



Brownies from Bridge helped with competitions and stalls at Saturday's open day at The Close.

Double Opening

1966
 Warm sunshine shone on a double opening event at The Close, Bridge, on Saturday. Not only was it the opening of the annual open day and fete, but it also saw the official naming and opening of two new wards at The Close.

The opening ceremony was performed by Mr. Jim Mount, who was introduced by the Rev. Colin Perry, chairman of the Bridge branch of the League of Friends and Chaplain of the League of Friends and Chaplain of The Close.

"It is a very great privilege to come here to open your open day on behalf of the League of Friends," said Mr. Mount.

"I think today we hear far too many complaints from people of the things people have not got. I think we should spend far more time counting our blessings.

"You here at The Close are very fortunate people. You are surrounded by friendship, love and many of the small comforts of life.

"In the staff you have their skill and friendship. I would like to commend the staff for the hard work they put in

during the recent bout of influenza.

"In the time of the Welfare State it is very encouraging that there are still people willing to give time and their money to help others. In the last year the Friends have raised £128 for The Close, which has gone towards T.V. rentals, a bird table, writing desks, Christmas parties and so on.

"Although one of the greatest tragedies of this age is the loneliness of the old people, I would like to think the village of Bridge has accepted The Close into its community life. This means a lot to the people here who can still feel wanted and still loved."

Announcing that the new female ward is to be named Honney Ward, Mr. Mount paid tribute to The Close's former Matron, Mrs. Honney, who was connected with the home from 1906 until 1938. He named the male ward Mercer Ward as a tribute to Dr. E. Mercer, who

was resident medical officer until 1963.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Mount was proposed by Mrs. P. Wiggins, secretary of the Bridge League of Friends. Bouquets were presented by Mr. J. Jordan, of Mercer Ward, Sister E. Crowe, and Jacqueline Urwin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Urwin, matron and warden of The Close.

Helpers at the fete were as follows: Mr. Terry Ludlow (film show), Mrs. A. Harris, Mrs. E. Pratt and helpers (tea), Christopher Urwin (roll-a-penny), Mrs. E. Webb, Mrs. W. Clarke, Mrs. I. Morgan, Mrs. Y. West (sweets), Mrs. I. Shorter and Mrs. E. Turner (household), Mr. J. Milton (jackpot strings), Mr. J. Turner (balloons), Mrs. A. Masters, Miss M. Rate, Mrs. J. Rose (cakes), Mr. B. Clarke and Mr. J. Morgan (bowling), Mr. W. Benstead, Mr. J. Rookson (wheel of fortune), Sister U. Bryant, Nurse Q. Marsh, Miss E. Williams, Mrs. M. Palmer, Mrs. W. Divers, Mr. and Mrs. R. Manston, and Miss E. Stopples (jumble and needlework), Nurse E. Benstead (drinks), pennies in the bucket by Bridge Brownies, raffle tickets by Mr. and Mrs. Dick Turpin, organ playing by Mr. Basil Milner, treasure garden, by Jane Lloyd, and the band by Royal Buffs T.A.



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After opening the fete and open day at The Close, Bridge, Mr. J. Mount chats with Mrs. M. Honney and Dr. D. Mercer, after whom the two new wards have been named.