

There's a Silver Lining

One person who thinks the building of the Coal Board estate has caused some problems is Mrs Margaret Ward, who, with her husband, Donald, is licensee of the Manvers Arms, in the centre of the village. "Attempts have been made to try to establish the old village and the new estate as one community but it has not really worked" she said. "Both are different types of communities and it is hard to mix them. Despite this, we enjoy living in Cotgrave and we have the advantage of being close to the beautiful Vale of Belvoir."

Mrs Ward praises the generosity of customers at the Manvers. "We organise numerous functions for charities and the response from people has been absolutely tremendous."

Mr Ward's grandfather, Ald. Thomas Ward, was a former Lord Mayor of Nottingham. Both Mr and Mrs Ward were born in the city and, before moving to Cotgrave, were at the Charlton Arms, Chilwell, Notts.

The two sections of the village do pull together on occasions, the most recent example being the wonderful community spirit shown by everyone in the parish in saving silver paper to help David Boden (17) get a guide dog – he has been blind since birth. David's parents, Mr and Mrs Stanley Boden, of Mensing Avenue, began to save three tons of silver paper needed to raise money for the dog. But people in the colliery estate and in the old village rallied round to help and the Bodens were inundated with supplies of old milk bottle tops and silver paper from cigarette packets.

David, who is studying at a commercial college in Shrewsbury, needed £500 for the dog and within three months of the first public effort, the special bank account at the village post office was closed with nearly £600 in it. "We will always be very grateful for all the help and interest shown over this" said David's mother, Mrs Winifred Boden.

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