

The Harborne Society

Summer 2017 Newsletter – Issue 91

www.theharbornesociety.org.uk



The Harborne Society's New Chairman Marion Brown

Hello and welcome to The Harborne Society's 2017 Summer Newsletter. It has been an eventful year for the Society with several committee members retiring after many years of service. Most importantly, I want to give grateful thanks to **Marcia Meyer**, Chairman for the past seven years and on the committee for fourteen, and to **Roger Miles**, who in the past forty years has been both Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Fortunately, we have been able to recruit new members and I feel honoured to be elected as Chairman. However, there are still spaces on the committee and we welcome members who feel they can devote some of their time to help to preserve the integrity of "Harborne Village".

Summer seems to be here at last. Crowds came to the traditional Harborne Carnival, one of the largest in the country. People filled the High Street and they brought such joy and pleasure to Harborne. I was privileged to meet the Lady Lord Mayor of Birmingham and also the Carnival Queen. I am looking forward to seeing "Harby" the Bear, a large ornamental bear donated to Harborne by Artscoop and local artists. Local people have decorated Harby with their fingerprints and he had a place on the High Street in July as part of a City-wide "Big Sleuth Trail". The Arts Mile will take place on the High Street in October. Andy Street, the recently elected West Midlands Mayor, has made tackling homelessness his priority and this has helped to ease the problem of the homeless in Harborne. I am also pleased to see that new stores have recently moved into the area and hope that they will bring yet more life and prosperity to Harborne.

From September, there will be a new programme of our regular monthly Wednesday evening meetings with people giving talks on a wide variety of subjects. (See the back page for details.) Members and visitors are welcome and I hope you will join us.

FISHER HOUSE



A soldier's success

Jenny Buchan

Our meeting last April was "Fisher House – Queen Elizabeth Hospital: A home away from home".

Members who attended will remember our speaker that night. Dave Watson is a soldier who was severely injured in 2010 by an improvised explosive device while serving in Afghanistan.

We are delighted to tell you that Dave has been selected for the UK team for the next Invictus Games.

Dave will participate in two events, the discus and the shot put. We wish him every success.

The Harborne Society were very pleased at the generous contribution made by members that evening to the Fisher House Fund.

Editor's note: Established by Prince Harry a few years ago, the Invictus Games are the only international sports event for injured serving service members and veterans. The 2017 Games will take place in Toronto in September.

Technical Officer's report

Since last year's *Newsletter* little has changed regarding the **Royalty** Cinema, other than continuing dereliction. "Urban explorers" continue to break in despite the best efforts of the owners and the police. Following a positive public consultation organised by the owners in April 2016 they were dismayed to receive an entirely negative response to their pre-application discussions in August from the Conservation Heritage Panel (a non-statutory advisory group to the city planners), despite following advice received from the Planning Department.

The owners' proposals for retention and restoration of the front block, demolition of the auditorium to provide apartments for the over 55s, and an underground car park were rejected outright on the grounds that no part of the Grade II listed building could be demolished. In the meantime the Harborne Royalty Trust had appeared late on the scene with proposals to create a three screen cinema with associated community use. Needless to say this *did* find favour with the panel as there was no requirement to demonstrate the viability of the scheme. Despite many promises and an impressive website nothing appears to have materialised on these plans and the owners, and (I understand) the planners, now consider the cinema project to be closed. Temporary planning approval for three years has been granted for a hand car wash on the car park, with an occupied cabin to provide enhanced security. The Society supports this proposal as it will bring a valuable facility to the High Street. Longer term the Society considers the residential proposal to be the best option for the Royalty but awaits a detailed planning application. The Harborne Royalty Trust proposals must also be given serious consideration but there is no sign of them at the time of writing.

On a happier note, things appear to be moving on at least two vacant High Street retail units. The former **Home Bargains** shop has opened as a three in one store including Peacocks, Edinburgh Woollen Mill and Ponden Home: a welcome addition to Harborne. The former **Blockbusters** unit has been split into two and I understand from the agent that, due to a recent upsurge in interest in the property, letting for both units is being progressed. I cannot think of a better location than Harborne High Street and I look forward to discovering who the new tenants are.

A recent article in *The Birmingham Post* drew attention to the situation whereby recent "permitted development" legislation - which allows the conversion of redundant office buildings to residential use - does not specify minimum room sizes. The former **Open University** offices on the High Street have had approval under this legislation for conversion to 55 one bedroom investment apartments over three floors. The Society is concerned about the size of the apartments but it is clear, following discussion with a city planner, that a detailed planning application does not need to be submitted and comments or objections cannot be made regarding the development. Indeed, Planning Department input is limited to matters concerning flooding, noise and highway safety. The recent legislation drives a coach and horses through the planning system which, in my opinion, has evolved over many years to prevent poor or undesirable development and, in many cases, doesn't allow constructive input from planners and local people. At the time of writing, an application has been submitted for construction of an additional fourth floor to include eight apartments. Plans show a stepped design so the overall effect should not be overbearing.

In the last year the Technical Sub Committee looked at over 240 planning applications. Generally the flow of applications continues to be steady indicating an active housing, retail and social scene in Harborne.

As always, I extend my thanks to members of the Technical Sub Committee for their commitment in trying to ensure a vibrant future for our village.

Andy Peet

Planning in practice



"Surely there was a pub here?"

"Flood defences in Harborne?"

"Something old; something new!"



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Report of the Society's 2017 AGM

The 57th Annual General Meeting of The Harborne Society was held on Wednesday 17 May 2017 with 63 members of the Society present. The Minutes of the 2016 AGM had been circulated and were approved. Marcia Meyer, the Chairman, said that during the past year the future of the Society had seemed threatened but thankfully three new members had now joined the committee and this meant that the Society would be able to continue. She thanked the Vice Chairman, the Technical Officer, the Honorary Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Committee Members for their high standard of work during the year.

Since last September there had been interesting monthly talks given by a diverse range of speakers. The talks had been well attended. Most of the speakers had donated their fees to charity. Members had also generously given to charities via collection boxes brought by the speakers. The Society's Annual Dinner had been well supported and had been held at University College Birmingham. As usual the food had been prepared and served by the students of the College's "Chef Cookery" course. The speaker for the evening was Professor Janet Lord who gave an interesting talk entitled "The Ageing Process".

Marcia said that she had been Chairman of the Society for the past seven years and would now be retiring. Andy Peel (Technical Officer) gave a summary of the work done by the Technical Sub-committee and its work in trying to ensure a vibrant future for our village. Brenda Durbin (Honorary Treasurer) summarised the Society's accounts for 2016-2017 and was pleased to announce a healthy bank balance.

There followed a talk by Neil Roberts, a historian, entitled "The End of the End of the Pier Show". This proved to be a fascinating account of the history of British piers, the changes of their use and the rise and fall of popularity over the two centuries from when they were originally planned to the present day. He also gave amusing anecdotes about the shows, performers and entertainers who had appeared in the theatres on the piers.

The evening closed with members enjoying a buffet of food and wine.

Marion Brown

Thirty-five years ago ...

In last summer's issue, we showed the first two pages of the very first issue of *Harborne NEWS*, that of September 1981. Now it is time to be nostalgic about Issue 4 - September 1982. The front page was on the work of the Society's Technical Committee. The Committee's chair, a certain Mr Andrew Peet, urged people to join the Society to put pressure on the Council about two developments we were fighting hard to prevent:

- demolition of the Harborne Railway Bridge in Park Hill Road;
- replacement of the Ring Road section crossing at Prince's Corner with a dual carriageway.

Clearly, we were successful. And so still is Andy Peet in this same role – see Page 2!

On the next page, the Society's Chairman, Phil Simpson, showed his green credentials with a passionate plea for the whole community of this "small town" to oppose inappropriate development as well as trying to preserve our heritage. There too, we also celebrated the 75th anniversary of Harborne Tenants. "The 'Estate' ... is appreciated by us all as a worthy conservation area." It still is, as Pages 6-7 in *this* issue confirm.

Madeline Aston's plea is to support such local shopping areas so they can remain viable. Well, they're all still there, so there was success there too....

A bit later is an item about the completion of the Clock Tower's memorial garden to Dr Hugh Morton. This cost the Society over £3000, raised by a public appeal. [Plaque replacement is due later this year.]

Last, what about the programme of events on the back page? The monthly "social" meetings in those days were in turn at Onneley House and St Peter's Hall. Highlights were perhaps "The Black Country and its humour" and the Harborne Railway. The Annual Dinner is on the list too – then as now in what was the College of Food, though in February rather than the autumn.

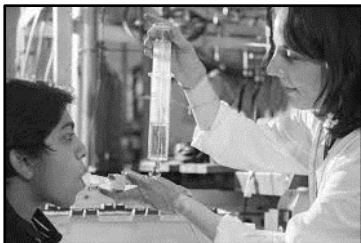
An almost complete set of the Society's news letters in pdf form is on the website. Fascinating reading....

You can help health research improve!

Everyone knows that lifespan is rising fast! According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the global average lifespan went up by five years between 2000 and 2015. That means that, on average, we'll each live about eight hours longer for every day that passes....

Everyone also knows the main reason for this – reduced death rates with improved health. And the main reason for improved health is research into health (which includes public health and social care). I call that health research for short.

Everyone probably knows too that this country spends billions of pounds on health research each year: that's public sector research, research by relevant charities (like the Alzheimer's Society, Cancer Research UK and Parkinson's UK) and, of course, research by profit-making firms.



What *not* everyone knows is that health research is not always effective. In fact, far from all the thousands of projects started each year come to a happy ending. That means they have outcomes that progress health science and/or can clearly make the lives of patients and families better. Sometimes a study's design is not well thought out, or the researcher just can't recruit the number of patients needed for the data to be secure. Sometimes the outcomes don't match what the sponsors want, so are buried. In other cases, the outcomes could be of value to society but never pass from specialist journals to the public domain.

One potentially valuable way to move health research forward is having lay people involved in managing these studies. This lay involvement – often called **public involvement, PI** – has been required in this country for years; PI is spreading fast in public sector research, followed closely by that of health charities, and is more and more common in private sector contexts.

PI, public involvement in health research, is so new that there is little or no coordination yet of principles and practice. That's one reason I find it so exciting that I work in PI almost full-time and call it my third career. Although it is voluntary work, it is full of challenge and is therefore very good to keep my ancient brain working! After only a few years, I have national, regional and local roles – good to keep my ancient body working too, with all that travel. But I still don't have much of a coherent national picture in my mind – maybe no-one has.

Indeed, I'm not sure there's a coherent picture yet down the road – at the University of Birmingham and the University Hospitals Birmingham (UHB). Certainly, plenty of health research takes place there, hundreds of studies at any time. I most closely work with the Liver Unit (source of the photos); this currently runs over eighty research studies at any time and is part of our new Biomedical Research Centre (BRC). The BRC also covers arthritis, bowel disease and sarcopenia. The Liver Unit's PI panel members – many being ex-patients - have roles ranging from suggesting research questions to helping bring study outcomes to public attention. They may also participate in studies as research subjects; help researchers with their proposals and documents for the public; and keep an eye on research progress. Members of other PI panels and networks with which I work do much the same, but also choose which studies to support, join advisory groups, help recruit study participants and gather evidence. The biggest challenge tends to be having enough members to carry out all the roles: some groups have hundreds of members – as does the Birmingham 1000 Elders described in our last issue.



Lay voices – including the (ex-)patient and carer voices - are very important in helping researchers to be realistic. For instance, studies have failed because they needed old people to turn up first thing in the morning, or obese people to turn up at any time, or people with dementia to cope with lengthy survey forms or focus groups. I strongly believe that effective PI can make health research more effective. *Proving that is the goal of my third career....*

UHB and the BRC see PI as very important in making patient care as effective and pleasant as can be. If you would like to find out more about public involvement in the University's liver research, or in research elsewhere in our Biomedical Research Centre, please email ericdeeson@gmail.com to say which.

Yes, you can help health research improve!

Eric Deeson

The Moor Pool Estate

“Possibly the most charming enclave of 20th Century social housing in Birmingham and, arguably, one of the city’s best kept architectural secrets.” (*Played in Birmingham*, Steve Beauchamp & Simon Inglis, English Heritage 2006)

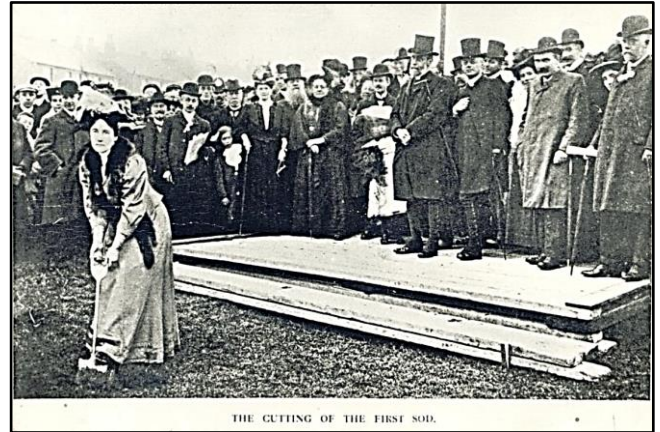
“There appears to be every reason to regard Moor Pool as very significant historically and architecturally on at least a regional level.” (formal letter from Michael Taylor of English Heritage, April 2009)



The history

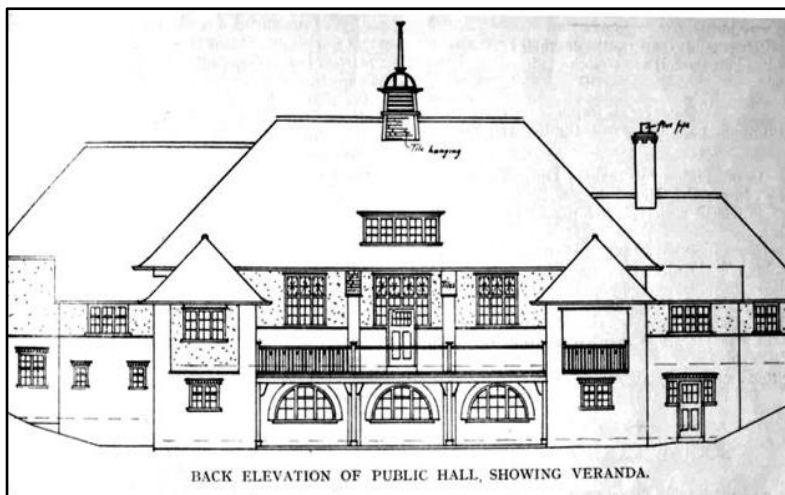
The Moor Pool Estate is a garden suburb in Harborne. It was founded in 1907-1910, a very few years after Bournville Village, as a co-operative housing project by John Sutton Nettlefold. Nettlefold was the first Chairman of Birmingham's Housing Committee. His London hardware store, opened in 1823, eventually became GKN; he was related by marriage to the Chamberlain family.

Nettlefold was a supporter of the Garden City Movement. This movement sought to bring about social change by solving the problem of overcrowded cities through the creation of marrying town and country in a “garden city”. This let people live close to work in an environment that brought the country into the city. The density of housing was lower and estates had a high level of “urban greening”. This was not about building houses, but building homes: it was not about building a suburb, but a sustainable community.



Nettlefold proposed town planning in the suburbs to prevent the creation of future slums. By moving in this direction, Birmingham emerged as one of the first British local authorities to espouse Town Planning ideas. Moor Pool was Nettlefold's proof that his “revolutionary” town planning ideas could work.

The Estate



Designed as a community, Moor Pool had 500 well built, affordable homes in a carefully planned landscape of 54 acres. At a time when the permitted density of housing in the city was forty houses per acre, Moor Pool was planned with just ten houses per acre.

The Estate is centred on The Circle, with its community hall, shops, Estate Office and The Circle tennis courts. Its visual focus is the vista on the North to South axis that runs down through The Circle and bowling green to the pool and then along the valley.

A critical part of Nettlefold's social mission was to provide leisure facilities and green spaces for the use of the tenants. He wanted to build a community for the future: that community is still thriving today.

Moor Pool today

Moor Pool remains an almost complete example of the original estate, with a vibrant and active community. We have a range of active clubs always happy to welcome new members - tennis, bowls, fishing, reading, allotment, rifle ... to name but a few. We also have an active educational programme which has hosted schools, colleges and informal adult education talks/tours.

Moor Pool is now managed by a trust, set up by residents in 2011 to conserve the estate. Because of the threat from development in 2013-14, the Trust raised £325 000 to purchase the community facilities to protect and conserve them for people's use.



Recent projects include a fire exit to the historic skittle alley so it can be used by the public. We have also reinstated a small pocket park, at the bottom of Margaret Grove, in line with Nettlefold's original vision. We're currently raising funds for other projects, such as developing our outdoor education facilities and Forest School space.

Please contact Barbara Nomikos on 0121 426 2908 for more information about Moor Pool, our volunteers and our clubs. You may also like to visit www.moorpoolhall.org.uk.

Jules Bellingham



Circle Cinema

As noted above, the community has always thrived on activities. Today these include various sports clubs and societies, many of which are run from its two community halls. These are in the Moor Pool Hall which is at the heart of the community.

However, the estate has never had its own society dedicated to film. This was addressed last year, when a group of residents got together to form The Circle Cinema.

The group's initially modest plans for The Circle Cinema received a considerable boost in February 2016. Then we entered, and won, a competition run by BFI (the British Film Institute) and Saville Audio Visual. The prize was a complete

professional package of projection and sound equipment.

Circle Cinema was launched with an inaugural Film Festival in June 2016, officially opened by Ziauddin Yousafzai, the father of Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai. Our first film was, of course, *He Named Me Malala*.

Since then we have offered monthly screenings, often double bills, with food and refreshments available. Tickets are competitively priced at £5, discounted to £2 for those paying a £20 annual sub. Do join us for an enjoyable few hours in a friendly community atmosphere.

Details of our future programme are available on our web site at www.circlecinema.co.uk. After the summer break, our first screening dates are 3rd September and 15th October. We have planned to show *Manchester by the Sea*; *Girl on a Train*; *Arrival*; *I, Daniel Blake*; and *Theory of Everything*. Also, you can e-mail info@circlecinema.co.uk for details or to join our mailing list.



Andrew Hackett

An evacuee's story

Philippa Russell at that time lived in northwest London, but moved to central Harborne years ago. The pictures are of WW2 Harborne; they show respectively ARP Warden training at the Royalty, and the Home Guard at Moor Pool Hall. All three photos on these two pages come with much gratitude from Harborne Library's great local history resource; the building's basement was an air-raid shelter during the war.

When war broke out I was living with my family in London. My Auntie Josie was a Jew and cousin Sylvia looked very Jewish. So early in 1940 the family decided that Sylvia and I should go to a Montreal contact of our grandfather in case Hitler invaded. She was then seven, and I was four. Imagine what it must have meant to send one's child across the Atlantic to live with strangers. Imagine too the generosity of the couple in their sixties who gave us a home: I guess Auntie and Unc, as we called them, thought they were to foster two small homesick girls for a few months. It turned out to be four years!

In July 1940 Auntie Josie took us on the two-week voyage from Liverpool to Montreal on the very crowded and uncomfortable *Duchess of Richmond*. She stayed with us for a month before returning to be with her husband.



Thus began four years of life in Canada. I badly missed my Dad, who posted something to me almost daily: under my pillow, which I cried into, was a growing pile of letters. But I must have settled well for I remember much happiness too. Sylvia and I were almost always together, and became like sisters. Unc had a wonderful sense of humour and he and Auntie, though strict, were very kind. One of the few unpleasantnesses was that they threw away my fat-free diet sheet (doctor's orders from England) and Auntie said: "What a nonsense: once she has good Canadian food she'll be fine!" So I still remember feeling sick after every meal: the Canadian diet was much richer than even a normal English one – lots of cream, butter and awful orange processed cheese. Auntie and Unc insisted we always ate everything we were served (however long that took) and I just assumed that food was a necessary evil and feeling sick was something everyone had to stomach.

But I know they tried their hardest to do what was best for us, whether it was discipline or treats. We never picked up even a hint of "However much longer have we got to put up with these two moody girls?" Most clothes were bought. We were dressed expensively I guess. I remember lots of new clothes, and I think I was better dressed then than I have ever been since.

In the summer holidays we stayed near one of the big lakes in a log cabin. I can still smell the wood! The long veranda across the front of the cabin, with wide steps going down to the garden, protected the rooms at the front from the sun and heat, so that although they were therefore rather dark they remained mercifully cool.

I found the summers too hot. But the winter was worse: I often cried because I was so cold. We were dressed in the traditional heavy navy coats bordered with red, with red woolly hats, leggings, mittens and tie belt and sent outside to play on non-school days. We were only allowed back to the flat for lunch, otherwise we were out all day in most weathers. We had lots of local friends and played in their gardens or in the street. One winter a neighbour built an igloo big enough to stand in, and hosed over the garden to make an ice-rink for us to skate on. Autumn was my favourite season: even as a child I was overwhelmed by the vivid colours of the trees. Later, back in England, I was disappointed to find that autumn was but a poor imitation of the Canadian Fall.

For three of the four years Sylvia and I went to the local infant and junior schools which I remember vividly and which were very like equivalent schools in this country. But for one year, when I was six and Sylvia nine, Auntie and Unc had a problem: Unc was posted to New York for a year; what could they do with us? They sent us to an expensive independent school in Montreal that took a small proportion of boarders (their own daughter had been a day girl there). It was a school which set out to copy English girls' public schools and it was very traditional. We wore box-pleated navy tunics with sashes and thick black stockings, and on Sundays, silky white dresses. We went in a crocodile to church. Rules were strict, but I was happy there and, as the youngest boarder, somewhat spoilt! I was in a class of five, and Sylvia's class wasn't much bigger. Standards were high and many ex-pupils went on to distinguished careers – and still do. That Christmas we could not join Auntie and Unc in New York, but a good-natured family whose daughter was also a boarder had us to stay for the holiday. It was a long train journey to get to their home which must have been quite far north because there was even more snow. At the station we were met not by a taxi cab but by a "one horse open sleigh". (Guess what we sang as we were transported to the home of these kind folk!) Snow

shoes were obligatory for walking out of doors, and water froze in the bedroom. I think it was a farm, it was certainly a country area. The kitchen, cosily crowded, was the one warm room.

By Easter the Woods were able to have us to stay for that holiday in New York and took a lot of trouble to show us the sights. We enjoyed Central Park, and I was astonished by the skyscrapers. I remember the thrill of going in the Empire State Building lift in order to have 'the highest ice-cream in the world' at the top. There were also wondrous machines where you could get a ready meal from a glass-doored pigeon-hole by putting money in a slot. Even in those days we thought American technology was fantastic.



The atrocities of war barely touched us. But every Friday afternoon before home time a bell rang in our schools. We all had to stand to attention and sing "God save our King" and "The maple leaf for ever". Auntie and Unc insisted on total silence while they listened daily to the evening news, but it all went over our heads. We rarely met any other English people; I wonder where all those people on the boat had gone?

A year after Auntie and Unc came back from New York they must have decided they could no longer cope with us. Or maybe (I now suspect) their daughter took a firm line. I don't blame them! I never felt we were being pushed out, but I have since learnt that it was their decision that we go home not, as they wisely told us, that our parents wanted us back. There was still no end to the war in sight and the Atlantic Ocean was still a dangerous place.

By then we didn't want to go back at all. I was eight, I had left England when I was four. My family was but a faint memory. I looked and felt Canadian and my accent was as broad as anyone's. I had decided (judging by the few I had met) that I didn't like the English: to Canadian ears an English accent sounds very tight, or lah-di-dah, and I therefore assumed that all English were snobs. Nevertheless we unwillingly co-operated and chose the few belongings we were allowed to take with us. Pooh, my teddy, of course. He had been my constant friend; I had brought him from England. My tin whistle: Dad had sent it one Christmas, but the Woods forbade me to play it ("too noisy"). Perhaps I would be allowed to play it in England. A few of the postcards Dad had sent (alas, I didn't bring the stories) and the Bible he sent for my seventh birthday. These treasures I still have, and the red woollen hat and one of my Sunday dresses.

We left via Philadelphia, suddenly surrounded by lots of (to my ears) posh-sounding English people, in April 1944. We had to go to Lisbon (via the Azores), because a boat journey direct to England was too risky. The eleven days on the boat were quite an adventure for two girls who had hitherto been strictly supervised. Imagine what we got up to! We ate what we fancied, we wandered all over the boat regardless of rules, and we went to bed far too late having watched the grown-ups dancing.

The world I came back to was beyond my Canadian imagination: rationing, no bananas, few clothes or luxuries, black out, air raid shelters, and bombs....

... Nowadays, long after the War, I regularly have maple syrup on my breakfast cereal and I think of collecting the syrup from the trees in little buckets, of chipmunks and beavers and humming birds and red-coated Mounties, and of all the other things I saw and experienced during that strange and unreal time of my life.



A wee bit more on Harborne in the War...

According to the Birmingham Mail, bombs fell on Harborne during the "Birmingham Blitz" on 28-29 Oct, 15 Nov and 11 Dec 1940 and 27 Jul 1942. However, perhaps the Harborne community's most significant bombing damage was the loss of the old St John's Church in 1941, not mentioned in that list. The church (shown) was then in St John's Road, being consecrated in 1858 and given part of St Peter's Parish the next year.

The new church in the High Street was consecrated in 1960, on the site of St John's Church Hall. The Hall was previously St John's School.

My experiences of the Harborne Food School

As I watched the refurbishment of the Clock Tower building I noticed that there was a food school planned. I have always liked cooking and watched TV programmes such as *Masterchef* and wanted to find out more about the food school. Although it was advertised as "Coming soon" nothing happened for months - and then it was announced that the people planning the food school had changed their minds and had decided not to proceed. Oh no! Was it going to be another restaurant or takeaway?

However, a few weeks later new notices appeared announcing the aptly named "Harborne Food School (harbornefoodschoo.co.uk)". I was excited to see that the large room on the York Street side of the Clock Tower was being fitted out with cooking equipment. Harborne Food School was at last up and running and through their website I was able to book one of their first classes - "A Chinese Family Feast". The experience was remarkable; the kitchen had been fitted out with up-to-date equipment including Aga ovens and induction hotplates. Lap-Fai Lee, an experienced chef and instructor, led the course. All the ingredients were provided and under the watchful eye of the chef I was taught how to make a traditional Chinese feast - including pleated dumplings filled with savoury pork, aromatic stewed chicken, poached fish and butterflied prawns. When we had finished preparing the food it was all put on a large table and we all sat and enjoyed the feast.



A few weeks later I booked an Egyptian cookery course "Cooking like Cleopatra". This was presented by Marina Ibrahim (marina@cooking-like-cleopatra.com). Marina is a famous chef and author whose speciality is food from Egypt and North Africa. This was a vegetarian menu and once again I was able to cook traditional food - this time with ingredients such as tahini that I had never heard of or used before.

The dishes included: - ful medames (Egypt's national dish: brown fava bean stew) and Egyptian baba ghanough (aubergine dip with tahini). As well as learning about the food there were also very interesting facts about the traditional aspects of the dishes we prepared. It proved to be a very happy evening and it is one

that I shall long remember.

I am pleased to see that the Harborne Food School is now a successful venture. They offer a wide range of courses - everything from worldwide cookery and bread making to sushi - as well as healthy eating concentrating on diabetes and weight problems.

Marion Brown

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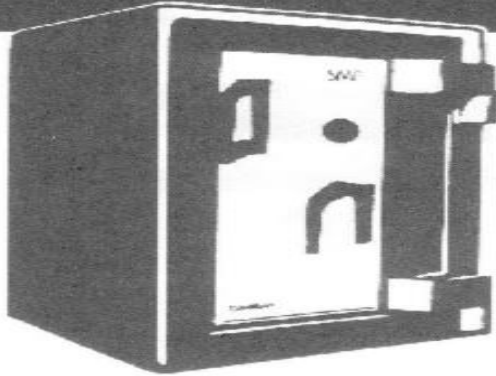
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**The Harborne Society
2017 – 2018
Officers and Committee**

Many thanks to the Slug and Lettuce for hosting our meetings!

Patron

The Lord Bishop of Birmingham

Chairman

Marion Brown
mbrown557@gmail.com

Vice-Chairman

Peter Lowndes
peter@lowndes.net

Honorary Secretary

Julie Brown
jmbrown2020@gmail.com

Honorary Treasurer

Brenda Durbin
bdurbin@talktalk.net
Tel: 0121 427 3710

Membership Secretary

Jenny Buchan
jennybuchan50@gmail.com
Tel: 0121 426 4854

**Technical Office / Chair,
Technical Sub-Committee**

andydexterpeet@hotmail.com

Other Committee members

Michael Darby
Jenny Selwyn-Smith
Bill Taylor

From the Editor

Eric Deeson (Harborne resident since 1969) had the honour to be asked to look after this issue. He and the Editorial Panel are already thinking about the cool Christmas issue – and welcome your comments and ideas, offers of help and of possible items.

Please contact the Editor at ericdeeson@aol.com.

Programme of meetings

All are welcome to join us on these evenings.
We charge non-members £1, which includes refreshments.
All meetings, Wednesdays 7.30 pm, are in the small hall at St Mary's Parish Centre, Vivian Road, B17 0DN.
The entrance is the second door on the right, along the drive to car parks and school.

2017

13th September

Shoot first: A BBC cameraman's career at Pebble Mill
John Williams

11th October

The history of Lightwoods House
Julia Morris

8th November

A brief history of Birmingham Hippodrome
David Humphries

6th December

The Harborne Parish Lands Charity
Stephen Simpson

2018

7th February

The work of the Personal Support Unit: Practical and emotional support for people without representation in court
Charlotte Rook

7th March

Robert Dudley, Queen Elizabeth and the Kenilworth Entertainment
Gillian White

11th April

The Birmingham gun trade
David Williams

16th May

Annual General Meeting (members only)

Join the Harborne Society!

Are you interested in Harborne? Do you value the area and community?

Would you like to keep in touch with issues and developments?

By joining **The Harborne Society** you will be kept informed about all the issues that relate to Harborne. You will receive three newsletters a year, and we inform members of important news at our regular meetings.

The annual subscription rates are: individuals £5; two or more people living at the same address £8.

To join, send a cheque payable to **The Harborne Society** together with your name, address, phone number and email address, to:

Jenny Buchan, 50 Margaret Grove, B17 9JL (426 4854)