

# THE HARBORNE SOCIETY

Number Sixty One  
Summer 2007



# NEWSLETTER

[www.theharbournesociety.org.uk](http://www.theharbournesociety.org.uk)

**It's official. The Harborne Traffic Management Plan is dead ~ as dead as Monty Python's blue parrot .... This Plan is no more, it has ceased to be, expired. What we have suspected for several years was finally admitted by the City Council in March when a report to the Ward Committee stated " There are no plans to continue to with the 1997 Harborne Traffic Management Proposals".**

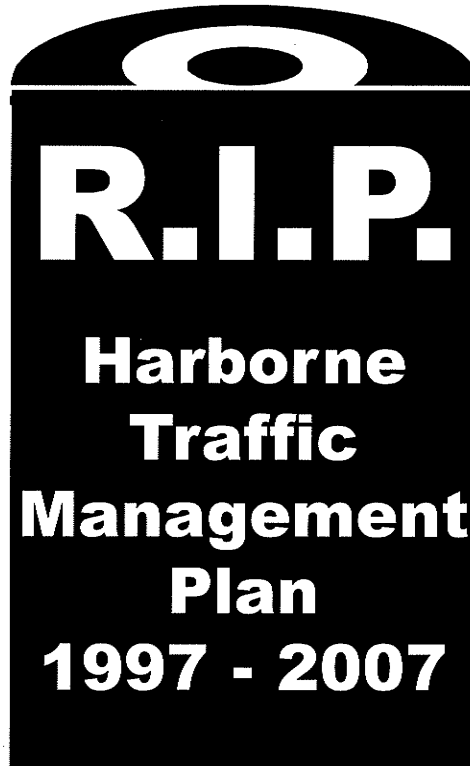
It took years of campaigning by the Society from the mid-1980s to 1991 to convince the City Council of the desperate need for action to deal with the traffic problems that were strangling much of residential Harborne as well as the High Street.

In October 1991 consultants were appointed to carry out a traffic management study. The findings were reported to the Ward Committee in January 1994 and used as the basis for public consultation. More consultants were appointed to do that and the outcome was reported in December that year. However, there was great lack of public confidence in the proposals which were only a series of isolated schemes. The consultants were told to go away and bring forward a comprehensive scheme that dealt with all aspects of traffic movement and placed much greater emphasis on the views of the local community.

That was done in 1996 when there was a massive public consultation exercise that has never been bettered. All residents, traders and businesses in the Plan area were sent details of the proposals together with the relevant plan for their area and questionnaires. The Plan area was divided into 5 separate residential areas plus the High Street. It was roughly bounded by part of Metchley Lane, Nursery Road, Gillhurst Road, Lordswood Road, War Lane, Vicarage Road, Harborne Park Road and St. Mary's Road. In addition, Council officers held individual meetings with the Harborne Society and 13 other local groups. 10 staffed exhibitions were held in the evenings and at weekends at The Clock Tower and other venues and plans were also displayed at a series of local venues including the Library. All of this culminated in truly comprehensive proposals that were reported to Ward Committee in April 1997 and received with acclamation. The proposals commanded widespread support throughout the whole of the community and expectations were high.

The Traffic Management Plan was adopted by the Council on 10th June, 1997, with a commitment to implement it on an incremental basis spread over a number of years subject, of course, to the availability of funding. No time limit was set.

Implementation started with the partial one-way system in Vivian Road and Greenfield Road which proved extremely successful. That was April 1998 and was followed in May 2001 with Phase 2, namely Traffic Order



simplifying the parking regulations governing High Street and its side roads together with the introduction of several one-way systems, most notably Greenfield Road, which again proved successful.

The Society regularly pressed for further parts of the Plan to be carried out. Lack of funding was the repeated response from the Council although we were assured on several occasions that the Moorpool Estate proposals would be the next phase. Funding from the Government's "Safer Routes to School" programme in 2001 enabled road safety measures to be implemented outside St. Peter's Junior School in Old Church Road and representations by the Society ensured that the measures were extended to embrace the [then] Infant School but the Council refused to take the ideal opportunity to deal at the same time with the Plan proposal for a partial one-way system around the 'Bell'. Apart from traffic calming in Margaret Road and St. Mary's Road belatedly being carried out [it was meant to be part of Phase 2] the Society's continued representations came to nought despite being assured in 2004 that the Plan "was still extant". Late 2005 saw some changes to the waiting restrictions in High Street but still no action on any proposals in the Plan.

All this led the Society to conclude that the Traffic Management Plan had been abandoned but until now the Council had never had

the decency to inform the residents of Harborne. At last we have finally been told the truth instead of being strung along.

So what now for all those residents who believed the City Council would keep its word and that proposals adopted in 1997 would be implemented over time? Proposals such as ~

- Residents' Parking Schemes for Albany Road, Regent Road, Clarence Road, Station Road, Gordon Road, Rose Road, Park Hill Road etc;
- a short one-way system in Old Church Road to stop the "rat running" and parking problems caused by the 'Bell' public house and St. Peter's Church;
- traffic calming measures in Victoria Road, Vicarage Road and Ravenhurst Road;
- action to stop "rat running" in Wentworth Road, Crosbie Road and Lonsdale Road;
- installation of traffic signals at the Court Oak Road/Lordswood Road junction, Prince's Corner and the St. Peter's Road/Harborne Park Road junction;
- a one-way system for Margaret Grove and part of Moorpool Avenue to ease congestion and stop the gross damage to the grass verges.

These were all proposals that the Council and its highway engineers considered appropriate and necessary in 1997 ~ the only thing that has changed is that the need for these measures is greater than ever with the increase in the number of vehicles and mounting traffic congestion. High Street is at a virtual standstill five nights a week from 4 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. between the 'Junction' and Prince's Corner because the Outer Circle has total priority over High Street traffic.

Seemingly the concept of traffic management is no longer recognised by the Council and now traffic schemes will only be considered where there is a record of personal injury accidents or where excessive congestion exists. The Council says the public are now more interested in problems of congestion and inconsiderate parking ~ that's precisely what much of the original Plan was about!

The Traffic Management Plan has been abandoned. What an obscene waste of officers' time and public money on consultants' fees and the massive public consultation exercise. In the Society's view the decision to abandon implementation of the remainder of the Traffic Management Plan is sheer madness and totally irresponsible.

**The residents of Harborne have been very badly let down.**

**Phil Stokes**

## Technical Officer's Report ~ Ann Yorke



Over the last twelve months I have been very aware of an increased interest which is being shown in the Village by its residents. I have a theory that this is due to the Farmers Market. Once a month we are now much more likely to meet each other and both pass on information and raise matters which are troubling us. I have had more serious discussions with residents since last September than I have ever had before and it is good. So if you have anything you wish to bring to our attention the Harborne Society holds its surgeries at about 10.00 am at Phillipe Du Bois every second Saturday of the month. Do come and see us.

There have been 180 new Planning applications in the last 12 months. Of these perhaps 12 have been refused and the rest have been approved. Much to our amusement some have been refused when we have considered that they should not be and much to our dismay many have been approved when, equally, they should not have been. I have spoken many times with Simon Turner our area Planning Officer and he seems to be taking a much closer interest in the village than did his predecessor but even then, as can be seen from the above statistics, we are still not winning either the battle of the two storey side extensions or the use of the Mature Suburbs document. The village is gradually becoming more and more hemmed in by terraces of houses in areas where they were never intended. Due to our vigilance the e-bay shop has been closed. It took some doing to get the Planning Officer to accept that there was a Change of Use on the premises. Also an application for Financial Services Change of Use for the old Andy Cash unit was refused and we are now in happy anticipation of a wine shop arriving..

On other fronts we have lost the last of old Harborne Town to the developers via Economic Development - who decided to sell the site - when the Georgian Houses were demolished one Sunday and further to another meeting which I attended in May I hear that Birmingham City Council are again looking at preparing another Buildings At Risk list - we have yet to see the last one. The Listed Building list also seems to have been lost in transition to me from the Conservation Officer. I understand that there are about 2,000 Listed Buildings in Birmingham and the majority of those are owned by Birmingham City Council - God help Birmingham if they treat them in the same manner in which our Georgian houses were treated. I do understand that there are some very interesting urinals on that list by the way.

### **Moorpool Steering Committee**

As the Society's representative I have been attending the three monthly Steering Committee meetings for discussions on the future of the Estate for nearly a year. There was a public consultation meeting on Sunday 20th May at which Grainger's proposals were displayed and representatives of the company, their architect and traffic consultant were available to discuss the issues with residents. The proposed future residential development has been toned down from about 115 units [mainly flats] to 35 houses - 22 x 3-bed houses and 13 x 5-bed houses. These are scattered around the Estate on six different sites with 13 houses on the Valley site [Site A], the only site with preliminary designs and elevations. The design of the houses will be looked at very carefully and the Planning Officer is very involved in the whole project.

The Society recognises that the proposals submitted were still in the formative stage and that a great deal of the detailed information required for a planning application remains to be produced and is still some way off. Accordingly we confined our comments to the principles of the proposals as at 20th May. The Society has no objection to the principle of residential development on any of the sites. We know Grainger are already reconsidering the question of the 5-bedroom houses and the possibility of reducing some to 4-bedroom on Site A and possibly on some of the other sites. We support this. However, we have a fundamental concern about the provision of parking spaces on Site A over and above those planned for the proposed houses. The proposal to give some residents of Margaret Grove the opportunity to have rear access to their gardens for possible parking is strongly supported. However, the on-street parking problems in the immediate surrounding area are severe. The traffic consultant's parking survey shows Margaret Grove to have the worst parking conditions on the whole Estate. That is of absolutely no surprise and is why the Society has pressed the Council so strongly for the 1997 Traffic Management Plan proposals to be implemented. We consider that there must be a significant increase in the provision of parking spaces on Site A. As to the other sites we have no objection to the principle of residential development although we consider the proposal for nine houses on Site F to be over intensive.

The proposals for enhancement of the Estate, including public open spaces, street furniture, tree strategy, allotment improvements, refurbishment of footpaths etc. are all supported. We have asked Grainger to consider providing a children's play area ~ surprisingly there has never been one on the Estate.

The tentative proposals for traffic calming in Ravenhurst Road, although different from those in the 1997 Traffic Management Plan, are supported. Given the Council's flawed attempts at consultation on the Margaret Grove one-way system last October and in January and their extreme reluctance to spend the £10,000 needed for the full scheme, we have asked Grainger to pursue with the Council the possibility of funding this as the Council still refuses to do so.

Grainger are also preparing a schedule of defects to be dealt with on the public buildings on the Estate, they are hoping to start these in the Autumn. Ultimately Grainger would like to gift all the facilities, including the pool, tennis courts and bowling green, to a Community Trust together with some funding derived from the sale of the new houses to ensure their long term benefit to the local community. Details of the possible level of funding have not been given at this stage.

### **Village Centre Manager**

Since kick starting the idea two years ago with the public meeting I have always felt a personal interest in what the job could involve. I am now finding out. Small steps leading to large changes. Bob Flack is doing good ground work to get the Village alive again. I for one got rather fed up with the restaurant critic in the Birmingham Post who kept on insisting that Harborne villagers only bought second hand clothes, got their hair done and ate out.

### **Planning Control Householder User Forum**

I represent the Society, as well as my own practice, on these three monthly meetings. At the last meeting we had a very important paper delivered - Crime Prevention - Your Home and I am hoping to précis this for the web site very shortly. The performance indicators for the Householder Planning Team are now 90% of all applications being dealt with within the statutory 8 week period - not bad when you consider that there are often some 2,500 householder applications in a year. Many of you will by now be aware that the Government, bless its little cotton socks, have in their wisdom decided that householders will no longer have to apply for planning permission to build a small extension or install solar panels and wind turbines. The reforms have been drawn up amid fears that a rise in planning applications from people

continued on next page....

**Technical Officer's Report continued ~**

who cannot afford to move to a bigger home is clogging up the system. However, people will qualify for the fast track system only if their plans have 'no or low impact' on the area in terms of their visual appearance or overlooking neighbours. And quite who is to make those decisions remains one of life's little mysteries.

Councils will also retain the power to restrict permitted developments in the 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'. The new light touch rules will not apply in existing conservation areas, where there are strict rules limiting extensions and other home improvements. To me it sounds like a free-for-all and 'lets see who gets the most rear and two storey side extensions built the fastest' by the contractors. A licence for the most atrocious designs to be built. The only saving grace is the fact that these extensions will still require Building Regulation approval. Let us hang on to that fact.

There is a white paper out for consultation at the moment, comments are required by 17 August, I commented on the Steering Group report last October and will be following this up again. I can see awful things happening to our village if a free for all takes place with regard to two storey side extensions for instance. The new proposals are due to come on line in April 2008. Meanwhile the good news is that the Extending Your Home document has now been ratified and can be used in objection letters. We have waited two years for this.

Apart from all of the above we do not seem to be carrying out any major incentives at the moment, we are simply keeping an eagle eye on the planning applications and hoping that the future will not be made that much more difficult for us with the new legislation.

## Norman Field – Dawson's Locksmiths

### The key to a happy career -

You seldom meet a person that has been working for the same company for 61 years and even more seldom it is to meet someone who has been happy in that work for 61 years. But on our doorstep we have NORMAN FIELD, who has worked for Dawson's the Locksmith's for that long and been extremely happy in his work.

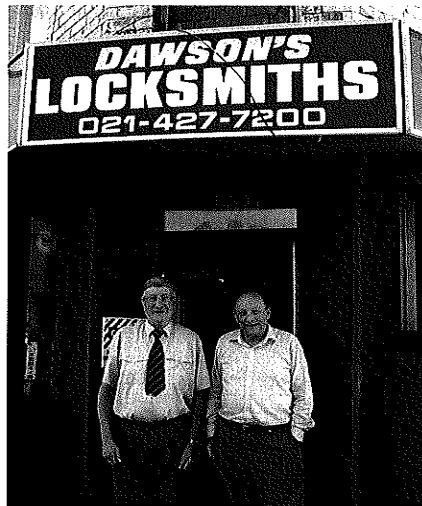
Norman joined Dawson's, then a three storey shop based in Broad Street, on January 1st 1947, straight from school when he was just 14 years old.

At that time Dawson's was a general Ironmongery, where Norman was employed as 'The Lad' and worked six and a half days a week with only Sunday afternoons off. Norman learned his trade at the bench and was trained by Mr Ray Martin who is a Master Locksmith and who has owned Dawson's since the early 1970s.

Norman's only break from the company was 2 years National Service when he joined The 1st Leicester Regiment, part of the Midland Brigade that included The Lincolnshire, Warwickshire and Sherwood Regiments. After travelling extensively and seeing active service in Korea, Norman was discharged and returned to Dawson's in 1953 saying it felt as if he had never left!

Dawson's was well established as general ironmongers, sharpening and overhauling lawnmowers, key cutting, supplying safes and office equipment. The business also had contracts with the Ministry of Supply and Works supplying safes, key cutting and locksmith expertise. They also worked for the Police Force providing similar services and maintaining locks in all the local 'nicks'.

The company moved to Harborne in 1972, after the death of Mr Frank Dawson, where



Norman Field (left) with Ray Martin

the work now mainly concentrates on key cutting and fitting security products.

Sixty one years have seen many changes in the business but also in Harborne itself. Norman remembers that Mr Dawson always referred to Harborne as 'The Village' which boasted two ironmongers – Sadler's and Whissell's - a haberdashers, toy shop and a china shop to name but a few. Norman has seen many changes in Harborne, the loss of the Fire Station and the change of the Police Station, but feels that the lack of variety in the shops in the High Street is the greatest change. Luckily for the residents of Harborne, Norman says that he has no plans to retire, his friends are here and he continues to enjoy meeting people.

Born in Ladywood Norman moved to Quinton in 1975, where he lives with Hilda, his wife of 52 years. He has a daughter Gillian and two granddaughters who live in Church Stretton. He says he has too many memories to recall and no regrets – this being down to the remarkably nice people he has met.

**'It's been a good and interesting life,  
meeting all sorts.  
I wouldn't change a thing!'**

Thelma Osbourn

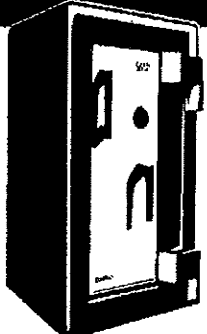


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## Chairman's Letter

It's official, so I've been told, Harborne is the most popular place in Birmingham to live, even beating the City Centre.

Do you agree with this? I certainly do. I have lived in Harborne for nearly fifty years and I should not like to live anywhere else.

What is so special about Harborne? It is a leafy suburb, comparatively peaceful and within easy reach of the City Centre. It has good, though expensive, housing, good schools, plenty of restaurants which provide excellent food and keep the village alive in the evenings, and a lower crime rate than anywhere else in the West Midlands. If you want to have your hair done, there are certainly plenty of hairdressers to choose from, rather too many banks, building societies estate agents and non-retail outlets. But Harborne has character and a spirit of community.

Why then do we need The Harborne Society? We were formed in 1960 for the dual purpose of keeping this spirit of community alive and to encourage good development. I am proud of some of the things we have achieved, such as saving the Municipal Golf Course and the Clock Tower and more lately fighting for good traffic management, modernisation of the library, a new swimming baths and, above all, more retail outlets on the High Street. It is this that we really need. Now that we have a Harborne Village Manager things will, I hope, improve. But that does not mean that the Society can sit back and do nothing. We are fighting continuously to improve our environment.

Where, then, are all these people who are choosing to live in Harborne? We badly need new active Committee members so that we can plan and carry out projects which would benefit the community as a whole.

If you have a little spare time perhaps you could volunteer to work with just one project. Why not come along to one of our meetings, details of which are on the back page? You will find out more about the Society and where help is needed.

Please help us to conserve the character of Harborne and its spirit of community,

**Mary Abbott,**  
Chairman of The Harborne Society

## REPORT OF THE A.G.M.

The 47th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on 23rd May, 2007, at Harborne Primary School with nearly fifty members in attendance.

Reports from the Chairman, Technical Officer and Honorary Treasurer demonstrated the continuing high level of activity during the year on behalf of members and the wider local community. The overriding issue had remained the Society's continuing campaign for the redevelopment of the Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre on the existing site in Lordwood Road in the face of the delay by the City Council. However, that was not at the expense of other very significant issues including the campaign for the completion of the modernisation of Harborne Library, the successful campaign to secure the appointment of the Village Centre Manager as a major way of arresting the decline of retailing on High Street and, at long last, the preparation of the High Street Local Management Framework. The level of membership had been maintained and consequently the Society remained in an extremely sound financial position.

All members of last year's Committee stood for re-election together with Val Harrison and they were all elected, which still leaves two vacancies. Please contact the Chairman if you are now willing to serve. The full list of Committee members and officers for 2007/2008 is on the back of this Newsletter.

Following the formal meeting there was a talk by Bob Flack, the Village Centre Manager, outlining his progress so far and what he hoped to achieve in the immediate future.

Refreshments followed which enabled members to view a splendid display of recent additions to the local history collection at Harborne Library prepared by the Local History Group.

Phil Stokes



## ART EXHIBITION

The Harborne Society will be having the next Open Art Exhibition in 2008. It takes an enormous amount of work and effort to put on this show and we have of recent years re-thought the practice of having this exhibition every other year.

We believe that a longer space between exhibitions gives local artists the chance to submit new and fresh work for the show. We also hope that next year you will all spread the word to your fellow creators in order to make it a very special event showcasing the enormous latent talent in our area.

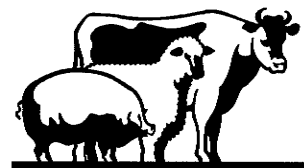
**Mary Worrall -**  
Exhibition Co-ordinator



## HERITAGE DAY WALK ~ 9th SEPTEMBER

The Society will again be participating in the national Heritage Open Days, co-ordinated by The Civic Trust and English Heritage, with another of Edward Chitham's popular guided walks. Edward's walks over the last eleven years have covered just about every nook and cranny in Harborne so this year's walk will be a repeat of the 1999 walk 'The Lost Farms of Harborne' which has proved to be the most popular of all the walks. The leisurely walk should last about two and a quarter hours. Whatever the weather, the walk will take place so be prepared for the worst! Everyone is welcome. Don't forget, Edward's widely acclaimed book 'Harborne: A History' can be purchased from Harborne Library, Bonds Books and W. H. Smith.

Phil Stokes



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## Police Consultative Committee

Ann Yorke is the Chairman of the Harborne Police Consultative Committee which meets bi-monthly on the same evening as the Neighbourhood Watch meeting. Harborne is policed by the Harborne East Neighbourhood Policing Team based at Rose Road with Inspector Bob Sutton in charge, plus Sergeant Neil Ogden, 6 police constables and 2 police community support officers. The Village is in good health, there have been some significant arrests and overall there have been about 250 less crimes this year - that is looking at all of the categories - and there is now a Retail Watch system as well as the Pub Watch. The F2 Operational Command Unit is still the best in the West Midlands. Notices of the meetings are posted in the High Street Post Office. Do come and see what goes on.

## HARBORNE SWIMMING POOL ~ GENUINE PROGRESS AT LAST!

The Society started campaigning about Harborne Swimming Pool in May 2002. As a result of our enquiries we were able in July 2004 to make the public aware of the shocking findings of the investigations into the condition of the concrete pool tank [December 2002] and the consultant engineer's opinion that the projected service life of the tank was November 2004. If major action was not taken the pool would at some point in the future inevitably face possible closure.



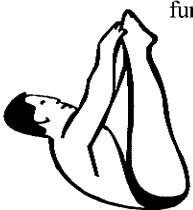
Consequently we stepped up our campaign to secure a major redevelopment of the Swimming Pool on the existing site in Lordswood Road. Our campaign attracted media attention but, much more importantly, widespread support from local residents and pool users. Despite strong public support it has been an uphill struggle ever since to make real progress with the City Council coming up with a series of delaying tactics and manoeuvres. The structural survey to take place in the "next couple of weeks" [August 2004] never happened and eventually, ten months later, it changed to a series of condition surveys that would determine whether the scheme should progress on a refurbishment or replacement basis. On 3rd October, 2005, the survey results were reported to the Ward Committee and unsurprisingly it was found that the facility had come to the end of its viable economic life. That ought to have been sufficient for the Council to move directly to considering a new facility on the current site but it didn't. Instead, officers proposed a study which would include options for redeveloping on the current "or any other suitable sites within a local catchment". The Society urged the Committee to pledge to retain swimming on the existing site and to direct the study to consider two options only, namely develop the existing buildings or demolish and redevelop on the existing site. Regrettably, the Committee adopted the officers' proposal.

Everyone knew that the existing site was undeniably the ideal location and that there were no other possible sites in Harborne better located at the heart of our community or better served by public transport but four months were wasted on this pointless exercise. The results were reported on 30th January, 2006. Suffice to say the four possible alternative locations were a complete nonsense but the Ward Committee, instead of grasping the nettle, requested the public to express their preference. The public did just that with a massive response in favour of the existing site even before the Council could bother to issue its own flawed questionnaire six weeks later.

The results of the Council's consultation were not reported to the Ward Committee until the 3rd July, 2006, and showed overwhelming support [nearly 93%] for the existing site. It transpired that the then Cabinet Member for Leisure [Councillor John Alden] had in May already instructed officers to start planning for a 25 metre swimming pool, a teaching pool and a first floor sports hall to enable a Business Case to be to be prepared within three months. Great news we thought ~ we were wrong.

Nothing happened. Unbeknown to the public, the issue had become caught up in the Edgbaston Constituency Asset Management Review of its Local Services property portfolio which was not completed until 20th October, 2006. The outcome, so far as the Constituency Committee was concerned, was that the redevelopment of the swimming pool on the existing site should proceed and that the Constituency Director should apply for £250,000 from the Local Services Capital Budget 2006/07 to enable detailed plans and costings to be prepared. Great news we thought ~ we were wrong. That application was made but at the 27th November Ward Committee it was reported that the bid would not be for 2006/07 but for 2007/08! No public explanation has ever been given as to why. The Society protested and the Committee agreed to press for the funding in 2006/07. On 29th January this year it was announced that funding for what was confusingly called 'a feasibility study' for redevelopment on the existing site would be approved but not until April. It was not approved until the 24th May!

Three enormous cheers! At last, after five tortuous years of delay and procrastination, genuine progress and this time it is not a false start. Urban Design, the Council's own architects and quantity surveyors, have been working on the design and costed options in advance of funding approval. That work is due to be completed by early September with the Business Case for



funding being prepared by consultants, Capita Symonds, by the end of September. The design brief includes the provision of Council offices and, potentially, other public service facilities as one means of securing funding to reduce the cost of the leisure elements. These are perfectly valid issues to consider but the Society has always made it clear that all that we have sought is a community pool, training pool and fitness centre/gym and that any additional leisure facilities would be a bonus. Bearing in

mind the constraints on the size of the site, we are anxious about the danger of a bigger multi-use scheme being too expensive and which might be used as an excuse not to proceed at Lordswood Road. There is enormous public interest in this matter and we must

### Trustees Needed!

Harborne based charity, Cerebral Palsy Midlands, has been supporting people with cerebral palsy for 60 years. The charity needs to recruit new trustees and is particularly interested in attracting Harborne Residents.

The trustees meet every third Monday of the month  
4.30 - 6.30 pm.

Please contact Robert Nutt,  
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for further information

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ensure that the local community is fully consulted on which development option is adopted. A report has been promised for the October Ward Committee.

One interesting development is the opening [21st July] of an 'Ice Gym' in the part of the premises previously occupied for many years by a private gym which was vacated at the end of April. Despite its name it has nothing to do with jumping into tubs full of ice but is a gym facility targeted at 8 to 16 year olds with equipment appropriate to this age group. The provision of the gym has been very much influenced by the growing concerns about obesity and the health and fitness of teenagers and the Council is to be applauded for this initiative. The new facility has cost £37,000 for refurbishment and equipment but the equipment will be used elsewhere once the pool redevelopment starts. We hope that it won't be needed for too long before work on the new pool gets under way!

Phil Stokes

**Have you a story to tell? Email [maryworrall13@hotmail.com](mailto:maryworrall13@hotmail.com)**

The following recollection of Leighton House School was sent to me by Bernard Cartwright, author of 'The Knocknobbler', a book about his time spent as a dog-catcher in Worcester. I had been advising Bernard on book promotion and he came to one of our local libraries to give a talk. The topic of his schooldays in post war Harborne arose and he has contributed this memoir for us.

### Leighton House School Harborne (Circa 1957)

'Tubby' Leighton, 'Spud' Rogers, Miss Brunt, Mr Krauth (the corduroy king) 'Sambo' Nath and 'Basher' (Father Ryan) sound like characters out of Just William, Biggles or the Secret Seven books, but they were real people who inhabited the Leighton House Roman Catholic private school on Ravenhurst Road near the junction with Wentworth Road, Harborne, 50 years ago.



Looking back over 50 years, is not for me looking back in anger, but rather looking back with a sadness which has not really gone away. I can now reflect that, at just over 10 years after the war had ended, the staff had been brutalised by the experience to the extent that they wanted to see us go down a better path in life no matter how that was to be accomplished. Another sadness, that of coercive political correctness in education, was as yet four decades away.

Leighton House was a large rambling Victorian house, now long demolished. The school originally started out as St Philip's Prep School, Edgbaston, before transferring to Harborne. Its pupils were always to be seen bobbing about the town in their blue blazers.

By the time I arrived The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham had become involved as Mr Leighton senior had died, and so the school was being run by the Marist Brothers, who used to drive out from Wolverhampton in a little Morris car each day to run the establishment. One touching thing was that they brought with them a Down's Syndrome boy, called Peter, to be educated alongside the supposed Roman Catholic academic elite.

So let me list the staff, some of whom may still be about. The Headmaster was Brother Brendan, followed by Brother Gerard; then there was a kindly Geordie Brother, who used to put his hands in his long black cassock in a special way as if always carrying the cane! (Most schools at that time presented caning to pupils as a means of concentrating the mind. There was only one girl in the school and I had to witness her flogging).

There was Paddy Leighton (Son), Miss Margaret Leighton (Daughter) Mr Harris, who wore an ex-RAF overcoat in winter, Mr Rogers, Miss 'Connie' Cunliffe and Mrs Luton.

My recollection was of always being bitterly cold in the school as no proper school meals were provided and the heating scant. Rats lived under the floorboards and rats of another kind, the prefects, kept a judicious order by ordering the younger boys out into the cold.

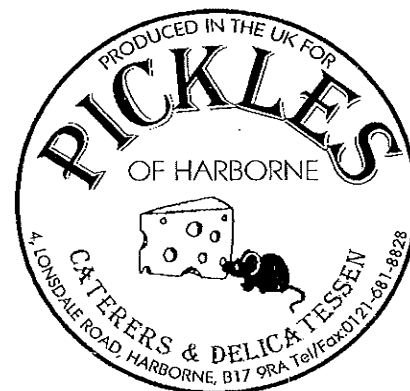
We used to amuse ourselves by buying tricks from the joke shop by Albert Walk off the Harborne Park Road and as I hadn't the foggiest idea what all the x and ys were doing on the board in the maths lesson or the reason why Latin was not structured like English, I soon found diversions. Myself and a lad called Bowman used to go out at lunchtime and help a milkman on his round! Sometimes he would give us a bottle of orange squash or at other times we could earn a threepenny piece. Sometimes we would loiter around the Moorpool just below the school. The sacrifices my parents made to provide for my education meant nothing to me. Anything to alleviate the crushing boredom of Latin and algebra.

Although the school functioned as a prep school I could never work out why there were also older boys present. Our day began with prayers and each new topic in our exercise books had to begin with Ad Majoram Deo Gratias (AMDG - To the Greater Glory of God) written in the right-hand margin. Games on Selly Oak Park near the old reservoir lifted our week. RE was also interesting. Sometimes we would be marched up to St Mary's church, Vivian Road, for a service but the Marists took the view that if you were going to lapse from the Roman Catholic faith, you would jolly well know what you were lapsing from! Most of the teachers appeared to me to be aloof.

Because of the Hungarian uprising I got to know several Hungarian children who had fled the chaos of Communism in their country and had come to Birmingham. There were two families with boys at the school and they were all affable sorts who had excellent English and did not seem to me, a little boy too, to be diminished by their experiences but rather matured by them. Despite my unhappiness, Leighton House gave me an insight into the universality of the Roman Catholic Church.

I travelled from the other side of Stourbridge to the Kings Head, Bearwood every day and then got the Number 11 bus to Harborne. That bus still trundles the same route and when I see it today my mind sometimes returns to people and places of fifty years ago, but my abiding memory is of a school which had no room in its heart for little boys.

Bernard Cartwright



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## HAS THE REVIVAL OF THE HIGH STREET STARTED?

When the Society called a public meeting in July 2005 to consider the plight of High Street and the serious decline of retailing, particularly the loss of independent traders, we campaigned vigorously for the City Council to take action on three major fronts, namely [1] that the Planning Committee should uphold its own Primary Retail Frontage Policy for High Street and refuse all applications for the change of use of shops to non-retail purposes within the policy zone; [2] that the Council should appoint a Village Centre Manager to improve the vitality, viability and environment of the High Street and work to attract new retailers; and [3] that a comprehensive Action Plan be prepared within six months.

In the two years since our campaign started we are pleased to say that we have achieved a great degree of success. All subsequent planning applications for a change of use within the Retail Frontage Policy zone have been refused and Bob Flack was appointed Village Centre Manager at the end of February 2007 on a two-year contract but, disappointingly, the Action Plan took an eternity to emerge.

Firstly the Action Plan was down graded to a Local Centre Management Framework that was good on possible environmental improvements but weak on firm action to arrest the decline in retailing. The final draft was only presented to the Ward Committee on 26th March this year. When we campaigned for an "Action Plan" we made suggestions specifically aimed at helping independent traders e.g. start up loans, business advice and support and discretionary rate relief [charity shops are entitled to 80% mandatory rate relief]. For many years councils set their own Business Rate as well as the Domestic Rate but Business Rates were abolished in 1990 and replaced with National Non-Domestic Rates, with a uniform rate in the pound being set annually by the Government for the whole of England and giving absolutely no say in the matter to councils. The City Council can, however, give discretionary rate relief to businesses but usually only chooses to do so where it is in the interest of the community that the ratepayer remains in business. None of these suggestions is dealt with in the Management Framework. However, we are extremely pleased that the Council did agree to £150,000 for 2007/2010 for "public realm works and infrastructure development" to support the Management Framework although it is noted that Erdington High Street received £350,000.

Bob Flack, Village Centre Manager, has made an instant impact on the High Street with the introduction early in June of hanging flower baskets from lampposts between the 'Green Man' and Prince's Corner. He also brought in the successful 3-day European Market at the end of May, which he hopes will become an annual event, and a Craft/Collectors/Antique Fair at the end of July for a four month trial run. Bob has many other ideas in the pipeline ~ see his article in this Newsletter. The Society is greatly heartened at the success of our campaign to secure the appointment of a Centre Manager. The initial funding for the post is from the Government's Neighbourhood Renewal Fund which is now in its final year. The Council has yet to determine how it proposes to fund the post once Government funding ceases but we are optimistic that the post will become permanent and be funded from the mainstream Council budget, possibly in partnership with the local business community.

As to the High Street itself, the rot seems to have been stemmed since Christmas with vacant premises now being let a bit more quickly than for several years. The loss of 'Elegusto' cheese and wines, 'Cardfair', 'Etcetera' restaurant and 'Olan Mills' photographic studios has been countered by the opening of 'Jennings' fish stall, the arrival of 'Sainsbury Local' in March, 'Cafe Rouge' in May, 'Drinksworld' in July (hopefully) and 'Waitrose' in place of 'Somerfield' on 12th July. It is also believed that another sandwich bar/cafe, 'Baguette du Monde' is coming to the unit next to the new 'Corals'. Perhaps most interesting of all is the planned opening at the end of August of 'OHO', an organic/eco/green store selling not just fresh organic produce, meat and

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wine, all sourced from specialist suppliers in the Midlands, but also a range of tinned groceries, cleaning materials and UK manufactured garden tools. They even hope to have an electric delivery vehicle! However, the more recent closure of 'Acorns' charity shop and 'Jennings' Dry Cleaners' (but not the launderette) has been a set back. The strongly rumoured acquisition by Sainsbury's of the art deco former 'Royalty' cinema site (Gala Bingo) and the 'Vine' public house will, if true, raise many issues. Will Sainsbury's open a large store not withstanding the gigantic store they are building at Selly Oak or will they have acquired it just to prevent anyone else getting their hands on it?

Has the long hoped for revival of the High Street truly started? We firmly believe that the signs are beginning to point in that direction but success can only be achieved with YOUR support.

**Shop locally ~ shop in Harborne!**

**Phil Stokes**

### AN UPDATE FROM ROSE ROAD POLICE STATION

**The Rose Road Operational Command Unit has recently been awarded OCU of the year.** Over the past twelve months it has achieved high performance in a numbers of areas including some significant crime reductions between April 2006 and April 2007. The Harborne area achieved a reduction in overall crime by 17.4% during the same period with reductions also in robbery, vehicle and violent crime offences. Harborne is covered by two neighbourhood policing teams based at Rose Road Police Station. Sgt Neil Ogden and Sgt Ian Griffiths are responsible for these teams which are made up of Police officers, community support officers and special constables. We are involved in a number of community schemes including 'Pub Watch', 'Retail Watch' and local resident's groups. Officers on a daily basis attend local schools to provide inputs on subjects including good citizenship presentations and offering crime prevention advice. We have regular contact with neighbourhood watch with a meeting every two months at the Harborne Primary School. We work closely with local communities and local partners such as Housing Officers, Environmental Services and other groups.

Over the summer period officers will be posting a community consultation survey around the Harborne area This will enable you to provide your thoughts on what you local Police should be focussing on.

Harborne has never been safer with the amount of crime reported being the lowest in the West Midlands. Please do not hesitate to contact Sgt Ogden or Sgt Griffiths at Rose Road Police Station on 0845 1135000 should you wish to know more about policing in your area.



**Sgt Neil Ogden**

# SWINGS AND ROUNDABOUTS ~ PARK IMPROVEMENTS

## QUEEN'S PARK

For over ten years the Society has campaigned for the comprehensive refurbishment and improvement of Queen's Park following generations of lack of investment and the removal of many facilities.

Despite repeated representations we got absolutely nowhere until late 2006 when the City Council embarked on a piecemeal approach to improvements and made a modest start by providing 6 new benches and litter bins together with promises of more of the rustic stump and plank benches, some seating for players using the tennis courts and 2 new small flower beds in the area that was once the sensory garden for the blind. At the time of writing these promises have not been kept and 3 of the new litter bins that were soon uprooted by vandals are yet to be reinstated. However, we are confident that these works will all be done.

The Council then decided to use the funding [Section 106 funding] provided by developers as part of the Planning Agreements for several residential developments in Harborne in recent years and which had been specifically earmarked for improvements to Queen's Park.

In January 2007 work started on further much needed improvements but the repeated assurances of full consultation with the Society failed to materialise. We were merely informed of what was broadly intended without being shown detailed plans. In the event the works entailed resurfacing the main drive with a metal trip rail alongside, remodelling of the car park with 15 parking bays and 2 for disabled parking, a new "gate" to the main entrance [a metal barrier!], a similar barrier to prevent cars driving beyond the car park towards the bowling green and 4 parking spaces near to the steps to the bowling green for disabled bowlers only. This last item caused some controversy as the barrier and parking spaces are controlled by the Bowling Club but if the facility is abused it will be withdrawn. This path and parking area is



going to be resurfaced at some point but very disappointingly the path along the Queen's Park Road boundary is only going to be patched.

Some preparatory work to assess the drainage problems of the large area south of the car park and around the former pond was also undertaken before the contractor left the site at the end of February. The drainage work should have started in June but has been delayed by the severe wet weather.

It immediately became clear that the new car park with formal parking bays enclosed by high kerbs was far less user friendly than the previous simple unmarked tarmac area and the main drive no longer had speed bumps. Pedestrian movement around the car park and barrier was restricted and inconvenient. Initially some Grounds Maintenance staff did not bother using the key to the barrier by the car park and preferred to drive their lorries over the kerbs and on to the grass in order to take equipment beyond the barrier. These and other issues were immediately raised with the Council by the Society and also by some park users. If only there had been consultation on the detailed plans as promised these difficulties could have been spotted.

As a result of the complaints, a meeting was held on 7th June to consider what action could be taken. A number of suggestions were made, including the use of rumble strips and speed restriction signs, repositioning the barrier, modifying the disabled parking to include a bay for a minibus and possibly slightly increasing the number of parking places. Officers undertook to investigate the suggestions and draw up estimates.

On a much more positive front a brand new children's' play area is



to be provided by December (after public consultation!) and more benches, litter bins and replacement 'dog bins' are promised. The Park Warden, whose time is to be shared with Grove Park, finally appeared at the end of June, albeit several months after being appointed. She commutes between the two parks by bicycle!

## GROVE PARK

Although the lush rolling park land of Grove Park is in significantly better overall condition compared with Queen's Park, the City Council has recognised that there is still scope for improvements. Work on desilting the pool and restoring the banking and paving around its perimeter was said by the Council in October 2005 to be a matter of urgency on Health and Safety grounds. That work has still not been started at the time of writing but should be completed by December. However, £10,000 has been allocated in the current financial year for new benches and litter bins and the original coach house to The Grove, severely damaged by arsonists last year, is currently being repaired. In addition, for the first time, a children's play area is also to be provided by December, after public consultation, to be located near to the main car park off Harborne Park Road. As previously mentioned, the Park Warden is now on site and her time will be shared with Queen's Park.

Phil Stokes

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## VILLAGE CENTRE MANAGER - ASPIRATIONS Bob Flack

I have been asked to evaluate my experiences after four months at the helm and also to look forward to talk about my aspirations for the future. My initial comment is that there has been such a fantastic response from everyone that I have met, because the success of Harborne is at the forefront of everyone's mind.

I see myself as the ambassador for the High Street and surrounding areas, and I will talk up the area at every available chance. There is such a great community spirit in the village which has enthused me wherever I have gone.

There are two specific strands which every area tends to address, namely operational and strategic. An example of the former would be parking, deliveries, signage, litter, toilets, or illegal flyposting. Certainly some of these should be addressed by the Local Centre Management Framework, which will look at public realm improvements. I will be happy to update you all on the progress of this scheme.

It is the strategic side of things which particularly excites me as they will result in real, tangible changes. Some of you will already have heard me mention the Business Crime Initiative. You will realise that Harborne is the safest area within the city of Birmingham, but it's at this time that we should be looking to ensure that this remains the case. The evening economy through the Pub Watch Committee polices their activities very well, but I will be putting measures into place to replicate that situation during the day time. These concepts were discussed at our first Partnership Board meeting recently, and the group were anxious to press forward on both fronts.

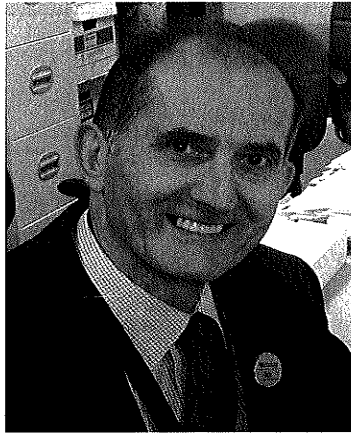
Talking of developments, it's amazing to see how things have changed recently, with the introduction of first Sainsbury's Local, then Café Rouge and now Waitrose. I believe that the advent of the latter on July 12th will place Harborne into another league. Developers will now see this area differently, and in future it will be easier to attract high quality businesses to the High Street.

My philosophy to help restore the vitality to the area is through events and markets. The recent European Market seemed to be well received by all sectors and I am hopeful that we can make this an annual event. The Farmers' Market goes from strength to strength on the 2nd Saturday of every month. You will also have noted the introduction of a Craft & Antiques Market on the 4th Saturday of the month. This represents a real improvement and a shift in the market arena.

I am now looking forward eagerly to Christmas and I am in the process of sourcing an improvement in our lights and an introduction of two Christmas trees into the High Street. This will add a sparkle at a time of the year when our retailers need support and assistance. In addition, I will be producing a "Christmas in Harborne" brochure which will assist our local businesses to showcase any special offers that they have in store. This brochure will be circulated throughout the constituency and will represent a wonderful marketing opportunity for all of our traders.

Lastly, but just as important, I will be working with local schools to see how we can integrate and network better. They will have the opportunity to showcase their talent at such formats as the Christmas Lights switch-on, and in addition we are looking to assist with work experience placements.

So all in all, a busy time lies ahead. Many challenges will appear, but working together in partnership everything is possible.



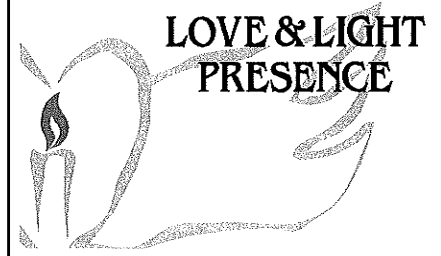
### The Harborne Society

would like to thank Paul Harvey of Harborne Building Supplies for his recent donation of photographs. Paul, a long time employee of the firm, is leaving the area to live in Canada. Not only did he provide us with some excellent shots of the firm in the recent past, but also generously donated some fascinating pictures of the building of the first Queen Elizabeth Hospital in 1938.

As is our policy, the photos were placed in the care of Harborne Library on loan as part of the Local History Collection. The Harborne Society is always happy to accept material relating to the area.



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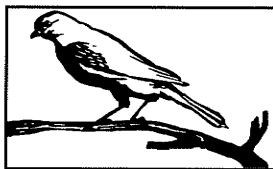
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## HARBORNE NATURE RESERVE

The reserve stands on land owned by Birmingham City Council but is managed by the West Midland Bird Club. The day-to-day hands-on work is carried out by a small team of volunteers, currently five. The overall plan is to improve the habitat for birds, butterflies and insects. This involves planting native shrubs, trees and bulbs, coppicing some of the more mature trees and thinning out the very dense areas. There has also been a concentrated effort over the last 2 to 3 years to get rid of the invasive plant species such as Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam.



This is proving extremely hard work but also fairly successful. Our current project is to convert an old area of bramble/raspberry scrub of poor habitat value into area of wildflower meadow and wild native grasses. Other more mundane tasks include maintaining the paths so that they are safe and accessible, collection of litter, repairing damage, both natural and man-made, to trees, bridges etc and installing steps and benches. Whenever possible we use materials mainly found on-site to reduce the cost.

A record is kept of the bird species and the butterflies seen in the Reserve, a bird survey is carried out in May each year to try to get some estimate of the numbers of breeding species and these results are reported annually.

Since the inception of the reserve in 1989 approximately 100 bird species have been recorded. Many are the common garden and woodland species. Some will be "fly-overs" such as cor-morant, heron, little egret and skylark. There are a number only recorded once or twice in 18 years; these include yellowhammer, turtle dove, nightjar, yellow wagtail, barn owl, stonechat, red-legged partridge, wheatear, firecrest, and cuckoo. None of these can be described as urban species, which does show that a green urban site can attract many varied species of bird from many types of habitat.

There are also migrants from sub-saharan Africa that do not breed on the reserve but occasionally pass through, such as spotted flycatcher and redstart.

However the current picture is not altogether rosy as we are experiencing a fall in the number of species recorded annually. There has been a decline nationally in a number of species, amongst farmland birds, in some woodland birds and in some of the migrants that overwinter in Africa. The decline in farmland birds does not really affect our numbers, but a decline in a number of other species such as willow tit, house sparrow and lesser spotted woodpecker which have declined quite drastically nationally has led to almost completely disappearance from the reserve.

Some of the African migrants are also suffering declines nationally which may be linked to problems experienced on migration or on their wintering grounds, such as wood warbler and

spotted flycatcher. The result is that fewer birds means fewer random sightings as they pass through on the way to their breeding areas.

Finally up until the last few years many of the plots on the adjoining allotments were vacant and consisted of rough grass, weeds and over-grown vegetation, i.e. conditions good for birds but bad for gardeners. The current upsurge in the popularity of allotments has led to a situation where all the plots are now leased and in cultivation. This has affected many species, particularly the numbers of seed-eating finches in winter and the passage birds in spring and autumn.

Despite the losses the Harborne Nature Reserve is still a pleasant area of green on the doorstep of a big city. It can be enjoyed for several different reasons; the peacefulness, the birds, the beautiful butterflies, the feeling of being in the countryside when in reality one is within two miles of the city centre.

To join the West Midland Bird Club to take advantage of this country area on your doorstep please write to the membership secretary:

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or to just have a permit to enter contact Mrs B. Oakley, 147 Worlds End Lane, Quinton, B32 1JX.

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### HARBORNE RAILWAY SIGNAL BOX NAMEPLATE ~ Phil Stokes

When the modernised Harborne Library reopened in July last year the historic Harborne Railway signal box nameplate was no longer on display. However, following representations by the Society, the City Council agreed to display the nameplate but did so very reluctantly and in the most inconspicuous position. The Society continued to press the Council on the matter and eventually they relented and undertook to relocate the nameplate to a much more prominent position. I subsequently met with Library Services officers at their request last December and settled the best available position and agreed how best it could be displayed with several enlarged photographs of the station scene.

The work was finally completed at the end of June but very disappointingly the photographs, selected without reference to the Society, do not adequately reflect the station scene as it was in its heyday. However, in recognition of the historical significance of the nameplate to Harborne's heritage, the Society has made a major contribution towards the cost involved.



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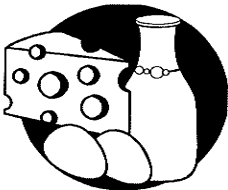
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## FARMERS' MARKET

~Phil Stokes

The monthly Farmers' Market has gone from strength to strength since it started last September and the Society is justifiably proud of having played a leading role in bringing the Market to Harborne. The operators, E. G. Skett & Company, are to be heartily congratulated on a great job well done and the Market is now a permanent fixture on the Harborne events calendar. The Steering Committee of interested parties continues to maintain a watching brief. The Market is held on the second Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Future dates are 11th August, 8th September, 13th October, 10th November and 8th December.



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## DEPRIVATION?

I have given them up!! I have been meaning to do so for some time but have to admit that it was a tough decision to make and is proving a difficult one to sustain at times.

I think the germ of the idea arrived last year when the Farmers' Market appeared on our High Street. If I could do it once a month then why could I not do it every week? I talked to my associate, he and his wife had been successful in their attempts for many years, did some local research and, keeping the panic attacks at bay with calm reasoning [Get a grip on yourself woman, all you need is determination and some cash], approached the project with my head held high.

I have to admit to having a dry run a few weeks before just to see how taxing it could be on my time and to find out what happened if I failed. It does take some organising but the satisfaction of resisting all those lures is wonderful.

No, it is not the dreaded nicotine, I gave that up years ago. It is not the delicious grape harvest although the occasional excesses of the Technical Committee meetings do sometimes leave me with a weak resolve to do so.

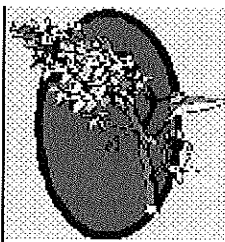
I have given up supermarkets. I may not meet my friends quite so often around the wine racks. I may now have one arm longer than the other and be considering a trolley on wheels, I may sometimes be tempted as 'I'm pushed for time' but I have not given in. Milk, yoghurt, eggs, potatoes, bacon and cheese are delivered to my front door, fish, meat, fruit and vegetables are collected on my daily perambulations to and from the post office and printers. I did have to rack my brain when it came to cat food and kitchen/bathroom cleaners but then got out my old Mrs Beeton and it is amazing what you can do with lemon juice and vinegar for the latter and of course there are pet shops all over the place - you can even park outside some of these shops.

A quiz: which shop sells the best fresh pasta, olive oil and bread, which shop sells scrubbing brushes and brillo pads, which shop sells beautiful birthday cards and wrapping paper and where can you buy flour, peppercorns and sea salt?

Each of us must make an effort if we are to sustain a High Street where we can purchase the range of goods which we need from small independent traders. Otherwise we will be allowing the plethora of incoming residents to dictate to us and force even more of our small shops out of business whilst they pursue their hedonistic ways of life to the detriment of the remainder of the residents of Harborne.

I know that it is an old slogan but USE IT OR LOOSE IT or don't complain if we do lose it because, in the end, it would be our own fault.

**A Nonne**



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#### Honorary Secretary

Phil Stokes,  
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#### Honorary Treasurer

Brenda Durbin,  
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#### Technical Officer/Chairman

#### Technical Sub-Committee

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#### Membership Secretary/Chairman

#### Social Sub-Committee

Jenny Buchan,  
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#### Newsletter Editor

Mary Worrall,  
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426 6467

#### Committee Members

Michael Darby	427 19167
Val Harrison	427 2047
Raymond Le Gallais	427 6887
Roger Miles	426 2577
Thelma Osbourne	
Andrew Peet	427 7923

**This Harborne Society Newsletter  
has been delivered free to over  
8,000 homes and businesses  
throughout Harborne**

### N.B.

The Harborne Society email  
address for comments, questions and  
enquiries regarding any local topic is  
[harbornesociety@hotmail.com](mailto:harbornesociety@hotmail.com)

## THE HARBORNE SOCIETY

### Programme of Meetings 2007-2008

#### 2007

Sunday 9th September

The Lost Farms of Harborne Heritage Day  
Guided Walk led by Edward Chitham  
Meet at St Peter's Church car park at 2 pm  
Putting the House to bed: How we do what  
we do and why. Rachel Smith - House  
Steward, Baddesley Clinton

Wed 12th September

Journey to the Tsars - Alan Craske  
The Titanic - A Family Story - Mike Watkins  
Played in Birmingham - Charting  
Birmingham's Sporting Heritage -  
Steve Beauchampe

Tues 9th October

Wed 7th November

Tues 4th December

#### 2008

Tues 5th February

Wed 12th March

Topless in Stratford - Gwen Zanzoterra

The Restoration of the Perseus and  
Andromeda Fountain at Witley Court -  
Derek Clarke

Tues 15th April

Bournville Carillon and its Association with  
People and Places - Arthur Casey

**Wed 28th May AGM**

Evening in June

Visit to Bournville Carillon

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

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

**We look forward to seeing you.**

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

## WARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Meetings of the Harborne Ward Committee have been fixed for the following  
dates at 7 p.m. ~ 6th August at Moorpool Hall, 30th October at Grove Hall,  
26th November at Sandon Road Methodist Church, 28th January at Harborne  
Primary School and 31st March at Moorpool Hall. Please note that there are  
now several venues rather than meeting at one fixed venue.

Do check nearer the date about the meetings as in recent years  
they have been prone to cancellation or alteration.

## THE HARBORNE SOCIETY

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

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

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

**You will receive three Newsletters each year and  
we additionally inform members of important  
news and developments at our regular meetings**

**Annual Subscription Rates are - Individuals £5.00  
Two or more persons living at the same address £8.00**

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

**Jenny Buchan, 50 Margaret Grove. B17 9JL.**

