



## Children set garage alight

CHILDREN have been blamed for a blaze in a disused petrol station in Sprowston Road.

Firefighters from Norwich and Sprowston took two-and-a-half hours to control the fire which broke out at around 7pm.

A thermal imaging camera and breathing apparatus were used to control the blaze of the asbestos-roofed garage.

Station officer Andy Forth said: "We believe children set the disused garage alight."

The garage, opposite the residential road, Shipfield, suffered structural damage.

## Clock silent

NORWICH'S City Hall clock was silent today just weeks after repairs were finally completed.

The clock only started chiming again in December after £20,000 of repairs.

But today the clock's huge hands were stuck at 1.35 and look set to stay that way until engineers make their way up the tower to work out what is wrong.

## Hurt in raid

A NORFOLK postmistress is recovering today after being attacked by two men who escaped with an undisclosed amount of cash.

Sandra Harrison suffered a sprained ankle and shock in the raid on Marsham Post Office, near Aylsham, yesterday morning.

## Factory fears

BROADLAND planners are set to approve changes to expand a sweet factory when they meet tomorrow - despite fears it could lead to extra traffic.

The application is to change the use of buildings at The Old Forge in Hall Road, Horstead, to a packaging, storage and distribution centre.

## Minister visits

MINISTER for local government and housing Hilary Armstrong was due to make a tour of South Norfolk Council today.

She was seeing projects such as plans to give the public more say on planning matters and the South Norfolk Housing Forum as well as visiting the council's Long Stratton HQ.

## VIPs to visit

A GROUP of 32 Dutch government officials will visit the Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency at St Andrew's Business Park tomorrow. The CCTA in Norwich will show how it helps the UK Government use new technology to improve public services.

## Evening News

GOT A STORY?

Then call the Evening News newsdesk on Norwich 772443 or 772436.

# Calling on YOU to help Harford

## One of first to cater for children's special needs

HARFORD Manor was one of the first schools in the country to be built for children with special educational needs.

Norwich City Council approved plans for the building of the school in 1971. It was designed in part to replace the junior training centre which stood on the corner of Mill

Hill Road and Earlham Road.

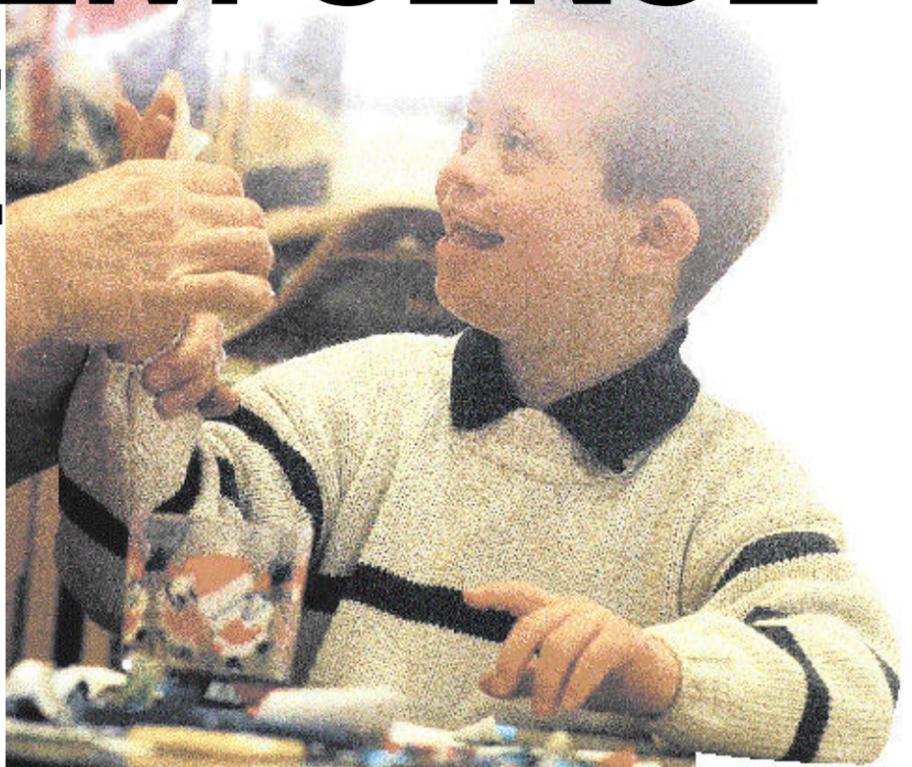
Opening on February 17 1972, Harford Manor quickly developed a close relationship with its neighbour, the Hewett School - a relationship which continues to this day, through a variety of work-based and befriending schemes. In 1974, the school received its

own indoor swimming pool. Paid for by the Alderman John Norman Educational Foundation and parents' fund-raising.

Other fund-raising activities have provided the school with a cycle track, minibus and an extension designed specifically for autistic children.



# GIVE THEM SENSE OF HOPE AFTER CRISIS



by CAROLINE JENKINSON

### LET'S help Harford!

That was the rallying cry from Norwich's Harford Manor School today as it launched an appeal - backed by the Evening News - to raise £20,000 for a sensory room to help pupils with their education.

We told yesterday how the school was dealt a serious blow when vandals left a trail of devastation in their wake following a break-in.

But the school's battling spirit was in evidence as they turned the incident to their own advantage and used it as a spur to their fund-raising.

All Harford Manor's 70 pupils have learning difficulties to a lesser or greater degree.

The new sensory room would provide them with a calming environment in which they could learn to control their surroundings.

Headteacher Geoff Kitchen said: "It is fantastic that something so positive can come of something which initially devastated the school."

"The sensory room is the only way we can reach some



HELP US: headteacher Geoff Kitchen outside the school. Above, Nicholas Chopping having fun.

Main photo: ADRIAN JUDD

children in their worlds. It is very important for us and for them."

The plan is to convert an existing room into the new sensory room.

Evening News editor Bob Crawley said: "The staff and pupils at Harford Manor face many challenges every day. We believe that the people of Norwich will join us in the challenge of helping them raise the money to provide this much-needed facility."

The Friends of Harford Manor School Association have so far raised £5000 towards the appeal - but they need £20,000 to adapt and furnish the room.

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## Sheila gives a parent's view

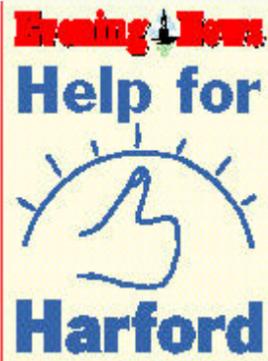
SHEILA Orpet has watched both her daughters pass through Harford Manor.

Jo, 28, is a former pupil of the school, while Sarah, 17, is currently attending the further education unit. Both girls have Down's Syndrome.

Mrs Orpet is also secretary of the Friends of Harford Manor

School Association.

Although there was no sensory room as such during Jo's schooldays, Mrs Orpet, of Chedgrave, has seen how it has benefited Sarah and her classmates. "Sarah tends to be a bit hyperactive sometimes, so a calming room is good for her," she said.



### WHAT THEY NEED

THESE are just some of the items Harford Manor School need to to fully equip their sensory room:

- one ultra-active bubble tube - cost £1149
- one mirror ball - £60
- one large water bed - £755
- one fog machine - £369
- one fibre-optic harness and curtain kit - £449
- one hi-fi system - £395
- four ultra-violet rod switches - £140

■ If you would like to make a donation, it can be sent to the school at Ipswich Road, Norwich. Cheques should be made payable to the Friends of Harford Manor School Association.

■ If you would like to publicise a fund-raising event for the school, contact Caroline Jenkinson at the Evening News on Norwich 772428.

# WOW

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