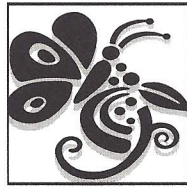


THE HARBORNE SOCIETY

Summer 2014
Number
EIGHTY TWO



NEWSLETTER

www.theharbornesociety.org

THE EVOLVING FACE OF HIGH STREET

Last year this Newsletter noted a slowing down in the loss of shops and businesses from High Street and the very encouraging signs that new enterprises were still prepared to invest in Harborne. That welcome trend has continued.

In the last twelve months only 'Belvoir' lettings agents, 'Nook Interior Design', 'Alex Clark Lettings', 'DR Sports' and 'Buyfeathers' closed, the last two directly due to the impending retail redevelopment of the Attwood House site. This also involved the closure of 'Oxfam Bookshop' and its subsequent re-opening in May a few yards away. 'Superdrug' re-opened in November after the disastrous fire in May 2013 which destroyed the shop and the adjoining 'Stead & Simpson' shoe shop which reopened in March as 'Shoe Zone'. 'Coral' bookmakers had re-opened reasonably quickly. **Stop Press:** Walter Smith Butchers closed on 12th July.

'MECS Lettings' and what purported to be a wine shop within Harborne Mews at Prince's Corner closed following the financial collapse of the developer, a scheme which in the Society's view ought never to have been built in the first place. The 'Kings Arms' reopened as 'The Huntsman' in July 2013 tragically to be burned down four days later and still no information to its future. Also at Prince's Corner 'Vintage Beauty' relocated to Albert Walk.

New businesses have opened ~ 'Peri Peri' hot food takeaway, the 'Sue Ryder', 'St. Mary's Hospice' and 'Age U.K. Birmingham' charity shops [making 13 charity shops in all], and more recently 'Shiny Pony' ladies designer wear and accessories, 'Kings' men's hairdresser, 'Richmonds Lettings' and 'Haart' estate agents [making 15 estate/lettings agents on



High Street alone]. Thankfully the surprise closure of 'Maddison' greeting cards and gifts in January was followed by its re-opening in March under new management. 'Urban Coffee' and 'Prezzo' restaurant opened at The School Yard before Christmas and 'Boston Tea Party café/bar' opened very recently with the Cookery School aiming to open in the autumn.

A big plus was 'Osbornes' stationers which happily survived the demise

of the chain by being bought by 'Paperwaits' to become the only one of the 7 Birmingham shops to remain in business. One significant minus is that the proposed 'Morrisons' convenience store is not proceeding. The company acquired the 'Blockbuster' premises in February 2013 as part of a deal involving 49 'Blockbuster' stores. The lease was due to end in March this year but 'Morrisons' say the landlord sought unrealistic and unsustainable rental levels to warrant the capital investment required. Nothing new there ~ high rentals have blighted High Street for over 25 years.

High Street is back on the way up but the biggest threat to its retail future remains the ever increasing sales on the internet. Last Christmas, according to press reports, 88% of people bought some presents online and nearly 20% of all retail sales over the festive period were online. In 2013 UK shoppers spent £91 billion online!

Experts say high streets as generations have known them as mainly retail centres with many independent shops are at an end. Now high streets have to offer a "high street experience" namely some convenience food stores with specialist retail shops, restaurants, coffee shops, pubs, markets, leisure, entertainment, health and beauty as well as banks and other local services. This is clearly how Harborne is now evolving with retail premises on the whole of High Street comprising less than 53% of the 171 commercial, business and other premises.

The health and viability of High Street has been an absolute priority for the Society for over fifty years. Change is inevitable ~ the continuing challenge is to ensure that changes are for the better, relevant to customers' and residents' needs and connect with the community to create a strong vibrant High Street that people want to visit.

Phil Stokes

TECHNICAL OFFICER'S REPORT WAITING FOR GODOT – AND OTHERS

It seems recently that Harborne residents are doing a lot of waiting. Some projects seem to move quickly but others can take what appears to be an age.

I'm thinking of, among others, Attwood House. Planning permission was granted in December 2012, the tenants were all out a year later but at the time of writing, well into 2014, there is still no obvious significant progress although the building's mains services have been decommissioned and the car park closed. I understand that there are many processes to complete before a large building, especially one on a busy High Street, can be demolished and there will be major disruption for pedestrians and traffic in July/August, but the project does seem to be taking an eternity. Perhaps the outcome will be doubly satisfying when work finally begins.

Across the road in St. John's Road the development on the car park has been granted a renewal when planning permission expired after 3 years. Still no sign of any activity.

Then we have the Martineau Centre. A seemingly endless process of planning applications, negotiations, objections and now an appeal against planning refusal before we, hopefully, can see the much needed housing on the site. The appeal hearing is due to be held in October.

The King's Arms, aka The Huntsman, remains a derelict burnt out shell.

What will become of it and how long will we have to wait?

Just round the corner of Albert Road we are waiting for a new shop front to the former beauty parlour. I trust we won't have to wait too long for its restoration.

Further down the High Street the frontage of the old Royalty Cinema continues to deteriorate as we wait for something to materialise. I dread to think what is happening to the interior!

Opposite Marks & Spencer the proposed tea shop, Forty One High Street, still has the windows covered up. How long will we have to wait for a cup of tea and a slice of cake? [Editor's Note ~ Tables and chairs in situ so opening seems imminent.]

And where's our new ice cream parlour in the old Harborne Market? [Editor's Note ~ Site hoardings erected very end of May and work commenced.]

One project where the waiting is over, in a manner of speaking, is the former Blockbuster store where Morrisons have now decided to abandon their plans. But a new wait now begins to see what the vacant shop will become.

Am I just becoming impatient in my old age? Rome wasn't built in a day and neither, it appears, will Harborne.

Andy Peet

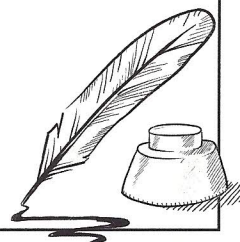
Chairman's Letter

Dear Harbornite,

Perhaps you are new to Harborne and reading this Newsletter for the first time. If so, do consider joining the Harborne Society which for over 50 years has sought to maintain the ambience of Harborne keeping it such a pleasant place to live. As a member (the subscription is very modest) we offer you 2 further newsletters each year as well as this summer edition which we aim to distribute to the majority of homes in Harborne. We also invite you to a programme of talks, many with a local accent. Before each talk we give an update of the Society's work. So if you wish to add your support to the 600 or so members do come along to one of the talks as a visitor to see whether this is for you – you will be warmly welcomed.

Yours sincerely,

Marcia Meyer



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HARBORNE WAR MEMORIAL

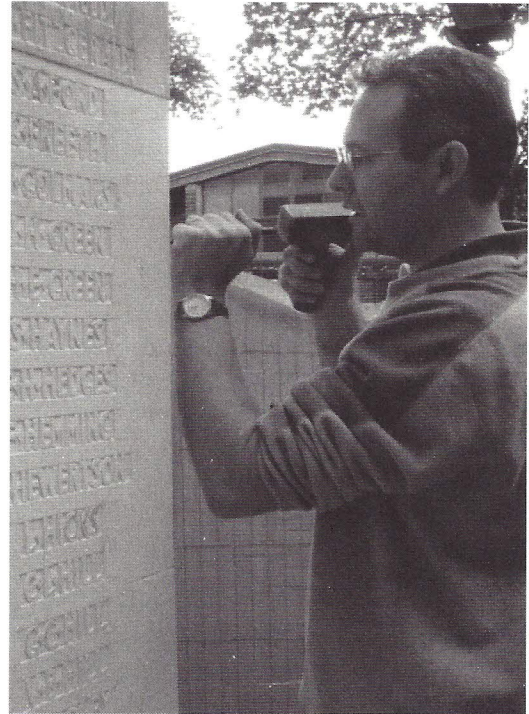
Remembrance Sunday 2013 was a glorious autumn day and many from the local community gathered round the Harborne War Memorial in St. Peter's Churchyard as they have done every year since 1921. The memorial looked magnificent in its restored state with the white Portland stone almost dazzling in the sunlight and the crisp lettering of the re-cut names displayed to advantage. The work was undertaken by the local stonemasons, William Parratt Masonry Ltd., who have had a long association with St. Peter's and its extensive churchyard.

The restoration was managed by St. Peter's Parochial Church Council with generous support from the Harborne Society, the Harborne Ward Committee, the War Memorials Trust, the Lillie Johnson Trust and several local benefactors.

The mystery as to the designer of the memorial remains and any information would be most welcome; there also remains the issue of the names of those killed in the Second World War which were never added to the memorial. Given there are only some twenty names it seems there would be room to add them to the plinth and also place them in the Book of Remembrance which is kept in the church.

So the Harborne War Memorial stands today, dignified, restored and cherished by the people of Harborne, as we begin the commemoration of the centenary of the great conflict which led to its erection.

As the vicar of St. Peter's said in his sermon of 18th September, 1921,



'As we and generations to come pass by it with some reverence we may well pray for the fallen, "Grant them thy peace" and for ourselves "make us worthy of the sacrifice they made".'

Christopher Hargreaves



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Client car parking on site

THE SCHOOL YARD UPDATE

The School Yard was officially launched in December notwithstanding that two of the tenants had withdrawn at a late stage, namely 'Metro Bar and Grill' and 'Kitchen' cookery school. 'Prezzo' restaurant and 'Urban Coffee Company' had opened in time for the launch. Neil Edginton from the developer EDG Property worked hard to secure new tenants and happily by early March had signed up 'Boston Tea Party' café-bar and 'The Harborne Food School', a community interest company, to provide the cookery school which is such an integral part of the whole food hub concept. 'Boston Tea Party' opened recently and a change from the original plans is that the ground floor of the teacher's house became part of the 'Boston Tea Party' unit with the first floor being converted to a flat plus the basement which has now been sold. The

'Harborne Food School' is set to open in the autumn and Shaleen Meelu who is heading up the cookery school tells us more about her plans elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The public seating on the High Street frontage required under the terms of the sale of the property [at the instigation of the Society] arrived in the spring comprising three granite benches soon followed by planters and shrubs along the frontage with low metal railings in front of the house plus further planting and along the York Street boundary.

As to the residential development at the rear of the site, the developer held a design competition for local architectural practices which was won by Bryant Priest Newman. The scheme is for thirteen apartments with ground floor parking. Subject to planning approval, it is hoped that the contractor will start on site in late July/August.

Phil Stokes

PARKING & THE QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL CAMPUS

At the November 2013 Ward Committee the Society pressed the Committee to consider the issue of parking for staff and visitors to the whole of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital site in the light of future developments on the campus. Representatives of the Hospital, Transportation and Planning attended the 10th March meeting.

Problems already exist for local residents caused by staff and visitors to the several facilities on the campus parking in roads in the vicinity of the hospital. The QE Hospital is not responsible for all the problems but they are the major source of the difficulties. The Society's concerns are that there will be further developments on the site in years to come. It is already known that the Children's Hospital is likely to relocate to the site; that planning approval has been given for an Institute for Translational Medicine in part of the



retained old hospital buildings with up to 175 additional staff and that a bid is to be made by the QE for a proton accelerator which will require a new building and staff and most recently the proposal for a Rare Disease Centre. Because of capacity issues, the QE has had to re-open several closed wards and clinics in the old hospital and related facilities resulting in more staff and visitors.

The QE representatives categorically stated that the Hospital would not provide any extra on-site parking. The 2003 Outline Planning Application required 4,100 parking spaces at the new hospital but

the final planning approval required only 3,860 spaces, 240 fewer, of which 2,651 spaces are for staff. There are severe difficulties in staff actually accessing their car parks at peak times when the shifts change over resulting in traffic jams around the site causing some not to attempt to use the car parks but to park in local roads despite having purchased car park passes. The Hospital is to investigate the traffic management issue but otherwise is placing faith in its Green Travel Plan which contends that vehicular movements to the QE are much less than originally forecast. The Hospital acknowledges "some parking does occur on-street" but refuses to recognise its responsibilities to local residents.

The Ward Committee meekly accepted the Hospital's stance but we urged the Planning and Transportation Officers in attendance to require all future piecemeal developments to make proper provision for staff and visitor parking. Further, the Ward Committee must be included in the formal consultation process about all future developments on the QE campus.

Phil Stokes

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT BUDGET 2014/15

As part of the Council's 2014/15 Budget making process District Committees were required to achieve savings on services directly managed at District level which include libraries, school crossing patrols and car parks. Edgbaston District Committee had to make savings of £290,000 for the current financial year. So far as Harborne is concerned the following items are particularly relevant.

[A] Harborne Library ~ Councillors from both major political parties on the District Committee unanimously agreed that the retention of Harborne Library together with Quinton and Bartley Green Libraries should be the top priority and to achieve that all four Wards in the District surrendered £25,000 of their Community Chest funding. Cuts to Harborne Library had already been made in 2011 when a "new operating model" had been imposed i.e. major reduction in staff.

[B] School Crossing Patrols ~ All school crossing patrols in Harborne will continue to be fully funded.

[C] York Street Car Park

Consideration is to be given to the possibility of the Car Park being privately operated from 2015/16 thereby saving the District the costs of the fixed overheads and maintenance. It is envisaged the Council would seek to retain control over the charges adopted. The Society has very strong reservations about this.

It is worth stressing that the Car Park only levies charges between 8a.m. and 6p.m. Mondays to Saturdays so that **parking is free to all evening visitors to High Street's attractions.** The Car Park is the only one in Harborne to offer 1 hour parking and the charge of just 40p has been at this level for several years. The remaining charging rates compare favourably with the other car parks in Harborne. Furthermore, the Car Park is **totally free of charge on Sundays, Christmas Day and every Bank Holiday and Disabled Badge holders have free parking at all times.** Would a private operator maintain such policies? Can a leopard change its spots?

Part of the York Street Car Park incorporated the car park with 40 spaces which belonged to the Attwood House office block built c1974. Luckily the Council's Social Services Department was the major tenant and, as many case workers were away from the office for much of the day, agreement was reached with the landlord on a rolling basis for the Council to use the facility as a public car park. The redevelopment of Attwood House has brought this forty year arrangement to an end and the car park closed early in May.

Phil Stokes

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THE FOOD SCHOOL AT THE SCHOOL YARD

In November of last year we read that the 'Food School' in the fantastic new School Yard development on High Street had become available for lease. We approached the developer, Neil Edginton, and described a potential concept incorporating cooking classes spanning a range of cultures and cuisines and activities addressing the health needs of the people in Birmingham. This reflected Neil's vision of working with an organisation focused on tackling nutrition, food and health issues.

My background is nutrition and public health and Robert Smith my business partner is a retired management consultant with marketing expertise. Robert and I bonded over a love for food and have previously worked together on nutrition, food and health related consultancies. During a trip to Italy we happened across a fantastic venture called 'Eataly' and have also been inspired by venues in Berlin, New York and London. All provide inspiration for The Harborne Food School which we believe will be the first of its kind in the U.K.

Construction is likely to take place over the summer months and into early autumn. It has been challenging to create a functional space whilst

protecting the wonderful Grade II Listed features. The site will be divided into a cooking class area, a demonstration area and a flexible space which may be used for private events and dining. We also hope to include a deli showcasing local produce. At a recent farm and deli event it was actually quite difficult to identify products that are both healthy and tasty. We hope to address this over time by nurturing local talent and supporting new food businesses.

Opening this autumn The Harborne Food School will deliver cooking classes to support all ages and experiences from basic kitchen skills to masterclass sessions. We will introduce a range of cuisines including South American and Middle Eastern as well as offering favourites such as Indian, Italian and Chinese masterclass sessions. Classes will support people with no cooking skills to those who are more advanced and need top tips from experts.

Basic skills cooking courses will be delivered jointly by a trained chef tutor and registered nutritionist. Participants will learn how to shop for a balanced diet on a budget, reduce food waste and prepare a range of nourishing meals.

We will also work in partnership with health professionals to develop bespoke programmes developed for individuals, families and groups with special health needs. This includes support for pregnant women and new mothers, cooking on a budget for teenagers going to University, eating well for those with diabetes or heart disease as well as weight management support.

To find out more, follow our progress on Twitter

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LORDSWOOD MATERNITY HOSPITAL

Brief History of the Property

Lordswood Maternity Hospital* started life as a large private house ~ Lordswood House ~ built in 1856 by the Rev. Thomas Smith, the first vicar of the original St. John's Church, who lived there for eleven years. Later, the house became the home of Hume Pinsent, a solicitor with offices in Bennett's Hill. In November 1911, Hume's wife Ellen Pinsent became the first woman to be elected to Birmingham City Council, standing in the Edgbaston Ward. She was made a Dame of the British Empire for her mental health reform work in 1938 and died in 1949. The Austrian philosopher, Ludwig Wittgenstein, was a close friend of David Pinsent, Hume and Ellen's



LORDSWOOD V. A. D. HOSPITAL,

Postcard given to injured servicemen to write home and posted in Harborne

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jewellery including real
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son, and stayed with the family in 1912 and 1913.

In May 1915, two years after the Pinsents moved to Oxford, the house became a Voluntary Aid Detachment hospital during the Great War. This "Convalescent Hospital" originally had 30 beds but increased to 70 and treated 2,152 casualties during World War I. Shirley Elliott wrote that her Canadian father was treated in the Hospital after being in the front line at Passchendaele and added "Dad had nothing but glowing praise for the care he received in Birmingham".

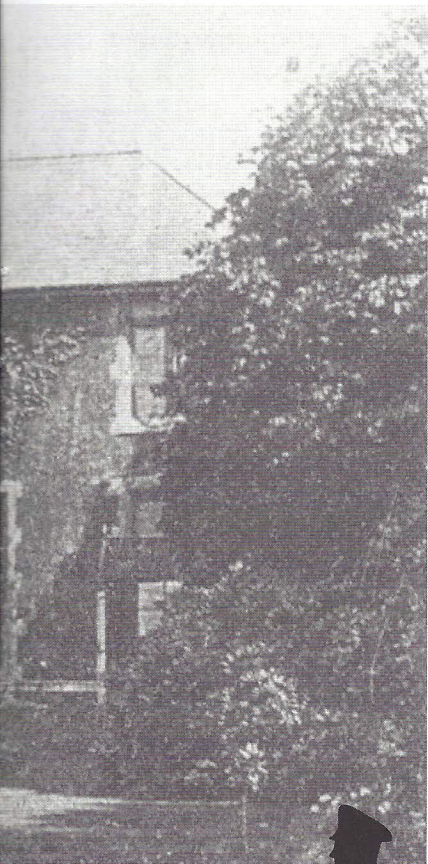
In 1926 it became Lordswood Residential Nursery for "bottlefed infants" and nursery nurses were trained there. In October 1938 the children and nurses were evacuated to Overbury in Worcestershire

ostensibly for the duration of the war but in fact the nursery never returned to Lordswood House. Its use was changed again and it became Lordswood Maternity Hospital in the mid-1940s until its closure in 1968.

* Located in Lordswood Road and now roughly the site of the Lordswood Medical Practice which has retained the name Lordswood House.

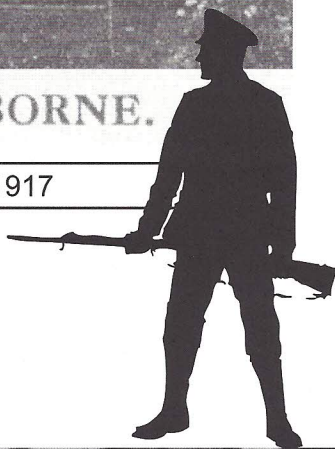
Reminiscences of Monica Barratt

Monica, a longstanding member of the Harborne Society, is a Harborne lady born and bred. She was born in Moorpool Avenue, lived most of her life at 12 Park Hill Road (where



HARBORNE.

20th Nov 1917



her mother remembered the cows in a nearby field), only moving in the last three years to a retirement flat. Her school was always St. Paul's in Vernon Road, Edgbaston.

Monica trained to be a nurse at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (now the "Old QE"), living under a strict regime in the nurses' home in Nuffield House where one had to be in by 10 p.m! She moved to London to do her Part 1 Midwifery training, returning to Birmingham to do her Part 2 and become a practising Midwife at Marston Green Hospital.

From Marston Green she was "loaned" in 1957 to Lordswood Maternity Hospital for 6 months, but stayed for 11 years, becoming the departmental Sister running the labour and postnatal wards. She was there until it closed in 1968, finishing her career at the Sorrento Maternity Hospital in Moseley.

Lordswood was a Maternity Hospital, not just a "Home", as they did operations there. It was not a private hospital; patients were referred there by their G.P.s. The address was 44 Lordswood Road and that address was on many birth certificates as "Place of Birth".

There were about 40 patient beds, with some wards downstairs and some

upstairs. Mothers at that time were kept in for 10 days. They were not allowed to walk upstairs, so anyone who needed to be transferred was wheeled to the foot of the stairs and then carried up on a stretcher canvas by two nurses, assisted by the one porter if available. Many a nurse developed back problems in those days before Health and Safety rules. It was not until 18 months before the Hospital was closed down that a lift was installed. While that work was going on the patients were transferred to Redditch and the staff were taxied there.

The entrance was to the side of the building. At one end were the kitchen and a staff sitting room. The staff dining room was at the back overlooking the lovely garden. The gardener, John, once discovered a crate of glass feeding bottles, presumably left there from the days when the house served to train nursery nurses. To one side of the Hospital were small allotments and a type of portacabin was erected there which served as a clinic. The house next door, 42 Lordswood Road, which had previously been the home of the poet W. H. Auden, became the nurses' home. Monica herself lived there for 6 months.

Monica delivered many Harborne babies over the years. One such was handed to his mother with the words - "he's got daisy crushers" (referring to his big feet) "- he'll be a copper". She was delighted when many years later the Mum introduced herself, reminded Monica of her prediction, and confirmed that he was, in fact, now a Police Inspector! Monica is also proud that she delivered the son of the President of the Harborne Society, Mary Abbott.



Monica Barratt with a young doctor at the rear of the Maternity Hospital

Margaret Miles



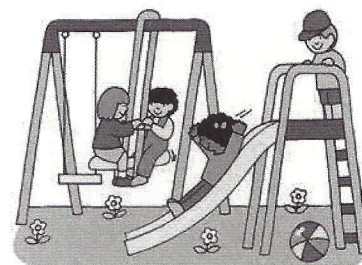
GROVE & QUEEN'S PARKS

[A] **Grove Park** ~ Last year the City Council consulted the Society on the preparation of a scheme of works for Grove Park to try and improve or resolve a variety of issues, including new footpaths and footpath repairs, improvement of access points, kick rails, drainage works, improvement of the car park surface and additional litter bins, benches and picnic tables. Work started in the autumn which very unfortunately coincided with the start of the extreme wet weather conditions throughout the rest of the year and well into 2014. This resulted in some reinstatement work being considerably delayed. However, it is pleasing to report that the scheme costing c£46,000 has finally been completed and collectively the

wide range of measures adopted has achieved a noticeable and pleasing improvement.

[B] **Queen's Park** ~ In June last year a children's funfair was operated in Queen's Park and the good weather ensured it went really well. A second funfair in the autumn fell victim to the atrocious weather. The funfairs were on a trial basis and the outcome is that during 2014 children's funfairs are being staged in a number of parks [Queen's Park 7th June cancelled due to bad weather] as a way of raising income for the Council although the income is not directly applied to the benefit of the park concerned. Dave, the popular grounds maintenance man, retired in March. Unfortunately he has not been replaced by the contractor so there is no longer any significant on-site presence and there are signs of this being detrimental to the upkeep of the Park. The grounds

maintenance duties are now spread amongst a number of the contractor's mobile crews. The storms and high winds in February literally blew off the flat roof of the mess room/bowling clubhouse and the subsequent heavy rains flooded the building and damaged the electrics. A new roof and internal refit is estimated to cost £25,000. No budget exists for such work and in the Council's view there is no longer any real operational need for a mess facility as it makes more sense to use the new facilities at Grove Park. An options appraisal is being undertaken. A toilet facility has been provided for the bowling club.



RECYCLING OF PLASTICS

There has been a big step forward in the materials that can be collected at the kerbside following agreement with the household waste disposal contractor. Previously only plastic bottles, tin cans, glass bottles, paper and card could be collected. Now the range of plastic recyclables has expanded to include yoghurt pots, butter and ice cream tubs, plastic trays e.g. from meat/fish, chocolate and biscuit boxes **but not black in colour,**

fruit punnets, soup/noodle pots and tubs for dishwasher and laundry tablets. Aluminium foil can now also go in the recycling bin/box. The plastic is sorted into different grades by a machine using a "magic eye" but it cannot detect black plastic. There are still plastic items that cannot be accepted including all types of black plastic, all types of plastic bags/carrier bags, film or wrappers, polystyrene, Tetra Paks and non-packaging items such as toys and washing-up bowls. The welcome changes are something that the Society has been urging upon the Council for several years at Ward Committee meetings and in various public consultations.



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Most items which will now be recycled had been sent to landfill with the Council paying Landfill Tax of £80 on every tonne.

ON-STREET PARKING REVIEW SHAMBLES

Last year's Summer Newsletter reported the outcome of the 2012 consultation on the possibility of permit parking in central Harborne and the regrettable decision in November 2012 of all 3 local councillors from both major political parties not to take any further action despite 60% of residents and landlords responding to the consultation supporting the principle. The councillors agreed with residents that parking was a "serious problem" and, as a sop, proffered a workshop for residents and businesses to suggest ideas for improving specific parking issues. What followed has been a complete shambles.

[1] Parking Review Workshop ~ Not held until 18th May 2013. Undertaking given that recommendations based on the Workshop would be presented to the Ward Committee in July. The Society submitted 24 suggestions.

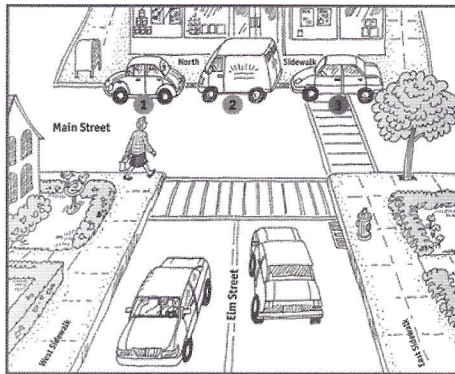
[2] Ward Committee 29th July 2013 ~ The promised report was not on the agenda and in any event the meeting was cancelled for want of a quorum.

[3] Ward Committee 30th September, 2013 ~ Meeting again cancelled for want of a quorum.

[4] Ward Committee 25th November, 2013 ~ Schedule

handed out identifying **just 16 proposals**. Budget of only £75,000 spread over two years was available. As no one had the opportunity to study the proposals the public were invited to submit comments for the next meeting. The Society submitted detailed comments and 3 further suggestions

[5] Ward Committee 27th January, 2014 ~ Revised schedule handed out but now with



only 9 proposals with a capital cost estimate totalling £94,000. Funding increased to £81,153 as a result of a Community Chest allocation agreed at the instigation of the Society. In the Society's view not all schemes would be implemented once consultations had taken place and in any event savings arise if Traffic Regulation Orders are consolidated in one Order so the funding shortfall might not eventually be an issue ~ so get on with it! The Committee agreed that an implementation timetable for all 9 schemes be presented at the next meeting with Lordswood

Road and Weather Oaks as the priority. The Society submitted a further response with 4 more suggestions.

[6] Ward Committee 10th March, 2014 ~ Revised schedule handed out now with **just 8 proposals**. The "priority" scheme for Weather Oaks had been deleted. There was no implementation timetable. It was agreed the schemes should proceed to public consultation. Comments again invited and the Society responded.

At no stage have all the schemes suggested by all sources or the reasons for discounting them been presented to the Committee although obviously funding was always going to be a big factor. The Society maintained from the outset that much greater enforcement of all parking regulations was paramount but that issue has been ignored. **After sixteen months a paltry 8 schemes had emerged but incredibly they are not going out to public consultation until after the holiday period ~ so much for dealing with this "serious problem"!** The schemes most notably relate to Lordswood Road, St. John's Road and Abbey Road/St. Mary's Road.

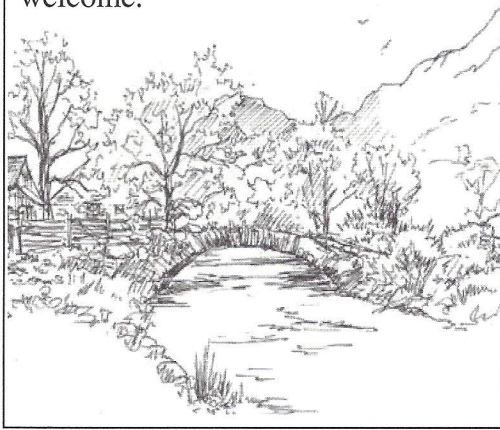
Phil Stokes



HERITAGE DAY GUIDED WALK ~ SUNDAY 14th SEPTEMBER

Once again the Society will be participating in the national Heritage Open Days with another of Edward Chitham's very popular guided walks.

This year's walk will focus on 'The Western Environs of Harborne' and will include visits to St. Faith & St. Laurence Church and St. Joseph's Home and possibly Pitts Wood "just over the border". The leisurely walk will take place on Sunday 14th September starting at 2 p.m. from the 'Court Oak' public house. There is 'Pay & Display' parking at the pub and on-street parking in the immediate vicinity. The walk should take about two and a quarter hours. As always, the event will take place whatever the weather so be prepared for the worst! No charge. Everyone welcome.



DONALD BIRD

It is with great sadness that we report the death in June of Donald Bird who had so successfully filled the post of Programme Secretary since September 2010.

REPORT OF THE A.G.M.

The 54th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on 14th May, 2014, with forty nine members in attendance.

The reports from the Chairman, Technical Officer and Honorary Treasurer demonstrated the level of activity during the year on behalf of Society members and the wider local community. For the last year the overriding issue had continued to be the Society's major involvement in the On-Street Parking Review but that was not at the expense of other issues in particular The School Yard development, planning applications and Conservation Area issues and the residential redevelopment of the Martineau Centre. Membership had been maintained and the Society continued to be in a sound financial position.

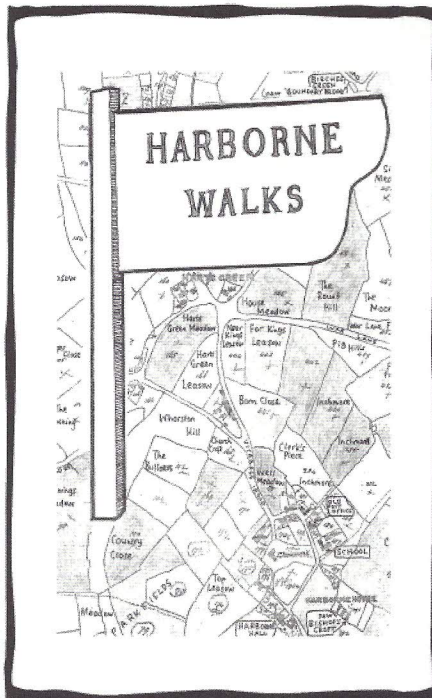
Two members of last year's Committee [Rupert Conway and Mary Worrall] had left during the year and Mary Abbott and Donald Bird also stood down at the A.G.M. The remaining ten members sought re-election and were duly appointed. Disappointingly there were no nominations for new members of the Committee which now only has the bare minimum number required by the Constitution and leaves five vacancies. This is a very worrying situation for the future of the Society. The list of Committee members and officers for 2014/2015 is on the back of this Newsletter.

The formalities were quickly concluded and were followed by an entertaining talk by Norman Bartlam based on his "Little Book of Birmingham".

Phil Stokes

HARBORNE WALKS BOOKLET

By popular demand the Harborne Society has published a booklet of a selection of our Heritage Open Day's Walks round Harborne.



This most informative publication, illustrated with photographs and maps, was put together for The Society by Edward Chitham, historian and writer and our guide on the Heritage Walks.

You may purchase it at any Society Meeting or at Harborne, Library. The cost is £2.50. Alternatively if you would like to have a copy posted please contact Phil Stokes Harborne Society Secretary who will arrange postage and packing at £4 20. Cheques payable to 'The Harborne Society'.

HARBORNE POOL & FITNESS CENTRE

Welcome to another update on Harborne Pool & Fitness Centre. The tremendous support from the local community continues and I would like to take another opportunity to thank you personally. The original pool seems a distant memory now but I do remember it fondly.

In the first 3 months of 2013 we had seen almost 45,000 visits and our swimming instruction programme (Swim Academy) had 1,000 students enrolled. In the first 3 months of 2014 we have recorded 75,500 visits and our swimming lessons programme has 1,330 students now enrolled. I'm sure you would agree some big increases in numbers and I think this is partly due to the installation and operation [at no cost to the Council] of our self-service system in reception and better capturing of footfall numbers. In the 2013 calendar year we had over 272,000 visits to the Centre.

I am still keen to support our community so if you are looking for a venue to host a local good cause or need a room to hold a planning meeting please contact me at site. If your project involves getting people active or is specifically health related I am happy to see what we can do to contribute or help.



We are doing our bit to help raise funds for the save Moorpool Hall campaign and donated pool space for a sponsored swim held in early June. It really was an ideal opportunity for us to lend local support.

We hope some of you were able to attend our Family Activities in Queen's Park Open Day at the end of July. In October we will be welcoming Cadburys to swim in lilac coloured water for the annual Belly Flop Splash sponsored swim in aid of Acorns.

Please continue your valuable support of Harborne Pool & Fitness Centre as we look towards many years of improved service. If you are a customer of ours please remember to park considerately and safely in the surrounding area, best of all just walk!

Pete Wallage,
General Manager

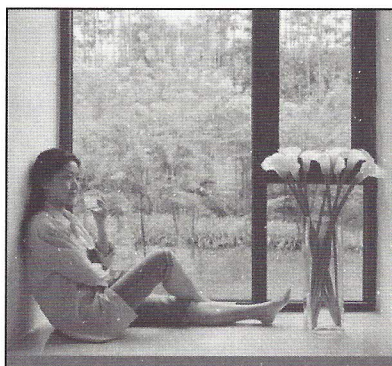
MOOR POOL ESTATE HALL & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

For over a century Harborne residents will have at some time used and enjoyed the Moor Pool Hall and other community facilities on the Moor Pool Estate, but those not living on the Estate may be unaware that this is a critical time which will determine the future of these facilities.

Briefly, Grainger Plc owns the Hall, tennis court, shops, skittle alley and rifle range on the Moor Pool Circle, and also the bowling green, the Pool, the tennis courts corner of Margaret Grove, allotments and other communal spaces (the "Community Assets"). In 2012 a charitable trust was formed ~ the Moor Pool Heritage Trust ~ for the purpose of buying these Community Assets. The Trust has the opportunity to buy these from Grainger for £325,000 until the 30th September before other sales are considered. The situation is critical because it is almost certainly the last chance for Estate residents to acquire ownership. The Heritage Trust, the Residents' Association and the Moorpool Players are all trying to raise money for the common cause.

The Harborne Society keenly supports the acquisition and, having been a Patron of the Moorpool Players for many years, has donated £1,000 to their appeal. If you wish to make a donation or take part in events go to the Trust's website (moorpoolfundraising.co.uk) or, for the Moorpool Players' appeal telephone John Healey on 426 2134.

Roger Miles



Window shopping?

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A full range of stylish double glazed windows to complement your home. For top quality installations at affordable prices, turn to a name you can trust: Harborne's Original West Midland Glazing Co Ltd. All items are manufactured to individual customer requirements and installed by our own experienced fitters.

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OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

2014-2015

Patron

The Lord Bishop of Birmingham

President

Mary Abbott

Chairman

Marcia Meyer,

17 St. Mary's Road, B17 0EY.

427 4356

Vice-Chairman

Roger Miles,

21 Oaklands Avenue, B17 9TU

426 2577

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

Membership Secretary

Jenny Buchan,

50 Margaret Grove, B17 9JL.

426 4854

Social Secretary

Vacant

Technical Officer/Chairman

Technical Sub-Committee

Andrew Peet,

14 Milford Road, B17 9RL.

427 7923

Publications Officer/Chairman

Publications Sub-Committee

Vacant

Committee Members

Michael Darby

Raymond Le Gallais

Linsay Smith

Bill Taylor

Our e-mail address is

harbornesociety@hotmail.com

Society Programme of Meetings 2014-2015

All meetings are held on Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m. in the smaller hall at St. Mary's Parish Centre, Vivian Road. The entrance is the second door on the right along the drive to the car park.

2014

Wednesday 10th September

The Last Public Execution in Birmingham and "The History of Capital Punishment"

Kay Hunter

Sunday 14th September

Guided Walk – The Western Environs of Harborne

Edward Chitham

Meet at the "Court Oak" Public House, Court Oak Road at 2 p.m.

Wednesday 8th October

Do You Remember Life in the 1950s?

John Billingham

Wednesday 5th November

The Major Repairs to the External Fabric at Tyntesfield – a NT House near Bristol

Derek Clarke

Wednesday 3rd December

A Most Peculiar Type: The Life of John Baskerville the Printer

Chris Upton

2015

Wednesday 4th February

The Stories of our British Mammals

Nick Martin

Wednesday 4th March

Looking at Beads

Jessica Mayhew

Wednesday 8th April

Religious Tensions in Birmingham

Elementary Schools in the 1870s

James Dixon

Wednesday 13th May

Annual General Meeting

The Harborne Society Speakers' Meetings are free to members but anyone is most welcome to attend.

We charge non-members 50p which includes refreshments.

Old Harborne Village Calendar 2015

Now in our 12th year.

Available from September 2014

www.maxamcards.co.uk 0121-429 6369

andy@maxamcards.co.uk

Farmers Market

9a.m.~ 2p.m.

9th August

8th November

13th September

13th December

11th October



DELIVERING THE NEWSLETTER

We are very grateful to the people who deliver our Newsletter and are always in need of an extra pair of hands.

If you feel you could help and have a little free time to spare please contact

Jenny Buchan 426 4854

THE HARBORNE SOCIETY

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

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

By joining **The Harborne Society** you will be kept informed about all the issues that relate to Harborne

You will receive three Newsletters a year and we inform members of important news at our regular meetings

Annual subscription Rates are ~ Individuals £5

Two or more persons living at the same address £8

To join send a cheque payable to 'The Harborne Society' together with your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address, if appropriate, to

Jenny Buchan, 50 Margaret Grove, B17 9JL