



HARBURY NEWS

HARBURY NEWS

THE HARBURY 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.

SUNDAY SERVICES: Holy Communion : 8.00 a.m., 10.00 a.m. (Sung)
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.

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Firstly this month, the Committee of Harbury News wishes all our readers a happy 1977. Also, we welcome new readers from Ladbroke. As you may have read previously, the Churches of Harbury and Ladbroke will, at some time in the future, be joining together, and it has been decided to encompass Ladbroke in Harbury News commencing this month. Canon Fishley will be co-ordinating Ladbroke contributions initially.

We trust that this photograph, taken by Michael Bloxham, is not an indication of what is in store for us over the next two or three months!



The Annual General Meeting of Harbury News will be held at the Village Club (provisionally - check on 612427 or 612790 nearer the date) on Monday, 31st January, starting at 8p.m. This is your opportunity to state your views on how your village magazine should do its job; also, if you would like to help in any capacity you will be very welcome.

HARBURY DIARY

JANUARY 1977

Thurs. 6th Epiphany

W.I. - talk by Mr. Charles Keeling

Mon. 10th SCHOOL BEGINS

Tues. 11th Playgroup returns

Harbury Friends' Beetle Drive, 8p.m., School.

Wed. 12th Mothers' Union, 2.30p.m., 1 Vicarage Lane.
Thurs. 13th Golden Age, 2.30p.m., Village Hall
Tues. 18th Tufty Club, 2.30p.m., Village Hall
Thurs. 20th Parish Council Meeting, 7.30p.m., V. Hall
Tues. 25th Young Wives, 2p.m., Village Hall
Harbury Society, New Year Social, 8.30-12,
at The Crown

Thurs. 27th Golden Age, 2.30p.m., Village Hall
PARISH MEETING ON THE QUEEN'S
JUBILEE, 7.30p.m., Village Hall
Fri. 28th Playgroup Dance, 8-1, Village Hall

FEBRUARY 1977

Thurs. 3rd W.I. - talk by Rugby Crime Prevention Officer.
Fri. 18th Football Dance at Village Hall

There is a CATHOLIC SERVICE every Sunday at 10 a.m. in
the Chapel of Harbury Hall, Hall Lane, Harbury.

CHOIR PRACTICE, Church, 6.30 every Friday
CRUSADERS, V. Hall, 2.30 every Sunday
BINGO, V. Hall, 8 p.m. every Monday
GUIDES, Scout Hut, 7 - 8.30 every Monday
YOUTH CLUB, 8 p.m., V. Hall, every Wednesday
SCOUTS, Scout Hut, 7-9 every Friday
BABY CLINIC, V. Hall, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 2 p.m.
Special appointments every 3rd Monday.

ALL DATES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS.
DATES FOR INCLUSION TO LINDA RIDGLEY, 612792.

THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear friends,

This has certainly been a record Christmas for
congregations and communicants. The huge numbers at the
Nine Lessons and Carols Service on the Sunday before
Christmas, at the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, and at
10 a.m. on Christmas morning, have been a tremendous
encouragement. We are still (as I write) in Christmastide,
and looking forward to the great feast of the Epiphany (Thurs.
6th January) when the Church celebrates the coming of the
Wise Men, the first Gentiles to come to Him who is not

only the glory of His people Israel, but also a Light to lighten the Gentiles.

We also enter the New Year, 1977. Newness is a characteristic of the New Testament and of the Christian life. Our Lord says to us, "Behold, I make all things new." Even for me! Even for you! He will give to us the youthfulness that has its spring in the eternity of God, the youthfulness that belongs to everlasting life. Our Lord bids us begin over again with new hope, with new aspirations, with new confidence, trusting in Him as we have never trusted before, in Him with whom it is always spring - in Him who makes all things new.

Please remember in your prayers those young people who for some time now have been preparing for Confirmation, and who will, all well, be confirmed by the Assistant Bishop, Bishop John McKie, in the course of our 10 a.m. Parish Eucharist on Sunday, 20th February (Quinquagesima). They will of course be making their first Communions at the same service.

Our good friend Canon G.R. Fishley retires from being Rural Dean of Southam on 31st December, after holding that office for ten years. This Parish, and I myself, owe much to him for his help and kindness, and we thank him. A farewell service for him will be held in Southam Parish Church at 7.30p.m. on Thursday, 27th January, when a presentation will be made to him and the Archdeacon of Warwick will preach. I hope that a good number of us from Harbury will be able to attend. We offer our congratulations and best wishes to his successor as Rural Dean, the Revd. T. Knight, Rector of Southam.

Wishing you all a happy New Year,
Your sincere friend and Vicar,
F. R. Mackley.

HOLY BAPTISM

12th December, Camilla Sophie Bennett, Bellever, Ivy Lane.

FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

We have been thrilled with the response to the participation of representatives of village organisations in our Sunday 10 o'clock Sung Communion, and it was particularly moving to have members of three generations of one family taking

part on Christmas Day.

To help us to make our prayers at these services as real a part of village life as we can, we would welcome requests for prayer and information about the particular organisation so that this can be incorporated into the intercessions. The rota for organisations invited to take part in the 10a.m. service for the next few Sundays is as follows:

Jan. 9th: Harbury News	Jan. 16th: Men's Group
Jan. 23rd: Women's Inst.	Jan. 30th: Theatre Group
Feb. 6th: M.U.	

It was good to have so many people sharing in our worship at Christmas.

We are greatly indebted to the late Miss Ethel Mary Mann of Mill Street, who left £200 to Church funds.

As a new year starts, we wish you God's richest blessing in your personal, business and village life.

L A D B R O K E N E W S

From Canon Fishley:

First let me say how much we appreciate the kindness of the Harbury News Committee in providing us with space for the doings of Ladbrooke; and we hope that Ladbrooke in return will take the Harbury News and participate in the Harbury activities it lists.

Ladbrooke Church arrangements for January and early February, 1977: Sun. 2nd Jan: 8.30a.m., Holy Communion; 11a.m. Matins. Sun. 9th Jan: 11a.m. Holy Communion with Hymns; 3.30p.m. Evensong. Sun. 16th Jan: 8.30a.m. Holy Communion; 11a.m. Matins. Sun. 23rd Jan: 11a.m. Holy Communion with Hymns; 3.30p.m. Evensong. Sun. 30th Jan: 8.30a.m. Holy Communion; 11a.m. Matins. Sun. 6th Feb: 8.30a.m. Holy Communion; 11a.m. Family Service.

Wednesday, 10th January, 3.30p.m., Women's Fellowship.

Some thanks; first to all who participated in the great success of the Christmas Fair which raised £205. Second to the W.I. for a happy Carol Service on 1st December..... and the Mince Pie Squash in the School afterwards! To the School for their Carol Service on 19th December; to the W.I.

for a happy evening for senior citizens on 17th December.... and lots more to individuals for kindnesses and help.

From the registers:

Holy Baptism: 12th December, James Henry Moore (with the consent of the Rector of Southam).

The Bishop has appointed the Rev. T. Knight, Rector of Southam, as Rural Dean from 1st January. We wish him happiness and blessing in this addition to his labours.

G. R. FISHLEY.

Ladbroke Parish Council:

At the meeting on 2nd December, present were Cllr. T. Sheasby, and Cllrs. Badman, Barnett and Williamson. Mrs. M. Williamson, the clerk, was in attendance.

A precept of 7.9 was made on the Parish rate for the coming year. Strong representation to Stratford R.D.C. is being made to control any tree felling in the area.

It has been decided to hold a village meeting to arrange a Parish Event in honour of Jubilee year.

The next meeting will be on 12th January in Ladbroke School.

Ladbroke Infant and Junior School:

A carol service was held in a capacity-filled Church on Sunday afternoon, 19th December. Canon G.R. Fishley introduced the service, then the children took over the Bible readings, singing special carols with musical accompaniment, enacting the nativity scene and leading the congregation in favourite carols.

Next day a Christmas Party was held in the school room, decorated charmingly by the pupils. After a delicious tea, Father Christmas's deputy called, bringing a variety of interesting toys.

Ladbroke and Deppers Bridge W.I:

At our monthly meeting at Ladbroke School on 27th Jan, by popular request, Mr. Fitchett of Southam will talk on 'The Preservation of Public Footpaths'.

In November, our sponsored Knit-In, in aid of the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research, raised £67, with still more money coming in.

The Group Carol Service on 1st December in Ladbroke Church was a most enjoyable evening. The Church was

filled with W.I. members, and we were more than happy to entertain our friends at Ladbroke School with coffee and mince pies. G.M.B.

At our Christmas Party we welcomed retired villagers as our guests. Colourfully decorated tables and tasty food contributed to an enjoyable occasion, and the evening was rounded off by magician John Curtis, helped by his daughter and various members of the audience. P.F.

HARBURY SCHOOL

The end of the Christmas term has been the usual hectic time, with various Christmas productions being prepared and rehearsed, scenery or backcloths being made, as well as normal school work. The photograph by Michael Bloxham shows some of the cast of 'A Christmas Carol':



I am sure that anyone who saw any of the Christmas activities, be it the Infant 'Singalong', the Lower Juniors' 'Winnie the Pooh' and 'A Christmas Carol', or the top Juniors' 'Lord of the Dance', does not have to ponder too hard to realise all the work that goes into them, and our thanks are due to the teaching staff who put so much hard work in. In all our activities we again received wonderful support from our parents and friends, and this makes it all worthwhile.

I am sure you would like to know that the combined total

received from the Junior School collection, plus the receipts from the Infant 'Singalong', which went to Cystic Fibrosis, amounted to £34. The collection from 'Lord of the Dance', which went to the School Fund, came to £20, whilst the collection from the Lower Junior production for Oxfam came to £23. Our thanks to the stalwarts who came carol singing with us on a rather damp evening, to say the least. This was on Monday, 20th December. That hot soup which some of the P.T.A. ladies had waiting for us on our return was most welcome! This time we made a collection for Christian Aid, which came to £25.

In this time of goodwill, we in Harbury School do appreciate the tremendous support we get from the rest of the community, and we send our best wishes for 1977 to you all. Times are going to get tougher, and we shall need this support even more in the future.

Finally, may I send a special message to one of our pupils - a little girl in our first year Juniors - Cheryl Thornicroft. Cheryl has been in hospital for many weeks after an operation, will come home for Christmas, and then goes back into hospital again. We all hope that 1977 will be a particularly healthy and happy year for you, Cheryl, and that you will be joining us again before too long.

N. C. OLIVER.

P. T. A.

The first meeting of the new year will be on 26th January at 8 p. m. in School. The School staff will endeavour to answer questions from parents about the school and education in general. We very much appreciate the staff giving their time in this way, and hope that parents will come along and ask lots of questions to make the evening worthwhile.

Tickets will soon be available for the Cheese, Wine and Disco on 12th February. As this very popular event is held in the school hall, numbers must be limited, so contact your nearest committee member soon to be sure of a ticket.

REMINDER: Membership contributions of 20p per family are due in January. Can we make 1977 the year when every parent whose children attend Harbury School becomes a PTA member? Membership can be renewed at the first meeting,

or by contacting me (612745) or any committee member.

ANNE MEGENEY, Secretary.

"THE COMING OF THE KINGS"

Those of you who saw the Drama Group's Christmas production will not need me to tell you how excellent it was. The usual high standard of sets, costume, lighting, etc. was maintained, and the fact that the play was held in the Church added to its effectiveness. A magical atmosphere was created and sustained, particularly by Janet Tovey, and the bewilderment of the Innkeeper (Keith Hayes) was superbly portrayed.

We hear that the Group has been asked to take the play on a tour of the provinces (i.e. Bishop's Tachbrook) for a one-night stand in the near future - congratulations! D.M.H.

PETRODOLLAR MILLIONAIRE!

David Clarke, of 1 Vicarage Lane, was the runner-up in the recent competition to find the national junior Petropolis champion. David, who is 13, won a local heat organised by Action Research for the Crippled Child, and travelled to London for the final in the London Press Centre. Had he won, David would have had an all-expenses-paid flight in Concorde to Bahrein, and subsequently to Monte Carlo for the International Final. Among the adult finalists whom David met was Clement Freud M.P.

FATHER CHRISTMAS & THE DONKEYS

Father Christmas arrived by donkey cart at the Christmas Fair run by the Recreation Ground Committee on 11th Dec. Over 200 children visited him in his grotto, and then enjoyed the many stalls and sideshows. The Committee is grateful to all those who helped. A profit of about £200 was made. The posters advertising the Fair were drawn by children at the School in a competition, and the prizes were given to: Penny Simcock and Rachel Lawler (8-10 years); David Grey, Andrew Holt and Edward Walker (10-12 years).

Two Tennis Bonds were drawn, and £20 will be going to John Mann, The Old New Inn, and Dr. McGlashan, Kingston House, Mill Street.

Thanks to all those who supported the Christmas Fair.

P. HOLT

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HARBURY W.I.

The annual Group Carol Service was held this year at Ladbroke, when Mrs. Marjorie King read one of the lessons. Our Christmas Party was held on 2nd December. Keiko Mori, a Japanese lady, gave a demonstration of the art of Origami. On 7th December members gave a party for the ladies of the Fanny Burney Ward at the Central Hospital, and we have also held a very successful 'Sherry and Mince Pie Evening' at the home of Mrs. Wyman, when we raised £22.45 for W.I. funds.

Future plans include a skittles evening in February.

JEAN BEAUMONT, Press Secretary.

MOTHERS' UNION AND YOUNG WIVES' CAROLS

About 100 members of M. U. and Y. W. and children sang well-known carols, and heard the Christmas story retold by Pat Sarson and Dena Colledge. Anne Moore and Shirley Keir sang a duet, and there was a seasonal poem from Sara Bennett. The Vicar played the organ, and Canon Churchill gave the blessing at the end of this service which has now become a firmly-established annual event. Gifts brought to the crib by the children were later taken for distribution to the WRVS, and after the service Jeanne Clarke again graciously played host for tea and mince pies.

D. M. H.

SENIOR CITIZENS' BENEFIT ASSOCIATION

The Annual Christmas Dinner was again provided for about 160 Senior Citizens of Harbury and Deppers Bridge. Entertainment was given by the W.I. Drama Group, a Magician, and Clive Watts on the electric organ, and Tony Ceney was the Master of Ceremonies. From reports received a good time was had by all. On behalf of the Committee I would like to extend a grateful thanks to Brenda Thomas and her kitchen staff for all their hard work, to all those loyal people who turn up each year to help set up the tables and serve out the food, to the traders of Harbury who so generously give us the prizes for the Draw, to the people who gave the entertainment, and last but not least to my Committee members for all their hard work and loyal support. The Association is growing in stature and we all hope that this will continue. Once again, may I thank you all very much indeed.

TIM PERCIVAL, Chairman.

GOLDEN AGE CLUB

Our Christmas Party was held on 16th December, when we very pleased to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Baston from Wellesbourne, Mrs. Sperling, Mrs. Startin, Mrs. Bunting, Mrs. Parker and Mrs. Hancox. The entertainment was run by Mrs. Morris and Mr. Daniel, and Mr. Baston was the question master. About 60 sat down to a delicious meal, including Christmas cake made by Mr. Daniel, the ingredients having been given by Mrs. Farley.

The raffle winners were Mrs. Ceney, R.T. Williams, Mrs. Waring, R.J. Hudson, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Stott, Mrs. Hunt and Mrs. Turner.

Our next meeting will be on 13th January. E.SHEASBY.

HARBURY SOCIETY

Our November meeting, addressed by Dr. R. Lamb, on the Archaeology of Warwickshire Churches, was well attended by members of the Society and the Church Men's Group. Dr. Lamb began his talk with a slide of Harbury Church, pointing out that it was probable that the existing Church stood on the site of the original village Church. The archaeology of a Church was a new concept, he said, but it was possible to learn much from the masonry of a Church, and, if the opportunity arose, from excavation. The speaker illustrated the point with slides of various Churches in the County, pointing out features in a wall which could be used to date the Church, and he said that Wootten Wawen Church was the only one in Warwickshire acknowledged to have Saxon work in it, but there were probably others.

Dr. Lamb closed his talk with news of the recent find of a Mediaeval Churchyard Cross at Priors Marston. The cross, exhibiting Civil War damage, is thought to show Mary and John the Evangelist, and is in the Gloucester/Hereford style.

Tim Millington thanked Dr. Lamb for his talk, and presented him with a drawing of Harbury Church by Henson Bamford.

There was a Church service blessing the Harbury Society on 5th December, in which four committee members took part.

There will be a Social at the Crown Inn on Tuesday, 25th January at which there will be a Ploughman's Supper and Folk Singing as before. Space at the Crown is limited, and

tickets will be on sale in the first instance to members only (who will be able to buy a ticket for themselves and their wife or husband). The sale of tickets will begin on 4th Jan, when a Waiting List for non-members, and for members wanting tickets for friends, will also be opened ('phone 612792). After 14th January, tickets will be sold to all-comers on a first come, first served, basis.

Jubilee Tree: The Parish Council asked the Harbury Society to raise funds for the planting of a large tree to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee. A substantial tree, which could survive accidental damage, and under which a seat could be placed, is required.

£100 will buy an Oak, an Ash, a Beech (green), a Sycamore or a Plane, transported to the site, planted, staked and maintained for one season, with replacement guaranteed should it fail (other than by wilful damage). This tree would be an Extra Heavy Standard Tree, 18ft. in height, but a 25ft. Semi-Mature Tree, as above, would cost £180, but would also need to be guyed into the ground.

An Ash was recommended as ideal; a Sycamore or Plane would also be suitable; a Beech might not thrive initially, and an Oak is difficult to transplant, and is very slow growing.

All Harbury organisations have been canvassed for their views and for donations to the TREE FUND. Anyone who wishes to make a donation should contact the Secretary, Linda Ridgley, 7 Wagstaffe Close, telephone 612792, who can give further information.

LINDA RIDGLEY.

"WARNACT"

The Warwickshire Natural Conservancy Trust has purchased the lease of the Harbury Spoil Bank. This is situated along the railway line on the Harbury/Deppers Bridge/Southam road, adjacent to the Great Western Hotel. This area of some 6 acres is rich in flora and fauna, and contains some rare species. The trust will manage the site in order to conserve the habitat, but will retain the existing character of the site. The conditions of the lease call for the area to be fenced, but it is not the intention of the trust to restrict access to non-members at this time. The trust, however,

would ask people visiting the area to refrain from dumping rubbish, lighting fires, or removing plants, and disturbing the wildlife.

The interest of the trust is to preserve and promote our countryside, and to prevent the extinction of flower and animal life, and anyone interested in helping us will be more than welcome to become a member of Warnact, and help in this valuable work. Our telephone number is Warwick 48648.

DAVID EDWARDS.

HARBURY WEEK & CARNIVAL, 28 May - 6 June

Harbury Week will commence on Saturday, 28th May, and extend over a ten day period until 6th June, when the Carnival Silver Jubilee Dance will be held.

This is to be our first serious attempt to organise a programme of events, so we are anxious to make a success of it. We are looking for events to be held by village organisations on each day of the week, and will be circulating the organisations shortly. The Carnival Committee will co-ordinate the events, help with organisation where necessary, and publicize them. The Village Hall will be allocated on a first come, first served basis: each event should be self-financing and may give organisations an opportunity to raise some funds. We have already accepted an offer of a Gymkhana for Saturday, 28th May; how about someone organising a dance that evening?

Suggestions for other events include sports tournaments, novelty races, concerts, exhibitions, It's a Knockout, etc. - so see what ideas you can come up with.

The Carnival will be on 4th June, and we would like entries to take on a Silver Jubilee theme, events of the past 25 years, or something similar. Chris Macgowan and Tim Percival are organising, so contact them if you have any bright ideas - we want the procession to be bigger and better!

We shall be mounting a repeat of last year's successful craft display in the Hall on 4th June, so why not exhibit your hobby?

The Committee is hoping to find sources for obtaining lags and bunting as cheaply as possible - has anyone any contacts? We would also like to hear of any outside events

which may be suitable for the Carnival Day entertainment on the field.

Let's make it a really good week, and a right Royal celebration! It all depends on you! JOHN SMITH. 612650.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, 9.12.76

Present: The Clerk, and Cllrs. Atkins, Davies, Drinkwater, Ellis, Gurden, Hancock, Watts, Wilkins and Wright.

In attendance: Mrs. Sperling, P.C. Percival and 'The Press'.

At the Council's request, Mrs. Sperling explained how the WRVS supplied 160 meals on wheels per week in the area, and was cutting its costs to the bone to exist within its grant from the District Council. The amount of grant was only firm for 3 months at a time, and cuts were threatened. Some villages had abandoned the service. The Council agreed to write to the District Council supporting the WRVS's need for an adequate grant for a reasonable time ahead.

The bus service to Southam was now running on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and will be extended to other days if the support justifies. You can leave Harbury at 9.34 (Village Hall) or 9.35 (Bull Ring) and be back in the village at either 11.55a.m. or 4.25p.m. - for 32p return.

After receiving detailed questionnaires for completion on such matters as how much flooding was experienced in 1968, and the extent of small industry in the parish, the Council gleefully decided to draw up its own questionnaire for completion by the Warks. County Council. Object - to find out what happens if they take over from the parish responsibility for lighting.

There is a possibility that land adjoining Mill Street Pumping Station could be made available as allotments by the Severn Trent Water Authority. The land is far from ideal, but people on the allotment waiting list will be notified.

Small local problems needing attention included building contractors' mud on road, an epidemic of bent road signs, subsidence on the village greens as a result of the monsoons, and parents who insist on disregarding appeals not to drive their cars up the school cul-de-sac.

It seemed probable that the gentleman who was complaining

about the state of a council fence actually owned it!

A third variation on the theme of a housing development at Binswood End had now been submitted for approval. It consisted of 6 houses, 4 bungalows, and a play area, and the Council had submitted its comments to the authorising authority.

To the delight of the I. M. F. and all Harbury, it looks as if the parish's net spending this year will be comfortably within budget. We should finish the year with the equivalent of a 1p rate in the 'kitty', which means a 'same again' precept of 1p for next year. However, it looks as if we shall be spending at the rate of 1.8p next year, so look out for an increase this time next year.

Plans for the Silver Jubilee are progressing, and the Council agreed to the closure of the playing fields on Sat. 28th May, for a gymkhana to be held. The Harbury Society has agreed to the Council's request to co-ordinate fund raising for a commemorative mature tree, and suggestions of souvenirs for the children, bunting etc. are all in the air.

The Council wants to know what the village itself wants, and so it is holding another Parish Meeting to discuss the Jubilee celebrations on Thursday, 27th January. This is your last chance to have a say.

The Council's visit to the village school had been extremely useful and reassuring.

Next meeting, 20th January, at 7.30. H. STRINGER.

WHY GROW VEGETABLES?

(The first in a new series of practical gardening articles for the amateur)

This particular question has been discussed at length over the last few years. There is no one right answer, but I hope briefly to present some facts and figures to show you that growing your own vegetables can reduce your food bill, give you exercise, and be enjoyable.

Firstly, what can your efforts achieve? This obviously depends upon the time and labour available, but a small plot of 20ft x 10ft can yield crops worth £30-£35. The yield from individual packets of seed varies, but some examples are: lettuce, 130 plants; french beans, 60lb; spinach beet, 30lb; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb onion sets, 25lb. Do not therefore dismiss the idea of

vegetable growing just because your garden is small. Provided you set about the job correctly, any piece of seldom used grass or odd corner can be utilized to good effect.

Draw up a plan of the patch you intend to cultivate and then devise a calendar showing when and where each chosen crop is to be grown. In a smaller garden avoid growing space-consuming vegetables like main crop potatoes, sprouts and broccoli; and those requiring supports such as runner beans and peas. Grow instead dwarf varieties and intensive crops like 'Midget' broad beans, 'Pixie' tomatoes, french beans, carrots, onions, lettuce (and other salad crops) and spinach beet.

I hope that those of you at present without a vegetable patch will be cultivating that small plot of land now, in readiness for future monthly articles on seasonal work in the vegetable garden.

SUE HETT.

Dear Readers,

On behalf of the local Branch of the National Society for Cancer Relief, I should like to thank everyone who so generously contributed. Our band of volunteers(?) collected £72, and we are most grateful to them, and to the Scouts, for their help.

The Society was formed in 1911 by one man, and is now a nation-wide registered charity. Our aim is to help cancer victims who, because of their illness, can no longer maintain themselves and their families, and the majority of the money raised in this area is used to help local people.

If anyone would like more information please contact me at 8 Farley Avenue, 612650. PAT SMITH, Hon. Sec. Leamington.

Dear Editors,

The Plum Pudding recipe described in the December issue is delicious. I used Victoria plums (previously frozen) and brown sugar to retain a dark colouring. The recipe yields 4lb weight of pudding, and is well worth making. SUE HETT.

Dear Editors,

On behalf of Golden Age Club members and all Harbury Senior Citizens, thank you to the SCBA for the lovely evening, delicious meal and enjoyable entertainment. E. SHEASBY.

Dear Editors,

A few more thoughts when pulling the Christmas wishbone.

I wish that people would learn to think positively and cheerfully instead of negatively.

I wish my life was so full that I had no time even to open a packet of biscuits properly.

I wish that people who moan about high rise flats knew more about the alternatives and more of what it was like to live in the slums they replace.

I wish that people would not make foolish generalisations about other countries, which merely parade their personal prejudices and demonstrate their parochialism.

I wish that people would learn not to generalise from the particular, whether with regard to dogs, people or anything else.

I wish that I had the gall to parade my pet moans in public and then wish self-righteously that we would all stop moaning.

Most of all, I rejoice that 'S.H.' is not one of the 'third of the world' who are poorer than the readers of Harbury News, or we would need to reserve ten years' issues to accommodate the moans which would arise.

H.S.

Editor's Comment: Harbury News is used to a deafening silence from its readers. How surprising then that what was intended as a mildly funny piece should provoke such a sharp response from 'H.S.' I am not complaining however - after all, it did snow on Boxing Day!

SHARON HANCOCK.

"I got by with a LOT of help from my friends!!"

That title speaks volumes, but I do want to add my thanks to all those friends who gave me such a lot of help in so many ways after I fractured my elbow. I'm sure they all know who they are, and I hope they know how grateful I am for all their help. It's due to them that I am now able to be driving again after only one month - but however much of a hurry I'm in, I shall not be getting my skates on! Not for a while, anyway!

My thanks to you all - in and out of the village.

Frances Moore.

The Editors are delighted at the increased number of letters we are receiving, and would like to stress that it is in no way necessary to fracture anything before your letter will be considered for publication!!!

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