

CHESTERTON

Honiwell Close

RADFORD & LEAMINGTON SPA

Temple End

Farley Avenue
Dickens Rd

Binswood End

OLD NEW INN

Farm Street

Leicester Close

Sutcliffe Drive

SURGERY

The Manor

Manor Orchard



Bush Heath Lane

Waagstaff Close

Manor Road

Knightslow Way

Heber

HARBURY

Penelope Close

Chapel St.

THE SHAKESPEARE

& LADBROKE

Margaret Close

GAMECOCK
Ivy Lane

Windmill

NEWS

VILLAGE HALL

LIBRARY
BANK

Pineham Avenue

THE DOG
Post office

ALL SAINTS
CHURCH

The Hall

Hall Lane

South Parade

Church Street

THE CROWN

VILLAGE CLUB

Crown Close

Vicarage Lane

Dove

The Pound

Frances Rd.

Ho. Lane

Neales Close

Harbury House

UFTON

DEPPERS BRIDGE

C SOUTHAM

LADBROKE



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
SUNDAY SERVICES: Holy Communion : 8.00 a.m., 10.00 a.m. (Surig)
Evensong : 6.30 p.m. (4.00 p.m. in Winter)
Family Service : 11.15 a.m. – First Sunday

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

DOCTORS' SURGERY
HARBURY:

Farm Street. Telephone: 612232
Monday – Saturday : 9.00 a.m. – 10.00 a.m.
Monday, Tuesday, Friday : 6.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.

LADBROKE:

Craven Lane. Telephone: Southam 2577

POLICE: Telephone: SOUTHAM (981) 2366

LOCAL CONSTABLE: P.C. T.PERCIVAL. Telephone: Harbury 612175

EMERGENCY SERVICES: Telephone 999

'**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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Fifty issues may not seem too much of a landmark to the professional journalist but to those of us involved in the production of Harbury and Ladbroke News it seems an appropriate time to say thank you to all our readers for supporting our efforts (even though we make blunders sometimes), to our advertisers who support us financially, and to our distributors and helpers without whom we could not get the magazine to you.

The success of the Church's Spring Fair on Saturday 29th April once again illustrates the great generosity and spirit of Harbury folk. The afternoon included a display by Mrs. Burford's dancing troupe, who contributed greatly to a really enjoyable occasion.

Unbelievably, we need to be thinking about the 1978 Carnival, now only 5 weeks away - see inside for information about this fantastic event.

HARBURY DIARY

MAY

- Sun. 7th 8am, Holy Eucharist; 10am, Procession and Sung Eucharist (Crusaders); 6.30p.m. Evensong.
Crusaders' Union Service, 2.30p.m., Village Hall, parents invited.
Cricket Club at home to Napton.
- Mon. 8th LARGE RUBBISH COLLECTION - you must phone Stratford 67575, ext. 239, for collection of refuse.
Harbury Society Cttee, 8p.m, 5 Sutcliffe Drive.
Harbury Horticultural Society Cttee, 7.30, 19 The Beeches.
- Tues. 9th Harbury Friends, 'Spoon Dolls' by Maria Stringer, 8p.m. at School.
Motor Cycle Club, 8p.m., Wight School.
- Wed. 10th PTA, 'Middle School Science' by Mr. Richards, 8p.m. at School.
ACS Festival followed by Wine and Cheese Party at St. Mary Magdalen's, Coventry.
- Thurs. 11th Golden Age, 2.30p.m., Village Hall.
Men's Group, 7.45p.m.
Harbury Society, 7.45p.m., Village Hall (note change of venue). 'Warks. Folklore' by William

- Tyler. Admission for non-members, 10p.
 Top Juniors' production of the choral and musical entertainment 'Jonah and Samson', 7.30p.m. in the School Hall(admission by programme, 20p).
- Fri. 12th Top Juniors' production - see above.
- Sat. 13th League of Pity Party
- Sun. 14th WHIT SUNDAY. 9a.m., Parish Family Eucharist (Harbury & Ladbroke) followed by Parish Breakfast. 6.30pm Evensong and Procession. Cricket Club at home to Flavells.
- Mon. 15th Coffee Evening to promote interest in MU - all welcome - 8p.m., 1 Vicarage Lane.
- Tues. 16th Tufty Club, 2.30p.m., Village Hall. PCC, 8p.m., Wight School.
- Thurs.18th Children's Fashion Show for 5-13s, in aid of Guides' Funds, 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall.
- Fri. 19th Harbury Ladies' Netball Team, Supper Dance at Village Hall, 9 - 1.
 Conservatives' Wine & Cheese Party at Town Farm, the home of Mr. & Mrs. Peter Reed, 8p.m. Tickets 50p from Mrs. Wilson or Mrs. Sperling.
- Sat. 20th Liberals' visit to Ironbridge; details from Geoff Fuller, 612410.
- Sun. 21st 8a.m. Holy Eucharist, 10am, Procession and Sung Eucharist (Charity Trustees), 6.30p.m. Evensong. HARBURY PONY SHOW, Recreation Ground. Cricket Club at home to Radway.
- Tues.23rd Young Wives, 'Health of the under 5s' by Sharon Hancock, 2p.m. in the Village Hall. Senior Citizens, 8p.m. Village Hall. Village Hall Cttee, 8p.m. Village Hall. Bible Study, Vicarage at 8 p.m. Motor Cycle Club, 8p.m., Wight School.
- Thurs.25th CORPUS ET SANGUIS CHRISTI, Holy Eucharist, 9.45a.m. and 7.30p.m. Golden Age, 2.30p.m., Village Hall. Theatre Group, 8p.m. in the Club.
- Fri. 26th School ends.
- Sat. 27th Guides' Camp until 3rd June.

- Sun. 28th Holy Eucharist, 8am, Sung Eucharist 10am,
Evensong 6.30p.m.
Cycle Road Racers use V.Hall as headquarters.
Harbury Bike Ride, 10a. m. from Club.
Footpath Walk, 2.30p.m. from Village Hall.
Cricket Club away at Flavells.
- Mon. 29th BANK HOLIDAY.

JUNE

- Thurs. 1st Crusaders' Camp at Hampton Lucy till 4th June.
W.I., speaker from Courtaulds on Man-made Fibres,
7.45p. m., Village Hall.
Men's Group, 7.45p. m.
- Sat. 3rd OPEN GARDEN WALKABOUT - see Carnival
Programme for full details, of this and other
CARNIVAL WEEK events.
- Sun 4th Cricket Club away at Steeple Aston.
- Tues. 6th Harbury Horticultural Society, 7.30p. m, the Club,
with Mr. Retberg of Leamington Parks Dept.
- Sat. 10th HARBURY CARNIVAL

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

CRUSADERS, V. Hall, 2.30p.m. every Sunday.

BINGO, V. Hall, 8p. m. every Monday.

GUIDES, Scout Hut, 7p. m. every Monday.

BROWNIES, V.Hall, 6.15p.m. every Tuesday.

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

BABY CLINIC, V. Hall, 2p. m. 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, and
special appointments every 3rd Monday.

PARISH COUNCIL, V. Hall, 7.30p. m. 4th Thursday.

SCOUTS, Scout Hut, 7.30p. m. every Friday.

CHOIR PRACTICE, Church, 6.30p. m. every Friday.

FOOTPATH ASSOC, V. Hall, 2.30p. m, last Sunday.

BICYCLE RIDE, from Club Carpark, 10a. m., last Sunday.

ALL DATES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS.

DATES FOR INCLUSION PLEASE TO LINDA RIDGLEY, tel.
612792, or SARA BENNETT, tel. 612618.

THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear friends,

The Easter Festival was a glorious time, with a beautifully decorated Church and bright and well-attended services. The new Easter Communion hymn by the Revd. Tony Upton (see this month's profile about him) was sung both on Easter Day and on Low Sunday, and was greatly appreciated.

What a privilege it was to receive a visit from Coventry Cathedral Choir, with their Director of Music Mr. Ian Little, and what a first-rate concert they gave us! We thank them and all who made the visit possible. Thanks also to those who gave them tea and entertained them so magnificently. There was a big attendance at the concert, though a large proportion of those present came from other places, and it seems a pity that even more Harbury people were not there.

Our two Churchwardens, Harry Windsor and Vivienne Aggett, have been re-elected for a further year of office. We thank them for their splendid and devoted work, and offer them our best wishes.

The Annual Parochial Church meeting was well attended and was a very happy occasion. There is much for which to be thankful, and there are many people who deserve thanks.

May 14th will be Pentecost (or Whitsunday), when there will be Family Communion at 9am. followed by Parish Breakfast in the Village Hall.

Mrs. Alcock was a native of Harbury and, in her younger days, was in the Church Choir. Her husband, Mr. G.T. Alcock, was a Churchwarden. She was at one time pianist for the village dances, and gave piano lessons. To the end she took a great interest in the choir and in Church music.

Mr. Hawkes was the father of Mrs. Terry of 15 Bush Heath Lane, and died rather suddenly.

We commend them both to God's loving care, and we pray, too, for those who are bereaved.

What a wonderful time of the year this is in our gardens! Our gardens ought to be to us sanctuaries of the Holy Ghost; it is He who gives life to the flowers and the plants and the trees. He is the spirit from whom comes all life, the Lord and Life-Giver. The driving of the rain, the whiteness of

the snow, the glow of the sunshine, all are so many evidences of His glorious and beautiful presence.

With every blessing,
Your sincere friend and Vicar,
F. R. Mackley.

Holy Baptism

April 24 - Tony Darren Bastin, 16 Park Lane.

Ross William Bastin, 16 Park Lane.

Funeral Services

April 1 - Ruth Miriam Frances Alcock, The Sycamores,
Sydenham Drive, Leamington, aged 78 years.

April 27 - Frederick Arthur Hawkes, 5 Park Lane Terrace,
aged 79 years.

From the Churchwardens

It was good to see a somewhat larger number at the Church Annual Meeting this year, and we welcome those who were newly elected to the PCC and as sidesmen, and thank the retiring members for their work.

It is hoped to take a party from the parish to the Passion Play at Oberammergau in the Spring Bank Holiday or at the end of July in 1980. Details of performances should be available in the next few weeks but if they follow the previous pattern there will probably be 3 or 4 a week. You will probably know that the performance lasts all day and the play takes place every 10 years, involving the entire village, and preparation for it is spread over many years. It has been announced that the traditional script will be used in spite of a strong bid to introduce a different version.

Full details of our trip will not be available for a few months yet, but it is vital to have some idea of numbers to see whether it is worth proceeding. If you are interested, please don't wait until bookings have been made before you decide - you may be too late! The trip would last 8 days, probably leaving Harbury on the Friday evening and returning on the Saturday night/early Sunday morning the following weekend. It would seem that the cost would be about £120 per person. If you think that there is a reasonable possibility of your going, please let Vivienne Aggett know as soon as possible in writing,

to The Cottage, Windmill Hill Farm, Chesterton, giving names of those interested, full addresses, and stating whether either date is quite impossible. We shall only be able to go ahead if enough people show interest, so don't delay - write now. It will not be possible to take children under 12, and it is unlikely that there will be any substantial reduction for young people over this age.

Late News! The Spring Fair proved a tremendous success and our thanks are due to all those who helped produce a likely profit of £400.

BAR LINES

Highlight of the month must be the visit of Coventry Cathedral Choir, reported elsewhere. It was good to see the Church nearly filled, but sadly not by people from the Village. A letter has been received from the Cathedral Organist, Ian Little, who wrote, "This is just to say how much the choir enjoyed their visit to Harbury last weekend. It was a very nice change for the Choir to be able to visit different homes of members of the congregation, rather than being given their normal tea in the Village Hall - this is so much more personal. " May I also add my thanks to all who offered hospitality.

There will be further opportunities to hear visiting choirs and musicians in Church. Please book these dates in your diary
NOW: June 16th - concert by the choir of Emscote Lawn School.
Sept. 9th - Organ recital by Ian Little. October 21st - concert by Holy Trinity Girls' Choir. November 5th - Evensong sung by the choir of Arnold Lodge School.

Congratulations to Colin Hughes who has passed his Grade I (Piano) exam, and to Ann Windsor who has been successful in her Grade IV (Flute) examination.

Finally, our thanks to Tom Hauley for his very generous donation to the Choir Robe Fund. MICHAEL BARNES.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL CHOIR

The concert given by the Coventry Cathedral Choir to a packed Harbury Church provided contrasts of music from mediaeval to modern composers. In particular, the early works suited the exceptional quality and musical style of this famous choir. The purity of the unique sound was delightful and made this an evening not only to remember but one that would be well worth

repeating. There will be a further opportunity to enjoy more organ music when Ian Little, the choir director, returns to Harbury in September to give a recital. SHEILA JACKSON.

LADBROKE NEWS

Services etc. for May and early June.

Wed. 10th May, 3.30pm, Women's Fellowship, School, speaker
Rev. R. T. Murray.

Thurs. 11th May, 7. 45pm, Men's Group at Harbury.

Sun. 14th May, Whitsunday, 9am, Parish Communion and
Breakfast at Harbury. 11am, Holy Communion with
hymns at Ladbroke. 6.30pm, Evensong.

Sun. 21st May, Trinity Sunday, 8.30am, Holy Communion,
11am, Matins.

Thurs. 25th May, Corpus Christi, 7.30pm, Holy Communion.

Sun. 28th May, Trinity I, 11am, Holy Communion with Hymns,
6.30pm, Evensong.

Thurs. 1st June, 7.45pm, Harbury Men's Group.

Sun. 4th June, Trinity II, 8.30am, Holy Communion, 11am,
Matins.

Sun. 11th June, Trinity III, 11am, Holy Communion with hymns,
6.30pm, Evensong.

Altar Flowers, May 7 Miss Junod, May 14 Mrs. Brown, May
21 Mrs. Sheasby, May 28 Mrs. Webster, June 4 Mrs. P.
Barnett, June 11 Mrs. Parker.

Extracts from the Registers: Holy Baptism, 2nd April,
Rebecca Elizabeth Young.

Women's Fellowship: At our April meeting we were pleased
to welcome Mr. Warren from the Association to provide Guide
Dogs for the Blind, and at our May meeting on the 10th we
look forward to meeting once again the Rev. R. T. Murray,
former Rector of Southam. C. H.

Easter: First, let me thank you for your generous Easter
offering. Services were happy and the number of communi-
cants up to the norm. Only Evensong was by contrast rather
sparse. G. R. F.

Parochial Church Council: The newly constituted PCC
appointed Mr. Hedge as Vice-Chairman, Miss Junod as
Secretary, and Mr. J. Comfort as Treasurer; Mrs. Flower
was re-appointed Electoral Roll representative. The Harvest

Supper was fixed for Friday, 29th September, and Harvest Thanksgiving for Sunday, 1st October. There was some discussion of possible uses of the Church building for meetings when the School is no longer available. Tickets for the events of the Diocesan Jubilee Celebrations should be ordered as soon as possible.

Annual Church Meeting: Mr. Hedge and Mr. Rutherford were elected Churchwardens at a well-attended meeting, and the following were elected to the PCC: Mesdames Banfield, J. Barnett, Flower, Frost, Hedge, Junod and Morgan; Messrs. Badman, M. Chapple, Comfort, Hudson, Parker and Reeves. Good wishes and thanks for past help were given to Mr. & Mrs. Brown who are leaving the village, and Mrs. Winkfield and Mr. Rutherford were chosen as Deanery Synod representatives. Mesdames J. Barnett and B. Winkfield are our first lady sidesmen, joining Messrs. Parker, Reeves and Darkes, and there are 155 on the Electoral Roll. The treasurer and secretary gave reports, and Mr. and Mrs. Barnett and Mr. Wall were thanked for their work on the churchyard.

Closure of Ladbrooke School will mean no public meeting place, and there was discussion about using the Church for some types of function. Everyone was encouraged to think about this idea, and attend the Annual Parish Meeting when the problem would be considered further.

The Rector was thanked most warmly for the steadfast attention given to Ladbrooke in all weathers, travelling to and from Kenilworth for two Sunday services plus others. This was appreciated by the congregation. To conclude the meeting Canon Fishley thanked the Parish for supporting all the efforts of the Church and for supporting him.

Ladbrooke Conservative Association: £72 was raised at the Jumble Sale. There was a cake, jam and grocery stall, plus household items, and a Grand National Sweepstake. Thanks indeed to all who gave and who came and worked on the day.

Parish Council: Next bulky refuse collection - 3rd July. You must ring during the week beginning that date - see village noticeboard for telephone number.

At the Parish Council meeting Mr. Badman was in the chair as Mr. Sheasby was not present. The Jubilee trees have been received and those at the Hall already planted. Footpath round dangerous bend - this has been surveyed and work will

commence in due time. Green Lane - no action yet so WCC will be asked for an explanation.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 11th May at 8pm, after the Annual Parish Council Meeting, and 'Village Hall' and 'Conservation' will be on the agenda.

W.I.: May 25th - Resolutions Evening with the VCO, ready for the Albert Hall in June. Come and have your say!

HARBURY P. T. A.

Middle School Science will be the subject of a discussion between our Mr. D. Richards, Mr. Portlock (deputy head of St. Margaret's School, Whitnash) and Mr. Cauldrey from Southam School Science Dept, on 10th May at 8pm in School.
AM.

Quiz Nite

The intellectual and comic highlight of the PTA year? Well, maybe, but it disappointed me! I wanted to write HOTTENTOTS MASSACRE PLAYGROUP! or at least HOTTENTOTS KNOCKED OUT BY CLUB! as a consolation, but it was not to be. The Theatre Group beat us in the first round! They went on to win, I hasten to add. Jim Chapple was at his usual infuriatingly knowledgeable best - who else would have gone to the trouble of finding out that the HMV dog was called Nipper, or working out that there are 80 demi-semi quavers in four crochets and three minims? Thanks to Jim we now expect to see Hayley's Comet in 1985, we know that Bottomery is the mortgaging of a boat, that Pollix is the French pseudonym of Dougal (of the Magic Roundabout) and that Camelia sinensis is the Tea Plant. In fact, there were so many things we didn't know that it became a little embarrassing. Ron Christopher thought John Thomas was Lady Chatterley's Lover (a perfectly understandable mistake), no-one knew that Earls wear strawberry leaves in their hats (no wonder they're a dying breed!) or that there are 11 balls on a marzipan simnel cake.

Answers from the floor were as usual the best bits. Dave Rolf insisted that George V who made Bognor Royal must have regretted it in later life, for his dying words were, "Bother Bognor!". "Where's your Tibia?" asked Jim, and from the back of the room came the plea, "Dr. Hancock

wants to know!" But the enormous potential of some questions intimidated the wags, and silence greeted "Where together do you find the Girdle of Venus, the Mount of Mercury and the Via Lacivia?" The answer it seems was in the palm of our hands!

The Theatre Group got the shield, the PTA got second place, Jim got a presentation, Anne Megeney got thanked, and the Hottentots got merry.

LINDA RIDGLEY.

"WAS THIS A RECORD?"

Were there more people in the Village Hall on 29th April than ever before? It seems quite likely, and that tremendous support looks like helping Church funds to the tune of around £400 - a staggering sum. The organisers are deeply grateful to all who helped in any way - we shall be writing to stall holders when more details of exact profits are known.

We hope all those who wished to were able to see Harry Windsor's super films - if you missed them (or would like an Action Re-play!) let us know - it may be possible to organise another showing.

The 'Countries Competition' was won by Ken Hughes of Leamington House, Church Street, and the runner-up was Shirley Keir of 25 South Parade. Thanks to all who entered, and again to everyone concerned for making the Church Spring Fair a truly record-breaking event.

DIANA HOLT & SARA
BENNETT.

CARNIVAL '78

Carnival Week starts on Saturday, 3rd June, with the Church Open Gardens Day, and includes a cycle race, tennis tournament, children's sports (4th June), Bingo, Mystery Tour, Youth Disco, Fashion Show, and the Carnival itself on June 10th. Attractions at the Carnival include a Mediaeval Fighting Display by the "Knights of Warwick Castle", and a motorcycle demonstration by Harbury Jubilee Motor Cycle Club. Programmes will be on sale soon with all details. Carnival Procession: why not enter a float this year? Contact Tim Percival (612175) for details, and let's try to make this year's procession even longer than last year's!!

Carnival Queen: the contest was held on 12th April at the Youth Club, and the winner was Jean Davies, aged 17, of

Lower Westfields Farm. She is shown in our picture with the two runners-up, Lynne Badger (left) aged 17 of 21 South Parade, and Helen Hughes (15) of Leamington House, Church Street. They will travel at the head of the Carnival procession on 10th June. There were 13 entrants to the contest, and we thank the Youth Club, and the judges who helped so much.



Carnival Cake Competition: this is the first time we have held a Cake Competition, and there will be one section for adults and one for children. The cake for adults is a Victoria Sponge Cake which must be made to the following recipe: 4oz. marg, 4oz. S.R. Flour, 4oz. castor sugar, 2 eggs, 1tbsp. warm water, and jam for filling (no icing). The competition for children is for 6 small iced cakes to your own recipe.

Entry for everyone is free but the cakes will be raffled for Carnival funds during the afternoon of Carnival Day. There will be prizes for each section depending on the number of entries. If you would like to enter, please take your cake(s) along to the Village Hall by 1p.m on Carnival Day (10th June), on a paper plate, with your name and address in a sealed envelope. For the children's section, mark the envelope with the child's age on the outside. Judging, by a teacher in Home Economics from Coventry, will take place at 2p.m., and the cakes will be displayed during the afternoon.

Do support this new venture. It only costs the ingredients and you may win a prize! Any further enquiries, please contact Mrs. E. Bunting, tel. 612450.

Carnival Tennis Tournament: As mentioned in an earlier issue, a Beer and Wine Tournament is being arranged for Sunday 4th June as part of the pre-Carnival week celebrations. Entries for this popular event will have to be limited and therefore if you are interested please contact Ray Hoare, 39

Mill Street, tel. 612486, as soon as possible. The entry fee is likely to be about £1 which will include refreshments!

ENCORE - HARBURY WALKABOUT

Don't forget the Harbury Walkabout to be held on Saturday, 3rd June, from 10a.m. to 6 p.m. 28 gardens will be open for your inspection and the Church tower will be open in the morning. Coffee and refreshments will be served at various points en route in the morning, and teas will be available from 2p.m. onwards in the Village Hall. Programmes obtainable from Mrs. E. Zonik, Childyke, Mill Lane; Mrs. P. Clarke, The Cedars, 11 Constance Drive; Mrs. M. Timperley, 7 Park Lane; Mrs. J. Windsor, 5 Park Lane, and village shops, price 50p for adults, 20p for children and senior citizens, or £1 for family tickets.

The Harbury Recipe Booklet will also be available, price 50p.

JW.

HARBURY LADIES' NETBALL CLUB

We have just completed our 2nd season in the league, and on the whole we have not done too badly. Our teams stand as follows:

	P	W	D	L	Pts.
'A' team	24	20	-	4	40
'B' team	20	5	2	13	12

The 'A' team are hoping to be promoted for next season as they finished 3rd in their division. The 'B' team just hope to do a little better as they finished in the bottom half of their division. I think I can safely say that we have all enjoyed ourselves very much. We have had a few minor injuries, a few jarred fingers, and one or two sprained ankles etc. - we have also increased our vocabulary with some very descriptive phrases!

Harbury Ladies must say a very big thank you to the Church for allowing us to rent the netball pitch at the Wight School. We must also thank Joan Smith who stepped in halfway through the season to play Goal Keeper for us. Poor Joan joined us on the understanding that she would only play when we were desperately short - unfortunately we have only managed to give her about two free weekends. We are hoping now that we have aroused enough enthusiasm in Joan to encourage her to play as a regular for us next season.

Netball practices will be starting again on Thursday 11th May at 7.30pm behind the Library. Everyone is welcome to these - whether old or new members. If in any doubt or if you would like some further information please telephone Harbury 612300 or 612742. CAROL GRINNELL.

CRICKET CLUB

The AGM took place at the Village Club in February, and the following were elected for the coming season: Captain, R. Humphries; Vice-Captain, L. Sollis; Mid-week Captain, A Peebles; Fixtures Secretary, T. Bell.

The first game has just been played, and for further fixtures see the Diary. We would once again welcome new players, especially younger members - as I have said before, we have excellent facilities from a playing point of view, and for spectators teas are also available at very reasonable prices and now have the reputation of being the best value in the area.

For those who are interested the subscription fee is £6 p.a. with a 20p match fee for each game played, which by other club standards is more than fair value for money in as much as that no kit such as bats, pads and batting gloves are required - one only has to have whites and boots.

We would like to extend our thanks to Henry Bowell for running the car rally; this was such an enjoyable afternoon it has been decided to have another later this year.

For those who have not been to the ground, as already stated there are teas available, but further to that liquid refreshment is also on tap.

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

With only one match to go until the end of the season it is now time to reflect on an encouraging season for the Club. After a slow start the 1st and 2nd XVs have made a notable improvement, the only real stutter being over the Christmas / New Year period. The rain and frost led to some five matches being cancelled during January / February, so the local derby with Southam was missed. The first XV's worst defeat (35-4) was to Atherstone, who have not been beaten at home for 3 years and are possibly one of the best clubs in Warwickshire.

It has been good to see more players from the village joining the Club. Both Martin Perry (14 tries this season!) and Les

Sollis have played for the 1st XV and played extremely well - a try apiece on their debuts (Les's first try ever , I believe). David Davies has been regular 1st XV scrum half since Mark Robinson was injured over 2 months ago. The standard of play in the various teams has risen and the 2nd XV who last season won only 8 games turned in a record 24 wins. The 3rd XV have improved through the introduction of the 4th XV, and although the 4ths have had an inauspicious start to the season they have nevertheless had some enjoyable games.

At the moment the Club is in the throes of raising money for the new ground and clubhouse - one such effort is the 'buy a brick' campaign, where one wall of the proposed clubhouse will be set aside for individuals to buy bricks, when their name will be placed on the brick to remain for as long as the building stands. So if any of you would like to buy a brick (costs range from £5 to £50 depending on position on the wall) we would be very grateful indeed.

Wednesday 26th April marked a special occasion for the club when a youth side (all under 20) was fielded against Bluecoat School Past and Present XV. In an exciting game the visitors just won 8-6. Thank you to Dave Davies for captaining and organising the side, and Neville Lee for coaching. It is hoped next season to run a Sunday youth side with initially one game a month perhaps - but all depends on the players available. Finally, thank you to the Village Hall Committee and the Playing Fields Committee for the use of facilities over the past season.

Records:	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
1st XV	28	20	1	7
2nd XV	30	24	-	6
3rd XV	27	11	2	14
4th XV	18	5	-	13

J. BIRKBECK.

HARBURY JUBILEE MOTORCYCLE CLUB

During April we held two 'training trials' - some welcome activity after the long winter. The first was on the field we have previously used belonging to Mr. Davies, to whom our grateful thanks are due. There are now a good number of members with off-road machines so that the more difficult type of section can be tried. Richard Wright was the winner, followed by Nigel Buck and Ricky Cotterell. On 30th April we

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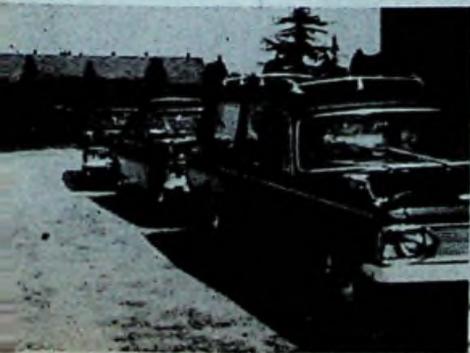
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moved to a new venue at Ladbroke Hill Farm, thanks to the generosity of Mr. Roger Peel. The murky conditions soon had the riders searching for grip, and not infrequently making personal contact with the mud! Again Richard Wright and Nigel Buck were first and second, and William Bennett was third. The club's CZ now sports its 19" wheel and a new Bull Ring Garage exhaust system. Carl McQuistan and Dick Smith rode it very effectively, finishing well up - both having flashes of brilliance at times, although they did look rather muddy at the end!

Dave Holyoake provides great encouragement to the youngsters by helping them technically and also by coming along with his own bike to try the sections with them.

At our 25th April meeting Mitch Sheaner, the Coventry Speedway rider, gave us a fascinating talk which everyone enjoyed.

Don't forget, 8p.m. alternate Tuesdays in the Wight Schoolroom - next meeting 9th May.

JBM.

THEATRE GROUP

At the AGM, Beryl Checkley and Tony Knight were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman on the resignation of John Stringer and Pat Sarson, while Carol Percival and Keith Hayes were re-elected secretary and treasurer respectively. The Vicar was unanimously re-elected as our President.

We look set for an exciting year, following the successful teamwork of "Pygmalion". A one-act play evening in July, with two subtle Tom Stoppard comedies, and the option to dine, drink and dance, will be followed by an established favourite in the autumn, and an original and unusual family play in the Christmas season.

Our next production, however, will be a lorry-back version of "Nah's Ark" - so if it rains on Carnival Day it's only our 'special effects' !!!

JNS.

Editors' note: we were very sorry to hear of Pat Sarson's car accident, but are glad to know that she is now making progress towards recovery. Also, congratulations to John & Sally Stringer on the birth of James.

HARBURY SOCIETY

Our next meeting on 11th May at 7.45p. m. will be in the Farley Room of the Village Hall. Mr. William Tyler M.A. will speak on Warwickshire Folklore. He is highly recommended and I can promise you a fascinating evening. The meeting is open to all - non-members 10p. There will be light refreshments available.

The Mystery Tour will start at 7.30p. m. from the Old New Inn Green on 6th June, and will be my last effort. A walk round the village, a snack afterwards and a chance to win a prize for your knowledge and observation. Again it is open to all and this is your last chance to take part in one.

Our Jumble Sale was a great success and I should like to thank everyone who helped and who gave Jumble. We are now nearly a quarter of the way to raising the funds needed for publishing the Guide to Harbury.

I still need more information on recent village history so if you know the answer to any of the following questions do let me know, or John Moore or anyone in the Society or Harbury News, or leave a message at the Library, the Club or the Newsagents.

When did Harbury Co-op start? Who began it? What were Co-op coins used for? When did the Non-Conformists movement begin in Harbury? What was the Union Fete? Who had the first motor vehicle in Harbury?

LINDA RIDGLEY, 7 Wagstaffe Close. 612792.

W.I.

Again a flower arrangement evening given by Mrs. Burdett was enjoyed by members. Just a minimum of flowers were used, together with blackthorn branches, pussy willow, pebbles, bark, figurines and even a bird's nest, to give a simple but effective result.

Our recent Jumble Sale raised £39.50.

Mrs. Davies gave the final arrangements for our trip to Whatcote and reminded us of further outings at later dates. A Senior Citizen member then told Mrs. Davies that she had forgotten to mention the visit to Hook Norton brewery in May!

JEANNE BEAUMONT.

GOLDEN AGE

A very important event in the life of Harbury's Golden Age Club was celebrated recently - its 21st birthday.

After a wonderful entertainment by Moira and Jean, who played and sang many well-loved favourites, the members drank a toast to the Club, and watched as the president, Lady Watheston, cut the magnificent birthday cake, made by Mr. Rowell and kindly given by Mrs. Farley. Various club members had worked extremely hard to provide a lovely tea, and the beautiful flower arrangements were done by Mrs. Enefer.

Among the 45 people at the party were Mrs. Dodd and Mrs. A. Austin, two founder members, and a toast was also drunk to them, during an enjoyable and memorable afternoon.

GOLDEN DOUBLE

Congratulations are in order for two local couples who recently celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversaries.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Parker of Frances Road celebrated with a magnificent party at the Stoneythorpe Hotel, Southam, where 50 years earlier they had held their wedding reception. They have two sons and a daughter, and their eldest son, Rowan, a recent Mayor of Southam, proposed the toast to a splendid couple.

Mr. and Mrs. Wall of Deppers Bridge, who chalked up their 50 years of married life recently, have two daughters and a son who is an officer in the Navy.

We wish both couples many more happy years together.

HARBURY LIBRARY

I am glad to be able to report that the Library in the old Wight School has at long last been completely re-decorated in white and cream. An additional notice board has been added, and it is hoped eventually to re-lay the approach pathway. The bookstacks have been rearranged and one or two other improvements made, and the general effect is one of lightness and spaciousness.

I am deeply grateful to Mr. C. Keeling for his practical help with the new layout, when he devoted some considerable time to this task.

In connection with the Harbury Picture Collection, the County Librarian is trying to record the nature and location of any

illustrative material on Harbury - maps, drawings, photos, engravings etc. If anyone has such material, I should be grateful if they would be willing to loan it to the Library for a period.

REG CHAMPION, Branch Librarian.

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE A.G.M. 1978

Mrs. Keen was re-elected Chairman, Sue Andrews Secretary, Ken Clarke Treasurer, Pete Shawcross Booking Secretary and 'Bing' Bingham was made Vice-Chairman. The Village Hall, a non-profit making charity, covered its costs last year. Lettings were up and expenditure on repairs was negligible. Damage to the Hall was less and the Committee was most impressed with the conduct of a group of young people who, having broken a window, promptly raised the money for repairs.

Electricity and rates had risen and the insurance would have to be increased. The Treasurer pointed out that the Committee could not expect expenditure to be so little this year and must consider fund-raising. The Committee was to go ahead with plans to build a storage room and the interior of the Hall would be re-decorated in August.

Mrs. Keen announced that the Village Hall might run dances in the future, although she appreciated the view that the Hall should not have to raise funds to cover costs. The only alternative was to raise the charges. She appealed for more representatives to attend meetings and give their organisations' ideas and criticisms on the running of the Hall and to help the Management Trust to administer the Hall for the benefit of the village.

Next meeting Tuesday 23rd May, 8p.m., Farley Room,
Village Hall.

LINDA RIDGLEY.

CAR MAINTENANCE

Would you like to attend car maintenance classes led by Mr. Dave Holyoake - probably at the Bull Ring Garage? If a dozen or so people are interested he is willing to run a session. If, like me, you haven't a clue about engines and what they do with the regular drinks of expensive petrol you give them, this idea should appeal, so if you are interested please contact me, Rosemary Ottewill, 43 Mill Street, tel. 613402.

THE RECREATION GROUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This Committee has, over the last 10 years, helped the Parish Council develop the recreation ground with the provision of the tennis courts, the hard play area, swings, climbing frame, tarzan swing etc. It consists of 3 Parish Councillors, 9 villagers elected at the Annual Parish Meeting, and representatives from village organisations. Only 6 people were elected at the Parish Meeting last month, so some more volunteers are urgently needed to help with this important village work of improving the leisure and recreation facilities. Please contact the secretary, Mrs. C. Barrett, 17 South Parade, tel. 613174, if you are interested in helping with this committee's work. PJH.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Council decided that Dickens Road was the place for Sutcliffe's salt pile. They approved the Conservation Area report which will now go to Stratford D.C. and the Warks. CC; they allocated one allotment; agreed to keep Tennis Court fees at 20p but to try to COLLECT THEM; agreed to up-date Deppers and Farm Street lighting and keep pressing Sackville Properties to provide lighting at Butte Lane.

The above were rapidly dealt with, but councillors became bogged down with other items. Sewage at Binswood End and oil from Sutcliffe Pastures occupied Cllr. Gurden for some time. He's taken to posing maths problems - if 5 men working 150 hours a week for 14 days can't clear the blockage, how long will it take Stratford D.C. to get its finger out? (or words to that effect). The Sutcliffe oil seepage is on his land and the sewage came up in his garden when the Midland Red went over the manhole!

Residents of Wagstaffe Close were again out in force to protest at the opening of a new school gate in their cul-de-sac. Brian Wade acted as spokesman and explained their fears that a child would be injured if cars used the Close. There was no turning circle, only a hammer - head; the bend in the road was 'blind', and there was only one footpath. Mrs. Watts told residents to keep their children in if they feared for their safety, but it was pointed out that all children would be at risk. The PC agreed that there were disadvantages, specially

if parents drove their children to school via Wagstaffe Close, but it was felt better to open the gate for the duration of the building works with its effects monitored than to allow the congestion at Park Lane to continue. Mr. Wade said no-one objected to a temporary opening, and Mrs. Picken agreed to assess the use of the gate and report to the Parish Council. Next meeting: Thurs. 25th May, 7.30, Village Hall.

LINDA RIDGLEY.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, APRIL 1978

"Is £4,000 too much for a child's life?", Brian Wade asked Major Kettle, Chairman of WCC Education Committee at the Annual Parish Meeting. £4,000 would build a proper vehicular access to the school from Park Lane, but Major Kettle said the County couldn't afford it and the PC was debarred by law from contributing.

Attempts by Chairman Davies to protect Major Kettle from Education questions failed. Ron Christopher quizzed him thus: 'Would the teaching allocation be raised?' (only by .5 of a teacher); 'Could parents pay for extra staff?' (too many practical difficulties); 'Would the new Wagstaffe Close gate be temporary only?' (Mr. Oliver had decided the Mill Street gate should be closed and no other way but Wagstaffe Close could be opened up); 'But would the entrance be closed when building work finished?' (it would not become a right of way)! 'Would the gate be stopped up?' (it could be made permanent if there was no nuisance caused)!!!

Chairman's report - Cllr. Davies thanked colleagues for their support and explained the PC had to increase rates because costs of providing street lighting and keeping up the cemetery and greens had risen.

Lighting Committee report - Cllr. Atkins said the Binswood End lighting scheme almost complete, WCC was to take over lighting maintenance, Deppers and Farm Street lights would be up-graded, and the sodium lamp in Farm Street (universally disliked) would be removed.

Finance report - Cllr. Ellis explained the accounts and the rates rise. The Parish as a whole had been very fortunate in having had a high standard of green and cemetery maintenance at a low cost over the past years, but now paid a Cemetery and a Green Keeper.

Cemetery report - Cllr. Wilkins pointed out the cemetery had suffered from lack of maintenance and he thanked the Scouts for helping to clear the gale damage.

Allotments report - Cllr. Wilkins reported the allotments had had a good year and would be on view in the Garden Walkabout on 3rd June. There was still a Waiting List of 18.

Recreation Ground report - retiring Chairman Peter Holt said a football training area, a children's fort, practice cricket pitch and skateboard track would be constructed, and a contribution made to the building of storage rooms at the Village Hall. The Tennis Courts fee would remain at 20p per hour, and Cllr. Wright asked everyone to ensure that those who PLAY - PAY.

Village Hall - Midge Keen said hiring charges just covered costs but might have to rise. The interior of the Hall would be re-decorated in August.

Footpaths - John Hancock reported SM62a impossible to walk without diverting from the farmer's diversion.

Highways - John Drinkwater said only two improvements had been undertaken in the year, and the Divisional Engineer, answering questions, promised to investigate complaints.

Conservation Areas - Sharon Hancock announced that two areas were to be submitted for designation in an attempt to conserve the character of the village. Grants for repairs and improvements to buildings in Conservation Areas could be one benefit.

Planning - there has not been much new building, Cllr. Drinkwater said, and the PC had been successful in blocking the development of Pan's Garden in Farm Street. The PC did take a lot of care over planning matters. Brian Wade asked why residents of Wagstaffe Close had not been made aware of plans for the new School entrance, and Ron Christopher wanted the PC view on whether the gate should be made permanent. Cllr. Ellis assured them the PC tried to see all sides of the problem and would discuss the matter at the next PC meeting (see previous article). LINDA RIDGLEY.

HORSE TALK

I was a judge at the Carnival Queen contest, more nervous I think than most of the competitors, but I was struck by the fact that, if the girls didn't want to look after children or be nurses, they wanted to work with horses. And yet it isn't

really surprising, is it? Harbury is a very horsey place. We're in the heart of hunting country and many of the local landowners are staunch supporters of National Hunt racing.

There's Basil Thwaites with Midsummer Lad, Dramatist and many more, and Antony Robinson from the Hall with Tied Cottage. At least if your money was on him in the National you got a good view of the horse before he tried to jump Beechers lengthwise first time round, and shot Tommy Carberry off. Two days before the National, John Thorne from Chesterton Stud put up the most amazing feat of horsemanship to ride his own horse to win round the National fences at Aintree after he broke his stirrup leather six fences from home. His daughters are famous in their own right as National Hunt riders. Diana, on Kingmaker, competed at Badminton in April and has been chosen to represent Great Britain in the World Three Day Event Championship in America this September. Her sister Jane was a close second in the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown on Spartan Missile, just failing to beat Tommy Stack on Strombolus.

All in all it's no wonder so many girls are horse mad. Every day you see hunters being exercised in the village by young girl grooms who ride one horse and lead at least one other. And what other village of our size could boast among its amenities a Betting Shop? No doubt all the young ladies will be thrilled to hear that, following its success last year, the second Harbury Pony Show is being held on the Recreation Ground on Sunday 21st May.

LINDA RIDGLEY.

IN THE GARDEN

May, although a good month for growing, requires you to exercise great restraint in planting out any plants that have not been hardened off. Delay planting French beans and runner beans until the end of the month. If you covered your rhubarb at the end of February, it should be ready for pulling. Your spring cabbage should be ready for cutting if you gave it a dressing of fertiliser a month ago.

Finish planting early and main crop potatoes. Continue planting short rows of lettuce, radish and spring onions. Try and plant all your onion sets and onion plants.

Do not plant out your tomatoes and peppers until the end of the month.

There are no doubt many questions you would like answered, so the best way and the quickest is to join the Harbury Horticultural Society - we meet on the first Tuesday of the month at Harbury Club and there is no doubt that one of the committee will be able to help you.

Subscription is only 50p a year.

W. F. LINES.

HARBURY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The first meeting of this new group was very successful, and it was pleasing to see so many new members. Dr. Finch's interesting illustrated talk certainly gave everyone plenty to think about.

Plans are well advanced for the Flower and Vegetable Show to be held on 9th September, and details will be available shortly. With the current upsurge of interest, in vegetable growing especially, it is hoped that many who have not previously shown will give their support to the first show in the village for some years.

A. L. BRUNTON, Sec.

PROFILE - THE REVEREND TONY UPTON



Home again after an 8-month cruise in the Mediterranean, Far East and Australasia. Sounds ideal, but the Grey Funnel Line is hardly the most comfortable way to see the world. One compensation is that if you join it, they pay you to travel with them! Since his parents moved to Harbury in 1975, the Reverend Tony Upton has been but an intermittent visitor to the

village, for his duties as a Chaplain in the Royal Navy have kept him at sea for most of those three years.

Latterly, Mr. Upton has been Chaplain of one of the Royal Navy's biggest warships, HMS Tiger, which he is due to leave this summer for a new appointment on dry land. Ashore for a few months in 1976, he was before that the first-ever Chaplain to the Navy's fleet of 14 survey ships, in which he served for two years after completing an 18 month term as Chaplain of HMS Bulwark - another 'big ship'.

Some hobbies are impossible to pursue at sea, and Mr. Upton's main interests have all suffered as a result of his peregrinations round the world. He is interested in local history, is the author of one book and is preparing a second. Amateur photography is another hobby waiting to be revived. He is the owner of a small collection of Warwickshire books, including some scarce volumes, and also a small GB stamp collection which boasts a few rare specimens. Separation from these and other cultural interests is among the main disadvantages of his seafaring life.

During his naval career, Mr. Upton has visited 42 different countries all over the world, from Iceland and Norway in the north, North, Central and South America to the west, New Zealand in the south and Japan to the east. "Without any doubt, Britain is best of all, and enjoys more real political freedom than any country I've visited. But the English are the most stubbornly unpatriotic people imaginable. It's a strange paradox".

Although Mr. Upton has his own house in Portsmouth ("I bought it to get right away from the Navy, really") he considers Harbury to be his real home. He seizes every opportunity to visit his long-suffering parents, who are never quite sure when he is likely to turn up on the doorstep.

Before joining the Navy 10½ years ago, Mr. Upton served in the city church of St. James, Milton, in Portsmouth, "a seaside parish of 30,000 people; active church life; industrial estate; two big hospitals; teacher training college; three schools; two parks - always something going on". When he leaves the Navy, Mr. Upton is keen to return to the parish ministry, but is undecided whether to work in a busy city parish or opt for a country one. Meanwhile, he confesses that taking part in services in Harbury Church is always a great thrill for him, and a refreshing change.

ADDITIONAL CURATES SOCIETY

How are curates paid today? Where does the money come from? Depending upon resources of the parish needing a curate, the diocese will allocate a grant, leaving the parish to find the balance as well as paying for his accomodation and expenses of office. Many parishes cannot meet that commitment, and would be forced to manage without a curate they

sorely need. ACS tries to resolve this dilemma by sharing the financial commitment with the parish and diocese. In 1976 the Society helped 480 parishes in England and Wales, giving £73,500 in all.

Why should ACS work to raise all this money for curates' salaries? Quite simply, because we believe the Church and Nation need the spiritual leadership that Christ has bestowed upon this particular ministry. Priests to lead, teach, encourage and feed the Christian community and equip us all for that work in the world, that should be our prime concern. To this end, ACS works hard in the belief that our aims are central to the life and well-being of the whole Church. The Society will always be pleased to supply further information to all who wish to be associated with our work.

Gifts should be sent to The Additional
Curates' Society, St. Mark's
Church House, 264a Washwood
Heath Road, Birmingham B82XS,
or to the local secretary, Mrs. Anne Moore,
23 Mill Street, Harbury, tel.
612427.



SPORTING FAMILY

For most people the name Williams is synonymous with bed bargains or 'your pound being worth more', but Anita and Dave Williams and their children Jamie and Duncan, of Farley Avenue, have brought a new dimension to the name by reaching the final of Sports Family of the Year competition, organised by the Barr Group and entered by the Williams' family via the Sun newspaper. The initial entry involved selecting an England football team and cricket team from a list of players, and the next stage was a quiz night at the Civic Hall, Solihull, where the question master was Stuart Hall. 12 families were involved in this regional heat, and the Williams' came 2nd and thereby qualified for the final in Blackpool. There they will have to take part in an obstacle cycle race, volleyball, relay, table tennis, netball, football and cricket. There is a lot at stake for the 1st prize is a week's holiday in Italy with tickets for the final of "It's a Knockout" (or Jeux Sans whatever it is!), and second and

third prizes of holidays at Aviemore.

Whatever the outcome of the final, our warmest congratulations to Dave, Anita and family for having done so well in the competition.

RH.

KALEIDOSCOPE

In this ever-changing village, businesses are as vulnerable as houses, and three are currently in the news. Mrs. Allan, the owner of the Foodmart, who lives in Binswood End, has confirmed that the shop is up for sale. Mrs. Allan is acting Manager and she is confident it will change hands quickly. She wishes to emphasise that business is now and will be as usual throughout the changeover period. Barrie Johns, previous manager of the Foodmart, has bought a grocery business in Cubbington and all his old customers wish him every success, as well as the many local organisations who have good reason to be grateful for his generosity and kindness on catering matters. He will be much missed. Anne and Bill Heal have been our Newsagents for three years and in that time we've seen the shop modernised, the range extended and business doubled! Bill is with GEC and as Anne wants more time for family life, they are moving to Kenilworth with daughter Carol, 15, and son Alan, 13, who are at school locally. Anne expressed warm thanks to her staff, Mr. and Mrs. Waddell and Philippa Mann, and to the 21 delivery round boys and girls, especially for their loyalty and support lately, and she apologises to customers who asked about the rumour before the staff even knew, when she was unable to discuss it! They're sad to leave Harbury and we wish them happiness for the future. We also extend a warm welcome to the new owners, Mr. and Mrs. Krayen, who will be in residence by the time you read this! Brian Taylor has been Sub-Postmaster in Harbury since his father's retirement in 1969. Mr. Taylor Snr. had held the post since 1948. 30 years of continued family involvement, and service to the public. The Postal Authorities have decreed that Harbury is to be incorporated into Coventry and West Midlands area, to which about 1,000 sub-post offices report, instead of Leamington, where, as one of 150 Brian is

well-known after 30 years! Practically, it presents few changes for the public - our Harbury/Leamington stamp continues as do all services, but anything requiring further enquiry will now go through Coventry, an anonymous and indifferent body. The Union of Post Office Workers are resisting the change on the grounds that "big is not necessarily beautiful", and YOU can help if you care. The petition in Harbury Post Office has 300 signatures so far. Brian has agreed to keep it open a little longer so do please sign it and do something practical to halt this erosion of tradition; after 30 years the Taylor family deserve our backing and support How about this for a paradox? Some youngsters organised amongst themselves a disco in the Village Hall recently. A window was broken so they had a whip-round to pay for repairs - isn't that something? But, at 5p. m. on a recent Thursday, a glass panel beside the front door of the Hagan family's house at 21 Manor Orchard was smashed by a very large stone which landed in the hall. Fortunately, no-one was hurt although they were in the house, and nobody outside the house saw or heard anything. As far as the Hagans know it's an isolated incident and let's hope it remains so, but it's a pretty rotten thing and we do sympathise with them. Did you see "Pygmalion"? If not you missed a treat! The Theatre Group produced a splendid evening but don't take my word for it - see their next production and you'll agree that they may be amateurs, not professionals, the difference being they do it for love and not money! VICTORIA MACGOWAN.

An Apology: We have received several letters regarding the personal nature of the remarks made in last month's Kaleidoscope on the topic of dogs, and we apologise most sincerely to the dog owner concerned for any offence caused.

The Editors.

"THE MERRY MONTH OF MAY."

More traditions are probably associated with May than with any other month of the year. For example, the dew in May was supposed to have special powers, and bathing the face in it before dawn was a guarantee of beauty. A May Queen, or Queen of the Flowers, was often chosen, and May garlands made in thanksgiving for the lovely summer flowers. Men dressed as Hobby Horses, Jack-in-the-Green or the

traditional village fool were part of the Maytime ritual, and probably the best-known symbol of all was the Maypole. This was originally a small tree, which the young people would strip of its lower branches and they would then decorate it with flowers and ribbons and set it up in the village centre as a focal point for their dances.

Under Cromwell's dictatorship maypoles were forbidden, but on the first May Day after Charles II's return an immense pole was set up in the Strand, 134ft. high, adorned with crowns and the Royal Arms, gilded and garlanded. The pole had been floated up the Thames into central London, and then carried in triumphant procession through streets of cheering people, released at last from 9 weary years of Commonwealth rule. The pole took 12 seamen 4 hours to set up; it then stood, apparently, for half a century.

A May Day ceremony still kept up is the greeting of the sunrise at 6am. by choristers of Magdalen College, Oxford, who sing a Latin hymn from the top of the college tower. After this there is Morris Dancing in the streets - yet another custom particularly associated with this "merry month".

DMH.

A. C. S. Diocesan Festival - Wednesday, 10th May,
St. Mary Magdalen's Church, Coventry (Sung
Eucharist at which the Bishop of Coventry will
preside), followed by Cheese and Wine Party in
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