

It is a pleasure to see so much activity on the youth scene - evidenced alone by the plethora of photographs featuring: Cubs, Gymnastics, School Disco and the Youth Club.



Congratulations to Isobel Clarke, who is photographed displaying her certificate in recognition of over 10 years' service to Harbury Cubs.

It is very good news on the Youth Club front, with a new team of leaders, encouraging the Youngsters to participate in creative activities. Also the Harbury School continues to provide facilities for the children's disco and the Gymnastics Club.



'Top of the Pops' activities for Harbury Youngsters held in the village school

Still on the good news front, the Harbury and Ladbroke News was runner up in the Interpretative section of the Village Venture's competition organised by the Warwickshire Rural Community Council. The judge commented that the magazine *continues to maintain a high standard in all departments*. He considered that *it was a traditional magazine that's hard to fault, but is also innovative as it is on the World Wide Web*.

Thank you to all our contributors who provide the interesting articles which made the magazine such a recognised success.

We would like to extend a welcome to Peter and Sharon who have recently taken over as licensees of the Gamecock.

The AGM for the H&L News will be held on **Tuesday 14 March** at 8.00pm in the Crown Inn. The meeting is open to anyone to attend.

Finally, we extend our sympathies to the families of Alfred Barber and Winifred Burr.

Harbury Diary

MARCH

- Sun 5** **NEXT BEFORE LENT** - Sung Eucharist 9am; Evensong 4.00pm
- Tues 7 Shrove Tuesday - Holy Communion 7.30pm
Horticultural Society in Village Hall 8pm
Toddlers' Service 2.15pm; Holy Communion 7.30pm
Prayer Group in Church 8.10pm
- Wed 8 Ash Wednesday - Sung Eucharist 7.30pm with Imposition
Harbury Society AGM and Wall Talk in T.H. Room 7.30pm for 8pm
- Thurs 9 Holy Communion 9.45am
Thursday Club in Village Hall 2.30pm
WI in Tom Hauley Room 7.45pm
- Fri 10 Newspaper collection
Holy Communion 12.00noon
Lent Lunch in Tom Hauley Room 12.30pm
- Sat 11 Coffee morning - Rotary
PTA Family Barn Dance in Village Hall
- Sun 12** **Lent I** - Holy Communion 8am; Sung Eucharist 10.30am
Sunday School 10.30am in Tom Hauley Room; Evensong 4.00pm
- Tues 14 Holy Communion with Lent Address followed by tea and discussion in Tom Hauley Room 7.30pm
Village Hall Committee meeting at 8pm
H&L News AGM in The Crown 8pm
- Wed 15 **ADVERTS Westbury House, 79 Mill Street by 5.30pm**
PCC meeting in Tom Hauley Room 7.30pm
- Thurs 16 Holy Communion 9.45am
- Fri 17 Holy Communion 12.00noon. Lent Lunch 12.30pm in Tom Hauley Room
- Sat 18 Coffee morning - Church Flower Festival Fund
Junior Football Dinner Dance in Village Hall
- Sun 19** **Lent II** - Holy Communion 8am
Family Communion 10.30am
- Tues 21 Holy Communion with Lent Address followed by tea and discussion in Tom Hauley Room 7.30pm
Senior Citizens Committee in Village Hall 8pm
- Thurs 23 Holy Communion 9.45am
Thursday Club in Village Hall 2.30pm
Year 6 Netball Tournament in the afternoon
Parish Council meeting in Village Hall 7.30pm
- Fri 24 Newspaper collection
Holy Communion 12.00noon. Lent Lunch in Tom Hauley Room 12.30pm
ARTICLES to Harbury Chemist, High Street by 5.30pm
- Sat 25 Annunciation of our Lord to the B.V.M.
Holy Communion 9.30am
Coffee Morning - Air Ambulance
Clocks one hour forward at midnight
- Sun 26** **Lent III** - Holy Communion 8am
Sung Eucharist 10.30am; Evensong 6.30pm
- Tues 28 Holy Communion with Lent Address followed by tea and discussion in Tom Hauley Room 7.30pm
- Thurs 30 Holy Communion 9.45am
- Fri 31 Holy Communion 12.00noon. Lent Lunch in Tom Hauley Room 12.30pm
Daisy Pulls it Off, by Harbury Theatre Group in Village Hall 8pm

APRIL

- Sat 1 *Daisy Pulls it Off*, by Harbury Theatre Group in Village Hall 2.30pm & 8pm

Sun 2 Mothering Sunday - Sung Eucharist 9am; Evensong 6.30pm

Please note: Adverts to Westbury House, 79, Mill Street by day 15th March

Articles to Harbury Chemist by Friday 24th March

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

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

BEAT BUDDIES: Village Hall, Tuesdays 2pm

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 6:30-8:00pm

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
 Coach: Mike Grayson 613027

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. Monday 12:30 - 2:30pm;
 Tuesday-Friday 9:00am - 12:00noon

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

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

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

LINE DANCING: BEGINNERS, Harbury Village Club, Thursdays 7.30pm
NETBALL CLUB: 612841) Village Hall Car Park, Training Thursdays 6:30pm;
 Matches on Saturday Afternoon
SCOUTS: Scout Hut, Thursdays 7:00pm
SOUTHAM LEISURE KEEP FIT: Village Hall, Wednesdays 7pm
TENNIS CLUB: (614614) (Apr-Sept) Tues & Thurs 6:30pm onwards (6:00pm for April);
 Saturday 2:00-5:00pm, Monday & Wednesday 1:45-3:00pm
THEATRE GROUP: The Dog Inn, last Tuesday of Month 8:00pm
THURSDAY CLUB: Farley Room of Village Hall 2nd & 4th Thursday of Month 2:30pm
TODDLER GROUP: Wight School, Monday 10:00-11:30am & Wednesday 1:30-3:00pm
W.I.: Tom Hauley Room, 2nd Thursday of Month 7:45pm
YOGA: Wight School, Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30pm Diane Surgey Tel. 817904
YOUTH CLUB: Village Hall, Thursdays 7:00-9:00pm

Parish Council

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?

Harbury Helpline is for you!

EMERGENCY TRANSPORT: Call Tim Millington 612808 or Charles Catt 612864.

HELP WITH FORM FILLING:

- **Job Applications, CV's, Council Tax Forms, etc.:** Call Joanne Cooper 613859 or Jeff Bedford 612753.
- **For University/Job Applications, interviews, CVs:** Call Philip Bushill-Matthews 612476.
- **For Personal Tax Claims, Rebates on Tax Paid to Building Societies or on Shares:** Call Jim Chapple 612044.

HOME VISITING: Caring for a sick or elderly relative and need a break for a few hours, or you would like someone to call on you.
 Call Sue Dormer 613254.

HOUSEHOLD BUDGETING ADVICE: Call Tony Brunton 612191.

VISITING: Hospital. If you are unable to visit a parent or relative, or parents would like support with a child in Hospital: Call Fr. Roy Brown 612377 or Keith Dormer 613254.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH HARBURY SUNDAY SERVICES

Holy Communion, 8:00am

Sung Eucharist 10:30am (Except 1st Sunday of Month:
 Sung Eucharist 9.00am)

Family Service 10:30am on 3rd Sunday of Month

Evensong 6:30pm (Except 3rd Sunday)

Please see notice board in Church for weekday services or revised times on special occasions.

Rector: Father Roy Brown, The Rectory, Vicarage Lane, Harbury
 Tel.: 612377

Laugh Line

Father came home from work to find his small son busily drawing. *What picture are you drawing?* he asked. *God,* said the little fellow while his father looked on smiling. *You can't draw God,* he said, *No one knows what he looks like. They will soon,* came the reply, *I've nearly finished.*

FROM THE RECTOR

The message the apostles preached was not for the select few. The more people they reached the better. So they spread their wings and preached to different people from different backgrounds.

Among their audience were people who had never heard of Jesus. The message 'Christ is risen' would give rise to the obvious question: *Who is this Christ?* So there was a need for more information about Jesus to be included in their preaching. I suppose this meant that their sermons got longer! But they had to be if they were to be understood.

The apostles responded to this need with enthusiasm. They now enjoyed a fuller understanding of who Jesus was. They now saw, as never before, the significance of all that he had said and done. Now they knew all that had been going on while Jesus had been with them. Things which they had only glimpsed then had become crystal clear. Christ had promised that the Spirit would do this for them: *I still have many things to say to you but they would be too much for you now. But when the Spirit of truth comes he will lead you to the complete truth, since he will not be speaking as from himself but will say only what he has learnt, and he will tell you of the things to come.*

It had been the resurrection and the coming of the Spirit that had enlightened their minds to understand things which, to human reason, would have remained mysterious and obscure. We learn about the Incarnation by saying *God became man.* They learned about it the other way round, by coming to the conviction that the man they had known, Jesus of Nazareth, was in fact God. It was that faith which now acted as an anchor for the way they spoke about all they had witnessed. Now they saw, and could only see everything in the light of the truth that Christ was God. Christ had risen, Christ was alive. They lived now not by themselves, but Christ lived in them.

The gospel tradition was formed by people who believed and wanted to share that belief with others. Anyone who believes in truths passionately will always be harshly judged by some. On the other hand the apostles set about their task with great feeling for the people to whom they reached. They were aware of the difficulties and barriers which had to be overcome. In their evangelisation they had one powerful aid - the Word.

Jesus' words and actions grew daily in their hearts. And they were convinced that these words were for today. They could not treat them as dead letters or words from the past. They were always discovering and wondering at the meaning of Jesus.

The gospel tradition was formed by people who loved Christ. They remembered him the way that children remembered their parents - with affection. Their recollections were not cool, calculating or meticulous. People remember their loved ones in a special way. They recall the kind of people they were and what it was like to have them around, the

atmosphere that they could create around them. And if the memories get a bit mixed, one with another, there is no harm done provided that a true picture is preserved. Good people leave behind so many memories that it can be difficult to sort them all out and place them exactly in their proper order. But who wants to do this? And is there not a danger that doing this may even destroy a true memory of the real person.

As we go into Lent during this month, let us be fixed up as the apostles were, with Christ in our hearts. Let us share our love of Christ with others as we prepare for the joy of the Resurrection next month.

A Prayer for Lent

Lord God, with Lent we approach the springtime of the year when the face of the earth is renewed and life emerges out of death.

We pray that this season of Lent may be a veritable springtime for our souls, so that our lives, quickened by the breath of the Spirit and warmed by the sunshine of your love, may bear abundant fruit and be made radiant with the beauty of holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Fr. Roy

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals

Oakley Wood 14th February: Winifred May Burr

All Saints' Harbury 2nd March: Alfred George Barber

FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS



The February Family Service was a rather special occasion - organised by Kate Smart and the Nursery School, some two dozen toddlers with suitable face masks, told and sang to us the story of Noah's Ark and also sang a couple of hymns. The whole congregation, but especially the assembled Mums, Dads and Grandparents, were delighted. Thanks are due to the Nursery School organisers for putting so much work into the

presentation and, amazingly, keeping all the children under control! The next Family Service, by the way, is on **March 19th**.

We will have some repair work on the Bell Tower roof to deal with before long as rain water is finding its way through. Meanwhile, the excavation at the back of the church will soon be restored to normal - the main roof water drain is being repaired and modified to get storm water away better and to prevent the boiler house flooding.

We were so sorry to hear of the sudden death of Alf Barber on Tuesday 22nd February. Our sympathy goes to Gwen and their family.

Ruth & John

MOTHERS' UNION

Afternoon meeting: We were transported to glorious sunshine on a chilly February afternoon, as Charles Catt showed a most interesting selection of colour slides of the wild flowers of Crete, illustrating the splendid variety of size, shape and colour to be found, and giving us the names as he went along - luckily we weren't tested later to see what we had remembered!

Evening meeting: Carol Philips talked about working as a volunteer homicide detective in Arizona. This involved a lengthy selection and training process which most of us would have found extremely daunting, particularly considering there was no pay packet at the end! Carol outlined several cases on which she worked, and many harrowing experiences which would have tested the strongest of stomachs. This is an invaluable backup service, provided by the police in America, to support the victims of crime - it compares with our own excellent victim support scheme - the difference being that in America, volunteers are actually working alongside the police and can be called instantly to the scene of the crime, thereby freeing the paid police force to move on to the next job more quickly. Carol obviously found it a most worthwhile experience which will certainly stand her in good stead for any challenges in the future.

We are pleased to report that Alice Wilkins is back at home, recovering from an operation on her shoulder. Betty Atkins is still in hospital, following a stroke and we hope to hear that she will soon be improving. We extend our deep sympathy to Gwen Barber, on the loss of her dear husband, Alf. Sincere condolences go to Gwen and all her family.

Next meetings:

Tuesday 21st March, 7.30pm Service in Church with Lenten Address.

Wednesday 5th April 2.00pm Service in Church, with Lenten Address

Anne Moore

TODDLERS' SERVICE

At our February service we began our theme for the next few months: *People who care for us*. Mrs. Gill Guilford came along to tell us about her work as a leader at the Harbury Pre-School Playgroup which meets in the Wight School.

Mrs. Guilford brought along some musical instruments from the Playgroup and we accompanied ourselves singing *One more step along*

the road I go. After a prayer we each made a musical instrument to take home.

Our next service will be on **Tuesday 14th March** at 2.15pm in the Children's Corner at Church. All babies and toddlers are welcome.

Lorna Bedford

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

We meet every Tuesday at 10.30am at 3, Penelope Close. This is a small caring group and we would welcome some new faces. If you are free on Tuesday mornings we would be pleased to welcome you. Why not come and see?

B. Hodge

Ladbroke News

MARCH

- Sun 5 **NEXT BEFORE LENT** - Family Communion 10.30am
 Wed 8 Ash Wednesday
 Women's Fellowship 2.45pm
 Sun 12 **Lent I** - Sung communion 9am
 Wed 15 **ADVERTS** Westbury House, 79 Mill Street by 5.30pm
 Sun 19 **Lent II** - Sung Communion 9am
 Children's Church 10.30am
 Fri 24 **ARTICLES** to Harbury Chemist, High Street by 5.30pm
 Sun 26 **lent III** - Sung Communion 9am

APRIL

- Sun 2 **Mothering Sunday** - Family Communion 10.30am

LENT LUNCHEAS AT 12.00NOON £ 2

- March 8th - Chris Payne & Nancy Stubbs, 17 Ladbroke Hall
 March 15th - Beryl Rose & Pam Brown, Field Farm, Kineton Road
 March 22nd - Gill Moore & Pam Brown, The Bungalow, Windmill Lane
 March 29th - Gwynne Badman & Betty Winkfield, Hall Farm, Ladbroke
 April 5th - Sue Moore & Marie Kennedy, Walworth Farm, B. Itchington
 April 12th - Catherine Spence & Hazel Sharples, 7 Ladbroke Hall

In aid of our sponsorship of a Sudanese boy in the Cairo Refuge for Sudan.

Jane Rutherford

LADBROKE CHURCH NEWS

Lent is at last upon us. In Ladbroke it will be a really testing time. Don't give up. I did warn you last month we hadn't finished with our upheavals.

I know the plasterers have been and gone, but that was nothing!

March 6th the decorators will be in putting up scaffolding in the Nave.

March 20th Dampco will begin their work in the Chancel, treating wood worm and removing rotten wood in the ceiling. This obviously will be an

inconvenience during some services. Please see times on the list in the Lych Gate.

Ash Wednesday: No Women's Fellowship Holy Communion. There is a service in Harbury at 7.30pm. Please ask me if you need transport to this service.

Sunday 26th March: No services in Ladbroke Church.

April 2nd - Mothering Sunday: we have been assured! that the decorating will be finished in the Nave, but the Chancel will still be out of use. The altar will be at the Chancel steps so we are hoping to have our Mothering Sunday Service within the Family Service, with refreshments following almost as normal. Gill Moore has kindly consented to make the posies again this year.

If all that isn't enough - what a shock it was to find that one of the memorial plaques had fallen off the wall. Thankfully when no one was in the church. It made quite a mess of the end of one of the pews. Hopefully it can be repaired and replaced with brand new pins to hold it! I shall always look at plaques in future - for the wrong reasons!

Betty Winkfield

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We had almost a 'full house' at our February meeting. We thoroughly enjoyed Mary Shelley telling us about the making of The Harbury Chronicles. We saw snippets of the video and heard about some of the difficulties shooting it and financing it. I know some of our members have ordered copies, so we can see the film completely - not that which went on the 'cutting room' floor!

Many thanks to Beryl Ross for her hospitality in her lovely farmhouse sitting room.

Next month we are really going to Nancy Stubbs' home to hear some more history of Southam from Mary Rock.

Betty Winkfield

LADBROKE AND DEPPERS BRIDGE W.I.

The February meeting was held on the 24th at Ladbroke Village Hall. It was well attended on such an inclement evening. The President welcomed members and visitors.

The Shortmat Bowls first team are into the semi-finals, in April, having won their match in January.

A team was entered in a Quiz night at Claverdon and were thirteenth out of thirty four teams entered.

A very enjoyable Scrabble evening was held on February 9th. The names of the two winners will go forward to play in the County competition.

The Bursary name will be drawn in March and the lucky lady will be able to choose a course at Denman College with the £100 subsidy.

An invitation has been received from Princethorpe WI for **March 7th**. The Spring Council Meeting will be held in the Spa Centre on **March 29th** and the Group meeting will be hosted by Harbury WI on May 3rd.

Names were taken of members wishing to visit Iron bridge on May 8th. Please make a note of our Strawberry Fair to be held on July 7th. More later on that.

The speaker for the evening was Mr. Tom Powell who had retired after being a Customs Officer for forty years. His anecdotes were both very interesting and amusing. The audience had many questions to be answered which he ably did. Raffle prizes were won by Catherine Spence, Mary Enstone and Beryl Ross.

The meeting in March is on the 23rd when Mrs. Evans will talk to us about Easter Traditions. The committee thinks that an Easter Bonnet Competition would be applicable so come on ladies do your best.

Tea Hostesses will be Christine Baker and Sue Halsall.

Hazel Sharples

LADBROKE VILLAGE HALL

The first draw of the Millennium Club for 2000 was held at the Bell Inn on February 7th. The winners were Pamela Brown £90; Lois Workwar £50; Susan Moore £25; Marion Grainger £25; Sheena Heally, Pat Kennedy, M. Theaker, Kin Ryan and Karen Birch each won £10.

The next draw will be held at the Bell Inn on **Monday 6th March** at 8.00pm. All visitors and new members will be very welcome.

Catherine Spence

LADBROKE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Aha! Dick Turpin was hanged at York in 1739 on April 7th. So what, said the committee - well on **Friday 7th April** our own local live band the 'Blue Murder Band' will be playing at the Village Hall for our very own *Highwayman's Ball!* Make of it what you like, but tickets will soon be available from the Village Hall committee at £7.50, so look out for the posters. Meanwhile the rejuvenation of the Village Hall continues with a coat of paint on the doors and windows.

Linda Doyle

CHAPEL ASCOTE CONSERVATION AREA

One of the last things Steve Doyle did was to clean up a medieval pond and its oak wood surroundings on the edge of Ladbroke and Chapel Ascote, so it is especially warming to find that we have received recognition with an award from the Council for Protection of Rural England for this work.

During 1998, Steve, with the help of several friends, cleared the muck and rubbish out of a pond situated at the end of our five acres in Hodnell Manor's Pool Spinney. They trimmed the overgrown shrubs and trees around the pond, removed fallen trees and let the light through to the pond with its small island.

Having done this, they completed the work with brush pheasant covers, log piles for small animals and bird boxes including owl boxes. I followed this up with amphibian traps (under licence) and an in depth

record of the pond's contents, when we discovered it was teeming with the rare ten-spined stickleback.

Attached to this small portion of spinney is a length of old parish boundary hedge, which includes a wide selection of trees. Our intention was to continue the diversification of this hedge into the boundary of our field and up to the house. The intention is still there, but delayed. Hopefully I will complete the project and plant it up this year.

Linda Doyle

SOUTHAM & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

Ladbroke Section

Our new year has started with an excellent attendance, with several members becoming prepared to do more research.

With our little patch of glorious England slowly turning into a fully-fledged Millennium Green, it is interesting to see how the little green fields surrounding the village have either changed or not changed over the intervening years.

Ladbroke is lucky since there is a map drawn in 1639 showing each house with its garden and each surrounding field boundary. Perhaps the biggest change in the village is in the removal of the seventeen cottages by William Palmer in the grounds of Ladbroke Hall and in Farmyard Field opposite the Hall. This has effectively removed the village centre away from the church to the Banbury Road. However, the field boundaries are almost unchanged, in fact the main changes lie in those closer to the village, where some fields are even smaller today than in the 17th Century! While the Estate fields in the Parkland were as large then as they are now.

The Millennium Green on the Macklin field is one half of a larger field and appears in the middle 17th Century to be in the hands of Thomas Chebsey, originally the Farm Bailiff for Robert Dudley and owner of The Swan public house.

Penfold Green, a narrow strip in Windmill Lane, was all that was left of the original village green, even in 1639.

Linda Doyle

LADBROKE PARISH COUNCIL REPORT 16th February

The full Parish Council was pleased to welcome 8 observers as well as County Councillor Bob Stevens.

Most observers represented the south end of the Banbury Road within the village so that the perceived problems caused by parked cars could be discussed.

A fairly lengthy discussion highlighted the problems of the deterioration of the footpath and the grass verge and the concern that cars parked on either side could be a hazard but failed to provide an acceptable solution.

It was agreed that the problems are currently exacerbated by the presence of builder's materials and vehicles. The County Council does not make money available for car parking facilities. However, it was felt that if motorists were encouraged to drive more slowly through the village,

there is less likelihood of accidents. Consequently they will be approached regarding options for traffic calming.

It is government policy that all local government communications will be electronic by the year 2008, although 70% of councils do not yet communicate in this way. A Fax / answer phone will be purchased at this stage.

The remainder of the meeting was taken up with information regarding area meetings.

Carol Northorpe

HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Mills spoke for the residents of Constance Drive who suffer nuisance from youths who play football on the Recreation Grounds car park late at night, race cars round the car park and play car radios loudly. His request for traffic humps at the entrance to the car park and for lights to be switched off when the Village Hall was not in use, will be considered

by the Parish Council who explained the difficulties of enforcing the Bye-laws.

It is difficult to know quite why Ken Stephenson wanted to rush through lighting improvements to use up this year's allocation. The money men convinced him he could not and explained the lighting allowance would be rolled over into the next financial year. The Parish Precept goes up for the first time in three years by 2.05%. (Councillor Heath explained that it would put Band A payments up by 9p.) Part of the surplus carried over was for lighting where there would be £8,000 to spend.



'Windsor' light with newly attached direction sign

The Sub-Committee was "tasked" with surveying the state of our street lights and recommending improvements, but nobody asked us! There are fifteen cracked concrete lighting columns, but the committee wanted to put up five pseudo-Victorian "Windsor" lights in Vicarage Lane, Mill Street, Park Lane, and Dovehouse Lane where the existing columns are fine and only patch up the cracked columns or swap them for the ones replaced by the new "Windsor" lights! They intended to replace two

existing lamps (by the Spinney and on Binswood End near Hillside Farm) with bollards.

Keith Thompson was pleased that next year's school intake was oversubscribed and announced improvements to security and I.T. at the school. The children will be informed of the Parish Council's choice of a scramble net to replace the large slide and will be invited to see the equipment installed. The Parish Council praised the report, produced by teenagers, about their ideas for upgrading the playing fields. They will give a presentation at the next meeting.

Dutch Van Spall reported that Deppers Bridge was producing its own report on the need for maintenance and improvements at the Recreation Ground. Swing seats would be replaced immediately to comply with safety regulations and the Parish Council would consider the chances for funding in the next financial year.

Residents were demanding traffic calming after a mother and two children were forced into a ditch by a speeding vehicle. There would be a site meeting in March to help determine the most effective measures.

Planning: Councillors had been sent a copy of the Local Plan Review. Stratford District Council granted permission for a replacement roof at 4, Manor Orchard; garaging at 17, Ivy Lane and a conservatory at 38, South Parade. The Parish Council made no representation on roof alterations at 18, Vicarage Lane; outbuildings at Lower Westfields Farm; a courtyard development next to Harbury House and a house and garage off Pirie Close.

The Conservation Architect had negotiated the replacement of the top courses of stone with brick at Home Farm Barn which would mimic how Harbury roofs had been raised historically.

John Woodward was in the audience to remind Councillors of the permission granted for offices on land beyond the Railway Cutting behind the Water Tower (which Councillors noted was for sale at £10,000).

Commemorative trees for Eva and Charles Keeling would be planted in the Burial Ground. The installation of the scramble net might necessitate the removal of a mature tree, which the Parish Council insisted would be replaced.

Councillors agreed a new "Stirchley" bench would be erected on the Old New Inn Green but agonised over replacing the High Street Notice Board. Keith Thompson fancied a double fold glass fronted board which Dutch worried would seem "exclusive". Ken wanted poly-carbonate not toughened glass and Jenny Patrick just wanted to be assured she would be able to pin notices on without having to use a hammer!

Linda Ridgley

HARBURY SOCIETY

The Hunchback of Notre Dame was performed by the Oxford Touring Theatre who had promised us everyone would enjoy their play. The acting was superb, the set was inventive, but there was no stage, so many of the audience could not see all of the action. Our apologies - we will ensure that any future Theatre Group we book brings its own staging.

Our AGM takes place on **Wednesday 8th March**, 7.30pm for 8pm in the Tom Hauley Room when John Smith will give a talk about Walls, illustrated with photographs he has taken of Harbury's roadside boundaries.

Then on **Sunday 16th April** at 10.30am we will set out from the Dog Inn to survey the walls for ourselves as the first step to deciding how best we can conserve these important features.

We have arranged the visit to the Hill Close Pleasure Gardens in Warwick for 2.30pm on **Saturday 13th May**. More details later.

Linda Ridgley

HARBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

A big thank you to those who supported and helped at our recent coffee morning. All very worthwhile as we made £133.

We are starting our walks again. Any interested members can meet at the Village Hall on **Wednesday 8th March** at 10.30am.

We were pleased to welcome Mr. John Home who talked on Bees and Honey. What started as a hobby resulted in him becoming a commercial beekeeper in 1975.

Bees have been important for centuries, producing honey, well known for its health value. Beeswax provided lighting for the rich, the poor had to use meat fat. The churches prefer beeswax candles because they are slow burning. Spare honey, left long enough, turned into vinegar and mead was also very popular. At wedding celebrations the happy couple enjoyed full mead to help them on their way, hence the word honeymoon. We are all familiar with the phrases *busy as a bee*, *buzz off* and *having a bee in one's bonnet*.

The hive is a square box several decks deep with a mesh lid. Each deck has a fine sheet of wax on which the bees build and produce. In winter there are 15 - 18,000 in the hive which can build up to a 50,000 colony of young, the old being 'turfed out'. The queen bee lays 3,000 eggs a day and lives for 3 years.

Centuries ago, Egyptians carried bees to crops by boat. These days Mr. Home's bees travel by road to fruit growers in Kent and to the Evesham Vale, making sure their crops are well pollinated. In July the bees are taken to the Chatsworth Moors in Derbyshire. From all these crops come the different flavours of honey produced.

Mr. Home is well known in the area for his jars of honey, novel shaped pots, suitable for gifts and packs of honeycomb.

Beeswax is a very desirable commodity too and, apart from candles, is used in cosmetics, polish, in photographic use, by tent makers, lace makers and deep sea divers to wax zips.

An enjoyable talk about these small but highly organised insects.

March hostesses: Eileen Picken, Diana Buck and Doreen Bloxham

Jeanne Beaumont

OH SPIFFING! IT'S DAISY PULLS IT OFF!

Harbury Theatre Group's next production is Denise Deegan's *Daisy Pulls it Off*. This gloriously witty play is a spoof of the hockey stick waving world of Angela Brazil's schoolgirl novels, capturing the uncomplicated innocence of secret societies and midnight feasts in the dorm! It describes the trials and tribulations of super achiever Daisy Meredith as she attempts to submerge her poor elementary school background and find acceptance in the snobby confines of Grangewood School for Young Ladies.

'Daisy' was first performed at the Nuffield Theatre, Southampton in 1983, before being transferred to the Globe Theatre, London, where it enjoyed a long run, with enthusiastic audiences cheering Daisy on to her concluding triumphs! The play received the Critics Circle Theatre Award for Best New Comedy.

Don't miss Peter Rollason and Jenny and Andrew Patrick, who will be making their debut with Harbury Theatre Group. Other members of the cast include: Jenny Hodge, Nikki Brunt, Chesney Coleman, Beth Whalley, Charlie Coleman, Caroline Dormer, Caroline Burt, Ruth Thorogood, Karen Ellis, Pat Whorton, Fiona McClure and Helen Cooper.

This perfectly ripping, absolutely spiffing, not to mention scrummy family play will be performed at Harbury Village Hall on **Friday 31st March** 8:00pm, **Saturday 1st April** 2:30pm and 8:00pm. Tickets £4 (£3 concessions) available from Kathleen Ellis' Hairdresser, Chapel Street or tel.: 612175, 613358 or 612029.

Pat Whorton

HARBURY FOLK CLUB

Hearts and Flowers was the theme for the 183rd Folk Club. The Harvesters set the scene with two love songs "Between the Rose and Thistle" and "Moth to a Flame". Colin Squire, from Monks Kirby Folk Club, continued the theme followed by Margaret McDonald playing guitar for the first time at Harbury Folk Club, and also beautifully singing "My Love is like a Red, Red Rose". Other performers in the first half were Peter McDonald, Gill from the Burnt Post Folk Club (Not the Coventry Folk Club!) and Keith Donnelly.

The second half opened with Band of Folk who took up so much space that the audience had to retreat to the back of the room! Rick sang "Lily of the West" and "The Seeds of Love" which fitted the theme perfectly. We all joined in the chorus of "Flash Company" with Pete and Liz being in such fine voice we joined in with Ron's performance as well! Gilly and Keith followed and Des closed the second half with "To the Maypole Haste" and "Blood Red Roses".

The final half was full of romance with contributions from Broadway, Mike Putnam, John Black and Colin Squire. The evening was brought to a close with Keith Adams making his debut at the club and singing a delightful version of "Bogie's Bonny Belle". Come back soon Keith.

The raffle raised £37.00 for The British Heart Foundation.

Thank you to all the performers and to the audience for a very enjoyable evening.

Sue Hartland

HARBURY NURSERY SCHOOL

The nursery children have ended a very busy half term by learning all about the story of Noah's Ark. They have been talking about it, listening to the story and making their own masks of all the animals in the Ark. The children also learnt a song about Noah called: *The animals went in two by two.*

On the last Friday of the half term the children performed their song to the school in assembly and gave their ideas to the school children about the message of the story of Noah's Ark. We find that involvement in the school's assembly really helps to build the children's confidence, and particularly for the older ones familiarises them with the environment of which they are soon to be a part. Both the nursery children and their audience enjoyed the assembly enormously and it was very gratifying when both school children and staff said how impressed they were with our children's efforts. We did a repeat performance of our songs at church on Sunday when the Nursery presented the Family Service. Once again the children were wonderful and greatly impressed the Rector and a packed congregation.

Places at the Nursery continue to be in high demand and we are looking forward to a number of new children joining us after half term and more again after Easter. We are holding an Open Afternoon for all parents or carers interested in their child(ren) joining the Nursery on **Tuesday 21st March** from 1:30pm. The Nursery is situated in Harbury Primary School. Please come into school via the gates in Back Lane and we will put posters up to direct you to the Nursery.

The next half term will see the Nursery running two major events in the village. The ever popular 80/20 sale on **Saturday 8th April** and a Murder Mystery Evening on **Saturday 15th April**.

The 80/20 Sale is a sale of nearly new children's toys, clothes and nursery equipment which will be held in the Village Hall on April 8th from 10:30am till 12.00noon. Each seller pays £1 to sell and receives 80% of the proceeds of the sale of their goods, with the remaining 20% going to nursery funds. All good quality items sell well, but we find that larger toys like bikes, ride on toys, play kitchens and garages, etc. are always in high demand and make you and the Nursery the most money. Please have a sort out of all items which you no longer need and contact Marie Kennedy on 812244 for further details about selling. Please come along on the day and support the sale. We would also like to have a video swap shop whereby children pay a pound to bring and exchange a video they no longer want. To get this up and running we need a stock of children's videos, so if you have any unwanted videos which you would be prepared to donate, please bring them into the Nursery.

We are extremely fortunate to have as one of our parents Sara Woods, a professional playwright who has written and produced plays for theatre and radio and is currently working for the Royal National Theatre in London. Sarah has written and will produce a Murder Mystery Evening for us which will take place at the Village Hall, with 'incidents' at a number of other locations in the village, on **Saturday 15th April** at

7:30pm. Tickets will be £10 per person and will include a three course Indian meal. There will also be a licensed bar and sweepstakes on the murderer. Tickets are likely to be limited so if you are interested please contact Anne-Marie Campion on 614496, or call into the Nursery for further details. Also look out for our forthcoming posters.

We look forward to seeing as many people as possible at all our events and if anybody requires any further information, please feel free to contact Anne-Marie or Marie on the above numbers or Kate Smart on 612609.

Marie Kennedy

THE PRE-SCHOOL - Learning Through Play

Quick, stop what you're doing and check the time! If it's not yet 12.00noon on **Saturday 4th March** then rush down to the Tom Hauley Room for our Carousel. It's a 75:25 Sale of adults fashion and sportswear so there will be lots of quality clothing at more than affordable prices. What's more, we've even got a changing room so you can check the extent of the transformation before you buy!

For the last half term we have been doing a project on houses. Chris brought in her collection of miniature houses and the children were enchanted to discover relations to houses in the village: a black and white house like the Shakespeare, a thatched house like the one opposite the Old New Inn and a stone house like Phoenix House in the High Street. As usual, the children popped next door to the library to look for some books to help us with the project. We found the story of the three little pigs so we made houses of straw and of sticks. Then a few weeks ago, there was a knock at the Pre-School door and no, it wasn't the wolf, it was Steve Brough in his hard-hat with a load of bricks, sand and cement. The children were very excited because they didn't recognise Steve in his hat and were convinced it was Bob the Builder from children's television. Steve proved himself to be every bit as wonderful and kind as Bob and showed the children how to mix cement and lay bricks. Then he dismantled the little house he had built and let each child have a go. They took the trowel, put down dollops of cement and then placed the brick on top. Gradually we built a wall together and in so doing, learned the names of the trowels and about mortar and courses of bricks. We are so grateful to Steve for his kindness and for all the time he spent with us, patiently answering every possible question under the sun about bricks and bricklaying.

We would also like to thank everyone in the village who donated items, bought raffle tickets and drank cup of coffee at our coffee morning. We raised £212 which is a marvellous addition to our funds. Another incredibly generous donation has allowed us to buy a mobile phone. If there are any emergencies, parents can call us to let us know what has happened and to make arrangements for their children. The number is 0771 800 6888. We would really appreciate it if this number could be reserved for emergencies only.

Gill and Marie are continuing to ensure that they are up-to-date with all the issues and ideas concerning pre-school education. They are completing a course on Health and Safety and a refresher course for First Aid. They have also become committee members of the local branch of

the Pre-School Learning Alliance and so will have good knowledge of all the training opportunities, new initiatives and facilities that are around.

Our open morning was very enjoyable and our visitors soon lost any shyness and joined in with the fun. We are approaching our busiest time of the year and the register is filling up so fast that we are planning to offer another afternoon session after Easter. Please contact Marie Coleman on 612959 if you would like to know more.

Harbury Pre-School Committee

HARBURY CRICKET CLUB

The AGM was held earlier this month. Ed Russell continues as Club Chairman, Ian Holroyd as Secretary and Don Vincent as Treasurer. Particular thanks went to Richard Carr for his work as Groundsman and to Malcolm Tanner, both for his work as Fixture Secretary and as Chairman of the Social Committee.

In spite of the massive, and partially grant aided, provision of a permanent wicket the Club came through the year without any financial difficulties. The major concern for the Club, reported in the Harbury & Ladbroke News last month, has been the disintegration of the Saturday League team. However, the Club has now been in negotiation with the very successful Southam Cricket Club in an attempt to produce a combined team in the Coventry League, which would play at Harbury. This possibility was greeted with considerable enthusiasm, and a little caution, at the AGM and discussions are continuing. It is anticipated that Ed Russell will be heavily involved in the leadership of this side.

The Sunday (Friendly) First XI will once again be led by Mike Daniels (Captain) and Gary Lowe (Vice-captain) in full pursuance of the Club's youth policy, at least in Mike's case, and they have a full list of traditional fixtures.

The Leamington Midweek XI will once again be led by Tim Clayton and the new Sunday Second XI will fulfil a few fixtures led by the dashing and athletic Ians: Jackson and Holroyd. There is small prize for the first reader who can identify which, or any, of these is dashing and which is athletic. On second thoughts, please don't bother, it is an impossible task. It is anticipated that this side will include some younger players from the village.

The Club is also hoping to have further Youth coaching this summer and Mike Daniels (Senior Coach) is hoping for a couple of fixtures. The Club still wishes to recruit players from the village for the league and friendly sides, and any former cricketers who can tear themselves away from family (bring them with you) or the lure of shopping for designer clothes will be very welcome.

There is no news from New Zealand of our overseas player, Brian Tegg, but there is growing anticipation that Les Sollis will be travelling to matches all the way from Farm Street - and hitting the ball as hard as ever.

Ian Jackson

HARBURY JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

The season is in full swing with lots to report about both on and off the field.

On the social front the club finished the year with a very successful Christmas Party Night that included a visit from Santa! A great night was enjoyed by all, many thanks to all the organisers and those who came. Since the New Year, the Millennium Dinner held in January was also a huge success and a wonderful fillip in the quiet period after the earlier Millennium celebrations. Our thanks to all that supported the event and for the brilliantly orchestrated organisation done by Lesley Wilkins and Sarah-Jane Wilkins.

On the domestic front the club is very grateful to Clive Whorton who has kindly offered to take up the position of Chairman, recently vacated by Joe Greenwell, who had to step down as a result of a job change that takes him to 'The Fatherland' a lot! Joe has done a huge amount for the club, in all sorts of areas, and his contribution will be much missed, auf Wiedersehen pet, and thanks!

Also, the club would like to thank the Parish Council for organising the repairs to the goal posts up at the Recreation Ground - it's a sad day when one has to think in terms of 'vandal proof goal posts'!

Finally, **The Football!** Short reports from around the age groups.

UNDER 7/8s - Under the good auspices of Mike Grayson, Jim Farrell and others, the group has expanded to 24! This means that if everyone turns up things are a little cramped, so they are full now for this season. Training sessions every Saturday are developing the aspiring Shearers, Owens, etc. and these will continue through to the end of the season (mid-May) with breaks for half term, holidays, etc. as notified.

UNDER 8/9s - Great progress is being made, especially in the results from matches in the Three Counties league. The last games of 'round Robin 7 asides' against Fenny Compton, Kineton and Cropredy on January 30th being a particular highlight with results of 1-1, 4-0 and 6-0 in our favour. Testimony to the hard work put in at training! Here too current numbers mean that the group is full for this season.

Jim Ward

UNDER 10s - John Milliken has very generously sponsored a new kit for the Under 10s. The boys have chosen the famous blue and black stripes of Real Madrid and since putting on the shirts for the first time there have been mixed fortunes for the two groups of boys who play in different small sides (seven-a-side) local leagues.

In the Three Counties league we are currently in second place, two points behind the leaders (Norton) with a game in hand. With Kineton chasing hard in third place, it should be an exciting finish to the season. The quality of football played is a credit to the application, skill and commitment of the boys towards improving their game.

In the Woodford Friendly league the boys have finished joint bottom of their division and will start afresh on February 27th in a newly formed division. This new division will comprise teams from the lower half of the two Under 10s divisions and should make for a more equal and enjoyable challenge to the end of the seasons. The boys' attendance at training continues to be high and they remain as enthusiastic as ever.

However, for a small minority of the boys in this group, a little more maturity and application during training would help improve their individual performances.

Steve Darby

UNDER 12s - The Under 12s are currently in second place in the Woodford league with only two more league matches to play. The next fixture is an away match at Drayton Grange on March 4th. Drayton Grange are currently third in the table so a tough game is in prospect.

We have won our group in the League Cup which means that we will play Bishops Itchington in the semi-final on **Sunday 12th March** at Harbury - kick off at 2:00pm.

We have also drawn Bishops Itchington in the Knock Out Cup to be played at Harbury on **Sunday 19th March** - kick off at 2:00pm. Plenty of support for these important home matches would be appreciated.

John Wilkins

UNDER 14s - The group is going well at the moment, currently sitting at the top of the league and unbeaten in all league matches. With a county player and one boy on his second trial for Coventry City, the squad has never looked stronger. A recent two game result against Barby was 20-0 in our favour, with a record 13-0 win away from home.

Home matches are played every two weeks on Harbury Playing fields, so if you want to see some good football come along!

Steve Fitzgerald

The Club's annual Presentation Evening is being arranged and will be on **Saturday 20th May**. Further details to follow.

Harbury Junior Football Club

HARBURY YOUTH CLUB

Circus Skill Training Evening

Have you ever fancied trying your hand at Tight Rope Walking, Juggling, Uni-cycling or Walking on Stilts? Well our youngsters did just this and more, during an evening of Circus Skill Training at Harbury Youth Club.

How can you become a member? If you are a girl or boy between the ages of 11 and 17 you can join in.

When do we meet? Every Thursday night at the Village Hall between 7 and 9.30pm. Cost 50 pence.

What do we do? Indoor events include snooker, table tennis, badminton, football, uni-hoc, etc. Outdoor events include monthly outings to places like Laser Quest, ice skating, bowling. Look out for our wall-climbing event, coming soon!

Will I make friends and have fun? Yes, definitely, so don't be shy, come along any Thursday night - you will be very welcome.



The Highs and Lows at the Village Hall

Margaret Harris

SOUTHAM AND DISTRICT OLDER PERSONS FORUM

A second meeting of the forum took place recently following on from the first meeting that I reported in the December Harbury & Ladbroke News. At this second meeting about 20 people attended and a member of the Warwick District Forum, which was a national pilot and has been running for about a year, came and described the operation and organisation of their group.

In discussion, the forum decided that it would be a pressure group rather than a provider group to bring to the attention of appropriate authorities the needs and requirements of those over 50. It also decided to set up a steering group to discuss the organisation of the forum and provide proposals for the frequency and topics for future meetings. To find a name which better described the forum and eventually a structure for the forum which will be expected to become more self supporting at least from the organisational point of view.

The date of the next full meeting is **Friday 14th April** at 10.30am at Victor Hodges' House in Little Park Street, Southam. All of the appropriate age group are welcome so come along and have your say. It is hoped that the topic for the meeting will be public transport. Posters will be put up in the village nearer the time once the details have been finalised.

Charles A Catt

HARBURY TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Official visit to Samoia - Friday 28th April until Monday 1st May

Plans are well in hand for the above official visit to Samoia. There are still a few places available for this visit if anyone in Harbury wishes to

participate in this sporting weekend. Two coaches have been booked to transport us from Harbury to Samois. This promises to be a very enjoyable visit for all the family. Please contact me on 612688 as soon as possible for details.

Can I also remind all those who have received details to return their forms to me as soon as possible with deposits. We have received the following proposed programme from Samois:

Friday 28th April

7.00pm - Arrival and Welcome in Samois

8.00pm - Reception with aperitif and buffet supper

10.00pm - Accommodation link up.

Saturday 29th April

Morning: Sport organised by Association Sportives of Samois and Bois le Roi - viz - football, basket ball, tennis, table tennis, badminton, petanque, darts, orienteering on bikes, martial arts and chess.

Midday: Lunch with families.

Afternoon: Sport as above and various activities including walks in the forest, visit to the Museum Stephane Mallarme, visit to Vaux le Vicomte or Blandy les Tours (castles). Guided visit and discovery of Samois (organised by Association des Amis de Samois) and recreational activities for children organised by Association Culturelle et Sportive of Samois.

Evening: Festive party with all European guests at the Centre CCAS in Bois le Roi.

Sunday 30th April

Morning: Free time. Parade with puppets symbolising different countries taking place at Bois le Roi and Hunting Horn concert. Wine tasting at the village square and European photo session.

Midday: Meal with families.

Afternoon: Sport as listed above. Conference for all members - theme being *The implications in the urban fabric* with projection and debate. A friendship toast to conclude.

Evening: Meal with families for the majority of Europeans. Harbury guests - A party at the Samoisienne.

Monday 1st May

Morning: Free time.

Midday: Approximately 1:00pm - last friendly meal before departure - return to Harbury.

DO JOIN US.

Janet Thornley, Secretary

HARBURY CARNIVAL - SATURDAY 10th JUNE

King and Queen

Following the success of last year's selection process we intend to repeat it this year. Any child between the ages of 6 and 12 will be able to

nominate themselves by writing their name address and telephone number on a piece of paper and putting it in a box outside Harbury School. Selection will be by popular vote amongst the children.

Fun for All

Just a reminder that the series of events in the week before the carnival are meant to be fun for all, so please think about entering a team.

Also, don't forget last month's plea for more entries in the Carnival procession.

Other Business

If you want to book a stall or space on the field please call Kary Hunt on 613598.

**Submitted by John Broomfield
Carnival Committee**

PENSIONER'S PATIO

Signs of Spring on the patio? Clusters of crocuses and drifts of snowdrops? Not exactly. Maybe we were put off as far as bulbs are concerned by events of a couple of years ago. Inspired by a newspaper article, the Head Gardener planted a container with layers of bulbs at two levels. The ingenious idea was that when the top layer had come up and blossomed the ones underneath would be springing up to take their place. We never found out if this really works in practice, as the squirrel decided that in the goodness of our hearts we'd provide him with a new burial ground for his walnut hoard. Not many daffodils survived the resultant excavations, but later on there was a very creditable crop of walnut seedlings.

However, the longing for a splash of multi-colour recently pushed us in the direction of a garden centre. Garden centre? Well, if you can walk far enough you do eventually discover things that are actually growing. First, though, soothed (or otherwise) by piped music, you must face the temptations of the furniture department, the books and cards, the tools and ceramics, and the what-the-smart-gardener-is-wearing corner, not to mention the olde-worlde preserves and cookies. By that time you may even welcome the inevitable presence of a café to recoup your energies for the next lap. You can't halt progress, they say.

On recent frosty mornings the Chief Blackbird has waited for me to emerge with the kettle to defrost the birdbath. He then dives into the hot water and splashes in obvious delight with steam rising all around him. I had no idea birds were partial to saunas!

Edyth Algar

LEADED FOUR STAR PETROL

If you have an old four wheeled friend in your garage which will find unleaded petrol with additives or L.R.P. rather less than good for its health, you may be rather relieved to know that good old fashioned '4-Star' leaded petrol is available at a number of filling stations around the country.

The nearest to Harbury is Popes Service Station, Rugby Road, Binley Woods, Coventry, CV3 2AY Tel. 01203 542505 (soon to be 024 7654 2505). If you need to fill up your tank, it is best to ring and check that they have supplies available.

Maurice Bristow

MISSIONS TO SEAMEN - Knitted Woolly Hats

An appeal is made from Port Chaplains on behalf of seafarers, many of who are ill-prepared for the rigours of the North Sea, for knitted hats.

If you can help by donating a hat, scarf or jumper for distribution amongst crews of third world countries please ring me. I can collect or you might like to deliver to 29, Neales Close.

The pleasure on the faces of those receiving these practical tokens of concern really does make the whole mission ethos come alive. Thank you.

Bill Davies - Tel/Fax 614104

HARBURY CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

The Harbury, Chesterton and Ufton Branch of the Conservative Association held their AGM in the Tom Hauley Room on January 31st. The meeting re-elected as its committee officers Chairman: Sheila Allan, Treasurer: Jim Chapple and Secretary: Ken Hughes. James Turner was unanimously endorsed as the candidate for the District Election to be held in May.

We regret that the boundary changes, which come into force in 2001, will result in Ufton being transferred to the Long Itchington Ward and we shall be very sorry to see them go.

Sheila Allan

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The last talk *The Shady Garden* given by Mr. Coombs was very informative and interesting, pointing out three levels of shade trees, shrubs and field, with suggested plants for each, illustrated with slides of course.

The Potato Event at Ryton seemed to attract even more people this year, the marquee was double the size, the illustrated talk very interesting, as was the cooking demonstration. The wind was penetrating but the sun lovely. A very successful day for us, and Ron purchased the varieties he wanted!

The days are drawing out, we have had a fair amount of rain the last few months, dare we hope for a 'normal' spring? The nice days we have had have been more than a hint of spring, but if we are to have cold weather let it be soon and not in May or June!

There will be another evening outing, to Spring House, Chipping Warden on **Tuesday 27th June**. Please see Judy if you haven't already put your name down, more details nearer the time.

Thinking even further ahead - the Walkabout in July perhaps? Please sow extra seeds. The resulting plants could be sold during that weekend with you the grower, having the proceeds. Whilst on the subject of Open Gardens, the committee again would like a few new ones for this occasion - anybody interested, please phone Mrs. Pat Smith on 612650 - the programme is being compiled now. It requires a big effort, but everyone, who has opened in previous years, agrees it is a rewarding venture.

Anyone who is interested Mrs. Pat Smith has lists of lectures for the next 12 months for Moreton Morrell, Pershaw College and Ryton Gardens. Having just mentioned Ryton, the Society holds a ticket which admits two people and with spring on its way why not take advantage of it and spend a few hours there, there are many interesting features including a superb play area for children. I must admit I have been in the Wendy House!

The magazine will not be distributed on time for the April meeting, it will be on **Tuesday 4th April**, the subject will be *Ponds and Garden Features* and will be given by Mr. Leech.

N.B. Please assemble at the Village Hall at 6:00pm on **Tuesday 21st March** for visit to Finham Nursery near Baginton.

Muriel Grey

GARDENING NOTES

In a newspaper I read that Spring will come early this year. In fact it has arrived earlier by a fifth of a day for the last thirty years according to two scientists at Munich University. If that is so, then it would be wise to keep some horticultural fleece handy to protect camellias and pieris which will be forging ahead but will be susceptible to frost damage.

Grass will also be growing and will need a first cut with the blades set high. Treat moss in the lawn and aerate it. Along with the plant growth will come insect life so keep a lookout for pests and catch them before they really get going. Birds will give a helping hand in this, so encourage them into your garden rather than your neighbour's by feeding them regularly and putting up nesting boxes.

Snowdrops have been cheering us but as they finish flowering congested clumps can be split up and spread out. Lilies can be planted, 3 to a 30cm (12") pot, in loamy compost. When hyacinths in the house finish blooming they can be planted in the borders. Move them gradually from the warmth to cooler conditions before putting them into the cold soil. Leave the leaves to die down slowly to build up the flower for next year. Protect emerging shoots of perennials from slugs but hide pellets under upturned pots or half orange skins or scatter sand, eggshells, holly leaves or anything which makes it difficult for soft slimy bodies to move. Dig up perennial weeds carefully as many have creeping roots, and pull up the annual ones before they have chance to make seeds.

Finish the pruning of clematis which bloom after June. Shear winter flowering heather and winter jasmine as they finish flowering and lightly trim lavender at the end of the month. Shorten all main shoots on hybrid tea and floribunda roses and take out any crossing stems. Hard prune any shrubs which flower in late summer or autumn, and have vigorous

growth. Slower growing shrubs are better with the 1 in 3 treatment of pruning, i.e. take out completely 1 stem in 3.

Fork over the vegetable beds and warm with plastic sheets the areas for early planting. Sow early carrots under cloches, and peas and broad beans, and it is worth trying a short row of radish or spring onions. Feed all fruit trees and bushes with a high potash fertiliser. Prune gooseberries to give an open branch structure. In the greenhouse put dahlia tubers into trays of compost and keep them warm. Increase the water to overwintered fuchsias, to encourage them to produce shoots which can be used as cuttings. Bring in bags of compost to warm them ready for seed sowing.

House plants now need a regular feed and more water. If roots are showing through at the bottom of the pot knock the plant out of the pot and put it into the next size, packing in some new compost. Azaleas which have finished flowering can be re-potted in an acid compost and grown on until May when they can go outside.

Plant of the month - Pulmonaria, or Lungwort

The Latin word for lung is 'pulmo' and the leaves of these plants were used to treat bronchial and lung infections. This was known as the 'Doctrine of Signatures', where an ailment was treated with something which resembled it, and the leaves were thought to resemble diseased lungs. Today these hardy perennials are of more value for their attractive foliage and pretty spring flowers. Two of the 10 species are native to the clay soils of Southern England, with the others coming from Europe. Pulmonaria angustifolia has plain green leaves and stems of flowers which are pink when young but which turn blue as they age. This has earned for it the common names of Soldiers and Sailors, Jack and Jill, or Joseph and Mary.

The other species have lance shaped leaves spotted or blotched with silvery-white, so after the flowers fade, if the plant is cut back, the new leaves will provide attractive foliage for the rest of the year. Flower colours of pink, brick-red, red and violet or purple-blue allow pulmonarias to combine well with a variety of spring flowers. Plant them this month or in the autumn, in part shade, in any soil which retains some moisture through the summer. The bristly leaves make them resistant to slugs and snails, but they can get powdery mildew, so give them a mulch in late spring.

Pat Smith

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors

We wish to thank all relatives and friends for their cards and messages of sympathy following Polly's death.

Thank you to all who attended the funeral and to Canon Tony Gardner for conducting the service. Thanks also to the staff at Newstead Lodge Nursing Home for their care and kindness and to the District Nurses who helped throughout Polly's illness.

Sheila & Gerry Parker

Dear Editors

Could I congratulate Sophie Eadon, Emma & Kathy Freeman, Chris Lord, Jemma Phipps, Sarah Talbot and Ruth Waterman in producing their splendid mini-calendar marking the new century - which I am finding very useful.

Also thanks to our Parish Council for part-funding the 8-week project.

If anyone wants the calendar, it is available, free, from Fiona Clayton by phoning 01789 260637. Many thanks again.

James Turner
District Councillor 612915

Dear Editors

May I through 'The News' thank everyone who supported our coffee morning on February 19th. Thank you to all who gave cakes and raffle prizes, and a special thank you to my willing and happy (?) band of helpers.

Jim, Pat, Carol and Alan - I couldn't do without them. We raised a splendid £131 to send to the British Heart Foundation. Thank you all.

Gladys Hutchins

Dear Editors

May I thank everyone in the Harbury area who have helped in supplying bric-a-brac for the A&E Appeal at Warwick Hospital. Since setting it up in July '99 it has raised a staggering £2,500.

Hopefully with yours and everyone's help we can double that by the end of the year 2000. Everyone at some stage uses the A&E department, so when you're spring cleaning please remember the A&E Appeal office still needs bric-a-brac. Doesn't matter how small the quantity as every little helps and you'll have the satisfaction of knowing you helped.

Either take to the Appeal's office by Outpatients and Fairfax Ward or phone the office on 495321 extension 4943, or if you'd like to contact me phone 614926 - but no clothes or furniture please, as we have no facilities for these items.

Once again many, many thanks.

Pam Cleaver