

Harbury & Ladbroke News

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December 2014

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*The views of contributors are not necessarily those of the Editorial Team
The Editors reserve the right to amend articles as they see fit.*



Editorial

Welcome to Michelle and Neil Farmington-Brown who have recently taken over at the Crown Inn. We wish them every success in their new venture.

The recent coffee morning for MSF's work with treating Ebola, organised by Sharon Hancock, raised an amazing £1,610 which must be a record. This is a particularly commendable amount at this time of year.

It is a shame to note that the Harbury Art Group has folded after fourteen years; although there is another art group running in the village for any budding artists.

Amongst the many Christmas events taking place this year, in Harbury there is 'Follow the Star' on Saturday 20th December starting at the Shakespeare Inn at 4.30pm. Ladbroke will be enjoying 'Beer and Carols' at the Bell Inn on Thursday 18th December at 8.00pm. We would like to wish our readers a very happy Christmas and joyful New Year.

Please note that the articles deadline for the January edition is slightly earlier, it being **Tuesday 23rd December**.

Harbury Diary

DECEMBER

- Sat 6 Coffee Morning 10.00am-12 noon in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Rotary
Christmas Fayre, 2.00-4.00pm in Village Hall
- Sun 7 ADVENT II**
Sung Communion, 9.00am
Little Saints' Service, followed by food & refreshments, 10.30am
Candlelight Taizé Service, 6.00pm
- Mon 8 Advent Course, Mary's "Yes", 7.00pm in Church
- Tues 9 Pilates, 9.30am in Village Hall
Junior Theatre Group, 6.30pm in Village Hall
Holy Communion, 7.30pm
- Wed 10 Wednesday Walkers, meet 9.40 Village Hall Car Park, Harbury to Ufton (3 miles)
Pleasant Pastimes, 2.00-4.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
- Thurs 11 Holy Communion, 9.45am, followed by coffee
Harbury W.I., 7.45pm in Tom Hauley Room – Chusan – The Opium Wars by Liam D'Arcy Brown
"Beer & Carols", 7.00pm in the Crown Inn

- Fri 12 Harbury Tennis Club Christmas Party/Disco, 7.30 for 8.00pm in Village Hall
- Sat 13 Coffee Morning, 10.00am-12 noon in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Multiple Sclerosis
Senior Citizens Christmas Party, 5.00 for 5.30pm start in Village Hall
- Sun 14 ADVENT III**
Holy Communion, 8.00am
Sung Communion, 10.30am
Messy Church, 2.00-4.00pm in Tom Hauley Room & Church
Pre-school Christmas Market, 11.00am-3.00pm in Village Hall
- Mon 15 Advent Course, Mary's "Yes", 7.00pm in Church
ADVERTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE TO 31 BINSWOOD END, HARBURY OR EMAIL ADVERTISING@HLNEWS.CO.UK
- Tues 16 Pilates, 9.30am in Village Hall
Junior Theatre Group, 6.30pm in Village Hall
Holy Communion, 7.30pm
- Wed 17 Wednesday Walkers, meet 9.40 Village Hall Car Park, Ufton to Bascote (4½ miles) with optional pub lunch (contact Pub 614809)
- Thurs 18 Holy Communion, 9.45am, followed by coffee
Guitar Concert in Village Hall
Last posting day for GASS Christmas postal service
- Sat 20 FREE Coffee Morning 10.00am-12noon in Tom Hauley Room
"Follow the Star", 4.30pm, starting at The Shakespeare
- Sun 21 ADVENT IV**
Holy Communion, 8.00am
Sung Communion, 10.30am
Christingle Service, 4.00pm
- Mon 22 Advent Course, Mary's "Yes", 7.00pm in Church
- Tues 23 Pilates, 9.30am in Village Hall
ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE TO: HARBURY PHARMACY, HIGH ST OR EMAIL TO ARTICLES@HLNEWS.CO.UK BY 5.30PM
Holy Communion, 7.30pm
- Wed 24 CHRISTMAS EVE
Dressing of the Crib, 2.00pm
Village Candlelit Carol Service, 6.30pm
Midnight Mass, 11.15pm
No Wednesday Walk!
- Thurs 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**
Sung Communion, 9.00am
- Sat 27 NO COFFEE MORNING
- Sun 28 FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**
Holy Communion, 8.00am
Sung Communion, 10.30am

Wed 31 New Year's Eve
No Wednesday Walk!

JANUARY

Thurs 1 New Year's Day

Sat 3 Coffee Morning, 10.00am-12 noon in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Harbury Society
New Year's Dance to Phil King and the Royals, doors open 7.30pm at Village Hall

Sun 4 Sung Communion, 9.00am

Little Saints' Service, followed by food & refreshments, 10.30am
Celtic Service, 6.00pm

Tues 6 EPIPHANY

Holy Communion, 7.30pm

Horticultural Society – Gardeners' Question Time, 8.00pm in the Tom Hauley Room

Weds 7 Wednesday Walkers, meet 9.40, Village Hall Car Park, Marston Doles (4 miles)

Mothers' Union Party, 2.30pm, Tom Hauley Room

Thurs 8 Holy Communion, 9.45am, followed by coffee

Sat 10 Coffee Morning 10.00am-12 noon in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Mothers' Union

Kick Start Appalachian Dancers – Dance Workshop, 10.00am-1.00pm, Harbury Scout Hut

Refuse Collection Rota

	Deppers Bridge	Harbury	Ladbroke	Collection Week
Dec	Wed	Thurs	Fri	
	10	11	12	Grey Bin
	17	18	29	Green & Blue Lid Bins
	24	Sat 27	Sat 27	Grey Bin
	31			Green & Blue Lid Bins
Jan		Sat 3	2	Green & Blue Lid Bins
	7	8	9	Grey Bin
	14	15	16	Green & Blue Lid Bins





From the Rector

Reverend Craig Grocock

The Rectory, Vicarage Lane, Harbury ☎612377 ✉ kankudai43@aol.co.uk

Advent – waiting with joy and hope

Waiting in line can be one of two experiences. See if you identify with the examples below:

First example: waiting in dread . . . You're standing in a long line at the post office or at Sainsbury's, waiting for your turn. You're tapping your foot and keep looking at your watch. You don't want to be in this line. Before long, you begin to think, "Oh, I can't wait for this to be over!" and all the other people in line with you feel the same way! No one speaks to anyone else. Clearly few are enjoying the experience; the impatience or irritability you feel might even be visible on your face. Such an experience of waiting in line can seem isolating, almost lonely.

Second example: waiting in excitement . . . Now think about the times when you waited in line perhaps at a theme park, to buy tickets to see your favourite show or football team, or to hear your favourite band in concert. In these instances, the waiting is far different. People are excited and you might even be talking to some of them about the ride you're getting ready to experience, the team that you love, or the band you're about to hear. This is a much better type of waiting!

This second example is the kind of waiting we are called to in Advent, waiting in joyful hope.

During our communion services in church during Advent, we hear ". . . as we await the hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ." This prayer reminds us that during Advent, we wait in joy, in hope, and in anticipation for the wonderful event we are about to experience - Christmas, the coming of Christ into our world and lives.

As we wait during Advent and look forward to celebrating the fact that God loves us so much that he sent his Son into the world to save us, we know that this waiting is far from empty; rather, it is full of the hope that God promises us as we prepare for Christ at Christmas.

Enjoy the season of Advent, watch and wait with hope and joy and then be truly prepared to celebrate the greatest event the world has ever known.

God bless.

From the Registers

Holy Baptism, All Saints' Harbury

23rd November 2014

Bella Grace Oswin Taylor



From the Churchwardens

John & Elaine

At the beginning of the month (1st), the Parochial Church Council went off as a team for an Away Day to discuss the 'Eight Essential Qualities of Healthy Churches', and as a result we hope that we will be able to benchmark where we think we are and use this as a starting point to continue to build on what we do, the relationships we nurture and the service we provide to the community.

The following day we were privileged to welcome Bishop John of Warwick who led our church service on 2nd November and then on Sunday (9th) we held a very special and poignant Remembrance Service, when the war dead from Harbury village were honoured. A large number of people gathered around the memorial at 11am to remember them and the precious sacrifice that they made and that others continue to make, that enables us to lead the lives we have today.

Sunday 16th saw our usual lively 'family service', Saints Alive, when we received a visit from two very shady looking characters, Bob and Ron, who had an aversion to commitment of any kind – however, the congregation soon put them right when we explored the value of the commitments we make in our lives to each other, our family and friends, pets and hobbies, and especially our commitment to God.

We are taking a break from Saints Alive in December as the Christingle Service will be taking place, but we resume our programme on 18th January when you can come along and meet two more colourful characters in the shape of Betty and Flo, the church cleaners, with our 'Reasons to be Cheerful' theme.

The upkeep of the church continues (and causes sleepless nights for our Treasurer!) as we seek to maintain the fabric of our beautiful church. New rainwater downpipes have been installed, a new sound system has been ordered and work on a new memorial garden will commence early in the New Year.

We look forward to December and all that is happening over the Advent and Christmas period in and around church. December dates for your diary (services/activities in church unless otherwise noted) as follows:

Monday 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd (all 7pm) - **Advent course**. A short quiet reflective time focussing on Mary and what it is to say yes to God.

Sunday 7th (10.30am) - **Little Saints**. A short festive activity based service for young families, followed by brunch, including bacon butties!

Thursday 11th (7pm) - **Beer and carols** in the Crown, Crown Street. A chance to get into the festive spirit!

Sunday 14th (2 - 4pm) - **Messy Church**. A fun festive session for families and the chance to join in with others to build something special in church for Christmas.

Saturday 20th (4.30pm) - **Follow the Star** beginning at the Shakespeare, Mill Street. Please bring torches and lanterns and if you and /or children would like to dress up as a Nativity character, please do.

Sunday 21st (4pm) - **Christingle**. A short popular service for families and the local community and the chance to hear the story of the Christmas candle and the relevance of the orange, candle, sweets and nuts.

Christmas Eve 24th (2pm) - **Dressing the crib**. Come along and help the nativity characters find their way to the crib in time for Christmas Day.

Christmas Eve 24th (6.30pm) - **Village Carol Service**. Enjoy your favourite carols and readings in a candle lit church.

Christmas Eve 24th (11.15pm) - **Midnight Mass**. An atmospheric and traditionally very popular service on the eve of Christmas Day. Please do come early.

Christmas Day 25th (9am) - **Sung Eucharist**.

This is a wonderful time of year and we do hope to see you at some of the above events or services. If you would like any more information, please do get in touch with one of us - John (614206) or Elaine (813654).

We would like to take this opportunity to wish a very happy and blessed Christmas and best wishes for you all in the New Year!

	<h2>Mothers' Union</h2>	<p>Sue Field</p>
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Reverend Annie Goldthorp led the Communion Service at our 5th November meeting, with readings by Chris Rutherford and Sue Boniface.

It was our AGM with reports from the treasurer and a reminder of those already on the committee. Two members have agreed to join the committee but we shall be without a branch leader after December 2014 as Sue Boniface is taking a well earned break after six years as leader.

However, next year's programme is all set in motion and the Mothers' Union will be committee led for the present.

New members will be warmly welcomed so please give it a thought for the future and come along to one of our meetings. We do have a lighter side, interesting speakers on varied subjects and lovely tea and biscuits!

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 3rd December 2014 at 2pm in the Tom Hauley Room – "Craft for Christmas". Please bring your scissors.

Dates for the Diary:

Wednesday 7th January 2015 – our post-Christmas party

We meet at 2pm – Tom Hauley Room

Little Saints

Our festive Little Saints will be on Sunday 7th December at 10.30am. We will have all the usual bits - only with a rather festive theme. Little Saints is especially for the youngest members of our community - but everyone is welcome to come. There is always a story and some singing - and we always finish off with bacon butties! We look forward to seeing you there!

Revd Annie

Messy Church

Everyone is welcome to come to Messy Church! This one will definitely have a Christmas feeling about it, with plenty of messy, Christmas activities to do. Dads are especially welcome to help with some light construction work - nothing too difficult, and enormous fun in the process - we promise to keep you topped up with tea and biscuits throughout the afternoon if that helps!

Come and join us - and bring your family with you! Messy Church happens on 14th December, from 2pm - 4pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

Revd Annie

‘Follow The Star’



If you enjoyed last year's Live Nativity, then Follow the Star will be just as much fun. Join us on Saturday 20th December at 4.30pm at The Shakespeare – with torches and lanterns, and dressed as a character if you wish – and follow the star as it leads us through Harbury to the stable!

Tom Hauley Room Coffee Mornings

Unfortunately, since no group has come forward to run the coffee morning on **27th December**, we are having to cancel it.

However the last coffee morning before Christmas (**20th December**) is, as usual **FREE**.

Sally Stringer

Ladbroke News & Diary

<http://www.ladbroke-pc.org.uk>

DECEMBER

- Sat 6 Christmas Whist Drive, 7.45pm, Village Hall
- Sun 7 ADVENT II**
Family Communion, 10.30am, followed by refreshments
- Wed 10 Table Tennis, 6.00pm (juniors), 7.00pm (seniors), Village Hall
Home Group, 8.00pm, Cherry Trees
- Sun 14 ADVENT III**
Holy Communion (sung), 9.00am
- Mon 15 ADVERTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE TO 31 BINSWOOD END,
HARBURY OR EMAIL ADVERTISING@HLNEWS.CO.UK
- Wed 17 Table Tennis, 6.00pm (juniors), 7.00pm (seniors), Village Hall
- Thurs 18 Beer and Carols, 7.00pm, The Bell Inn
WI, from 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Sun 21 ADVENT IV**
Holy Communion (BCP), 9.00am
Village Carol Service, 6.30pm, followed by mulled wine and mince pies
- Tues 23 ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE TO: HARBURY PHARMACY,
HIGH ST OR EMAIL TO ARTICLES@HLNEWS.CO.UK BY
- Wed 24 CHRISTMAS EVE
Crib Service, 3.30pm
- Thurs 25 CHRISTMAS DAY
Christmas Communion, 10.30am
- Sun 28 HOLY INNOCENTS**
Holy Communion (sung), 9.00am

JANUARY 2015

- Sun 4 EPIPHANY**
Family Communion, 10.30am, followed by refreshments
- Tues 6 Photography Club meal at The Bell Inn
- Wed 7 Table Tennis, 6.00pm (juniors), 7.00pm (seniors), Village Hall
- Sun 11 BAPTISM OF CHRIST**
Holy Communion (sung), 9.00am



Ladbroke Church News

Jackie West

We started November welcoming Bishop John who led our All Saints' Service and showed us a copy of an image of Christ's face which if you looked closely was the faces of many ordinary people. The following week was a busy time for the ladies catering for our fund raising Magic Supper which went off very well thanks to their hard work and the talents of Fletcher Ransbery our entertainer for the evening; you can read all about it a few pages on. Then it was Remembrance Sunday and our afternoon service, with the augmented choir and wreath laying, was a dignified and poignant reminder of the sacrifice made by so many including men from Ladbroke.

We are now looking forward to Advent and Christmas. This year, for the first time we are holding a Posada, that is our nativity figures of Mary and Joseph will be staying in local homes before coming to church on Christmas Eve and being placed in the Nativity scene during the Crib Service. It will be less demanding than the original Mexican tradition when Posada involved people dressed as Mary and Joseph travelling from house to house during Advent asking for a room for the night and telling people about the imminent arrival of Jesus. Those taking part in Ladbroke's Posada will host the figures from our nativity set for a while before passing them on to the next home. It is a lovely way to meet neighbours, tell children the story of The Nativity and reflect on both the first Christmas and those who still seek the shelter and comfort of a safe home today. You do not need to come to church to take part, indeed it is a way for those who cannot come to church to still be involved in our Christmas activities. Hopefully by the time you read this those living in the parish will have received an invitation and replied if they wish to take part, but if not and it's before 14th December you should still be in time to join in as the wise men are travelling too, just phone 810331.

Posada and the other Christmas events and services are happening as follows:

Sunday 7 th December	Posada starts at our family service 10.30am
Thursday 18 th December	Beer and Carols at The Bell Inn, 7.00pm
Sunday 21 st December	Village carol service, 6.30pm
Wednesday 24 th December	Crib service for children and families, 3.30pm
Thursday 25 th December	Christmas Day communion service, 10.30am

Special thanks this month to the Teversons for their very generous donation of £1000 after the highly successful bonfire and fireworks event they organised.

And finally may you know peace and joy this Christmas and through 2015.



Ladbroke Parish Council

Jackie West

The following are the most interesting points raised at the meeting on 19th November. As usual the formal minutes issued by the clerk will appear on the village website ladbroke-pc.org.uk in due course.

Defibrillator - Keith Bromwich, a paramedic based at Southam, explained that there are just three of them covering a large rural area from 8am to 8pm and he is strongly in favour of having public use defibrillators. Sudden cardiac arrest is when the heart stops beating, becoming a quivering mass rather than pumping oxygenated blood around the body. The reluctance of people to give mouth to mouth resuscitation led to the recommendation several years ago changing to chest compression only, as promoted in the BHF Vinnie Jones' "Staying Alive" campaign. Good cardiac compression helps a bit (5-10% patients survive) but if a defibrillator is used within 10 minutes then survival rate can be up to 50%. Defibrillators have become very simple to use - they talk you through what to do and only give the shock to reset the heart if it is necessary. There are now two public use defibrillators in Southam, at Southam College and at Tesco, and a number of local villages are considering them. If someone is not breathing and 999 is called, while one person gives cardiac compression, a second person is directed to a nearby defibrillator (assuming there is one) and given the code to the secure cabinet it is in. They then take the defibrillator to the patient, open the lid and follow the instructions. The target time for paramedic assistance reaching non-breathing patients is eight minutes but this is not possible in all areas and using a defibrillator before they arrive can make all the difference.

The more people in the locality the more likely they will be used, e.g. that at Birmingham New St Station has been used 3 to 4 times per year since installation but it also depends on population age and fitness etc. As our councillors said, "If it saved just one life here in Ladbroke it would be worth it".

There are lots of different models, the typical cost is £800-£1400 + VAT, if outside it needs to be a "heated" cabinet to prevent it going below 2°C (i.e. electrical supply needed, running cost typically £12/year) and a small team of people would need to conduct simple weekly and monthly checks. You can join a scheme such as AD Locator which maintains a register of all public defibrillators and sends reminders e.g. when batteries need replacing. Our councillors were surprised that there was no countrywide or countywide co-ordination - each village and town is essentially going alone. One reason for this is that WCC public health function would say it is an ambulance function and vice versa and neither wish to devote limited resources to it. Keith left various literature with our councillors and it will be discussed further at the next council meeting.

Damage to bank in School Lane - At the end of October a parked red car restricted the width of the road and a tractor unable to get past on the tarmac, drove over the bank, damaging it. No-one wants the village covered in double yellow lines but agricultural vehicles need to get through, so a plea was made that all road users are to be respectful of others' needs when they drive through or park in Ladbroke. The size and speed of agricultural vehicles coming through the village concerns some residents, especially along School Lane with its blind bend into Church Lane, narrow pavement, driveways. Large vehicles to and from "Blue Boats" should not be coming through Ladbroke as that was a condition of their planning permission.

Neighbourhood Watch - There had been an afternoon burglary in Bishops Itchington and further thefts of small equipment from farms.

St James' School Playing Field - After many years this seems to have been resolved - a temporary fence is in place with the permanent one being worked on.

Budget - It's planned to keep the precept at £5000, to be finalised at the January meeting.

Planning - Repairs at Attwood Cottage, tree felling at Cornerstones and fence/gates/hard standing at 7 Hedges Close were approved; change to permanent residential use for two properties at Manor Farm Barns was refused. Also the appeal on the four wind turbines between Knightcote, Bishops Itchington and Gaydon was refused. The council had made no representations to the removal of an agricultural tie on the farmhouse at Ladbroke Grove Farm.

Highways, Footpaths & Drainage - Local suggestions for a drain to protect Tollgate Cottage had not been accepted by Highways Dept. The new drain under the pavement of Banbury Road to prevent the usual surface flooding is scheduled for this financial year.

Councillor Batty had represented Ladbroke at the National Flooding Forum. This followed a similar process to the Stratford meeting but had more Agencies present. Disappointingly, it was academic rather than action based and those one hoped would make things happen repeated the mantra of "lots of work - no time - no staff - no money" or "there is a mismatch between demand and resources". Mike Green presented a paper on surface water flood alleviation in Warwickshire, listing completed and ongoing schemes. Those completed seemed to be initiated and driven by local communities and the presence of the media stimulated work. Of 160 ongoing investigations there was no mention of Ladbroke's balancing pond.

We were told by the WCC/SDC councillors that the negotiation with the landowner advised previously did not relate to this balancing pond and that the planned work on drains in Banbury Road would have to be finished before any balancing pond work was done. A heated discussion followed! Our councillors re-iterated yet again that there was no relationship between the

surface floodwater outside Ladbroke Farm (inadequate drainage in Banbury Road) and flooding of homes caused by too much water in Lot Brook as it crosses under the bypass and flows through Ladbroke, although draining the surface water more effectively may increase the amount of water in the brook making things worse. The SDC/WCC Councillors implied that modelling had shown a relationship, the parish councillors asked to see this information and expressed major frustration that previous schemes and plans appeared to have been lost and/or ignored and that progress beyond the planning stage never happens. It was suggested that Mike Green and a representative from the Environment Agency come to a future PCC meeting to explain but instead the parish councillors asked for a working meeting in Warwick. Additionally, in view of the apparent lack of progress on discussions with the owner of the land where the balancing pond is proposed, our councillors are planning to check ownership with the land registry and have an informal discussion with the owner since this is key to moving forward.

Village Hall and Millennium Green - Both had held AGMs earlier in the week, finances were good and a significant donation had been received from the Bonfire and Firework organisers: the Teversons and Norgates. Future events planned include films nights, a safari supper and a race night.

HS2 - Ladbroke had hosted an early morning meeting for the Select Committee (who are hearing petitions) in October. A coachload of people came including Peter Bottomley and Robert Syms from the committee, local MP Jeremy Wright and Agency staff, a contingent from HS2 and Joe Rudkin from STOP HS2. They visited Greenleaf Nursery and then came to the village hall which showed pictures, maps and key points for us - flooding from the Lot Brook and also roads and traffic. The messages about poor communications and lack of information on compensation to businesses are similar to those up and down the route. The presentation from Graham Long was well received. He emphasised reducing the height of the line and A423 as it crosses HS2 and ideally with a tunnel under Windmill Hill. HS2 say this is not cost effective, details have been requested under Freedom of Information and should be available by the end of November.

Ladbroke petitions should be heard in January 2015 and a special resolution was passed authorising Graham Long to represent Ladbroke Parish Council at the petition hearing. WCC plan to send someone along too to show their support. There is a lot of pressure on petitioners to withdraw. Although the Select Committee do not expect to finish until 2016, it was wondered if there would be an interim decision before the general election since members of the committee might not be re-elected.

WCC - The budget for 2015-16 is being set. The need to support the care fund has hit hard so all subsidies which are not legal requirements are under scrutiny.

Jaguar Land Rover expansion is impacting local roads, especially 6.45-8.15am and there is an on-line petition to improve the

Harbury Lane/Fosse Way crossroads (see e-news 18th November, if you are not on the mailing list contact Cllr Neal at martinneal@hotmail.co.uk).

SDC - The next Community Forum will be at Southam College on 10th December.

The Core Strategy goes before the Inspector in January, it is expected they take a month to hear arguments from developers supporting 25,000 new homes over the next 15 years rather than 10,800 proposed in the strategy. The inspector's report should be issued in April or May and once approved the Strategy becomes the framework for future development.

The new rural crime coordinator is available to come and talk to the Parish Council about her role.

Standing orders - revised Standing Orders, conforming to the current regulations were approved just in case the current informal style of the council doesn't work and they need to do things more formally.

	<p>Ladbroke & Deppers Bridge Women's Institute</p>	<p>Carol Lane</p>
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Our November meeting took place on Thursday 27th in the village hall when our speaker, Alan Winterburn entertained us with Part 2 of the Little Known Warwickshire talk he started last year.

He began his talk with pictures of the chemist's shop in Southam and reminded us that silver plate was melted down and formed into coins to pay the Royalist soldiers in The Mint, which is now The Old Mint pub.

Another of the many stories which captured my imagination was of Joseph Arch from Barford who was instrumental in setting up the first trade union for farm workers and the anniversary of his death in 1919 is still remembered by members of the union.

Sarah Siddens was a ladies' maid at Guy's Cliffe House but went to London following a failed marriage where she became an actress. Her portrayal of roles such as Lady MacBeth gave respectability to actresses and the money she made enabled her to return to Guy's Cliffe as its owner. Alan showed a sad slide of this house following the fire in 1982 which destroyed much of it.

Please notice the pillar box outside the East Gate in Warwick as you drive or walk past which was designed by Anthony Trollope as a collection point for the new postal system.

This is just a very tiny sample of very many interesting facts about people and places in Warwickshire. Alan can be contacted on 01926 424541.

Dianne was unable to be with us so the business meeting was taken by Sue Moore, vice president.

Dates for your diary:

Hatton Christmas Shopping. Friday 5th or Thursday 18th December.

W.I Carol Service. Monday 8th December at the Church of St Lawrence in Napton. Tickets (£3) are available from Kerry.

Federation Cotswold trip. Wednesday, 19th December.

A Bake Off Quiz is available from Mandy to keep the brain active over the Christmas period.

Members need to look at the voting paper in this month's W.I. Life and vote for their chosen resolution.

Sue, Jenny and Kay had attended Denman College that day to hear Sheila Hancock speak. They had been most impressed and advised us all to look out for Sheila Hancock's new book entitled 'Miss Carter's War'.

The next meeting will be the Christmas Social on Thursday, 18th December at 7.30pm. This will be a games evening and it will be interesting to see how curling adapts from the ice rink to the village hall! There will be a 'bring and share' supper with mulled wine.



Ladbroke Matters

David Wright

Annual General Meeting

We held our Annual General Meeting on Monday 17th November for both of our charities, ie the Millennium Green and the Village Hall.

Thanks were expressed to all those on the Ladbroke Matters team, including those championing the various aspects: catering, film nights, maintenance, and monthly draw. Jackie West will be standing down from the team to concentrate on her other village activities and David Wright becomes the new publicity lead. Tribute was given to previous Village Hall trustee, Alan Lochhead, who had contributed so much to village events from providing sound and light systems to playing the pantomime villain, and of course leading the Ladbroke Rockers.

Tasks done behind the scenes included regular cleaning, fresh paint, a deep clean of the hall and working parties to tidy the green; the most recent of which included Dutch and Spanish visitors who stood still long enough to be given rakes to help clear the leaves!

LEAVE it to the Millennium Green working party!

Less welcome visitors were bees which were discovered in residence within the walls of the village hall. They were coaxed into a hive and, now they are less active, are being relocated elsewhere.



The financial position showed a healthy surplus across the two charities. This will enable us to develop and upgrade facilities in the hall and to lay the hedge around the green to make it lower and thicker; and easier and cheaper to maintain.

The trustees for the coming year are unchanged and retain the same roles: Kip Warr as Chairman, Debra Neal as Secretary and Gray Lewis as Treasurer. Of course, in addition to the legally recognised trustees, the informal Ladbroke Matters team is still vital and invites people from all village groups and none to be involved in making things happen here in our community.

Film night

By the time you read this we will have had our last film night of the year - a Christmas Special on Friday 5th December. We hope you enjoyed the two course hot meal, and the showing of 'Sunshine on Leith'. The programme for 2015 is currently being planned.

....and so into 2015!

A safari supper is planned for Saturday 24th January. This popular event involves visits to different homes around the village to enjoy starters and main courses before all meeting up for desserts. Please make a note of this date in your 2015 diary. More details will be available soon.

On Saturday 21st March we are planning a race night in the hall. Those who came along last time will know that we use genuine wooden horses – none of your new-fangled video nonsense! This is a great fun event so do mark it in your diary now.

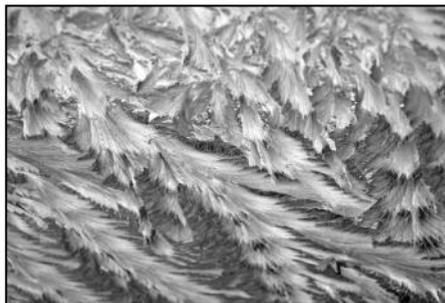
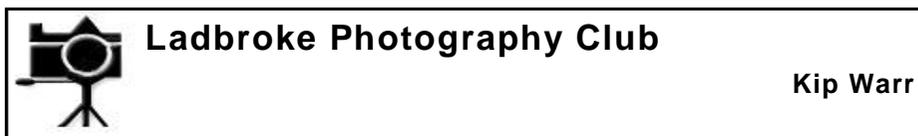
The Ladbroke Matters team is responsible for the upkeep of the Village Hall and Millennium Green. To help with this we organise regular fundraising events so that we can continue to use both these resources for the benefit of our village community. Copies of our information leaflet are available at The Bell pub and at All Saints Church. If you would like to join the team, have any suggestions for future events, or any other comments please contact us (details are in our leaflet and on the Ladbroke website).

We wish all our friends, neighbours and supporters a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Club

£50	Richard Walker	£50	Sheena Healey
£25	Carol Lane	£25	Mary Coley
£25	Brian Whitehouse	£10	Paul Taylor
£10	Pam Collins	£10	David Rose
£10	Simon and Jackie West	£10	Avril Court

Margaret Bosworth



Feathery Ice Crystals by Jennie Daniels

As the exceptional warmth of October gave way to a cold and damp November, it was appropriate for our photo topic to be 'Weather'. How would you expect to see the weather portrayed in pictures: brooding clouds, driving snow, ice crystals and rainbows? We had all of those and more in the photographs that members brought along for us to enjoy and discuss. The one thing that was missing was a clear blue sky - but that hardly makes an interesting picture! One of the

most striking pictures was a complete rainbow, taken as a panorama on a mobile phone. In a similar vein, our competition was on the Four Seasons. We had twelve sets to choose from and the voting was very close. The winner, by one vote, was Tony Mancell, and all places on the podium were taken by members from Harbury.



Icy Cobweb by Jackie West

We had a fine set of pictures to display at the John Turner festival at Southam College. Jackie West had expertly mounted them all and set them on panels ready for the exhibition. We had fun suggesting captions for the photographs - some fairly wild but mostly polite -

and let the photographers make the final choice. Meanwhile we had three prize-winners at the festival: Jennie and Edward Daniels both won first prizes, and Mike Todman was highly commended.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 2nd December, in Ladbroke Village Hall at 7.30pm. We shall be looking at pictures of life in Ladbroke and Harbury with a view to producing a photo book to amuse and amaze present and future generations. Visitors and guests will be welcome, as always. On 6th January we shall have our annual dinner at the Bell. For more information please see tinyurl.com/ladbrokephoto or email jackieszone-photogclub@yahoo.co.uk



Display at the John Turner Festival



Ladbroke General Section

Ladbroke Bonfire, Saturday 1st November



I snapped these lads having fun with the guy, (made by Ashley Barnett) on the top of our bonfire before it all went up in flames. It felt like the culmination of all the work which goes on behind the scenes to make sure we had yet another fantastic bonfire and fireworks display. Was this year the biggest and best yet? Over 350 people enjoyed the evening; the fire itself was so big we all worried the posts would catch fire, the fireworks, the

mulled wine, toffee apples, hot dogs...all made the evening special. Even the weather was kind to us this year.

So, how does it happen each year as if by magic? Well, Tim and Ro Allington continue the tradition set up by Ro's parents to give permission to the village to hold the bonfire on Farmyard Field (which they own), Stella kindly moves her livestock off the field for the week before, which allows Team Teverson to move in and prepare the site. Even the location of the bonfire itself has a tradition – years ago diseased trees growing in this part of the field were

felled and burned, and subsequent fires prevented the disease spreading. So that's why our bonfire is always in the same place. Mark and Trish Teverson and their helpers Sandra and Keith Archer, Tim and Nicky Norgate and Roger and Cici (on the gate) run the show on the night, and every year it works like clockwork.

So thank you to everyone involved in keeping our Bonfire Night tradition alive, it's a special night in Ladbroke and long may it continue.

Nicky Lewis

The Teverson and Norgate families would like to thank everyone for their support on Saturday 1st November at the Ladbroke Bonfire. The weather was perfect and the event was a resounding success which resulted in raising around £2000.00 which will be equally shared between All Saints Ladbroke Church and Ladbroke Matters. Thank you once again to all those who supported the event.

The Ladbroke Bonfire ' Gang' - Trish and Mark Teverson

Coffee, Cake and..... Shoeboxes

A few ladies from Ladbroke got together recently to fill shoe boxes with items for children in Romania who may never before have received a Christmas gift.

We had all collected items from a list identified by Teams4u, the Christian charity which coordinates collection and distribution of the boxes. We then had a lot of fun covering the shoe boxes with Christmas wrapping paper before filling each box with a variety of toiletries, sweets, toys, hats, socks and scarves suitable either for a boy or girl aged 5-7. We were delighted to fill 23 boxes and celebrated with coffee and cake!!

Teams4u state that 'Our aim is that each box is given in relationship with the local community as part of a long term commitment to these children'. We hope the children enjoy receiving them as much as we all enjoyed putting them together.

It was such a success that we hope to expand the idea next year and involve more people from the village - watch this space!!



The ladies preparing their Christmas shoeboxes and enjoying their coffee and cake.

Sue Wright



Ladbroke Magic Supper

On Saturday, 8th November, we were treated to a Magic Supper in Ladbroke Village Hall. The cooks of Ladbroke did us proud with an excellent supper: four choices of main course and desserts to die for. Alas for those on diets; either they were depriving themselves or their diets were shot to pieces.

Fletcher Ransberry is an entertainer on the rise. His father told us that Fletcher had been to work with children in Liberia - a country devastated by civil war and now Ebola - and that last year, at the age of fourteen, he had won the Coventry Schools' Young Entertainer award. He is an accomplished magician with a great line in patter and one-liners. Starting at the dining tables, he performed close-up tricks that left us puzzled and amused.



Fletcher Ransberry



Queue for the delicious supper

Then he took to the stage and wowed the audience with a variety of tricks with ropes, cards, water and even handcuffs.

A number of us stayed on for a good long time after the end of the show to enjoy the relaxed and sociable atmosphere. Congratulations to those involved in giving us a great evening out that raised a healthy sum for Ladbroke Church.

Kip Warr

Thatching for Beginners Part 2

November saw the thatchers putting on the ridge of Church Cottage's roof so I went back on site to ask Ladbroke's Master Thatcher, Andy Crompton, all about that and learn more thatching jargon.

In the October edition I described how the main part of the roof, the COAT, was made. Good coats last between 50 and 100 years but the RIDGE is a sacrificial and decorative layer and only expected to last about 15 years! I was surprised to discover that the ridge was not made from water reed like the coat but a different natural material. There are several reasons for this: the stems have to bend over the apex of the roof and also they are cut to form the decorative lower edge of the ridge. In previous eras sedge (marsh

grass) was used for thatched ridges but nowadays it is English wheat straw. When I got up close I could see that the straw included ears which have had the grain thrashed out, but small amounts remain. This explains why birds and rodents, especially squirrels, on the lookout for a free lunch will pull the thatch apart given half the chance.

Andy wanted to tell me about making the ridge as he worked, so I perched on a second ladder a few feet away. The tools needed are very simple – a ladder, shears, knife, wooden mallet and a good eye, plus the usual thatcher's protective equipment of knee pads and gloves. The top of the coat or *OVERSAIL* (the part that gives a roof-in-progress that punk mohican look) is trimmed off and long rolls of reed are placed along the apex to *SET THE SKYLINE*, evening out any irregularities and ensuring the ridge has a steep pitch. The ridge is composed of three layers, the first, called the *SKIRT* is laid cut-end down and forms the bottom of the pattern. The next or *FILLER* layer is laid ear-end down, it gives the ridge more bulk but isn't seen when the roof is finished. The top or *WRAP OVER* layer has the ears and cut ends mixed and, as its name suggests, is stretched over the top of the roof, before the stems are bent in the middle and the ends feathered into the skirt on each side.



The second main difference from the coat is that while the coat is held in place using metal sways, the ridge is entirely fixed with split green hazel! Autumn is the best time for cutting coppiced hazel as the sap is down and, since it has to be used in-the-green, within 2 to 3 weeks of harvesting, Andy uses English hazel. The first fixing or *CROWN LIGGER* is a continuous line of hazel lengths held by hazel fixings; the design below that depends on the pattern but again it's all made of split green hazel. So perhaps it wasn't surprising to discover that it will take about 4000 hazel spars to hold down the ridge of Church Cottage. Each of these spars is made by hand, the hazel is split with a *SPAR HOOK* down the grain and then has a three strike point made on each end. Apparently some retired thatchers do this skilled job as piecework at home making up to 2000 spars per day and, like good knitters,

they do not have to look at their work but can do it by feel, watching TV as they work.

As fixings are needed, the thatcher bends spars into thumb-width hoops. Andy made this look so simple, holding each spar with his elbows bent and his thumbs opposed and then just straightening his arms. He found me a thin spar, but try as I might to copy his technique, it refused to do anything but stay as a straight stick!



The ridge pattern is roughly cut with a knife and large shears and then fine-tuned with manicure scissors, (well it looked like that from the ground but close to I could see they were small topiary shears). Church Cottage's ridge has a traditional *points and scallops* pattern and once a section is finished wire netting is fixed over the thatch to protect from hungry beaks and mouths.

The straw decoration on thatched roofs acts as each thatcher's signature on their work. Andy's sign is a peacock but he will do others by special request. You may have seen that Attwood Cottage, opposite The Bell Inn, has not only a peacock on the gable end but also a chicken, reflecting one of the owners' hobbies. The cat on the roof near the traffic lights in Dunchurch is also one of Andy's creations.

Brandon Thatchers do both new work and repairs to thatched roofs, including associated woodwork and chimney work, contact details are on their website: thatch.gb.com or phone 07831 773893.



Harbury Parish Council

Linda Ridgley

Official minutes can be viewed in the Library, on the Parish Council website www.harbury-pc.gov.uk or obtained from the Parish Clerk Tel: 01926 614646

October Meeting 2014

A short and relatively uncontroversial meeting with no other members of the public present!

Good News

The Library lease was signed by the Chair and Vice-Chair. Such was the importance of this long awaited event that it was photographed for posterity! Councillor Hancock reported that Year 5 from Harbury School had been to the Library as part of their Australia Project and she praised the Library staff for the effort they had put into this event.

Reports

Councillors were concerned that they no longer have the right to be represented on the School Governors, yet the School is at the heart of the community. Councillor Hancock was to draft a letter from the Parish Council to inform the Secretary of State, Jeremy Wright MP and the Head that they opposed such changes.

Councillor Lewis reported damage to the lantern opposite the Manor House from a traffic accident. A decision was awaited on the Village Hall grant application to the Veolia Landfill Trust. The village cinema which raises thousands for the Village Hall has been running for seven years. The Energy Initiative was seeking support from the Parish for an electric car scheme.

District Councillor Chris Kettle reported that the Council's public consultation on the Core Strategy would be undertaken in January and if approved would be adopted in July 2015. The District has more than a five year housing supply which should help it resist unwanted planning applications but it was concerned about the cost to the District of fighting appeals. He acknowledged the District Council had not initially done enough cross-border consultation on the provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites. More consultation was coming.

Councillor Kettle supported the Parish Council's objection to the proposed Chicken Farm bungalow but needed evidence of the size of the previous enterprise as SDC's experts did not think it was a viable business and would not need 24 hour attendance.

The SDC boundary changes would impact on Harbury which shares one Councillor with Chesterton and Lighthorne Heath.

Planning

Stratford approved amendments to permission at the Dog Inn and gave consent for external wall re-pointing at Wissett Lodge and extensions at 11 Neales Close. The extension at 3 The Beeches was withdrawn.

Appeals are ongoing on the Deppers Bridge Solar Farm, the swimming pool link at Stapenhall Farm, Deppers Bridge and the two houses planned for the Old New Inn Beer Garden. The Knighcote Windfarm appeal was dismissed.

Harbury PC made no representation on the extensions at 5 Honiwell Close and tree-works at Wissett Lodge and The Lymes, Church Street. Along with Bishops Itchington they actively supported the Solar Farm at the Elms Farm, Plough Lane.

Ongoing Planning Matters

Councillors had heard nothing more about Gladman's Bush Heath Lane development plans, although SDC had confirmed no Environmental Impact Assessment was needed.

The new surgery for Bishops Itchington was still in doubt as the NHS says funding will be "very challenging". Councillor Kettle had asked the MP to press the NHS to reconsider, as they have condemned the existing surgery.

Councillor Summers said the Neighbourhood Plan was "ticking along" and that she had a core group of 6-8 people, but needed funding which Councillor Thornley would look into.

Lighting

Quotes were received for replacing the wooden lighting poles in South Parade and Deppers Bridge. Councillor Lewis explained that it would cost £950 to replace each of those wooden Mercury Lamp standards but only £1100 each for complete (and more energy efficient) LED columns although she liked the idea of retaining wooden ones in Deppers Bridge. Councillors were to be sent the full financial details before a decision is made.

Finance

Councillor Mancell highlighted the overspend on the car park and the £5K of the PC Grant budget for youth projects which remained.

Properties

The aerial runway has been repaired but as the fixings were above ground, the Safety Inspector would not "sign it off". The supplier was making modifications and the PC had asked for another inspection. Councillors have made strenuous efforts to retain this valued piece of play equipment against considerable odds.

Drainage of the playing fields was fine as the weather had been dry, but a camera inspection of the drain was planned and the contractors for the nearby Hereburgh Way Estate were being contacted too.

Councillors were setting out clear guidelines on what was allowed to be placed in the Burial Grounds and were using Bishops Itchington's rules as an example.

The Council debated whether someone from Bishops Itchington would be allowed to rent a Harbury allotment plot. There were vacant plots but the Council subsidised these and would advertise them to the parish before turning to outsiders.

The Clerk agreed to order pin-guards to be placed on the top rail of Deppers Bridge swings to deter pigeons from fouling the seats. A fellow Councillor questioned how this would work and received the answer – "If you were a perching pigeon you would get a spike up your bum"!

Next Routine Meeting: 27th November Tom Hauley Room 7.30pm.

Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting November 2014

This was a special meeting to determine the Parish Council's response to four planning applications: one non-contentious and three of increasing levels of concern. As is usual at these meetings concerned members of the public had a chance to speak before the Parish Council deliberated.

1. "No Representation" was made on application to repair the roof of 8 Farm Street.
2. The retrospective application for a store and garden room at 10 Constance Drive was opposed by the neighbour whose small garden was overlooked by the extension. She claimed the plans were incorrect and did not give a proper idea of what had been built which was too high. It should be no more than 2.5m high and Councillor Bev Mann agreed the building was too high for the situation and she would encourage the Planning Officer to visit the site.

There was general consensus amongst the Councillors that they had grounds to object on the height especially and agreed to do so.

3. Several members of the public were in attendance to object to plans for another dwelling behind "The Old Orchard" in Mill Street, largely because of its proximity to Trice's Farm. Mrs Trice explained that the existing householder on the site had already complained to Environmental Health of the noise from their farm and if the new house was built it would only be 10 yards from her calf and bull pens. She feared she would then be unable to carry on farming.

She was supported in this by neighbours Jenny and Andrew Patrick who also emphasised that planning on that site was refused in 1997 on grounds of harm to the Conservation Area; back-land development; reduction in highways safety and disturbance to Brethrens Farm.

Overall Councillors thought the backland development was undesirable and damaging to the Conservation Area and the viability of the farm. Chairman Tim Lockley said the infilling was contrary to the Village Design Statement and the Parish Plan and he was concerned about the tight access, so they duly objected on those grounds.

4. The application for 75 dwellings to the west of Bush Heath Lane (14/02689/OUT) by Gladmans on behalf of the landowner, occupied most of the meeting. Many members of the public spoke out against this. Recent building, approved applications and those being considered would more than supply the number of houses (75-100) that Harbury was obliged to take between 2011-2030.

The Harbury Society Secretary agreed, pointing out that Gladmans planned 75 houses on a plot of similar size to the Hereburgh Way development which had only 49 houses, all reserved for those with a local connection. The plans were outline only and if permission

were granted the site could be sold to developers with no guarantee that the “indicative” layout, house type, size etc. would be what was eventually built. There was potential for flooding across Middle Road as surface water would drain into the watercourse that comes out at the bottom of Treens Hill.

Several others were concerned about increased congestion and even more danger at the Bendigo/Mitchell Crossroads. Ken Stephenson wanted Gladmans to undertake a proper Housing Needs Survey as was done for the Hereburgh development. He asked how much influence the Parish Council would have on the “reserved matters” – everything else other than the permission to build 75 dwellings.

District Councillor Beverley Mann said usually the officers made the decisions but the PC should ask to be included and ex-councillor Andrew Patrick said applications like these would go to the Planning Committee and not just be nodded through.

Councillor Summers reminded her colleagues that 45 years ago Harbury was doubled in size and survived. Councillor Hancock agreed Harbury had to have some development but was concerned that the village had so little control over what it would get. The Chairman said the site was not the real problem as it was to the south and did not spread the village out further East or West. It was the lack of control and the prematurity that was worrying. He wanted the development restricted like Hereburgh Way to those with a local connection.

Jason Tait for Gladmans said these were not unusual concerns but real and genuine planning issues. He urged the PC to insist on being party to the discussions on reserved matters which would still require a separate planning application. He sought to reassure us that Gladmans Development Framework Plan showed and secured the principles such as the points of access; maximum number of dwellings; and the design in principle. They would provide the full maximum number of affordable homes that SDC stipulated (35%) and make a contribution to Harbury’s Library and Village Hall. The local NHS and Warwickshire County Council would be consulted on capacity issues at the School or Surgery although he warned that WCC might seek to “redistribute” some of the pupils.

The Council were still concerned about the housing mix and who exactly would be building them. They wanted a mix with bungalows and few large houses and none over two storeys high. So they would object to the number of homes, their density, scale and size; the impact on traffic congestion; they wanted the District to pay attention to the Village Design Statement and Parish Plan on reserved matters and to have a say themselves in these. They also wanted a Section 106 agreement to ensure that there were local homes for local people; that the issues of school capacity were resolved at an early date by WCC and a similar solution to problems with access to Harbury Surgery.

Gypsies and Travellers – Proposed Sites

Stratford District Council will begin their consultation on their proposed sites for Gypsies and Travellers in the New Year.

Warwick District Council is currently consulting about an additional proposed site near J15 of the M40. As the site is some distance from Harbury, the Parish Council has not made a representation on this site. The status of the Football Ground site is not clear, with divisions between the board, fans, and the Chairman.

Tim Lockley
Parish Council Chairman



We had an excellent talk, “Life in the Madhouse” by Julie Moores from the Records Office about the asylum at Hatton along with some fascinating insights into the patients and the very caring staff. She explained that the material held at the Records Office is very useful for Genealogical Research. Not only is there information about the patients but in some instances there are photographs too. At this time (1800-1900) very few ordinary people would have had their picture taken.

Our next event is a Coffee Morning on Saturday 3rd of January (10-Noon in the Tom Hauley Room) when we hope to have a good raffle (Harbury Society is noted for the number of bottle prizes!); some produce and many other things to buy.

Harbury is being bombarded with applications to develop land in and around the village, as are many rural communities. We have been proactive in providing 49 homes on the Hereburgh development all for people with a local connection, but most of the plans coming in now are purely speculative and not ring-fenced in this way.

The Local Plan envisages us taking between 70-100 homes in the period from 2011-2030 and we have already built 50 of these. There is planning permission granted for another six and applications pending for: one at the Dog; another at the Spinney Paddock; one on Treens Hill; one behind the Old Orchard Mill Street; nine on the Old New Inn site; and 75 west of Bush Heath Lane. The details of the potential development at Hillside have mysteriously disappeared from SDC’s website and there is no official word of where the Village with a Vision (OAP) homes will go! If my maths is right that’s already 143 and counting! But there is no overview of the cumulative impact these will have on the village.

Warwick is facing the same problem with permission for literally thousands of homes being sought by multiple developers – all of whom claim their individual estates will have little effect on highways safety, congestion, schools or health care facilities. The government's new National Planning Policy Framework majors on "Sustainability" but defines it as largely economic, so there are few tools to consider the strategic impact of all this development happening in such a short space of time.

This matters to us if only for the congestion it will cause and the increased traffic hazards. The village is taking action itself to try to mitigate the danger at the Bendigo Mitchell Crossroads (Fosse/Harbury Lane). The e-petition to the County has far exceeded the necessary 1,000 signatures and we now have the right to address the County Council and demand action. Unfortunately there is little else we can do. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



The seasons have changed and Winter is on its way. However, plants are still performing, which is great.

Now it is our turn to perform with Christmas on its way. Everyone is getting busy preparing.

We are all looking forward to the next meeting when we will have refreshments, and then the Bran Tub is always a surprise. The speaker is Liam D'Arcy Brown speaking on Chusan – The Opium Wars.

The carol service at Napton is on Monday 8th December at 7.30pm.

Christmas greetings to all.

The Christmas meeting is at the Tom Hauley Room on 11th December, 7.45pm.



This December article is always a difficult one to write. By now you may have seen one (or if we are lucky, both) our November performance(s) but as I sit here at my key board we still have several days to go to opening night.

Things are a little different this time. We now have a thriving and extremely popular youth group and we needed to give them stage time. This year is not our pantomime year so we had no lavish show in which to show off the children's talents. The solution was to run two shows, one for all the

children and one for the adults.

This, in itself, was fraught with difficulties. We can't have the Village Hall for an extra week, this blocks too many people from using the hall's facilities. The only way out was to share the "hall time" between the young group and the rest of us. Adults to do Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday night, children to do Friday night, Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning.

This is very much an experiment. As you read this you will know if it has worked or not. We will study the results to see if we can do it again.

With regard to the shows themselves I can only report in detail as part of the adult team for "All Balls and Ashes", a hilarious comedy along the lines of Last of the Summer Wine. This has been really good fun to rehearse. We started at the beginning of September but nights out twice a week with such a jolly group of people has just flown past. I have great hopes for this play, by now you should know if I was right.

I have also seen recent rehearsals for "When Sasha Got Swept Up the Chimney" by our young group and if enthusiasm is anything to go by it will be a good and enjoyable show. The three ladies in charge are doing a wonderful job. The children's acting, singing and dancing talents were being stretched to the limits. Dealing with over 40 children is not an easy job and transferring that number of bodies from their much larger rehearsal space to the limitations of our stage has not been simple. How much easier it will be when we have a permanent stage and rehearsals can take place in the correct space!



Maybe that last comment needs a little explaining. I assume that most Harbury residents will know that we don't have a fixed stage. Every time one is needed we have to erect a temporary structure, including all the steps, curtains etc. This discourages some organisations from booking the Hall.

Worse still, some things can't take place when the stage is up as the temporary structure takes over 5 metres out of the floor space. However we all hope that this problem will soon be solved when the Village Hall Committee raise the funding for a permanent stage and sports dressing rooms. This is ongoing but we have high hopes.

Harbury Theatre Group presents All Balls & Ashes



Harbury Theatre Group Juniors present When Sasha got swept up the chimney





360th meeting, 6th November 2014

This being the centenary of the start of the Great War, it seemed only fitting to take as our theme for November "Only Remembered". Your scribe had fears that we might be in for a sombre evening, and it is true that many of the offerings were thoughtful and emotive, but thanks to the ever-resourceful good humour of the Harbury Club singers, we ended up with a really special night when performers and audience did themselves proud.

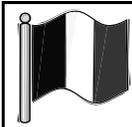
I started the evening with a medley of songs from the first war, swiftly followed by Maureen and Janny who sang Sing He Lo Lay and Silly Old Fool, a song about a fairly useless husband definitely not based on anyone present in the room at the time. Rik brought us Fernando, a song describing two veteran soldiers reminiscing, followed by a very witty talking blues-type lament concerning failing memory as one got older - I think. Then Martin Day took the stage by storm with a Bill Caddick song telling the context of Jack Judge's immortal Long Way to Tipperary, following with the delightful Six Black Paintings, a wry comment on modern art. Pete Mason sang the poignant Home Lads, a Mick Ryan song describing the bucolic life left behind by many of the lads who marched off to France. His second song described the agony of saying goodbye to a loved one. Pete and Liz Bones ended our first half with a lovely arrangement of another memorable Mick Ryan song, Tommy Atkins, explaining why the name was adopted as a generic for the British soldier.

The Folk Club Choir opened the second half with the eponymous Only Remembered and the rather more upbeat And We Will Sing. Julie and Rob, who run the excellent Green Man club in Long Itchington, gave us two old favourites, Freight Train and Streets of London, followed by Des whose powerful rendition of the Diane Lindsay song Oh Jenny, Oh Tommy left one of those breathless silences at the end which one fears to break by applauding. He followed with the traditional firework night song, Cob-a-coaling. Ian and Sue sang Willy Moore, a tale of thwarted lovers, and Ian's own composition Lavender and Violet, a lament for those soldiers who were cruelly labelled cowards and were shot in the Great War. Peter McDonald closed the second half with Hard Times of Old England and Hugh Williams' perceptive analysis Making Choices.

For the legendary third half, Martin got us going with a gentle wry ditty asking why people wanted to be guitarists and describing what they could expect from life as a result. Sung to the tune of Would you Rather Swing on a Star, it caused thoughtful looks on the faces of several of our own. Pete Mason sang Eric Bogle's tribute to the Anzacs, Waltzing Matilda, and Maureen and Janny did their gentle sad version of Two Brothers, telling of the way the American

Civil War divided families. Pete and Liz told us of Tim McGuire, the mischievous match wielder. Des returned with a music hall song about the famous trench delicacy Tickler's Jam, and was followed by Peter McDonald who sang Dougie McClean's song Talking with my Father. The evening was brought to a fitting conclusion by Ian and Sue who sent us on our way with Sail Away Ladies.

I am pleased and slightly astonished to say that due to the generosity of our audience and performers, we raised £85 in the raffle, and this is on its way to the splendid Motor Neurone Disease charity.



Harbury Twinning Association

Andrew Patrick



Joyeux Noël!

Our Committee survived the November AGM almost unscathed. Our members didn't man the barricades or demand a revolution. Apart from a polite game of musical chairs in which Madame Neill replaced Madame Freeman, the *ancien régime* is still in place!

Next up is the equally serious business of enjoying ourselves in preparation for Christmas. The *Fete de Noël du Jumelage* will be held on Friday evening 19th December, in the Tom Hauley Room. If you would like to be there, please let me or Sally know.



All members of Harbury-Samois Twinning would like to wish everyone in Harbury a very

**Joyeux Noël,
et Bonne Année 2015**

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Harbury Juniors Football Club

Ian Jones

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all those involved with Harbury Juniors Football Club a very Merry Christmas and to say a big thanks for all the hard work that is necessary to keep the children learning and playing football.

Under 10's Match Report: Malcolm Tanner

15th November: Harbury Juniors 1 v Tysoe Vikings 2

Harbury narrowly missed their first win of the season with a 2-1 defeat after enjoying much of the play and would have won but for some excellent goalkeeping from the Tysoe keeper.

Harbury started well with Archie C and Ollie S controlling midfield and Josh C and Daniel C were always dangerous upfront, but despite the superiority, Harbury conceded two goals from defensive errors in the second quarter.

Harbury continued to press and following a well taken goal from Archie C, Harbury nearly equalised with a goal from Ben H after a great run.

The whole team played with total commitment and deserved at least a draw from this closely fought match.



GUIDES AND SCOUTS SUPPORT

Guides and Scouts Support

G.A.S.S. Committee

Bonfire

It took months of planning then all went up in smoke and ended with a bang - quite literally! What was it? The Harbury Bonfire and Fireworks Display of course. This event is the biggest venture for G.A.S.S. (Guides and Scouts Support) and we are pleased to report that we raised over £1,900 towards the upkeep of the Scout Hut and new equipment for the uniformed youth groups of Harbury.

This community event could not happen without helpers giving us their time and energy. These people are too numerous to mention all by name but we must pay particular thanks to:

- Mike McBride and his team of volunteers for such a wonderful display of fireworks (I'm sure it gets bigger every year!)
- Paul Quinney and the team of Cub leaders and Scout leaders who managed the magnificent bonfire and coped brilliantly with the windy conditions.

- All of the children from our uniformed groups, their parents and other volunteers who turned out with 4x4's and trailers on a very soggy Saturday morning to collect material for the bonfire.
- The ladies who prepared and served up hot food and drinks.
- Our stewards who manned the gates and kept everyone safe.
- Everyone who gave time in the week after the event to litter pick, rake ashes and remove bonfire debris from the field.
- The local businesses who sold tickets, provided straw and lent us a tractor.
- The Parish Council for allowing us to use the playing field.

We also need to say a big "Thank You" to the circa 750 people who supported us by coming along to the event and to the 45 households who made a cash donation in return for having firewood collected from their garden. This community support is what makes for a successful event and we are pleased to be part of it. We would like to apologise to the residents who turned up at the Ridgley Way pedestrian gate unaware that it would be closed. Unfortunately a small minority ignored the "Danger" notice and the hazard tape closing this gate and then verbally abused the safety marshals who had to stop them from entering into the fireworks launch zone. Nobody came to any harm this time but we do have to close all of the footpaths to the top field for safety reasons. We will try to give more notice next year and hope that residents from this part of the village will support us by coming down to the main entrances.

So with the bonfire finished the G.A.S.S. committee are already working on our next fundraising opportunity

G.A.S.S. Christmas Post

As usual G.A.S.S. will be running a village Christmas postal service. So, in return for a generous donation, why not let us deliver all of your Harbury Christmas cards in that busy run up to the festive season.

This year the Christmas post service will start on **Friday 28th November** and the last posting day will be on **Thursday 18th December**. As usual you will find our special post box in Muggleston's Country Fayre. Please remember to put the **house name/number and the road name** on your envelopes as we cannot deliver your cards without this information! We are able to deliver anywhere in Harbury village but unfortunately we do not have the capacity to deliver any further afield.





Harbury Toddler Group

Lynne Barton

Dragon Ceramics helped Toddlers create some super Christmas Gifts recently but it's all a big secret! We can't wait to see the results glazed and gleaming.

The group continues to welcome both familiar and new faces and we do hope that each and every one of you always feels at ease particularly on your first visit. We will be busy over the next few weeks decorating Christmas trees, admiring Chrismassy photographs and painting snowmen.

Our Christmas Party will be held at our last session of 2014 on **Monday 15th December**, exciting highlights include pass the parcel, seasonal nibbles and a visit from Father Christmas.

We will open again on **Monday 12th January** with a whole new calendar of activities and events for 2015. We open our doors every Monday at 9.30am and finish at 11.15am with songs and rhymes. Many thanks to all families and our volunteers, Emma and Paul, for making the group so well supported and enjoyed by those who come. We wish you all a merry and peaceful Christmas.

Toddlers is always looking to refresh its toy store so if you are keen to recycle any good quality items please do pop into see us, we also sell children's clothes to help raise income for Entrust Care Partnership, our not for profit organisation who organise Toddlers and provide services for disabled children.

We are based at the Wight School, High Street, Harbury, CV33 9HW (brown gate to the side). Thinking of coming along or need more information? Please do ring Lynne on 01926 612748 or email lynnebarton@btinternet.com. We look forward to welcoming parents, carers, grandparents, childminders and children under five.



Harbury Pre-School

Staff & Committee

Pumpkin Week: After Halloween, the children spent some time investigating the different textures inside a large pumpkin and made some wonderful observational paintings of pumpkins and a variety of gourds.

Fireworks: Many of the children enjoyed Guy Fawkes Night at the park, although, as usual, there were mixed feelings about the fireworks display, with most agreeing that they didn't like the loud bangs but loved the sparkling colours. On their return to Pre-School they produced some fabulous pictures,

using pastels to draw bonfires and dribbling glue onto black card before shaking on multi-coloured glitter to create a marvellous firework effect.



Pumpkin Week at Pre-school

Remembrance: The 100th Anniversary of the start of World War I and the emphasis on poppies for remembrance, inspired the children to make their own wonderful observational paintings of poppies to adorn the Pre-School walls.

Healthy Eating: To reinforce our policy of encouraging the children to eat healthy foods, they made mini muffin pizzas for snack time, with their own choice of toppings that included tomatoes, sweetcorn, peppers and grated cheese. These were made and eaten with enthusiasm.



Autumn Walk: With the leaves on the trees turning to autumnal shades, we went on our autumn walk to the Spinney, collecting fallen leaves, twigs and conkers along the way. In the Spinney, we took bark rubbings on the trees and used listening spheres to identify the sounds around us. Very many thanks to all the helpers, Brigitte, Hilary, Kathy, Lesley, Maureen, Mireille, Pam, Sarah, Vicky





and Wendy and also to Lara's Granddad for clearing the pathways in the Spinney to make them safe for us.

On their return to Pre-School, the children learned about the story of the Leaf Man which inspired some fantastic pictures and collages made from the materials they had collected on the walks. They also made some beautiful leaf prints using paints in a variety of autumn colours.

A woodland area was created in the book area and this was equipped with logs, leaves, an assortment of soft toy woodland



animals and autumnal books. The children also enjoyed hearing about "Hodge the Hedgehog" and retelling the story with the help of our story sack, before making playdough hedgehogs and sculptures using natural materials. To round off the theme, several autumnal songs were sung at circle time.

We would like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone a peaceful Christmas and Happy New Year.

If you would like further information, or to register a child for Harbury Pre-School, please contact Bud Jackson, Pre-School Administrator: e-mail preschool1@btinternet.com phone 07907 598461 or look at the website www.harburypre-school.org.uk.



Windmills
Nursery School

Nursery School Staff

Staff Reunion November 2014

Old staff members of Windmills Nursery School and its predecessor Harbury Nursery School gathered for a wonderful afternoon celebrating the success of the nursery which spanned a timeframe of 46 years. We had staff from all eras including Mary Shelley who first founded the playgroup in 1968, Mary Catt and her helpers from the late 70s, Moya Waterman from the 80s and Kate Smart who was manager during the 90s and was instrumental in setting up the Windmills committee structure.

**Pat Woodward, Sylvia Green,
Mary Catt & Jenifer Ingram
(right)**





Moya Waterman & Mary Shelley



Cassie Houghton & Kate Smart



Eilish Flannagan



Fiona Cook, Linda Casement and Marie Kennedy



Sally Lines & Tina Varriale

From 2002 Tina Varriale jointly managed Windmills Nursery with Marie Kennedy until 2011 and then with Sally Lines for the remaining time.

It was lovely seeing so many of their nursery team from the last 15 years at the gathering.

Thank you to everyone who came and made it such a special finale.

Below is a photo of staff and children from 2005. All of the children are now at secondary school.



Closure of the Windmills Nursery Charity

Since the closure of the nursery in July 2014 the Directors of Windmills Nursery School Ltd have been donating the remaining assets of the business to charitable causes in line with Charity Commission legislation. Some of the charities that have benefited have included several children's groups in Harbury, the children's ward at Warwick Hospital and Guide Dogs for The Blind. At the end of the year the charity and business will cease.

The Directors would like to take this opportunity to thank the community of Harbury for all the support they've received over the years and to the parents and especially the children who have been part of the Windmills family.

Windmills Nursery School Directors

**Sally Lines, Tina Varriale, Katharine Giblin, Haidee Powell,
Marie Kennedy**





Harbury Primary School P.T.A.

PTA Committee

This term has seen the grand opening of the new play equipment at school which was officially opened by Councillor Tim Lockley of Harbury Parish Council. Children, teachers and parents of Harbury CE Primary School gathered with members of the PTA (past and present) to celebrate the huge fundraising efforts over many years to raise an impressive £20,000 which allowed this project to be completed. The children are really enjoying using this equipment now at play time.



Other fundraisers this term have included the annual PTA Sponsored Walk, Christmas Pudding Fundraiser and for the first time, a Halloween Disco which was a big success and will be repeated again next year. Please could any remaining sponsorship money be sent into school before the end of term.

14th November was the hugely popular annual PTA Quiz Night. We had a sell-out of teams this year who were treated to a range of fiendish questions set by our quiz masters Wayne and Jacqui McElfatrick. Thanks to the PTA helpers who helped on the night and to CANA for running the bar and congratulations to the winning team Simple Minds. We had record breaking profits this year of just over £1000 which was fantastic.

If any 'friends of the school' are interested, the PTA runs a 100 Club whereby you buy a number for a year costing £12 and there are 5 draws throughout the year where two numbers are drawn at random and their owners win £50 each. We have some spare numbers so if you would like to buy one before the first draw on 19th December please email HarburyPTA@outlook.com.

Dates for the Diary

School Christmas Discos – 12th December in the school hall. Infants 6.15pm-7.15pm and juniors 7.30pm-9pm.

Coffee Morning – 17th January 10am-12pm in the Tom Hauley Room. Any donations for the raffle or volunteers to bake cakes would be appreciated in the New Year.

The PTA committee would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

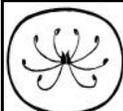


Village Hall Update

Chris Finch

Fingers are still crossed for the outcome of the bid to Veolia Landfill Trust for additional funds for the final stage of development proposed for the Village Hall. To plagiarise common parlance from football pundits (!), the 'boys' who represented us at the presentation to the trustees at the preliminary hearing 'done good' (!), as the Harbury request was forwarded to the Veolia Board for a final decision, which will be made in mid-December. Brian made a superb overhead projection presentation to explain our hopes for the future of the building and he was ably supported by Philip who had written the initial application and Geoff who provided all the background information. All we can do now is wait and hope.

For all those who have been asking about the New Year's Dance, it can be confirmed that it will be on Saturday January 3rd (doors open at 7.30pm) and Phill King and the Royals are providing the music. Dress can be either black tie/evening dress or for those who can impress the assembled company by wearing outfits from some years ago – sixties clothes to complement the 'music of the night'. Already most of the available e-tickets have been 'snapped up', as Chris (612305) and Geoff (613801) are maintaining an on-going list of requests, which are added to and forwarded in electronic form each time a request comes in to one or other of us.



Horticultural Society

Judy Morrall

Over 40 members ventured out on a dark Tuesday in November for another brilliant talk given by Roger Umpleby. The topic this visit was Bredon Hill through the year, a plant-lover's view. It has a special place in my heart as it is where my father proposed to my mother having cycled on a tandem over 25 miles from Astwood Bank. He did go down on one knee and of course she accepted, and after that a wedding and then I came along, then my brother.

For those of us not familiar with Bredon Hill it is south west of Evesham. It is a limestone outcrop with the river Avon running behind it, the river once ran through the middle of the hill. It has the appearance of a stranded whale. It is six miles long and there are no roads on the top but there are pathways etc all around and it is 988 feet high.

Roger lives very close at Ashton-under-Hill and when he came to live there over 30 years ago it was covered in elm trees.

The Horticultural Society Report continues on page 44



I would like to wish my friends in Harbury a happy Christmas and may 2015 find you fit and healthy.
Mary Kimber

David and Barbara Thistlethwaite would like to wish all their friends in Harbury a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.
We have made a donation to our chosen charity in lieu of sending cards.

Happy Christmas and a peaceful 2015 to all our friends in Ladbroke and Harbury, this year we will donate to charity instead of sending cards.

Nicky and Gray Lewis

Frank Rose would like his friends and neighbours to know that he will not be sending Christmas cards this year. He has decided to make a cash donation to Myton Hospice instead. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.

Alan and Pauline Hayes would like to wish all their friends a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

*Best wishes for Christmas.
May you all have a healthy and happy New Year.
I am making a donation to Cancer Research.*



Alison Hunt

Beryl Checkley wishes a Merry Christmas She will not be sending will make a donation to in

Michael and Gillian H for Christmas to Their donation in lie to Medecins sans F again

The Rollasons would lik acquaintances in the Vi a healthy and prospero donation to Oxfan Love to all, Pet Ali an

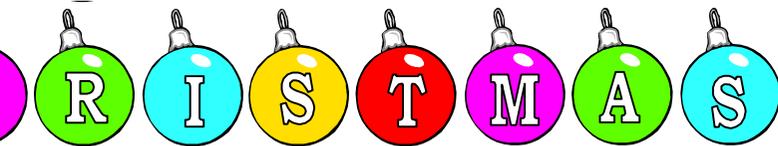
Andrew and Jenny Pa our friends in Harbu and peace

In place of cards, t Medecins' sans Fronti

Colin and Jennifer Ing Year greetings and bl neighbor

Our donation will g for





s all her friends in Harbury
and a Happy New Year.
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are send their best wishes
all their local friends.
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*ke to wish all our friends and
llage a Happy Christmas and
us 2015. We will be making a
n in lieu of local cards.*

*er, Moira, Catriona,
nd Rob xxx*

ptrick would like to wish all
ry a very Happy Christmas
eful New Year.

this year we're supporting
ères work in fighting Ebola.

ram send Christmas and New
essings to all our friends and
urs in Harbury.

go to a village organisation
children.

We would like to wish all our friends in Harbury
a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year all the
way from Colorado.

We shall miss the Harbury traditions!

From John and Katherine Kuyt (Abbott).

A very happy Christmas to friends and
neighbours in Harbury. Instead of sending
cards we are giving a donation to
Myton Hospice.
Ian & Sheila Jackson

Wishing all my friends a merry Christmas
and a prosperous New Year.

Rene Delin

Mrs Jean Herbert would like to wish all
friends and neighbours a very happy
Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

*Corina and Gordon send their best wishes for a Happy
Christmas and a healthy New Year to all their friends
in Harbury and Ladbroke.*

*We will be making a donation to the Tree of Light in
lieu of cards this year.*

*Mike, Alison and Elizabeth Abbott would like
to wish all their friends in Harbury and
Ladbroke a joyful Christmas and New Year.*

*We are making a donation to charity this
year instead of sending local
Christmas cards.*



Continued from page 41:

Sadly due to Dutch Elm disease these have all gone. The paths crisscross and intermingle with bridleways. Lots of amazing walks for rambblers of all ages and a magnet for cyclists and horse riders. It is also a working hill in that there is arable and pasture land dotted with cattle, sheep, roe doe and the occasional muntjac.

In Spring the lambs frolic and the male hazel catkins put on a glitzy show. The female catkins are very small and insignificant. There is blossom from the blackthorn which of course can be affected by any late frost. Pussy willows shine, and the ground is carpeted with primroses which flower all day and celandines, a great yellow explosion of colour. Violets too make a welcome appearance, these provide food for the caterpillars which in turn become lovely fritillary butterflies. Already a food chain is emerging. Bluebells, my absolute favourite wild flower, are very much in evidence, the native English variety and not the awful Spanish ones which are gradually invading our countryside. Cowslips too add to the yellows, these sadly went into decline due to the over use of herbicides but are now staging a comeback. Cream stitchwort, red campion and clouds of cow parsley make a super backdrop. The orange tip butterfly, the comma and small tortoiseshell all thrive in these conditions.

In Summer the fallow deer who are very shy can be seen rarely but Roger captured a wonderful image of one as they are difficult to photograph. Other wildlife seen were fox cubs playing and badgers who were only a few feet away from Roger. Lots of rodents, hares too, small types of lizard and in the pools newts, frogs and toads. Polecats, stoats and weasels were also seen and then we were taken to the top of the hill by the tower and there is a stone which resembles an elephant, the only place in England where you can see one!! Dog roses, honeysuckle, bee orchids, rare orchids, lady smock, scarlet pimpernel and many more wild flowers are at their best now. There are only three sites in Worcestershire where one species of orchid thrives and can be seen so conditions are obviously just right. The butterflies enjoy the flowers as do the bees. Dragon flies dart around, such busy insects, and you get wonderful splashes of colour as they fly past. We saw spectacular all round panoramic views from the top of the hill by the tower which is now used for communication purposes. The hedges provide sanctuary for many species of insects and other wildlife. In late Summer the nettles provide food for all sorts of creatures and the flowers of scabious, hare bells and knapweed provide nectar for the bees. Colourful butterflies are much in evidence, we were shown some beautiful slides, too many to mention but again such detail in the photographs, many hours spent by Roger to get the detail correct. There are 58 species of butterfly in Great Britain and can you believe that there are 22 of these on Bredon Hill.

In Autumn the scenery changes, with ivies in flower providing a food source for the butterflies. A red admiral was seen in all its glory. Bats too were seen.

An abundance of sloes, elderberries and blackberries are in the hedgerows, lots of food for free and wonderful for wine making. Hips of the dog roses mingle with old man's beard and hawthorn berries. Fungi in all shapes and colours seem to be making a statement. Leaf colours seem to make the hill appear to be on fire!!

In Winter even when there are mists and rain it is still a wonderful place to come to see the deer. Tawny and barn owls can be seen in the day time, as can buzzards, kestrels and red kites. The colours are more muted but the light is enhanced particularly if there has been a hoar frost. Roger showed us a fantastic picture of willow and poplar trees covered with a hoar frost, just like icing on a cake. Even when there is snow many people brave the conditions, including lots of children and adults with sledges, who are all enjoying themselves. As Roger said, every season has something a little bit special to see and savour. What with that and 180 degree views over many counties I'm sure many of us will go and see for ourselves how lucky we are to have such a gem on our doorstep. Roger finished with a spectacular picture of a sunset on the Hill. Another fantastic evening was enjoyed by everyone. I hope to invite Roger back next year, this was his fourth talk and I am happy to report that he has a list of 28!!

I suspect a lot of our members will be busy in the next few weeks and garden visiting etc, not top of the list but if you do get a spare day I can recommend firstly a visit to Westonbirt arboretum. From now until 21st December and from 5.00 to 8.30pm there will be a mile long hard surface path around the various trees which will be illuminated in all colours and is very spectacular. Wrap up warm, you could go for a whole day as the food is excellent and cost is either £10 for an adult or £8 for a concession. Secondly, a day out in London and a visit to Kew Gardens. Here too there is from now until 3rd January a mile long illuminated trail with sculptures and colourful lights even in the conservatory. Just look on the web site www.kew.org and see the treats to enjoy. Kew is a magical place in the daytime so it promises to be an amazing night time experience. Cost here is slightly higher either £15 or £12.

Closer to home many National Trust properties will be decorated for Christmas including Upton House and Gardens. On 6th and 7th December there is an outdoor Christmas Market and the restaurant has super seasonal food. I am going on a trip to Waddesdon Manor next week and that is very special. If you've never experienced a visit there at Christmas you have missed a treat. No expense is spared and people from London come down every year to decorate the parts of the house that are open. All along the drive the trees are festooned in lights and all symmetrical. There is a light show designed by Bruce Munro from 4.30pm and, from 26th November for two weeks there is a Christmas food and a gift fair outdoors.

I suspect that when you read this we will have had our December meeting on 2nd. I will report back next month re AGM etc. On 6th January we are having a Gardeners' Question Time, in response to members requests, when three

very special panellists will be answering all your garden queries. We will be asking you to write down your questions if possible at the December meeting so that the panel can get together and get their thinking caps on. It promises to be a most enjoyable evening, your chance to solve any problems you have had or are having however large or small. Please all come along we will need something to brighten up a dark January evening. We are a very friendly and welcoming Society. I look forward to seeing you in December and January.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Joyous Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.



It is the end of the year and a good time for gardeners to take stock and consider what, if anything, needs changing. There may be parts of the garden which you are not happy with or plants which have not done well during the year. You may not feel like being outside in the depths of winter but you could make notes so that when the weather warms up you will know what to do.

I may make too many assumptions regarding your knowledge and skills when I prattle on about plants and jobs. I know that many people are not at all confident about pruning. If you are keen to do the gardening yourself but are lacking in confidence about what to do and when to do it I can offer a solution. I am available to come and give you 'homework'. I could make a list of what needs pruning or moving or removing and other tasks which should help enhance your outdoor space.

Gardener's World may have finished for the next few weeks (what message does that give out?) but I have been getting lots done over the last few weeks. I've cut down a lot of the perennials, some dividing and transplanting has also been done. Two or three shrubs have sat looking miserable for too long so I've removed them which gives me new places to plant up.

Jobs to do:

- Clean tools, tidy up sheds and greenhouses.
- Protect containers from frost by wrapping with fleece and placing close to the house.
- There are still leaves to rake up and compost to spread on the borders.
- Bare root trees, shrubs, hedging and roses can all be planted now.

Did you know that we have our own Gift Vouchers for sale?

Bridge Nursery, Tomlow Road, Napton, Tel: 01926 812737
www.bridge-nursery.co.uk



Nature Notes

John Hancock

We had lots of rain in early November and as I write (25th November), we have had two frosty mornings. Yesterday, as the light faded, I went out on my bike through Bishops Itchington and down into quieter tracts of countryside along Hambridge Road. South of Holmes House towards the second bridge over the River Itchen the rooks were eyeing up their old nests in the tops of the roadside Ash trees. It was still light as I turned right along Knightcote Bottoms. A thin sliver of crescent moon stood low in the south western sky and behind it ranged along the horizon a flame red sunset. By the time I mounted the hill beside Itchington Holt the moon had taken on its traditional yellow hue and darkness was creeping over the land. Off to the left in a stubble field I spied a patch of white which moved in a jerking motion and proved to be the rump of a full grown Muntjac deer. The animal must have leapt the wire fence with ease as it now appeared on my right heading for the cover of the wood.

In last month's article, I mentioned a fungi foray to Crackley Woods on October 27th. John and Val Roberts were our guides. The ground was still rather dry but nevertheless we had a good haul. Species found included large Parasol mushrooms which can reach 40cms in height and cap diameter. This contrasted with tiny Candlesnuff or Stag's horn fungi some 5cms in height. The former is edible but the latter should be treated as poisonous. Buttercup with its rather greasy feel lived up to its name and there was plenty of the ubiquitous Birch Polypore, a bracket fungus. Some of the group stocked up on sweet chestnuts which littered the ground in places.

Today, I have found Candlesnuff growing on a stump in John and Sally Stringer's front garden and in a Manor Orchard garden was a good crop of Parasol mushrooms proving you do not have to leave Harbury to find plenty of interest. Underground a mycelium of hyphae is busy breaking down dead plant and animal matter. Essential recycling courtesy of fungi.

Recently I was shown a photograph of a Grey Wagtail by Maurice, Cherry and Christopher Bristow. They had seen it perched on a car wing mirror probably seeing a rival reflected in the glass. Later, I got a good view of the bird walking about on the drive next door. This was on 12th November. Despite its name, it has a beautiful, sulphur yellow breast.

Yesterday (24th November), Warwick U3A Natural History Group were privileged to have a visit from Dr Michael Keith-Lucas, a retired Reader in Botany at Reading University. His speciality is pollen and we spent an absorbing morning learning about plants and their pollinators. Each plant species has pollen grains which, under a microscope, are different in appearance to other species. Some, like the Hollyhock, have large grains

0.5cms in diameter. Hazel pollen in contrast is like dust. Insect pollinators have evolved to gather nectar from some rather difficult sources. When in Madagascar, Charles Darwin found a flower with a nectary so placed that it would require an insect, such as a butterfly or moth, to have a tongue in excess of 12 inches to extract the nourishment. This was considered laughable at the time but the moth with the necessary mouthparts has since been discovered.

We were told that some species release pollen with a small positive electric charge which is attracted to the stigma which is negatively charged. Our speaker, who has been involved in planning field trials for GM crops, said that with world population growth coupled with global warming, research is vital to increase crop yields. However, unless the health of our insect pollinators takes centre stage there is trouble ahead. Now much of the natural world goes into hibernation. What will the winter bring?



General Section

Harbury & District's Response to Remembrance 2014

Several people in Harbury have talked about their emotional visit to the Tower of London to see the **Blood swept lands and seas of red** display of ceramic poppies, which had gradually built up from 17th July, when the first poppy was planted, until the last day on 11th November when the final poppy was put in place by a young army cadet. Each of the 888,246 massed poppies in the moat represented a British or Colonial fatality lost in a war during the past century. The artist, Paul Cummins, who created the moving tribute, was inspired by a letter written by a Derbyshire man, who eventually died in Flanders who had previously observed – ‘the blood swept lands - where angels fear to tread’, as men died around him. Each of the poppies, produced by a pottery factory in Whichford, Warwickshire are now being removed and sent to those who purchased a poignant reminder of the scale of the loss of life since 1914.

In Harbury, there was a packed congregation for the Remembrance service led by Annie and Craig, followed by the time honoured tradition of villagers gathering round the memorial in Crown Street, whilst the names of the fallen were read out. Wreaths were placed by the base by representatives of GASS, The Parish Council and the Royal British Legion, as well as individual wooden crosses remembering personal loss.





Photos by Jim Dimmock

In the days preceding Remembrance Day, over 40 collectors called on houses in Bascote, Bascote Heath, Chesterton, Deppers Bridge, Harbury and Ufton and collecting boxes were available in all the local pubs, shops, the Fosse Garage and the Caravan Park at Harbury Fields. This year it was also possible to leave a box in the newly re-opened Great Western pub and a new collector was recruited for Chesterton. In total, Harbury and District raised a superb total of

£3,814.67 with the highest amount being collected by the pupils at Harbury Primary School. Special mention must be made of pupils, Jessica in Y6 and Chloe in Y4, who raised £74 by making and selling cakes in school during the week leading up to Remembrance Day, which boosted the school's total contribution.

Each collector receives an RBL card, which shows the amount collected from different parts of each village and thanks are due to every single person or organisation for their efforts. The Poppy League funds are used to support all individuals who continue to need assistance as a result of injuries received in recent conflicts, as well as those families who continue to be supported, as a result of loss of family members in former times.

Chris Finch



Harbury Art Group

Unfortunately this will be my final report for Harbury Art Group. Our November workshop had to be cancelled because of insufficient numbers, and this has happened several times over the past 12 months. After careful thought, Nick Baldwin (the tutor) and I have agreed to disband the group. We feel that after 14+ years, Nick's monthly day schools have run their course in Harbury, and they are no longer financially viable.

We've had some great fun in our monthly workshops over the years, and lots of budding artists have been inspired to develop their talents after attending Nick's sessions. The workshops' special value was in allowing us to spend a whole day painting, rather than just a couple of hours, without any distractions (apart from biscuits and gossip). There was always a complete picture to take home at the end of the day – or in Maurice's case, two or three!

Over the years Nick introduced us to acrylics, colour pencils, mixed media, pastels and graphite drawing as well as watercolours. We covered a huge range of subject matter - sometimes doing close detailed work with furry

animals, feathery friends or still life drawing and at other times producing looser compositions of seascapes, woodlands, and snowy mountains. We usually worked from photographs, or from material Nick brought in such as flowers, fruit, vegetables, bones, shells, glassware. We never knew what subject material Nick would surprise us with each month.

Many of Nick's students (me included) have been encouraged to take their painting to another level, and to devote more time to art generally. We are all most grateful for the inspiration Nick gave us, and especially for the days spent in good company with lots of friendly banter. We also thank Harbury artist '*extraordinaire*', Bill Davies, for setting up Harbury Art Group with Nick all those years ago, and the Tom Hauley Room team for providing such a perfect venue. **Happy Painting and Season's Greetings to one and all!**

Pam McConnell



Operation Christmas Child

After a busy morning packing, we were able to send 142 completed shoeboxes to Azerbaijan, with the funds needed for their transport. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed in any way. For those generous people who look for gifts during the year, we shall be grateful for more tennis balls, skipping ropes, faceclothes and notebooks as well as the fun items which you are so clever at finding. And for our amazing knitters, a special plea for scarves of all sizes. And more boxes – we used all of our reserves.

Thank you once again.

Mike Jones and Gillian Hare

Harbury Craft Fair 2014

I am pleased to report that this year's Craft Fair was our best year so far raising a massive £1,447.00 all of which will be donated to Myton Hospice.

Thank you to everyone that helped, however small a part you played, be it the ladies helping in the kitchen, the two amazing gentlemen on the tombola stalls (Dad and Uncle Graham!) to anyone that donated a prize for the tombola or made cakes – we couldn't do it without you, thank you!

This year we held our first Craft Fair Raffle and the first prize of 7 nights accommodation in Cornwall was won by Mr & Mrs D Padbury – congratulations to them and to anyone else that won one of the fantastic prizes and of course another big thank you to all the individuals/businesses that donated a raffle prize.

Anyone wishing to book a table for next year please note we were inundated with bookings for tables this year and were fully booked by September so

please return your booking form as soon as possible to guarantee a space. As usual booking forms are available by either emailing me on ficadwallader@btinternet.com or give Shirley a call on 01926 612798.

Finally, the ladies at Myton Hospice Harbury Support group wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Fiona Cadwallader

Harbury NSPCC Committee

Southam 2000 Rotary is holding another Burns Night on Friday 23rd January 2015. They have asked us to organise the raffle again and we are very pleased to do so as we raised £270 last January. Tickets cost £30 each which includes a three course meal plus whisky tasting. Peter Rollason will address the haggis and this fun evening is an excellent way to spend a cold, gloomy January evening!

If you are interested please call Elaine Bruce on 614664 for further information or to book your tickets.

NSPCC Quiz Night

We are holding our annual quiz on **Sunday 7th December in the Village Club**. Tickets cost £20 per team of four, and includes a delicious array of sandwiches. Starting time is 7.30pm.

If you are interested in entering a team please contact Elaine Bruce on 614664.

Elaine Bruce, NSPCC Committee

Kick Start Appalachian Dancers – Dance Workshop

Would you like to learn some exciting new dance steps and maybe join one of Harbury's long-established and successful dance teams for our performances in 2015? We are going to stage a half-day workshop in Harbury Scout Hut on Saturday 10th January 2015, from 10:00am to 1:00pm for anyone to attend and learn how to dance this lively and rhythmic form of American folk dancing. All you need is a pair of hard-soled shoes (or tap shoes, if you have them) and a sense of rhythm. In return, we will show you some simple, basic steps and get you dancing to a toe-tapping tune or two.

There is no obligation (and no charge!), just an opportunity to join in with lots of like-minded people and have fun dancing. You'll need a modest amount of fitness but it's not hard work and you won't be required to jump. Appalachian dancing is social and ideally suited to people of all ages. So why not make a New Year Resolution and come along to the Scout Hut at 10:00am on Saturday 10th January and find out for yourself?

For more information, contact Sue and Ian Hartland on 01926 612734, on Ian's mobile number: 07983 991838, or email: sue@harvestersmusic.com.

Ian & Sue Hartland



Harbury Village Library

If you enjoyed the Summer Reading Challenge, please look out for our **Christmas Mini-Challenge** and the chance to win a 'signed' photo of Biblio the Library Cat!

During November the library has had more visits from children at Harbury School who learned about various topics and also did a quiz about the library. We hope that children without their own library card will be encouraged to join. Don't forget that joining is free and can be done online either from a personal computer, tablet, smart phone or using one of the free terminals in the library at: <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/libraries>

Tunes and Tales have welcomed lots of new friends in the last few weeks to sing stories and read books. We will be having a special Christmas Tunes and Tales on Wednesday 10th December, which will be the last session of the term and there will be a small gift for each child. We will be starting again in the New Year on Wednesday 7th January.

We are delighted that Biblio's is so popular with locals and visitors and we love seeing everyone enjoying it so much. Our team is fantastic and we are fortunate that a steady group has, ever since we opened in May 2012, continued to bake or work in the café. The reality, however, is that at times we have felt really stretched as everyone is juggling other commitments too (or need a holiday!) and we simply must have more people in Harbury joining the team if we are to sustain Biblio's success.

This past year we've had another great group of youngsters as our interns - all still studying and in some cases also undertaking DoE. Our thanks to George, Isla, Dulcie, Lottie, Sophie, Rebecca, Kirsty, Nicky, Alice, Megan, Annabel and also Ted who maintained his Saturday shifts even with a full time apprenticeship. With Biblio's experience under their belt they continue to work on their GCSE's or 'A' levels and in some cases have found paid part-time jobs. Consequently we have space for a new intake of boys and girls aged 15+. So, whether you are a teen or older (no upper age limit) please join us. Phone Lynn on 614707 or send a text to 07754593829 or leave your contact details in the cafe.

Christmas Holidays

Biblio's will close at noon on Saturday 20th December and reopen at 9.15am on Wednesday 7th January 2015.

Harbury Library will be open as normal until 5pm on Tuesday 23rd December. It will re-open at 9am on Friday 2nd January 2015.

Both teams of volunteers at Biblio's and the library wish our lovely customers a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for all your support!

Sue Wurr

John Ridgley Tree of Light

The Tree of Light will shortly be all aglitter again outside the Library.

Please sponsor a light, perhaps for some special person or event in your life, perhaps a new arrival or birthday or wedding anniversary. Whatever the occasion please let us have the details either on the form below or on a separate sheet and deliver it to Mugleston's (Country Fayre), 11 Vicarage Lane or 16 Farm Street.

All monies raised will be used to benefit children and young people in Harbury so if you think charity should begin near home this could be the one for you.

Harbury Charities

✂ -----

John Ridgley Tree of Light



I/We wish to adopt a light on the John Ridgley Tree of Light and enclose a donation of £_____

(cheques payable to Wagstaffe's Educational Foundation)

Please enter the following details in the Tree of Light Book.

Name of Donor/s:-

Memorable Occasion/Person :-

Message:- (optional)

.....

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.....

.....



Harbury Pre-School Fundraising Group

Ho Ho Ho,

Merry Christmas to you all.

We are thrilled to be able to report the results of our Bags2School and Coffee Morning to you. Bags2School raised **£128** this time, and the Coffee Morning raised a staggering **£284.53**. Thank you again to everyone who took part and came along on the day to support us.

Christmas Market – 14th December 11am – 3pm, Village Hall

This is the busiest activity in our year and is set to be a great event. We have some really lovely stalls for you so please do come and browse.....we may help you find that illusive Christmas present..... **Father Christmas** will be here throughout the event, and he is bringing one of his elves with him too. As always we will have a “cracker” of a raffle, activities to keep the little ones occupied, the judging of our “decorate a present” competition, gorgeous cakes and mince pies to have with your cup of tea or coffee and all this will be set to live music to get you into the festive spirit.

The Pre-School Fundraising Group has been working really hard to create a lovely event for you so please do come along and support us.

Dates for Your Diary

Pamper Night – 5th February in the Village Hall

Party Night – 25th April in the Village Hall

Coffee Morning - 7th March in the Tom Hauley Room

We would like to wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Julie Balch

Harbury Senior Citizens Committee Update

Thanks to everyone who came to the coffee morning in support of the Harbury Senior Citizens Benefit Association, to those who donated raffle prizes and especially to those of you who could not make it to the coffee morning but who generously gave a donation. Also to Eve and Tony Woodfield for donating the books for us to sell. Thank you.

The next event will be upon us in no time at all and that is the annual Christmas Party on Saturday 13th December 2014 at 17:00 for a 17:30 start.

Invitations have been delivered to everyone on our list and should have been returned by the time you read this.

The committee members, helpers and entertainers look forward to seeing you at the party and we hope that you will enjoy yourselves.

Mike McBride,

On behalf of the Harbury Senior Citizens Benefit Association

Harbury Lane/Fosse Way Junction

You may have seen in a recent edition of the Leamington Courier an article about an e-petition over the safety of the junction of the Harbury Lane with the Fosse Way.

There is still time to sign the petition to encourage the WCC Highways to make this junction safer. Please do what you can to encourage your friends and neighbours to join us and sign the Petition as well. Together we might just help save a life!

The petition can be found at:

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm15/Petitions/tabid/90/ID/59/Harbury-Lane-Fosse-Way-x-roads.aspx>

Ken Stephenson

Harbury Energy Initiative

We will have electric cars in the village in 2015.

There is joy in the HEI camp, modified, of course, by our Britishness to a quietly contained smugness. No whooping fist in the air exuberance for us; it uses too much energy. On 27th November, just too late for my copy deadline, I attended an event in Leeds at which the winners - that's us, plus a few others - were announced. The £15,000 grant, earned through two rounds of bidding, enables us to start developing the village-based electric car hire scheme with an E-Car Club early next year. We should have two cars available for hire by spring. It takes that long as there are first some detailed discussions to have with the village venue where they will be based, some technical stuff to put in and the membership support logistics to set up for Harbury. You won't miss the launch, as we will keep telling you either in these pages, via Facebook or by blocking your path in the street. There will be publicity, workshops, trial sessions and lots of terribly exciting stuff going on.

Hire me!!



Our success was, I believe, in large part down to the survey that 100 of you did in early November. Many thanks to all of you for giving us what we needed to prove to Carplus that we deserved support. Many thanks also to the Councillors at parish, district and county that provided supporting letters and to all of HEI for working together to get the information out there. One last favour: please book the cars when they become available!

One result of this is that we need a logo for Harbury Energy Initiative to appear on the two cars and we have never felt a need of one till now.

We hope to involve the school children in this but we appreciate that there is a lot to do in school in these last few weeks of term and that this cannot be a top priority. If this plan isn't feasible, is there anyone in the village who could design one for us? Do get in touch with me if you can help (see below for my contact details).

A few days before getting this good news we were invited to have a look round Chris and Kay Christou's new eco-house, a low rise building tucked in behind the Ivy Lane terrace. The house has very heavily insulated walls and roof and any potential cold 'bridges', such as metal pillars or supports are clad with insulating material to ensure minimal heat loss. The windows are triple glazed. The main heat and hot water source for the house is a Swedish 'Ice Stick', a rectangular columnar air source heat pump that requires no fan. When operating, the 'stick' freezes, sometimes dramatically enough to warrant aesthetic uplighting. This is backed up by a wood stove and, if they really need it, a gas boiler. The lighting is low energy but high specification. To ensure that this super-efficient home doesn't become so airtight as to be unhealthy, an airflow system ducts stale air out, warming incoming fresh air as it does which is then circulated round the house. Water from the gutters and paving is collected in an underground tank for recycling in the garden (just as soon as they get round to fitting a pump!). Whilst Kay and Chris have not compromised on the quality they want, it is clear that it would not be difficult to replicate much of this efficient construction using lower cost materials.

HEI AGM will be on 10th December at 8pm in The Gamecock. Do come if you want to learn more about what we have been doing and what we plan. We don't take these AGMs too seriously, certainly not after the first pint.

Now on to our wind turbine project...just joking.

Bob Sherman - 612277
shermanbob55@gmail.com



Harbury Heritage Room

As usual the Heritage Room, with its hundreds of Harbury-related documents and photos, is open on Tuesday 2nd December and Tuesday 6th January from 6.30-8.30pm. You are welcome to come and browse at your leisure. We would be delighted to see you.

We need three copies of the Harbury News to pass on to the County Records Office. Do you have any of these? Jan 1994 (no. 238), May 2003 (no. 350) or June 2008 (no. 410). Call 813765 or nigel.chapman@hotmail.co.uk

In January 1984, the oldest children at the school wrote thank-you letters to Father Christmas. The originals are in the Heritage Room. Here are some extracts to illustrate how things have changed!

Alison of Queens Close: Thank you also for the encyclopedia: it is really interesting and full of fascinating facts. It tells you things like who won the F.A. Cup in 1968, and things you can join.

Vincent of Pineham Avenue: The first present I opened was my James Bond watch which plays the James Bond theme music. It has got a stop-watch, day, date, light.

Martin of Constance Drive: My big sister had a personal hi-fi. On it was a radio, a cassette and a record player. I got a bike. It had got bent handle-bars and five speeds.

Clare of Frances Road: I like the pattern-printing set you gave me. The patterns are hard to make. The continental quilt is very warm and is easier to make than blankets.

Jonathan of Manor Farm, Ladbroke: I also got a digital watch which is a watch with buttons and it shows you the time in figures, and it does not have any arms.

Eloise of Harbury Lane, Upton: In my stocking I got some more chocolates "Yum! Yum!" but unfortunately I ate too many and I was sick. *(I'm sure Father Christmas needed to know that!)*

Darren of Church Terrace: I hope you enjoyed the brandy I gave you. I'm sorry, but Mum only had digestive biscuits. I also had a Lancaster bomber III aeroplane which took me two weeks to build. It also came with all the stickers.

Kathy of South Parade: they gave us our present between us. It was a soda stream. A soda stream is a fizzy drinks maker; you put bottles filled with water in it, then you pull the lever and press the button and that carbonates the water. Then you pour some concentrate in it and you have a fizzy drink.

Leonie of Margaret Close: I have watched my black and white portable tele every night till 11.00 and I keep forgetting to unplug it but I did today though.

Dylan of Farm Street: Thank you very much for the electronic game called Munchman which I enjoy playing anywhere since it is portable and has no lead and runs on batteries.

Nigel Chapman



World Challenge Fundraising Quiz – Friday 23rd January

CALLING ALL QUIZZERS! Join us in the Tom Hauley Room on Friday 23rd January (7:30pm for 8pm start) for my World Challenge Quiz.

£20 per team, with a maximum of four people per team, entrance includes a hot supper (please confirm if vegetarian). Bar and raffle available.

Help me raise funds for my World Challenge Expedition to Morocco in July 2015, where I will be helping to rebuild local schools.

Contact Jamie Hall to register your team on: 01926 614901, 07825 735737 or jamiehall137@gmail.com

Jamie Hall

A.G. Pirie

In last month's magazine, I asked for information about A.G. Pirie who is on the War Memorial in the church but not on the one in Crown Street. My thanks to Ray Padbury who helped me to solve the mystery by telling me that he is buried in Ufton churchyard and that he had died in 1923, too late to go on the Crown Street memorial.



I visited Ufton and soon found the grave of Allan Grant Pirie who was a lawyer in Aberdeen who became an officer in the Royal Warwickshire regiment and was wounded in 1917 at Beaumont-Hamel on the Somme. He died in Harbury in 1923. He is buried next to the renowned Dr James Pirie making it seem fairly certain they were related.

After further research I confirmed that they were brothers. They were both sons of James Pirie, a Chief Constable and his wife Mary. Allan was born in Elgin in 1883, the youngest of James and Mary's nine children and their seventh son. Dr James was the second son and seventeen years older than Allan.

Allan trained as a lawyer and practiced in Aberdeen. I do not know how he came to join the Warwickshires. He married Elizabeth Cruikshank in 1917 and they had a daughter Elizabeth in 1918. He died at Ashton House, Harbury on the 13th April, 1923 in the care of his brother. He was 39. The cause of death was osteosarcoma - bone cancer. He had had his left arm amputated in 1921 but developed secondary cancer in his lungs. At that time, previous trauma was thought to be the cause of bone cancer which is probably why his death was linked to his war service.

Sharon Hancock

Sheilaac Ncube from Zimbabwe

Over the years many of you have asked me and my late wife Sallie 'What ever happened to that little African girl that lived with you for a year and went to Harbury School?' Well now I can give you up to date news, in the form of a letter from Sheilaac herself.

For those of you who were not living in Harbury at the time, I should explain that Sheilaac was a young Zimbabwean girl with a facial disability whom we met when we were out there. Little could be done for her in her local hospital and we undertook to see if we could find treatment for her in the UK. We raised funds, went on TV, talked with consultants at the Birmingham Children's Hospital and with amazing generosity from so many people raised enough money to bring her to the UK and be treated in Birmingham. During the period of her treatment, which was over a couple of years, Sheilaac lived with us on Mill Street and attended Harbury School for about one year. After she went back to Zimbabwe we lost contact with her until we had this e-mail.

Colin Humphreys



It has been 19 years, almost 20 years since my last day of being a junior student at Harbury C of E School. I lived across the road from the school with my then foster parents, Sallie and Colin Humphreys. They were my foster parents during my years of living in Harbury, a small sweet scented village.

It was about four years ago that I reconnected with my foster parents; I talked to Sallie almost every other week on Facebook from then. As time went on she would tell me about her illness. Earlier this year my mother and I had agreed that I had to travel to the UK next year to see her. Our family was devastated to hear of Sallie's passing, especially before I could have seen her. Indeed she will always be a great part of my life. I hope she would be proud of the person I have become. Life has not been easy but the grace of God has carried me through.

I finished my Ordinary level and Advanced level education and went on to graduate with a Bachelor of Commerce Degree in Financial Management in the year 2011. That was indeed the greatest achievement of my life. In 2012 I decided to volunteer at a local Ngo (Non Governmental Organisation) which focuses on people living in rural areas. My volunteering was supposed to last one year, but after three months I was offered a job due to my dedication and hard work. I worked from contract to contract for almost three years up to March of this year. Working at an Ngo was a very fulfilling job as I got to travel to various rural areas, to experience different cultures and, of course,

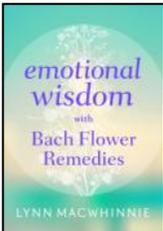
bring relief to the most under privileged and socio-economically disadvantaged population in our region.

I am so grateful to all those people who came together to give me a fair chance in life by bringing me to the UK, helping me get an operation and go to school. I am and will forever be awed at the kindness that exists in some pockets of humanity. And to the Humphrey family that took me into their own home as their own child, words cannot express my gratitude. I gained many cherished memories from being part of a family full of love.

I still reminisce about the sweet breeze of Spring, which would bring forth buttercup flowers, I was always so fascinated by bright yellow buttercup flowers. I still have memories of being in class or on the playground with my classmates Alison Shepherd, Elizabeth, Nadia Naidoo, Sophie and Edward Flemming, just to mention a few. I remember Mrs Beckly the old lady that stayed down the road, where Sallie would take me for a cup of tea. And the shop, by the corner, where I used to go and buy ice cream. And of course Moira our next door neighbour, she taught me the love of art. These all being fond memories of when I was "little Sheilaac".

And all the people who were so sweet and kind in Harbury, I truly miss them all, even 20 years later!

Sheilaac Ncube



Stress free Christmas?

The lead-up to Christmas can have its stressful moments. Would you like to remain calm and enjoy the holidays? If so, you might like to read a little e-book (with 38 colour photographs), *Emotional Wisdom with Bach Flower Remedies* by Lynn Macwhinnie, a local author. Her book provides an introduction to the simple, self-help Bach healing system that helps us restore balance to our moods and emotions. The remedies were discovered in the 1930s by Dr Edward Bach, a surgeon and bacteriologist, and are used worldwide. The book is garnering excellent reviews on Amazon, can be downloaded to a Kindle or tablet, and is also available through the library.

Lynn Macwhinnie

Gutter Cleaning

We should like to point out that the gutter cleaning company referred to in last month's letters section is based a long way outside of Harbury and Ladbroke, and is NOT Linden McDonald's Outside Cleaning Direct, which is based in Harbury.

Editors



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editors

I wish to say how comforted I have been on receiving so many cards and flowers since Peter's death on the 24th October and for all the support, kindness and help from our friends and neighbours. Peter was able to stay at home as he wished, with our family around him and with the support and nursing of the Community Nurses. Thank you.

Margaret, Alison and Stuart Barnes



Dear Editors

Thank you so much Harbury for your contributions to Entrust Care Partnership at the recent coffee morning. We raised £133 which will be spent directly on providing services for disabled children, young people and their families. Your generosity of spirit is much appreciated.

Want to know more about the organisation? Please check out our website www.entrustcarepartnership.org.uk or contact Lynne Barton on 01926 612748.

Kind regards and thank you again.

**Lynne Barton - Director
Entrust Care Partnership**



Dear Editors

Coffee Morning for MSF's Ebola Appeal

Thank you to the many people who supported the Coffee Morning on 21st November. Thank you for all the gifts of bric-a-brac, DVD's and books. Thank you for the array of raffle prizes. Thank you for all the delicious cakes and preserves. Thank you to my fantastic team of helpers. Above all thank you to everyone who came to spend money on the day and to the many people who made generous donations. As a result, I have sent the amazing sum of £1610.28 to Médecins Sans Frontières. I know they will make wonderful use of this money. The unsold books went to Oxfam and the bric-a-brac went to Save the Children so they too will benefit from the kindness of this community.

Sharon Hancock

Dear Editors

The Harbury Pre-School FRG would like to express their sincere thanks to all those who supported the Coffee Morning on 1st November. We are thrilled to report that we raised £284.53, and this will certainly be put to good use within our Pre-School.

Thank you again, and we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Harbury Pre-School Fund Raising Group

x

**Dear Editors**

Quite a few people will have become used to seeing me practising Tai Chi in the library car park. Occasionally this involves using one of two exercise swords or a long stick. A few weeks ago someone viewing me from a vantage point clearly felt a little alarmed by this and alerted the police. Please be assured that I am not training for jihad. These 'weapons' are purely exercise aids and have a long tradition of entirely peaceful use in China. The straight sword is a particular favourite for older women!

I have stopped practicing with the swords for now but would quite like to return to this training in due course, as I have an advanced exam to take in 2015 as part of my role as a teacher. If anyone specifically has a concern, please let me know by email: shermanbob55@gmail.com or by phone: 612277.

**Bob Sherma****Dear Editors**

Earlier this year, I picked up a "Nectar" card which had been dropped on the pavement opposite Harbury Library.

Having made exhaustive enquires around the village, I have as yet been unable to find anyone who recognises the signature on the card, so I have been unable to return it to its owner.

Whilst still hoping to come across the owner I have been using the card when doing my own shopping, in order to give the owner's Nectar points a boost.

Since there is now a fair amount of money saved on the card, the owner may be pleased to have the benefit of this for Christmas, so I wonder if you might

please help by asking your readers to contact Harbury Parish Council office at 2 Bull Ring Business Centre, Church Terrace, Harbury, 01926 614646, if they know who the owner of the card might be.

In the meantime I shall continue to add points to the card.

E Wells



BOOKINGS FOR		
HARBURY SCOUT HUT	HARBURY VILLAGE CLUB CONCERT ROOM	HARBURY VILLAGE HALL
Debbie Dimmock Tel: 612036 debbie@dimmock.org.uk	(evenings) Tel: 612498 harburyvillageclub@hotmail.co.uk	Celia Neill Tel: 612819 harburyvillagehall@googlemail.com
HARBURY VILLAGE LIBRARY	TOM HAULEY ROOM HARBURY	THR COFFEE MORNINGS
Sarah Sherman Tel: 612277 hvlbookings@gmail.com	Sally Stringer Tel: 613214 sal.47@hotmail.co.uk	Sally Stringer Tel: 613214 sal.47@hotmail.co.uk

**January 2015 Edition - Harbury & Ladbroke
News**

**Adverts to: 31 Binswood End, Harbury or
e-mail to advertising@hlnews.co.uk by 15th
December**

**Articles to: Harbury Pharmacy, High Street,
Harbury or e-mail to articles@hlnews.co.uk by
5.30pm Wednesday 23rd December**

**Dates for inclusion in the Harbury Diary please
to: Linda Ridgley - Tel 612792**



Seasons Greetings



HARBURY SURGERY MILL STREET, HARBURY

Surgery opening hours:

Monday to Friday 8.30am - 12.30pm and 1.30 - 6.30pm

Appointments can be made by telephoning 612232 or calling in at reception.

For out of hours emergency service call: 111

www.harburysurgery.org.uk

JEWELLERY WORKSHOPS

Available in Harbury

One to One

Please call Sarah on

01926 612803

****Jewellery was on show during Warwickshire Open Studios fortnight****

O|C|D

your property - our standards

Outside Cleaning Direct

professional external surface
restoration and maintenance for
domestic and commercial
properties.

freephone: 0800 7725411
mobile: 07714 791371
email: info@outsidecleaningdirect.com

New venture hopes to clean-up in Harbury

Outside Cleaning Direct has big plans: to banish smelly wheelie bins, keep your gutters flowing and return the patios and driveways of Harbury to their former glory.

With industrial-strength cleaning equipment that's tested and proven on block paving, slabs, tarmac and many other external surfaces, OCD deliver outstanding results every time.

They're also offering Harbury residents a regular collect, clean and return service for smelly wheelie bins on the first and second Thursday of every month.

So, whether you're disappointed by the appearance of your driveway or overcome by wheelie bin fumes, call Outside Cleaning Direct on 0800 7723411 or 07714 791371 for a free, no obligation quote.



The Crown Inn

at Harbury

NEIL AND MICHELLE

welcome all new and old customers to the Crown Inn

RE-OPENING

The bar re-opened on Friday 28th November

RESTAURANT

With the restaurant open from
Saturday 29th November
where we will be serving a classic pub menu.

SUNDAY LUNCH

Traditional Roast served 12.00 noon - 8.00pm

NEW MENU

A new menu is under preparation and will be
available from 1st December

Monday to Saturday

Bar Snacks available from 12.00 noon - 9.00pm

Restaurant open 5.00 - 9.00pm

LIVE MUSIC ON SATURDAY NIGHTS

*We also offer full outside catering services by our
company Faringtons Catering Limited*

The Crown Inn, Crown Street, Harbury, CV33 9HE - Phone 01926 614995

www.crowninnharbury.co.uk



www.facebook.com/thecrowninn

canda health
www.time2feelamazing.com

Do you have or know someone who has.....

- *Colds and congestion *Stress tension *Sinusitis
- *Headaches and migraine *Frozen shoulder *Insomnia
- *Sciatica *Depression *Cramps
- *Muscular aches and pains *Backache
- *Sports injuries *Poor circulation
- *Pregnancy aches and pains *Earache?

Or someone who just deserves a rest and some time out?

Then we can help you! With our specialist medical spa treatments, tailor made to suit whatever you need and make you feel better.....

Ask about our exclusive Spa days at Henley-in-Arden

.....
 10% off gift vouchers, gift packs, spa days and personalised oil blends

Amy-Elle 07872 175687
 amyrobinson@live.co.uk

Mireille 01926 613097

Christian 07711 344905
 christian597@hotmail.com

Designed & created especially for you by Amy Elle
 & those trained by Amy Elle only.



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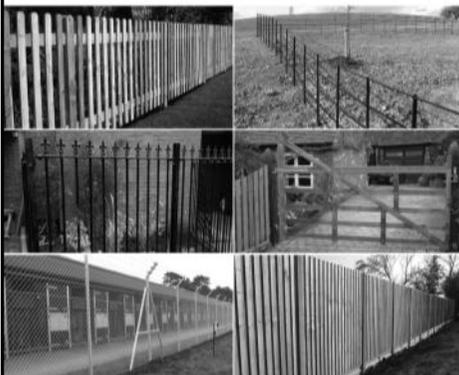
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Tues	Studio 1 Studio 2	Prima Ballerinas 3-4yrs 4.00pm - 4.30pm	Pre Syllabus Ballet 5-6yrs 4.30pm - 5.15pm	Pre-Primary Ballet 6-8yrs 5.15pm - 6.00pm	Primary Ballet 8-9yrs 6.00pm - 6.45pm	Grade 5 Ballet 15 yrs 6.45pm - 8.00pm	LoveDance 14yrs+ (Commercial, Street Jazz, Contemporary) 7.00pm - 8.30pm	Pointe Work Class 8.30pm - 9.00pm	GCSE Dance Yr 10 & Yr 11
Weds	Mini Movers (0-5 yrs) 10.00am - 11.00am			Grade 1 Tap 10-11yrs 4.30pm - 5.15pm	Grade 2 Tap 11yrs+ 5.15pm - 6.00pm	Adult Tap (Inter) 6.45pm - 7.45pm		Zumba 7.45pm - 8.45pm	
Thurs	Zumba Over 50's 10.00am - 11.00am	Funky Dance 3-6yrs 4.00pm - 4.30pm	Gymnastics (all ages) 4.30pm - 5.00pm	Grade 1 Ballet 10-11yrs 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Funky / Modern 7-10yrs 5.45pm - 6.30pm	Grade 2 Ballet 11-13yrs 6.30pm - 7.15pm	Grade 2 Modern 15 yrs+ 6.00pm - 7.00pm	Grade 2 Modern 13 yrs+ 7.00pm - 7.45pm	Adult Ballet (no exp req) 7.45pm - 8.45pm
Fri	Mini Movers 0-5yrs 10.00am - 11.00am		Little Tappers 3-5yrs 4.45pm - 5.15pm	Pre-Primary Tap 6-8yrs 5.15pm - 6.00pm	Primary Tap 8-10yrs 6.00pm - 6.45pm				
Sat	Musical Theatre 4-8yrs 9.00am - 10.30am		Grade 3 Ballet 14yrs+ 4.30pm - 5.15pm						

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