



# HARBURY NEWS.

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

COVERING ALL ASPECTS OF LOCAL LIFE

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MAGAZINE ADDRESS 23 MILL STREET HARBURY TEL: 612427

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THIS MAGAZINE IS PRODUCED WITH THE  
HELP OF ALL SAINTS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
HARBURY — VICAR. Rev. F.R. MACKLEY

## NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00 am. 10.00 am. 6.30 pm. (4.00 pm. in Winter)

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Included this month is a (shortened) report on the last Parish Council meeting, written by Linda Ridgely. We are hoping that this will become a regular feature, as the business conducted by our Parish Council affects us all and Linda's style and interest should arouse some reaction to matters under discussion (new housing development, for instance).

HARBURY DIARYAUGUST 1975

Sun. 10th Cricket v EMEB, Cement Works.

Fri. 15th Football Club Dance, V. Hall.

Sun. 17th Cricket v Flecknoe, away

Tues. 19th Senior Citizens Ben. Assoc., V. Hall, 8 p.m.

Sun. 24th Cricket v Steeple Aston, away

Mon. 25th BANK HOLIDAY

Fri. 29th Blood Donors' session, V. Hall.

Theatre Group meeting, Dog Inn, 8 p.m.

Sun. 31st Cricket v Wavertree, Liverpool, Cement Works.

Footpath Assoc. Ramble from V. Hall, 2.30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 1975

Wed. 3rd Mothers' Union Service, Church, 2.30 p.m.,  
followed by AGM at 1 Vicarage Lane.

Thurs. 4th W.I. Wool Council Evening & Film, V. Hall, 7.45.

Fri. 5th Rugby Club Dance, V. Hall

Sat. 6th P.T.A. Pool Disco

Sun. 7th Cricket v Warks. C.C., Cement Works

Tues. 9th Nursery School & Playgroup restart.

Harbury Friends, talk by Mr. Bamford, local  
artist & craftsman, School, 8 p.m.

Harbury Society open meeting, Dog Inn, 8 p.m.

Thurs. 11th Golden Age, V. Hall, 2.30 p.m.

Tues. 16th Tufty Club, V. Hall, 2.15 p.m.

Thurs. 18th W.I. Produce Show, V. Hall, evening.

Fri. 19th Theatre Group, Dog Inn, 8 p.m.

Sat. 20th P.T.A. Garden Party, Temple House.

N.B. P.T.A. Meeting, Wed. 17th Sept. See P.T.A. report.

CRUSADERS V. Hall, 2.30 every Sunday from 7th Sept.  
BINGO, V. Hall, 8 p.m. every Monday  
YOUTH CLUB, V. Hall, 8 p.m. Wednesdays from 10th Sept.  
BABY CLINIC, V. Hall, 2 p.m., 2nd & 4th Wednesdays,  
special appointments every 3rd Monday.  
HARBURY SINGERS, 8 Penelope Close, 8 p.m. Tuesdays  
from 9th September  
TENNIS COURTS, open evenings, Wednesdays, 7 p.m.  
ALL DATES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS.  
DATES FOR INCLUSION TO MRS. S. BENNETT, 612618.

### THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear friends,

It is a great joy to me that several parents bring very young children with them to the Holy Eucharist on Sundays, some at 8 and some at 10 a.m. They seem to enter into the spirit of worship, and many of them, with their parents' help, are able to follow the service in the little books. I would like to mention, however, that we are now getting some copies of a book called 'Series 3 for Children, with Words and Pictures' which would be very useful to those who come at 10 a.m. It has large print, pictures and stiff covers. In a foreword to parents it says, 'This is a book for you to use with your child at the Sunday Eucharist - and you can start as soon as he won't actually tear a book to pieces!'. It is rather expensive, it costs 60p, but I think it is worth it. I suggest that people who bring young children at 10 a.m. might like to buy their children a copy, and also that some people who have no small children might like to buy a copy for the Church so that we have some copies to lend to children who have not their own. I would be pleased to show anyone a specimen copy.

The news of the rather sudden death of Mrs. Baston came as a great shock to us, and elsewhere in this issue is an article expressing the affection in which she and her husband are held in Harbury.

With every blessing,

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

F. R. Mackley.

Holy Baptism

13th July: Donna Michelle Smith (9 Leycester Close),

Kathryn Ann Percival (Police House, South Parade),

Colin Richard Taylor (4 Frances Road)



Holy Baptism cont.

27th July, Robert Peter Fox (Pastures Farm Lane, Loxley)  
Julie Karen Fell (46 Frances Road)

Holy Matrimony

12th July, Philip John Cambray to Andrea Elizabeth Fawson.

Burials

24th July, Frederick William Brande, aged 78 years.

### FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

Two advance notices - firstly, the Flower Festival at St. Andrew's, Eastern Green, Coventry, on Saturday, 27th September, when we hope to take a coach from Harbury. If you are interested, please get in touch with the Vicar or a Churchwarden. And secondly, our Harvest Thanksgiving Weekend - 4th and 5th October, when we shall be welcoming some of our friends from Eastern Green to our Harvest Supper. More details next month.

In his letter last month the Vicar referred to the desperate need for additional clergy, and one of the organisations the Parish supports is the Additional Curates Society, which makes grants to parishes to help them maintain a curate. The Diocese of Coventry has undertaken to pray for the Society from 1st to 9th September, and for the grant-aided parishes, young men in training for the ministry, and that others will come forward for ordination. Please remember these in your prayers.

### ROSE BASTON

Whilst holidaying in North Devon at a Christian Guest House, we noticed that at Communion we were asked not to pray for "those who died" but to "thank God for the lives". This is exactly how those of us who knew 'Mrs. Baston' feel at this time. Personally, I knew her as a devoted member of M.U., devoted in the sense that she not only came to most meetings but, if I needed a volunteer, she was among the first. Consequently, she 'made the tea' at Branch and Deanery meetings, and, together with 'Pop' (it's hard to think of them separately!) offered to look after the young children when Young Wives moved to the Village Hall.

Although we were sorry to lose Mrs. Baston when she and Pop moved to Wellesbourne, we were all so happy that, after

the difficulties of a car crash and housing problems, they were happily settled in a new home. Mrs. Baston shared her joys and her sorrows with us all. Our deepest sympathy goes to Pop and his three sons, and we certainly thank God for the life of one who has brought so much joy and happiness into the lives of those with whom she mixed. JEANNE CLARKE

### P. T. A.

Congratulations to all the children who took part in the sponsored walk, and our thanks to all their sponsors and the organisers. The final sum raised towards the pool fund was £550.

Sunday swimming has proved to be so popular that the session have had to be reduced to 45 mins to enable more people to swim. The Swimming Pool Party has had to be postponed until 6th September, and take the form of a Disco. Tickets will be strictly limited.

Our re-scheduled Garden Party will be held in the grounds of Temple House, by kind invitation of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Lambert (weather permitting), on Saturday, 20th September. It promises to be a great afternoon. Do make a note of the date and tell your friends about it.

On Wednesday 16th July about 80 people enjoyed Square Dancing to the Shakespears. "Don't knock it 'till you've tried it" - most people who went are asking when the next one will be!

Advance notice - "The effect of TV on Children" - a forum including Mrs. Mary Whitehouse, on 17th September. Tickets available shortly. GEOFF WRIGHT

### WE EVEN BEAT THE BARGE.....!

This summer the magazine 'Scouting' challenged all Venture Scouts (over 16's) to 'Walk the Width of an Ordnance Survey Map'. One group walked Hadrian's Wall, dressed as Romans! The challenge was open to younger Scouts, and was accepted by the 1st Harbury Group, who mapped out a route, using the canal towpaths as far as possible.

Six Scouts - Bob Small aged 15, Gary Picken aged 14, Shaun Green aged 14, Neil Humphreys aged 12, Peter Edwards aged 11 and Robert Hughes aged 11, and also John Small (Akela



to the Cubs, and over 21!), all left Warwick at 8 a.m. on Sun. 6th July, heading in the direction of the M1 along the towpath.

At breakfast, near the Fosse Way, fried egg 'batches' were eaten faster than the support team could cook them. Skip, David Johnstone, volunteered to man the Blue Lias checkpoint, and managed to get everyone through before opening time!

16 miles were covered before stopping for lunch near Shuckburgh; Shaun was unfortunately forced to drop out at this point having walked most of the distance with a very painful ankle. The route continued over Braunston Canal tunnel, eventually leaving the canal alongside the M1 at Whilton Locks at 7 p.m., and taking to the roads.

We were now hearing reports of sightings of Herons and Kingfishers, and of fishing stories including the one that got away! The best one of all was the story about a barge they had overtaken which had left Warwick at 4pm. the previous afternoon!

Five miles and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours later, all the Scouts managed to run the last 100 yards to the finish near Great Brington in Northants. They had walked 28 miles in  $12\frac{1}{2}$  hours, on one of the hottest days of the year. WELL DONE SCOUTS. Especially the younger members of the team.

On the afternoon of 12th July, 12 Scouts visited the Cov. Evening Telegraph for a conducted tour of the offices and printing works. They now know how a newspaper is produced from taking the cricket score off the teleprinter to receiving the finished paper, hot from the press. BRIAN TAYLOR.

### BROWNIE POW-WOW

On Tuesday 15th July the Brownies had a pow-wow. We went to the woods near Hunningham. It was half past six when we went. Most of the Brownies went to the pow-wow. When we got there we went round the woods. Then we sat round in a circle and sang songs and played games. After a while Brown Owl got out some sausages and bread. After that we wandered around the woods and clumsy Erica fell over! Then we went home. It was about half past seven when we got back. We all enjoyed it very much. I am looking forward to our next meeting on Tuesday, 16th September.

GAIL MOORE, Sprites. Aged 7.

## MINI - RUGBY

Southam Rugby Club is starting a mini-Rugby course. It's a scaled-down version of the real game, for boys from 7 to 13 years, and the Club would be grateful for offers of help from adults, both during the training sessions and the matches which they hope to play later, if there are enough boys taking part. If you are interested in playing, watching or helping, please go along to the Kineton Road Ground in Southam on Sunday 7th September at 11 a.m., when they will be explaining all about the game and the course, which will be held on Sundays at 10.30 a.m.

## PARISH COUNCIL (July meeting)

Have you ever been to a Parish Council Meeting? No, of course you haven't - there's only ever me there, and P.C. Percival. Really you don't know what you're missing; Local Government at its base level, personalities, politics and laughs.

Minutes were approved. Matters arising ranged from the Village Hall roof, the Bus Shelter, Sub-standard Properties, Seats, a Notice Board for outside the Library, to the Water Supply. The most significant point to emerge was that by September the sewerage capacity will have been increased so that there will not longer be a bar to planning permission for new housing. Watch out for more development in the autumn.

Harbury could only come second to Fenny Compton in the Southam District Best Kept Village Competition.

There was a warning about the effects of the Community Land Bill (as it now stands) which would give the right of compulsory purchase of Village Greens, Commons, Recreation Grounds, Burial Grounds and other Parish property, to the higher authorities. (This illicited no comment whatsoever from the PC). Similarly, a letter from the Harbury Society, pointing out the incidence of Dutch Elm Disease in the village, and requesting the PC to take some action, was regarded as not pertinent, because there were no Elms on property actually owned by the Council, so the letter was passed on to the County Land Agent.

Cllr. Atkins succeeded in persuading the Electricity Board (without prejudice) to repair a street light in Vicarage



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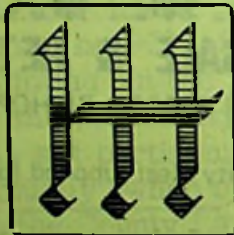
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Lane, which, disputedly, had been vandalised. You may not be aware of the PC's decision not to repair street lights which are continually damaged. The Vicarage Lane light would have cost the ratepayers £12.50 plus VAT to repair. Last quarter's lighting bill for £206 was passed to Mr. Wright for the usual month or so of haggling.

Planning permission refused and granted for a variety of extensions and new property was read out.

Under Playing Fields, Mrs. Catterell made her usual request for money from the PC for Deppers Bridge, but, as usual, she was promised reimbursement of expenses, if she would submit a statement of accounts.

Mr. Carter reported that the gate to the car park in Harbury Playing Fields was broken, and discussion took place on the possible costs of repair, until Mr. Atkins asked the stunningly simple question, "Is it ever shut?", whereupon it was rapidly resolved to donate the gate to Deppers Bridge Playing Field and to make do with a padlock and chain.

Mrs. Winch requested that the PC cut their hedge which abuts her property, and it was agreed to examine this at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Davies reported on the School Managers' Meeting. A new teacher had been appointed, there will be a new classroom in use next term, the School won two cups at the Swimming Gala, and Mr. Oliver is to contact the Authorities over the danger posed by the dead Elm in Back Lane.

Further to the Rugby Club's request for ~~alese~~ on part of the Village Hall, the PC decided to meet before the proposed joint meeting with the VHMC and the Rugby Club, to decide what line it is to take on the matter.

The next meeting of the Parish Council was arranged for 28th August at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall, and the meeting was then declared closed. Upon the arrival of Cllr. Wright, the Council repaired to the Car Park to view Mrs. Winch's hedge.

LINDA RIDGLEY

### YOUNG WIVES - GARDEN PARTY

Take a lovely country garden, add wine, good company the swish of long skirts, and what do you have? A very

successful Garden Party, which was held on 17th July. Guest speaker Mr. John Home, recent prize-winner at the Royal Show, gave a witty talk on bee-keeping. Who would have thought that the queen bee killed off the drones when she had finished with them? All males in the village, think on.....

Presentations were made to Eunice McCracken who is retiring from the Committee after many years, to Shirley Keir for the loan of her beautiful garden, and to Mr. and Mrs. Bamford for taking such marvellous care of the children.

After discussing swimming arrangements, it seemed a sensible move to drink more wine - so we did.

PAT SARSON (Tel: 612783)

### TENNIS COURTS

The summer has encouraged many people to use the courts and it is pleasing to see so many children beginning to play. Earlier in the summer a six-week coaching course was held for adults, arranged under the auspices of Southam Further Education Centre. The course was very successful, and as a result an eight-week course for under 16s is now under way, and it is hoped that the youngsters taking part will really benefit from Pauline Brown's first class tuition.

Just a reminder for the need to PAY when you PLAY, as a steady income is needed to pay for the upkeep of the courts. The courts can be booked (20p an hour) at Heals, Newsagents. If you play but haven't booked, please make the appropriate payment afterwards, either to Heals or to one of the Tennis Courts Committee members listed here: SHEILA JACKSON (63 Mill Street), RIAN KELSALL (Crantock, Vicarage Lane), LYNN ROBERTS (Forelle, Temple End), SHEILA SCOTT (53 Mill Street), KEITH THOMPSON (19 Neales Close), CHRIS WRIGHT (Aitnarf, The Beeches), FRANK BUNTING (The Rylands, Dovehouse Lane), SALLY GASCOYNE (5 Honiwell Close), or to me.

Wednesday nights are still open nights and everyone, irrespective of standard, is very welcome to turn up and 'mix in'.

An end of season tournament, on the same lines as the one held earlier in the season, is being arranged for Sunday, 28th September - further details will be included in the next issue. RAY HOARE, 24 Sutcliffe Drive, Tel: 612486.



## HARBURY SOCIETY

The Society is holding an important Open Meeting on Tuesday, 9th September, at the Dog Inn, at 8 p.m., when Vivian Bird, the well-known journalist, broadcaster, rambler and authority on Inn Signs, will give a talk on 'Footpaths I have known'. We hope as many people as possible will attend what promises to be a most entertaining evening.

## HERITAGE YEAR AWARDS

You may already have read that Chesterton Windmill won one of the major Civic Trust Heritage Year Awards, or seen on Nationwide Philip Tibenham eulogising on the splendour and solitude of the Windmill, as he stood thirty feet above the proposed M40. Motorway apart, this is an important award to win, and something of which local people can be justly proud. Over 3,200 schemes were submitted, and the Civic Trust assessors said of the work on Chesterton Windmill: "This meticulous renovation has ensured the continued existence of an unique Warwickshire landmark, of great historic interest, and a splendid piece of Early Renaissance architecture".

Of all the 287 schemes illustrated in the Civic Trust Heritage Year Awards book, Chesterton Windmill was singled out for the honour of being on the cover.

LINDA RIDGLEY.

## SIR DAVID AND LADY WATHERSTON

Lady Watherston met her husband when he was in the Colonial Service in Malaya, and they lived there after their marriage in 1933. They returned to England in 1938, and were in London throughout the war, after which Sir David was sent to Malaya to help with solving the problems created by the Japanese invasion of the country. From 1948 onwards he was dealing with both Communist terrorism and the leading of the country towards independence. The culmination of the terrorist activity was the murder of the High Commissioner in 1951, after which more stringent measures were taken against the terrorists by the new High Commissioner, Field Marshall Sir Gerald Templer. Over half a million squatters, mostly

Chinese, who were scattered over the countryside on the fringes of the jungle, were moved into protected villages where they could live without the constant fear of terrorist intimidation. An important factor was to gain the co-operation of the people in the Government plans. One of the many schemes was the setting up of the W.I. movement there, which brought the women of the country together, and in which Lady Watherston was closely involved. The W.I. movement was a great aid to dispelling much ignorance and superstition, and to teaching the women child welfare and nutrition.

In the lead up to independence, one of Sir David's particular concerns was in training the people of the country for senior positions in Government service, so that the change over from British rule would be as smooth as possible. He received his Knighthood in 1956.

Many well-known people stayed with Sir David and Lady Watherston on their visits to Malaya, among them Richard Nixon and Vic Feather. The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester also stayed with them when they attended the country's Independence ceremonies in 1957.

Sir David and Lady Watherston returned to London in 1958, and decided, after the exhausting years abroad, when they had inevitably been unable to pursue a normal family life with their four children, to remain in England. Sir David went into the personnel side of industry in Birmingham and London, and in 1959 they moved into Harbury House.

Sir David has now retired, and his main interests lie in management training, universities, the work of the Diocesan Synod and the Council for St. John in Warwickshire. Lady Watherston was Chairman of the Victoria League of Commonwealth Friendship for 14 years, and she runs the house smoothly and efficiently - including the occasional luncheon party for 42 guests - and, to her delight, has recently become a grandmother!

Life in Harbury must seem quiet, but Lady Watherston finds pleasure in looking back from time to time over their full, fascinating and often taxing life, during which she is sure that her Christian faith has been her greatest source of strength. Both she and her husband - and their life together - can perhaps



best be summed up in her own words - "I don't really think we would have been happy playing bridge all the time" !!

DIANA HOLT

### PARASCENDING

Three Harbury members of the Leamington Round Table spent an excitingly different evening recently when they were guests of the Coventry Ascending Para. Club. The object of the evening was to demonstrate how parascending worked, and to offer the opportunity of trying the sport. Parascending requires a large open space, a tow vehicle, a long length of rope, a parachute and some helpers. The ascent is made by attaching the rope to the tow vehicle at one end and to the parascender's parachute harness at the other, whilst helpers hold out the parachute behind so that it fills as soon as he moves forward. As the tow vehicle moves the parascender runs behind for a few yards, whilst the parachute fills and lifts him off the ground. He continues to rise, whilst towed by the vehicle to about  $\frac{2}{3}$  the length of the rope (in the case of the Club members a 150yd. rope was used). When the vehicle stops, or the rope is released, the parascender descends as in a normal parachute descent.

Having seen that it was possible to do all this without breaking limbs, Malcolm Daniels, Dennis Clohessey and Bryan Harrison soon found themselves in turn on the end of the shorter 50yd. training rope some 100 feet above their friends, enjoying 'a sobering but exhilarating experience'.

The Coventry Ascending Para. Club will be holding a series of weekend lessons at Gaydon commencing in Sept., the cost being £4.50 for the first lesson and £5.50 for those following. After 4 weeks it is considered that a novice should be capable of using a 500 yard rope. If mixing it with the birds is your thing - give it a try!

JOHN MOORE

### THEATRE GROUP

The impressive advertising posters for Toad of Toad Hall were painted by children from Harbury School, and the Theatre Group turned this into a competition, Mrs. Jean Shawcross judging the winners as follows:

Class 5: 1st, Victoria Allan & Josephine Gascoyne, 2nd, Gail Moore and also Victoria Allan & Josephine Gascoyne.

Class 6: 1st, Juliet Vorster, 2nd Helen Keir.

Class 7: 1st, Mark Bloxham, 2nd, David Grey.

Class 8: 1st, Matthew Shelley, 2nd Andrew Winter.

CAROL PERCIVAL

### 'Toad of Toad Hall'

On Friday 11th July and Saturday 12th July the Theatre Group presented this well loved play by A.A. Milne, based on Kenneth Graham's book 'The Wind in the Willows'.

The play was not presented on a stage but along the full length of the Village Hall, with 3 sets in position. This was effective and allowed space for plenty of movement, but it was difficult to see from many parts of the hall, particularly for the young children in the audience.

The Company appeared to enjoy themselves as much as the audience. Trevor Davies made a splendidly egocentric Toad and he was well supported by Keith Hayes as the shy, retiring Mole, John Stringer as the upright, straight-forward Ratty, and Jim Haines as the 'Elder Statesman' Badger.

A highlight for me and my children was the trial scene with the Rev. Mackley making a splendid judge, and Colin Humphreys a very convincing policeman.

The large company of children obviously enjoyed themselves as Weasels, Rabbits and Squirrels, and their 'Down with Toad' scene was very effectively produced. Finally, I must mention Sally Humphreys and Sue Andrews, respectively the front and back legs of Alfred the horse. I find it difficult to comment on the acting, but the galloping was superb!

### KALEIDOSCOPE

No proper column this month as Victoria Macgowan is on holiday.....but we are pleased that Gerry Sheasby, Alan French and Maria Stringer are all making good recoveries from their recent illnesses.....please let us know if you have any 'comfrey' growing in your garden. Apparently a very useful plant, Mrs. Bamford would be interested to hear of its whereabouts..... and PLEASE when will the sign on the Village Hall have its missing letters replaced?

DIANA HOLT

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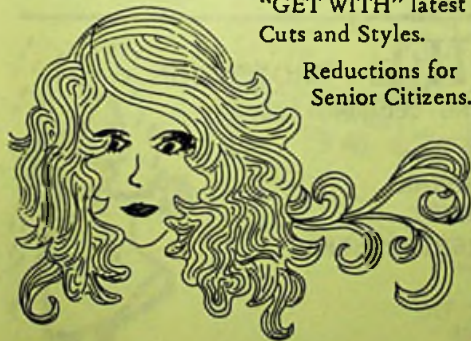
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