

Harbury & Ladbroke News

THE HARBURY AND LADBROKE NEWS, reflecting all aspects of local life is published monthly and produced with the assistance of the All Saints' Parochial Church Council.

Editorial Office	☎ 612155
Articles to	Harbury Chemist, High Street
email address	articles@harburynews.freemove.co.uk
Website	http://www.harburynews.freemove.co.uk
Advertising Office	31, Binswood End (☎ 612155)
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December 2004

No. 369

This month we can offer congratulations for past achievements by individuals and small groups, whilst looking forward to a busy Christmas season.

The Harbury & Ladbroke News Commemorative edition was a Joint Winner in the Warwickshire Village Ventures Competition 2003 in the Communication category. The skateboard project received a Highly Commended award in the same competition.

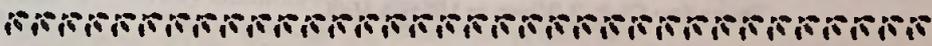
Margaret Harris was flown to the USA to receive an award for her work with Victim Support.

Year 6 at Harbury School were the "School of the Day" at a recent WCC safety awards event. Eleven pupils were recognised as the "Team of the Day" for the Crucial Crew project.

Notable fundraising events in November were Ladbroke's Autumn Fayre, which made over £500, "Harbury Hearts" raised £3200 and the Support Group which has given £6,000 to Myton Hospice.

We are looking forward to the Carol concerts and the parties which allow villagers of all ages to celebrate the festive season.

Finally, we extend our sympathies to the families of: Edna Armitt, Joan Lodge and Joyce Waddell.



Joan Lodge was the longest serving member of the Harbury & Ladbroke News Committee and a very regular attendee at Committee Meetings over 3 decades.

The editors are also saddened to hear of the sudden death of Tony Bastin in France. Both Tony and Carol had supported the magazine through advertising and attending stapling sessions.

We wish all of our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Harbury Diary

DECEMBER

- Sat 4 Coffee Morning in aid of Myton Hospice Support Group
10.00am – 12.00pm in Tom Hauley Room
Christmas Fayre in Village Hall opens 2pm
School Disco in School Hall 6.15pm – 9pm
- Sun 5 **ADVENT II** Sung Eucharist 9am
Evensong Worship at 6pm
NSPCC Quiz Night in Village Club
- Tues 7 Holy Communion 7.30pm
- Wed 8 Toddler Group Christmas Party in Village Hall
"Talk it Through" at 33 South Parade 8pm
- Thurs 9 Holy Communion 9.45am
Thursday Club 2.30pm in Village Hall
W.I. 7.45pm
- Fri 10 **RECYCLING & GREEN WASTE COLLECTION**
Twinning Christmas Party in Tom Hauley Room
- Sat 11 Coffee Morning in aid of Tom Hauley Room 10am – 12noon
in the Tom Hauley Room
Christmas Concert in Church at 7.30pm by Wellesbourne
Choral Society. Proceeds to Myton Hospice
Senior Citizen's Christmas Party in Village Hall
ALADDIN at The Grange Hall, Southam 2.30pm
- Sun 12 **ADVENT III** Holy Communion 8am
Sung Eucharist 10.30am
- Mon 13 Harbury School Carol Concert in Church at 6.30pm
- Tues 14 Holy Communion 7.30pm
- Wed 15 Tea in Tom Hauley Room 3pm – 4pm
ADVERTS to 31 Binswood End Harbury, by 5.30pm
Prayer Meeting in Church at 8pm
- Thurs 16 Holy Communion 9.45am
Thursday Club 2.30pm in Village Hall



Harbury Society Social at Shakespeare Inn
 Christmas Carol Concert by Folk Club Choir 7.30pm in Tom
 Hauley Room

- Fri 17 **CHRISTMAS AT THE GRANGE** at The Grange Hall, Southam
 7.30pm
- Sat 18 **Men's Prayer Breakfast** 7.30am
Free Christmas Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room
 10.00am - 12noon
- Sun 19 **ADVENT IV** Holy Communion 8am
 Family Communion 10.30am
 Evensong 6pm
- Tues 21 Holy Communion 7.30pm
 Senior Citizen's Committee 8pm in Village Hall
- Wed 22 Harbury School breaks up for Christmas Holidays
 Drop in Tea for the Bereaved 2.30 - 4.30pm, 19 Farm Street
 "Talk it Through" at 33 South Parade 8pm
- Thurs 23 Holy Communion 9.45am
 Thursday Club in Village Hall 2.30pm
- Fri 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE**
RECYCLING & GREEN WASTE COLLECTION
ARTICLES to Harbury Pharmacy, High St, Harbury, by
5.30pm
 Dressing the Crib 2.30pm
 Village Carols 6.30pm
 Midnight Mass 11.15pm
- Sat 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**
 Sung Eucharist 9.30am
- Sun 26 **BOXING DAY**
ST STEPHEN Sung Eucharist 10.30am
- Mon 27 **ST JOHN** Holy Communion 7.30pm
- Wed 29 Prayer Meeting in Church 8pm
- Thurs 30 **BLOOD DONORS** in Village Hall
 Holy Communion 9.45am
- Fri 31 **NEW YEARS EVE**



JANUARY

- Sat 1 **NEW YEARS DAY**
 Coffee Morning in aid of Rotary and Southam Inner Wheel
 10am - 12noon in Tom Hauley Room
- Sun 2 **SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**
 Sung Eucharist 9am
N.B. No Evening Worship (Carols at Ladbroke at 6.30pm)
- Tues 4 Holy Communion 7.30pm
- Wed 5 "Talk it Through" at 33 South Parade 8pm

- Thurs 6 **SCHOOL STARTS**
THE EPIPHANY Holy Communion 9.45am
Men's Society. John Smith talks of Ex-patriot's life in Libya
in Tom Hauley Room at 7.45pm
- Fri 7 **RECYCLING AND GREEN WASTE COLLECTION**
- Sat 8 Coffee Morning in aid of Parochial Church Council in Tom
Hauley Room 10.00am – 12.00pm
- Sun 9 **BAPTISM OF CHRIST**
Holy Communion 8am
Sung Eucharist 10.30am
- Thurs 13 **Open Forum for all residents including young people in
Village Hall at 8pm**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2005

- Sat 26 Barn Dance in the Village Hall in aid of Harbury Pre-School

APRIL 2005

- Sat 23 Beatles Tribute Night 8pm in Village Hall proceeds to Harbury
PTA and GASS

From the Rector

Last Sunday was the first Sunday of Advent and the beginning of our preparations for Christ's coming at Christmas.

There are a few saints whose feast days fall in Advent. The saints are our older brothers and sisters in the spiritual life and always we find there are valuable lessons to be learned from them even when hundreds of years separate us. The saints of Advent are no exception and they prove an encouragement for all.

Probably the first saint we think of in Advent is St John the Baptist. He features in the readings at the Eucharist at this time and is the recognised herald of the coming of Christ. But unless some of us hear his message he remains "a voice crying in the wilderness". One who not only heard his voice but whose response brought St Peter to the Lord is the saint whose feast day we celebrated on the 30th November – St Andrew.

St Andrew could really be called the link-man. He moves the original Jewish Faith, through Baptism from St John the Baptist, to Jesus and the New Law, and on to the birth of the Church and the sharing of the faith with non-Jews.

We know from the gospels that St John the Baptist came to prepare

the way for the Lord. He was to announce to the world the coming of the Messiah and the need for men to repent and change. The baptism offered by John was not simply a ritualistic symbol of purification or renewal as practiced in many ancient faiths. It was a once only ceremony of complete moral desire to change and prepare for the coming of the Messiah and his new law. Those baptised were a "community in anticipation". St Andrew was a member of this baptised community. He had listened to the message, taken it to heart and was waiting for his Lord.

His hope was rewarded. One day, as he stood with John the Baptist, Jesus passed by. John recognised him and tells Andrew and his companion, "Look, there is the Lamb of God". The two men follow Jesus who asks, "What do you want?" They ask where he lives and are invited to come and see. Andrew recognises his Lord in the hours that follow and becomes the first disciple leaving all to follow Christ. But he could not keep it all to himself. What he had discovered was to be told to the whole world, and the first in line was his brother – Simon Peter. "We have found the Messiah", says Andrew and he takes Simon Peter to meet his Christ. We have to thank Andrew for St Peter, the rock, Prince of the Apostles, and the man who opened the Church to non-Jews when he admitted Cornelius.

Andrew stayed close to Christ throughout his life and after the crucifixion he helped with the establishment of the Church before being crucified himself for his faith. He is an ideal saint for the beginning of Advent because his life sums up so vividly what our response to the message of St John the Baptist, of Advent should be. He was open to the message recognising the shortcomings of our earthly existence whilst taking account of the traditional teaching of the Old Testament. He responded to the call for repentance, for change, so he was ready when Christ passed by – ready to follow him and to learn from him.

Andrew was no scholar, but the revealing power of the Lord convinced him in faith of what he had hoped for. The experience brings him joy, which in his love for his brothers he rushes to share with him and the fruit of that love must have exceeded his wildest dreams. May we have Andrew's openness as we go through the Advent season.



Fr. Roy Brown

From the Registers

Holy Baptism, All Saints' Harbury

November 7 Ryan Daniel Taylor

November 21 Daniel James Lane

Chelsea Katherine Joanna Kempton

Chloe Isobel Rachel Kempton

Ishbel Eleanor Jane Kempton

Holy Baptism, All Saints' Ladbroke

November 7 Nicholas Peter Houlder

Funerals at Oakley Wood

November 19 Joyce Waddell (87)

Funerals at All Saints' Harbury

November 5 Edna Armitt (86)

November 23 Joan Lodge (92)



Thought for the Month

Loneliness is part of being human. It reminds us that we are not complete in ourselves.

From the Churchwardens

This month began with the celebration of our Patronal Festival, first in the Eucharist and then in a well attended and very enjoyable Faith Lunch.

Then came Remembrance Sunday. In a moving break with tradition, Michael Lambert took as the reading, Rupert Brooke's "The Soldier". The congregation was especially large this year and really did span the generations. Perhaps as we stood, safe and honouring the dead, under Brooke's "English Heaven" we were thinking of the living who even then were facing and who continue to face the horrors of Iraq.

Our second party for the children – A Party of Light – was held on November 20th. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and we thank the children and all the helpers for making it such a happy occasion. It was especially good to welcome parents and grandparents, brothers and sisters into Church at the end so that we could all sing together by candlelight.

The theme of the Family Service presentation, given by Father Roy, was "Perseverance". Beginning with a splendidly discordant rendering of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" on his mother's violin, he reminded

us of the need to practise an instrument if we wish to become proficient. He evidently did not practise! Harriet Guy does and we very much enjoyed her playing. Father Roy applied this lesson to our Christian Faith. We need encouragement, good teaching and practice if we are to move forward on our journey and we should always be grateful to those who help us on our way.



Les Spreckley sounds the "Last Post"

Lesley and Felicity



Mothers' Union

November brought us two interesting meetings. In the afternoon, our past Diocesan President, Wendy Thomas told us about her activities since holding that office. She felt it to be a time of waiting, and also of accompanying her clergyman husband in his role of chaplain on cruise liners. A lovely trip in the Mediterranean coincided with her convalescence from knee surgery: not a problem until she found herself responsible for carrying the chalice up a flight of steps! She told us how bereft many of the Catholic crewmembers are, as there is only one chaplain on board at Christmas and Easter.

The evening meeting enjoyed hearing Graham Alder's account of his work as a volunteer guide at Lichfield Cathedral. His vivid description of the building, backed up by a video presentation, encouraged many to make the journey to visit this beautiful and historic site, which has seen many changes since the first Saxon Church, in 700AD, housed the relics of Saint Chad.

Notices:

Please give next year's subscription of £12.50 to Ann Moore in an envelope with your name on.

November 29	Diocesan Advent Service at Attleborough
December 1	Pam Clarke on "The Well"
December 4	Christmas Fayre – toiletries stall
January 5	3pm (no service) New Year Party. Bring a gift value £1
January 18	8pm (after service at 7.30) Party with Faith Supper Please bring food to share, wine if wanted and a guest – numbers beforehand.
February 19	Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room
May 19	2.30pm – our turn to host The Deanery Festival – keep the date
July 23	Coffee morning and lunch

Gillian Hare

Toddlers' Service

At the November toddlers' service Mr Tony Stubbs told us the story of Noah and his family during the time of the flood, all the animals in the ark and the eventual rainbow. We sang two songs – My God is so big, so strong and so mighty and Mr Noah built the Ark. We then coloured in a picture of a rainbow.

Our next service will be on Tuesday 14th December at 2.15pm in the children's corner in the Church.

Lorna Bedford

Ladbroke News

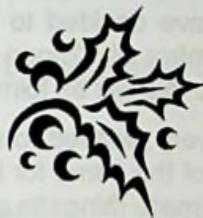
DECEMBER

Wed 8	Women's Fellowship Christmas Service 12noon Followed by lunch at The Fox and Hen
Sat 11	Christmas Whist Drive 7.30pm in Village Hall
Sun 12	ADVENT III Sung Communion 9am

- Tues 14 Millennium Club Draw
 Wed 15 **ADVERTS to 31 Binswood End Harbury, by 5.30pm**
 Sun 19 **ADVENT IV** Sung Communion 9am
 Fri 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE** Dressing of the Crib 3.30pm
ARTICLES to Harbury Pharmacy, High St, Harbury, by 5.30pm
 Sat 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY** Sung Communion 11am
 Sun 26 **ST STEPHEN** Sung Communion 9am

JANUARY

- Sun 2 **SECOND OF CHRISTMAS**
 Family Communion 10.30am
 Carol Service 6pm
 Sun 9 **BAPTISM OF CHRIST**
 Sung Communion 9am



Ladbroke Flower Rota

No flowers during Advent. Please see flower rota in the church porch for the Christmas decorators.

Ladbroke Church News

We made £514 at our Autumn Fayre. It was opened by the manageress of Galanos House, in Southam. Half the proceeds went to Galanos and half to the church funds. Weather wise it was a miserable day but in our hall it was bustle and fun. The Tombola was a great success as usual. The cake stall quickly sold out. The raffle made over £100 and the gift stall and books weren't far behind. The teas did well and the customers remarked on the halls new tables – favourably! I think the gift stall must have a Rumpelstiltskin behind it; I always take home more items than I started with!

The Rector blessed our new “facilities” at the Family Baptism/ Communion Service on 7th November. The pantry and toilet is therefore officially open. Jo Sowerby and I went into Rugby the week before and bought the necessary utensils to furnish it out so it now has that lived-in look about it. We used the money raised at the Women's Fellowship Tea Party in August to buy the items.

Our Augmented Choir begin the practices on Monday 29th November at 7pm. We are again very privileged to have Michael Short to lead us again. New members to the choir will be warmly welcomed. The Carol Service will be at 6pm on Sunday 2nd January.

Betty Winkfield

Women's Fellowship

I have not given a report of late and I intend to stand down as the Chairman in the New Year.

We had a very enjoyable afternoon at Betty Winkfield's where Betty gave us a talk on Heraldry, most interesting. If we all took the time to trace our own family history, I am sure we could all find a coat of arms or crest for our lineage.

We have decided to have our Christmas service on Wednesday 8th December at 12noon followed by lunch at the Fox & Hen at Bascote Heath. We will be joined by some of our husbands for the lunch.

I am very pleased to report that the Fellowship have been able to buy most of the items for the pantry and toilet in the Church. We still have a few more things to get and I hope that the money we have left in the kitty will be enough.

We have been invited to join in the fun and games with Harbury's Mother's union on the afternoon of January 5th 2005. The usual request applies; bring something for the bran tub.

May I take this opportunity to say have a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Jo Sowerby

Ladbroke Parish Council

Ladbroke Parish Council met on November 17th when once again one of the main discussions of the evening was the drainage and highways issue within the village. With winter approaching, it is essential that the brook has a clear passage through the middle of the village and once the leaves have all fallen, the council will be better able to see the flow of the brook under the A423 bypass to consider any longer term projects required.

The Southam Police and Neighbourhood Watch rarely have anything to report in Ladbroke, mainly because everyone is vigilant and sensible with precautions against burglary and vehicle crime. However, in recent weeks there has been the theft of an Ifor Williams horse trailer and a low-load trailer from Windmill Lane and trouble with disruptive youths within the village, as well as incidents of youths throwing things at vehicles travelling along the A423 bypass, resulting in damage to them. If anyone has any knowledge of these incidents, then PC Andy Went would be pleased to hear from you.

This is the time of year when the Parish Council decides the annual precept and after much discussion it was only raised by 1.5%.

A vacancy has arisen for a Parish Councillor and a nomination form is available from the Clerk for any interested applicant.

Finally we are still looking for a replacement Clerk to start next year and I will be pleased to chat to anyone about this paid position.

There is no meeting in December and the next Parish Council Meeting will be on Wednesday 19th January 2005 at 7.45pm in Ladbroke Village Hall. All welcome.

Linda Doyle (Parish Clerk)

Whist Drives

We are holding our Christmas Whist Drive on Saturday 11th December in Ladbroke Village Hall at 7.30pm for 7.45pm start. I have been given lots of prizes, so please come! There is a lovely friendly atmosphere – even if you haven't played for years, now is your chance to get some practice in.

Betty Winkfield

Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Club

The draw took place at the Bell Inn on 16th November.

The lucky winners are:

£70 Mrs Ford

£25 Mrs R.N.Grey and Mrs C.Spence

£10 Mrs G Bradley, Mr A Stubbs and Mrs M Coley.

Why not join us? For £5.00 a month you could win £70.00!

Or, what about giving a subscription as a Christmas Gift?

Profits go towards refurbishments of the Village Hall i.e. – new cooker, fridge and microwave.

Contact either Rhian on 817038 or Lois on 817331.

The next draw will be on 14th December.

Sue Haisall



Ladbroke Village Hall

The Annual General Meeting was held on 3rd November. The Chairman welcomed members of the public and thanked the three retiring committee members for their long service to the village.

The new committee is as follows:	Members of the Committee:
Chairman Mr Max Sowerby	Mrs Lois Workman
Treasurer Mrs Christine Baker	Mrs Rhian Kelsall
Secretary Mrs Kim Bendzak	Mr Mark Teverson
Bookings Mrs Nicky Lewis	Mrs Susan Moore

We would welcome new bookings for parties and other activities. Booking forms are available from Mrs Nicky Lewis at Rose Cottage, Bridge Lane, Ladbroke, or email NicolaLewis@onetel.com

The cost of hall hire is £7.50 per hour, (01926) 815196.

The cost of hire of tables and chairs is also available on request.

The Committee wishes to thank all who have used the Village Hall over the past year. We are looking into upgrading the kitchen in the near future. We hope that this will bring in new users in the coming year. The hall is available for hire during the day as well as the evening.

Max Sowerby, Chairman

Harbury Parish Council – November 2004

Official minutes can be viewed in the Library or obtained from the Parish Clerk.

There was a depleted Parish Council (it's the Pantomime Season) but plenty of interest from the public. Tony Alcock, from Manor Orchard, explained his hedge was causing subsidence and had to be taken back. Mrs Kempton had the full support of the PC in her attempts to "stop up the highway" at Helen Owen House to remove the anomaly of her front garden being designated as highway. Colin Mercer sought Parish Council approval for more Tennis Courts improvements and additional floodlighting to extend coaching for the Junior Section.

The School got permission to hold a County Cross Country event at the Playing Fields on 15th January. The Nursery School is fund-raising to landscape round its new home in the Portakabin. Chairman

Dutch Van Spall proudly announced the Parish Council was fourth in the Harbury School PTA Quiz and with a little more red wine would have won it!

Sharon Hancock explained that Southam School's Annual Meeting on 13th December would sound out parents' views on changing the school day to start and end earlier. She announced that following last month's public participation, PC Hill had dealt with the case of harassment and a Young People's Meeting facilitated by an outside consultant would be held on 2nd December, (7.30pm Village Hall)

There was a long discussion session on the Deppers Bridge Traffic Calming. The upshot was that the Council was prepared to wait for the police to refer safety concerns to the county and see what resulted, but Dutch Van Spall, in a personal capacity, would continue to pursue the matter with Warwickshire Police.

PLANNING - Permission was granted, with conditions, for a Glasshouse off the Fosseyway. The Parish made no representations on a conservatory at 10 The Beeches or an extension at 30 Percival Drive but did comment that the latest application on The Bungalow, Mill Street was out of scale, conflicted with the Village Design Statement and was an over-development of the site. They had similar views on plans to extend 35 Deppers Bridge.

They responded to a letter from Warwickshire Rural Community Council's Housing Enabler on potential development at Hillside referring again to the Village Design Statement and recent Planning Exhibition and consultation on Local Housing Needs sites.

County Councillor David Booth reported the County could consider making the Allotments available for Local Needs Housing and asked the Council's views. Sharon Hancock explained that Allotment Holders would be opposed to this and there were other more appropriate sites to investigate. The Parish Plan Draft had been sent to Stratford District for comment and the Council hoped to publish it in the New Year.

Cllr Biddle is negotiating with WCC who want to charge an easement of £90 p.a. to allow the Tennis Club a connection to the mains water supply. His Properties Committee was in favour of the floodlighting proposals and Colin Mercer confirmed a concern about the previous scheme had proved unfounded – the light spillage was minimal. The scheme would cost about £8,000 and would require Planning Permission.

Graffiti had been cleaned from the Playing Fields wall. Remedial work to the Dragon's Teeth and Barrier were scheduled for the following week. A quote to repairs Burial Grounds buildings was accepted. Work will start in March.

Cllr Ellis relayed complaints of overgrown paths and uneven pavements. Cllr Lockley reported the Temple End light had still to be replaced. He had discussed the improvements to the village centre with the Post Master who suggested two ten minute parking spaces might be created in front of his garage to stop parking on the pavement in front of the supermarket.

The County had recently installed Speed Strips in the village and would report on traffic flows and speeds but any scheme to control traffic would be expensive. Tim Lockley reports on Parish Council activity for the Harbury News and his latest article would include Stratford District's Tree Warden initiative. Tony Mancell warned his fellow councillors that they would now need to decide on the budget to set for 2005-6.

There was a lively report on the Meeting with South Warwickshire Housing Association on its refusal to clear unkempt gardens for new tenants. The PC and residents might not have made much progress with SWHA but it did give Cllr Biddle a chance to air his views on its housing allocation policy.

It was explained that it is only possible to reserve homes for "local needs" at Hillside and the Bryant's estate where there is a special (Section 106) agreement. All other "social housing" is allocated on the basis of greatest need.

Linda Ridgley

Harbury Parish Council – Quarterly Report, October 2004

In the past three months the Parish Council has:

- Accepted a quote for essential repairs to the cemetery chapel.
- Forwarded comments on several controversial planning applications to Stratford District Council.
- Determined the exact location of a poorly defined boundary between a parishioner's garden and Parish Council land.
- Paid for the installation of a new barrier for the car park behind the village hall.
- Paid for repairs to vandalised Parish Council property.

- Listened to the concerns of residents about anti-social behaviour and started to think creatively about how the issue might be addressed on a community level with support from law enforcement bodies.
- Held further meetings with Warwickshire County Council about the traffic-calming needs of the village.
- Made significant advances towards the completion of the Parish Plan.
- Held an open surgery outside Harbury supermarket to listen to the concerns of parishioners.

Tim Lockley

Harbury Society



Our next Event is the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 4th December in the Village Hall where our Photographic Quiz will be "Right Up Your Street". Come and try your skill.

Alan Lord is organising the Christmas Social at the Shakespeare Inn for Thursday 16th December. The cost is £15 per head. Call Alan on 613722 to reserve your place.

We have invited Alan Griffin back on 7th February 2005 in the Tom Hauley Room, to talk about local Polish prisoners of war.

And somewhere in there we may organise another Pub Walk (We've had a very beery year!)

Linda Ridgley

Harbury's Women's Institute



November was General Meeting time and we were pleased to welcome Ros Belcher from the County to officiate.

Dorothy, our able President, continues to serve for another term supported by a strong committee. Dorothy thanked them for their support over the year.

A big thank you to those who supported the Christmas Child Appeal. The boxes are now on their way. The response was excellent.

Next month is the Christmas Meeting when there will be a demonstration by Gillian Hawtin called Christmas Flowers. There will be the usual festive refreshments and the bran tub presents.

We look forward to the New Years Party on 21st January, but more of that next month.

We wish all readers Season's Greetings.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Joan Lodge. Joan was a loyal member of long standing and last attended a W.I meeting in September, although far from well. Whatever the weather she would be waiting to be picked up. Joan always supported W.I in every way, attending all the functions. Some will remember her way back in the 70's dressed as the strongman on our Carnival Float.

Members who attended Joan's funeral learnt that she was training to be a violinist in her youth, a career cut short by a serious illness. She also rode a motorbike, so understandably she had no fears of riding on her electric buggy as we all well know.

We will miss you Joan, rest in peace.

Jeanne Beaumont

Harbury Theatre Group

Mother Goose

We saw the poster in Leamington Library and thought let's give it a go. So on Thursday 25th November we travelled to Harbury to see The Theatre Group Pantomime.

We were made welcome at the door, and a young lad sold us a programme, which was very informative.

The Panto got underway and during the first act we were introduced to the characters. The goose was delightful, her costume was great, almost the real thing! Mother Goose was a real character and played the part well, she was loud – like her dresses. Peter was so obviously played by a female, but she carried the part well and her love interest Jill was comfortable with this. Jack and his Goosegirl were good and they sang well. Sir Jasper could have been more evil, but he was enjoying himself on stage, his henchmen were excellent and their version of "Two Little Boys" had us in near hysterics with laughter.

The Demon and Fairy were both a joy to watch, and the Demon's later impression of Elvis was daring even though it had nothing to do with the plot, a cunning scene change perhaps?

Ballet dancers appeared at various times, and they added an extra sparkle to the show, some of them were very young. It was good to see children performing on stage - coming from a town, something like this isn't on offer.

There was a scene towards the end set in Gooseland – someone had gone to a lot of trouble with the backdrop, but all the sets were excellent and scene changes were hardly noticed. We were pleasantly surprised that a village amateur group could put together such a good Panto that involved children and adults and provide an excellent hall facility with a tremendous stage area. It was good to see a live pianist, which helped the singing a lot, we were impressed with the sound and lighting too. Things have certainly progressed since I was in amateur theatre.

It was a shame the first night didn't get a bigger audience, you all missed a real treat. We'll definitely be coming to future plays now we know what to expect. The Director had perhaps been a little too daring in parts, and some scenes didn't quite work, some were a bit slow, but it was a large cast and she'd done well to bring it all together.

We felt that we should put pen to paper and give credit where it's due **WELL DONE EVERYONE!** We loved your Panto.

The Bailey Family – Leamington Spa

Photographs of the Pantomime will appear in next month's edition of the magazine.



Harbury Folk Club

After a long 'absence', the Band of Folk warmed up the evening with a tune called The Bonfire, the theme being autumn. Martin gave us a lullaby, and then a song about a 1951 Mining Disaster. Steve Darby proved not to be too old to make his debut on guitar, played a couple of folk classics by Oasis and changed the theme to "in search of E7". Pete and Liz made it clear in one of their songs, that the cares of tomorrow can wait 'til this day is done. Rick played a wonderful tune on his guitar and gave us autumn leaves. Barbara closed the first half, and explained about the charity for the evening which was to help raise money for a PET cancer scan machine at Birmingham Heartlands Hospital.

After everybody had a chance to get refreshments and have a chat, the second half proved to be variants on Steve's E7 theme. There were many performers to fit in and we heard from Janny and Maureen, the Joy family in fine form, Sean Canon (a welcome return visitor with some lightening fast lyrics), and Pete Grassby with French autumn leaves. Peter McDonald sang about a scythe and four strong winds, Ian and Sue gave us a Moth to a Flame and Thistle and Rose, and finally the Band of Folk played for Rosemary's notable Birthday Braeside tune.

We declared that we had saved the best for the third half, and the performers did not let us down. Stewart and John gave us "Autumn of my Life", and if we are not mistaken a Dylan number! Ron was in fine form with a Jovial Huntsman and explained how Lassie had to go and went. Des had the audience spellbound with a wonderful rendition of Eric Bogle's anti war song The Band Played Waltzing Matilda. We admired Pete Mason for singing through the background pub music – the speakers somehow had switched back on, and Sue gave us a couple of fine songs. Pete G, with Pete B and Peter McD, closed the evening in rousing style as the audience went Rolling Home.

The audience had been entertained by 18 performers who performed 36 songs or tunes. The raffle raised £40, and yet again we were made to feel very welcome in The Shakespeare. The next Folk Club will be on 2nd December, led by Peter McDonald and the theme is Faith, Hope & Charity.

Doug and Janny



Harbury Junior Football Club

Firstly, we would like to extend our thanks to Kathy and Alan Sampson for volunteering for the post of treasurer. Welcome to the committee.

Secondly, the position of chairman is still available – please bear this in mind if you would like to get involved and think you could squeeze a little extra time out of your week. All support is very necessary and much appreciated.

The news on the teams is as follows:

Under 10's

Fenny Compton 4 - 3 Harbury

A match that Harbury deserved to win, 3 -1 up with 20 minutes to go, an ever improving Harbury Under 10's were close to recording their

first win of the season. The effort and commitment shown during the first 40 minutes took its toll as tiredness and lack of concentration gifted Fenny two goals. An overall outstanding display by the whole team, which was applauded by all of the parents.

Kinton 1 - 3 Harbury - at last, a first win of the season. Harbury dominated most of the match and despite only having 1 substitute available, the whole team kept going for the full 60 minutes and never let Kinton settle. Matty Hayward made a couple of outstanding saves in goal; Angus Murray displayed superb footwork down the wing and James Barker Wall confidently scored for the second game in a row. The team maintained their shape with great discipline and growing maturity with Matthew van Kesteren putting in another strong display of hard but fair tackling in the centre of defence. Well done to the whole team.

Under 9's and 8's - no matches were played during November, however, a glut of games are due over the next few months and we will report on them in the next few issues.

The club continues to support the supply of new equipment and gear with the Under 8's all receiving new kit and the club purchasing 34 new training and match balls during the month.

Year 1 football January 2005 - the club hope to start a school year 1 group in January. If you have a child (boy or girl) who would like to participate in organised coaching on Saturday mornings during term time, please contact Steve Darby on 01926 613330

Under 12s



The Under 12's returned to winning ways with a convincing 4 - 2 win at home to Napton. Jordan King, Jack Sampson and Jonathan Wigley with 2 scored the goals for Harbury. All areas of the team were solid and on a number of occasions throughout the game played some very flowing football.

Jim Farrell and Steve Darby

Harbury Tennis Club

There was no coup d'etat at the Club's AGM so the Committee was re-elected en bloc! In addition Jon Scothern was persuaded to fill one of the vacant positions. The assembled masses were advised that it had been another very successful year on all fronts. There was also discussion on how to celebrate the Club's 25th Anniversary in 2005 and as a result at some time next year you may well see a number of Bjorn Borg, John McEnroe, Chris Evert impersonations on the courts! We hope to compile a history of the Club so if anyone has any photos we could use please let me know.

The meeting agreed that there is now sufficient demand to install floodlights to a second court. One reason is that winter evening Club sessions are now well attended and with only one court lit there is a fair amount of waiting around. It is clear that with a second floodlit court more members would want to play. A second reason is that we would like to extend the activities for Juniors to run through the Winter. Our 2004 summer programme was our most successful with 128 Juniors attending the various sessions on offer and 70+ attending the summer camps held during 2 weeks of the school holidays. These were available to members and non-members. We had provisionally planned a winter programme comprising indoor sessions in the Village Hall for the very young ones with other indoor sessions at Southam College plus some after school sessions on the courts. There was a great deal of interest but we had to abandon most of them when our coach was offered a full time post at Esporta Coventry, a private club. However Linda Casement has run the Village Hall sessions for some of the youngest children. These have been very successful.

One of the problems we have, is getting LTA qualified coaches to come to Harbury. That's no reflection on the Club's facilities or organisation - we have an excellent reputation throughout the County on both! The problem is more one of economics and being able to offer a coach opportunities year round which would obviously be a

more attractive proposition. Two floodlit courts would give us a chance of competing with some of the other Clubs such as Leamington and Warwick in attracting coaches.

Because the facilities would continue to be available to the public they would be of great benefit to the community, particularly young people, which sits very comfortably with Government priorities on health, sustainable development and trying to address anti-social behaviour.

The outline proposals were discussed by the Parish Council's Properties sub-committee which recommended to the full Council meeting that approval in principle should be given. I'm delighted to say that was accepted and we will now prepare more details and explore funding before going back to the Parish Council in January.

The competitive element of the Club continues and pride of place this month goes to the Red Minis who completed their pre-Christmas programme with an honourable 5-5 draw against Beechwood, one of the larger Coventry Clubs. Sam Tutt, Henry Steele, Thomas Conway and Hallam Bullock all played really well to earn the draw. The match also saw Steve Conway making a successful debut as an umpire avoiding any "you cannot be serious" claims! Thanks Steve! Also thanks to Linda Casement for organising the training. She reports that it's going really well with definite improvements in all aspects as well as getting plenty of enjoyment. The emphasis after Christmas switches to the next age group, the "Orange".

In the Banbury Winter league, the "B" Team had a good month, unbeaten in 3 games. The first match was away at Byfield "C" who fielded a couple of their regular "B" team players. However, that couldn't stop Caroline Morland and Angie Dean winning the ladies' doubles but Colin Mercer and Richard Harding, making his debut, lost the men's. The mixed doubles were halved with both Caroline and Richard and Angie and Colin losing the first set but storming back in the second, both pairs winning it 6-1.

Another away match at Charlbury followed. Caroline Morland and Angie Dean completed a comfortable win but Jon Scothern and Richard lost theirs but only after a very close second set. As in the Byfield match both mixed doubles were halved earning Harbury another point.

This was followed by an emphatic 4-0 home win against Tysoe "C". The first half of the match was played in continuous drizzle and came close to being abandoned. Caroline continued her winning streak in the Ladies doubles, this time partnered by Sue Mercer. Steve Stark

and Colin also won their match easily. The weather improved in the second half and Harbury wrapped up the match by winning both mixed doubles.

The "A" Team continued to struggle in the 1st Division, losing against the very strong Banbury "A" and Byfield "A" Teams. The regular Ladies, Gill Thorpe, Carol best, and Kate Young are holding their own but the men are struggling. (Author's note – that might be partly down to yours truly making 2 "guest" appearances!) However, Andrew Rendell is back for the next match to renew his partnership with Geoff Prince so things should improve!

In the Stratford League Harbury maintained its unbeaten run with a 3rd successive victory, this time at home against Snitterfield in a very close match. Harbury won both opening matches but in the second round Jon Scothern and Colin Mercer were overpowered by the visitors. However, Geoff Prince and Benjamin Emms halved their match by winning a very tight second set to clinch the win for Harbury.

Email sucol-merc@tiscali.co.uk

Colin and Sue Mercer

Windmills Nursery School



The children and staff are very happy to be finally settled into our fantastic newly refurbished classroom. The theme this half term is colours and the children have been busy producing some very colourful pictures and collages.

We had a visit from a fireman (better known as Evie's daddy) on November 5th. He taught us not to play with matches or lighters, the dangers of fireworks and how to 'stop, drop, and roll'.

The children particularly enjoyed trying on his helmet!

We have also read the story of the 'Blue Balloon' and afterwards, the children made blue collages. We asked the children where they would like a blue balloon to take them:

Caitlin: "I would go to Charlotte's, (my god sister's) and we would go to the seaside at Minorca".

Leonie: "I would go to the disco to dance to the music"

Henna: "I would like to go to where the elephants are in a hot country; it's a long way away".

Art Workshop

Elsie's grandma, a talented artist, came into the nursery to give the children an Art Workshop. She brought in lots of fruit and vegetables, talked about their colours, and then asked us if we could name any fruit that was blue.



She talked about warm colours and cold colours, how to mix different shades of colour and to paint VERY BIG. The results were stunning; the children had great fun and produced some fantastic pictures of their chosen fruit and vegetables.

T-Shirts and Bags

You might have already seen the children wearing their new purple or jade green T-shirts and carrying their purple bags with our new name 'Windmills Nursery School.' We think they look really smart and colourful, and if anyone else would like one, they are available from the Nursery.

Thank-you

There are many people to thank for their hard work and support over the last few weeks:

- Nicola Perrett for hosting a 'chocoholics' party, which raised £60 commission for the nursery.
- Callum Johnston for his Company's wonderful donation of a computer, which has already been put to good use by both the children and Linda Casement, our resident IT Co-coordinator.
- Everyone who helped at the Craft Fair - this includes all those who helped on the day as well as those who made and donated cakes, puddings, or hot meals. Special thanks to Bobbie for organising the tombola and Imogen for the overall organisation of this event, which raised £870.00.
- Harbury Hearts for choosing the Nursery to be one of the beneficiaries this year.
- Trendgrey Construction Limited for their sponsorship of our Christmas cards and Lindsey Dolphin for donating her artwork for these.
- Rachel Bright for hosting a health and beauty evening, which raised £25 for nursery funds.

We thank the committee for their hard work in organising the refurbishment of our new room, as well as Mr. Daly, the Governors and teachers of the school for their help and support. Lastly we thank all the parents for their encouragement and continued support.

Christmas Cards

We have some beautiful Christmas cards available from the Nursery, if anyone would like to buy some. There are packs of general cards available, as well as cards with the children's artwork on. As mentioned above, they have been produced using very high quality artwork by Lindsey Dolphin, and have been sponsored by Trendgrey, to enable profits from sales to go to the Nursery. If anyone is

interested, please call the Nursery on 07906 519148, or drop in anytime.

Christmas Concert

Preparations are underway for our Christmas concert this year, which is to be held on Friday 10th December, in the school hall at 10.00am. Everyone is welcome to attend this festive event, when we will be serving coffee and mince pies afterwards.

Christmas Party

We will be holding a Christmas party for the children on Tuesday 21st December in the Nursery room, and it is hoped that Father Christmas will be able to find time in his busy schedule to visit us at some point during the morning!

If you require any information about the nursery, please contact Jo Lockley, Nursery Committee Chairperson on 614532 or Tina and Marie on 07906 519148.

Nursery School Staff and Committee

Harbury Pre-School



November At Pre-School

The lovely colours and changes of autumn formed the basis of the children's activities during November. They had a wonderful time on their autumn walks around the village, each carrying a bag for collecting mostly fallen leaves and conkers but, in some cases, grasses, twigs and even small stones proved to have been of interest. When asked about the walk afterwards, these were some of the highlights:

"We kicked all the leaves and found conkers"

"We saw the great big pumpkin near the sticky bud tree"

"We saw two trains and one was going to London and the other was coming from London"

The leaves were used to make lovely collages, with some being kept on one side to make leaf rubbings. The children also tried drawing outlines of the leaves and then adding in the "veins" to great effect.



Preparing the Guy



Building

CRAFT FAIR - NO



3 2004



the Bonfire



Enjoying the Hot Dogs

EMBER 2004





The children saying "hello" to the horses on our Autumn

Other artistic works included making green handprints (always a popular activity!) and then adding pieces of paper and fabric of different sizes, textures and autumnal colours to make more fabulous collages.

Guy Fawkes Night, with the bonfire and fireworks in the park, gave rise to some beautiful pictures using glue and multi-coloured glitter on black paper and these are currently adorning the walls of the Wight School.

"The Gingerbread Man" was the story of the month for November and the children had great fun listening to it using the tape player and headphones. Cassie put together a feely bag with various characters from the story, including, the cow, horse, fox and, of course, the gingerbread man himself. This gave the children the chance to identify the characters and piece together the story for themselves. Loud chants of "Run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me I'm the Gingerbread Man" could probably be heard far and wide during Pre-School sessions!

The children have been more enthusiastic about "tidy up time" since Lisa composed a "Tidy up" song to the tune of "Here we go round the mulberry bush"!

Plans for December

There's a rumour going around that this month will be full of fun and frivolity – but then that's nothing new at Pre-School. However, the children's excitement may be hard to contain with the pending festivities and there will be lots going on including Christmas Song Time (Friday 10th December in Tom Hauley room) and a special visitor (possibly dressed in red) on the 17th December.

Ballet at Pre-School

We would like to say a special thank you to Jean Champ who kindly came to Pre-School to introduce the children to the world of dance. There are definitely some budding Swan Lake performers and lots of children had great fun dancing and miming. Jean holds regular dancing classes in the Village Hall on Wednesdays starting with a pre-school age class at 4pm, and a 4-5 year old beginners class at 4.30pm. Anyone interested can just pop along to the sessions and speak to Jean.

All My Own Work

Harbury Pre-School raised £97 through a company which transfers children's artwork onto gifts such as tea towels, mugs, mouse-mats etc. The staff at Pre-School designed and co-ordinated all the children's artwork onto a single tea towel. The children drew a picture of themselves and a wonderful piece of artwork was created, making a lovely keepsake and a great Christmas present.

Halloween Disco

On a dark evening at the end of October eighty little ghosts, witches, wizards, pumpkins and phantoms descended on Harbury Village Hall. It could have been so spooky and eerie and scary.....if it wasn't for the squeals of delight, the peels of laughter and the energetic dancing.

The Halloween disco was a joint venture between Harbury Nursery and Pre-school, which meant it, involved most of the youngsters in the village. There were lots of fabulous costumes, both children and adults. The children were entertained marvellously by ghoulish D.J's Andrew Hunt and Ian Ashworth, who seemed to enjoy themselves as much as the children!



When the children needed a break from all the spooky dancing they could bob for apples, stick their hands into slimy jelly to find a little pressie, win sweets on the tombola or have a little devilish cake.

Harbury Pre-school raised £109, which was an added bonus to the night so thank you to Andrew and Ian, Harbury Nursery and to all of you that helped make it an enjoyable event.

Craft Fair

Harbury Pre-School were invited to support Harbury Nursery in providing food at the recent village Craft Fair. Staff and parents made a selection of puddings, which proved to be very popular. In between buying and selling many people stopped to have a meal or to enjoy a cake with a cuppa. We hope the food was enjoyed by all as this enabled Pre-School to raise £213 which can be used to update Pre-School's selection of reading books.

Future Dates for your Calendar

Dave Perry will be taking photos in the village on Wednesday 16th February (half term). This is a joint arrangement with Harbury Nursery and is open to anyone to attend. Dave Perry produces excellent black and white photos. More details to follow.

Another date to put in your new diaries is Saturday 26th February (evening) when you could be entertained by 'reel to reel' at the Pre-School barn dance. Again, more details in the New Year.

Availability of places at Pre-School

Children can start at Pre-School from 2 years and 9 months. Anyone wishing to book a place for their child at Pre-School from September 2005 through to July 2006 will need to complete an application form soon. Clare Stone on Harbury 614482 will be able to provide more information and application forms. Visits to Pre-School can be organised so you can have a look round and talk to the staff.

If anyone would like further information about Harbury Pre-School, please contact Clare Stone, Chair of the Pre-School Committee, on Harbury 614482.

Harbury Pre-School Staff and Committee

Harbury Primary School



Book Week 15 – 18 November

Harbury School celebrated Book Week in all kinds of ways:

- The Book Fayre ran each evening
- Poet, Kevin O'Sullivan held workshops for Junior children
- Mr. Chapman told a story in each of the infant classes
- Favourite books were reviewed by the children during our morning assembly
- Reading meetings were held
- Children and staff dressed up as their favourite character for the characterisation assembly.

Congratulations

To all the children in Year 6 who were the "School of the Day" when they attended the Crucial Crew event earlier this term. Special congratulations go to Bethany Conway, Peter French, Francesca Holden, Adam O'Toole, Aimee Perry, Lauren Wilson, Mhairi Gibb, Jack Sampson, Hannah McCluskey, Rhys Overton and Michael Varriale who were the "Team of the Day", and they received special awards at Shire Hall. However, a major surprise came at Shire Hall when it was announced that we were the overall runners-up from the

whole Crucial Crew project, which had taken place over 10 days – well done to all the children involved.



Year 6's Crucial Crew Team

Carol Service

Please note the date of the Junior Carol Service has been changed to **Monday 13th December at 6.30pm** at Church. Further details will be circulated later. The Infant's play will remain as scheduled, **Wednesday 15th December, at 6.30pm.**

Bad Weather

The recent spell of poor weather has prompted me to remind you of our arrangements in case of very bad snow. If there is snow in the area, the school will make every effort to stay open, and would therefore not expect to close unless the Local Education Authority announces a blanket closure for the whole of the area or there is an exceptional circumstance at this school (e.g. the heating breaks down). If the school is to close, an announcement will be made as early as possible on local radio – by the LEA if it is a blanket-closure or by us if we have particular problems. Unless you hear otherwise, the school will remain open – it is a matter for parents as to whether they want to send their children in poor weather conditions.

PTA Quiz Night and Sponsored Walk Success

The recent PTA Quiz Night was a roaring success. The event was extremely well run by the PTA, who created a pleasantly competitive and fun atmosphere.

The PTA and the school would like to thank Linda and Mark Casement, who once again produced a challenging and enjoyable quiz; which took tremendous effort to put together.

The fight for the top place was extremely competitive; as was the fight to stay off the bottom (ask Mr. Chapman!!).

The school would also like to thank the PTA and all their helpers who worked extremely hard to raise a splendid amount.

The **Sponsored Walk** held at the end of September raised a magnificent **£1836.73**. Well done to everyone concerned.

PTA Market News

The November PTA Market raised the following funds for the School:

Uniform Shop £4.50, Phoenix Cards £3.00, Chocoholics £3.00
Donation £0.50

In addition, the Tawney family made £15.51. A cheque for that amount has been sent to the Border Collie Trust – Rescue Home where Brynley their dog came from. Also, Rebecca Marston raised £10.75 for the WWF Tiger Fund. Well done Alexander, Elliot and Rebecca.

The next market will be held on **Friday 17th December** in the school hall. If you wish to book a stall, then please contact Lana Long on 01926 613377.

If you have any spare good quality items of Harbury School uniform, then please consider donating them to the PTA for sale at the market. This raises money for the school and provides a valuable service to parents and carers.

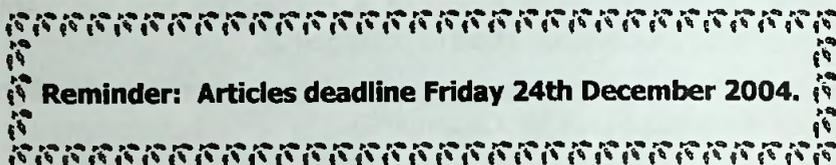
School Disco

Please note that the School Disco will now take place on **Saturday 4th December** in the School Hall. Infants: 6:15 – 7:15pm, £2 entry fee to include drinks and snacks. Juniors: 7.30 – 9.00pm, £1 entry fee, children purchase their own refreshments.

Beatles Tribute Night

Please make a note in your 2005 diaries, that next year's 'Beatles Tribute Night' is on: **Saturday 23rd April 2005**, 8.00pm – midnight. All proceeds to Harbury School PTA and GASS.

Denis Daly



Reminder: Articles deadline Friday 24th December 2004.

Guide and Scout Support (GASS)

The Harbury Bonfire Night was once again a great success this year. Well over 400 spectators attended; the weather and the display were both excellent. A big 'thank you' to our partners Harbury Church, to the Cubs, Scouts and Brownies and many of their parents who helped collecting firewood during the day or who helped with cooking and stewarding on the night.

The GASS Christmas Post service will operate again this year. You can post your cards at Mugglestons from Saturday 4th December and the first delivery will be by the following Sunday. The final collection will be on Monday 20th December to give our volunteer sorters and deliverers sufficient time before Christmas Day! Incidentally, our job is made a lot easier by having **complete addresses**; we sometimes receive cards with only a surname on!

What are we doing about the Scout Hut roof? Firstly, we have made a temporary repair to the box gutter. Secondly, we have obtained a set of construction drawings for an improved kitchen and storeroom roof, courtesy of one of our parents, Mr Chris Hill. We are currently drawing up a detailed specification for the other improvements, including replacement of the 60 year old main hut roof sheets, new kitchen facilities and an improved heating system. We will shortly apply for grant funding towards the cost.

Our aim is to complete the excellent work carried out by SHAK in the late 1990s and to have a re-roofed and even better equipped Scout Hut, as soon as funds permit. The improved kitchen and heating will also make the building usable for more village activities. It is going to be a very advanced kind of 'Hut' when we are finished! Happy Christmas.

Alan Guy, Chairman of GASS



Harbury And District Royal British Legion – thoughts on Remembrance Day

Each year on the Sunday closest to Remembrance Day, a service is held in the church to remember those in the village who gave their lives in the two World Wars. All those who attend the service cannot fail to be moved by the dignity of those for whom the act of remembrance is particularly poignant, as they remember relatives lost in the service of our country or they recall memories of their own time serving abroad.

Ray Padbury, the current Standard Bearer for the Royal British Legion leads the procession round to the War Memorial where Geoff Goodman reads the 'names of the fallen' from each of the two World Wars. 33 men were lost in the Great War, including members of well-known Harbury families – Bird, Field, Gurden, Mann, Over, Overton and Padbury, whilst 10 names are recalled for the second World War including Biddle, Boynton, Ceney, Field, Gurden and Tanner. Two wreaths are laid at the Cross; the first by the Harbury's current President of the Royal British Legion, Sam Keeling and the second by the Parish Council; after which the Bugler sounds the 'Last Post' and the traditional two minutes silence is observed.



Colin Sutch and Mike Bishop carry wreaths to the War Memorial.

There is still a nucleus of village men who served in the World War II, including Dave Delin, Sam Keeling, 'Curly' Pratt, Doug Tanner and there are several ex-servicemen who enlisted for their National Service and were deployed in other regions of the World, including Korea, Kenya and the Middle East during the Suez crisis.

The 'British Legion' was formed in 1918 by Earl Haig to look after the interests of Army and Navy personnel, as ex-servicemen often found it difficult to secure employment on returning from active service and the War Office did not support them. The first meeting of the Harbury and District branch was held in the Old New Inn in 1930 and was chaired by Colonel Kitching, but after the first year, the group transferred to the 'HQ, namely the school' and Francis D. Farley took on the Chairmanship. All the minute books from over 70 years are still retained and they record the evolution of the activities and decisions, including the addition of a crown to the lapel badge when the Queen granted the assent for the organisation to become the Royal British Legion.

In the early days, the committee arranged days out to Ascot for members and their families; organised the poppy collection and the Remembrance service and also laid on a 'tea and party for the children' at Christmas. Eventually the Benevolent sub-committee was formed, which reviewed applications for assistance from Legion members and ex-servicemen within the village. This sometimes took the form of a donation, but occasionally payments were made directly to the Electricity Board or for coal to ensure that basic needs were met. At the time, the two main employers in the locality were Blue Circle Cement and Lockheed, both of whom had their own generous welfare programmes for their employees, so it was often those outside the protection afforded by the major companies who were given help from the 'Legion', especially at Christmas time.

At one time, after World War II, Bishop's Itchington was included with the Harbury organisation, as were Chesterton, Depper's Bridge and Ufton, but unlike Harbury, 'Bishop Itchington had its own silver band, which led parades throughout the local area.

Nowadays, the Royal British Legion committee meets every two months, at the Club under the Chairmanship of Ray Padbury. Other committee members include Dave Mann (Secretary), Mike Bishop, Ted Bowles, Pete Hagan and Brian Taylor and in the time-honoured tradition they discuss requests for assistance in the area, including applications for those who need to spend time in Galanos House, the newly developed RBL home on the outskirts of Southam.

As with many traditions, the Remembrance Service leads us to recall the past and the people who shaped our history. In the time honoured eulogy, 'at the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember' - our debt to all those went out to serve their country in times of conflict. Each year the village congregation pays its respects to the 43 men listed on the Harbury War Memorial and reflects on the inscription:

'They are not dead, but sleeping and their noble efforts will live for ever'.

Chris Finch

One in a Hundred?

The last blood donor session produced 94 units, maybe because people were away on holiday. The next one will be in the Christmas break, so can we make it 100? It will be in The Village Hall on Thursday December 30th; times 1.30 – 3.30 and 4.30 – 7.30. New donors aged 18 to 60 will be most welcome. How about it you students and sixth formers? Established donors can continue until age 70 if their health is good.

Any queries to me on 614809, or if time is at a premium you can make an appointment by phoning 0845 7711711.

Free Christmas Coffee Morning

The special Christmas Coffee Morning will this year be on 18th December in the Tom Hauley Room from 10am – 12noon.

There will be mince pies and other goodies all of which plus the coffee will be free. There will be a raffle, which will be for the British Heart Foundation. Treatment for heart problems has progressed greatly in recent years but there is still work to be done. If you would like to donate a raffle prize it will be gratefully received and can be given to me before the day or brought on the morning.

If you or your group has benefited from the coffee mornings in the last year do come along and take part. Everyone is welcome.

Joyce Windsor Tel: 612504



Joan Lodge

Joan moved to Harbury into what had been her aunt's house in the early 1970s after retiring from a working life caring for children. She was born in Brighton in 1912, educated there, and spent much of her life in Sussex. Her work varied between looking after children within their family or working at schools for children with special needs. Many of the children she had cared for continued to keep in touch, sending her photographs of their children and grandchildren. She had been an accomplished violinist and in her youth rode a motorbike to get about.



From the start of the Harbury and Ladbrooke News in 1974, Joan was a committee member, her part being to index the articles in every edition of the magazine. This she had continued to do until this summer and she attended her last committee meeting in June. Elsewhere in the village many will remember Joan for running the 'lucky dip' at the Christmas Fayre. A few years ago Joan gained extra mobility when she acquired an electric scooter and had been seen as far away as Chesterton Windmill. She will be missed by many for her contribution to village life.

John Holden

Christmas Carol Concert – December 16th

You may have read Ian Hartland's article in last month's News, announcing a Christmas Carol Concert presented by the Harbury Folk Club Choir.

Earlier this year, we thought that we would like to revive some of the carols that we have performed at the Christmas Eve Carol Services over the last 17 years. We decided to put on a concert of our own and

raise some money for local charities. From an extensive repertoire, we have chosen our favourites and put together a varied programme to suit all musical tastes, contemporary and traditional, presented in an informal style with opportunities for audience participation.

The concert will be in the Tom Hauley Room on December 16th, starting at 7:30pm, with interval refreshments included in the admission price. Tickets (£4 for adults, £3 for children and Senior Citizens) are now available from Pam Brown (612377), Janny Freeman (612002), Ian Hartland (612734) and The Salon, Chapel Street. The proceeds will be split between Harbury Church and the Leamington Christian Mission.

We expect the concert to be a sell-out, so get your tickets soon to avoid disappointment.



Peter McDonald

Auction of Promises held on 13th November 2004

The Auction of Promises in aid of Harbury Nursery School and Harbury Senior Citizens was a huge success. It was well attended and this year we had a lot of sealed bids too. The Auctioneers 'Julian and Andre' were extremely entertaining as usual, making sure that everybody spent well. They even got two people to buy Julian's mother's knitted bed socks!!

As everyone sat back and enjoyed the night, drinks were served to the tables, as were the ploughman's suppers at the interval.

A big **THANK YOU** must go to the following people:

Pat Summers for helping with all of the photocopying, for donating paper & card, for selling the most programmes for the night ... and for helping on the day with the food, 'my children' and being 'my rock'!

Becky Groves for helping all afternoon to prepare food and take it to the hall.

Muglestone's for kindly donating all of the salad for the ploughman's supper and to Adrians Butchers in Whitnash for supplying the ham and cheese at cost price. Bobbie Sharpe for kindly donating the tablecloths.

Ollie at Budgens in Southam was also excellent with his help, both with the discount given on the alcohol for the night and his help before

and after the auction...and not least, to all of those people and companies who gave promises and raffle prizes.

The team who worked so hard on the night to make this event the success it was were: Dayle Adams, Paula Branscomb, Sarah Bull, Sharron Halstead, Jayne Savage, Kyla Taylor, Jane Thomas and Trisha Winchester.

The Auction raised £3200.00!! giving the Nursery School and Harbury Senior Citizens £1600 each! The raffle raised £200, which is being donated to Harbury Parish Church.

Dayle Adams, Harbury Hearts

The Future of Harbury Youth Club

Following an item in November Harbury News, please endeavour to come to the

OPEN FORUM FOR ALL RESIDENTS INCLUDING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 13TH JANUARY 2005 AT 8PM.

Janet Thornley

Tree Warden Scheme

Stratford District Council is looking for volunteers to join its Tree Warden Scheme. The scheme is open to anyone with a passion for trees and would involve being a point of contact for tree-related issues around the village and reporting such matters to the Parish Council. For further information please contact the Parish Clerk on 614646.

Tim Lockley

Tools for Self Reliance

Tools for Self Reliance (TFSR) is a registered charity which collects unwanted tools through ROTARY INTERNATIONAL, for reconditioning and despatch to Africa. Anyone who would like to donate hand tools in any condition, please leave them at 29 Neales Close (in the trailer alongside the house).

Tools are then cleaned, sharpened and made into kits by volunteers and then transported to Africa.

Artisans, craft centres, technical colleges are desperate for the tools we no longer need. Please help ROTARY make an amazing difference in someone's life.

The charity has been running for many years. The Patron is Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

For more information ring me on 614104 or just turf out those old unwanted tools.

Bill Davies

Ford's Transatlantic Honours

Margaret Harris, a Leamington Ford employee from Binswood End, has recently received worldwide recognition for her voluntary work with Warwickshire Victim Support. Margaret was presented with her honour at Ford's recent Manufacturing Diversity Recognition Event held in Dearborn, Michigan, USA.



Nursing Officer Margaret was flown across especially for the ceremony, which was held to recognise the work that employees are doing in the area of diversity and worklife balance.

Victim Support helps people cope with the effects of crime by providing confidential support and information to victims of crime and to witnesses attending local courts. Margaret, who has been involved with Victim Support for five years, received her reward from Roman Krygier, Group Vice-President, Global Manufacturing. She was the only employee from Europe to be honoured at the ceremony. Margaret said, "It was a great day and I feel very proud to be representing the Leamington Plant. I've never received an accolade like this before, it's marvellous."

Surinder Bisal, Production Manager Fetting and Core Shop, who accompanied Margaret to the event, said, "One of the proudest moments was when Roman Krygier pointed out Margaret and said he was really pleased to see a representative from Leamington. It was a fantastic day."

(Courtesy of Ford News)

Time Out – Ufton

Christmas Flowers – Thursday 9th December 10am in Ufton Village Hall

Come along and create a super Christmas table centre with candles, flowers, ribbons and winter foliage. Melanie Webb will show you how. This event is suitable for beginners and more experienced flower arrangers. The cost is £5 for the workshop and £5 for the materials. Please bring scissors, holly and berried ivy.

To book please ring Tracey Watts on 614413 (book early as places are limited).

Winter Tree Identification at Ufton Fields Nature Reserve on Sunday 5th December 1pm – 3pm. Do you know your trees when they are not in leaf? Join a Ranger to find out how to identify trees during the winter season. Meet at the car park. It costs £1.50 for adults. Concessions £1, Family £3.50.

Karin Kirk

Reminder: Articles deadline Friday 24th December 2004.

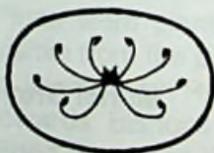
Old Dovehouse

I thought you might enjoy looking at this photograph that I found of the old dovehouse in Dovehouse Lane.



It was taken from the back of our house in Vicarage Lane, and was pulled down to make way for housing! I cannot put an exact date on this, maybe someone remembers!

Rhian Kelsall



Horticultural Society

There were new faces at the November meeting for the talk on "Conservatory and Greenhouse Plants" by Mr Newman who gave the talk in place of Mr Salt.

It was very interesting, amusing, and detailed with superb slides. He suggested that it was a good idea to grow new plants every year – to maintain enthusiasm. He does a lot of exhibition work; this was backed up with slides of course! Many of the plants are placed outside during the summer, when the weather permits, with more success in some seasons than others!

At the A.G.M Pat Smith, Alan Barr and Ron Grey stepped down from the committee and Dorothy Groves and Mavis Taylor joined it.

The new committee is:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chairperson | - Mrs Judy Morrell |
| Treasurer | - Mr John Clifford |
| Secretary | - Mrs Daphne Clifford |
| Show Secretary | - Mrs Janice Siddle |
| Committee | - Mrs Dorothy Groves, Mrs Mavis Taylor and Mrs Muriel Grey. |

Thank you Pat, Alan and Ron for all your hard work and effort over the past years.

Sorry for the delay with the seed catalogues, John Clifford has distributed some already; they will be available at the December meeting. When you do get your catalogues do please get your order – and money to John as soon as possible.

Keep an eye on the notice board for Garden Centres etc. which offer discounts on production of your 2004/05 Membership Card, if you want the discount, please produce the card **before** the sale is rung up on the till. If you have not yet paid your subscription - £3 each, I am sure John will be pleased to see you. Many local nurseries, which, although they don't offer discounts, do have keen prices and offer friendly, knowledgeable service.

The first talk in the New Year will take place on Tues 4th January 2005 entitled "Organic gardening controlling pests and weeds".

On behalf of the committee may I wish our members, Editorial Staff and readers a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

P.S. A note for your diary, the February talk will be "Hardy Bulbs", to be given by Mr John Gregory on the 1st of the month.

Muriel Grey

Nature Notes

Over an inch of rain fell on Thursday November 18th followed by a snowfall, which gave us a seasonal frisson. I must mention an error in my last article. I implied that the elms, which used to make the lower end of Mill Street like a green tunnel in summer, were cut down when they contracted Dutch elm disease in the 70's. In fact they were felled in the course of road widening and housing development.

A new interpretation board has been installed at the Spoil Bank Nature Reserve, which lies close to the Great Western on Station Road, where scrub has been cleared by a Warwickshire Wildlife Trust working party. This will encourage grass and plants such as Centaury Yellow Wort and Hawkweeds to thrive and thereby increase the chances of Marbled White, Green Hairstreak and Grizzled Skipper butterflies breeding. Plenty of scrub in the form of Hawthorn and Privet bushes remain and the fruits will make winter food for the flocks of Starlings and Arctic Thrushes. The flesh of Hawthorn berries is quite tasty, a little like over ripe avocado pear or, more fancifully, a whey cheese. Local names for the fruit include Awes, Asogs and Aglets. Isolated Hawthorns are treated with respect and are the most frequent trees mentioned in Anglo-Saxon boundary charters. It was at a thorn tree near Hastings that King Harold's Saxon army met before the battle in 1066.

Carline thistle is found at the Spoil Bank. It is an everlasting flower, drying out and persisting through the winter. Close to the ground, the flower is surrounded by a fringe of long, shiny, yellow bracts, which make it quite distinctive. Near the railway, there is a display of Old Man's Beard, also known as Traveller's Joy, our native Clematis. Walking round the Reserve, I found two owl pellets on top of an anthill. When examined, these pellets, from the owl's crop, were made up of the indigestible remains of small rodents (that is bones and hair) together with insect wing cases.

I've been struck by the fact that many farms have at least one and sometimes a small stand of Scots Pine. It seems they may have been planted a hundred or so years ago, perhaps originally for a windbreak, but, more likely as a marker in inclement weather. Sometimes it seems Pines were planted in groups of three or four trees on high ground visible from the previous group. This would fit with those at the junction of Bush Heath Road and Station Road. Another clump lies at Greenhill towards Bishops Itchington. Farm Groups notably occur at Middle Road Farm and Westfields close to the railway line, and this gives rise to another name - Railway Pines. If anyone can shed light on these theories, I would be glad to hear. An excellent mapping exercise would be to plot all Scots Pines within a ten-mile radius of Harbury and Ladbroke. The result might show that the Pines were markers along ancient tracks.

John Hancock



Gardening Notes

As the days grow shorter, console yourself with the thought that before the end of the month the longer hours of daylight will herald the return of spring. Gardening is not central in our thoughts but good gardens start this month with planning and planting.

Do any deep digging and manuring and prepare any new borders and beds. After tidying the borders decide if winter plants are making a display or just a token effect. Garden centres have a reasonable selection of winter flowering plants, which could improve the show. Planting areas could be covered with clear polythene to warm the soil before anything is planted. Before cutting down all the old growths look around for anything to use as Christmas decorations. Hydrangea heads and other seed heads can be sprayed gold. Collect cones and berries before the birds get to them. About a week before Christmas bring in some forsythia stems and they should flower before the end of the month. Cut holly, ivy and evergreens for decorations as near to Christmas as possible. Stand them in deep water and keep in a cool place until arranging them. Plant bare rooted trees and shrubs. If they cannot be planted because of bad weather heel them into a rough trench, as a temporary measure. Prune out any dead, diseased or misplaced branches on deciduous trees and shrubs that are now fully dormant.

Be ready to give protection to containers and tender plants in a cold greenhouse. Wrap plants in fleece in a cold greenhouse if they need a temperature of more than 4C but remember to check them regularly. Move all outside pots to a sheltered spot. Imported china and terracotta pots can be frost damaged if wet compost freezes and expands inside them. Regularly check summer bulbs and tubers that are in store. Also check stored fruit and vegetables.

We are entering a difficult time for birds so regularly put out food and water. Hang a feeder in a fruit tree and whilst waiting their turn tits will eat over-wintering pests. Bread or apple on the lawn may encourage blackbirds and starlings to forage for leather jackets. All birds love bacon rinds, so chop up a few of those too. Clean out nest boxes and they may be used as night roosts.

Repair fences, trellis, wire supports and walls whilst plants are dormant. Treat wooden structures with preservative. Clean cold frames to ensure maximum light. Check any outdoor taps for leaks and lag exposed pipes and taps.

Sow broadbeans for an early crop. Boxing Day is the traditional time to sow onion seed. I remember that my father-in-law always dug a bean trench and filled it with organic waste through winter, rather than opening up the compost box just to put in the kitchen vegetable waste. Dig in organic matter on pea, onion and salad beds but not where root crops will be grown. If the ground is very wet throw the compost on the surface and leave the worms to work in before next spring.

Bring forced hyacinths out when the buds are about 2" high and beginning to show colour, any earlier and they will produce too much foliage. Keep them in a cool place such as a porch until the flower stem grows. Keep all houseplants as cool as possible especially cyclamen and azaleas. Cyclamen do not like centrally heated rooms but to make them happier stand groups of foliage plants together with a flowering plant on a tray of damp gravel.

Plant of the month - Aucuba

It is at this time of year that evergreen shrubs come into their own, and none more than the Spotted or Variegated Laurel. This is truly a grow anywhere plant, accepting any dark, unpromising place, overhung by trees, as easily as an open site in the sun. Perhaps for this very reason it lost favour, and could not compete with more showy plants. Look again at the splendid glossy leaves and glistening red berries showing up so well in winter sunshine and appreciate what a valuable shrub this is.

Unusually, we still know the plant by its Japanese name, told to the plant hunters who brought it from there in 1783. Since the mid 19th century many selected forms have been bred with varying amounts of creamy yellow speckling on the long pointed green leaves. There are male and female forms, so to have the red berries that are freely borne through winter, you must plant at least one male bush to three females. Plant them now or in April to give a permanent green background or grow one in a pot and move it into prominence in winter.

Pat Smith



Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors

I would like to say a big Thank you to all friends and neighbours who sent best wishes cards and flowers during my recent sudden illness.

I'm now doing well at home after two weeks in Warwick Hospital and Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham.

I feel so fortunate to have had the care and support of everyone involved. Thank you all so much.

Margaret Mann



Dear Friends

Thank to all who kindly sent me cards welcoming me to my pensionable years and to the naughty people who gave me presents/flowers - please can the person who gave me the book "Now We Are Sixty" contact me so that I can thank them! I feel very honoured to live in this village, where we have a village hall, with its new stage, marvellous musicians, singers and Ceilidh callers, Grosvenor Caterers and people who help set up and clear up at events so efficiently (there are many more people I would have liked to have asked to help me celebrate and if you are one of them please accept my apologies)

Best wishes to all.

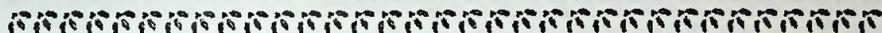
Rosemary Harley



Dear Editors

Through your pages, Michael and Gillian Hare would like to send Christmas Greetings to all the friends they have made in Harbury. Instead of sending cards, they will make a donation to Harbury Christian Fellowship Fund, which helps village people in need with confidentiality.

Michael and Gillian Hare

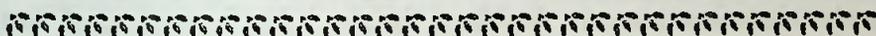


Dear Editors

May I take this opportunity, through the Harbury and Ladbroke News, to send Christmas Greetings to all my friends in Harbury: A Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to you all.

God Bless,

Alice Wilkins



Dear Editors

We would like to thank everyone who supported our coffee morning on Friday 12th November. We made £278.00; also thanks to everyone who supported our plant sales during the year, we made £3641.00, which is fantastic. A very special thank you to Lou, Cheryl, Nigel and Steve for supplying and delivering the plants, also thanks to The Dog Inn, for the use of the car park. Hope you will support us next year.

We have just given a cheque to Myton Hospice for £6000, which without your fantastic support we could not do so.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Harbury Support Group for Myton Hospice

Dear Editors

A big thank you to all who supported the Church Choirs Coffee Morning on Saturday 6th November. We raised £120, which was divided equally between the BBC's Children in Need Appeal and The Warwickshire and Northampton Air Ambulance.

Father Roy

Dear Editors

May I reiterate what Karyn Hunt mentioned in the November edition about the flexibus service?

Before I moved to Harbury 6 years ago from Redlands, Lighthorne, I also used this service when the main crew for that route was Pete and Jean, where it was a joy to be on the bus. The crew then changed to Alan and Mandy where real hysterics and laughter relieved your stress out of shopping and now the bus crew is Gordon and Mandy where again all the help you need is available. When Gordon spotted (at the bottom of the Parade) that two cars were displaying flashing lights he announced that there was a disco ahead, (police) to which along with Mandy had us all laughing. Mandy deserves a medal really, you'll never hear her complain about her problems when she's lugging our shopping and helping us on and off the bus. Bless her, she has rheumatoid arthritis - spondylitis to list, but that's Mandy always ready to help. The bus not only goes to Leamington but to Stratford and Banbury twice a week for each, so come on and try it.!

Pam Cleaver

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