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The Harborne Society

NEWS

A DASH FOR THE TRAIN

Ann Yorke

The development of Station Road was started in the 1870's when the idea of a railway line into Harborne was first mooted. One of the first pieces of land to be sold was that behind Bootherstons (the BP Safeway petrol station) which was a thriving farm and market garden with an east facing slope looking north-west towards Moor Pool in the distance. It was here that the first Victorian houses were built with Albany and Regent Roads as a part of the estate, backing onto the higgledy piggledy backs of the High Street shops. Rose Road followed, then Gordon Road. There is a fascinating photograph in existence of Regent Road in 1880 looking north which shows a view of a country lane with trees, timber fencing and fields and an evangelist's horse drawn caravan.

Station Road has a wonderful dignity about it. It is in fact a carriageway loop. It leads down the hill from the High Street and turns in a gentle curve to the east and then south-east to emerge on the High Street again about half a mile away. Euston Station has nothing so grand as our carriage drive. One can imagine the coach driver sweeping up to the entrance, letting down the steps and handing out his businessman master, plus newspaper, seeing him onto the train and then sweeping onwards and back to the High Street without the ignominy of having to turn the horses round!

However Station Road was not destined to be purely residential.

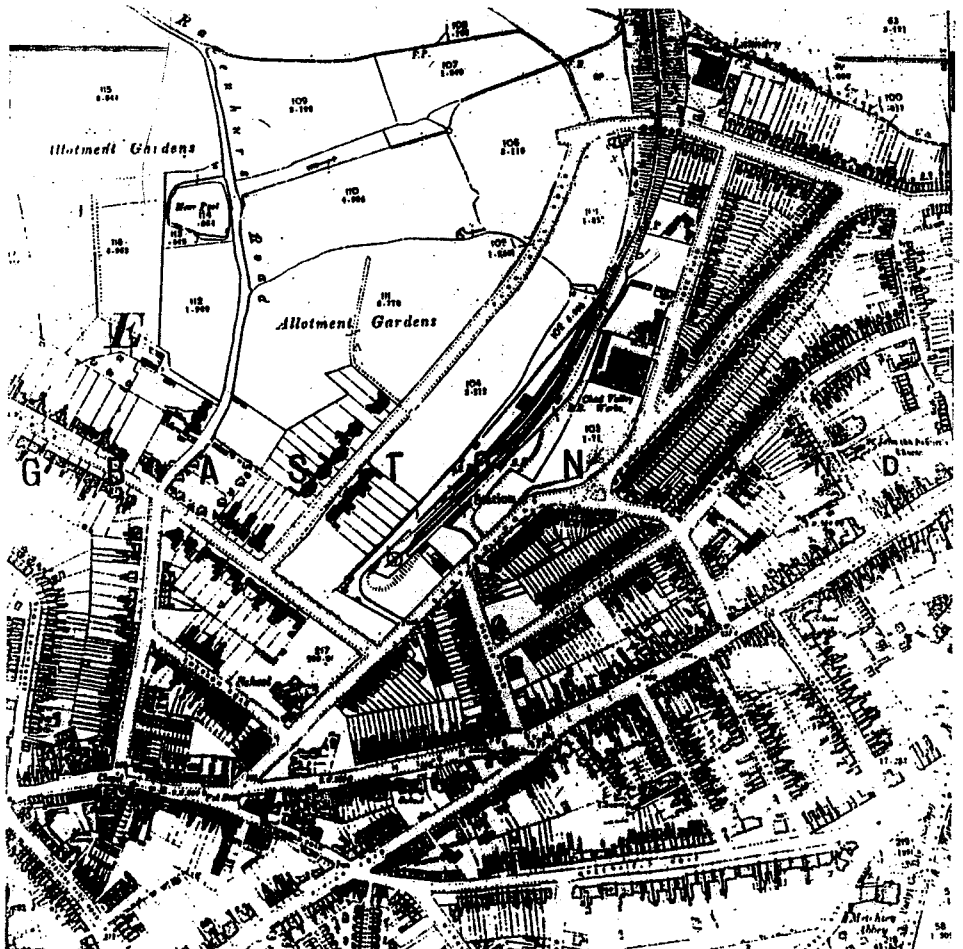
Station Road School was opened in 1902 and enlarged in 1912 when the infants department was transferred from the High Street school on the corner of York Street. It is still a thriving and well used building with an excellent reputation for academic standards.

Further down the road, on the other side, the Harborne Institute was erected in 1878 and opened by Mr Henry Irving, later Sir Henry Irving. It was constructed to provide a 'literary and scientific' centre for the education of apprentices and to foster community spirit by production of plays in the theatre attached at the rear. Sadly the

Institute did not flourish and closed in 1904 when it was taken over by the Chad Valley Toy Company as a printing works. Since the works closed in the sixties it has been used as a car repair workshop. It is amazing. Inside, the frescos are still high up on the walls, the carved and decorated architraves, wainscoting and skirtings are intact, the stage, green room and dressing rooms easily reached - it is heartbreaking to the point of stupidity that we have such a facility in Harborne and it has not even been listed. Perhaps this could be the next project for the Harborne Society.

Almost opposite the Institute is the entrance to what was Harborne Station. This was opened by the Harborne Railway Company on 10th August, 1874 and run by the LNWR. Initially there were only six trains a day

which travelled from Harborne via the Hagley Road, Rotton Park and Icknield Port Road stations and back. The remains of the Hagley Road station area are still visible if you walk along the Harborne Walkway. Beside the flattened grassy area where the station stood there is a terrace of the most delightful houses on a road called, surprisingly enough, Station Approach. Go and see them they are well worth a visit. The frequency of trains reached a peak of over twenty within a short time and it was only after the First World War that traffic declined and the passenger service was withdrawn in November 1934. The final goods train ran 29 years later. The site of the turntable, which was provided to enable engines to turn round when permission was refused to extend the line to Halesowen (and was removed in 1949), is still visible at



the end of Frensham Way. The footbridge, albeit dangerously steep, constructed to hasten the arrival of the city businessmen to the station, is also still in use. Park Hill Road in those days wound south-west through allotment gardens and there were fields and farms all the way to the Hagley Road.

The city businessmen who used the line in the 1890's used to have a drink in a local hostelry prior to returning to their homes in the evenings until finally in 1899 they decided to start a club in order to socialise with their families as well. The Harborne Club is still in existence on the corner of Albany Road and Station Road and will celebrate its centenary in the year 2000.

After much hard work by the Harborne Society the railway bridge over Park Hill Road was finally listed after the lines were

removed in 1981 and the Harborne Walkway opened the same year.

Further down Station Road, where it becomes Rose Road, was the Fire Station, opened on 4th August, 1908. The Volunteer Fire Brigade had been founded in 1879 by Captain Charles Hart of Harborne Hall and had its headquarters in Serpentine Road on the site which later became the bus depot and is now Timber Mill Court. This volunteer force was disbanded in 1891 when Harborne became part of Birmingham and re-formed as the Birmingham Corporation Fire Brigade. The Fire Station has now been converted into residential units. I hope that the residents are not disturbed by ghostly exits of horse drawn fire engines in the early hours of the morning. Incidentally it was the oldest operational Fire Station still in use when it closed.

Next door was the Chad Valley Works, built in 1897. Extensions and a new factory were built on the site in the 1920's and the company became Chad Valley Toys. Next door to that was the City Engineer's Depot. This was originally served by a siding from the railway but, now demolished, is partly the site of the new Rose Road Police Station.

So the coming of the railways further exacerbated the urbanisation of Harborne. The three small villages were now combined irretrievably and formed the basis of our modern day village.

I could go on, there is still the Moorpool Estate, Park Hill Road and Nursery Road circuit to complete, but space forbids, more perhaps next year.

Ann Yorke

Chairman's Letter

This issue of the Harborne Society News is the thirty-seventh that the Society has produced. The summer issues are delivered to every house in Harborne and I hope that there are not many among you who have not heard of us. But, for those of you who are new to the "village" and as a reminder to those who are established "Harbornites", let me tell you a little about what the Society does.

We aim to encourage the spirit of community, to promote interest in the character and history of Harborne and to represent the interests of Harborne by encouraging suitable conservation, opposing unsuitable development and putting forward proposals for the future of Harborne to the Local Authority.

How do we do this?

Over the past years we have established a good working relationship with the appropriate Council committees and our three councillors are always there to keep us informed and to add weight to our views. We have very successful meetings where you can hear about what is happening, voice your own opinions or tell us your problems. These meetings also provide excellent speakers. We attend all the meetings of the Ward Sub-Committee, the Police Consultative Committees and wider umbrella groups. Please do tell us beforehand if you want any matter raised. Committee members are always ready to discuss problems with you or to answer any questions you may have. There is also our Annual Dinner and a special event for Heritage Open Day.

I have only been able to mention a few of the Society's activities, but reading through this Newsletter will give you a broader picture of what the Society does.

There are many people working very hard for the benefit of Harborne, but we can always do with more members, the more members the more power to our elbow. Please look at the programme for next year and follow the instructions for membership on the back page. It is "you" we hope to represent.

On a different note, we were delighted that the Harborne Carnival, organised by Neighbourhood Watch representatives with a committee chaired by Mr Ron Hill, was such a success. The number of people who visited the High Street is reported to have been 18,000. Our own stall provided a quiz to find out how many places in Harborne people could recognise and we sold a large number of an illustrated,

historical walk round Harborne. I shall no doubt see many people walking round Harborne this summer, document in hand. We were pleased to have people actually joining the Society on the spot. On the whole it was a very good day and we look forward to next year's event, which, I have heard, promises to be bigger and better.

The Society was founded on May 4th, 1960 and, yes, you've guessed it, our Ruby Anniversary coincides with the Millennium. We hope to make the next year even more successful, so please do join us.

Yours sincerely

Mary P Abbott



The Harborne Society stall at the Carnival

Harborne Portrait Number 3

Mary Worrall

One of our most pleasant shops in Harborne must surely be Hooper's Bookshop. We now take it for granted that we can buy and order any book currently in print, without 'going into town', and it is surprising to remember that Hoopers have only been with us on Harborne High Street since 1991.

I went to talk to the owner of this delightful bookshop to see what she felt about Harborne and to find out something about how she and her shop came to be here.

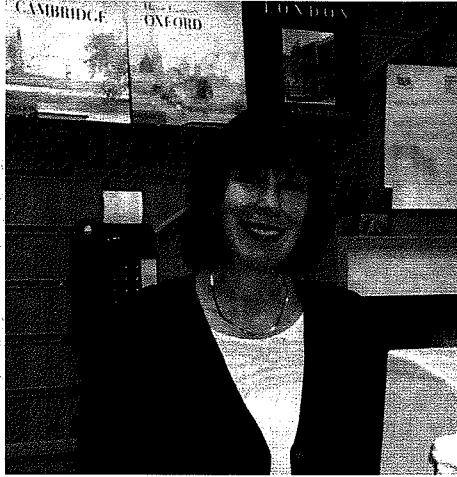
Jane Hooper is the owner of the shop and she is usually to be found behind the counter full of enthusiasm and helpful advice, but what did she do before joining us?

Jane was born in Bristol to Welsh parents but spent much of her early years in Kenya due to her father's job. She returned to England when she was sixteen just in time to be thrust into 'O' levels in a completely different examination system. Overcoming this problematic obstacle she eventually settled at Bromley Grammar School to take 'A' levels before progressing on to Liverpool Teacher Training College. She qualified as a teacher but whilst specialising in Drama and Divinity realised that she very much wanted to expand her interest in Comparative Religion. A degree at Newcastle fulfilled this yearning and led to a teaching career in Tyneside.

Eventually becoming a Head of Department she spent seven years in Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham teaching R.E. Jane confesses to complete agnosticism, but feels this is an advantage to the teaching of the subject as long as there is real interest in different religions.

During this time Jane had married and had a daughter. She moved to Birmingham as a result of her husband changing jobs and settled in Moseley. Having taught English as a Second Language at a private college in Moseley she moved on to open her first bookshop in Moseley in 1989. She says, 'It was always a dream of mine to own a bookshop and when I found someone willing to be a business partner, with a background in accountancy, I decided to go for it.'

'When we considered opening a bookshop Moseley and Harborne were the two suburbs which sprang to mind as suitable. The bookshop in Moseley went very well which led to us opening the shop in Harborne in 1991. Unfortunately, changes in Moseley,



Jane Hooper

mainly the closing of Tescos, meant that the Moseley shop became less successful, so this was closed and I became the sole owner of the business in Harborne.'

'I now live in Harborne and have done so for three years, a five-minute walk from the shop. The shop is doing very well, we have excellent, loyal customers whose support we very much appreciate and Harborne is a good place to be in. I have made many friends here. The Library is a tremendous asset to the village and has been very supportive. We are two sides of the same coin, and my customers are also theirs. It is a pity there are not more specialist shops, as Harborne is ripe for them, e.g. a good delicatessen, a hardware shop, a second-hand bookshop and a nice children's shop. Perhaps the arrival of Marks and Spencer will bring in some new businesses. I do hope so. This could begin a new era for the High Street shops.'

I asked Jane, in conclusion, if she intended staying in Harborne? Her reply - 'I have no intention of going anywhere else!'

Heritage Open Day 12th Sept. 1999

Phil Stokes

Once again the Society will be celebrating Heritage Open Day, co-ordinated by The Civic Trust, with another of Edward Chitham's famous walks around Harborne. The leisurely walk will be on Sunday 12th September, 1999, starting at 2 p.m. from St Peter's Church car park and should last no

more than an hour and a half. The walk will embrace 'the lost farms of Harborne' and, with Edward's vast knowledge of local history, is bound to be one of the highlights of the year. The walk will take place whatever the weather, so please be prepared! Everyone is welcome.

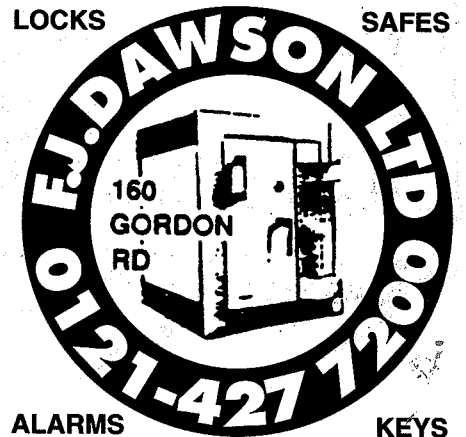


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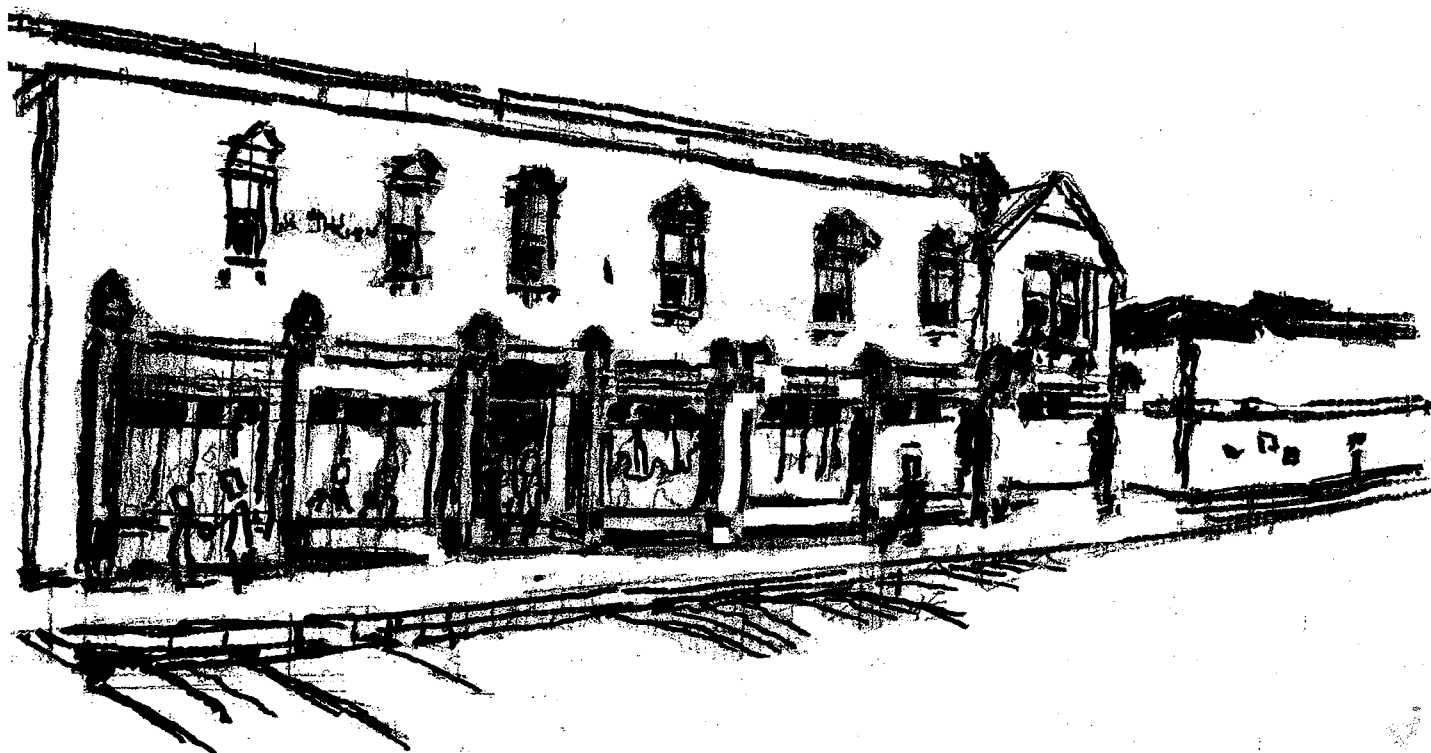
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Technical Committee Report

Ann Yorke, Chairman



The Varsity & Adjacent Shops

It was at this time last year that we heard that J D Wetherspoon had withdrawn their application for a licence for the ill-fated thirteenth public house. Mary, Eric, Nigel and I met Poppy Brady at the Cartwright and Lewis building to celebrate, with orange juice of course. Much joy throughout the village, well, those people who had been aware that the proposal had been made anyway. It was not in fact until we did a street petition a few weeks earlier that we discovered that there were people who owned and worked in the local shops who had no idea of the proposal! Much to our chagrin, however, we heard that Wetherspoons were attempting to sell on their Planning Approval. That fell through, however, and the building is now up for sale again.

Techno House was on our agenda. (The large empty building opposite Pinner Court. Ed.) Nigel Griffiths is still trying to raise some interest in getting it refurbished and we have now found out that we need an interested developer to start the job off. I am making enquiries through a contact at the moment and we may have news of a sort very soon.

We were desperately chasing the enforcement officer regarding the double unit adjacent to the Varsity being advertised as a single unit, but got no joy. We even sent our intrepid Nigel to make enquiries regarding letting a single unit so that we could report back but it made no difference, they were only letting one unit - a double. Much to our joy it has now opened as a dress shop for the larger woman - beautiful hats and shoes to fit everyone though.

We are still waiting to hear whether there will be an egress from Safeway car park onto Vivian Road. We have written to the Transportation Department and raised the matter at the Ward Sub Committee meetings, but, although something appears to be stirring, we are still not sure that it is a bulldozer yet.

The Green-up sites have finally come home to roost with those truly responsible for their maintenance. The Council owns the laundrette site and Sanctuary Housing the one by the old fire station. We did get the latter cleared, with a donation of £100 from the developer of the fire station, but are now anticipating not having to spend our own funds in future.

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Nigel and I have inspected the Harborne Market. It really is in a shocking state, and I am preparing a report to send to the owner prior to reporting the matter to the Health and Safety Department, to get something done about upgrading the building and facilities.

Phil has done a sterling job in getting the road signs both replaced and repainted and in generally keeping an eye on the village with regard to such things as waste bins and graffiti. Also, between them, he and Nigel have managed to contact Cable and BT and both companies are now cleaning up their own particular boxes. Phil has also been largely responsible for getting the Neighbourhood Office in South Street Methodist Church better known and we are hoping that shortly the local planning applications will be on view there on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. Please make use of the office or we shall loose it again.

On a more mundane note, we have been informed of about 17-20 planning applications per month over the last

twelve months, some of which I have inspected and to some of which I have objected.

And finally, Marks and Spencer. Great news! The application was approved by the Development Control Committee on 8th July!!!. Apparently the Transportation Department objected on the grounds of insufficient parking. This was after Wetherspoons had carried out a survey the previous year and found at least 168 parking spaces available for their proposed development! The mind boggles. And the Council have got a further £50,000 from M&S towards the mini traffic island, pelican crossing, CCTV and lighting to Alma Passage. The village desperately needs Marks and Spencer to survive and thrive. We need it to attract other well known retail outlets and bring people into Harborne to shop.

I am happy to report to you however that generally the village is in good heart and with your backing will continue so.

Ann Yorke

Signs of the (Environmental) Times Update

Phil Stokes

Since the report in the Easter Newsletter progress has been maintained on several fronts as follows -

1. Road Name Signs

It is pleasing to note that the repainting or replacement of road name signs by the Transportation Department has continued virtually unabated throughout Harborne. The Society has drawn attention to a number of the old style signs which would benefit from repainting and also to various locations where additional signs are considered necessary. The Department has already acted on several of these suggestions. The Society is very appreciative of the Council's actions on this matter during recent months.

2. Litter Bins

In the light of the Environmental Services Department's excellent response to the Society's previous requests, details of further damaged litter bins requiring replacement together with suggested new sites for litter bins were submitted to the Department and, once again, this resulted in quick action by the City Council.

3. Graffiti

As a result of a further approach to Birmingham Cable, a list of over 60 sites of connection boxes suffering from graffiti was forwarded to the Company which immediately instigated action to clean the boxes concerned. The Company recognises that some of the boxes will inevitably be subjected to further problems and, regrettably, that has already happened. Consequently the Company has requested the Society to keep it informed of all further instances of graffiti and has promised to take action. A fresh list is being compiled. The Society is extremely grateful to the Company for its very positive response. In addition, an approach has also been made to British Telecom about similar problems with its connection boxes and as a result details of the boxes affected are to be sent to the Company.

4. Gordon Road Green-Up Site

The Sanctuary Housing Association has now accepted that it is the owner of the green-up site adjacent to the former Fire Station and has undertaken to maintain the site in the future.

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Recent planting in Gordon Road, Harborne

Everyone knows the claim that Birmingham has more miles of canals than Venice but did you know that there are more trees in Birmingham than people? Trees are an asset to any area and, at the suggestion of one of

our members, Roger Le Gallais, the Society is considering approaching the City Council to carry out more tree planting in Harborne as an environmental improvement. Trees have a comparatively low maintenance

cost when compared with areas planted with shrubs. Some roads, such as Gordon Road, have been planted in recent years whilst others, such as Albany Road, have several fine mature trees.

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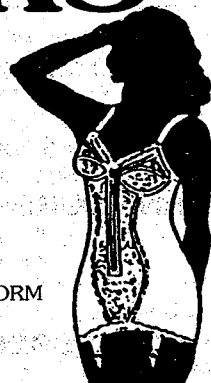
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The Moorpool Players

Betty Wright

The Silver Jubilee celebrations in 1977 led to the formation of the Harborne Tenants' Residents' Association out of which the idea of bringing amateur theatre to the stage of Moorpool Hall grew.

In October 1977 the first meeting of half a dozen keen would be actors took place in a member's house and thus Noël Coward's "Blithe Spirit" and the Moorpool Players were born.

The only person with any experience was the producer whose ambitious idea certainly paid off. The play was performed for three nights (with great technical difficulties) and was an astounding success. The stage was very small and there were no curtains. The group "borrowed" some flimsy ones from the café area. They had to be drawn by hand - two stage crew were stationed to pull them across to close and the curtains had to be kept together with a clothes peg as they were not wide enough. Often the clothes peg was forgotten when the curtains were opened again and it flew off into the audience. More than once a very embarrassed member of the stage crew was left high and dry when the performance began a bit sharpish!

Slowly the situation improved. The Players acquired (with a loan from one of the members) new made to measure drapes. The small profit from "Blithe Spirit" purchased a modicum of lighting equipment and inch by inch the group pressed onwards.

The next production, a year later, "Goodnight Mrs. Puffin" was stage managed by a Central TV sound engineer who came to see "Blithe Spirit", was impressed and offered his services. This helped the group adopt a more professional approach.

The initial productions were all comedies and very successful.

Then in 1981 the Players tackled their first real drama "An Inspector Calls". This proved very popular and the Players entered into another genre.

"The Creature Creeps" by Jack Sharkey was something completely different - sinister, ghostly, and very, very funny.

Quite a lot of heart searching and discussion took place before the committee were persuaded by another recruit from Central TV to stage an unknown quantity "The Diary of Anne Frank" and to a lesser degree "Anastasia". The Group had never tackled drama quite like these before. However, they were both well received and enjoyed, although the audience left quietly with moist eyes.



The Moorpool Players on stage during the production of their spring play 'Under the Stars'.

Subsequently, the Players were invited to stage single performances of the "Diary of Anne Frank" at the Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury and at the New Theatre, Hereford, both sponsored by Central Television.

The next production "Habeas Corpus" by Alan Bennett was also presented at these theatres. These one-night performances provided invaluable experience.

Plays by established writers followed, and to date the Group has entertained with Wilde, Coward, Ayckbourn and Rattigan.

At the Festival of Acting and Musical Entertainment on February 7 1990, the Moorpool Players were delighted to receive the Philip Rodway Trophy, the premier award for serious drama, for their staging of "The Deep Blue Sea" by Terence Rattigan.

Over the years several of the established actors in the group have donned a director's hat which has given the Players a comfortable feeling of security for the future. "Rebecca" and "Abigail's Party" (a black comedy whose reception the group were not quite sure about) were both very successful. Two of Neil Simon's American comedies "Barefoot in the Park" and the hilarious "Odd Couple" (female version) and our latest production "Under the Stars" are just a small selection of our actor/director's work.

In 1997 and 1998 the Group reached another milestone producing Alan Bennett's controversial monologues "Talking Heads" newly available for amateur theatre and, not as far as we know, performed before by amateurs, but becoming very popular since.

After these productions came "Educating Rita" a favourite two- hander and "Shirley Valentine" a monumental performance by one of our established actors.

Twenty-one years from our first production in 1978 is a long time. Looking back the Players have offered a varied and ambitious programme attempting to cater for as many moods and tastes as possible.

The Moorpool Players would like to see new faces among their ranks providing inspiration and new ideas. Some members move on to other ventures while others leave the city for pastures new.

All ages are welcome, budding actors and off stage helpers. No experience is necessary. The Group meets at Moorpool Hall, on the Moorpool Estate, on Wednesdays at 8.00 p.m. A wide variety of social events is organised which provides interest throughout the year. Please come and join the fun - it is fun really! Further information can be obtained from our secretary Norma Mason on 0121 427 6795.

A final note, our next production runs from 16th - 20th November and will be 'The Curious Savage' by John Patrick - a gentle heart-warming comedy.

The Players promise an entertaining evening with hot and cold refreshments and, through the generosity of Bradford Property Trust, newly acquired comfortable chairs!

The Hall is hired from the Trust and to them we owe a sincere debt of gratitude for their help and co-operation.

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Harborne Carnival Quiz Answers

1. Old Methodist/Catholic Church building, over the Top Hat Café, High Street.
2. Old Fire Station, Rose Road.
3. St John's Church, Vivian Road.
4. Old Fire Station tower, Rose Road.
5. Lodge Terrace, off Greenfield Road.
6. Grove Park.
7. Old Post Office Building over Fresha Fruits, High Street.
8. Moorpool, Ravenhurst Road.
9. Classical doorway, the Harborne Institute theatre, Station Road.
10. Tibbets Lane.
11. Wiggin Cottages, off Margaret Road.
12. Greenfield Road from outside David Cox's House.
13. St Peter's Junior School.
14. Caretaker's garden, Clock Tower Centre.
15. Park Hill Road, looking towards Nursery Road from the railway bridge.



Chairman, Mary Abbott presents the 1st prize to the winner, Mr J. McLoughlin

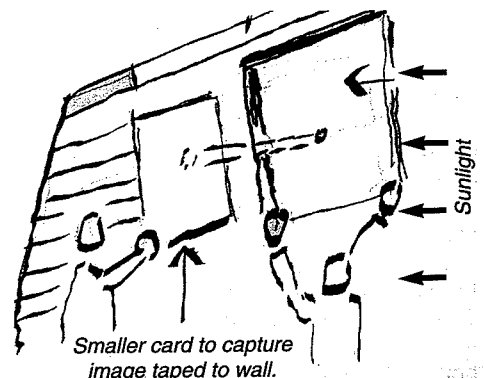
16. First floor flats behind and over Worthingtons, travel agents and Valentinos.
17. House in Ravenhurst Road opposite to Moorpool.
18. South Street Methodist Church.
19. A pediment in the Harborne Institute theatre, Station Road.
20. The Old Dairy, Greenfield Road.

An Usual Event

Eric Abbott

A total eclipse of the sun may be seen in Cornwall and South Devon on Wednesday, 11th August 1999. The sun will become smaller and smaller until it finally disappears. Plants and animals will think it is night and no birds will sing.

If you are unable to go there and if there is no cloud, you will see a 93.5% eclipse from Birmingham between 10.02am and 12.36pm. You and your children should not look directly at the sun with the naked eye or through a telescope or binoculars. One method you can use is shown in our diagram. Let's hope for a clear sky!



DO NOT LOOK DIRECTLY AT THE SUN

Have You Heard?

Ann Yorke

Ever heard the term FOAF? Well it means 'friend of a friend' and refers to those tales we all know are true, because a friend of..... that's right, told us!

From time to time The Harborne Society is told some glorious rumours and we thought we might share some with you so have you heard.....

Safeways is selling out to Marks and Spencer.

Safeways is being knocked down to build a motel.

The Harborne Cricket Club is being pulled down and they're going to build a new Safeways and a motel in the grounds.

Wetherspoons are going to take over the Lloyds Bank Building and open another pub.

The Lloyds Bank building is going to be a Café Rouge.

The High Street is going to be pedestrianised and all the buses sent down St Mary's Road.

Techno House was once a Government Spy Centre with special radio equipment to detect alien invasions. (Editor's favourite story.)

Please remember us if you hear any more, we do love a good rumour.

PS. These rumours bear no relationship to reality!!

"Can You Direct Me to Steam Pot Lane?"

Phil Stokes

How well do you know your history of Harborne? Here is a test of your knowledge of road names that have changed at various times i.e. within the last 200 years or so! If you are an avid reader of recent editions of this Newsletter you should know several of the answers.

By what names are the following roads now known? ~

1. Steam Pot Lane;
2. Fish Lane;
3. Murphy Row;
4. Heath Road;
5. Lodge Road;
6. Turks Lane;
7. Church Road;
8. Love Lane;
9. Poyner's Lane;
10. Mill Lane.

Answers on page 10

Comment

Eric Abbott

It is good to see the former Police Station/Board School site, on the junction of High Street and Greenfield Road, at last filled in. It is a pity though that the designer went to the 20's instead of using a contemporary style.

P. KAPNISIS

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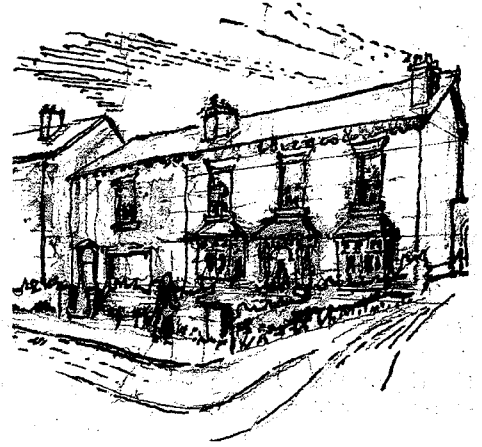
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Greenfield Road Conservation Area

Ann Yorke



*Regency and Victorian Houses in
Greenfield Road*

You may not have been aware that over the last few years The Harborne Society has been pressing The Birmingham City Council to make Greenfield Road and parts of some of the surrounding streets into a conservation area. This matter has now been put to the last six Ward Sub Committee meetings and finally at the last meeting we obtained a statement that the matter would be dealt with in the next few months.

I have just put down the telephone from speaking with the Conservation Officer, Mr Charles Glenn. Charles stated that he had nothing further to add on the matter at present but that he was in the process of historical investigation and would be able to come up with a definitive report at the Ward Sub Committee meeting on Friday 16 July. We do appear to be getting somewhere at last.

Answers to Road Name Quiz

1. Tibbets Lane
2. North Road
3. Vine Terrace
4. High Street
5. Vivian Road
6. Queen's Park Road
7. Vicarage Road
8. Grove Lane
9. & 10. Harborne Park Road (part)

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Report of the A.G.M. - 19th May 1999

Phil Stokes, Hon. Secretary

The 39th Annual general meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday, 19th May, 1999 at 7.30 p.m. in the Conference Room at Harborne Junior School.

The meeting was chaired by the Chairman, Mary Abbott, and reports were presented by her and also by Ann Yorke, Chairman of the Technical Sub-Committee, and William Curr, Honorary Treasurer. All the reports gave a very clear indication of the hard work done by the Society's officers and the several sub-committees and highlighted the wide range of issues and activities pursued during the year. There was a better attendance than last year, which, perhaps, is not surprising, given the good numbers generally attending the monthly meetings.

Financially the Society remains in a healthy state. At the suggestion of the auditor the accounts were produced in a slightly revised format which reflected payments/grant actually made/received after 31st March, 1999, in respect of expenditure incurred before that date.

All members of the Committee stood for re-election with the exception of Jean Curr, who stood down after serving many years on the Committee and as Chairman of the Social Sub-Committee. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers as a token of the Society's appreciation. There being no additional nominations, the twelve existing members were elected to the Committee for 1999/2000. The full list of Committee members and officers is on the back page of this Newsletter.

At the 1998 A.G.M. it was agreed that the Committee should consider a more streamlined format for future meetings.



Jean Curr thanking the Society for her bouquet

This year copies of the officers' reports were printed and made available after the meeting to interested members, thereby shortening the formal presentations. This appears to have worked well.

The meeting over, the evening concluded with splendid refreshments and two very successful photograph quizzes - Norma Bark and Jenny Buchan were the lucky prizewinners.

Harborne Neighbourhood Office Surgery

The City Council has had to alter the opening hours of the Neighbourhood Office Surgery at South Street Methodist Church.

The Surgery, held each Tuesday and Thursday, now opens from 2.00pm - 4.00pm in the afternoon (instead of the mornings).

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Officers and Committee 1999 - 2000

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Chairman
Mary Abbott,
'Victoria Lodge',
1 Victoria Road, B17 0AG.
427 1378

Vice-Chairman
Graham Parker,
12 Old Church Road, B17 0BB.
427 3666

Honorary Secretary
Phil Stokes,
4A Queen's Park Road, B32 2LA
426 1289

Honorary Treasurer
William Curr,
23 Vicarage Road, B17 0SN.
427 4084

Technical Officer
Ann Yorke,
98 Greenfield Road, B17 0EF.
604 7364

Chairman Social Sub-Committee
Jenny Buchan,
50 Margaret Grove, B17 9JL.
426 4854

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Mary Worrall,
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426 6467

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Eric Abbott
Leslie Blennerhassett
Michael Darby
Roger Miles
Beryl Romano

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Programme of Meetings 1999 - 2000

1999

- Wed 8th Sept** Woodgate Valley Urban Farm - Community Enterprise In Action. *Mr Michael Gee*
- Tues 5th Oct** The Story of The Black Country Museum - A member of the Friends of B.C.M.
- Wed 3rd November** A Brief Introduction to English Heraldry. *Mr Adrian de Redman*
- Tues 7th Dec** The Moorpool Players - Events and Experiences from 21 years.

2000

- Tues 1st Feb** A Debt of Honour - the history and work of The Commonwealth War Graves Commission. *(includes a video)*
- Wed 1st Mar** St. Kilda - a remote Scottish Island. *Mr Bob Bailes*
- Tues 11th Apr** Creating Interest in a Small Garden. *Mr Len Salt*
- Wed 17th May** AGM - Our Ruby Anniversary.

All meetings begin at 7.30 pm. Tuesday meetings are held at Onneley House, Court Oak Road; Wednesday meetings are held at Harborne Junior School, entrance in Wentworth Road.

We have a varied and, hopefully, interesting and stimulating programme of meetings. Some, like the Moorpool Players, are very local while the Commonwealth War Graves Commission has a worldwide concern but probably a very personal meaning for most of us.

In addition to the talks the meetings have a short business section so that members can be kept informed of committee activities and in turn raise issues of local concern.

We look forward to seeing you. Non-members are most welcome on a payment of a fee of 50p.

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