

Harbury & Ladbroke News

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 - Rector: Canon Antony Rowe, The Rectory, Vicarage Lane, Harbury. Tel: Harbury 612377

HARBURY

Holy Communion - 8.00am, 10.30am (Sung)

Evensong - 6.30pm (Not 1st Sunday)

LADBROKE

Holy Communion - 9.00am (with Hymns)

Mattins and Communion - 11.00am (3rd Sunday)

Evensong (1st Sunday) - 6.30pm (Summer)

- 3.30pm (Winter)

Please see notice board in Church for weekday services or revised times on special occasions.

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Monday - Saturday : 9.00 am - 10.00am

Monday, Tuesday, Friday : 6.00 pm - 7.00 pm

Craven Lane, Telephone: Southam 2577

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After 5.30 pm : S on Avon 67799

HEALTH VISITOR

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Southam Station. Telephone: Southam 2366

LOCAL CONSTABLE

P.C. T. Percival Telephone : Harbury 612175

SOUTHAM SOCIAL SERVICES

Telephone: Southam 3110

'THE HARBURY DIRECTORY' containing details of Village organisations and essential information is freely available on request from - Mrs A Moore, 23 Mill Street, Harbury.

EDITORIAL OFFICE 23 Mill Street, Harbury. Tel: 612427

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There can be no doubt that it has been a very wet summer. Mike Bloxham's picture of an idle combine harvester will be familiar to anyone who has been on holiday in Britain. It will be very interesting to see if the skill of Harbury's gardeners can compensate for the appalling weather. One of the first of the new season's events is the Horticultural Show on Saturday 7th September. The following afternoon, September 8th sees the Annual Bicycle Event. (There will be a special class this year for the fastest waterskier towed by a bicycle!)

Harbury should record its gratitude to the organisers of the Play-scheme. It was a great success with some eighty children taking advantage of the facilities. It is also a pleasure to record that our plea for help with the Thursday Club (formerly Golden Age) has been answered by a group of volunteers. Certainly the Senior Citizens will be grateful to them.

HARBURY DIARY

SEPTEMBER 1985

- Sun. 1st PENTECOST 14. 8am Holy Communion, 10.30am
Sung Eucharist, 6.30pm Evensong.
- Tues. 3rd School begins.

cont:-

- 2.
- Tues. 3rd Village Hall cttee, 8pm Village Hall
NHR Book Group - Discussion on "Changing Places"
and "Small World" by David Lodge; 27 Binswood End,
Senior Citizens cttee, 8.30pm, V. Hall. 8pm.
- Weds. 4th Toddler Group restarts, 2-2.30pm, Wight School
(see article)
M.U. Service in Church, 2.15pm with Commissioning
of new officers and committee.
P.C.C., Wight School, 8pm.
Parish Study Course, 13 Mill Street, 8.15pm (Luke)
- Thurs. 5th Folk Club, 8.30pm, Lounge of Old New Inn.
- Sat. 7th Horticultural Show in Village Hall.
- Sun. 8th The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (PENTECOST 15
8am Holy Communion, 10.30am Sung Eucharist,
6.30pm Evensong.
2.30pm Free Church Family Service.
Adventures restart, 11.30am, Village Hall.
Bicycle Event, 3pm from Old New Inn Car Park.
(entries from 2.30pm)
- Mon. 9th Christian Fellowship meetings, 8pm, 17 Farm Street,
8 The Beeches, 3 Vicarage Lane.
- Tues. 10th Playgroup begins.
7.30pm Holy Communion (Visit of Canon Oswald Slattery
Harbury Friends, 8pm, School.
- Thurs. 12th NHR Coffee Morning, 36 Binswood End, 10.30am.
Thursday Club, 2.15pm, Village Hall (see article)
W.I., 7.45pm in Village Hall; Mr. & Mrs. Ruffell on
'Alcester Roman Market'.
- Sat. 14th Harbury Netball Club JUMBLE SALE, Village Hall,
10am - 12 noon (ring 612700 for collection)
- Sun. 15th PENTECOST 16. 8am Holy Communion, 10.30am
Sung Eucharist. No Evensong.
Tennis Finals.
- Tues. 17th Harbury Society talk on the 'G.W.R.', 8pm in
Farley Room, Village Hall.
Harbury News cttee, 8.30pm, 23 Mill Street.
NHR Sauna & Swim Ladies Evening at Coventry Baths
(contact Pam Shepherd 613260 for details).
- 18th Parish Study Course, 13 Manor Orchard, 8.15pm (Luke)
- 20th PTA Beer & Skittles Evening.
- 22nd PENTECOST 17. Commemoration of St. Matthew the
Apostle. 8am Holy Communion, 10.30am Sung
Eucharist, 6.30pm Choir Evensong.
- 23rd Coffee Morning for Flower Arrangers and friends,
Haze Brook, The Pound, 10.30am - 12 noon.

- Mon. 23rd Christian Fellowship Meetings, 8pm at 77 Mill Street,
8 The Beeches, 16 Binswood End.
- Tues. 24th Young Wives, 2pm, Village Hall.
- Thurs. 26th Thursday Club, 2.15pm, Village Hall.
Parish Council, 7.30pm, Village Hall.
- Sat. 28th Action Research Casino Evening, Village Hall.
All articles for October Issue to Editors by today
please.
- Sun. 29th St. Michael & All Angels (PENTECOST 18).
8am Holy Communion, 10.30am Sung Eucharist -
(Admission of new M.U. Members), 6.30pm Evensong.

****N.B.** Upholstery Class restarts Monday 16th Sept. 2 - 4pm in
Wight School.

OCTOBER

- Tues. 1st Horticultural Society, 8pm, Wight School.
- Weds. 2nd M.U., 2.15pm, Village Hall.
Parish Study Course, 13 Mill Street, 8.15pm (Luke)
- Thurs. 3rd Folk Club, 8.30pm in Lounge of Old New Inn.
Men's Group, 7.45pm
- Sat. 5th Harvest Supper in Village Hall.
- Sun. 6th Harvest Festival.
- Tues. 8th Harbury Friends, 8pm, School
- Weds. 9th PTA Science Evening, 8pm, School.
- Thurs. 10th W.I., 7.45pm, Village Hall - Miss Wakem "Winter
Puddings" Cookery Demonstration.
- Fri. 11th PTA Buffet Dance, Village Hall.
- Sat. 12th Harbury Theatre Group's French Restaurant, V. Hall.

DATES FOR INCLUSION IN THE HARBURY DIARY PLEASE TO
LINDA RIDGLEY - telephone 612792.

For Village Hall bookings, ring Mr. Harrison-613800
For Wight School bookings, ring Mrs. Windsor-612504.

REGULAR WEEKDAY SERVICES IN HARBURY & LADBROKE

- Tuesday: 7.30p.m., Holy Communion in Harbury.
- Wednesday: 10.30a.m. Holy Communion in Ladbroke.
- Thursday: 9.45a.m. Holy Communion in Harbury.
- Friday: 7 a.m., Holy Communion in Harbury.

FREE CHURCH SERVICE, Harbury Church, 2.30pm

2nd Sunday in the month.

HARBURY ADVENTURERS, Village Hall, 11.30am Sunday

UPHOLSTERY CLASSES, Wight School, 2-4pm, Mondays.

GYMNASTICS, Harbury School. 6-7pm (under 7s and beginners). 7-8pm(7-10yrs). 8-9pm(over 10yrs) every Monday.

SLIMMING & KEEP FIT, Village Club 7-8.30 and 8.30-10pm, Mondays.

GUIDES, Scout Hut, 7.30pm Mondays

BINGO, Village Hall, 8pm every Monday.

TODDLER GROUP, Wight School, 10 - 11.30 am Mondays, and 2.00-3.30pm Wednesdays.

PLAYGROUP, Wight School, Tuesday to Friday morning

NURSERY SCHOOL, Village Hall, Tuesday to Friday a.m.

LUNCHEON CLUB: Village Hall every Tuesday & Friday 12-30 p.m.

DANCING CLASSES, Wight School, 4-7.45pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

BROWNIES, Village Hall, every Tuesday evening.

SCOUTS, Scout Hut, 7.45pm every Tuesday.

BADMINTON, Village Hall every Tuesday.

HARBURY FRIENDS, School, 8pm 2nd Tuesday of month.

BABY CLINIC, Village Hall, 2-4pm, 2nd & 4th Weds.

DANCING CLASSES for Children & Adults, Farley Room, Village Hall, 4-9pm Wednesdays.

GIRLS' CLUB, Village Hall, Thursday evenings.

W.I., Village Hall, 2nd Thursdays, 7.45 p.m.

POP-IN, Village Hall, 1.20 - 3.30 every Friday.

CHOIR PRACTICE, Church, 6.30pm every Friday.

FROM HARBURY CHURCHWARDENS

How nice that Father Mackley was able to be in Harbury to consecrate the Aumbry on Sunday August 25th. He looks very well and is evidently keeping as busy as ever.

Fry Windsor and Bob Hodge have been investigating the inner workings of the Church boiler in an endeavour to increase its efficiency and reliability for the coming winter season (in view of the current weather, this job should perhaps be considered urgent!).

HARBURY MOTHERS' UNION

Our next meeting is a service in Church on Wednesday, 4th September with commissioning of new officers. We look forward to seeing all old and new members on that day. On Sunday, 29th September, two new members will be admitted at the 10.30 a.m. service.

S.K.

CHURCH FLOWERS

Inspired by the Flower Festival, the ladies who arrange the flowers week by week have achieved some beautiful arrangements over the summer, despite rain-blown gardens. Thank you! To pool any ideas, to give us a reserve of cash and to fill in a new rota, anyone interested is very welcome to a Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy on September 23rd - a Monday for a change! From 10.30 until 12 at Haze Brook, The Pound. Please come!

Margaret Rigden.

HARBURY ADVENTURERS

We start again on Sunday, 8th September at 11.30 a.m. in the Village Hall. Any child between four and twelve years of age is most welcome to join us for one hour every Sunday morning. We shall, through song, stories and games, learn more about Jesus, his friends and followers. Shirley Keir.

FROM THE RECTOR

Most people seem to agree that so far it has been rather a dreadful summer. Of course there is still time for some fine spells before the end of the autumn but long sultry days have been in short supply this year. Yet, even if you have not been off to some sunny distant shore or whatever, it is amazing how one can manage to put up with bad weather and in spite of rain and wind and cold, thoroughly enjoy a respite from 'the trivial round, the common task'.

This year we had made no plans for a holiday, just reserved some dates when we hoped to be away. It developed into a 'pottering' sort of holiday. Some pottering down in Devon, which is what we have done countless times before and more pottering in West Sussex, which we have not visited for years and years. We hardly every got wet, perhaps a little

5.
muddy at times, but the weather did not stop us getting plenty of fresh air and exercise. In the process we saw the South Downs in sunshine and shower and many interesting places.

The city of Chichester is most pleasing and the Cathedral quite splendid in a quiet and homely sort of way. Chichester has the distinction of being the only Cathedral in this country where the belfry stands separate from the main building, like the campaniles of famous churches abroad. In recent years many works of art have been introduced into the Cathedral by such artists as Graham Sutherland, Hans Feibusch, Patrick Procktor, Marc Chagall, John Skelton and John Piper. Graham Sutherland's work depicts Our Lord speaking to St. Mary Magdalen, after the Resurrection when the startling words 'Touch me not' are pronounced, but it was not to my liking. The modern font is by John Skelton, this interested me particularly because the Skeltons at one time lived in the parish of St. Mary Magdalen, Coventry, and worshipped there as a family. The latest addition to the Cathedral was only introduced in June of this year - an Anglo-German tapestry hanging behind the High Altar - an abstract, full of Christian symbolism, colourful and very exciting.

The history of Chichester is rich indeed and many distinguished people over the centuries have made a place for themselves in that history, none better than the saintly Richard, Bishop 1245-1253. The well-known and much loved prayer below sums up for us what an excellent Christian he was.



Thanks be to Thee
my Lord Jesus Christ
For all the benefits which
Thou hast given me ~
For all the pains & insults
Thou hast borne for me.
O most merciful Redeemer;
Friend and Brother;
May I know Thee more dearly
Love Thee more dearly ~
And follow Thee more nearly.

PRAYER OF ST. RICHARD - BISHOP OF CHICHESTER, 1245 - 1253

During our time in Sussex we stayed in Arundel, a lovely little country town, with a population not much greater than Harbury. The Castle dominates the whole scene of Arundel and is, as you probably know, the home of the Dukes of Norfolk hereditary Earl Marshals of England. It is a fascinating building and among the many things to be seen there is the famous portrait of Cardinal Newman. Originally he was ordained priest in the Church of England but eventually became a Roman Catholic after much heart searching. Three of the finest hymns in our hymn book were written by him, 'Firmly I believe and truly', 'Lead kindly light amid the encircling gloom' and 'Praise to the holiest in the height'. It is possible to spend hours in the castle wandering through spacious halls, rooms and corridors and then, if you have any energy left, the grounds are glorious too.

On Sunday morning we went to the Parish Church of St. Nicholas and enjoyed a very well conducted Sung Eucharist, Rite A, with a congregation of about 150 adults and children. Sitting there, looking towards the High Altar, one notices a glass screen, beyond which is another part of the building. I thought perhaps it might be the Lady Chapel, but it looked too large. Next day when we went to the Castle we discovered what it was. The Earls of Norfolk are of course, Roman Catholics and when they die are interred in the Fitzalan Chapel. The second part of the Parish Church is the Fitzalan Chapel and if ever you want an ecumenical symbol - this is it. The Church of England and the Fitzalan Chapel all under one roof and at present only a glass screen to divide them.

Yes, despite the weather, we had a very pleasant holiday. I hope you did too.

ANTONY S.B. ROWE

Future dates:

1) The Revd. Canon Oswald Slattery of St. John the Evangelist, Montreal is visiting this country in September. He is coming to Harbury on Tuesday 10th September and will celebrate the Eucharist that evening at 7.30 p.m. Canon Slattery, who presented a Ciborium to All Saints, Harbury in memory of Fr. Albert Capps, former Vicar of the parish, has

recently sent us a Sanctuary Lamp to be placed before the Aumbry. If you are able, please come to that service on 10th September.

2) The Choir are preparing a special Choir Evensong on Sunday 22nd September at 6.30 p.m. and they will be presenting the service and choosing the music.

We are very fortunate to have such a loyal and faithful band of young people and it is hoped that there will be strong support for them especially on this occasion.

3) Canon Simon Barrington-Ward, Bishop designate of this diocese will be consecrated Bishop by the Archbishop of Canterbury on All Saints Day in Westminster Abbey. There will be tickets available for those wanting to attend. The Enthronement will be on Saturday afternoon, 4th January in Coventry Cathedral.

Holy Baptism

11th August. Frances Rachel, daughter of Peter Anthon and Christine Evelyn Costigan, 26 South Parade.

Holy Matrimony

31st August. Christopher Paul Houghton, The Bridles, Chapel Street and Carol Anne Farren Coombs, 16 Field Close, Emscote Gardens, Warwick.

Funerals

12th August. Daisy Helen Davis, Farm Street, 82 yrs.

19th August. Iris Elizabeth Hind, 37 Vicarage Lane, 75 yrs.

THE THURSDAY CLUB

Rising like a phoenix from the ashes of the old GOLDEN AGE comes the THURSDAY CLUB!

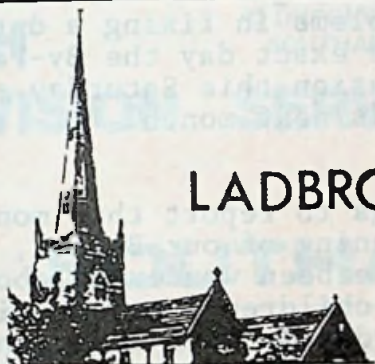
Starting on 12th September, and thereafter on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, this Club is intended for anyone, of any age, who is 'at leisure' to enjoy what we hope will be an interesting, informative and companionable afternoon. Needless to say, we hope all ex-members of the Golden Age will join us in the new Club.

9.
We meet at 2.30 p.m. in the Farley Room of the Village Hall, and close the meeting between 4 p.m. and 4.30.

Our idea is to run the club for a trial period of six months, and if there is sufficient support we shall certainly keep going - so, if this sounds like your cup of tea, do please come.

More information, if desired, from:-

Jean Humphries (612174), Beryl Checkley (612519),
Jeanne and Ken Clarke (612406), Ruth Dodds and
Heather Turner.



LADBROKE NEWS

SEPTEMBER DIARY

- Sun. 1st TRINITY XIII. 9am Holy Communion, 11am Family Service.
- Weds. 4th 10.30am Holy Communion.
Parish Council Meeting.
- Sun. 8th TRINITY XIV. 9am Holy Communion with Hymns.
- Weds. 11th 10.30am Holy Communion
2.30pm in Church, Women's Fellowship.
- Sun. 15th TRINITY XV. 9am Holy Communion with Hymns,
6.30pm Evensong.
- Weds. 18th 10.30am Holy Communion (Women's Fellowship
Corporate Communion).
- Sun. 22nd TRINITY XVI. 9am Holy Communion with Hymns.
- Weds. 25th 10.30am Holy Communion
- Thurs. 26th W.I.
- Sun. 29th TRINITY XVII. 9am Holy Communion with Hymns.
- CHURCH FLOWER ROTA: Sept. 1st Mrs. T. Barnett, Sept. 8th
Mrs. Gould, Sept. 15th Mrs. Ross, Sept. 22nd & 29th Mrs. P.
Barnett, Oct. 6th Mrs. Darkes (Harvest).

10.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The meeting on September 11th will be at 2.30 p.m. in Church for a service taken by the Rector.

NANCY STUBBS.

LADBROKE VILLAGE HALL

Apologies to all those who make use of the Hall for the continuing disruption during alterations. We hope that the changes will eventually be a real improvement and that by the time of the By-Pass opening Dance they will be largely completed.

That Dance has now been arranged for 19th October. There have been some problems in fixing a date because of the uncertainty of the exact day the By-Pass will open. On current information this Saturday seems the best chance - more details next month.

LADBROKE VILLAGE NEWS

No Parish Council Meetings to report this month, but on the subject of the opening of our Bypass, several people in the village have been wondering about the possibility of holding a children's celebration party on the afternoon of Saturday October 19th, that is before the adult celebrations commence in the evening. If anyone would be willing to organise this, could they let me know at Bridge Cottage or tel: Southam 3341.

Finally, on behalf of all of us who have known them for so long, I should like to say goodbye to the Colvin family of High House, who are in the process of emigrating to Canada. It is going to seem very strange without them all!; and congratulations to Jonathan on his magnificent sponsored cycle ride - what a terrific achievement.

KATE LIVERTON.

HARBURY JUNIOR TENNIS

I realise that the summer holidays haven't been the ideal weather for tennis, so please can all those who have entered the singles tournaments play their matches (9 games) by the end of September. The groups are as follows:-

Boys: 1. Ian Percival, Ian McDonald, Paul Dugan, Steven Thompson.



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2. Charles Mayer, Stephen Lambert, Paul Glaze, Leon Scholtz.
3. Christopher Ottewill, Duncan Williams, Dylan Adams, Mark Hayes.
4. Tony Bastin, Vincent Crossan, Christopher Riman, Martin Marsh.

Girls:

1. Sarah Burnham, Jane Hancock, Julia Brown, Lana Marsh.
2. Vanessa Smith, Julie Gilbert, Emma Stevenson, Lucy Knight.
3. Sally Barratt, Lisa Tebaldi, Fiona Crossan, Sarah Gee.
4. Rebecca Burnham, Lorraine Andrews, Wendy Ottewill, Claire Hillis.

Please all come along and support the finalists on Sunday 15th September, when the following (as well as adult finalists) will be playing:

Girls Doubles:

Rebecca Burnham & Lorraine Andrews v Sarah Burnham & Vanessa Smith

Boys Doubles:

Ian Percival & Vincent Crossan v Ian McDonald & Charles Mayer.

Mixed Doubles:

Rebecca Burnham & Dylan Adams v Vanessa Smith & Chris Ottewill.

Congratulations to the "losers plate" winners:-
Duncan Williams & Dylan Adams; Fiona Crossan and Lucy Knight. Congratulations also to the younger members who entered the Short Tennis tournament, resulting in 1st Duncan Szolnoki; 2nd Kieran Youngman; 3rd Shane Exton; 4th Sam Butler.

ROSEMARY OTTEWILL.

p.s: Are there any junior members who have a conscience about not paying their £2 membership?! - the club needs your money to help pay for court maintenance, balls and prizes.

HARBURY BICYCLE EVENT

If you didn't spot the announcement in last month's magazine, you only have a few days left to prepare yourselves for this year's Bicycle Event - (Harbury's answer to the Tour de France) which takes place on Sunday September 8th.

For those who may not be familiar with this event, run by the P.C.C. of Harbury Church, it takes the form of a time trial - run in appropriate classes for 8 year olds and over - over a 5 mile course which is as traffic free as possible, running through Mr. Thwaites' estate, Chesterton village, past Chesterton Windmill and back to the Old New Inn. The event is for fun only - there will be (very) nominal prizes - but do come along and join in. Entries from 2.30 p.m. on the day.

J.B.M.

MOTHER & TODDLER GROUP

We would like to remind all mothers of young children about the Mother & Toddler Group. We get together on Mondays (10-11.30am) and Wednesdays (2-3.30pm) in the Wight School. Our general aim is to provide children from 0 to 3 years with an opportunity to play with each other while mothers have a chat and a coffee nearby. A small charge is made.

Why not come along when we start meeting again on Wednesday 4th September.

SHEILA BURTT (613671)

ACTION RESEARCH FOR THE CRIPPLED CHILD

Ever wished you could wager £200 at the Roulette or Blackjack tables? - Now's your chance!

Come to the 'Twenties Casino Evening' at the Village Hall on Saturday September 28th at 8 pm and you will be given '£200', by courtesy of Waddingtons, to fritter away as you wish. However, if you're lucky enough to hit the Jackpot there will be prizes at the end of the evening for the lady and gentleman with the most money. If you unfortunately lose your 'shirt' on the tables, consolation will be provided by way of supper and entertainment from the Folk Club. A limited number of tickets at £3 each are available by phoning Janice Grundy 612930, Dorothy Groves 61271 or Sue Daniels 612600.

J.G.

FLOWER ARRANGING CLASSES

Two flower arranging classes have been arranged for the autumn term.

On Monday evenings from 7.30-9.30 pm, there will be a five week course starting from the 16th September. It will cater for both the absolute beginner and those with a little more experience, and may be extended for a further five weeks if there is sufficient

Friday morning from 10 am - 12 noon at Adult Centre, two five week courses will run, one in September and from 8th November. The subjects are 'Autumn Flowers & Foliage' and 'Christmas Decorations'.

One will be made most welcome - why not make new friends and enjoy this most satisfying

Please do not hesitate to ring 613497 if you¹³.
have any queries regarding these classes.

SYLVIA BURDETT.

HARBURY W.I.

In August while members have been taking a break from WI activities and enjoying the sun and showers of late summer you might be interested to know a little bit about the history of our local group.

The WI movement started in Canada 88 years ago and Harbury WI has been going for 67 years, quite a good record in itself. From the archives, "on January 23rd 1918 an introductory meeting was held at Greenhill by invitation of Mrs. Gordon Bland, when it was hoped a new scheme in Harbury may be started called the "Women's Institute". The audience numbered about 50 and the meeting ended with a war tea. Who could tell us more about a war tea?!

February 4th 1918, "at a meeting in The Dog room it was unanimously decided to start a branch of the Womens Institute in Harbury. A committee was elected with Mrs. Bland as President and Miss Dunn as secretary. The first meeting of the WI was held on March 17th 1918 at 2.45 pm in the reading room." The subs were sixpence a quarter and the talk was on soft-toy making.

By October 1918 there were 62 members rising to 70 in 1919. The WI arranged regular whist drives and dances, the Fancy Dress dance organised for Boxing Night was a great success!

Some of our older members can no doubt recall the many events and changes that have taken place in our WI over the years but we're pleased to still have a thriving membership. We're always happy to see new members and our meeting on October 10th will be a cookery demonstration, "Winter Puddings", by Miss Wakem, just right for the time of the year.

HEATHER HAWKINS (612493)

HARBURY FOLK CLUB

Remember, remember, the 5th of September! Yes, this is just a reminder that the Folk Club starts its second season this Thursday, in the lounge bar of the Old New Inn, starting at 8.30 pm. Come and enjoy an evening of good-humoured, live music.

PETER McDONALD (613730)

Do not forget the talk on the Great Western Railway on Tuesday 17th September in the Farley Room of the Village Hall at 8 pm. Admission is free.

LINDA RIDGLEY.

PERCY - A FASCINATING PAL



Percy, Doug Tanner's tortoise turns his nose up when it rains, so Doug carries him indoors. He is tethered on the lawn by a long piece of string to restrain him from straying. In the past he has walked from home in Bush Heath Lane, as far as Park Lane. Doug gave him up for lost but after a time some kind person returned him. (It's not certain if he is male or female.) The Tanner family have looked after him for nine years. "My grandchildren think the world of him" said Doug. When Percy smells winter coming on, he digs underneath the privet hedge and Doug covers him over with straw, and with a box on top, that's how he hibernates during the winter months. MIKE BLOXHAM.

PLACES TO GO - ALTHORP and NORTHLEACH

Althorp is the home of the Earl and Lady Spencer, Princess Diana's father and stepmother, and it lies outside Northampton and is well signposted from about 20 miles around the town, taking about 50 minutes from Harbury. The house itself has been extensively

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WHICHAM OLD RECTORY

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LARGE GARDEN - CAR PARK.

refurbished by Lady Spencer and is a tribute to her bold ideas. Lord and Lady Spencer both work hard in and around the house and are always happy to meet and chat with visitors to the house. The gardens date from the 1860's and are beautifully laid out and the kitchen garden provides the house with all its fresh vegetables. The house contains one of the finest art collections in Europe as well as much beautiful furniture and china, and there is a well-stocked library. There is a very large gift shop where the Countess Spencer can usually be seen, selling a variety of china, glass and jewellery, and tea is available with home-made cakes.

Althorp provides a most enjoyable afternoon out and is well worth a visit.

VICTORIA MACGOWAN.

If you are not yet tired of attempting to get out, the Cotswold Collection at Northleach will put a dry roof over your head and give you a worthwhile expedition.

Housed in the old prison - the collection gives a very complete picture of Cotswold life a century or two ago and answers many of the questions posed by the present-day landscape. How did they find the time and money for all those walls?

It fits in well with a visit to peaceful villages in the Windrush Valley, the hurly-burly of Bourton or the Guiting Power Rare Breeds Survival Centre.

April - September 30th. 10am-6pm. Adults 60p.

MARGARET RIGDEN.

MUSIC EXAM SUCCESSES

At the mid-summer session of music exams, the three pupils entered were successful, they are:-

William Stringer - Grade 1

Carolyn Moss - Grade 1

Jennifer Moss - Grade 4

They are pupils of M.J. Coope.

HARBURY CONSERVATIVES

The Branch chose one of those rare dry Saturdays at the end of June to hold a successful Garden Party at Flax Hill, the home of our Chairman, Mrs. Valerie Hill and her husband Brian. It provided another

opportunity for Harbury people to meet their M.P. Alan Howarth, who brought his whole family including the new baby, and a useful sum towards our funds was raised.

Our next social occasion should prove a spirit-warming affair: a Whisky Tasting, in the Village Hall on Saturday, October 19th. Come and find out how well you ken the "Scotch".

HEATHER TURNER.

PARISH COUNCIL

Numbers of Councillors present at the August meeting were reduced by holidays and by one farmer member taking advantage of some rare dry weather to get on with the harvest.

A letter was received from Ian Holroyd of Harbury Cricket Club to report that grants having been obtained from the Sports Council and Stratford District Council, work on the cricket square at Harbury Rugby Club will commence in September.

Severn Trent Water Authority have been investigating complaints of low water pressure and their report is reprinted below.

The council was delighted that Harbury was placed second (to Leek Wootton) in the Best Kept Village Competition and Cllr Thompson will collect the cup at a ceremony in Leek Wootton on Sept. 7th

Cllr Middleton reported that the construction of the new cemetery path has been completed and work will commence in September on the re-painting of the play equipment.

Cllr Thompson reported on the Council's takeover of the maintenance of the playing field now that the Advisory Committee is defunct. Mr. Ray Carter has been appointed to carry out a weekly safety inspection and Mr. Tagg (who is a Chartered Mechanical Engineer) will inspect the equipment every three months. Cllr Hancock asked Cllr Thompson to investigate the installation of impact absorbing surfaces beneath some of the equipment.

The footbridge on Footpath SM62 has been repaired at last but nothing has been done yet about the surface water problem in Constance Drive so a further letter is to be sent to Mr. Walters.

It was reported that the area of grass at the

top of Queen's Close has now been mown.

Mrs. Watts of Honiwell Close sent the Council a copy of her letter to Alan Howarth M.P. regarding the junction of Mill St and Farm St where she recently had an accident. The Council heartily agreed that the junction is dangerous and recalled previous efforts to have it improved. It was decided to request another site meeting with the County Council and the Police.

The clerk reported that Planning Permission has been granted for alterations to 16 Farm Street for Mr. & Mrs. Ridgley, for a porch extension at 11 Heber Drive for Mr. & Mrs. Chaplin, and for the conversion of a stable into a dwelling house at Harbury House for Mr. Andrews.

Plans were received for the erection of an indoor riding school at Highfield Stables, Deppers Bridge to which the council had no objection.

Mr. Cecil Parkhurst, who died recently, has left £250 to the Council for the provision of a seat in the village. A letter will be sent to his son to acknowledge this generous gift. A decision as to its siting will be made at the next meeting which will be on September 26th. M.S.H.

Complaint of Low Water Pressure - Harbury Village.

"Further to my letter of the 6 June 1985 I now have the results of the hydraulic investigation that was undertaken in the village recently. As part of the exercise a pressure recording device was installed on the main in Constance Drive and the pressure monitored over a period of one week. The minimum pressure recorded was 12m (17pounds per square inch) with a maximum of 17m (24pounds per square inch).

The available water pressure in Harbury is a function of the depth of water in the nearby water tower and pressure losses due to demand on the system. The tower is capable of generating a pressure of up to 18m (25 pounds per square inch) in the Constance Drive area and the variation that occurred whilst the test was carried out is what I consider to be reasonable through the distribution system.

Tests have recently been carried out to check on available flow in houses in the village following complaints of low pressure. These have indicated that

18. the problem has been the result of encrusted and inadequately sized private supply pipes. I would expect this to be the situation generally and be the major contributing factor to the apparent poor pressure.

Replacement is obviously the ultimate solution but to provide the maximum pressure available I will ensure that the water tower is kept as full as possible, as far as operational conditions permit."

M.J. RUNACRES.

Asst Divisional Manager (Operations) Severn Trent Water

BEHIND THE SCENES

How fortunate for Harbury that it has a churchwarden who showed such artistic flair, imagination and ingenuity during the staging of the Flower Festival in July.

The design for the altar had originally been intended as one large arrangement incorporating the very lovely cross. However, on consultation with the Rector, it was decided to make two smaller designs, one on either side of the cross to allow for using the altar during services.

There were five stems of white lilies to be used with carnations and freesias. Two pleasing designs were made, each using two stems of lilies - but - consternation! - one lovely stem left! How best to use it - for it certainly must be used.

Churchwarden, Harry Windsor - at a glance - sized up the situation and saved the day. With a quiet smile the lily was held behind the cross, helping to accentuate its due importance and forming a visible link between the flowers on either side. Perfection!

But again - how to keep it there? Various containers were produced, but all were discarded as being too large, wide or tall to remain invisible behind the slender upright of the cross.

Our churchwarden vanished, to re-appear minutes later with a length of narrow pipe, welded - it seemed almost instantly - on to a firm base. The pipe held the lily stem at just the right height and was invisible behind the cross.

Unfortunately, when water was introduced into the top of the pipe, it came out of the bottom again just as quickly! But our intrepid churchwarden again

proved his worth - back to the welding equipment and now returned triumphant!

The altar looked absolutely lovely. S.B.

"THOUGHTS BY A GRANDAD AFTER RUNNING THIS YEAR'S

NSPCC FUN RUN"

If Jimmy Savile could run marathons on a diet of foot-long cigars and instantly forgettable music and another fellow could do one dressed as a gorilla, I reckoned I should be able to complete the Harbury Fun Run of 2.25 miles. Actually, it was nearly seven I would have said. 2.25 perhaps, if you were a local, had cased the route beforehand and knew the shortcuts, but for visiting celebrities, it was nearly seven miles.

Registration before the race was well organised, numbers, safety pins and balloons issued in return for modest contributions to the N.S.P.C.C.

I eyed the opposition, ignoring those show-offs whose objective seemed to be merely to win. I thought of reminding one or two that the honour lay in participating, not in winning, but their muscles deterred me. A few displayed their inexperience by "warming up" - a procedure I found totally unnecessary, having taken the precaution of wearing a collar and tie and woolly pullover. (Athletes, show-offs, wear sweaters-my age group wears pullovers).

The real competitors - those who did not expect to win and were running for the honour, and a certificate to prove it - all seemed to be about three feet tall, mobile advertisements for Adidas and Ellesse, and capable of running all day without number, safety pin or balloon.

The start was delayed a few minutes because the constabulary was engaged on some footling robbery: why can you never find a policeman when you want one? However, it gave the musclemen more time to warm-up and time for me to loosen my tie. This slight action of mine did not go unnoticed by a young fellow wearing a London Marathon headband - I think he recognised dangerous opposition when he saw it. "Those of you who intend to do good times, please come to the front" called the organiser, "so that the children do not get trampled on at the start".

The experts among us held back - we realised that the chances of winning were enhanced if some of the more promising-looking kids could be nobbled in a mass start.

At the first bend, I was passed by a ten-year-old girl on roller skates. I would not have minded, confident of my ability to produce a fast finish, had she not smirked at me as she went past. Enough to put me off my long-distance stride, anyway - a technique developed over some years. I walk with my left leg and run with the other - changing sides from time to time to spread the pain.

The total effect is similar to that of the monkey in the Tarzan films or the hunchback of Notre Dame climbing into the belfry, but it does tend to confuse the opposition.

As the first distance marker appeared through my misty spectacles I looked at my watch. 3 minutes 45 secs! A spurt now and I should join those illustrious runners of whom Roger Bannister was the first. I decided to run with both legs and reached the distance marker at just under 4 minutes. " $\frac{1}{4}$ mile" it said, and it lied.

By this time the field had, as they say, spread out and I decided to coast along for a bit until I got my second wind. I tucked in behind a fellow pushing a Wheelbarrow ("getting a tow" as David Coleman would have described it) until I realised that he wasn't in the race at all.

Notice how it wasn't a "fun run" any more - it was a race. My grand daughter, who had been instructed to look after me, had long disappeared ahead. She waited for me eventually, either because she daren't go home without me or because it looked like rain and I had an umbrella (with attached balloon).

Nevertheless, I felt I still posed a threat to the leaders - I clearly had the legs of a young mother running hand-in-hand with her five year old daughter and I was streets ahead, well, half an avenue anyway, of another young woman pushing a pram.

By this time, my plan of campaign had gone slightly astray. I had planned a quick burst at the start, to get a commanding lead and then, to allow for the expected lack of breath, to run two minutes, walk two minutes, lie down two minutes - and so on.

The drinks station at $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles was a big disappointment. To begin with it was $5\frac{1}{2}$ and not $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles from the start. Secondly, there was nowhere to sit down in comfort. Thirdly, there was little choice. I had thought a rather large gin and tonic (not too much tonic) and a twist of lemon and two ice cubes would not have been too much to expect. Under the circumstances, a choice of lime juice and water or orange juice and water hardly seemed appropriate and one hopes that the organisers will bear this criticism in mind when considering next year's event.

The let-down at the drinks station helped me through the pain barrier and my grand daughter helped me along South Parade, but (just in case Ron Pickering and the TV cameras had arrived) I managed a final burst to where the finishing tape had been twenty minutes earlier.

The final blow came with the refusal of my request to have the time on my certificate entered in pencil. There was no intention on my part to cheat, you understand, but I felt that I was entitled to make certain adjustments to allow for some of the factors I have mentioned.

Next year, though, I shall have prepared better I may even dispense with my pullover.

TIMOTHY SNOWBALL BERRY

HARBURY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The next event is of course the "Flower Show" on Saturday, September 7th and although it has been a dreadful season, I am sure all our members will support this popular Show. This year I would like to draw attention to an alteration. We have made Wine a section on its own with a cup donated by Mr. & Mrs. Zonik; we feel that this will prove to be very popular with all wine makers. Also there is an entry for a malt loaf, and anyone who hasn't a recipe should contact Mr. Wilkins, 1 Manor Road.

Our new season starts on Tuesday October 1st with a meeting in the Wight School at 8 p.m.

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IN THE GARDEN

Although it's been a difficult season for growing veg- and flowers, you must have something that has done well and now is the time to enter into the fun of showing on September 7th. But be certain to read your Schedule carefully so as to have the right number of flowers or veg. Your celery needs earthing up or binding round with cardboard so as to bleach it. Your Jap Onion seed should have been sown but as it is a late season you may be lucky if sown at once.

Spring Cabbage seed should be growing and ready to plant out at the end of the month. Brussels Sprouts may need some support against the winter storms. Main crop potatoes should be left in the ground until the tops have died down. Outdoor tomatoes should be left out until there is a sign of frost. W.F. LINES.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editors,

We would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude for all the help and good wishes received from so many friends during our recent move.

Thank you all. Wendy & Tony Stubbs.

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