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A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

COVERING ALL ASPECTS OF LOCAL LIFE

MAGAZINE ADDRESS 23 MILL STREET HARBURY.

THIS MAGAZINE IS PRODUCED WITH THE
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HARBURY — VICAR. Rev. F.R. MACKLEY

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MARCH - APRIL 1975

Marian Millington and Alan Barr are no longer members of the Editorial team of Harbury News - for personal reasons they both now find it impossible to continue with the excellent work they have both done for the magazine. We thank them for all they have done for us in the past, and are pleased that they are remaining on the Committee and will still be contributing to the magazine. In their place we welcome Sharon Hancock and Chris Blunt.

We can't help feeling rather flattered that Long Itchington Parish Council (who are thinking of starting their own Village magazine) have asked for advice from the Harbury News. Three members of our Committee went to a meeting there recently, and answered their questions, trying to help in any possible way. It will be interesting to see how their magazine differs from ours.

DIARY

MARCH 1975

- Sun. 9th MOTHERING SUNDAY. Family Communion, 9 a.m. in Church, with presentation to Mothers, then breakfast in the Village Hall.
- Tues. 11th Harbury Friends 'Victorian Postcards' talk with slides, Harbury School, 8 p.m.
- Thurs. 13th Golden Age Club, Village Hall, 2.30 p.m.
- " " Children's Lent Service, Church, 6.30 p.m.
- Sun. 16th PASSION SUNDAY
- Tues. 18th Tufty Club, Village Hall, 2.15 p.m.
- Wed. 19th P.T.A. 'The Developing Child', School, 8 p.m.
P.C.C. Meeting, Wight School, 8 p.m.
- Thurs. 20th Mothers' Union Deanery Service in Southam Church, 2.30 p.m.
- " " Children's Lent Service, Church, 6.30 p.m.
- " " Playgroup Jumble Sale, Village Hall, 6.30 p.m.
- " " Lent Study & Discussion Group, Vicarage, 8 p.m.
- Fri. 21st Football Club Dance, Village Hall
- " " Playgroup breaks up
- Sat. 22nd Spring Cleaning of Church, 10 a.m. All welcome!
- Sun. 23rd PALM SUNDAY. Blessing & distribution of Palm Crosses at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Sun. 23rd 6.30 p.m. 'The Cross of Christ'. See the Vicar's Letter for details.

Mon. 24th W.I. Group Meeting, Long Itchington (correction)

Tues. 25th Harbury Society A.G.M., Dog Inn, 8 p.m. All welcome.

" " Young Wives' talk and film on 'Personal Experiences in a Leprosy Mission', Village Hall 2 p.m.

Sun. 30th EASTER DAY. Holy Communion at 7 a.m., 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Mon. 31st EASTER MONDAY.

P.T.A. Buffet Dance, Village Hall.

APRIL 1975

Thurs. 3rd W.I. 'Variations with Salad', V. Hall, 7.45 p.m.

Sat. 5th Rugby Club Dance

Sun. 6th Short Family Service, Church, 11.15 a.m.

Tues. 8th Harbury Friends, Harbury School, 8 p.m.

Thurs. 10th Golden Age Club, Village Hall, 2.30 p.m.

Parish Council's A.G.M., V. Hall, 7 p.m.

CRUSADERS Village Hall, 2.30 p.m. every Sunday

BINGO Village Hall, 8 p.m. every Monday

YOUTH CLUB Village Hall, 8 p.m. every Wednesday

BABY CLINIC V. Hall, 2 p.m., 2nd & 4th Wednesdays

HARBURY SINGERS at 8 Penelope Close, 8 p.m. Tuesdays

ALL DATES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

DIARY DATES FOR INCLUSION TO MRS. S. BENNETT,

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THE VICAR'S LETTER

My Dear Friends,

One of the outstanding events of recent weeks was the Confirmation and First Communion of the newly confirmed. Although we were disappointed that the Bishop of Coventry was unable to be with us, it was a joy and a privilege to welcome Bishop Michael Parker, who was formerly Bishop of Bradford, and who now lives in retirement at Shipston-on-Stour. His address to the candidates was a striking and a memorable one. We are grateful to the other clergy for their help, to our Choir for their fine singing, and to those who provided refreshments in the Village Hall afterwards. May the newly confirmed be always faithful, and grow in the knowledge and love of God.

When this number of the Harbury News appears we shall be almost in Holy Week, and our Lord appeals to us, "Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?" Among the special services I would mention that at 6.30 p. m. on Palm Sunday (23rd March) there will be a Devotion called "The Cross of Christ". This consists of a number of readings from the Passion story, interspersed with hymns for the congregation and anthems by the Choir. On Good Friday those attending part of the Three Hours (12 to 3) may enter or leave the Church at any point in the service.

May we all have a truly happy Easter. "Risen with Christ"

Your sincere Friend and Vicar,

F. R. Mackley.

HOLY BAPTISM

February 16th - Lesley Claire Victoria, infant daughter of Aubrey Leslie and Mary Carter, Old Forge House, Binswood End.

CONFIRMATION

February 16th - Jacqueline Ashton, 4 Frances Road
Mandy Sheasby, 4 Manor Road
Sonia Parker) 10 Penelope Close
Caroline Parker)
Clare Oliver, 7 Honiwell Close

HOLY MATRIMONY

February 1st - Anthony Douglas Woodfield to Evelyn Sylvia
Hawkins

FUNERAL SERVICES

Harry Sheasby, 28 Frances Road, Harbury
Sydney Poynton, 1 Penelope Close, Harbury

FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

One or two days recently have been really spring-like, so our thoughts have been turning to spring cleaning. Visitors to our Church often remark on how beautifully clean it is, thanks to all those who work so hard to keep it so. However, there are awkward corners that can't be reached in the ordinary run of cleaning, so we are having a spring cleaning morning at Church on Saturday 22nd March, from 10 a.m. We should welcome all available help from both men and women. All equipment will be available at the Church, and we shall provide coffee for helpers. Do please come. Our Church Annual Meeting is to be held on Tuesday, 15 April,

at 8 p. m. at the Wight School. This is the meeting at which the Churchwardens and PCC are elected. There will also be reports of the year's activities and suggestions for the future. A number of regular worshippers are not on the Electoral Roll, and so cannot vote at this meeting or be elected on the PCC or as sidesmen. Forms are available at the back of the Church - please take one, complete and return it to the Vicar or a Churchwarden or hand it to the sidesman at any service.

Every so often the 'refusal' of an Incumbant to Baptise a baby hits the headlines. As a child reaches his or her teens there is still discussion about Confirmation. What does it really mean these days? These questions are being discussed within the Church of England today. What do our readers think? A meeting to discuss this is soon to be held, and PCC members will be invited. We should like to know before then what YOU think about membership of the C. of E. Should it be generally accepted that the baby will be 'done', or should Baptism be restricted to the children of members or regular attenders at Church? And how about Confirmation? We should like to hear what you think. Do write to the magazine, or tell the Vicar or a Churchwarden. We want to know.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

We have been asked to give details of Church Services held locally by denominations other than Anglican. So far we know that the nearest Methodist Services are held at the Trinity Methodist Church, Radford Road, Leamington, at 11 a. m. and 6.30 p. m. every Sunday, and that there is a Catholic Service in the Library of Harbury Hall, Bull Ring Lane, Harbury, at 10 a. m. each Sunday. If those of you who attend other services would let us have the details, we will be pleased to include them for the benefit of those who may be interested.

PARISH COUNCIL

Two items of general interest were discussed at the Jan. meeting. 1) The finance sub-committee decided to ask for a 1p rate from the Stratford District Council, to be set against General - £1540, Burial - £100, Lighting - £760.

2) A meeting to be called to discuss Village Hall finances to complete current extensions and cover general maintenance. This meeting was held at the Village Hall on 20th February, was attended by numerous interested parties, and was opened

by Councillor Drinkwater, with a brief resume on why the meeting had been called. Mrs Keen gave the latest position on what was still required to complete the extensions. Mr. Clarke gave the Hall's financial position, which was: with a County Council grant and a Parish Council grant there was sufficient money to complete the extensions, but the existing part of the Hall was in urgent need of general maintenance, which the finances could not possibly meet.

Cllr. Drinkwater called for suggestions or propositions. The Harbury Society offered to stage a concert, with proceeds to the Hall, and the Brownies would hold a coffee morning. The W.I. would organise a talk on the Common Market, and the Rugby Club would give part of the profits from the bar for which they have applied.

A proposition was put forward by Mr. Bunting, seconded by Mr. Shawcross, to be put to the next Annual Parish Meeting, that a 1p rate be levied for one year only, the monies to be used to finance the Village Hall.

P. T. A.

Colmore Trophy - Road Safety Competition. The P. T. A. team is maintaining the high standard set in former years, by winning the Southam area competition and then defeating three other area winners to become Stratford District winners. The next stage is the County final, and then, if successful, the Regional Final, and a chance to win £100.

Rummage Sale. This was held at the School in February, and raised £42 towards the swimming pool fund.

Swimming successes. Cathie Jackson and Susan and Jennifer Scott, have been awarded the bronze medal for proficiency in personal survival by the Amateur Swimming Association. To qualify for the medal they had to swim $1\frac{1}{2}$ lengths of the Leamington baths wearing pyjamas over their costumes, tread water for 3 mins., remove the pyjamas in the water, surface dive and swim 5 yards under water, and then swim a further 14 lengths freestyle. Congratulations to all three!!

BADMINTON CLUB

Interest in badminton has grown immensely during the past few years, with matches being played for International to Village level. The national picture is demonstrated by the upsurge of clubs and evening classes, and the great demand for suitable accommodation. The local league has grown from one division

to five very quickly, with a consequent improvement in playing standards.

Harbury is no exception to the national picture, and the badminton club has been functioning here ever since the Hall was built. The club has entered one team in the local league for many years, and last year for the first time we entered a second team. Also last season a new league was formed to encourage men's doubles and ladies' doubles, as the emphasis had previously been on mixed doubles. We also enter this league, which means we are now fielding three teams.

Matches are played in the evenings, and frequently go on into the small hours. Generally there are six people in a team, although some matches are played to a different format. Harbury Village Hall is one of the better halls in the area, as it has a good floor and plenty of room round the sides of the court.

March 15th marks the official end of the season, and promotion and relegation time. At the time of writing Harbury 1st team are fighting to avoid relegation from the 2nd division and the 2nd team seem to be heading for the middle of the 5th division. Our most successful efforts have been in the men's and ladies' league, where we could be at the top of the 2nd division after a final match when we beat Napton on their home territory.

Badminton is above all a sociable game, and Tuesday club nights are always well attended. Apologies to our members for all the club nights 'borrowed' for matches this season - we hope to be better organised next season. During the past three summers we have opened the club to all comers and given beginners a chance to learn the game as well as enthusiasts the opportunity to play all the year round. If there is sufficient demand we shall do so again. Anyone interested in playing should come to club night on Tuesday evenings after 8 p.m.

KATHLEEN PHELPS

W.I.

On Saturday, 1st February, the W.I. with husbands and friends boarded a coach for an evening of skittles at the Crown Inn, Blockley. The evening was great fun; most of us were beginners and the various styles of bowling were hilarious! However, a few drinks and the excellent food

made a vast improvement. The whole affair was a great success, thanks to Monica Davies and Peggy Middleton. So much so, in fact, that we have decided to do it all again in the near future. Why don't you try it?

BETTY KNAPPE

? NO/COMMON MARKET/YES ?

At 7.45 p.m. on Friday 4th April in the Village Hall, Margot Healey will talk on The Common Market Referendum. The speaker is a member of the W.I. National Executive, and on the E.E.C. Advisory Panel, and has been to Brussels as an observer. Admission free. Coffee will be served.

THE GOLDEN AGE

Thirty nine members and friends spent a very enjoyable afternoon at the Coventry Theatre pantomime on 6th Feb., and they are hoping to go to the Spring Show next month, which will star Peters and Lee. The Club is also hoping to have someone from the Guide Dog Association to talk about their work. Mrs. E. Bayliss, 11 Dovehouse Lane, has accepted the position of club leader in place of Miss Hiron, who has done this job for many years.

E. SHEASBY (Sec)

SPORTS RESULTS

Rugby Football

Results to end of January.

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Pts For	Pts Against
1st XV	19	9	1	8	203	212
2nd XV	21	7	0	14	233	260

Matches played in February.

- LXV v Avonvale (Bath). Lost 14pts to 3 pts.
- v Manor Park Old Boys. Lost 48 pts to Nil.
- v Claverdon I. Won 25 pts to 3 pts.
- 2XV v Saracens II. Lost 26 pts to 3 pts.
- v Westleigh IV. Lost 16 pts to 6 pts.
- v Northampton O.S.III. Won 24 pts to Nil.
- v Claverdon II. Won 35 pts to 4 pts.

Despite a rather mediocre season to date and a particularly disheartening start to 1975, the Rugby Club is hopeful of better things to come, with two good wins at the end of February and the first outing for the newly formed 3rd team on 1st March.

Badminton Club

Recent results include:

- 1st team v Warwick Avon. Lost 7 - 2
v North Leamington. Lost 5 - 4
2nd team v Clifton (home). Won 5 - 4.
v Clifton (away). Lost 8 - 1.
v Trinity Street. Lost 7 - 2.
Mens and ladies v Napton. Won 5 - 4.

GIRL GUIDES

This year is National Heritage Year. Harbury Guides have been asked to play their part by making up a scrap book of Edwardian Warwickshire. This covers the years between 1900 and 1910. We are finding it rather difficult to obtain material such as magazine pictures, postcards, photographs etc., and would be extremely grateful for anything of this nature, either as a gift or a loan, which could be used in the production of our scrap book. Anyone who can possibly help is invited to contact the Guide Captain, Estelle Picken, 21 Wagstaffe Close, Tel. 613266.

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group of Harbury and Ladbrooke Churches, which replaced the Harbury Branch of the Church of England Men's Society, is now finally established, and is seeking new members.

On the first Thursday in each month we meet at 7.45 p. m. to discuss some subject of general or topical interest. So far we have enjoyed talks as varied as Motor Racing, Abortion and Public Libraries. We next meet on 9th March at Ladbrooke, where we shall be entertained by a talk on Stately Homes.

The annual subscription to the group is 50p, and if you are interested please contact the Secretary, Reg Harris, or Tel 612377.

THEATRE GROUP

If you have ever wondered what is involved in local amateur dramatics, our Theatre Group production "Murder in Company" gave absolutely no idea. At least, let's hope not, for if the play was even remotely true to real life there would be enough gossip material for many a coffee morning!

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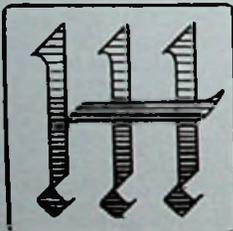
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normal television fare is the element of surprise created by the actors. In "Murder in Company", particularly effective were the entrances through the audience, who must have felt at times almost like intruders as the drama unfolded around them.

It was especially pleasing to welcome back the experience of Di Lawler and John Bunning; both added substance to the performance. Lindsey Brant made a very encouraging debut, ardently pursuing Jim Haines who played, with evident skill, the romantic lead. Bullying one minute, flattering the next, Brian Scandrett was everyone's idea of the typical producer, and reserved most of his wrath for Trevor Davies, combining the true role of Director with that of an evil caretaker - nobody was sorry to see him killed off in Act Two!

The cast was completed by Joyce Parr with a delightful cameo as a worldly wise spinster, and Janet Thornley as the long suffering producer's wife. The audience could not have possibly guessed that Janet took on this part at only three weeks' notice! Linda Hayes produced - which is a polite euphemism for a great deal of work and worry.

In pure value for money terms, Theatre Group productions have always excelled, and this was no exception. More details next month of their future programme. T. DAVIES

HARBURY SINGERS

On Sunday, 2nd March, we sang at the Leamington Round Table's party for blind people. Rehearsals are now taking place for a performance on 22nd April of Fauré's Requiem and the Vivaldi Gloria, which we hope to repeat in Grandborough Parish Church.

We have now changed our rehearsal night to TUESDAY evening, and new members are always welcome - just come along to 8 Penelope Close. Yet again, desperately this time, IS THERE A PIANIST IN THE VILLAGE WHO COULD ACCOMPANY US?????

'200 CLUB'

February winners: 1st Mrs Rigg, Fields Farm (£20)

2nd Theatre Group (£10)

3rd Mr Harris, Dovehouse Lane (£10)

New members welcome - contact Midge Keen, 21 Sutcliffe Drive, Tel. 612561, or Madeleine Gurden, Hillside Farm, Tel. 612348.

MOTORCYCLE FILM SHOW

Thanks to the kindness of Burmah-Castrol Ltd., and Bob Halford of the Leamington Victory Motor Cycle Club, an interesting evening film show, and a talk on the social and competitive activities that are available, was enjoyed by an encouraging number of young people on 7th February.

An invitation to visit the Leamington Victory Club House in Bishops Tachbrook, any Tuesday, Thursday or Friday, was issued to anyone who is interested in motorcycling and would like to see what facilities are available. This was a most genuine invitation from the Club Chairman, and it is to be hoped that it will be taken up.

The evening was organised by Harbury News with the help of Tricia Harrison, and Chris Macgowan of Massey Ferguson who provided the projector, and something similar could be done another time if you would like it - let us know.

JOHN MOORE

WHAT DOES SPRING LOOK LIKE?

Children - draw or paint a picture for us of something that makes you think of springtime. We will put as many as possible in the Children's Corner in Church, and there will be prizes for the best ones. Send your pictures to 23 Mill Street by 25th March, please.

UFTON FIELDS NATURE RESERVE

There are many nature reserves in the British Isles. Ufton Fields may be less famous than others, but it has similar aims.

Conservation work is carried out to encourage native species of plants and animals. Many different forms of wild life are able to breed successfully on the reserve, and then spread to other parts of the County. Only permit holders are allowed access to the reserve to prevent undue disturbance and damage to the wild life. Several of the plants on the reserve are now uncommon in Warwickshire.

Anyone wanting further information can contact myself (Tel 612444) or Warwickshire Nature Conservation Trust at the County Museum, Warwick.

R. E. STANBRIDGE

PROFILE - MISS BIRD

Many people in Harbury must remember being taught by Miss Bird in the Wagstaffe School behind the Church. Miss Bird herself still lives in the cottage where she was born in Mill Street, and remembers vividly what Harbury was like when she was young - before the days of motor cars, when the only means of getting to town was by carrier's cart or train. The post came by train, and was collected from the station morning and evening by the postman - on foot.

Milk was carried in large cans by the farmers, and was measured out at the door into people's own jugs. The Mill's sails turned - grinding the corn into flour to be used in the three bakeries in the village, which, sadly, have now completely disappeared, along with the lovely smell of freshly baked bread which permeated the village streets as the baker drove his horse and cart round delivering his bread.

Harbury once had two chapels, as well as the Church, and Miss Bird remembers when all three were well attended on a Sunday. The Primitive Methodist Chapel was in Mill Street until it was closed in the 1930s, and the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in Chapel Street was in use until about four years ago.

One of the highlights of the year used to be the May Day procession, when the children paraded round the village carrying poles decorated with hoops of flowers. This was followed by tea at the Wight School and games in a nearby field.

The Flower Show too was a great occasion, held on the land where the School now stands - known then as 'The Park'. Gaily bedecked stalls and sideshows sprang up all along Park Lane with roundabouts and swingboats, and all the children had a day off school to celebrate.

Children started school at the age of three, and the summer holiday lasted only a month. The number of children at the village school now is around the same as in Miss Bird's teaching days. She taught the reception class at the Wagstaffe School for 50 years until her retirement.

Her main enjoyment these days is listening to her radio, and 'Woman's Hour' is one of her favourite programmes. It was fascinating to learn that she still cooks in her fireside range, and swears by it!! She's not keen on having too much electricity about the place, and judging by the latest electricity bills, I'm sure most of us agree with her! ANNE MOORE

HEALTH RISKS ABROAD

With increasing numbers of people going abroad both for holidays and on business, a few words about immunization may be useful.

In general, the traveller in Northern Europe and North America will not be exposed to any different risks from communicable diseases. In Southern Europe there is an increased risk of gastro-intestinal infection, particularly Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers. Throughout the rest of the world communicable diseases not indigenous to the U.K. present problems to the traveller. Some of the most important hazards are:

1. Smallpox. An international certificate is required on return to the U.K. from any territory outside Europe, with the exception of Canada, U.S.A. and the West Indies. A certificate is required on arrival in Australia, New Zealand and the West Indies. Furthermore, in the event of an outbreak in this country, a certificate will be required on entry into virtually any country. International certificates can be obtained from travel agents, local authorities, or the Dept. of Health and Social Services. If the vaccination is a primary one, a check that it has taken is required after a week, before completion of the certificate, otherwise the certificate is completed on re-vaccination. It is valid for three years.
2. Cholera. Travellers arriving in the U.K. are required to produce an international certificate if they have been in an infected area in the previous five days. Other countries are variable, and it is best to check with the embassy concerned. Vaccination is advisable, though, for all travellers to Asia. It consists of 2 injections separated by an interval of 4-6 weeks. Certificates are valid for 6 months.
3. Typhoid and Paratyphoid. Vaccination is advisable for anyone going outside Northern Europe or North America. Two injections are required, separated by 4-6 weeks, and re-vaccination is required after 3 years.

MORE NEXT MONTH,

S. HANCOCK

SAILING

Many people still regard sailing as a sport for gymnastic millionnaires. There are indeed many boats which are both very expensive and which require agility and stamina to sail in severe conditions, but there are also many boats which

are within the ability and financial reach of the average family man. I turned to sailing partly because I had always had a yen to have a go at it, and partly because I couldn't keep fit enough to enjoy playing rugby. Sailing is a pastime which can be both relaxing and exhilarating, and one in which all the family can partake (not necessarily all at once!)

The beginner is faced with quite a bewildering choice of boats, and prices ranging from £50 for a secondhand knock-about to a £500-plus thoroughbred racer, or from £100-plus kit to a £1000 sailing cruiser. Every man to his own taste and pocket! While I rather fancied the thoroughbred racer, my ideas were trimmed down to reality by my wife, and we settled for a do-it-yourself kit to make a versatile sailing dinghy come row boat come outboard fun boat.

The building of the boat gave me almost as much pleasure as sailing it does now. Only the simplest of tools - pliers, hammer and screwdriver - were needed, and virtually no carpentry or nautical engineering knowledge. The makers claim that only 100 man hours are necessary, and also that children and housewives are equally capable of making the boat. The latter is certainly true; the former depends on how hard you work, and how particular you want to be. I built my boat in my garage during winter evenings, with no problems and only the occasional need for a second pair of hands.

Having acquired a boat, the next hurdle is some water to sail on. Harbury is not ideally situated for access to good sailing water, Draycote being the only large reservoir within easy reach, but there are several smaller lakes around at Napton, Banbury, Boddington, Leamington, and, of course, the river at Warwick.

Transporting the boat can cause problems and further expense, but a smaller boat like mine can be carried comfortably on a car roof rack, where it can be lifted by two adults. Finally, it is necessary to have a certain amount of sailing 'gear'. Lifejackets are essential - not because sailing is dangerous, but because there is always the chance of capsizing or falling in, and anyone with sense always wears a lifejacket, and insists that children wear them at all times on or near the water. Pumps, jeans, a warm sweater and a windproof/waterproof jacket are the other basic items,

with a wetsuit (a skin-tight rubber suit) being necessary if winter sailing is to be done. This can also be a do-it-yourself job.

Joining a club makes sense since it not only provides access to suitable water, but also can offer tuition to the beginner, competition for all abilities, and social amenities for all ages.

As far as our family is concerned, the boat provides us with a variety of pleasures. My wife has learned a new sport and can competently handle the boat herself. I enjoy some club racing whenever we have a free weekend, and the children just enjoy being on or near the water. On a sunny day it is marvellous to be able to enjoy the peace and quiet of the countryside, well away from traffic and crowds, and the children love to have a picnic lunch. On holiday the boat can add a new dimension to the seaside, the ability to explore the coastline, go fishing, or simply enjoy messing about in boats.

CHRIS BLUNT

IS YOUR CHIP PAN BURNING?

If so, ring 999, ask for the Fire Service, and the operator will connect you with the control room in Leamington. Particulars will be taken there and within 30 secs. of the call a fire engine from Leamington will be on its way, and within 2 mins. another engine from Southam will also be coming. (Meanwhile, close all kitchen doors and windows. A good first measure is to smother the pan with a wet towel.) Harbury automatically gets these two engines - three would be sent for a fire at the School or at a farm, and presumably for a Village Hall dance as well.

All this I learnt at a most interesting visit to the control room in Leamington. The causes of fires have changed - no longer bonfires and chimneys, but children playing with matches, chip pans, T.V. sets overheating (so pull out the plug every night) and defective wiring in old property. The changing life-style is reflected here - smaller gardens with less rubbish to burn, central heating, and the vogue for converted property and do-it-yourself.

The Fire Service will attend for any human emergency or predicament - children down wells, heads in railings, arms in pipes etc. But they are not obliged to come out to cats

up trees and suchlike. By agreement with the RSPCA, pussies are left to their plight for 24 hours before rescue is attempted. Often hunger will drive them down before then anyway.

Leamington is the County Centre, and is one of the only 3 stations permanently manned. They have plans of factories and notable houses, data on chemicals and building materials, tape recorders etc. Stratford, Bedworth, Coleshill and Atherston are manned during the day, and there is off duty cover at night. There are 13 other stations including Southam, where the fireman work at other jobs ordinarily, and rush to the Station when there is an alarm. That one engine at Southam needs a Station force of 12 - six for the engine and six back-up crew. When the bell goes the first six men reporting to the Station go out. It costs an estimated £25 each time the engine at Southam goes out.

The County Fire Service handles 4000 - 5000 calls annually. Fire brigades come under the general control of the Home Office, who inspect Fire Stations annually, and are financed partly by rates and partly by Government grant.

MARIAN MILLINGTON

"KALEIDOSCOPE"

I'm beginning this month by welcoming three new babies. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Smart, 7 Manor Orchard, on the birth of Adam Fyffe on 23rd January, to Mr. and Mrs. P. Stone on the birth of their daughter Lindsey Amanda, and to Mr. and Mrs. Burnham of 2 Wagstaffe Close, whose daughter Hannah was born on February 17th.....Next time you're near the Manor House Hotel, Leamington, do go in to the Reception Desk where they have on sale some excellent street maps of Leamington, produced in aid of Dr. Barnardo's, and costing only 3p.....Mrs. Gladys Hutchins tells me that the Recreation Ground Committee are taking up the suggestion from the Golden Age to revive some old English country traditions, and plans are afoot for a Maypole with country dancing, and other attractions - do watch for further details....a few months ago Mrs. Keyte wrote about the Solo Club, for divorced and widowed people. She said joining the Club was a good way to meet people, and it certainly worked for her, as she is now engaged to Mr. Raymond Hatfield.

VICTORIA MACGOWAN

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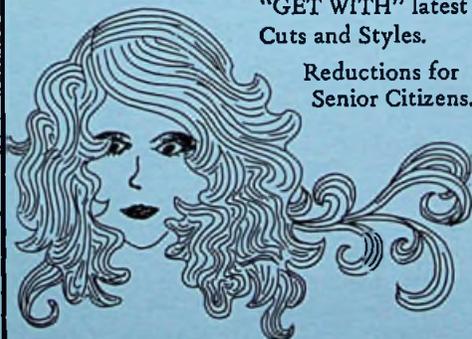
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