



HARBURY NEWS.

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

COVERING ALL ASPECTS OF LOCAL LIFE

MAGAZINE ADDRESS 23 MILL STREET HARBURY TEL: 612427

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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This month our distributors are taking your Harbury News orders for the coming year. The editorial committee are delighted with the continued flow of reports from the many activities around the village and the interesting articles written by villagers. We trust that you find it good value.

November 1st sees our Annual PCC Bonfire Party - with fuel costs increasing the way they are, this could be your only chance to get warm this winter !!!

And before that, the Hallowe'en Hotchpotch on 25th October gives us a chance to help people outside our own village - there is so much goodwill in Harbury, surely we can spare some for others less fortunate?

HARBURY DIARY

OCTOBER 1975.

Sat. 11th	Golden Age Sale of work, Village Hall, 2.30pm
"	Harbury Society visit Marton Museum - meet at Marton 3.45 p.m.
Sun. 12th	Crusaders Birthday Sunday
Tues. 14th	Help the Aged Appeal - Bring good used clothing and blankets to Church, 6.00pm - 8.00pm.
"	Harbury Sen. Cit. Ben. Assoc., V. Hall, 8.00pm
"	Harbury Friends, talk & slides - 'Mysteries of the Mexican Pyramids', School, 8.00 p.m.
Wed. 15th	Help the Aged Appeal, see Tues.
"	PTA A.G.M. & talk by Mr. A.J. Lord, 'The Solicitor in Society', School, 8.00 p.m.
"	Grand Opening Harbury Club. Entertainment. 7.30pm to Midnight, Members & Ladies only!!
Thurs. 16th	Tennis Courts Jumble Sale, V. Hall, 6.30pm
"	Playgroup AGM, 8pm, & Sale of Nearly New Children's Clothes & Toys, Wight School, 8.30pm
Fri. 17th	W.I. Harvest Supper, V. Hall.
Sat. 18th	Liberal Party Grand Jumble Sale, V. Hall, 10.00am
"	Labour Party Dance, Dancing to 'Purple Porridge' Village Hall, 8.00 p.m.
Tues. 21st	Tufty Club, Slide-Show, V. Hall, 2.15 p.m.
Thurs. 23rd	Golden Age, V. Hall, 2.30 p.m.
Fri. 24th	Harbury Theatre Group, General Meeting, Dog Inn, 8.00 p.m.

Sat. 25th PCC 'Hallowe'en Hotchpotch', V. Hall, 10.30 am
 " Rugby Club Dance, & Cheese & Wine, V. Hall
 8 - 12.30
 Sun. 26th Footpath Assoc. Ramble from V. Hall, 2.30pm.
 Tues. 28th Young Wives, V. Hall, 2.30 p.m.
 Fri. 31st Harbury Theatre Group, Dog Inn, 8.00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

Sat. 1st All Saints Day - Patronal Festival
 PCC Bonfire & Fireworks, Recreation Ground.
 Sun. 2nd Parish Communion 9.00am followed by Break-
 fast at Village Hall.
 Tues. 4th Harbury Sen. Cit. Ben. Assoc., V. Hall, 8.00pm
 Thurs. 6th W.I. AGM, V. Hall, 7.45 p.m.
 " Men's Society, 6, Dickens Road, 7.45 p.m.
 Fri. 7th Playgroup Annual Dance, V. Hall, 9.00-1.00am
 Sun. 9th Remembrance Sunday, Family Service, 10.00am
 Tues. 11th Harbury Friends - Jacqueline the Florist, Floral
 & Christmas Decoration Demonstration, School, 8p
 Wed. 12th P.C.C., Wight School. 8.00 p.m.
 " Sale of clothing from well-known chain stor
 8.00pm in School, Proceeds to Pool Fund.
 Thurs. 13th Golden Age, V. Hall, 2.30 p.m.
 Fri. 14th Football Club Dance
 Tues. 18th Tufty Club, V. Hall, 2.15 p.m.
 Wed. 19th PTA "Children's Books" - Discussion led by
 Mr. D. L. Eccles, County Schools Librarian, & a
 representative from The Chip Club.

CRUSADERS V. Hall, 2.30 p.m. every Sunday
 BINGO V. Hall, 8.00 p.m. every Monday
 YOUTH CLUB V. Hall, 8.00 p.m. every Wednesday
 BABY CLINIC V. Hall, 2.00 p.m. 2nd & 4th Wednesdays
 special appointments every 3rd Monday.
 HARBURY SINGERS 8, Penelope Close, 8pm every Tuesday.
 TENNIS COURTS Open Evenings, Wednesdays, 7.00 p.m.
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CONSERVATIVES

Mrs. Gorman, of Ufton, kindly lent the use of her home for a
 coffee morning - a most enjoyable and successful event, which
 realised over £26. A Nearly-New Sale is planned in the Spring.
 REG HARRIS (Chairman)

THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

Our Patronal Festival is the great event of the coming weeks. Saturday, November 1st, is All Saints' Day and there will be celebrations of Holy Communion at 7.30 and at 9.45 on that morning. On the Sunday (Nov. 2nd) a Parish Family Communion at 9.0am will replace both the 8.0 am and the 10.0am services and will be followed by breakfast in the Village Hall.

There will be no 11.15 am service held either on the 1st Sunday of October or November, so I will have one at 11.15 on the last Sunday of October (Oct. 26th).

We have a large number of people who do splendid work for the Church in a variety of ways. I will mention three jobs for which volunteers would be welcome:-

- (1) We need a person to take care of the Altar linen, vestments, frontals and Altar vessels.
- (2) We need more men (basses and tenors) for the Choir.
- (3) We need men and boys to be Altar servers, on weekdays as well as Sundays.

Among gifts recently received is a beautiful tapestry kneeler given by Mr. Michael Barnes and worked by himself. It is at present at the Litany desk. We thank him very much.

With every blessing,

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

F. R. Mackley.

Holy Baptism

August 31st - Rupert James Denis Neill (17 Mill Street)
" - Dean John Frederick Boiles (2 Manor Orchard)
September 21 - Kate Elizabeth Odams (23, Neales Close)

Holy Matrimony

September 6 - Kevin Peter Wynne to Kathleen Winifred Freeman
" 20 - David James Gardner to Lesley Frances Taylor.

FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

By the time this reaches you, our Harvest Thanksgiving weekend will be over, but we do have news of a Harvest weekend in another Parish in which some of our members were privileged to share. Two car-loads of our members went to St. Andrew's Eastern Green, Coventry to visit their Centenary Harvest and Flower Festival on the Saturday afternoon. The Church itself is warm and attractive with its white walls and

rich red curtains and carpet and the beautiful flower arrangements. There was a display of work carried out by pupils of the Infant School. Art work and writing were of a very high standard and there was a delightful little verse by a six year old about a snake. There was organ music during the afternoon which was much enjoyed by all.

We were very warmly welcomed by the vicar, Churchwardens and members of St. Andrews and we were made to feel very much at home. We are delighted that we are to welcome some of them at our own Harvest Supper.

The Vicar will be writing more fully about our Patronal Festival weekend, but we should like to say how much we look forward to our next Parish Breakfast on 2nd November when we shall again join in fellowship over a meal. There will be a plate at the door so that those who wish may contribute the cost of the meal to a charity concerned with the relief of human suffering.

HARBURY SCHOOL

Term started on September 3rd. when all the children, bar the 'rising fives', returned to school. As this is the start of a new school year it meant that practically every child was in a new class and classroom.

The Infant classes have been reorganised into a 'family grouped' situation whereby each class contains children from 4+ up to seven years of age. This meant changes both for the staff and children, but by careful pre-planning and the diligence of the staff, it can be said that the settling in process has now been completed satisfactorily. To ease this situation the 'rising fives' were admitted on the Monday of the first full week of term as opposed to the first day of term, which was a Wednesday.

The last swimming session took place on Friday, Sept. 26th. We have had a wonderful opening year and great credit is due to the staff, many of whom had no previous experience of taking swimming lessons, and to the many mums who have helped with dressing and undressing of the younger children.

We now have a new cooker in school so this term will see the start of simple cookery lessons with small groups of children.

The football team has been entered for the Mid-Warwickshire Small Schools league again, so we look forward to the continuation of the fine support given to last year's team by parents and friends.

N. C. OLIVER.

P.T.A.

On Saturday 6th Sept. the Pool Disco was held in the School Hall due to inclement weather, nevertheless about £15 was raised towards the Pool Fund.

On Wednesday 16th a lively and informative meeting was held on the subject of "The Effect of T.V. on Children". Such was the depth of knowledge of the speakers that Mrs. Whitehouse was not missed. The Speakers were:-

John Lumber - Senior Lecturer in Education, City of Coventry Training College, who specialises in Mass Media.

John Pike - Senior Sales Executive ATV, involved in the commercial side of the network.

Rodger Thomas - Education Producer for BBC & Ex Youth Leader, Headmaster & TV Education Producer in Uganda - Until General Amin asked him to leave.

On the afternoon of Saturday 20th Sept. Mr. & Mrs. Lambert kindly allowed us to hold the PTA Garden Party in their garden at Temple House. The weather was kind and over 400 people enjoyed the stalls, sideshows, dancing displays and teas. About £150 was raised. Our thanks to all who contributed.

All tickets for our 5th Annual Supper Dance on 10th Oct. have been sold. We apologise to those people who have been disappointed. It is unfortunate that we cannot cope with greater numbers.

On 15th October at 8.00 p.m. we are holding our AGM followed by a talk by Mr. Lord on "The Solicitor in Society". Several of this year's committee are retiring and we need your help and ideas to ensure the continued success of the PTA - Please come and give your views an airing.

GEOFF WRIGHT.

HARBURY PLAYGROUP

On August 27th with a carriage specially reserved for us, children and parents from playgroup set off for an exciting ride on the train to Blackpool. Most of the children had never been on the train before, so that in itself was a thrill for them. When we arrived at our destination the sun was shining and that's how it remained until we set off for home. Everyone enjoyed themselves and agreed we should have another trip next year.

DOREEN BLOXHAM.

PARISH COUNCIL

This month, besides PC Percival and myself, Mr. Holt and Mrs. Hutchins were present to observe the Parish Council meeting. It is a growing pastime!

The Clerk and all the Councillors (except Mr. Fell) were present.

Minutes and Miscellaneous and most of the Correspondence were as usual, acknowledgements and notices of conferences for councillors. The Elm Survey produced by the Harbury Society was inspected and it was resolved to cut down the diseased trees belonging to the Parish and donate them to the Bonfire. An elegant solution!

A long letter from Major Kettle on the folly of closing rural Fire Stations was discussed at some length. Mrs. Watts proposed that the Parish Council write to the County Council expressing its disapproval, but it was pointed out that the matter had been decided and Mr. Daniells suggested writing to the Parishes involved offering support. All were concerned lest similar closure were to affect Southam in the future.

Under Unclassified Members Items Cllr. Wright demanded reassurance that the interior decorating of the Village Hall was to be undertaken by volunteer labour and not contracted out. Cllr. Gurden assured him that this was so and that helpers were being sought for this task. (Any offers?)

Highways. Mr. Ellis (ex-Councillor Ellis) had read in Harbury News of the proposals on the One Way System and had written at some length to the County Council who had passed the letter on to the Parish Council. Mr. Ellis argued the pros and cons of the One Way System, but declared that HE thought the best solution would be a full One Way System, with perhaps a Mini Roundabout at the Dovehouse Lane Corner. The Parish Council decided to leave the decision with the County.

Village Greens. Cllr. Wright was concerned that there was parking on Crown Green. The owner of the partially converted cottage at Binswood End Green had been asked to tidy up his property. The final draft of the Village Green Bye-Laws was handed round. (Next month they will be discussed, signed and SEALED).

Lighting. Cllr. Wright had forgotten the Electricity Bill (£206.31p for July) but promised to pay it soon.

Quarterly Meeting of the Southam Area Parish Councils is to be held in Harbury on 17 December. The speaker will be from the Severn Trent Water Authority.

Playing Fields, Deppers. Cllr Mrs. Catterall had brought her accounts. Cllr Wright accepted them and said that the Parish Council would be reimbursing Deppers Bridge Playing Field Committee. Striking whilst the iron was hot, Mrs. Catterall requested a seat for the Playing Field. Cllr Wright was disillusioned, he said, by the vandalism to the seat at the Spinney, but Mrs. Catterall said that children in Deppers were much better behaved. Mr. Davies proposed that the Parish Council present a seat to Deppers for Jubilee Year. Mrs. Catterall was given a catalogue. 'Choose what you want, wooden, concrete or stainless steel'.

Playing Fields, Harbury. Mr. Holt said that most of the trees planted had died, and that the Playing Fields Advisory Committee was looking for advice on species and planting position before replacing them, and that they hoped to involve the children more. Mr. Holt explained what had been done to improve the car parking facilities at the Playing Fields. It cost £90 to lay and roll three lorry loads of stone on the car park, once a year. A proper Tarmacadam surface would cost £1,300 and have a life of ten years; a tar and chipping surface (£470) might last three to four years. The PFAC proposed to proceed with the preparatory work themselves and were hoping for financial help from the Parish Council.

"No way!" said Cllr Wright. They could not provide such money at this time, in any case, if the car park were surfaced, it would only become a race track for motor cyclists.

All agreed that it was a very worthwhile project but it was felt that the Parish would see it as unnecessary expenditure

Mr. Wright explained that due to the intricacies of the double rating system, the Parish Council would not be getting back as much money from the District as he had anticipated and would therefore have less resources than they had hoped in 1976.

Mrs. Hutchins urged the Council to reconsider the project next year.

Next Meeting will be on Tuesday, 4th November at 7.30 pm

LINDA RIDGLEY.

HARBURY VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Harbury organisations and community will be pleased to hear that the builders are starting work on the roof over the kitchen and shower rooms within the next week. We would hope that this will be complete before the winter is upon us. The hole in the kitchen ceiling has been an eyesore for so long. The committee were unable to find any source for new letters for the sign outside the Village Hall so it was decided to remove it. Painting of the inside of the new extension should be completed within the next few weeks with voluntary labour.

Committee members have had a number of reminders about the clock in the Hall. On the last inspection it was thought the motor had worn out. Another attempt will be made to get it started again but if this fails we shall have to await new funds to replace it.

Every effort is being made to get the new curtains within the near future and any help on this subject would be appreciated.

Any constructive help would be welcomed by the Village Hall Committee regarding any problems to do with the hall.

M. KEEN (Chairman)

GOLDEN AGE

The members of our Golden Age plus 3 friends have just spent a week in lovely Llandudno. We really enjoyed every minute of it. We had beautiful weather and were taken to the foot of Snowdon, Swallow Falls, Beaumaris, Llanberis and several other Llans too numerous or difficult to mention. A trip to Rhyl was included but we found it rather depressing as it was the end of the season. All in all a most enjoyable week. Those of us who have visited Scotland are very undecided which is the most beautiful, but for the sake of all those who hail from those two lovely countries we are playing safe and breaking even.

M. MORGAN.

At our meeting on Sept. 25th it was decided by the members to go to Coventry Theatre to see the Cilla Black Show on October 16th.

Our Sale of Work is being held at the Village Hall on Saturday Oct. 11th in aid of the Christmas Party.

E. SHEASBY (Secretary)

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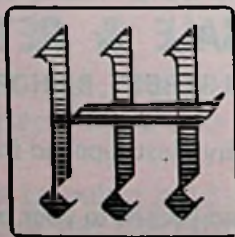
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YOUNG WIVES

We are worried, just a little, about our image. Some have our Group down as a rather stuffy, religious lot! Others have been known to say, "Young Wives' Group, oh yes, but what do you do?" So just for the record, here is what we do.

Meetings are generally held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 2.30 pm at the Village Hall to discuss a variety of topics, or to listen to speakers from all walks of life. The idea being to create an area of interest for housewives who need to get away from the dreaded kitchen sink. For instance, in September we were given a really useful talk on meat by Mr. Passmore from the Dewhurst Group. If you were unlucky enough to have missed this meeting, in October we are looking forward to hearing a representative from the Loft Theatre provide an insight into their backstage work etc. In November we are holding what can only be described as an informal swap session. By that we mean an exchange of recipes, dress patterns, ideas, recommendations etc. Please bring along anything you consider suitable. A traditional carol service will be held in December which is always delightful.

We have a creche where the children have a great time with an assortment of toys, carefully watched over by Mr. & Mrs. Bamford.

So why not come along and make some new friends, our Chairperson (see - we are quite trendy really), Trisha Harrison, will be delighted to see you. In fact, the whole Group will be delighted. Could be a whole new experience.

PAT SARSON (612783).

HARBURY SOCIETY

Committee members visited the Best Kept Village Award Ceremony at Tredington on Saturday 13 September and were shown round the village by members of the Tredington Society, who explained their part in keeping the village smart. (This year Fenny Compton beat Harbury for the Southam District Award in this Competition).

The Society is to visit Marton Village Museum on Sat. 11 October, where the Curator will explain the difficulties in setting up and running a Village Museum. Those interested should meet at the Museum in High Street, Marton at 3.45 pm. The Society is once again sponsoring a Children's Art Com-

petition on the theme, 'My Village'. Prizes will be awarded in three age groups, under 7, 7 to 9, and over 9. Children will be encouraged to submit entries which have been produced at School, but may also enter work done elsewhere. There is no limit to the number of entries a child may submit and there is no entry fee. It is hoped to exhibit all the works in the Wight School in December. All entries should be clearly marked on the reverse with the child's name, age and address and should state in which age group they are entered. The closing date for entries is November 3rd and work done at home or the Half-term break can be submitted through the School or sent to the Secretary Harbury Society, Linda Ridgley, 7 Wagstaffe Close, Harbury.

Chesterton Windmill which was open to the public on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 September attracted over 3,000 visitors. The Mill was manned by volunteers from the County Council and Harbury Society.

LINDA RIDGLEY (Secretary)

HARBURY FRIENDS

"Harbury Friends" started to meet again in September, when Mr. Bamford came to talk to us. He told us a lot about himself, and his family's history, and about the many model boats he has made. I'm sure I wasn't the only one to gather the impression that making boats was one of his favourite hobbies. Now, I'll tell you what we have lined up for you for the next few months. October's meeting I am particularly looking forward to, and I'm sure a lot of men would enjoy this too. A Mr. Manners is coming to speak to us, and show colour slides entitled "Mysteries of the Mexican Pyramids". Some of you may have read "Chariot of the Gods", which poses the question "Have visitors from outer space visited our planet hundreds, possibly thousands of years ago?"

In November, Jacqueline the Florist is going to talk on Christmas floral arrangements, and in December we shall hold our annual Christmas party. In January we are going to a cookery demonstration at the Gas Showrooms, Warwick. A coach is to be provided. Why not come, our meetings are held at Harbury School, every second Tuesday from 8 till 10.

YVONNE SMITH.

TENNIS COURTS.

An end of season American Tennis Tournament was held on Sunday, 28th September. The afternoon turned out to be very pleasant, after the wind and rain of the previous days. We had an entry of 18 players and partners were drawn for at the start of the tournament. Each couple then had to play against the others and the scores were totalled up at the end. The runners-up in the Tournament were Barbara Taylor and Colin Ingram and the winners were Roger Hailey from Napton and Ray-chel Hoare. (Strange - wasn't that the organiser?)

W.I. PRODUCE SHOW

Our annual show this year attracted over 170 entries, the cooking section being particularly well supported. The standard according to the Judges was very high. The winner of the Cup was Mary Home with 34 points, Monica Davies was 2nd with 21 points & Audrey Atkins 3rd with 19 points.

We were very disappointed that more of the villagers did not manage to come and see the results of our labours. Those who did thought it an excellent show. The raffle was won, yet again, by Iory Davies, who has banned from any future raffles!! There was also a display of lace-making kindly loaned by Mrs. Keeling, and Handicrafts made by our handicraft group, under the guidance of Ann French.

Our Harvest Supper is to be held on Friday Oct. 17th in the Village Hall at 8 pm. This is for members, husbands or friend only. Tickets £1.50 each, available from myself.

MONICA DAVIES.

MUSIC AT TEMPLE HOUSE

Coventry Cathedral's International Bursary Fund will receive a cheque for £90 as a result of a Chamber Concert given by members of the University of Warwick's Fitzwilliam Quartet held recently at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Lambert. Guests were entertained by a feast of lesser known works by Stravinsky, Debussy, Haydn and Mozart, excellently played by this group of young musicians on viola, clarinet and piano.

Cheese and Wine added to the enjoyment of the evening organised in conjunction with the 'Friends of Coventry Cathedral' who are sponsoring the Fund which provides grants for foreign students to study in the Cathedral's recently

opened Centre of Studies.

Mr. and Mrs. Lambert have asked that their thanks be passed to all those who gave so generously, but in turn, our thanks must be given to them for a Musical Event that was, I believe, unique in the community life of Harbury. I hope that it will not be the last.

MICHAEL BARNES.

THE STRIKING COMPETITION

The striking or bell-ringing competition was held on the 13th September. It is a competition which determines the best bell-ringing team from a tower in the Coventry district. Certificates are presented to the three winning teams at the end of the afternoon. This event is a yearly event and is held at different tower(s) each year. The competition is judged by several judges who do not know which tower is ringing at any given time (the ringing order of the towers being arranged beforehand). This year the organisers decided to have two separate heats going on at different towers at the same time, and then to have a final at another different tower. But then only ten teams entered. These teams were split up into two heats of five teams each. The first three teams from each heat qualified for a place in the final to be held at Brinklow after tea. These heats were held at Church Lawford and Shilton. The Harbury team set off with two VERY pessimistic supporters (Miss J. Goodfellow and Miss S. Fryer). They said that Harbury stood no chance of reaching the final, and were then threatened that would not get a lift back if they didn't provide some encouragement. But later on they were proved wrong with Harbury finishing second in their heat thus qualifying for a place in the final. Unfortunately Harbury's luck didn't hold. They finished sixth in the final. The Harbury team was Miss Ann Windsor, Mrs. Marion Millington, Mrs. Joyce Windsor, Mr. S.T. Hauley, Mr. H. Windsor and C. Windsor.

CHRISTOPHER WINDSOR.

HARBURY THEATRE GROUP

This month has been a hectic month for us. With nights drawing in and our November playdate fast approaching, there has been a frenzy of activity to get the show on the road.

After considering several plays and weighing up the available cast, it seems likely that the final choice will be East Lynne, and at the time of writing, Peter Shawcross is out pres

ganging a cast. East Lynne is a Victorian Melodrama (or comedy, depending on your sense of humour) and is a new departure for us. By the time you read this we should be well into rehearsals. It should be great fun to do and to watch.

See you there.

KETH HAYES.

HARBURY VILLAGE CLUB

Four months ago when the last article about the Club appeared, the main room and the snug had barely changed. In the intervening time the job has been finished and the club has been transformed. The first big event was held on the penultimate Saturday of September, when Paula and the Sunrise played the music and everyone else danced. All those involved in the organisation were on pins beforehand wondering if everything would go smoothly, but they need not have worried as it all went like a dream and everyone had a great night out.

The third Wednesday in October is our official Grand Opening Night. This will be strictly for members and their ladies only due to space considerations, and there will be entertainment from 7.30 through till midnight. After that we can all relax and enjoy our club which will by then be well & truly launched.

Only one thing remains, and that is to congratulate all those members who have suffered the inconveniences of the last few months and to thank them for their loyalty which has resulted in Harbury now having one of the finest clubs that any village can claim.

OUTREACH

Could you grow enough potatoes to provide your family with a staple diet throughout the year? If necessary, I'm sure you could. But in parts of the Philippines, because of lack of know-how and poor weather, families often go hungry because they cannot grow enough rice - their staple diet. In 1973 a Government "improvement" scheme cut the yield by 75%.

Don't stop reading - hope is about to dawn! José, a Filipino pastor (who'd been trained in agriculture) saw an opportunity to demonstrate Jesus' concern for the whole of life. He instigated a rice-growing contest in one village which was a tremendous success, and the local Mayor begged him to extend the scheme to cover 22 other villages.

Increasingly the villagers began to trust José, to ask him

about his beliefs and to ask him to pray with them. He feels this is a sign of their response to the Good News of Jesus Christ and is anxious to continue and expand his work.

The Parochial Church Council heard about José through Roy Calvocoressi who runs CHIPS (Christian International Peace Service), and they tell us that a rice-thresher is needed by José, costing £2,400.

We thought we'd try to help, and so can you, by supporting our HALLOWE'EN HOTCHPOTCH on Saturday, 25th Oct.

UFTON NATURE RESERVE

A meeting of members, about 35, was held in the new Harbury Club on September 24th.

Various aspects of the Reserve work were discussed. The wardening of the Ufton stile entrance during summer weekends was considered a success; in preventing access by non-members and in recruiting new ones. Reports of surveys carried out on some Reserve species were given, including Newts - we have three types: Bats - which visit but do not roost: Frogs which do not breed. A Common Bird Census was carried out. Approximately 50 species bred on the Reserve this year.

The three notable features of this past summer have all affected Ufton Pools Reserve. The drought has dried up about 85 of the smaller pools altogether; the late May frost decimated the orchids which promised so well. Alas Dutch Elm Disease has spread to the Reserve. It is planned that the County Council will inject undamaged mature trees next May, hopefully to prevent infection. A winter management programme clearing scrub etc. will be carried out and another General Meeting is planned for next March.

MARIAN MILLINGTON.

HARBURY CUTTING

By 1845 the London and Birmingham Railway Company had established its London to Birmingham line through Rugby and Coventry. One of its rivals, the Great Western Railway Company, determined to build a competing line north from Reading through Oxford to Rugby. Its subsidiary, the Rugby and Oxford railway, built the line as far as Fenny Compton before plans were changed. The new route avoided Rugby and reached Birmingham by way of Leamington. One of the obstacles the engineers had to overcome was the scarp just north-west of

Harbury village. Here the harder Lower Lias limestones rise above the soft red marl on which Leamington is built. Although a bare 200 feet rise, the scarp was thought to be too much for the locomotives of that day. So a cutting was dug, a cutting which became one of the longest and deepest in the land, and no mean engineering feat in its day.

By 1848 the cutting was complete and White's Directory of 1850 describes it as 104 feet deep and 600 feet wide - "one of the deepest in the Kingdom". Limestone spoil from the mile-long cutting was dumped along the proposed line of the railway to form an embankment to the north. Thus the line was graded to overcome a major natural barrier with the gentlest possible climb.

Harbury Cutting is still an impressive engineering feat today, though like so many monuments of the steam age, paling a little against the flamboyance of a later age. Sixty-four acres of the cutting have now been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (S.S.S.I.) by the Nature Conservancy Council, because of the importance of the flowers and grasses which grow on their limey soil. There are hope that the cutting may soon become a Nature Reserve adminstered by the Warwickshire Nature Conservation Trust.

In this, the 150th anniversary year of the Stockton and Darlington Railway, the Warwickshire Museum hopes to publish a reproduction of a 19th century photograph of Harbury Cutting. It was taken during track relaying - probably in 1868. Copies (approximately 11" x 22") are available from the Market Hall Museum, Warwick (or 6 Sutcliffe Drive) from September.

BILL ALLAN.

KALEIDOSCOPE

This is a busy village and yet another activity has begun with the first Yoga Class. Apart from the fact that the object is complete relaxation requiring supreme concentration, (and we in the Village Hall extension found ourselves battling for mental space with the Badminton next door) it was a fascinating evening and Yoga is a much deeper subject than the image of Gurus' and the Beatles conjures; if I live through the exercises I'll report on the progress of the 20 students next month!.....It was nice to see football's Jimmy Hill enjoying a horseback tour of Harbury recently, and a bit disappointing to read in the Daily

Mail later an account of his ride "through rural Warwickshire where even the villages have double-barrelled names" - it seems that Jimmy began his ride at Bishops Itchington where his hunter threw him at the first attempt - we trust that both Jimmy and his horse found Harbury more congenial.....To list the recent weddings and engagements of the Keyte family would need a whole column, but we do warmly congratulate all the family and wish them every future happiness.....Finally, it seems that I am alone in my request last month about early-closing day in Harbury, so I admit defeat and now see that even if I can't do all my shopping on one day, at least I can do a little bit of it every day!!.....

VICTORIA MACGOWAN.

CORRESPONDENCE

After reading your editorial Sept-Oct with reference to facilities for teenagers I wonder if there is enough interest in Harbury to form a Photography Club which could include teenagers as well as people of any age. If anyone interested would like to call and see me any evening or ring me on 612391 I am prepared to run such a club and indeed I hope others would like to help in this venture. Possible subjects which would be of interest to beginners and advanced workers could be colour slide shows (equipment available) exposure, development, enlarging, printing, portraiture, advice on all subjects, demonstrations in all subjects, photo competitions and even perhaps photographic outings next summer. I have examples of black & white and colour used in advertising, and competition winning prints & colour slides which could be used to demonstrate points and perhaps be useful in helping others. I hope this will have whetted the appetite of anyone who reads it.

Yours sincerely,

R.W. TENNANT.

(Orchard Close, 1 Binswood End)

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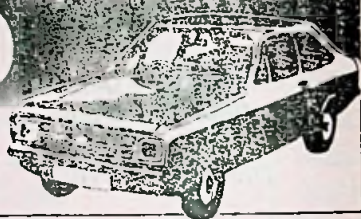
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