



The eagerly awaited AGM of the Harbury & Ladbroke News will be held on **Monday 2nd April** at 8:00pm in The Crown. Villagers are warmly invited to join the committee members and associated volunteers, so that views can be shared on future developments for the magazine.

One of the stalwarts of the committee is Joan Lodge who has catalogued every article in every magazine since its inception. This has been a prodigious task to which she has been totally committed and her efforts will serve as an archive for Harbury and Ladbroke's recent history.

Joan Lodge on her travels around the village

Another long serving helper with the magazine is Nancy Davis who after 15 years of delivering the magazine has decided to step down from her monthly task.

We congratulate Jonathan Cook for his splendid effort in raising £11,000 for the Acorn Children's Trust in Birmingham. Jonathan raised this sum by cycling from one end of the country to the other with the support of his backup team.



Villagers will have noticed the dramatic change when approaching Harbury from Middle Road. The hedge laying and clearance is nearly completed and is a testament to rural craftsmanship.

Hedge Laying in progress at Treen's Hill

Finally, we extend our sympathies to the families of Marion Carter, Doris Caswell and John Hanson.

Laugh Line

An elderly couple died and were received by St. Peter through the Pearly Gates into heaven. After a while they found it a wonderful place. Then the husband said to his wife: *If you hadn't have come up with all those healthy foods we could have been here years ago!*

From the Rector

Life in Lent

Life is what's taking place while you're planning the future, reflected the late John Lennon. It is true of course, but how hard it is to accept.

Most of our lives are taken up with “planning the future”. We plan our holidays, our careers, our credit commitments or our children’s education.... the list is often extensive. Meanwhile we let so many days slip by unnoticed because our eyes and our hearts are looking to some future date or event.

This enthusiasm for forward planning is usually what separates us from the saints. They let God arrange their future, while they concentrate on getting each day right. But getting the day right is sometimes very hard for us. It is not that we don’t want to be good Christians, but we may be weighed down by some kind of suffering; it may be pain, loneliness, anxiety or disappointment. Such experiences in ourselves, and those we love, can, at times, bring us to question the very existence of God and his love.

During Lent therefore, we must look at the different faces of suffering which we see and experience in our lives, in order to find in them a confirmation of God’s love rather than His rejection of us. In this way each one of our days can become an important day of life, and we will grow very close to God through our ordinary experiences without needing any elaborate religious scheme to plan our future sanctity.

A Prayer for Lent

By the prayers of Jesus, Lord, teach us how to pray.

By the gifts of Jesus, Lord, teach us how to give.

By the toils of Jesus, Lord, teach us how to work.

By the love of Jesus, Lord, teach us how to love.

By the cross of Jesus, Lord, teach us how to live.

Fr. Roy

From the Registers

Holy Baptism at All Saints' Harbury

4th February

- Adam Nigel Anthony Jackson

Funerals at All Saints' Harbury

2nd February

- John Hanson, 75

6th February

- Doris Caswell

Funerals at Oakley Wood

2nd February

- Marion Carter, 87

From the Churchwardens

The February Family Service was very well attended. The presentation was organised by the Nursery School and featured almost all the children – a few of whom can be seen in the photograph here.



Our thanks to Kate Smart and her helpers, and also to the regular Jubilate music group for their accompaniment.

The Annual General Meeting of the church will be held on **Sunday 1st**

April at 6.30pm following a short act of worship at 6.00pm. This is the meeting where people are elected to carry out the various necessary duties for the coming year. So it is important that as many people as possible attend to have their say in the running of the church.

We are now in the season of Lent and there are special services, followed by tea and discussion on Tuesday evenings, lunches on Fridays in the Tom Hauley Room and in the middle of it is Mothering Sunday on March 25th.



On the ‘works and bricks’ front, the sundial has been removed (see photo) for a rebuild (can you remember the slogan?) and will be back resplendent, in due course. The church’s heating system, whilst not 100% efficient, is keeping us warm now. Next will be a Spring Clean.

Felicity and John

Mothers’ Union

Afternoon meeting: Gill White came from Age Concern to explain just what help is available so that elderly people can cope better in their own

homes. An inspector will visit to advise on safety aspects by checking existing equipment and suggesting what improvements or replacements are necessary. They will check security of windows and doors, safety of bathing equipment, floor covering and electrical appliances, and suggest any changes that might be needed. There are leaflets in church giving more details of the services provided by Age Concern.

Evening meeting: Helen Robertson was our speaker, with a 'Very Special Recipe'. With the ingredients for a fruitcake, she made us think of how we create our recipe for life, and question what Jesus might think of that recipe. We need to use the best possible ingredients to bind our families together. We should share the good and bad times, and try to do little unseen kindnesses without expecting recognition. We must offer encouragement to others (including ourselves). Quarrels and misgivings must be forgiven and forgotten, and broken relationships must be mended. Above all, we must keep a sense of humour and be ready to laugh at ourselves.

Next meeting:

Wed. 7th March 2.00pm Service, 2.30pm *Thimbles*, Joyce Orford

Tues. 20th March 7.30pm Service & Lenten Address followed by a cup of tea in the Tom Hauley Room

Anne Moore

Toddlers' Service

At our February service we talked about Love. We sang *1, 2, 3, Jesus loves me* and then Mrs. Bedford told us, with pictures, the story of the Good Samaritan. She also told us a story about a little girl stuck in a tree who was rescued. Both stories showed how we must love and care for one another.

To finish, the children made Valentine cards to take home for Mum or Dad.

The next Toddlers' Service will be on **Tuesday 13th March** at 2.15pm in the children's corner of the church.

C. Mary Catt

Ladbroke News

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 25th March: The Mothering Sunday Service will be in church at 3.30pm. Children's Church members and non-members are invited to Jo Sowerby's the day before to make biscuits for the refreshments after the service. Posies will be distributed during the service, as usual.

Saturday 31st March: The Warwickshire Singers will be giving a concert in church at 7.30pm. The proceeds will be in aid of Church Funds and the Warwickshire Singers. Tickets/programmes are £5 for adults, children will be free. Refreshments will be provided. We have had the Singers before and it was a really excellent concert. Please come and give them your support and find out just how good they are.

Wednesday 4th April: The Annual Church Meeting and the Annual Vestry meeting will be held in the Village Hall to receive the reports and accounts for the year 2000, and to elect the Churchwardens, Sidesmen, and members of the Parochial Church Council.

Betty Winkfield

Women's Fellowship

At our February meeting Joan Smith took us on a marvellous trip to the United Arab Emirates. In the space of just 40 years with the extraction of oil, what was an area of abject poverty has grown into one of the wealthiest countries in the world. For all its population, the wealth has been generously used for all its citizens.

We really did get a 'whiff' of the Arab world, with spices, clothes, artefacts and pictures. Many thanks Joan. Thanks also to Nancy and Alan for having us.

Next month we are going to Jo Sowerby's new house "Archer's Rest" for our meeting and Lent Lunch. Jo will be very busy that day because she is also going to talk to us about *Child Fostering*.

The Lent Lunches - open to all - are at 12noon each Wednesday through Lent and cost £2.50.

7th March: at Field Farm, Kineton Road. Hostesses: Beryl Ross and Stella Douglas.

14th March: Archer's Rest, Banbury Road. Hostesses: Jo Sowerby and Pat Kennedy.

21st March: Ladbroke Hall. Hostesses: Chris Payne and Nancy Stubbs.

28th March: The Bungalow, Windmill Lane. Hostesses: Gill Moore and Pam Brown.

4th April: Hall Farm, Ladbroke. Hostesses: Gwynne Badman and Betty Winkfield.

Betty Winkfield

Ladbroke and Deppers Bridge W.I.

The meeting was held in Ladbroke Village Hall on February 22nd. The meeting was well attended by members and 6 visitors, three of whom were only 4 months old! My sister brought her triplet girls along to meet everyone. I wonder if any other W.I. has had visitors that young (they were absolutely beautiful).

Our speaker, Stella Douglas, who is also an associate member of ours gave a delightful talk on her unique collection of bags and purses, dating back to the 1930s. She handed most of them round for us to examine the detailed beadwork and exquisite stitching. Made from many different materials and in various shapes, they made our bags of today look like holdalls! Nancy Stubbs gave the vote of thanks.

A Quiz Night is to be held in the Village Hall on **Friday 4th May** from 7.30pm for 8.00pm. The cost will be £8 per team of four. To register your team, please contact Chris Baker on 811606. You do not have to be a member of the W.I. to enter a team!

The Short Mat Bowling 'B' Team is through to the 3rd round and will play Shrewley on **Tuesday 6th March** at the Harbury Club – all supporters welcome. The regular Short Mat Bowlers are also holding a Social Evening at Harbury Club on **Tuesday 20th March** and invite all members to join them. The raffle was won by Colette and Susan.

The March meeting is to be an Antiques Roadshow, so don't forget to bring a small item along with you. Visitors will be made most welcome.

Marie Kennedy

Ladbroke Village Hall

The first draw of the Millennium Club for 2001 was held on February 12th at The Bell Inn. The winners were Catherine Spence £80, Andy Bendzak £50; Bernard Billings £25; Jo Sowerby, Jill Norgate, Graham Lewis, Mike Connol, and Ivy Harvey each won £10. The next prize draw will be held on **Monday 12th March** at The Bell Inn at 8.00pm. All will be welcome.

Catherine Spence

Southam Local History Society

Ladbroke Section

Following on from last month's look into old Ladbroke names, several people wanted to know more about the family who gave their name to the "Alibone Charity".

Originally known as the "Town Lands of the Parish of Ladbroke in the County of Warwick", today it is known as the "Alibone Charity" and administered by trustees from the village.

The land along Radbourne Lane is put to its best use each year and the income from it is used for the good of the village or church. The sixteen acres of grazing land was left to Ladbroke by the Widow Alibone in her Will in the 16th Century, but the family go way back before then and existed almost until the 19th Century.

The earliest record I have of an Alibone at Ladbroke is as a taxpayer recorded on the 1327 Lay Subsidy Roll. This is about ten years after the famine and plague ridden years of 1315-1318, when constant wet weather rotted the corn in the fields, sickness hit the population and their livestock, 'till the living few were often too sick and weak to harvest what 'good corn there was'. As a family, an Alibone made it through those desperate years.

William Alibone turns up in 1538 when the Grange was granted to him for 60 years or three lives by the monks of Combe Abbey. He paid £4 a year as rent and although it is uncertain where the Grange was, because the rent could be paid in either the Court at Ladbroke or Harbury, it is possible the land and farmhouse is Deppers Bridge Farm. William's wife Alice and son John were also included in the grant.

Then moving into the 17th Century, John Alibone was one of the freeholders involved in the property sales of Sir Robert Dudley. Their cottage had been one of those in Farmyard Field, because Frances Alibone, as a child, had remembered Farmer Chebsey standing over her father Ralph, while he planted a thorn hedge between the cottage and the farmyard behind. Lady Alice Dudley leased her land, which was around the windmill, to the Alibone family from 1626-1630. In 1720, Alibone Hill is referred to as the Mill Ground. The last Alibone in the parish records is John's widow who died in 1777.

The March meeting of the Southam History Society is on **Monday 26th March** when Hugh Williams follows the history of Archery.

Linda Doyle

Harbury Parish Council Meeting - February

It was a remarkably low-key meeting with not even a mention of bollards. In fact there was very little passion at all and the public (me) was back home by 9pm whilst the Councillors discussed policing matters in private.

Ken Stephenson mentioned only twice about lighting improvement. Decisions have to wait until the Parish budget is known. Sharon Hancock declared Eire was not part of the UK, nor St. Patrick, patron saint of Ulster, so the flag flying issue was dropped.

Dutch Van Spall said there was little more the Parish Council could do, having objected to the GM Crop trial and pressed for compensation for John Home.

We heard that the French 'Twinnings' are coming for the May Day Bank Holiday; the Appraisal research was underway; the Tennis Courts Lottery application was deferred; the Skateboard Ramp still needed matching funding; the Audit fees had been queried; the survey forms were being designed on the need for Sheltered Housing; the site for the Old New Inn dog bin still had to be chosen and **someone** has been parking on our Pound and churning up the grass.

Planning: Stratford D.C. approved plans to fell cypress trees at Aberley in Hall Lane; extensions at 18, Farm Street, and a replacement garage at 19, Ivy Lane.

The Parish Council did not object to: an extension at 8, The Beeches, a conservatory at 30, Temple End, and a new sign and fascia at the Crown Inn where the paint is hardly dry from the last refurbishment!

They made representations on the proposed removal of the Leycester Close garages, asking for landscaping details. They also objected to the demolition of the Wall at Harbury Hall as unnecessary, with the new access likely to cause a traffic hazard and there is no guarantee when rebuilding will take place or that it will match the remaining wall.

The Village Pump is rotting and the Parish Council decided to replace it soon so that it looks nice for the Best Kept Village Competition.

The Council was asked to improve the footpath to the Allotments because vehicles had badly rutted it. They tried to find ways to do this on the cheap and ended up offering the Allotment Holders £50 to do it themselves. Sharon Hancock made the point that it is a designated Footpath and that vehicles should not drive along it. The Mother & Toddler Group was awarded £60 to recover play mats.

Southam Mayor's Charity Ball gets more impressive every year. Fourteen members of Harbury Parish Council were eager to attend, having failed to secure tickets last time.

Linda Ridgley

Harbury Society

The AGM will be on **Tuesday 6th March**, 7.30pm for 8pm in the Tom Hauley Room when we have to elect a new Chairman. Tim Millington who has served for twenty-five years has said he would like to step down. The AGM will be followed by a talk on *The Jephson Gardens, Past, Present and Future*, by Nigel Bishop of Warwick District Council.

On **Monday 26th March** (same time and venue) John Crossling mastermind of CAMRA and the Annual Beer Festival will give an illustrated talk on *Pubs*, followed by a consumer survey of beer quality in some of our hostelrys.

On **Monday 30th April** (same time and venue) there is a talk on the *Records Office and Research*, by Mark Booth from the County Archives.

We are now getting into the serious planning for **the Appraisal** – to be known as **the Harbury Parish Review**. An application for funding has been made and suggestion boxes are going up all over the village for local people to explain the issues they would like aired in the survey.

All the organisations listed in the Harbury Directory are being asked for their views on topics to be included and volunteers are seeking out less formal groups to make sure they too can have an input. (There was an embarrassment of offers to talk to people in the pubs!)

There is an ambitious timetable, which sees the survey forms being distributed in June, and the results being ready by Christmas. Recent guidance from the government indicates that there will be funding available to deal with problems that we expose in this survey, so there is a real incentive to get it right!

The more people who help the easier it will be to undertake and the more credible the results will be. It's our future and our chance to make life in Harbury better.

Finally, thanks to Sue Exton and her father Bunny Hughes we now have a picture of the Old Village Pump and can see that it faced down Crown Street years ago. The Parish Council will be responsible for its refurbishment or replacement.

Linda Ridgley

Harbury Women's Institute

There is a Quiz 2001 on **March 19th** and the Indoor Bowles Pairs competition for the John Innes Cup at Welford on **April 30th**. Members will be competing.

As readers will have seen in the February H&L News, we were invited to have a photograph taken seated on the Millennium Seat donated by the W.I. to Harbury School. A good photo with the children, but not much of the seat showing due to the three beauties!

Very many thanks to all who supported and attended our recent Coffee Morning. It was a great success, due to you.

Mrs. Mary Smith came to speak on a Trans Siberian Railway Journey. In 1991, when her husband retired, she sold her antiques business and they decided to travel for a year. Not the comfortable way most travellers of

their age would do, but as backpackers. They took minimum clothing, renewing as it wore out. Their aim was to travel on the Trans Siberian Railway, starting in China across to Russia.

The Russians started building the T.S.R. in 1890 from Moscow to Vladivostok. The Chinese decided they would build a two-route railway to link up with the Russian line using many British Technicians. Both used different gauge lines, which resulted in the train being lifted and the wheels having to be changed. Amazingly, the through link was not opened until 1960.

The Smiths' travels started in New Zealand, then to other countries. In Hong Kong they were told that they had to book their ticket and visas in China. Sounded simple enough, but the trials and tribulations were quite something. Mrs. Smith spoke of their waiting time in Beijing when they were able to study the Chinese life and to live quite cheaply in a country of four hundred million cyclists.

Then onto the train, taking food as they had been told. The food was awful in the diner. A small portable kettle was able to boil hard-boiled eggs to eat with tomatoes, cheese and fruit. Bread and vegetables were purchased at stops. It took 20 minutes to get to the dining car.

Each train carriage had eight compartments and its own guard. The Smiths shared theirs with two young women. All very basic, especially the bathroom facilities.

However, they enjoyed the journey seeing the different vistas and ways of life the people lived, especially taken with the Gobi desert. They were not so keen on Russia. Mr. Smith was able to enjoy a birthday party, everybody joining in with food and even champagne being produced.

They were lucky as there is no through link now with the U.S.S.R. being broken up into the original countries.

March Hostesses: Mary Entwistle, Dorothy Groves and Jean Hadley

Jeanne Beaumont

Harbury Theatre Group

Do you have a sense of adventure? Just as a sense of mystery is often regarded as an attractive thing in a woman, so it is with the Von Blitzen family, the central characters in *The Creature Creeps* by Jack Sharkey, the latest production from Harbury Theatre Group.

Set high up in the remotest mountains of Transylvania, this hilarious Addams style comedy will entertain both adults and older children. Meet Mort, the Baron's grotesque and terrifying servant (played by Gordon Robbins) and Daisy, the Baron's dotty daughter (played by Jacqueline Clarke) – her strange manner of speech has obviously been caused by her upbringing in the rarefied atmosphere of the Castle Von Blitzen!

If you've never been to an HTG play before, why not give it a try – it's not far to go, it's inexpensive and there's a bar! Also taking part are Betty Barr, Jonathan Clarke, Keith and Sue Dormer, Keith Hayes, Jenny Hodge, Pat Taylor, Janet Thornley, Ruth Thurogood and Pat Whorton.

Performances will be at Harbury Village Hall on **Thursday 29th March, Friday 30th March and Saturday 31st March** starting at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets £4 (£2.50 concessions) *available from* Kathleen Ellis Hair Salon, Chapel Street, Harbury, the Newsagents, Bishops Itchington, *or* phone 613214 / 613358.

Pat Whorton

Harbury Folk Club

Surprise! The Dog's not dead yet. Well it was an evening of surprises.

It got off to a cold start but the icy atmosphere (literally) gradually thawed and the event was surprisingly jovial and good-humoured. Des had us enthralled with "Teddy Bears Picnic"; Eleanor made an impromptu debut, playing guitar in public and special guests from Yelvertoft calling themselves Junction 69, or near, sang several Kirsty McColl songs. Janny lead two sets, including the Finale when Phill and Drill met Morris Dance and Doctor John, surprising the remaining audience and Ian.

Thanks to Rosemary for improvising the raffle on scraps of paper and to all of you there. £34.00 was raised for the India Earthquake Relief Fund. I've forgotten the theme for March (does it matter) but it will be too late by the time you've read this anyway.

John Black

Harbury Nursery School

We took 30 children to present the family service on February 18th. The children really enjoyed singing and telling everyone what they thought about God. They especially liked joining in the final Hymn by playing lots of musical instruments. Everyone commented on how happy the children were and how beautifully they sang.

Arabian Night: Plans are well under way for our spring social event, which is to be held on **Saturday 7th April** in the Village Hall. The highlight of the evening will be an Arabian banquet prepared by Tarsus Restaurant of Southam. We will have a licensed bar and the entertainment will include a group of belly dancers, and a disco. We will also be having one of our mega raffles. Tickets for this event are priced at £10 per person and are available from Helen Cooper on 612794, or through the Nursery.

80/20 Sale: We are holding our next 80/20 Sale on **Saturday 19th May** in the Village Hall, from 10.30am – 12.00noon. This is an 'as new' sale of baby/children's toys, equipment and clothing, whereby Harbury Nursery School retains 20% of the marked price. Anyone wishing to sell should book a place by ringing Marie Kennedy on 812244 who will allocate a number that must be put on all items to be sold. There is a £1 charge to all sellers to cover costs.

We have already had a large number of parents wishing to register a place for their children who will be due to start school in September. If your child is due to start school in September, please contact Kate Smart on 612656 to secure a place for them, at the Nursery.

Marie Kennedy

The Pre-School - Learning Through Play

The Pre-School is held in the Wight School behind the Library

After a few anxious months, Harbury Pre-School is now, we hope, entering a period of stability with the appointment of a new supervisor. We are delighted to welcome Mrs. Kate Batchelor to the village. Kate has worked with children for many years and, most recently, has been running the after-school club at Warwick Preparatory School. At the interview, her commitment to and enthusiasm for pre-school education really shone out and she will complete her formal NVQ training while working with us.

We are very grateful to Jeanette Andrews for standing in as supervisor for the last few months. The children are devoted to her and we hope that the airline passengers for whom she will now be responsible will appreciate her as much as we do. And if they get restless, we trust Jeanette will have a supply of blunt scissors and magazines to keep them interested and amused. We are also very grateful to the ladies who have provided such magnificent support to Jeanette. We are still actively looking for a deputy supervisor to work with Kate but in the interim, their help is invaluable and much appreciated. It's also lovely for the children to be able to point out 'my Daphne' when they see her and the others around the village.

Following Kate's successful appointment, the Committee has decided to make a slight change to the opening hours of the Pre-School. In order to make the lunch-hour facility more appealing we have decided to change the standard Pre-School hours to 9 am - 1 pm with a packed lunch at the end. This session will cost £5. However, if you feel your child is not ready for a four-hour session then you can simply opt out of the last hour and revert to the current fee of £4. We hope this commitment to the extra hour each day will encourage more parents to take it up and foster the social interaction that takes place while children have their lunch. For older children, it's not only preparation for school but also a convivial occasion. To be perfectly frank, a party atmosphere does tend to prevail; the children love eating together and it's very sweet to see the older ones demonstrate their skills in opening drinks, counting grapes and bursting BabyBel cheeses out of their skins to an audience keen to learn.

Currently, we plan to keep the Pre-School as a fairly small operation with an high staff:child ratio. Once the news of Kate's appointment was out it was very reassuring to have parents coming up to the Pre-School to enrol their children, confident that it will now continue. If you are thinking about bringing your child to play with us then do contact either a member of the committee (Tracy Facer, Caroline Hill, Sheila Malin or Kary Hunt) or Kate as soon as you can so that we know who will be waiting for places in future terms.

We hope we've had the last blast of winter, and spring will arrive very quickly now to match our optimistic and happy mood!

The Pre-School Committee

Harbury School PTA

Once again another half term has flown by. Our major event, the Family Barn Dance was held on February 10th. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who contributed on the evening,

especially Kary Hunt who valiantly took over the running of the event when I was struck down with the flu bug and unable to attend.

The evening was a total success and people have already requested tickets for next year. The amount raised for PTA funds was about £220. Thanks also to Reel to Reel for providing the music and the Appalachian dancers of **Kick Start** for their entertainment. Thanks also to Southam Lions for their generous donation to the PTA.

Our next major event is the Auction of Promises on **Saturday 17th March** 7.30pm in the School, see details elsewhere in the magazine. Admission is by catalogue - £3 per person to include a light supper. There will be a bar during the evening. Please come along and support and/or promise us a talent. For further details please contact Susan Graydon 612479 or Nick Tawney 614062.

Susan Graydon, Chair

Harbury Albion Football Club

The wet weather has meant 3 fixture postponements for the Club, but we have managed to play 4 matches since the beginning of January, all of which the team has won.

There have been some good goals scored this season but the pick of them would have to be the "rocket" scored by local veteran Shaun "shovel foot" Smith last Sunday (18th) in the last 2 minutes of the game to give the team a 2-1 win and 2nd place in the division. This from a player the others call Jigsaw (goes to pieces in the box) when his back is turned.

The next 2 months promise to be very important for the Club. With all players available we have a very strong team for the division that we are in and winning the league (or cup) is a real possibility.

Rob Davis

Harbury Tennis Club

For the second year running the Club was on the shortlist of 5 for Warwickshire LTA's Club of the Year, but again had to settle for "highly commended". That's not a bad effort though, as we were up against the larger Clubs, including those in Birmingham. We just missed out on the cash prizes that went to Shipston (1st), Moseley (2nd) and Weoley Hill (3rd). Perhaps it will be third time lucky in 2001!

The 2 teams competing in the Banbury Winter League continue to have mixed fortunes. The "A" Team is now top of Division 2 and looks good for the Club's first silverware in a very long time. The "B" Team will also be contributing to the trophy cabinet with a wooden spoon-shaped piece, as they are currently rooted to the foot of Division 3 without a win and only 2 games to play!

Plans for the new season are well in hand, particularly for the Under 16s. We have just "signed up" LTA qualified coach Pete Brinkley for the "Minis" (which will be after school on Thursdays this year) and are hoping to get a second qualified coach for other groups.

We have also been approached by Stratford District Council to help take forward the Active Sport Development Programme, designed to help

young people get more from their involvement in Sport. This is a co-ordinated national programme backed by Lottery funding, but delivered locally through the Greater Warwickshire Partnership. We have had discussions with the Council's Sports development Officers, Helen Sheldon and Rebecca Black, and hope to have more details in the next month or so.

We continue to give plenty of thought to fundraising and our first event of the year is a **Quiz Night on Sunday 18th March at the Village Club at 7.30 p.m.** The cost is £12 per Team of 4, which includes food. If you are interested just give me or Lyn (614707) a call.

Colin Mercer - 613284

Meals on Wheels (W.R.V.S.)

Driver(s) and helper(s) are needed to cook frozen meals in the Village Hall kitchen and deliver them to the elderly in Harbury and Bishop's Itchington once a month on Tuesdays. This will take from 10.30am to approximately 1.00pm. If you are interested/able to help, please contact Chris Cooke on 813482.

Rosemary Harley

Spring into Action

*Do you: live in a village? Work in a village? Run a village shop?
Or want to run one?*

Are you: active in a village? Or want to be?

Vital Village Workshops are coming to a village near you! Practical Training to bring your Village to Life! Throughout March, Vital Villages will be offering Workshops, training taster events to help you spring into action to improve village life, and to give you a taste of the support available from the Vital Villages Project.

Vital Villages is a project to help people breathe new life into the villages where they live and work, focussing on local shopping and retail services. To book your place call 02476 414686 and ask for Vital Village Workshops.

Vital Villages can also provide: grants, advice, support, training, ideas, promotion and business planning. For general information about Vital Villages (not workshop bookings) phone 01926 499664 (www.vitalvillages.org.uk). Or if you want to see a leaflet, ring me on 612002.

Janny Freeman

Website Training

The Parish Council asked that I put a note in the Harbury & Ladbrooke News that the Warwickshire Rural Community Council is offering Community Website Training. Those interested should contact John Hicks on 01926 499596 for more details.

Linda Ridgley

Ahmedabad Special Project Fund

Currently, we have just over £2,900 in the special bank account with money still coming in. Harbury and Ladbroke have raised £870 through collections in the two churches and personal contributions. Several Warwickshire schools have contributed and a one-day raffle at the University of Warwick raised more than £600. Thank you all!

On 28th February Daniel will take £1,500 over to India to support the reconstruction of the village school in the village of Aadariyana in the Surendranagar district. This particular school acts as a hub in a cluster of about 6-7 other schools. Though more than 90% of the houses and the school building have been rendered unfit for use, there was miraculously only one death in the village. Hence the villagers consider themselves fortunate and are energetically getting back to the process of rebuilding, rather than becoming depressed and dejected. The villagers have already started the rebuilding process of their homes and seem to be specially committed to education. In most villages, people say, please build our homes, the government can build the school. At Aadariyana they said - *"We will build our homes, please help us rebuild the school."*

The village is relatively big with a population of 5,500. The school has 400 pupils and 14 teachers. The Eklavya Education Foundation will manage the construction of the new school and will train teachers for the network. The school will also be used for adult education in the evening to train women in certain crafts and skills (bandhini, embroidery, printing) or other income-generating activities. Daniel will also meet children that were handicapped as a result of the disaster to see how they can be supported through the fund by setting up an artificial limb centre with the National Institute of Design. On his return in the UK (15th March) with Fr Roy we will determine how the rest of the fund is going to be spent. In the meantime updates will be published on the Internet: www.interalign.org (click on 'Ahmedabad Special Project Fund' and expect regular updates on the Ladbroke and Harbury News.

Contributions are still welcome on our special bank account at Lloyds TSB in Stratford 'Ahmedabad Special Project Fund' - Sort code: 30-98-26 - Bank account no: 1753658. The money raised will go directly to: help children who were mutilated and handicapped to have access to education and return to a normal life, provide resources and equipment to schools, and set up design education programmes to help prevent the waste of so many lives again.

Fr Roy and Daniel Steenstra - Ladbroke

Harbury Making A Difference – 'unfinished business'

We are organising a car boot sale on **March 17th** at The Wight School from 10.00am to 2.00pm. Pitches are £5 in advance, £7 on the day. Please ring Mrs. Ashworth to book: 613304. This is a one off fundraiser to make a contribution to the charities that asked to be adopted by MAD. We could only choose two at the time, but were very moved by the pleas of the others, we realised that a small amount goes a long way. So please donate anything you have for the MAD stall, any suitable raffle prizes, your help, cakes, etc. Please come along, there will be 'all morning' breakfast rolls, tea and coffee and many bargains.

Many thanks Harbury.

Nicola Guy 614010

Harbury-Samois-sur-Seine Twinning Association

Arrangements are now well in hand for the visit of our friends from Samois, which will take place from **Saturday 28th April to Tuesday 1st May**. Among several activities planned, we are hoping, at their request, to teach some of our French guests to play cricket!

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will take place on **Tuesday 10th April** at 8.00pm in the Tom Hauley Room.

After the AGM there will be a briefing meeting for those who have kindly agreed to host families from Samois.

David Winter - Chairman

Harbury Conservatives

The Harbury Conservative Branch (Harbury, Chesterton, Ufton) held its Annual General Meeting recently and Councillor Eric Dally was elected Chairman. Mrs. Sheila Allan, Vice Chairman; Mr. Ken Hughes, Secretary, and Mrs. Jane Nash, Treasurer. Other members of the committee elected were: Councillor James Turner, Mrs. Val Hill, Dr. Michael Allwood (Ufton), Mrs. Jan Playdon, Mrs. Hilary Nealon, Mr. Michael Lambert, Mr. Jim Chapple, and a new member, Mr. Wilf Clifton.

All members and non-members who had supported the social events over the past year were thanked for their support and help, and it was hoped that this support would continue in the coming year. Already planned is a Bridge event and a summer BBQ. Everyone interested is asked to join us at these events.

In May the Warwickshire County Council elections take place on **May 3rd**, and it is increasingly assumed that the General Election will be on the same date. If anyone would like to help on that day or during the election then please contact either Eric Dally (651478) or Ken Hughes (612273).

Harbury Conservatives

John O'Groats to Land's End Charity Cycle Ride

As a postscript to last summer, with the final pledged monies now collected, I can report on the success of my cycle ride in aid of the Acorns Children's Trust in Birmingham. In total, just over £11,000 was raised for terminal and respite care of children who will not reach adulthood. On behalf of the children and their families, thanks go to everyone who donated to such a worthy cause.

I would like to record my particular thanks to several people who kept me going through the tough times.

Raymond Flanagan cycled the whole Scottish leg (a week of great weather, stunning scenery, interesting gradients (!!), and polite drivers).

Nigel Wright cycled from Preston to Harbury and later Exeter to Land's End (and drew the short straw – everyone in a hurry, lorries brushing

shoulders, torrential rain). He also performed heroics on the fundraising itself.

Peter Walshe also joined me for two days, from Lichfield to Harbury and then Harbury to Cirencester, with an impressive 63 mile effort from his son Thomas in keeping us company down through the Cotswolds.

By routing via Harbury to gain funds from the Blues Festival – thanks to all who put money in the bucket – I covered a total of 956 miles in 17 days.

Not bad for an amateur on a vicar's bike, but to paraphrase a well-known Olympian: *If you see me on a bike again you have my permission to shoot me....*

Jonathan Cook

Southam Carnival

Arrangements for this year's Carnival are underway. This is again being run by Southam Lions, Southam Round Table and Rotary 2000.

As Chairman, I would like to welcome the new members of the committee and hope that we can make this year's Carnival another successful day.

The Carnival date is **Monday 28th May**, Spring Bank Holiday. The theme this year will be costumes of the world.

The day will start with a street procession from Wood Street car park, led by a marching band. The day will continue on the recreation ground with stalls and family entertainment. We are also running our very popular five-a-side football again. For enquiries regarding the five-a-side football, please ring Ralph on 817837. To book a stall, please ring Peter on 01295 770433. To take part in the procession, please ring Jenny on 812989. For general enquiries please ring Terry on 817744. Any profit from the Carnival will go to local charities.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Chairman, Terry Grey

Pensioner's Patio

The hiding place would have remained secret if I hadn't been lazy. Feeling less than enthusiastic about braving the frost one wintry morning, I opened a window to toss out the birds' breakfast crumbs. Half of it fell behind the clump of heather immediately below the window. Later on I went to retrieve it and on pulling the heather away from the wall there they were: fat and juicy, drawn up in two orderly ranks, one above the other, about fifteen in each row. A thrush would have had the feast of its life.

Snails have been around quite a while. They agreed on a blueprint which suited them between two and three hundred million years ago, in fact. They've felt little inclination to change must since then. *What was good enough for our forefathers is good enough for us* appears to have been their attitude. (I've heard humans say the same, haven't you?).

Humans have always been intrigued by their way of moving: Shakespeare remembered it when he wanted a simile to describe his unwilling schoolboy, and an amorous 17th Century poet writing of his lady-love (one of them), compared her feet to a snail peeping out of its shell, then drawing back again. On reflection, I doubt whether Robert Herrick would have been rewarded with a passionate kiss – I can think of other possible reactions on her part!

The frost brought a new visitor to the bird nuts: a goldfinch, beautiful in his striking array of colours, but he was nervous of the other birds - two brief visits and he was seen no more.

Edyth Algar

Allotments

There seems to finally be a turnaround in the way in which "Recreation" is viewed by Society as a whole. This can be seen in many areas of Recreation. Perhaps the most widely shouted is that promoted by Sport England. This is a form of Government Initiative to create a Healthy Britain. Allotments, you will be glad to hear, do not go without thought - after all this is a form of Recreation to those that partake.

The Local Government Association has recently published "A New Future for Allotments - An Advocacy Document for Sustainable Living". This document suggests that allotments should be viewed as "a unique community resource for all age groups", "a resource for providing locally grown food produced in a sustainable way - without incurring long distance energy and transport costs", as well as a method of increasing social integration, and an educational tool. Visit the Allotments and see for yourselves that this is clearly a community resource and people throughout the village use and prosper by it.

The recent fuel blockade showed us all how dependent we have become on fuel and transport to get our food to the shops. I know we cannot live on vegetables alone but we can help, if just a little, to save fuel. Social integration can be seen through the advice and help the older members of the Allotments offer to those new to the sport. The education is not only for the youngsters that visit and help their parents but also the parents themselves who learn new techniques of growing and environmentally friendly methods of pest and weed control, as well as educating the body's muscle groups.

If you have ever thought that you might like to have a small area to grow your own crops, then please contact the Parish Clerk or Patrick Clarke on 01926 612066. I'm certain we can find the perfect patch for you!

Chris Hill, Treasurer

Horticultural Society

Our last talk, *Indoor pot plants*, was given by a member of staff at Notcutts Garden Centre, who gave us a detailed, comprehensive list of problems and advice to overcome them. He said one of the most common reasons for plants dying was over watering, and by using terracotta pots this was largely cured. Generally, plants with large leaves do not need as much light as the small or narrow-leaved plants. He also

preferred the soil-based composts, as the pot is less likely to be knocked over. It seems the weeping fig, easily propagated from cuttings, is excellent for absorbing pollutants in offices, formaldehyde being the most common!

We were told that, contrary to general belief, phalaenopsis (plants similar to orchids) are reasonably easy to grow. The speaker was very impressed when Sally-Ann said she had one in a north-facing bathroom, which had been flowering for 9 months. It is obviously happy in her care!

There was an overwhelmingly positive response to the suggestion at the last meeting for a Social Evening. We are in the process of organising one towards the end of May. Heather Turner has kindly offered to host the event; there will be a finger buffet and the cost will be approximately £3 each. Members who wish to attend should give their names in and pay either at the April or May meeting. More information next month.

Note the change concerning the all-day coach trip on **Tuesday 12th June**. The visit to the Birmingham University's Botanical Gardens is unaltered. After lunch Judy has arranged a visit to castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, where the gardens are being restored. The price remains the same: £9 each, payable at the March, April, or May meeting.

Looking ahead to our Walkabout Weekend on **July 7th and 8th**, how about sowing a few extra seeds and taking extra cuttings for sale on that occasion?

Looking even further ahead to the Horticultural Show in September, the schedule has been finalised and there should be something for everybody. Janice (show secretary) says, we are hoping for a reasonable growing season with, hopefully, more sun and kinder weather all round. We thought there had been a wet spell by this time last year, but nature has surpassed itself since then. What are the odds for a hosepipe ban this year!?

The Malvern show will be on **May 11th, 12th and 13th** and to get concessional tickets there have to be at least 10 people in a group on any one day. For more information, look on our notice board at the next meeting.

The next talk *Clematis and Climbing Plants* will be given by Mr. Nex on **Tuesday 6th March** at 8.00pm.

P.S. If there is anybody who has not paid his or her subs, I am sure the Treasurer will be pleased to see you!

Muriel Grey

Garden Notes for March

There is an old saying: *A bushel of March dust is worth a king's ransom*. Many people must be hoping that there will be more dust than mud in the coming spring, or we may grow webbed feet. Already the snowdrops and bright yellow crocuses are showing us that the sun will soon be lengthening the days and new growth in the gardens will begin.

Warm up the soil with black plastic or cloches and begin to sow broad beans, peas, parsnips and carrots. Chitted early potatoes can be planted out, and shallots can go in.

For the flower borders many half-hardy annuals must be sown before March is out. Begonia, ageratum, pelargonium, salvia, nicotiana and verbena seeds must all be sown in seed trays as soon as possible and germinated in a warm place. If you prefer to order these from a catalogue, orders must be in by early in the month, and the plantlets will be delivered in April or May. Look out for summer bulbs in the garden centres; buy them for planting in a few weeks' time.

Snowdrops are divided as soon as they stop flowering. I have moved other bulbs, which have appeared in the wrong place and they survive the trauma before they flower, as long as they are not too far advanced. Perennials can be divided or moved now unless there is a threat of severe weather. If the grass dries out rake out the moss and dead grass and aerate the lawn.

Rose pruning can be carried out this month. Remove crossing shoots and dead pieces and then shorten the main shoots by about half on floribundas and hybrid teas. Prune varieties of late flowering clematis by cutting them down to leave two or three buds on each stem.

When the light begins to improve houseplants wake up. Once they have started to grow again begin regular feeding. Pot-bound plants can be divided or repotted. Winter flowering azaleas must be put into ericaceous compost, fed and then in May put outside until the autumn.

Plant of the month: Scilla

Belonging to the Lily family and indigenous to the temperate regions of Europe, Asia and Africa, only 5 or 6 of the 80 species of Scilla or Squill are in general cultivation. Of these all are hardy except Scilla peruviana, which comes from Algeria and not Peru as the name may suggest. Given winter protection this should thrive here, as all these bulbs prefer alkaline soils. The best known is S. siberica and true to its name, it comes from Russia. The intense brilliant blue colour more than makes up for the diminutive size of this lovely harbinger of spring.

Flowering even earlier is S. tubergeniana a native of Iran. Look carefully for the very pale blue flowers pushing through the soil in January, and eventually clustering on a 6" stem with the emerging leaves. S. bifolia will push up two leaves a little later, and from between them will appear a flower stem bearing as many as twenty star like blooms of royal blue, white or pink. With S. siberica to follow these two species and S. peruviana blooming in May and June these lovely little flowers could occupy a small space in a sunny well-drained border for half the year. They do not multiply very rapidly, so be generous when you plant them in September. They do self-seed, but the seedlings take 3 to 5 years to flower.

Pat Smith

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors

May we take this opportunity to say a huge thank you for all the cards, kind words and marvellous support we have received on the loss of our dear mother, Doris Caswell.

*A special thank you goes to Fr Brown for the lovely service and his kindness. Mum was a special lady and will be sadly missed by us all.
Kind Regards,*

***Jan, Ross, Lesley, Mara, Chrissy
and Lisa***

Dear Editors

A propos the paragraph on Flag Flying in the report of the last Parish Council meeting, I should like to quote the following definition of the Union Flag contained in Collins English Dictionary:

“Union Flag: The national flag of the United Kingdom being a composite design composed of St. George’s Cross (England), St. Andrew’s Cross (Scotland) and St. Patrick’s Cross (Ireland). Often also called UNION JACK.”

St. Patrick’s ‘parish’ was the whole of Ireland both North and South and I should have considered him worthy enough to have the Union Jack flown on his special day.

Olga Hughes

Dear Editors

May I, through the H&L News, say a huge thank you to all my friends and family for my birthday cards and gifts (and drinks!), and for coming along to my 30th Birthday Party at the Village Club on February 3rd. You all made it a very special evening.

Also, a big thank you to Bob, Kay and Aneata at the Village Club. Cheers.

Lana Long

Dear Editors

Yet an unbelievable total again for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Fund 2000: a staggering £1,810.08.

Many, many thanks to you, the contributors of Chesterton, Ufton, Deppers Bridge and Harbury, and also to our loyal band of collectors. Year after year the collectors have with great devotion supported us. The Harbury and District British Legion owe much to you all.

The British Legion Coffee Morning was again well supported. We all enjoyed your company and completed the morning with a splendid raffle. The total raised was £166. Thank you Celia.

Mike Bishop