



HARBURY & LADBROKE NEWS



HARBURY AND LADBROKE NEWS

THE HARBURY & LADBROKE NEWS reflecting all aspects of Local Life is published monthly, and produced with assistance from the Parochial Church Council of ALL SAINTS' CHURCH — Vicar: The Rev'd. F.R. MACKLEY. B.A.
Telephone: Harbury 612377.

HARBURY Holy Communion : 8.00 a.m., 10.00 a.m. (Sung)
SUNDAY SERVICES: Evensong : 6.30 p.m. (4.00 p.m. in Winter)

See Church Notice Board for details of other services.
For Ladbroke Services see inside.

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HARBURY: Farm Street. Telephone: 612232
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'THE HARBURY DIRECTORY' containing details of Village Organisations and essential information is freely available on request from Mrs. D. Holt, 15, Wagstaffe Close, Harbury.

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The committee of the Harbury and Ladbroke News would like to wish all readers a very Happy New Year.

The village has celebrated Christmas in traditional manner, and the beautiful weather drove many out into the fresh air to walk off the plum pudding. The Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner was, by all accounts, a huge success, and around 400 people enjoyed the Youth Theatre Workshop's production of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' in mime.

Highlight of the Church's year in Harbury was the celebration on the 21st December of our Vicar's 50 years as a priest. A large congregation was present in Church to share this very special occasion with him.

Many of you will now have seen 'Hungry Harbury', the guidebook produced by Linda Ridgley, aided by members of the Harbury Society. It's a really superb effort - the fruit of many months of hard work. Copies are on sale in village shops, at £1.50.

Dick Picken, Fox Cottage, Chapel Street (612778), who is now the Bookings Secretary for the Village Hall, would like to hear from anyone who is at all doubtful about bookings that were made before he became Secretary, in order that these can be confirmed.

We would like to welcome Mr. Atwal Baldip who, with his wife and two sons, has taken over the Foodmart - soon to change its name to Harbury Supermarket. We wish them success in their venture.

The Annual General Meeting of your magazine will be held in the Shakespeare on Tuesday, 20th January, at 8p.m. We generally see the same faces every year, so if you've not been before and would like to comment or contribute, you would be very welcome. One of our editors, Ray Hoare, is retiring this time. He has been an editor for three years and has done a great deal of hard work for the magazine. We shall miss him - even his jokes! - and we record our thanks for his efforts.

Congratulations to Mrs. Pamela Sperling on what sounds like a record - £145 raised at a Coffee Morning for the R.S.P.C.A. She wishes to thank all those who braved the ice and snow to make the event such a tremendous success.

HARBURY DIARYJANUARY 1981

- Sun. 4th Second after Christmas Day. 8a.m. Holy Eucharist
 10a.m. Sung Eucharist. 3.30p.m. Evensong.
 7p.m., Allsorts Planning Meeting.
- Mon. 5th School and Toddler Group begin.
 Confirmation Class at Vicarage at 6.30p.m.
- Tues. 6th Playgroup begins.
 Epiphany - 7.30a.m. and 9.45a.m. Holy Eucharist
 Confirmation Class at Vicarage at 6.30p.m.
 Prayer Group, The Flat, Harbury House, 8p.m.
 Scouts restart.
 Horticultural Society, Wight School, 8p.m.
- Wed. 7th Confirmation Class at Vicarage, 6.30p.m.
 Scouts restart.
- Thurs. 8th Golden Age, 2.30p.m. in the Village Hall.
 Girls' Club starts in the Village Hall.
 W.I., 7.45p.m. in the Village Hall.
 Church Men's Group, 7.45p.m.
- Sat. 10th Sale at Wight School, 10a.m.
 Scouts' Jumble Sale, Village Hall, 10.30a.m.
- Sun. 11th First after Epiphany. 8a.m. Holy Eucharist.
 10a.m. Procession & Sung Eucharist. 3.30p.m.
 Evensong & Procession.
- Mon. 12th Upholstery Classes start in the Wight School.
 Catholic Instruction for children in the Wight School
 Confirmation Class at Vicarage, 6.30p.m.
- Tues. 13th Confirmation Class at Vicarage, 6.30p.m.
 Bible Study, 16 Dovehouse Lane, 8p.m.
 Recreation Ground Committee, Village Hall, 8pm.
- Wed. 14th Confirmation Class at Vicarage, 6.30p.m.
- Thurs. 15th Girls' Club, Village Hall.
- Fri. 16th Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy in aid of the
 Ann Day Scanner Appeal, 10.30a.m. at 1
 Vicarage Lane.
 Tennis Club Dance at the Village Hall.
- Sun. 18th Second after Epiphany. (Week of Prayer for
 Christian Unity from today to the 25th). 8a.m.
 Holy Eucharist. 10a.m. Sung Eucharist.
 3.30p.m. Evensong.
 7p.m. Allsorts.

- Mon. 19th Confirmation Class at Vicarage, 6.30p.m.
 Tues. 20th Tufty Club, Wight School, 2.15p.m.
 Confirmation Class at Vicarage, 6.30p.m.
 HARBURY & LADBROKE NEWS A.G.M.(see Editorial)
 Wed. 21st Confirmation Class at Vicarage, 6.30p.m.
 Thurs. 22nd Golden Age, 2.30p.m., Village Hall.
 Girls' Club, Village Hall.
 Parish Council Meeting, 7.30p.m., Village Hall.
 Sun. 25th Conversion of St. Paul. 8a.m. Holy Eucharist.
 10a.m. Sung Eucharist. 3.30p.m. Evensong.
 Mon. 26th Confirmation Class, Vicarage, 6.30p.m.
 Tues. 27th Harbury Society Social & Folk Evening, Crown Inn.
 Tickets £1.50 from Linda Ridgley, 7 Wagstaffe
 Close (612792).
 P.C.C., 8p.m. at the Wight School (NO Prayer
 Group or Bible Study this week)
 Young Wives, 2p.m., Village Hall.
 Confirmation Class, Vicarage, 6.30p.m.
 Wed. 28th Confirmation Class, Vicarage, 6.30p.m.
 Thurs. 29th Girls' Club, Village Hall.
 Fri. 30th St. Charles, King & Martyr. 9.45a.m. Holy Eucharist.

FEBRUARY 1981

- Sun. 1st Fourth after Epiphany. 8a.m. Holy Eucharist.
 10a.m. Sung Eucharist. 3.30p.m. Evensong.
 7p.m. All Sorts.
 Tues. 3rd 8 p.m. Bible Study, 26 Binswood End.
 Thurs. 5th W.I., 7.45p.m., Village Hall.
 Girls' Club, Village Hall.
 Sat. 7th W.I. Dance, Village Hall, 8p.m. to 12 midnight.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SERVICE, Harbury Hall Chapel, 10a.m.
 every Sunday.

HARBURY ADVENTURERS, V. Hall, 11.30a.m. every Sunday.
 ALL SORTS, 7.45p.m., 11 Constance Drive, alternate Sundays.
 UPHOLSTERY, Wight School, 2 - 4 p.m. every Monday.
 GUIDES, Scout Hut, 7.30 p.m. every Monday.
 GYMNASTICS, Harbury School, 5.30(5-8yrs), 6.45(over 9yrs),
 every Monday.

JOGGING, from Foodmart, 8 p.m. every Monday.
 BINGO, Village Hall, 8 p.m. every Monday.
 PLAYGROUPE, Wight School, Tuesday to Friday mornings.
 TODDLER GROUPE, Wight School, Mon. a. m. & Wed. p. m.
 NURSERY SCHOOL, Village Hall, Tuesday to Friday mornings.
 BROWNIES, Village Hall, 6.15p.m. every Tuesday.
 DANCING CLASSES, Wight School, 4-7.45, Tuesdays,
 4-7.15 Wednesdays, 4-7.45 Thursdays.
 SCOUTS, Scout Hut, 7.45p.m. Tues(1st troop), Wed.(2nd troop).
 YOUTH CLUB COFFEE BAR, V. Hall, 7.30-10pm, Tuesdays.
 YOUTH CLUB, Village Hall, 8-10p.m. Wednesdays.
 BABY CLINIC, Village Hall, 2p.m., 2nd & 4th Wednesdays.
 WEIGHTAWAY, Wight School, 8p.m. Wednesdays(NB change)
 GOLDEN AGE, Village Hall, 2.30p.m. 2nd & 4th Thursdays.
 VENTURE SCOUTS, Scout Hut, 8 p.m. every Thursday.
 POP - IN, Village Hall, 1.30 - 3.30p.m. every Friday.
 CHOIR PRACTICE, Church, 6.30p.m. every Friday.
 THEATRE WORKSHOP, Wight School, 2.30 - 5 Saturday.

ALL DATES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS.

Dates for inclusion PLEASE to Linda Ridgley, tel 612792.

For Village Hall bookings, ring Mr. Picken, tel 612778.

For Wight School bookings, ring Mrs. Windsor, tel 612504.

THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear friends,

How incapable I feel of expressing adequately in words my thanks for all that happened on 21st December - the 50th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood! I was greatly moved by the huge congregation (including some from other parishes) at the 10a.m. Eucharist, and by the kindness of our Rural Dean, the Revd. T. Knight, in coming to take part in the service, and of the Revd. R. T. Murray (a former Rural Dean of Southam) in coming to preach the sermon. It was very fitting that Mr. Murray, as the only clergyman still living who has known me in all three parishes in which I have served, should have been the preacher, but I must confess that I feel very unworthy of the kind things he said! I would like to thank the members of the Parochial Church Council for the wonderful refreshments with which they

fed the multitude, and also for the very generous book tokens which they presented to me, and I would also thank all others who sent me gifts, greeting cards and greeting telegrams. I was specially moved by a magnificent card of congratulations and good wishes from the Bishop.

Then came Christmas, which seems to have been better observed than ever - at any rate at each of the three Eucharists (Midnight, 8a. m. and 10a. m.) there was a record number of communicants over the corresponding services of previous years. We thank those who provided the lovely flowers and evergreens, those who decorated the Church, and those who erected the Christmas Crib and the Christmas Tree. We also thank Mr. Peter Holt for fixing the candles for the candle-light nine lesson carol service and the Midnight Mass. During Christmastide the exterior of the Church is floodlit in the evenings.

Among recent gifts to the Church we acknowledge a donation of £500 from a good friend who has a great love for our Church.

During December we mourn the loss of Mr. Jack Allen, of Hill Crest Cottage, Binswood End, and of Mrs. Riman of 29 Frances Road. At the time of writing the funeral of the latter has not yet taken place, and so the notice of it will not appear until the February magazine. May God grant them his rest, and comfort those who mourn.

We are still in Christmastide. As we enter the New Year there is one question which we should each of us lose no time whatever in answering, if it be not answered yet - "What is my relation to Him Who, for the love of me, was conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary, my present and most merciful Redeemer - my future Judge?"

Wishing you all a bright and happy New Year.

With every blessing,

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

F. R. Mackley.

Funeral Service.

December 17th. Jack Allen, Hill Crest Cottage, 7 Binswood End, aged 68 years.

From the Churchwardens

Christmas is over for another year, leaving most of us fatter and poorer! We trust, however, that Christmas 1980 will also leave us richer in memories of a family time, of love, friendship and happiness, and of very happy services in our Church. Year by year we write of record numbers at our major services, and this year is no exception. It was lovely to have candles at both the Carol Service and Midnight Communion, and we hear tell that when Peter Holt went in to Church to fix the candlesticks the contractors who are still working on our new lighting inquired "Don't you trust us, then?"

The Carol Service was not quite as well attended as in the previous year, but there was a large attendance at the 10am. service that day to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Vicar's ordination to the priesthood. This service, at which we were delighted to welcome many visitors including some of the Vicar's cousins from Leicestershire, is written of fully in the Vicar's letter. The preacher, the Rev. R. T. Murray, took his text from the book of Wisdom in the Apocrypha, part of which was "He pleased God and was beloved by Him". Other parts of the verse to which he referred were concerning honourable age and an unspotted life. Mr. Murray spoke of the Vicar's service in his ministry in other parishes, and then suggested an alternative text, also from the book of Wisdom - "For I was a witty child and had a good spirit", and he spoke appreciatively of the Vicar's wit as well as his wisdom.

We give thanks for the Vicar's faithful ministry, for his prayerful and unspotted life, and for his wit.

Matters arising from the Parochial Church Council Meeting:

Finance -

Harbury Church operates an ENVELOPE SCHEME. Many members of the congregation have a set of envelopes, one for each Sunday, in which to place their weekly collection. This helps them to remember that the Church's expenses go on every week, even if they are away for a Sunday, and they can, if they wish, put two envelopes on the plate the following week. We are most grateful to all those who

7.
continue to support us in this way. There is of course no commitment in terms of the amount of money you give - the envelope is merely a reminder - so if you would like to join the scheme do tell the Vicar, and we will let you have a set for 1981.

Gifts to the Church which have been COVENANTED are worth more than their actual value, because the Church can reclaim tax on them. This costs the donor no more - only the time it takes to fill in a form - and a covenant now runs for only 4 years, not 7 as previously. Sally Stringer, 23 Farley Avenue, 613214, will be pleased to give you further details if you are interested.

Choir -

PLEASE, could you spare a little time to swell the ranks of the Church choir? We are really in need of adult members to back up the children who sing for us each week. If you could not manage practice and two services every Sunday, that wouldn't matter - maybe a rota could be worked out. If you enjoy singing, please speak to the Vicar or Ken Nordon, our organist, and let's see if we can have those choir stalls filled!

Advance Notice -

Harbury Church will be holding a second 50:50 Auction on Saturday, 6th June. Start looking out items for sale NOW please, and offers of help to organise the Auction will be gratefully accepted.

LADBROKE NEWS

Services etc. for January and early February, 1981

Sunday, 4th January. Christmas II. 8.30a.m. Holy Communion.
11a.m. Matins.

Tuesday, 6th January. Epiphany of our Lord.

Thursday, 8th January. 7.45p.m. Men's Group at Harbury.

Sunday, 11th January. Epiphany I. 11a.m. Holy Communion
with Hymns & Sermon. 3.30p.m. Evensong.

Monday, 12th January. Parochial Church Council, 7.30p.m.

Wednesday, 14th January. 3p.m. Women's Fellowship at
Woodlands Farm.

Sunday, 18th January. Epiphany II. 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion
11a.m. Matins.

3.

Sunday, 25th January. Conversion of St. Paul (Epiphany III).
11a. m. Holy Communion with Hymns. 3.30 p. m.
Evensong.

Sunday, 1st February. Epiphany IV. Eve of Candlemass.
8.30 a. m. Holy Communion. 11a. m. Family
Service.

Monday, 2nd February. Candlemass.

Thursday, 5th February. 7.45 p. m. Men's Group at Harbury.

Saturday, 7th February. Institution of the Rev. Canon C. P. K.
Barnes as Vicar of Priors Marston, 3p. m.

Sunday, 8th February. Epiphany V. 11 a. m. Holy Communion
with Hymns & Sermon. 3.30 p. m. Evensong.

Altar Flowers

Jan. 4th and 11th, Mrs. Badman and Mrs. Wilson. Jan. 18th,
Mrs. Smith. Jan. 25th, Mrs. Chaplin. Feb. 1st, Miss
Banfield.

Women's Fellowship

Our January meeting to plan the year's programme will be
at Woodlands Farm on Wednesday, 14th January, at 3p. m.,
by kind invitation of Mrs. J. Barnett. I hope to see you all
then, and if you wish to introduce a new member she too
will be welcome. We shall all be sorry to lose Mrs. Offord,
who has decided to move to Loughborough to be with her
sister, Mrs. Darby, who has been unwell for some time. We
wish Mrs. Darby a speedy return to health, and both of them
happiness in the future. A Happy and Peaceful New Year to
you all.

C. H.

Carol Singers

Congratulations to them all on a marvellous effort on 22nd
December, and thanks to all the generous donors. The total
of £40 (!) will be divided between the Church's sponsored
effort to improve Race Relations, and the Helen Ley House
for victims of Multiple Sclerosis.

Mrs. Offord

The whole village will be sad to say farewell to our former
Post Mistress. We in the Church will miss her greatly -
Sunday by Sunday she was in her place, always at morning
service, and some weeks as much as three times on a Sunday.

She has decided to move to Loughborough to be with her sister because of the latter's ill health. All we can say is 'Thank You' for all she has been and done in the past. We wish her and Mrs. Darby every blessing in the future. GRF.

We are also sorry to say goodbye to Mr. and Mrs. Garman and the three boys (all of whom came to Ladbroke School and family services). We wish them happiness in their new home.

Ladbroke Village Hall News

The main social event was the 'Village Hop' on 29th November. Everyone enjoyed the music of the Birmingham group Chug-a-lug, so much so that they have been booked again for a Valentine's Day Dance on Saturday, 14th February.

The younger generation thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas Party held in the Village Hall on December 6th. Nearly all the younger members of the village came, and tucked into hot dogs, hot potatoes, etc. The highlight of the evening was the grand entry of Father Christmas, loaded down with presents. Many thanks to him, and to Mark Dupre and Geoff Tagg for arranging some riotous games.

Don't forget there will be a jumble sale to raise funds for the Village Hall in January. Please donate any jumble that you might have to Mary Fell.

Ladbroke W.I. News

The W.I. has had a very busy month indeed. The first event was a Christmas Dinner at the Falcon Inn on the 9th December, which the members greatly enjoyed. As usual the Christmas Party for patients in Christopher Wren Ward, Hatton Hospital, was much appreciated. The patients thoroughly enjoyed the food and also the carol singing - thanks to Jo Richardson who played the piano for us. This year the patients will all have a present from Ladbroke W.I. to open on Christmas morning.

The December meeting took place in the Village Hall on the 18th, and took the form of a really festive Christmas party with competitions, super food, and everyone agreed it was a lot of fun.

The W.I. have distributed Christmas parcels to all the elderly residents in the village, and have also sent mince pies and Christmas cake to the Polish camp.

Don't forget, at the January meeting the guest speaker will be talking about Horoscopes. I predict it will be a most interesting and informative event!

Finally

Dot Wright, of Rose Cottage, Bridge Lane, recently lost her black and white cat, Fido, for exactly a month. After a replacement, Munchie, had been procured, Fido arrived back home in the peak of condition. If anyone knows where he had been for all that time, Dot would be very interested to know! Luckily, Fido and Munchie are learning to live together!

KATE LIVERTON.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MOVEMENT

Indirect Communication in Religious Studies

Edward Robinson, director of the Religious Experience Research Unit, Manchester College, Oxford, will be considering religious experience and the problems of communicating it at the meeting in Dale Street Methodist Church, Leamington, on Monday, 26th January, at 7.30pm. The cost of admission is 80p, and tickets are available from C. E. M., 7 Priory Row, Coventry CV1 5ES, or at the door.

HARBURY SCHOOL

First School Concert

All the children in the First School were involved in this short yet enjoyable musical production of the Nativity. Clearly a lot of hard work had been put in by both staff and children, not least in the production of the various animal masks which were on display. Although the parents' carol singing left a lot to be desired, the songs which formed part of the concert were sung with real enthusiasm by the children.

R. H.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Classes 6, 7 and 8 delighted large audiences of parents and friends with their 'entertainment', The Twelve Days of Christmas. Lady Huntingdon, well played by Georgina Knappe, found herself the recipient of a bewildering profusion of gifts from her unseen lover, Lord Gilbert. Firstly, her maid (Emily Macgowan) wheeled in a box containing a talkative partridge called Percy (he'd left his pear tree

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FITTING ROOM

outside), engagingly played by Mark Burford. In rapid succession followed two turtle doves, three can-can dancing French hens, and four wise-cracking calling birds. "Doctor, can you give me something for my liver?" "Here's an onion!". Jokes of this variety were much enjoyed by the audience and the perpetrators, Dylan Adams, Tony Bastin, Sunil Mehra and Timothy Tyler.

Presenting the play 'in the round' gave the space for the children to give full vent to their talents as we were entertained by five rhythmic gold rings, six egg-laying geese, seven ballet dancing swans and eight country dancing milkmaids, with a marvellous cow disguising Darren Boiles and Martin Dufresne.

Lady Huntingdon was getting pretty bewildered by this time, but more was to come - nine pipers, ten drummers, eleven disco dancers (including Susan Christopher who's only just got her broken ankle out of plaster!), and finally twelve tumblers. There were gasps of appreciation when Gail Davis and Deborah Simcock demonstrated backsprings.

By this time Lady Huntingdon had decided her house was getting overcrowded, and sent all her gifts back, to warm applause from the audience.

Thanks are due to Mrs. Blair, Mrs. Wallington, and Mr. Thorburn who devised and directed the show, and to Mrs. Buck who directed the music.

S.H.

Upper Middle School Carol Concert

What I like about Harbury School productions is that the children obviously enjoy them just as much as the audiences do! This carol concert, held in the Church, was no exception, with singers, readers and musicians clearly having a thoroughly good time. "Wind through the Olive Trees", sung by the choir, was a particularly successful item, and interspersed with the musical offerings were interesting readings tracing the history of the customs surrounding Christmas. A great deal of thought and effort by teachers and children combined to give an enjoyable evening, and a retiring collection was made for the Myton Hospice Appeal Fund.

DMH.

LOST - a stainless steel cake dish was lost, or taken in error, from the Cake Stall at the Christmas Fair. Any information please to Harbury 612451.

HARBURY P. T. A.

Despite the weather, there was a splendid turn out of carol singers on 17th December, when £37.40 was raised for the Myton Hospice Appeal. Thanks to all contributors of both voices and money, and a special thank you to the 'soupladies'.

1981 programmes are now being printed and, although there is no meeting in January, we think we have a full and varied programme of both educational and social events.

The December Draw was won by a Mr. N. Chapman of Southam (?) who preferred no publicity.

Happy New Year.

R. J. H.

PLAYGROUP NEWS

The three Harbury playgroups held a combined carol service at the Village Hall on 9th December. We were very pleased to see a large number of parents and friends, who were welcomed by Brenda Turner, and who joined with the children in singing Christmas songs and carols. Celia Neill told the Christmas story with the aid of her model crib, Mary Catt led a short prayer, and the Vicar gave the blessing. All the playgroup helpers worked hard in the kitchen to provide drinks and biscuits for everyone. The service ended with a collection for the NSPCC, which raised £6.50.

During the week the playgroups enjoyed their Christmas parties, being honoured by a visit from Father Christmas, and then broke up for the holidays after a happy term. CMC.

SOUTHAM SCHOOL PLAY

'An Inspector Calls' by J. B. Priestley was presented in the school on the evenings of 11th and 12th December. The play has been a popular amateur production since it was written nearly 50 years ago. It is the epitome of the 'well made play' - strong story, tight construction, small cast and one set.

The play's producer, Mrs. Doubleday, obtained astonishingly mature and assured performances from her young cast. The play opens with Mr. and Mrs. Birling (played by David Buchholz and Catherine Harris) celebrating the engagement of their daughter Sheila (Tracey Bywater) to

the wealthy Gerald (Peter Mitchell). The arrival of a mysterious Police Inspector (Steven Green) changes everything, as he gradually involves all of them in the suicide of a young woman, and in the process exposes their frailties.

Steven Green, a tall, gloomy figure, was perfectly cast in the central role of the Inspector. Tracey Bywater gave an excellent performance as a girl gradually realising the essential shallowness of her life, ably supported by Peter Mitchell as her fiance. Outstanding was Colin Hughes as the Birlings' drunken and emotional son, Eric.

The set, costumes and lighting were all of a high standard, and this was certainly the best production I have seen at the school. Congratulations to all concerned. S. H.

KINETON HIGH SCHOOL CROSS-COUNTRY RACES

A large crowd of children, including teams from Harbury School, braved bitterly cold weather conditions to take part in the second Annual Kineton High School Cross-Country Races on Saturday, 29th November. In the under 13 girls' event, Jane Hancock, aged 9, gained a creditable 3rd place, and in the under 13 boys' event Adrian Thomas battled hard to achieve an excellent 4th place. Harbury School places were as follows:
Under 13 girls - 1½ miles - 30 runners:

3rd, Jane Hancock, 12min40s. 11th, Sandra Hiatt, 13min57s.
13th, Julie Langley, 14min30sec. 14th, Susan Worrall.
15th, Jean Fletcher. 16th, Lorraine Andrews. 20th,
Terry-Marie Bond.

Under 13 boys - 1½ miles - 62 runners:

4th, Adrian Thomas, 10min.50secs. 20th, Stuart Simcock,
12mins.1sec. 24th, Stephen Hancock, 12min.14secs.
34th, Craig Knowles. 35th, Philip Riman. 48th, Jamie
Williams. 53rd, Carl Chick. 56th, Ian Percival. 57th,
Simon Clifford. 59th, Carl Addison.

David Wright, of Manor Orchard, a pupil at Kineton High School, was placed 5th in the under 15 race. A fortnight previously, as a result of his performance in the inter-area races at Stratford, he was selected for the Warwickshire under 15 boys team, which won an inter-county event at Chipping Campden. David is also running regularly for Leamington Athletic Club. J. W.

VENTURE UNIT

December has been a busy month. With some help from scouts Stephen Hunt and David Grey, we joined other Venture Units from Leamington, Warwick and Kenilworth in a six-a-side Soccer Competition, narrowly missing reaching the final. This was good practice for a five-a-side soccer evening spent with the 12th Leamington V.U. at Coventry Sports Centre.

Pete Hutchins gave a very informative talk on guitars, demonstrating different models, electronic gadgetry and playing techniques. The Unit's second Christmas Dinner was held at the Bell at Ladbroke, with a full turn-out of present members. A very enjoyable evening was had by all, and thanks to Brian Taylor for the generous (liquid) contribution.

Activities in January will include a night hike and camp, swimming, a Cotswold walk, and a day in London. We particularly want to invite anyone interested to a special meeting at the Scout Hut on Thursday, 22nd January, at 8p.m., when we shall be showing slides of some of our past activities, and displaying some of our plans for other activities later this year.

R. E. W.

HARBURY THEATRE GROUP

"Arms and the Man" by George Bernard Shaw is our next production, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 26th, 27th and 28th February. This play, on which was based the operetta 'The Chocolate Soldier', gives scope for some interesting sets and effects, and also for the acting talents of some members new to our stage.

Tickets will be on sale at Lindops soon, so book the date now.

DMH.

YOUTH THEATRE WORKSHOP PANTOMIME

To follow the pantomime staged last winter by the Harbury Theatre Group was a daunting task, but the Youth Theatre Workshop branch of the Group, directed by Nick Watson, achieved a great success with their mime version of 'Jack and the Beanstalk', shortly before Christmas.

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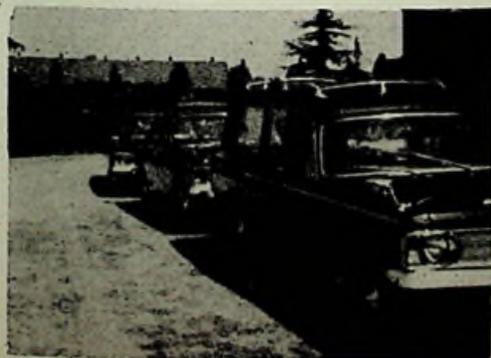
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Over thirty children took part in the production with great enthusiasm, putting on a thoroughly enjoyable entertainment.

The acting and dance sequences were very well done, whilst the sound and lighting effects - masterminded as usual by Peter Holt, - made a big contribution to a professional show.



No pantomime is complete without its cow - Michael Winter and David Megeney, pictured here, performed the task with great verve!
JBM.

LEYCESTER CLOSE COMMUNITY OF FRIENDS

Our annual Christmas Party for the Senior Citizens and children of Leycester Close was held on Saturday, 6th December. What a wonderful time everyone had! Although it was a dry day, it was quite cold and windy, but everyone got stuck in to help erect our 'tent'. It never looks as though we're going to be ready on time, what with the lighting, heating, decorating and getting the tables laid, but everything just fell into place at the right moment.

The Senior Citizens and children sat down to tea with all the usual goodies supplied, and the teapot never got chance to get cold. After tea the children sang some nativity carols to

entertain the older people, and this went down very well. Then of course the main attraction, Father Christmas, arriving to distribute presents to both young and old. After a quick clear-up operation, everyone went home to prepare for the party in the evening. We had music for dancing (all kinds), carol singing, plus a few jokes (the clean kind), and we also held a raffle to help with the fund-raising for future activities in the New Year.

We would like to express our thanks to all those people who so generously helped by supplying certain items free of charge for us to use; without their generosity these events would not go so smoothly.

We even had a couple of elderly people who used to live in the Close come again this year, and they both went away very, very happy but tired when they were taken home.

On Saturday, 13th December, some members of the committee, husbands, wives and children, toured the village carol singing, from which all donations are going to the Sunshine Home for Blind Babies. The sum of £20.95 was collected. HMS.

HARBURY W.I.

The December meeting was mainly a social one, with over 60 people enjoying the lovely food provided by members. After supper the Drama Group entertained with two items, one of which was a play written for them by Mrs. Zonik. Mrs. Davies was presented with a plant, and thanked for her hard work as secretary. The raffle prizes were won by Mrs. Middleton and Mrs. Geenes. On 11th December, Harbury was host at the Group Carol Service at All Saints Church, Harbury, and afterwards at the Village Hall, where we all had soup, rolls and mince pies.

The next meeting is on 8th January, when we shall hear a talk entitled "40 Years in the Fire Service".

DAPHNE BRADLEY.

Joke from a Christmas Cracker - "I say, I say, what's grey and lumpy, and goes up and down and round and round?".
Answer - Porridge on a roundabout!

HARBURY SOCIETY

The Society will be holding its New Year Social at the Crown Inn on Tuesday, 27th January, 1981. There will be a Folk Group, entertainment and a Ploughman's Supper, all for £1.50. Members will be given the first opportunity to buy tickets, but if you do fancy having a good evening out and the chance to meet lots of interesting people, give me a call (612792) because after 19th January any spare tickets will be on sale to the general public.

The guide, HUNGRY HARBURY, is now on sale. Sorry about the hiccup - we did get it out in time for Christmas, but only just. It serves me right for wanting fancy paper and ink! Lindops, Krayems and Taylors have copies for sale at £1.50 each, and Goulds in Leamington also have a supply. You may, if you wish, order a copy from me (7 Wagstaffe Close, 612792) but - contrary to the report in the Courier - it will still cost you £1.50 unless you are a paid-up member of the Society.

The Village Pump has now been re-erected on Crown Green.



The picture shows Neville Ellis, Iory Davies, Neil Armstrong and some 'helpers' positioning the pump, the erection of which was undertaken by members of the Harbury Society at the instigation and insistence of Neville Ellis of Sharmer Farm.

The project was made possible by a very generous anonymous donation, and it took considerable effort - especially physical to get the replica pump in place. We hope that all concerned are pleased with the effect.

In the Spring the Harbury Society is promised a guided tour of Chesterton Woods by Mr. Tilley, who will explain how the Woods are run as a commercial concern. We will also have the opportunity to see the spring flowers and bulbs in bloom. More details later.

LINDA RIDGLEY.

SOUTHAM & DISTRICT LADIES CIRCLE & ROUND TABLE
PLEASE HELP US to raise £1,000 to purchase and train a Guide Dog. Please save your aluminium scrap - i.e. milk bottle tops (washed), cake and pie cases (washed), pull rings from cans - and take to

Nicola Knight, Juxta Pacem, Temple End, Harbury,
Sheila Varley, Meadow View, Deppers Bridge,
or Mr. Chapman, Harbury School,
who will keep you up to date with the progress of our appeal.
Thank you.

WEIGHTAWAY

The Harbury Weightaway group really know how to win by losing. For the second time running they have received the Rose Bowl, awarded by the Weightaway Organisation, for the highest monthly weight loss. The members attending the group at the Wight School lost an average of 7.58 lbs. during the last month. Will they win it again in January? That depends on the members and their consciences, and of course the size of their helpings of Christmas pud.....!

MUSIC EXAMINATION RESULTS

At the Christmas session the results were:

Practical: Grade 1 - Andrea Burford (Merit)
Sarah Burnham (Distinction)
Grade 2 - Wendy Bloxham (Distinction)
Ashley Lucas (Pass)
Claire Turner (Pass)

Theory: Grade 1 - Anna Catt (90/99)
Ashley Lucas (96/99).

The above are all pupils of Mrs. M. J. Coope.

OUR CALENDAR

I thought January was an apt time - and the editors agreed - to write an article about the history of our calendar. In a small space much has been omitted, but those who would like to know more should read 'The 365 Days' by K. G. Irwin, published by Harrop.

The word 'calendar' is derived from the ancient Greek word 'kalend', signifying 'I cry'. It was used by the Town Crier of the time, announcing market and feast days. The Romans began each month with the appearance of the new moon. We write their 'moon time' as 'month', but no longer stick to the early Roman plan.

The Egyptian physician/astronomer Toth produced a remarkable calendar in about 3000 BC. By patient observation he noted that the bright star Sirius became visible in the sky a few days before the Nile's annual flood which produced new fertility for planting crops. Perhaps this was the earliest example of flood warning, and raised him to an almost god-like position. He timed the year (using Sirius) as 365.25 days, so close to the true value of 365.2422 days that the error was less than one hour in five years.

Toth used the Autumn equinox (23rd September) as the beginning of his year. This was the time of planting after the Nile floods had receded. There were 12 numbered months of 30 days each, plus 5 extra named days (six every 4th year), placed at the end of the year (i. e. September 18th - 22nd). They were named after Egyptian gods, thus - Osiris, Horus, Set, Isis and Nephthys. Each month had three 10-day groups, each day ten hours, and so on.

The Assyrians in about 2000 BC developed a moon calendar. This was difficult as the time between new moons was 29.53 days. In a twelve-month year they were left with 11 'spare days'. The Chaldeans followed the Egyptian pattern. They wrote 360° for the days in their year. The $^\circ$ sign represented the sun, and has persisted to our time as the sign for degrees in a circle. The Chaldeans have also given us a day of 24 hours, and an hour of sixty minutes, and a minute of sixty seconds.

In 47 BC Julius Caesar, using Egyptian and Chaldean ideas, produced the calendar named after him - Julian. He did away with the 'spare' five or six named days at the year's end, spreading them regularly through the months of the year. With adjustments, this is the calendar we have today - Martius (31 days) - originally first month of the Roman calendar, changed to Ianurius in 46 BC.

Aprilis (30 days)

Maius (31 days)

Iurius (30 days)

Quintitis (31 days) - later changed to Julius in Caesar's honour after he was assassinated in 44 BC.

Sextitis (30 days) - later changed to Augustus in honour of the first Emperor, and 'given' an extra day 'taken' from Februarius.

September (31 days) - later changed to 30 days by Augustus.

October (30 days) - later changed to 31 days by Augustus.

November (31 days) - later changed to 30 days by Augustus.

December (30 days) - later changed to 31 days by Augustus.

Ianurius (31 days)

Februarius (29/30 days) - after the Augustian change, became 28 or 29 days.

The Emperor Constantine, in 321 AD, eliminated the eight day Roman market cycle after his conversion to Christianity. He adopted the Mosaic seven-day week. Our days of the week are really relics of the five 'spare' named days. The Anglo-Saxons, in common with all Germanic peoples, had a five-day week -

Tiwsday, after the god Tiw

Wodensday, after the god Woden

Thorsday, after the god Thor

Frigsday, after the goddess Frig

Seternesday, after the god Seterne

Christian missionaries added two more days to fit the new or Mosaic pattern. They named them after the Sun which seems rather strange to me.

is perfect, and occasional adjustments still have
The last major one was by Pope Gregory in
Britain and the colonies followed rather late in

the day, in 1752!) Since the previous adjustment in 325 AD, an 'error' of ten days had appeared. The simple expedient of saying "October 4th, 1582, shall be followed by October 15th" was used.

The history of the calendar is like that. Leap year calculation is another story.....another time, perhaps. J.L.H.

HARBURY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Although prevented by illness from attending the December meeting, I understand that it was most enjoyable, some very good results being achieved in the quiz.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 6th January, at 8p.m., when the speaker will be Mr. Les Jones of the Dahlia Society, so come along, especially if you want your dahlias to win at the next Flower Show!

TONY BRUNTON.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editors,

On behalf of all the Pop-In Club members, I should like to express our sincere thanks to the girls who gave us such an enjoyable party on the Friday before Christmas. We do realise how busy they must have been with their own preparations at home, but they still made time to give us some fun too.

To Lynn, Philippa, Jenny, Bridget and Kathy, a big 'thank you', and a Happy New Year!

FROM A MEMBER.

Dear Editors,

I would like you to print a letter of thanks to Mary Morgan and Sally, Marion Carter and Dorothy Spike, for looking after me so well when I had my accident; also for gifts and cards from neighbours and friends in the village; and many thanks to Mr. George Savage for bringing me safely back home.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. I. E. Hind,
27 Vicarage Lane.

Dear Editors,

On behalf of all the Senior Citizens who attended the Christmas Dinner Party in the School on 13th December, I would like to convey my sincere thanks to all the committee, voluntary workers, and the wonderful entertainers.

It gave one a feeling of joy and happiness to be wanted, and I'm sure this spirit of ours is their reward.

Well done, thank you.

A SENIOR CITIZEN.

Dear Editors,

I enjoyed very much the Christmas party organised by the Leycester Close Community of Friends. This association was formed in Silver Jubilee Year, 1977, by the Revitts, the Fells, the Durrants, the Robbins', the Stowes and Mrs. Knappe, and they have maintained an excellent working relationship, and organised many enjoyable parties.

If other towns and villages had the same community spirit as we have in the Close, this country would be much improved.

ALF OVER.

Dear Editors,

On behalf of the Golden Age members, we offer our sincere thanks to Mrs. Knighton, Mrs. Sheasby, and all the committee, for the hard work bestowed upon us this year, and a mention to Mrs. Morris who has been a committee worker for 18 years, and has now retired. Well done, and a happy retirement.

MRS. CONSTANCE MANN.

WEIGHTAWAY SLIMMING ADVICE

Our Group holds regular meetings every Wednesday at the Wight School, High Street, Harbury at 8 pm.

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Class Fee £1.00

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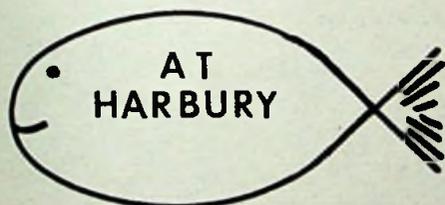
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