



The media have given daily coverage to the outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease and the sad slaughter of thousands of animals. Here in Harbury we have a herd of pedigree Friesian cattle in Mill Street, and there are sheep and cattle on the surrounding farms in the parishes.

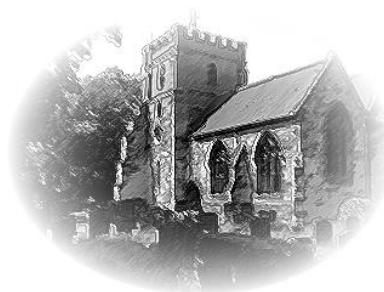
To date, Harbury and Ladbroke are infection-free and we all have a responsibility to keep it that way. This issue contains a short historical perspective on Foot and Mouth disease together with notes

on the measures taken by the Parish Paths' Partnership and the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to help prevent the spread of infection by walkers.

On a happier theme we have pleasure in congratulating 3 villagers who have featured in the local press for European or national achievements. Susie Tawney gained a silver medal when she came second in the 3000 metres at the European veteran indoor athletic championship.

Also, Sam Wright and Daniel Malin were awarded the Adventure Crest, the highest award in the Cub movement.

Finally we extend our sympathies to the families of Jean Bullock, Norman Coley and Elsie Hughes.



Parish Matters

From the Rector

Christ's final entry into Jerusalem was a dramatic event. He was a man with a price on His head. There had been talk of plots against Him and He had already escaped one attempt on His life. To ride into the city of Jerusalem openly, was an act of great courage. All eyes were upon Him. He had no great security surrounding Him. Indeed He had often spoken about the danger that lay in wait for Him there.

Christ had shown throughout His ministry that He was not in favour of dramatic gestures. People asked Him for miracles and he refused. Signs and wonders were not important in themselves; they always had a message. It was what they said that was important. Christ's entry into Jerusalem was not an empty gesture. It was saying something of immense value. It did not say anything new as Christ had been saying the same thing all during His life. He now said it with great urgency – perhaps it was a last desperate invitation to the people of the city He loved. What He was saying was: "*I have come in love and peace as your saviour.*"

He came as a King, but not a war-horse. He rode on an ass. When Kings went into battle, they went on horseback. When they visited allies and friends they rode on a donkey. The sight of Jesus coming down the road on an ass would immediately suggest this meaning. The significance of His gesture was clear. Moreover many people would have in mind the words of the prophet Zechariah:

*'Say to the daughter of Zion,
Look, your King comes to you;
He is humble, He rides on a donkey
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'*

Christ's entry into Jerusalem was really a final plea to be accepted as Messiah. All along and especially in Mark's gospel, Christ was careful about proclaiming openly who he was. People were quick to take the wrong meaning when He spoke about Himself. He had explained His meaning to His closest disciples but even they did not really grasp the truth. So many minds connected the Messiah with military power and independence movements that they were not ready to accept the Messiah as one who had no earthly powers or ambition.

Now, at a time when no one could possibly misunderstand the kind of Messiah He was, Christ openly moves into the city. There was no time now to make an earthly hero out of Him as the tide was turning against Him. You could only accept Him now as the one who came to serve. His only power was in love and mercy. Even now in this short hour of triumph He appeared so vulnerable. He had let Himself be rejected because He had let himself be loved. Accepting Him and what He stood for was not like joining a movement; it was like allowing yourself to become vulnerable as He was.

Fr. Roy

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

From the Registers

Holy Baptism at All Saints' Harbury

11th March – Evan William Rees

11th March – Nicole Mima Petchey

Funerals at All Saints' Harbury

9th March – Norman Coley 84 – Burial at Offchurch

27th March – Jean Bullock 68

Funerals at Oakley Wood

22nd March – Elsie Hughes 98

From the Churchwardens

Holy Week and the celebration of Easter are almost upon us. I am sure for those of us who had the privilege of seeing the Oberammergau Passion Play last year; this Easter will be even more special.

The All Saints' web site is being prepared and will be available soon, so we are moving with the times!

The Spring Clean of the church is now planned for the week commencing April 29th. Volunteers for the crew would be welcomed. It is envisaged that it will take most of the week, so a daily rota will be needed. If you can help on one or more days, please contact Felicity Harris, Jeff Bedford or John Moore.

The A.G.M. of the church will follow a short form of worship on **Sunday April 1st** at 6.00pm. Please be there if you can, to elect the Churchwardens and P.C.C.

Congratulations to Joyce & Harry Windsor who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on March 25th.

Felicity & John

Mothers' Union

Afternoon Meeting: We were pleased to welcome Joyce Orford once again, to show us her collection of thimbles and to explain just what an absorbing hobby it can be. Thimbles were originally called ‘thumbells’ (easy to understand how this evolved from the bell shape, made to protect the thumb from sharp needles). With the invention of the sewing machine, hand sewing declined, and decorated, collectable thimbles were introduced. Joyce now has over 400, of which we saw some of the most interesting, made from all sorts of materials e.g. porcelain, lace, wood and covering a variety of subjects – including a set with tiny animals in the most intricate detail, and a set of 24 depicting the life of Christ. Joyce obviously enjoys recalling how, when and where the thimbles came into her keeping, and there is a fascinating history attached to each one.

Next Meetings:

Wednesday 4th April 2.00pm Service & Lenten Address by Revd Mervyn Roberts,
followed by cup of tea in the Tom Hauley Room

Tuesday 17th April 7.30pm Service, 8.00pm Uganda, Chris Cook

Anne Moore

Toddlers' Service

At our March service Mrs. Jenny Ingram told us the story of how Jesus healed Jairus' daughter.

We sang 2 songs: *Jesus bids us Shine* and *Sing Hosanna, Sing Hosanna*, accompanied by Mr. Charles Catt on clarinet.

After saying 'thank you' prayers, the children completed a picture of the healed little girl with her parents and Jesus.

The next Toddler service will be held on **Tuesday 10th April** at 2.15pm in the children's corner of the Church.

Lorna Bedford

Ruby Wedding



Harry and Joyce Windsor with their Riley, a classical trio

We wish to congratulate Harry and Joyce Windsor on achieving their Ruby Wedding (25th March). Both Harry and Joyce have been life long campanologists and both are life members of the Coventry Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers.

Harry, Harbury's Tower Captain, has taught and continues to teach many villagers the art of Church Bellringing. To commemorate this happy occasion the Harbury ringers, Dominic, William and Jenny (1st peal) were joined on Sunday by the Guild President and other Guild ringers, friends of both Harry and Joyce, to ring a Peal of Cambridge Surprise Major (50-40 changes). The peal was completed in 2 hours and 48 minutes – itself a fine achievement to record this memorable event.

Our thanks to Fr. Roy Brown for his assistance.

Harbury Tower Ringers

Laugh Line

The rector was old and very devout, but sometimes far away during the service. One Sunday, during Evensong, as we reached the creed there was a silence, so the curate went across to him, touched his

arm gently and whispered: "I believe in God, sir." "So do I," replied the rector happily, "so do I."

Ladbroke News



Ladbroke Flower Rota

15 th April	- Ann Edwards
22 nd April	- Ann Edwards
29 th April	- Betty Winkfield
6 th May -	- Tricia Teverson

Jane Rutherford

We were all very saddened to hear of the sudden death of Norman Gosey and our sympathy goes out to Mary and Norman's family.

Norman had only lived in Ladbroke for less than five years but had made many friends here in that short time. Mary has lived here all her life and knows she is amongst friends. We are all here to support you Mary at this sad time.

Betty Winkfield

Women's Fellowship

Many thanks to Jo Sowerby for her hospitality in March. Jo's talk on fostering children was very interesting. Both she and Max have found fostering to be a challenge and a joy.

Next month Pat Kennedy has invited us to her home in Windmill Way, Southam, when our speaker will be Pat Adams from Southam College talking about her work supporting the pupils there. The April meeting is in the middle of Holy Week. The Holy Communion service is at 2.00pm, before our meeting. It is NOT a private service - everyone can come!

Betty Winkfield

Ladbroke and Deppers Bridge W.I.

The March meeting was held in Ladbroke Village Hall on the 22nd 2001. The President welcomed two guests, Penny and Pauline (a past member). The meeting was very well attended.

The Spring Council meeting was held at the Spa Centre on March 21st. It was an inspiring day. The weather was atrocious in the morning but it did not deter members from around the county attending the meeting. The morning Speaker was Beryl Maile, an artist from Oxfordshire, who demonstrated her talent whilst keeping everyone amused with her jokes. Mrs. Anne Mustoe was the afternoon Speaker who, after retiring from being a Headmistress, cycled around the world alone. Her experiences were awe-inspiring and she has written two books about them. Although in her sixties, she is now planning her route to Egypt.

The Short Mat bowls night on March 20th at Harbury Club was well attended. Our 'B' team will be playing in the semi-final, as Shrewley W.I. could not raise four players on **April 6th** for their match with our team.

Names were taken for a variety of County outings and for the Group meeting on **May 3rd** at Napton.

The President welcomed the Speaker, Mr. Barby, an Auctioneer from Locke and England. Members had brought treasured possessions to be assessed. He talked about the differences in the periods of furniture and porcelain production values. His knowledge and love of his work was very apparent and his experiences in the world of antiques very interesting and amusing. A vote of thanks was given by Jo.

Christine Baker and Tina Gilbert won the raffle prizes. Mary Entwistle won the quiz arranged by Collette. Hazel Sharples won the Denman Bursary.

We are holding a Quiz Night on **May 4th** at 7.30pm at Ladbroke Village Hall. Teams of four people are needed. Please contact Christine or Peter Baker on 01926 811606 for details.

The Speaker for the next meeting on **April 26th** will be talking about Musicals. Tea Hostesses will be Catherine and Stella.

Although our membership is steadily going up, we are always happy to see new members and visitors.

Hazel Sharples

Ladbroke Parish Council Report

Please note that the February Parish Council meeting did not take place, as there were insufficient Parish Councillors due to other unavoidable commitments.

However, we were all present for this meeting held in the Village Hall on the first day of spring! We were pleased to welcome 5 villagers as well as our 2 District Councillors, Jim Taylor and Alan Akeister.

Restorative work in the village

Work has been carried out in 3 areas of the village: Bridge Lane, the corner of Bridge Lane and Banbury Road, and the pavement outside Bell View. Other work is awaiting the better weather.

The County Council have inspected the oak tree with the dead branches in Church Lane and have written to the owner to get them removed. There was no reply, so Warwickshire County Council will cut the branches.

Drainage Update

Meetings are still taking place between Parish Councillors, floodees and the flood prevention officer regarding the best course of action to prevent further flooding.

Neighbourhood Watch

Janice Berry and Mike Radbourn attended the meeting and reported that there had been 2 items of concern, which had been notified to Ladbroke. The presence of a working Neighbourhood Watch Scheme can attract a discount of 5% off house insurance.

Planning Applications

The Parish Council had no objections to the felling of a sycamore tree in Mr. Constable's garden.

The Council also had no objection to the demolition of the derelict barn in front of the Bell Inn. A survey has pronounced it to be structurally unsound.

Following the agreed change of use for outbuildings as stables at Mr. and Mrs. Dodds, there was no objection to a slight widening of the drive access.

Footpaths

These remain closed due to the Foot and Mouth crisis. The Southam Footpaths group have offered any help Michael Boden-Pritchett might need in the production of the Blue Lias Ring walk centred on Ladbroke.

District Councillors Report

The new cabinet structure with oversight and scrutiny committees will be commencing in May, so the Councillors are attending the last of the old style committees. A copy of the calendar of meetings will soon be available.

They had attended a crime reduction review meeting and heard of a 6% reduction in reported crime for this area last month.

Waste Disposal

A new contract has been awarded for Waste disposal starting in June/July. This will cost more than the previous contract but will include an enhancement. Each householder will receive a larger bin, which is divided to separate recyclable waste. I, for one, will be delighted not to have bottles and tins collecting in the corner of our kitchen most of the time!

Any Other Business

The document *Your County – Your Future* was distributed to all councillors.

Grass Cutting on the Millennium Green

There was much discussion on the options for funding the contract for regular grass cutting. This is still to be decided after further research.

Ladbroke Summer Fete

Councillors were informed that this is to be held on 30th June on the Millennium Green.

Carol Lane

Southam & District Local History Society

Ladbroke Section

Watching the Time Team return to the beautiful archaeology of the medieval ruins of the Benedictine Priory and its cathedral in Coventry, you wonder how man could have wantonly destroyed such creations. Yet Henry VIII not only asked for, but also got what he wanted in 1535, when he destroyed the monastic establishments throughout England.

Fingers of this destruction also touched the hidden corners of the countryside and Ladbroke was no exception. Since the 9th Century when Ladbroke and the surrounding hamlets had been evolving as self-supporting communities, the church played a prominent role in their development. By the 11th Century, the original wooden structures of St Mary's at Ladbroke and St Helen's at Hodnell and Ascote, were being replaced by stone structures. By the late 14th Century, St Mary's had been much expanded and now included the upper row of windows, indeed the line of the old roof can be seen on the wall above the tower arch. Then at some time the name was changed to All Saints' Church.

Christian involvement in the village was wider than just the church and the Monks of Combe Abbey and Nuns of Nuneaton Priory both held vast areas of the village and surrounding land. So at the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII, the Grange at Ladbroke and parts of Radbourne and Hodnell belonging to Combe Abbey and parts of Ascote including the Windmill on Weddington Hill and St Helen's Church belonging to the Nuns, were taken as Crown lands and allotted elsewhere.

Fortunately, All Saints' Church and its rectory living was in Catesby hands and not monastic, but at Ascote, St Helen's and its rectory were in the hands of Nuneaton Priory. St Helen's was erased to the ground and the last known burial was that of Thomas Spencer in 1532. It is thought that the stone was taken by the local labourers and used to repair and extend the nearby farmhouses. Whatever, little or no record remains of St Helen's and all visual evidence is buried under its graveyard with the old bones. Little country church it may have been, but I wonder what loss that destruction saw?

The next meeting of the Southam History Society is on **Monday April 30th** at 8.00pm in St Mary's School, when Margaret Rylatt from the Coventry Archaeology Department, involved with the work at the Priory and Cathedral in Coventry, will be talking to us. Visitors welcome.

Have I missed something in the Harbury & Ladbroke News in the past year, or has nothing been mentioned in Harbury about the Domesday Millennium Map of the UK? There is a map of Harbury as there is of Ladbroke and copies can be bought by individual house owners of their street / area. Website: www.Domesdaybook.com

Linda Doyle,

Attention Ladbroke Dog Owners!

“It’s not pleasant but some things just have to be aired... The problem of dog mess and how to control it may need careful thought if Millennium Greens are to be enjoyed by everyone in the Community.”
 (Millennium Greens News Letter - Winter 2000)

The Trustees have therefore made Ladbroke Green a designated area under the 1996 Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act. (more graphically known as the ‘Poop Scoop’ law!)

Dog bins have been provided for owners to dispose of waste, which will be emptied regularly by Stratford District Council so there is no excuse for any mess on our Green.

Needless to say there are hefty fines that can be imposed on persistent offenders but we are sure this course of action will never need to be taken.

**Carol Lane (on behalf of
Ladbroke Millennium Green
Trustees)**



Harbury

Harbury Parish Council Meeting

The turn out was better than usual with the District Elections still officially on; both Conservatives and Liberal Democrats were there.

“You have been selected to win a prize”. The District suggested the PC approve production of a tourists’ footpath guide advertising local businesses and offered to explain more. The footpaths group turned up, the Harbury Society turned up but no one from the District.

The Chairman congratulated the footpath group on providing a dry surface in Dark Lane for mums taking their children to school. Congratulations also went to John Drinkwater on his 90th birthday. John revealed that his ambition is to serve the parish for 40 years. He is in his 39th year now!

His dogged campaign to get Bobbies back on the beat is working. Southam will have its own Sergeant with sufficient Constables to provide cover to midnight and over the weekends. Officers from Kenilworth will patrol at night.

Nuisance youths and speeding traffic are problems common to all rural areas and Harbury's village handyman reported litter and broken glass around the Village Hall and on the Play Area. The parking problems on the Pound and in Hall Lane seem to have disappeared following the Clerk's plea to residents.

Suggestion boxes for the **Parish Review** were up and groups are listing their priorities such as Nuisance Youths and Sheltered Housing. The Parish Council wanted the public consulted on whether to complete the One Way System round the Church. Heather Turner complained that congestion in Church Street caused inconvenience. Drivers were often forced to pull over or back up to allow vehicles through. She believed that a One Way System would allow a freer flow of traffic.

Planning

Stratford District Council approved permission for thinning a willow at 7, Vicarage Lane, and the demolition of garages at Leycester Close. The height of the lettering on the Crown Inn signs had been reduced. Extensions at 42, Vicarage Lane, 8, The Beeches and a conservatory at 30, Temple End were granted.

The Parish Council made no representation on the conversion of farm buildings to industrial use at Churchlands Farm, Bascote Road; new windows at Harbury Hall or a conservatory at Westfields House. They commented unfavourably on the proposed roof lights at Harbury Croft and objected to the over-extension and destruction of the frontage at Fairview House, where there is also an objection for overlooking from the neighbour.

Councillors agreed to add to the Sheltered Housing Survey questions about the need for a rented option, but explained that questions about finance had to remain, as there was no point in trying to provide homes people could not afford.

There were no quotes yet for the refurbishment of the Pump, but potholes on the path to the Allotments will be filled in. Many projects are stalled for lack of grant aid. The Tennis Club's Lottery Grant has been deferred, and there is still no progress on the Youth Project.

Dutch Van Spall gave news from America of set backs for Aventis, the GM crop trial company, and John Hunt was pleased that no new trials had been announced in our area.

Ken Stephenson wants the flower boxes at the village entrances planted up for the twinning visit. There were complaints about the "dire" advertising sheets hanging out of the Dog Inn!

At the County Association Seminar on the Rural White Paper, the Councillors heard of the Government's intention that the Councillors should take on far greater powers and responsibilities. Substantial funds are offered for new work, provided they have consulted the public about their needs.

Chairman John Hunt cautioned that giving additional functions could cause councillors to "walk away" from the responsibilities. Too few nominations were received in 1999 for an election, although he acknowledged this might be because the PC has such few powers at present!

Linda Ridgley

Harbury Society

At the AGM Tim Millington stood down after twenty-five years as Chairman and was presented with the Guardian's "Corrections and Clarifications" in recognition of his Chairmanship and attempts to improve the Secretary's spelling. Alan Lord took his place as Chairman.

AGM Speaker Nigel Bishop was born in Harrogate where his father was Parks Director but claims he was conceived in the Jephson Gardens' East Lodge when his father was Parks Superintendent during the War!

When Nigel came to Warwick District he found the Jephson Gardens in need of maintenance. A master plan was approved in 1991 and work on the lake and fountain began in 1995. In 1996 Nigel was able to replace the iron railings, which had been removed by his father(!), as part of the War effort on 17th March 1943.

A £2.89 million Lottery grant was awarded for the restoration and on top of this the District received £1.6 million from the Heritage Lottery for modern glasshouses and a replacement for the intrusive Riverside Restaurant.

The Society's next event is on **Monday 30th April** at 7.30pm for 8pm in the Tom Hauley Room when Mark Booth of the Records Office will explain how to use the Archives.

On **Saturday 19th May** the Society is holding a Fund Raising Coffee Morning in the Tom Hauley Room where Topics for the Parish Review will be on display.

Nuisance youths, sheltered housing and a One Way System round the Church have all been mentioned. Is action needed on these issues? Are there other problems we should address? Come along and see what others think are the most important questions our Community should be asked.

Linda Ridgley

Harbury's Women Institute

There will be a massive Plant Bring and Buy Sale at Weston-under-Wetherley Village Hall on **Saturday May 19th** from 10.30am and we are requested to start propagating now.

Remember the article about Woolly the lurcher who played Crab in “The Two Gentlemen of Verona” at Stratford? His owners have informed us that he died recently at the ripe old age of fourteen, a good age for a lurcher.

There was no speaker in March as it was Members’ Evening when we socialised, were quizzed and, with much laughter, thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Many thanks to ‘the gels’ who organised the evening.

April Hostesses: Wendy Knowles, Terry Wade, Kath Mancell.

Jeanne Beaumont

Harbury Folk Club

The theme for the 196th Folk Club was *Occupations*. At the start of the evening this seemed to develop into a military theme! The Harvesters sang about soldiers, Brian played a tune called “Jacky Tar” and Peter McDonald combed the Spanish Main, (or is it Mane!). Other occupations were Milkmen, Factory Girls, Dalesmen and Songwriters!

During the 2nd half there were contributions about Postmen, Miners and Apprentices. Rick managed to mention three occupations in one song!

The 3rd half commenced with The Harvesters singing about a folk singer from way back. Des sang “Byker Hill” a song about Colliers although it does happen to mention two members of the Harbury Hash, well nearly! John gave us all a holiday and took us to the Mardi Gras and then Pete Bones took us back to work with the “Farmers Song.” Ron was in fine voice and brought the evening to a close with “Row Bullies Row.”

The raffle raised £27.00 for Macmillan Nurses. Thank you to all the performers for taking part and a big Thank you to the huge audience who joined in so enthusiastically.

Sue Hartland

Harbury Brownies

Due to a change in personal circumstances, I will have to leave Harbury Brownies at the end of April. If you would like to become a regular unit helper, or know anyone who is willing to, please let me know as soon as possible.

Clare Clements (613699)

The Pre-School - Learning Through Play

The Pre-School is held in the Wight School, behind the Library

Six weeks into the term and it feels as if Kate has been here forever! The children have settled down very happily with her. According to them, she has black, brown or red hair (depending on whom you ask), blue or green eyes and “an apron just like our T shirts”. The children agreed that Kate likes helping them, is very kind and is smiley. In their view, her special qualities are that she is very good at making play dough and provides two biscuits and fruit to try at break time. We hope it has been as much fun for Kate. She has produced a great newsletter with a new logo, so do ask if you would like a copy. She is already

developing good contacts with the school and we are very grateful to Mr. Milner and his colleagues for making Kate so welcome.

The theme for this half term has been springtime. At the moment it feels as if the Arctic might have been a more appropriate choice but we live in hope! We have been growing bulbs, talking about baby animals, making pictures of lambs and looking at how caterpillars change into butterflies. We have been exploring the potential of three different colours: first red, then yellow, and now green. The theory was that there would be lots of emerging green leaves to examine at this point in time but we will have to take a hair dryer to the snow! Towards the end of the summer term we will be having a French fortnight so if any of you are venturing across the Channel for Easter, do think of us before you discard any easily packed ephemera that might help to create a bit of ambience. Obviously, bottles of wine are out of the question (sadly), ditto bicycles and strings of onions but any examples of French writing, flags and decorated paper bags would be brilliant.

The lunch club is proving very successful from the point of view of both parents and children. Parents have the extra hour to cram in a bit of extra housework, food shopping or (wishful thinking) time in the gym. Children have the fun of eating together and playing in a small, contented group. The toy farm is a big success in this respect although you wouldn't believe the number of times that the farmer has to get the tractor out! Term ends on **Friday 6 April** and starts again on **Tuesday 24 April**. If you are thinking of bringing your child to the Pre-School, do come along to talk to Kate and find out more about what we do. Meanwhile, we wish you all a very happy Easter - anyone for 'le ski'?

Harbury Pre-School Committee

Harbury Primary School News

Recycled Paper – Many thanks to the kind person who calls in occasionally and leaves us a ream or two of white paper that's still got one usable side. It really does come in handy for all sorts of printing and children's uses; and we appreciate you thinking of us.

Jumble sale – Well done and thank you for all your efforts in cake baking. The food that's come into school has been fantastic in quantity and quality, and it appears that the children are thoroughly enjoying eating a poorer diet for the sake of others! The final part of our support for the Earthquake appeal will be a jumble sale on **Thursday 5th April** for 2.00pm onwards. Please start collecting any saleable items such as books, toys, records, unwanted gifts etc. Please do not send in clothing. Start sending the goods into school from the beginning of the first week in April please.

So far we have collected £159.59 Book Fair profits, £10.29 from the church retiring collection after Ash Wednesday's service, £178.82 from cake sales, making a total of £348.70 up to now. Maybe we'll reach £500.00 by the end of the jumble sale.

Parking – Have you tried the re-furbished path from the Shakespeare yet? Thanks to Mr. Keith Thompson who's one of our school governors and is on the Parish Council, most of Dark Lane has been re-surfaced.

This was a project that was diverted from countryside paths during foot and mouth restrictions.

Kids Club – Will be open during the Easter holidays from 8.00am to 6.00pm **Monday to Wednesday 9th to 11th April**. For more details either call in or telephone 613740.

Midday Supervisors – We still need midday supervisors for anything from one to five lunchtimes per week: 12.00 to 1.30pm at £6.50 per session and delightful company – 210 children!

Notices – We would like the new notice board outside the Nursery and Reception class to be available to the whole community and any organisation is welcome to advertise its events thereon. We would appreciate people passing on this message and discouraging others from pinning their notices around the school fence and entrances. However, we will not be using it for personal advertisements – except musical instruments because this is one area that the government, the LEA and the school would wish to promote.

New Paths – We are planning to dispose of the short path with paving slabs (by Kids Club) and the large set of steps. This will mean those people using the Park Lane entrance will have to go as far as the car park and then along by the building to reach the playground. Soon it will be possible to get round the whole site without having to negotiate any steps. All those with prams, buggies etc should find life a little easier even though it's a bit more walking – but it may help with our drive for a fitter, healthier school! Please help us in this matter by sticking to the paths and ensuring that your children do the same. This is especially important before and after school. We all need to educate the children into avoiding shortcuts over the grass and mud.

Easter – As usual we will be organising end-of-term Easter fun activities. Help at home (please don't do it for them, just help) is allowed for: creating an imaginative garden, designing and making a box to protect an egg when dropped from 1 metre. In school we will engage in decorating eggs and each child will need one hard-boiled egg or similar object of the same shape and size. More details coming home soon from Mr. Chapman. The key focus is on using imagination and enjoyment more than competing against each other.



School children set off to visit Southam College for Science Week lessons

Paul Milner (Headteacher)

Harbury Primary School PTA

After months of preparation and gathering in of promises, the night finally arrived and it was our Auction. Unfortunately on the night there was not the attendance that we had hoped for but this did not deter those who did attend from having a thoroughly enjoyable evening and obtaining some good promises. Some people who were unable to come had bought catalogues and admitted sealed bids.

Terry Lewins our Auctioneer did a superb job remembering people's names and obtaining bids from people who hardly realised that they were bidding.

Bidding was a bit subdued during the first half of the evening. However, after a finger buffet supper and trips to the bar, the bidding got more furious and faster. We could hardly keep up with what people bought and how much they paid for it. The PTA are pleased to say that we made a total profit of £2,942.00 plus a donation of £250.00 to Macmillan Nurses, the charity supported by our Auctioneer.

A huge thanks goes to those who came along and supported us on the evening and to those who worked so hard to make the event a success: Nick and Susie Tawney, Nicola Thompson, Ian Ashworth, Kate Mitchell, Kary Hunt, Jan Brough, Janet Hoskins and Cassie Gibb.

We are now in a good position to make our contribution of £4,000 (this year) towards the computer suite (only one remaining after this) and also to enable us to buy something in addition for school so our children will get a double benefit. Many thanks to everyone.

We are now having a bit of a break although we are holding a School Children's Disco this month and then we will start collecting our 100 Club money in May - more details to follow. If you currently hold a number and know that you do not wish to renew this year, please contact me on 612479.

Susan Graydon

Harbury Cricket Club 2001 Season

You may never think it but at the time of writing the cricket season is exactly 1 month away! However, all will be welcome on **April 22nd** - the first Sunday game against St Benedicts. By then Richard Carr, our groundsman extraordinaire, will have the square ready and waiting and the cricket club looks forward to another enjoyable season.

What the cricket club would welcome is a few more Harbury residents and friends to contact us if they would like a game of cricket. Any new recruits whatever age and/or standard would be very welcome. The teams playing are:

SATURDAY - Warwickshire League

A joint Harbury/Southam team - Ed Russell handles the Harbury part. The standard is good and those who want a more competitive edge to their cricket please contact Ed Russell.

SUNDAY - Two Sides

Regular XI - playing friendlies every Sunday starting 22nd April until mid-September. John Wilkinson, who runs the team, would be happy to hear from anybody who would play either regularly or occasionally - any age or standard.

Occasional XI - this was started last year and is aimed at bringing on the younger players prior to the regular XI's. As well as the older element in this side there are several Fathers and Sons playing in the team. We aim to have about 10 fixtures. Ian Jackson would be delighted to hear from any interested parties.

MID-WEEK XI – Tuesdays and/or Wednesdays

Leamington and District League. Tim Clayton is again running this team, any age or standard; an enjoyable way to spend a spring/summer's evening - limited overs. Please contact Tim.

YOUTH TEAM

We aim to arrange one or two fixtures as well as the usual cricket week in August, coaching and games. Any young players please contact Ian Jackson.

I hope this article leads to some fresh faces playing for the club. For those who don't know, the club plays at the Rugby Club and, of course spectators are always welcome. Fixtures are always in the HARBURY DIARY. The club always enjoys its cricket whatever the result! Please contact any of the team skippers. Telephone Numbers are:

ED RUSSELL	Harbury 612684.
JOHN WILKINSON	Harbury 614503.
IAN JACKSON	Harbury 612615.
TIM CLAYTON	Harbury 612001.

**Ian Holroyd (612527)
Secretary Harbury Cricket Club**

A Topical Story

Daily we see, read and hear about the serious effects of Foot and Mouth disease and the policy of killing infected animals and those that have been in contact with them. I thought readers might be interested in what happened in the Lake District in the 19th Century.

My great grandfather, who farmed in Kendal in the 1860's had all his stock wiped out by Foot and Mouth disease (Murrain) and the story is that his wife died of it, but my research shows that she died of Tuberculosis.

“*The Complete Cow Doctor* T. Beaumont (1863) ... had a remedy against Murrain which consisted of a draught of Myrrh, Epsom Salts, sulphur, antimony and diapente powder mixed with a quart of rue tea, but this quasi medieval potion can have had little effect. Among the most persistent beliefs was that needfire, derived from neet or oxen-fire, and possibly a relic of ancient fire worship, would have had some effect. Similar superstitions existed in Norway, Sweden and parts of Scotland. Needfire was kindled by friction in some central location after all other fires in the community had been extinguished. Then, in order to produce a ‘good reek’, straw, green cuttings and other damp fuel was heaped

onto the fire, after which the cattle and other animals were driven through the smoke. In the *Guide to the Lakes*, Harriet Martineau (1855) gives the story of one old dalesman who, when all his cattle had been fumigated by the needfire, subjected his ailing wife to the same potent charm! As this quotation shows, Foot and Mouth disease was much feared and primitive veterinary science was powerless."

This passage is taken from *The Lake District, Life and Traditions* William Rollinson (1996) Copyright – Playne Books, Haverfordwest.

I just wonder if the ailing wife was my great grandmother Mary-Ann.

Neville Ellis

Postscript

In *Animals Treatment FIRST AID*, published by Ellimans (makers of Embrocation), the famous liquid is described as being useful in a variety of cattle ailments but not Foot and Mouth disease. The entry for this reads: "*The local policeman is the person to apply to when this disease appears.*" Perhaps there was a procedure in the Police Regulations?

Editor

Parish Paths Partnership

On the 1st March all Rights of Way in the Country, which pass over or adjoin agricultural land, common land, woodland, unenclosed land and waste land were closed to the public due to the Foot and Mouth outbreak. As a result all Parish Paths Partnership work in the countryside has been suspended.



Making light work of Dark Lane!

At the end of February the Parish Clerk contacted Warwickshire County Council regarding the muddy condition of Dark Lane, which is regularly used by school children. With the current restrictions in place, the group took this opportunity to lay 10 tonnes of hardcore at the Chapel Street end of SM61 leading down to the school. We were lucky enough to acquire the extra help of Sue and Alan Lord and a welcome cup of coffee from Sue at the end of a hard morning's work. In April we will receive some training in the use of power tools and then eagerly await the lifting of restrictions. I have a copy of a path closure notice from Warwick County Council. If any farmer/landowner needs extra copies,

they can be obtained directly from the Countryside Recreation department.

Clive Taylor

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

Foot and Mouth Disease

As a precautionary measure to protect livestock on local farms, Harbury Spoilbank Nature Reserve has been closed. Notices from the County Council and WWT were displayed at the start of the outbreak in the North. Vandals removed them both but the WWT notice has been nailed up again.

Marian Millington

Windmill Singers of South Warwickshire

Come and sing Stainer's 'Crucifixion' with us at the Congregational Church, Wood Street in Southam on **Sunday 8th April**. Rehearsal is at 3.00pm, performance at 6.15pm. Everyone is welcome.

An extra practice evening will be held on **Thursday 5th April** at The Old School Hall, Church Street, Long Itchington at 8.00pm.

Isobel Grimes

Village Voices Choir

The Village Voices Choir was founded in 1995 by 14 people and has grown to its present membership of about 50. In December 1999 Russell McKie was appointed Musical Director.

The choir sings a variety of music, from church anthems and spirituals through to extracts from musicals and other popular songs. The choir performs up to 10 concerts a year at various venues, churches, village halls, old people's homes, etc. New members are always welcome. There is no audition and the ability to read music, whilst an advantage, is not essential. Rehearsals are in Ufton Village Hall on Thursday evenings at 8.00 – 10.00pm. Off stage, the choir enjoys an active social life and mutual support in good times and bad. For more details, please contact the secretary, Bill Denis on: 01926 812719.

On the social side, the choir is presenting a swinging 60's evening featuring local duo S.O.S. at Harbury Village Hall on **Saturday 28th April**, 7.30pm. Tickets are £5.00 (including supper) and are available from Jill Bloxham 613187 or Maggie Kent 778248. Bring your own drinks.

Jill Bloxham

Harbury Twinning Association

On **Saturday April 28th**, some seventy of our friends from Samois-sur-Seine will be arriving in Harbury for an official visit, the first since the twinning ceremony took place here in October 1998. Their party will be led by their association chairman Nelly Renaud-Touchard and the newly

elected Mayor of Samois, Georges Guillo-Lohan. Their former Mayor, the much-respected Annick Irlanger will also be coming.

The arrangements for the weekend are now complete. I am delighted to be able to report that practically all of our budget for entertaining our guests is being spent with Harbury caterers and traders and that the entertainment on the evening of Sunday April 29th in the Village Hall is being provided by very talented musicians and artists who live in the village. Once again, I would emphasise that not a penny of our funding comes from the Parish rate.

Twinning is for all of the village, not just for our many members. I know that you will want to give our visitors a warm welcome. Do come along to the Rugby Club on the afternoon of **Sunday April 29th** to support a fun Cricket match with our French friends and to cheer on our teams competing for the Harbury-Samois Boules Trophy.

Many old friendships will be renewed and many new ones begun during the weekend. Thank you to all the many people who are working so hard to make this visit a success.

David Winter - Chairman



The French Circle's fancy dress pancake party

Council For Voluntary Service

Voluntary Sector Rural Services Partnership Project

We are carrying out a survey to identify what services/help local residents would like introduced into their town/village. In particular, we would welcome comments from people living in small villages who feel there is a need in their locality for more activities/support. It may be a lunch club, sitting service for the house bound, a good neighbour scheme, local play scheme, support group for people with a chronic illness etc. What sort of service/activity/support do you think is needed in your village/locality?

We will pass on the information you give us to either a voluntary, or statutory organisation, which may be able to help by extending an existing service to cover your area, or offer support to a local person to develop the required activity.

Would you be willing to help on a voluntary basis with any scheme in your locality?

Please write to me, giving as much information as you can:

Sheila Osgood
 Rural Services Development Co-ordinator
 Council for Voluntary Service
 The Hospital, Arden Street
 Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 6NW

If you would like to receive further information about the project, please telephone 01789 262889.

Thank you for your help. This project is funded by the National Lottery Charities Board.

Sheila Osgood

Gamecock – Cheers!



This month, the Harbury & Ladbroke News features another family at the heart of business in the village. Peter and Sharon Kleeman have been the tenants at the ‘Gamecock’ for just over 12 months and in that time they have seen the trade at the pub gradually increasing week by week.

They previously lived in High Wycombe and when they applied to ‘Avebury Taverns’ for a position in one of their chain of pubs, they were offered Harbury. As Sharon explained, they knew “very little about the Midlands”, as she came from Bedfordshire, whilst

Peter originated from Essex. However, in February last year, they arrived in the village with son, Jonathan now aged 11 years and their border collie, Chance. Jonathan attends the local school and has already made several close friends, whilst Chance makes friends with all of the customers who call into the pub!

Sharon and Peter already feel as though they have become part of a village, which they recognise has a “very strong community spirit” and is proving a “very nice place to live”. They are very impressed by the many activities, which are offered in the village throughout the year, but particularly by the Carnival and the Victorian Street Fayre. Already plans are afoot for the pub regulars to enter a float in the ‘Trade’ section of the carnival – a sure-fire way to catch the attention of villagers, especially if previous pub entries are anything to go by!

The Gamecock is also making inroads into re-establishing typical pub activities, with the recent formation of both Ladies and Men’s Darts

teams, whilst the Crib team continues to be on a firm footing and has many regular members.

A new departure for the pub has been the regular Sunday night, ‘Quiz Nite’, which regularly draws an excellent turnout of teams willing to pit their wits against each other. As with every other ‘service’ provided in the village, word has soon got round that the Quiz provides a fun night for all and the pub is now packed out with teams who enjoy the entertainment it provides, as much as the chance to be the weekly winners. Sharon and Peter have also introduced occasional live music or a disco into the Gamecock on a Friday or Saturday evening, which also serves as a draw to clients, who may not wish to travel into Leamington and be part of the ‘town scene’.

Since the pub was extended a few years ago, the accommodation for regulars has been doubled and there is now an extremely cosy restaurant area behind the main bar. A varied menu is on offer, including homemade pies and Peter’s celebrated ‘homemade chips’, which have been recognised as a speciality of the establishment! The Gamecock is open for meals each evening, all day on Saturday and on Sunday lunchtimes. If you feel like a break from having to cook yet another meal after struggling home from work, or before setting off to do the shopping at the weekend, why not pop in to the pub and sample the fare for yourself? Peter is the main chef, as during the week Sharon works as a sales and marketing specialist for an engineering firm in Coventry, although she does provide bar support to give Peter a break.

All the family are taking a well-deserved holiday this month, as they jet off for two weeks at Disney World in Florida. Who knows, maybe they will pick up some useful ideas from their stay, which could be translated into a new venture for the Gamecock, but possibly not a theme park! Enjoy the holiday – your regulars will be waiting for you on your return!

Editors

Dear Elector

It’s almost 4 years since you elected me to represent you on Warwickshire County Council, the time has flown away and I now come to you for your vote again.

These years have been hard work, but also enjoyable, with many successes and a few failures.

During these 4 years, the following has taken place:

HARBURY: New road signs, road repairs, a grant for youth work, work on behalf of many residents on personal and parking problems.

I have taken action at Ministerial level against GM planting and especially when it affected local businesses.

DEPPERS BRIDGE: Bridge repair, road marking, and improvement on traffic management.

LIGHTHORNE: £100,000 will be available for road improvements after the move by Aston Martin. The only input to the planning application was to ensure that money was available for road improvements.

CHESTERTON & KINGSTON: The Windmill will have new sails and will have an open day. I attended the opening of the Green waste site.

IN GENERAL: Additional roads gritted, many of the signs have been cleaned in the area, flood alleviation at many areas although there are many still to be worked on, and money from Aston Martin will improve traffic management.

FAILURE: We could not stop the fire station closure at TYSOE, which the ruling party forced through.

I should like to thank the Parish and District Councillors for their help and understanding.

The candidates are making a commitment to work for you, in the next 4 years, I therefore ask that you give a small commitment to turn out and vote.

VOTE EARLY!

Michael Doody

David Booth

Liberal Democrat candidate for Warwickshire County Council

I am delighted that the Liberal Democrats have chosen me as their candidate in the Warwickshire County Council election on Thursday 3 May.

I live and work in the Harbury electoral division, which gives me a real feel for local issues. I have been a District Councillor for Harbury, which gives me experience of local government and knowledge of the area. I am 50 years old, married with two sons and I work as an Instructor at the local army base.

If elected, I will work for quality services in rural communities and throughout the county.

We should attack crime from two directions - first by giving the police the numbers and resources to detect, punish and deter crime, and secondly by putting resources into education and constructive activities for young people and others to try and reduce the drift into crime.

As people get older they should be helped to live with dignity in their own homes for as long as practical.

Schools need fair funding. Warwickshire is getting less money than other counties, and I will work for increased education spending in Warwickshire.

I will encourage the introduction of appropriate weight and speed limits using cameras for enforcement. Large lorries and speeding cars are a hazard on our village and rural roads - Deppers Bridge is an example of where action is needed.

I support policies that promote rural employment, but I will oppose the introduction of heavy industry and other unwelcome intrusions into the

countryside. Local jobs are essential to maintain local prosperity and reduce road congestion.

I value your views.

You can phone me on 01926 640728, email me at davidbooth@cix.co.uk or visit my website: <http://www.stratfordlibdems.org.uk/davidbooth>.

David Booth

We understand that there is no Labour candidate standing for the Harbury ward - Editors

Folk Art in Village Halls

A unique opportunity to see Compton Verney's British Folk Art Collection in your Village Hall.

Compton Verney is a new art gallery in South Warwickshire. The gallery is located within an 18th Century mansion house designed by Robert Adam with landscaping by Capability Brown and will form an impressive setting for historical and contemporary art. It opens to the public in Spring 2003.

Compton Verney's rare collection of British Folk Art includes shop signs, furniture, farm implements, weathervanes, paintings, toys and textiles.

Folk Art in Village Halls is a series of one-day mini-exhibitions that take this collection out to five different village halls in South Warwickshire. The exhibition at Harbury Village Hall will be on **Saturday May 5th** from 1.00 to 5.00pm. It will be a unique opportunity to:

see a selection from Compton Verney's collection of folk art paintings, objects and furniture in your Village Hall.

talk to curatorial and education staff from Compton Verney about Compton Verney, its collections and its plans for the future.

meet artists Jeremy Deller and Alan Kane, collectors of contemporary folk art, and talk to them about their work.

bring in your own handmade objects and artworks and have them photographed to be included in the Compton Verney Community Folk Archive.

The events are intended to be informal. Tea and cakes will be on sale provided by the WI and there will be a small area selling Folk Art posters, catalogues and postcards. Children are welcome and there will be a small drop-in children's activity.

Folk Art in Village Halls celebrates Museums and Galleries Month 2001. Look out for more details in the local press and for posters and flyers, which will be distributed in the village.

If you want more information, please call Deirdre Buckley (Education and Outreach Manager) on 01926 645504.

Deirdre Buckley

Harbury Carnival June 9th, 2001

King and Queen

Congratulations to Ryan Overton and Kiri Shuttleworth who have been selected as our King and Queen for Carnival 2001.

Fun for All

As well as the Carnival, we are again planning to have a series of events during the week leading up to it. These will start with the Wheelbarrow Race on **Sunday 3rd June**, hosted this year by the Dog Inn, which will include a separate race not involving alcohol (please contact Dan Killian on 612265 to enter). The week will continue, as usual, with a team competition over a series of events and full details will be published in next month's Harbury & Ladbroke News. We would like to see more participation this year (we can accommodate 8 teams) so please consider entering a team to represent your organisation, pub or simply get together with some friends.

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.

John Broomfield
On behalf of the Carnival Committee

Teenage Cancer Trust Event

When cancer strikes one member of a family, it has a profound impact on relatives and friends. Each person in the close circle feels committed to providing the love and understanding, which will support the sufferer, as they come to terms with the disease. In many cases, help is needed over several months or years, as the sufferer undergoes a series of treatments, which will combat the development of the disease. Often the treatment itself can cause pain and suffering to the patient, which is felt by everyone in the family, in their anxiety to see their loved one recover. In some circumstances, it is extremely difficult for family and friends to know exactly how to provide the support needed by the sufferer and this can be even more of a problem when the patient is a young child or teenager.

The Teenage Cancer Trust is a charity, which seeks to provide an additional level of support from outside the immediate family. Teenagers, who have themselves undergone treatment to overcome cancer, make regular contact at home and in hospital, so that a young sufferer has a listening ear and a friend in whom to confide. The close friendships, which often develop in these circumstances, have long been recognised for the vital encouragement and understanding they provide from someone who has experienced the same anxieties and worries. The friendly 'counselling' can be a positive aid to recovery.

The Teenage Cancer Trust raises funds to offer specialist cancer care for teenagers and young adults, by providing units which are designed for, and partly by, teenagers where young people can be together whilst they are being treated. "*A Teenage Cancer Trust Unit is not just another*

ward in a hospital. It is a ‘teenagers pad’ – it is their domain. Not only does it provide the specialist equipment for their treatment, but it also offers recreational facilities to allow them to be simply teenagers. Lying in a bed with a drip attached to your arm is never much fun, but listening to your favourite CD’s, playing your favourite computer game or gossiping with the teenager next to you, can make all the difference.”

A group of local people are intending to hold an event at the Rugby Club on **July 14th 2001** in aid of this Trust. Already many musicians, singers and supporting groups have promised their services for an excellent evening’s entertainment. So far, the line-up includes Woody Allen and the Challengers, Phil King and the Royals, the Phillips Richards band and 706, Union. The main focus will be on ‘sixties’ music and the compere for the evening will be Jeff Harris from Classic Gold FM. The event will be staged in a large marquee on the playing fields at the Rugby Club and a full range of facilities will be provided.

At this stage, the organisers hope that villagers will put the date in their diaries, but as the event draws nearer, any offers of raffle prizes or sponsorship would be welcomed. Some financial support has already been promised by local businesses and this is much appreciated. All the proceeds of the event will be given to the charitable Trust.

The evening is being held in memory of the teenage daughter of a ‘Harbury girl’, who died of leukaemia. The family and friends of the teenager acknowledged the wonderful support, which they received from members of the Trust in their own ‘hour of need’ and they would now like to raise funds to help other families who have teenagers suffering from the disease.

The organisers of the event are Andy Cowan, Dave “Crockett” Edmans and Joe Griffin. Full details of the event will appear in future editions of the Harbury & Ladbroke News and in the local papers.

Editors

Keeping Harbury Alive

Here we have a thriving village school and PTA, a Post Office that also offers banking facilities for Barclays, Nat West, HSBC and Lloyds TSB, a library that is open two days a week, a local bus service and village shops. Our Chemist offers dry cleaning, shoe repair and film development services. We have a garage and a petrol station. All Saints, our parish church, plays a central role in village life. Many villages are now without some or all of these services.

During the last thirty-five years the village has changed and many crafts, trades and shops have gone. Harbury used to have two butchers - the Cowley brothers, Sid and Percy - who slaughtered local farm animals in the village for sale in their shops. Mr. Enenfer, the farrier, had his smithy on the corner of Park Lane and Chapel Street. There was Stan the lame cobbler with a little shop in Dark Lane, where Mugleston’s store is now. Mr. Lindop was the barber - he and his wife had a gift shop and Mr. George Marshall had a hardware shop. Kane’s paper shop only recently closed. Dr. Beeching axed our railway station, Harbury and Southam Road, about forty years ago. Remember it is only by using

the shops and services that we will keep them for our use and enjoyment.

Marian Millington

On The Move – With A&M Cars!

At the beginning of the year, readers of the Leamington Courier voted a Harbury resident as one of their ‘Citizens of the Year’ in the local ‘New Year Honours’ list. Mike Thompson started his business about 10 years ago with one bus, one driver and an idea that he would offer a form of transport, which would make travel from the village possible for members of the community who found normal bus services difficult to access.

Since that time, his concept of a ‘user-friendly’ service has grown to such an extent that he now has a fleet of 12 buses, which travel not only the length and breadth of the County, but have some services, which extend into the surrounding counties of Oxfordshire, Staffordshire and the West Midlands. The taxi service also travels beyond the local confines and residents can request transport to any of the major airports in the U.K.

The aspect of Mike’s service, which sets his operation apart from the standard form of transport, is that he offers ‘door-to-door’ service for those individuals who would find it a struggle to walk even to the nearest bus stop. The award in the ‘Honours’ list came from grateful customers who appreciate the personal attention given to them by the drivers of the buses, who will, if necessary, help them onto the bus, deliver them directly to the door of the main local supermarkets and carry the shopping into the house at the end of the return journey. Each bus is fitted with specialist provision for the elderly and the disabled. For those who may need additional help during a journey, an adult ‘escort’ travels with the driver.

From the beginning of the business venture with 1 bus and 1 driver, A&M now employs a pool of 16 drivers and 16 adult escorts. As almost half of the total work force is from the village, Mike can also be said to be providing a service not only to his customers, but also to those in the community who have regular local employment.

The travel tokens provided by Stratford District Council for Senior Citizens can be used on the buses, as well as the tickets provided by the Harbury Parish Council. This facility allows some members of the community to plan their visits to Asda, Sainsbury and Tesco on a regular basis. Recently a new service has been provided to Stratford-upon-Avon, which allows shoppers approximately 2 hours in the town. Again, a ‘door-to-door’ service is available, if needed, although the bus leaves from outside the Londis Foodstore (Malcom and Bobbie’s shop) at approximately 10.00am. The full timetable of all the services, which A&M Transport provides, can be found in the local shops and in the library. Alternatively, it is possible to ring FREEPHONE, at no personal cost, direct to A&M on 0500 21 22 25.

Whilst many rural communities speak of the problems experienced by the elderly, the disabled and families without their own transport, Harbury is particularly well served, as a result of the vision of our local

entrepreneur. Mike may not see himself in that role, but without his tenacity and imagination, Harbury could be just another community in which some residents feel isolated. Congratulations for all your efforts, Mike, the H&L News adds its voice of recognition to the accolade given by the readers of the Courier.

Editors

Pensioners' Patio

Will they or won't they? – Our fingers were crossed. When the blue-tits started devouring nuts in a way that could only be described as frantic, then given the time of year, it seemed they'd been reading the health articles advising would-be parents to build up their own condition well in advance (with the help, of course, of all the supplements advertised at the bottom of the page.)

Now, a few weeks on, they are about to take the next step: for an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon they fly back and forth between the ceanothus and the nesting-box, which has been used only once since we arrived here. What are they doing? They don't appear to be ferrying nesting material. Have they made up their minds or not? We won't know for sure until one stays in the box and the other does the hunting.

But why choose this year, we wonder? For at long last our own decision has been taken. Last year there was a suggestion of replacing the patch of grass (?) with gravel. Now, spurred on, no doubt by feeling fed-up to the teeth by the grim look of the garden through frost, snow, rain and then the same cycle all over again, the plan has expanded. Up with the lot – grass, terrace, slabs and path and down with some of those beautiful flagstones in the illustrated brochures (or something at least a little like them.) And then, in with an array of containers on the slabs, and new climbers in the border – preferably fast growers: at this stage of life we favour an instant garden!

But, of course, if the blue-tits make this year's home on the wall, it's goodbye to an upheaval until the brood have flown. So get cracking birds – don't hold up the big plans too long. (*We must remember Robbie Burns: 'The best laid schemes of mice and men'!*)

Edyth Algar

Horticultural Society

It sounds as if I missed a good talk on Clematis and Climbers, given by Mr. Nex with many colourful slides. Peter (Mr. Nex's son) operated the projector, which enabled his father to speak to the audience rather than the screen! He gave advice on pruning both clematis and climbers, suggesting various supports for both, which can also be used as a ground cover. It seems that clematis like lime soils which is good news for this area – old man's beard is very common in our hedges and wasteland.

It is now officially spring and by the time this appears in print the clocks will have been adjusted to British Summer Time, but the cold and very wet weather seems to have delayed most of the flowers. However, they

will be very welcome whenever they come, hopefully before the Blackthorn really gets going!

Who would like to join the Carnival parade with a decorated wheelbarrow or lawn mower, or a scarecrow, or a float? The carnival will take place on **Saturday 9th June**.

The Social, to be held at Heather Turner's house, will be on **Tuesday 22nd May**. The cost will be £3.00 and members who have their names down - please see John Clifford next meeting. It will be a finger buffet with a glass of wine, no doubt!

Please could members who have booked to go on the coach trip to Birmingham on **Tuesday 12th June** and the evening trip to Virgins Farm, Brackley on **Tuesday 22nd June** see John Clifford for the payment of £9.00 and £2.50, respectively?

The programme for the Open Gardens weekend – **7th** and **8th July** is nearly ready, more new gardens and many lovely familiar ones.

Although the Show is not until **8th September**, it is time to bear in mind certain details. When showing double tuberous begonias, a maximum pot size of 6" is allowed, but for pelargoniums and fuchsias an 8" pot is allowed.

Our next talk on **Tuesday 3rd April** will be entitled “Hardy Geraniums” by Mr. Bond.

Muriel Grey

P.S. I am certain the May issue will not be out in time for our last meeting on Tuesday 1st May, when Mr Cook will talk on “Hostas,” see you there!

Gardening Notes

Spring is officially here although the BBC seems to have some confusion over which date to choose! Lengthening days will see new shoots emerging, but also weeds growing. The hoe will chop off the annual weed seedlings but dig up the perennial ones now before they have a chance to flower and then mulch to smother any remaining seeds. Hardy annuals can be sown in trays or in-situ if you warm the soil first with black plastic or cloches. Sow the seeds in rows for easier thinning out, and remember that insects prefer open-faced flowers, so give the bees and hoverflies a flying start! Sow the quick maturing bedding plants such as alyssum and petunias in trays in the greenhouse or windowsill propagator.

Put up the supports for tall perennials in the border, and tidy up any dead growth from around them. Keep some sheets of fleece handy to protect new shoots in case of another return to winter. Plant summer bulbs in pots or the border and at the end of the month put in dahlias. Collars made from plastic bottles will protect tender young shoots from slugs. Cut back the dead stems of hardy fuchsias, feed and mulch them. Top up the gravel around alpine plants. Hard prune shrubs which flower in late summer and those grown for their decorative bark. Trim grey leaved plants and winter heathers towards the end of the month. Divide large clumps of snowdrops and label any clumps of daffodils that do not flower well and divide these later on.

Warm areas in the vegetable garden for sowing salad crops or put short rows of them in the flowerbeds, cottage garden style. Most of the vegetable seeds can also go in, except courgettes, cucumbers, beans, sweet corn and outdoor tomatoes which must be sown indoors in warmth. Feed sulphate of potash to strawberries, fruit trees and bushes. Watch for tiny sawfly caterpillars on gooseberries and greenfly on plums.

Indoor azaleas can be re-potted and gloxinias, achimenes and begonia tubers can be potted up. Gradually withhold water from cyclamen and when they are dry turn them in their pots on their side and store in a cool place. When amaryllis flowers finish remove the heads but continue to feed and water them until the leaves fade in summer.

Plant up ponds or divide established plants but leave the greenery on the side of the pond to allow water creatures to return to the pond. Begin to feed fish regularly. Clean algae from paths and steps.

Plant of the month: Wallflower

One plant always to be found in a list of flowers for spring is Chieranthus cheiri, the sweetly scented gilliflower known to Shakespeare. From Elizabethan times, cottage gardens began to develop and from a writing of 1677 we know that most cottages in the South of England had a garden. New plants went first into the gardens of the wealthy, but quickly found their way to the cottage gardens, with wallflowers rapidly becoming popular.

Natives of sea cliffs, quarries and old walls, hence the name, these plants are native to Europe. Chieranthus could be derived from the Greek, ‘cheir’ meaning hand, ‘anthos’ meaning flower, from the custom of using the flowers in posies. There is an alpine wallflower that was introduced in North America in 1823 which bears the common name of Siberian wallflower. Whilst it may have come originally from Pakistan it certainly was not found in Siberia, so how it got its name is a mystery. To confuse us even more we find Chieranthus is now found under Erysimum! Whatever the name or origin these very fragrant flowers in hues of yellows, reddish orange and purple will continue to be part of the Spring garden for many people.

Good in our alkaline soils, wallflowers can be grown from seed sown in mid June in any spare bit of ground. It is best to transplant them when the seedlings are about 3” high to break the taproot and encourage good fibrous roots. Pinch out the tips at 6”, and then plant them out in mid September to early October in a sunny site. Remember that cabbage root fly is one of the pests on wallflowers so do not grow them on the same ground next time.

Pat Smith

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors

Mary Coley wishes to thank the Harbury Church Warden, the Organist, Anthony, David, Peter and Fred for their readings and address. Also

thanks to Father Roy for his support in her sad loss, and for the lovely service on March 9th and the committal at St. Gregory's Church, Offchurch.

Finally, thanks for all the cards, letters, flowers and phone calls and the donations received in her recent sad loss.

Thank you all so very much.

Mary Coley

Dear Editors

The Coffee Morning held on March 10th in aid of the British Heart Foundation produced a very worthy £151.

My thanks go to everyone who so generously supported us, with cakes, donations, raffle prizes and by attending. A very big thank you as always goes to my ever willing band of helpers, Pat, Joyce, Jean, Alison and Jim.

Many thanks to all.

Gladys Hutchins

Please note:

Adverts to: 31 Binswood End, Harbury by Sunday 15th April

Articles to: Harbury Chemist, High Street by Friday 27th April
