

# THANKS FOR YOUR BLOOD

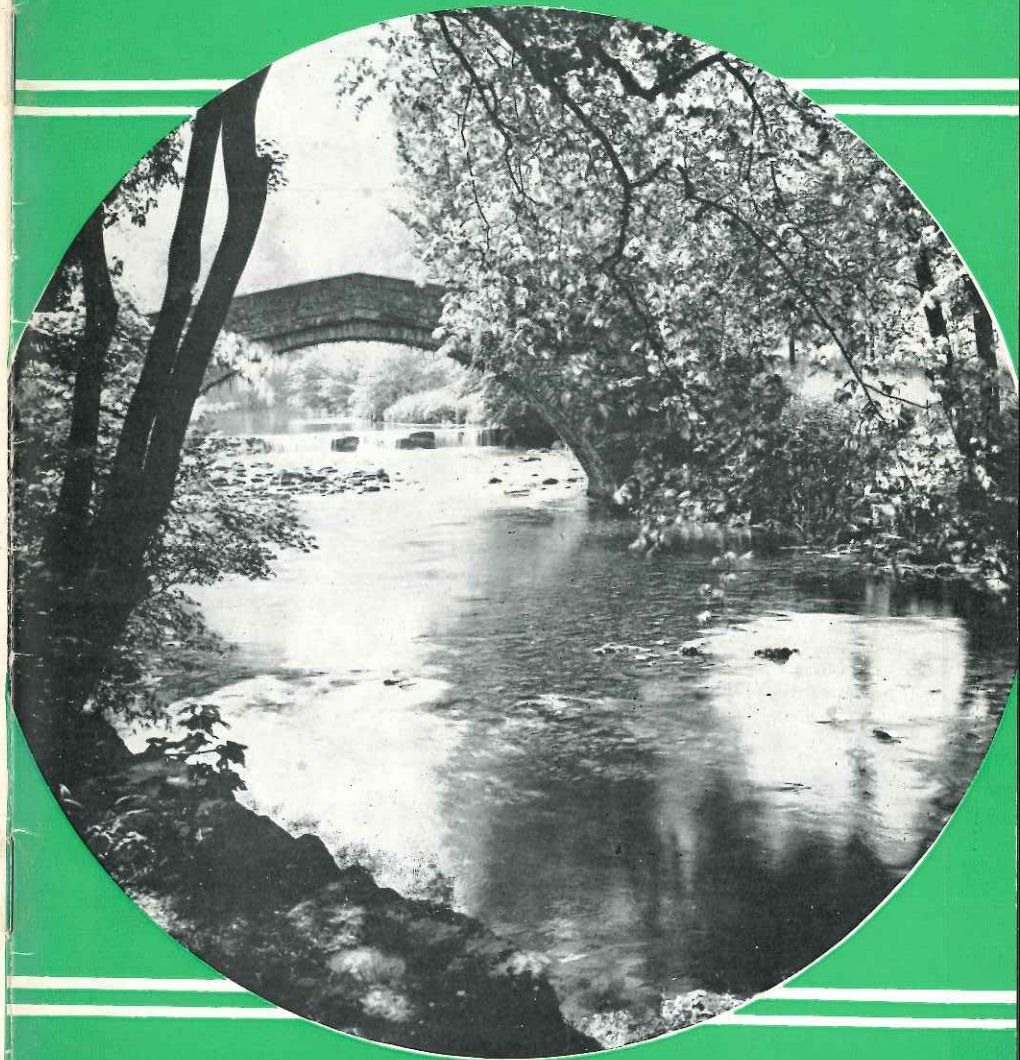
On Thursday, 22nd March, ninety-six  
Chance Brothers employees donated blood  
to the National Blood Transfusion Service  
who express grateful thanks for this generous  
contribution to the blood bank.

This is the property of  
**Smethwick Heritage  
Centre Trust**  
Tele 0121 429 1223



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## Chance COMMENTS



APRIL — MAY 1962

3<sup>D</sup>

# Chance

## COMMENTS

The MAGAZINE of Chance Brothers Limited, published in alternate months for the interest, entertainment and information of all employees of the firm.

EDITOR A. OGDEN

### CORRESPONDENTS

#### Blown and Pressed

Inspection F. O'CONNOR  
Pressed Process  
Cathodes A. SUTTON  
Vello O. MCKENNA  
Warehouses G. GRIGG

#### Flat Glass

Fiesta MRS. GILGRESS  
Rolled Plate R. E. EVANS  
Rolled Plate  
Warehouse MISS W. WALKER  
Seven Storey

Laboratory W. H. D. LILLEY

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Electricians E. A. WHITEHOUSE  
Fitters H. BEECH  
Drawing Office  
and Offices S. SCRIVEN  
Vehicle Repairs H. COSNETT

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Sales F. TAYLOR  
Typing MISS M. VICKERS  
Buying and  
Stationery MISS I. GROVES  
Wages A. E. CARTWRIGHT  
Stores D. R. KIRKWOOD  
Old Hall MISS V. HICKLING  
Traffic N. A. RHODES

#### BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

Glasgow H. MACLEOD  
London G. H. ELPHEE  
Malvern MISS D. CLARE

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### THIS MONTH'S COVER

A prize of five shillings will be awarded for the first correct identification of our cover photograph received in writing to the Editor c/o Personnel Department.

VOL. 15, No. 1

APRIL —MAY 1962



JOSEPH T. MORAN  
(BLOWN AND PRESSED)  
23RD MARCH (WATCH)



ALFRED MAWSON (BENDING  
5TH MARCH (WATCH)



ALBERT MANN (FIESTA)  
1ST APRIL (CASH).

HAMILTON FULTON (GENERAL  
COMMERCIAL AND ADMINISTRATION  
MANAGER 1ST APRIL (WATCH)



## 25 YEARS SERVICE

RAYMOND W. MEDLEY (M. & C.)  
25TH MARCH (WATCH).



# SWITCH TO DECIMALS

WITH a view to preparing ourselves for the possible entry of Britain into the Common Market and the European Free Trade Area, the decimal system of calculating superficial areas of flat glass is to be introduced in Britain on July 1st.

Lengths and breadths of rolled glass will continue to be shown in inches and fractions of an inch and there will be no changes in the methods of pricing.

But the fractions of a foot of the area—for the purposes of invoicing and documentation—will be expressed as decimals.

## Why We're at Sixes and Sevens

The changeover to decimalisation set us wondering about how we got our present awkward system of weights and measures in the first place.

A system based on multiples of ten was advocated as far back as the 18th Century but we never seemed to get round to it. It would need a book to describe fully the history and development of our present system.

Even in Anglo-Saxon times there were official standards of weight and measure, such as a yard or "gird."

For instance in the Statute for Measuring Land, dating from before 1284, it was said that "three grains of barley, dry and round made an inch, twelve inches make a foot, three feet make an "ulna" (yard).

Our "grain" still used as a measure of weight, is also derived from a grain of corn and a law of the 13th Century says that a sterling penny must weigh thirty-two grains of wheat "round and dry from the middle of ear."

In the reign of the first Elizabeth the system was completely overhauled and in fact the standard yard of that time differs by a fraction of an inch from the modern one.

Our present system was standardised in 1824 but the standards were destroyed by fire at the Houses of Parliament ten years later, and had to be reconstructed.

The Imperial Yard, for example, was defined in 1878 as the distance, at a temperature of sixty-two degrees Fahrenheit, between two fine lines engraved on gold studs sunk in a specified bronze bar; the pound was defined as the weight

of a specified piece of metal in specified conditions.

For most people's rough and ready reckoning, of course, the yard is still three times the length of man's foot, as it was for our ancestors.

The inch, the twelfth part of the foot, derives directly from the Roman word "uncia" which means a twelfth part.

Ounce also derives from the word, though an ounce is no longer a twelfth part of a pound weight.

The origins of many of our other weights and measures can be traced right back beyond Rome to Babylon.

Our system of buying by dozens stems from a very early method of counting by twelves. The Zodiac was divided into twelve parts, day and night into twelve hours each.

Another ancient system reckoned things by twenties, hence the term "score"—still used in many trades.

Measurement of land had its problems, too. Until medieval times Englishmen used measurements based on their own bodies—e.g. the foot, the span of the hand or length of the forearm (cubit).

The need to judge the size of piece of land in terms of how long it would take to plough and how much seed it would need brought the term "acre" into being.

This was originally the amount of land covered by an average day's ploughing in a long narrow rectangle. The long side was as long as the oxen could go without stopping for a rest, i.e. a furrow or furlong (legally 220 yards); the width was legally twenty-two yards this being the length of four rods (i.e. the goads used by the men to spur the oxen on), a rod being 5½ yards or 16½ feet.

The chain, a very convenient figure to use when measuring land, was invented by a surveyor called Gunter in the reign of Elizabeth I. One chain he made equal to four rods (i.e. twenty-two yards or the length of a cricket pitch).

There is, of course, much to be said for the simpler metric system, but it must be remembered that numbering by twelve is not all that bad, and in small scale counting has some advantages.

For instance one can divide twelve apples equally between two, three, four or six children. But ten apples can only be divided into two or five equal parts.

# SUGGESTIONS SCHEME

The revised scale of safety suggestion awards came into operation for suggestions received after 1st February, 1962.

These are as follows:—

Minor safety reminders such as fitting warning signals to vehicles, repairing chairs etc., reporting careless driving, repainting of white lines and refitting of mirrors, signs etc. Nil.

Erection of new caution signs, painting new white lines fixing new mirrors, installing additional lighting, replacing guards on machines or repairing floor or stairs. 5/-

Re-designing on machines or recommending the fixing of screens to protect personnel or equipment. 10/-

Preventative or immediate action which eliminates a hazard endangering life and limb of many people or action which avoids serious damage to machinery. 20/-

I would like to remind Suggestors that under the new rules no suggestions related to safety will be considered by the Committee unless a hazard slip has been first submitted and the hazard slip number given on the suggestion form.

More awards were made for suggestions at the February and March Committee meetings and these included the following:—

				£ s d
54424	T. Ashcroft	Blown and Pressed	Fit a side plate on pick-up rollers on the Vello Trim and Glaze machine to cater for more sizes of tubes. ...	5 0 0
60/77	J. Winwood	Rolled Plate	Replace the stumps for loose loads in figured glass with dividers as used in lorries. ...	2 10 0
61/230	H. Helsby	Pyrometry	Platform across Lehr for use when changing roller couples. ...	1 5 0
61/299	L. Mason	Millwrights	To modify the attachment of water cooled tubes on doghouse arches. ...	2 0 0
61/304	J. O'Mara and G. Sherwood	Rolled Plate	To fit a moveable tray at the far end of the belt section on No. 4 Lehr end. ...	1 10 0
61/406	O. Gilbert	D.R.M.	Adjustable air inlet instead of flexible tubing for use on Rolled Plate Machines. (Balance) ...	15 0 0
61/514	J. Redfern	M. and C.	Modifications to Rolled Plate cranes for easier maintenance. ...	1 15 0
61/522	D. R. Deaves and J. Gardner	M. and C.	Increase area of loading platform at No. 22 Warehouse. ...	1 10 0
61/544	D. Parratt	M. and C.	To instal Univectors in Rickyard Booster House. ...	2 5 0
62/3	A. Palmer	Cathodes	To fit small air cooling pipes on No. 9 Trim and Glaze machine. ...	3 10 0
62/6	J. Downes	Mould Shop	To fit steel plate to bottom of new door at M. and C. for protective purposes. ...	1 10 0
62/24	B. Brookes	No. 1. R.P.	To have inspection holes to see stirrers working. ...	2 5 0
62/27	R. Chalk	Electricians	Cover over the starter handle of the machine starters in No. 1, 3 and 4 Rolled Plate Dept. ...	2 5 0
62/28	J. Redfern	Millwrights	Easier changing of bogie wheels on No. 1 R.P. Crane. ...	1 15 0
62/31	J. E. Jones	Rolled Plate Making	A lug to be welded on to the end of the fulcrum bar of C.B.1 Tank fore-hearth Dampers. ...	1 15 0
62/42	S. G. Lawrence	C.B.1	Brackets to hold oil and air flexes during burner changes. ...	1 10 0

continued over ●

## REFEREE

### BILL CLEMENTS

Seven Storey department glass cutter Bill Clements is well known as a football referee and in recent years he has had important appointments. On March 31st he was the referee to the Fulham v Burnley F.A. Cup Semi-final.

Bill has been refereeing since 1943 and has a wealth of experience. He started in the Handsworth and District League moved on to the Birmingham and District and then Central Leagues and became a Football League referee in 1952.

He is a member of the Birmingham County F.A.; the Executive to the Midland Division of Football Referees and Linesmen; the Referees' Secretary of the Handsworth and District League.

But this is not the first honour Bill has had. In 1958 he refereed the Amateur Cup Final at Wembley between Woking and Ilford and the following year officiated at the F.A. Youth Cup Final between Blackburn and West Ham. He rates this latest honour as the highest of his career.

Last year he refereed the Channel Island Cup Final between Jersey and Guernsey.

Bill keeps himself pretty fit and each week spends two evenings limbering



BILL CLEMENTS

up at West Bromwich Albion's Spring Road training quarters.

His interest in refereeing was aroused when he married the daughter of Birmingham League referee Tommy Fardell. Bill told me "Since then I have tried to model myself on various great officials such as Arthur Ellis of Halifax. I think by watching these men when I have been running the line my standard has improved."

Needless to say his ambition is to referee the F.A. Cup Final. Here's wishing him luck!

(With acknowledgement to Ray Matts of The Midland Chronicle).

#### ● Suggestions Scheme—continued

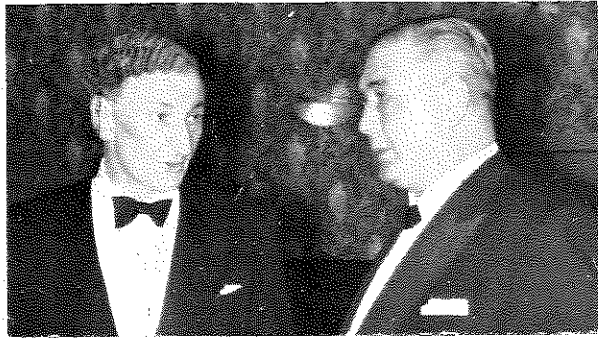
62/51	D. Parratt	M. and C.	To purchase 14", 2" and 6" rubber ring joints to General Stores Stock. ....	1 10 0
62/55	D. Parratt	M. and C.	To resite pump to inside of house on plain instead of on roof. ....	1 10 0
62/58	R. McDonald	M. and C.	To alter the guard of the screw feed gear boxon No. 9 furnace frit elevator. ....	1 10 0
62/60	G. Riley	Boiler Shop	To have suds pump of Boiler Shop drilling machine connected to starter switch. ....	1 1 0
62/65	G. Hadley and	No. 1. R.P.	To increase height of loose load steads used at No. 1. R.P. Warehouse. ....	2 5 0
62/81	J. Rollason	Micro	Additional lighting in Micro Dept. ....	2 0 0



## LORRIES, VANS, TRACTORS, CARS

The Company has a fleet of 99 vehicles of all types. It is the day-to-day task of the Vehicle Repair Shop personnel to maintain these and this page of pictures is featured as a compliment to the efficiency of Foreman Wilf Holloway and his staff.

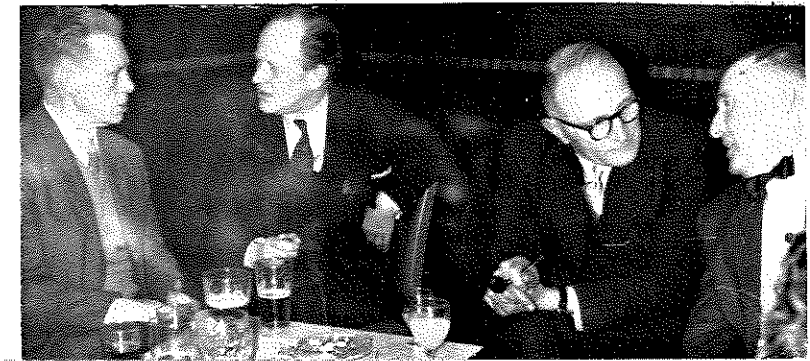




## ***PARTY TIME SNAPSHOTS***

**GALA BALL**

**No. 10  
GROUP DINNER**





# From all Departments

**MOSTLY PERSONAL**

## ● SMETHWICK

### Retirements

Horace Newey retired in January. Grey-haired burly Horace was a familiar figure in the Works and very many people will miss him. Mr. Newey came to us in October 1951 as Civil Defence Officer and he speedily enrolled and trained nearly 200 volunteers. His energy and his enthusiasm was terrific.

Ill health necessitated early retirement and we most sincerely hope that his health will improve to enable him to enjoy his well earned rest. His many friends presented a wrist watch as a retirement gift.

Harold Griffiths retired from the Carpenters in February. Until the transfer of the Optical Division to St. Asaph, Harold was employed in that section. He had completed twenty-three years service.

DAVID SANDERS



Another February retirement was that of Samuel Kerr of the Millwrights Shop after 6 years service.

Two March retirements were David Sanders of the Severn Storey with five years service and Wilfred Adkins of the D.R.M. Shop with forty years service.

It is always sad to say farewell to old colleagues and these five men go with everyone's best wishes for health and happiness in the days ahead.

### We are sorry to lose

Members of the staff who have left recently include Jacqueline Price, No. 8 Office; Douglas Callear, Accounts; Raymond Willetts, Sales; John Pugh, Drawing Office; and Brenda Partridge, Secretary's Office. We wish them success in their new places of employment.

From the works the employment terminations include Uriah Myers of Fiesta who, after seven years at Spon Lane, became home sick and decided to return to his family in the West Indies. He was much respected in the department and he received a handsome farewell gift from the ladies employed there.

### We regret to report

It is with regret that we report the death of John Logan of the Mixing



WILFRED ADKINS

Department on 2nd February. John was aged 54 and had worked in the department for nine years.

Joseph Nicolls died on 19th March aged 66. Joe retired from the Boiler Shop as recent as September of last year and it is sad that he had such a short time to enjoy his retirement.

We also regret that John McCulloch of Micro Department died on 21st March aged 59. John had been absent due to serious illness for over a year. He last started in August 1940 but had four years service in the 1920's.

We express most deep sympathy to the relatives.

### Welcomes

A warm welcome is extended to new members of our staff which include  
Miss Annette Broom Invoice Section  
Miss Thelma Harvey Secretary to Mr.  
L. G. Hinton Librarian  
Miss Janet Pointing Printing Office  
Mrs. W. Thompson General Office  
Mrs. V. Merricks Drawing Office  
Mr. R. Roberts

### Congratulations

Norman Hart of the Laboratory married Margaret Jones on March 10th and on March 17th Dorothier Clancey of Lead Process married Alfred Moore of Vello Tubing.

Norman Andrews and Mike Spencer of M. & C. and Dennis Hewitt of



URIAH MYERS



Work Study are the proud fathers of baby daughters.

## ● GLASGOW

The Recreation Club held a very successful Theatre/Dinner night to round off their winter activities.

Congratulations to James Reid and his wife on the birth of a daughter.

Best wishes are expressed to Harry Woods who has left us to take up an outside post.

It is with deep regret we record the death of Robert Anderson and we extend our deepest sympathy to his widow.

## ● LONDON OFFICE

Early in February, with regret on both sides, we said goodbye to Jill Gay after three years, first on the switchboard and then on the telex. Jill has taken a post nearer her home at Gravesend, Kent, as travelling conditions on the railways have become worse over the years and she decided she had had enough! We wish her well.

## ● MALVERN WORKS

We are very sorry to report that one of our employees, Miss C. Barrow, passed away on the 13th February, 1962, whilst on her way home from work. We shall remember her for her nice personality and kindness and pay respect to the relatives.

We are pleased to welcome back after illness Mrs. J. Mason and Mrs. M. Bird; both have been staying for a fortnight at a Convalescent Home at Clevedon. Miss M. Ulett had to have an operation on her foot and is still absent from work. We hope she is well again soon. Returned back to work after illness is Mrs. D. Hadley.

We are glad to welcome as a new starter Miss J. Jones.

Congratulations to Miss E. Perks and Mr. D. Baker on their forthcoming engagement.

On the 14th April a party will make a trip to London to see the show "My Fair Lady" and we do hope they will enjoy it.

# Jottings *of shorter items and employees' contributions*

## BOUQUETS

Ron Moore, Laboratory, is congratulated on having passed the preliminary examination of the Institute of British Photographers.

\* \* \*

Several of our Boiler Stokers have completed a course organised by the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service and the latest to do so is Hubert Bridges who has been awarded the organisation's Boiler Operator's Certificate.

\* \* \*

With this issue Chance Comments attains its fifteenth birthday.

\* \* \*

We congratulate an unknown Lancashire man on his determination to buy cullet by advertising that "he would exchange two stand seats for the Everton v Manchester Cup-tie for a load of cullet."

\* \* \*

Glasgow Works won the 1961 Inter-departmental Safety Competition and were awarded the prize of £50. The Flat Glass Division received an award of £10.

## NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY YEAR

A National Productivity Year has been launched by the British Productivity Council. It will start next November. Its aim is to focus attention on every possible means that lie within the capacity of management and workers to raise efficiency and lower costs—in manufacturing industry, agriculture

mining, building, distribution, transport, public corporations, all types of service, national and local government.

"Nothing is more effective than the practical example provided by leading firms, large and small," says the council in a special booklet.

The 'Year' will provide an opportunity to publicise the methods which have enabled them to be efficient, as an encouragement to others.

In a message urging support throughout Britain for the Productivity Year, the Duke of Edinburgh writes: "No amount of economic juggling can alter the fact that in the long run our solvency depends upon the efficiency of our industries and upon our national productivity. . . Efficiency can only be maintained by a continuous process of improvement and innovation."

"Therefore, the great value of the National Productivity Year will lie in the atmosphere which it generates, the contacts which it helps to make and the need for a continuing effort which it manages to stimulate."

"The whole nation stands to gain from the success of this venture particularly if it can inspire a spirit of co-operation and joint endeavour which alone can help this country to overcome the challenge of the future."

## 1962 GALA BALL

The Recreation Club held its annual Gala Ball at the T.I. Ballroom on

February 16th when some 430 persons attended. The support was less than in previous years and we understand that this position is being experienced by many dance organisers this season. However, the smaller attendance enabled the Committee to introduce more of the party spirit into the programme and the ball was certainly a social success.

We were particularly pleased to welcome a coach load of employees from the Malvern Works and Vera Hickling contributes this sketch of a certain lovable character from there



## FLAT GLASS CHILDREN VISIT THE CIRCUS

This year the Flat Glass division's children's party Committee arranged for a visit to the Circus in place of the traditional tea party. Two hundred and sixty children attended and this

change of programme was a huge success. After the show coaches returned the kiddies to the Recreation Club pavilion for a distribution of Christmas parcels.

This picture, reproduced by permission of the West Bromwich Chronicle shows Mr. Brian Boorman, Warehouse Manager, helping to load the departure coaches.

## WOW!

The art of taxation consists of so plucking the goose as to procure the greatest quantity of feathers with the least possible hissing.

An American woman to her friend: "I thought Elizabethville was Buckingham Palace."

Temperament is temper that is too old to spank.

Give a book a bad name—and it becomes a film.

Psychiatrist to Patient: "When did you first discover you enjoyed paying you income tax?"

Visitor to Hostess: "It was very kind of you to ask my husband and myself to tea. Thank you so much. You must let us have our revenge some time."



A stationmaster, making a report of a murder in a train: "The murderer entered the compartment from the platform, stabbed the victim savagely several times and emerged on to the line from the opposite door, thus infringing the Company's regulations."

If you could kick the person causing most of your troubles, you would probably not be able to sit down for months.

"No, madam," a young man in the Portobello Road told an American lady. "I do not buy antiques. I buy junk. I sell antiques."

#### COMMITTEES ARE ELECTED

The months of March and April is a period in which the Annual General Meetings of certain Work societies are held and elections take place for representatives on Committees.

Here are the results of some recent such elections:—

#### Employees' Charity Fund Committee:

Mr. L. G. Hinton—*Chairman*  
Mr. A. Wood—*Treasurer*  
Mr. A. Ogden—*Secretary*  
Mrs. J. Taylor—*Welfare*  
Mr. D. R. Kirkwood—*General Stores*  
Mr. H. Care—*M. and C. Office*  
Mr. W. King—*B. & P. Engineering*

Mr. H. F. Cosnett—*Garage*  
Mrs. R. Yates—*B. & P.*  
Mrs. A. Simcox—*Fiesta*  
Mr. W. Sargent—*B. & P.*  
Mr. R. Fardell—*Seven Storey*

#### Smethwick Glass Works

##### Provident Society:

Mr. C. J. S. Newman—*Chairman*  
Mrs. J. Taylor—*Welfare*  
Mr. L. G. Hinton—*Company Secretary*  
Mr. J. Kokke—*Malvern*  
Mr. W. Holloway—*Transport Repairs*  
Sister M. Jones—*Medical Centre*  
Mr. A. Wood—*(Treasurer) Cashier*  
Mr. A. Ogden—*(Secretary) Personnel*  
Mr. J. Hill—*Boiler Shop*  
Mr. W. Short—*Mixing*  
Mr. R. Cammies—*Blown and pressed*  
Mr. H. Care—*Mould Shop*  
Mr. R. Turley—*Pyrometry*  
Mr. S. E. Thomas—*Wages Office*  
Mrs. E. Windsor—*Micro*  
Mrs. M. Bates—*Micro*  
Miss E. Lewis—*Blown and Pressed*  
Miss I. Groves—*Buying*

#### Staff Consultative Committee

Management representatives are:—

Mr. C. J. S. Newman (chairman),  
Mr. B. Boorman, Mr. L. G. Hinton,  
Mr. J. Jordan, Mr. A. Ogden (Secretary).

Group	Departments	Representatives
1	Flat Glass	Mrs. L. Ellithorne
2	Blown and Pressed	V. J. Bicknell
3	Maintenance & Construction	K. Hill
4	Laboratory, Personnel, Old Hall	D. Wilson
5	Ground Floor Office & Traffic	A. Farley
6	Second & Third Floor Offices	F. G. Ankcorn
7	Glasgow	J. Crawford
8	Malvern	J. G. Poole

FETE

FETE

FETE

SATURDAY, 18th AUGUST

AT

RECREATION CLUB GROUNDS



#### ATTRACTIONS FOR YOUNG & OLD

Children's Corner	Vegetable and Flower Show
Fun Fair	Arts, Crafts and Hobbies Competition
Displays	Summer Girl Competition
Side Shows	Rose Bud Competition
Big Prizes Raffle	Evening Dance
"Refreshments" Tent	Children's Sports
Employee Sports	Children's Fancy Dress
Pensioner's Party	Music



THIS WILL BE THE PARTY FOR CHANCE  
BROTHERS EMPLOYEES AND THEIR  
FAMILIES AND FRIENDS