

HARBURY NEWS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

COVERING ALL ASPECTS OF LOCAL LIFE

MAGAZINE ADDRESS 23 MILL STREET HARBURY TEL: 612427

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Christmas is a very special time of year, and we hope that you all enjoyed it. The school plays were, as usual, a delight, and the Nine Lessons and Carols service in Church set the scene very well. Whilst we were sorry that Mr. Bloxham's offer of a Christmas tree to the village was not taken up, several well-lit private trees were visible, giving a cheery atmosphere. A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.

The Harbury News A.G.M. will be held on Friday, 30th January, at the Dog Inn. We invite everyone who has an interest, a grouse or whatever, to come along - particularly if you would like to be involved in editing, producing, delivering, etc.

delivering, etc.	
17,018,019	HARBURY DIARY
JANUARY 1976	
Tues. 13th	Harbury Friends visit Gas Showroom, Warwick,
	for cookery demonstration.
Wed. 14th	P.C.C. meeting, Vicarage, 8 p.m.
Fri. 16th	Playgroup Jumble Sale, V. Hall, 6.30 p.m.
Tues. 20th	Tufty Club, V. Hall, 2.15 p.m.
Thurs. 22nd	Golden Age, V. Hall, 2.30 p.m.
	Labour Party A.G.M., Dog Inn, 8 p.m.
Fri. 23rd.	Harbury Theatre Group, General Meeting,
	Dog Inn, 8 p.m.
Sun. 25th	Footpath Assoc. Ramble from V. Hall, 2.30p. m
Tues. 27th	Young Wives: talk by The Samaritans, V. Hall, 23
	Harbury Society social, members and their
*	friends, with Folk Group & Ploughman's Supper,
Mar This Tains	Crown.
Fri. 30th	Harbury News A.G.M., Dog Inn, 8 p.m.
FEBRUARY 1976	
Sun. 1st	Family Service, 11.15 a.m., Church.
Thurs. 5th	W.I. meeting, V.Hall, 7.45 p.m.
Tues. 10th	Young Wives, V. Hall, 2.30 p.m.
MET SHE WAY	Harbury Friends, School, 8 p.m.
Thurs. 12th	Golden Age, V. Hall, 2.30 p.m.

Tufty Club, V. Hall, 2.15 p.m.

Tues. 17th

Sat. 21st Brownies, Village Hall.

Tues. 24th Harbury Society Film Show on Renovation of

Historic Buildings, Dog Inn, 8 p.m.

Thurs. 26th Theatre Group production, V. Hall. Fri. 27th Theatre Group production, V. Hall.

Sat. 28th Theatre Group production, V. Hall.

Sun. 29th Footpath Assoc. Ramble from V. Hall, 2.30p. m.

CRUSADERS, V. Hall, 2.30 p.m. every Sunday.
BINGO, V. Hall, 8 p.m. every Monday, V. Hall.
YOUTH CLUB, V. Hall, 8 p.m. every Wednesday.
BABY CLINIC, V. Hall, 2 p.m. 2nd and 4th Wednesdays.
Special appointments, every 3rd Monday.

ALL DATES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. DATES FOR INCLUSION TO MRS. S. BENNETT, 612618.

THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

Christmas has been a very happy time in Church. The Nine Lesson Carol Service was greatly enjoyed by a large congregation, and the number of communicants at each of the three Christmas Eucharists (Midnight on Christmas Eve and 8 and 10 on Christmas Day) was an increase on last year - which is encouraging. The Crib, the Christmas Tree and the decorations remain throughout Christmastide, including the Epiphany.

Mr. Clive Watts has now resigned, at any rate temporarily, from being our organist and choirmaster, though he may be able to take it up again after some months. We thank him for his playing and for all that he has done for the choir. Mr. Michael Barnes has agreed to become organist and choirmaster temporarily - for a few months at any rate - and we thank him very much and offer him our best wishes.

Mr. S. T. Hauley has now resigned from being a Foundation Governor (i.e. a representative of the Church on the Governing Body) of Harbury C. of E. Junior and Infant School, after serving for 25 years in that capacity. He has also been treasurer. We thank him for his loyal and faithful service. The Diocesan Board of Education have appointed

Mr. John B. Moore, of Byways, Mill Street, in his place. Mr. Moore has a keen interest in the school, and has two young children attending it. We congratulate him, and offer him our best wishes.

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

HOLY BAPTISM

December 14th
December 21st

Janine Macaulay, 16 Mayfield Rd. Southam.
Rebecca Jane Simcock, 40 Sutcliffe Drive.

HOLY MATRIMONY

December 6th Erwin Macaulay to Diane Lawson.

FUNERAL SERVICES

December 9th Norman Ross Parker, aged 79 years.

December 11th William Joseph Robbins, aged 68 years.

December 17th Thomas Owen, aged 73 years.

FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

As you will know, we are holding a Spring Fair on Saturday, 6th March, and the proceeds will be for Church expenses. For many years now we have been able to cover these without any fund-raising events, but with increasing costs it has become necessary to think of other ways of producing income. Full details of the Spring Fair will be included in next month's issue, but in the meantime we hope that you will book the date now.

We should be delighted to receive offers of help. Perhaps you and your family or an association to which you belong would like to undertake the organisation of a stall or sideshow, or offers of gifts of cakes, fancy goods, bottles and tins would be appreciated. In connection with the Fair there is to be a competition for which entry forms will be on sale almost immediately. We hope everyone will not only buy forms for themselves but will take pads for sale. If you are willing to do this, please get in touch with either of the Churchwardens. Offers of other help of any kind should be made to Peter Holt, Harbury 612790.

We look forward to a very happy social event, as well as to

a profitable afternoon.

Mrs. Mann of Vicarage Lane, would like to thank all her relatives, neighbours and friends for their kindness in her recent illness.

CRUSADERS

Many parents and friends met at the Crusader Carol Service and joined in the singing of familiar and not-so-familiar hymns. Music was provided by Alison Checkley at the piano, Rose Clarke and Martin Ryan with guitars, and by the recorder group. The choir sang two carols and the Minis presented tableaux, and sang. The drama group took part in a short play called 'No Room', in which Mark Taylor was Joseph, and Helen Taylor was Mary. The Innkeeper's wife was Helen Grey and the servants were Sarah Fryer and Juliet Vorster. Chorus soloists were Britt Ingram and Sarah Wilkinson, backed by Samantha Wilkinson and Josephine Gascoyne.

On Saturday, 20th December, about 20 Crusaders and parents visited Castel Froma to sing carols to the patients and to deliver presents which the Crusaders had collected

at their carol service on the previous Sunday.

HARBURY SCHOOL

Infants' Nativity Play

On Friday, 5th January, two performances of the play took place in the School hall. Both performances were packed with parents and friends. Every child was in costume and they made a spectacular tableau of angels, shepherds, sheep and kings around the central stable scene. The children sang carols alone and with the audience as the Christmas story unfolded. After the performance, a collection was taken, to be shared between the School fund, the Pool fund and the N.S.P.C.C. S.H. Junior School Concert

The Junior School's Christmas Concert consisted of two musical plays - 'The Amazing Adventures of Baron Munchausen' by Classes 6 and 7, and 'La Campanelita' by Class 8.

The first was an exciting tale about the journeys of the brave Baron, during which he met Vulcanites, Moonmen, pirates, and many others, and finally vanquished his enemy, the wicked Tipoo. "La Campanelita" was a charming story about two poor Peruvian peasant children making their way through the jungle to market, where they won a prize for

singing the best song, to the delight of their parents and frients.

Both musicals were performed with skill and enthusiasm by all the children, who obviously enjoyed every minute of it, as did the audiences. The music, scenery, costumes, sound effects etc. were most professionally executed, and it was clear that an enormous amount of time, thought and expertise had gone into their preparation by both children and staff. Congratulations to everyone involved in these most enjoyable performances.

D. H.

CHRISTMAS STORY COMPETITION

Here are two entries which received a 'Special Mention' in the recent competition.

A CHRISTMAS STORY BY CLAIRE MORRIS, aged 9
In a town there was a boy and he lived with his mother. The boy's name was John and he had a big rosy face and two sparkly blue eyes. When he was little he gave his mother presents and his daddy presents because he loved them and they gave him a big red coat with some red boots with fur round them and a red hood with fur round it too. When John was bigger and went to school he didn't go through the door, instead he went down the chimney. Again and again he went down the chimney and the teacher told him off. Now the teacher said to John one day, 'What would you like to be when you grow up', and John said I would like to deliver presents

Now John was getting older now and he was growing a beard but he still had his rosy cheeks and blue sparkly eyes. But one thing he did not grow out of was going down chimneys but now he kept his promise and was delivering presents through boys' and girls' chimneys, and now he has got a nice big sleigh with reindeer, and everybody calls him Santa Claus.

to boys and girls and go down their chimneys.

A STORY ABOUT CHRISTMAS, JILL HUMPHREYS, aged 9
One day, long, long ago, the angel Gabriel appeared and said, 'You will have a baby and its name will be called Jesus Christ'. And then the angel Gabriel disappeared without another word. Then she said, 'We will have our baby in

Bethlehem in the hotel. So they packed their things on the donkey and went. It was a long way to Bethlehem. Soon we saw the city from the hills so we carried on. Then we arrived at the hotel so Joseph knocked on the door. And then a man came to the door and said, 'No there isn't any room here so you can't stay here but he said you can sleep in the stable for the night'. So Mary did. But still in the middle of the night Mary felt dizzy and she murmured and said baby. Joseph quickly woke up and said, 'What's the matter Mary?' and Mary said nothing. Then a cry from a baby appeared and Mary quickly wrapped him in swathing clothes and laid him in the straw to go to sleep. But when the wise men three heard about the new born baby they brought three gifts, and the gifts were sapphire, frankincense and gold plate. And the baby grew up to be a real gentleman.

P.T.A. CAROL PARTY

On Friday 12th December the Harbury Singers led the Annual Carol Party given by the P.T.A. An enthusiastic audience (unfortunately somewhat smaller than last year) joined in the singing of carols, and the individual performances were well received. The evening finished convivially with coffee and mince pies.

J.M.

YOUNG WIVES! CAROL SERVICE

This year's Carol Service was enjoyed by about 200 people, including children from the Infants School. A version of the Christmas story, specially written by a Young Wives' member, was read, and there were lots of well-known carols for the children to sing. Sara Bennett, Shirley Keir, Anne Moore and Frances Moore sang some carols, and members of the Mothers' Union read the prayers.

Some of the younger children dressed up as angels, shepherds etc., and made a charming Christmas tableau, and others brought up gifts which will be distributed via the W.R.V.S. to needy children. It was decided that the collection should go to Action Research for the Crippled Child.

D. H.

W.I.

A Christmas Party was held by Harbury W.I. at their December meeting. The speaker was one of our own



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members, local playwright Mrs. Eleanor Zonik, who gave a light-hearted talk entitled 'Wedlock or Deadlock'. Mrs. Zonik's reflections on marriage and human nature proved to be very amusing. Mrs. H. Harker proposed the vote of thanks.

A Soup and Ploughman's Supper, followed by mince pies, was served by the 1974-5 committee. Raffle prizes were won by Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Daniells and Mrs. Card; proceeds from the raffle were given towards the village children's Christmas Party.

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On December 8th, about 20 members joined members of other local Institutes for a Carol Service at Stockton Church; coffee and hot mince pies were served by members of the

Stockton W.I. after the service.

On December 9th, some of our members arranged a Christmas Party for the elderly ladies of the Fanny Burney Ward at the Central Hospital in Warwick. A Christmas tea was served, and the patients were then invited to join in with Carol singing. Everyone was very grateful, as this was often the only party that these patients had. Although it involved very little time and expense for our members, we were assured that it gave the patients a great deal of pleasure for days before and afterwards.

We have a varied and interesting programme planned for the New Year, and new members will be most welcome. MARY THOMPSON, 612050.

HARBURY'S PREHISTORIC MONSTERS

When we went on a school trip to the Folk Festival at the Royal Albert Hall in February we had some time to spare, so Mr. Oliver took us to the Natural History Museum to see the Harbury Monsters. One was the plesiosaurus and it was about 16 feet long from tip to tail. I felt very small when I stood next to the skeleton in the Museum. The other one was the three-eyed monster ichthyosaurus, and this was a much fiercer specimen. It had jaws about 6 feet long, and eyes 14 inches in diameter. Its head joined directly to its body, with no neck, and very powerful limbs which made it a very strong swimmer. They lived about 100,000,000 to 200,000,000 years ago, when England was at the bottom of

the sea. A picture of the ichthyosaurus I saw was longer than one of the cement quarries where it was found in 1928. My great-grandfather worked there when the skeletons were found. My Mum can remember him telling her about all the school children being taken to see it before it was removed, and about all the newspaper reporters coming to see it and write about it. NEIL ANDREWS(Harbury Junior School)

THE MONSTER

While working in the quarries a workman had a shock; He found a wonderful fossil right underneath the rock. The people came in hundreds to see the marvellous sight, And gazed upon the monster so suddenly brought to light.

They named it ichthyosaurus, and made a terrible fuss About the three-eyed monster, that did not care a cuss. They took it away to London and there it lies in state, Awaiting the happy moment when it shall meet its mate.

MRS. R. WALL.

CHILDREN'S ART COMPETITION

The entries for the competition 'My Village' were all of a very high standard. Judging was extremely difficult, but it was finally resolved to award First Prize in the Over 9's section to Helen Taylor, with Helen Shawcross Second and Ian Stanbridge Highly Commended.

In the youngest age group Adam Johnson's painting of Harbury Mill was awarded First Prize, with Malcolm Sedgely's drawing of the Filling Station - complete with dog - second. Martin Evans' Midnight at the Co-op Butchers' was Highly Commended.

The Intermediate Section caused the most difficulty. There were many excellent entries and a wide variety of subjects. All the Judges agreed that Andrew Holt's Mill was outstanding, but the merits of Keith Barr's Old New Inn, Kevin Skerratt's inventive collage, and Adrian Lapthorn's bold attempt at perspective, were difficult to weigh. Mr. Bamford was given the final choice, and he gave Second Prize to Keith Barr, with Kevin Skerratt Highly Commended.

Despite being confined to his bed, Mr. Bamford gave each picture very careful consideration, so that no child should

think that his or her efforts have not been appreciated. The care with which some of the collages have been assembled, the detail in the paintings, the features given particular emphasis - all delighted us.

LINDA RIDGLEY, DAVID WINTER, HENSON BAMFORD.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Once again a great success! Over 200 children met Father Christmas after his ride round the village by donkey cart (which took place despite the donkeys!). The many stalls and sideshows provided Christmas gifts and entertainment in plenty, and the raffle for the turkey was won by Sonya Bubb of Leamington. A profit of £220 was made at the Fair, to help repay the loans on the tennis courts and for future developments on the Playing Fields. The Tennis Bond draw was made, and the names pulled out were those of Mr. Hiscork of The Barns and Mr. Hogben, Ivy Lane.

Many thanks to all who helped with the Fair. Please make a note of the date of the Carnival - Saturday, 12th June, 1976.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, 11th December
Present: Cllrs. Gurden, Davies, Atkins, Wilkins, Wright,
Watts, Catterall, Chairman Drinkwater and the Clerk, with
apologies from Cllrs. Daniells and Fell.

apologies from Clrs. Daniells and Fell.

The Finance Sub-Committee reported on the 1976/7 Precept and Cllr. Wright (Chairman) read out a list of figures for the various accounts (General, Burial, Lighting etc.) with the present totals, estimated expenditure, income, estimated balance etc., plus a 15% factor for inflation, all this maths ending at a figure of £2,475 (the Precept) which quite incidentally is the exact product of a penny rate! To keep the rate at a penny for this next financial year (election year) will entail running down the balances, but Cllr. Wright felt that his estimates were generous and that with the 15% inflation allowance there would be sufficient funds, but that it would be impossible to keep the rate at one penny for the following year.

Cllr. Gurden reported that Stratford District had been unable to insist that the developer of the Binswood End site provide street lighting, but had advised the Council to write to the

developer's archtect.

Unclassified Members' Items included a report from Cllr. Gurden on behalf of the Village Hall committee, that the repairs to the roof had not been satisfactory, and that payment of the £105 bill should be withheld. Mrs. Watts asked why there was a bar in the village hall extension. It was explained that the red padded vinvl/dack formica/white wrought iron temporary structure belongs to the Rugby Club and is not yet licensed. Correspondence from Mr. Keeling arguing that the rumoured closure of the Library for one of its present two opening days would be counter-productive as more assistants would be needed, prompted the Parish Council to request the County Librarian to give clarification of the position. Harbury Society asked what had become of the Public Notice Board for the Library, and what replanting of trees is planned. (£50 is set aside for trees.) Further, it had been proposed at the last Recreation Ground Committee meeting that the hedge between the Rugby and Soccer fields be removed and a cycle track constructed. The Society suggested that the hedge served as a wind-break, and asked the Parish

Council to oppose its removal. Cllr. Davies maintained that removal of the hedge would allow a Junior football pitch to be set out. Cllr. Wilkins thought the Football Club might want the hedge retained. Cllr. Watts said the hedge was in poor condition and not worth saving. Cllr. Atkins thought the matter ought to be considered further. The Secretary of the Harbury Society (Linda Ridgley) suggested that if the Rugby Club was successful in either of its attempts to find an alternative pitch there would be plenty of room for the Junior Football pitch/Cycle track/handball court, but Cllr. Gurden assured the meeting that neither approach had been successful. Blue Circle had refused to allow the Rugby Club to use the cricket ground. Mrs. Megeney sent the Parish Council a copy of her letter to the Recreation Ground Committee, protesting that the suggestion by Cllr. Wright that a cycle track be constructed round the Tarzan Swing be opposed. It would endanger young children who use the swing, and encourage the riding of cycles on the playing fields, in contravention of the By-laws. This last point was confirmed by P.C. Percival who was also worried, as was Mrs. Megeney, that the existence of

such a track would encourage the motor-cyclists to ride on to the Fields once again. Mrs. Megeney further stressed that the Tarzan Swing area was intended as an adventure playground. The remaining cllrs. agreed that the riding of cycles on the Playing Fields was not to be encouraged, and were very disturbed at the prospect of the return of the motor-cycle menace, but they felt that they must await a formal application to construct a cycle track before giving an opinion. The Clrk complained that there had been short notice of the Large Rubbish collection - it was hoped that in future it could be more widely advertised.

In reply to the Council's letter rejecting new rents for the allotments, the County Land Agent writes that he awaits the Parish Council representative to negotiate the new rates, and repeats that he has the right to refer to arbitration. It was agreed that a deputation consisting of Mrs. Watts, Cllr. Wilkins and Cllr. Davies will meet Mr. Birt.

Development of the land adjacent to Littleton Cottage has been approved. There are planning applications for 4 linked detached houses at Westbury House, Mill Street, for the conversion of the Methodist Chapel, and for residential development of the old GPO exchange in Crown Street. Cllr. Gurden asked that the Parish Council request the District Council purchase the land with a view to extending the Crown Court Old Peoples' bungalows development. This was agreed. Floodlights. Mrs. Watts reported that the Recreation Ground Committee was arranging a meeting with the Soccer Club to discuss the siting of the temporary/semi-permanent lights, and wanted two members of the Council to be present. Under Items for Next Agenda Cllr. Atkins mentioned compaints that the Village Hall had not been heated for various functions. Cllr. Gurden explained that some previous users of the hall had inadvertently switched off the heating circuits. L. RIDGLEY Next meeting, 29th January.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Sirs,

I feel it is in order for me to reply on behalf of the village school children to the critical remarks in your Dec/Jan issue

prefacing the results of the Christmas story competition. These stories did not come from school as an English exercise but as the result of a request with which we were happy to co-operate. The entries were not marked, corrected or re-written in any way, but were the first-time efforts of young children who were willing to 'have a go'. The children of this village are called upon to do a great deal, both in and out of school time, and I am proud of the magnificent way in which they respond.

To have their efforts so harshly criticised is surely unfair, whereas their co-operation deserves positive encouragement.

We have always been happy to assist with Harbury News projects in the past. We would like to feel we can continue to do so in future without fear of unfair criticism.

Yours faithfully, N. C. OLIVER.

Editors Note:

Sackcloth and ashes - we apologise for our harsh remarks, which we agree were unfair and thoughtless. In point of fact the general standard of entries was high - see the stories awarded Special Mentions printed on page 5. Harbury News has always been a supporter of the School, and its staff, and would not wish to discourage them in any way.

Dear Sirs,

On behalf of my sister and myself I would like to thank most sincerely all who attended the funeral of Mrs. Farrow.

Mrs. Farrow had spent her last year in St. Lawrence's Hospital, Bodmin, where her condition had gradually deteriorated, so that her death can really only be regarded as a blessing. She had become in her final months totally unaware of her surroundings or of her visitors.

The staff of the Hospital were extremely kind and she was very well looked after, and because of this my sister and I decided that all money intended for flowers should be donated to the Hospital. If anyone would like to add a contribution please forward it to the Hospital. TREFOR FARROW.

Dear Senior Citizens Committee and Workers,
I feel I cannot let another Christmas Party celebration go by
without at least a mention on behalf of all the Senior Citizens
who enjoyed (like me) such a wonderful dinner and entertainment
so ably provided by the Committee plus workers, and free
transport. Our most grateful and sincere thanks - 'well done'
to you all. CONSTANCE MANN, Ty Gwyn, Hall Lane.

LES JONES.

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