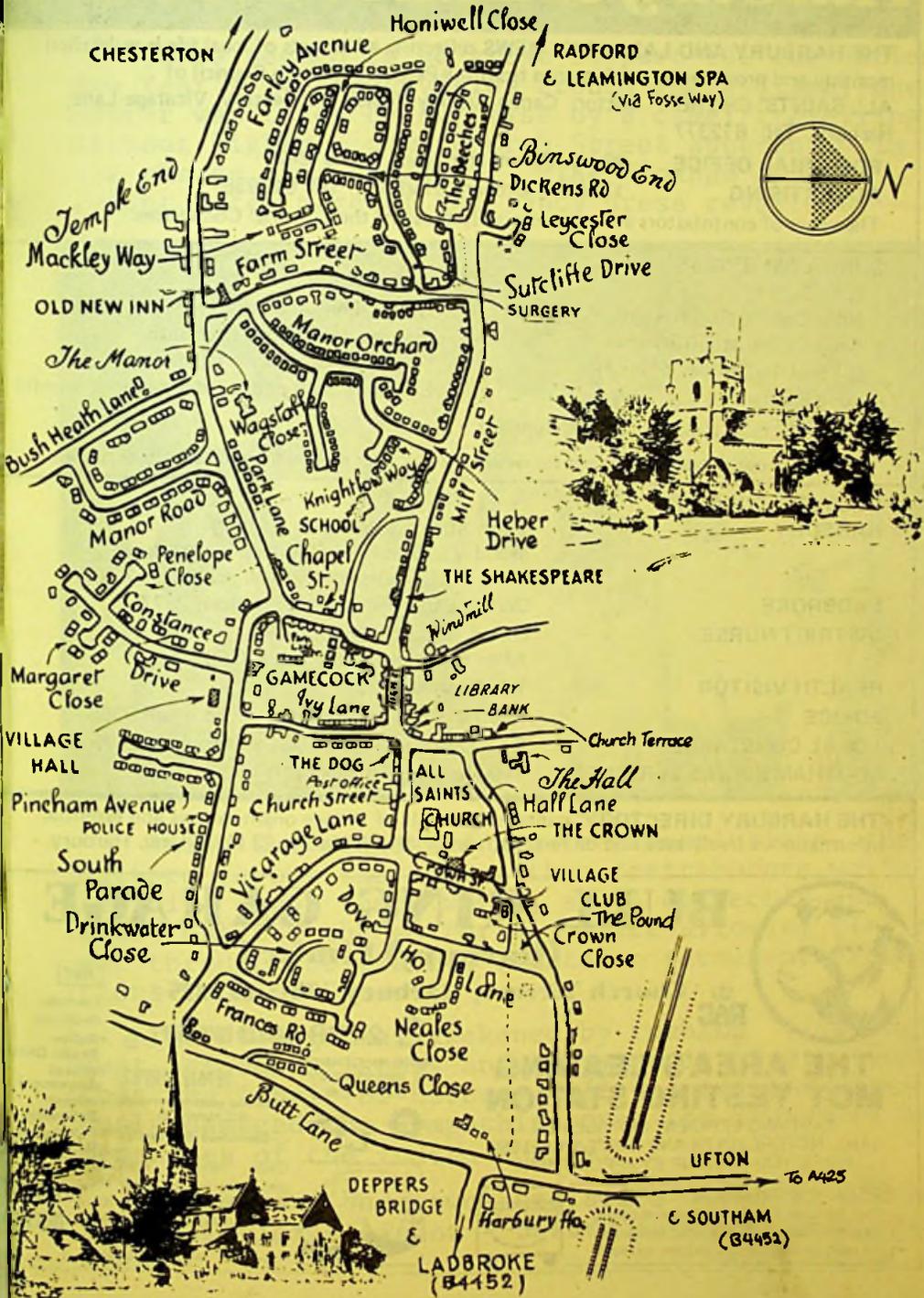


Harbury & Ladbroke News



Harbury & Ladbroke News

THE HARBURY AND LADBROKE NEWS reflecting all aspects of local life is published monthly and produced with assistance from the Parochial Church Council of ALL SAINTS' CHURCH - Rector: Canon Antony Rowe, The Rectory, Vicarage Lane, Harbury. Tel: 612377

EDITORIAL OFFICE 23 Mill Street, Harbury. Tel: 612427

ADVERTISING 17 Manor Orchard, Harbury. Tel: 612938

The views of contributors are not necessarily those of the Editorial Committee.

SUNDAY SERVICES

HARBURY

Holy Communion 8 a.m.
Sung Eucharist 10.30 a.m.
(Except 1st Sunday of month
Sung Eucharist 9 a.m. only)
Evensong 6.30 p.m. (except 3rd Sunday)

LADBROKE

Holy Communion with Hymns 9a.m.
(Except 1st Sunday of month
Family Communion 10.30 a.m.
Evensong 3.30 p.m. (3rd Sunday of month)

Please see notice board in Church for weekday services or revised times on special occasions.

DOCTORS' SURGERY

HARBURY

Farm Street, Telephone: 612232
Monday - Saturday : 9.00 am - 10.00am
Mon, Tues, Thurs and Friday: 6.00pm - 7.00pm
Craven Lane. Telephone: Southam 2577

LADBROKE

DISTRICT NURSE

Office Hours : L'ton 881451.
After 5.30 pm :S on Avon 67799

HEALTH VISITOR

Tel: Southam 7377

POLICE

Southam Station. Telephone: Southam 2366

LOCAL CONSTABLE

P.C. T. Percival Telephone : Harbury 612175

SOUTHAM SOCIAL SERVICES

Telephone: Southam 3110

'THE HARBURY DIRECTORY' containing details of Village organisations and essential information is freely available on request from - Mrs A Moore, 23 Mill Street, Harbury.



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HAD BURN

JANUARY 1988

First of all, the editors wish all readers of the H & L News a very Happy New Year.

There seemed to be great support for the various New Year's Eve festivities around the village; one editor was taken by surprise by a camel travelling - without lights - down Church Street apparently in the charge of a skeleton! Mike Bloxham's photo caught a few more of the fancy dress revellers.



Among the suggested New Year resolutions, the editors favour the notion that contributors write legibly, count their words, spell correctly and start out for the editorial office allowing time to get through the traffic lights on permanent excavations in Mill Street!

The village was awakened by rushing fire engines just before Christmas and everyone is glad to know that the fabric of Harbury Hall was not too seriously damaged but sympathise over the losses of the mementoes of the Indian Mutiny.

There have been two burglaries recently and damage to Taylor's window - beware and keep your eyes open!

2.
This issue of your magazine is published a week later than usual due to the printer's holiday arrangements.

Your annual opportunity to join the committee, become an editor, complain, make suggestions or just come along out of interest occurs at the Annual General Meeting of the magazine to be held in the Shakespeare Inn on Mon. Feb. 1st at 8pm - sandwiches to be laid out.

HARBURY DIARY

JANUARY 1988

- Sun. 10th EPIPHANY I. 8am Holy Communion, 10.30am Sung Eucharist, 6.30pm Evensong.
2.30pm Free Church Service (Pastor Graham Adams).
Adventurers re-start 11.30am.
- Mon. 11th Praise & Prayer, Lullington Lodge.
- Tues. 12th Village Hall Committee Meeting 8pm Village Hall.
Harbury Friends 8pm School.
- Wed. 13th YOC 7 & 8pm (please note change of date from 20th).
- Thurs. 14th Thursday Club Christmas Lunch, Stoneythorpe Hotel
(Coach will leave V. Hall 12.30pm prompt).
W.I. 7.45pm in Village Hall.
- Fri. 15th Prayer for persecuted Christians 8pm at 5 Church St
- Sat. 16th Scouts J U M B L E S A L E in Village Hall.
Youth Club Disco in Village Hall.
- Sun. 17th EPIPHANY II. 8am Holy Communion, 10.30am Sung Eucharist.
Newspaper Collection - Scouts & Guides.
- Mon. 18th Praise & Prayer, 11 Constance Drive.
- Tues. 19th Parochial Church Council, 8.15pm in Wight School.
- Wed. 20th Julian Meeting 8pm in Church.
- Thurs. 21st Whist Drive in Village Hall, 7.30pm.
- Sat. 23rd Warwickshire Community Council Conference 2 - 5pm
in Village Hall.
- Sun. 24th EPIPHANY III. 8am Holy Communion, 10.30 am Sung Eucharist.
- Mon. 25th THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL 7.30pm (at Ladbroke)
Eucharist in the week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Praise & Prayer, 12 Park Lane.
- Tues. 26th TIMOTHY AND TITUS THE COMPANIONS OF ST. PAUL
Preliminary Meeting concerning Confirmation 6.45pm
7.30pm Holy Communion.
Harbury Society Social at Crown Inn, Folk Group &
Buffet 8pm Tickets £3 from 16 Farm St. (612792)

- Thurs. 28th Thursday Club in Village Hall.
Parish Council 7.30pm in Village Hall.
Mid-teens meeting at the Rectory 7.30pm.
- Sat. 30th STAGE UP in Village Hall.
- Sun. 31st NINTH SUNDAY BEFORE EASTER (SEPTUAGESIMA). 8.30am
Holy Communion, 10.30am Sung Eucharist,
6.30pm Evensong.
- ALL ARTICLES TO THE EDITORS OF HARBURY & LADBROKE
NEWS FOR FEBRUARY EDITION BY TODAY PLEASE.

FEBRUARY 1988

- Mon. 1st Conservative Association AGM, 7.30pm at The Dog
Inn, All members welcome.
Praise & Prayer, 4 Leicester Close.
Harbury News AGM, 8pm Shakespeare Inn.
- Tues. 2nd THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE (CANDLE-
MAS) 7.30pm Eucharist with Hymns.
NWR Book Group 'The Old Devils' by Kingley Amis,
venue Paddock House, Crown St.
Horticultural Society 8pm, Wight School.
- Wed. 3rd Mothers Union Lunch Party, 12.45pm (Guest Speaker
Mrs. Mollie Jones).
- Thurs. 4th THEATRE GROUP - The Passion of Dracula.
Men's Society, 7.45pm.
Folk Club, 8.30pm Old New Inn.
- Fri. 5th THEATRE GROUP - The Passion of Dracula.
- Sat. 6th THEATRE GROUP - The Passion of Dracula.
- Sun. 7th 9am Sung Eucharist.
11.30am Family Service & Adventurers.
- Mon. 8th Praise & Prayer, Ravenshaw Cottage.

DATES FOR INCLUSION IN THE HARBURY DIARY PLEASE TO
LINDA RIDGLEY - Telephone 612792
For Village Hall Bookings, ring Mrs. Hughes 612716
For Wight School Bookings, ring Mrs. Hayes, 613488

REGULAR WEEKDAY SERVICES IN HARBURY & LADBROKE

- Tuesday: 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion in Harbury
- Wednesday: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion in Ladbroke
- Thursday: 9.45 a.m. Holy Communion in Harbury
- Friday: 7.00 a.m. Holy Communion in Harbury

REGULAR DIARY DATES

FREE CHURCH SERVICE, Harbury Church, 2.30pm
2nd Sunday in the month.

HARBURY ADVENTURERS, Village Hall, 11.30am Sundays.
UPHOLSTERY CLASSES, Wight School, 2-4pm, Mondays.

GYMNASTICS, Harbury School, 6-7pm (under 7s and beginners). 7-8pm(7-10yrs). 8-9pm (over 10yrs) every Monday.
 SLIMMING & KEEP FIT, Village Club, 7-8.30, 8.30-10pm Mondays.
 GUIDES, Scout Hut, 7.30pm Mondays.
 BINGO, Village Hall, 8pm every Monday.
 TODDLER GROUP, Wight School, 10-11.30am Mondays, and 2.00-3.30pm Wednesdays.
 PLAYGROUP, Wight School, Tuesday to Friday mornings.
 NURSERY SCHOOL, Village Hall, Tuesday to Friday a.m.
 LUNCHEON CLUB, Village Hall every Tuesday & Friday 12.30pm.
 DANCING CLASSES, Wight School, 4-7.45pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
 BROWNIES, Village Hall, every Tuesday evening.
 N.B. Tuesday CUBS now meet on THURSDAYS.
 SCOUTS, Scout Hut, 7.45pm every Tuesday.
 BADMINTON, Village Hall every Tuesday.
 HARBURY FRIENDS, School, 8pm 2nd Tuesday of month.
 BABY CLINIC, Village Hall, 2-4pm, 2nd & 4th Weds.
 YOUTH CLUB, Village Hall, 7.30 - 9.30pm Wednesdays.
 DANCING CLASSES for Children & Adults, Farley Room, Village Hall, 4-9pm Wednesdays.
 HEREBURGH MORRIS DANCERS, Wight School 8pm Wednesdays.
 W.I., Village Hall, 2nd Thursdays, 7.45pm.
 POP-IN, Village Hall, 1.20pm - 3.30pm every Friday.
 CHOIR PRACTICE, Church, 6.30pm every Friday.
 KARATE CLASSES, Village Hall 7pm every Friday.
 BELLRINGING PRACTICE in Church 7.30pm every Friday.

FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

The Christmas services were a delight, with great attendances than I can remember, and our thanks are due to all those who organised, prepared and performed to such good effect. The Carol Service on Christmas Eve was greatly enhanced by the welcome addition of extra readings and the inclusion of items by the Youth Group and by the Harbury Folk Club. The augmented Choir made a joyful sound and enthusiastically led us in our Christmas worship. The Family Service with Christingle on Jan. 3rd was well attended and a

usual the children joined in the proceedings with great enthusiasm.

The next stage in the planning of the meeting room and toilet facilities at Church will be the submission of a more detailed plan with cost indications of a room outside the North door which can be divided into two, together with toilets and kitchen. When the PCC is satisfied with the plan, this will become the subject of a general meeting to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to voice their opinion.

Reminder - the morning Eucharist on the First Sunday of every month is at 9am in Harbury (so that Ladbroke can have a 10.30am service once per month).

A Happy New Year to everyone from Beryl and Me.

JBM

PASSION PLAY, OBERAMMERGAU, 1990

A meeting will be arranged later this month to discuss the details of our proposed Parish Holiday and visit to the Passion Play. The date, time and place of this meeting will be announced in Church. There are still a few places available. We plan to travel by Catterall's Coach and will be transported virtually door to door. The cost will be in the region of £400 per person for the full 10-day holiday. If you are interested in hearing more details, please give me a ring, or come to the meeting.

Beryl Checkley (612519).

CHURCH CLEANING

Please, may I appeal for more help with Church cleaning? The job at present is falling on very few people, and volunteers would be greatly appreciated. We find it more pleasant to work in pairs, so if you and a friend could spare an hour weekly or even fortnightly, please let me know.

Beryl Checkley (612519).

Church Flowers

Thank you to all who worked to make the Christmas decorations such a success - and to those who provided the wherewithal.

U.
The new rota is now in place in church and we have several gaps - particularly for the decoration by the porch. I should be very glad to hear from anyone interested to help.

Many thanks to the "Flower Friends" whose subscriptions have made our job so much easier. If you are due for another contribution please contact Shirley Keir.

Margaret Rigden - Harbury 612200.

Street Representatives

Firstly, may I wish you all a Very Happy New Year and secondly, many thanks to you all for once more delivering the Christmas cards for our Church. This is a job well done especially at such a busy time of year and it is very much appreciated. Please remember to contact me if you require more cards or directories or have any queries. Would anyone be willing to take on Farley Avenue or Manor Road? - if interested please ring 612285.

Moya Waterman

FROM THE RECTOR

Once a month in Harbury Church a group of people meet for about half-an-hour. One of the number in just a few introductory words gives a theme and then there is silence - at the end of that a brief prayer is said. Those who come are not odd, or withdrawn, or sombre people. They are ordinary, lively, busy people with lots of things to do and they are all fully and happily involved in the day-to-day life of the world and the village. But they all feel that in our hectic lives, there is a need for occasional stillness and silence - a time to stop rushing from one thing to another, to step aside and pause. More and more nowadays, people are beginning to realise that a time for quiet reflection or contemplation is both therapeutic and spiritually refreshing.

From 'The Wisdom of the Desert Fathers', translated by Sister Benedicta of the Sisters of the Love of God Fairacres, Oxford, there is this little story:

"It was said that there were three friends who were not afraid of hard work. The first chose to reconcile those who were fighting each other, as it is said, 'Blessed are the peace-makers'. (Matt. 5)

The second chose to visit the sick. The third went to live in prayer and stillness in the desert. Now in spite of all his labours, the first could not make peace in all men's quarrels; and in his sorrow he went to him who was serving the sick, and he found him also disheartened, for he could not fulfil that commandment either. So they went together to see him who was living in the stillness of prayer. They told him their difficulties and begged him to tell them what to do. After a short silence, he poured some water into a bowl and said to them, 'Look at the water', and it was disturbed. After a while he said to them again, 'Look how still the water is now', and as they looked into the water, they saw their own faces reflected in it as in a mirror. Then he said to them, 'It is the same for those who live among men disturbances prevent them from seeing their faults. But when a man is still, especially in the desert, then he sees his failings.'

I am not advising, of course, for us to give up everything and to retire to a quiet place and let the world get on without us, but I am suggesting that we might allow ourselves a little stillness, a little quiet, a modicum of silence within this noisy, babbling world of today with its ceaseless and exhausting clatter.

The meeting at Harbury is called 'The Julian Meeting', taking its name from Julian of Norwich. The next occasion is on Wednesday 20th January at 8 o'clock. It is interdenominational and you will be most welcome.

Antony Rowe

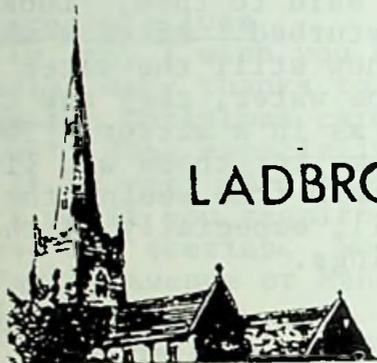
Provost's Installation

The new Provost of Coventry Cathedral the Rev. Canon John Petty, is to be installed on Sunday 24th January at 3pm. Parishes are invited to attend and we propose to go together from Ladbroke and Harbury. A list for the names of those wishing to go will be put out in both churches on Sunday 10th January and will remain until the following Sunday. Should the numbers be sufficient, a coach will be hired; otherwise we shall share transport.

Confirmation 1988

The Confirmation this year will be held on Sunday 15th May at 6.30pm. The Bishop of this occasion will be the Bishop of Warwick. Anyone, young person or adult, who is considering the possibility of confirmation should tell the Rector.

A meeting is to be held to make arrangements for instruction at Ladbroke on Monday 25th January at 6.45pm and at Harbury on Tuesday 26th January at 6.45pm.



LADBROKE NEWS

JANUARY DIARY

- Sun. 10th EPIPHANY I. 9am Holy Communion with Hymns
- Wed. 13th 10.30am Holy Communion.
2.30pm Women's Fellowship Service in Church
- Sun. 17th EPIPHANY II. 9am Holy Communion with Hymns. 10.30am Children's Church, 3.30pm Evensong.
- Tues. 19th Parish Council 7.45pm.
- Wed. 20th 10.30am Holy Communion.
- Sun. 24th EPIPHANY III. 9am Holy Communion with Hymns.
- Mon. 25th The Conversion of St. Paul, 7.30pm Eucharist in the week of Prayer for Christian Unity Preliminary Confirmation Meeting, 6.45pm (see Rector's letter).
- Tue. 27th 10.30am Holy Communion.
- Wed. 28th W.I.
- Sun. 31st 9th Sunday before Easter (Septuagesima). 9am Holy Communion.

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA: Jan.10th & 17th - Mrs. Badman & Mrs. Wilson; Jan.24th - Mrs. Stubbs; Jan.31st - Mrs. Butler; Feb.7th - Mrs. Clews.

LADBROKE & DEPPERS BRIDGE W.I.

As the magazine was being printed before the Carol Service had taken place, it was not covered in the December issue. However, it was a huge success with readings and carols by all the W.I.'s in the Southam Group; the opening and closing prayers said by Canon Antony Rowe and the welcome by the retiring Group Organiser Mrs. Diane Hazlewood. As we were the hosts, refreshments were in the village hall.

The next event was the Christmas Party in the village hall on the 15th December, organised by Mrs. J. Hanscombe. Maryse and Mick Briscoe were the caterers who provided excellent party food and drink. Mr. Ron Abbott kindly donated sherry for the occasion and entertainment was by Harbury W.I. Drama Group who had us laughing uncontrollably at their antics in fancy dress. Mrs. Beryl Ross organised a raffle for County Funds and Mr. C. Wright, Mrs. J. Hanscombe, Mrs. Sue Moore, Mrs. Gwynne Badman and Beryl herself won prizes.

The Hatton party for Christopher Wren ward on Monday 21st December was enjoyed by the patients who tucked in to the party food, drinks and cigarettes provided by W.I. members, seven going along to help.

The first event of 1988 is a trip to the Priory Theatre, Kenilworth. Everyone who has a ticket please be at Mrs. I. Bennett's home by 6.30pm for transport to the theatre.

A Very Happy and Healthy New Year to Everyone.

G. Hallam

LADBROKE VILLAGE HALL

The next event at the hall will be a St. Valentine's Dance - 'Sounds of the 60s' - by the Northampton Road Show. 8.30 till late. Tickets £2 obtainable from all committee members. Light refreshments will be available, and a bar as usual.

The levelling of the land round the village hall is the next project envisaged together with provision of tarmac paths. In the Spring outside painting and creosoting will be needed and anyone willing to lend a hand will receive a heartfelt welcome.

A new cooker is being installed thanks to two enterprising W.I. ladies. This will entail a slight rearrangement in the kitchen which will be put in hand in January.

WANTED - Card Tables - good condition and reasonable price. Will Collect. Please 'phone Southam 2860.

May the Village Hall Committee take this opportunity of wishing all villagers a happy and peaceful New Year and to thank all who have helped and attended events.

Women's Fellowship

As several members were unable to attend the December meeting it was cancelled.

Our next meeting on Jan.13th is in church at 2.30pm for a service taken by the Rector. Afterwards we shall go to 16 Ladbroke Hall for a short meeting and refreshments. Anyone is very welcome to join us.

Nancy Stubbs

It looks as if the major pavement re-construction from School Lane to the Church, is at last finished. It certainly has a rather urban look about it at the moment, but no doubt this will improve as the grass grows! it really is a great asset if pushing a pram or wheelchair.

Kate Liverton

Infant Child

Theatre in the round! This year's Christmas offering from the Middle School consisted of a very unusual series of songs leading to a tableau depicting the scene in Bethlehem. Our "actors" played their parts very well, with a convincing Herod and three pretty angels. The children all sang some quite difficult songs and were a credit to Mrs. Crutchlow who, as usual, had the task of teaching them. On Thursday afternoon three of the songs were performed in the church for the Thursday Club.

Our particular thanks go to Mrs. Crutchlow for all her hard work which is coupled with her main role as a teacher in the First School Department.

The First School Christingle Service

We went up to the church on Thursday, December 10th, for our Christingle service.

Fiona Putnam welcomed all the people. We told the story of Santa Lucia, and we sang a song about her. Joanne Chaplin was Santa Lucia, and her assistants were Dean Merrick and Robert Andrews. Then we sang about the Christmas Tree, and Anna Pidgeon and Jennifer Costigan carried a Christmas Tree to the front of the church. We sang about Jesus in a song called "A little child was born in a stall". Two children dressed up as Mary and Joseph. Rebecca Hill was Mary and Andrew Meredith was Joseph. Gemma Campbell was the angel and carried a big star.

Near the end we all stood up and turned round. Some of our teachers and parents lit our Christingle Candles, and we had to be very careful. We sang "Now light one thousand Christmas Lights", and our candles lit up all the church, because the church lights were put out. At the end we blew our Christingles out, and went back to school or went home.

(written by James Southam, Dean Merrick, Nicola Boote, Jennifer Ricketts, Joanne Chaplin, Laura Brown and Dawn Eld).

A Parent's View

If you were out in Harbury at about 1.30pm on Dec.10th, you cannot fail to have seen scores of small children walking through the streets clutching decorated oranges - the First School children on their way to their Christingle service. The Christingle has now become a regular feature of the Christmas period but has lost none of its charm for all that. This service was no exception and the children and teachers had obviously worked very hard to prepare for it. Individual readers gave us snippets of information about Christmas and small groups came to the front in costume or with props to illustrate each point, whilst all the children sang a number of mostly unfamiliar but very pretty Christmas songs with great enthusiasm - evidently very well-rehearsed. Then came the highlight - a magic moment and a rare one when, amidst all the commercialism of the season we could see the true joy and wonder of Christmas captured in so many shining, solemn faces lit by

candlelight as the children, mesmerised by their flames, sang their last song. Thank you teachers and children for a delightful service; the children obviously enjoyed it and also, I'm sure, the parents - this one certainly did.

EXTRACTS FROM CHILDREN'S WRITING AFTER A VISIT TO IOR DAVIES' FARM ON A DECEMBER MORNING. FROM THE CHILDREN OF CLASS 7

The hazy sun silhouettes the trees and makes them look like gnarled fingers on a huge hand. The ice in the fields catches the sun and makes them glisten and shimmer like diamonds in between the blades of grass. The geese waddle through the farmyard like soldiers marching in a row.

HELEN ROBBINS

Fields glistening in white frost just waiting to be trodden on. The farmhouse white and lonely in the murky sun, the trees making silhouettes low in the sky. The wandering tractor tracks across the fields are filled with frozen water.

JON EGGING

Isolated farmhouse on a desolate landscape, shimmering in the hazy light of the morning sun. The ground becomes rock hard, and slippery ice crushed by feet turns into slush, oozing its way into your boots.

JAMES STRINGER

Shimmering frost on tree tops. Dark glistening mud flowing like a river, looking like chocolate sauce; squelchy and squidgy, I don't want to look. Misty old house looking still and calm, shadows towering over it.

SEONA LAMONT

The ground was slippery and as stiff and hard as a stone. I nearly fell off the slippery stile. The cows were out in the cold and they were surprised and wondered what we were doing as we walked down the field to the farm.

NICHOLAS WILKINS

The farmhouse so tall, glistening in the winter sunlight. Fields all around all misty and white. Cattle walking through the runny brown mud. In the distance silhouettes appear, showing tall dark trees upon the hillside.

JEANNETTE ANDREWS

The white fields sparkle with frost. The tall farmhouse stands out on the bleak landscape, with silhouettes of trees and hedges. The squelchy mud swirls around our feet. The thick ice cracks under our feet as we trudge the rocky earth. The cold icy surroundings gleam in the hazy light, and all around there is ice, frost and cracked earth.

MATTHEW TANNER

P.T.A. Carols Round The Village

Only the most fearless and resolute parents, teachers and children gathered in the school hall in the early evening on Tuesday December 15th.

Rain clouds had already well and truly gathered, serving to dissuade the more faint-hearted of mortals from venturing out on our annual pilgrimage. Thus we were a reduced band but, with stirring words of encouragement from Mr. Chapman ringing in our ears, we went out in two groups, the "young ones" around a short route not too far from school, and the remainder also on an "adjusted" around Mill Street, Manor Orchard and Sutcliffe Pastures.

The singing was inspired - not to mention sweet! - as we brought Christmas cheer to the West End of Harbury. I am afraid that the "East-enders" were left to fend for themselves this year! The main body arrived back in school absolutely soaked - carol sheets reduced to papier mache - but soon revived on the hot soup and mulled wine which was on offer for any who survived. Our thanks to all the brave souls who joined us - to the ladies of the P.T.A. committee who prepared and served the hot soup and mulled wine - and to those of you who helped to swell the collections to a total of £42 which will go to our charity of Action Research for the Crippled Child.

N.C. Oliver

Southam School Christmas Show

This year, Southam School's annual Christmas extravaganza was a Pantomime 'Cinderella', ably produced by Mrs. Foster - a farewell effort as she is moving on to Campion School next term.

The show performed on December 9th, 10th and 11th was a great success. As usual with Cinderella, the Ugly Sisters stole the show - very funny portrayals by Mr. Minton and Philip Sheffield. Harburians were well to the fore with Sue Barr giving an excellent performance as Cinderella, with Damien MacDonald as Buttons. Roanne Finch was a charmingly uninhibited Fairy Nuff! The Ball Scene provided an excuse for a selection of variety acts with contributions from Julia Brown, Anna MacGowan, Daniel Kemsley and Stuart 'Mike Yarwood' Barnes.

Throughout the show the orchestra gave great musical support under the direction of Mr. Herbert, and the proceedings were enlivened by Southam's own rock group 'Myth' (Chris Walwin, David Brown, Matthew Robinson and Harvey Crowe).

To get us all in the Christmas spirit, the evening ended with audience participation in some rousing Christmas Songs.

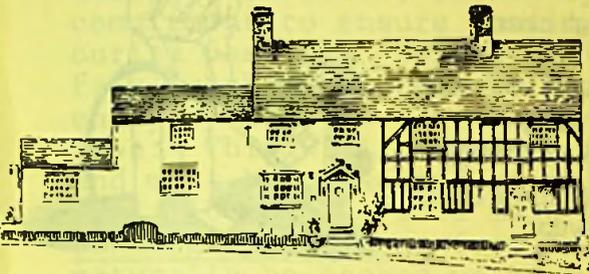
Thanks to everyone involved for a hugely enjoyable evening.

M.S.H.

HARBURY YOUTH CLUB 1988

BACK ON THE RIGHT TRACK

The new team of leaders are delighted with the renewed enthusiasm shown by members (80-100 each week) and their exciting new Youth Forum. Following our recent "Crunch-time Debate" and a comprehensive survey on all aspects of the club, its management, future programme and discos - 1988 now looks all set to be as much fun as ever. New ideas galore, plus the re-vamping of old ones! Outings for the year include dry-slope skiing, ten-pin bowling, football matches, speedway and many more. A trip to Burton Dassett Hills for night-time exercise games of strategy and enterprise is planned, as well as floodlit football. It is recognised that our female members require more attractions and this will receive paramount attention this year.



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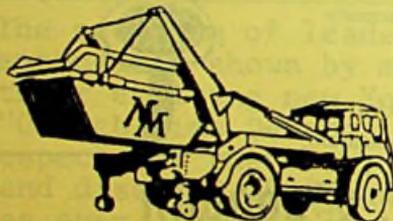
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The most vocal request was for the continuation of the Youth Club Discos, backed by members wholehearted commitment to ensure continued success of their favourite pastime. Efforts to come up with a practical, fair, viable solution to the need for a restricted entry system, have produced a DISCO MEMBERSHIP CARD idea. This will be issued free at the first disco, and must be presented at all subsequent discos. Anti-social behaviour will mean the removal of card; thus banning that person from future discos. (Cards will naturally be backed up by a comprehensive register of holders). The management will retain the right to refuse admission where deemed necessary. Non-Harbury folk will still be very welcome, but must be signed-in by Club members, who then take full responsibility for their friend's behaviour. Please note that disc will run from 8pm - 10.45pm.

NEW LEADERS

Congratulations to Pat Taylor and Jon Walters for their success in being accepted by the W.C.C. Youth Service as Club leaders. Their dedication and hard work, along with all the other leaders, is vital to the fabric of Harbury Youth Club.

CLUB DIARY

- Wednesday 6th Jan. - Back to business. Brief forum meeting and open debate with members re. future events.
- Wednesday 13th Jan. - Video night.
Management meeting.
- Saturday 16th Jan. - Disco Village Hall, new time 8pm-10.45pm. Introduction of Disco Membership Cards.
- Wednesday 20th Jan. - Ten-pin bowling.
- Friday 12th Feb. - VALENTINE DISCO at Rugby Club. 8pm-11pm (NO BAR).

Following survey results, sub-committees for Carnival Float and Raft Race contestants will be needed this month.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.

SCOUT AND GUIDES SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Cameroon Project - The founder of the Cameroon orphanage - Leslie Valentine, made a flying visit to the country last month to undergo a hip replacement operation and spent his week-long convalescence with friends in Leamington before returning to his 25 orphan boys in time for Christmas.

A small delegation from the Committee took the opportunity to present Leslie with a cheque for £1100 raised primarily from the sponsored canal hike and from a donation from a generous local benefactor. Leslie said that he thought that the water supply project could now proceed and wished to thank everyone in Harbury for the generous donation.

Jumble Sale and Nearly New Stall - 16th January.

The Scouts will be making collections of jumble on the evening of Friday 15th January but to ensure collection of specific articles please let me know before collection day. I regret that we are unable to collect bulky items of furniture.

A Nearly-New stall will also be available and if anyone wishes to donate to this please contact Mrs. Jo House (613892) or Mrs. Moira Lamont (613527) by Friday 8th January.

Skittles Competition - We are holding another skittle event on Saturday 13th February at the village hall (as stated in last month's news). Our two full-scale alleys will be available in the afternoon for cubs, scouts and guides. In the evening a competition for adults will be held to find this year's skittle champions. A licensed bar will be available.

WANTED - SCOUT LEADER URGENTLY REQUIRED TO LEAD OLDEST SCOUT TROOP - ANYONE INTERESTED IN APPLYING PLEASE CONTACT GROUP SCOUT LEADER - KEN HUGHES (612273).

Next newspaper collection SUNDAY 17TH JANUARY

Brian Ingram (612418)

HARBURY VENTURE SCOUT UNIT

The call of the caves may be waning. Only four unit members could steel themselves to literally 'take the plunge' on a wet and cold Sunday in mid-December. We met our resident speleologist Ian Spencer a stone's throw from the aptly named Giant's Hole near Castleton, Derbyshire. After sorting out carbide lights, ropes and a wire ladder we 'ventured' underground. You were right to stay at home Bob (Hodgkiss - had developed 'flu). The slot we went down had me vowing to slim down for our next trip. No chance with Christmas coming on. After 3 hours of wriggling, wading, climbing and bridging we emerged for some calories before a depleted party went down again. This time it was P8, similar to Giant's but a shorter system. The real aficionados probably revel in joining both caves by diving through the sumps but we didn't have the gear or the expertise

This spring we hope Stuart Simcock who is at Pontypridd Poly and into the S.Wales caving scene will take us down one of their labyrinths. It was no real surprise to find that the annual dinner at the Dog on Tuesday 22nd December was attended by record numbers. Thanks to Doug and Mavis for providing such a welcome and an excellent meal. I wasn't the only one who thought this was the best ever. Old lags and lasses turned up from all points of the compass to swap tall stories and do a little advance planning as well as joining in the games and general festivities.

As I write we have just returned from a windy Dassett Hills night hike/camp. This hoary old favourite got all those who attended into '88 with the correct degree of squelch!

JLH

HARBURY LADIES NETBALL CLUB

Unfortunately the start of the 1987/88 season has not proved one of our most successful when it comes to winning matches! Nevertheless there has been success in other ways:-

the sponsored netball tournament raised funds for our new court and various charities

the Christmas disco entertained the younger elements within the club

the Jumble Sale gave people a chance to have a 'clean-out' before Christmas

and a medieval banquet at Warwick Castle proved a social highlight - even if Marie and Paula are paying to have the photographic evidence destroyed!

Kim Wilkins has been promoted to the 'A' team squad to add strength to their defence, and their New Year's Resolution is to mould themselves into an indestructible fighting unit!

The 'B' team is lucky enough to have gained Geraldine Sheasby, who was an A team player, but has been out of action this season through injury. We hope that she will make the difference in our pursuance of goals in 1988, along with the energetic, youthful contribution from Emma Finch and Dayle Summers.

We would like to wish everyone a fit and healthy 1988

P.S.

HARBURY FOOTBALL CLUB

The first half of the season has been disappointing the First and Reserve teams having gained only 2 and 1 points respectively from their past 8 games. The problem in both teams has been the failure to capitalise on chances, since several games have been decided by a solitary goal.

Unlike the football, the social aspects of the club went from strength to strength during 1987. We thank George Bryers (Jr.) and Andy Hopkins for organising the 200 Club so successfully and Syd Field and Emma Finch (The Reserve team No.1 supporter) for running the weekly tote in the Old New Inn.

The New Year's Eve Fancy Dress Dance, again organised by Andy H. and George B., was a sell-out. Some who did not obtain tickets settled for Trafalgar Square as their second choice. The costumes are improving all the time. Winner of the 'home-made' section was Michael Mann, as Pinocchio, and of the 'hired' section Carl Wallington/John Rankin who must have thought they were in the Sahara inside their "camel". Despite an outstanding effort as "Phantom of the Opera", Alastair Peebles (obviously produced by Karen), still failed to figure in the placings.

The Committee thank all who contributed to the Club in 1987. In particular, we thank Pete Hagan for his generous donation of a ball, autographed by the West Bromwich Albion Team, which we will raffle at an appropriate event in the future, and Les Sollis for his outstanding services and dedication to the Club.



Boxing Day Players - Past and Present.

Stan Finch

HARBURY TENNIS CLUB

A Happy New Year to everyone from the Tennis Club. By the time you read this we will have had our first session of the year - the annual Muffler Tournament on the first day of the year. The weather just held out and so did most of the competitors. It should be noted that the youngest taking part was the last to arrive. We were pleased to welcome back for the day - Rowe the Writer from Poole and our international tennis player-cum-traveller - Tom the Turk - all the way from the Land of Delight. We were highly delighted with the prizes donated by Tom Smith - genuine Turkish tennis socks. At least that is what he told us. So if you see our two winners, Sue Brown and Steve Chaplin, wandering around the village with multi coloured legs you will know what they are.

We have been enjoying a reasonably good Winter Season in the Banbury League (outdoors, by the way) having more than we have lost but only just.

It has been mentioned by a number of club members that it would be a good idea if we had a Club Sweatshirt. It was then realised that we hadn't a club crest or anything like that and it would be great if we had one. As we have so many Juniors in the Club we thought it would be a good idea if ALL the young people of the Village had a go at designing a logo for us. So if you are 16 years old or younger - have a bash. We are hoping there will be a good response and offer a £5.00 voucher as a prize of the winning entry which will be judged by the Tennis Club committee. All the entries with your name, age and address on the back of your logo have to be in by the 31st January, 1988 and handed in to Barry Latham at 38 Manor Orchard. Hopefully it will give you something to do during the long winter evenings. The name of the winning entry will be published in the March edition of the Harbury News.

Good designing, Barry Latham.

HARBURY FOLK CLUB

Despite coming so early in the month, the Folk Club session in December was full of seasonal flavour, as was the Lounge Bar of the Old New Inn. It was also full of people by 8.30pm, and overflowing by 9pm.

Many of the sixteen singers and musicians performed Christmas songs including Bonas who brought back "Kris Kringle" this year, much to everyone's delight. Our singing dentists, Phil & Drill, composed two songs for the occasion, including "God Rest Ye Merry Folksingers" which poked fun at many of the regulars. The performers also included the Harvesters, Gerda, Mike, Roger, Lou and me.

The third half of the evening included the Jubilee Band who reluctantly succumbed to public demand and performed the legendary "Christmas in Australia" AGAIN. The evening finished with four carols from a new 'singing group', the "Stubble Burners" (a logical follow-on from the Harvesters), comprising Gerda, Ian & Sue, & Liz, Margaret (making her debut at the Folk Club)

me. The same group sang two of those carols again (though without Gerda, unfortunately) at the village carol service on Christmas Eve. I was delighted that the Folk Club was asked to take part and we thoroughly enjoyed singing to such a full church.

Thanks to everyone's generosity, December's charity raffle raised an amazing £27-41p which has been sent to the BBC Children in Need appeal. The Harvesters generously donated a copy of their latest album ("Another Fine Crop") as the special first prize.

Don't forget the next Folk Club on February 4th at 8.30pm. A Happy New Year to all music lovers!

Peter McDonald

SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

"It'll be alright on the night" - probably muttered by many people over the past few days, but maybe more hopefully than most, by the committee of the Senior Citizens Benefit Association. For once, the Christmas dinner was prepared on a 'do-it-yourself' basis by 'amateur caterers' on the Committee - with professional expertise provided by Mary at the O.N.I. who cooked the much complimented ham and Fre



Co-op, who boned and sliced the turkey. The 150 Senior Citizens who joined us for the 4-course dinner were later entertained by Clive Watts (organ), Ian Morrison (bagpipes) and a play presented by the W.I. There was some spirited carol-singing and everyone enjoyed a splendid evening thanks to all the helpers who regularly turn up to make this a happy village affair. There wouldn't be enough space in this edition of the Harbury News to thank everyone individually - so a heartfelt THANK YOU to all concerned.

The events of the Senior Citizens are entirely funded by voluntary contributions and we have been especially grateful this year for generous donations from the Youth Club, the Carnival Disco, Sponsored Piano Push and Horticultural Society. The Gamecock produced the magnificent sum of £152 when the pub bottle was opened by Bob Thornicroft, so many thanks to Jan and Jim and all their regulars for their generosity.

We thank everyone for their continued support and wish all Senior Citizens a Happy 1988 (see you all on the coach in June!).

TIM & HIS COMMITTEE

HARBURY ADVENTURERS

We ended last term with our traditional Carol Service in Church. We thank all parents and friends for attending and we were able to send £15 to the Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust from the collection. We start again on Sunday, 10th January at 11.30am in the Village Hall. This term we shall be attending the 11.30am Family Service on the first Sunday of each month.

We are an inter-denominational Sunday School for children between 4 and 11 years of age and every Sunday we meet to learn more about Jesus. We have just celebrated His birth and last Sunday at the Christingle Service we learned that the candle represented Jesus as the light of the world. Unlike the torch in your Christmas stocking which needs a battery to keep it going, Jesus' light shines at all times. Don't forget Him now that Christmas is past

make Him part of your life, and your children's in 1988. Every Sunday we try to learn more about Him and His followers through stories, songs, games and "toffee" quizzes (always a winner with our members).

S.K.

MUSIC SUCCESSES

The four pupils entered for music exams this Christ passed as follows:-

PRACTICAL

GRADE 1	-	Helen Robbins	-	Pass
" 2	-	James Stringer	-	Pass

THEORY (MAX. 99 MARKS)

GRADE 1	-	Elizabeth Travis	-	Pass	-	84 marks
" 1	-	James Tancock	-	Pass	-	93 marks

Many congratulations.

M.J. COOPE

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The recurring problem of missing keys has reared itself again. Unfortunately, none of the Hall keys were returned to Fox Cottage for a period of five days in the week running up to Christmas. I would like to apologise to all those people who were inconvenienced in any way during this time. In order for the system to work smoothly it is ESSENTIAL that the keys are returned to Fox Cottage as soon as the Hall is vacated. This applies whenever the Hall is to be left empty even for a short time. In fact, at the time of writing (January 3rd) the kitchen and dressing-room keys are still missing. Would whoever has them please return them as soon as possible to avoid any further inconvenience to others

Following a review of the booking procedures we are managing to get payment requests out much more quickly now. Please help us by paying these bills promptly.

On behalf of the Village Hall Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your help and cooperation over the past year and to wish you a happy and prosperous New Year.

Alan Barr

YOUNG ORNITHOLOGISTS CLUB

Please note that the January meeting of the Y.O.C., originally planned for 20th January, has had to be moved to WEDNESDAY 13TH JANUARY at 7pm and 8pm as usual.

A. Barr

MOTHERS' UNION

On Wednesday 3rd February at 12.45pm, we shall hold our annual lunch party in the Village Hall. Our guest of honour this year will be Mrs. Mollie Jones, one of our Diocesan Vice-Presidents, and she will be our speaker at the meeting following the lunch.

My love and best wishes to you all for a very happy New Year, and better health to all those member who suffered illness during 1987.

Esme Churchill

HARBURY W.I.

On December 4th we held our Christmas party which was enjoyed by members, husbands and friends. As usual members provided a very varied buffet spread followed by entertainment at its best by the W.I. Drama Group.



What talent - they had us all in stitches! The proceeds from the raffle that evening are to be donated to the blind.

At the Advent Fayre on November 28th the W.I. Preserve stall was placed 1st in the best decorated stall. Congratulations and thanks to the members involved in all the hard work.

On December 3rd several members attended the annual W.I. Carol Service (Southam Area) at Ladbroke Church. After the service everyone was made most welcome at the village hall where we enjoyed coffee and mince pies, provided by Ladbroke W.I.

At our monthly meeting on the 10th Mrs. Hailey read us an interesting letter sent by a member of our lit. W.I. in Guernsey. After the business P.C. Tim Percival shared with us some of his many varied experiences since joining the Police Force in Cheshire. A policeman's life is never a dull one! A vote of thanks was given by our president. This was followed by hot mince pies and a glass of sherry and also each member received an exchange gift from the bran tub. We rounded off the evening by singing carols.

Our next meeting will be on January 14th. Happy New Year to all.

S.G.

PRAYER FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

Many people will know that a group already meets monthly to pray for persecuted Christians. This group is held at 10.30am on the third Thursday of each month at 4 Sutcliffe Drive.

There will now be another opportunity to pray for the suffering church. A second group will meet once a month on Friday evenings at St. Jude's Cottage, 5 Church Street. The first meeting will be held at 8pm on Friday 15th January. Future meetings are planned for the second Friday of each month. Anyone interested in praying for persecuted Christians will be most welcome.

Joanna Watson

Theatre Workshop

On Friday 15th Jan (7.30pm) and Sat. 16th Jan (2.30 & 7.30pm), the Leamington Spa Theatre Workshop are performing the musical "Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat", at Park Hall School in Leamington. The Workshop, which was originally started by The Loft Theatre, is a group of young singers and actors, some of whom live in Harbury.

The performance should be good for we have been rehearsing for a long time and it is now sounding quite professional. Tickets (£2.50 adults/£1.50 children & OAPs) available from:

Sue Barr	-	Harbury	612765
Wendie Ottewill	-	"	613402
Daniel Kemsley	-	"	613556
Vicky & Jeremy Hayes	"	"	613488

Daniel Kemsley

HARBURY SOCIETY

1987 has been a remarkable year with unprecedented rises in the value of properties in the village and 1988 will no doubt see even bigger increases with greater pressures to develop the remaining open spaces. With the coming of the M40, the High-Tech park at Warwick and the relaxation of constraints on building we are bound to have changes in our lives and surroundings. The District Council is trying to set out a strategy for rural development and is seeking local views to help it formulate its policy. That at least is a positive step and one in which we can be involved so 1988 should be a challenging year!

To help celebrate the end of the old year and the beginning of the new we are holding our Social at the Crown Inn on Tuesday 26th January. The evening will include entertainment by Paul Elliott, Anna Ryder and friends and there will be a Buffet Supper included in the ticket, price of £3. Tickets are still available from 16 Farm Street but they are selling rapidly so don't delay.

Work on the Footpath Book is proceeding but we still need volunteers to walk some of the longer paths and

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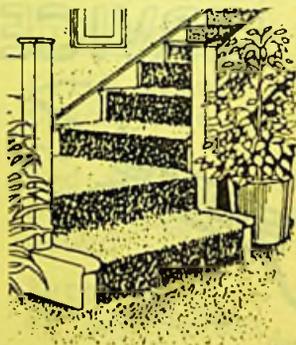
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check that the directions are explicit enough (we would hate to lose somebody). Anyone who can help please contact me (612792).

Linda Ridgley

HARBURY HELP LINE

For confidential assistance of various kinds, either drop in a note or telephone the following people:-

FOR EMERGENCY TRANSPORT

Vivien Neill, 7 Dovehouse Lane - 613461
 Marie Allen, 21 Sutcliffe Drive - 612958

FOR HELP WITH FORM FILLING (e.g. job applications or official forms)

John Algar, 8 The Beeches - 612354
 Jeff Bedford, 26 Manor Orchard - 613219

ODD JOBS ABOUT THE HOUSE

Jeff Bedford, 26 Manor Orchard - 613219

HELP WITH KNITTING, COOKING, HOBBIES, READING

Mary Catt, 16 Dovehouse Lane - 612864
 Lesley Jones, 15 Pineham Avenue - 613207

VISITING HOSPITAL PATIENTS

Keith Dormer, 12 Park Lane - 613254
 Canon Rowe, The Rectory, Vicarage Lane - 612377

And if you would like someone to call and visit you or you are caring for an elderly or sick person and would like a little time off, contact:-

Betty Knappe, 4 Leicester Close - 612679
 or Sue Dormer, 12 Park Lane - 613254

HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Several mistakes crept into last month's report on the proceedings of Harbury Parish Council (well, to be fair they positively leapt in, although if they will mumble they must expect people to mishear!) It wasn't forty pounds for the Pansies for the flower tubs, it was only fourteen and John Maclaughlin's extension was at his house in Farm Street not at the Old New Inn. It also appears that despite the fact that the Parish Council said Mrs.Kelsall of 7,

20.
Vicarage Lane was asking for permission to build a building which she wants. The report of the initiation of a 'Community Improvement Fund' has prompted the Chairman, Keith Thompson to explain the scheme more fully. He says:

"Further to the November Parish Council Meeting and a subsequent Harbury News and Leamington Spa Courier articles, I consider that several items need further clarification.

Most importantly, the concept behind the addition of a 2p Parish Rate, which the Council have agreed to raise for the 1988/9 Financial Year. The purpose of this is to create a 'Community Improvement Fund' in order to provide capital to fund a scheme to benefit the Villa Community. One possible project currently under consideration is to improve the Car Park on the Recreation Ground, which is the responsibility of the Parish Council. At present it is very muddy and becoming an eyesore. We would like to provide access from the front of the Village Hall, with the area properly surfaced, drained and lit. We are considering this in conjunction with the Village Hall Management Committee and will keep everyone informed.

Some inaccuracies in the last report were that the plants for the flower tubs cost £14 not £40. The proposed Tennis Court Sinking Fund contributions were shown the wrong way round, they should read: Parish Council £250, Tennis Club - £400, these subject to the mutual agreement of the new sinking fund scheme.

Finally, the additional extension to the Old New Inn referred to in the article was in fact Planning Permission being granted to Mr. McLaughlin for an extension at 45 Farm St. I hope this clears any misunderstanding. A Happy New Year to you all from Harbury Parish Council". Signed Keith Thompson,
(Chairman).

PROFILE

PATRICIA HARRISON, who has now lived in Harbury for 10 years with her family at Walnut Tree Cottage, started her life in Watford where she grew up and went to school, eventually to become Head Girl for two years and Captain of the school's Tennis, Hockey and Netball teams. She left school after one year in the Sixth to go to a well known London secretarial college just off Bond Street.



and although also taking a course in Journalism eventually took her first job with The Wellcome Foundation (Burroughs Wellcome) in the Patents Department and then in Personnel where her duties included interviewing staff and arranging company functions at such places as The London Zoo, Fishmongers Hall and the House of Commons.

In 1963, Trisha moved to Leamington to live with her then octogenarian grandmother to escape the rigours of London. She worked as Secretary to the Education Officer at Automotive Products, joined the Warwick Boat Club to play tennis and met and fell in love with Bryan! After they were first married in 1964 they lived in Leamington and Trisha became Secretary to the Managing Director (Overseas) at Associated Engineering before Vicky was born in 1967. They moved to Harbury in 1969 and Tim was born in 1970 and a few years later both children were at Harbury School.

In 1973, Trisha took up a part-time secretarial post at Southam School and a year later became Clerk to the Governors. She has held these jobs ever since and been kept fully involved in the life of the School with it's wide range of everyday trauma and trivia. A school secretary's duties are wide ranging and vaguely defined but include placating worried parents, comforting hurt children, dealing with a busy telephone, and being at the Headmaster's beck and call, sometimes all at once! Trisha has, however, particularly enjoyed seeing children she knew as toddlers in the village blossom into fine young men and women and being able to act as a link between Harbury and the School.

Her busy school life has not, however, prevented her from taking part in other activities. She has been Chairman of Harbury Young Wives, is a member of Mothers Union, a Sidesman in Harbury Church and a member of the Harbury Contact Group. She is a member

of the Harbury Lawn Tennis Club committee and a regular member of the team both in League and friendly matches. She was a member of Leamington and District Ladies Circle for twenty years of which she was Chairman and a member of the Area Executive and is now a member of Tangent. She has just completed two years as Chairman of Leamington and Warwick Wives Fellowship, an ecumenical Christian-based caring ladies organisation and during her term of office travelled all over England attending meetings and the National Conference that was held in Leamington with over 300 members present.

At home, besides looking after her family, there are a cockerel, Cedric, with ten hens to feed and collect eggs from, a goldfish, a budgerigar, Bobby, and a cat, Tommy, who is now thirteen years old and Harbury born and bred. This leaves a few moments for some theatre/concert going, bridge, yoga, keep fit, television, light fiction reading and entertaining.

Trisha has a very full and active life but seven years ago went through the traumatic experience of breast cancer, involving major surgery and all the associated anxiety. As demonstrated by the active life she lives, the surgeon did a good job. And so, Trisha's message to any woman who may have a suspect lump is "don't leave it until it is too late (it may turn out to be harmless anyway), don't hesitate, pluck up your courage and seek advice, you have every thing to gain, think positively, - life is far too precious to lose."

Oriental Odyssey

A recent Clive James television programme about his visit to Tokyo reminded me that it is now well over 12 months since I had the good fortune to visit Japan and Singapore. Officially the trip was an investment study tour and my companions were five other local authority treasurers who, like me, have an involvement in the investment of pension funds. At the time of the trip, between us we had some responsibility for fl.lbn. of pension fund money of which about £75 was invested in Japan.

For somebody whose only previous flying experience had been to the usual European holiday spots, the flight itself was something special. We left Heathrow at 7.00 in the evening and flew East over Sweden and Finland, meeting the dawn somewhere over Russia and continuing, non-stop to Tokyo flying over the vast and seemingly empty Siberian landscape. At one point we were buzzed by what appeared to be a military aircraft and I caused one of the cabin staff to get her kimono in a real twist when I got out my camera to record that incident. Apparently, one of the conditions imposed on the airline for the privilege of over-flying Russia is that photographs are not allowed.

The immense difference between the Japanese way of life and our own was very evident immediately on arrival in Japan. There is a very formalised style of behaviour and at every business meeting there was a great deal of bowing and smiling, exchanging of business cards and endless bowls of green tea. Nevertheless you are left in no doubt that you are very much a foreigner, perhaps reflecting a suspicion born of the country's relative isolation until the late nineteenth century. The language also emphasises the difference and I was told by one of our Japanese banker hosts that even the Japanese themselves find it fiendishly difficult to acquire a real mastery, a cause of much despair amongst the school population. Perhaps that accounts for their high regard for unspoken sentiments; we were told that two businessmen in conversation will talk round and round a subject, sensing each other's views by a process akin to telepathy.

It is a country of remarkable contrasts. On the one hand, it is a wealthy country and an undoubted leader in advanced technology. Yet on the other hand for most Japanese the quality of life as we understand it is appallingly low with generally poor housing and congestion on the roads which has to be seen to be believed. There is obvious concern amongst the business and political community that they are heading for real social problems unless something is done to remedy the many years' neglect

of the infrastructure so vital to a balanced quality of life - good roads, good housing, good provision for culture and recreation. I was surprised to learn that only about 31% of Japanese domestic dwellings are connected to main drainage and sewerage. I preferred not to enquire about what happened to the other 69%!

The shortage of land suitable for development is another big problem because about 70% of the country is forest covered mountains. The total area of Japan is roughly the same as the UK but with a population of 120 million. Traditionally, land has been retained in a family for generations and passed on from father to son. To part with it, even at the astronomical prices which would make inner-London prices look like a trinket at a jumble sale, is considered to dishonour the owner's ancestors. Land sales are taxed at 60%, planning restrictions are unbelievable and only where death duty has enforced a sale and in other exceptional cases of profit taking has it been possible for land assembly to take place. It was not unusual in Tokyo to see huge new tower blocks with old shack-like dwellings leaning against them because the owner would not sell at any price.

One of the more memorable episodes was a journey of almost 600 miles on the bullet train (Shinkansen) from Tokyo to Hiroshima. Apart from the splendour of the mountain backdrop, as we passed the distant Mount Fuji, it was a journey through a huge, ugly, urban sprawl for almost the whole distance. The train itself emphasised, I suppose, those contrasts which are so evident in Japan because technologically it was most advanced, extremely comfortable and very, very fast: the journey was completed in under 5 hours including 3 stops. It was so smooth that whilst in the restaurant car having a meal there was barely a ripple on the surface of my glass of beer. On the other hand it devours a lot of taxpayers' money in subsidies. The 2 days in Hiroshima is another outstanding memory - the Peace City, still pre-occupied

with the dropping of the first atom bomb some 40 years after the event. I am bound to say it gave me a funny feeling to be standing on the spot 600 ft. above which the bomb exploded. Although it is a noisy bustling, modern city there is nevertheless a curious and uncanny stillness about the place. In a special ceremony at the City Hall I was presented with a tapestry depicting the Peace Park.

What I found to be a distinctly cultural rather than gastronomic experience was Japanese food or at least the rather more traditional and ritualised Japanese banquets which I believe are called "Kaiseki". The 'tatami' (a rush matting which covered the floor) room in which the food is served contained almost no furniture except for the long, low table and the back-rest (zai-isu-'legless chair'). You had to assume either a kneeling or cross-legged position both of which were pretty painful after about a couple of hours going through the succession of "delicacies" that were exquisitely and stylishly served by colourfully dressed meiko who are a sort of apprentice geisha. The delicacies included: Tai - raw sea bream; shingo - curious soup with what I was assured was fish sausage floating in it; ume boshi - pickled plums served with sea urchins; the list seems endless with lots of almost inedible potions wrapped in either chrysanthemum, persimon or fig leaves. What a challenge for Harbury's eating places! I am proud to say I struggled through it all (although I was dreading the appearance of odori - skinned live prawns) with the help of plent of umeshei - plum wine - and was even complimented on my skill with chopsticks. I have to confess to having practiced a bit at home with chopsticks kindly loaned to me by Pat Smith.

The final three days of the tour was based in Singapore, with one day spent visiting palm oil and rubber plantations in Malaysia. Singapore was quite delightful after the almost oppressive formality of Japan, with a vibrancy that was everywhere very

14.
evident. People were so friendly and actually seeme to be enjoying life, despite the firm control clearly exercised by the Government over many key activities. We took the statutory tea in Raffles Hotel which on the afternoon of our visit was preparing for a banquet later in the evening as part of its centenary celebrations. What better confirmation of our return to civilisation could we have but the sight of a splendid cricket ground quite near to Raffles Hotel?

JOHN HUNT

1988 - THE FUTURE FOR HARBURY AND LADBROKE
OR OLD MOORE'S ALMANACK LOCALISED

JANUARY 1988

New water pipes installed in Mill Street put into operation - burst with first frost of New Year. Riot break out at Cricket Club AGM but Gary Lowe re-elected as Captain. Water Board put forward plan for block of flats on site of former sewage pumping station in Mill Street with support of Parish Council.

FEBRUARY 1988

District Council reject plan for block of flats in Mill Street but allow new estate of six £250,000 Executive Starter Homes on School playing field. Sewage pumping plant breaks down. Ladbroke correspondent of Harbury and Ladbroke News accused of being a trouble maker when her house is flooded when new Ladbroke Bridge collapses.

MARCH 1988

Special General Meeting of Cricket Club called by Splinter Group, and after further riots Gary Lowe is elected Captain. Last regular service bus leaves Harbury - after getting lost in the village. District Council issue free bus passes for pensioners.

APRIL 1988

Ladbroke Parish Council terrified at rumours that the correspondent who writes the Harbury Parish Court Reports is moving to Ladbroke. Sewage pumping plant

breaks down. Harbury Society carries out Survey of yellow lines and numbers on pavements. Football Club submit report of activities to Harbury News for season 1986-87. Parish Council agree to investigate provision of swings and play equipment suitable for 15 year olds.

MAY 1988

RAC National Car Rally routed through Harbury ends in disaster - 200 cars unable to find way out of village. British Telecom place new letter box on Dr. Hancock's front lawn. Water Board decide to replace water pipes in Mill Street following further burst and make further planning application for twelve £500,000 Executive Starter Homes on former pumping station site. Application supported by Parish Council but rejected by District Council wh decide to allow infilling on the Pound instead.

JUNE 1988

Les Sollis asked to leave pitch during cricket match by Captain Gary Lowe for wearing long trousers. Extraordinary General Meeting of Cricket Club called - Ian Holroyd injured when he falls off the fence though rumour suggests that he might have been pushed. Royal Leamington Priors Shopping Centre commences free regular bus service with fifteen buses a day to Harbury. Rumours that Ladbroke is to be moved to the Shopping Centre in Banbury denied. Carnival Day badly affected by snow. Several cricket matches cancelled because of injury to Ian Holroyd.

JULY 1988

Government announce change in route of M40 - now to form a by-pass immediately to east of Harbury. This follows incident when entire Cabinet is lost for three days in Harbury while viewing Executive Starter Homes Estate on new Netball pitch. Cricket Club calls Extraordinary General Meeting to discuss Splinter Group attempt to sell cricket square for Motorway Service Station.

AUGUST 1988

As the editors of the Harbury and Ladbroke News will tell you nothing happens in August except the Bicycle Event - this is cancelled because of motorway works.

SEPTEMBER 1988

Harbury Parish Council declare opposition to Service Station on cricket square. Chesterton Parish Meeting declares Service Station acceptable provided it blends with the landscape and is sited in Harbury. Harbury Society asks County Planners to declare all yellow lines on pavements in Harbury as Conservation Lines. Theatre Group decide to set up French Cafe in village and stop producing plays.

To be concluded next month.

ITJ (who wishes to remain anonymous and is hoping to leave the village shortly).

JANUARY IN THE GARDEN

Another year begins, and as usual "As the days begin to lengthen the cold begins to strengthen" so keep fuchsias, geraniums and dahlia tubers as warm and frost free as possible. If the latter have shrivelled plunge them into a bucket of lukewarm water. Cut away any rotted portions and dust with flowers of sulphur.

Spray fruit trees with tar-oil wash. Cut back newly planted blackcurrants hard, gooseberries and redcurrants by half. Raspberries back to 9". Feed peach trees with hoof and horn. Complete pruning of newly planted pear or apple trees.

Cover rhubarb with strawy manure, and force by excluding the light with wooden boxes. Sow broad bean for an early crop. Sow sweet pea seeds under slight heat.

Keep house plants in full light and free from draughts. Do not over water. An easy way to ensure the correct amount is to weigh your plant when you first get it home, and maintain it at the same weight.

Rinse out your beer bottles and empty the rinsing into your garden, it's the yeast it enjoys!

Although, by the time this appears, members will have their minds redolent with Herbs from Mrs. Zonik's talk, they will not have forgotten Dr. Ellis's fascinating talk, at the previous meeting, on Ponds. With the help of slides, often with human as well as horticultural interest, he told us about all sorts of ponds, natural and created, large and small, at home and abroad. Members appreciated the skill in compressing so much knowledge, experience and enthusiasm into an absorbing and practically-orientated session. The meeting was rounded off with wine and nibbles - the latter being very varied. Many thanks to those who provided them.

On Tuesday 2nd February we shall welcome Mr. Thacker on Clematis and climbers. Those who heard him talk last year on Garden planning will know why it was decided virtually on the spot to invite him again. Another of last year's speakers Mr. L. Jones will tell us about Lupins on 1st March.

Somewhat belatedly - but we like to get all the administration first - we can make public that beneficiaries from the profits of last year's Walkabout include: The Village Hall (to help with new furniture); the Senior Citizens Association; the Toddler Group; and the Church.

B.A.R.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editors,

I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who visited me, both in hospital and at home after my recent operation and for the cards, gifts and support received.

Yours sincerely,

Dorothy Barr

Mrs. Joan Clarke and family wish to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and many cards which we all have appreciated. They have helped us to bear the sad loss of our beloved Jim.

Dear Editors,

Over the past few months, I have read with considerable interest several pieces concerned with concessionary bus fares in Stratford District. Everyone seems quite disgusted that a Harbury OAP must pay so much to get to Leamington and back; what I find more disgusting is the way in which Harbury's various Town Councillors have attempted to shift the blame away from the real culprit. On various occasions Councillors Sharpe, Turner and Bidwell have blamed various bodies for this "oversight", never have they named the real culprit.

Stratford District Council is the only Authority in Warwickshire not to give OAPs bus passes. If James Turner and John Sharpe wish to solve this problem they should stop blaming bodies which have nothing to do with it. Instead they should join with Bob Harkell and his Alliance colleagues on the Council in voting funds to solve this problem. The Tories have a large majority at Stratford - if they want to help the pensioners of this area it is within their power to do so.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Winnifrith (jnr)

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for high quality meat, fruit and vegetables. Pay him a visit, or deliveries can be arranged. Celebrate the New Year with Brian and collect a bottle of Pomagne with every order of over £25 placed in January.

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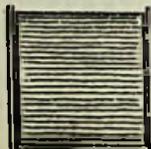
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