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'FORGING LINKS TOGETHER'



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v

Halesowen Town F.C.

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Tuesday 5th August

6.00pm Start

Kick Off 7.00pm

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Programme price £1.00

Programme Raffle Number:

1599



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Friends of Homer Hill Park
FORGING LINKS TOGETHER





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**PLEASE KEEP HOLD OF YOUR PROGRAMME
A DRAW WILL BE MADE AT HALF TIME.**

Prizes to be announced on the night

Team line ups to be announced on the night

 **Kevin & Julie** 
Welcome you to the home of
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Produce this Programme to staff and receive
£1.00 off meals at Karen's Kitchen



Chairman's Message

Firstly can I thank you for purchasing this programme. Every penny will be spent on upgrading the facilities on Homer Hill Park. Parks and open green spaces that have a Friends group are able to apply for grants. To assist us in obtaining funding we need to show that as a Friends group we can raise our own money. If anyone is interested in joining us I can assure you of a warm welcome. We meet every month currently at Cradley Leisure Centre, however with the centre sadly due to close in September, we will be looking for a new venue.

I would also like to thank all the local businesses that have kindly advertised in this programme. The money raised has made this event possible. On the night we will be holding a raffle - £1 a strip of five tickets, the prizes are all donated by local businesses. These are listed in this programme. There will also be a bottle tom bola stall and again every penny will be spent on Homer Hill Park.

I would like to welcome Halesowen Town Football Club and their manager Morell Maison to Homer Hill. I would like to thank them for giving up their time to support our event. Likewise a big thanks to Bob



Taylor (one of West Brom's finest strikers to wear the number nine shirt). Bob has agreed to play part of the game for Two Gates FC. So Halesowen Town had better be at their best. Bob will also be on hand for a chat.

Two Gates FC, our local football club, are celebrating 120 years since the club was first formed back in 1888. Two Gates are one of the oldest clubs in Dudley Borough. A fantastic achievement by all involved with the club past and present.

Two Gates FC play their Home Games on Homer Hill, our only Council owned football pitch in Cradley. I hope like me you will get behind the lads and make it an evening to remember.

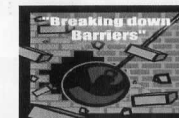
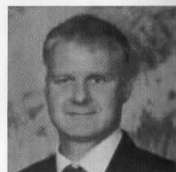
The event kicks off at 6.00pm with a cross bar challenge by our local junior football club, Halas Hawks, with the final at half time. Prizes will be presented to the winners by the Mayor of Dudley, Cllr Ray Burston.

Best of luck to the boys and girls taking part.

The main game kicks off at 7.00pm. Refreshments to include pork sandwiches, hamburgers, hotdogs, ice cream and tea and coffee, will be available from 6.00pm with Hospital radio on site to entertain us. Parking will be available at Colley Lane School, The Liberal Club, Colley Lane and Cradley Community Centre, Colley Lane. Parking at Cradley High School will only be available for disabled badge holders, players and officials as parking is very limited. Please note Homer Hill Road will be closed from 5.30pm.

Thank you to all of the retailers on Windmill Hill and Colley Lane for their support in selling this programme. Finally I give a big thank you to all my fellow members of the Friends of Homer Hill Park, without your dedicated hard work this event would not be happening. Have a great evening, thank you for your support.

Cllr Richard Body
Chairman



5-a-side FOOTBALL COACHING AND TOURNAMENT

ON

SATURDAY 30th august 2008

Funded by Dudley Community Partnership

For young people Aged 13 to 16 years old

AT

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*Football tournament 12.30pm to 3.30pm
Need to arrive at 12pm to register for tournament

Activities to includes:-

Prizes, competitions, football players exhibition, etc

No more than 7 players per entry team

5th August - Disabled Parking

Management at Cradley High School decided to weld the barrier on the overflow car park next to Cradley Leisure Centre. With no disabled parking for the event it left the Friends of Homer Hill Park with a difficult situation.

Dudley Council refused to open the car park unless the Friends of Homer Hill Park paid for the barrier to be removed. That would mean money raised to improve Homer Hill park would have been spent on repairing the car park barrier. Our main programme sponsors Gra Mar Motors Ltd have kindly donated £100 to open the car park for disabled drivers for the event.

A big **THANK YOU** to all at **Gra Mar Motors Ltd** for their generosity.



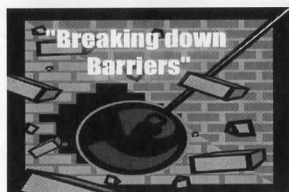
Friends of Homer Hill Park
"FORGING LINKS TOGETHER"



DUDLEY COMMUNITY



PARTNERSHIP
achieving together



(Funded by the DUDLEY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP via the Stronger Communities Steering Group)

TIMESCALE OF SCHEME:- MARCH 2008 TO AUGUST 2008

BDB scheme is linked to the DUDLEY LIFE SKILLS PARTNERSHIP

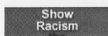
The aim of the 'BREAKING DOWN THE BARRIERS' scheme is to promote positive citizenship and community relationships between young people, adults and various Organisations and Youth services across the Dudley borough .

ACTIVITIES TO INCLUDE: -

**FOOTBALL COACHING AND TOURNAMENTS,
DJ WORKSHOPS, COMMUNITY SAFETY, HAIR AND BEAUTY ACTIVITIES,
PERSONAL SAFETY, RECREATION ACTIVITIES, SELF-DEFENCE, HEALTH
EDUCATION, FASHION-DESIGNING,
OFF-ROAD DRIVING, VEHICLE MECHANICS, CAREERS ADVICE, ETC.**

To receive further information about the 'BREAKING DOWN THE BARRIERS' YOUTH PROGRAMME, please contact Barnardo's Dudley Community ROUTES on 01384 411722 or email paul.powell@barnardos.org.uk, OR DROP BY THE POLICE INFORMATION STALL AT FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT EVENT ON 5TH AUGUST 2008 WHERE YOU MIGHT WIN A MP4 PLAYER!

ORGANISATIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAMME INCLUDES:-



Friends of Homer Hill Park
"FORGING LINKS TOGETHER"



HOMER HILL PARK

Local records show that from medieval times the area now known as Homer Hill was owned by the Homer family, the earliest reference being Johanne de Hanmor in 1275. It is believed that the family's name arose from its occupation as blacksmiths and makers of helmets.

The present Homer Hill Park covers the site of the old Cradley Colliery where coal and fireclay were mined between 1864 and 1917, when it closed. A tramway originally ran down the slope to form a link with the Great Western Railway mineral line, beginning close to the shafts, kilns and chimney. The area was eventually landscaped and became a 'Recreational Ground'.

A bandstand was unveiled in 1928 (initially without a roof) and in 1932 a Halesowen council committee recommended the purchase of one set of swings (four seats), one 'ocean-wave' and one thirty foot slide, costing a total of £100.

In the late 1950's those swings and the ocean-wave (a roundabout which could also be swung up high and would then crash down very quickly) were still there. By that time swings with safely enclosed seats for very young children had been added to the equipment but the bandstand had gone and the shallow paddling pool once located close to the site of the former school buildings had been filled in because of pollution fears.

The park was often used by the pupils of Cradley Church of England School. Classes from the Junior Schools used to cross the road with a teacher to play rounders, because their own playground was not very big.

Local residents remember how beautiful the flower garden used to be. The 'Rec' was tended full time in those days by two workmen, and there was also a park-keeper. In the late 1970's and the early 80's it was very pleasant to sit on the benches in the garden, admire the view and enjoy a picnic.

For decades adults and children alike enjoyed the simple pleasures of going to the park, for many people in Cradley there wasn't much money around, and it was free!

At weekends large groups of children would go to the 'Rec', often with one adult to supervise them. They would stop to feed the goats which were tethered in the old church yard opposite, and then cross the narrow road into the 'Rec' itself.

When children were older they were allowed to go to the park by themselves but warned to watch the clock on Cradley Library in Colley Lane, clearly visible from the higher ground, and to be home on time. They were also told to stay away from the air raid shelters at the top of the park that were still there many years after the end of the Second World War. Amongst favourite pastimes were football, cricket and tennis on the courts at the rear of the park; these have now been made over to basketball. At one time there were even toilets until they had to be closed.

Not far away from Slade Road and opposite the Church School playground was the Sons of Rest club for elderly men, a single storey building complete with comfortable armchairs. There was a complete kitchen for making tea and preparing refreshments, which were no doubt very welcome after members had finished playing bowls on their very own bowling green. The bowling green is still there, and very well tended behind its locked gates, although sadly unused. The Sons of Rest building was burnt down several years ago and all that remains to mark its existence is a large flat area and a few drain covers.

Nowadays the park is regularly used by dog walkers and well organised sports teams, with children and adults making their way there more often in the summer months to enjoy what it has to offer by way of some very good modern play equipment (on a safe surface), green space, and views from its slightly elevated position of the surrounding hills.



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PROMOTING HEALTH THROUGH FOOTBALL

(free health checks)

Cardiovascular disease - heart disease, stroke and related conditions - account for two-thirds of all premature deaths in England as well as major ill health in terms of physical and communication disability. The overwhelming majority of this is preventable through healthier lifestyles and preventative medication such as statins for high cholesterol and drugs to control high blood pressure.

In particular, stroke is the single largest cause of adult disability. 300,000 people in England live with severe to moderate disability as a result of stroke, which is the third largest cause of death. Stroke contributes to the gap in life expectancy in the most deprived areas and the population as a whole, and certain ethnic minorities are at a higher risk of stroke.

Better care demands a changing organisation of services. Service changes for heart disease and stroke will save lives and reduce disability, and make services safer for patients. This is why building on the experiences gained since 2003 of delivering successful health checks annually during Rotary Stroke Awareness Day events throughout the Black

Country, our local Cardiovascular Network has decided to use the 120th Celebration Year football game of Two Gates playing Halesowen Town to pilot a new scheme of health checks, education and lifestyle advice. The programme will later be used in proactively 'Promoting Health Through Football' at events within the Premier League.

GP's and nurses from Wychbury Medical Group, Dudley Hospitals, Cardiac & Stroke Support Services and volunteer patients are helping to pilot the scheme in Dudley.

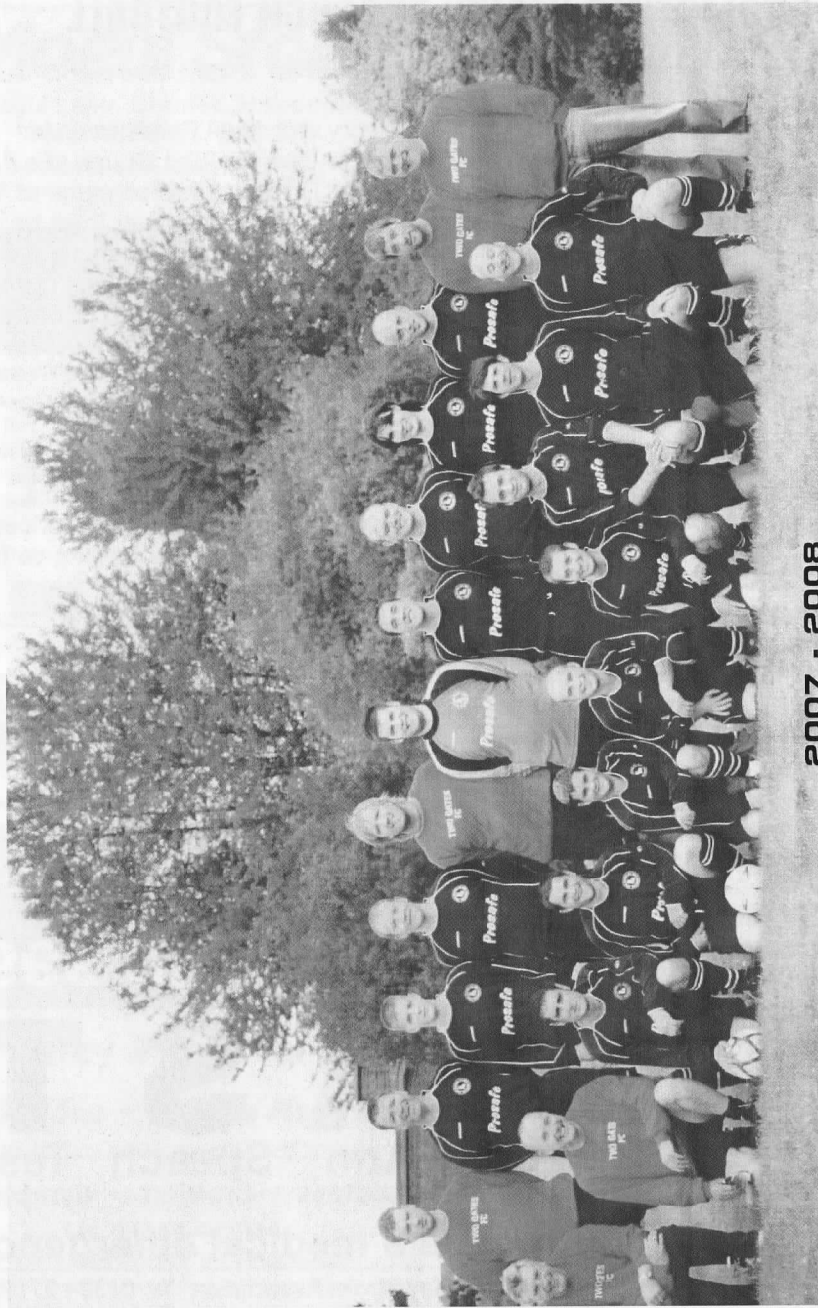
Everyone attending the game is encouraged to participate in the free health checks and to gain valuable knowledge on how best to take action to prevent cardiovascular disease.

**Suspect a stroke?
Act FAST. Call 999.**

F A S T
Facial weakness Arm weakness Speech problems Test symptoms

Stroke is a medical emergency.

Contact: **Dudley Stroke Association** Tel: 01384 271982



2007 - 2008

Back Row: P. Docerty, I Ince, M. Williams, C. Haycock, A. Brown, S. Hale, K. Beale, A. Wyre, D. Foot, S. Pegg, P. Stevens, K. Turner
Front Row: J. Round, M. Powell, S. Stevens, A. Cox, J. Shaw, P. Millard, M. Carey, D. Adshead, G. Reddoes, R. Bastock



PLAYER PROFILE TWO GATES FOOTBALL CLUB

ADAM WYRE - Good solid centre half. Has now been with club for ten years. Hope it will be eleven.

IAN INCE - Been with club four years, always 100% when playing. Good experienced defender & coach.

MATTHEW CAREY - Started with club at the young age of sixteen. Excellent all round player, more to come next year.

GARY LEAR - Longest serving player at Two Gates, now eighteen years. Also managed team, always willing to help out.

KEVIN BEALE - Strong solid midfielder always 110% battler. Out last season with shoulder injury

PAUL MILLARD - Quick centre forward loves to score goals, been top goal scorer for two seasons.

PETE STEVENS - Big strong lad willing to play in any position and also superb goalkeeper.

ROBERT BASTOCK - Can play anywhere in defence, played at good level with Malvern Town.

STUART STEVENS - Has been an excellent player in midfield for Two Gates, surprised not gone to a higher level.

STUART PEGG - Started at left back with Gates, now has made his mark as goalkeeper, playing well.

ARRON COX - First season with Gates quick and strong left back. Will be a big part of the team.

PHILLIP DOCERTY - Now over leg problems, consistent this year playing up front, winning top goalscorer.

SAM BEASLEY - Young good prospect can play anywhere, has been in Stourbridge county team.

BEN BILLINGHAM - Young exciting player came to Two Gates two years ago but was picked up by Stourbridge last season, sent on loan to Lye F.C., made a good mark at the club. Should go further in the near future.

NATHAN BATE - First year at Two Gates,

looks to be a good prospect as a good keeper next season.

DARREN FOOT - Another player that gives 110% when playing, excellent team member all round.

JOHN CRAMPTON - Good centre midfielder lad, complete workhorse all around the pitch.

BEN WAKEFIELD - Plays right side midfield and also has an eye for goal. Back from broken leg three years ago.

OLIVER ADSHEAD - Versatile player looks comfortable where asked to play, good strong right foot.

JAY PARKES - Only played a few times for Gates due to work but very strong in the air at centre half.

ROBERT HICKMAN - Strong no messing defender out of action last season due to ankle injury, back next season.

ADAM CRAMPTON - Young brother of John, top goalscorer for Sunday team, just a handful of games this season for Gates.

JACK SHAW - Small but 100% committed player, done everything asked of. Likes a good battle on the pitch.

ADAM CROSS - Another good young prospect also playing with Stourbridge youth, looking forward to next season.

MARK POWELL - Last season's manager, Excellent knowledge of the game. Gave all to the team on and off the pitch.

DAVID BEASLEY - Managed and played for Two Gates. Also played and managed for higher level teams incl Lye & Rushall.

JOHN ROUND - Most important member of the club. Secretary for twenty years, cleans strip, hangs nets before game.etc All players would like to give many thanks to John, and congratulations to him on winning secretary of the year at the presentation night for Kidderminster League for 2007 - 2008. Well done John.

Managers: Kevin Turner/Ian Ince
Secretary: John Round



HALESOWEN TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB HISTORY

Formed in 1873, Halesowen Town Football Club is one of the oldest in the country and as far as records show, they have always played at their current home The Grove. The first competition of any standing the club appeared in was the Birmingham Combination and they remained members of that league until 199 without winning any major honours.

In 1946 they joined the reformed Birmingham and District League, later to be renamed the West Midlands League. With only 10 teams competing, they won the league championship at the first attempt. However, honours were few and far between though they did win the Worcestershire Senior Cup in 1952 and again in 1962 defeating Hednesford Town and Kidderminster Harriers respectively. In 1955 they reached the First R Round of the F.A.Cup for the first time. A crowd of over 5000 packed The Grove to see The Yeltz lose 4-2 to Hendon, then one of the leading amateur clubs in the country. Halesowen, nicknamed The Yeltz, saw more success in the 1980's and between 1982-83 and 1985-86 won four successive West Midland League titles. Added to that string of successes, there were league cup wins in 1983 against Hednesford Town and 1985 against Oldswinford.

It was however the F.A.Vase that finally put Halesowen on the football map, and the first of three Wembley appearances came in 1983 when they lost to a solitary goal to fellow West Midland League rivals V.S.Rugby. Two years later they returned to the Twin Towers and this time success was theirs when a 3-1 victory over Fleetwood from the North West Counties League saw them lift the Vase. A year later the Yeltz retained the Vase when they comfortably defeated Vauxhall Opal League side Southall 3-0 in front of a crowd of 18,234. Some consolation for the defeat against V.S.Rugby was close at hand, for one week after the final Halesowen won the Thorn EMI 6 a side tournament beating Heybridge Swifts in the final, winning a set of floodlights for The Grove. The eight pylons stood until they were replaced in 2002 with the most up to date lights available consisting of 4 pylons and costing in excess of £65,000.

Success was also forthcoming in the F A Cup and in season 1985-86 the first round proper was reached when they earned a draw at Gola League side Frickley Athletic before losing the replay at The Grove. This was the first of seven successive seasons Halesowen reached this stage of the competition, and in 1986-87 they lost to Fourth Division side Southend United at Roots Hall. The following season they were drawn against local rivals Kidderminster Harriers and after a 2-2 draw at The Grove lost the replay 4-0 at Aggborough. Two more league clubs were visited, in 1988-89 they lost to Brentford 2-0 after being exempt until the Fourth Qualifying Round for the first time and in 1989-90 they trav-

elled to Cardiff City just failing by 1-0. Season 1990-91 saw them draw Football League opposition for the first time at The Grove. Tranmere Rovers were the visitors and Town lost 2-0 despite taking an early lead. In 1991-92 GM Vauxhall Conference side Farnborough Town visited The Grove and following a 2-2 draw Yeltz went down 4-0 in the replay. Limited success followed in the F A Cup but season 2004-05 saw them reach the First Round gain narrowly losing 2-1 to Ryman League side Yeading.

In local senior Competitions Halesowen had wins in the Birmingham Senior Cup in 1984 when they defeated Dudley Town at Molineux and again in 1998 when they defeated Redditch United. The Staffordshire Senior Cup was won in 1989 when they beat Sutton Coldfield Town by 6-1 on aggregate. The Worcestershire Senior Cup was won in 2003 when they beat Evesham United and again in 2005 when Studley Town were beaten in the final. Last season they reached the final for the third time in four years but lost to Moor Green. The clubs first season in the Southern League was in 1986-87 and it proved to be fairly successful with the team finishing 5th in the Midland Division. The League Title was won in 1989-90 and promotion to the Southern League Premier Division was achieved. 1995-96 was the most successful season when they finished runners up with 92 points just failing to gain promotion to the Football Conference. Season 2001-02 saw the club relegated after eleven seasons in the Premier Division but they bounced straight back winning the Western Division Championship the following season. However, just one season later they were relegated again. Season 2003-04 saw Halesowen finish fourth in the Western Division and gain promotion to the newly re-structured Premier Division where they finished in 9th position in season 2004-05. Last season they finished 6th.

Several Halesowen Town players have left The Grove to join Football League clubs in recent years. Dean Spink was transferred to Aston Villa and Stuart Cash moved to Nottingham Forest. In May 1990 Andrew Pearce was transferred to Coventry City and then onto Sheffield Wednesday for £500,000. Goalkeeper Tim Clarke signed for Coventry City in October 1990 and Sean Flynn completed a trio of players going to Coventry when he signed for them in November 1991. Dean Stokes moved to Port Vale in January 1993 and one month later Frankie Bennett became a Southampton player. Evron Wright moved to Walsall in August 1993 before returning and becoming a prolific goal scorer for the Yeltz. Julian Alsop signed for Bristol Rovers in February 1997. A record fee was received for Jim Rodwell when he was sold to Rushden and Diamonds in August 1996 for £40,000.



Halas Hawks Junior Football Club

Halas Hawks Junior Football Club was established in 1980 specifically to promote and develop youth football in the local area.

The club is now in its 28th season and is regarded as one of the largest youth development clubs in the area. We now run twenty four teams, playing at a competitive level, ranging from under 7's (mini soccer) through to under 18's, including eight girls only football teams.

The teams play in various leagues according to the manager's preference and we are well represented in the Stourbridge, Stourport and Central Warwickshire leagues.

In 2006 we were awarded Birmingham County FA Charter Standard Club of the Year. Our coaching ethics have also been recognised by David Platt, the former England and Aston Villa player, who will be running a soccer school this summer in conjunction with the club.

The club also runs an annual 5 a-side competition, the longest established in the local area. The tournament attracts teams from as far as Leek, Stoke, Warwickshire and North Wales.

More details on both events can be found the on the club's website.

During the past few years we have established formal links with local schools, such as Windsor High School, to offer their pupils a route into competitive football outside of the school environment.

We are affiliated to Birmingham County FA and our affiliation number is 114145.

Crossbar Challenge Participants

- Under 7s West – Callum Hudson
- Under 8s West – Matthew Evans
- Under 9s Dynamos – Alex Gardener
- Under 9s West – Matthew Jones
- Under 9s East – Cain Smith
- Under 10s – Dominic Hipkiss
- Under 11s – Reece Marks
- Under 14s – Alex Dudley
- Under 16s – Mark Totten
- Under 10s East Girls – Sophie Blount
- Under 10s West Girls – Laura Cartwright
- Under 11s Girls – Paige Dudley
- Under 12s Girls – Liz Mcaleenan
- Under 14s Girls – Stephanie Wem
- Under 16s Girls – Catherine Barrett





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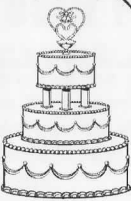
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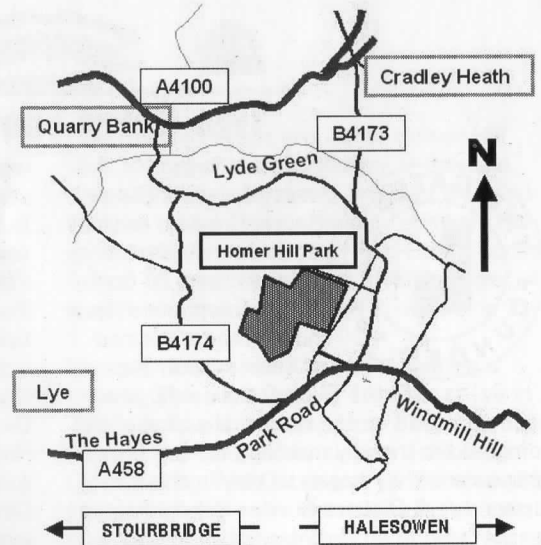
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HOMER HILL PARK HOW TO GET THERE



QUIZTIME

1. Cradley's main industry was:

A. Chain Making B. Brick Making C. Cast Iron Production

2. How many Tons of Chain were produced each week:

A. 500 B. 3000 C. 1000

3. Women made smaller chains and operated:

A. Hammers B. Presses C. Hand Bellows

4. In which year was Bradney Chain & Engineering Co. Ltd. established:

A. 1961 B. 1890 C. 1749

5. Cradley folk were famous for making the chain attached to which vessel:

A. Titanic B. Britannic C. Bismark

6. When did the Salvation Army arrive in Cradley Heath:

A. 1864 B. 1881 C. 1964

7. It later moved into a specially designed "fort" in:

A. 1893 B. 1975 C. 1865

8. Coal is separated by layers of:

A. Sand and limestone B. Soil and rocks C. Ironstone and waste

9. Under the bottom seam was

A. Fine Quality Fire Clay B. limestone C. Iron

10. This gave rise to which local industry:

A. Engineering B. Brick Making C. Glass Making

BONUS QUESTION: Clay was mined at depth but also from opencast Marl Holes, the one on Homer Hill being known as: A. "Spirit Hole" B. "Coal Hole" C. "Marl Hole"

1. Chain Making 2. 1000 3. Hand Bellows 4. 1890 5. Titanic 6. Britannic 7. 1893 8. Ironstone and waste 9. fine quality fire clay 10. Brick Making BONUS Spirit Hole

ANSWERS TO QUIZ



Two Gates Football Club



In 1888 the Ragged Sunday School in Two Gates, Cradley, decided to form a children's football team to compete against other local church teams. Named after their school, Two Gates Sunday School FC practised on a field at the rear of the chapel and competed in friendly matches for the first year before they began to play in the newly formed Lye & District Sunday School Football League which had 2 divisions competing nearly every Sunday. Founder members included Jim Bate and Edwin Bird. In their first season the team finished 9th in the league and W Billingham was named Player of the Year.

By 1900 the team competed in the Dudley Church and Chapel League until 1914 when its young men joined the forces fighting in the First World War during which many members were killed or wounded. By 1932 the team were playing on Harry Beasley's farm fields, which are now part of Fatherless Barn Estate, and they competed in the Stourbridge and District League. In 1937 the team was managed by Archie Homer and played in the Brierley Hill League. Sunday School leader, Clifford Willetts, negotiated the use of land where Caslon School now stands in Clent View Road for 10 shillings per season.

winners during a successful 1938-39 season, the teamed played just 1 game against Buckpool Rovers at the start of the next season, the day before the Second World War was declared. Almost immediately after the game the majority of the team volunteered for armed service. During the ensuing conflict 2 of them were to die at sea; W H Bradney and V Taylor.

On 8th June 1940 Billy Bradney was aboard HMS Ardent (pictured), which with HMS Acasta, was escorting the carrier HMS Glorious following Operation Alphabet (the evacuation of troops from Norway). On route to Scapa Flow the vessels were intercepted by German battle cruisers Scharnhorst and Gneisenau. Despite inflicting damage on the enemy, all three British ships were lost.

It was on 3rd October 1943 with Victor Taylor onboard that HMS Usurper was patrolling waters off the Gulf of Genoa when a German vessel reported depth charging a submarine. Usurper (P56) failed to return to port.

Following the cessation of hostilities, Frank Bate reformed the squad for the 1946-47 season and home games were played on fields of local farmer Billy Thomas, off

their current home ground of Homer Hill Park for the wife and children of Billy Lee, who had played at centre half and died suddenly of a brain haemorrhage (stroke). The game saw the veterans of Two Gates Sunday School FC compete against their younger rivals, renamed Two Gates FC, who won 2 - 1.

Henry Collins recalls the team sharing a training gym with Cradley Olympic at Lye in 1970. Following training Henry took part in a friendly 5-a-side game, playing goalkeeper. On attacking Two Gates one of the opposing players collided with Henry whose false leg shot off and rolled across the pitch. Not knowing Henry's leg was artificial, the attacker thought he had broken it straight off, became quite ill and had to be revived with smelling salts.

Two Gates takes pride in its achievements over the years and past honours included the Dudley Guest Cup, Corbett Hospital Cup and the Griffin Shield.

John Round played for the team in the 70's and took over the role of Secretary for the club 20 years ago at the start of the 1988 season. The team hold meetings at the Chainmakers pub (formerly The Talbot). Two Gates continues its long tradition of developing top class footballers for more senior teams and Ben Billingham is one example of this. Aged just 17 years old, in the 2006-07 season Ben scored a magnificent 30 goals in just 22 appearances for Two Gates. As a result Ben was signed by Stourbridge Town last season and is making excellent progress in the game.

Like many team members, Jack was called upon to do 2 years National Service from 1950 but continued playing for the Royal Warwickshire

Regiment. About that time Tom Jackson took over running Two Gates as club secretary until 1955. The reserve side were overseen by Reg Jackson and Norman Ovendeu and played in the Halesowen Youth League. Over 120 years the club has lost some 18 home grounds to development including; Lutley Lane, Witley Lane, Long Innage, Coalbourne Gardens, Park Lane, Two Gates Lane, Park Hill, Foxcote Lane and Clent View Road.

In 1957 the team held a benefit match on



Foxcote Lane.

The youth squad included Jack Hughes (photographed opposite in 1947 & 2008) who played at inside right. Asked how football then compares to now Jack said, "You never saw anyone spit in them days and if someone fell down it was because they was hurt. Nowadays they just lie down for a rest. The ball was leather and when it got wet it got heavier and it was like kicking a brick wall". Speaking about his team mates Jack mentioned Tommy Lewis, "He was an England schoolboy player and later signed for West Bromwich Albion. Tom was really good and he passed the ball right to your feet, every time."



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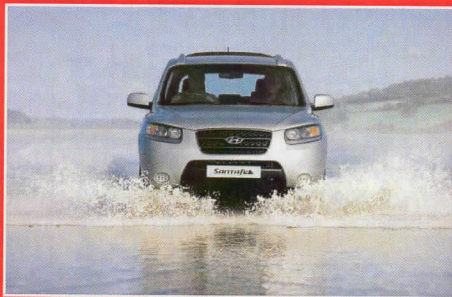
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