

AND LADBROKE

THE HARBURY & LADBROKE NEWS reflecting all aspects of Local Life is published monthly, and produced with assistance from the Parochial Church Council of ALL SAINTS' CHURCH - Vicar: The Rev'd, F.R. MACKLEY, B.A. Telephone: Harbury 612377.

HARBURY

Holy Communion

8.00 a.m., 10.00 a.m. (Sung)

SUNDAY SERVICES:

Evensong

6.30 p.m. (4.00 p.m. in Winter)

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

DOCTORS' SURGERY

HARBURY:

POLICE:

Farm Street, Telephone: 612232

Monday — Saturday : 9,00 a.m. — 10.00 a.m.

LADBROKE:

Monday, Tuesday, Friday: 6.00 p.m. - 7.00 p.m. Craven Lane, Telephone: Southam (931) 2577

DISTRICT NURSE **HEALTH VISITOR**

Southam (981) 2688 Southam (981) 4319 Telephone: SOUTHAM (981) 2366

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

SOUTHAM SOCIAL SERVICES Tel Southam (981) 2881

'THE HARBURY DIRECTORY' containing details of Village Organisations and essential information is freely available on request from Mrs. D. Holt, 15, Wagstaffe Close, Harbury.

Editorial Office: 23, Mill Street, Harbury. Telephone: 612427 Advertising: 15, Wagstaffe Close, Harbury Telephone 612790



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Christmas greetings to all our readers, from the editors and committee of the Harbury & Ladbroke News! All the usual Christmas events will be happening in the two villages, including the School's concerts, the Christmas Fair, the Adventurers Carol Service, the Senior Citizens! Party and the

Churches Christmas services. As always, the Carol Service in Harbury Church (on 20th December at 4p.m.) promises to be a very special occasion. Do go along and enjoy singing your favourite carols. Details of all these events, and more, are in the Harbury and Ladbroke diaries.

Lots of fun and friendship for most of us - but do please remember that this can be a lonely time for some, and an invitation to share part of your family's Christmas could make a world of difference

to somebody.

One event not in Harbury or Ladbroke, but worthy of mention, is the production of Pirates of Penzance at Southam School on 15th, 16th and 17th December. An ambitious project with several local youngsters taking part - we wish them a successful show!

Many village events are publicised by posters. These carefully drawn and usually attractive advertisements take a lot of time and thought - and are often torn down and thrown in the gutter within a couple of days. This seems to us a particularly stupid and petty form of vandalism - if you know who's doing it, please tell them to stop!!

Mr and Mrs Archie Taylor, well known to customers at the 'Top Shop', recently celebrated their Golden Wedding. Mike Bloxham's charming picture shows this popular couple, to whom we send our warmest

congratulations.



HARBURY DIARY

DECEMBER Pantomime rehearsals at Wight School, 10am. Sat. 5th CHRISTMAS FAIR in the Village Hall. Bellringers' Service (open to all) and Dedication of new bells, Church, 4.15, followed by tea. Second in Advent. 8a.m. Holy Eucharist. Sun. 6th 10a.m. Sung Eucharist. 4p.m. Evensong. 7p.m. All Saints All Sorts, 11 Constance Drive. Playing Fields Committee, Village Hall. Tues.8th PCC Meeting, Wight School, 8 p.m. Combined Playgroups Carol Party, 11 a.m. at the Village Hall. Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Holy Eucharist 7.30a.m. & 9.45 a.m. 6.30 p.m., Confirmation Class, Vicarage. First School Concert, 7 p.m. at School. Wed. 9th Thurs. 10th Golden Age, 2.30 p.m. at Village Hall. Village Hall Whist Drive at Village Hall. Girls Club at Village Hall. First School Concert, 7 p.m. at School. Dancing Classes break up. W.I. Group Carol Service, Ufton Church. Playgroup breaks up. Fri. 11th Youth Disco for Myton Hospice Appeal, at Village Hall. Labour Party Jumble Sale, 10.30 a.m. in Sat. 12th Scout Hut. Part proceeds to Disabled. Christian Fellowship (Non-Denominational) Meeting, 8p.m., 77 Mill Street. Senior Citizens Party, Village Hall. Third in Advent. 8a.m. Holy Eucharist. Sun. 13th 10a.m. Sung Eucharist. 4p.m. Evensong. Adventurers Carol Service, 2.30 p.m. Mon. 14th Middle School Carols in Church, 7.30p.m. Bingo Christmas Draw in Village Hall. Tues. 15th Confirmation Class, 6.30 p.m., Vicarage. Middle School party (afternoon) Tufty Club, 2.15 p.m. at Wight School. *Pirates of Penzance*, Southam School. First School party (afternoon)
Toddlers Party at Village Hall. Wed. 16th Carols Round the Village, 8p.m. from school

'Pirates of Penzance', Southam School.

Thurs. 17th Girls! Club, Village Hall. Pirates of Penzance, Southam School. Nursery School Party, Village Hall. Fri. 18th School breaks up for Christmas. C.B. Dance at Village Hall. Sat. 19th Fourth in Advent. 8a.m. Holy Eucharist. Sun. 20th 10a.m.Sung Eucharist. 4p.m.Candlelight Nine Lesson Carol Service. 5. 15 p.m. Evensong (said). Southam Lions Float (with Father Tues. 22nd Christmas) visits Harbury. Village Hall Committee Meeting, 8pm, VHall. 2p.m. Young Wives and MU Carol Service in Church. 6.30p.m. Confirmation Class, Vicarage. NO Scout Meeting. NO Scout Meeting. Wed. 23rd CHRISTMAS EVE. 11.15p.m. Blessing of the Thurs.24th Crib and Midnight Mass (sung). CHRISTMAS DAY. 8a.m. Holy Eucharist. Fri. 25th 10a.m. Procession and Sung Eucharist. 4p.m. Evening Prayer (said) S. Stephen, First Martyr. 9.45a.m. Holy Sat. 26th Eucharist. 8a.m. Holy Eucharist. 10a.m. Procession Sun. 27th and Sung Eucharist. 4p.m. Evensong and Carols. 6.30p.m. Confirmation Class, Vicarage. Tues.29th NO Scout Meeting. NO Scout Meeting. Wed. 30th NEW YEAR'S EVE. Bing's Ball', Village Hal. Thurs.31st JANUARY Naming of Jesus. Holy Eucharist, 7.30a.m. Fri. 1st and 9.45 a.m. Non-denominational Christian Fellowship Sat. 2nd Meeting, 14 Farm Street, 8 p.m. 8a.m. Holy Eucharist. 10a.m. Sung Sun. 3rd Eucharist. 4 p.m. Evensong. Senior Citizens Benefit Committee, Village Tues. 5th Hall, 8.30 p.m. Scouts restart. School begins. Thurs.7th Harbury Friends: talk by Bill Allan, 8p.m. Tues. 12th

at School.

Playing Fields Cttee, 8p.m. Village Hall:

REGULAR DIARY DATES

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

ROMAN CATHOLIC INSTRUCTION FOR CHILDREN, Harbury Hall, 10.45 a.m. every Sunday.

HARBURY ADVENTURERS, V.Hall, 11.30a.m. every Sunday.
ALL SORTS, 7.45 p.m.,11 Constance Dr.,alternate Suns.
UPHOLSTERY CLASSES, Wight School, 2-4p.m. every Monday—
GUIDES, Scout Hut, 7.30p.m. every Monday.
GYMNASTICS, Harbury School, 5.30(5-8yrs),6.45(over 9yr)

every Monday.

JOGGING, from Foodmart, 8p.m. every Monday.

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

PLAYCROUP, Wight School, Tues. to Fri. mornings.

TODDLER GROUP, Wight School, 9.30-11.30a.m.Mondays;

1.30-3p.m. Wednesdays.

NURSERY SCHOOL, Village Hall, Tues.to Fri.mornings.

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

BADMINTON, Village Hall, every Tuesday evening.

DANCING CLASSES, Wight School, 4-5.30p.m.Tuesdays,

4-9p.m.Wednesdays, 4-5, Thursdays (beginners) SCOUTS, Scout Hut: 7.45pm Tues (1st troop) Wed (2nd troop) YOUTH CLUB COFFEE BAR, V. Hall, 7.30-10pm, Tuesdays. YOUTH CLUB, Village Hall, 8-10p.m. Wednesdays. BABY CLINIC, Village Hall, 2pm, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays. GOLDEN AGE, Village Hall, 2.30pm, 2nd & 4th Thursdays. VENTURE SCOUTS, Scout Hut, 8p.m. every Thursday. POP-IN, Village Hall, 1.30-3.30pm every Friday. CHOIR PRACTICE, Church, 6.30p.m. every Friday.

ALL DATES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS.

Dates for inclusion PLEASE to Linda Ridgley, 612792.

For Village Hall bookings, ring Mr. Picken, 612778. For Wight School bookings, ring Mrs. Windsor, 612504.

THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear friends,

The Remembrance Service on 8th November was attended by a larger congregation than ever, and the collection for Earl Haig's Fund was a record one. Mike Bloxham's picture, opposite, shows the Royal British Legion standard being lowered by Mr. R. Padbury, during the sounding of the Last Post.

We thank all those who brought such a splendid lot of clothing, blankets and money contributions to Church for the Help the Aged appeal, and those



who gave time in receiving them, sorting out the clothes

and putting them in their appropriate sacks.

November 29th was the First Sunday in Advent, and Family Eucharist at 9 a.m. was followed by breakfast in the Village Hall. Also on this day, the Windmill Singers, under the direction of our organist, Mr. Ken Nordon, sang Choral Evensong as one of the celebrations of my 25 years in Harbury. There were special settings for the Canticles, and an Anthem, and for the Responses Ar. Nordon had composed special settings for the occasion. I was pleased to see so many in the congregation, and I thank Mr. Nordon and the Singers very much. The Dedication Service of our new bells will be at

1.15 p.m. on Saturday 5th December.

Our Nine-Lesson Carol Service will be at 4 p.m. on 20th December. At Christmas there will, as usual, De the three traditional celebrations of the Eucharist . he Blessing of the Crib and the Midnight Mass(sung) at _1.15p.m. on Christmas Eve, the Mass of the Dawn(said) at 8a.m., and the Mass of the Day (sung, with Procession) t 10a.m., on Christmas Day. It is hoped that the Oa.m. one will be a great family service, and that all he children will be there. According to modern egulations, those who have made their Communions at ne Midnight Mass may, if they wish, receive Communion

6.

again at one of the Celebrations on Christmas Day. A list of times when Absolution may be received before Christmas will be found on the notice board inside the Church, or an appointment may be made if none of these times is possible.

Wishing you a holy and blessed Christmas,
With every blessing,
Your sincere friend and Vicar,
F. R. Mackley.

HOLY BAPTISM

November 15th, Carla Michelle Grundy, 25 Farley Avenue.

November 22nd, Caroline Elizabeth Dormer, 12 Park Lane.

From the Churchwardens Advent is, in many ways, a much neglected season. It tends to get submerged in shopping, cooking, writing cards, singing carols and similarly preparing for Christmas: It is, however, normally a time of physical and material preparation, rather than a time of spiritual preparation. It is a time of concerts and parties, of making lists of presents - both of those to be given and those one hopes to receive; a time of spending more than one can afford and, as Christmas gets nearer, of eating and drinking more than one needs. Maybe this year it will be different. One family we know decided last year to limit family presents to an agreed small sum per head. They all found it great fun trying to outdo one another in ingenuity in finding the most original presents. The gifts were even more appreciated than usual, and the bank balance suffered less. Many families like to add a Church or charitable organisation to the present list, and make a donation at this time of year.

Whatever we do, we can try to plan and prepare for Christmas so that we are more, not less, aware of its real meaning.

Advent, no less than Lent, is a time of self-denial and preparation - a time of new beginnings. It is, of course, also a very busy time, but maybe we can make time for that extra moment of prayer, for Bible reading, for attending just one extra Service a week, of doing something for someone else. We do wish everyone a happy and blessed Christmas. May we all have the peace and joy of Christ in our homes during the Christmas season.

Our recent events, including the Harvest Supper, the Bonfire Party and the Parish Breakfast, all went off well, although the Breakfast was not quite so well attended as usual. None of these events is planned to raise funds - they are ways in which the Church tries to serve the village - but unfortunately the Bonfire Party was very costly to the Church, so we must think seriously about this event for next year.



Mike Bloxham caught PCC members, and young friends, taking a well-earned break from their bonfire building activities.

We were sad to hear that the Bishop intends to hold all Confirmation services on weekdays, at least for the time being, whereas we have been fortunate in having them in our Church in recent years on Sundays. We have written to the Bishop pointing out the problems for godparents and relatives who live far afield, and respectfully asking him to reconsider - we await his reply.

The Harbury Horticultural Society has kindly offered to help with replanting the Churchyard with daffodils. We are too late for this year but - God willing - the Spring of 1983 should see a wonderful golden display again, which we hope will bring pleasure to all:

CHURCH BELLS

A great deal has taken place since the last report on the bells. A small group, mainly ringers, visited the Bell Foundry and saw our bells in manufacture, and some two weeks later we collected them, together with the fittings. Bells, headstocks, roller boxes, stays, wheels, sliders, and various nuts and bolts, all came back on Andrew Clarke's trailer. Following their return, the bells were exhibited in Church on Sunday



15th November, and in the evening they were hoisted up into the ringing chamber, where they await their final

journey up to the bell frame.

The RSJ and frame members were lifted into the Ringing Chamber, and the RSJ fitted in place in the walls. This required much manoeuvring to get it in place. First out through the trap door in the roof, then in and out of the window above the clock, back into the far corner, and then down and across and into position. Very awkward to do, when it is 18 inches longer than the tower is wide, and weighs some 4cwts. Then the cast iron frame sections, which had been cut to length and painted during the summer, were positioned, and the steel end frames cut to size and drilled, the whole being bolted in place. The old treble was then moved to its new position, and fittings lined up

and bolted in place, the new treble installed in the old one's place, and finally the new second raised and installed in place. This work has taken some three weeks, working all weekend and every evening of the week, and we were glad to have a rest when it was finished!

The bells will be rung for the first time at the Dedication Service on 5th December, when we hope to have our oldest ringer, Mr. Tom Hauley, and our youngest recruit in the first eight to ring. We await hearing our bells for the first time, but are sure they will uphold the reputation Harbury's six have as the best in Warwickshire. We extend our thanks to all who have helped raise funds and made donations, those who have loaned equipment, and those who have given so generously of their time. We hope that the remaining £600 will not take too long to raise. HMW.

Editors' Note: Congratulations to Harry Windsor for masterminding the Bells Operation, and also on having been elected President of the Coventry Diocesan Guild of Ringers.

ADVENTURERS

Harbury Adventurers will be holding their annual Carol Service on Sunday, 13th December. This year it will be in the form of a nativity play, with carols interspersed so that everyone can join in.

It will be our last meeting with Ken and Jeanne Clarke as leaders. All ex-Adventurers and ex-Crusaders and indeed anyone who would like to come, will be very welcome.

The service will start at 2.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

LADBROKE NEWS

Ladbroke Diary
Sunday 6th December, Advent II: 8:30a:m: Holy

Communion, 11 a.m. Matins: Tuesday 8th December, W.I. Party for Hatton patients: Thursday, 10th December, 7.45 p.m. Deanery Synod at St. James School, Southam:

W.I. Christmas Dinner.
Sunday 13th December, Advent III. 11a.m. Holy Communion with Hymns & Sermon. 3.30pm, Evensong.

Tuesday 15th December, 7:30 p.m. Parish Council.
Thursday 17th December, W.I. Christmas Party (and Carol Singing rehearsal)

Friday 18th December, Carol Singers Round the Village: Sunday 20th December, 8:30a; Holy Communion: 11am.
Matins:

Thursday 24th December, Church decoration.

Friday 25th December, CHRISTMAS DAY: 8.30a.m. Holy
Communion. 10.30a.m. Holy Communion with
Hvmns and Carols.

Saturday 26th December, S.Stephen M.
Sunday 27th December, S.John A.E. 11a.m. Holy
Communion with Carols. NO EVENSONG.

Monday 28th December, Holy Innocents.
Friday 1st January, Circumcision of our Lord.
Sunday 3rd January, Christmas II. 8:30a.m. Holy
Communion, 11a.m. Matins:

Wednesday 6th January, Epiphany of our Lord.
Thursday 7th January, 7:45 p.m. Men's Group at Harbury.
Sunday 10th January, Epiphany I. 11a.m. Holy
Communion with Hymns and Sermon. 3:30p.m.

Wednesday 13th January, 3.p.m. Women's Fellowship at 4 Bridge Lane.

ALTAR FLOWERS: No flowers during Advent. December 25th and 27th, Mrs. Rutherford. January 3rd and 10th, Mrs. Badman and Mrs. Wilson.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP Thanks to Mrs. Winkfield, we had a very enjoyable meeting at Hall Farm. We were sorry that owing to illness several members were unable to be with us, and we wish them a speedy recovery. The next meeting will be at 4 Bridge Lane, Ladbroke, at the kind invitation of Mrs. Edwards, on January 13th, 1982.

GARY LAWSON We shall be glad to have Gary as our organist on Christmas Day and the following Sunday. He is now coming to the end of his second year at Ripon Cuddesdon, the Theological College near Oxford. In June he is to be ordained to a curacy in the diocese of Southwark. More about that near the time.

with Hymns & Sermon, 3:30pm, Avenso

AUTUMN FAIR Our thanks to all who helped - contributing or selling or buying - to produce a grand total of £319 after all expenses paid. A list of Raffle prizewinners is in the possession of Mrs. Winkfield, and all prizes have been distributed.

CAROLS I am sorry that since the school closed we have not had a Carol Service....I know many people miss it. It was too late this year to organise a visit from a local choir to help us out, but if I am still with you next year I will make an effort earlier GR.F.

GENERAL NEWS It is nice to be able to report once again of local success amongst the younger section of our community. Karen Cadwallader has been doing very well with her showjumping, and recently brought home a magnificent trophy! Rowan Wilson has been selected for the under 18 Warwickshire Hockey Team Squad. Good luck to both of them.

I am pleased to welcome Carol and Don Northorpe and their children Jonathan and Tania to Ladbroke. It is nice to see lights once again in the Old School House!

VILLAGE HALL AFFAIRS BONFIRE NIGHT was once again a huge success! Beefburgers, hot dogs, toffee apples, Parkin, and Gwen Badman's delicious soup, were sold, and at the end of the evening not much was left! There was a lovely display of fireworks, and a huge bonfire. Our special thanks once again to Tom Sheasby for the use of his field.

There are no more events planned for the near future, but will everyone please note that there are now two powerful gas heaters in the hall, which make it very snug, so don't let the hall's chilly reputation put you off supporting local meetings etc.

LADBROKE & DEPPERS BRIDGE W.I. At the meeting held on 26th November in the now 'cosy' Village Hall, Miss Powell gave a talk and demonstration on the most intricate craft of hedgerow basketry. Brambles, willows wild roses etc. will all have new meaning to those present, and I suspect that a few of our members will be brave enough to have a go for themselves.

There is lots going on in December, starting with the Christmas Outing to the Grand Union Restaurant on

10th December. There will also be a carol singing trip to Deppers Bridge, and the annual visit to Hatton Hospital on 8th December:

The December meeting will be held on Thursday 17th, and will take the form of a Christmas Party: Some of the older members of the Village will be invited to join in this festive occasion, and by the way - could members please bring along a plate of food: The competition will be 'Home made edible Christmas Tree decorations!, to be auctioned in aid of funds: Cookies, candies, sweets etc., in Cling Film, please:

Mrs. Winkfield has promised to bring along her

carol singers to add to the Christmas spirit.

LADBROKE PARISH COUNCIL At the meeting on 17th November, there were 4 members of the public present (could this be a record?) With all the current publicity on the viability of the M40, discussion quickly turned to the village bypass. The Council has now received a reply from Norman Fowler, who has promised to update and improve the road signs and to extend the 30 m.p.h. speed limit in the northerly direction. The Council is still not satisfied and is now going to write and ask for more information in the light of the new M40 report. The Council has declined an invitation to become associated with the M40 support group, because it is still hoping for a Ladbroke bypass':

Mr's Smith, from Stratford District Council, addressed the Council on the subject of Tree Preservation in the area, with particular reference to the spinney on the A423: It was reassuring to hear that measures have been taken to prevent this situation happening again, and that the County Engineer will liaise with the Council in future:

It was a very busy meeting indeed, and Miss Day, the Field Officer from Warwickshire Rural County Council, answered questions about the possibility of Ladbroke taking part in a Village Appraisal Scheme: The Council said they would have to look carefully at the advantages and disadvantages of the survey for the whole community, and this will probably be put to the village at the Annual Parish Meeting in May. Next meeting - December 15th at 7:30 p.m.

HARBURY SCHOOL

Blue Peter - Operation Pipeline Appeal The School Stamp Club has been collecting stamps now for almost a year, and has a couple of boxes which will be sent off to the above appeal after Christmas.

If you have any stamps, either British or foreign, the Stamp Club would appreciate it if you could send them in. We will sort them. Any which children need for their collections can be bought, and the money sent to the appeal.

Whilst on the subject of charities, we still collect silver foil and Andrex labels for Guide Dogs, and any Heinz labels for Action Research for the Crippled Child

If you have any difficulty getting any of the above to school, please ask any of the children, or contact me at school.

NIGEL CHAPMAN:

PTA *Old Tyme Music Hall* On a cold Saturday evening in November, Harbury School was transported into the world of 80 years ago. Elegantly dressed Edwardian ladies and gentlemen partook of a faggots and peas supper, served by a just recegnisable PTA committee. There followed a splendid entertainment - a joint venture by the PTA and the Theatre Group.

Under the eloquent chairmanship of Ken Hughes, the company entertained us with sketches and songs, and endeavoured to make us sing. Not many of us are lucky enough to be able to sing like Shirley Keir or Bryan Harrison. Shirley sang several songs, 'I was a good little girl' being particularly memorable, and Bryan raised the roof with 'The Fishermen of England'.

There was plenty of mirth, the audience being redered helpless with laughter by Marjorie King and Beryl Checkley's comic duet, and by four incompetent firemen,

hilariously played by Keith Hayes, Jim Haines, John Kemsley and Norman Beaumont.

There were some slightly more serious moments, with excerpts from 'The Importance of Being Earnest' (with Annette Hughes and Colin Hughes), and 'Pride and Prejudice' (with Jill Tucker and Carol Percival):

The evening was rounded off with a sketch called 'The Grains of Truth' in which Ken Hughes had some hilarious problems with his moustache:

Everyone involved worked very hard to give the audience an excellent evening's entertainment. It seems a pity that it was for one evening only - any chance of a repeat?

M.S.H.

PLAYGROUPS

The three Harbury playgroups are having a combined 'Carol Party' at 11 a.m. on Tuesday 8th December, in the Village Hall. All parents, friends and anyone interested will be very welcome.

SCOUTS

Thanks to everyone who supported the Food Fayre on 14th October, both the parents and children who baked an array of delicious cakes, biscuits etc., and the people who came to buy it all in record time. Over £100 was raised for our funds.

Thanks also to those who supported coffee mornings at Sharon Hancock's and Helen Woodward's

houses. These raised a further £35.

The Venture Scouts, under the professional direction of their leader Bob Wilkins, have installed the drains in the extension, and work will begin soon on partitioning the interior.

A lorry to collect newspapers is coming to Leamington House, Church Street, at 8.30 a.m. on Saturday 12th December: Scouts will be needed to help with loading:

M:S:H:

The Southam & District Lions Christmas Float, with FATHER CHRISTMAS of course, will be making its way round Harbury on 22nd December - children, bring your parents out to meet us all - don't forget!



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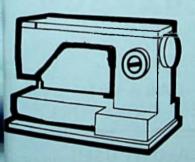
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PLAYING FIELDS

It is with regret that once again we find it necessary to report that petty vandalism has occurred on the Playing Fields. A number of small fires have been started on the grass, and it might be of interest to the people causing these fires that efforts are being made to ascertain their identity. The dog notice has 'gone for a walk' and, as yet, has not been returned and it has also been noticed that some dog owners are allowing their pets to foul the sand on the car park. This sand has been placed there until such time as it can be transferred to the play area, where it will be used as a surface under some of the play equipment.

We are appealing for new members to join the Recreation Ground Advisory Committee. If you feel that you would like to participate on this Committee please contact Ted Coupe, the Chairman, telephone

Harbury 612507;

The next meeting will be held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 12th January at 8 p.m. L.J.B.

HARBURY LADIES NETBALL CLUB

The ladies are celebrating the start of the season with some success - most of which can be attributed to the 'B' team. They have conceded only one match so far, with excellent performances being put in by the whole side. Against Attleborough Ladies they trailed throughout, but during the læt three minutes managed to net three goals, which clinched the game.

Division III is providing some hard games for Harbury 'A', and they are finding it difficult to maintain consistency: We hope that they will settle down to the pace, and that last week's win over Nuneaton Ladies will give them back their confidence:

Results, Harbury 'A': Brico 'A' 12 - Harbury 'A' 15.
Canley 'C' 29 - Harbury 'A' 18. Harbury 'A' 16 Barrs Hill 20. Nuneaton Ladies 3 - Harbury 'A' 34.

Results, Harbury 'B': Bedworth Ladies 'B' 21 - Harbury 'B' 17. Harbury 'B' 20 - Ernsford 'D' 11. Attleborough Ladies 18 - Harbury 'B' 19.

It is our intention, together with the Tennis Club, to run a cake stall for the Christmas Fair'. If

anyone would like to donate a cake for this event please contact L: Badger, 21 South Parade, Harbury.

The Disco organised in October proved successful

and we intend to donate some of the proceeds to the Tennis Club towards the cost of the resurfacing work. Hopefully we shall be in a position to make similar donations in the future: V. JESSUP, Social Secretary.

TENNIS CLUB

At the recent Annual General Meeting it was agreed the subscription rates for the forthcoming year will remain as for 1981. It is hoped this will encourage everyone to renew their membership in due course'

Winter activities for the Club include a tennis league for ladies and men's singles, and several members are now endeavouring to play matches before the weather becomes too cold: Keen players might also like to meet at the courts on Boxing Day morning, if only for a bit of exercise prior to

drinks again!

A working party from the Club recently planted approximately 40 leylandii trees alongside the top end of the courts, and these should eventually In order to raise provide a welcome wind break. funds for this type of improvement, and also to offset the costs of general court maintenance, it is planned to hold a jumble sale in March, so please keep old clothes etc. until then.

Two of the Club's founder members, Andy and Di Parkin, and their family will this month be moving away from the village and the Warwickshire area. We wish them a particularly happy and prosperous New J.N.

Year in their new home's

BADMINTON CLUB

There were mixed fortunes for the teams this month: The first team (Brian Meecham and Maureen Smith, Alec Poole and Barbara Jones, Dave Preston and Mal Eaton) were thrashed 9-0 against St. Marks away from home, but had a closer fight against Alveston I away, narrowly losing 5-4's

The second team (Dave Cox and Jan Atkins, Dave Cooke and Anne Tasker, Bob Jones and Chris Cooke)

have fared better, although they lost to Alveston II 7-2 away from home. At home, though, the team played well and beat Central 8-1, and then followed this up with a 7-2 defeat against Kineton.

Several members have entered the handicap tournament run by the Leamington League during the course of the season. We wait to see if anyone can get past the first round this year - competition is ANNE TASKER: very tough!

HARBURY ALBION FOOTBALL CLUB

The fortunes of the Club have been dramatically reversed in November and it seems unbelievable that the First team - which won all its matches in the previous month - did not manage one success this month. It obviously wasn't a good idea to give a glowing report in the last Harbury & Ladbroke News, since the players have become too complacent and have ceased to challenge for the ball, with the result that their lack of form has sent them tumbling down the league table. The run of poor games began with a defeat by Bulldog Sports in a Cup game, which on previous form they should have won easily, and since then the results have been progressively worse, culminating in a 6-2 defeat by Ford Sports last Sunday:

An unfortunate aspect of the month was the damaging injury to the Club's most promising young player, Andy Latham, who has had his foot encased in plaster. Andy had just made his place in the 1st

team, so his contribution was sadly missed.

There must be a SPECIAL MENTION this month for the Reserve team, as they have WON their last two games (so long as the acknowledgement of their improved efforts doesn't have the same effect as the previous results report did on the 1st team - PLEASE!)

It is to be hoped that in December both teams put as much enthusiasm and determination into their football as they found for the knock-out 'Aunty Sally' challenge at the Old New Inn, following the last game: After a rousing session of mini caber-tossing skill, the footballers emerged triumphant over the Crown team, after beating off the challenge of 'Ridgley's Renegades' and 'Wallington's Wangers';

18. Results - Ist team (& Man of Match nominations)
1:11.81, Ist v Bulldog, Cup Match, L 0-3.MOM A. Young.
8:11.81, Whittle Res. v 1st, D 1-1. MOM A. Latham.
15:11.81, Chadwick End v 1st, L 2-1. MOM A. Peebles.
22:11.81, 1st v Mid Warks Police, D 3-3.MOM Team effort
29:11.81, 1st v Ford Sports, L 6-2. MOM C. Sheasby.

Results - Reserves
1.11.81, Res. v Whitnash Res. L 3-0. MOM A.Merrick.
8.11.81; Res. v Kestrel, L 3-1; MOM J.Luke.
15.11.81, G.S.Sports v Res., L 5-0. MOM G.Lowe and L.Sollis.

22:11.81, Res. v Offchurch, WON 4-1. MOM R. Grant and G. Humphreys.

29.11.81, Res. v Central Hospital, WON 3-1. MOM N.Cleaver.

HARBURY SOCIETY

John Bucknell gave an illustrated talk on the work of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, to a very appreciative audience of

Harbury Society members.

The SPAB was founded in 1877 by William Morris and others who were appalled at what the great Victorian architects were doing to the country's Churches in the name of 'restoration'. Ruskin called it 'total destruction', leaving a 'false description of what has been destroyed'. The SPAB wanted wholesale restoration replaced by daily care and maintenance, and the aging beauty of the Mediaeval artists' work left for all to enjoy.

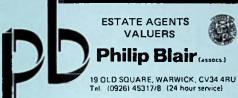
After many bitter battles the message began to

After many bitter battles the message began to be heeded. The SPAB played an important part in drafting the legislation relating to Conservation and Ancient Buildings, and today it advises both private and public bodies on methods of repairing

and conserving the nation's heritage.

Mr. Bucknell illustrated his talk lavishly with photographic examples and showed how work was progressing on Little Morton Hall, Cheshire, and Cannon's Ashby, Northamptonshire.

Members will receive notification of details of the New Year Social soon. Book your tickets early for this, the first 'rave up' of 1982! L.RIDGLEY.



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YOUNG WIVES

Our Christmas Carol Service will be at 2 p.m. on Tuesday 22nd December, in the Church, and everyone will be very welcome. After the service there will be mincepies and tea. A collection will be made from the children of small, new or used, gift-wrapped toys for the W.R.V.S. to distribute this Christmas.

We thank Mrs'. Gill Carter who brought along her jewellery craft work, and all Young Wives who came along to our November meeting, and we look forward to seeing you all again at the Carol Service: J.H.

HARBURY W.I.

At the November A.G.M. our visitor was Mrs.
Beaumont from Stoneleigh W.I., and the following
committee was elected - President Mrs. Ellis; Secretary
Mrs. Barratt; Treasurer Mrs. Watkin; Vice-President
Mrs. Tyler, plus Mesdames Atkins, Bant, Branton,
Burdett, Edwards, Turner, Woodward and Wilkins.

Mrs. Thompson, who retired as President after 3 years, thanked her past committee for all their help, saying how much she had enjoyed her years in office. We heard about our next year's programme, arranged by Mrs. Watkin, and it promises to be varied and

very interesting.

Our December meeting, on the 3rd, will be our Christmas Party, when members can bring a friend. Mrs. Burdett has promised to give a demonstration of arrangements suitable for the Christmas season.

The evening ended with a Beetle Drive, the prize for the highest score going to Mrs: Carter:

The Group Carol Service will be held on Thursday 10th December, at Ufton Church: B.E.TYLER: 613642:

GOLDEN AGE CLUB

Further to last month's report, the crocheted blanket which was a prize in the Raffle at our Sale of Work, has been claimed by Mrs'. Long of Farley Avenue. LK'.

ACTION RESEARCH FOR THE CRIPPLED CHILD

Carol Singing in Harbury - Tuesday 22nd December Assemble at Old New Inn at 8:30 p.m. ALL WELCOME.

NIGHT SCHOOL

Education broadens the mind, but how broadminded do you need to be to benefit from a course in, say, French Conversation? Well, in my night school class at Southam, run by Marie Peake on Tuesdays, we are finding out - we being four ladies and a Vicar from Napton, plus the Harbury contingent of Barry Lowe, myself and expatriate Harburian (and Cockney) Mick Ross.

There are two classes, both with vacancies. One is on Mondays for those whose French is adequate, called 'Improvers', and one on Tuesdays for people like me who are 'Beginners'. Both begin at 7.30p.m.

L.RIDGLEY.

at Southam School:

ANOTHER 'RIOT' FROM HARBURY THEATRE GROUP

In their latest production, 'See How They Run', the Theatre Group have done it again, reducing sophisticated (sic) Harbury audiences to helpless jellies'. The sight of three stage vicars in dog collars, and a real vicar in pyjamas, racing through a living room at thirty second intervals must rank

high in theatrical events of the year's

The play demands lively acting and slick production to maintain a series of mistaken identities John Stringer's fast production gave it the necessary pace'. As an actress-turned-vicar's wife, Janet Tovey never faltered in maintaining a hectic performance of near hysteria. As her husband, Robert Waterman was pompous, then unconscious, and finally distraught, with a skilfully baffled air. Amongst the mistaken identities, Keith Hayes gave a sprightly interpretation of a Corporal who was formerly an actor, and Jim Haines was a competent escaped German P.O.W: - has he been practising somewhere?

However, the honours must be shared between Jeanette Wyburn in a delightful portrayal of the maid, and Jill Tucker in a superb character sketch as a prim busybody who drinks a bottle of cooking sherry: Steve Checkley gave a memorable performance as a visitor who was the complete epitomy of bewilderment, as chaos broke loose on all sides: Roy Mackley - as the Bishop of Lax - gave an

exceptionally athletic performance, mainly in pyjamas, and did seem to be very suited to the part. Some of the audience felt he had previous experience in clerical roles.

The Theatre Group is to be congratulated, and the packed houses are an indication of the popularity of their productions:

I.T.J.

THE HARBURY PANTOMIME

"CINDERELLA" is to be our Pantomime this year - a real traditional family show - and you can see it in Harbury Village Hall on Thursday 28th, Friday 29th and Saturday 30th January, 1982. Demand for tickets looks like being enormous, so please don't delay, or you may be disappointed. You can get tickets from the 'Harbury Theatre Box Office' at Philip Lindop's Drug Store in Chapel Street, or from Carol Percival at the Police House in South Parade, or you can order them by ringing 612175.

D.M.H.

HARBURY DISTRICT POPPY APPEAL 1981

Our thanks are again due to the many helpers who gave their time and effort this year to the house to house collection, and comprise the following: Mrs. Bunting, Mrs. Bush, Mrs. Farley, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Goodman, Mrs. Hancock, Mrs. Haynes, Mrs. Keeling, Mrs. Sperling, Mrs. Suttie, Mrs. Towell, Mrs. Tucker, Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Winterbottom. Other areas are covered by Mrs. Bartlett (Deppers Bridge), Mrs. Cooper (Ufton) and Mrs. Rofe (Bascote Heath).

In addition, we had donations from Harbury Church, Ufton Church, and Ufton Bingo and Raffle Evening, together with collections at shops and pubs and Harbury School, all making a grand total of £444 - nearly £20 better than last year:

JOHN BARNES, District Organise;

THERE'S NO DOUBT.....

A speaker on a recent religious programme admitted to suffering periodic depression; he wondered how many others were afflicted like him. He got his answer in a postbag so overwhelming that it took another programme to reply. People find it hard to

reconcile Christian belief with anything less than total happiness. If you're a true Christian, then everything has to be perfect; no worries, no problems. But it's not like that, and some otherwise Christian people need to struggle against their tendency to feel very low. It's struggle that's the key; lots of us aren't blessed with the serenity that's born of total certainty. What we can do, when we've done all that is humanly possible, is to hand all our problems over to God. There's room, in an infinite mind, for our small concerns.

Some of us have passed our worries on to Him;

there's no doubt - it works.

CYSTIC FIBROSIS RESEARCH TRUST

We held a very interesting and successful AGM at the Falstaff Hotel on 18th November. The high spot of the evening was a presentation to the representative from headquarters of a cheque for £1750. This is money raised by our branch, and does not include the many donations sent direct to H.Q., which shows that people are still being very generous despite hard times. I would just like to remind you once again that C.F. is one of the few charities whose donations are used strictly for research and helping the children afflicted with this disease, the administration costs being from a different source.

The amount in so far for Christmas cards etc. (including our sale on 21st November) is £135.50, but as money is still coming in, thanks to the people selling cards at work, we hope for a higher total still:

The Whist Drive on Wednesday 26th November was very successful, resulting in a profit of £37. Very grateful thanks to Mrs. Bastock, Mrs. Thornicroft, Mrs. Birnie, Miss Bayliss and Mary Bowell for organising it. The prizes were excellent, the mince pies were delicious, and - judging by the comments overheard - everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. So ladies, thank you all very much!

HARBURY N.S.P.C.C.

I would like to thank all who contributed to our recent house to house collection, which raised £278.78 this year'. Special thanks to our faithful collectors who, every year, do such a worthwhile job with enthusiasm and commitment'.

Our Christmas Card sale took place on 6th November at The Rylands, Dovehouse Lane. It proved to be a lively event, and we managed to sell £240 worth of cards, 40% of which will be credited to this branch of the Society.

Thank you for being so generous, and a Merry Christmas to you all:

A. ALLAN:

HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

The Saga of the Mill Street floods continues. Last month the Council predicted that everyone would pass the buck. They have - with the exception of the Divisional Engineer. The PC wrote to him, and the STWA. Mr. Walters replied first saying that ditches were the adjoining landowners responsibility, but he would undertake it when men and money were available. STWA said the pipe was blocked - SDC's problem. SDC told John Drinkwater the flooding was caused by surface water, and that they had written to Tony Walters telling him to fix it. In the meanwhile the Chairman and District Councillor Drinkwater had seen the travelling repairs foreman who will do the work.

There was no such instant success with the Gas Board, but the Parish Council will continue to pester until Binswood End Green is reinstated:

Someone has damaged the metal seat on Harbury Lane; the Chairman will inspect it - with a hammer and hydraulic jack.

The missing Notice Board from the playing fields has not been found despite several anonymous communications. However, the promised street signs have appeared, and the repair gang is reported to be in the vicinity.

Mr. Waddell and Mr. Turner were present to urge the Parish Council to think again about installing concrete and chain link fencing round the Manor Orchard play area: The PC is now looking into the

costs of wood board fencing.

The Village Hall Committee sent two suggestions for repairs to the Hall - four new blow-heaters, or doors for the extension - but the PC does not know what else needs repair, and has instructed the Village Hall Committee to let it know what repairs will be needed in the next two years, before it decides to pay out any money.

Deppers Bridge was not represented this month, and the mowing contractor had not yet explained how many times the playing fields had been cut last year.

Both the Playing Fields Advisory Committee and the PC's own Properties Sub-Committee have come out against proposals for a gate into the allotments from the fields. The PFAC said there was no need for it, and demanded that allotment holders be warned that it was an offence for tractors to drive across the fields. Farmers Iory Davies and Ralph Gurden, supported by the Clerk (an allotment holder himself) argued that a tractor and trailer needed a large piece of ground in which to turn, and that it was becoming impossible to back up the path as the allotments had encroached upon the right of way. They were outvoted 6 to 2, and so there will be no gate.

The Parish Council had no objection to plans for a garage and stable and store at Rose Cottage, Binswood End, but it will have a site meeting on Sutcliffe Pastures. David Winter reported concern at possible backland development between Ivy Lane and the Gamecock. SDC's Mr. Nash had written explaining that there was as yet no formal application, and that development there was likely to be contrary to the Structure Plan and so refused. The two latest applications on the Spinney have now gone to Appeal, and a Public Enquiry will be held where

objectors can state their case:

John Drinkwater complained that he had received all the 'bumph' on the M40 Enquiry addressed to him as Clerk of Chesterton PC! Bruce pointed out that if he had had to buy it all it would have cost £35! John had been to see all the farmers most involved, and he hoped to interest someone in Chesterton in taking the matter up! The Councillors agreed with

him that Chesterton ought to be represented: The M40 plans show an interchange at Gaydon, and at Harewoods House the Fosse goes over the Motorway.

Bruce Hannay warned that a turning phase was to be introduced into the sequence of the Radford Road lights which would give precedence to the Sydenham traffic:

The attempt of the rural parishes to force Stratford to share its rate more fairly and to reduce the amount spent on Stratford amenities has backfired on them. John Drinkwater explained that although the rural parish representatives outnumber Stratford's, voting takes place on political lines. What has been decided is that Stratford will be more generous with its Double Rating Relief. When the PC analysed these proposals it found that they were no more than Harbury already received, and on top of that SDC insists that if they have to precept for the money to pay for this relief the Parishes can not. So we will be paid back, by SDC, for what we spend on maintaining the Playing Fields, greens etc., but we must pay the bills initially and we will not be allowed to budget in our rate precept for this as we have done in previous years. Therefore the PC will get less income initially and still cannot be sure that it will receive all it asks for in Double Rating Relief from Stratford: LINDA RIDGLEY:

MINCE PIES AND CHRISTMAS DRINKS

Mince pies are by no means a modern idea - in fact they date from the time of the Crusades when the returning Crusaders brought back from the Holy Land many new things, including cinnamon, ginger, cloves and nutmeg. These were mixed with minced meat and seasonings, and made into an oblong pie (a 'manger' shape), often with a figure of the Baby Jesus on top. By the end of the 17th century, sugar, eggs, raisins and the peel of oranges and lemons was added to the mixture, and gradually the meat content disappeared, leaving the sweet 'mincemeat' we know now. The shape too changed until the circular pie we have today was the most usual. To ensure a happy year, one had to eat a mince pie on each of the 12 days of Christmas, and say 'Happy Month' before taking the first bite.

The traditional English Christmas drink was the wassail, which was always served in a large bowl made

of apple wood. The drink consisted of ale, roast apples, eggs, sugar, nutmegs, cloves and ginger, and was served hot. The name 'wassail' comes from the Saxon WAS HAILE, meaning 'Your Health', and wassailing came to mean any kind of Christmas revels where a large amount of drink was consumed.

In the 18th century, wassail gave way to punch, and in modern times such mixtures as Sangria are

popular:

Some recipes for cocktails are set out below - we accept responsibility for the names, but not for the after effects of the drinks!

Butte Lane Thunderer - Mix equal parts of strong

dark ale and red Burgundy wine:

Pineham Avenue Punch - Half fill each glass with dry cider'. Add a measure of lime juice, and top up with bitter lemon'. Stir well, and garnish with slices of

orange and cucumber's

Frances Road Fizz - Pour two measures of gin, the juice of one lemon, and two measures of pineapple juice over crushed ice, and mix well. Serve (with soda water to taste) decorated with a slice of lemon and a sprig of mint.

But please, if you're driving, try something non-

alcoholic - for example

Sutcliffe Drive Surprise - Put into a blender the thinly pared rind and the juice from one orange and one lemon: Add \(\frac{1}{4} \) pint hot strong tea, and lozesugar: Blend for 10 seconds, then strain into a jug and chill: Serve with American ginger ale to taste, topped with fruit slices and ice cubes:

HARBURY CONSERVATIVES - FORK SUPPER

Our recent Fork Supper was an outstanding success. Held at Temple House, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Lambert, nearly 90 came and enjoyed a super evening with excellent food. A profit from the evening of over £200 was realised, for use in support of the Conservative Association. PJH.

HARBURY LABOUR PARTY

Our Jumble Sale on 31st October raised £65 of which £20 has been donated to the Stratford Council for the Disabled. We were given so much jumble that it has been decided to hold another sale on Saturday 12th December, at 10.30 a.m. in the Scout Hut. Once again a proportion of the proceeds will be donated to the Disabled.

As Andrew and Diane Bruckland, who have shared the job of secretary, are leaving the district, Robert Exell of 55 Mill Street is taking over the position.

M.S.H.

IN THE GARDEN

Now we have time to breathe after a hectic season, let's sit back and reflect on the successes and failures of vegetables and flowers'. In most cases it was not the fault of the seed but the temperature of the ground at sowing time, consequently it is better next year perhaps to delay some of the planting for at least a week, unless you can give protection with cloches or a sheltered position. In carefully watching the growing of all plants, both vegetable and flowers, it is most important that the ground should be well drained and not water-logged's In level ground, do not take out the stones as they help your drainage. Give protection to celery and spring cabbage by earthing up a bit more. Try and keep your Japanese onions and strawberry plants free from weeds, without loosening the ground nearest the plants':

For this year, you still have celery, leeks, parsnips and cabbages, also brussels sprouts if you are lucky. From store you can choose potatoes, onions, turnips, carrots, swedes and beetroot, which should be in a cool frost-free place. If your kitchen window sill is warm, why not try to take one or two cuttings of geraniums, putting them in a mixture of half peat and half sand.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas: W.F.LINES.

HARBURY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The November meeting unfortunatelydid not go as planned, as the speaker did not turn up. However, the meeting was not wasted as we were able to pick

the brains of Harold Wilkins and Stan Finch on

various gardening problems.

The December meeting will be the 'grand' Christmas Social, when there will be a horticultural quiz, a slide show, and free food and drink for all members'. We are hoping for a large attendance, so please come! The quiz isn't difficult, and we don't want the food to be wasted: TONY BRUNTON'S

THE GOOD HOUSEWIFE

Some Christmas items from the 1924 book on labour

saving hints for the home:

No: 959: Icing a Cake - A little flour sprinkled over the top of a cake will prevent the icing sugar running over the sides:

No. 799: To Cook Old Fowls - Instead of steaming, boil for three hours and roast one hour, and you

will not tell them from chicken;

No: 774: Potato Boiling - A few drops of lemon squeezed into the water will make the darkest looking potatoes boil white.

And - to deal with that delightful present that you

have always wanted! -

No: 1005: Escaped Parrot - Never chase a parrot to frighten him: Get a walking stick and hold before his feet. He will soon hop on, then gently lift stick to cage door, and in Polly goes, thus saving time and labour's VICTORIA MACGOWAN:

ERICA ROBB

We have recently heard from Erica about her new life in sunny Spain, where she has made contact with Christians who meet in a small chapel on the outskirts of Mijas: The community - a mix of American, Canadian, Dutch, Vietnamese and Belgian, began some 6 years ago; and has now spread right along the coast

Erica has asked to know if anyone should happen to be flying to Malaga in the near future: She would be grateful for one or two relief packages of items she had to leave behind, and would meet them at the airport: Her parents can be contacted at Westbury House, Mill Street:

L.S.D. Quiz

This is the solution to the 'old money' puzzle in last month's issue:

RULER (Sovereign) 1 - STONE (14 lbs) 14 - HEADGEAR (Crown) 5 PIG (Guinea) 1 1 BICYCLE (Penny farthing) 1\frac{1}{4}
LEATHERWORKER (Tanner) 6
SINGER (Tenor) 10 - DISTANT OBJECT (Far-thing) \frac{1}{4}
HAIRDO (Bob) 1 DOOR OPENER (Penny) 1

\[
\frac{\frac{\frac{2}{6} \cdot 7 \cdot 8\frac{1}{2}\dot 6}{\frac{1}{2}}\]
KEITH THOMPSON.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

Harbury Old People's Luncheon Club
I would like, through Harbury and Ladbroke News, to
thank very much indeed all those who offered their
help'. Mrs. Wedderell of Binswood End, a newcomer to
Harbury, is the new organiser'. The Club opened again
on Tuesday 3rd November.

CLARE TAYLOR (Mrs), WCC Social Services Dpt?

Dear Editors,

When I see the halls and rooms used for meetings in other villages, it makes me realise that we in Harbury have a beautiful Village Hall of which we should be proud. Andyyet the Village Hall Committee seems to be fighting a never-ending battle to raise enough money for its maintenance and improvement.

Surely our Hall is worth 5p a month from each household in the village? This small amount would bring in about £500 a year, which I am sure would be

a help to the Committee.

Perhaps the Scouts or Guides could do the collecting, or maybe the organisations of the village could collect through their members? It must be possible to find a way of getting the money in, when we think how vital the Hall is to the life of the village: I for one would be happy to contribute:

A PENSIONER.

Dear Editors,

On behalf of all the members of the Pop-In Club, we should like to say a very big thank you to Bridget, Jenny and Lin for the marvellous Christmas dinner at the Stoneythorpe Hotel. Thank you also to the drivers for the excellent transport arrangements - it was a splendid outing.

A MEMBER

Dear Editors,

Where, oh where, have all the 'Knights of the road' gone? Last Saturday, on the back road to Leamington, our car started to jettison petrol everywhere. Quickly we pulled up and evacuated the car just in case it caught fire. Whilst my husband wrestled with the intricacies of the internal combustion engine, I confidently reassured my children that someone was bound to stop to see if we needed any help. After about 20 minutes, during which time at least 30 cars sailed gaily past, my confidence began to wane. Then suddenly a car drew to a halt - "At last", I thought, my confidence in human nature restored - however, this illusion was soon to be shattered: They had stopped because they were lost and could we put them on the right road; not one word did they utter to inquire whether we were all right or if we needed any help. We sent them off in the right direction (although I was sorely tempted to send them the other way) and I ruminated on the fact that whenever we see a motorist in trouble my husband always stops to see if he can help":

Finally my husband traced the fault and managed a temporary repair so that we could drive the four miles back to Harbury. Sadly I have come to the conclusion that nowadays the old adage of Do unto others as you would have them do unto you! is rapidly becoming a one way process:

DISTLLUSIONED:

IORY AND MONICA DAVIES wish all their friends a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year:

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