

Harbury & Ladbroke News

Is published monthly and reflects all aspects of local life.

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Editorial Team

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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



Daffodils in Temple End

The unseasonably mild weather is playing confusion with the plants and as our editorial photograph shows, daffodils in sheltered spots are in full bloom. John Hancock and Judy Morrall's articles both refer to species that are in flower at the moment. Whilst we have had a lot of rain in the last few weeks, we have been fortunate not to have suffered any serious flooding. There have however been some very large puddles in both villages.

We are sorry to say good bye to the Cana Shop; although the business will continue online. Villagers will miss not only the shop, but also Libby's artistic seasonal window displays.

Harbury Diary

JANUARY 2016

- Fri 8 Dandy Development Music Movement, 9.15am in Village Hall
New Year Dance in Village Hall
- Sat 9 Coffee Morning, 10.00am-12.00 noon in Tom Hauley Room in aid of The Tom Hauley Room
- Sun 10 BAPTISM OF CHRIST/EPIPHANY I**
Holy Communion, 8.00am
Sung Eucharist, 10.30am
Messy Church, 3.00-5.00pm
Zumba, 9.00am in Village Hall
- Mon 11 Toddler Group restarts, 9.30-11.15am in Wight School
Adult Upholstery, 9.15am in Village Hall
- Tues 12 Pilates, 9.30am in Village Hall
Junior Theatre Group, 6.30pm, Village Hall
Holy Communion, 7.30pm

- Wed 13 Wednesday Walkers, meet 9.40am, Village Hall Car Park - Emscote Tesco to Jephson with coffee at café (4 miles)
Holiday at Home Away Day, 10.00am-4.00pm in Tom Hauley Room
Inspire Dance, 4.00pm in Village Hall
Ballroom Dancing, 7.30pm in Village Hall
- Thurs 14 Holy Communion, 9.45am, followed by coffee
Harbury W.I., 7.45pm in Tom Hauley Room – Jane Hiron:
The Dogs Trust
- Fri 15 Consultation on draft Neighbourhood Plan ends
Dandy Development Music Movement, 9.15am Village Hall
ADVERTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE TO 31 BINSWOOD END, HARBURY OR EMAIL ADVERTISING@HLNEWS.CO.UK
- Sat 16 Coffee Morning, 10.00am-12.00 noon in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Mothers' Union
Harbury Village Cinema presents 'Suffragette': doors open 6.30pm, film starts 7.00pm (see advert)
- Sun 17 EPIPHANY II**
Holy Communion, 8.00am
Family Communion Service, 10.30am
Evensong, 6.00pm
Zumba, 9.00am in Village Hall
- Mon 18 Adult Upholstery, 9.15am in Village Hall
- Tues 19 Pilates, 9.30am in Village Hall
Junior Theatre Group, 6.30pm Village Hall
Holy Communion, 7.30pm
- Wed 20 Wednesday Walkers, meet 9.40am Village Hall Car Park - Long Itchington to Stockton (4 miles)
Connections (Dementia Café), 2.00pm in Harbury Village Library
Inspire Dance, 4.00pm in Village Hall
Ballroom Dancing, 7.30pm in Village Hall
- Thurs 21 Holy Communion, 9.45am, followed by coffee
- Fri 22 Dandy Development Music Movement, 9.15am, Village Hall
Southam Rotary/Harbury NSPPC Burns Night, 7.30pm in Village Hall
- Sat 23 Coffee Morning, 10.00am-12.00 noon in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Twinning Association
- Sun 24 EPIPHANY III**
Holy Communion, 8.00am
Sung Eucharist, 10.30am
Zumba, 9.30am in Village Hall
- Mon 25 Adult Upholstery, 9.15am in Village Hall
- Tues 26 Pilates, 9.30am in Village Hall
Junior Theatre Group, 6.30pm Village Hall
Holy Communion, 7.30pm

- Wed 27 Wednesday Walkers, meet 9.40am Village Hall Car Park -
Sawbridge to Braunston (4½ miles)
Pleasant Pastimes, 2.00-4.00 pm, Tom Hauley Room
Inspire Dance, 4.00pm in Village Hall
Ballroom Dancing, 7.30pm in Village Hall
- Thurs 28 Holy Communion, 9.45 am, followed by coffee
ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE TO: HARBURY PHARMACY,
HIGH ST OR EMAIL TO ARTICLES@HLNEWS.CO.UK BY
Parish Council, 7.30pm in Village Hall
- Fri 29 Dandy Development Music Movement, 9.15am Village Hall
WI New Year Party, 7.00pm for 7.30pm in Village Hall
- Sat 30 Coffee Morning, 10.00am-12.00 noon in Tom Hauley Room in aid
of Children's Emergency Air Ambulance
Harbury Folk Club, The Sixties Concert, 7.30-10.00pm in
Village Hall
- Sun 31 EPIPHANY IV**
Holy Communion, 8.00am
Sung Eucharist, 10.30am
Zumba, 9.30am in Village Hall

FEBRUARY

- Mon 1 Adult Upholstery, 9.15am in Village Hall
- Tues 2 Holy Communion, 7.30pm
Harbury Heritage Room, open 6.30-8.30pm at the School
Horticultural Society, 8.00pm, Tom Hauley Room Dr John Page -
Four Great RHS Gardens, Hyde Hall, Harlow Carr, Rosemoor &
Wisley
- Wed 3 Wednesday Walkers, meet 9.40am, Village Hall Car Park -
Hampton Lucy to Wasperton (3½ miles flat)
Holy Communion, 2.00pm
Mothers' Union Meeting, 2.30pm, Tom Hauley Room
- Thurs 4 Holy Communion, 9.45am, followed by coffee
Folk Club, 8.00pm in Village Club
- Sat 6 Coffee Morning, 10.00am-12.00 noon in Tom Hauley Room in aid
of Harbury Theatre Group
- Sun 7 THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT**
Sung Eucharist, 9.00am
Little Saints' Service, 10.30am, followed by food & refreshments
Taizé Service, 6.00pm
- Tues 9 Holy Communion, 7.30pm
- Wed 10 Wednesday Walkers, meet 9.40am Village Hall Car Park -
Cropredy with optional pub lunch (3 or 5 miles)
Holiday at Home Away Day, 10.00am-4.00pm in
Tom Hauley Room
ASH WEDNESDAY
N.B. Service at Ladbroke, 7.30pm

Refuse Collection Rota

	Deppers Bridge	Harbury, Ladbroke & Deppers Bridge outlying properties	Collection Week
January	Wed	Fri	
	13	15	Green & Blue Lid Bins
	20	22	Grey Bin
	27	29	Green & Blue Lid Bins
Feb	3	5	Grey Bin
	10	12	Green & Blue Lid Bins
	17	19	Grey Bin

	<h3>From the Rector</h3>	Reverend Craig Grocock
All Saints HARBURY	The Rectory, Vicarage Lane, Harbury ☎612377 ✉ kankudai43@aol.co.uk	

‘Consider yourself part of the family!’

New Year is the time when we think about the future and in particular the year to come. People still make resolutions in an aim to make the coming year better than the last. Among the more popular resolutions are: getting fit, seeing more of friends, watching less TV and eating healthily. We like the ‘clean sheet’ that New Year offers us for we all like the chance to start again in some way.

Church is one of the few (if only) communities left in our society now where all members, irrespective of their background, class or financial status are accepted for just what they are. I remember in a previous church once seeing a millionaire sat on the same pew as a man on benefits; after the service they shared time together chatting, it was truly remarkable. But this is what church is about. It’s not about cliques or in some way having to be ‘holy’ (whatever that means anyway!) before you attend. Church is a community of ordinary people who want to be together as equals under God.

My friend Mike Hare often plays the song ‘Consider Yourself’ from the musical ‘Oliver’ at Baptisms, which reminds parents and their children that they are one of us now and part of our family. It a lovely thing to do but says everything about why we are here.

Why not be a part of us this year? You are all so very welcome to join our community. You don’t have to be ‘holy’ enough, you don’t need to know much

about God, and it doesn't matter if you have doubts and struggle with faith. Community is about being in this together, helping and loving each other.

Do get in touch if you want to make church part of 2016. Give me a call and I'll pop round for a cup of tea and a natter. If you prefer, simply turn up to one of our services – it would be wonderful to see you.

Prayers and best wishes for a peaceful and Godly New Year.

	<h2>From the Churchwardens</h2>	<p>Elaine & John</p>
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Advent and Christmas 2015 were of course a very eventful period for us – and first of all we would like to give a huge thank you to everyone who was involved in or contributed to the many services and various events that were organised throughout December. We truly have a fantastic community spirit here in Harbury and it was lovely to see so many of you during this period.

And after such a hectic time, we thought that we would all benefit by having the opportunity to experience some calm and peace – so our theme for January's Saints Alive will be 'Stillness' where, in God's presence, we can rest and renew, ready for the challenges of the coming year.

Moving on to other things - Good news on the Memorial Garden front!

The Chancellor has granted our petition to propose the creation of the new memorial garden and we will now be forging ahead with plans. A further update will be provided in a separate article so keep your eyes peeled. Huge thanks to everyone involved in the project!

And finally, John and Elaine wish all of you a blessed and peaceful 2016 as we look forward to another very busy year here at All Saints.

<http://www.allsaintsharbury.org>

	<h2>Mothers' Union</h2>	<p>Gillian Hare</p>
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Advent began for several of our members with a diocesan service at St Nicholas' Church, Kenilworth. Very appropriately in this unsettled age, it focussed on the work of reconciliation undertaken by the community of the Cross of Nails. Founded as an immediate response to the destruction of Coventry Cathedral in the Blitz, it is a network of churches and organisations which share a common commitment to work and pray for peace, justice and reconciliation, and Coventry Mothers' Union are honoured to be received into membership. Our Diocesan President, Diana Sliwinski, was presented with a cross of nails. We were also pleased to meet Canon Roy Brown, on his last

duty before retiring as our chaplain and his wife Pam – for many years our branch leader in Harbury.

Advent continued as the theme of our December meeting. After a communion led by both Craig and Nikki, we looked towards Christmas with a most interesting presentation by Trisha Harrison. Aided by some well chosen pictures, she talked about many of the objects associated with Christmas traditions. She had unearthed all sorts of bits of history, fact and fiction, together with readings ranging from humorous to thought-provoking. A happy afternoon finished with mince pies made by our leader, Chris. Delicious!

Since then we have run the toiletries stall at the successful Christmas Fair and may have had our New Year party – it depends when you read this!

If not too late: a reminder that the party is on Wednesday 6th January at 2.30pm for games, music and tea. Please bring a bran tub gift to the value of £2.

A reminder that Sue Field would be grateful for your subs and that we are running the coffee morning on 16th January. Raffle prizes and cakes will be gratefully received.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 3rd February, 2pm for communion and 2.30pm for the meeting. Trisha Harrison is again leading us, this time as a preparation for Lent – hasn't that come quickly! As ever, visitors are most welcome.

And your committee wishes everyone a happy New Year, full of blessings.

Ladbroke News & Diary

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

JANUARY

Sun 10 Christmas III

Holy Communion (sung), 9.00am

Tues 12 Photography Club New Year's Meal at The Bell Inn

Fri 15 ADVERTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE TO 31 BINSWOOD END, HARBURY OR EMAIL ADVERTISING@HLNEWS.CO.UK

Sat 16 Whist Drive, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sun 17 Christmas IV

Wed 20 Table Tennis, 7.00 - 8.00pm, Village Hall

Sat 23 Whist Drive, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sun 24 Christmas V

Holy Communion (sung), 9.00am

Wed 27 Table Tennis, 7.00 - 8.00pm, Village Hall

Thurs 28 ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE TO: HARBURY PHARMACY, HIGH ST OR EMAIL TO ARTICLES@HLNEWS.CO.UK BY

Sat 30 Whist Drive, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sun 31 Christmas VI

Holy Communion (said), 9.00am

FEBRUARY

Tues 2 Photography Club - Illustrated talk by Gray and Nicky Lewis on their recent trip to Easter Island and Southern Chile - visitors welcome, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Wed 3 Table Tennis, 7.00 - 8.00pm, Village Hall

Thurs 4 WI - Talk on a visit to India with Save the Children - visitors welcome, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Fri 5 Film Night, doors open 7.00pm, Village Hall

Sat 6 Whist Drive, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sun 7 Last Sunday before Lent

Family Communion, 10.30am, followed by refreshments

Wed 10 Table Tennis, 7.00 - 8.00pm, Village Hall

Sun 14 Lent 1

Holy Communion (sung), 9.00am

**Ladbroke Church News****Jackie West**

During Advent Mary and Joseph went on their Posada in and around Ladbroke, giving friends and neighbours an excuse to spend a little time together as the figures were handed over from home to home. During their travels they made special appearances at St James' School, Southam and at Beer and Carols at The Bell Inn before arriving safely at the church's Nativity scene on Christmas Eve joined by baby Jesus, shepherds and angels and an awful lot of animals retrieved from their hiding places around church by the children attending the Crib Service. Once again a big thank you to Huw and the team at the pub for hosting Beer & Carols and for Kate on her keyboard, Allan for providing technical back up and of course all the carollers who came and sang so heartily.



There are lots more photos on the village website ladbroke-pc.org.uk in the photo gallery. It was good practice for our traditional Carol Service, the following Sunday which was wonderful. We are so grateful for all the work

that Bill, Kate and the choir put in to bring such lovely music to All Saints; thanks too to Sue L. and everyone who helped with the mulled wine and mince pies which rounded off the evening.

Christmas morning was an early start for our bellringers as we had the 9am service this year. We really appreciate Keith and the team for ringing out the bells before the family and special services, even if it does mean that it's time for the rest of us to get a move on! Our thanks go too to the flower arrangers who once again decorated the church so well and to the Collins family who provided the tree. Our biggest thanks go of course to Revs. Craig, Nikki and Ann for leading our services and their support throughout the year, we are blessed to have three such enthusiastic, compassionate and caring ministers.

Finally, you may remember that our banners went off for restoration. The first, depicting Christ the King, is now back in church. Next month I'll tell you a little more about the work involved and the skilled ladies who, in effect, remade it to the original design.

Ladbroke Flower Rota

10 th & 17 th January	Val Copley
24 th & 31 st January	Carole Loftus
7 th February	Sue Lord



	<h3>Ladbroke Parish Council</h3>	<p>Jackie West</p>
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The meeting on 9th December was attended by not one but two parish clerks. Councillor Batty thanked Jane Cove for her support over the last 7½ years and welcomed Kirsty Buttle to the role. The Clerk's contact details are now **ladbrokepc@outlook.com**, tel: 01295 275372. Kirsty is Clerk to several other parish councils and to avoid a clash, Ladbroke meetings will move to the second Wednesday of the relevant months, except January 2016 which will be on 6th, due to availability of the Village Hall.

The minutes are put on the village website **ladbroke-pc.org.uk** as well as a hard copy being placed on the notice board near the pub. What follows are the key points from my perspective.

Defibrillator: Following up on concerns that the ambulance response might be slower if Ladbroke had a defibrillator, assurances had been received from three different emergency sources that it will not impact on any request for 999 services. The lottery grant has been confirmed and purchase of the defibrillator is to be organised. Since the Alibone Trust does not need to

contribute to the cost of the equipment they will would look favourably on any request to fund training for villagers.

Neighbourhood Plan: it was suggested that a village meeting is organised in January to see how many people are interested in progressing this.

Precept & Banking: after discussion it was agreed for the Ladbroke precept to be kept at £5000 again. The Clerk will write to HSBC regarding the planned closure of its Southam Branch in March 2016.

Planning: An outline planning application had been submitted for a field "off" Windmill Lane for change of use from paddock to residential curtilage and erect one house - concerns were raised regarding flooding in this area and the access which is directly off the A423. SDC had refused the variation to remove holiday home restrictions for three cottages at Manor Farm but the inspector granted it for two of these on appeal and tree works at 7 Hedges Close were approved.

Memorial at the North Entrance of the Village: a letter of complaint about this was read out and discussed.

Highways & Footpaths: Highways have infilled with stone the road edges along Harbury Road (near Deppers Bridge) and the area is due for resurfacing by the end of this financial year. Highways will contact the person responsible for all the mud on the road to remind them it is their responsibility to clear up the mess. Highways will be contacted about the broken reflector on the island at the north entrance to the village and also about damage caused by a hunt coming through the village (broken barriers) and by quad bikes (verges). The footpath leading to Windmill Lane has been cleared and the stiles removed, with the agreement of WCC, but these will be replaced with gates if it is a problem.

Wall Bros have applied for a Goods Vehicle Operating Licence in regard to driving up Ladbroke Hill Lane. A letter will be sent to the Traffic Commissioner stating the unsuitability of such traffic on this narrow country lane and the inadequacy of the gateway for lorries turning into the property.

SDC: The district budget proposals are being considered, it is expected that council tax will be frozen for the fifth consecutive year.

Dates of 2016 meetings: 6th January, 9th March, 13th April (Annual Village Meeting), 11th May, 13th July, 14th September, 9th November.



**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

The Annual Christmas Social Evening was held on Monday 7th December and was hosted by Sue Moore - with a rude, nude turkey on her head! By popular demand the curling set was hired again and the best of 3 games was played between the right side and the left side of the hall. The left side won pretty convincingly but had the unfair advantage of having Pam Collins's competitive teenage granddaughter on their team! Margaret spared the feelings of the losing team when she stated that 'the winner overall was a jolly good evening'!

We had all contributed to the variety of savoury and sweets which followed and they were accompanied by delicious wine, mixed and mulled by Pam.



The next meeting is on the first Thursday in January which is the 7th at 7.30pm and it will be a musical evening. Come and see and hear for yourself. Visitors are always most welcome. The following meeting on 4th February will be a talk on a visit to India with Save the Children; again we welcome non-members interested in the topic, men included!



Ladbroke Matters

David Wright

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 offer both of these resources for the benefit of our community.



Our **Christmas Extravaganza** last month was well attended, fun-filled, and included a World Premiere! See page 14 for a full report.

Having been asked when our next film night will be, we can now reveal that it is scheduled for **Friday 5th February** - so please put the date in your diary now and we will have further details available very soon.



Here is a summary of our AGM held on 30th November:



- Maintenance of the hall undertaken during the year, in addition to general cleaning and upkeep, included refurbishment of the kitchen; replacing window panes; and installing a new 'welcome' counter.
- A new sound system and digital projector have been installed in the hall with generous assistance from Tracy Lochhead and Allan Ballard.
- During January 2016 the hall roof will be replaced and insulated. The work should take no longer than a week to complete. Later this year we plan to improve access to the toilets for wheelchair users.
- The 'kissing gate' at the entrance to the Millennium Green has been replaced to provide better access for buggies, prams, and wheelchairs. The new gate was provided free of charge by Warwickshire County Council.
- Other maintenance of the green during the year included layering the boundary hedges and re-laying of the concrete slabs in the play area.
- Although they both come under the auspices of Ladbroke Matters, separate banking accounts are held for the Village Hall and the Millennium Green as they are two separate charities. The combined total balance in general funds as at 30 September 2015 was just under £48,500

Detailed accounts and minutes are available from the Trustees.

If you would like to join our team, have any suggestions for future events, or any other comments please contact the trustees (details on the Ladbroke website).

Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Club

Draw for November 2015

£50	Margaret Bosworth	£50	Jo Rose
£25	Peter Baker	£25	Sheena Healey
£25	Carol and Peter Loftus	£10	Colin and Kay Constable
£10	Cyril Spence	£10	Angela Coleman
£10	Rob Kendall	£10	Graham and Pauline Long

Thank you to all our supporters. Wishing you all a happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful 2016.

Margaret Bosworth



When our members are set a topic we know from experience that we shall see some unexpected results. In December the topic was "People". The results were sometimes dramatic, sometimes heart warming, always interesting. Some were more unexpected though, like the examples shown here, with the striking look of the child and the distribution of the workers on the scaffolding - almost like a set for a musical.



***Left: Child by Tony Lorimer
Right: Scaffolders by William Moore***

We had two illustrated talks by members. Kip Warr showed photographs from the Lake District, with mountains, rivers, big skies and even ancient stone circles. Mike Todman had been on a photography trip to the Dolomites and showed us images of precipitous mountainous scenery, a dramatic high dam, twisting roads and snow that vanished overnight.

In January we shall have our annual pub dinner and in February the Lewis' will tell us about their recent trip to South America. As usual, visitors and guests will be welcome. For more information about the club and our programme see our website (tinyurl.com/ladbrokephoto) or contact jackieszone-photogclub@yahoo.co.uk.





Ladbroke General Section

Music World Premiere in Ladbroke!!

On an unseasonably warm Saturday night before Christmas about 70 of us gathered together in the village hall for our Christmas Party. As we arrived there was the usual Christmas background music being played, and we took our seats at tables and benches around the hall.

At around 8.15pm the headline act took to the stage - a five-piece combo called 'The Gamblers'. I had it on good authority (from Clive the lead singer) that this was a World Premiere gig and that the band had not even rehearsed together before. So we had Clive on vocals; Steve on lead guitar; Kevin on rhythm guitar (and keys); Andy on bass guitar; and another Andy on drums. As soon as they launched into their opening number, Steppenwolf's 'Born to be Wild', we knew they were going to be good! By the middle of the first set, we were itching to dance but the tables were in the way.



Left hand picture: Kevin & Clive. Right hand picture: Andy, Steve and Andy joined by Andy Pittaway

They took a breather at nine whilst we were served delicious pork and stuffing rolls prepared by Clive's wife Angie and her team. Once we had finished eating and the raffle prizes had all been distributed, the tables were taken away (hurrah!) so that we could get up and dance to the Gamblers' second set. Again they didn't disappoint, playing mostly upbeat 60's and 70's R&B and pop tunes which we couldn't help dancing to.

Ladbroke's resident harmonica player, Andy Pittaway (another Andy!), just happened to have brought his instrument along with him to the party and joined The Gamblers in an energetic and animated version of Chuck Berry's

'Johnny B Goode' much to the delight of us all. He joined them on stage again in one of their encore numbers – Free's 'All Right Now'.

After the band had finished, we all left the hall in good spirits, but with aching feet from all the dancing. We are extremely grateful to Clive Coleman for putting the band together, his wife Angie for arranging the catering and both of them for masterminding the event. Thanks must also go to Allan Ballard for the sound and lighting; Martin & Debra Neal for looking after the bar; Carole Lane for organising the raffle; David Wright for being MC for the evening; and all the others who helped with decorating the hall, and during the evening.

Ladd Brooke

What happened to the Rapanui?

The big screen in Ladbroke Village Hall will be taken over on **Tuesday 2nd February** by Gray and Nicky Lewis who will give an illustrated talk on their recent trip to Easter Island and Southern Chile (Patagonia, Chiloe and the Lake District). This long thin country has some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. The glaciers, volcanoes, lakes and pristine rain forests of Patagonia are very remote, beautiful and unique; Chiloe has remnants of indigenous Indian culture with traditional architectural styles and textiles; the Lake District bridges Argentina and Chile with spectacular mountains and lakes round every corner. Easter Island too, is fascinating with its huge Moai statues and troubled history.....did the Rapanui people really cut down all the trees? If you like geography (there will be lots of maps!), scenery, wildlife and want a flavour of this wonderful country, come along on 2nd Februaryand they'll also tell you what really happened to the Rapanui.

This meeting of Ladbroke Photography Club is **open to everyone** who is interested in hearing about Gray and Nicky's travels and seeing their great photos. Ladbroke Village Hall doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. No need to book, though the club would appreciate the usual £2 fee from visitors and refreshments will be available.

Jackie West

	<h2>Harbury Women's Institute</h2>	<p>Jeanne Beaumont</p>
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As you read this report, I do hope that all readers had a happy Christmas plus a healthy one. There was a super band of helpers who planted over 100 daffodils in the grounds of the Village Hall to commemorate the 100 year centenary of the W.I. The helpers appreciated the refreshments afterwards. It is hoped there will be another planting in three year's time when it will be the Harbury W.I.'s centenary.

The members' New Year party is on Friday 29th January at the Village Hall, 7.00-7.30pm start. Bring your own drink and glasses please.

We held an enjoyable December meeting with wine, mince pies, presents and good company. The speaker, Rebecca Probert topped it all with "Sex, Elopements and Clandestine Marriages in the long 18th Century". Well, won't go into detail, but will mention about the Cecil family of Burghley House, Essex especially Henry Cecil. We think modern day marriages are a handful at times but Henry's could beat them. Talk about Essex girls (but would rather not!). We thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

A happy New Year to you all.

January meeting at the Tom Hauley Room: Thursday 14th January, 7.45pm.
Speaker: Jane Hiron – Dogs Trust.



Harbury Theatre Group

Keith Hayes

How many of you were privileged to see the show put on by our junior group in December? Tickets were limited and not many were available to the general public after Mums, Dads, Grandmothers and Granddads, Uncles and Aunties had claimed theirs, so if you did get in you were one of the lucky ones. If you didn't get in I can tell you that you missed a treat. Well done to Joy, Emily and Katie, the children were a credit to you. The show you put on was a credit to the name of Harbury Theatre Group. You made me proud to be associated with it.

From January onwards they will be getting ready to perform in our Pantomime. All of the current group who want to be in it will be found a place. If what I saw in December is anything to go by, it will make the Panto magical. Which brings me back to my favourite subject at the moment - the Panto. Have I mentioned "Sleeping Beauty" to you before? I probably have but at the risk of boring you, I am going to mention it again. (Performance dates 25th, 26th and 27th of February, tickets on sale from 23rd January at Muggleston's or phone 01926 613488). As I write this, the cast have just broken up for their Christmas break. They have been working hard but it gets even more difficult from now on, I have asked them to put down all scripts from January onwards. This is a difficult time for me too. Up to this point, it has been starting to look like a good show but it will all nose dive from now on as they struggle to put feeling into scenes at the same time as remembering their lines. I would find this point very depressing if I hadn't seen it all before. Luckily I know they will soon get through it and we will be back on track. We always try to put on a good show for our village audience but this year we have an even greater incentive, the authors, Bob Heather and Cheryl Barrett, have asked if they can come and see it on the Saturday night. Now that is pressure!

Finally I must mention what comes after. In December we had a very nice pre-Christmas social at the house of Sue and Andrew Lawrence. We chatted, we drank and we nibbled at some very tasty canapés and a good evening was had by all who attended. However, some of us also sat down and read a script that Sue had found for us. It was hilariously funny and we have decided to put it on for our May production. Do watch this space for future details. Then, in June, Harbury Theatre Group is hoping to host the ACT Drama Festival. A three day event with three one act plays each night. It is well worth clearing your diary for that one and coming to all three nights. More details to follow.



Folk Club

Steve & Maureen Darby

The theme for 3rd December was "Occupations, Seasonal or Otherwise". Steve welcomed everyone to the Folk Club and began by introducing Maureen, accompanied by Ted Crum. She sang the self-penned "Decorating Disaster", a story of an amateurish approach to painting the ceiling, which ended up as a great flood in the Darbys' dining room, requiring five different occupations to remedy matters, a very apt start to the evening. Maureen and Ted were then joined by Janny and Sue as they performed a song about "The Knitted Water Bottle". Next up were Ray and Anne who sang about the founder of Food Banks, "Good King Wenceslas" followed by "As I walked out over London Bridge". Alan Brand, a guest performer all the way from Falkirk, made his debut with a mining song he picked up from the Cape Breton singer Rita McNeil, "It's a working man I am". He then made us all laugh with a song about the problem of buying clothes with the correct size if you were a cross dresser wearing L'Oreal makeup. Pete and Liz Bones sang about the toils of being a shepherd and Pete had us in stitches as he recited an extract from Underwood's Milk, a poem by Thomas Dylan about Wally Whiting, the Welsh Milkman from Cromer. Pete gave an exceptional Burtonesque performance. Sue Harris then sang "Artisan" and "Big Knicker Blues", two verses of which had been censored by the BBC, and the first half was brought to a close by Pete Mason who sang unaccompanied with "The Ballad of Alvin" followed by a 17th Century song, "Jack of All Trades".

The second half was opened with what became the performance of the evening as the "Daft Dames" sang a very seasonal ditty to the tune of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, "The Christmas Dinner Party". Several members of the audience were mentioned in the song as were their individual aches, pains, medications and age-induced physical limitations. Des had researched the Interweb to come up with, "We be Wise Men Three" and then had us all joining in with a shanty written by Malc Gurnham about ironing. Peter McDonald entertained us with, "The Knocker-Upper Man" and "I once was a Fisherman", a song about the demise of the Hastings fishing fleet after the introduction of fishing quotas. Sue and Ted Crum gave a rendition of the

wassail, "A Happy New Year" followed by "The Apprentice's Song" with Ted making reference to his early working life as a fitter welder and the Saltley Gas Works. Pete Grassby was on form when he performed a gentle song he had written with a friend, "Welcome to New Zealand", and then told us that, having seen the Vulcan Bomber at the Gaydon Air Show, he had been inspired to sing "The Song of the Merlin", making reference to the Spitfire engine. Alan Brand returned to sing about the Scottish Highland crofters clearances with, "How are you all?" and then performed the Steve Earle number, "My Old Friend the Blues". Sue and Ian closed the second half with, "A-Begging I will go" and "The Blacksmith". As an aside, we learnt that, many years ago, Ian was in a band called "Mobile Workshop".

The third half comprised Peter McDonald singing "Shores of Old Blighty", Ray and Anne with "Candlelight Fisherman", Pete Grassby with "The Higgler" (a sort of tinker), Pete Mason with "Go Boys Go", Pete Bones recited "Twas Christmas Day in the Workhouse", Sue and Ian reprised a track from their 1977 album, entitled "12 Years On", with "The Calico Printer's Clerk" and the evening was brought to a rousing close by Des with the most appropriate "The Christmas Pudding Hunt".

The raffle was in support of Action for Children and raised a magnificent £80. Next month's Folk Club is hosted by Sue Hartland on Thursday 7th January when the theme is "All Things Scottish".



*Hereburgh Morris dancing
at the Christmas Fayre in
December*



Harbury Twinning Association

Tony Thomas

The new Committee met and set out the programme of activities for the next twelve months starting with the Christmas Party in December. We enjoyed an American Supper. John Stringer set us a brain scratching quiz and the post supper entertainment consisted of sketches and party games.

On the 6th January (Twelfth Night) we will be celebrating the "Festival of the Kings" which is known in France as "Fete des Rois" and marks the arrival of

the three wise men (Kings) in Bethlehem where they gave their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the baby Jesus. This celebration merges two ancient traditions, the Roman pagan celebration “Les Saturnales” and the Christian celebration of “Epiphany”. This party is enjoyed by all, the highlight of the evening being the serving of the Cake of the Kings (La Galette de Rois). Once again we thank June and David Eves for hosting this celebration in their lovely home.



Harbury Juniors Football Club

Malcolm Tanner

Under 11's Match Reports:

19th December: Tysoe Tornadoes 1 v Harbury Juniors 5

Harbury finished 2015 on a high with a resounding victory 5-1 over Tysoe.

Harbury started strongly with Archie C and Ben G controlling midfield with their strong tackling and distribution of the ball. Whilst Tysoe put up strong resistance in the early stages, a goal eventually came from Archie C with a powerful header. Further pressure resulted in an own goal from a Harbury corner. Tysoe's one response was a great shot but was tipped over the bar by Rebecca H who was on excellent form.

With the introduction of Harry L, this bolstered Harbury's midfield and after a good run scored a goal from a narrow angle. With strong tackling and persistency, he could have scored but unselfishly passed the ball to Josh C who scored from close range.

Whilst Tysoe scored a consolation goal, Harbury scored a fifth goal from a volley from Harry L who was man of the match.

This was an excellent team performance from Rebecca H in goal, a solid defence linking well with midfield and forwards to score a comfortable victory.



Harbury Toddler Group

Lynne Barton

Phew - Christmas Party, presents and Father Christmas all went according to plan – there's a relief!

The Village Hall proved to be a great venue for our Party, thanks Celia. SoftPlayTake Away provided us with many climbing, riding and crawling opportunities....very enjoyable!



Check out these 'munchable elves' waiting for the man himself.



And with the singing of Jingle Bells well perhaps not that tuneful but, here he was' the actual Father Christmas all the way from the North Pole (yes he was that good).

Thanks to everyone for coming; the children enjoyed it and that's what matters

We have another full programme for 2016 with BilliguaSing, Love Ballet Dance Company, Gymboree and much more. Our calendar will be shared at the first session so you can keep up to date with all that is happening.

Our **AGM** will be on **8th February** and we are going to try it during the session aghh this is in the hope you can all have your say; we like to try different things.

Our Coffee Morning in aid of Toddler Funds will be on **Saturday 27th February** so bakers at the ready please; we are likely to need raffle prizes and bric a brac.

One of our parents has volunteered to be our in-house 'Artistic Director' and on a monthly basis will be providing a wonderful art and craft activity for the children.

Alison Hunt, following on from her recent storytime success has agreed to come regularly throughout the year to lead the rhymes and reading time at the end of the morning.

How lucky are we to be part of such a great village with so many talented and generous people.

As you know Toddlers has its own charity number and bank account but is run under the umbrella of Entrust Care Partnership, of which I am a Director, it is a not for profit organisation working with children with disabilities and their families. Many parents have asked us if we can run a session about meeting sensory needs which may be of interest to families reading this article. It will be held on Thursday 11th February 2016 in Leamington. Please contact us if you are interested.

Thank you to everyone who has so kindly donated their pre-loved children's clothes and toys, this has helped enormously, some are kept to share at Toddlers, others are sold on to provide direct services for disabled children – you are making a real difference!



We have now managed to recruit a new volunteer who will start with us in January, all necessary checks and references have been undertaken and we are delighted that Lise Marie will help with the smooth running of the group.

So finally, Lynne and Selina look forward to welcoming parents, carers, grandparents, childminders and children under five - come on round, the kettle's on.

We are based at the Wight School, High Street, Harbury, CV33 9HW (brown gate to the side) and meet at 9.30am saying bye bye at 11.15am.

Thinking of coming along or need more information? Please do ring Lynne on 01926 612748 or email lynnebarton@btinternet.com



Harbury Pre-School

Staff & Committee

The Nativity Story: At the beginning of December, we were delighted to welcome Rev. Nikki and Gill Guilford and who came to talk to the children about Christmas and the giving and receiving of gifts.

Role Play – The role play area became a nativity scene, with the dressing up rail full of outfits for angels, shepherds, sheep, donkeys, Mary and Joseph and the three kings. The children all chose their roles for the Nativity Songtime while they enjoyed trying on the various costumes.

Nativity Songtime: This was held at the Jackson's stable yard in front of the children's parents and other relatives. The children sang brilliantly, finishing with "Silent Night" using Makaton signing and challenging the capacity audience to take part in the encore, which they did with much enthusiasm. We would like to thank the Jacksons for providing a beautiful and very meaningful setting for our nativity.



Christmas Preparations: In the creative area, the children made wonderful decorations using card shapes and CDs as the basis for small scale collages. The clay lamps, made to celebrate Diwali, were revisited with paint and glitter to turn them into “Christmas lights” and cutting, joining and estimating skills were put to the test as the children wrapped boxes as “presents” to go under the Christmas tree. The children then made lovely observational drawings of the tree with the drawings made into special cards in which they did their own “writing”.



Role Play again – After the Nativity Songtime, the role play area became a Christmassy home, complete with a beautiful fireplace generously donated to us by Michelle and Bethany. In a separate creative area, a workshop took shape, where the children acted as Santa’s helpers, making Christmas gifts out of a variety of resources.

Reindeer Food: In the last week of the term, the children made and took home bags of reindeer food to sprinkle on the grass outside, as encouragement to them to bring Father Christmas to their homes. Let’s hope it worked!

Father Christmas: A visit from Father Christmas on the very last day of term was heralded by some welcoming songs from the children and, on his way in to see the children, Father Christmas was met by the wonderful reindeer made by Helen, Seren’s mummy. The children were thrilled to receive gifts from him when he arrived with his sack of goodies and most were happy to chat to him about what they hoped to get in their stockings.



Finally Gael, Anne, Angie, Lesley, Deborah and Bud would like to thank the parents and the children for all the lovely gifts and cards that we were given. We are now looking forward to a great year in 2016 and return to Pre-School for the spring term on Tuesday 5th January.

If you would like further information, or to register a child for Harbury Pre-School, please contact Rosemary Jackson, Pre-School administrator: e-mail enquiries@harburypre-school.org.uk text 07907 598461 or look at the web site www.harburypre-school.org



Village Hall Update

Chris Finch

By now, a fair proportion of villagers will have seen the new, improved look to the Village Hall after visiting the premises for one of the events which took place towards the end of 2015 (the November film, the Christmas Fairs, the Christmas Fayre and the Senior Citizens' party). It's almost hard to remember the painted brick wall at the end of the hall with its two doors opening to the changing rooms at the rear, but before too long, the elevated stage with its underfloor storage and permanent curtains, will seem as though they have always been there - a far cry from the temporary stage blocks and curtains, which the Theatre Group had to battle to erect before any production could take place.



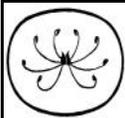
The latest photographs for the H&L News show the view of the stage from the back of the hall and also the 'space age' fittings for the home and away showers in the changing rooms, which must now rival any facilities for a local team in this area. At a recent football match involving Harbury Albion, the referee is reported to have expressed amazement at his own room with a specially fitted shower cubicle.

Whilst anyone visiting the hall will see the 'front of house' alteration, it is unlikely that many will get to see 'back stage' so it is intended that villagers who would like to see 'behind the scenes' will be invited to attend viewings in the New Year. So far only the Parish Council, the Village Hall Committees, the Theatre Group (currently preparing for their next production) and the football players have been able to marvel at the space created in the new extension and the quality of the fittings. As mentioned previously, the village owes a great debt to those who had the vision to create a community building 'fit for the 21st Century' and to all those who achieved a marvellous outcome especially John Warner and his small team of artisans (all local bricklayers, electricians,



plasterers, plumbers etc.). The usual reaction when anyone has viewed the extension is WOW - even though the various stages of development have been shown by photographs included in the magazine, the actual layout is 'something else', as one visitor exclaimed! So for now, we will wait until the Harbury pantomime has completed its run and then we will let villagers know through the magazine when they can take advantage of a viewing.

For now, all that remains is for the Village Hall Committees to wish everyone a Happy New Year and we will look forward to seeing you in 2016!



Horticultural Society

Judy Morrall

Our festive fun evening on 1st December was enjoyed by about 40 of our members. Prior to the food and games we had a short AGM. We have managed as a committee of four for the last 12 months to keep the impetus going. We have enjoyed some brilliant speakers and two day trips and an evening trip. We have not increased the cost of membership which has been £10 for the last three years. It does get more and more difficult to book speakers as they are committed for at least a year ahead. The raffle which Jean looks after superbly at the meetings did not make much profit and like a lot of clubs in the village our membership is slightly down. Once again Kathleen and Margaret were responsible for all aspects of our two yearly Open Gardens which was another success. My thanks to them both as it just does not happen overnight and takes many weeks of planning. We were able to give two thirds of the proceeds to village organisations and a third to our Society. Even with this we still ran at a loss again this year, we do have some funds but obviously at the present rate these will diminish. My thanks to Tony who acts as Treasurer and looks after our funds. A big thank you to Jean for selling the raffle tickets and organising flower arrangements and games and quizzes for our December meetings, and to Kathleen for all her hard work. Also, another big thank you to Margaret and Steve for opening up and closing the Tom Hauley room for our meetings.

I did ask if anyone wanted to join the committee as we do not have a Secretary but no one felt able to do so. I said that the four of us were willing to continue for the next 12 months and everyone present agreed to that. I then said that the four of us would be standing down in the Summer of 2017, that is after the talks and trips. We thought it only fair to advise the members present of this so that if, in the next 12 months or so, anyone does express an interest we will be able to advise etc. I thanked the members present for their support, help with refreshments and votes of thanks.

Then the fun began.....Jean had updated the lovely bags which she fills with all sorts of objects, some easy like a battery but some teasers too like a balloon! After that she presented us with a quiz with a horticultural theme again some fairly straight forward ones and some very hard ones. After that we

enjoyed our wonderful festive buffet. Every year our members do us proud and the savouries and sweets were absolutely delicious. A big thanks to those of you who stayed behind to help tidy and wash up. Everyone who came said that they had had a great evening.

Don't forget that there will not be a meeting in January and the next one will be on 2nd February when Dr John Page and his lovely wife Kate will be making a welcome return to us. He will be speaking about RHS gardens but I will give more concise details in my next article.

What with the very mild weather I was amazed to look out of my window in the room I use as an office and saw that the evergreen clematis armandii, Warwickshire Lass, was once more in flower. It has huge white flowers and this is the sixth time that it has done so this year. Talk about value for money! It has flowered three times one year but never as many times as this. The other climbing clematis called Freckles has been in flower since October and this is the earliest ever. So I looked around my garden and found the following in flower - rosemary, borage, lavender, heuchera, primroses, violets, hellebores, euphorbia, cosmos, salvia hot lips - and I have two troughs of lobelia, geraniums and fuschias still going strong. I do worry though that if and when it does get colder that some may not survive but for the moment I am enjoying the very unseasonable weather. I'm sure that many of you can add to my tally. The daffodils too are a bit confused - there are some in flower in the village.

I will be booking our two day trips for 2016 in January so that I can announce the venues etc at the February meeting, I have some lovely gardens in mind so watch this space! There is a new Head Gardener at Canons Ashby and this National Trust property comes under the Upton House remit now and I have been speaking to him and he would be delighted to show us round one summer evening, a lot of changes in the garden have been made so that should be something else to look forward to.

Quite a lot of National Trust properties open in January so do look in your handbook for details. A lovely winter garden can be seen at Anglesey Abbey near to Cambridge and only less than two hours drive away. Biddulph Grange in Staffordshire another garden we have visited is quite unique in January and February. Near to there, Attingham Park is well worth the drive. Near Chippenham, Lacock Abbey, Fox Talbot Museum and village is well worth seeing. The village is very often used for film and television for programmes such as Cranford and Pride and Prejudice. Many English Heritage properties are open during the winter now - do look at their website. So there are still opportunities for a nice day out and after today (21st December) it gets lighter by two minutes each day. Next month I will let you know of the many places not too far away where you can see snowdrops in February, a wonderful cheering sight that lets you know that Spring is on its way.

Whatever you do enjoy our wonderful landscape and heritage. I look forward to seeing everyone at the February meeting.



What a mild month December has been and it looks like we will have to wait until after New Year for winter to arrive. Snowdrops were in bloom on the green at Long Itchington when I cycled by on 18th December whilst against the south facing wall of Leamington House Farm, just up the road, several flowers of Red Valerian have opened. Daffodils are fully open close to Tony Stubbs' house in South Parade.

I enjoyed reading Sven Sonnes' account of his escape across Norway in 1944. The book was lent to me by Ann and Philip Mayer and is entitled "Another Man's Shoes". He mentions feasting on Multe berries which grew in the understory of the forest. These I discovered are cloudberry (Rubus chamaemorus), shaped like a raspberry and yellowish in colour. They also grow in similar terrain in Scotland.

Here, the snowberry is colonising woodland edges - there are some in the hedge alongside Bascote Wood. The berry is the fruit of a deciduous shrub, *Symphoricarpos albus*, and a member of the Honeysuckle family. It's indigenous to North and Central America where it provides an important winter food resource for birds such as Quail, Pheasant and Grouse. It's considered poisonous to humans.

On Monday 14th December, John and Val Roberts came to talk to the U3A Natural History group about their trip to Namibia in 1997. They had flown into the capital Windhoek and travelled round in an old Mercedes - Namibia was known as German South West Africa until 1918. With a land area three times that of the UK and a population of two million it is a cornucopia of wildlife. In an audience of about 30, I was surprised to find that 6 people had visited the country.

No culling of zebra and antelope is necessary as the herds are naturally culled by lions, leopards and cheetahs. Compare this stable state of affairs with the Highlands of Scotland where, with no high end carnivores, Red Deer populations have exploded. This means among other things that regeneration of the Caledonian Forest is proving difficult to achieve as the deer graze the young trees. Reintroduction of the wolf is the answer according to some.

Namibia gets its name from the Namib Desert. John and Val arrived just after some much needed rainfall so saw a good number of flowers including Bletharis, a desert thistle. Its leaves have prominent linear markings directing insects to a nectar source and thus aiding pollination. Animals must seek shade to survive in the hottest part of the day. A squirrel stood with its tail erect acting as a sunshade. Other animals utilised the shade cast by a rock or tree trunk.

It was good to see John and Sue Lapraik in the village recently. John told me about a visit he made to the Norfolk Coast in mid October. It coincided with an influx of migrant birds and John and his friends were kept busy spotting and identifying many species rarely seen in Britain. One such was a Red-Fluted Bluetail. It normally lives in Finland or Siberia and overwinters in S.E. Asia so it was well off course. John kindly e-mailed two articles he has written for his local RSPB group in the Lake District. Let me know if you would like them forwarding

Yesterday I decided to check out the route of a walk I am due to lead with the Wednesday Walkers on January 27th. It starts and finishes in Sawbridge, a hamlet near Grandborough. This is flat land, probably an old lake bed, with the ridge of Dunsmore Heath to the north and the Northamptonshire heights to the east. I followed a 'green' road across farmland heading directly for the spire of Braunston church. Coming close to the Oxford Canal, I noticed prominent ridge and furrow and a sign that the terrain was open access. Crossing the canal and the now disused Great Central Railway, I came to the deserted medieval village of Wolfhamcote. The church of St Peter and a few cottages remain. It's a setting not unlike Chesterton. A field north of the church bears the marks of long gone dwellings and lanes. Evidently the Black Death contributed to the desertion in the late 14th century. Now, a crumbling concrete road links Wolfhamcote with neighbouring Braunston of canal fame. Several disused loops of the canal tell a story. Originally a contour canal, the owners had to improve their 1780s route and compete with other canals. In the 1830's, the Oxford was straightened using embankments and cuttings hence the discarded loops. The infant Leam between the villages is also the county border. As I traversed the pasture on my return route the weather turned inclement with wind and rain. The poor light made route finding difficult as I headed towards Willoughby House. Braunston Church spire was easily visible behind and I mused that it must have guided many weary travellers in years gone by. Near Lower Grandborough Fields Farm I got into conversation with a gentleman looking at a herd of sheep. They were unusual in having two pairs of horns. He thought they were an Isle of Man breed.

At sunrise this morning (23rd December) the sky was free of cloud. Venus shone brightly high to the south, the only celestial object to be seen. It seemed appropriate at this time of year to be looking up and wondering.

February Edition - Harbury & Ladbroke News

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

Articles to: Harbury Pharmacy, High Street or e-mail to
articles@hlnews.co.uk by 5.30pm, Thursday 28th January



General Section

Harbury Senior Citizens Committee Update

We had 111 people come along to our Christmas Party and given the feedback and thank you cards, the evening was enjoyed by all who attended. People enjoyed the good company, good food and great entertainment from Phill and Ken. Phill told us that this session was part of his farewell tour as he plans to hang up his guitar next year. We hope that his “goodbye” follows the time honoured farewell tours of rockers that keep going for years. If this was the last gig for us, then we would like to give Phill and Ken all of our heartfelt thanks for a doing a great job of providing our entertainment over many years.

They have played some great music, many favourite tunes from our attendees “teen years” and some even got on their feet to dance. I think Phill and Ken enjoyed playing as much as the audience enjoyed participating. Thank you.

We must also thank everyone who donated raffle prizes and this year I think we had 40 prizes that were won. They were much appreciated.

Those of you who have organised events will know how difficult it can be without the help of volunteers. This year we had the Committee, their partners and some new helpers. Thank you to everyone who came along to help and we hope to see you again next year.

Again this year, we had some help from the Harbury Scouts who put up the tree and the decorations as part of their community involvement. Thank you for coming along to help us. Watching the tree being decorated was a memorable event!

As we roll into 2016, the Committee would like to wish you all a happy and healthy New Year and we look forward to seeing you at our events during the year and giving us your support. As usual, look out for our schedule of activities in the Harbury and Ladbroke News.

Mike McBride

On behalf of the Harbury Senior Citizens' Benefit Association



Operation Christmas Child

At last we are able to tell you that our shoeboxes were included in the 12,550 from the Leamington area. Of these, 9517 went to Romania and 3033 to the Ukraine. Life in both these unsettled countries must be pretty bleak in winter, and we trust that our gifts bring a bit of cheer into some lonely lives.

Thanks again to everyone who so generously supported this effort.

Mike Jones & Gillian Hare

Senior Citizens Christmas Party

Photos taken by Paul Roe



Christmas Tree decorated by the Scouts



Welcome by Mike McBride



Tucking into the Christmas Meal



Phill and Ken on their farewell tour provided the entertainment with some getting up to enjoy a dance

GASS Christmas Post

Yet again what overwhelming support the GASS Committee has received for the festive Christmas post which ran through December. Huge thanks to everyone who used the service and donated so generously and to all the enthusiastic deliverers who deliver year in year out. Thanks to Paul and Mary Muggleston who very kindly look after the big red post box each year and always advertise our events. The post this year raised over £450 a phenomenal amount which will be used for all of the uniformed groups to help provide exciting activities and towards the maintenance of the Scout Hut. Let us hope you will continue to use the service next year and thanks again.

GASS Committee

Carnival Tombola in aid of the Senior Citizens

If you have a New Year's resolution to eat less chocolate we would LOVE it. Last year at the Carnival we ran a chocolate tombola which was very successful; the only thing was we didn't have enough chocolate to keep the stall running all afternoon.

This is a plea – if you have too much chocolate given to you over Christmas and want to offload some we would be very grateful or, if you come across any “buy one, get one free” that would be good.

We can collect - tel: 612066 or you can drop them off at 32 South Parade or 1 Park Lane.

Thanking you in advance.

Senior Citizens' Committee



Blood Donors

Thank you to everyone who braved wind and rain to go to December's session. Maybe because of the weather or winter colds or sheer pre-Christmas pressure, the numbers had dropped to 88 units collected – still an invaluable contribution.

The next session here will be on 17th March 2016.

Gillian Hare

Harbury NSPCC Committee

Many thanks to everyone who attended our annual quiz on Sunday 6th December in the Village Club. We made £345 which is an excellent amount so many thanks to everyone for their generosity, especially as regards the raffle.

We are a committee of eight ladies now, so we could do with some more help. If you are interested in joining us and helping to raise money for this very worthwhile cause, please give me a ring on 614664.



Burns Night 2016

Southam 2000 Rotary, in conjunction with Harbury NSPCC Committee, is holding another Burns Night on Friday 22nd January 2016 in the Village Hall. The starting time is 7.30 for 8pm and the ticket price has remained the same, £30 per person. This includes a three course meal plus whisky tasting.

The Piper, Peter Rollason's address to the haggis and the excellent food and drink are bound to brighten a miserable January evening.

If you are interested in buying a ticket, please call Elaine Bruce on 614664.

Elaine Bruce

Dogs for Good

I am volunteering my time to fundraise for 'Dogs for Good' (formerly Dogs for the Disabled) as part of my Duke of Edinburgh *Silver* Award (a Harbury Group).

Dogs for Good is a registered charity that explores ways that dogs can help people overcome, specific challenges, enrich and improve lives and communities; for example, their assistance dogs support adults and children, with a range of disabilities and also children with autism. They also train activity and therapy dogs to work with specialist handlers in communities.

Dogs for Good has trained over 750 assistance dogs; they must raise £12,000 to fund each dog from birth to fully trained assistance, activity or therapy dog and £20,000 to fund the dog for its entire working life. It costs nearly £3 million pounds a year to run Dogs for Good and the vital services it provides! The charity receives no government funding and relies entirely on donations, fundraising and volunteers to continue its pioneering work: 77p from every £1 raised or donated goes directly to support its work. With over 2,000 enquiries each year there are many more people the charity could help. It's estimated that more than 100,000 people in the UK could benefit from an assistance dog.



Over the next few months I hope to hold several cake sales in the Village and at College, as well as helping out at regional fund raising activities.

Dogs for Good can also raise much needed funds through the donations of: **used stamps, costume jewellery, foreign coins, old phones, and empty ink cartridges...** all of which I am collecting on their behalf. I will also be collecting donations of: **newspapers, blankets, towels, bedding and dog toys.**

If you have any donations of the above items please do get in touch and I will arrange to come and collect them from you. If you would like to make some cakes for next year's cake sales that would be brilliant! – so please let me know.

You can find out more about Dogs for Good at www.dogsforgood.org and you can follow my fund raising efforts on my Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/176595679355761/> (Super Doggies In Need)!!!

Thank you very much.

Indianna Long (age 15)
markandlana@aol.com
01926 613311



Harbury Heritage Room

In January 1984, the top class at the school wrote thank you letters to Santa. Before we sent them, they were copied, and kept for posterity. It is interesting to see what he brought them, and also some of the things they did on Christmas Day.

Paul Turner had a Vic 20 computer, a dartboard and a continental quilt. Cathy had a Connect Four game and an encyclopaedia. Her sister and Mum avoided the turkey and chose pork instead. I wonder if Alison still has her blue dressing gown, or the jumper which her dog Jenny nearly ruined? If you see Vincent, ask to see his James Bond watch. Joanne from Farm Street had a 2X Spectrum computer – I wonder if she still uses it? Like some others, she went to see Jungle Book during the holiday. Ceri was delighted with her PT-30 keyboard which played 18 different rhythms and different instruments. She also had a game of Hangman. Scott had a Battleships game, and ate lots of nuts and biscuits. His new computer had four special buttons on it called F1, F2, F3 and P5. Sarah-Jane's stocking contained a sponge, a rubber, a writing set, an apple, an orange and chocolates. Wendy couldn't have much for Christmas because she'd just had her room decorated, though she did get a stylophone and a game called Gribbit. Max had a Kawasaki 80 motor-bike, and a remote-control model car which only turned left! There were nine people to feed on Christmas Day. Ian was a Duran Duran fan, and bought an album with some of his Christmas money. He spent most of Christmas Day doing wheelies on his BMX. And, of course, there are around 25 more for you to peruse at your leisure in the Heritage Room.

Before leaving for their Christmas break this year, Year 6 have written down what they would like as presents, and what they are going to do over the

Festive Season. The Heritage Group will preserve these for future generations to see.

As usual, the room is open on the first Tuesday of the month from 6.30pm. It can also be opened to groups at their own convenience. Contact nigel.chapman@hotmail.co.uk

Nigel Chapman



Harbury Energy Initiative

The New Year never really starts with a blank sheet, although this monthly article always does, to my regret. I haven't yet found a way to automate the process but no doubt technology will soon help me out. The pace of technology development seems sometimes like an ocean wave racing away from us (with more geeky terms and wacky acronyms than I have brain cells). We need to ride this wave, as it holds the power to solve some of our future clean energy needs. No solution for my snowscape of an empty page, however. On the other hand we have two major projects up and running and two new projects in planning, so the New Year starts, as did last year, with work in progress.

Just a few weeks ago nearly 200 national governments signed an agreement in Paris aimed at limiting global warming to a maximum rise of under 1.5C, a major challenge. Many fine words were spoken and now we need action to make this real. You can see a summary of what was agreed on the Department for Energy and Climate Change website - www.decc.gsi.gov.uk. It will require action from the individual, the community, from corporations and small enterprises, from local authorities and national governments. HEI exists to stimulate and support action in the village, working with individuals, community building committees and our Parish Council. You can find out more about what we have done and are doing by visiting us at our new website: www.harburyenergy.co.uk; and we now have a dedicated email address: info@harburyenergy.co.uk. Or you can just talk to us.

We launched e-Wheels at the end of October last year as a way of using the electric cars for community benefit, providing zero emission transport for people referred to us by local agencies, such as the food banks, AgeUK, child centres and surgeries. We have since provided around 60 hours of help with our group of 12 volunteers. At the same time member use of the electric cars has also gone up, as people realise the benefits of using the Club rather than owning a car that costs money even if you rarely drive it. In the first six months that the Club has operated we have saved 1.5 tonnes of carbon, compared to similar travel in a small petrol engine car. There are other noxious exhaust emissions that we and our driving members have also avoided. Take a look too at the monitor in the foyer of the Village Hall and you will see some major saved carbon dioxide emissions there as a result of the

solar panels they installed. Some things for the village to be proud of, don't you think?

We enter 2016 with a plan to replace the inefficient and expensive lighting in the school with LEDs throughout. We are still in the early stages of working out how to finance this. We have some options and will let you know how we are getting on both in these pages and on our website.

We would be happy to hear from anyone who can help us with *pro bono* technical support on this LED scheme and other low carbon solutions for Harbury.

HEI wishes you all a happy New Year. Let's save another few tonnes.

Bob Sherman
info@harburyenergy.co.uk



Harbury Village Library & Biblio's Café

***A group enjoying
 festive coffee and
 cakes at Biblio's Café
 in Harbury Village
 Library***



Village with a Vision

We are still here, and as we've said before, things are going on; albeit at what seems like a snail's pace. And we are still committed to the hope that Harbury's senior residents will not have to leave their community, friends, family and familiar surroundings. In the past we have witnessed so much unhappiness caused by the upheaval of moving away, at the end of a well spent life, from all that's familiar.

So we continue to ask your support for the project, and we earnestly hope for real forward movement in 2016.

Tony Stubbs
Chairman

Wednesday Walks

Anyone feeling less than fit after Christmas indulgence? How about a spot of fresh air and gentle exercise with a friendly set of people? Just come to the car park behind the Village Hall by 9.40am on a Wednesday, wear suitable footwear and bring a drink. The programme is printed in the diary column – we try to have a range of distances from 3 – 5 miles and occasionally a pub lunch as a reward. We have some lovely, still-unspoiled countryside on our doorstep; how better to enjoy it? See you there?

Gillian Hare

Harbury Village Club

Harbury Village Club and Institute Ltd have a job vacancy for a Club Secretary. If interested please send your CV to the Chairman by hand or via e-mail at harburyvillageclub@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01926 612498 for more information.

Harbury Village Club



Windmill Singers - Want to Run a Choir?

Warwickshire's Southam Windmill Singers, is inviting high-quality applicants who have aspirations to be Musical Director of an established group of singers with a track record of musical excellence.

The choir, of some 50 years standing, has a repertoire of sacred, choral, classical, traditional and popular show music and an ever-expanding range of four-part harmony arrangements of modern songs.

The **Windmill Singers** perform at venues around mid-Warwickshire at community events, carol concerts, weddings and funerals in addition to an annual local sell-out cabaret concert with invited guest artistes. The choir has a history of being invited, annually, to take part in summer services in many of the UK's prestigious cathedrals - in 2015, Hereford!

The choir has an established dress code and rehearses weekly in Southam on Thursday evenings. It is a registered charity, has an established and experienced accompanist and is run by a management committee.

Anyone wanting to be the next Gareth Malone should contact acting Musical Director Dr Bill Buckler for an informal chat on 01926 633409.

www.windmillsingers.co.uk





Southam
College

Community Education Courses at Southam College

Southam College Community Education Centre offers a varied programme of courses, both daytime and evening, in Southam and surrounding villages.

Spring term classes commence week starting 11th January 2016. Leaflets will be available from local libraries, shops and the Leisure Centre or visit our page on the Southam College website <http://www.southamcollege.com/CommEd1>.

For further information, please contact us on 01926 810942 or email commmed.s@welearn365.com

Like Southam College on Facebook for updates and links to our programme.

Sue Hawthorn
Southam College Community Education Centre
Tel: (01926) 810942



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editors

Congratulations on your 500th edition! Who would have thought - when a group of us met in 1974 to talk about starting a village magazine - that it would still be going strong after 41 years!! We are delighted that the Harbury & Ladbroke News continues to be so successful. And equally delighted to read that the Village Hall now has a stage! As former members of the Harbury Theatre Group, we spent many 'happy' hours lugging the huge wooden blocks from the farm where they were stored, and building the stage before each performance. We send a 'break a leg' to those involved with your pantomime (another Harbury tradition we were involved in starting), and good wishes to all those (if any) who still remember us.

Diana & Peter Holt
Harbury residents from 1969 to 1985

Dear Editors

I would like to thank all my Harbury friends, family and parents of children at school for all the Christmas gifts I have received. They were very much appreciated.

Isobel Clarke

Regular Diary Dates

ART CLASSES: The Studio, Church House, Crown St, Monday & Tuesday 1.00-3.00pm,
Tuesday 7.30-9.30pm & Wednesday 10.00am – 12 noon (614251)

BEAVERS: Scout Hut, Thursdays 5.30 - 6.40pm, e-mail: harburyscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk

BELL RINGING PRACTICE: Church, Fridays 7.30pm (612939)

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS: various homes 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month 2.00-3.00pm
(614809); 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month 10.30 - 12.00 noon (612864)

BIBLIO'S CAFÉ (WITHIN HARBURY VILLAGE LIBRARY): Wednesday, Thursday and
Friday 9.15am – 12 noon and Saturday 10.00am – 12 noon

BROWNIES: Scout Hut, Mondays 5.45pm - 7:00pm (612538)
Brownies & Rainbows Waiting List - Bobbie Sharpe (614040)

BUMPS & BUNDLES: Tom Hauley Room, Tuesdays, 10.30am – 12 noon (611914)

CONNECTIONS CAFE: Biblio's Café, Harbury Village Library, every 3rd Wednesday, 2.00pm

CHILDREN'S DANCE CLASSES: Farley Room Wednesday 4.00 - 8.00pm (07837 152839)

COFFEE MORNING: Tom Hauley Room Saturdays 10:00am - 12:00 noon (613214)

CUBS: Scout Hut, Wednesdays 6:45 - 8:15pm, e-mail: harburyscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk

GUIDES: Scout Hut, Mondays 7.15pm – 9.00pm (614375)

GYMNASTICS: Harbury School, Mondays 6:00 - 8:00pm (07939 679533)

HARBURY FOLK CLUB: Harbury Village Club, 1st Thursday in the month 8:00pm (613730)

HARBURY FRIENDS: Tom Hauley Room, 2nd Tuesday in the month 8:00pm (612534)

HARBURY JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB:

Under 6's – Year 1 (Mixed)

Coach: Katie Wales Tel: 07785 459232

Training: Saturday 9.00am. Harbury School

Under 7's, 8's & 9's – Year 2, 3 & 4 (Mixed)

Coach: Katie Wales Tel: 07785 459232

Training: Saturday 10.15am. Harbury School

Under 10's – Year 5 (Mixed)

Coach: Jane Workman Tel: 07803 414380

Training: Saturday 9.00am. Harbury School

Under 11's – Year 6 (Mixed)

Coach: Malcolm Tanner Tel: 01926 612617

Training: Saturday 9.15am. Harbury Park

Under 12's – Year 7 (Mixed)

Coach: Richard Gillingham Tel: 07528 580761

Training: Tuesday 6.30pm. Southam College 3g Pitch

Under 13's – Year 8 (Mixed)

Coach: Steve Burnell Tel: 07795 428087

Training: Tuesday 6.00pm. Southam College 3g Pitch

Under 15's – Year 9 & 10 (Mixed)

Coach: Richard Woodhead Tel: 07786 802803

Training: Tuesday 6.00pm. Southam College 3g Pitch

HARBURY PRE-SCHOOL: Wight School (behind Library), High St. Monday 12 noon –
3.30pm, Tues & Thurs – 9.00am, - 3.30pm, Wed & Fri – 9.00am – 1.30pm
(07939 122087) enquiries@harburypre-school.org.uk

HARBURY THEATRE GROUP: Last Tuesday of the month, The Shakespeare (611930)

HARBURY TODDLER GROUP: Wight School, Monday 9.30 - 11:15am, Tel: 612748

HARBURY UKULELE GROUP: Shakespeare Inn, 1st & 3rd Monday of the month 8.00pm, contact Craig (612377)

HARBURY VILLAGE CINEMA: Contact Lana Long, 01926 613311, email: markandlana@aol.com

HARBURY VILLAGE CLUB: Contact 612498 (evenings).

Bingo every Friday 8.30pm - non members welcome.

HARBURY VILLAGE LIBRARY: Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm and Saturday 10.00am – 12 noon

HEREBURGH MORRIS DANCERS: School Hall, Wednesdays 8:00 - 10:00pm (613730)

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: Tom Hauley Room, 1st Tuesday in the month (Oct to May) 8:00pm Contact Judy Morrall (613103)

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

NETBALL CLUB: Village Hall Car Park, Training Thursday evenings, Juniors 6.00 till 7.30pm & Seniors 7.30 till 8.30pm, Matches on Saturday Afternoon (613163)

MOTHER'S UNION: Tom Hauley Room, 1st Wednesday in the month 2.30pm; (613757)

RAINBOWS: Scout Hut Tuesdays 5.30 - 6.30pm, Unit Leader Bobbie Sharpe (614040)

SCOUTS: Scout Hut, Thursdays 7:00 - 8.30pm, e-mail: harburyscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk

SLIMMING WORLD: Primary School, Ladbroke Road, Bishops Itchington, Wednesdays 5.30 and 7.30pm sessions, Jodie Tel: 07771 930568

TABLE TENNIS: Village Hall, Thursdays, 9.30 - 10.30am (614809)

TAI CHI: Ufton Village Hall, Monday, 7.30 (612277)

TENNIS CLUB:

Adult / Student Members Playing Times:

Tuesdays: 6.30pm– 10.00pm, Thursdays: 6.30pm – 10.00pm

Saturdays: (from Sept to March) 10.00am – 12 noon

Sundays: (from April to August) 10.00am – 12 noon

Members may play at other times free of charge, provided the courts are not already booked. **Guests** playing with members should pay £1 an hour.

If you would like to become a member or find out more about Harbury Tennis Club, please contact Colin Mercer (613284 or email sucol-mercer@tiscali.co.uk

Non-members - Courts should be booked at Country Fayre, Chapel Street £4 per court per hour) Floodlit bookings - £7 per court per hour.

Minis and Juniors (age 3 - 17) For details of Junior membership, contact Sue Mercer: sucol-mercer@tiscali.co.uk

Coaching: Adult and Junior coaching takes place throughout the year.

For up to date information contact admin@tennisolutions.co.uk

W.I.: Tom Hauley Room, 2nd Thursday in the month 7.45pm (614896)

WEDNESDAY WALKERS: Village Hall, Wednesday 9.40am (614188)

YOGA: Tom Hauley Room, Tuesday 1.30 - 3.00pm and Tom Hauley Room, Wednesday 7.00 - 9.00pm. Dianne Surgey (817904)

YOUTH GROUP-ICON @ All Saints': Tom Hauley Room, Sundays 7.00 – 8.30pm (612377)

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13th March 2016 10th April 2016

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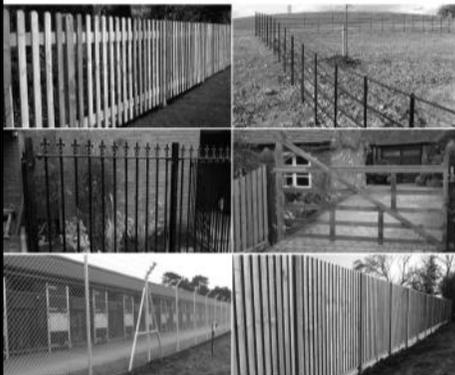


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spare tickets will be sold on the door subject to availability

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7.30pm - 8.30pm
Pointe Work Class
8.30pm - 9.15pm

**FREE TRIAL
FOR
ALL CLASSES**

(ex Mini Movers & Zumba)

Tuesday

Prima Ballerinas (3-4yrs)
4.00pm - 4.30pm
Pre-Syllabus Ballet (5-6yrs)
4.30pm - 5.15pm
Grade 1 Tap (10-11yrs)
4.30pm - 5.15pm
Pre-Primary Ballet (6-8yrs)
5.15pm - 6.00pm
Grade 2 Tap (12-13yrs)
5.15pm - 6.00pm
Grade 3 Tap (13 yrs+)
6.00pm - 6.45pm
Grade 4 Tap (14 yrs+)
6.45pm - 7.30pm
Grade 5 Ballet (15 yrs+)
6.45pm - 8.00pm
Adult Tap (Inter)
7.30pm - 8.30pm
Inter Foundation Ballet
8.00pm - 9.15pm
Zumba
8.30pm - 9.15pm

Wednesday

Mini Movers (0-5yrs)
9.30am - 10.30am
Ballroom & Latin (all ages)
5.00pm - 5.45pm
Grade 2 Modern (12yrs+)
5.45pm - 6.30pm
Grade 4 Ballet (15yrs+)
6.30pm - 7.30pm
Grade 3 Modern (13yrs+)
7.30pm - 8.15pm
Adult Ballet (no exp req)
8.15pm - 9.15pm

Thursday

Zumba (Over 50s)
10.00am - 11.00am
Adult Ballet (Over 50s)
11.00am - 12.00pm
Funky Dance (3-6yrs)
4.00pm - 4.30pm
Gymnastics (all ages)
4.30pm - 5.00pm
Acting & Performance (all)
4.45pm - 5.45pm
Grade 1 Ballet (10-11yrs)
5.00pm - 5.45pm
Commercial Street (9yrs+)
5.00pm - 5.45pm
Funky / Modern (7-10yrs)
5.45pm - 6.30pm
Boys Street Dance
5.45pm - 6.30pm
Grade 2 Ballet (11-13yrs)
6.30pm - 7.15pm
Grade 1 Modern (10-12yrs)
7.15pm - 8.00pm
Grade 3 Ballet (14yrs+)
8.00pm - 8.45pm

Friday

Mini Movers (0-5yrs)
10.00am - 11.00am
Little Tappers (3-5yrs)
4.00pm - 4.30pm
Pre-Primary Tap (6-8yrs)
4.30pm - 5.15pm
Primary Tap (8-10yrs)
5.15pm - 6.00pm



**100%
EXAMINATION
PASS RATE**

Thousands of Entries

Saturday

Musical Theatre (4-8yrs)
9.00am - 10.30am
Rhythmic Gymnastics
9.00am - 9.45am
Baby Ballet (18mths+)
10.30am - 11.15am
Musical Theatre (8yrs+)
11.15am - 12.45pm

Contact Miss Lorraine

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