

THE HARBORNE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Number
Forty - Six
Summer 2002



"HARBORNE'S PICTURE PALACES REMEMBERED"

Were you ever a 'Minor of the A.B.C.'? Did you queue up alongside the 'Royalty' cinema on



Saturday mornings clutching your sixpence admission, membership card and wearing your club badge? If you were a child in the early 1950s in Harborne it is almost certain that you did.

Proceedings always started with an enthusiastic rendition of the club anthem ~ how did it go? Something like "We are the boys and girls of Warner, happy boys and girls are we, and every Saturday we line up. . . . we're Minors of the A.B.C.!". The luxurious gold curtain was raised and Laurel and Hardy, Old Mother Riley, Abbott and Costello, the Bowery Boys, Disney cartoons, swashbuckling pirates and exciting westerns with Roy Rogers or Hopalong Cassidy [inevitably with 'Gabby' Hayes riding the chuck wagon] were our delight. Best of all was the weekly serial. My favourite was 'Bat Man and Robin' and each episode ended with our heroes precariously dangling over a pit of serpents or crocodiles or at the very least facing certain death. Would they escape? Of course they would, for the serial was always "to be continued next week"!

The Lumiere Brothers had first given public shows of animated pictures in Paris in December 1895 and film shows soon appeared in Birmingham, firstly at the Empire Theatre in Hurst Street. However, it was not until about 1900 that the 'Kings Hall' Corporation Street and the 'Steam Clock' Morville Street became the city's first permanent cinemas in converted

buildings. The first purpose-built cinema was the 'Aston Picture Palace' which opened on 9th July, 1910, but that was before Aston became part of Birmingham so that strictly the first cinema in the city was the 'Electric Theatre' in Station Street, which opened on 30th July in the same year. A great rush of cinemas were built between 1910 and 1915 when over 50 new cinemas opened, seemingly always with grand sounding names, but all building was brought to a halt by the Great War. At one time or another nearly 200 cinemas have opened in Birmingham but very few of the originals now remain.

So what of Harborne? You would have to be in your late nineties to remember the 'Provincial Picture Palace', which was established by Elizabeth Littler at the Harborne Institute in Station Road in July 1911 but which operated for less than two years. This provided "up-to-date continual performance of animated pictures from 6 to 10.30". There were, however, two far more successful purpose-built cinemas ~ the 'Harborne Picture House' and the 'Royalty'.

The 'Harborne Picture House' was opened in Serpentine Road on 3rd July

1913, by Bosco's Pictures Ltd., owned by William Bainton but popularly known as Irving Bosco. The architect was Archibald Hurley Robinson and it had a seating capacity of 903.

In my day the cinema was referred to as 'the Old Harborne' or, less flatteringly, 'the bug house' or 'flea pit'. Several other proprietors operated the cinema, namely Denman (Midland) Cinemas Ltd., C.M.A. Ltd., and finally Associated British Cinemas. The cinema closed on 13th April, 1957, with the showing of the films "Town on Trial" starring John Mills and Charles Coburn and "Reprisal".

The building has been the home of Harborne Village Social Club virtually ever since. I recently discovered that this cinema also had a children's Saturday morning club. The film I most remember seeing here was 'The Man from Laramie' starring James Stewart [1955]. The posters proclaimed "He came a thousand miles to kill a man he'd never seen!".



The 'Royalty' in High Street opened on 20th October, 1930, and as its name would imply was a much grander affair,



The "Royalty" 1954.

with Western Electric sound equipment and a main auditorium and circle seating for 1,500 patrons. A sign of the times was parking for 150 cars. The architect was Horace G. Bradley and the cinema was built in the art deco style, which is still clearly evident today. The opening film was "The Love Parade" starring Maurice Chevalier and Jeanette MacDonald. The proprietors were Selly Oak Pictures Ltd., whose declared policy was "to present only the best pictures". The cinema was subsequently taken over by Associated British Cinemas who eventually closed it on 2nd November, 1963, with the showing of "P.T.109" starring Cliff Robertson and

Ty Hardin and "Bugs Bunny Show No.4". Do you remember the two show cases on



Harborne Picture House "For Sale" 1957

the front of the building either side of the main entrance which used to display tantalising photographs of scenes from the films on show? Do you remember the large hoarding alongside the car park which was blown down in a gale sometime in the 50s? The film being promoted was "Gone with the Wind"! The building subsequently opened as a casino called 'The Top Hat Club' but this was a short-lived venture ~ the swinging 60s had yet to reach Harborne. Did they ever? The building then became a Mecca bingo hall and, despite changing ownership a number of times, it remains a popular social attraction.

I hope this article has revived a few memories. I am grateful to Birmingham cinema historian Dudley Warner for his generous assistance. I would be extremely pleased to hear from readers who have photographs of the cinemas in their prime, as they seem to be a rarity.

Phil Stokes

St Mary's Church Visit

A visit has been arranged for members to **St Mary's Church, Harborne** on **Saturday 21st September.**

We are lucky that **Father Terry Fee** will be our guide and we are invited for refreshment afterwards in the church hall.

The buildings are very unusual in that when the church was remodelled and extended the pews were all turned at right angles to their original positions.

If you would like to attend please notify

Jenny Buchan by 19th September.

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CHAIRMAN'S LETTER - SUMMER 2002

Sitting down to write my letter for our Summer edition and having read all the interesting articles that have been written for it I found myself asking, "Now what can I say?"

Many of you will have received our Summer Newsletter over the last few years but there must be some of you who are new to the area and don't know about The Harborne Society. We are an amenity society and we try to see that Harborne develops in the best possible way and also to have meetings and outings to foster a spirit of community. You can ring anyone on the committee if you need help or advice or ask us during the business part of our monthly meetings.

We have, over the years, fought many big and small battles with the City Council, some we have lost but many have been won. Because of this Harborne still remains a good place to live.

We have often persuaded planners and other council officers to make some small changes which make all the difference to the final outcome. Sometimes, when developers have been sent by the planners to talk to us, we have been able to suggest alterations which can be done at the beginning of the planning process. I shall never forget the day when Ann Yorke and I met a developer and his architect to talk about a new building for Harborne. Ann picked up her pencil and with a few swift strokes, showed how, with a few small alterations, the building could be changed to fit in with Harborne High Street. The developer was very excited about it, but I had to feel a bit sorry for his architect!

How many other suburbs in the West Midlands have this sort of contact? Not many. It is something that we should appreciate and make good use of as it has been built up over the years and by many people.

Membership is still on the increase and I hope this will continue. We can never have too many members to support us. How about some volunteers for the committee? We need new people and particularly younger ones.



Annual Dinner ~ Mary & Phil Ellis with Mrs Ellis

Our speakers this year have been excellent; some of them had us rolling in the aisles with laughter. The walk and church visit were very interesting and attracted many people. The annual dinner was excellent. Many people commented that they thought the menu was the best we had had. Our speaker was Chief Superintendent Phil Ellis from Rose Road and we all enjoyed his after dinner speech.

To commemorate the Queen's Jubilee we are planting a tree in Queen's Park. This will be an Acer, *Liquid Gold*, and, as this is quite a costly item, anyone wishing to offer a small donation can send it to our Treasurer, Brenda Durbin (address and contact no. on the last page of this Newsletter).

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us if you need or would like to speak to us and please consider joining the Society, details are again on the back page. We need you to help protect our village.

Mary P Abbott

Notice to Non-Members of The Harborne Society

The Harborne Society Newsletter

This Newsletter comes to you as a free edition as we would like the whole community to know something of what we are doing and hope to achieve for Harborne.

Members receive two further newsletters at Christmas and in the Spring. There is also an exchange of information at our monthly meetings.

If you would like to support and encourage us the please consider joining The Harborne Society and letting us have your views.

Membership fees are modest and full details are given on the back page.

We look forward to welcoming you.



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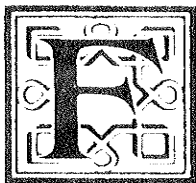
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Harborne Library - in the beginning.....

"The petition for the formation of the Tudor Lodge was proposed at the St. James' Lodge, 482. Wor. Bro. J. H. Parkes, W. M. 482, who is still living, was in the chair, and signed the petition in November, 1878."

It is somewhat strange to imagine that this statement has any relationship to Harborne Library but in fact this Masonic petition led to the building of our present Library. In previous editions of the Newsletter I have taken a look at some of our most interesting residents in the occasional series which we call our "Personality Profile" - this Summer I have decided to depart somewhat from this formula and instead "profile" a building. To mark the opening of the new entrance to the Library and aware that the building might have a few surprises in store for us all I embarked on some research.....



It is generally known that the building became a Public Lending Library in 1892 after Harborne was absorbed into Birmingham and the provision of a library was seen as a Civic duty. What is not so well known is that the building had already led a life of its own for some years beforehand as a Masonic Hall, home of Tudor Lodge 1792.

Intrigued by a few scanty facts scattered about our Local History files I decided to investigate further, principally to see if I could establish a date for the construction of the building. With no great hope of success I decided to approach Freemasons' Hall in London to see if they might point me in the right direction - just in case some records existed that I might perhaps be allowed access to. Astonished, is perhaps the right word to use; before long I was speaking to Rodney Pitham at the Masonic Temple on Hagley Road and invited to see both their treasure trove of a museum and, most importantly, a lovely dusty folder and magical little blue book which answered every question I had ever wanted to know about the origins of Harborne Library!

I hardly need to describe to anyone who has researched their family tree or some other topic of historical interest what a thrill this was. To look at documents over a hundred years old, to handle them, read new facts and make connections not made for many years is an extraordinary delight. The addictive nature of this pleasure is amply demonstrated by the armies of people researching family history all over the world.

The building seems to originally have been called Tudor House and was built as a Masonic Hall being completed in December 1879. The Consecration of Tudor Lodge took place at the New Inns, Handsworth, on Monday May 12th 1879. The next six meetings also took place there as the new building was not finished in time (shades of our new entrance!).

The Masons seemed to have thrived in Harborne initially; they held ladies' evenings, purchased items for the building, presented each other with certificates and instituted an annual Charity Picnic. In 1891 the Annual Ball was held with over 100 persons present. "Dancing continued until 2.30 am." In June of the same year an "Emergency Lodge was held to initiate a brother going to Trinidad".

In 1892 "The Lodge removed to Harborne Institute in February. The first meeting recorded deaths of Rt. Wor. Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence, and of Colonel Gough, P.G.M. Staffs."

Utterly intrigued by this small blue book I ventured into the office at The Masonic Temple to ask the secretarial staff if all Lodges had such a little gem of historical recording behind them. The ladies there were almost as interested as me, in that they had not seen anything like it before. Back at the photocopier I began to make a facsimile to work from at home when I noticed a most familiar name, William Hardwick. "Billy" Hardwick, past head of St. Peters, long remembered and much respected was the "Worshipful Brother" who I had to thank for this wonderful document. At the beginning of the twentieth century Freemasonry seems to have been very much celebrated in the community, some of the cuttings that I found even show public processions in full Masonic Regalia through Harborne to St. Peter's Church.

Why the Masons decided to sell their building and move into The Institute still remains a mystery, but move they did, using this building until 1915 when it, in turn, was sold.

I am afraid to tell you I am now utterly hooked on the history of Freemasonry in Harborne and have another article in the making. I would recommend anyone with any interest in the subject to not hesitate to contact the Grand Lodge on the Hagley Road, no one could be more helpful. They tell me that they are contacted by people from all over the world researching possible family connections. I have already promised the Local History Group which meets at the library a talk on my "Masonic Experiences" and the Society has been invited to the Grand Lodge for a talk and tour, though I will leave Jenny, our Social Secretary, to make the appropriate arrangements for this.

When I started this article my intention was to touch upon the origins of the library building and then go on to talk about some of the interesting and important people who have worked there and been associated with Harborne. Obviously Donald Wright, local historian, worked at the library for many years. To him we owe the enormous debt of the Local History Collection which has been left for us to use for research purposes and as an inspiration for future additions. Staff at the library maintain and add to this collection constantly.

More recently, Roy Clarke a previous Librarian at Harborne, has compiled the volume on Old Harborne, currently for sale in the library. Most recently Martin Hampson from Central Library, is in the process of putting together a second volume in the same series - due to the immense popularity of the first book.



I did not imagine however, that I would discover a new aspect to Billy Hardwick in my researches, most likely well known in his own time, now completely forgotten. What lies to be discovered about the gentleman who gave his name to the Tudor Lodge which met at the building? We know he was called George Singleton Tudor and can only assume that he was in some way instrumental in funding the building costs. Are you perhaps one of his descendants, or perhaps know something about him? He looks a very venerable Victorian benefactor in his magnificent regalia. I would be intrigued to know more...

What we do know from our files in the library is that the Freemasons did show a profit when they sold the building.

It originally cost £1,500 to build in 1879 and was sold on to the Council for conversion to a Public Lending Library in 1890 for £2,000. The Lodge then moved its activities to The Institute building in Station Road.

If there is a "moral to this story" and perhaps spending so much time looking back into the Victorian period leads one to think in this way, I think it is this. Never underestimate the power of research, even if facts are said to be unproveable. Try the internet - Freemasons' Hall's website gave me all the facts I needed to start my investigation. Be determined, make that phone call, even if you fear you will be rebuffed - it just might pay off! ...

I hope and expect that my current researches will add to our files in the library. I hope that in the future we will be able to put on a display of some of the new material coming to light, relating to Harborne in the last years of the nineteenth century, in our new extension. I add my usual plea to you, if you have any information, photographs or even just anecdotes, the library and Local History Group are always interested. By the time you are reading this I hope that many of you will have seen the display from the history group in the library to commemorate the present Royal Jubilee. Some of these photographs came to us as a direct result of one of our recent Society appeals and will also be appearing in volume 2 of *Old Harborne*.

Contacts for enquiries about history of Freemasonry in Birmingham

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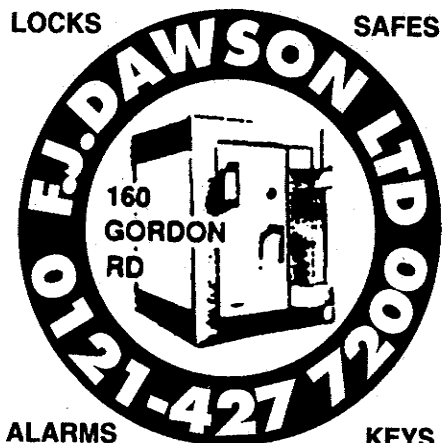
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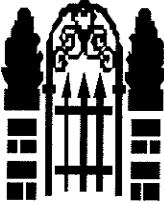
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TECHNICAL OFFICER'S REPORT - SUMMER 2002

ANN YORKE - CHAIRMAN TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

A lot of things have been happening in Harborne over the past year. So, working our way down the High Street from the far end...

The Duke of York has disappeared and redevelopment has started. A proposal for the opening of a beer garden has been refused at the New Inns and our old "Green-up" area beside the laundrette has disappeared and is now a car parking space.



of the new Retail Frontage Policy document we are hoping that this will be precluded. Again we should know fairly soon.

The old Cartwright and Lewis development is well on programme and we have already see the opening of the MFI Kitchen, Bathroom and Bedroom Centre.

Marks and Spencer has had its extended delivery hours agreed and is still doing an excellent job in serving our community. (Safeway still insists that nobody has complained about them playing music in the store.)

After two years of negotiation Techno House is humming with activity and there is a proposal for a restaurant to be opened on the ground floor.

Work has started on the Harborne Institute at long last; I am still keeping a wary eye on the site remembering some contractors predilection for the "collapse" of brickwork bringing about the necessity for demolition! A tragedy on this particular site after all the hard work we put into getting it right with the owner.

Moving further afield, Eccleston School has gone to appeal on one of its applications and we await the outcome. I would still like to see the old buildings retained and refurbished for residential use. We are losing far too many of our old buildings which are the very things for which we are well known although I still object to being classified as a Victorian village.

News of the sale and redevelopment of the Harborne Market has gone very quiet. The owner of the market is apparently very difficult to tie down when it comes to matters of exchanging contracts. Watch this space.

The pigeons are still being fed all over the place and no amount of telling seems to serve the purpose. These birds are vermin and they are fouling our High Street almost as much as the gum chewers and dog owners. (Although the latter do seem to be behaving better recently.)

South Street Methodist Church have gone to appeal over their refusal for development and I will be attending the hearing on 9 July to hear the outcome. Talking to the Minister a couple of weeks ago made depressing hearing. Apparently if they still get a refusal there is a chance that they will close the whole church down, as it is so expensive to maintain the rear section in its present state.

There have been 218 planning applications submitted over the last year which is about four a week. Many of these have been for two storey side extensions which could in a very short time destroy the street scene in Harborne. We have made desperate pleas to Planning Control for a policy document to be produced and have been rewarded by a promise to produce a guidance note. As the forty five degree rule started this way we are very hopeful of the same process happening again.

The Andy Cash row of shops has been purchased by A N Other and there is an application in for A3 use as a restaurant for the Harborne Stores. We do not need another restaurant and we would be losing four more retail units. We should know fairly soon what is happening.

The proposed Greenfield Road Conservation Area is in the same doldrums that it was twelve years ago and there seems to be nothing we can do to get action despite the fact that, if something doesn't happen soon, there will be very little of the area worth conserving.

Fresha Fruits has become The Big Apple and sells the most delicious take away chicken, so we didn't in the end lose a retail outlet.

Manettes is still having closing down sales but the scheme which we have seen for redevelopment of the site was rather exciting and with some luck should be on track for next year.

One other item of interest is that the new Green Paper on Planning is proposing that planning approvals will be for three years in future instead of five years, twin tracking will be banned and it is proposed to permit the public to speak at planning committee meetings - for a specific time and only on a specific subject.

98 - 100 High Street (the old video shop) had an application in for use as a betting shop but with the advent

REVIEW OF RETAIL PLANNING POLICIES FOR HIGH STREET

The Christmas Newsletter gave a full account of the Society's long campaign to secure an extension to the City Council's Primary Retail Frontage policy for High Street, which is aimed at maintaining and protecting the core retail shopping. The policy was adopted in 1983 and modified in 1989 but had not been reviewed since, although it was included in the Unitary Development Plan and adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance.

The policy established a core retail area and defined a "primary retail frontage" on one side of High Street from Albany Road to St. John's Road. Within this area applications for the change of use from retail to non-retail purposes should normally be refused. Outside the primary retail frontage area a more "flexible" approach is taken. In the Society's view the policy had failed to secure the appropriate balance between retail and non-retail uses to the detriment of the public and the character of the village.

As a result of the Society's continuing representations the Planning Department carried out a survey of the premises in the whole of High Street. The eventual outcome was a proposal to extend the existing retail frontage policy area from St. John's Road to North Road, which would take in the new shop units, and in addition to include the frontage on the opposite side of High Street from No. 72 [The Open University] to Bull Street. After a period of public consultation the proposal was finally approved by the City Council on 10th April and adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance.

The Society is extremely pleased and is appreciative of the City Council's action in responding to the community's concerns. Unfortunately, despite the existence of the policy, planning applications continue to be submitted seeking a change of use to non-retail purposes within the policy area and the Society is seriously concerned that there appear to be signs of reluctance in some quarters to fight to uphold the Council's policy. The Society will do everything possible to oppose such planning applications and will continue to champion the cause of retailing in the High Street.

Phil Stokes

OPENING A NEW CHAPTER AT HARBORNE LIBRARY



The improvements to Harborne Library, initiated as a result of the Society's representations to the City Council well over two years ago, have finally come to fruition and the new entrance was officially brought into use in July.

The City Council has created a completely new entrance and reception/exhibition area in the adjoining former shop premises with both steps and a small platform lift from street level up to the main Library, which has vastly improved access for many users. The new reception is also

to be the location for the new computer terminals to provide free access to the internet as part of the Government funded "Peoples' Network".

The Society campaigned for the complete refurbishment of the Library. Although this has not been achieved so far, the Society is extremely appreciative of the work that the City Council has undertaken in the face of the particularly difficult structural problems at the "shop" which have been referred to in previous Newsletters. The Society views this as just the end of stage one of a larger scheme. The Council is considering how best to block off the old entrance with a new window in order to make full use of the

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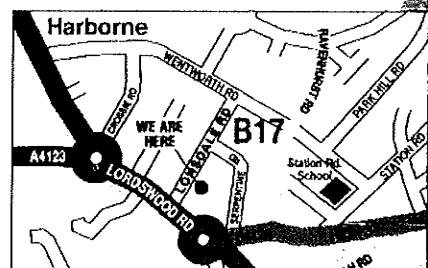
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space created e.g. possibly remove part of the internal wall and reconfigure the main counter area. This, together with the assurances given about the provision of a lift to serve the first floor Children's Library and Community Room, will continue to be pursued although, of course, it is fully recognised that funding will be a significant issue.

Phil Stokes

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REVIEW OF WARD BOUNDARIES



The Spring Newsletter carried a detailed report about the review by the Electoral Commission of the electoral arrangements for all local authorities within the West Midlands Metropolitan County including Birmingham.

The review can include revised ward boundaries having regard to forecasts of changes in the number and distribution of electors likely to take place over the next five years. The Commission can also take into account local circumstances to reflect the identities and interests of local communities whilst achieving easily identifiable electoral boundaries but, as a result of a 1979 High Court judgement, is bound by the overriding principle that each councillor should represent, as nearly as possible, the same number of electors.

The City Council published its draft proposals on 8th March. So far as Harborne Ward was concerned the proposals were in the Society's view totally illogical and ill conceived and did not relate to the community as Harborne residents knew it. The Society immediately acted to publicise the proposals and our vehement opposition to them. The Society's views were strongly supported throughout Harborne and the Council's proposals met with widespread condemnation from local residents. The Society wrote to the Council in the strongest possible terms and submitted further proposals aimed at retrieving the situation as far as possible whilst regretfully recognising that some electors would inevitably have to transfer to Quinton Ward because of the "overriding principle".

To their credit the City Council responded positively to the large number of written objections and amended the proposals significantly. The revised proposal for Harborne is that the Ward should remain largely as it is currently defined but with three variations, namely (i) that the Welsh House Farm Estate, together with the roads on the eastern border [part of Tennal Road, Cedarhurst, Savoy Close and Copperbeech Close] should transfer to Quinton Ward; (ii) that part of the area south of the Bourn Brook should transfer to Bartley Green Ward; and (iii) that a large area north of Hagley Road and down City Road [all roads on both sides] as far as Portland Road should be brought in to Harborne Ward. The inclusion of this last area in Harborne Ward is quite bizarre but is a direct consequence of the "overriding principle" rule and the need to make up the number of electors lost to other wards. Logically that area should either remain in Ladywood Ward or be part of Edgbaston Ward but unfortunately for Harborne this view is apparently not shared by all our local elected representatives.

The Society is considering whether to make further representations but in any event the Electoral Commission will publish its draft proposals towards the end of October and the opportunity exits at that stage for the public to comment.

Phil Stokes



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GUIDED WALK ~
15th SEPTEMBER, 2002

The Society will again be celebrating Heritage Open Day, co-ordinated by The Civic Trust, with another of Edward Chitham's immensely popular guided walks. Edward is devising a new walk covering central and eastern Harborne, including the Moorpool area. The leisurely walk will take place on Sunday 15th September starting at 2 p.m. from St. Peter's Church car park and should last no more than two hours.

This year the walk will return to the starting point. The walk will take place whatever the weather, so please be prepared! Everyone is welcome.

Phil Stokes

THE HARBORNE SOCIETY ART EXHIBITION 2002

2002 is, yet again an "Art Exhibition" year for the Society. As most of you reading this will already be aware, the Society organises an Art Exhibition every other year at The Clock Tower in Harborne. The City Council generously allows us to use the building and the staff who run it enthusiastically help and support us in this biennial event - we cannot thank these people enough for their help and encouragement.

Looking back, this will be the fourth Exhibition I have co-ordinated, though by no means the fourth I have participated in! I believe that my own interest in submitting pictures to the show led to my involvement with the Society. So be warned - any strong interest will be noted and possibly acted upon. We are always on the "look out" for new members - especially those who would like to be involved in our many activities within the Harborne Community.

The Exhibition will take place at October half term and we expect the usual excellent response! The handing in date will be Tuesday 29th October with the show running from the 31st October to the 2nd November. Please return the submission form to me as soon as possible so that you can be included in our catalogue. The Exhibition is open to anyone, of any age, living in or around Harborne. All Harborne Society members are eligible to submit regardless of where they live!

The Harborne Society has been organising Exhibitions, of one sort or another, since the early 1960's and obviously many changes have occurred in these last forty years! Due largely to the overwhelming response that we get from people wishing to show their Artworks we have yet again had to institute another change this year to the Exhibition. **We shall only be accepting for display framed and glazed exhibits or items which may be hung on the wall.** It is with some regret that we have decided against the "Craft Element" to the Exhibition but perhaps a few words of explanation will clarify the situation. At the last Exhibition we were horrified to have items stolen from the show, despite all the excellent surveillance provided by our stewards, these were not pictures but small "concealable" craft works. This sad development along with the problems of whether items may be sold from stalls, the difficulties we experience with parking and other security issues have brought us to this decision.

So this year 2002 really is an Art Show and let's hope that it will be a celebration of talent in Harborne - because we all know how much of that there is!

The hanging/handling fee will be £1.00 per item up to a maximum charge of £5.00 per exhibitor. I know that those of you who submit regularly to shows will recognise this as a very modest charge and still the same as last time. There is still no limit to the number of items you may submit and still no selection procedure, we simply reserve the right not to hang everything if space becomes limited! Please no clip frames - they are dangerous and unstable. If anyone has any large, i.e. too big to be easily removed, pieces of sculpture they would like to show please contact me to discuss arrangements nearer October.

I look forward to co-ordinating yet another successful and exciting show.

Mary Worrall. Exhibition Co-ordinator

NAME (Please give full name and preferred title e.g. Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss)

.....

ADDRESS AND TEL. NO.....

.....

NUMBER AND TITLES OF WORK (Please include price if for sale, this will be included in the catalogue)

.....

.....

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.....

.....

SIGNED.....

Please include a stamped addressed envelope in order that we can send you details of submission times etc.

Return the form to :- Mary Worrall, Exhibition Co-ordinator, 91 Wood Lane, Harborne, B17 9AY. 426 6467

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2002 - 2003

Patron

The Right Reverend
The Lord Bishop of Birmingham

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

Brenda Durbin,
28 Hart's Green Road, B17 9TY.
427 3170

Technical Officer

Chairman Technical Sub-Committee

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

Membership Secretary

Chairman Social Sub-Committee

Jenny Buchan,
50 Margaret Grove, B17 9JL.
426 4854

Newsletter Editor

Mary Worrall,
91 Wood Lane, B17 9AY.
426 6467
Fax 0121 427 7289

Committee Members

Eric Abbott
Leslie Blennerhassett 427 7345
Michael Darby 427 1916
Raymond Le Gallais 427 6887
Roger Miles 426 2577

THE HARBORNE SOCIETY Programme of Meetings 2002- 2003

2002

- Wed 11th September** Fiction from Birmingham
Alan Mahar and Michael Richardson
- Sunday 15th September** Heritage Open Day Walk - 2-00pm
Starting point - St Peter's Church Car Park
- Saturday 21st September** Visit to St Mary's Church - Meet there at 2-00pm
- Tues 8th October** From Hand to Mouth - Humorous lecture/recital on the harmonica
Graham Escott
- Thursday 31st October** Saturday 2nd November -
Art Exhibition in the Clock Tower
- Wed 6th November** Tea, Sauce and Custard
The story of Typhoo, HP and Bird's
Ken Hughes

Tues 3rd December Dogs for the Deaf
Yvonne Partridge

2003

- Tues 4th February** One Dog and His Man in Wales
600 Miles in 40 days
Noel Blackham
- Wed 12th March** An Introduction to Antiques
Jeremy Thornton, Biddle & Webb
- Tues 8th April** The Chartists and Dodford
Zoe Long and Diana Poole
- Wed 21st May** **AGM**

All meetings begin at 7-30pm. Tuesday meetings are held at Onneley House, Court Oak Road; Wednesday meetings are held in The Conference Room, Harborne Primary School, entrance in Wentworth Road.

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

We look forward to seeing you.

Non-members are most welcome on payment of a fee of 50p.

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 each year and we will additionally
write to you personally with details of any important
news and developments**

**Subscription Rates are - Adults £5.00 Family £7.00
Senior Citizens and Concessions £3.00 per annum**

To join send a cheque together with your name, address and telephone
number to Jenny Buchan, 50 Margaret Grove, B17 9JL



HELP YOURSELF ~ HELP YOUR COMMUNITY

Last year we published a list of telephone numbers/helplines that we thought might be useful to members of the public. From the numerous comments received it was evident that the list had proved to be a popular item so we are publishing it again with a few additions.

City Council

- 303 6000** Street lighting, illuminated road signs & Belisha beacons
303 6644 Potholes, footpaths, road markings, traffic signs, grit bins, benches, bollards & blocked road drains
303 7370 Traffic signals & pedestrian crossings
303 7577 Dropped-kerb crossings
303 7626 Car parking ~ on and off street
303 7799 Abandoned traffic cones & road contractor's signs/barriers
303 7799 Transportation Department general enquiries & customer complaints
303 4149 Transportation Department ~ Out of Hours Emergencies
303 6007 Pest control & nuisance from domestic bonfires
303 6789 Refuse collection, collection of bulky items, street cleansing, litter bins & fly tipping
303 5440 Environmental Health Local Office
464 8728 Trees in streets
303 1935 Overflowing recycling bins
303 1947 Abandoned vehicles
0800 413 381 Trading Standards

Non City Council

- 0800 783 4444** Severn Trent Water Leakline
0800 555 111 Crimestoppers
428 6030 Harborne [Rose Road] Police
422 2211 Quinton Police



REPORT OF THE A.G.M. ~ 22nd MAY, 2002

The 42nd Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on 22nd May, 2002, at Harborne Primary School with over fifty members in attendance.

Reports were submitted from the Chairman, the Technical Officer and the Honorary Treasurer. As ever, the reports gave a very clear indication of the continuing high level of activity undertaken by the Society on behalf of the membership and the community at large. The ward boundary review was undoubtedly the major campaign of the year but planning issues, traffic management, retail shopping and improvements to the Library had also been very much to the fore.

Membership levels had been maintained and consequently the Society remained in a fundamentally sound financial position although it was noted that the Committee would be reviewing subscriptions in view of planned expenditure in the forthcoming year.

Mark Gribben resigned from the Committee but the remaining twelve members stood for re-election. Disappointingly no further nominations were received. All twelve were re-elected. The full list of Committee members and officers for 2002/2003 is on the back page of this Newsletter.

Members raised two issues, namely the possibility of introducing Life Membership of the Society and concerns about the condition and appearance of the frontage to the Swimming Baths. [The first item will be considered by the Committee as part of its review of subscriptions in the Autumn and representations have been made to the City Council on the second.]

The evening ended with refreshments, courtesy of members of the Committee, and a display of books with Harborne connections from the Madeline Aston Collection at the Library ~ Thelma Burley and Jean Stokes were the lucky winners of the free raffle

Phil Stokes

HARBORNE GALLERY...

has a variety of artwork for sale, with original paintings, prints and sculptures. Visitors are welcome to browse and discuss the artists' work. The atmosphere is extremely relaxed and easy going.



You can find us at 5 Vine Terrace, off the High Street, behind the Vine Pub. We are open Tuesday to Saturday 12 noon - 6 p.m.

During the month of July we are exhibiting work by recent graduate artists and have Digital Workshops running in August.

New exhibitions from September
Competition in October
Open Exhibition in November

Contact us 0121 427 9695, or email HarborneGallery@aol.com, or call in for details of any of the above events

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A word or two from the Editor

Since last Summer's Newsletter we have been fortunate in welcoming to The Harborne Society's main Committee Ray Le Gallais who has taken on the task of organising the advertisements for the Newsletter this year. I have missed William Curr who, as well as being our treasurer (a post now ably filled by Brenda Durbin), used to organise "The Ads."

Without the contributions made by the businesses and services who advertise with us, we would not be able to support the expense of providing a free annual Newsletter for as much of Harborne as we can deliver to. So please remember that Ray Le Gallais is now in charge of advertisements and will be happy to help if you are interested in advertising with us in the future. Can I take this opportunity to thank also our deliverers - they do such hard work with no thought of reward. We hope you all enjoy the "News".



I would also like to remind people that any of you receiving letters regarding local planning applications may view these at Harborne Library. These will be held at the "Help Desk" in the new Library entrance and extension. If you would like copies of any local plans the library can photocopy for you at a cost of 10p per sheet. Please leave a few days from receipt of any letters concerning planning applications, before you arrive to inspect plans, as the internal post is often a little slower than your postman. The library can only hold plans for a limited amount of time, each application having a return date stamped on it along with the date for submission of comments. If I see an especially "important" plan I will always endeavour to get an extension from the Planning Team in Alpha Tower so that more people may get the chance to look at it. But please don't leave it too late! We do have to send plans back promptly to Alpha Tower or the library would be lost under a pile of paper. The staff at the library will always be happy to help with your enquiries - we all try to take an interest in plans, as often they affect us all. We were amused recently to see the smallest ever plans for the new "tiny bookshop" to be re-erected next to the chemist opposite the swimming baths!

Which brings me neatly to my next topic, the Swimming Baths. I recently received a letter of sad complaint from a member regard-

ing the state of this useful but seedy looking facility. I am always most pleased to get letters relating to Harborne and the Committee were certainly in agreement with the member who wrote. I walk past the "Baths" every day and the building and its environs are certainly ready for an overhaul. We discussed this issue at Committee and we have now put Phil Stokes onto the problem - need I say more! I think that Phil was just embarking on some research into the history of Swimming Baths in Birmingham, with a view towards an article for our Newsletter - so yet another manifestation of synchronicity!

Please don't forget that we have an "Art Exhibition" this October Half-Term and look forward to seeing lots of you at the Clock Tower both as exhibitors and visitors. The entry form and details of dates and times are on the inside back page.

Mary Worrall



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