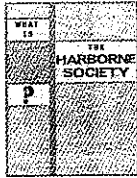


THE HARBORNE SOCIETY

Number
Seventy
Summer 2010



NEWSLETTER

www.theharbornesociety.org.uk

CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS OF CHAMPIONING HARBORNE

2010 sees the Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of the Harborne Society in 1960. Our Chairman Mary Abbott was actually at the very first meeting in St. John's Church Hall on 4th May 1960 and signed up to become a member - perhaps some of you were there too!

This meeting was called as a result of Community concerns regarding the development of Harborne. Residents were concerned about such issues as planning, the loss of old buildings, and the threat to Community facilities from developers. At this time, in particular, Harborne Church Farm Golf Course was under threat. This was one of many similar potential changes that the Society was able to successfully oppose. Loss of The Clock Tower as a community building, the demolition of Princes Corner and plans to build a by pass through the centre of Harborne have all been tackled and quashed.

You may look at this list and wonder if anything has changed? These sort of issues remain of concern to us still. We in the Harborne Society are engaged in fighting for our shops and facilities and objecting forcefully to inappropriate planning applications. However, if you wonder what else we have achieved over the years please do look at the article detailing fifty years of our campaigns and successes in this newsletter.

We like to think, with some justification, that we are the champions for Harborne. We have spearheaded some tremendously successful campaigns, forming a pressure group that has forced good decisions to be made that have benefited the whole Community.

The Harborne Society cannot work miracles but we do try jolly hard and sometimes get results that almost seem so. Who would have thought that our endless campaigning for a new Swimming Baths - for example - would have come good in

1960 - 2010



today's economic climate of cut backs and climb downs? Endless letters were written regarding the good sense of sighting the pool in its present position, where it has always been, usefully in the middle of the village and easily accessible to public transport and local schools. We went to meetings. Our members wrote letters of support and we kept the whole issue in the public eye.

Looking back to the very beginnings of the Society one of our first successes was the retention of The Clock Tower. Originally used as a school it was under threat of demolition in the 1960s. Is it any wonder that The Victorian Society was also founded at the same time as the Harborne Society? We lost so many buildings of merit during this time, especially in Birmingham City Centre.

Due to pressure from the newly formed Harborne Society the Clock Tower was 'saved' and became the thriving community facility we all see every day on our High Street. At the moment it is shrouded in scaffolding as the state of the tower and roof is assessed. Rest assured that The Harborne Society has its eagle eye on all to do with this iconic building and we will keep you informed as to how things are going in our Newsletters. Hopefully monies will be found by the Council to fund repairs as soon as possible. The Clock Tower is a Listed Building and needs special care and consideration, so this may take some time. See further details in the separate article in this Newsletter.

The first meeting in 1960 when The Harborne Society was instigated was extremely well attended. The people who could not be accommodated in St John's Church Hall spilled outside and a loudspeaker relayed the proceedings to the assembled crowd. Charles Parker, our first Chairman, spoke eloquently about what was concerning people and the way Harborne was changing and inspired many people to sign up to join the Society there and then.

We believe that people in Harborne are still as concerned and willing to be involved in influencing what happens in 'our village'. It is still possible to influence planning applications and encourage innovation whilst supporting those things about Harborne that make it a distinctive and pleasant place to live, work and shop in.

This was the aim of the Society when it was founded in 1960 and it is still our aim now. If you care about Harborne and want to stay informed about what is actually happening here and keep abreast of potential change and development, join our thriving vibrant Society and take part in the next fifty years of commitment to the community.

Mary Worrall - Editor

TECHNICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR JUNE 2009- MAY 2010

This is taken from the report delivered by Ann Yorke, Technical Officer for the Society's May 2010 A.G.M. summarising the activities and concerns of the Technical Sub-Committee since last year's A.G.M.

Technical Officer's Report AGM 2010

We appear to have been taken up with infuriating planning matters for a large proportion of the year. The most publicised being the case of 7 Margaret Grove which, despite two planning applications and an appeal being refused had still been constructed. Enforcement action was finally promised as far back as August last year and when at long last it was agreed that demolition action would be taken the applicant was permitted to put in another revised application. This was refused and it seemed that at long last something was going to be done - don't hold your breath - it was stated that the applicant still has a right of appeal and then presumably can put in yet another planning application. As I said in one of my articles 'We regret to announce the death of sanity in the Planning system.'

There have been 107 new planning applications in the last 12 months, of those, in the early months, there was a great dearth of refusals, over the year however there has been a heartening increase in withdrawn and invalid applications and a definite increase in refusals - is Planning getting a grip at long last? In part yes. However the new registration practices have had a great influence. The Registration team are at times infuriating - like when they asked for structural calculations for the fixing of an A4 notice to a wall in a Conservation Area - they are not planners but what they have is a check list which has to be filled with ticks before the application is passed on to the relevant officer. This system has been so good that the old system of sorting the boys from the men is now out of the hands of infuriated architects who write to Planning demanding that more information be supplied before they are able to comment on new applications. Good eh? On 15 May 2009 Greenfield road became a Conservation Area after 20 years of hard work by the Harborne Society. This naturally opened the flood gates for an inappropriate application for backland development and other people getting work done to change windows to upvc

having put off the expense for a couple of years. The sad thing is that there is nothing that can be done to stop the latter, you have 3 years to complete the works approved it is entirely up to you when you do it. I think that we are back to the madness of Planning Law. The proposals for the backland development were refused but - need I say the next bit....they have now gone to appeal. The world is a strange place.

Approval was given for the development of the right hand car park in St John's Road - most people were gobsmacked, particularly the Harborne Parish Lands who own the site - the report was erroneous in so many ways that it was laughable. The developers claimed that there were only two small white vans a day delivering goods to Iceland for instance. Overlooking was not considered, loss of parking spaces not thought important and so it went on. They have now put in a revised scheme but since this is no better I can see little reason for it.

After a travesty of a site meeting in May last year the much reduced scheme for the Moorpool development were approved on 9 July 2009. The scheme had started off as about 115 units and was now reduced to 16 houses. In some ways this was a triumph for local pressure groups. The Moorpool Residents Association rallied around to such an extent that they are now an active force with good ideas which they are following through. Please all remember their Open day in September.

And now the Attwood House application. If you haven't seen the proposals please have a look at them. (These may be inspected on the City Council Planning website. Editor.) There is a suggestion that, after the demolition of that awful building, another awful building is erected with a further storey on top. Where are these people coming from? Why don't they go and damage Moseley or King's Heath? We have not got a recognisable High Street anymore. Our historical shops have been torn down and replaced with modern excrescences which will be out of date within 10 years. The original buildings, which had been standing in some cases for well over a hundred years, needed only a bit of TLC and the character of our surroundings would have remained a magnet for smaller retailers and shoppers. It works in areas of London, Leeds and Manchester why could it not have happened here?

Councils have the power to restrict permitted developments in an area if there are fears that the cumulative impact of lots of small home improvements are

affecting the 'special character of a neighbourhood or sensitive landscape'. Why does this not apply on the larger scale?

I will be making enquiries never fear.



The Clock Tower is in desperate straits, we still don't know if Thomas Attwood is coming home, the Farmers Market is under fire, the Village Centre Manager is on sick leave (see separate article Ed.) and yet it seems as though the world wants to live in Harborne - viz: all the apartments [dreadful Americanised word] under construction - where are the new residents going to shop and live that is different from any other faceless shopping area in some anonymous town?

The Conservation Officer has retired and I see him walking around Harborne with a beatific smile on his face - lucky man. I am going to live somewhere else and then my blood pressure and pride can take a rest from the constant pummeling they are getting now.

But, to finish on a joyous note, we are getting a Community Notice Board!!! And there are plans afoot to list Harborne Hall and the Royalty.

Ann Yorke
Technical Officer.

Ann Levitt Chartered Architect
PDipl CPM Dip Arch (Binn) RIBA

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CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN
REALISTIC FEES THEREAFTER

A local Harborne Architect

QUEEN'S PARK & GROVE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Since last year's Summer Newsletter there has been significant progress with improvements to both Parks as follows.

Queen's Park ~

The Society's attempts to secure modifications to the improvements carried out in 2007 have finally been successful and the works were completed in March. These included a disabled minibus parking bay, remarking of the disabled bays to give greater space, metal trip rails, repositioning of the barrier by the car park, 5 mph speed limit markings on the main pathway, resurfacing of the path from the car park to the bowling green and the whole of the path alongside Queen's Park Road. In addition the gates at the lower Queen's Park Road entrance were painted for the first time in living memory and new trip rails installed. 2 picnic tables were installed and all of the ancient and unsightly benches along the Court Oak Road path were replaced complete with new tarmac bases and there have been more new litter bins. The Society has asked that the brickwork around various trees etc which has fallen away or been vandalised be repaired, possibly by using apprentices from Council funded training schemes. One downside is the Council's cuts in grounds maintenance has seen the loss of 4 rose beds, dug up and seeded with grass, and the contract requirement for daily litter picking reduced to just 4 days in a 28 day cycle.

Grove Park ~

The works to the two areas with drainage problems, i.e. land adjacent to the pool and at the boundary with Mill Farm Road, have been completed and further new benches and litter bins installed together with 2 picnic tables. The future of the "coach house" seems to have finally been resolved. The building had been severely damaged by fire in 2006. Planning permission has been granted for it to be reinstated as a mess room for the grounds maintenance staff and for a toilet which could also be used by visiting children's play groups when grounds maintenance staff were on site. It will also be a base for the Park Warden. Although the contractor is due to start rebuilding work in July this is subject to a detailed structural survey in view of the severity of the fire damage. The outcome is unknown at time of writing. The demolition of the old vandalised toilet block and the removal of asbestos from the coach house was carried out in June. The post of Park Warden which is shared with Queen's Park has been vacant since January 2009 and there is no prospect of the post being filled at present.

Letter from The Chairman

Little did I think when I signed on the dotted line as a member of The Harborne Society on May 4th 1960 at St John's Church Hall that I should be writing the Chairman's Letter fifty years later. I have been Social Committee Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Vice-Chairman but my longest time in office is as Chairman. I make it 28 years. It makes me very proud of the trust that has been put in me.

Other articles in this newsletter will tell you what the Society has done during the last year and our Honorary Secretary has written an overview of our first fifty years. We have had some real successes and when we have not achieved exactly what we should have liked we have been able to make some changes as with St Peter's School extensions and Pinner Court.

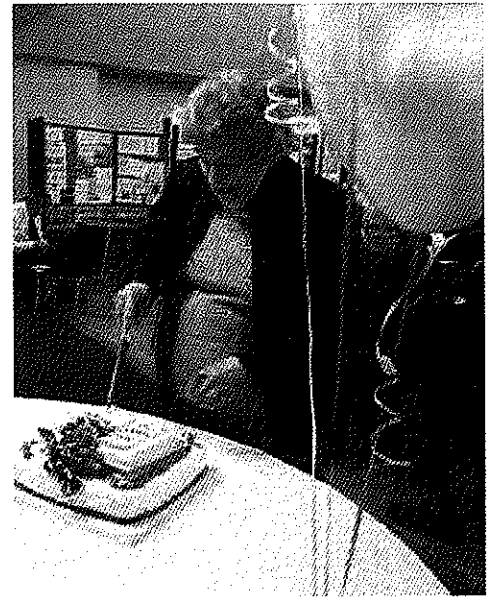
But what has it meant to me to be Chairman for so many years? I came to live in Harborne in 1958 and have been here ever since.

To me Harborne is home and I shouldn't want to live anywhere else. I have worked with many different committee members, all of them dedicated to our village and doing their best for us all.

We aim to see that Harborne develops as we should like and to have social events for the community. I have made so many friends during my time as Chairman and have enjoyed many social events such as the Art Exhibitions, the Annual Dinner and the monthly meetings to name just a few. I have been able to keep myself informed of everything planned for Harborne and have, I hope, made useful comments to developers and other societies. Being Chairman has given me the chance of keeping my finger on the pulse of what is happening. People mean a lot to me. I am a gregarious person and the Society has made my life very full. I hope it has done, or will do, the same for you

Yours Sincerely,

Mary P Abbott Chairman



Mary Abbott cuts the Celebration Cake at the AGM.

Finally, this autumn the Council is set to carry out a tree 'clean up' programme similar to that in Queen's Park whereby dead, diseased or dangerous trees are felled and where two trees are competing for space one will be removed. Pruning will also be carried out. This is all part of a city-wide programme. At the Society's behest the Ward Committee has agreed to Community Chest funding of £6,000 a year for three years for new tree planting in Queen's and Grove Parks.

Both parks currently look splendid and are as popular as ever. As a result of the Society's 10 year campaign for improvements together with pressure from local residents there has in the last few years been a total capital investment of £569,000 in our two parks [not counting the coach house].

I have still "got a little list" of things to be done but our councillors and the officers at the Constituency Office are warmly commended for their efforts and what has been achieved so far.

Phil Stokes

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Hello There!

I am Sergeant Jon Proudman

I lead the Harborne Ward neighbourhood policing team. I am approaching 30 years' service with the West Midlands Police serving the communities of Birmingham. I have had an extensive diverse career both as a uniformed police officer and as a detective. No day is ever the same and that is why I enjoy my job so much. I've achieved a lot as have the people who have worked with me both inside and outside the police. I sincerely hope that you have noticed a positive difference.

I have seen lots of change, most recently with the implementation of Programme Paragon, a restructure of the force that went live in April under our new Chief Constable Mr Simms.

Previously Rose Road police station was the headquarters of the F2 Operational Command Unit, an area from Quinton to Winson Green. The restructure established Local Policing

Units that aligned with council constituencies and ward boundaries. My team is one of four forming the Edgbaston constituency. The LPU commander is Chief Superintendent Phil Kay who is stationed at Bournville Lane police station.

Maps of the different areas including ours can be found by following the links on our website <http://www.westmidlands.police.uk>. This provides information about public meetings; policing priorities, a link to crime information for the area and useful contacts.

My team covers an area from Quinton Road, Harborne up to Bearwood. Effectively two teams consisting of six police officers and three community support officers each side. Work patterns are designed to give a police presence 7 days a week. We are also bolstered by 24/7 police response teams and CID officers and others, so please don't think there's just ourselves!

A major theme within Programme

Paragon is tackling antisocial behaviour in our communities. Where reported we will deal with it, whether it is neighbour disputes or kids causing a nuisance or a host of other things. If we cannot resolve it immediately we continue making efforts, involving other partner agencies as appropriate.

Crime and criminals are also a core business for us. Part of making our communities safer involves targeting people and places where crime is prevalent and taking steps to eradicate the problem. We don't just lock people up, we look at ways to divert people away from crime and again involve partner agencies to achieve this, to positive effect.

We continue to keep Harborne High Street a safe and happy place to shop and socialise through our working with the Harborne Village Partnership, Pub Watch and Traders' Association and the City Council.

July 4th brought the Harborne Carnival, a major community event now in its 12th year in which we played a big part.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW VILLAGE CENTRE MANAGER ~ Phil Stokes

When the Society called a public meeting in July 2005 to consider the plight of High Street one of our principal demands was for the appointment of a Village Centre Manager and we were extremely gratified when that came to fruition in February 2007 with the appointment of Bob Flack.

Since the middle of January Bob has been ill and away from work but we are very pleased to say that he returned to work in mid-May. Bob's appointment was only the second such post in the suburbs but in the intervening period the City Council has created 11 more similar post in other areas of the city. We saw this as a recognition of the important role that Centre Managers could play in restoring the vibrancy of the principal shopping high streets. The Council has made the Constituency Director for Edgbaston responsible for overseeing and coordinating all the Centre Manager posts. To that end, Bob has now been appointed to assist the Director and consequently he has relinquished the post of Village Centre Manager.

The Society has been extremely pleased with all the efforts made by Bob, most notably the Christmas lights and the allied switch on event, the hanging flower baskets, environmental improvements, new digital radios for the Retail Crime Initiative and Pub Watch schemes and the establishment of the Village Centre Partnership. All this without ever having any direct Council funding at his disposal. The Society places on record its very great appreciation to Bob for his unfailing efforts on behalf of Harborne High Street. Bob's "towering" presence on the High Street will definitely be missed.

Chris Gregory has been appointed to succeed Bob and we welcome him to Harborne. Chris, who has been appointed via the Harborne Village Centre Partnership, has valuable experience as a Centre Manager at Shirley, Solihull and Walsall and has been appointed until 31st March next year. It is this last point which is of great concern to the Society. Although the Council has appointed 13 posts of Centre Manager their salaries have never been funded from the Council's mainstream budget but has relied upon using Government funding, firstly the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and currently the Working Neighbourhood Fund which expires on 31st March 2011 and might well be cut or even discontinued by the new Government. The Society has consistently argued for the funding for these posts to be met directly by the Council as an indication of their commitment to the principle of town centre management but this has never happened and does not bode well for Harborne or any of the other areas.



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High Street Improvement Schemes

Details of two "public realm" improvement schemes in High Street were reported in the members' Christmas Newsletter. The schemes were carried out under the auspices of the Harborne Village Centre Partnership and were based on suggestions in the Harborne Local Centre Management Framework 2007. The schemes were for the City Council owned forecourt from the corner of St. John's Road towards 'Iceland' to be followed by The Clock Tower frontage.



The first scheme was due to be completed before Christmas but a delayed start and the seriously bad winter weather meant that some paving work had to be carried over into the new year and was not completed until early February although all the new trees were planted before Christmas. The second scheme was undertaken during February half term week. The street furniture on both schemes was due to be installed at the start of March which was what happened with the first scheme but just as the second was about to be finished a large finial fell from the roof of The Clock Tower on to the new seating area. The site was closed immediately and completion of this scheme remains on hold pending decisions on works at The Clock Tower. See separate item in this Newsletter.

The first scheme with new paving, 14 trees and 6 benches plus litter bins and a cycle stand has achieved a splendid result and the seating is very well used. It is a great improvement which will be of benefit to the environment of the shopping area and High Street generally. The second scheme includes new paving, benches and litter bins.

A possible third scheme is in the very early stages of investigation involving remodelling the traffic island in front of 'Waitrose' and removing the slip road to improve pedestrian safety. Funding cannot be sought until firm proposals have been drawn up but given the current state of the Council's finances the scheme is unlikely to be a priority.

Phil Stokes

High Street Still Suffering From The Effects Of The Recession

Last year's Summer Newsletter expressed the view that, despite the recession and the severe trading conditions, High Street appeared to be standing firm even though we were aware that 'Davenports' and 'Bonds Books' were going to close later in the summer.

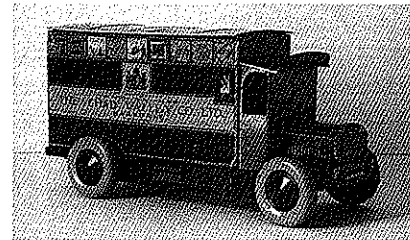
Since then High Street suffered a major blow with the sudden closure in September of OHO organic food store less than two years after opening. Other closures followed. 'Dilusso Kitchens' closed on 31st October but that was no real loss as it was rarely open. January was a bad month as 'Happit' closed suddenly as its parent company went into Administration and both branches of 'Edward Jones Investments' closed. In March 'Winners Adult Amusement Centre' closed though why it ever opened in the first place was a mystery, 'Subway' closed as did 'Queens Park Radio & Television' at the end of its lease after 34 years on High Street but it continues to operate from its original shop opposite the 'Court Oak' pub. The vacant former 'Cardfair' shop was actually let and work appeared to be being carried out, albeit on a very occasional basis, but the landlord repossessed the premises in April. At the top end of High Street 'La Di Da/ Romantic Rooms' closed last August to open early this year as a 'Kumon Children's Maths and English Study Centre' and in January 'Beauty Box' ladies' hairdressers closed.

On the positive side, several new enterprises opened during the same period. The 'Headway' charity shop opened in the former 'Olan Mills' photographic studio in November to be followed soon after by 'iCycle' cycle sales and repairs in the former 'Jennings' Dry Cleaners'. 'Davenports No.2' ladies' fashions opened in January next to the curtain shop. 'Town & Country Clothing' opened in March in the old 'Davenports', albeit only on a short term basis and has now closed. The former 'OHO' shop has been let to 'Card Factory'. The short-term Christmas letting of the former 'Birthdays' shop continues as 'Express Cards'. 'Arco Loungers' cafe/bar opened in January in the old 'Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society' premises, 'AMP Wealth Management' opened in April in vacant office premises opposite the 'Green Man' and 'Firkins' bakers crossed the road to reopen in 'Greggs' old shop. 'Fresh Bite' near to Prince's Corner is to move to a new shop unit created from part of the launderette and where they hope to expand by selling home made cakes. Finally, the 'Varsity' pub had a makeover in February but mystifyingly changed its name to the 'Proverbial' and similarly the 'Vine' also had a revamp in April. Clearly a range of businesses are still prepared to invest in Harborne.

For years many residents have claimed that they wanted "quality" shops and "specialist" shops and yet it seems the public are just not prepared to patronise such shops sufficiently when they open. So what is the future for High Street? Can High Street remain as a principal district retailing centre? It now seem that residents want big name stores which need much larger premises than those currently available. Equally the Society is aware that certain stores are looking to come to Harborne. If that is to happen then it has to be recognised that it can be achieved only by a major retail redevelopment scheme, something bigger than the proposed redevelopment of Attwood House which will continue to have shops at street level

Phil Stokes

CHAD VALLEY TOY COMPANY



clockwork tinplate delivery van
1946/49

2010 marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of the company that was later to become the world famous Chad Valley toy company which was based in Harborne for 75 years. Johnson Brothers was founded in 1860 in George Street in the Jewellery Quarter and dealt in printing "stationers' sundries" such as price tickets and luggage labels. In 1897 they moved to Harborne to a new factory in Rose Road, named the Chad Valley Works.

The company became Johnson Bros. (Harborne) Ltd. with Chad Valley adopted as its trading name. In addition to printing, the company began to expand into making board games and the range of games and toys was extended year by year. In 1919 the company changed its name to The Chad Valley Co. Ltd. The period between the two world wars was to be the golden era for Chad Valley exporting goods throughout the British Empire and further afield. "Chad Valley, Harborne, England" was printed on the boxes. A vast range of games, toys, wooden jig saw puzzles, dolls and teddy bears were produced at its factories in Harborne and Wellington and, from the 1950s, other factories in Birmingham and Pontypool.

Financial difficulties ultimately resulted in Chad Valley being taken over in 1971 by Barclay Securities Limited, owned by John Bentley who was an asset stripper, which led to the closure of the Harborne factories in 1972. That was effectively the end of the true Chad Valley. The company was sold several times and all production in Birmingham ended in 1984. Chad Valley just became a famous brand name to be sold on to other companies, most notably Woolworths and now Argos.

Phil Stokes

THE CLOCK TOWER ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE

~ Phil Stokes

The Society's concerns about the continuing deterioration of the external fabric of The Clock Tower have been raised with the Ward Committee on a number of occasions, lastly in 2008 when we pressed particularly for the window frames and stone window sills to be repaired. As a result quotations were sought for these repairs but regrettably nothing further happened.

In March this year as the improvement scheme along the High Street frontage to The Clock Tower was about to be completed, a large and heavy finial fell from the roof on to the new seating area. Fortunately it was in the evening when no one was working on this site.

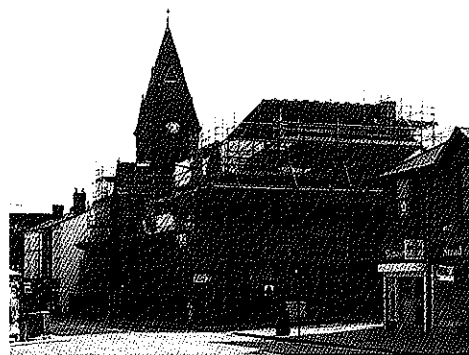
The site was closed immediately and safety checks initiated which revealed that a further finial was loose and the chimney stack over the main entrance in York Street was in danger of collapse. Completion of the improvement scheme was put on permanent hold and protective scaffolding and hoarding erected to enclose the building to protect the public, site users and staff. Fortunately the Centre was able to continue to operate normally with only minor disruption.

The Society immediately pursued enquiries and established that it had been agreed to carry out a full structural survey of the external fabric of the whole building, including the roof, elevations and windows. We raised the matter with the Ward Committee at the earliest opportunity on 10th May. Further scaffolding was erected in April and May but the need for Listed Building Consent delayed the erection of scaffolding around the tower itself and thus delayed completion of the survey. The scaffolding is likely to be in place for a long time, well beyond the survey findings being considered and decisions made as to what works are needed and to what extent it will be possible to fund such works.

The funding situation is particularly complicated. The Clock Tower together with the caretaker's house is Grade II Listed. In the last ten years internal improvements have been made but no work has been carried out to conserve the external fabric. The building is universally recognised as Harborne's most significant landmark. The City Council, as owners, are guardians of Harborne's heritage and have a responsibility to future generations to look after the building and to respect its history. By law the Council has a legal obligation to maintain the premises in a satisfactory condition. On the other hand, The Clock Tower is one of nine directly managed Adult Education Centres within the Adults & Communities Directorate and, whilst the Adult Education Service is a Council function, Council funding for the Service ceased on the 1st April, 2009. Since then the vast majority of the Service's funding derives from the Skills Funding Agency [SFA], formerly the Learning & Skills Council [LSC]. It was the LSC which funded the internal improvements. An approach to the LSC in 2003 for funds to refurbish the building's fabric was unsuccessful as the The Clock Tower did not meet the LSC's priorities. An attempt the same year to secure Heritage Lottery Funding could not proceed unless the use of the building altered substantially away from Adult Education purposes. To complicate matters, the future of the SFA, a quango, is now under consideration by the new Government.

At the time of writing the outcome of the Council's deliberations on the structural survey are not known but we have urged that the Council meets its legal obligations for this Listed Building and that common sense should dictate that works are carried out as soon as possible whilst the [expensive] scaffolding is still in place.

It is hoped that a bid for capital funding will be added to the Adults & Communities Directorate's Capital Strategy for 2010 and be submitted in the next bidding round. In the interim, The Clock Tower continues to function and a full programme of courses has been planned with enrolment in September as usual. The programme will include courses transferred from Harborne House and the Queen Alexandra College.



□ HERITAGE DAY WALK ~SUNDAY 12th SEPTEMBER □

Once again the Society will be participating in the national Heritage Open Days, co-ordinated by English Heritage, with another of Edward Chitham's guided walks.

Edward's walks over the last fourteen years have covered just about every aspect of Harborne's history so this year's walk will be based principally on an entirely new theme embracing a selection of Harborne's notable Victorian houses.

The leisurely walk will take place on Sunday 12th September starting at 2 p.m. from St. Peter's Church car park and should last about two hours. The walk will also finish at St. Peter's car park. As always, the event will take place whatever the weather so be prepared for the worst! Everyone is welcome to this popular event.

Don't forget, Edward's widely acclaimed book 'Harborne: A History' can be purchased from Harborne Library and W. H. Smith.

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ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGH THE DECADES

After fifty years it seems appropriate to look back at the campaigns and issues which the Harborne Society has been involved with, sometimes in association with other groups of course. Obviously the Society has not always succeeded, the loss of the Georgian houses at Prince's Corner being a recent example, but we are entitled to reflect on our successes. Below we give a very brief glimpse of some of our achievements throughout the last five decades.

1960s

The start of 50 years of monitoring planning applications for Harborne and of giving advice and assistance to residents who wish to comment on or object to an application. The Society's wealth of experience and its record of informed, reasoned and constructive response to planning and redevelopment issues has resulted in the Society being recognised as a responsible organisation whose views are sought by potential developers.

First Arts & Crafts Exhibition at St. John's Church Hall with over 500 visitors.

Opposed the City Council proposal to change Harborne Church Farm Golf Course into a commercial golf driving range and to sell rest of site for housing.

Major public meetings held re "The Future Development of Harborne" and "Harborne Within the City's Planning".

Harborne Fete/Carnival for 5 years ~ joint organisers with Harborne Cricket and Hockey Clubs.

Opposed the Edgbaston & Woodgate Valley Expressway ~ 6 lane Expressway, partly on stilts, from the Quinton Junction of M5 Motorway via Woodgate Valley and the Bourne Brook to old Harborne Reservoir and on to Five Ways. Plan also proposed new golf course at Woodgate Valley with consequent closure of Harborne Church Farm Golf Course and its sale for housing.

1970s

Opposed Home Office proposal for Remand Home for 60 women on former maternity hospital site in Lordswood Road.

Opposed Harborne Expressway to bypass Harborne from Harborne Hill via allotments and Clarence Road etc with full pedestrianisation of High Street from Albany Road to [now] 'Iceland'.

Harborne & Quinton Festival Week for 2 years ~ joint organising committee.

Secured National Listing of former High Street Junior School and its retention as The Clock Tower Community Centre. It later became an Adult Education Centre.

Opposed City Council plan to house "problem families" in the Council owned houses in High Street between the Library and the petrol station.

Harborne Local Plan ~ detailed comments and proposals submitted ~ opposed proposal to demolish Park Hill Road railway bridge and advocated support for local shops by way of Primary Retail Frontage Policy to restrict the change of use of shops to non-retail purposes ~ attended Public Enquiry. Both objectives secured in the Plan finally adopted in 1984. The City Council later sought to demolish the railway bridge ~ this was opposed and bridge refurbished in 1994.

1980s

Opposed the [then] West Midland County Council's traffic improvement lines at Prince's Corner which involved major demolition of property for dual carriage-way ~ Society submitted an alternative plan ~ County Council eventually abandoned its plans.

First distribution of Society Newsletter to the residents of Harborne ~ just 4 pages.

Opposed demolition of Harborne Quadrant, corner of Vivian Road/Greenfield Road.

Opposed City Council's further attempt to close Harborne Church Farm Golf Course.

Detailed proposal for Greenfield Road Conservation Area presented to City Council and finally achieved twenty years later in 2009!

Extension of the area of High Street covered by the Primary Retail Frontage Policy and again in 2007.

1990s

Harborne Fire Station Nationally Listed at Society's instigation.

Celebration of centenary of Harborne's annexation by Birmingham, including art & craft exhibition and Harborne history walk.

The "Future of Harborne" public meeting.

Opposed supermarket development at High Street/ Ravenhurst Road [now Pinner Court].

Harborne Traffic Management Scheme adopted by City Council after 9 years of campaigning by the Society ~ included major changes to parking regulations and adoption of one-way traffic systems in Vivian Road and Greenfield Road etc. Regrettably scheme abandoned by the Council in 2007 with many elements not implemented but Society succeeded in getting Margaret Grove/Moorpool Avenue one-way scheme implemented in 2009.

First National Heritage Day Guided Walk

1995 and every year since.

Opposed proposed 'Wetherspoons' public house in High Street ~ Council granted planning approval but successfully opposed at Licensing Justices.

Secured National Listing of the Harborne & Edgbaston Institute in Station Road and saving it from demolition. [Requests for Listing of the old 'Royalty' cinema and Harborne Hall in Old Church Road only secured Locally Listed status but the City Council has recently applied for National Listing.].

Campaign in support of new Marks & Spencer foodstore.

2000s

"Harborne 2000 ~ A Photographic Record" ~ Millennium project in 2 volumes donated to Harborne Library.

Secured availability of planning applications at Harborne Library for public inspection ~ the only library in the city to have them ~ so successful this arrangement was later extended to all community libraries.

Campaign for modernisation of Harborne Library ~ suggested using adjoining shop for a street level entrance with feasibility study for rest of building ~ new entrance achieved 2002 and "new" Library opened 2006.

Historic Harborne railway signal box nameplate not put on display at "new" library ~ Society campaigned for its reinstatement and funded the cost of nameplate being displayed with photographs in prominent position.

Start of long running and finally successful campaign for a series of improvements at Queen's Park and Grove Park, including new children's play areas in both parks.

City Council's Ward Boundary Review initial proposals successfully opposed ~ subsequent Electoral Commission's draft proposals opposed in relation to the Queen's Park Road, Court Oak Road, Tennial Lane, Tennial Road triangle and successful in keeping this within Harborne Ward.

Major survey of High Street resulting in public meeting being held to consider the decline in retailing ~ demand for Action Plan and appointment of Village Centre Manager secured.

Initiated investigations leading to the establishment of the Village Farmers' Market.

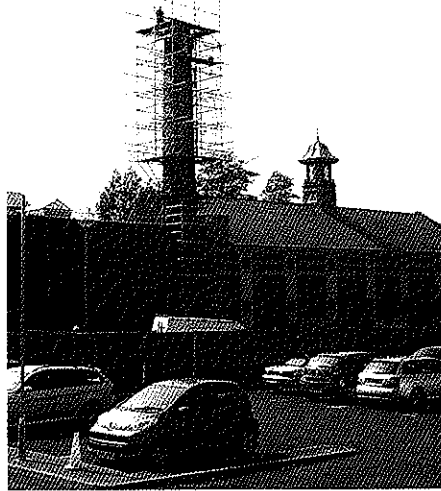
Nine year campaign for new Swimming Pool & Fitness Centre ~ old pool closed 21st February 2010 and new pool under construction.

EVERYTHING GOING SWIMMINGLY!

The Society's long and successful campaign for the new swimming pool and fitness centre now sees everything progressing as planned following the closure of Harborne Baths at 4.30p.m. on Sunday the 21st February after 86 years service to the residents of Harborne.

The staff celebrated by jumping en masse into the pool but returned next day to begin the week long process of draining the pool and removing equipment and fittings. On 1st March Wates Construction went on site to start setting up their operations but before demolition work could be initiated there remained further ground investigations to be carried out together with the removal of asbestos none of which could be done whilst the pool was operational. Whilst that was going on a new access for the adjoining church car park was constructed, electricity power cables to the sub station were diverted and all services disconnected. Demolition took place in April/June with construction work starting early in July. In the absence of a new Fred Dibnah the demolition of the chimney was undertaken brick by brick and finished in less than three days with all the bricks and rubble from the chimney and the main building being crushed on site for re-use in the site levelling works. Because of the poor ground conditions the scheme requires extensive piling so it will be nearly Christmas before we are able to see a building emerging above ground level but the site hoardings have viewing windows so you can watch progress. Alternatively, you get a great view from the top deck of the No. 24 bus!

Following the closure the arrangements for school swimming were implemented with the majority using Shenley Court Leisure Centre and some the Blue Coat School. The 'Strokes' swimming lessons and the aqua aerobics classes were transferred to Shenley Court. As to users of the fitness centre, the Council has provided a temporary service at Quinborne Community Centre for 'BeActive' initiatives including a tempo-



rary gym. Quinborne is also the base for the management of the 'Strikes' football academy courses and the 'Bikeability' cycle training scheme in local schools. Healthy lifestyle classes for the over 50s are held at Quinborne and other health related classes are held there and at the Kenrick Centre in Grove Lane.

Unfortunately totally false and misleading stories have been spread about this scheme. One is that the new swimming pool will not be available until after the 2012 Olympic Games [i.e. August 2012]. This despicable claim is complete fiction. The scheme is bang on schedule.

So now it is just a case of "watch this space" as we look forward with great excitement and anticipation to the completed pool being handed over by the contractor at Christmas 2011.
Phil Stokes

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HARBORNE BORN & BRED

The Jeweller of Bull Street

George Edward Hunt (1892 - 1960)

We in Harborne are fortunate in having two jewellery shops on our High Street catering for a wide range of tastes and sizes of pocket. But did you know that in the first half of the twentieth century many exquisite pieces of jewellery made in the Arts and Crafts style of that period were created in Bull Street, just off the High Street?

The Arts and Crafts movement emerged towards the end of the nineteenth century, rejecting mass production in favour of individualism, simplicity, good design and the ideal of hand craftsmanship.

Our Arts and Crafts jeweller, George Hunt, was born in Dudley and moved to 10 Bull Street with his father and siblings when his mother died in 1927, after living in various places locally. He stayed there until he died. He produced a wealth of beautiful jewellery and other precious items in a studio at the bottom of the garden. This workshop (pictured) was there until recently when it was necessary to demolish it, but the house remains very much as it was in his day. His father William at one time had a greengrocery shop on the corner of York Street, where Superdrug is now.



Having had diphtheria at the age of five, George Hunt was deaf, maybe that is why he chose to work on his own. But he was an outgoing person, spoke loudly and fast, and when out and about greeted friends and family with enthusiasm and warm hugs, sometimes to their embarrassment. He had a great sense of humour. He was a well-known figure locally, at the bus stop for example, a rather bohemian figure with his dark curly hair (long in later years), black cape and hat. Perhaps some of you remember him?

Probably because of his hearing problem George Hunt was educated privately. In 1908, when he was sixteen, he won free places at the School of Art in Margaret Street and at the Vittoria Street School of Jewellery and Silversmithing. This was a golden age at these establishments; several of the tutors, including Arthur Gaskin, were eminent in the Arts and Crafts movement. George Hunt followed in that tradition. Working within its ideals, he crafted his pieces from conception to completion entirely alone. Unlike many working within the movement he integrated other styles with the Arts and Crafts style: Egyptianesque, Art Deco and Historicism. He was also influenced by his contemporaries working on the continent.

George Hunt was most prolific in the 1930's. He produced many beautifully crafted items of jewellery, notable for their bold designs. He often worked with silver and enamelling, and he incorporated a variety of gems. He also made other items: spoons, bowls, photo frames and enamelled boxes for example. Two pieces of his jewellery are currently on display in the Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. There are also photographs in the catalogue for an exhibition of his work presented by Bonhams auctioneers in 2006; this can be seen at the local library and on the internet.

George Hunt exhibited on the continent and in various places in the U.K. He sold his pieces from retail outlets in Newhall Street next to the Assay Office, and in Ladywood Road. He won many prizes, and the late Queen Mother was one of his clients. Nowadays his pieces sell for hundreds or thousands of pounds.



When George Hunt died he was buried with his parents in St Peter's churchyard, in the grave which he designed for his mother. The headstone (pictured) is in the style of Tutankhamun's tomb (he knew its discoverer) and his own name is on the kerbstone of the grave. On the headstone is a bronze panel which he designed in remembrance of his mother Ellen.

Even during his working life local people were largely unaware of the treasures which George Hunt was producing; they thought he might be a painter. I'm sure I am not alone in having been unaware that Harborne once had such a distinguished craftsman living and working in its midst.

Written and illustrated by **Philippa Russell**

THOMAS ATTWOOD STATUE ~ NO PROGRESS

You will be aware of the Society's campaign to secure the relocation of the statue of Thomas Attwood to Harborne. This was first raised with the City Council in 1972! With the support of the Ward Committee and the Harborne Village Centre Partnership, a case was submitted in February 2009 for the statue to be relocated to Harborne, its logical and rightful location. It was proposed that the statue be in the high profile position at the corner of High Street and St. John's Road. The statue is Grade II Listed and the 2008 consent to remove the vandalised statue from Sparkbrook into storage requires the Council to put it back in the public domain within 3 years.

The Council's response was that an 'in principle' decision on the statue's relocation would be made later in 2009 and the final decision would be based on advice from a range of experts, consultation with key stakeholders and the availability of funding. An update was sought in February this year but disappointingly the response was basically the same as before. Once a decision is made the timescale for repair and reinstatement will depend upon funding and also any developments in the city which might impact on the potential site. An extension to the 3 year deadline would be sought from English Heritage if required. The Society will continue to press the issue with the Council.

Phil Stokes



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FARMERS' MARKET UNDER THREAT!

The popular monthly Farmers' Market is widely recognised throughout Harborne and adjoining areas as being a great success ever since it started in September 2006. Most of you will, therefore, be as astonished as the Society to learn that a group of people are seemingly set on withdrawing consent for the market to be held at its present location on the main forecourt in High Street.

These people are the Directors of Harborne Retailers Management Company Limited [HRMC], the owners of the majority of the forecourt involved. A very small number of the Directors run their own shops fronting the forecourt but the majority do not and they are landlords who lease their premises to other businesses. The company allows the market to operate without charge which we fully recognise as being a generous gesture although, once the market was firmly established, Sketts, the market operator, was willing to enter into a formal agreement as mooted on behalf of the company in 2008. However, HRMC decided against that preferring to let the market continue on a consent basis. HRMC also owns the refurbished car park in St. John's Road which benefits greatly from increased use on market days.

In May HRMC criticised the standard of the market, complaining about empty stalls, rubbish allegedly left after the event, the "apparent diminishing profile of the event", and the quality, variety, mix and number of stallholders. HRMC consider it might be better for the market to be quarterly rather than monthly as in their view it is beginning to "lose some of its sparkle" and that on a quarterly basis the market "may get some of its zing back". HRMC has not given any evidence to back up its views apart from a photograph of litter purportedly left after the March market.

The Society simply does not recognise the market as described by HRMC. We are amazed by the criticisms which are strongly refuted as being totally unjustified and paint a wholly false picture of the market.

The Society was heavily involved in establishing the market along with the then Chairman of the Harborne Traders' Association who incidentally is one of the Directors of HRMC. The market instantly became recognised as a popular community event with a good atmosphere which attracts people from surrounding areas. Several of the stallholders have attended every market right from the outset and the quality and range of the produce and goods now on offer is of the highest order. Stallholders are extremely knowledgeable about their goods and are always willing to offer advice about cooking or storage etc. Continuity and



building up a good relationship with regular customers are major factors in maintaining the success of any market. A quarterly market would be the death knell for our market

Sketts, the leading operator of all types of markets in the Midlands, have invested significantly in new stalls and canopies. If litter is perceived to be a problem then that ought to be easily resolved by discussion with Sketts whose representative is in attendance at every market. The forecourt is, of course, cleaned by the City Council. The mechanical sweeper cleans the forecourt three times a week and the beat sweeper operates in High Street seven days a week.

When the Farmers' Market was established it was made very clear that in the winter the range of fresh locally grown produce was not so available as in the summer and that as a matter of course the number of stallholders attending would be reduced as happens at every such market. Some produce, like bedding and other plants, has a restricted season before the winter plants become available for the November and December markets. Soft fruits are also seasonal. All this obviously affects the attendance of growers at the market. Furthermore, the exceptionally severe winter, the worst for over thirty years, had an impact on some growers who quite literally were unable to get their crop out of the ground. Despite the heavy snow, ice and sub zero temperatures the stallholders turned up and the Society is confident that the number attending throughout the year stands comparison with any other farmers' market in surrounding areas. In 2009 heavy rain and high winds disrupted several of our markets. In the Society's opinion the stallholders deserve our thanks not criticism.

The group involved in establishing the market continues to meet on an ad hoc basis to monitor the market and is determined that the market should adhere to the principle of being a genuine farmers' market and for it not to be diluted in any way. Sketts operate a strict system of only allowing stallholders to attend who have been independently accredited.

The prospect of the market not being allowed to continue on the main forecourt is unthink-

able and there is absolutely no realistic alternative site. The priority of HRMC is stated to be "to ensure that whatever events are held are in the best interests of the shareholders of HRMC" and they are "reconsidering the current arrangements in the light of that requirement". HRMC is meeting on 20th July to consider the "existence of the Farmers' Market on their forecourt". The Society has urged the company to take a broader view. The Farmers' Market is undeniably a great asset to Harborne. The Society hopes that at its meeting HRMC will recognise the value of the market to High Street as a whole and to the wider local community. **Phil Stokes**

FARMERS' MARKET DATES

14th August

11th September

9th October

13th November

11th December

I Remember...

I frequently appeal to anyone with interesting memories regarding Harborne to write them down and either send them to me, Mary Worrall Editor of The Harborne Society Newsletter 91 Wood Lane, or alternatively, drop them into the Library where we will add them to our Local History Collection.

At our AGM in May I asked members attending for memories relating to the last 50 years in Harborne and also appealed for reminiscences in our Spring (Member's only) Newsletter. Mary Knox kindly sent me this. I have retained her use of capitals!

'Some forty years ago, my husband was transferred in his job to, of all places, **BIRMINGHAM!** Friends and relatives were dismayed at the news. I had to remain for a year in Cheltenham, where we were living, to see a son through A Levels. Peter (my husband) had been told the only possible place to live near Birmingham was Edgbaston. However, he was given the address of a house for sale in a suburb called **HARBORNE**. It was at the end of a cul-de-sac (Dorchester Drive) near the Parish Church. The garden sloped down to old oak trees and the golf course, with an uninterrupted view out to the Lickey Hills. Not another house in sight!

'And so we came to **HARBORNE**'.

Mary Knox.

It is nice to think that someone dismayed at moving to Birmingham found happiness in Harborne!

Please keep sharing your Harborne memories.

Mary Worrall

REPORT OF THE A.G.M.



The 50th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on 19th May, 2010, at St. Mary's Church Hall, Vivian Road. As befits such a special occasion 70 members attended.

Reports from the Chairman, Technical Officer and Honorary Treasurer demonstrated the continuing high level of activity during the year on behalf of Society members and the wider local community. The overriding issue had remained the Society's long-standing and now hugely successful campaign for the redevelopment of the Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre. However, that was not at the expense of other significant issues in particular the continuation of our attempt to secure the relocation of the Thomas Attwood statue to Harborne, the campaigns for improvements at Queen's Park and Grove Park, which have finally reached a successful outcome, our continuing concerns about the decline of retailing on High Street, securing improvements to High Street as advocated in the Harborne Local Management Framework, and the never ending planning issues. Membership had fallen slightly but the Society continued to be in a sound financial position.

Val Harrison stood down from the Committee and as Social Secretary but the remaining members of last year's Committee sought re-election and were duly appointed together with a new member, Linsay Smith.. Worryingly this leaves three vacancies. Please contact the Chairman if you are now willing to consider serving on the Committee. The full list of Committee members and officers for 2010/2011 is on the back of this Newsletter.

With the formalities quickly out of the way the commemoration of the Society's 50 years were celebrated by the Chairman cutting an anniversary cake and making the prize draw which was won by Andrew Maxam. This was followed by presentations giving a brief flavour of each of the five decades of the Society's activities and campaigns. (See separate article) Members then partook refreshments whilst viewing displays of archive material, photographs and memorabilia covering the fifty years, including a splendid short film of a BBC Midlands television news item from c1963 relating to the Society's attempt to encourage High Street traders to paint their shop fronts in a uniform style and colour.

Our grateful appreciation to 'Waitrose' for the food, to Maurice Evans for donating photographs from his personal collection, to the Church of England Diocesan Office for the loan of display boards and to Harborne Library for the loan of display boards and material from the Local History Collection.

Phil Stokes

ANDREW MAXAM ~ CALENDAR MAN!



Andrew Maxam, a name well known to a great many local residents as a result of his publications relating to old

Harborne yet who is he? Well, Andrew is a proud Harbornite and naturally a member of the Harborne Society who has lived in Harborne for much of his life but is now over the border in Bearwood.

Originally Andrew worked for many years as a media buyer in an advertising agency but having become disillusioned with that in the 1990s he gave it up for another quite different business, namely dealing in old picture postcards. It had always been a hobby of his, having saved them in albums as a child.

Buying and selling old postcards gave Andrew the opportunity to build up a collection of over 600 different views of our

village from over the past 100 years or so which led him in 1996 to produce "Harborne" on old picture postcards and in 2004, as a publisher in his own right, to publish the "Old Harborne Village Calendar". The calendar has continued every year since. For a couple of years Edgbaston was incorporated in the calendar but Andrew saw the error of his ways and after a suitable period in sack cloth and ashes we have forgiven him! Another publication is his book "Vintage Images of Harborne" issued in 2008 which uses postcards and photographs.

Andrew has extended his range of calendars and local history books to cover

other areas of the city and the West Midlands. His very first book in 2002 was "Time Please! A look back at Birmingham's Pubs" which was published after Andrew was fortunate enough to acquire the archive of Mitchell & Butler's public houses. This was no surprise as Andrew is the Pubs Preservation Officer of the Birmingham Campaign for Real Ale and a regular at the 'Bell'.

Next year's Harborne calendar will be out in September with 12 new images and I am sure it will appeal to all Harbornites, past and present.

Phil Stokes

Harborne Hall

On Thursday the 13th May the Post Property Paper had an advertisement announcing the sale of Harborne Hall and inviting offers 'in excess of £2,000,000 for the freehold'.

Many of you will know this building as the VSO headquarters in Harborne or remember it as 'The Multi Faith Centre' prior to this. The property belongs to a religious order who no longer require it.

It is an important building in the Harborne Conservation Area and with its extensive grounds could lend itself to many uses. It clearly seems too big for a family home which it has not been used as for many years.

Anyone wishing to look at the most interesting history of the hall should take a look at this website

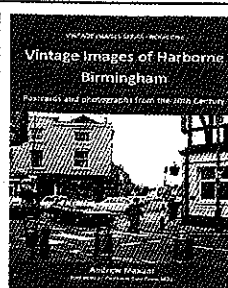
www.harbornehall.co.uk/history

We hope that any would be purchasers intend to put it to some use that benefits Harborne as a whole. Maybe a hotel or conference centre which could be hired for weddings and parties?

The Harborne Society will obviously monitor this potential change of use with great interest. It is ominous that the advertisement states that 'subject to planning consents there may be scope for new build residential development within the grounds...'

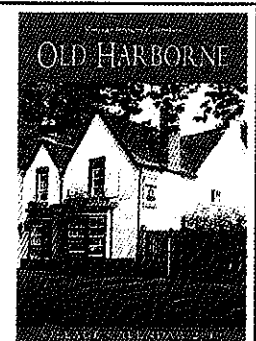
Mary Worrall

OLD HARBORNE VILLAGE CALENDAR 2011



Published September 2010, with 12 different views, price £5.99. On sale at Harborne Library, Osbornes Stationers and Moor Pool News. See website for further details inc. how to order & other areas covered. Also, **Vintage Images of Harborne** book £5.99, 80 old views. **Also pre -1960 old picture postcards bought and sold - good prices paid.**

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2010 - 2011**

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Committee Members
Michael Darby 427 1916
Raymond Le Gallais 427 6887
Roger Miles 426 2577
Thelma Osbourne
Linsay Smith 426 5193

WARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The dates for meetings of the Harborne Ward Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year have not been fixed at the time of going to press so please look out for posters at Harborne Library.

Delivering the Newsletter

We are very grateful to the members who deliver our Newsletter and are always in need of an extra pair of hands to spread the load even more.

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

Jenny Buchan 426 4854

N.B. The Harborne Society
email address for questions and enquiries is
harbornesociety@hotmail.com

**THE HARBORNE SOCIETY
Programme of Meetings 2010-2011**

- Weds 8th September 2010** Shirley Thompson - TOAD - The original Alton Douglas
- Sunday 12th September 2010** Edward Chitham - Notable Harborne Victorian Houses Walk. Meet at St Peter's Church Car Park at 2 pm.
- Tuesday 8th October 2010** Tony Brake - Beekeeping (with a demonstration hive)
- Weds 3rd November 2010** John Sant - Albert Ketelby - the Man and his Music
- Tuesday 7th December 2010** David Hickman - Diaries I Have Enjoyed
- Tuesday 1st February 2011** Beresford King-Smith - The History of the CBSO
- Weds 2nd March 2011** Ted Rudge - Brumroamin' - The Story of Birmingham's Romanies
- Tuesday 5th April 2011** Ann Yorke - Life to a Tee - An Architect's Story
- Weds 18th May 2011** **The Harborne Society Annual General Meeting**

All meetings begin at 7-30pm.

Tuesday meetings are held at **Onneley House, Court Oak Road:**
Wednesday meetings are held in **The Conference Room at Harborne Primary School.** The entrance is 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.

Here's another little anecdote from one of our members about arriving in Harborne to live...

I remember....

'My husband and I moved to Harborne in 1988. A van was following but we arrived in two separate cars packed with an odd selection of the more vulnerable items. In the chaos of unloading I set off one of the car alarms. A young man appeared from nearby flats and critically said 'Did I not know I had moved to a quiet area?'

'A shaky start but in twenty two years I have never felt unwelcome again.'

Mary Hackett

THE HARBORNE SOCIETY

Are you interested in Harborne? Do you value the area and community?
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You will receive three Newsletters each year and we additionally inform members of important news and developments at our regular meetings

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Jenny Buchan, 50 Margaret Grove. B17 9JL.

