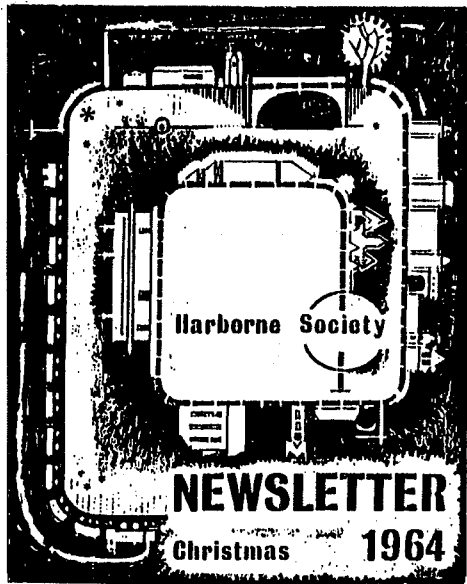


Number

TWENTY-ONE

Summer 1991



Our 21st Issue

We are proud to issue our twenty-first 'Harborne Society News' printed in this form. It is not, however, the first newsletter, since it has always been our policy to keep local people well informed about community development and other issues. Above is the cover of an early newsletter printed in two colours using 'Gestetner' skins. The front cover spiral shows the Harborne Railway including the turntable, footbridge, passenger bridge, station, Chad Valley Toy Co., Fire Station, Public Works Department, and Park Hill Road Railway Bridge - only two of these remain!

The production team worked at 3 Abbey Road and included: Edith Powell - typing, Eric Abbott - inking, Maurice Evans - guillotining, Betty Mann - stapling, Thelma Hadley - addressing envelopes, Madeline Aston - coffee, but, as always, in charge.

Eric Abbott

The Harborne Society

NEWS

THE STREET NAMES OF HARBORNE

By Mary Knox

It is with some trepidation that I write these lines. As a comparative newcomer to the village I realise that there are many members of the Society who know more about its history than I do. However, an insatiable curiosity about the past led me to delve into the origins of the names of some of our local streets. Take "HIGH STREET", for instance, common enough with its connotations of supermarkets, chain stores and fast food outlets; it is derived directly from an old English (Anglo-Saxon) word meaning "main road", so many small villages which have not developed into towns or suburbs nevertheless have a High Street. Harborne's High Street once extended no further east than the Junction Inn; until the 1880s the continuation was known as HEATH ROAD, crossing the area called Harborne Heath.

Before the Industrial Revolution, and even before nail-making began in the district, Harborne's main activity would have been agriculture. Many of the names of the farms were preserved in street names as the land was taken over for development, sometimes within living memory. One of the oldest could have been WELSH HOUSE FARM - perhaps a Celtic survivor? When the Anglo-Saxon settlers arrived, they referred to the indigenous Britons as "Welsh" (foreigners). There were two RAVENHURST farms, Upper and Lower, and MOOR POOL LANE connected them with the High Street along the line of the modern RAVENHURST ROAD. Other farm names surviving are WEYMOOR, HARTS GREEN and MILL FARM. All fields on farms were named on the old Tithe maps, and many of these linger in street names, such as HIGHFIELD and GREENFIELD. CHURCH CROFT was a small field in the Glebe lands, and gave its name to a house built on the plot; when this house was demolished in the late 1970s, the name was retained for the cul-de-sac built there.

Another fruitful source of nomenclature was local worthies. A well-known local name is CARLESS - the first entry in the Parish Church Register is "Henri Carles", buried 19 January 1538. Mary Carless (1758-1838) was well known for her benevolence and charity, and there was also a Carless Wood near the Lord's Wood. (LORDSWOOD ROAD itself was originally a narrow lane linking Harborne and Bearwood,

running alongside the ancient woodland). JOSIAH BULL YORK sold some building plots alongside Heath Road and gave his name to the streets built there. (*South Street was formerly called Josiah Street - Ed*) A vicar of Harborne built a house for his curate, the Rev. STAPLYTON BREE; the house is gone, but the name survives. TIBBETS LANE (formerly Steam Pot Lane) was called after a local farming family. Henry VIVIAN was a local M.P. in the early 19th century. BARNESLEY ROAD, BALDEN ROAD, CROSBIE ROAD, MALINS ROAD and many more were named after local residents. Royal street names such as VICTORIA, ALBERT, CLARENCE, ALBANY, REGENT, etc., give clues to the dates of their origins - also GORDON ROAD and ALMA PASSAGE. PEREIRA ROAD was probably named after a Catholic priest - the land belonged to the Birmingham Oratory. Mary FELLOWS was the occupier of a plot which appears on the Tithe map, beside the Lane of that name.

HARBORNE PARK ROAD has gone through many changes of name - Park Lane, Park Road, Poyners Lane, and Mill Lane for the stretch passing the old Harborne Mill on the way to Selly Oak. GROVE LANE has been known as Mucky Lane or, more salubriously, Love Lane.

The Moor Pool was once "a beautiful situation approached by bowery lanes"; moorhen and snipe had their haunts here; men and boys would swim in the pool on hot days on their way home from work, or fish for pike. It was also a source of soft water for Harborne's laundries. HIGH BROW is the highest point of the Moor Pool Estate, and was suggested (J. Kenwood, 1872) as a translation of Harborne, but this has been discounted.

The name that first excited my interest was WAR LANE. By local legend, it was associated with a visit by Cromwell during the Civil War, but it probably has a much older history. One possibility (W. E. Hardwick) is that it is derived from the "hoarstones" or glacial boulders that were found in the vicinity and used as ancient boundary markers. On a 17th century map the name appears as "Whore Lane", and this name was used in deeds until 1822.

Another name whose history may predate

Continued on page 2

Chairman's Letter

Dear Harborne Resident,

This year we present to you the twenty-first issue of The Harborne Society News. The Society itself has been in existence for thirty-one years. These two facts must surely prove that we are a flourishing group and that the work of our members is appreciated.

But don't think that this means you can sit back with the comfortable thought that the job of caring for Harborne is being done for you. We all believe that Harborne is a good place to live and should remain so. For this we need the support of everyone who lives or has an interest in our 'village'. Our membership is nearly up to 700. How about helping us to make it 1,000 this year?

I have heard it said that The Harborne Society is a society which always says 'no' to everything and should therefore be avoided. Nothing could be further from the truth. We aim to encourage suitable conservation and development in the area whilst opposing that which we believe to be detrimental. Over the years we have established a very good working relationship with the Local Authority and, through this, architects and developers often discuss plans with us before they reach the Planning Committee.

We also aim to encourage the spirit of community in Harborne. Did you know that this year, 1991, marks the hundredth anniversary of Harborne's incorporation into Birmingham? There is to be a whole series of events in celebration, sponsored by many Harborne groups. The launch date is Saturday 8 June, when information and entertainment will be provided on the area opposite the Clock Tower. Don't miss the Procession and Carnival on 13 July. How about entering a float for the competition? As our contribution we are holding an Art and Craft Exhibition at the Clock Tower on 1 and 2 November. Anyone wishing to exhibit should contact one of the Society's Officers listed in this paper.

May I take this opportunity of wishing our President, Miss Madeline Aston, a speedy recovery from her recent operation.

Thank you for your interest in reading this letter. Do come and join us!

Yours sincerely

MARY ABBOTT
Chairman

Continued from page 1

written records is COURT OAK ROAD. It is mentioned in deeds of 1603, and appears on old maps. The earliest "meets" to conduct local affairs were often held under a particular large

tree - could it be that Harborne's first council meetings were held nearby? I would love to know. In fact, once one becomes interested in local names, it becomes an obsession, so be warned!



Houses in Tibbets Lane

(Photograph by Margery Elliott)

GROVE PARK UPDATE

By Ethel G. Ellis

Tuesday 16 October 1990 was the kind of day one would have wished for: beautiful autumn colours in the wide variety of trees and shrubs and a faraway blue sky with little white clouds when the Civic Society Plaque was unveiled. It was the plaque acknowledging the gift of Grove Park to the City by Alderman W. Byng Kenrick in 1962. After the introduction by Councillor Denis Martineau, Mr. John Kenrick spoke of his boyhood there in the house (now demolished) and its grounds, and of his father's care for them. The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Frank Chapman, thanked him. Also present were several City Councillors and members of the Birmingham Civic Society. Mary Abbott and others represented the Harborne Society who had initiated this presentation.

Altogether a very pleasant occasion in a very pleasant setting near the old Coach House in Grove Lane.

So, as you wander through this tranquil park with your dog or a friend or just alone to refresh your mind and spirit, look upward to the plaque and remember the

generous gift which has so enriched us here in Harborne.

THEN . . . on 21 November another event in the Park, on the Harborne Park Road side. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress arrived, City Councillors, Mr. Hugh Kenrick and locals - all welly-shod, as the day was damp. Crowds of excited St. Peter's schoolchildren were already there, also a band, Postman Pat, a juggler - not to mention a fire engine and an ambulance - all because the school had been chosen to represent the Midlands in the National Tree Week celebrations. Steve Cram, the athlete, was coming with John Leslie of "Blue Peter" to plant the first two of a thousand trees, St. Peter's Coppice. Soon two helicopters hovered over Harborne Park Road, and, guided by a big red smoke flare, landed in the park. Out jumped Steve and John, ran to the cheering children, planted their trees and were soon off again in their helicopters to the shouts and applause of the children.

Everyone concerned made this autumn a memorable one in Grove Park!

MEETING OF RATEPAYERS AT HARBORNE: ANNEXATION AGREED TO

Birmingham Daily Post, Friday December 19 1890

A meeting of the ratepayers of Harborne, convened by the Local Board to consider the question of annexation to the borough of Birmingham, was held at the Institute, Harborne, last night. Mr. J. W. Tilley (chairman of the board) presided and the other members present were Messrs. J. A. Hollick, J. F. Brame, E. Bayliss, A. Fellows, H. Smyth, E. Green, W. S. Harding, and R. Heaton; together with Alderman Kenrick, M.P., Mr. H. Wiggin, M.P., County Councillor Heaton, Councillor Wiggin, Messrs. A. Smith, J. Gill, F. Ryland, G. Thonger, W. H. Worrall, H. Dixon, J. Ballard, A. B. Phipson & c. There was a large attendance.

The CHAIRMAN read the letter from the Mayor (Alderman Clayton) dealing with the question of annexation, and which had been published in the *Daily Post*. He added that he had written to the Mayor with reference to the recreation ground, and had received a letter from his Worship in which it was stated, "As circumstances have arisen, and the necessity of the case had been shown, the Council have been quite prepared to establish recreation grounds in various parts of the city, in proof of which I instance that they have now nearly completed the transfer of a portion of the Old Pleck to the city for such a purpose. If a good site at a reasonable cost could be found in Harborne, I am sure the Council will give it their consideration. In case of being annexed you will be joined to a portion of Edgbaston, and in future the ward will be known as the Edgbaston and Harborne Ward." The Chairman went on to say that nearly all the wards in Birmingham had about 6,000 voters, who were represented by one alderman and three councillors. Harborne had only 1,400 voters, therefore they would not have very much representation. It would also be noticed that it was not decided to take them out of the King's Norton Union; but supposing such a thing should happen, and they were put into the Birmingham Union, he thought they might expect their rates to be very much increased.

Mr. H. WIGGIN, M.P. moved: "That the Harborne Local Board is hereby directed by the ratepayers and property-owners of Harborne, in special meeting assembled, to accept the proposals of the Boundary Sub-committee of Birmingham for the

inclusion or absorption of the Local Board district of Harborne within the city on the terms set forth in the letter of the town clerk, dated March 18, and further amplified in the letter of the Mayor to the chairman of the Local Board, dated December 2, the principal of which terms are that the Local Board district of Harborne shall be included in Birmingham for municipal, sanitary, and school board purposes only, and that for poor-law purposes it shall remain, as at present, in the King's Norton Union, and that the City Council shall provide, on the completion of the incorporation, a free library for the use of the residents of Harborne; and that the Local Board district of Harborne, when included in the city, shall be added to Edgbaston Ward for electoral purposes, the existing portions of Edgbaston Ward being subtracted; and that the existing police force be increased by at least nine officers, and it is further understood that the lighting of the streets shall be improved, and the lighting continued as in Edgbaston; and that the side walks in Harborne shall be paved and generally put into a condition at least equal to that of the adjoining parish of Edgbaston. Furthermore that the Board be empowered to consent to the Parliamentary bill or provisional order intended to be promoted by the City Council, and to do all things necessary for carrying out the above proposals, and to ensure to the inhabitants the fulfilment of the promises contained in the letters before mentioned." He said that the question before the meeting affected the inhabitants to a greater extent than any measure brought before them within his memory. They were asked to decide whether they would support the separation from the county of Stafford, with which they had been politically and geographically connected from time immemorial, or [sic] accept the invitation of the Corporation and become citizens of the great city, and share in its benefits, its advantages and its responsibilities. Speaking as a Staffordshire man, he confessed that when the question of separation was first mooted, he felt a very strong objection to it, and he did and said all he possibly could to prevent annexation. He was disposed to think that a sort of sentimental feeling of clanship for his native county had a great deal to do with his opposition; for, after

Walled Garden Shop

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Pot Plants	Cacti
Plant Arrangements	Good variety of Fertilizers
Heathers	Composts
Conifers	Grass Seed
Assorted Shrubs	Fresh Farm Eggs
Rockery/Alpine Plants	Rose Bushes
Terracotta & Plastic Pots	

Bouquets and cut flowers prepared for all occasions *Hanging Baskets planted up to customers' requirements*

**DUDLEY ROAD HOSPITAL SITE,
ESTATES DEPT,
WESTERN ROAD, BIRMINGHAM**

Open: Mon - Fri 7.30 - 4.30 Sat - Sun 7.30 - 12.00
TEL: 021-554 3801 EX 4816



The DRESS SHOP

Designer Clothes and Accessories
for Discerning Ladies

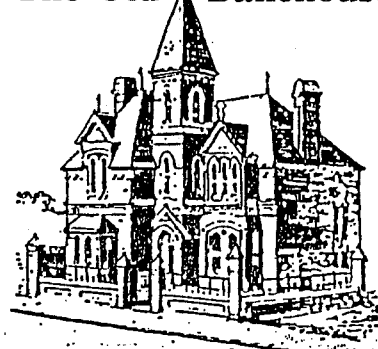
HIRE DEPARTMENT

Cocktail and Ballgowns
from 10 to 20

Resident Designers
to create any outfit you desire

194 High Street, Harborne,
Birmingham B17 9PP
Telephone 021-427 7300

The Old Bakehouse



Traditional Fixtures,
Fittings & Furniture

71 Station Road
Harborne
Birmingham
Telephone: 021 - 428 1928

Proprietors:
Andrew Brooker-Carey
Roy Hooper

mature consideration, and looking at the advantages and disadvantages, he had come to the conclusion that the offer of the Corporation was a very liberal and a very generous offer - (Hear, hear.) - and that they would be very unwise and foolish if they did not accept it. (Hear, hear.) Harborne already formed part of one of the Parliamentary divisions of Birmingham; but he did not think that had affected them very much. (Laughter.) If they became part of the municipal borough of Birmingham, they would derive very material advantages, and he thought they would be wise in accepting the offer. (Hear, hear.)

Alderman KENRICK explained that the Corporation had no intention to take Harborne out of the county of Stafford. The intention was that Birmingham should be in three counties - an arrangement which had been sanctioned in another case.

Mr. WIGGIN: I am much obliged. I shall go home with a much lighter heart. (Laughter.)

Mr. A. SMITH seconded the motion, and said that Alderman Kenrick had removed one objection to annexation. The income from Harborne in the way of rates was not sufficient without raising loans to enable the work of the parish to be properly carried on. That was a fact which they would have to face. If they were at all to keep pace with the times in future, and be at all decent and comfortable in their streets, they must continually pile up loan upon loan and construct a gigantic debt, and then at the finish they would be nothing like as well off as if they were in the city. (Hear, hear.) He read a letter from Mr. Walter Chamberlain, who said he was a decided advocate of annexation on the terms set forth in the letters of the Mayor and Town Clerk; whereas he saw some good and many fair arguments in favour of the inclusion of Harborne in the city, he was quite unable to find for himself, and he had not heard from anyone else, a single practical reason against the proposal.

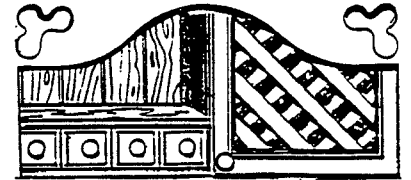
Mr. W. PRIEST supported the motion, and said that the Harborne School Board rate produced £1,567, and the Harborne children cost to the rates £528.2s.6d., consequently they were contributing to the education of Smethwick children £1,029.17s.6d. per annum. To put it in another form the average cost per child to the rates for the whole area of Harborne and Smethwick was £1.1s.1. ½d, but through the unequal incidence of taxation the Smethwick people got their children educated at 18s.5d. per head, whilst the Harborne people contributed £3.2s.3d. Why should they assist the Smethwick

people? (Hear, hear.) He thought their ideal parliament ought to have an eye on the matter. It seemed to him that with annexation they would get from a 1s.1d. to a 9d. rate for School Board purposes; whilst the borough was giving them many advantages, Harborne would also be giving something. They were very much in the position of the frog half way down the duck's throat, they might kick, but they would have to go. (Laughter.)

Alderman KENRICK, M.P. also spoke in support of the proposition. He said he desired to see Harborne included in the city, as the benefit to Harborne would be immediate and certain. He believed in bargains in which the benefits were on both sides, and this was eminently a case of that kind. What might be to Harborne a crushing debt would be as nothing when spread over a wide area like that of Birmingham.

Mr. HOLLICK, speaking on the other side of the question, said that Harborne was one of the best lighted districts in the neighbourhood. There were about seventeen miles of street in the parish, and of those only about six had been built upon, and in process of time, as the land filled up, their rates would be reduced. In Birmingham nearly the whole of the land was built upon, and the only way of increasing the income was by raising the assessment. In Harborne it would be otherwise, and he thought they would be better off if they remained outside the borough. ("Hear, hear," and "No".)

Mr. BRAME spoke against the motion, and urged them to maintain their independence rather than accept the cheap lodgings offered by Birmingham. Balsall Heath had gone in for annexation because they could not afford to remain outside. At Harborne they were not overburdened with debts. What was the paltry sum of £8,000? The poor-law authorities in Birmingham were at this moment agitating for their inclusion for poor-law purposes, and if that came about, what would become of them on the question of rating? It would be exactly the same as in Birmingham. If they once became annexed for poor-law purposes, the Guardians had the power to reassess the whole of their property. They were promised more police; but from the last report he found that the number of indictable offences committed in the city was 601, and the cases dealt with summarily 13,447; whilst in their own poor little place the total of all classes of offence in twelve months was eighty-seven, and of those twenty-five were prosecutions for not sending children to school. If they got additional police, and with them sanitary and other inspectors,



Homescope Interiors offer you total originality in fitted and unfitted furniture for kitchens and bedrooms. Individually designed, handpainted or stained to your precise requirements.

HOMESCOPE INTERIORS
364-366 HIGH STREET, HARBORNE,
021- 427 9039

HAIR BY CUFFLEY

Tel: 021-
427 2390



163
Court Oak Road

Harborne Birmingham

All aspects of Modern &
Traditional Styles
catered for

Ladies Hairstylist
& Traditional Barbers

SPECIAL CONCESSIONS for
SENIOR CITIZENS

Open Mon-Fri 9.00 till 6.00
Saturday 8.30 till 4.00
CLOSED TUESDAYS

FISHERS
Est 1913

Harborne/Edgbaston's
longest established
INDEPENDENT SURVEYORS
VALUERS and
PROPERTY MANAGERS

20-24 High Street, Harborne.
428 1000

Macphersons
HOME ELECTRICS

91 High Street, Harborne
for

HITACHI PANASONIC PIONEER
ZANUSSI HOTPOINT

Tel: 021-427 4633
Tele-Tec Electricals Limited

he thought their liberty would be very much interfered with.

Councillor WIGGIN supported the motion, and said he had looked at the matter from every point of view, and had come to the conclusion that annexation was the most desirable. It was utterly impossible in Harborne with the means at their command to place it in the condition in which they would like to see it. It was not possible for their rates to be reduced or for them to remain stationary, and considering all the advantages to be derived from annexation he advised them to adopt the resolution. (Hear, hear.)

Mr BAYLISS pointed out that Harborne paid on houses rated up to £100. £1,018.1s.2d, and deducting the compounding, it meant that Harborne paid £***.12s.2d. Supposing they were taken into Birmingham they would pay on the same number of houses £856.3s.6d. more than they did now. He did not say that the Mayor in his letter to the Local Board had been trying to deceive them, but he certainly was mistaken. If they went into

Birmingham, it seemed only right that they should pay the poor rate, and in that case their rates, instead of being 5s.3d. or 5s.4d. would be 6s.9d or 6s.10d. (No, no.)

Mr. W. S. HARDING advocated annexation, remarking that the Corporation had made them a fair offer. The advantages, however, would not be all on the one side, as Harborne had many things to give.

The resolution was then put and carried, with about six dissentients. A poll was demanded.

(Editor's note: This report was transcribed from the microfilmed copy of *The Birmingham Daily Post* in the Local Studies Department of the Birmingham Reference Library. Some of the print was almost illegible, particularly the figures, which are probably inaccurate, particularly those given by Mr. Priest. On the same page of the paper, the exceedingly cold weather is mentioned; there was skating on many pools in Birmingham.)

HARBORNE SHOPPING WEEK AND CHARITY FETE

Part 3 of Recollections by Harold Edwards

For several years in the mid-twenties, a "Shopping Week" was organised. I think basically it was a charity event, but I suspect that shopkeepers benefited by reason of increased sales, because lucky number vouchers were given with each purchase. Mr. Hartley of Foster Bros. and Mr. Perkins of Mason's, grocers, were very live wires in this event. In about 1927 a competition was launched between the schools to compose a poem about Harborne Shopping Week, and I was fortunate enough to win. A Colonel Goode called at the house to tell me of my good fortune. His parting words I well remember - "Good, always remember to finish with a flourish!" My prize was a gold sovereign in a little pigskin purse, and it was presented to me by none other than Alderman Byng Kenrick. A few years later I pooled my prize together with pocket money I earned as a shoe repair delivery boy and bought a New Hudson cycle from Mr. Adams who kept a shop at the corner of Vivian Road and Greenfield Road.

Along with the "Shopping Week" went the Charity Fete. This was held in Queen's Park and always in wonderful weather, or

so it seemed. Invariably it was the Police Band in the bandstand, followed by a team of pierrots dressed in their black and white harlequin pantaloons with tall conical shaped hats with pom-poms on the front. There were inter-school sports, side-shows and fancy dress competitions. One year Mr. Golby, the teacher of Standard 8 at Station Road, organised us into a group, who by nature of our clothes were representative of a number of English poets. I have the photograph now and can name every lad. The highlight of the Show was a wonderful display by the Artillery from the barracks in Court Oak Road. The gun teams would dash on, horses pulling guns and limbers. Guns were manoeuvred into position, a number of blank rounds fired, then, limbering up again made a very magnificent retreat.

There were the usual side stalls of hoop-la, bran dips, etc., and by the generosity of our parents some of us were able to return home by bus. Open-topped with slatted seats, A.E.C. engine, solid rubber tyres and the driver sat outside alongside the engine. All this for a halfpenny fare from the Park to the Green Man!

The easiest way to understand life assurance, pensions and investments is to pick up the phone.

Arranging a pension, life assurance or an investment can seem a daunting task. That's why we aim to explain things in plain English. In minutes, not hours. Call us today.

Denise Roseler

NATIONWIDE FINANCIAL ADVISORS
355 0768 or 427 5966



An appointed Representative of Eagle Star
Eagle Star is a marketing group consisting of members of LAUTRO and IMRO

TURNER'S FRUIT STORES

181 Knightlow Road
Harborne, B17 8PY

Tel: 429 2836

Fruit, vegetables,
groceries, cooked meats,
flowers and plants

FREE DELIVERY

Blitzgeist

ART BOOKSHOP
& BOUTIQUE
FOR WOMEN AND MEN

189 HIGH STREET,
HARBORNE,
BIRMINGHAM



Tel:
021 -
426 4122

PHENOMENAL STOCK,
CONSTANTLY UPGRADED,
NEW, SECOND - HAND &
ANTIQUARIAN

THE FINEST SMALL ART
BOOKSHOP IN ENGLAND

THE MULTI FAITH CENTRE AT HARBORNE HALL

By Dr. Mary Hall, Executive Director



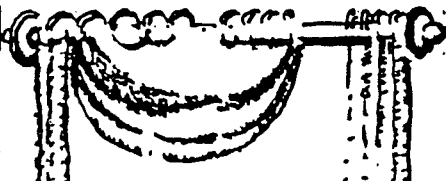
Harborne Hall (Photograph by John Pratt)

Ten years ago, 156 ordinary people - unemployed, workers in industry, shopkeepers, housewives, teachers, nurses, doctors, accountants and others - came to the end of a three-year research project. They had succeeded in testing and developing a practical methodology for interfaith and intercultural dialogue. They represented many traditions from six major world faiths. They all felt that the experiences they had shared and the insights they had acquired were valuable. Their own spiritual lives were enriched. They discovered new ways to co-operate, especially in situations where interfaith relations were either non-existent or actively hostile. A Muslim asked the project's director, a Roman Catholic Sister, if it were not possible for them to continue learning together. Out of that request the Multi Faith Resource Unit was born. Rooms in Selly Oak were rented from a student hostel, and a garage and an old air-raid shelter were converted to provide more space. Grants were obtained from many sources: governing bodies, religious charities in the U.K. and overseas, generous individuals and groups. A simple administrative structure was established to ensure that the different faith groups really were equal partners at all levels in the new venture, just as they had been in the research that had inspired it.

The Resource Unit quickly became part of the local scene, providing *education by encounter*. It trained members of the different communities to become "resource persons" - at ease before classes of children or adults, able to explain their most treasured practices and beliefs and confront the hard questions

and the often painful problems that arise in communities which are new to cultural and religious pluralism. The Unit set up certificate courses for teachers and other professionals who recognised their own need to improve their understanding of the many traditions they had to deal with in the course of their ordinary work. It designed and staffed special study days, workshops, seminars and lectures to introduce its methodology to social workers, doctors, nurses, prison officers, teachers, university lecturers and others. The staff believes that an honest sharing by practising members of living religious and cultural traditions does more to combat racism and prejudices than any amount of dry, academic explanations given by well-meaning, but uncommitted, neutral experts. Their belief has been splendidly vindicated.

The Unit changed its name to *The Multi Faith Centre* to reflect the growing importance of its outreach programme. The Centre began to draw increasing numbers of students from other countries to its courses. Already the Centre teams have visited the U.S.A., Canada, Australia and South America. In these countries, new waves of immigration, combined with economic problems, have heightened tensions caused by racial and religious prejudice. After evaluating the Centre's methods, similar programmes have been initiated in Melbourne, Toronto and Washington. Fifty-five countries were represented in the 1986 visitors' book. These visitors quickly come to understand that the Centre does not offer some sort of syncretic short-cut to community peace. Instead the programmes enable people to



MATERIALISM

351 HIGH STREET
HARBORNE

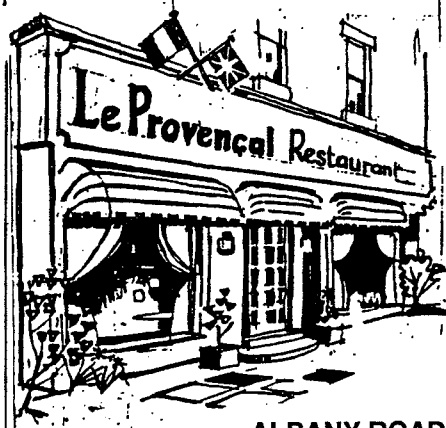
Tel: 428 - 1589

*Beautifully Made Curtains
at Discount Prices*

FREE QUOTATIONS
AND MEASURING

R E WALKER
M.R. Pharm.S
Dispensing Chemist
Princes Corner, 368 High Street
Harborne
OPEN 9 am - 7pm
TOILETRIES - BABY NEEDS
PERFUMES - COSMETICS

Chan nel - Estée Lauder - Dior - Vichy
Rochas - Anais Anais - Worth - Rimmel
Beauty without Cruelty
021 - 427 8565



**ALBANY ROAD
HARBORNE**

**Le Provencal
Restaurant**

1 Albany Road, Harborne,
Birmingham B17 9JX
Tel: 021-426 2444

come to terms with their own cultural heritage and then to contribute positively to their common citizenship.

In 1988 the Centre had to find a new home and so it moved to Harborne Hall. The Hall's estate was suffering from neglect and there has been a tremendous continual programme of upgrading, refurbishment and decoration of the Hall and its buildings. The grounds were overgrown, but here the emphasis was

on tidying up within a limited landscaping need. The Centre is delighted to be based at, and associated with, Harborne Hall and its historic past. The Hall and its surroundings provide an ideal setting for the Centre's work.

To celebrate the Centre's tenth anniversary an exhibition of the Centre's history and the Hall's history will be arranged for the late summer.

A Victorian Garden Party, open to the public, is being organised for 22 June, as part of the Harborne village centenary celebrations.

Following ten years of unique achievement, the Multi Faith Centre hopes that its friends, old and new, will help it continue its work to change attitudes and build a cohesive multicultural society where people live in peace.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I would like to refer to the Harborne Society News No. 20, and the article entitled "Harborne Village Tradesmen of the Twenties."

Firstly, may I mention a few family businesses which seem to have been left out:-

Parker's (Sweetshop opposite the Royalty)
Elliott & Kane (Photographers)
Bashford Grocers (corner of Ravenhurst Road)
Miss Skinner (Sweetshop)
Green's (Cooked Meats), next door to Miss Skinner, opposite the Midland Bank
Boyce's (Butchers) opposite Murray's,

corner of Serpentine Road
Thos. Furber (Funeral Directors) - you can see their office in the photograph of Bootherstone's the butchers.
Beaumont's (Furniture Removers).

All the sweetshops in Harborne were supplied by my father, Mr. Charles Tustin, who had his business in Harborne for about 47 years, first in Station Road and then in Park Hill Road. Prior to this, during the first World War, he had a shop on the corner of North Road at the bottom, which my mother looked after whilst he was away.

We are a very old Harborne family. My mother is now 96 and still lives alone in

Harborne, enjoying quite good health. My sister and I visit her frequently. My sister went to the Clock Tower School and I went to Station Road, until we moved to Quinton for a few years, before returning to live in Oakham Road, where my mother still lives.

My brother-in-law, the late Mr. Lawson Grafton, had a business in Albert Road and did a lot for Harborne with the retailers during the last War. He was manager at Wrenson's, Prince's Corner, then had his own horticultural and pet food business. He was a member of the Harborne Society for many years.

(Mrs) Kathleen J. Wright,
Wolverley, near Kidderminster

Can that be a camel in Oakham Road?

By Margery Elliott

For three days in September 1990 Oakham Road became a film set. The inhabitants had been warned by letter that a television film crew would be moving in to make a commercial for West Midlands Transport, which would illustrate many "silly" ways to travel, before showing a bus as the really sensible way.

In all the years I have lived in the road, there has never been such excitement. Several large vehicles, including an electricity generator, were parked, some portaloos were set up; there was a seemingly enormous number of people milling about - actors and actresses, cyclists, camera crew, make-up girl, lighting men, the producer and his assistant, and a girl serving up beer and sandwiches - then a donkey and a camel arrived, together with their keepers. Some of the silly methods of travel were a penny-farthing bicycle, a unicycle, a pogo-stick, an ice cream van giving a lift to a very poshly-dressed lady, and a kiddie-car pedalled by a tall yuppie-type young man as he talked on his mobile phone. The camel was ridden by a young boy in a school cap with a satchel, and the reluctant donkey was kicked on in vain by a lady with a shopping basket. (The keeper was just off-shot, and was seeing to it that the donkey did not move.) The sunlight came and went during the three days, so lighting was set up on towers of scaffolding. Several householders had

agreed to the use of their houses or front gardens for various shots. Between takes, the camel and the donkey rested happily on the grass verge, much admired by the local children.

So far, the only result, which most people must have seen by now on Central TV, seems to be a commercial which lasts all

of ten seconds, ending with a beautifully clean new bus being driven along Ravenhurst Road, and all the other travellers looking wistfully at it from the end of Oakham Road. I haven't seen the camel on TV at all, though I was told that two short films had been made, and that the camel would feature in the second one. Either it has not yet gone out, or I have not been viewing at the right times.

It was a very good way of getting to know one's neighbours, as everybody turned out to join in the fun.

(Photograph by Margery Elliott)



TECHNICAL REPORT, March 1991

By Michael Perraudin

Renovation, not Demolition!

Some comparatively good news on the Planning front: the agents for King Edward's Trust have applied for Planning Permission to refurbish the shop terrace at 186-196 High Street, next to Safeway's. Two years ago they planned to demolish this block, which is a crucial element in the remaining Victorian portion of the High Street (and likewise crucial to the future High Street Conservation Area, mentioned in an earlier Newsletter). But a forceful campaign against demolition, by ourselves and other concerned local people, with all-party political support and also support from the City Planners, has persuaded them to realise their public duty and think again, to employ a good Conservation Architect, and produce an attractive scheme which will keep the facade and shell of the existing buildings while substantially adapting the interior and rear.

We think that when owners of such premises want to undertake major investment schemes, this is the direction they should follow - not vandalistic demolition of buildings which are part of the community's heritage, but creative renovation. We are also currently urging this for the threatened Rock Candy Mountain wine-bar building at 176 High Street, which the owners, Allied Breweries (Ansell's) wish to pull down, despite strong local opposition. They advance various totally spurious arguments why demolition of this well-preserved and handsome wine-bar building is necessary. Experts we have consulted say it is not necessary. And the King Edward's Trust's change of mind a few doors along proves it. The Harborne Society has been pressing Allied Breweries and the City Planners to follow the King Edward's Trust's public-spirited route. Again, we have had very wide local support - from all political parties, from our M.P., and from innumerable private citizens of Harborne.

Scandalous Rent Increases at 77-97 High Street

Even with schemes like the King Edward's one, of course, not everything is positive. Existing businesses will be displaced during refurbishment, and most will probably be unable to afford the new rents. So chain stores will be likely to replace many of them. This trend is hard to resist where owners of such buildings wish to pursue major investment schemes. It is hard to argue for shop buildings being left

in the poor condition which many Harborne shops are in, although we do always press for new developments to include some smaller, low-rent units if possible.

However, with the 186-196 High Street proposal, at least major investment is indeed being made. Deplorable above all are cases where rents are hugely increased without anything at all being offered in exchange. This is now happening in the modern row of High Street shops which includes Boots and W. H. Smith's (Nos. 77-97). The block is administered by Chesterton's Estate Agents, on behalf of owners reputed to be National Westminster Bank (and is on land belonging to the Church of England). They have recently quadrupled the rents, without any improvement in service to tenants. That is why various shops are suddenly closing, including more than one valued and long-established local firm. This unprincipled attitude seems to us disgraceful. Owners of commercial properties who adopt the speculative, no-investment, maximum-profit approach - leaving us with rows of vacant premises and driving out the better local businesses (in this case the tenants are even made to decorate their shops afresh before they leave) - are the bane of shopping centres like ours. If you feel strongly about the issue, please write to any of the bodies mentioned above, or to local councillors, the City Council, or your M.P.

The Harborne Society's Technical Work

The Technical Section of the Harborne Society - the 'Technical Officer' and colleagues - exists to work on matters such as those discussed above. We try to keep an eye on all issues concerning the physical environment of Harborne. We scrutinise all significant local Planning applications, try to influence the City Planning Department and Planning Committee about proposals which seem to us misguided and damaging, and to co-ordinate opposition to particularly destructive developments. A great deal of letter writing goes on. We also concern ourselves with other development matters: road and traffic planning; parks, green spaces and recreational facilities; and other issues. And we attempt, too, not just to react to measures instigated by outside bodies, but also to promote positive change ourselves: we recently produced a report with proposals for a new Harborne Centre Conservation Area; we are currently preparing one on Harborne's

traffic and its future; we recently collaborated with the Victorian Society in gaining Listed Status for an important local building, the Gordon Road Fire Station. Numerous members have also been involved over several years with a 'Green-Up' programme for a number of small derelict sites in the area: major new effort has been put into these recently. Our efforts in all these directions are considerable: sometimes successful, sometimes less so, but representing overall an important, necessary contribution to Harborne's environmental wellbeing and progress.

GREEN-UP

By John Pratt

For some time the Society has been cultivating three land plots in Harborne by the provision and maintenance of various trees, shrubs and plants. Due to several extreme climatic conditions the sites had become overgrown, therefore a concerted effort was made last November to upgrade the sites in such a way as to minimise maintenance.

A start was made on the site by the Fire Station at the top of Gordon Road. Several hundred bulbs, various heathers, ivy and a mixture of perennials were planted after compost and peat had been mixed into the soil, and finally the surface was covered with wood chippings to act as a mulch and weed retardant.

The next site to be tackled was the piece of land by the Launderette in High Street, opposite the Vine Inn. A good deal of work was needed here with rebuilding of part of the front wall and side fence. Most of the herbaceous plants were moved to the rear bed to make way for a rose garden in the front bed. The introduction of lavender bushes to eventually form small hedges should provide for an additional feature to a well viewed plot. Finally the site was also covered with wood chippings.

The site at the corner of Abbey Road and Greenfield Road has been left until last, as the wall has been in dire need of pointing. With the severe cold conditions no work has been co-ordinated on this plot at the time of writing.

We are very grateful for all the time and effort members have provided to Green-up. The resurgence of this work has been well timed for Harborne's Centenary, and it is fitting that much of the thanks for the planning and work direction go to Mrs. Kathleen Barnett. Our thanks also go to Mr. Bob Merchant and staff of the Walled Garden Shop at Dudley Road Hospital for their tremendous help.

LOCAL NEWS



(Photograph by The Birmingham Post)

Society Patron, President, Officers & Committee

PATRON
The Right Reverend Mark Santer,
Lord Bishop of Birmingham

PRESIDENT
Miss Madeline Aston

CHAIRMAN
Mrs. Mary Abbott
Victoria Lodge, 1 Victoria Road, B17 0AG
427 1378

VICE-CHAIRMAN
Dr. Mary Lambourne
35 St. Peter's Road, B17 0AT
426 1523

HON. SECRETARY
Mrs. Jennifer Buchan
50 Margaret Grove,
B17 9JL
426 4854

HON. TREASURER
Mr. William Curr
23 Vicarage Road,
B17 0SN
427 4084

TECHNICAL OFFICER
Mr. Michael Perraudin
53 Regent Road, B17 9JU
427 2119

CHAIRMAN, SOCIAL COMMITTEE
Mrs. Jean Curr
23 Vicarage Road,
B17 0SN
427 4084

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Mr. E. Abbott
Mrs. N. Bark
Mr. A. Brooker-Carey
Dr. H. M. Colabawalla
Miss. M. Elliott
Miss. E. G. Ellis
Mr. R. Miles
Mr. J. Pratt
Mr. W. Renouf

The Society's Annual Dinner

This year's dinner celebrated another successful Society Year and also the Centenary of Harborne joining the City of Birmingham.

The Lord Mayor (Councillor Bernard Zissman) was the speaker at the Dinner on the 18th February and he was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress (Mrs Zissman).

With them, on the left, are Miss Madeline Aston (President) and Councillor Peter Hollingworth and on the right Mrs Mary Abbott (Chairman of The Harborne Society).

New Vicar at St. Peter's

The Reverend Christopher Jonathan Evans, AKC, was inducted as Vicar of St. Peter's Church by the Archdeacon of Birmingham on 6 March, in the presence of a large congregation. We welcome Mr. Evans to Harborne.

Like all the clergy in Harborne, he becomes an honorary member of The Harborne Society.

Try the **SMALLEST**
and **NEAREST** Shop
that may have what you want

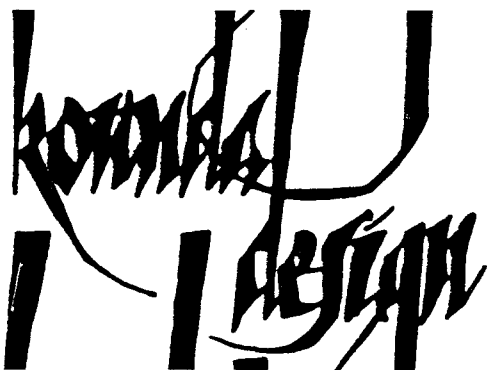
It **MAY** cost you a few pence more
(though in fact it may **NOT**)

But you will be **HELPING**
HARBORNE TO KEEP ITS SHOPS!

HARBORNE STATIONERS & PRINTSHOP

**Office Furniture ● Stationery ● Computer
Supplies ● Design & Print ● Rubber Stamps
Photocopy ● Typing Service & Fax Bureau**

**344 HIGH STREET, HARBORNE B17 9PU.
Tel: 021-426 4822 Fax: 021-427 8462**



**K O U N D A
D E S I G N**

5 STATION ROAD
HARBORNE · B17
TEL: 021-428 1094
CLOTHES · JEWELLERY
AND ACCESSORIES
GREETING CARDS &
ORIGINAL ARTWORK



**For all your floral
requirements
Funeral, Weddings,
Bouquets, Baskets, etc.
1930 White Rolls Royce
Open Top - For Hire**

RING O'ROSES FLORIST
101, GROVE LANE, HARBORNE
TEL: 426-1166

HARBORNE SOCIETY MEETINGS 1991-92

1991

11 September Wednesday
St. Peter's Church Hall

8 October Tuesday
Onneley House, Court Oak Road

6 November Wednesday
St. Peter's Church Hall

3 December Tuesday
Onneley House

1992

4 February Tuesday
Onneley House

February (date to be arranged)
Annual Dinner

11 March Wednesday
St. Peter's Church Hall

7 April Tuesday
Onneley House

13 May Wednesday
A.G.M. at St. Peter's Church Hall

All meetings except the Annual Dinner begin at 7.30pm.

CREDITS

EDITOR : Miss Margery Elliott,
58 Oakham Road, Harborne, B17 9DG

ADVERTISEMENTS : William Curr

GRAPHICS : Eric Abbott

TYPESET & PRINTED :
M.D.O. Printers Limited,
Unit 2, Premier Trading Estate,
Dartmouth Middleway,
Birmingham B7 4AT.
Tel : 021 - 359 3053 & 359 3044

HARBORNE IN BIRMINGHAM 1891-1991

Programme of Events in Celebration

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Organisation
JUNE				
6 Thur	7.30	Quinborne Choir	St. Peter's	Harborne Music Festival
8 Sat	10.00-2.00	Launch	Harborne High Street	Harborne Traders, Rec & Com.
8 Sat		Junior Sports	Harborne Cricket Ground	Harborne Junior Schools
13 Thurs	7.30	Golf Open Day	Church Farm G.C.	Golf Club
		Birmingham Chamber Sololsts	St. Peter's	Harborne Music Festival
15 Sat	2.00	Donkey Derby	Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind	Lions Club
19 Wed	11.00-2.00	Fun Day for under 5's	Queens Park	Pre-School Play Assn.
20 Thurs		Gemini Brass	St. Faith & St. Laurence	Harborne Music Festival
22 Sat	2.00-5.00	Victorian Garden Party	Harborne Hall	Multi Faith Centre
23 Sun	2.30	Victorian Cricket Match	Harborne Cricket Ground	Harborne Cricket Club
25 Tues		Nova Wind Ensemble	St. Peter's	Harborne Music Festival
29 Sat	Noon	Make Way March	High St. via Local Churches	Harborne Council of Christian Churches
30 Sun		Gardens Open to the Public	Pereira Road	Mrs. Kath Barnett
JULY				
3 Wed	7.15	Victorian Sponsored Swim	Harborne Swimming Pool	World's End Swimming Club
3 Wed	7.30	Gentlemen of St. John's	St. Faith & St. Laurence	Harborne Music Festival
4 Thurs		Music Alive Event for Junior Schools	Blue Coat School	
5 Fri		Summer Ball	Queen Alexandra College	Q.A. College Students
7 Sun		Gardens Open to the Public	Wyckham Close	Mrs. Kath Barnett
12 Fri	7.30	Festival 'Last Night of The Proms'	St. Faith & St. Laurence	Harborne Music Festival
13 Sat	Noon	Procession	Green Man to Queen's Park	Round Table
13 Sat	12.00-7.30	Carnival	Queen's Park	Round Table
AUGUST				
		'Art Project'	Rose Road Police Station	Mural Steering Group
SEPTEMBER				
7 Sat	2.00-6.00	Charity Garden Party	Botanical Gardens	Rotary Club of Edgbaston Convention
14 Sat	2.00	Harborne History Walk	Start from St. Peter's	Edward Chitham
14 Sat	10.00-2.30	Health Day	Albert Road	Health Centre
OCTOBER				
2 Wed	7.00	Harvest Songs of Praise	St. Peter's	Harborne Council of Christian Churches
9 Wed	4.00-8.00	Open Day	Rose Road Police Station	P.C. Dave Harris
13 Sun		Schools Hockey Tournament	Harborne Hockey Club	
ALL OCTOBER		Local History Exhibition	Harborne Library	Roy Clarke
NOVEMBER				
1 Fri	10.00-5.00	Arts & Craft	The Clock Tower	Harborne Society
2 Sat	10.00-4.00	Exhibition		
2 Sat		Bonfire	Harborne Cricket Ground	St. Peter's PTA/ Harborne Cricket Club

TIME TO RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION OR JOIN US (Year 1 April '91 to 31 March '92)

Make your cheque payable to 'The HARBORNE SOCIETY' and send it to :

W. CURR
23 VICARAGE ROAD
HARBORNE
BIRMINGHAM
B17 0SN

Please ✓ your category :

ORDINARY membership £3.00

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP £5.00

CONCESSION membership £1.50
(Senior Citizen, student, unwaged)

TWO SENIOR CITIZENS
at the same address £2.50

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____