



The Editors of the Harbury & Ladbroke News welcome all of its readers to the new Millennium. Although our photo reads *Peace 2000*, the celebrations to see in the New Year centred in Chapel Street were lively and good humoured. Many people put in a lot of their time to organise events to mark the special occasion and many householders responded to the request to light up the village. A special thank you must go to those who cleaned up the next morning after the revellers had retired to bed!

Whilst the weather was kind for the celebrations, December saw a brief foretaste of what winter can bring. Mike Bloxham's photograph captures a snowy scene in Mill Street.



The Millennium Bug seems not to have bitten in the early days of 2000. However, our last edition did state that the Library would be closed over the Christmas/New Year period until January 14. We apologise to any readers who are holding on to their books unnecessarily. Another 'bug', which did strike the villages, was the dreaded Flu. Many folk had either their Christmas or New Year spoilt and we hope that all have now made a full recovery.

Finally, we extend our sympathies to the families of Pearl Edwards and Albert Thomas. For many years Pearl was the sole distributor of the magazine in Ladbroke, delivering around 80 copies each month.

Harbury Diary

JANUARY 2000

- Sun 9 THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST** - Holy Communion 8am
Sung Eucharist 10.30am; Evensong 4pm
- Tues 11 Toddlers' Service 2.15pm; Holy Communion 7.30pm
Prayer Group in Church 8pm
- Wed 12 Rubbish Collection
Southam Leisure Keep Fit in Village Hall 7pm
- Thurs 13 Holy Communion 9.45am
Thursday Club's Annual Lunch in Village Hall
Beginners' Line Dancing in the Club 7.30pm
WI in Tom Hauley Room 7.45pm
Youth Club in Village Hall 7-9pm
- Sat 15 Men's Prayer Breakfast in Tom Hauley Room 7.30am
ADVERTS Westbury House, 79 Mill Street by 5.30pm
- Sun 16 EPIPHANY II** - Holy Communion 8am; Family Communion 10.30am
- Tues 18 Rubbish Collection
Holy Communion 7.30pm
Senior Citizens' Committee in Village Hall 8.30pm
- Wed 19 Southam Leisure Keep Fit in Village Hall 7pm
- Thurs 20 Holy Communion 9.45am
Youth Club in Village Hall 7-9pm
Beginners' Line Dancing 7.30pm
- Sat 22 NSPCC Burn's Night in Village Hall
- Sun 23 EPIPHANY III** - Holy Communion 8am
Sung Eucharist 10.30am; Evensong 4pm
- Mon 24 Rubbish Collection
- Tues 25 Conversion of St. Paul - Holy Communion 7.30pm
- Wed 26 Southam Leisure Keep Fit in Village Hall 7pm
- Thurs 27 Holy Communion 9.45am
Thursday Club in Village Hall 2.30pm
Youth Club in Village Hall 7-9pm
Beginners' Line Dancing in the Club 7.30pm
Parish Council in Village Hall 7.30pm
- Fri 28 **ARTICLES to Harbury Chemist, High Street by 5.30pm**
- Sat 29 Rubbish Collection
G.A.S.S. Race Nite Village Hall
- Sun 30 EPIPHANY IV** - Holy Communion 8am
Sung Eucharist 10.30am; Evensong 4pm

FEBRUARY

- Tues 1 Holy Communion 7.30pm
Horticultural Society in Village Hall 8pm
- Wed 2 Candlemass - Candle of Concern Day - Mothers' Union
Holy Communion 2pm
Southam Leisure Keep Fit in Village Hall 7pm
- Thurs 3 Holy Communion 9.45am
Storytelling in Library 10am
Youth Club in Village Hall 7-9pm
Beginners' Line Dancing in the Club 7.30pm
Folk Club in the Dog Inn 8.30pm
- Fri 4 Rubbish Collection returns to normal
- Sat 5 *Hunchback of Notre Dame* in Village Hall 7.45pm
- Sun 6 5th BEFORE LENT** - Sung Eucharist 9am; Evensong 4pm

Please note: Adverts to Westbury House, 79, Mill Street by Saturday 15 January

Articles to Harbury Chemist by Friday 28 January

DATES FOR INCLUSION IN THE HARBURY DIARY PLEASE TO: LINDA RIDGLEY - TEL. 612792.

Bookings for:

Scout Hut	Mr. R. Flanagan	613612
Tom Hauley Room	Mrs. W. Stubbs	612782
T. Hauley Room Coffee Morning	Mrs. J. Windsor	612504
Village Hall	Mr. P. Winchester	614466
Wight School	Mrs. L. Hayes	613488

REGULAR DIARY DATES

APPALACHIAN STEP DANCING: (612734) Wight School, Saturdays, 10:00am-12:00noon

BABY CLINIC: Surgery, 2nd & 4th Wednesday 2:00-4:00pm

BADMINTON: Village Hall, Monday mornings (613174) 10:00am-12:00noon
Mondays (612627) (Seniors) 7:00-9:00pm;
Tuesdays (613413) (Club) 8:00-10:00pm;
Friday (612029) (Juniors) 2:00-3:00pm;
Sunday (613340) 7:00-10:00pm

BEAVERS: Scout Hut, Tuesdays 6:15-7:15pm

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

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

CHOIR PRACTICE: Church, Fridays 6:30pm

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

CUBS: Scout Hut, Wednesdays

DANCING CLASSES: (01789-842242) Farley Room of Village Hall, Children & Adults
Wednesdays 4:00-9:00pm

GYMNASTICS: Harbury School, Mondays 6:00-7:00pm

HARBURY FOLK CLUB: Dog Inn 1st Thursday of Month 8:30pm

HARBURY FRIENDS: School, 2nd Tuesday of Month 8:00pm

HARBURY JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB:

Under 7/8s: Training: Harbury School Pitch 9:00am
Coaches: Adrian Hawley 614353 & Ron Razzano 614508

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

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

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

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

HARBURY NURSERY SCHOOL: School, Monday-Friday; 9:00am-12:00noon;
Mondays & Wednesdays 12:45pm-3:15pm

HARBURY PRE-SCHOOL: Wight School, High St. Tuesday-Friday 9:15am - 12:15pm

HARBURY VILLAGE CLUB: Contact 613174

HEREBURGH MORRIS DANCERS: (613402) School Hall, Wednesdays 8:00-10:00pm

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: Village Hall, 1st Tuesday of Month (Oct. to May) 8:00pm

LIBRARY: (613297) Mondays 2:00 - 5:00pm and 5:30 - 7:00pm;

Thursdays 10:00am - 1:00pm; 2:00 - 5:00pm & 5:30 - 7:00pm;

Stories, Rhymes for U5s, 10:00am 1st Thursday of Month; Term Time only

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

Matches on Saturday Afternoon

SCOUTS: Scout Hut, Thursdays 7:00pm

TENNIS CLUB: (614614) (Apr-Sept) Tues & Thurs 6:30pm onwards (6:00pm for April);

Relationships are very delicate things. When they are healthy they help us to grow in confidence and maturity and they free us to relate better to others, because we know that we are loved and valued. If our important relationships are healthy, we are able to think beyond our own needs and concerns and look to others. However, unhealthy relationships can be very damaging: they can actually make us more selfish and pre-occupied with our own little world. They can make us feel very insecure and insecurity can manifest itself in many different ways. One of them, and it is a danger in any relationship, is the desire to own the other person, control them, to possess them and keep them for ourselves. Whether it be a relationship between adults or children, as soon as we cease to treat the other with respect and just see them as an object to satisfy our own needs rather than as persons with needs and concerns of their own, then that relationship becomes unhealthy and damaging for all concerned. We do not love the other person as ourselves, but we are concerned only for ourselves.

Readings: 2 Samuel Chapter 7 vv 1-11,16.
 Luke Chapter 1 vv 26-38.

These two readings give us an example of a healthy and an unhealthy relationship with God. David has an apparently natural desire to do something for God by building a temple. But his motives are mixed: a temple in his capital city would help him consolidate control over his kingdom. He tries to use God for his own political purposes, but God, non too gently, reminds David of who exactly is in control. We can all be tempted like David. He wants to use God for his own ends. We too want to tame God, the God who doesn't challenge us or ask awkward questions about our lives. We prefer a God who acts as a crutch or support when we need him, but not one who makes us uncomfortable.

Contrast this with Mary. She was engaged to be married, she had her own plans for the future. Her life seemed settled - ordered. Yet she allowed God to enter her life and upset all her own hopes and intentions. This was no easy thing for Mary to accept, she is initially disturbed and confused by Gabriel's message, and needs the angel to reassure her. She very naturally asks questions - she doesn't understand how what God wants can be done. But Mary has a healthy relationship with God. She allows God to be a real person in her life, not an object who is there just to make her feel good. She allows her relationship with God to challenge her to grow as a person. To grow into the person God had created her to be. Above all, unlike David, she needs no reminding of who she is and who God is. She doesn't try to make God compromise. She simply acknowledges that she is God's servant: she makes God's will her own, not the other way round. And as she surrenders herself and her will and her whole life to God, so she begins to live the fullness of life that her Son, our Saviour came to bring.

At this Christmas time, Mary offers us a timely example of how we can enjoy a healthy relationship with God and what the consequences might be. God will make demands of us because he wants us to grow into the people he has created us to be. He wants us to live life in all its fullness, and he knows how it can be possible. As with Mary, he wants our relationship with him to be life-giving both for ourselves and for others. We too are offered the opportunity to say "Yes" to God. We too are His

servants, we too can surrender ourselves and our lives to God. It may cost us everything, but it is the way to life in all its fullness, because as we surrender ourselves and open our hearts to God, so he will fill us with His love and presence. And God's love can continue to be made real in our world through our relationship with Him and with those He gives us to love. That is what our heavenly Father wants for us this Christmas tide and into the New Millennium.

Wishing you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year

Fr. Roy

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals - All Saints' Ladbroke

23rd December: Pearl Edwards

- All Saints' Harbury

24th December: Albert Thomas

FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

Father Roy was to have had a small operation on his knee just before Christmas but as it turned out, part of the knee had to be replaced which resulted in a longer spell in hospital than planned and a certain amount of quick thinking and re-organisation by Pam. Although still on two walking sticks, Father Roy is happily on the mend, but probably doing too much too soon.

The Christmas services were a timely reminder of what the Millennium celebrations are really about. They were, as usual, well attended - the most popular of course being the Village Carol Service on Christmas Eve when over 400 people enjoyed the Christmas story with a variety of musical accompaniments, including the Augmented Choir, the Folk Club and the Jubilate Group.

By the time this issue is circulated, we shall all know whether the millennium bug is real or not; whatever the outcome we wish everyone a peaceful and happy New Year.

Ruth and John

MOTHERS' UNION

Afternoon meeting: Jeanne Clarke gave a most interesting talk entitled 'Deep in the Heart of Texas'. Many people will remember Jeanne's daughter, Rose, who is now married and living in Texas. Jeanne and Ken have spent happy holidays over the past few years and have certainly taken the opportunity to explore Texas (which means 'friendly') and built up their knowledge of its history. We all feel we now know a little more about Texas than what we saw on 'Dallas'! Jeanne did say they'd visited 'Southfork' which sounds larger than life and much as depicted on TV.

Next evening meeting: **Tuesday 18 January**, 8.00pm: Party in the Tom Hauley Room.

Next afternoon meeting: **Wednesday 2 February**, 2.30pm: *Wild Flowers* by Charles Catt.

Anne Moore

TODDLERS' SERVICE

Fifteen babies and toddlers, together with mums, nannies and carers, listened while Mrs. Catt told the Christmas story.

We heard how a donkey gently carried Mary to Bethlehem where she gave birth to baby Jesus in a stable. We sang *Little Donkey* and *Jesus' Love is Very Wonderful*.

The children then decorated Christmas cards with stickers and potato prints of stars and trees. Each child took home a chocolate treat.

Our next service is in Church on **Tuesday 11 January** at 2.15pm in the Children's Corner. All babies and toddlers are very welcome.

Lorna Bedford

DID YOU KNOW?

Every Sunday morning, except during the school summer holiday, small but enthusiastic groups of primary school-aged children meet in the Tom Hauley Room on the side of the Church for Sunday School.

Between 10.30 and 11.30am they split into groups by age to play games, act out stories, take part in drawing and making activities, cook and learn more about the traditional stories of the Christian Church. Most Sundays, they join the main church for the last part of the service, take an active part and join communicant members of the church at the altar rail for a blessing. Several of them have clocked up many attendances, and some have gone on to join the choir, ring the bells and serve the church in other ways.

On the first Sunday of each month, when the church service is at 9.00am, the Sunday School has its own short service at 10.30am as well as the usual activities. On the third Sunday of each month, the Sunday School takes part in the Family Service. A team of adults leads each week.

If you have a child of primary school age who would like to join us, bring her/him along any Sunday just before 10.30am, or you could ring us on 613214 to find out more.

Sally and John Stringer

Ladbroke News

JANUARY 2000

Sun	9	THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST - Sung Communion 9am
Wed	12	Holy Communion 2pm; Women's Fellowship 2.45pm
Sat	15	ADVERTS Westbury House, 79 Mill Street by 5.30pm
Sun	16	EPIPHANY 2 - Sung Communion 9am
Sun	23	EPIPHANY 3 - Sung Communion 9am
Fri	28	ARTICLES to Harbury Chemist, High Street by 5.30pm
Sun	30	EPIPHANY 4 - Sung Communion 9am

FEBRUARY

Sun	6	5 th BEFORE LENT - Family Communion 10.30am
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LADBROKE FLOWER ROTA

January 9th - Gill Moore and Mary Coley

January 30th - Kate Picken

January 16th - Gill Moore and Mary Coley

February 6th - Gwynne Badman

January 23rd - Kate Picken

February 13th - Gwynne Badman

Jane Rutherford

LADBROKE CHURCH NEWS

I am writing this on December 23rd - so mentally I'm still in 'the build up to' state. We had a really super evening with the Warwickshire Singers' concert. Everyone who came enjoyed the evening on December 11th. A really good prelude to Christmas.

Well, did you have a Happy Christmas? Has the Millennium bug caused havoc?

I can only wish you all a very Happy, Healthy and Peaceful 2000. I also pray that with the beginning of another Christian Millennium more people will learn and understand what Christianity is about. Stop and think, is materialism and the here-and-now really what it's all about?

It is good to see our Rector home again after his operation. He looked as though he was making progress this morning! I pray it has continued.

Betty Winkfield

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our December service and meeting was also a prelude to Christmas. We had a lovely tea party at Gill Moore's home - very festive, with mince pies and swapping of Christmas cards.

The AGM will be on **Wednesday 12th January**, at Hall Farm, when we will review the past year and try and plan speakers and outings. We have also got a video of Bishop Colin's ideas on 'Travelling Light'.

We are also looking forward to the Harbury Mothers' Union Party on **Wednesday 5th January** at 3.00pm to which we have been invited.

Betty Winkfield

LADBROKE AND DEPPERS BRIDGE W.I.

Happy New Year to Everyone.

The Christmas dinner was at The Duck on the Pond, Long Itchington and was enjoyed by all, including a past member who was visiting from Essex.

The second team of Shortmat bowls played Bidford on Avon at Alcester on December 15th. It was a very competitive game with the opponents winning.

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 27th January** at 7.30pm in our Village Hall when Mr. Charles Catt will be bringing his slides and talking to us about British Wild Flowers.

Hazel Sharples

SOUTHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY - Ladbroke Section

How different was Ladbroke 100 years ago? Not as much as you might think! Few houses have gone completely, just altered in appearance and although some in-filling has recently occurred, there are still several areas of unaltered space, such as in Bridge Lane and by Ladbroke Farm.

The old Manor House, its farmyard and enclosing cottages were gone by 1700, but the now open field by the church (Farmyard Field) with its 'pond earthworks' and oak trees has since remained unchanged. The New Manor House (Ladbroke Hall) may be internally altered, but is externally the same as in 1900. The Rectory may no longer house a Vicar or the Farmhouses (the big houses) in the village centre house Farmers, but all are still there.

Even the public houses that stood then, stand now, though only one still remains in trade: 'The Bell'. The house names of the others: 'Swan' and 'Crown' state their old background. The 'Horse & Jockey' or 'White Horse' as it was first known, was already long gone.

The church of course had already had its Victorian overhaul before the turn of the century and we are so fortunate today that the graveyard is still in use. Five bells were rung then as now, the church clock ticked the same time away and the golden weathercock swung as always, with the wind.

The school was well established then and taught three times the number of children it taught at its end, twenty years ago. Today's tarmac standing was then a gravel and dirt yard and in the schoolhouse lived the Headmaster, Thomas Gowland with his wife and family from Yorkshire.

So what *has* changed in this last 100 years? One would almost say only the trades! Their yards and stables behind their cottages are now garages and gardens.

So, in those last few years, before the First World War changed the lives of so many so completely, at Ladbroke lived Charles Plummer, now a widower looked after by his daughter Annie, while his sons Fred and Harry carried on with the family Butchering business at Ladbroke Farm. Leonard Bird was the carpenter for the Estate, while Joseph Hancock and James Ward were village carpenters. James' last child, the ninth had just died before her first birthday. James Tidmarsh not only ran his wheelwright yard, but the Post Office as well. Storer Collins ran the Blacksmith Shop with the help of his son Frank. While several Grocer and Butcher's shops were run by: Philip Stuchfield, Philip Rhodes and Thomas Smith, all with the help of their immediate family.

So a thriving, working community existed and although the volume of traffic had greatly reduced since the building of the Southam to Deppers Bridge road, there was still plenty of through traffic between Coventry and Oxford.

What, I wonder, will be said about Ladbroke in another 100 years!

Linda Doyle

Pearl Edwards died on December 16th, aged 74.

Pearl was born, married, and lived all her life in Ladbroke, most of that time in Bridge Lane. She was a founder member of Ladbroke Women's Fellowship. She

distributed this magazine from its inception until about two years ago when illness forced her to give up.

We have all felt deeply upset at the suffering she has had to bear, and feel a sense of relief for her that it is over. We have lost a very dear friend, but pray that she is now at rest and in peace.

Pearl was a font of knowledge about all things Ladbroke and the many families who have lived here. She was a very quiet gentle person, always very close to her family. She was a great supporter of her church and the organisations in the village.

Our love and support go out to Anita, Vicky and Geoff, indeed to all her family.

Betty Winkfield

LADBROKE'S TIME CAPSULE

With Christmas and the New Year behind us, it is now time to consider what is going to go into the Time Capsule under the Millennium Stone on the Millennium Green!

I have already spoken to some people and we have several ideas just waiting for the word to be put into motion. We need to depict in items the core activities which the village revolves around, such as the Church, Clubs and the few trades still working, plus some geographical items from around and about.

We are still pleased to receive any more ideas, as the box should hold a fair representation of village life at the end of the 20th Century. Please ring me if you want to discuss this or leave anything in writing with either Carol Northorpe or Christine Baker. We would like to have all ideas put forward by February, so that we can measure up the space and confirm details with everyone.

Thanks to those who have already put their thinking caps on and thanks in anticipation to the rest of you.

Linda Doyle - 814214

HARBURY SOCIETY

We called our Christmas Quiz 'Summer Splendour' and you can see why!

It featured thirty of our most interesting front gardens. The winner with only one incorrect answer was Mal Eaton who won the prize of a book about perennials. George Marshall caused most of the confusion - people did not know their Dickens Road from their Constance Drive, their Farley Avenue from their Church Terrace, and they weren't so hot on the offerings of later developers either.

Our next event is the play: *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* performed for us in the Village Hall on **Saturday 5th February** (7.45pm) by the Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company.

Bring all the family (9 years and upwards) to hear the story of the bell ringer with super-human powers the posters say. It's a thrilling comedy and you will all be positively encouraged to hiss and boo. Tickets from Linda Ridgley, 16 Farm Street, Tel. 612792. Oh! And there's a bar too!

Linda Ridgley

HARBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Sorry not to have wished readers Seasons Greetings last month. Only missed sending the splurge in by a week!

I really wanted to say that our year had been a successful one with a competent committee under the leadership of President Celia Barrett. They have agreed to continue for another year, hoping that other members will consider joining the committee. New ideas are always welcome.



WI Group ready to entertain

We had the usual enjoyable Christmas party. The Village Hall really looked superb and the food tables were laden with an array of tasty dishes and mouth-watering sweets. Then, entertainment by members and some great husbands who were sporting enough to act the fool. Thank you to all who helped to make the evening a success. Then came the Christmas meeting with sherry, mince pies and bran tub presents.

We had yet another excellent speaker. Mrs. Glynis Gayton, who is president of Brandon, Atherton W.I. came to talk on *Our Daily Bread*. She is now, with her eldest son, running the family baking business, which started in 1920,.

The bakers start at midnight and the vans are on the road by 5.00am, delivering bread and cakes to small shop keepers. They also still provide a door to door service, which gives personal contact to house-bound people. However, she says, many small bakeries have gone out of business, not only because of supermarkets, but the bureaucracy that governs them which is now very strict.

Mrs. Gayton brought along a selection of loaves which were included in the raffle. Winners said the bread was excellent.

I would like to wish all readers a Happy New Year.

January Hostesses: Terry Wade, Dorothy Travis and Sue Lapraik

Jeanne Beaumont

HARBURY THEATRE GROUP

As you will read elsewhere in the Harbury News, our last production, 'The Dawn Treader' was very well received. We were particularly pleased with the large number of youngsters who helped to make the play so enjoyable.

Planning for our next production *Daisy Pulls it Off*, a hilarious comedy set in a girls' boarding school, is now underway. The play, scheduled for 6th, 7th and 8th April, is to be cast in early January. Please come along and enjoy reading the play on **Monday 10th January** at 8.00pm in the Wight School. If you want to know more, contact John Stringer, the play's director on 612314.

Alan Barr

HARBURY FOLK CLUB

Catching on to a common theme around at the moment I had set a theme of Endings and Beginnings, and in the usual various ways that is what we got.....at break neck speed to get everyone in!! Beginning more or less on time with the first tune I ever played in public (at Harbury Folk Club!) and then Les Barker's infamous ending number, Earwig O the first half was musically ripped through by Des, Pete and Liz, Rik, and ended by Ian and Sue. Ten down, more to come!

With barely a mention of the Archers the second half began with songs on the theme and carols from Double Up (Peter McDonald, Margaret, Ian and Sue). Ruth (accompanied by Peter Mac) and then, in his own right, Peter Mac. This was followed by a lovely song from Margaret (accompanied by P. Mac), Ron with his usual topical humour, the Blues Fathers singing a Bob Dylan number for the first time and then two songs from Gill making her debut at Harbury. The second half was ended by Mike's traditional folk song "Currys of Kildare" and Gilly (Julie Andrews) Darbey's ultimate beginning song "Doh, a Deer".....with actions!! Another 15 songs and still more to come.

Those Harbury Folk Club presenters in possession of Peter's initial note "Guidance on running Harbury Folk Club" will immediately relate to the dilemma, "..... an average evening is usually approximately 26 songs."

In the third half, faced with a choice between one song or an above average evening, I went for the latter and if we did finish a bit later than usual the superb performances were certainly worth it!! Beginning with a sublime rendering of Silent Night in French from Marie the carols continued with two from the Folk Club Choir; two from the manic Keith Donnelly included his Millennium song "Everyone's Getting Drunk Tonight" followed by one from yet another debut performer, Jayanne. The evening was ended in style by Phil and Drill and then the Jug Band. Thank you John for the two songs and especially "Farewell to you, John Kemsley" (that's with an L and not a P!).....and the exclusive CD.

And so, with the Jug Band's "We'll Meet Again" we brought Harbury Folk Club's Millennium to an end. Brian, more eloquent than ever before, closed the Jug Band (again), and I retired from the committee having had a great deal of fun over the last few years. The evening saw 27 artists (some appearing in more than one "group"), 3 of them debuting, perform 36 songs in at least two languages and a raffle for Cancer Research raised £51.

Bob takes Harbury Folk Club into 2000 on the first Thursday in January, in The Dog Inn. Happy New Year, Happy Millennium, Happy Beginnings.

John Kemsley

1st HARBURY BROWNIES 'LEND A HAND' at All Saints' Church

This was our theme for the evening and we thought it would be a nice idea to do something whereby the Brownies would help within the community. So, on November 15th we set off towards the church with our dusters and polish where we were welcomed by Ruth Dodds (Churchwarden) who very kindly agreed to receive us and sort out some jobs for the Brownies. We polished the shelves at the entrance, tidied up the toy corner and brass polished the Christening font. As you can see the photograph shows how the girls did a great job and still managed to keep a smile on their faces.



Ruth Dodds and the Brownies at the end of their session

Well done girls, and thank you Ruth for giving us the opportunity to 'Lend a Hand'.

Martine Jenkins

'LEND A HAND' AT CHURCH

When we went to the Church, we lent a hand. My group had to clean the bookshelf. First, we took the books off then I squirted the shelf with polish. We got dusters and rubbed it in. When we finished, they put the books back, whilst I carried on polishing. When we were finished, we went to the play corner.

We had our photos taken by Nathalie's and Sarah's Mums. After that we line up in our pairs. Our helper from the Church told us if we wanted to lend a hand more, she said, we could bring a tin of food or a packet of food in. Then we went back to the Scout hut. All in all we had a great evening.

Katie Dudley, Sixer





Christmas Festivities

P.C.C. Christmas Fayre and the Senior Citizens Party

HARBURY NURSERY SCHOOL

The highlight of the term was the outstanding Nursery Christmas Concert watched by the infant school, staff, Mr. Milner and a great many parents. Poppy welcomed everyone beautifully. Taisia Shuttleworth played the angry innkeeper and her voice boomed around the hall.

Following the heart-warming Christmas story different children exhibited their Santa paintings and showed off their counting with the Christmas Pudding song.



Elliot Tawney, Tamsyn Laity, Alexander Tawney, Rosie Reeves, and Hallam Bullock

Parents were delighted that all the children had a role to play and had contributed their own ideas and thoughts. They had also invented some new verses to some well known carols. Joanna finished the concert by asking everyone to remember “children who don’t get any presents at Christmas”. A collection was made for the School’s Shoe-box Appeal for children in Kosovo which made £50. Thank you to parents for the wonderful costumes - the Christmas puddings were particularly memorable! Thanks also to parents and everyone else for all their efforts in a highly successful coffee morning in early December which raised nearly £500 for Nursery funds. Nursery staff would like to thank the Nursery Committee for all their efforts which have contributed to such a successful term.

The term ended with a fun filled Christmas party - lots of traditional party games followed by a visit from a very important guest! Father Christmas was very impressed by the children’s good manners! The children took home calendars, cards, paper-chains, baubles and Rudolf hats.

We look forward to seeing all children - and lots of new starters on **Thursday 6th January**. We have seen a great increase in demand for places and plan to start a new Tuesday afternoon session. For more information about joining the Nursery contact Kate Smart on 612609.

Marie Kennedy

THE PRE-SCHOOL - Learning Through Play

Happy New Year! Many parents tried to make this New Year's Eve special in some way for their children and, talking to the two and three year olds in our care, we wonder what they will recall of the night that the twentieth century became the twenty-first century. It's a bit sobering for those of us with ages in double figures to realise that some of them might even witness the 22nd Century!



Mary and her angels



Two shepherds visiting

Before Christmas we visited the Church where Gill told the story of the birth of Jesus, prompting the children to contribute figures to the crib as the tale unfolded. The children sang very beautifully for their parents and friends. We were so pleased that some of our supporters in the village were able to come along - many kind people donate their time or materials to the Pre-School even though their children have long since grown up and we are always delighted to welcome you to events like this. The gathering after this simple celebration was very friendly and happy and one of the staff remarked how much she liked and valued her parents. It took a moment to realise that this was not an expression of filial affection but of appreciation of the support the parents offer the Pre-School.

This support may well be tested a little in the coming months. In common with most other nursery schools in the area, we have had to review our finances following implementation of the minimum wage. We appreciate how hard our staff work, putting in hours above and beyond those for which they are paid, and know that even this modest increase in no way reflects the true value of their work. Nonetheless, we have to raise all this money ourselves. We have therefore agreed to raise the fees to £4 per session from 1st January 2000. All parents should have had a letter explaining the background to this decision - please contact Linda if, for some reason, you did not get one. There is government money available to help parents on low incomes and parents of some four-year-olds to pay these fees. Do please talk to Linda or Marie in confidence if you would like to know more. You should be reassured that we will always try to find a way to support any child that wishes to come to the Pre-School so please come and have a chat to us if this increase causes you concern.

With such pressure on finances, the spotlight falls on fund raising with increasing intensity. We hope to see as many people as possible at our Coffee Morning in the Tom Hauley Room on **Saturday 15th January** from 10.30am to 12noon. In addition to the delicious coffee, the delightful biscuits and other refreshments, there will be a stunning raffle which not only features goodies which will challenge your New Year's Resolutions but a few things like some sports vouchers which might actually help you to keep them! Needless to say, cakes, biscuits and donations for the raffle will be very warmly welcomed. Please drop them into the Pre-School or bring them along on the day. We look forward to giving you our millennial greetings in person then.

Harbury Pre-School Committee

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO START YOUR NEW YEAR?

You may be aware that the Brownie Guider is unable to continue running the Brownies on a regular basis from January and she has been trying very hard to find others to carry on in her place. Three people did come forward but for various reasons two have found that they are unable to continue each week. The remaining person would like to continue but feels that she is unable to do so on her own. This means that unless others come forward the Brownies in Harbury will have to close from January 2000.

We need at least two people who would be willing to take over the responsibility of the running of the pack, people who would be prepared to become uniformed members of the Guide Association. It is a commitment and isn't just for the hour and a half on Monday nights, but with backup from other more experienced guiders throughout the district and training sessions specifically for the benefit of new guiders you will find it both rewarding and fun.

There are at present 21 girls in the Brownie pack with a further 10 on the waiting list eager to join in the fun. Should the unit close there are no places available at any of the other packs in Southam or the surrounding villages for the girls to transfer to and continue their guiding activities. The Guide company has been closed for 18 months because of lack of adult support and it will be a shame if the Brownies have to close as well.

A frequent comment within rural communities is the lack of activities for youngsters. The critical factor is committed adult leadership and guidance. Guiding has proved successful and popular for nearly a hundred years and Harbury girls are keen to continue into the new millennium. Can **YOU** help? We **just need** adult helpers. If you would like more information then please contact me and I will be happy to help.

**Lesley Foster - District Commissioner,
Southam (01926 812183)**

BLACKPOOL FOR JUST £ 107

The Rotary Club of Southam 2000 is offering holidays this year to Senior Citizens from Southam and surrounding villages who would benefit from a week away to take a holiday at this ever popular resort.

The hotels used include ensuite facilities in every room. The week's holiday in Blackpool costs just £107.00 and in addition there is a single room supplement of £15. The cost includes: all meals, ensuite accommodation, coach travel to and from Southam, and entertainment.

Rotary has been organising holidays in Blackpool since 1992 and last year more than 3,000 Midlands folk enjoyed these holidays, including increasing numbers from the Southam area who have been taking part for the past 4 years.

Rotary feels that people who would benefit from a holiday do not take one for many reasons, including the formality of making all the arrangements themselves, difficulty of arranging the travel, carrying luggage or lack of a companion. Experience has shown that once in Blackpool people are anything but lonely and friendships develop and carry on from year to year. Families can join together to pay for relatives who deserve to get away - they may be married, single, widowed or couples. Holiday makers must be able to climb stairs as the small comfortable family type hotels used do not have lifts.

On arrival by coach at Blackpool, you will be transferred with your luggage to your room and will have tea or coffee and biscuits to settle in before the evening meal. Included within the price will be a Mystery Tour, Western Night, Bingo and Sing-along nights. Wednesday is Party Night with a buffet. Additional excursions are also available at reduced prices.

Holidays are available for the week from **Thursday 11 May to Thursday 18 May 2000.**

Anyone interested in going on holiday, or wanting to nominate someone they feel deserves to go, should collect an application form from one of the addresses below:

The Surgery, Bishops Itchington

The Post Office, Southam

Taylor's Chemist, Southam

The Post Office, Napton

The Post Office, Harbury

or contact John Dugmore, The Skoppy, Cox's Lane, Napton, CV47 8LW
- Telephone 01926 815145.

Completed forms should be returned to John Dugmore no later than **2 March 2000**.

Rotary Club of Southam

PENSIONER'S PATIO

One recent frosty morning a blue-tit was giving the nesting-box the once-over. His thoughts, I suspect, were more on the insects sheltering inside it than on lady blue-tits and eggs. In fact, only once during the last six years has it been used for its intended purpose; courting couples come and inspect it, then move on. Its position, too low on the wall and set between two windows which are always being opened and closed, makes it a less than desirable residence.

However, it was once taken over by a breakaway group of bees. We would have preferred blue-tits, especially after dead and dying bumblebees appeared all over the lawn. Had they shown too much interest in the nesting-box and been viciously stung for their pains? In the end, the box evidently didn't come up to expectations and the bees departed. An investigation revealed a revolting tangle of nesting material, a block of cells, and dead larvae and/or maggots.

But these unwelcome visitors left one indelible memory. Seeing three of them on the front of the box one day I went to look. Two remained at the side, watching the third, who moved forward at an angle in a straight line, described a semicircle, up the central line again and round in the opposite direction. I suddenly tumbled to the fact that this was the famous dance which tells where to find food. Maybe beekeepers are used to seeing it but I felt I'd had a glimpse of one of nature's wonders. In fact, I felt an intruder and tiptoed away to avoid disturbing them.

The little japonica, new last season, cheekily mocks the frost and snow with its icing-pink buds. It may come from the land of kimonos and paper parasols, but there's a tough gene or two there somewhere.

Edyth Algar

HARBURY ALL SAINTS' CHRISTMAS FAIR

On behalf of myself and my committee I would like to thank everyone who took part and supported a most enjoyable event.

The weather was very kind to us and we were delighted to welcome a steady flow of happy 'punters' with bright eyed children.

Hereburgh Morris were able to dance without dodging the raindrops much to everyone's delight.

The raffle raised a record breaking £822 for the Warwick Hospital Accident and Emergency Appeal Fund, many thanks to you all in Harbury.

This year will be very special as probably one of the last Millennium events in the village. We intend to raise our game for the 2000 event but for one year only I would welcome 4 or 5 volunteers to join my illustrious committee. If you are interested please ring me on 612414.

Colin Ingram

THE DIARY OF THE H&L NEWS

On the last Friday afternoon of each month articles submitted for the magazine are collected. The contributors are representatives from most clubs and societies in Harbury and Ladbroke, plus people who occasionally write an article.

Over the following two days, the articles are typed, but with modern technology, they are also submitted on disk, and received via email. It takes about 6 hours to put them into a document ready for the editors.

Sunday evening the editors meet for a few hours to read, check, edit articles, and choose any photographs that could go with an article, followed by writing a 'summary' for the front page.

Monday is for typing up the 'summary', making corrections, transferring the magazine into Desk Top Publishing, formatting the pages with photographs, and advertisements. In the evening one of the editors takes the draft away to be proof read.

On Tuesday the magazine will reach its final printout and together with the photographs and adverts paper-clipped to the edge of the page, it is taken to the printer.

On Friday afternoon, the boxes with 970 copies are collected from the printer and taken to the Tom Hauley Room. There, four tables are set out and the pages laid out for collating into magazine format after which they are stapled. This stapling process is done by a group of enthusiastic people, and I find these two hours most enjoyable.

The distribution manager bundles the magazines for the distributors (over 30 people in Harbury alone) who will put the H&L News through your letterbox over the following few days.

All this work is done in a week and over 100 different villagers are involved each month. This process has been going for nearly 25 years! I am proud to be one of this great team of people. If you want to be involved, you can always contact the editors. Many hands make light work.

Janny Freeman

THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER - by C.S. Lewis

As we sailed away with the travellers on the Dawn Treader, it was obvious that Harbury Theatre Group need have no worries for its future. The young cast performed with enthusiasm and energy ably supported by its more senior members. Tonight's performance represented hours of hard work and commitment particularly from the young thespians who delivered their lines with individuality and confidence. Although every member of the cast contributed fully to the overall success of the night one cannot help but single out the talents of the lead characters for a special mention.



The Dragon emerges from its cave

Edmund (Matthew Hiscoe), Eustace (Matthew Whoreton) and Lucy (Charlotte Coleman) portrayed the C.S. Lewis characters with style. I particularly enjoyed Matthew Whorton's performance of the cynical Eustace. The diminutive Reepicheep (Emily Montague) deserves a special mention as she worked her way through complicated and lengthy dialogue.

Having seen the Adrian Mitchell dramatisation of the Lion, Witch and Wardrobe that included the stunning performance of Patrice Naiambana as Aslan, I did wonder how Harbury Theatre Group would portray this powerful force for Good.

I was not disappointed by the Theatre Group's imaginative approach to this character; projecting an image of the lion onto the stage, whilst John Stringer's voice, complete with echo, gave a spiritual depth to the powerful character. The special effects helped to create that magical atmosphere that is Narnia.

This was a production which drew upon the talents of a large number of backstage crew as well as those on stage and resulted in a performance of which the Theatre Group could be proud.

Vikki Holroyd

USE THEM OR LOSE THEM!

Watching the Millennium Video brought home the fragility of the services we think of as essential to village life. In the time between the filming and the showing of the video, the Gamecock shut and re-opened, and we lost both Party Paraphernalia and the Newsagent.

Twenty five years ago we had many more retail outlets and other employers in the village. Gradually these have been lost as personal mobility increased and the lure of extra choice draws people away from the village shops to the nearby towns.

As well as the Co-op, Taylor's Post Office and the Supermarket, there was Hunt's Store in Chapel Street. Bonzo ran the vegetable shop with the Bookies above it and Stan Smith cobbling away at the school end of the old bake-house.

Mr. Lindop, next to the Gamecock sold toiletries (there was no Chemist), took in cleaning and even cut hair. The Newsagent was at the top of Mill Lane. The Co-op food shop was confined to the left-hand side of their present building with a Drapery and Hardware store next to it. The Co-op Butcher's was located on the opposite side of the street where Butchers Barn now stands and competed with Percy Cowley at Phoenix House. There was even a lawnmower repair shop at The Cottage, High Street.

Adjacent to the Wight School, George Marshall's Emporium had been converted into a Launderette and Hair Dresser's. Next door to that was Harbury's own bank, a branch of the Midland Bank in Southam.

As well as the Bull Ring garage, Fosse garage and the Filling Station, Dovehouse Autos in Dovehouse Lane did car repairs. There was a precision engineering works at the Windmill and a Boat builder's where Fox Close now stands.

Mr. Trice still drove his cows up Mill Street for milking and Ralph Gurden farmed at Hillside and sold home grown vegetables from his barn.

Next month Celia Barrett will 'recall' Harbury commerce from 50 and 100 years ago.

Linda Ridgley

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Welcome to the year 2000.

At our last meeting Mr. Webster gave a very interesting talk - 'Gardening for Wildlife'. The slides were mainly of butterflies and insects. I had no idea the damsel and dragonflies were so fond of eating greenfly, they really are lovely to see. The talk was followed by our social, a very good spread of delicious food and once again the gentleman in the kitchen dispensed the accompanying wine. A very enjoyable evening. Thank you to all who helped make it so, the committee almost had a rest!

The Bursary was drawn at this meeting - Mrs. Daphne Clifford was the winner - she will chose from a selected list of courses - we hope she will enjoy it and find it interesting.

It is a while since the names of the committee were published, so for the benefit of our new members they are as follows:

Chairman Mrs. Pat Smith

Secretary Mrs. Julie Clarke

Treasurer Mr. John Clifford

Committee members Mrs. E. Zonik, Mrs. V. Neil, Mrs. S. Batty, Mrs. J. Morrall, Mrs. V. Siddell, Mrs. H. Turner, Mr. R. Grey and myself.

The magazine will definitely not be distributed in time for our next meeting, it will be **Tuesday 1st February** at 8.00pm and Mr. Coombes will give a talk entitled 'The Shady Garden'.

Muriel Grey

GARDENING NOTES FOR JANUARY

The days we can spend in the garden this month will be few so look at it through the window and plan new areas and displays. Buy seeds early to have the best choice. If you have shelter indoors for seed boxes some border perennials can be sown now and should flower in summer, aquilegia, coreopsis, delphinium, gaillardia, hollyhocks, lupins and penstemons are worth a try.

There are the routine jobs of checking fences, and new plantings for any signs of wind damage. If we do get snow, shake it off evergreens and conifers or the branches may be broken. Be ready with horticultural fleece or newspaper if severe frost is threatened, but do not use plastic bags as they trap cold air onto the plant. Apple trees, pears and gooseberries can still be pruned at the start of January if they were missed last month. Climbers and shrubs which flower late in the season can be cut back hard. Buddleia and Himalayan honeysuckle, Leycesteria and the large flowered Jackmanii clematis all grow vigorously and flower on the new growth so to keep them within bounds they need this harsh routine. Any suitable twigs can be saved to be used as pea sticks or in the borders as supports. If the fresh Christmas tree does not have roots it could be used in the garden as a support for sweetpeas. I collect the cardboard centres from toilet rolls and fill each one with compost to use as pots for single sweetpea seeds. They provide the depth which these seedlings need and the whole tube and seedling can be planted without disturbing the roots.

Plants in containers may need some water but give it sparingly or the soil will freeze more readily. Bubble wrap is useful as insulation around pots if we get prolonged periods of hard frost. Houseplants need less water through the winter as many are resting. Bowls of bulbs last longer if they are kept cool and a weekly liquid feed once the flowers are fully out will build up the bulb for next year. If you intend to plant the bulbs in the garden once this year's display is over, continue the feeding until the leaves yellow and droop, then they can go in the border.

Plant of the month - Azalea

One of the most lovely indoor plants is the Azalea indica and although the Greek word 'azaleos' means dry these plants should never dry out. They need a cool temperature of 10 to 15°C, so a window sill or porch is ideal. Once a week immerse the pot in a bowl of water until the bubbles stop rising, but check daily to ensure that the compost is moist. In this area of hard water use rainwater or boiled water. Feed each week with half

strength liquid feed until June, then stand the pot outside until the first frosts are due, but be sure to water it.

Acclimatise the plant gradually when bringing it back into the house or all the leaves may fall. When the plant needs repotting use lime free compost and a plastic pot. These popular shrubs came to Britain from China about 1808. Most of the best quality indoor varieties were bred by nurserymen in Belgium. It was only when the plant hunter Ernest Wilson selected 50 plants from the many hybrids which had been bred in the town of Kurume in Japan that plants for the garden with a wide range of form and colour were available. These are both deciduous and evergreen although this is a misleading description, for in autumn all the leaves produced in spring will fall. However they stay green because some leaves grew in summer and these stay on the shrub throughout winter.

Pat Smith

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors

I would like to say how much I appreciated the messages of sympathy and support from friends, neighbours and W.I. members on the loss of my mother.

A special thank you to Father Roy for his kindness and address at mother's funeral.

Jeanne Beaumont

Dear Editors

I would like to express my thanks to everyone who participated in the Gala Charity Night at Harbury Club on November 27th. The event was in aid of the Leukaemia Ward at Birmingham Children's Hospital and a total of £1,000.00 was raised. Thanks also to all the kind sponsors and help received from family and friends.

Michelle Griffin

Dear Editors

We would like to thank everyone, who supported our Coffee Morning at Fox Cottage. We raised £227. We would also like to thank everyone who has supported us during the year. We hope you will continue to support us next year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy new year to you all.

Harbury Support Group for Myton Hospice

Dear Editors

On the evening of Tuesday, December 21st, a dozen singers and musicians from Harbury Folk Club and Hereburgh Morris went carol singing around the pubs of Harbury. We started at the Great Western

and finished at the Village Club, calling at a few houses on the way by special request.

It wasn't the busiest evening of the festive season, but we still managed to raise £101 for the Leamington Christian Mission to help the homeless, especially at Christmas. We would like to thank the landlords, landladies, bar staff and their customers for their generosity and good humour. In particular, we'd like to thank the three young ladies who followed us from pub to pub! We hope that we brought you a little Christmas cheer.

Peter McDonald

Dear Editors

Many thanks to all who supported our Coffee Morning of November 13th. The sum of £200.15 was raised. Many, many thanks.

J. Smith, Hon. Secretary, British Legion

Dear Editors

On behalf of Jeanne and Gwen may I thank everybody who baked all the cakes, pies, etc. for the stall at the recent Christmas Fair. Many thanks also for all the help we received with the actual 'manning' at the 11th hour, in fact, Gwen and June took over!

There were certainly plenty of infectious bugs around this year - and in fact are still about!

Muriel Grey

Dear Editors

May I, through the pages of the Harbury & Ladbroke News, say a big thank you to everyone for the cards, flowers, phone calls and messages received whilst I was in hospital. It shows yet again what a caring community we are lucky enough to live in.

I am pleased to say that I am improving slowly and am looking forward to a healthy millennium year. Happy New Year to you all.

Lauren Oliver