



The Harborne Society

Number
FOUR
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1982

NEWS

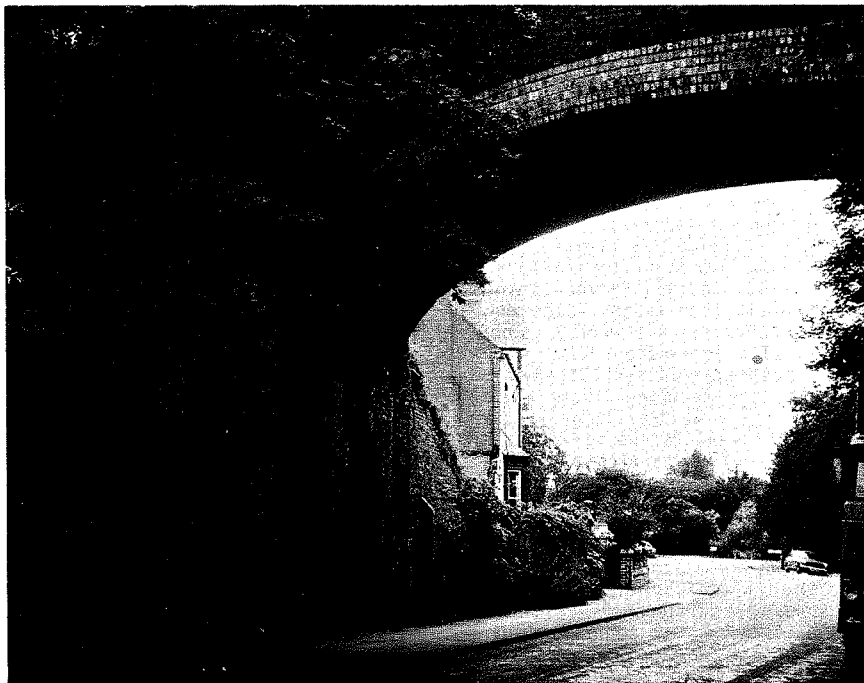
THE LAST RELIC OF THE HARBORNE FLYER TO BE DEMOLISHED!

By Andrew Peet, Chairman,
Technical Committee

What are your feelings about the Park Hill Road railway bridge — the last visible remains of The Harborne Flyer? The Harborne Society wants to keep it. Local residents are divided for and against. Perhaps the only course of action is for Harborne residents to make known their feelings direct to the City Planning Officer at 120, Edmund Street, Birmingham B3 2RD. Demolition of this bridge is one of the more controversial proposals contained in The Harborne Local Plan.

This Plan, after many false starts, finally appeared in print in March 1982, as The Harborne District Centre Plan — Written Statement. The Harborne Society has been one of the major forces shaping the Plan, making comments and suggestions to the City Planners at every stage.

At the end of May, we submitted a detailed document on the Plan to the City Planning Department, and we were invited to the Planning Office to explain and enlarge on our comments. This meeting was held at the end of June, and we have since reached a large measure of agreement with the Planners.



One area of disagreement concerns their shopping policy. The aim of their policy, which is to restrict the growth of non retail uses within the High Street, is admirable, but we cannot go along with their method of achieving the aim. The planners suggest separate areas, one mainly retail and one mainly non-retail. The Society feel this would lead to a split in the High Street, destroying the present variety along its length. We maintain

that there are enough non-retail uses at present, and that the introduction of any more should be resisted. One way of maintaining or improving the present balance would be a policy that applies to the whole length of the High Street, from the Junction Inn to the Green Man, based on an agreed 'shop frontage percentage'. For example, the ratio could be 75% retail, 25% non retail. Food for thought!

Another continuing problem area is Princes Corner. The only concern of the Plan is to establish policy for the next ten years. An interim scheme is proposed to alleviate traffic congestion. The Society supports such a scheme, but insists that our traffic scheme, dated October 1981, is adopted. In the longer term, we do not accept that the demolition and the construction of a dual carriageway are necessary, and we will fight the proposals put forward to do this by the County Council. In order to do this we need your help. Please join The Harborne Society.





75th ANNIVERSARY DOUBLE

Two organisations in Harborne celebrate their 75th Anniversary this year.

The Harborne Tenants Limited celebrate their Anniversary with an open day at The Circle on Wednesday 27th October from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

"The Estate", an early fore-runner of the Garden City, is appreciated by us all as a worthy conservation area — here's to the next 75 years!

Harborne Fire Station also completes 75 years of service to Harborne and the surrounding district. The station will be open to the public during the weekend of the 11th & 12th September from 11.00 am to 6.00 pm complete with horse-drawn hand pumps and an exhibition of photographs.

A visit to "The Station" will interest both young and old alike and show our appreciation of a loyal, proficient service.

Eric Abbott

HAPPY HARBORNE

By the Chairman

As a new season starts for The Harborne Society I think it would be useful for us all, members and non members alike, to examine again the reason for an amenity society in Harborne. My reason is very simple, I like Harborne. I enjoy living, working and relaxing in Harborne with Harborne folk. There is still a very strong sense of community in Harborne, its not just a part of Birmingham but a small town in its own right, with its schools, churches, pubs, factories, offices, shops and homes. This sense of community is a mixture of the people, the buildings and the history of Harborne and it is to preserve and enhance these that The Harborne Society was founded. Unlike many other civic and amenity societies which concern themselves solely with the architectural and historic buildings in their area The Harborne Society has a much wider and more difficult brief.

In the past we have commented and discussed any development proposals with the city planners; we have held monthly social meetings and we have had

the occasional battle with the entrenched red tape at District and County Council level. But what of the future? How will The Harborne Society develop to combat the increasing pressures on this delicate sense of community which makes Harborne a distinct and enjoyable small town in the middle of Birmingham?

It was while in York at the 25th anniversary Congress of The Civic Trust that the tremendous importance of preserving our environment and heritage, our community, really struck me. There were people from towns, villages and cities throughout the British Isles working to preserve not just the listed buildings, trees or interesting thoroughfares but their communities and the things that make their communities unique. Set in the context of this national movement, founded 25 years ago by Lord Duncan Sandys, the efforts of The Harborne Society and the people of Harborne to preserve our village and the strong sense of community within it are even more likely to achieve success in the future.

We will continue and expand our discussions with the city and county planners and with the developers anxious to move into Harborne. Our monthly meetings as well as being welcome social occasions will develop so as to discuss and inform all our members about The Society's plans and projects. As well as these we will set about unravelling the red tape of local and central government and the many bureaucracies which govern us so that we can achieve more practical successes both with others and by ourselves. The money is often there but it is hidden among the red tape of the many conservation and environmental bodies.

If you too enjoy Harborne join The Harborne Society and help us push for a fairer deal from our councils and public authorities. Join in our efforts, social or technical, to make Harborne even more enjoyable.

Phil Simpson, Chairman

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SUPPORT LOCAL SHOPS

By Madeline Aston, President

Soon after the publication of our last Newsletter, the city planners published the Local Plan for Harborne. It deals only with the High Street and the older areas immediately adjacent and does not touch the larger residential districts of Harborne, beyond the village centre.

Although much of our time and energy is spent on care and thought for the village High Street we have not forgotten these outer residential districts and ask ourselves, — Is High Street shopping, two or three times a week essential for the residents of Lordswood Road, Queen's Park, the Garden City and the Northfield Road/Quinton Road neighbourhoods? Are these



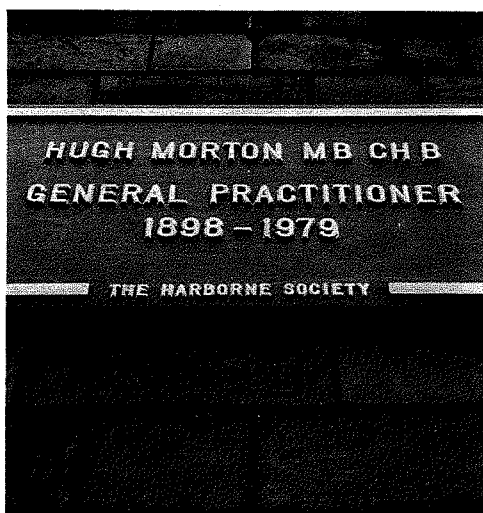
areas well served by buses into the village? Not all of them: and so we wish to acknowledge the

service rendered by the subsidiary shopping complexes at Gillhurst Road/Knightlow corner, Queen's Park, Harts Green, Grove Lane and The Circle.

From this chart it can be seen that the two larger areas, Queen's Park and Gillhurst Road offer a very comprehensive service. The two Post Offices must ease the strain on the heavily used one in the High Street, and the two Chemists outside the main shopping area also provide a much needed service. The clock repairer, the upholsterer, and the antiques dealer are well known outside their immediate neighbourhood as of course is the well known estate agent in Queen's Park.

The outer residential areas of Harborne are, in the main well served by these smaller shopping complexes, and the shopkeepers should be encouraged.

	Grove Lane	Gillhurst Road	Queen's Park	The Circle	Hart's Green
Fresh Fruit & Veg.	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Grocery & Bread	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Meat & Fish	Limited	Limited	✓	✗	✓
Hardware Electrical	Crockery Records	✓	✓	✗	✓
Newsagent	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Chemist	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
Post Office	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
Hairdresser	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Others	Upholstery Pet Shop	Wine Clothing	Launderette Antiques		Clock Repairs Wine



MEMORIAL GARDEN TO DOCTOR HUGH MORTON

at the Clock Tower, High Street, Harborne.

We are pleased to report the completion of this project and to give details of its cost as follows: —

Printing Appeal document	£132.25
W. J. Olds, Building Contractor	£2716.14
Seat supports, tree guard, plaque & fixings	£250.89
Drawings, specifications and administrative costs	£51.82
*Total	£3151.10

This cost was met from monies received through public subscription, together with bank interest.

Eric Abbott, Architect.

*A more detailed statement of costs may be seen in Harborne Public Library.

PROGRAMME

1982

September 8th — Wednesday — St Peter's
The Black Country & Its Humour
Mr W. Homer

October 5th — Tuesday — Onneley House
The Perils of a People Meeter
Mr John Slim, The Birmingham Post

November 3rd — Wednesday — St Peter's
A Biologist in the Antarctic
Professor Geoffrey Pugh, Ph.D., D.Sc.

December 7th — Tuesday — Onneley House
The Harborne Railway
Mr Bryan Holden

1983

January 8th — Saturday — St Peter's
New Year Party

February 1st — Tuesday — Onneley House
A Pilot's Life
Senior First Officer A.N.R. Parsloe, British Airways

February 23rd — Wednesday — College of Food & Domestic Arts
Annual Dinner

March 9th — Wednesday — St Peter's
The Birmingham Hippodrome
Mr John H.D. Pearce

April 12th — Tuesday — Onneley House
Renaissance Art
Dr Colin Bailey

May 11th — Wednesday — St Peter's
Annual General Meeting

All meetings, unless otherwise stated, commence at 7.30 p.m.

Cut Along here

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 1982-1983

President — Miss Madeline Aston,
Chairman — Mr Phil Simpson,
Vice Chairman — Mr Malcolm Lever,
Secretary — Mrs Mary Abbott,
Hon. Treasurer — Mrs Mary Martin,
Chairman, Technical Committee — Mr Andrew Peet,
Chairman, Social Committee — Miss Ethel Ellis,
Membership Secretary — Miss Thelma Hadley,
Press Officer — Mr Peter Jennings,
Mr Eric Abbott, Mrs Thelma Bowden, Mr Edward Chitham, Mrs Jean Curr, Mr Roger Miles, Mrs Gill Wise.

WELL

Now you've read some of the things that are going on in Harborne and what The Harborne Society are doing about them. What are you going to do about it?

If you want to join, to offer suggestions or have a useful skill write or contact Malcolm Lever at 51 Ravenhurst Road, 427 3195 or fill in the application form ...

TODAY

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME: Mr, Mrs & Miss

ADDRESS: Postal Code,

TELEPHONE NO:

Subscription rates:

Family Membership (Children under 18)— £5 .

Single Membership (Over eighteen) £3.00

Half rates for Senior Citizens and Students.

Total enclosed £

Cheques should be made payable to 'The Harborne Society', and sent to: The Hon. Treasurer, Mrs Mary Martin, 11 Ethel Road, Harborne, B17 0EL.

Signature: Date

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED TO PAY YOUR SUBSCRIPTION ?