

By the time you receive this issue of the magazine you will have had the opportunity to vote in the local elections using the E.V.S., the electronic system, being piloted in the Stratford District Council area. We hope that this system, where votes are processed quickly (almost at the speed of lightning?), will not have any disastrous effects, unlike the recent late night thunderbolt which killed several lambs in a field below Treens Hill.

Over the Easter period there was the traditional Bank Holiday weather, although the April showers did not mar the Palm Sunday procession from the School to All Saints' Church.



Colin Ingram leads the Palm Sunday Procession

Hopefully the representatives of the Village who travelled to Samoisi-sur-Seine last weekend enjoyed good weather for the latest exchange visit in the twinning of our two Villages. Similarly, we trust that Ladbroke enjoyed good weather for their May Day celebrations on the Millennium Green. Both these activities will no doubt be featured in next month's magazine.

As always during holiday periods extra vigilance by all householders is needed to prevent instances of theft. Both Harbury and Ladbroke have reported burglaries recently.

The recent A.G.M. of the H&L News drew an impressive turn out and most of the officers will be continuing in the same capacity, although an Advertising Manager is still sought. Thanks were expressed to Barbara Andrews and Lesley Jones (former Editors), Dorothy Travis (organiser of the magazine collators) and to Sue Graydon (Advertising Manager) who retired from their positions in support of the magazine during the last year. For the time being adverts should be delivered to 31, Binswood End.

This month we include the first wedding photos submitted this year and we would encourage all families to send in photographs and details which record special occasions - anniversaries, christenings or weddings.

Finally we extend our sympathies to the families of William Butcher and Gwen Watts. Many people will remember Mrs. Watts as the former Headmistress at Harbury School.

Harbury Diary

MAY

- Sun 7 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER** - Sung Eucharist 9am; Evensong 6.30pm
Play Tennis 2000 "Rusty Rackets" for adults 2-5pm
- Tues 9** Beat Buddies 2-3pm at Village Hall
Village Hall committee 8pm Village Hall
Holy Communion 7.30pm; Prayer Group 8pm
- Thurs 11** Youth Club 7-9pm in Village Hall
Annual Parish Meeting 7.30pm in Village Hall
Beginners Line Dancing at Club 7.30pm
Thursday Club 2.30pm in Village Hall
Holy Communion 9.45am
- Sat 13** Harbury Society Tour of Hill Close Gardens 2.30pm
Tom Hauley Room committee coffee morning
Myton Hospice Plant Sale 1-4pm at The Dog Inn car park
- Sun 14 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** - Holy Communion 8am
Sung Eucharist 10.30am; Sunday School 10.30am; Evensong 6.30pm
Christian Aid week commences
- Mon 15** ADVERTS TO 31, BINSWOOD END BY 5.30PM
- Tues 16** Beat Buddies 2-3pm in Village Hall
Senior Citizens Committee 8pm Village Hall
Holy Communion 7.30pm; Mothers' Union 8pm
- Thurs 18** Youth Club 7-9pm Village Hall
Holy Communion 9.45am
- Fri 19** NEWSPAPER COLLECTION
- Sat 20** Concert with Cheese & Wine in aid of British Heart Foundation (see advert)
7.30pm Tom Hauley Room
Junior Football Presentation Dance Village Hall
Men's Prayer Breakfast 7.30am in Tom Hauley Room
The Windmill Singers in Concert at The Grange Hall, Southam, 7.30pm
- Sun 21 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** - Holy Communion 8am
Family Communion 10.30am
- Tues 23** Beat Buddies 2-3pm in Village Hall
Holy Communion 7.30pm; Julian Meeting 8pm
- Thurs 25** Youth Club 7-9pm Village Hall
Parish Council, 7.30pm Village Hall
Thursday Club 2.30pm in Village Hall
Holy Communion 9.45am
- Fri 26** ARTICLES TO HARBURY CHEMIST, HIGH STREET BY 5.30PM
- Sat 27** Junior Football coffee morning in Tom Hauley Room
Myton Hospice Plant Sale at The Dog Inn car park 1-4pm
- Sun 28 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** - Holy Communion 8am
Sung Eucharist 10.30am; Sunday School 10.30am; Evensong 6.30pm
- Tues 30** Holy Communion 7.30pm

JUNE

- Thurs 1** ASCENSION DAY - Holy Communion 9.45am
Storytelling in Library 10am
Folk Club at The Dog Inn 8.30pm
Youth Club 7-9pm in Village Hall
Line Dancing at Club 7.30pm
- Fri 2** NEWSPAPER COLLECTION
- Sat 3** Nursery School coffee morning in Tom Hauley Room
- Sun 4 SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** - Sung Eucharist 9am

		Sunday School 10.30am; Evensong 6.30pm WHEELBARROW RACE
Mon	5	CARNIVAL: Jeu de Boules at The Dog Inn
Tues	6	Beat Buddies 2-3pm in Village Hall CARNIVAL: Skittles at The Old new Inn
Wed	7	CARNIVAL: Test of Strength at The Crown Inn
Thurs	8	Thursday Club 2.30pm Youth Club 7-9pm Village Hall Line Dancing at Club 7.30pm CARNIVAL: Quiz at The Shakespeare Inn
Sat	10	Bellringers' coffee morning in Tom Hauley Room HARBURY CARNIVAL AND FETE

Please note: Adverts to 31, Binswood End by Monday 15th May

Articles to Harbury Chemist by Friday 27th May

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

BELLRINGING PRACTICE: (613605) Church, Fridays 7:30pm

BROWNIES: Scout Hut, Mondays 6:00-7:30pm

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

Under 9s: Training: Harbury School Pitch 10:30am
Coaches: Joe Greenwell 613623 & Jim Ward 612401

Under 10s: Training: Playing Fields 9:00am
Coaches: Steve Darby 613330 & Keith Guy

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

Under 14s: Training: Playing Fields 10:30am
Coaches: Trevor Montague 612340 & Steve Fitzgerald 612164

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: 612841) Village Hall Car Park, Training Thursdays 6:30pm;

Matches on Saturday Afternoon

SCOUTS: Scout Hut, Thursdays 7:00pm

SOUTHAM LEISURE KEEP FIT: Village Hall, Wednesdays 7pm

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: The Dog Inn, last Tuesday of Month 8:00pm

THURSDAY CLUB: 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 6:30pm (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

Definition of a good sermon: *It should have a good beginning and a good ending and the two should be as close together as possible.*

FROM THE RECTOR

I would like, if I may, to share with you some words written by Mother Teresa of Calcutta, in her book *A Gift for God*. It is under the heading of 'A Geography of Compassion'.

There is no great difference in reality between one country and another, because it is always people you meet everywhere. They may look different or be dressed differently, or may have a different education or position, but they are all hungry for love.

I feel Indian to the most profound depths of my soul. The sari allows the Sisters to feel poor amongst the poor, to identify themselves with the sick, with the children, with the old and destitute. The Missionaries of Charity share, in their way of dressing, the way of life of the poorest in this world. Of course, India needs technicians, skilled men, economists, doctors and nurses, for her development. She needs plans and a general co-ordinated action. But how long would we have to wait for those plans to produce results? We do not know. Meanwhile, the people have to live, they have to be given food to eat, to be taken care of and dressed. Our field of action is the present India. While these needs continue, our work will continue.

The suffering in the refugee camps is great. It all looks like one big Calvary, where Christ is crucified once more. Help is needed, but unless there is forgiveness, there will be no peace, and this is also true in Belfast and other strife-ridden places.

You ask how I should see the task of the Missionaries of Charity if I were a religious sister or priest in Surrey or Sussex. Well, the task of the Church in such places is much more difficult than what we face in Calcutta, Yemen or any where else, where all the people need is dressing for their wounds, a bowl of rice and a 'cuddle' – with someone telling them they are loved and wanted. In Surrey and Sussex the problems of your people are deep down, at the bottom of their hearts. They have to come to know you and trust you, to see you as a person with Christ's compassion and love before their problems will emerge and you can help them.

This takes a lot of time! Time for you to be people of prayer and time to give of yourself to each one of your people.

Although now departed, Mother Teresa's work continues unabated. For this we give great thanks to God.

Fr. Roy

FROM THE REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

All Saints' Ladbroke: 9th April – Emma Rose Marsden

All Saints' Harbury: 9th April - Matthew Snow

16th April – Josephine Sarah Cooper

Funerals

All Saints' Harbury: 1st April – Gwen Watts

19th April – William James Butcher

WEDDING CELEBRATIONS



Photo by Bill Green

On April 10th, the marriage took place between Michael Timothy Griffin, only son of Mr. & Mrs. Joe Griffin of Mill Street, Harbury and Christine Diane Bench, youngest daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Dan Bench of Kenilworth. The service, conducted by Father Joe Quigley, was held at the R.C. Church of our Lady and St. Wulstan and was followed by a reception at the Community Hall in Southam.

The bride wore an ivory dress and was attended by six bridesmaids, including the sister of the bridegroom who all wore lilac dresses. The other bridesmaids were Stephanie Bench, the bride's niece, Candice and Camille Burden, Amy and Claire McMahan, who are all friends of the family. The best men were Mark Holt and Matt McEwan, who were both friends of the bridegroom when he was at Trinity School.

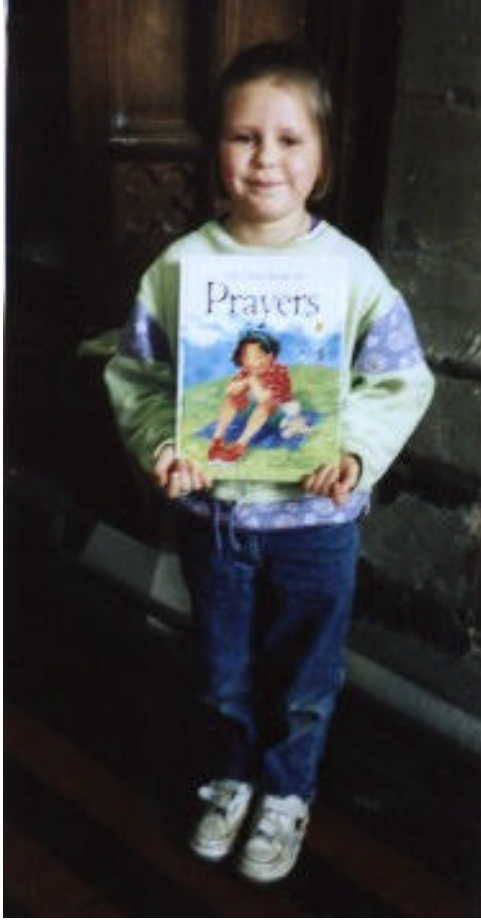
The bride and groom left for a honeymoon in Florida and on their return they will be living in Kenilworth. The bride is the Chef Manageress at the Sainbury's store in Kenilworth, whilst the bridegroom works as an Electrician at the National Exhibition Centre near Birmingham.

We wish them well in their future life together.

Chris Finch

FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

Easter Sunday morning was a joyous occasion, which is as it should be. The church was decorated beautifully and was well filled for the service of worship and thanksgiving.



Lillian Clarke

At the March Family Service, the Sunday School commended the 150 attendances of Lillian Clarke, pictured here with her prize. Sunday School operates in the Tom Hauley Room every term time Sunday at 10.30am, with most children joining the main church service for its climax. For further details, contact the Rector, either of us, or Mary Catt.

The Good News Gospels should have been distributed to all households in the two parishes by now. Initial reports indicate that they have been well received, and we are hoping to have a follow-up gathering in the near future.

Ruth & John

MOTHERS' UNION

Several members attended a special M.U. Worldwide Festival Service in Coventry Cathedral on March 25th to celebrate Lady Day, which marks the occasion when Mary received the news that she was to be the privileged Mother of Jesus. In Diocesan Cathedrals in 60 countries of the world, members took part in services on that day giving thanks for the

work of the Mothers' Union over the past 122 years. Coventry Cathedral was almost full to capacity, and the parade of around 60 banners from branches throughout the diocese, was spectacular. Everyone had been asked to bring along a bell to ring at the appointed moment towards the end of the service, and certainly they made a joyful noise!

Afternoon meeting: Still in Lent, the Reverend Fiona Newton, Curate of St. James' Church, Southam, gave the Address at the service of Holy Communion, centering our thoughts on the events leading up to Easter. Pictures were placed in each pew, showing Jesus in various situations and we were asked to study these as we listened to the spoken word. The usual cup of tea in the Tom Hauley Room afterwards gave an opportunity for discussion and notices.

Evening meeting: Helen Robertson led a 'Meditation for Holy Week', taking us through the events of that week seen through the eyes of the ordinary people as they became involved – from the little boy whose father owned the donkey used in the Palm Sunday procession, through to the betrayal by Judas Iscariot. There was much food for thought as we prepared for the joy of SUNDAY OF EASTER and the Resurrection.

Next meetings: Tues. 16th May 7.30pm Service/8.00pm, Holiday Talk by Beryl Checkley. Wed. 7th June 2pm Service, 2.30pm 'The Work of the Gideons' by Sheila Jackson.

Anne Moore

TODDLERS' SERVICE

At our April toddler service, we listened to the story of the first Easter, and then sang *If I were a Butterfly*.

We were then asked to hunt for Easter egg shapes hidden in the children's corner. Mrs. Catt showed us lovely pictures of hens with their chicks and a picture of a bird's nest.

We said a prayer and sang *What a Wonderful Saviour is Jesus*. We all made our own bird's nest and after squash and biscuit (tea for Mums), we found chocolate eggs had been laid in the nests! To colour at home we were each given an Easter card.

Our next service is in Church on **Tuesday 9th May** at 2.15pm. All babies and toddlers are welcome.

Lorna Bedford

FLOWERS 2000

A meeting will be held in the Tom Hauley Room on **Wednesday 10th May** at 7.30pm. Please can everyone involved in the Flower Festival make an effort to come along, as this will be our last get-together before we start work on our flower project?

Also, please can I ask all gardeners thinking of doing any serious pruning to wait, if possible until nearer the date of the Flower Festival, and then bring all your greenery to the church during the week beginning 20th June?

Finally, through the H&L News, I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped and supported this festival and who have so generously donated their time, money and energy over the last 18 months. Please come along to the Flower Festival which will be held in All Saints' Church, Harbury from **Saturday 24th until Monday 26th June.**

Lesley Jones

Ladbroke News

MAY

- Sun 7 **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER** - Sung Communion 9am
Ladbroke & Deppers Bridge WI outing to Ironbridge
- Wed 10 Holy Communion 2pm; Women's Fellowship 2.45pm
- Sat 13 Millennium History Exhibition at Village Hall
- Sun 14 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** - Sung communion 9am
Millennium History Exhibition at Village Hall
- Mon 15 ADVERTS TO 31, BINSWOOD END BY 5.30PM
- Sun 21 **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** - Sung Communion 9am
Children's Church 10.30am
- Thurs 25 Ladbroke & Deppers Bridge WI meeting in Village Hall
- Fri 26 ARTICLES TO HARBURY CHEMIST, HIGH STREET BY 5.30PM
- Sun 28 **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** - Sung Communion 9am
- Tues 30 PCC Meeting 8.15pm

JUNE

- Thurs 1 ASCENSION DAY – Holy Communion 7.30pm
PCC meeting 8.15pm
- Sun 4 **SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** - Family Communion 10.30am

LADBROKE FLOWER ROTA

- May 7th - Betty Winkfield
- May 14th - Tricia Teverson
- May 21st - Hazel Sharples
- May 28th - Pam Barnett
- June 4th - Peggy Askew

Jane Rutherford

LADBROKE CHURCH NEWS

All Saints' Church, Ladbroke is back to its beautiful self. Repaired, repainted, rewired, and the roof 'waterproofed' (well tested this past month). The guttering and down-pipes have been repaired or replaced; the drains opened up and all are working well.

The bells are back at home too and are sounding good. They apparently swing on ball bearings now and the ringers have to adjust to this, rather like getting used to power steering, I should think.

We had to remove the carpet in the sanctuary during the repair work to the roof in the Chancel and uncovered some rather good Victorian tiles. What do you think about them? Shall we cover them with carpet again or not? Comments please.

The service of music and readings on Good Friday evening went very well, almost a rededication of the church. Then again on Sunday, the church was even more beautified by all the lovely floral arrangements.

At the beginning of our Easter Day service the Rector mentioned Mr. & Mrs. Hedge and how their generous legacy had enabled us to carry out the work on the church. What a debt of gratitude we owe them. This got me thinking about George and Connie, how two quiet, unassuming people will in several ways never be forgotten in the village of Ladbroke because of their generosity to the church and the building of Hedge's Close. Even the people who now live there perpetuate the Hedge's name by their tireless work for the Millennium Green - the Halsalls, Bakers and Todds to name but a few.

The Hedges moved into Ladbroke sometime in the late '40s early '50s. George, who was a professional builder, built their bungalow "Briarwood" in Windmill Lane where they lived until George's death in 1992. Connie continued to live there until about 2 years before her death in 1996. They had a son Brian who was killed in a car accident in 1970.

George was a Church Warden here for 14 years. He had to retire due to ill health. He always had a great love for Ladbroke Church and gave freely of his time maintaining it. I feel very privileged to have known them.

Betty Winkfield

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Without a speaker at our April meeting, we had a very interesting hour looking at and talking about some of our treasures. From our mother's wedding rings to needlework done by one mother as a 12 year old.

In May, Jean Clews is going to walk around the church and discuss with us how we will decorate it for our Millennium Festival week in June. After that we have been invited to Hazel Sharples' home for our cup of tea.

Betty Winkfield

LADBROKE AND DEPPERS BRIDGE W.I.

The meeting was held on April 27th in Ladbroke Village Hall at 7.30pm.

After the business meeting, the President welcomed Jenny Alden who has worked for the RSC for 25 years in the costume department. She gave a very interesting talk about the way the costume requirements for a new production are scheduled and designed through so many different stages.

Jenny had brought some beautiful costumes and many of the etceteras to make the finished product. They ranged from corsets – one of which 'straight laced' our President during the talk – to hat snoods and crowns. The highlight was a most wonderful huge, painted, silk cloak used by Titania a number of years ago – breathtaking!

Our short mat bowls team play their semi-final game on **May 7th** and we wish them well.

On **May 8th** we are off to Ironbridge, which should be very interesting.

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 25th May** in the Village Hall. This will be the Resolution meeting being led by Pauline Beare. The committee will be the hostesses.

Hazel Sharples

LADBROKE VILLAGE FESTIVAL – 17th TO 25th JUNE

The Festival is getting closer – keep the dates free in your diaries! There are a variety of events planned to take place over the week, so everybody should find something to their taste.

Believe it or not, the last festival was in 1990, over 10 years ago. This year's will feature some new events such as a children's procession, a beetle drive and a car boot sale, along with some 'tried and tested' events such as a rare breeds goat and pet show, veteran cars, teas at 'The Old Rectory', a quiz, children's sports, a dance, open gardens, and a treasure hunt.

The Church will be decorated with flowers over the first weekend and will host a Civic service to commemorate the Millennium.

For further information, or offers of help, please contact either:

**Steven Morten (814516) or
Mike Todman (814365)**

LADBROKE MILLENNIUM HISTORY EXHIBITION

Who they were? Where they went? A Millennium History Exhibition as we leave the last century and step into the next, a snapshot into the life, the people, and the places of Victorian Ladbroke.

'Yesterday has just departed & Tomorrow' has not started **May 13th/14th**, 11.00am-4.00pm at the Village Hall. Further details contact Linda Doyle: 01926 81421 or L.Doyle@lyneve.freeserve.co.uk.

Linda Doyle

LADBROKE MILLENNIUM HISTORY EXHIBITION

My grandmother was born in 1898 and her grandmother in 1842. Her father was an Ag. Lab., the nickname we family historians give to the bevy of farm labourers found in the Victorian Census records. I have a photograph of the children who lived in my house, Chapel Ascote Cottage, in 1908 and suddenly the last century does not seem as distant as it was.

At Ladbroke in 1851, there were no more than 60 families, some living up to twelve in a three-bed roomed cottage. The census records names, ages, relationships and trades, and in some cases the name of the dwelling, and gently we are let into the secrets of the ordinary as well as the aristocratic inhabitants of the village.

It is a tantalising insight into a community, but at Ladbroke we can go further still, because descendants of that list of names have given me photographs and suddenly the past also has a face. Coupled together with the portraits are family trees and add to them turn of the century photographs of the cottages they lived in, and the faces also have a place.

Ladbroke in the 19th Century probably saw more changes in that 100 years than it saw in its last 800 years.

The A423 was once a busy coaching road between Coventry and Oxford, so Tollgate Cottage at the south end of the village was an important focal point, but what happened to the Toll keeper and his family when the railway was established? He took up the trade of plumber; his two elder sons emigrated to South Africa, his two youngest sons became carpenters at Ladbroke and Harbury and on his death his widow married the village wheelwright!

The early 1800s saw men returning from the Napoleonic Wars, while the last years saw another generation off to the Boer War. Then hot on its heels, Ladbroke's sons went off to the slaughter of the First World War. How many mothers were thankful that their sons had already left our English shores for a New World? How many fathers, sons and brothers never returned to Ladbroke's leafy lanes?

A pre-World War I photograph of the village school children links faces with the names of grandparents on the 1851 census and more poignantly, to the war memorial in All Saints' Church. Here we see the innocent face of one boy who did not return and the siblings of the others.

At Ladbroke Village Hall on the weekend of **May 13th/14th** from 11.00am-4.00pm come and put faces and names to those Victorian dwellers of Ladbroke and look at the maps associated with the area as it was then. For further information:

Linda Doyle (814214)

LADBROKE PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Only parish councillors were present at the last Parish Council meeting with Peter Williamson as our Chairman. This did not hamper us from having a lively and informative meeting!

Crime Report: One of the 2 thefts in Ladbroke last month was a chest of drawers from the church, which is still missing. The other with its happier ending caused us much amusement. Geoff Timms cycled home to lunch one Friday but on emerging to return to work, his bicycle was not in the garage where he had left it. Presuming a practical joker or – dare I say it – questioning whether he had in fact used the cycle to get home, he continued to search for a while but then reported it stolen. A call from Rugby police station that evening asked for a description of the missing article. Now Geoff didn't know the make or number, only that it was purple with a purple water bottle but the decisive means of identification was the plastic bag stuffed between the frame and the wheel arch, used as a saddle protector in wet weather. Thieves had added the bicycle to their van, already loaded with videos and computers from other burglaries. It might never have been seen again but they ran out of petrol and used Geoff's bike to cycle to a garage and tried to barter it for petrol. However the garage owner phoned the police and they were caught trying to 'hijack' a getaway vehicle! Thus Geoff can still be seen riding his purple bicycle through the lanes of Ladbroke.

Planning applications: The Council had no objections to an application for a further barn conversion to a holiday home at Manor Farm.

Any Other business: It was suggested that daffodil bulbs be planted at various sites within the village. Whether this is desired by residents and what means there may be for paying for it will be discussed at the Village Annual General Meeting in the Village Hall **on Wednesday 17th May** at 8.00 p.m.

The Council commended the planting and other restorative works being carried out on the field and adjoining hedgerow on the North entrance to the village by Mr. Green of Fenny Compton.

Carol Northorpe

HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - MARCH

Into the 21st Century with a bang! Councillors were privileged to sample the new Electronic Voting System we will all use in the District Elections on May 4th. Bernadette O’Hare from Stratford District Council explained her authority had been selected as the only one to pilot electronic voting and counting - “A giant leap from the 15th Century to today”! From the audience, Ron Grey expressed satisfaction that there was still the ability to register that a voter wanted “None of the above” although there was not the ability to spoil a paper or add rude comments - SHAME!

Inspired by this innovation, the Parish Council is not only going to provide new Play Equipment for the younger children, but following a presentation by the “Harbury Youth Project” it is likely that there will be a Skateboard Ramp on the Recreation Grounds too (part funded by the District Council). Janet Thornley, who had taken up the cause of the youngsters, was applying for funding and had involved Chris Wood, Stratford’s Playing Fields Advisor. In true family tradition, Alex Biddle spoke up for the group explaining that as the in-between teenagers they had little recreational provision and “you shout at us if we skate on the roads or wax the curbs!”

Councillors worried about the cost of installation, insurance and maintenance and Ken Stephenson kept badgering Mrs. Thornley for parental contributions. (The kids were quick to volunteer their dads for the manual work!) Jack Heath and Keith Thompson thought it a good way to dispose of the spoil generated by the work on the Tennis Courts; Dutch Van Spall said it was an excellent use of the old Tarzan Swing Area and Chairman John Hunt said it was commendable to see people trying to help themselves. The Parish Council supported the project subject to finance being secured.

Mrs. McCracken and other residents from Constance Drive were present to complain about disturbances at the Playing Fields listing dates and times when football was played on the car park up to 10pm and other nuisances were caused. Stratford’s Environmental Health Officers had been contacted and would attempt to secure a prosecution of the offenders, but John Hunt explained that he could not restrict access to Public Open Space. He had, however, been very impressed with research from Thames Valley Police on the efficacy of Youth Shelters in reducing complaints about nuisance caused by young people.

More complaints about kids, causing damage to shrubs, came from a resident of South Parade who wants the School Bus Stop moved to the Village Hall.

Deppers Bridge is to get two chicanes and a road narrowing as part of its Traffic Calming scheme and Dutch Van Spall (Deppers Bridge representative) had explained the project to the residents who would be affected. They were he said “one hundred percent delighted!” He had circulated proposals to upgrade Deppers Bridge’s Playing Field with a hard standing and kick about Wall and the Parish Council is to look at them in detail but agreed to maintenance being undertaken immediately.

PLANNING: Stratford District Council granted permission for roof alterations at 18, Vicarage Lane; a riding arena at Lower Westfields Farm; an extension at 7, Penelope Close; a new two storey house at 12, Church Terrace and remedial work to satisfy planning conditions at Tresco Barn. They refused permission for a two-storey extension to 18, Farm St.

The Parish Council had no objection to the felling of a conifer at 28, Ivy Lane; the retention of the School’s temporary classroom or a large extension and garage at 18, South Parade. They complained the BT Aerial was still in place and Ken Stephenson was shushed up when he asked about plans for an “Orange” Mast.

John Hunt was insistent that the public should know that it was the relatives of Mr. & Mrs. Keeling who were paying for the memorial trees in the Burial Grounds. A survey of the state of the headstones is to be undertaken following advice from the Association of Local Councils on the procedures to be followed before those which pose a danger can be made safe. The Clerk will ascertain how many unsold plots remain and the Parish Council will revise the fees. They agreed to dispose of the four redundant mowers that they seemed to have forgotten about.

Ken says he has got a result from Bryant. They agreed to the Parish Council shading lights in Percival Drive. He mentioned that word (bollards) again when reporting on the Lighting Review and his Ten Year Plan to replace all the old concrete and metal lights. He promised Alison Hodge that the Hillside light would be replaced with a down lighter.

Jerry Birkbeck (Warwick County Council Landscape) advised the Parish Council to retain the brick edging to the Pound footway, spray off the weeds and blacktop as far as Lovers’ Lane. The Councillors approved and agreed that the footpath to Station Road corner should be left alone.

The Parish Council is still pursuing the idea of making the roads round the Church into a one-way system and will have a site visit with the County Council.

The Theatre Group will get a letter of support from the Parish Council for their bid to Stratford District Council for funding to replace the old staging with a more modern, flexible lightweight and portable system from which everyone using the Village Hall could benefit. The Parish Council reaffirmed their support for the Village Hall by agreeing to hold Parish Council meetings there, provided they got more comfortable chairs.

John Hunt gave short shrift to MP John Maples “political” letter warning Parish Councils the government sought their abolition. The Local Councils’ Association dismissed it as just rumour and the Minister had publicly stated there were no such plans.

It seems the “bonfire skip” has lingered too long and the Clerk is making efforts to have it removed.

Linda Ridgley

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING FOR APRIL 2000

Dutch Van Spall has done a wonderful job getting the Parish Council to see the light or even not to see it!

At his insistence they will be ASKING RESIDENTS their views on the upgrading of the footway lights and as a pilot they will install a BOLLARD in Binswood End.

Dutch is concerned that the lights we have and those we have been putting up recently not only waste energy, but also spill light skywards. He thinks that low-level lamps and lighting that is properly directed downwards will be more effective and improve the public’s perception of the place they live in.

It seems we are stuck with the mock Victorian “Windsor” lights that have been put up in the conservation area but as other lamps need replacing we may be able to use more appropriate illumination and be able once more to “star-gaze”. And at last we are going to be asked what we think and where we want improvements. It is our money!

Planning: Stratford District Council passed plans for the courtyard extension to Harbury House and the new house in Pirie Close; the extension to Lower Westfields Farm and the retention of the School’s temporary classroom.

The Parish Council made no comments on extensions at 5, Heber Drive; 38, Frances Road and 12, Pineham Avenue. The felling of Leylandii to the rear of Poole Farm and replacement with beech hedging was thought to be an improvement.

An enforcement notice for the cessation of use of residential caravans at Kestrel House to the rear of Brethrens Farm will come into force on May 5th unless an appeal is lodged.

District Councillors received assurances the Parish Council was still opposed to the BT mast beside the Windmill for which another planning application had been lodged.

Ken Stephenson tried again this month to expose attempts by Orange to find a site in the village for a small communications mast. The Village Hall Committee had been approached and assured that the mast would pose no danger to health Ken reported.

Four fifths of the households in Deppers Bridge have already been canvassed for views on the traffic calming proposals and Dutch Van Spall reported the majority were in favour.

The new play equipment is to be installed at the Playing Fields in the next fortnight and the school children have been invited to see it commissioned. The Aerial Runway will be refurbished.

The Management Agreement for the improved Tennis, Netball and Junior Football facilities was approved.

Keith Thompson inspected the leaning headstones in the burial grounds and found none to be dangerous. He estimates that there are a dozen plots left in the new part and up to 150 in the other area to the left, which should be sufficient for the next 28 years. A sign would be erected near the Shelter asking people to dispose of flowers etc in the bins provided.

The cemetery, allotment and football fees (not raised for three years) will be uplifted by a cost of living increase of 8%.

A resident of South Parade was displeased with the way the weeds around trees, seats etc. had sprayed off, but this had been done by the Parish Council's contractor as an experiment. Last year he was forced to abandon strimming these areas because of the contamination with dog faeces. The Chairman had to threaten to confiscate Transco's barriers before they would remove them from the Old New Inn green.

The Police reported damage to the goalposts at the Recreation Grounds, theft from Fosse Garage and two public order offences in February; damage to the Village Hall and a burglary at the Shakespeare Inn in March; damage to a property in Ivy Lane in April and the theft of jewellery from a home in Temple End. This last burglary took place between 9.30am and 6pm on April 22nd and the Police would like to know of anything suspicious people may have seen or news on the whereabouts of the suede leather jewellery case.

The Parish Councillors were chuffed that their signage review is to receive publicity organised by the County Council under the title "Sign of the Times" and they will turn out for the photo session on Saturday 6th May 10.00am.

John Hunt will represent the Parish Council at the ancient Wroth Silver Ceremony on Dunsmore Heath at sunrise on St Martinmass.

Linda Ridgley

HARBURY SOCIETY

The Carnival Stall will feature Harbury's historic walls, which we surveyed a fortnight ago in our Wall Walk.

On a lovely sunny Palm Sunday we wandered round the village under the tuition of John Smith spotting frost-damage, heave, root penetration, chemical weathering, and general decay affecting the boundary walls. These walls are an important part of our heritage and are distinctive to Harbury. Some are Victorian but many are considerably older and suffer from age and neglect. We would like to set up a Community Chest to help fund their repair and would be pleased to hear from anyone who is willing to form a Working Group to progress this initiative.

Our next event is the Guided Walk round the Hill Close Gardens in Warwick on **Saturday 13th May** at 2.30pm.

Linda Ridgley

HARBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

I must begin with a quote from a speaker at the recent Spring Council meeting, showing what a difference moving a comma makes.

A woman without a man, is nothing. A woman without, a man is nothing. Good isn't it!

The Darts team lost to Brailes in a tiebreak. Bad luck Doreen, Barbara, Mary and Bertha but a good try. However, pleased to report that Celia and Peggie won the W.F.W.I. Innis Cup for the annual Indoor Bowls tournament.

A Millennium gift of a bench was presented to Harbury School for their quiet corner.

Another enjoyable walk on the Thwaites estate recently (with permission of course), the rain starting just as we had finished.

Mr. Sage from Wappenbury Nursery came to talk and demonstrate on hanging baskets. He completely changed careers and took up gardening in his mid thirties, now being headman at Wappenbury Nursery. He says that they are bursting at the seams with plants at the moment, specialising in fuchsias and geraniums. All the plants produced contain vine weevil control.

We were given advice on what brackets to use, to consider the background and the elements for the positioning of the baskets. N.S.E. and West need different plants and colours for the best performance. Lining baskets with moss provides warmth in the winter and cool in the summer and the correct compost containing water retentive crystals is important. Planting on the sides is not necessary as the trailing plants are more than adequate to cover the basket. Mr. Sage should know as he prepares 1500 summer baskets and a growing number of winter ones as they are now getting very popular. The amount of plants he put in the demonstration basket was amazing. His useful tip: Water and feed little and often. Celia was lucky to win the hanging basket in the raffle.

May hostesses: Dorothy Groves, Mary Entwistle and Jeanne Beaumont

Jeanne Beaumont

HARBURY THEATRE GROUP – *DAISY PULLS IT OFF*

Another excellent performance by Harbury Theatre Club's youth troupe.

The Club's latest production provided the perfect stage for the talents of its junior members, who may be junior in age but not so in capturing the humorous flavour of life in a rather precious private girls' school in the 1920s.

This predominately young company had its stars and I think it's fair to say that whilst everyone contributed admirably to the performance, there were those who shone particularly bright. Jenny Hodge as Daisy Meredith delivered line after line with confidence and seeming ease, never faltering as she brought to life the character of our heroine. The natural exuberance and energy witnessed in Nikki Brunt's Trixie Martin was a pleasure to watch as she gallantly, in true Enid Blyton fashion, came to the rescue of the new girl (Daisy).



Back L to R: Caroline Burt, Charlie Coleman, Caroline Dormer
 Front L to R: Jenny Patrick, Beth Whalley, Chesney Coleman, Nicky Brunt,
 Jenny Hodge

The baddies Sybil Burlington (Chesney Coleman) and Monica Smithers (Beth Walley) played equally delicious parts! Sybil's voice and face showed utter contempt for Daisy, whilst Monica followed blindly in the footsteps of her cruel friend, capturing totally the character of the weak and easily led collaborator, in the systematic attempt to blacken the name of Daisy Meredith.

There were other performances that were particularly captivating: Headmistress Fiona McLure's address to her assembled pupils brought back faint memories of a bygone day; Helen Cooper added a frothy humour to the proceedings as she wittily hammed up her part as the scatty French Mistress.



L to R: Andrew Patrick, Fiona McLure, Pat Whorton, Jenny Patrick

I particularly enjoyed the hockey match, captained admirably by Head Girl Ruth Thurogood, when the energy and concentration of the actors

generated anticipation and excitement as they talked us through, move by move (Motson style) to beating their rivals.

The whole show moved with pace and humour and I'm sure its audience will look forward to seeing this group of thespians both junior and senior performing again in the near future

Vikki Holroyd

HARBURY FOLK CLUB

April's Folk Club (number 185 for potential archivists) had as its theme 'The Body'. Although set by Peter McDonald, unforeseen events prevented his attendance and I headed into the vacant spot. Armed with appropriate songs, a small but select band legged it into the back room of The Dog Inn. A white-knuckle experience faced us all, but we eyed the challenge with relish. A first-half handful of The Harvesters "Clockwatching", Colin Squire watching the walls (coincidentally next month's theme), Des finding "Shallow Ground", Keith Donnelly advising "Don't Moon at a Werewolf" and Rick "Sunbathing" provided a hair-raising earful of songs, just what was knee-ded by the audience. Elbowing back the first break, Ron led by a neck into the second spot with a fishy tale and thumbed through his repertoire to give us his song of St. George. Jenny's deft fingers plucked sweet music from her harp; her self-penned second tune suitably titled "Twitchy Toes". In a different vein Keith A. gave us two mandolin instrumentals and was followed by Maggie with "The Lowlands of Holland" and "The Night Visiting Song". Des returned to put his heart into "The Alabama's Crew" and Colin got his teeth into "Yarmouth Town".

A further break followed to sate thirsts and the third period saw the raffle make a creditable £26 for the Helen Ley Home. John and Nick (Phil & Drill) ribbed us with "Every Inch a Lady" and a song of such gynaecological detail that the chorus would have de-feeted even the most medical brain. The Harvesters lunged into "Moon in a Bottle" and handed over to Mike who muscled us into spanking nuns before going "On Again, On Again". Jenny nailed down another Irish tune on her harp and Keith A. played two polkas. Maggie then followed with the "Bogie's Bonny Belle", and Keith D. closed proceedings with (I think) "How I Kneed you Deer", if the compulsory actions were

to be believed. A real shin-dig came to a satisfactory close before we all heeled over and left instep. Be 'forearmed' that the Club will be back next month, run by Pete Bones.

Ian Hartland

HARBURY NURSERY SCHOOL

At the end of a successful spring term the children took home Easter hats, bonnets, and cards that they made. On the last day of term the children enjoyed a traditional Easter Egg Hunt.

Next term we will be looking at Fairy Tales. The children will explore the traditional stories through art, singing and drama, and through this develop their language skills and self-confidence.

We held two major fund raising events during April, an 80/20 Sale on April 8th and a Murder Mystery Evening on April 15th. The 80/20 Sale was extremely well attended and people came not just from Harbury, but from many other areas, encouraged by our growing reputation for selling high quality clothes, toys and equipment. The Nursery raised £295 from this event with most sellers very pleased with the money they made.

The Murder Mystery evening was enjoyed by all who attended and by the members of Harbury Theatre Group who acted out the drama. They put on a wonderful performance excellently directed by Sarah Woods. We have already had many requests for a repeat performance next year – look out for further details! Almost £700 was raised for the Nursery, and the committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to make the evening such a huge success.

A number of parents have already contacted us to book a place in the Nursery for September. If you have a child approaching 3 years of age, please contact Kate Smart on 612609 or the School on 612656 to secure a place for the next academic year.

Marie Kennedy

THE PRE-SCHOOL - Learning Through Play

(The Pre-School is in the Wight School, just behind the library in Mill Street.)

The wet April weather gave us the opportunity to have an indoor rather than outdoor Easter egg hunt. The children had each decorated their own egg shape and inscribed their name on the back. The staff hid the eggs around the room and then the hunt was on. The children soon located eggs, but were they the right ones? In terms of learning objectives, this was a great exercise in name recognition. In terms of social development, this gave the children the opportunity to help each other find their appropriate eggs. And in terms of fun, it was a very exciting game, with the added bonus of being awarded your egg nest at the end. The children all made beautiful nests from shredded wheat and melted chocolate that they filled with foil wrapped little eggs. It was very touching to see how carefully the children looked after the nests, refusing to sample the contents since they had made them for their families.

We enjoyed our visit to the Algar's bungalow very much and would like to thank them for their kindness and interest. The children still refer to "the lady's house without stairs". They were beautifully behaved and

enjoyed their visit hugely. Highlights included the squirrel in the tree in the garden and the photographs on the mantelpiece, which has prompted a discussion about the people featured in the photographs in our own homes.

The entire Pre-School would also like to express their gratitude to the Wagstaffe Trust, which has supported us magnificently. Through Mr. Bunting we have been given some crash mats, which now allow us to make full use of our climbing frame-cum-slide. The children were allowed to use the structure as a den and it was lovely to see a child fetch a cushion and book and settle down inside, the picture of total relaxation and happiness. The den has also been a cave full of lions and a zoo and will offer all sorts of opportunities for exciting role-play. If this were not enough, Mr. Bunting and the Trust decided to fulfil our other wish and provided us with a set of drawers that also act as a room divider. The drawers allow the children to decide for themselves what activity they want to do in free play. They can go and get their own pens or craft materials, jigsaws or games and set them up themselves. This gives them immense freedom and helps to build confidence - they can play the same game over and over again or they can try their hand at anything they would like to do with staff on hand to guide and assist. The room divider also helps to isolate the boisterous feeding of lions in the den from more reflective drawing and making!

We are immensely grateful for this level of support, which has answered all our current needs and made such a difference to the children.

We hope you all had a wonderful Easter and look forward to seeing everyone again in May.

Harbury Pre-School Committee

HARBURY PTA

I am pleased to report that partners were being swung left, right and centre at our Family Barn dance on March 11th. The music was wonderfully supplied by "Reel to Reel" with Pete Bones trying to maintain some sort of order, as he was calling the dances. Ruth Guy made her debut on the piano accordion with great success and of course Nick Tawny kept everyone well watered (or should it be well oiled) as our resident barman.

We also had a great display of Appalachian Step dancing at half time by "Kick Start", the children sat amazed on the floor as all sorts of intricate gyrations were performed in front of them!

I would like to say a big thank you to the committee and helpers who, as always, worked exceptionally hard and provided excellent food. All had a good time and it was nice to see so many kids there, joining in and enjoying themselves. It was also pleasing that we raised over £200 for the PTA funds.

Advance Notice: Start training now for THE 2ND HARBURY BEER WALK on **SATURDAY 15th JULY**. Details will follow but make your way to your nearest pub soon to limber up for an event that will make the Olympic Games pale into insignificance. You have been warned!

Ian Ashworth 613304

HARBURY CRICKET CLUB

The combined league side with Southam Cricket Club, which will play in the Midlands League Division 7 East, will be captained by Neil Moran from Southam and Ed Russell. The Harbury Club Chairman will be vice-Captain. The first match is scheduled for Saturday 6th May at home to Belle Vue and spectators are always welcome.

The Sunday Friendly XI has had all three of its April fixtures cancelled because of the weather, but looks forward to meeting old rivals Willoughby on May 7th. The remainder of the early fixtures are given below and please note that the Sunday Second XI have their first match on the 21st.

The team are looking for any bookmaker from the Far East who is interested in paying for the team to throw a match, since there is considerable doubt that they can actually win one anyway and it might as well prove profitable. The Club are also interested in hearing from potential new players who are exhausted by the demands of walking round the shops on Saturdays or entertaining the In-laws on Sundays. We can't quite promise all aspects of John Major's dream of Britain, since the beer at the Club is never warm, but you will get plenty of fresh air. Once again we are grateful to our sponsors for their support for village cricket, and to our many vice-Presidents.

Division 7 East - team in co-operation with Southam CC

Date	Opponents	Type	Venue	Match Sponsor
May				
6	Belle Vue	CL	H	Carr Building Services.
13	Attleborough III	CL	H	Old New Inn
20	Newbold II	CL	A	
27	Willoughby II	CL	H	Shakespeare Inn
June				
3	Bedworth IV.	CL	A	
10	Leamington IV	CL	A	
17	Peugeot II	CL	H	Rollason Solicitors
24	Alvis/Sphinx IV	CL	H	Old New Inn

Sunday Friendly First XI - 2000

Date	Opponents	Type	Venue	Match Sponsor
May				
7	Willoughby	Fr	A	
14	Kineton II	Fr	A	
21	Welford	Fr	H	Crown Inn
28	Ettington	Fr	H	Holtom Electrical
June				
4	Hockley Heath	Fr	A	
11	Arden Forest	Fr	H	Old New Inn
18	Stratford Bards	Fr	A	
25	Barford	Fr	A	

Sunday Friendly Second XI - 2000

Date	Opponents	Type	Venue	Note
May				
21	Leamington Lemmings	Fr	A	In Victoria Park

June				
11	Bishops Itchington	Fr	A	The match of the season
25	Yelvertoft	Fr	A	

Ian Jackson

HARBURY TENNIS CLUB

If you haven't played tennis for a while and are reading this **before** Sunday 7th May why not come along to our 'Rusty Rackets' event at 2.00pm and have a knock out? It will be a very informal couple of hours of social tennis. If you are reading this **after** May 7th and would still like to get involved, give me a ring, as we are looking at the possibility of having coaching for beginners/improvers.

The Cheque Book Tournament, our opening event of the season managed a couple of hours before the rain, but produced one new member destined for the 'A' team I think!

The Banbury Summer league has started in very wet and cold conditions. Harbury's players obviously prefer a little sun on their backs as the 'A' team lost its opening match and the 'B' team has come second twice! Things can only get better!

Arrangements for booking the Courts have changed this year. Mary and Paul Mugglestone at Country Fayre have kindly agreed to look after the booking sheets for us during normal shop hours. At £2 an hour, for non-members, exceptional value!

Under 16 News

The tennis course run by Stratford District Council at Harbury tennis courts the week before Easter was a great success in spite of the dreadful weather. Fifty-three children took part over the four days and seemed to have thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

By the time you read this the Play Tennis 2000 Fun Day for children will be over. At the moment we can just hope for better weather than of late, although the Village Hall has been booked just in case! I'll let you know about it next month.

Club sessions are starting on **Wednesday 10th May** for the Intermediates and **Sunday 14th May** for the Juniors. A significant development this year is that we have arranged for all age groups to have qualified coaches to supplement Club members who run sessions, although the emphasis will still be very much on having fun!

Colin and Sue Mercer 613284

HARBURY CARNIVAL JUNE 10TH, 2000

Last month we promised more details on the activities during the week leading up to Carnival Day. As usual, these will start with the Wheelbarrow Race on **Sunday 4th June** 12.30pm, which will be hosted this year by the Gamecock (don't forget to register with Dan Killian without delay as places are limited). The week will continue with a team competition over a series of pub games:

Monday - Boules at The Dog

Tuesday - Skittles at The Old New Inn

Wednesday - Test of Strength at The Crown
 Thursday - Quiz at The Shakespeare

This will be organised on a “grand prix” basis with points awarded for 1st, 2nd 3rd, etc. The team that accumulates the most points overall will be the winner. As I said last month, we would like to see more participation this year, so please consider entering a team to represent your organisation, pub or simply get together with some friends. More details will be available shortly around the village but in the meantime, if you want more information or to enter a team, please contact Dan Killian on 612265 or John Broomfield on 614258.

Arrangements for the Carnival Day are now well and truly on their way – just a few items to mention. If you still need to organise a stall please get in touch with Kary Hunt on 613598.

Will last year’s winners please return cups and shields to Kath Ellis (the hairdresser’s) as soon as possible.

And last but not least, congratulations on their accession to the Carnival throne, to our new King and Queen, Charlie Gladden and Megan Yeoman.

**John Broomfield on behalf of the
 Carnival Committee**

HARBURY VICTORIAN STREET FAYRE - 2000

The date for the above is now confirmed as **Saturday 14th October 2000**. The chosen charity this year will be Children in Need and we will be raising money for this very worthwhile cause not only at the Street Fayre, but also by providing the catering at this year’s Beer Festival.

Additionally, it is intended to continue fund raising up to the date of the televised Children in Need programme in November when we are hoping a delegation including local children will be able to hand in an enormous cheque for an enormous amount of money! PLEASE SUPPORT US.

Further details regarding stall booking, entertainment, etc. will be given in a later edition of the magazine.

Dan Killian 612265

THE FRIENDSHIP PROJECT

If you are concerned about children, especially those who are deprived in some way, you may be interested to hear about the Friendship Project.

The Friendship Project is a small voluntary organisation, a registered charity, set up to help children whose families do not or cannot provide all the support the children need for full development. The children do not have severe problems but the aim is to prevent problems arising by assisting them to develop and so avoid drifting into trouble.

Volunteers, known as ‘Older Friends’, give up two hours of their time each week to befriend a ‘Younger Friend’. ‘Older Friends’ must be aged 18+ years and are, of course, vetted through references and a police check. They are given training, guidance and support. The children are aged between 6 and 16 years and are usually referred by a social worker.

The idea is for both 'friends' to have fun together, doing something which both enjoy. This may include swimming, visiting parks or museums, reading stories, making things, playing games – just the ordinary things you might do with your own children or grandchildren. You are not expected to be a teacher, parent or social worker, just to have fun.

As it happened, both of the young friends I have had were not typical as they came from caring homes, but they each had a disability and needed extra help. The first pairing lasted about 6 months, the second over 3 years, and we still keep in touch and have occasional outings. It was really fulfilling to watch the second little boy grow in confidence and skill on our weekly swimming expeditions. The friendships are enjoyable and worthwhile experiences.

If you are interested in finding out more, ring Mrs. Pam Daniel (01926 414826) between 10:00am and 12noon on Mondays to Thursdays. She is based at Myton Park, Myton Road, Warwick.

C.M. Catt

PEN FRIEND FOR ARABIC STUDENT NURSE

As some of you know Tom and I are currently living and working in Abu Dhabi in the U.A.E. Tom is busy building roads through the desert and I am teaching English in a Military Nursing School. This is very interesting as we are training the first group of nationals (both men and women) to become nurses to an acceptable international level. The first problem we have is to overcome their cultural prejudices about nurses, as they were seen as little more than lackeys in the hospitals.

The next problem is to bring their level of English up to the necessary standard as all their studies are in English. So you can see that it's no easy task but we're getting there! I'm currently working with students who are in their second year of study, but their first year of nursing training (they do a general foundations year); the whole course takes them 4 years, and after that it's likely that some of them will be sent overseas to do further training, so they really are at the forefront of the profession in this country.

One of my female students has asked me if I could find her an English pen friend to correspond with, preferably by e-mail but snail mail would be O.K. as well. So what could I do but appeal to the Harbury and Ladbrooke News to lend a hand. Ideally a trainee student nurse would be marvellous, so is there anyone out there? It would have to be a female for cultural reasons!

Anyway to tell you about Rabab, she's around 20, is enthusiastic about what she is doing, has a warm and lively personality, is outgoing and intelligent and her level of English is improving in leaps and bounds. Of course having someone to write to in English would help a lot too.

The way of life here is very different from Britain, the climate not the least of it, as temperatures soar to around 50 degrees in the summer. Most of the local people are affluent but not all, especially those who come from the northern Emirates and some of the students are taking great responsibilities in support of their families.

Islam plays an enormous part in their lives and they live to its rules, but the position of women is becoming freer all the time and more and more of them are taking their place in the world of work and doing very well. The contemporary history of the country is extremely short; oil really only came on stream in the early 1960s and if you look at the development of the place within the past 40 years and see what they have succeeded in doing, it just about blows your mind. So any links to people out in the big wide world can only be good. The point of contact would be back to me initially so if anyone is interested please drop me an e-mail.

Joan Smith joan.smith@hct.ac.ae



The Police Arrive outside Mugglestone's – Keith Hayes and Alison Hodge



Community Supper guests arrive: Gordon Robbins and Linda Eadon



A suspect is led away: Keith Hayes, Keith Dorner and Alison Hodge



Riotous applause – the end!

Every person carries with them a past. Every village holds tight its secrets. The Community Society Supper should be a time for reconciliation – a coming together. Instead, fate and human frailty turn a community upside down – and one of its members to murder!

On Saturday night, 15th April, Harbury Nursery School Committee raised over £700 by presenting an intriguing and thrilling murder mystery, which was written and produced specifically for the occasion by the Harbury playwright Sarah Woods, whose radio play “A Lovesong for the Buses” has just been nominated for a Sony Award.

Eight actors and ‘a body’ from the Harbury Theatre Group performed the murder mystery. The first scenes were acted simultaneously at five separate locations around the village, including the doctors’ surgery and the school. The audience then reconvened at the Village Hall where characters and the audience attended a village “Community Supper”, a three course sit-down curry. Characters sat among the audience and performed a further 5 Acts during the evening. There was also a licensed bar and a sweepstake allowing the audience to put money on “who-dunnit” and even win a prize.

The Nursery Committee would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to stage this ambitious event, especially the actors from the Harbury Theatre Group, Gordon Robbins for the sound system, Bob Hodge for the lighting, the waiters (Gemma Varriale, Ricky McMahon, Peter and James Smart). Also Geoff Marston for production management, and

local professional photographer - Christopher Houghton, who whilst trying out his new camera caught some of the action, and has kindly supplied the photographs.

Finally, many thanks to everyone who came to the event, apologies to those we had to turn away. Everyone - even the committee - had a great time.

The organisers and Harbury Theatre Group are currently planning a tour of local Warwickshire areas with the production.

Jacky Sykes

NEW BUS SERVICE – Route Number 500

Commencing on **Monday 8th May**, the A & M Group will be operating a bus service from Rugby to Stratford-upon-Avon via Harbury.

The service runs each weekday except for Bank Holidays, utilising a wheelchair-equipped bus.

The timetable for this service is:

Rugby, Clifton Road	09:15	Stratford, Bridge Street	13:00
Dunchurch, Southam Road	09:30	Tiddington, Main Street	13:10
Long Itchington, The Pond	09:45	Wellesbourne, School Road	13:20
Stockton, Nelson Club	09:50	Harbury, Londis Shop	13:33
Napton, The Crown	09:50	Bishops Itchington, Church	13:42
Southam, Market Hill	10:05	Southam, Market Hill	13:52
Bishops Itchington, Church	10:15	Napton, The Crown	14:02
Harbury, Londis Shop	10:23	Stockton, Nelson Club	14:07
Wellesbourne, School Road	10:40	Long Itchington, The Pond	14:15
Tiddington, Main Street	10:50	Dunchurch, Southam Road	14:30
Stratford, Bridge Street	11:00	Rugby, Clifton Road	14:45

Mike Thompson

PENSIONERS' PATIO

Easter: A spot of sun a spot (or several) of rain, but at least the trees had time to put on their Easter bonnets. If the silver birch across the driveway was still dragging its heels that was no problem, for I can never decide which is loveliest to look at – its shimmering cloak of golden light in autumn or the intricate etching of its bare twigs in winter, about to be hidden by its spring dress.

The first of this year's young birds will soon be around. Most of them quickly learn, maybe after a harmless brush with the patio doors, that you can't fly through a human habitation even if you can see trees through the window on the far side of the room.

The occasional unlucky one usually recovers from concussion after a spell in a shoebox in a quiet spot. But last year a greenfinch gave itself a nasty knock. When it seemed lively again, I put it back outside and it flew to a nearby garage roof, which seemed a good sign. Later, however, it was back squatting on the garden path looking puzzled: had the collision given it double vision, I wondered? It didn't appreciate being put in the shelter of a shrub, seeming to prefer open space. An unwise

choice – soon after seeing it still in the garden I happened to look out of the window in the opposite wall. There in the driveway the local sparrow hawk was tearing at something pinned down by its talons – and there was no longer a greenfinch in the garden. It had been, quite literally, a sitting target. Well, as the television programmes never tire of showing us (in lurid detail), Nature is red in tooth and claw. (Having written that, I wondered who'd coined that phrase and reached for the dictionary of quotations. No, it wasn't a naturalist: it was Tennyson – a poet who could face the facts of life, evidently!)

Edyth Algar

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

In the last talk: *Ponds & Garden Features*, Mr. Leech stressed the importance, when installing a pond, of thorough preparation of the site and careful measurement of the size of liner required before buying, as it is remarkable just how much liner is required for any given size of pond (he preferred a flexible sheet liner to a rigid GRP type, although conceding that concrete or natural 'puddled clay' liners had their merits).

Bog areas are formed in the same way as ponds, except that they are shallower and the liner has a few holes for limited drainage. Siting is important - the pond should received 4-5 hours unshaded sunlight per day but not full sun all day, nor should it be overhung by trees as the falling leaves foul the water but some shade is helpful, about 40% of the pool area, in keeping the water clear, as are fish.

He suggested that pond plants be put in special containers designed specifically for this, using a heavy loam as the planting medium, not normal general-purpose compost.

This year the *Blackthorn Winter* excelled itself and outstayed its welcome! We have certainly had some cold wet weather, which probably felt worse because of the mild weather earlier. Seasons do seem to be changing - all very confusing for the animals and plants (not to mention us!). It was pointed out to me last week that this year the ash is leafing before the oak, not a good sign for a dry season to come. I will not say more than to mention showers! I suppose it was typical April weather. However, once again the spring flowers have been lovely - even the daffodils have not been battered by the weather as so often happens.

There are some seats still available for the Anglesey House trip on **Thursday 8th June**, members £8, £6 or £4, non-members £10, £8, or £6. Please contact Judy on 613103 for details and give payments to John Clifford. Members who intend going on the evening trip to Spring House on **Tuesday 20th June**, please bring the £3.50 to the next meeting, which is also the last of this season. We recommence the monthly talks in October, after the new year starts with the show in September.

The programme for the Open Gardens weekend is now complete and will soon be printed. Thank you everybody for your almost overwhelming response to our appeal for gardens to open!

The schedule for the show in September is also well in hand, something for everybody we hope. If you intend to exhibit fruit, do not polish it or otherwise damage the bloom or you will lose points. Should you plan to show jams or other preserves, the containers and closures form part of

the exhibit and influence the judging. These things are all dealt with in the WI book *On with the Show*. Ron Grey and Mrs. Pat Smith both hold copies; ask them in order to refer to it.

When sowing seeds or taking cuttings, please bear in mind the Open Gardens on **July 8th & 9th**, the show on **September 9th**, as these provide opportunities for sale of your surplus to the benefit of your own pocket!

Muriel Grey

GARDENING NOTES FOR MAY

The April showers have been rather too plentiful but now we look forward to the May flowers, particularly the flowering shrubs. Early shrubs will be over, so cut out some of the oldest branches, and shorten back the shoots that have flowered. The new growth, which will develop through the coming months, will carry the blooms next year.

Check all plants with variegated foliage and cut out any shoots that are all green. It is quite common for non-variegated foliage to grow but if this is allowed to remain on the plant it will eventually become the dominant colour.

Feed and mulch any shrubs, which are pruned, and tie in climbers regularly to prevent wind damage.

Spring bulbs enjoy a liquid feed now and remember to leave the leaves growing for at least 6 weeks after flowering finishes. Sweetpeas and other hardy annuals, which have been raised in boxes, can be hardened off ready for planting out in the borders. Frost can occur up to the end of this month so keep cloches and fleece ready as night protection if plants have been put out.

Hardy annuals can be sown in the gaps in borders. It is easy to sort the seedlings from the weeds if you sow the seeds in lines within your space, and mark the area with some sand. If you buy young bedding plants, grow them on and harden them off just as if you had grown them from seed yourself.

Plant up hanging baskets and other containers in mid May but keep them inside until next month. Repair bare patches in the lawn with grass seed, water it well and cover with clear polythene to keep off the birds. Remove this as soon as the seedlings emerge. Slugs and snails will also be on the prowl looking for new juicy shoots, so protect these with sand, eggshells or holly leaves, rather than slug pellets.

In the vegetable plot sow carrots and mange tout peas, and finish planting onion sets. Watch the growth on early potatoes and cover it over to protect from frost and to encourage a better crop. Sow sweet corn in pots in a heated greenhouse but only plant out in warmer June. Sow annual herbs in pots and in the herb bed, and tidy up those that have grown straggly through the winter.

Houseplants collect dust on their leaves so take them to the shower or outside for a wash down. Re-pot any plants that have roots showing through the base of the pot, using a pot about 1-2 cm larger. Old plants can be divided but each piece will only need a small pot so that too much cold compost does not surround the roots.

A final thought: one way to stop the rain may be by installing a new water butt!

Plant of the month: Lilac

Go down to Kew in lilac time was the advice given in an old gardening magazine, and for centuries the showy blooms and fragrance of these deciduous shrubs have delighted people. The first ones arrived here in 1597 from East Europe, with the French being particularly fond of them as well. One French favourite, a deep purple variety was sent to the Edinburgh Botanic Garden in 1683 and did so well that it is still known as the Scot's lilac. Now we have species, which come from Afghanistan, the Himalayas and through to Japan. The species name, *Syringa*, Greek for a pipe, did indeed refer to the hollow stems used by Greek shepherds for pipes. However, these were not of the lilac but of the philadelphus, which was formerly known as *Syringa*. Linnaeus quite arbitrarily took the name from the Mock-orange and gave it to the lilacs, hence the confusion.

The majority of the shrubs we grow are raised from *Syringa vulgaris* the European variety, with a colour range from pink to deep purple and some white, all growing to about 4-5m. However, there is *Syringa meyeri* Palibin that only reaches 1.5m and a yellow one called *Syringa Primrose*. They all thrive on alkaline soil and sun, but some plants sucker, which can be a nuisance.

Pat Smith

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors

We would like to thank everyone who came to Gwen's funeral on April 7th and also to those who gave generously to the Stroke Association.

We would also like to thank the staff at the Lavenders and Gwen's many friends who regularly visited her there.

Peter, Sheila and Emily Watts

Dear Editors

My family and I would like to thank the many friends and neighbours who have been so supportive over the past seven months.

Special thanks to Gill Guilford and Evelyn Hagan, for their many kind deeds. Sincere thanks to Dr. Hancock, District Nurses Frances Moscrop, Sue and Hazel for their untiring work and their comfort to Bill and myself.

My thanks to Father Roy and choir for a beautiful service and to H.J. Dawson, Funeral Directors.

A sincere Thank You to every one for their support in our sad loss and also for the cards, tributes and prayers.

Peggie Butcher and Family

Dear Editors

Memorial – arboreal

It seems amazing that 15 months have already gone since we gathered in Harbury Church to say our farewells to Mum. At that time, many kind friends and relatives left money with us instead of buying flowers and both of us thought how nice it would be to plant a tree in Harbury in remembrance of Mum and also Dad who were both so happy to live in the village and be part of village life.

Mum had so looked forward to reaching the Millennium celebrations but this was not to be. However, it seemed appropriate that we should mark it for her in this way. We had hoped to have the trees on one of the greens but realised at the outset that we would have to be careful about obscuring sight lines for traffic. We approached the Parish Council with a request for suggestions about a suitable planting site, but the wheels have ground a little slowly. At last the trees have been planted and we want to say thank you to everyone who contributed or has been involved in any way in the decision making and planting.

When we were offered the cemetery we both had some reservations, as it was not one of their favourite places – especially for Dad who had too many memories of grave digging there. After thinking about it further we came to realise that it was very close to our home when we all lived together in Park Lane Terrace until us daughters left for homes of our own. Mum and Dad remained until their move to a bungalow in Frances Road.



L to R: Hazel Shaw, Lily Marshall (Mrs. Keeling's sister) Heather Barnes

The cemetery is a lovely haven in the centre of Harbury so we are now happy that we can add to the peace and tranquillity, wildlife and visual impact. Dad planted the flowering cherry trees that joined the other magnificent trees there many years ago. So, how did we make our choice of trees? Well, the Acer brilliantissimum was chosen because it is fairly flamboyant and we felt it suited Mum! We all knew when she was at large! At first we thought of something solid and English for

Dad, but an oak seemed a bit on the huge side for the cemetery and so we opted for the Sorbus vilmorinii, for no other reason, than one in particular is known and admired every time we see it. I just know Dad would have loved it too – it is calm and beautiful. The perfect match which united Mum and Dad in their lives in Harbury.

Our appreciation to you all for contributing to their happy lives and marking these so appropriately when they came to an end.

Hazel Shaw and Heather Barnes

Dear Editors

Thank you to everyone who attended our coffee morning at the Tom Hauley Room on April 22nd. Your generous support enabled us to send a cheque for £106.55 to the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. Again, many thanks.

***Yvonne Hancock, Dorothy Travis
and Terry Wade***

Dear Editors

Many thanks, to everyone who support our recent Jumble Sale and coffee morning. £300 was raised for the County Air Ambulance Funds. Again, many thanks.

M. Revitt

Dear Editors

The reason I am writing is that I am a Published Poet and I am asking if there are other Poets in Harbury.

My reason for asking is: Have they thought about having their poems published and haven't known how to go about it?

I started writing poetry at a later age and I did not know where to send my poems. My niece gave me an address and since then I haven't looked back. I would like to help other Poets who would love to have their poems published. It doesn't cost anything to get one's poems published as the company I use does not charge a fee.

The only time one has to pay is when one buys the book the poem is in (£15.99, including postage and packing). Royalties are not very good; in fact, they ask you to donate to one of their charities. I can only say one would not become a millionaire unless you make a name for yourself.

This publishing company likes to hear from new Poets. They also have several editors who read one's poems and they have a religious poem magazine, which comes out every three months for those who write poetry in prayers. They also have a lot of competitions.

I would love to start a poet's corner if there are enough people interested. Surely there are some Poets in Harbury who would love to come and share their poems with others and talk about them?

Poetry is a way of expressing oneself about life and things that surround you. It is a lovely feeling if one has a poem published – also it doesn't

cost anything only time writing it out. So I say to other Poets: Don't be shy, give it a try, you have nothing to lose, only the poem you chose.

If you can remember, I sent in a poem last year when we first moved to Harbury. The poem was called "Harbury". We have lived here for almost a year this month and my husband and I love it here.

The Village Folk are very warm and so friendly; we have a nice social life. We have truly settled here and my three children like coming to visit us. They said we have made the right move. So, here is the address of the publisher I use. I hope that other Poets will give it a go.

Poetry Now, Remus House, Coltsfoot Drive, Woodston, Peterborough PE2 9JX

If anyone would be interested in having a Poetry Corner, please let me know. I would have to arrange a meeting place where we could meet and talk about poetry – also read some out to others.

Thank you for reading this letter. I hope to meet other people in Harbury. Please do not be put off by rejections – I have had a few – I didn't give up. If anyone does send a poem in to the address I have given; you may have to wait a while, but they will reply. Good luck to those who send in their poems and I hope you have success like I did. Thank you. Yours Truly,

Pauline Wardle 614853

Dear Editors

How nice, I was sitting at my desk bored and procrastinating (as you do) when my thoughts turned to my village of youth and birth, Harbury. I sat musing over mischievous things my best mate Mark Critchley (known affectionately as Lippy) and I performed when we were children (and adults). I reached for my mouse and searched for 'Harbury'. How nice, there it was, the Harbury & Ladbroke News! What a cornerstone of all things Harbury for a true 'Harburian' such as myself

As I tentatively clicked through your pages, expectation running high, I was at first disappointed, I didn't recognise any of these names, who are these impostors? Then I came upon the name Linda Ridgley! It makes my heart feel glad that the villagers are still being influenced by the views of our Linda! You know, when my father, Dick Whatcott (I'm sure you all remember him) used to build in the village he would go in fear of the comments made by Linda in the Harbury News. She always liked his houses though. My Father (and Mother) did love Harbury and only ever had the betterment of the village in mind when they built. What a lovely place Harbury truly is, how nice indeed.

I don't come to the village very often now (only to see my old Nan and Gramps) but when I do, I can think of only good things to think of a place that is forever in my heart, a place that is forever England, a place that is forever Harbury, how nice.

Keep up the good work - the magazine is as good as ever and hasn't lost anything being on the 'Net'. Yours Fondly,

Stefan Whatcott

stefan@lightsout.freemove.co.uk