

104-year-old in dominos upset

A special celebration was held in the Grove Hill Residential Home at Highworth on Monday December 3rd to celebrate the 104th birthday of the oldest resident, Mrs Annie New.

Annie has been residing at the home for the past eight years, following a short period at St Margaret Hospital, Stratton. Annie was born on December 3rd 1903 and was brought up at Castle Eaton, where she attended the local school. In 1924 she married Lewis New, a groom to Claude Fry at Hannington Hall. The couple had two daughters, Gladys and Nancy. Following Lewis's death over 51 years ago Annie moved to Highworth and settled in a new built house in Rivers Way. The Grove Hill Home manager, James Dunn, organised an entertainment with music to celebrate the occasion, and said that Annie loves to reminisce about the past, plays dominos with the Philippino cook; and much to his annoyance wins.

Annie loves snacks like tomato soup and crisps, her only problem is her deafness; she is on minimal medication. Annie, relatives and staff enjoyed the afternoon entertainment and the Mayor of Highworth, Coun Richard Scotchmer, attended and presented Annie with a bouquet of flowers. Later on during that week the local MP, Michael Wills, paid a visit to congratulate Annie.



Mrs Annie New is congratulated by local MP Michael Wills.

Annie has two daughters, seven grandchildren, fourteen great grandchildren and three great great grandchildren. Both Annie and relatives are most grateful for the care and support they get from the doctors and staff of Westrop Surgery and the staff of the home.

When Annie was born King Edward VII was the Monarch, Arthur Balfour was the Prime Minister, the average weekly wage was £1.91, you could buy a house for £450, a loaf for 0.5p, a pint of beer for 1p, a pound steak for 8p a pint of milk for 0.5p and a newspaper for 0.5p.

Mair Huband

CALM concert in stormy weather

A concert held in aid of CALM at St Michael's Church, on Saturday December 8th, was well attended in spite of the atrocious weather. The Hereford Concert Band, conducted by Alfred Tubb, played a selection of music including the Overture "Royal Fireworks" by G.F. Handel, Music Hall songs and carols with audience participation.

The Band, formerly the Herefordshire Symphonic Wind Band was formed in 1998 and comprises players and ex-service musicians from Herefordshire and surrounding counties. Mr Tubb served with the Royal Corps of Transport Staff Band and was promoted Band Sergeant Major in 1983. He left the army in 1985 and continued his studies graduating in 1988 with a BA of Music, going on to become Master of Music in 1990. He has been a prolific writer for



(from left) John Williams, Sally Williams, Sue Roffe, Rosemary Williams, Lynn Vardy and Geoff Roffe.

brass and concert bands and was awarded the Rank Film Award for the best film music in 1988.

Local people read seasonal readings such as "The Journey of the Magi" by T.S. Elliot, "Christmas" by John Betjeman and "The Oxen" by Thomas Hardy; and more humorous ones such as "Goodwill to Men" by Pam Ayres and "The Nativity Play" by Joyce Grenfell, which caused much audience laughter.

The Mayor of Highworth, Coun Richard Scotchmer and Chair of the Swindon branch of CALM, (Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Movement) Mrs Mary Kitchener thanked all concerned in providing an excellent evenings entertainment. A total of £261 was raised for CALM.

Mair Huband