in the hospital outpatients, asking for tests, operations or more complicated examinations. If the patient is very ill, he would phone for an inpatient bed, and send the patient straight to hospital by ambulance - happily this is only needed once or twice a month.

After consulting session for 3 hours, he usually has a coffee, reads the letters from hospital about the patients' treatment, perhaps makes phone calls or dictates letters, and attends to the business of keeping the surgery running properly. Then he goes by car to visit patients at home - usually the elderly over 75 who find it difficult to get to surgery, or those too ill to travel. In Leamington, there are a lot of

Nursing Homes for those old people who cannot look after themselves properly because of arthritis, strokes, brain failure and cancer etc. Their relatives may have busy jobs, or the old person may need too much help for one family to do it properly (some people have no family or children); G.P.'s will call in the Nursing Home and organise any change in treatment; He will often see several 'emergencies' with fevers, severe pain, or chronic conditions at home. He may go home for lunch, or go to a meeting to learn new treatments, or sit on a new committee to organise changes in the N.H.S., or prepare teaching material for other doctors or special groups. In the afternoon, there is usually an antenatal or well-baby clinic or he helps a consultant at a hospital outpatients clinic, or does more visits, before he returns for evening surgery. He tries to provide preventative medicine as well as treating acute medical problems; often education is more important than drugs, helping somebody's lifestyle is better than treating his warts. He recognises psychological problems are as common as physical illness, and, in Leamington, more important than the serious infections that are seen in Africa. He never knows what sort of problems he will see next, so there is always something new, which helps with the sad and difficult cases where the G.P. can't help so much.

A Schoolteacher

Each day I set out from a house in Leamington at about 8 am. to travel the 20 kilometres (8 miles) by car to Coventry, where I teach. The school is a secondary school catering for about 1,000 pupils aged 11 to 18 years who have previously been to one of four local junior schools since the age of five. There are about 60 teachers plus office staff, technicians, cleaners and caterers at the school.

I arrive at about 8.30 am. and meet with the rest of the staff who are responsible for sixth forms (16 to 18 year olds). We pick up the days notices and information, register our forms and spend some time with the pupils who are our own responsibility.

Lessons start at 9.10 am. though twice a week an assembly of the sixth form or half the school makes this a little later. I teach four lessons in the day, each 70 minutes long though on some days one of them is free to spend time marking books or preparing experiments in the laboratory.

I teach science and my day might include a lesson for the lowest year on insects; for example we keep locusts in a heated cage. My fourth year class is at present learning about Building Science. This includes doing experiments on materials and structures. A fifth year is studying for an Ordinary Level Examination in physics and in the summer term is revising two years work ready to take the papers in July. The sixth form physics group may be working at their own experiments, each of them doing an experiment related to one aspect of the Advanced Level course in order to help them to get a better understanding of it.

All the pupils up to the fifth year study a wide variety of subjects: English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, French, Art, Craft, Home Economics, Music, Drama, Commerce

Physical Education, and Religious Education. It is interesting to note that Christians are a minority in my school with many Sikhs and Muslims living in the locality.

At the age of 16 many pupils leave to find work, but able ones stay on into the sixth form and choose subjects to study in order to get more qualifications. Some of these will go on to University.

At lunchtime, the ten Science staff usually sit and chat, though occasionally pupils will want attention, or practical work will need preparation. After school finishes at 3.30 pm I often spend an hour or so with a few pupils in the school computer room where they can use the school computers to help their studies or learn to write their own programmes.

In the evening, the school takes on its role as a Community College when many classes for adults are held and the sports, drama and recreation facilities are used fully. Even during the day, a playgroup for the under 5's, a club for unemployed teenagers, and other community activities take place and so the school is very much a 'Community School'.



A Sikh Shopkeeper

I live in Leamington with my husband and three little girls. We share a household with my parents-in-law in the rooms above our corner shop. My brother-in-law and his wife and two children also live with us. In our culture it is expected that the sons of the family will stay with their parents and that the wives will move in with them on marriage. It is very important for sons to take care of their aging parents. This system also ensures that there are plenty of adults around to help with the young children - built-in childminders - and it provides constant companionship for adults and playmates for the children. But this can sometimes be difficult in England in the limited accommodation available. You can see that our families are very important to us.

Our shop is open seven days a week, from early morning to late at night so we have to take turns working in it. My father-in-law, my husband and my brother-in-law make the decisions about what to sell and how much to stock. Because I was educated in England my job is to cope with all the paperwork and book-keeping.

One of the benefits of running a corner shop is that you really don't need to read the local newspapers because all of the gossip comes into the shop!! Lots of people like to chat with each other while they are collecting their groceries so it is often very jolly and sociable. We like to think that this is part of our service to the neighbourhood.

Sunday mornings we usually open the shop a little later to allow the family - from youngest to oldest - to go to the Temple for a service. This often lasts as much as two hours; When we go into the Temple we leave our shoes in the racks provided, and everyone covers their heads as a sign of respect. Everyone makes an offering - sometimes food and sometimes money- to the Holy Book of the Sikh faith which sits on a small platform under an awning, covered with lots of beautiful cloths and decorations. There is always lots of music played usually by a group of people, and singing by everybody, as well as readings from the Holy Book.. At the end of the service everyone receives a portion of special food called parshad, made of sugar, butter, wheatflour and water.

Everyone then goes to the main hall where "langar" is served; this is just basic food - always vegetarian. The idea of sharing food is very important to our Sikh community, both at home and in the Temple.

On Thursday afternoons in the Temple there is a special service for ladies which is very popular with mother showing off their new daughters-in-law in all their wedding finery! They often have lots of sweet things to eat and sweet tea to drink. The service is entirely organised and run by the ladies, but men are not forbidden.

At week-ends we have family gatherings. Often we go to visit friends and relations either in Leamington or in other parts of England, or they come to visit us. There are also many weddings to attend, and nowadays the whole family goes along, whereas previously the men arranged the marriages, and attended them leaving the womenfolk at home. Going out visiting and to weddings is a grand excuse to show off all the gold jewellery and fine saris which we women keep for special occasions. One of the highlights of the year is the Divalli Celebration in October/November when we exchange gifts and decorate our homes. Children like to have fireworks and lots of good things to eat too.

Sunday evenings we often spend having a meal with friends. The women in the family spend all Sunday afternoon cooking, making savoury vegetable curry dishes, savoury snacks to be served with rice chapattis, yoghurt and salad; followed by sweet desserts, like rice pudding with almonds, sultanas or coconut, gulabjamans which are made of dried milk and lots of sugar, jalabies which are made of flour, yoghurt and sugar syrup. The whole evening is spent chatting and eating.

It is interesting to see the customs of our community changing as the years pass in England, and with each generation. I was brought up always to wear trousers or a long skirt or sari, and always keep my head covered in front of the men even my own family. But nowadays I see even young married women wearing skirts and going around bareheaded! And of course nowadays even the youngest children are brought up to speak English as well as Punjabi. Special classes are held to teach the Punjabi language, but only after school.

I was educated in England and brought up here, and although I still speak Punjabi and follow our Sikh customs, Leamington is our home now, and for our children. Fortunately in Leamington, for the most part, everyone gets on happily with each other - unlike the troubles and tensions in the big cities. My husband says he thinks life in Leamington is "great" and I agree!

The Mayoress of Leamington

Mrs. Val Davis the Mayor of Leamington Spa in 1985 is a lady. She has been on the Council for some years and will be Mayor for just one year. Councillors take it in turns to be the Mayor "First Citizen" of the Town.

Mayors wear a heavy gold chain round their neck as a symbol of the position. The husband or wife of the Mayor wears a badge of office as the consort. On important occasions the Mayor wears a purple robe, trimmed with fur, lace collar and cuffs and a black hat.

Each day the Mayor goes to the Town Hall and to her office, the parlour. She has a clerk who makes all her appointments for her. A chauffeur drives the Mayor to all her engagements in a big black car with a flag flying at the front and a badge on its roof.

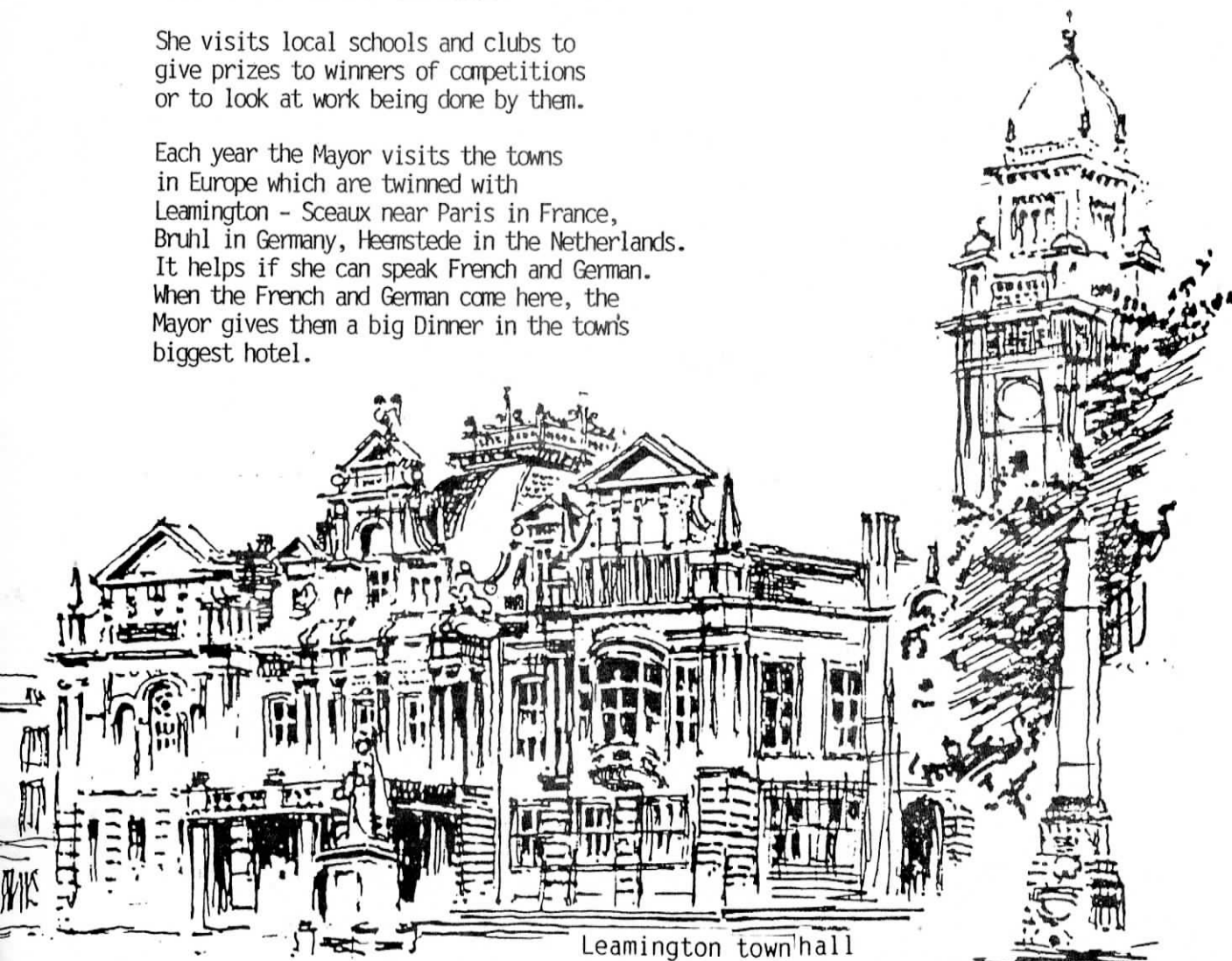
The Mayor usually greets any party of foreigners visiting Leamington. For instance if a group came from Bo she would welcome them at the Town Hall.

She visits local schools and clubs to give prizes to winners of competitions or to look at work being done by them.

Each year the Mayor visits the towns in Europe which are twinned with Leamington - Sceaux near Paris in France, Bruhl in Germany, Heerstede in the Netherlands. It helps if she can speak French and German. When the French and German come here, the Mayor gives them a big Dinner in the town's biggest hotel.

The Mayor likes to make sure the town looks good to visitors. At Christmas she supports the efforts of traders to put out coloured lights all down the main street. At carnival time she decides which are the best decorated lorries in the procession through the town.

The Mayor has a Chaplain who says prayers for the town and the Mayor once a year holds a big Church Service to which she invites all the leaders of the town. On a special day once a year she puts flowers on the War Memorial, a big stone in memory of those who died in the two World Wars. of 1914-1918 and 1939-1945. It is very tiring being the Mayor because she must do her own job as well but it is a year to remember for the rest of her life.



The Farming Year

The main crops grown around Leamington are grass, wheat, barley, oil seed rape and potatoes. The land is intensively managed with a small labour force using increasingly sophisticated equipment. The value of machinery per worker is many times greater than their industrial counterparts working in factories, so farm workers need technical skill to match machinery with weather and soil conditions.

The traditional small family farm is gradually disappearing into larger units, some of which are managed by farmers for companies or business men.

Unpredictable weather conditions in this country forces the more wealthy crop growing farmer to invest in expensive machinery capable of covering large acreage in a short time when conditions are right.

Pigs, calves and beef animals are housed in purposely made buildings so that feed is converted into meat for market in the least possible time. Sheep, dairy cows, heifers and some young beef cattle are seen in our fields in summer. Sheep are kept outside all year round, although they may be brought inside at lambing time.

On crop or 'arable' land ploughing begins immediately after harvest in September. The sowing of arable crops starts in September with oil seed rape followed by barley and wheat. Fertilizer is put on at the same time as the sowing, then apart from weedkiller, which is sprayed before or after the crop has come up and possibly slug pellets, that is all until March. These sprays and fertilisers are increasingly expensive but few farmers manage without them.

The grass has all but gone by October and the outside cattle are brought

indoors for the winter and fed on silage, hay and ground barley. The winter months are taken up with looking after the stock, maintaining hedgerows, ditches and fences and, repairing machinery etc. As soon as conditions are right in spring, fertilizer sowing begins again on grass and arable crops followed by spraying weedkiller, fungicide and insecticide on the arable crops.

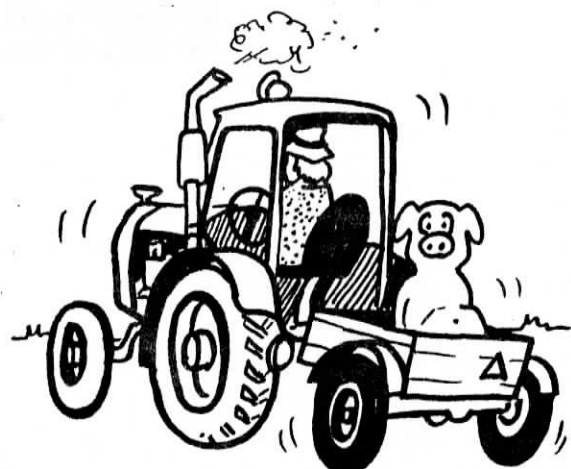
By May the potato crop is planted and cattle are out in the fields again. The bedding and manure is cleaned out of the cattle sheds and stacked in a large heap to rot down and to be spread on the land after harvest.

In June when the grass is just about to come into ear it is cut, wilted and then made into silage. When weather conditions are right older grass is mown and made into hay.

The oil seed rape is ready for harvesting in July followed by the barley and wheat. The grain has then to be dried down to a 14% moisture content for storage and sale.

The straw left in the fields is either baled and used for bedding or chopped up and ploughed in, so that the year comes full circle again.

Surely it's a busy life for a farmer, whichever country he lives in.



The Local Car Industry

The British public of today buys some 1.5 million new cars each year, over half of which are manufactured 'at home' in England. The major manufacturers Austin Rover, Ford and G.M. produce about 60% of those cars, all requiring a large input from Warwickshire and Coventry and employing over 50,000 people.

The region was famous from the start with the first car assembled locally back in 1895 and one year later the first factory opened. The start of this century saw the number of manufacturing firms increase rapidly, names such as Rolls Royce, Sunbeam, Rover and Triumph have all become famous. The production methods and car design have changed drastically since those days. The use of robots and computers has made the traditional hand assembly and low volume production very uneconomical, but fortunately this has led to increased safety, reliability and economy.

Warwickshire has many firms manufacturing parts for the large car companies. Here in Leamington for instance we have factories making brake and clutch parts, casting hubs and brake discs and a firm researching car design for British Leyland. Land Rover is another part of this state owned company based in Coventry manufacturing 4 - wheel drive off - road vehicles designed to cope with any amount of rough use. In fact every sort of car is produced in this part of the country from small family cars to large luxury limosines, from black London taxis to huge container lorries. They are sold all over the world earning the region much needed foreign income and helping to counteract the effect of the vast number of foreign vehicles sold in Britain.

Warwickshire and Coventry are certainly at the heart of the countrys car Industry!

Being Unemployed

In Britain there are between three and four million unemployed people. Those aged between sixteen and twenty-five, I see as 'young unemployed'.

Young unemployed people in Britain are often thought of, by people who are not in this position, as being lazy, workshy and unmotivated. What seems most ridiculous to me, is that we are also thought of as living easy at the expense of the state and taxpayer.

I myself have been unemployed, or "on the dole" for over three years of the five since I left school at sixteen. Living easy at the state's expense I am not. It was easier when I still lived at home, but by no means was it a life of luxury as often and ignorantly presumed. I cannot think of anything enjoyable about unemployment itself.

Twice monthly I receive my "benefit" cheque. This is money paid by the Government to everyone who is not in a regular job and has no other form of income. This is supposed to cover all my living expenses. After I've paid for food (both for me and my dog Bella), gas and electricity, rent and other essentials I have little money left over. This is spent on perishables like milk, bread, fresh vegetables and other items which must be bought daily. I can never afford new clothes, records, books or any other 'luxuries' of the western world.

It is perhaps not surprising then that a significant number of young unemployed people turn to crime. This may just be petty theft like shop-lifting (some of my friends have done this to eat) or maybe worse crimes such as burglary or drug dealing.

Drug abuse is another problem prevalent amongst unemployed youth. This ranges from hashish smoking through alcoholism to heroin addiction. Heroin is now such a problem amongst young people here that the Government is running a massive, but largely ineffectual advertising campaign about the dangers of heroin. Usually the reason people (at least the ones I know) experiment with drugs is because they are bored and frustrated on the dole - all you have is time.

I have so far avoided that path. After five years away from school I have decided to re-enter education. The simple reason is that I was so bored and depressed with my life that I became sure I would lose my sanity unless I occupied my mind, and my time.

Unemployment gave almost unlimited time and almost totally limited resources. After six months or so of unemployment the novelty value runs out. I took to staying in bed later and later because I saw no point in getting up early. What is the point in having more time to do nothing in? Having access to a T.V. I ended up spending my afternoons watching cheap Australian plays. On rare occasions I would go to the cinema; on some days there is a cheaper rate for the unemployed, but that still meant a day's "perishable" money gone. In Britain the centre of social life for young people is usually the pub, but you have to have money to enjoy yourself there, so I would only go if someone offered to buy me a drink. Otherwise I would stay at home getting more bored and increasingly depressed.

Depression has been the worst effect of unemployment from my point of view. Unemployment isolates you financially, socially and, in a way, spiritually. It is hard to have faith in a society which does not seem to care about you. Fortunately I have friends and we care about each other.

Four years ago my parents separated. My mother, younger brother and I came to live in Leamington Spa. I lived for two years in my mother's home, but wanting independence and increasingly feeling like a burden on my mother I moved out. Since then I lived in rented accommodation, at the mercy of landlords who can legally make you leave without giving any reason.

I now share a rented house with two friends, Mark and Tim. They are both unemployed as well, Tim for six months, Mark for several years. Other friends share households quite close by and we have all grown to know each other very well, possibly even better than our parents do, because we all share the effects of unemployment. Our parents have only a "second-hand" idea of what it is like, we have to live it. Many of our parents are, like mine, separated or divorced; many live in other towns, sometimes hundreds of miles away. So we as a group supply the love and trust and support that we as individuals need and that parents would theoretically. We still have problems, we still get depressed and scared, but we also know that there is someone nearby that we can talk to. Someone who understands how we feel because they have felt the same themselves.

We in our little 'family' have come to realise that there is only one true way to act in times of trouble and hardship. That is to act together, together in honesty, trust, love and co-operation.

Greetings from the Brownies

We have 24 Brownies in a Pack, all girls aged between 7 - 11. and we meet on Tuesdays from 6.15 pm. to 7.45 pm. at our Dale Street, Leamington Church Hall. Our four groups called 'sixes' are Sprites (green). Gnomes (White). Imps (Yellow) and Elves (Blue) - each group has its own flag and the pack has a knitted owl called Simon for a mascot.

At the moment we are working for the 'outdoor challenge' badge and have just finished our 'Daley Sketches' Show (which happens every two years and all of us Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies, Venture Scouts and Leaders are involved.).

We work for interest badges - there are over 30 to choose from, such as Safety in the Home, Jester, Swimmer, Cook, Dance and so on. For Safety, we need to be able to light a candle, know how to wash up sharp knives, learn our doctor's telephone number and be able to do an emergency telephone call, etc. Ours sixers wear two yellow stripes and Seconders wear one yellow stripe, and these two are supposed to look after the rest of their group.

Last year all the Brownies in our country celebrated their 70th Birthday (70 years since the first Brownie pack was started) and this year (1985) the Guides are celebrating their 75th Birthday - I hope they have a cake as big as the one we had.

Rules for 'Hit the Tins'

Two teams face each other and are numbered.

A chair is placed at each end of the teams and a bag or ball is placed on it for throwing at the target. The target is two tins placed on top of each other and which ever team knocks the target over first gets the point.

The leader calls a number eg. 3 and both teams '3' runs to the team chair and tries to knock the tins down first.

The team with the highest number of points wins the game.

We love this game and all cheer like mad when our team wins a point. As well as this game we make things, sometimes with paper or material or plaster of paris.

When a new girl comes to join, she is called a 'tweeny' until she makes her promise. At the moment we have one 'Tweeny' called Joanna and she will be taken round the outside of our Brownie ring and through two arches of flags, where she says the motto 'Lend a hand' and perhaps, 'Brownies are friendly' (or 'make things, keep fit, help at home ...' Then she says the Brownie law. 'A Brownie Guide thinks of others before herself and does a good turn every day' she also makes her promise, and we all salute her.

<u>H I T T H E T I N S</u>			
<u>A Team</u>	chair A team		<u>B Team</u>
1	X		7
2			6
3			5
4	0		4
5	0 (tins)		3
6			2
7			1
	X		
	chair B team		
	with bag and ball		

Brownie Promise

'I promise that I will do my best,
to do my duty to God, to serve the
Queen and help other people and to
keep the Brownie Guide Law.'

Brownie Promise Badge

This badge you receive when you
enroll with the Brownies.



Brownie Uniform



In summer or for sports days, we
wear a yellow tee shirt, which have
our Pack emblem on - a teddy bear and
staff, which is something like our
Warwickshire Badge; and brown shorts
or trousers.

When we have been in the Pack for one
year we get a brown Birthday Badge.

After two years we have a green badge,
and after three years a red one.

Interest badges are worn on one
sleeve in pairs.

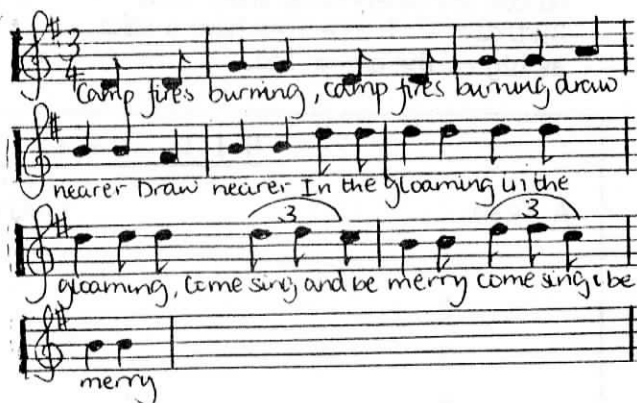
At the end of the meeting, we do
try to be quiet for prayers after
singing our Brownie Song which says
about 'friends in north, south east
and west' and then we sing 'Brownie
Bells' O Lord our God, Your
children call, Grant us your peace,
and bless us all.

All the units go to our Church on
Church Parade on the third Sunday
in the month and take turns in
helping with readings, or doing
little plays and the flags are
placed in a holder throughout the
service to be paraded out afterwards.

Our Leaders are named after birds
called Owls eg. Brown Owl, Tawny
Owl, Barny Owl and Snowy Owl, also
we have Woody and Eagle Owl.

So from your Brownie friends in the
north - We send love and greetings.

We are sending you the words of
one of our Brownie Camp Fire songs
we thought you may like to learn.



If you're happy & you know it.

Handwritten musical notation for the song "If you're happy & you know it." The notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with rests. Chord symbols G and D are written above the first two measures. The second staff continues the melody, with chord symbols D7, G, and C written above. The third staff concludes the melody with a G chord symbol. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined.

1. If you're hap-py and you know it, clap your hands If you're
hap-py and you know it, clap your hands If you're happy and you know it, then you'll
sure-ly want to show it. If you're hap-py and you know it, clap your hands

2. If you're happy and you know it,
nod your head....
3. If you're happy and you know it,
stamp your feet....
4. If you're happy and you know it,
say "Ha! Ha!".....
5. If you're happy and you know it,
do all four!

A letter from the Guides

Dear Guide Friends,

We hope you are all well. We are in the 11th Leamington Guide Company and here are some of the things we do. We go in uniform to Church Parade every 3rd Sunday in the month when we parade our flag. Our guide meetings are every Monday. Each summer we go away to camp for a week. We take tents and warm sleeping bags and camp outside a nearby village.

Every two years we take in a "Gangshow" with the Scouts, Cubs, Ventures and Brownies. We call this gangshow 'Daley Sketches' it is brilliant fun.

All our patrols in our company are named after English birds. We are in the Nightingale patrol. There is also, Blue Tits, Robins and Chaffinch.

In our weekly meetings we discuss various topics and do challenges. We are learning about firefighting and have been to the local fire station. We are also having lessons in first aid then we can take the test and get our badges. Sometimes we do cooking and crafts like straw work and patchwork sewing. To raise funds we collect old newspapers and sell them to a big firm for recycling.

Guides is a good way to get to interesting places and make new friends. It's fun to hear from Guides in other countries and exchange photographs.

Best wishes to you

from

11TH LEAMINGTON DALE STREET GUIDES

Katy Hammon

Rachel Bowen

Alison Bunney

Jennifer Ireland

Sarah Gibbs

Helen Perks

Sarah Lancelley

Lucy Starr

Wendy Carter

Helen Martindale

An article by the Scouts

There are several Scout groups in Leamington most having good membership of about 25 Scouts per troop.

Scout meetings usually start at 7-30 p.m. with inspection of patrol and uniform, and flag break. This is often followed by a lively game organised by some of the senior Scouts. The Scouts can then break up into smaller groups to do proficiency work. This can take a variety of forms such as mapping and compass work, knotting, local knowledge, first aid, camping skills etc., most of which go towards the gaining of a Proficiency Badge.

After this there is usually another game taking the form of a challenge, often incorporating part of what the Scouts have been learning about in their proficiency work. Then at 9 O'clock the Scouts line up again for prayers and flag down when the National Anthem is sung.

There are three main awards that Scouts can work towards (as well as the Proficiency Badges) during the 4½ years they are in the troop. The first is the Scout Standard followed by the Advanced Scout Standard and finally the Chief Scout Award. They all follow a similar form of challenges which get progressively more difficult as the stages advance. These challenges cover such things as:- camping skills, first aid, public service, independent travel and chosen hobbies.

Once a year there is a main camp usually during the summer holidays from school. This gives Scouts a chance to put into practise a lot of the skills they have been learning about through the year. There are often several smaller camps held at weekends during the year.

Housing in the Warwick District

Travelling the streets of Warwick and Leamington one passes mile after mile of housing. Houses over one hundred years old; large and small. Houses built at various times from the 1900's to the present day. Large blocks of flats with few facilities for the residents through to large individual houses set in spacious gardens.

In April 1985 there were 45,097 dwellings in the district: 35,063 in the private sector. The other houses and flats belonging to the Local Authority and the Housing Associations.

The estate agents in the area offer many hundreds of properties for sale each week. Access to these homes (which are in the private sector) is dependent on wealth: either readily available money, or a permanent well paid job as a sign of credit worthiness to banks and building societies offering mortgages.

Prices of homes vary, depending on type, size and location, but tend to range from £15,000 + for a single flat or small house (often in need of repair) to anything from £25 - £55,000 for larger houses with three or four bedrooms. Some properties cost up to £100,000 or more.

Private rented properties are available but are often as expensive as £30 per week for a single room and up to £80 for a three bedroomed house. The condition of rented property and the quality of service provided by the owner can be variable. Of the dwellings that are considered unfit and those requiring renovation and/or added amenities (total of 4,638), 79% are in the private sector.

The local Authority and the Housing Association are the main sources of housing for those unable to enter the private sector housing market. The demand for housing from these bodies is increasing and at present exceeds the supply of available dwellings.

In 1984/5 there were 852 households on the Local Authority waiting list. 460 of these being accepted as homeless. The demand for housing would be even greater if more people living in over-crowded conditions or sharing with other households were to apply for accommodation.

The main features of the rise in demand for specialised accommodation for the elderly people, and the increasing number of single people and one parent families registering for accommodation.

It is hoped that over the next six years that the council will build an average of one hundred houses and flats per year, and that renovation and modernisation of existing properties will continue throughout the period.

Concern is expressed over the availability of land and financial resources.

Leamington and Warwick are towns with many attractive features. The grand architecture, bustling shopping streets and the leafy parks and gardens should not cover up the fact that for many people it is a place where secure and adequate accommodation is a distant dream.

Old Age in Leamington

Life expectancy in England is 72 years. It is usual nowadays for older people to live independently from their children and grandchildren. This is because small houses would not easily accommodate three generations, younger people move around the country to get work so leave their parents' home area, and, one must admit, there is no great expectation that families will take in their older relatives to live with them. However, the majority of sons and daughters see that arrangements of one sort or another are made for their aging parents' accommodation, safety and comfort.

Where relatives live nearby, they would normally be keeping in touch by visits, giving help with cleaning, cooking washing etc. If there are no available relatives, the state welfare organisation (the Social Services Department) will provide a lady 'Home Help' to frail or handicapped old people to call in once or twice a week to clean, perhaps collect pension money from the Post Office, do shopping and call in the doctor if they are ill. Sometimes the doctor arranges for a nurse to call in to the person's home regularly to dress wounds or give injections. Some secondary schools have schemes for older pupils to visit elderly residents in their area to do gardening or housepainting or pay a social visit to the housebound and lonely.

If an older person or couple need more constant care they may ask to go on a waiting list to move into special groups of 'sheltered' housing for the elderly, with a Warden, who calls daily to see they are alright. Frail or housebound people may get a hot lunch delivered two or three times a week. It is cooked in a central kitchen and we call it 'meals on wheels' service.

If an older person needs all home services to be provided (washing, cooking and assistance with bathing etc.) they may apply to move into a Home for the Elderly. This may be a private concern or run by a charity or the state. If the latter, the resident pays on a scale according to their income and savings. Some older people welcome the security of being looked after without worries about keeping warm in the winter and bills etc., Others find it a sad

day when they give up their home and independence and never really adjust to the somewhat impersonal, communal life. Of course visitors and family can come and visit whenever they want - but it's not like your own home with all your possessions around you and able to make your own decisions.

If an older person is very ill or frail or mentally confused, they may need full time nursing care. If they are quite wealthy, they might choose to go into a private nursing home, which charges high rates. There are a great number in Leamington as it is a beautiful town to retire in and there are plenty of large old houses to convert into nursing homes. In these houses, some patients are in single rooms, others in double rooms. There is a regular daily routine, with meals at set times.

The state also runs geriatric hospitals for the elderly - although there are nothing like enough beds for the need. The proportion of elderly in the population is increasing all the time. These hospitals have a mixture of permanent patients. 'short stay' ones who come in for a one or two week stay to give their caring relatives a break and some patients who come in for 'day care' a few times a week.

Of course there are some people who live with their sons and daughters. They would normally have their own bedroom or, if they are very fortunate, a 'granny flat' - part of the house for themselves. In some cases this causes tension and friction, when possibly three generations do not get on. With others it is a very happy arrangement where each member of the family is respected for their qualities, knowledge and skills - regardless of age.

Guide Dogs for the Blind

I had always known about Guide Dogs for the blind because it all started in Leamington Spa, where the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association has its main offices. Guide dogs are trained from a young age to wear a harness and guide a blind person through everyday events such as shopping and visiting friends. Local people known as puppy walkers take young puppies into their homes to housetrain them and look after them until they are old enough to begin training at the Guide Dog Centre.

So I decided to try puppy walking.

One day a gorgeous golden labrador puppy was delivered to my door together with a brush and comb, collar and lead, and instructions about feeding him etc. His name was Merlin and he was four weeks old. He was full of fun but got tired very quickly so he slept quite a lot for two or three weeks! He had three meals a day but as he got bigger he had two meals a day and began to go for walks, and he soon learned to 'wee' in the garden.

We as puppy walkers are not expected to train our puppies as guide dogs, that is done by skilful instructors later on. All I had to do was teach Merlin confidence, concentration and calmness, and let him have as many new experiences as possible, get him used to traffic and going on lifts etc.

Merlin grew and grew until at ten months he was really a big dog, rather boisterous but very obedient, so I was really very sorry to see him go for his proper training.

A year later I felt very proud and pleased to hear Merlin had passed to becoming a Guide Dog. I have since been given a photograph of Merlin with his blind owner. I have also been invited to go and see Merlin.

I am looking forward to seeing Merlin, and realize it has all been worth while.



Special Recipes

Every family has its own favourite meal and special traditions about food. We are very lucky as we have a wide selection of both large and small family food shops in Leamington selling a wide variety of foods.

We have butchers' shops which sell different types of meats, although this is expensive. Pork, beef, lamb and chicken are available and may be used in many different ways. Sometimes they are roasted in fat in the oven and then sliced when served onto plates, other times the meat is cut into small cubes, placed into a casserole with some vegetables and water and cooked slowly in the oven.

People are now much more adventurous with their cooking and use many more spices.

Many vegetables are grown around the area such as potatoes, carrots, swedes, cabbages, cauliflowers, sprouts, lettuces and tomatoes. Other vegetables such as green peppers and onions we import. We also import quite a lot of fruit: bananas, oranges, lemons, melons etc. but we are able to grow apples, pears, plums, raspberries, strawberries, blackcurrants, gooseberries, etc. ourselves. With this selection of vegetables and fruit we are able to vary our meals a great deal. In the summer we have salads: cold vegetables with cold meat, egg or cheese.

In the past a family would have breakfast when they awoke before going to work. This would be a cereal, perhaps a boiled egg, and toast and marmalade (orange jam). At midday they would then have a dinner which would be a cooked dish of fish or meat with vegetables followed by a pudding. Late in the day they would have a meal called tea, which would be bread and cakes. All this has changed over the last years as most women now go out to work so patterns of eating have changed

and many families have breakfast, perhaps a sandwich midday and then eat a cooked meal in the evening after work.

We have certain festival days where by tradition we eat special meals.

Christmas Day

The family all gathers for Christmas dinner. This is usually a turkey or chicken cooked whole in the oven with a little fat. We serve potatoes, sprouts, sausages and stuffing with the turkey. To follow we have Christmas Pudding.

To cook a turkey or chicken

Remove the inside of chicken and wash. Place in a pan and cover with $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of salt and 1 ounce of fat. Place in oven and cook for 15 minutes for each pound of weight of the chicken.

Potatoes are peeled and boiled in salted water for 10 minutes.

Stuffing is made with dry bread. Add an onion which has been boiled and chopped, then add chopped sage. Mix and place inside chicken. (Stuffing is merely to add flavour).

Christmas Pudding

4 oz. Currants
4 oz. Sultanas
1 oz. Candied Peel
4 oz. Suet (Shredded)
4 oz. Breadcrumbs
1 oz. Flour
4 oz. Dark Brown Sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon Salt
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon Grated Nutmeg
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon Mixed Spices
1 Egg
2 spoons of Milk

Mix all the ingredients - place in a basin. Put greaseproof paper over the top and tie on a cloth. Boil for 5 hours. Serve with cream.

Birthdays

Usually when we are children we have a special cake which is decorated with icing and candles. We put on one candle for each year of our life and then light them when our friends have gathered around. Our friends sing "Happy Birthday to you. Happy Birthday to you. Happy Birthday dear (name of the child). Happy Birthday to you."

When they finish singing the child takes a deep breath and then tries to blow out all the candles in one blow.



Pancake Day

This is celebrated the day before the christian festival of Ash Wednesday. Many people take part in pancake races. You have to run a race tossing your pancake in your pan without letting it drop on the ground.

To make pancakes:

4 oz. Flour
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon Salt
1 Egg
 $\frac{1}{2}$ pint Milk.

Place the flour in a basin, add salt. Make a well in the centre, drop in egg and $\frac{1}{2}$ the milk, Using a wooden spoon beat for 5 minutes until the mixture is smooth and full of bubbles. Stir in the rest of the milk. Warm a frying pan and put a little fat in the pan and when it covers the base of the pan drain excess fat off. Pour in enough mixture to just cover the base of the pan and cook gently. When the pancake is slightly brown turn it over. By tradition it should be thrown in the air and caught in the pan again.

Serve at once with a little sugar and lemon juice and roll it up. Children love this.

Bonfire Day (November 5th)

We build bonfires to celebrate the historical fact that Guy Fawkes did not manage in 1605 to blow up our Parliament.

We gather around the fire in the dark and cold and light the fire and fireworks.

We cook potatoes in the embers of the fire and eat them in our hands. We also cook sausages and toffee apples and bonfire toffee.



Bonfire Toffee

1 lb. Brown Sugar
¼ pint Water
Pinch of cream of Tartar.
3 oz. Butter
4 oz. Treacle
4 oz. Syrup

Dissolve the sugar in water and add the remaining ingredients. Bring to boil at 270 °F and turnout in an oiled flat tin. When cold break into squares.

To make Toffee Apples:

Dip an apple on a stick into the toffee mixture and leave it to cool. You might like to try to make this!

These are several special recipes for Festival Times. Obviously everyday meals are much simpler. sometimes easy snacks are bought ready cooked. This is called 'fast food' or 'takeaway food'. In Leamington this could be the traditional fish and chips or foreign food like Italian pizzas. (cheese and tomatoe on dough) or Chinese food. This can be useful but it is cheaper to eat at home.

English Superstitions

A superstition is a fear or belief which some people hold. Some suggest things to do to bring you good luck and others things to avoid lest you have bad luck. There are lots of different versions.

For example:

8 things said to bring you good luck.

- 1) Throwing salt over your left shoulder
(Where superstition has it, the devil sits - so in this way you blind him)
- 2) The number 7
- 3) Finding a four leafed clover (a clover is a kind of flower which normally has three leaves)
- 4) A metal horse shoe placed this way up
'U' to "hold the luck in".
- 5) A rabbit's foot. (This is a small furry mammal)
- 6) A black cat walking in front of you.
- 7) Throwing a little spider over your shoulder.
- 8) Shaking hands with a sweep.
(A sweep is someone who cleans the soot from the chimneys of homes with wood or coal fires)

And now 8 things said to bring you bad luck

- 1) Walking under a ladder.
- 2) Turn a packet, like a packet of sweets, upside down.
- 3) Putting up an umbrella indoors.
- 4) The breaking of a mirror is said to lead to 7 years bad luck
- 5) Putting shoes on the table.
- 6) Crossing someone on the stairs.
- 7) Stepping on cracks in a pavement.
- 8) The date Friday the 13th.

We also have a superstitious rhyme about a black bird called a magpie, counting how many are seen together at at any one time.

" One for sorrow
Two for joy
Three for a girl
Four for a boy
Five for a secret never to be told
Six for a friendship worth more than gold."