



Alifha Long plays in fallen leaves at Binswood End.

The recent gales accelerated the autumn leaf fall, which led to blocked drains and localised flooding in some village roads.

Fortunately, the crowds at the Victorian Street Fayre enjoyed a pleasant evening and a substantial sum was raised for charity. It is hoped that the Annual Village Bonfire on November 4th will have a calm dry night, so that the fireworks and bonfire party goes off 'with a bang', in the right direction!

Following the recent GM debate, there are further articles in this month's magazine, including a reply from MAFF to the letter sent by our Parish Council.

Laugh Line

An Irishman making an application for Social Benefit went to fill in a form. The officer in charge offered to do it for him asking: *What is your name?* The Irishman replied: *Patrick – Terrence – O'Dear – O'Sullivan.*

The officer repeated slowly: *Patrick – Terrence – O'Dear – your third name is very unusual, some family connection I suppose?*

Irishman: *Oh no, nothing like that, after the second name he dropped me in the font.*

FROM THE RECTOR

We will remember them.

Next week, November 12th, at the Cenotaph in Whitehall and throughout the country, the nation will honour the war dead. We remember the men and women who died defending the country. We remember, especially, those who gave their lives in the two World Wars. It is right that we should honour their memory because they gave their lives to preserve those values that we cherish: justice, peace, and liberty. Many Christians fought in the wars, not because they believed in war, but those values for which they sacrificed their lives were worth that high cost. Sadly, war was the only way left to defend those values. Often, a country has no choice but to go to war to defend itself from an unprovoked aggressor.

The outbreak of war signifies a complete breakdown in human communication. It is the desperate alternative when two or more countries are in dispute. Today, there are basically two views about war. Faced with the total annihilation of the human race, because of the possible use of nuclear weapons in a future war, some say that it is no longer a justifiable alternative. The church has always held to the 'just war' theory. According to St. Thomas Aquinas, for war to be 'just' three

things are necessary: public authority, ‘just’ cause and the right motive. And yet when it comes to the crunch, men and women will fearlessly defend their own nation when the real threat exists. Men and women fought against Hitler’s armies in the Second World War, not only to defend the country, but also to defend those values of justice, peace and freedom. Even in the midst of horror there are countless stories of heroism and humanity as well as stories of evil and brutality.

However, on November 12th, the arguments about the morality of war are laid aside, whilst the nation remembers with gratitude the generosity of those men and women, at home and abroad who gave their lives.

*“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn..
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.” Robert Binyon*

Fr. Roy

FROM THE REGISTERS

Holy Baptism - Harbury

1 st October	Holly Sillars
8 th October	Joel Hoskins
29 th October	Lucy Bishop

FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS



October 22nd saw Bishop Colin (of Coventry) visit Harbury to confirm seven candidates – the photo shows the confirmation group immediately after the service. A really nice occasion, with the now very accomplished Jubilate group providing music during communion.

The Harvest Supper was well supported and Bill Davies gave us a short account of his bicycle ride to Santiago de Compestela in Spain to raise money for Rotary’s African Vision (Sight Savers International).

The Victorian Street Fayre turned out to be a very pleasant evening, well supported and thanks to some prolific cake makers together with gifts of bric-a-brac, we raised £220 – thank you to those who gave and supported the stall and to those who bought from the church stall.

Work is proceeding well on the bell tower roof and apart from one recent hiccough, the heating boiler has been doing its job correctly, thanks to those who have masterminded both these projects. Please remember that

as the clocks go back, Sunday Evensong changes to 4.00pm; all other services remain the same. Remembrance Day Service will be on **November 12th** at 10.15am.

Next Family Service is on **November 19th** at 10.30am.

Felicity and John

MOTHERS' UNION

Afternoon Meeting: After the Communion Service, members moved into the Tom Hauley Room to talk about *My Most Memorable Holiday*. It soon became clear that all corners of the world have been visited over several years, and there were some very interesting and enjoyable stories to be told. Memories ranged from Switzerland to Australia and many places in between. We saw a diary of an east African trip in 1963 and even heard of a World Cruise in 1988. Obviously, M.U. members are not just 'stay-at-homes'.

Evening Meeting: Our speaker was Audrey Hopley, Diocesan President who talked about embroidery as an 'Act of Praise' and showed us samples of exquisite pieces made for Berkswell Church, where she worships. We saw banners, kneelers, altar hangings, etc. and heard how Audrey builds up her designs from the original idea, through sketches and paintings, before choosing the materials. Then, using a variety of stitches, colours and textures, the finished article gradually emerges as a true work of art.

Members have been asked to provide tins of fruit, meat etc. which will be given to the Coventry City Mission. If each member could bring just one tin to the next two meetings (no baked beans needed!), they will be collected and taken to Coventry.

M.U. Overseas Boxes collected £179.65 – many thanks to all who contributed.

Next Meetings:

Tues 21 Nov., 7.30pm Service; 8pm 'The Poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins' by Kathy Priddis
Wed 6 Dec., 2.00pm Service; 2.30pm 'Flower Arranging' by Ann Perkins

Anne Moore

TODDLERS' SERVICE

At our October Service, Mrs. Jen Ingram told us the story of baby Moses.

We sang two songs: *My God is so big, so strong and so mighty*, and *Talk to God*.

To take home we coloured a picture of baby Moses in a basket, among the reeds of the river, being found by Pharaoh's daughter.

Our next Toddlers' Service is on 14th November at 2.15pm in Church.

Lorna Bedford

Ladbroke News

LADBROKE FLOWER ROTA

November 12th - Remembrance Sunday, Sue Moore
 November 19th - Remembrance Sunday, Sue Moore
 November 26th - Helen Molton
 No Flowers in Advent

Jane Rutherford

LADBROKE CHURCH NEWS

The main date in your diaries for November is the Christmas Fayre in the Village Hall at 2.30pm on **Saturday 25th November**. The proceeds are for Myton Hospice and our church in Ladbroke. Please come and support us. We will of course need cakes, bric-a-brac and raffle prizes.

The Children's Church was during *St. Luke's little summer*, so we talked about St. Luke, "the beloved physician" and went on to talk about medicines and herbs that were used at the time of Jesus. We meet in **November on Sunday 19th** at 10.30am.

Betty Winkfield

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Most of our meeting in October was taken up with who-would-do-what at the Christmas Fayre. We also talked about speakers for next year. We didn't waste the afternoon at all in spite of just a few of us present.

Next month Pam Clark is going to tell us about her and David's last project in India. Hopefully the meeting will be at Jill Moore's in Windmill Lane. We are all praying that her liver tests will prove to be nothing too serious.

Another member in our prayers at the moment is Pat Kennedy who, by the time you read this, will hopefully be making a good recovery from her hip replacement operation. She has suffered for a long while now – we are all supporting you Pat.

Betty Winkfield

LADBROKE AND DEPPERS BRIDGE W.I.

The October meeting was our Annual General Meeting and we were pleased to welcome Dorothy Groves and Celia Barrett of Harbury WI, our tellers for the evening. We were also delighted to have the County Chairman, Jeryl Stone, present.

Details of the Federation trip to the Bank of England on **Monday 20th November** were distributed to members. Our president informed members that we had purchased a tree to be planted in the Warwickshire Millennium Wood on **Saturday 16th December 2000**. She also congratulated Beryl, Anne and Marie who all won prizes in the recent Harbury Horticultural Show. Our Christmas Dinner this year is to be held at the Crown Inn, Harbury on **Tuesday 5th December**.

Our retiring president then thanked the current committee and members for supporting her during the last three years, in particular Marie in her first year as secretary and Sheena as treasurer, who was also retiring. She then handed over to Jeryl Stone who organised the voting of the new committee. The results were as follows:

Committee: Chris Baker, Collette Batty, Anne Edwards, Sue Halsall, Sheena Healy, Marie Kennedy, Susan Moore, Sue Rayner, and Hazel Sharples.

President: Anne Edwards

Secretary: Marie Kennedy

Treasurer: Chris Baker

Marie Kennedy

LADBROKE VILLAGE HALL

The ninth draw of the Millennium Club for 2000 was held on October 16th at The Bell Inn.

The winners were B. & M. Whitehouse £80; A.W. & E.J. Pittaway £50; Maggie Edwards £25. Chris Payne, Sheena Healey, Elsa Greenway, Bernard Billings and Rhian Kelsall each won £10.

The next prize draw will be held on **Monday 13th November** at The Bell Inn at 8.00pm.

Catherine Spence

Ladbroke Neighbourhood Watch

On October 10th the meeting to discuss the Ladbroke Neighbourhood Watch attracted over twenty-five villagers. The meeting agreed that the scheme should be re-launched and many offers of help received on the night enabled the organisers to get it officially recognised with the authorities.

It is the intention of the co-ordinators to let each Ladbroke home know the details of their contact numbers, etc. Any one wishing to join the neighbourhood watch will need to fill in a form giving us their details; this will cover them for membership. It is hoped everyone will join and that Ladbroke will continue to be a very pleasant and crime-free place to live.

Janice Berry and Mike Radburn

LADBROKE PARISH COUNCIL REPORT – 18th October

The faithful 3 members of the public joined all councillors and District Councillor Jim Taylor for the October meeting.

Drainage update

The Flood Officer is to have a meeting with one of the ‘floodees’. If this does not bring the required results, then Jim Taylor will facilitate measures at the District Council.

Noise from the Rave

Following the all-night party last month, which led to many complaints, the principal environmental health officer, Nick Ellison, is to meet the landowner involved. Once site security has been improved, then it will be easier for police to deal with gatecrashers.

Rumours of a repeat Rave should be communicated to the environmental health department or the Police.

Neighbourhood Watch

The Council was delighted that the meeting was so positive and I am sure this is being written up separately.

Finance

We spent a long time discussing the amount of money we should precept from Stratford District Council for next year. Moving the Parish Council into the electronic age is costing more than the previous methods of communication.

Planning Matters

There were no objections to the proposed stable block in Ladbroke Road, Bishops Itchington, except that we will express concern regarding the lighting.

Parish Community Emergency Plan

All councillors were given a booklet containing the contact numbers of people whose services would be needed in an emergency.

Carol Lane

Dear Editors

We would like to thank everyone who came along on September 29 to the world's largest Coffee Morning, in aid of the Macmillan Cancer Relief Fund, whereby the sum of £237 was raised.

Once again, many thanks for your support.

Norman and Mary Boley

HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 26th October

GM Crop Trials. Anger and disappointment best described the Parish Council's attitude to the Government's reply. The Department of the Environment lost the original letter, and some time after getting a copy they had to be reminded that an answer was required! The reply did arrive in time for this meeting, but not only was it not from the Minister, Michael Meacher, it had not even been signed by the Head of the Department to whom the letter had been passed. The response was unclear and unhelpful, saying there was nothing the Government could or would do. The Chairman felt the letter was rude and showed contempt for the people of Harbury. The full text of that reply is published elsewhere in this magazine.

Councillor van Spall quoted a case in the USA where the American Government is taking Aventis to court for breaching conditions of consent and GM contaminated crops have been sent to Japan. If Aventis can't get it right for a big job like that, what hope is there for a small trial like Harbury? There is no offer of compensation to John Home who will have to move his bees to avoid GM pollen contamination. However, the grower of the GM crop will get "compensation" from the Aventis Company!

Councillor van Spall will draft a response on behalf of the Parish Council to go to our MP. We may then get some response from the Minister himself - and perhaps some action? **So read the Government's reply in the magazine and if you have any comments, send them to Councillor van Spall as soon as possible.**

Deppers Bridge. Agreement has now been reached that the road narrowing point will be positioned near the pedestrian entrance to the playground. Installation of the new swings has been put on hold for the time being until a grant application to Stratford District Council has been determined in January 2001.

Planning. Matters included:

- Why Stratford D.C. approved the felling of a chestnut tree at the Stables at Harbury Hall. The tree was there long before the house;
- The plans for the new house at Threeways are being checked because it may be being built too close to the walnut tree;
- The derelict porta cabins outside the Great Western Hotel are being followed up by Stratford D.C.;
- The design of an extension to 9, Chapel Street appears not to have been amended after all;
- Why a garden shed at Kestrel House should need drainage and electricity;
- Why a proposed house extension at Lower Westfield Farm was not mentioned when there was a site visit to look at the barn conversion.

Play Areas. The Parish Council was bemused by reports produced on the state of play equipment. Without being asked, Stratford D.C. had produced a report which suggested that equipment in Deppers Bridge was OK except for a swing. In Harbury the dome climber is to be removed and its repair or replacement considered. There is disagreement on the safety or otherwise of the aerial ropeway, so another report has been commissioned from RoSPA! It's all down to EC regulations - Councillor Thompson understands them, so if you have any questions, ask him! The Contractor, Mr. Hall, is to be asked to sweep the hard play area free of glass.

1, Binswood End. The owner, Mr. Tennant, was present to complain about the chestnut tree outside his house, planted by the Parish Council many years ago to prevent overlooking of his house by Leicester Close flats. He was concerned at the potential future effect of its roots on his property and to remind the Parish Council that it had promised some years ago to lop the branches overhanging his garden regularly. The Parish Council was happy to arrange for the branches to be lopped and to commission a report about the tree.

Crown Close. South Warwickshire Housing Association has felled a lime from Crown Close without consultation or permission. To make amends it was offering to provide 3 other trees. Indigenous species were wanted, and one should be planted at Crown Close to replace the one they had felled. Eventually it was agreed that two trees could go to Deppers Bridge playground.

Highways. The fame of Harbury's bollards has spread as far as Hove. A holidaymaker was horrified with the Binswood End bollard and wanted it replaced by a streetlight! But the bollard has its champion! Councillor van Spall said that a lick of black paint would prevent it shining into a nearby kitchen, whilst it can only be a good thing if the shock of seeing the bollard makes drivers slow down when entering the village. It was clear that a majority of councillors were against the thing, but they did

agree not to remove it straight away. It will be put on trial until the end of January 2001 and brought back for sentencing then. A decision on a bollard for Hall Lane was also deferred until after the trial. The question of bollards is going to run and run!

Leycester Close. The Parish Council was not impressed with SW Housing and its speed of inaction over the garages.

Bendigo Mitchell Crossroads. The present road markings are a substantial improvement. When can we expect something to be done at the Middle Road junction?

Sheltered Housing. Our MP has written to Stratford D.C. supporting the Parish Council and saying that larger parishes such as Harbury should have some provision for sheltered housing, and wanting to know what is the District Council's policy. He has yet to get an answer.

Health Improvement Scheme. The Health Authority has written to all parish councils with details of a competition for which the reward could be a prize of anywhere between £500 and £1,500. They are looking for innovative ideas involving the community and aimed at improving health. The 5 best applications will get one of the prizes in order to implement the ideas. There were suggestions from the councillors present, including ideas on improving fitness, ideas on reducing dependence on 4 wheels, and an impassioned plea from Councillor Hancock for ideas on reducing smoking which will make a bigger improvement than anything else in improving health. But the Parish Council wants ideas from the people of Harbury. **So if anyone out there has an idea that they think is worthwhile, contact Council members or the Clerk.**

John Lapraik

HARBURY SOCIETY

Edward Moss brought enthusiasm and innovation to our October meeting, being the first speaker with the confidence to give a "Power Point" presentation – and it worked!

Edward is British Waterways Community Project Officer, based at Lapworth with a mission to get people interested in the inland waterways and committed to looking after our canal heritage. His talk was peppered with amazing facts and figures.

British Waterways has 2,000 miles of canals and rivers to care for, along with sixty tunnels, 1549 locks, 4,763 bridges and an estimated seven million visitors a year. The two and a half mile Hatton Raiser has twenty-one locks and it needs 2,500 turns to wind up all the paddles. Earlswood Reservoir holds 4,500 lockfulls of water.

British Waterways has applied for Heritage Lottery funding to help with the interpretation of its historic aqueducts. It already has money to restore ten former working boats and use them for education and interpretation. Ed works with schools and volunteers on these projects and other projects.

At Earlswood there is a partnership with local groups to make practical improvements round the lakes, manage the fishing and parking, improve the paths and care for the wildlife. Earlswood, Ed explained was the Scarborough of the Midlands in the 1900s when it was a key destination for day-trippers from Birmingham.

The Society made a donation to the Earlswood Partnership in appreciation of Ed's excellent talk.

Stan Finch, our local entomologist has agreed to give a presentation on *To spray or nor to spray?* on **Wednesday 15th November**, 7.30pm in Tom Hauley Room and our Photo Quiz will be there to puzzle you at the Christmas Fayre on **Saturday 2nd December** in the Village Hall.

Linda Ridgley

HARBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Another successful Harvest Supper was held at the Tom Hauley Room. This was due to Doreen, Dorothy and their team who provided the delicious supper. Thanks to Bertha, Sylvia and Pam for the floral decorations and all who helped on the day.

Mrs. Christine Paterson, a trained opera singer, gave an amusing talk on her experiences earning a crumb when not in productions. She worked in Working Men's clubs in the North East, which was an experience and far better pay than her main work. She was rather surprised when told she was a success after singing to a crowd who had completely ignored her all evening. The manager said if she hadn't been liked they would have thrown things at her.

Mrs. Anne Hepworth was the speaker at the September meeting. An ex school teacher she had her husband train thoroughbred horses. She has an elderly lurcher named Woolly. Lurchers are a mixed breed combining greyhound, whippet and deerhound. They are one of the oldest breeds of dogs that were used by drovers to take herds great distances. Woolly wouldn't have been suitable in those days as he is a very laid back lurcher.

Back in 1991, Mrs. Ashworth answered an advert in the free paper for a dog to play 'Crab' in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* at the R.S.C. in Stratford-upon-Avon. Nobody had interviewed a dog before and he was hired on children's rates. Woolly and the actor, Richard Moore, worked well together and after the Stratford production a 12-month run followed at the London Barbican. Then there continued a 32-week tour of the provinces by road, rail and sea. Woolly got so well known and popular he even got his own curtain call and was constantly being stopped when out for walks.

All this came about by answering an advert in the free paper.

Jeanne Beaumont

HARBURY THEATRE GROUP

The Dedication of a Panto Cast!

A work colleague of Widow Bonbon has been told he has to have his leaving party a week early, so that the Widow does not miss a rehearsal. Sherbet, the son of the Widow is travelling back from a New Year Scottish wedding in time for a rehearsal. The producer forfeited an opportunity to stay overnight, with all meals cooked for her for a change, at a two-day training event in Birmingham in order not to miss a rehearsal. Work schedules and meetings are all arranged so as to be able to be back in Harbury for 8.00pm. on Monday and Thursday evenings.

As for the week of the performances, come hell or high water we'll all be there. Understudies are a luxury to the professional theatre only.

So we hope we'll see you there and that you'll come prepared to join in with the booing, hissing, shouting, laughing and singing with this dedicated cast on **Thursday 11th, Friday 12th or Saturday 13th January 2001**, afternoon and evening in *Beauty and the Beast*, by David Swan. Details for buying tickets will be published in next month's Harbury & Ladbroke News and on posters.

Alison Hodge

HARBURY FOLK CLUB

October's Folk Club didn't have a theme for a change, but returned to the old format of a special guest in the third half - none other than the fabulous 'Broadway'. We have seen this barbers' shop quartet go from strength to strength over the last few years and they were on top form this time with eight songs.

Prior to the guest spot most of the regulars were there and we had fine songs, tunes, and poems, from: Pete & Liz, Peter McDonald, John Black, Ron, Dez and. New faces appeared in the form of the fabulous Raymondo Brothers to give another first for the Club with African drum accompaniment to two lyrical songs.

There's always a surprise at the Harbury Folk Club and it costs nothing to get in. The raffle raised £27 towards the Swimathon 2000 appeal which took place the following Sunday.

December's Folk Club has the theme of *Victorian Music Hall*, hosted by Ian Hartland, so come prepared.

Mike Putnam

HARBURY NURSERY SCHOOL

The children are going to visit Warwick Arts Centre on **Tuesday 5th and Thursday 7th December** to see a play entitled *Sleep Tight* – a production specifically for pre-school children.

Our Autumn/Winter 80/290 Sale was again very popular for both the sellers and the buyers with lots of bargains to be had, and we managed to raise another £250 for Nursery Funds.

The Nursery also held another successful open afternoon on October 5th, which saw lots of new parents and children visiting. Due to the popularity of these afternoons we will be holding another one during the Spring Term – further details nearer the time.

The Nursery has now bought a computer for the sole use of the Nursery children with some of the money raised from last year's fund-raising events. We hope to purchase a range of exciting and innovative pre-school software and further fund-raising will go towards this.

The next fund-raising event for your diaries is the Nursery Christmas Coffee morning in the Tom Hauley Room on **Wednesday 6th December** from 10am – 12noon, when the highlight of the morning will be the visit of the Nursery children to sing some Christmas carols. We will also have a craft stall, Christmas paper and cards, cake stall, and a super raffle, with

the first prize of a fantastic Christmas hamper. Please come along and help support the Nursery.

If you require a place for your child in the Nursery, or further details on any of our events, please contact Kate Smart on 612656 or Anne-Marie Campion on 614496.

Marie Kennedy

VICTORIAN STREET FAYRE 2000



Most attractive stall: 'Butterflies' Mavis Taylor, Kath Ellis and Gladys Hutchins

As the weather plays a very important part in the success of the Street Fayre, we breathed a huge sigh of relief when Saturday remained dry, as it takes months of planning, persuading, press-ganging and pontificating in the pub to organise an event of this size and complexity. From the feedback we have had so far, we are pleased to hear that the Fayre was declared a resounding success as this makes all our efforts worthwhile.



Colin Humphries & Janet Thornley



Carnival King & Queen, Charlie Cladden & Megan Yeoman meet the Street Fayre Chairman Danny Killian.



Helen McMahan, Steve Dolley, John Kemsley & John Ridgley



Crowds enjoying the entertainment in Chapel Street.



Liz McBride selling her Victorian Cakes.



Harbury School Children entertaining the Villagers



Dorothy Travis, Celia Barrett, Nora Ellis, Rosemary Harley & Bea.



'Children in Need' Stall



Sally Thornley & The Harbury Senior Citizens' Committee

However, it is not only the committee which makes the Fayre a success, it is also due to many, many people who contribute in lots of different ways. It is to them we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks, amongst whom are all the people who manned stalls to raise money for their own charities and organisations, everyone who donated prizes for the raffle and tombola, all the people in Chapel Street who supplied electricity and everyone who helped to set up on the day and joined in the street sweeping and clearing up on Sunday.

Although it is impossible to thank everyone individually (it would take a whole edition of the magazine and more!), we would like to extend special thanks to the Carnival King and Queen for performing the opening ceremony, Tony Ceney for once again carrying out the duties of M.C. with enthusiasm and humour, Terry Gray for building the stage at rather short notice, Priory Plant for providing the street signs and barriers, Tim Morrall (Happy Days' Entertainments) for supplying and setting up the PA system free of charge and Mr. Milner, Ruth Guy and the children of Harbury School, Trinity School, John, Eleanor and Matt Black and Dan Kemsley for providing us with such wonderful entertainment.

We would also like to thank the judges of the fancy dress and most attractive stall competitions. The winners were:

Best Lady's Costume - Kary Hunt
 Best Gent's Costume - Roger Ellis
 Best Boy's Costume - Liam Crossling
 Best Girl's Costume - Olivia Bath
 Most Attractive Stall - 'Butterflies'.

The winner of the £100 first prize in the Grand Draw was Wendy Carpenter, and a full list of winners will be on display in all the pubs and shops that very kindly sold tickets for us or allowed us to sell tickets on their premises.

Welford Lions organised the Pig Roast for their own charity, but also gave a very generous donation from the proceeds to Children in Need. They have asked me to thank Michael Thwaites for supplying the wood, Mick Brady from Building & Plumbing for donating the concrete blocks and Sharon and Peter from the Gamecock for allowing them to use their garden.

To date we have raised over £2,000 for Children in Need and we intend to carry on collecting until the televised broadcast on November 17th, when we hope to send a delegation to Pebble Mill to present our cheque. We will not be able to publish the total amount raised until a later edition of the magazine.

Once again, very many thanks to everyone and we hope (fingers crossed) that the 7th Victorian Street Fayre will be held sometime in October 2002! However, as most of the members of this year's committee are now completely exhausted and have been heard muttering 'never again', it looks as if we will need a new committee in the future. So, if you think you would like to help form a new committee, I will help you in any way I can and possibly act as Chairman for one more Fayre in order to keep the event in the Harbury Calendar and make sure you are not thrown in at the deep end!

Finally, the committee would like to thank Anne Woodward for making the presentation of a bouquet of flowers to Julie in recognition of all the hard work she has put in behind the scenes for all of the Street Fayres.

Dan Killian, Harbury Victorian Street Fayre Committee

HARBURY SCHOOL

Is there anybody out there?????????????????

The PTA AGM was quite a night with a grand total of **8 people** turning up (7 of which were committee members). I know it was a wild and windy night, but we were expecting a little more support than that!

We have had a good year with a bank balance that means we can give our second instalment of £4,000 to the school for the computer suite. We are so pleased that this has been such an asset to the school and something of which we can be justifiably proud.

I stood down as chairman and Alice Price stood down as treasurer to be replaced by the very able Sue Graydon and Nicola Thompson up front with Kary Hunt and Cassie Gibbs playing out on the wings...if only

England had such a team!! Actually I think that Kary and Cassie are technically known as vice – chair person (PC) and secretary. We did bring several new members in off the subs bench and should be able to produce a list of the new committee in the near future.

I know that I keep banging on about supporting the PTA in any way you can, but we do raise money to provide equipment for ALL the children at the school as well as organise events that we hope parents and children enjoy. SO, if there was something that you thought worthwhile or not then please let us know. We are always on the lookout for new ideas as well as helpers for events, even just to clear up afterwards. I'll get off my soapbox now and continue with.....

The Quiz Night was a great success with a record number of teams entering and a great big vote of thanks goes to Peter Walshe and Martin Randall who once again did such a fabulous job. They put in so much effort to produce the ultimate quiz - see Pete's report for a blow-by-blow account of the night.

Future events

Saturday 4th November – COFFEE MORNING in the Tom Hauley room. Come along for a cuppa on Saturday morning. We also need cakes and raffle prizes, so if you are a bit of a whiz with your Moulinex then we would appreciate your support. We will also be selling books and there will be coloured sand for the kids to make some early Christmas presents with.

Saturday 18th November – RETRO DISCO. It's back due to popular demand!! Dig out your old flairs (they're the height of fashion now!) and come down to the school and strut your funky stuff man. Yeah baby!! Watch out for details of tickets.

Saturday 17th March 2001 – AUCTION OF PROMISES. We have an auctioneer booked and several promises in for what should be a great night. Anything that you can think of would be gratefully received; does anyone know a celebrity who would do something for us? Contact a member of the committee if you can help.

I've enjoyed being chairman for the year and would like to say thank you to everyone who has helped, particularly the committee and especially Alice and Sue who are so organised and are always there. Over to you Sue!!!

Ian Ashworth

HARBURY PTA – LamBs Rescue Black Sheep

A remarkable change of team line-up led to an astounding victory in the 6th Electronic PTA Quiz.

The packed hall (with a record number of teams entered) vibrated, enthused, laughed and sometimes groaned during the tense eight-round struggles.

Sue Graydon and Alice Price did the bulk of the hard work and preparation for the evening and their efforts really paid off – and of course, the audience appreciated the quality real ale bar set up by Nick Tawny with his assistant Ron Graydon.

But it was the scorers Cassie Gibbs, Ian Ashworth, Dee Bennett as well as Sue and Alice who made the running.

Round 1 and no clear leader. Round 2 Fourteen & Six put their noses in front. Round 3 up bobbed Black Sheep and so on.

Mighty Martin on the Magic Machine (Martin Randall in a final appearance on the electronic apparatus) began panicking because we had not prepared any tiebreaker questions! Even the Vitamin question (the answer is usually Vitamin A) did not split the teams.

So there we were, the final round and all to play for. And that's when youth counted. Was it too much real ale for those over 18? Was it simply staying power? Either way the substitution of two 'oldies' by Richard Montague and Jack Whorton in the Black Sheep flock meant victory over Fourteen & Six at the final moment. Arms aloft, carrying the magnificent Sutcliffe Reynolds Fitzgerald trophy, they were cheered from the Hall.

A good night with great support for the PTA. Thank you all.

Peter Walshe

Harbury Albion F.C Report

Results and performances have continued to be good in October with 3 wins from 3 games played this month with 9 goals scored and only 2 conceded. The major news affecting the club, though, has been the appearance of the 'local paparazzi' following the club receiving its new Old New Inn-sponsored kit.



Prior to the team photograph several senior players were seen gelling and combing their remaining hair in place. Vice chairman and veteran player Paul Gladden had even had his cut!

Finally, the clubs media spokesman / secretary would like to apologise to sponsors Carlsberg Tetley for a technical error made in last month's report. The players are having a whip-round to buy him a new pair of glasses so that he can read the front and back of the new shirts properly!

Rob Davis

HARBURY TENNIS CLUB

Mixed fortunes for the 2 teams competing in the Banbury Winter League. The "A" Team got off to a very good start in its Division 2 campaign with a home win against Tysoe "A" and followed that up with an away

draw at Byfield “B”. The “B” Team has yet to win any points after suffering heavy defeats at Nether Heyford and at home against Banbury “D”. Things can only get better!

On the social side the Ceilidh was very successful with some excellent dancing although some of us still struggle with telling our right foot from our left! There were a couple of bottles of wine left over which found their way to the Club’s AGM two days later. Following the meeting the Committee has two new faces with Lyn MacWhinnie and Paul Crowton replacing Jo Mann, who stepped down after 6 years, and David Snell who has moved on to pastures new in Wiltshire.

After the usual business was over, Trophies were presented to the winners of the following Tournaments:

Ladies Singles: Krystyna Makowiecka
 Ladies Doubles: Rosemary Harley and Sue Mercer
 Men’s Singles: Andrew Rendell
 Men’s Doubles: Andrew Rendell and David Hughes
 Mixed Doubles: Mary Thompson and Geoff Prince
 Dave Brown Trophy: Jo Mann and David Snell

Under 16 News

An apology for getting the photo caption wrong last month. The two winners in the middle of the picture were of course Tom and Ben Hughes. Sorry lads!

Colin Mercer

Myton Hospice Support Group

We are holding a Coffee Morning at Fox Cottage, Chapel Street on **Friday 17th November** between 10am and 12noon. Raffle, Bring & Buy, Xmax cards, and Cakes. Hope you will come and have a coffee.

Thanks to everyone who came to the talk by Cecil Bloxham – we made a total of £200. We hope you all enjoyed it, thanks to Cecil for a very enjoyable talk.

Harbury Support Group

Harbury Christmas Fayre

We are once more approaching the festive season and it is Christmas Fayre time again.

Santa will be in his Grotto, as usual, after his whistle stop tour at the village. There will be a varied selection of stalls not forgetting the ever popular home made cakes.

The Tombola stall will be packed with a varied selection of exciting ‘goodies’, proceeds from the raffle will be shared between Sight Savers and the local charity M.A.D.

Items for the white Elephant staff will be gratefully accepted by Ken Hughes, Leamington House, and Colin Ingram, 17, Farm Street. Come and have fun with us on December 2nd. The Fayre opens at 2.00pm.

ANON

Arthritis Research Coffee Morning

'Raffles mean Prizes – What do Raffles mean? Prizes! Come and support the Arthritis Research Coffee Morning and you could win a super raffle prize.

Arthritis is a painful debilitating disease, which affects so many of us at some time in our lives. It is particularly distressing for children. Research is creeping ever nearer to a cure. Please help – it may be you or our loved ones who suffer now or in the future. Top up your Christmas cards – choose from the ARC selections. Coffee and biscuits, raffle and bring and buy on **Saturday 2nd December** in the Tom Hauley Room.

Syliva Burdett

A winter plea

Woollen knitted hats are urgently needed for distribution by Port Chaplains to visiting seafarers from poor countries.

If you can help by donating a woolly hat (bright & cheerful colours) please deposit in the ditty box at the church or ring me to arrange collection.

Thank you.

Bill Davies (614104)

Spanish Evening – The Road to Santiago

It is regretted that, due to an unforeseen clash of dates, the event scheduled to take place in the Tom Hauley Room on Saturday 9th December is postponed. It is hoped to re-plan the event early in the New Year.

Bill Davies

Harbury's GM debate

As experienced but traditional horticultural scientists, with a great deal of practical experience, we might personally prefer that crop improvement was carried out by conventional breeding techniques rather than by the newer technique of genetic manipulation. However, we are so saddened by the distorted way in which the 'Harbury GM debate' has been reported by Alan Guy that we feel the need to present another view. Scientists have to carefully plan, implement, and interpret experiments and then publish results for public scrutiny. Every fact has to be justified by sound evidence and, unfortunately, this cannot be said for Alan's report. Thankfully Linda Ridgley's report was rather more accurate but considerably less prominent.

It is difficult to reply succinctly to biased misinformation but here are a few facts for Harbury residents to consider:

- GM technology, used sensibly, is simply a faster and more efficient way of achieving crop improvement than conventional plant breeding.
- It represents the same process that can occur naturally by mutation.
- If you are worried about having GM crops in Harbury then perhaps you ought to think twice about going on holiday to places where background radiation is higher and therefore the chances of plant mutation are greater.

- Why worry about the use of Glufosinate-Ammonium near the village when 23 garden products containing the same compound are approved for amateur use and some of these are sold by Great Mills, Homebase and Do It All.
- The use of Glufosinate-ammonium is likely to reduce the number of spray applications.
- The presentation of comment about fish genes and tomatoes and feeding protein to herbivores is irrelevant and has nothing to do with crop trials in Harbury.
- GM technology used soundly will lead to extensification not intensification of agriculture.
- No walker in Harbury is going to be affected by GM oilseed rape in any way that is different from non-GM oilseed rape.
- Do not be confused by the hypocrisy of so-called moral arguments contrasting GM and organic crops. Organic does not mean chemical-free and caterpillar control in organic crops is achieved using a GM product!

Dave Wurr, Stan Finch and Kath Phelps

GM Crop Trials in Harbury

Last month's supplementary edition of the Harbury & Ladbroke News included the letter sent by the Parish Council on September 25th to the Right Hon. Michael Meacher, Minister of State (Environment) to convey the majority view of the community as expressed at the public forum held on September 11th.

After a good deal of chasing, the following reply from a civil servant (but signed on his behalf) was eventually received on October 26th and reported to the Parish Council at its meeting that same evening.

Dear Mrs. Steele,

Thank you for your letter of 25th September to Mr. Michael Meacher, concerning the Farm Scale Evaluations (FSEs) of genetically modified (GM) crops and the evaluation of Oilseed Rape near Harbury.

As I am sure you are aware, Mr. Meacher receives a huge amount of correspondence from the public on all issues relating to the environment. Mr. Meacher is especially interested in the progress of FSEs and the concerns of local parish councils. Unfortunately however he is unable to reply to all of the enquiries he receives and your letter has been forwarded to me for reply. I am sorry for the delay in getting back to you.

As, I understand, was discussed at the September 11th parish forum, under the present EU regulatory framework GM crops are assessed primarily with a focus on safety. Within the law there is therefore no mechanism for a consultation process of the type that would allow the evaluations to be stopped in the manner you have suggested.

I would like to make clear that every application to release GM plants into the environment contains a thorough environmental risk assessment, which is evaluated for safety to the environment and to human health. This is done by independent experts on the statutory Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE). Once the applicant has been

granted this consent to release the GM crop into the environment, they have a legal right to do so provided they abide by the terms and conditions set out in that consent. Government cannot overturn the consent, other than on safety grounds or for non-compliance with the terms and conditions. To do so for other reasons might be judged to obstruct the company's legal right to grow the crop, and the Government itself could then be taken to court.

The evaluations of herbicide tolerant GM crops are needed to enable us to make an informed decision on whether to allow commercial growing of herbicide tolerant GM crops in this country in the future. The plants themselves have been assessed as posing no unacceptable risks to human health or the environment. And that is why we are looking at the effect, if any, of the herbicide management practices associated with their use and not the modification itself. We are committed to a transparent approach in doing this and are trying to be as open and informative as possible. If local consultations bring to light any evidence bearing on the safety of the GM crop itself it is passed to ACRE for their consideration.

The Government has repeatedly stated that no GM crops will be grown commercially in the UK until we are satisfied that there will be no unacceptable effects on the environment, and only by growing crops under the most normal farming conditions possible can real results be collected.

You also mention that Harbury Parish is concerned about the potential effects of this particular crop on the local beekeeper, Mr. John Home. As I have explained however, the crop in question has been assessed as safe to the environment and human health and therefore consent cannot be denied on this occasion.

Advice from our own, as well as independent scientists is that honey produced close to GM crops may conceivably contain only a minute trace of GM pollen, if any at all. Certainly this will be nowhere near enough to require compliance with the European Union's strict labelling requirements. Any decision by individual companies, such as supermarkets or wholesalers, not to buy farming produce grown close to GM crops, has no basis in safety and is a commercial and ethical decision taken by the body concerned.

As you say, this does raise the important issue of liability. General civil liability laws in this country currently cover liability and this includes the common law of tort as developed by the courts. If individuals feel that they have been disadvantaged by the actions of another it is their responsibility to seek legal advice. This is a difficult issue and we continue to examine it with farmers, industry and other interested groups. We hope to find a way that allows a consensus to be reached on how the GM sector and other farming practices can live together.

Yours sincerely

Darren Neild - Biotechnology

The Parish Council noted that despite the statement in the letter that "Mr. Meacher is especially interested in the progress of the FSEs and the concerns of local parish councils" that special interest did not apparently extend as far as a personal reply. For its author not even to be the head

of the Government's GM crops and Biotechnology Division seemed to the Parish Council at best to be discourteous and at worst to demonstrate contempt for the concerns expressed. It decided to ask John Maples MP to pursue the issue with Mr. Meacher.

John Hunt

Pensioners' patio

Remember the willow you admired on our front lawn? The one with pretty pink leaves? We've just got you one as a present. Now when your garden is a pensioners' patio and those words come flowing down the telephone wires, your mind is far too busy wondering where on earth you're going to plant a tree to respond with the appropriate appreciation. Yes, I remembered the little tree with its feathery springtime foliage - but here?

It duly arrived, four feet plus of stem crowned with delicate variegated 'branchlets' (the pink foliage appears in spring). It was in a reasonably large container and there, for the foreseeable future, it will remain looking decorative on the terrace. But when it outgrows its pot? Well now, questions like that are best avoided – remember that great psychological dictum: *Sufficient unto the day!*

Each day, as if on cue, a flock of starlings descends. So what's new, you may ask. Ah, this is a teenage gang pretending to be adult as they show off their new winter armour of metallic blue and green, glinting in the sunlight. Only their pale throats and necks give them away. Until recently they lived in a state of peaceful co-existence with the extended sparrow family, often there at the same time. Yesterday however, they were attacking the smallest sparrows, which seem to represent a very late brood. One of the latter took refuge close to the ample breast of a collared dove that was also trying its luck amongst the crumbs. The big bird looked surprised but, true to type, made no objection – it even stood still till the sparrow moved off.

Two violets recently decided to bloom near the front door. For a moment I wondered if our recent earthquake had, after all, had a far-reaching effect, and we'd somehow skipped winter, a glance at the hanging baskets brought met back to earth – battered and world-weary, they speak eloquently of winter knocking at the door. The busy lizzies likewise. How many thousands of those gallant splashes of colour leave the garden centres each year? But now they have run their course. I shook my head at the treacherous violets and went to get out the winter duvets.

Edyth Algar

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The new season of talks started with Mr. Hardy, his subject being *Low Maintenance Gardening*. I understand it was well supported which is very encouraging. Mr. Hardy was interesting and enthusiastic with much good advice; all in all a successful evening. He answered questions as they arose and also showed many interesting slides.

The hour has gone back; November is here, so also are the seed catalogues. To qualify for the various discounts the Society has to spend a certain sum with Dobies and Marshalls, so when ordering please divide

your order between them. When the weather is bad and daylight short, it is very pleasant to dream and plan next year looking through the catalogue. Orders for seeds, plus monies, please by the **December 5th** meeting.

A Bursary will be awarded for 2001 at the December meeting. The successful member will have a choice of selected courses at Ryton, Moreton Morrell or Pershore. Those who are interested please give their names to the new chairman.

There is still time – just – for nominations for the new committee to be delivered to Mrs. Julie Clarke for inclusion at the AGM on Tuesday 7th November, which will take place before the talk *Herbaceous Borders*. I understand Mr. Pearce will be bringing many plants about which he will be talking and, being a nursery owner, will be selling. Also at this meeting Christmas cards in aid of the Gardeners' Benevolent Fund will be on sale. Quite an eventful evening in store!

Subs are due, and for anybody who doesn't yet know, they are now £3 for each person – no concessions for Senior Citizens!

The Society has renewed the Ryton Gardeners ticket yet again. This admits two people to the gardens free every day of the year – not Christmas Day – and is available from Mrs. Zonik (612365). The more recently planted areas are maturing and blending in well; the recent wet seasons have helped no doubt. Ron and I have noticed the area with drought tolerant plants has grown well also. They may not need it but have used the extra rainfall to their advantage!

The December talk will be given by Mr. Coombes entitled *Colour in the Winter Garden*. This will be held in the Tom Hauley Room starting at 8.00pm and will be followed by the Social. This will be a finger buffet provided by the members, and I expect John and Ron will be popping a few corks in the kitchen!

Muriel Grey

GARDENING NOTES

If your childhood memories of November are of smoking bonfires, and thick carpets of leaves, you have to think again. Bonfires are now confined to the 5th and we are discouraged from burning rubbish in our gardens. Now there is the penetrating sound of a shredder and the noisy whoosh of leaves being sucked up. The end result of this entire racket is material for the compost heap, so we'll have to learn to live with these sounds of the modern garden.

Do try to compost as much as possible and so return valuable fibre and nutrients to the soil. It may be better to throw away leaves from under apple trees and rose bushes in case they harbour disease. On empty vegetable beds grow a green manure crop that can be dug into the soil in spring.

Good gardening days will probably be rare in this month of wet and wind, so take advantage of any last glances of summer. Scoop out any leaves that have fallen into ponds. Remove pumps and filters, dry them and put into store. Leave foliage on marginal plants as protection against severe weather. If any tender plants remain in the garden bring them in now.

Check ties on trees and wall shrubs as they may have become too tight or need replacing. Prune back straggly long stems to reduce wind rock.

Finish planting winter and spring flowering bedding such as pansies and wallflowers. Plant tulip bulbs and other bulbs now, although it is getting rather late for some. Check the bowls of bulbs that you have in a cool dark place. Developing roots may be forcing the bulb out. Try to disturb the roots as little as possible as you replant the bulb, then water sparingly.

After the first frost blacks dahlia foliage cut down the stems to within 3-4 inch of the soil. Lift out the tubers and wash off the soil. Allow them to dry, upside down, before dusting them with sulphur and storing them in a box of dry compost in a frost-free place. Remember to label different colours. Lift gladioli corms and store them in paper bags.

Houseplants can go on windowsills for good light but do not leave them behind closed curtains at night. Reduce watering and only feed plants, which are in flower or are growing strongly. Do not move Christmas cactus now that the buds are forming or the buds will drop.

Plant of the month: Snowberry



In the catalogues this group of hardy deciduous shrubs are under *Symphoricarpos*, meaning 'bearing clusters of fruit'. These plants, which will tolerate difficult situations of poor soil or deep shade under large trees, have an appeal even though they sucker and spread. The small pink flowers of July, attractive to bees, produce bunches

of marble-like white or pink berries, which remain on the leafless branches from October to February. They were first introduced in 1730 from North America, probably from seed sent by John Bartram to Peter Collinson, a fellow Quaker. A few years later Bartram was appointed as the royal botanist in America by King George III, and received a salary of £50 a year.

So *Symphoricarpos* may have been introduced into Warwickshire by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown when he prepared garden plans for Charlecote Park, Ragley Hall or Warwick Castle. The variety often seen is *S. albus Laevigatus* but unless you need to cover an awkward site look for *S.x doorenbosii* Mother of Pearl or White Hedger, which have less suckers. There is also a form with cream or yellow variegated leaves that will brighten a dingy corner although they do need better light to encourage good variegations. Plant them between autumn and spring to have a shrub, which is useful for winter floral arrangements, or to fill a tricky site.

Pat Smith

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors

We would like to thank everyone who supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning. We raised £315.

Mary Coney

Dear Editors

The report on the September meeting of the Parish Council in last month's edition of the H&L News may well have given the wrong impression as to the source of funding which the Twinning Association received towards the cost of our visit to Samoix-sur-Seine last April.

It is important that residents of Harbury should be aware that the grant received did not come from the Parish Council, but was given by the European Commission in Brussels. The amount received was in fact 2,500 Euros or about £1,500 (NOT £2,000 as stated in the report).

This was given as a direct subsidy towards the travel costs of those taking part and has been distributed to them. The European Union is keen to promote exchange visits between communities of member states, in the cause of international friendship and sometimes makes travel grants available.

Members of the Association are now preparing for a visit from our French friends, which will take place from April 28 until May 1, 2001.

The Association is always keen to welcome new members.

David Winter, Chairman Harbury Twinning Association

Dear Editors

May we convey, through your magazine, our thanks to those who came to the Senior Citizens' Coffee Morning and gave so generously.

The Harbury spirit was once more in evidence! Yes, a wonderful response and due to many generous donations of cakes, raffle prizes and other gifts; the grand sum of £166.90 was realised. A big thank you.

Pam and David Clarke

Dear Editors

Charles Catt and Karen Ellis would like to thank everyone who sponsored them or gave a donation for the Historic Churches' Fund.

September 9th was a glorious day and the refreshments at each church were most welcome. Karen visited 12 churches on her route from Chesterton to Hunningham, whilst Charles visited 31 on a route via Fenny Compton and South Warwickshire.

Between us we have raised £250. We had a thoroughly enjoyable day and visited some beautiful churches.

Charles Catt & Karen Ellis

Dear Editors

The British Heart Foundation benefited by £290.50 – the proceeds from the Butterflies stall at the Victorian Fayre. We would like to thank everyone for their generous support, by donation of money and cakes etc. and also by all who came to buy from us.

'The Butterflies'

Dear Editors

I would like to thank everyone who helped to make the "Harvest International Services' Coffee Morning for the Street Children of Cambodia" a success.

We had a table laden with cakes, some great raffle prizes, lots of help and people turning up for coffee on the day. We raised £150. Thank you.

Alison Ashworth