

In November we remembered two national festivals: Guy Fawkes' efforts to blow up the king in the Houses of Parliament on November 4th - the bonfire, fireworks and food were splendid and well organised in contrast to the 'gunpowder plot', and Remembrance Day on November 10th.



Children walking to Church for Remembrance Day Assembly

Please remember the deadlines for the Harbury & Ladbroke News advertisements (**Friday 15th December**) and articles (**Friday 22nd December**). Articles that are submitted late cannot be guaranteed to be published.

We wish to welcome the new proprietors of Harbury Supermarket to the village.

To all our readers and advertisers:

A Very Merry Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

Finally, we extend our sympathy to the families of Florence Groves and John Jones.

Harbury Diary

DECEMBER

- | | |
|-------|--|
| Sun | 3 ADVENT SUNDAY - Sung Eucharist 9am; Evensong 4pm
Rugby U17s home to Kenilworth
Rugby Minis 7-12s home to Old Leamingtonians |
| Tues | 5 Beat Buddies in Village Hall 2-3pm
Harbury School Theatre Trip
Horticultural Society in Tom Hauley Room 8pm "Colour in the Winter Garden"
followed by finger buffet.
Holy Communion 7.30pm |
| Wed | 6 Martial Arts in Village Hall 6pm
Holy Communion 2pm; Mothers Union 2.30pm
Prayer meeting in Church 8pm |
| Thurs | 7 Storytelling in the Library 10am
Youth Club in Village Hall 7-9pm
Beginners Line Dancing in Harbury Village Club 7.30pm
Folk Club in The Dog Inn 8.30pm
Holy Communion 9.45am |
| Sat | 9 Scouts Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room |

- Senior Citizens Christmas Party in Village Hall
Rugby 2nd XV home to Coventry Saracens
- Sun 10 ADVENT TWO** - Holy Communion 8pm; Sung Eucharist 10.30am
Evensong 4pm
Rugby U16s home to Sutton Coldfield
- Tues 12 Beat Buddies in Village Hall 2-3pm
Village Hall Committee in Village Hall 8pm
Holy Communion 7.30pm
- Wed 13 Martial Arts in Village Hall 6pm
- Thurs 14 Holy Communion 9.45am
Thursday Club Carol Service in Church 2.30pm
Youth Club in Village Hall 7-9pm
Beginners Line Dancing in Harbury Village Club 7.30pm
WI in Village Hall 7.45pm
- Fri 15 Newspaper collection
Nursery School Christmas Concert 10am
ADVERTS to: 31, Binswood End by 5.30pm
- Sat 16 BLOOD DONORS AT VILLAGE HALL
Multiple Sclerosis Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room
Rugby 1st XV home to Ford
- Sun 17 ADVENT THREE** - Holy Communion 8am; Family Communion 10.30am
- Tues 19 Beat Buddies in Village Hall 2-3pm
Holy Communion 7.30pm
Senior Citizens' Committee in Village Hall 8pm
School Nativity Concert 2pm and 7pm
- Wed 20 Martial Arts in Village Hall 6pm
Prayer meeting in Church 8pm
- Thurs 21 Holy Communion 9.45am
Youth Club in Village Hall 7-9pm
Beginners Line Dancing in Harbury Village Club 7.30pm
- Fri 22 **ARTICLES to Harbury Chemist, High Street by 5.30pm**
- Sat 23 Free Coffee Morning – all welcome in Tom Hauley Room
- Sun 24 CHRISTMAS EVE - ADVENT FOUR**
Holy Communion 8am; Dressing of the Crib 2.30pm
Village Carol Service 6.30pm; Midnight Mass 11.15pm
- Mon 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY** - Sung Eucharist 9.30am
- Tues 26 ST STEPHEN - Holy Communion 10.30am
- Wed 27 ST JOHN - Holy Communion 10.30am
'Talk it Through', 33 South Parade 8pm
- Thurs 28 HOLY INNOCENTS - Holy Communion 9.45am
- Sat 30 Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room
- Sun 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE** - First Sunday of Christmas
Holy Communion 8am; Sung Eucharist 10.30am

JANUARY 2001

- Mon 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY
Hereburgh Morris's Hangover Tour around the pubs of Harbury, starting at The Crown about noonish
- Tues 2 Beat Buddies in Village Hall 2-3pm
Holy Communion 7.30pm
Horticultural Society in Village Hall 8pm "Lust & Loveliness in the Garden"
- Wed 3 Martial Arts in Village Hall 6pm
Prayer meeting in Church 8pm
- Thurs 4 Holy Communion 9.45am
Youth Club in Village Hall 7-9pm
Beginners Line Dancing in Harbury Village Club 7.30pm
Storytelling in Library 10am
Folk Club in The Dog Inn 8.30pm
- Sat 6 THE EPIPHANY - Holy Communion 9.30am
Church Funds Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room
Rugby 1st XV home to Old Leamingtonians
- Sun 7 BAPTISM OF CHRIST** - Sung Eucharist 9am; Evensong 4pm
Rugby Minis 7-12 home to Coventry Saracens

Please note: Adverts to 31, Binswood End by Friday 15th December

Articles to Harbury Chemist by Friday 22nd December

DATES FOR INCLUSION IN THE HARBURY DIARY PLEASE TO: LINDA RIDGLEY - TEL. 612792

Bookings for:

Scout Hut	Mr. R. Flanagan	613612
Tom Hauley Room	Mrs. W. Stubbs	612782
T. Hauley Room Coffee Morning	Mrs. J. Windsor	612504
Village Hall	Mr. P. Winchester	614466
Wight School	Mrs. L. Hayes	613488

REGULAR DIARY DATES

BABY CLINIC: Surgery, 2nd & 4th Wednesday 2:00-4:00pm

BADMINTON: Village Hall, Monday mornings (613174) 10:00am-12:00noon
 Mondays (612627) (Seniors) 7:00-9:00pm;
 Tuesdays (613413) (Club) 8:00-10:00pm;
 Friday (612029) (Juniors) 2:00-3:00pm;
 Sunday (613340) 7:00-10:00pm

BEAVERS: Scout Hut, Tuesdays 6:15-7:15pm

BEAT BUDDIES: Village Hall, Tuesdays 2pm

BELL RINGING PRACTICE: (613605) Church, Fridays 7:30pm

BROWNIES: Scout Hut, Mondays 6:15-7:30pm

CHOIR PRACTICE: Church, Fridays 6:30pm

COFFEE MORNING: Tom Hauley Room Saturdays 10:00am-12:00noon

CUBS: Scout Hut, Wednesdays 6:30-8:00pm

DANCING CLASSES: (01789-842242) Farley Room of Village Hall, Children & Adults
 Wednesdays 4:00-9:00pm

GYMNASTICS: Harbury School, Mondays 6:00-7:00pm

HARBURY FOLK CLUB: Dog Inn 1st Thursday of Month 8:30pm

HARBURY FRIENDS: School, 2nd Tuesday of Month 8:00pm

HARBURY JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB:

Under 7/8s: Training: Harbury School Pitch 9:00am
 Coach: Mike Grayson 613027, and
 Jim Farrell 811216 (Mob. 0777 6130569)

Under 9/10s: Training: Harbury School Pitch 10:30am
 Coaches: Joe Greenwell 613623 & Jim Ward 612401, and
 Adrian Hawley 614353 & Rob Wilkes 613948

Under 10/11s: Training: Playing Fields 9:00am
 Coaches: Steve Darby 613330 & Trevor Montague 612340

Under 12/13s: Training: Playing Fields 10:30am
 Coaches: John Wilkins 612115 & Steve Wilkins 614574

Under 14/15s: Training: Playing Fields 10:30am
 Coaches: Paul Harris 613148

HARBURY NURSERY SCHOOL: School, Monday-Friday; 9:00am-12:00noon;
 Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays 12:45pm-3:15pm

HARBURY PRE-SCHOOL: Wight School, High St. Monday 12:30 - 2:30pm;
 Tuesday-Friday 9:00am - 12:00noon

HARBURY VILLAGE CLUB: Contact 612498

HEREBURGH MORRIS DANCERS: (613402) School Hall, Wednesdays 8:00-10:00pm

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: Village Hall, 1st Tuesday of Month (Oct. to May) 8:00pm

KICK START APPALACHIAN STEP DANCERS: (612734) Scout Hut, Saturdays, 10:00am-12:00noon

LIBRARY: (613297) Mondays 2:00 - 5:00pm and 5:30 - 7:00pm;

Thursdays 10:00am - 1:00pm; 2:00 - 5:00pm & 5:30 - 7:00pm;

Stories, Rhymes for U5s, 10:00am 1st Thursday of Month; Term Time only

LINE DANCING: BEGINNERS, Harbury Village Club, Thursdays 7.30pm

NETBALL CLUB: (613239) Village Hall Car Park, Training Thursdays 6:30pm;

Matches on Saturday Afternoon

SCOUTS: Scout Hut, Thursdays 7:00pm

TAI CHI: (614730) Village Hall, Wednesdays 7:30pm

TENNIS CLUB: (614614) (Apr-Sept) Tues & Thurs 6:30pm onwards (6:00pm for April);

Saturday 2:00-5:00pm, Monday & Wednesday 1:45-3:00pm

THEATRE GROUP: (612610) The Dog Inn, last Tuesday of Month 8:00pm

THURSDAY CLUB: (612273) Farley Room of Village Hall 2nd & 4th Thursday of Month 2:30pm

TODDLER GROUP: Wight School, Monday 10:00-11:30am & Wednesday 1:30-3:00pm

W.I.: Tom Hauley Room, 2nd Thursday of Month 7:45pm

YOGA: Wight School, Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30pm Diane Surgey Tel. 817904

YOUTH CLUB: Village Hall, Thursdays 7:00-9:00pm

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?

Harbury Helpline is for you!

EMERGENCY TRANSPORT: Call Tim Millington 612808 or Charles Catt 612864.

HELP WITH FORM FILLING:

- **Job Applications, CV's, Council Tax Forms, etc.:** Call Joanne Cooper 613859 or Jeff Bedford 612753.
- **For University/Job Applications, interviews, CVs:** Call Philip Bushill-Matthews 612476.
- **For Personal Tax Claims, Rebates on Tax Paid to Building Societies or on Shares:** Call Jim Chapple 612044.

HOME VISITING: Caring for a sick or elderly relative and need a break for a few hours, or you would like someone to call on you.

Call Sue Dormer 613254.

HOUSEHOLD BUDGETING ADVICE: Call Tony Brunton 612191.

VISITING: Hospital. If you are unable to visit a parent or relative, or parents would like support with a child in Hospital: Call Fr. Roy Brown 612377 or Keith Dormer 613254.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH HARBURY SUNDAY SERVICES

Holy Communion, 8:00am

Sung Eucharist 10:30am (Except 1st Sunday of Month:
Sung Eucharist 9.00am)

Family Service 10:30am on 3rd Sunday of Month

Evensong 4:00pm (Except 3rd Sunday)

Please see notice board in Church for weekday services or revised times on special occasions.

Rector: Father Roy Brown, The Rectory, Vicarage Lane, Harbury
Tel.: 612377

Laugh Line

At a school Nativity Play, three six year olds were cast as the Kings. Presenting their gifts at the stable, the first said: *Gold*, the second: *Myrrh*, and the third: *And Frank sent this*.

FROM THE RECTOR

Fools for Christ

Last Sunday was the final one in the Church calendar for the year. The feast of Christ the King brought to a close the past year with all our efforts, successes and failures in the Christian life. At the Eucharist on that day, the teachings reminded us of the joy that is promised to us all in the Kingdom of God. And we are reminded too that the world's values are not always those of Christ – often we have to be 'fools' in the ways of the world, if we are to find that unity with God which liberates us from anxiety and despair, enabling us to transform our world and find true peace.

Mary must have been the first 'fool for Christ' in the eyes of the world. There she was with her young life before her – who knows what the world had to offer her! And then the message came from God: Would she be the Mother of His Son? She didn't ask for a week to think it over; she didn't consult tried and trusted friends. Instead she abandoned herself to God's will with complete trust, not knowing at all how much it would cost her.

Can we say that we would be ready to drop everything, to change our plans at a minute's notice, to serve God, however blindly it might seem?

In our domestic life, going about our everyday business, we sometimes tend to be too wise, too sensible, so that although our homes may be immaculate and our families the admiration of the neighbourhood, we ourselves have become second Marthas, so anxious about so many earthly things that we have hardly left ourselves time for more than a fleeting word with God.

St. Francis de Sales tells us that we must always be like very small children, who cling with one hand to their father while they gather blackberries with the other. And we must hold fast to our Heavenly Father while we gather and handle the things of this world, and turn to Him from time to time to see if he is pleased with what we are doing. Being careful not to let go on the pretext of gaining more, for separated from Him we will not take a single step without falling.

When sacrifice is demanded of us the temptation to be prudent, sensible and wise is so strong!

We owe so much gratitude to Mary that she was not so 'sensible' that she put her own life and future first, instead of falling in with God's plans.

Love never pleads inability, everything seems possible, everything seems allowable – so different from human prudence, which hesitates at every turn and walks warily.

As we approach the Festival of the Nativity and the New Year 2001, let us make a resolution to be a fool for Christ in the future.

May you all have a Blessed and Peaceful
Christmas

Fr. Roy

FROM THE REGISTERS

Holy Matrimony – All Saints' Harbury

18th November Peter Loftus to Carole Tallon

Holy Baptism – All Saints' Harbury

18th November Anna Rebecca Elkins

19th November Jake Anthony Clifton
Johnny Raphael Von Holstien

26th November Sophie Jayne Adams

Funerals – Oakley Wood

14th November Florence (Florry) Kate Groves, aged 83

1st December John (Jack) Jones, aged 87

From the Churchwardens

The Church Forum held on October 28th to discuss the 'Way Forward', was well attended and raised a number of points on how we can build on the many activities in which the church is involved. A view was expressed that the form of worship at the 9:00/10:30am service is difficult to follow for those unfamiliar with Harbury's version. This is being dealt with now and Father Roy reminded us that the new Common Worship, due to be introduced soon, will enable us to print our own, specific booklets so that all will be clear.

Several other points were raised which are or will be actioned. Following the forum, a group attended the Cathedral to take part in the Growing Healthy Churches initiative plus the workshop a few days later. More on this soon.

The Remembrance Day Service was as always, well attended with members of the British Legion taking a leading role. The collection raised over £300 for their funds.

The November Family Service was presented by John Stringer, with the assistance of several younger members of the congregation, in which 'Ronnie' discovered that it could be better to give than to receive. As usual, the Jubilate instrumental group accompanied some of the hymns.

Christmas is almost upon us with all its many activities. The village Carol service is as usual, on Christmas Eve – come early to get the best seats – all the service times are in the diary.

Happy and Blessed Christmas from us both

Felicity and John

MOTHERS' UNION

Afternoon Meeting: Following the service of Holy Communion, our speaker was Lib Cook, accompanied by her lovely trainee guide dog, Nesta. Lib has been 'puppy walking' for several years, and explained how puppies are taken into a family home at six weeks old to be trained to the stage when they go back to the Guide Dog Centre in Leamington, ready to work as the 'eyes' of a blind person. We've all seen these marvellous dogs guiding their owners around the town. It is a wonderful service they are performing – long may it continue.

Evening Meeting: After the weekly Tuesday Communion service, Kathy Priddis came to talk about the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins. She provided a fascinating insight into this religious poet of the late 19th Century. As a Jesuit Priest, all his poetry was written with a Christian purpose – he saw Nature as proof of God's presence. He wrote in a style, which was very new and different in his day, and it wasn't until after his death that his work was published by Robert Bridges.

Kathy took three poems which she read most beautifully, and then explained the meaning behind the words (not always apparent to the untrained eye). Certainly an inspirational speaker – all agreed that even though we may have heard 'Pied Beauty' read many times before, next time it will be much more meaningful.

Two members attended the Diocesan Council Meeting recently and, as always, were made aware of the invaluable work being carried out worldwide in the name of the Mothers' Union – one million members spanning sixty countries. It seems hard to imagine, sitting in our little village group that we are part of a much larger whole, and it is good to be reminded from time to time. MU does have a voice and can help to bring about changes where there is a need. Our purpose is to be especially concerned with all that strengthens and preserves marriage and Christian family life. New members are always welcome!

Next meetings:

Wed. 6th December 2.00pm Service 2.30pm 'Flower Arranging' by Ann Perkins.

NO evening meeting in December!

Wed. 3rd January (No Service) 3.00pm Party in the Tom Hauley Room.

All members are invited to attend the commissioning of our new Diocesan President, Wendy Thomas, on **Saturday 6th January 2001**, 12noon at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon (followed by Bring & Share lunch).

Anne Moore

TODDLERS' SERVICE

Continuing our theme of babies in the Bible at our November service we heard about Samuel, a baby longed for by his parents, Elkanah and Hannah.

Mrs. Catt showed us photographs of herself as a baby, and then we discussed all the equipment needed for a baby such as a pram, a cot,

clothes, toys, etc. We also heard that babies need lots and lots of love and care.

At our next Toddlers' service on **Tuesday 12th December**, at 2.15pm in Church, we shall be thinking about the baby born at Christmas, Mary's son, Jesus.

C. Mary Catt



Refurbished weathervane on the Church Tower

CHRISTMAS Coffee Morning

We are rapidly coming towards the season of Christmas and once again we shall have our pre-Christmas Coffee morning. This will be on **Saturday 23rd December** in the Tom Hauley Room from 10.00am until 12noon. As usual there will be mince pies and cakes, which, along with the coffee, will be free.

There will be a raffle - the proceeds of which will go to the Special Care Baby Unit at Warwick Hospital. I am sure that there are people in this village and indeed elsewhere who have reason to be grateful for the work that the unit does.

The Coffee mornings this year have gone from strength to strength and have provided money for a wide variety of sources. They are sponsored and run by All Saints' Church, Harbury and hopefully are an indication that the Church in this village cares about anyone and everyone.

We invite you all to come along on the 23rd and enjoy what is on offer.

Joyce Windsor

Ladbroke News

DECEMBER

- Sun 3 ADVENT SUNDAY - Sung Eucharist 9am; Evensong 4pm
- Sun 10 ADVENT TWO - Sung Communion 9am
- Wed 13 Communion with Readings and Carols; Women's Fellowship 2.45pm
- Fri 15 **ADVERTS 31, Binswood End by 5.30pm**
- Sun 17 ADVENT THREE - Sung communion 9am

Fri 22 **ARTICLES** to Harbury Chemist, High Street by 5.30pm
 Sun 24 **ADVENT FOUR** - Sung Communion 9am
 Dressing of the Crib 3.30pm
 Mon 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**; Sung Communion 11am
 Sun 31 **FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS** - Holy Communion 9am

JANUARY 2001

Mon 1 Naming and Circumcision of Jesus; Holy Communion 10.30am
 Tues 2 PCC Meeting 8.15pm
 Sun 7 **THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST** - Family Communion 10.30am

LADBROKE CHURCH NEWS

We may well be just a small parish, but we keep the 'lamp burning'. With lots of support from Harbury we had a very good congregation for our All Saints' Day service. It was a very happy occasion with refreshments in the Old Rectory afterwards – much appreciated.

As I write this we are moving up a few gears, preparing for our Christmas Fayre this weekend. Many thanks to the people who are donating all the 'goodies' for the stalls.

The Children's Church is getting itself organised to do their Nativity Tableau at the Dressing of the Crib service. Make a note on the calendar: Christmas Eve 3.30pm in Church – Crib Service. There are parts for all the children – even if they can only come to the service.

The choir have started rehearsing (under the guidance of Michael Short) for our Carol Service on **Wednesday 27th December** at 5.00pm.

Finally, the Bell Ringers have had an Extraordinary General meeting, with guidance from Harry Windsor, and have arranged a committee to maintain the bells, supervise finances and organise the training of the bell ringers. They meet at 7.30pm on Thursday evenings for bell ringing practice and although some new ringers have joined, they are looking for more new recruits, and any lapsed members to come and join them. The Ringers are a very happy band! I believe it is quite a social occasion.

Betty Winkfield

Women's Fellowship

It is amazing what people can achieve if they have sufficient faith in God to let Him guide them.

I don't imagine for one moment Pam and David Clarke realised just what they were letting themselves in for when they went to India to help build a school out there. Life was definitely a cultural shock if nothing else - a far, far cry from our western world. They made many friends though while they were there and saw the project through to almost completion. Thank you Pam for a very interesting afternoon at our last meeting in November.

Our meeting in December will be our Christmas service in Church – Holy Communion with hymns and readings followed by tea here at Hall Farm.

May I wish Editors and Readers of the Harbury & Ladbroke News a Very Happy and Peaceful Christmas

Marie Kennedy

LADBROKE AND DEPPERS BRIDGE W.I.

The November meeting was held on the 22nd in Ladbroke Village Hall. The new President, Anne, welcomed members and thanked those who have remained on the Committee and new members. Most members attended the meeting even though it was such a bad evening.

Eight members attended the Autumn Council meeting held at Bedworth. It was a very interesting day, thoroughly enjoyed by all, with a most amusing talk given by Giles Brandreth. His cleverness with words and his anecdotes were fascinating.

The Short Mat Bowls 'A' team were defeated by Wolvey WI after a very close match. The 'B' team will be playing Ratley WI at Harbury Club on November 28th.

Ladbroke WI has bought a tree and Susan will be planting it with other WI members to form a Millennium Wood in the north of the County.

Twelve members went to the Bank of England on November 20th with a visit to the museum. Unfortunately we were not allowed to visit the underground rooms where the gold ingots are stored. After a bomb scare and lunch we spent the afternoon 'doing our own thing' which for many of us was shopping in the Covent Garden area.

The Warwickshire Federation has to move from their present building in Park Street. A 'buy a brick' campaign has begun for members.

Names were taken for members wishing to attend Denman College on March 30th 2001.

Tickets were distributed for the Christmas Odyssey at the Guy Nelson Hall.

After the business Anne welcomed our Speaker for the evening, Mr. Clive Watts. His talk: *Songs from the Opera* and music were appreciated by all. His love and knowledge of opera was captivating. Irene gave the vote of thanks.

Colette's anagram quiz on *Musicals of Stage and Screen* was won by Irene.

Christmas dinner this year will be at The Crown Inn, Harbury, on **Wednesday 6th December**, at 7.30pm.

The raffle prizes were won by Catherine, Stella and Hazel.

The next meeting will be on **January 25th, 2001** at 7.30pm when Joyce Wardle, of Warwick WI will be giving a talk about Warwick prior to a 'walk about' in Warwick in the summer. Visitors are welcome.

Tea Hostesses: Jill and Hazel

Happy Christmas and

Safe Journeys if you are going away

Hazel Sharples

LADBROKE VILLAGE HALL

The tenth draw of the Millennium Club for 2000 was held on November 13th at The Bell Inn. The winners were A.E. & H.D. Dowdeswell £80; Susan Moore £50; Alan Court £25. Pamela Brown, Marie Kennedy, Josie Handscomb, Terence Sullivan and Carol Lane each won £10.

The next prize draw will be held on **December 11th** at The Bell Inn at 8pm.

Please remember that payments for the next six months until June 30th 2001 become due on January 1st 2001 (except for those using standing orders). I must point out that if money is not received by the date of the draw, that/these number(s) is/are withheld for that draw.

Catherine Spence



José Wilcox from Ladbroke beside her stall at Harbury Craft Fayre

Southam History Society - Ladbroke Section

Michaelmas is a Christian Festival in the early autumn, which also signifies an end to the farming year. The harvest is in, the cattle and lambs, which have been finished on the summer grass, are taken to be butchered and the ground prepared for the winter frosts to break down. It is also the time when farm rents are paid and a change of occupants will occur.

It was a fascinating insight into Ladbroke's tenants this summer, when I went through the Estate Rent Book of 1760 to 1800 belonging to Charles

Palmer of Ladbroke Hall. So many names were familiar to me, but reading between the lines were tidbits about their trades, their financial position and their contribution to the smooth running of the daily lives of the Estate owner's family and that of the village community itself.

There was Elizabeth Palmer paying her nephew £4 a year for her house and 2 small paddocks. Clearly she did not live in the luxury of the Hall. Meanwhile, William Freeman paid part of his farm rent by supplying Miss Palmer with her coal for the year. Then when Mr. Freeman died, his grandson paid off the rent before the farm passed on to Timothy Pratt. In the margin of the rent book Mr. Pratt is referred to in pencil as Tim, a personal touch. Mr. Pratt moved on from his farm in Farmyard Field and on Whettington Hill above Bishops Itchington. He also paid part of his rent by supplying coal as well as lime to the Estate.

John Alder, with a rent in excess of £60, had a house in the village but mainly farmed the lower slopes of the Mill Ground. He also sub-rented Windmill Hill. His neighbour was Jeremiah Alder, the largest farmer in the village with a rent of £135 a year. Jeremiah's farm on the Mill Ground had once belonged to the Chebsey family. John Alder and James Lockly, both bred good coach horses and supplied Mr. Palmer. In 1764, the sale of a black coach horse to the Hall for £15 was included in Lockly's rent.

Meanwhile in 1769, Richard Ragge entered the house that had been Sarah Jilkes and the Blacksmith's shop and stables of Richard Saunders. Then in 1792 Thomas Webb entered the Blacksmith's shop.

As for the brewing trade, Samuel Brain paid £2.15 shillings a year for his house, brew house and orchard. His son Robert (Bob) took over. At the same time, after Elizabeth Moorby died, Elizabeth Sprawson took over and supplied hops for Elizabeth Palmer's use. This latter public house was "Old Betty's" where Charles Palmer drank.

Richard Fisher of "The Bell Inn" was also a constable and a butcher and Thomas Fearn the local horticulturalist, supplied seeds, fruit and vegetables to the Hall and no doubt the village.

Linda Doyle

LADBROKE PARISH COUNCIL REPORT - November

The meeting was held on November 15th in the Village Hall.

Neighbourhood Watch: Janice Berry intends to visit everyone in the scheme who has agreed to become a geographical contact. All other villagers will then receive a letter informing them of the name of their contact person.

New signs have been erected: County Councillor Bob Stevens reported that there are to be 20 additional uniformed police officers in the area. This means that the local police presence may increase from 2 to 3.

Financial Matters: A summary of receipts and payments was distributed.

County Councillor's report: The Council is optimistic regarding the level of funding for road repair and maintenance.

Some bus services are to be withdrawn after December 23rd because the erratic passenger numbers make some routes unviable.

Carol Lane

HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - November

A red-letter day – Pc Stuart Bosworth was present to tell the Parish Council that at long last the force intended to re-instate the full compliment of Beat Bobbies to the Southam area. There will be liaison between services, so that Stuart can update local people on the progress of investigation into burglaries like the break-in in Chapel Street.

John Hunt has taken note of the National Association of Local Councils circular on Best Value which encourages all Parishes to look closely at the services they provide, making sure that the tendering etc. for services is fair and open and comparing their performance with that of other Councils. They should also consult local people on what is needed. The forthcoming Parish Appraisal will give everyone the opportunity to comment on these matters.

The Chairman claims to be sitting on the fence in the GM Crop Debate but defends the dignity of the Parish Council and he feels that the views of the people are being treated with contempt by the government. He agreed to Dutch Van Spall's suggestion that Harbury requests copies of the Terms and Conditions of the Trial and the Environmental Risk Assessment. County Councillor Doody is pursuing the matter of compensation for honey producer, John Home.

Planning: The Parish Council had “no representations” on minor amendments to plans at 2 Sutcliffe Drive or the felling of trees at 9 Church Street. They have complained about the portacabins at the Great Western.

Stratford District Council refused permission for an extension at 17 Binswood End but granted permission for an extension at 53 Mill Street, a new dwelling at Field House at the Pound, amended plans for a two storey extension to the rear of 9 Chapel Street, the recreation area and extra accommodation at Lower Westfields Barn and for the two storey extension at Harbury Hall, both with conditions.

The Parish Council still awaits an explanation of why permission was given to fell the Horse Chestnut tree at the Hall and why the new house at Threeways has been built so close to the Walnut tree. John Hunt reported that the Parish Council's Tree Surgeon was also deeply concerned at what had been happening to the trees in the village.

The crown of the Horse Chestnut on Binswood End Green had been raised. South Warwickshire Housing Association admitted they had felled the wrong tree at Crown Close and would provide the Parish with three replacements. The County's Landscape Architect will be asked to provide plans for tree planting along Manor Road.

The Tennis Court extension plans await the approval of several grant applications. The seesaw and dome play equipment also need replacement. It was agreed that the Parish notice boards should not be used for commercial advertisements but kept for news of village events.

Cllr Drinkwater is still agitating for a complete one-way system round the Church. The Parish Council is fully supportive of Mr. Tawny's

complaints about illegal parking in Chapel Street, which stops the bus getting through. He objects to being called out at night to move obstructing vehicles outside his house, which have nothing to do with him. It was pointed out that if the bus cannot get through then nor could emergency vehicles. It is hoped that when the District Council are allowed to control parking and keep the fines collected there will be a more rigorous policing of the problem.

Jack Heath has produced a guide for his fellow Councillors that will enable them to check parish accounts.

The maintenance contracts for the parish will be put out to tender although the Council stressed that this was to satisfy the requirements of "best value" and did not reflect on the excellent service they received from the present contractor.

John Hunt and Sharon Hancock had attended a meeting with Age Concern and Housing Association representatives on the possibilities of getting sheltered accommodation in the village. A further meeting is to be arranged and it was pointed out that the appraisal would be able to ask questions about the need for such homes.

The Chairman and Cllr Stephenson had attended the Millennium Wroth Silver Ceremony on Dunsmore Heath at Martinmass and paid Harbury's dues of 2/3½d.

Next Meeting: **Thurs. 25th January 2001** at the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Linda Ridgley

HARBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

November is the time of the year when the voting for new officers takes place. Celia Barrett has been an extremely capable president for the past three years. We welcome Jean Abrahams as our new president and know she will have good support from all members.

The busy season is almost here! The Bowls and Darts teams are all poised to do battle.

The Christmas Party is on **Friday 8th December**, 7.30 for 8.00pm at the Village Hall, when we will be barn dancing after supper.

The Group Carol Service is at Napton Church on **Sunday 10th December** at 2.30pm.

Then the Christmas meeting is at the Tom Hauley Room on **Thursday 14th December**. Members are reminded to bring their bran tub present.

It remains for me to wish
All Readers Compliments of the Season

Jeanne Beaumont

HARBURY YOUTH CLUB

Harbury Youth Club has now been open on Thursday evenings at the Village Hall since April 1999. To date we have a healthy membership but we would like to encourage more youngsters to come along and join us in our activities. The age group is from 11 to 17 years and we meet on Thursdays from 7.00 to 9.00pm at the Village Hall and once a month we

arrange an outing outside the village. To join, there is an initial membership fee of £2 and a fee of £1 for each weekly attendance.

During the past year our outdoor activities have included barbecues at the playing fields, football, rounders, wall climbing with supervised tuition and circus skills. We have now accumulated some equipment (table tennis, snooker, darts and softball for indoor games).

Once a month we arrange various trips, which have included laser-quest, tenpin bowling, swimming and ice-skating. Trips are arranged when we are unable to have the use of the Village Hall.

We would also like to organise representation for the youth of the village to participate in the Village Appraisal and it is hoped that this project will highlight the needs of the young people of Harbury.

Our AGM has been arranged for **Tuesday 12th December** at The Dog Inn at 8.00pm, and we hope those of you who are interested will come along. We would welcome any parents who would be willing to help and perhaps also bring along some new ideas. We are hoping to appoint a new Youth Leader in the near future and this will facilitate a much more structured programme for the Year 2001.

We do need your help for the Youth Club to thrive and enable us to provide continued social and sport activities.

Janet Thornley 612688

HARBURY THEATRE GROUP – Pantomime 2001

Yes, it will soon be that time of year again. There will be baddies to boo at, heroes to cheer, songs to sing along with and plenty of jokes in Harbury Theatre Group's forthcoming pantomime of *Beauty and the Beast* by David Swan. We'll be doing four performances in Harbury Village Hall on **Thursday 11th** and **Friday 12th** at 7.30pm, and on **Saturday 13th January 2001** at 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

Seat Reservations in advance: Since we know how popular the first few rows are we are trying out a new system of numbering these seats so that they can be reserved in advance. To be sure of the 'best seats in the house' please telephone 01926 612175. All tickets will cost the same price £4 and £2 for concessions and are on sale now from Kathleen Ellis in Chapel Street, Bishops Itchington Post Office, Poplar Road, and by calling 01926 613415.

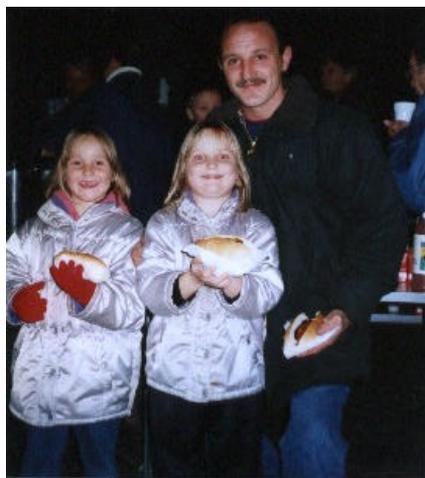
So come along and look out for: the Traffic Wardens, the Evil Jasper and the Beast and join in the cheering for Widow Bonbon and her Grownup Children.

Ruth Thurogood

BONFIRE NIGHT in Harbury



Well underway



Gemma, Helen and Jim Cowley holding their hotdogs



A Grandstand seat



Keeping Warm



Bangers!

HARBURY FOLK CLUB

The Folk Club went MAD on November 2nd! We decided that our charity raffle should be in aid of Harbury's 'Make a Difference' project and to adopt madness as our theme for the evening. No change there, then.

Actually, the madness was very low key despite the fact that it was National Curry Day. We were all very reserved and we made subtle,

intellectual references to madness in our songs and tunes, rather than dressing up in crazy outfits and performing outrageous stunts. The humour was still there but it wasn't zany.

We hadn't seen Pam for several months but she was very topical with "What have we done to the rain?" and Colin wrongly guessed the theme with his "Halloween Song". I performed the puzzling "Whistling Monologue" (but at least I didn't slip up on the lyrics) while Brian played "Whistling Rufus" after reminiscing about his childhood in Harbury. Ron was in cracking form and had us in stitches with "No, No, a Thousand Times No" and Des put on his spooky voice to give us the mysterious "Bedlam Boys" which really is a story of madness. John engaged the assistance of his intriguing electric fiddle and effects unit for "Blind Step Away", Mike (resplendent in colourful braces, bandanna and funny specs) lead us through the "Music Man", Celia bravely played a couple of tunes on her sideboard (thinly disguised as a continental Hohner melodeon) and the Harvesters included their poignant song about a particular form of madness, "Lavender and Lilac".

Despite the modest numbers, the raffle raised an amazing £54 for MAD and Marian Millington was there to accept the donation and to tell us a bit more about the projects.

The next session of the Folk Club is on **December 7th**, at 8:30pm in the Dog Inn, when Ian will be hosting a Victorian Music Hall night.

Peter McDonald

G.A.S.S. Christmas Post

Once again, it is fast-approaching the time of year for celebration, peace and goodwill to all men (women and children) and relaxation.

For the sixth consecutive year, **G.A.S.S.** will help that relaxation by delivering all your local Christmas post. Each year we have delivered nearly 3,000 cards within the village.

This year, from **Monday 4th December until Tuesday 19th December**, the **G.A.S.S.** Christmas post box will be in Mugleston's.

For all your cards with a Harbury address, just pop them into the box *along with your donation to G.A.S.S.*, put your feet up and let us do the walking.

So, support **G.A.S.S.**, relax and have a

Very Merry Christmas

Pete Woodward, Chairman – 613536

HARBURY NURSERY SCHOOL

During this term the children have been busy exploring number rhymes, they have been acting out 'five little men in a flying saucer' and also painting and drawing aliens. William Winchester said about his alien: *My alien has a square head. He has a space rocket with a hood on it so he does not get wet.*

Rehearsals are well under way for the Christmas concert, much to the enjoyment of the staff and children. This will be held in the School Hall

on **Friday 15th December** commencing at 10.00am and will be followed by coffee and mince pies.

We recently had our Social Services Department Inspection and are pleased to report that this went very well. In summary the inspector commented: *The group has maintained a stable staff and committee base and continues to thrive. There is a lively atmosphere in which the children have many opportunities to grow in confidence and increase their social skills.*

During the term we have welcomed a large number of joiners to our Nursery. We are delighted with how well our younger children have settled in, rapidly begun to feel at home and grown in confidence. We have more new joiners starting with us in January and if there are any parents or carers who are interested in their child joining the Nursery would they please contact Kate Smart on 612609 or via the School on 612656.

The Nursery runs sessions each morning and currently on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons. Some mornings are very busy but we do have some places available, also on each afternoon session. We find that the afternoon sessions, which are quieter and a little shorter, are particularly suitable for our youngest children. We are also considering running a Monday afternoon session if there is sufficient demand.

Please note we will be holding our popular Christmas Coffee morning in the Tom Hauley Room on **Wednesday 6th December**, from 10.00am until 12noon. There will be a cake stall, a craft stall, an opportunity to buy Christmas cards and wrapping paper, singing by the Nursery children and a fantastic raffle with the top prizes being: a colour TV; a Fortnum and Mason hamper; tickets to see Dick Whittington at the Spa Centre, and lots more superb items! Please come and support the Nursery – everybody is welcome.

Marie Kennedy

THE PRE-SCHOOL - Learning Through Play

The Pre-School is held at the Wight School, behind the Library

In common with many sophisticated establishments, we are delighted to announce the development of the Pre-School Lunch Club! In other words, after the session closes at 12 pm, children may stay an additional hour with us, eating a packed lunch and enjoying supervised play and activities. Several parents and carers have commented how useful it is to have this extra hour and the children really enjoy this opportunity to have a sociable lunch and extended play with their friends. From January 2001 we will be opening on Mondays from 12 - 4 pm and again, the first hour will be a Lunch Club. It will also be possible to make arrangements to collect your child from the Nursery and bring them to Pre-School, if you wish. Please contact Marie Coleman on 612959 if you would like to find out more.

We have many thank yous to give. First, a huge thank you to Mary Shelley and the Harbury Chronicles who made a magnificent donation of £250 to the Pre-School. You really cannot believe the difference that this amount will make to a small organisation like us. We will be able to replenish and update the toys, materials and equipment that the children

use and to buy more complex and bigger items that will really challenge the children. Once we've been shopping, we do hope the kind folk of the Chronicles will come to play. We would also like to thank all those past pupils who, in sorting out their toys and games, have decided to send unwanted ones to the Pre-School. It is so kind and generous of you all and we can truly say that the delight of the children is immense. As you know, most of our income goes on overheads and wages so this kind of support is hugely appreciated.

Gill and Marie have recently attended a Makaton signing course which is not only invaluable for children with speech delay or hearing impairment but also for children without the confidence to speak out in a group situation. Signing is readily picked up by the children; indeed as anyone who has introduced a new action song to a group of children will have seen, the actions are often picked up before the words. We can sign to the children and they have the option of signing back if they find speaking in a group too scary at first.

Other joys in the last month have included the return of Serena, this time with Misty the Labrador. Older children will remember Serena's other dog George who was a regular visitor to the Pre-School. In discussing how Misty will grow, what her needs are and how she needs to be looked after, the children learn about the responsibilities of pets as well as how living things grow. They adjust their behaviour beautifully in order not to frighten Misty and really enjoy getting to know such a gentle dog.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Jill Davis who joins the staff. Jill is currently acting as relief cover but will take over from Chris when she leaves at Christmas to prepare for her new baby. We'd like to thank Chris for all her work with the children; they and we will miss her very much - she is much loved.

Finally, with the holidays fast approaching, we would like to invite everyone; parents, carers, friends and supporters, to join us in our Christmas celebration on **Tuesday 19th December** at 11.00am in the Wight School where the children will tell a Christmas story and then afterwards there will be coffee, mince pies and a raffle.

A Very Happy Christmas and a
Joyful New Year to you all

Harbury Pre-School Committee

HARBURY Albion FOOTBALL CLUB

This month has been fairly inactive for the club due to the wet weather with only one game being played. That gave us our first defeat of the season (and the first since March 12th) by two goals to one against Cubbington Albion.

Away from the field, in conjunction with Harbury Netball Club, we are organising the New Year's Eve Disco at the Harbury Club. Tickets for this event can be obtained from Paul Gladden or the Harbury Club.

Finally, Harbury Albion Football Club is in need of a qualified referee living in the village who would be willing to inspect the football pitch on the Saturday prior to a Sunday game to determine whether it may or may

not be fit for play on (league rules dictate that a qualified ref must do this). We need someone who would be willing to referee the occasional game on a Sunday morning. Anyone who can be of assistance in this matter please contact me on 612257.

Rob Davis

Father Christmas is Coming

Southam & District Lions, in collaboration with Father Christmas, invites children of all ages to enjoy the festive spirit by meeting him on **Thursday 14th December** in and around Harbury village with music, good cheer, and goodies. Lions' members will be collecting for Children's charities.

Jim Steele

Parish Paths Partnership

We have had a very productive year replacing several styles plus numerous repairs. Sinking holes for some of the styles in the dry ground throughout the summer proved hard work. It was very different in October when we replaced a style on path SM26, the Centenary Way leading to Ufton, in a persistent downpour, but nonetheless the group turned out and another item was ticked off our work plan.

During the summer we also spent time clearing paths in an attempt to keep them free of nettles and thistles. To show off some of our handy work we are organising a walk for **Sunday 31st December**. It will start at 10:30am in the Shakespeare car park and end with a pub lunch in the village, covering approximately 6 miles. Anyone interested please let me know beforehand on 612221, so that we can give the pub an idea of numbers.

Clive Taylor

Harbury's GM Debate

Thanks to Messrs. Wurr and Finch and to M/s Phelps for their comments on my letter in the October Harbury News.

I am sorry they regard my article as being "biased misinformation". However, I must respond to their own comments so as to avoid any misunderstanding of my original article. I respond in the same order as their comments:

"GM is a faster and more efficient way of achieving crop improvement". Well, the jury is still out on that one, but I point out that DDT and organo-phosphate pesticides are also "faster and more efficient" methods of dealing with insect pests in different areas of agriculture. It does not follow that their use is necessarily safe for the environment, animals or humans.

"It represents the same process that can occur naturally by mutation". I do not disagree. However, the important difference is the speed at which genetic modification takes place, introducing modified genes that in many cases come from outside the plant species itself.

Regarding background radiation and natural mutation of plants, I am prepared to take on such ‘risks’ that occur naturally.

Use of Glufosonate Ammonium. I personally have no objection to individuals’ or farmers’ use of properly licensed and tested herbicides. I reported that some of the speakers and audience did have concerns on this point. Perhaps they can comment to this magazine with more information.

Regarding my references to other practices that cause public concern (e.g. feeding animal protein to herbivores). I think I am not alone in seeing a parallel with GM technology, namely that they both involve the manipulation (I would say disruption) of a set of naturally developed protective barriers and genetic balances which humans feel able to transgress via large scale live ‘experiments’ within our environment and food chain. They are also practices, which are primarily motivated by profit.

“Extensification” versus “intensification” of agriculture. I would like to have the difference between these explained – and the difference in their effects on bio-diversity (if any).

Regarding walkers near the GM crop, I have no concern that their health will be affected in any way by such recreation.

Regarding the so-called “hypocrisy” of arguments that contrast GM and organic crops: Nowhere did I suggest that organic crops are morally superior to GM crops, (although organic crops do not pose any potential risks to me or my environment that I am not prepared to accept). The moral argument, in my view, involves the manner in which we are manipulating genetic processes at a speed, and in some cases, using methods that could not occur in Nature without our intervention.

Alan Guy

HARBURY M.A.D.

(Making **A** Difference for the Millennium)

Well done the people of Harbury! Thanks to your generosity, the door-to-door collection in October and November has exceeded the target of £4000. This means that we will be able to give something over £2000 to the Water Aid project in the village of Melhanma, Nepal, and to the women’s health clinics of Ziarat and Mastung in Balochistan, Pakistan.

For these communities, Harbury really will have “made a difference”.

We knocked on every door in Harbury and Deppers Bridge, although we may not have always found someone in. If you’re one of the few people we missed, we’re sorry we didn’t have the chance to talk with you and hear what you felt about the project. Since this is a year 2000 project, the books will stay open for the rest of the year, and our Treasurer Sally Stringer (613214) or any member of Harbury M.A.D. will gladly accept contributions up to 31st December. After that, the accounts will be drawn up and will be available for anyone who wants to view them.

We shall officially hand over the two cheques at a presentation meeting in the Tom Hauley Room in January. If you would like to be there, please contact our Secretary Nicola Guy (614010) for details.

This was yet again proof of what a kind-hearted village Harbury is. We received donations of all sizes, and they all count. All your contributions were – and will be - greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Andrew Patrick (614359)

Harbury Victorian Street Fayre

The committee would like to announce that we will donate a total of £2,300 to Children in Need.

Danny Killian

Pensioners' Patio

In the dim and distant past when the morning paper plopped on to the mat before our first cup of tea, the paperboy would ride up to the front door on his bicycle, lean forward to send the paper clattering through the letterbox, then swing his front wheel round ready to move off. But the manoeuvre with the wheel invariably sent flying any flower-heads rash enough to peep over the rim of the nearby container.

Annoyance was unjustified – the open space outside the door was merely the width of two paving slabs before the border edging the wall of the bungalow took over. Even my own shopping basket had caused damage as I struggled to find a key in the cramped space. The solution, of course, had always been so obvious that it seemed incredible we had ignored it: a chunk off the border with a straggly rosemary bush was replaced by just two more paving slabs – hey presto! There was now room to approach the door comfortably, swing a shopping basket, or even twist a bicycle wheel. It's worth looking around – simple improvements can often pay large dividends.

We had hoped to acquire 'Compassion' and 'Golden Showers' by now – rose aficionados will recognise the names of climbers. Their predecessors, inherited with the bungalow, were still producing a few flowers at the top to nod a greeting as we came up the driveway, but from this side all we could see was a tangle of bare, dry stems. They had given noble service, and if the head gardener hadn't disposed of his cornet years ago he might have performed The Last Post over their remains (*But perhaps not – he had little enough breath left after excavating those roots*). Now, of course, the waterlogged soil has held up everyone's planting programme. (*Well, that's always a useful excuse.*)

The robin has returned from his long summer holiday. Where has he been? Following the spade-and-hoe trail in the allotments? Chilling out in the unspoilt wilds of Chapel Street gardens? He always arrives before the starling on reconnaissance, spots the day's crumbs and calls up his mates. Unfazed by human movements he helps himself, bobs a few times in acknowledgement and departs before the crush. He reminds me it's time to get cracking with those Christmas cards and to send you all the compliments of the season (*an old-fashioned phrase I rather like*). May we all have a truly blessed Christmas free from floods, gales, slippery pavements and sudden holes in the road? Just a flurry, perhaps? I'm sure the robin wouldn't mind – as long as his meal wagon keeps arriving on the dot.

Edyth Algar

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

I was not at the last talk *Herbaceous Borders*, but I understand Mr. Pearce brought along some interesting plants, many popular ones and some quite unusual, even a delphinium in flower!

The AGM also took place, the committee was elected and there are some new faces. I will list all the names of the committee members in the article next month.

Please will everybody submit his or her seed orders and monies to the meeting on **Tuesday 5th December** at the very latest, which is the last meeting of this year?

When shopping at the Garden Centres, please remember to present a current membership card 2000/1 in order to get any discount which may be available, so if you haven't yet paid your subs, I am sure Mr. John Clifford will be pleased to see you! Also when paying, please produce your card before the assistant begins to cash up!

For those people who have mislaid the schedule – or have forgotten – the subject for one of the photography classes for the 2001 Show is *A Winter's Tale*, so get those cameras clicking.

The January issue will not be out in time for the first meeting in the New year so, here are the details: Mr. Turner will give a talk entitled: *Lust and Loveliness* on **Tuesday 2nd January 2001** in the Farley Room at 8.00pm.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish the hard working editorial staff and all our members a

Very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New
Year

Muriel Grey

GARDENING NOTES

After the stormy weather of last month tidying the plants ready for winter must be the number one job. Clear away the remains of any dead annuals or perennials from the borders but leave seed heads which are decorative or feed birds.

We had two small trees blown sideways, but not quite out, so we are hoping that the roots were not too badly damaged and will re-grow whilst the soil retains some warmth. They are now securely staked and guy-ropes attached so we wait to see how they fare in the spring.

Hard prune clematis viticella and jackmani varieties now. Cut back all the stems to about 30cm (1ft) from the ground. On apple and pear trees cut out diseased branches and ones that are crossing.

Many terracotta pots are said to be frost proof, but if we get a hard frost, the surface of the soil in the pot may freeze. It is then difficult for the damp soil beneath to expand especially in a straight-sided pot. To be safe place pots where they have some protection or completely lag them with

bubble wrap. For displays of winter flowers, stone or wood may be a safer choice of container. Protect the crowns of perennials in the beds with 3" thick mulch. If you planted any evergreens last month put up a protective screen around them. Collect up and clean garden canes. Turn off the water supply to outside taps. Clean moss and algae off plants and keep some salt or sand handy in case of frost.

Check bowls of bulbs and when the shoots are about 5cm (2") bring them into more light but still keep them cool until the flower bud is visible. Bring cyclamen, winter cherries and primulas inside. Give them a bright but not sunny position. Remember to move plants off windowsills before you draw the curtains at night. Some plants which you may receive as Christmas presents will be ones which do not like our warm dry rooms so will be happier standing on moist pebbles inside another pot.

Plant of the month – Holly

There are around 300 species of holly, or Ilex. Apart from the well-known hardy evergreens there are some, which are tender and some deciduous. They girdle the world from Europe, and North Africa through to Asia, into China and Japan and across the Pacific to North America. It is the evergreen varieties that we grow for their lustrous leaves as background to summer flowers or as a focal point in winter. When the plants are 6-8 years old inconspicuous white or green flowers produce berries of red, yellow or black on the female plants, if there is a male plant nearby. Names are very confusing with Golden King being female and Golden Queen and Silver Queen male! However for good berrying choose Ilex altaclarensis Wilsonii, or Ilex aquifolium Argentea Marginata or the self fertile J.C. van Tol.

Most hollies are slow growing and compact to 3-8m, but there are some as small as 30cm. There are varieties without spines and ones such as Ferox Argentea, the Hedgehog Holly, which are excessively prickly.

They will adapt to almost any type of soil and withstand salt spray. Variegated ones, with their shiny reflective leaves bring a glow to dull areas and, provided they get a reasonable amount of light, will grow beside a north facing fence. Young plants establish better than larger ones as they resent root disturbance. It is a little too late to plant one now but they will grow in a large pot for several years if you cannot wait until spring to plant one then. Well may we say *of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.*

Pat Smith

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors

When I first came to England I worked in a couple of places before landing a job at 'AP' in Leamington where I remained for the next 25 years.

Whilst living in Leamington it was one weekend when the family was out for a drive in the country that we came across the village of Harbury

and saw a shop for sale. Following in the footsteps of a famous American businessman “We like it so much, we bought the shop”.

Looking back it's amazing to see the children we served in the ‘early years’ have since grown up and have children of their own who are now using the shop. It's also amazing to see that one of the teachers who taught my son, Kenny, at Harbury School recently taught my granddaughter at the same school. It's things like this that have made living in Harbury very enjoyable over the last 21 years.

But sadly, as we have now reached retirement age it was time to sell the business. So, we would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone past and present for their custom and continued support over the years.

Mr. & Mrs. Atwal and Family – Harbury Supermarket (Londis)



Dear Editors

Following the ‘Winter Plea’ of last month, over 70 woollen hats have been distributed to Missions in Northern ports for seafarers of the Third World. Thank you; please keep knitting (box in Church or I can collect).

Bill Davies

(614104)



Dear Editors

Thanks to the great generosity of all friends and helpers. The RSPCA Coffee Morning at Wissett Lodge in October took £614.05.

RSPCA

Dear Editors

WOOF! TO HARBURY DOGS

I was out with my owner the other day on the Harbury Recreation Fields. We had intended having a laugh and a romp but what we came across made me so ashamed - it was like one big toilet! I felt so embarrassed, especially in front of some boys who were trying to play football - they had to dodge the mounds, and it was disgusting!

My owner says we're not going back there to play until it's cleaner, which is a shame because I like it there. I wish I knew which of my friends' owners were to blame, and then we could get it sorted so it would be clean for everyone. Perhaps I'll bark around and see if I can dig anything up. I wonder what the footballers will do?

If you can help provide for a poo-free environment at the recreation ground please do your bit.

Pooch and Master (Jim Ward)

Dear Editors

We would like to thank everyone who supported our Coffee Morning at Fox Cottage – we raised £228.

Also thank you to everyone who supported our Plant Sales – we raised a grand total of £3,236.54.

We hope you will come and support us next year.

Also a big thank you to Lancet Nurseries for supplying the plants. We would like to wish everyone

A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Harbury Myton Hospice Support Group

Dear Editors

At our Coffee Morning for the Save the Children Fund in the Tom Hauley Room we took £268.28 and would like to thank all the people who so generously supported us.

Gunde Walshe

Dear Editors

Iory and Monica Davies wish all their friends in
Harbury a Very Happy Christmas

A donation in lieu of cards will be sent to Katherine House Hospice Adderbury.

Monica Davies