



The strong winds at the beginning of December compounded Chesterton Windmill's earlier problems and resulted in damage to two of its sails. After the gales, the villages suffered heavy rain, and some overnight frosts, but eventually to the delight of young and old alike, we enjoyed post-Christmas snow.

Unfortunately it came on the day the editors met to assemble the magazine, so we are unable to print a seasonal photograph.

This magazine covers a variety of Christmas festivities in Harbury and Ladbroke, some of which are illustrated with photographs showing the 'joie de vivre' of many residents.

Christmas celebrations in the Village Hall



There has been an impressive display of Christmas lights around the villages, for which many villagers should be congratulated. The lights in the main street of Harbury have continued the tradition set for the Millennium, and there has been an increasing number of householders who have gone to great lengths to make their frontages attractive at this time of year, particularly in Frances Road and Farm Close.

Happy New Year to Everyone!

Finally, we extend our sympathies to those who have lost relatives at this time of year: the families of Henry Best, Eileen Gulliver, Daisy Lander, Helen Lintot and Ken Onions.

A mischievous boy was asked by his mother: *How do you expect to get into heaven?* He thought for a moment and said: *Well, I shall just run in and out and keep slamming the door until they say: "for goodness sake come in or stay out!" and then I'll go in.*

From The Rector

The Power of Love

People used to say she was a bit odd. Nothing actually you could put a name to, just a bit odd. Some people said that she was neurotic. Others were just sad that she didn't seem a very happy person.

Some people tried to help. Try to get her involved, they said, but that didn't really work. It wasn't that she didn't appreciate their efforts but she had always been a bit aloof, and found it hard to get enthusiastic about other people's plans. So they left well alone and she was even more unhappy because she felt she had let them down.

Others, quite close friends, took a more direct approach. *Pull yourself together*, they said. They told her what she already knew: her life was dull and depressing; she would only get worse; she must do something about it. But she couldn't – that was the problem and she had tried. And it hurt her a bit that they had actually put all this into words. But what could she do?

Then one day, a friend, a very good friend, said to her: *Look I know you pretty well and I can see you're unhappy, but I do love you just as you are. I only wanted you to know that. And it doesn't matter whether you change or not, I will love you just as you are, or just as you will be.* No one had ever spoken to her like that before. It was beautiful. She felt so good. And very soon without realising it, she was happy, she had pulled herself together. She had changed. When will we ever learn that the greatest power we have is the power of love?

A doctor once declared: *I have been practicing medicine for thirty years and have prescribed many things. In the long run I have learnt that for most of what ails the human creature, the best medicine is love. What if it doesn't work?* he was asked. *Double the dose*, he replied.

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous
New Year.

Fr. Roy

From The Registers

Holy Baptism at All Saints' Harbury

3rd December - Calum Morgan Jayes
10th December - Alexander William Taylor

Holy Baptism at All Saints' Ladbroke

17th December - Katie Laura Andrews
31st December - Morgan James Reeves

Funerals at Oakley Wood

7th December - Daisy Lander, 91
 20th December - Helen Lintot, 78

Funerals at All Saints' Harbury

11th December - Ken Onions, 80
 20th December - Eileen Gulliver, 79
 22nd December - Henry Best, 75

From The Churchwardens

The Christmas Services were all well attended, with the popular Village Carol service being totally full with some 500 people. The retiring collection raised over £600 for the Children's Society. A good start to the celebration of Jesus' birth.

A big thank you to all the many people who contributed to the beauty, the artistry and the fellowship in all the activities.

Best wishes from us both for the New Year.

Felicity & John

Mothers' Union

Afternoon meeting: Following the service of Holy Communion, our speaker was Ann Perkins, giving a flower arranging demonstration. She made some delightful Christmas arrangements and several members were inspired to go home and try out the ideas for themselves.

Next meetings:

Tuesday 16th January - 7.30pm Service, 8.00pm Supper Party

Wednesday 7th February - 2.30pm Service, 3.00pm Home Safety Check Scheme Age Concern

Anne Moore

Toddlers' Service

The only December birthday was Mrs. Bedford's, so we sang to her. Then she reminded us that it was Jesus' birthday on December 25th.

After we sang *Twinkle twinkle little star*, Mrs. Bedford told us the Christmas story. Each time she mentioned one of the animals we all had to make the right noise. There were lots of 'moos', 'coos', 'woofs', and 'hee-haws'. Afterwards the children made paper donkeys and we finished by singing: *Little Donkey*.

The next Toddlers' Service will be on **January 9th**.

C. Mary Catt

Ladbroke News



Lois Workman and Rhian Kelsall serving tea at the Christmas Fayre

Ladbroke Church News

I hope that everyone enjoyed their various Christmas festivities and they are contemplating the New Year. It is the time of year when we have time (hopefully) to reflect on the old year and make resolutions for the new.

My main resolution should be: 'I must stop worrying'. I know, however, that it would be a waste of time – it would be broken in minutes. One big worry is the continuation of our Church. Where is the next generation going to come from? Here I really am going to mention names: My great help with Children's Church, Jackie Theaker - I may come up with ideas but she can put them across. (Sorry Jackie, like it or not, you are a true Christian); Kate and Kevin Pickin and their children - Kate plays the organ, and Kevin is on the P.C.C. Also Ann Edwards, Susan Moore and Jenny Barrett (not forgetting Jo Sowerby who is back with us). Why do I worry? Really with God's help they are our next generation.

I worry about our Women's Fellowship: 12 members if we are lucky, but then, it's been going since 1945 and it's nearly always been threatened with disbandment. In our little group we raised about £600 in 2000 for our sponsored Sudanese boy in Egypt, Dogs for the Disabled, the Gideon's, and Acorns Children's Hospice. We also wear different hats in other fund raising: like the Christmas Fayre, which raised £500 in 2000, which was marvellous. Half the money went to Ladbroke Church and half to Myton Hospice. Why do I worry?

I mustn't finish without a big thank you to the various people who come to Ladbroke from outside the village and contribute enormously to our church life. Dan and Beryl Darkes who live in Cubbington – they would tell you that they are true 'Ladbroketonians' having started their married life here. Dan still comes to ring the bells. Also a new member of our bell ringers is John Davies who comes from Gaydon. He comes twice a week and apart from bell ringing keeps the clock going. I must also mention Michael Short who, though now moved to Leamington, still trains our Augmented Choirs for Christmas and Easter.

A final thought about our Family Service on the first Sunday of each month: it is really heart warming to see so many young families there with the children taking part in the service and feeling so thoroughly at home. What a wonderful part the young readers do too. Thank you very much. Why do I worry?

Happy New Year Everyone.

Betty Winkfield

Ladbroke and Deppers Bridge W.I.

There was no meeting in December but twenty-six members went for their early Christmas celebrations to The Crown Inn at Harbury. The meal was excellent and all enjoyed a noisy, festive evening. Maybe you heard them on December 6th?

The second Short Mat Bowls team played Ratley W.I. at the Harbury Club on November 28th and won their game – congratulations to the players.

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 25th January** at 7.30pm in Ladbroke Village Hall when Joy Wardle, who previously lived in Ladbroke, will talk to us about Warwick. This will be followed by a walk around Warwick on a summer's evening. We live in hope.

Members please don't forget that your subscriptions are due and Christine will be there to collect them.

Tea Hostesses: Jill and Hazel.

We hope you have all had an enjoyable Christmas and wish you a Happy New Year.

Hazel Sharples

Ladbroke Village Hall

The eleventh draw of the Millennium Club for 2000 was held at The Bell Inn on December 11th. The winners were: Beverley Bradley £80; Sheena Healey £50; Betty Malcolm £25; Anne Edwards, B. and M. Whitehouse, Linda Spence, Carol Lane and Bernard Billings each won £10.

The next prize draw will be held on **Monday 8th January**, at The Bell Inn, 8pm. Please don't forget to pay your subscription for 2001 as soon as possible. From January to June: £30 or January to December: £60.

Catherine Spence

Southam & District Local History Society

Ladbroke Section - 1,000 Years at Ladbroke.

- 900 -** A Saxon village is established called Lodebroc (Ladbroke), surrounded by 3 Saxon hamlets called Hodan Hlaew (Hodnell), Eadstan's Cot (Ascote) and Redborne (Radbourne).
- 1000 -** Five Saxon Thanes called Ordrich, Edwin, Ulnod, Alwi and Hereward hold the land, including three Manors, two priests and a mill.
- 1086 -** The Domesday Book is written by William the Conqueror and Norman Lords replace the Saxons. William, origins unknown but of

Norman birth, held the largest portion, including the Manor at Ladbroke, the church and the mill.

- 1165 -** A William de Lodbroke is found holding the Manor of Ladbroke from the Earl Of Warwick for a knight's fee.
- 1250 -** The de Lodbroke family hold the Manor and church, but various deeds show Combe Abbey and Nuneaton Priory to be in great evidence, especially in the outlying areas of the village.
- 1308 -** In the will of Leticia, wife of John de Lodbroke, she leaves items to her nine children and requests to be buried in the chapel of St Mary's at Ladbroke. This is probably the south aisle of All Saints, where other members of the family were possibly buried.
- 1349 -** The year of the Black Death. Not surprisingly, two rectors died that year, as did probably half the village. Sir John de Lodbroke released the manor to William Catesby. Catesby is married to the heir of Radbourne Manor and his youngest daughter married to Sir John de Lodbroke's son.
- 1485 -** William Catesby is executed after the Battle of Bosworth and his lands forfeited to the Crown. William's grandsons become wards of Sir John Spencer of Wormleighton.
- 1597 -** Robert Catesby of the Gunpowder Plot fame is forced to sell Ladbroke to his brother-in-law, Robert Dudley. Dudley in turn sells off farms and cottages at great profit to freeholders.
- 1638 -** Robert's wife, Lady Alice, gives All Saint's church the service of silver gilt communion plate. It is still in use today.
- 1633 -** The Dudleys sell Ladbroke Manor and the church to William Palmer for £8,250.
- 1642 -** It is the start of the Civil War and William Palmer conveys Ladbroke to his cousin William Palmer. Palmer starts to buy back all the little plots Dudley had sold off.
- 1687 -** William Palmer marries and settles in Ladbroke in the new manor house, Ladbroke Hall. The old manor in Farmyard Field is in disrepair and is eventually demolished to make way for parkland.
- 1753 -** The coaching era and surveys are taken on the road through Ladbroke.
- 1797 -** The canal is built from Banbury to Rugby, passing Ladbroke, but not near enough to affect the village.
- 1825 -** By Royal Licence, the Palmer family change their name to Palmer-Morewood after inheriting Alfreton in Derbyshire.
- 1853 -** The railway passes nearby, but not through Ladbroke.
- 1918 -** After the First World War, Palmer-Morewood sells most of Ladbroke to various freeholders and Ladbroke Hall to Captain Wheeler.

Linda Doyle

Harbury Society

The Harbury Society's photographic quiz at the Christmas Fayre generated lots of interest. The topical theme was chimneys and the winner, Nick Tawney, got all but five of the three-dozen clues right.

Some of the pictures were easily spotted. However, it tended to be the male contestants who were intimately acquainted with the architecture of the village hostelrys, although the rear of the Shakespeare Inn with its flagpole floored almost everyone.

Surprisingly nobody correctly identified the large chimneystack on the Old Police House in South Parade.

Everyone will now look at their village and especially the upper storeys with new eyes, ready for next year's quiz.

We also mounted a display about the forthcoming Village Appraisal and invited comments on areas of concern. The result of this consultation will be displayed at other village events, and special interest groups will be approached to add their ideas so that a comprehensive questionnaire can be compiled.

Linda Ridgley

Harbury Women's Institute

The Christmas Party was certainly different but very successful. A 'Fish and Chips' supper was followed by a barn dance. The Crum family and Daniel Bones played for us and Peter Bones was the Caller, who got everyone up and organised. They were great! Thanks to them and all who helped on the night.

Members attended the Group Carol Service at Napton Church, which was followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

At the December meeting, Mr. Keith Orchard-Robinson came to tell us about Well Dressing. Dating from pagan times and altered over the centuries to Christianity, Well Dressing commemorates giving thanks for the gift of water. This is an art form practised by 70 villages in the Peak District - some having up to 4 or 5 wells blessed. Mr. Orchard-Robinson has been involved in well dressings in Winkworth since his youth and described how it took a dedicated team of 25, working day and night shifts for a week, to reach the final result. Starting with the frame (12' x 8') the wooden tray-like boards are covered with roofing nails, and then with clay, onto which a drawing is imprinted. From then on the design is pricked in with a tool using fresh or dried flowers and anything that can be gathered from hedgerows, trees and gardens.

We were shown the most magnificent results, like stained glass windows, nativity scenes where the faces even had expression and lifelike animals, churches and cottage gardens, village scenes and beautiful birds and butterflies to name but a few.

The children's work was amazing. This is a spectacular living art done by some families that have carried on a tradition for centuries. Others come from all over the country and abroad to take part. Long may it continue.

A Happy New Year to all readers.

January hostesses: Barbara Ayers, Doreen Bloxham and Diana Buck

Following is the Harbury W.I. programme for 2001. Do come along and join us. You will be most welcome.

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 11 th January | - Gemstones & Jewellery |
| 8 th February | - Trans Siberian Railway Journey |
| 8 th March | - Members' Evening |
| 12 th April | - World Blindness (Sight Savers) |

10 th May	- Resolutions
14 th June	- Herbs & Spices
12 th July	- Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk
August	- Garden Party
13 th September	- Autumn and Winter Hanging Baskets and Containers
September	- Produce Show
28 th September	- Harvest Supper
11 th October	- Global Warming and its effects
8 th November	- Annual General Meeting
December	- Christmas Party
13 th December	- "A Pikeman's Lot during the English Civil War"

Jeanne Beaumont

Harbury Theatre Group

Just when you thought it was safe to go back to the Village Hall.....

What is the ghastly secret of Castle Von Blitzen? And why do honest citizens keep disappearing in this remote part of Transylvania? Harbury Theatre Group is revealing all – well not quite all – in a comedy Gothic horror play entitled *The Creature Creeps* by Jack Sharkey.

Production dates will be 29, 30 and 31 March. There will be a first reading on **Thursday 18th January**, at 8pm in the Wight School. So, if you have always fancied acting, would like to help backstage, really enjoy the Addams Family or find that hair grows on the back of your hand every full moon, do come along, or phone the director, John Stringer, on 613214.

And don't forget to buy your tickets for *Beauty and the Beast*, before they sell out. Performances in Harbury Village Hall will be on January 11th and 12th at 7.30pm, and on January 13th at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Tickets (£4, concessions £2) are available from Kathleen Ellis' Hair Salon, Bishops Itchington Post Office or by calling 613415. To reserve the popular front seats, phone 612175. Hurry – tickets are selling fast!

Harbury Theatre Group

Harbury Folk Club

It may be hard to imagine the back room of The Dog Inn as a Victorian Music Hall, but that was the theme of the December Folk Club. Given the dreadful weather, it was heart-warming that anyone turned up at all, but arrive they did, many having taken time and trouble to dress the part and pitch into the theme with enthusiasm and humour.

Soon the songs of such Music Hall legends as Harry Champion and Marie Lloyd filled the room and got the audience nicely warmed up. The opening spot fell to The Harvesters with *Waiting at the Church* and *I'm Hennery the Eighth, I am*. Next up was Rick exhorting Dad not to*jump off the roof!* and then describing *The Houses in Between*. Steve Darby came well prepared with jokes and songs by his hero, Max Miller, and proved admirably inspired.

Political correctness was not a prerequisite of Music Hall performers and we were pleased to observe the tradition. Pete Bones (without the temporarily voiceless Liz) gave vent to melancholia with his rendition of *Ellen Vannin* and then recited his favourite Christmas poem from Trunch. Mike followed with instructions to ...*be kind to your web-footed friends...*, which was appropriate in view of the deluge outside. Keith brought the first half to a fitting climax with a tribute to Grimaldi, *The Happiest Man in the World* and a new and hilarious song *Flip-flopping*.

The Second Half opened with *Where Did You Get That Hat?* from The Harvesters, followed by Des who was first *Down Below* and then singing a medley of festive offerings from the Kipper Family. Steve and Maureen gave their, by now legendary, Flanagan and Allen medley and had the whole room singing and swaying. Ron, immaculately turned out in frock coat, gave us the story of *Pretty Little Polly Perkins* and *Ain't it All a Bloomin' Shame*, both from the earlier days of the Music Hall. Celia read three 'improving' poems from a Victorian children's book, including *Romping* and *The Selfish Snail* - excellent, and in the true spirit of Music Hall diversity. Rick gave a festive Sam and his Musket monologue and Keith closed the half with *My sister and Laura and me*, a plaintive song that had everyone joining in.

The Final Half saw Mike extolling the virtues of *Cushie Butterfield*, Des with another 'Kipper' wassail song, Steve rounding off his triumphal evening with more Max Miller, Ron with *Villikins and his Dinah* and The Harvesters with the Marie Lloyd favourite *Don't Dilly Dally*.

Despite modest numbers in the room, the raffle raised a creditable £30 for Myton Hamlet Hospice. Special thanks must go to Doug and Janny for supplying Dutch chocolates for raffle prizes to supplement the customary wine.

On behalf of the Folk Club, may I wish all our audience, and potential attendees on the first Thursday of every month, a prosperous and musical (though not necessarily in that order) New Year.

Ian Hartland

G.A.S.S. (Guide And Scout Support)

For the first time G.A.S.S. are presenting an interactive, electronic, extravaganza spectacular 'Who wants to be a Millionaire?' in the Village Hall on **Saturday 27th January**. Phone-a-Friend, Fifty-Fifty, Ask-the-Audience and a Million-to-be-Won will all feature.

You can come along, with a friend or take a table – any which way you will be sure to be part of the action! The race will be on to get under the spotlight (where there will be four contestants at a time battling it out not to be the weakest link) but at the same time there are points for the rest of the audience in answering the questions correctly which will count toward your Million. Everyone has a chance.

The G.A.S.S. Bar (service with a woggle) opens at 7.30pm, then at 8 o'clock, the drum rolls, the lights dim and: 'Who wants to be a Millionaire?' Get your tickets (limited supply), which include food, from Muggleston's or phone 614565 to book a table at only £5 per person. Have a gas with G.A.S.S. at the first Harbury 'Who wants to be a Millionaire?' electronic extravaganza spectacular.

Peter Walshe

Harbury Nursery School

The Nursery celebrated the end of a long but very enjoyable term with a lovely Christmas concert, involving all the children at the Nursery, which



was performed in front of the infant children at school and about 70 parents, grandparents, carers and visitors. We were very proud that the children had the confidence to perform before such a large audience and delighted that all looked so happy and really enjoyed themselves. We started the concert with a Nativity tableau and singing. Other children then put on an amusing little play about Percy the Park-keeper providing shelter for a wide variety of woodland creatures on a cold and snowy night. Ella Woolley was magnificent in the

role of Percy and a big thank you to all the parents who made such creative costumes for the Nativity and for the play. Everyone was particularly amused by the transformation of Ben Thornley into a very spiky hedgehog with the help of a lot of hair gel! We ended our concert with some very cheerful singing by the children, which was warmly received by all who watched.

Earlier in December we held our Christmas Coffee Morning in the Tom Hauley room. The event was extremely successful raising just over £500 for Nursery funds. Many thanks to all who supported us. Everyone who came along on the day seemed to enjoy themselves, with a particular highlight being the Nursery children's song about kissing each other, "Mistletoe". We plan to use the money to buy new puzzles and games, some PE equipment, and some computer software.

Also in December we took 40 of the Nursery children to see a performance entitled "Sleep Tight" at the Warwick Arts Centre. This was a very gentle introduction to theatre specifically aimed at pre-school children, giving them a highly imaginative play about pillows, dreams and the magical world of sleep. All the children, and adults, who went on the visit, had a great time.

The autumn term has been a very successful one for us with a large number of children joining us throughout the term. We have been very pleased with how all the children have settled in, particularly the littlest ones, and by how much their self-confidence has grown. We have further new joiners next term, and in the summer term. When all of these have been accommodated we will not have any spaces in our morning sessions but we do have spaces on each of our afternoon sessions. We will also be opening on Monday afternoons after Christmas and so will be able to offer children places on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

afternoons. If anyone who has not already contacted us is interested in sending their child to our Nursery on any of these days, they should contact Kate Smart on 612609 or Anne-Marie Campion on 614496. As a consequence of the present high level of demand for places we are currently looking for an additional member of staff to support the current Nursery team. We are looking for someone who has childcare qualifications or experience of working with children. For further information, please contact Kate Smart.

Finally the Nursery continues to develop the activities, which we offer to our children in line with the new Government guidelines for pre-school education for 3-5 year olds. During the past year we have been implementing the Foundation Stage curriculum and at the start of next term the Nursery will be involved in Foundation Stage Awareness training with school staff.

With very best wishes for a Happy New Year
from all at Harbury Nursery School.

Marie Kennedy

Harbury School Christmas Concert



Nativity tableaux of the shepherds' story



Roman Soldiers

Senior Citizens' Christmas Party 2000







Harbury Pre-School: Learning through Play
(The Pre-School is held in the Wight School behind the Library)

Happy New Year! And another new year sees another set of challenges for the Pre-School. As most people know, the Pre-School has been incredibly fortunate to have had Marie Coleman and Gill Guilford as its key staff members for over ten years between them. Marie and Gill are probably two of the best-qualified Pre-School staff in the county and are leading lights in the Pre-School Learning Alliance. Their qualifications and experience are second to none and this has really shown in the way they have worked with our children and the innovations they have introduced to ensure that the Pre-School is at the forefront of best practice in early years education. Of course, it was just a matter of time

before they decided to move on to bigger and better things but they were both a bit shocked to realise that they had resigned simultaneously! It was also adieu to Chris Baldwin who leaves to prepare for her baby which is due in February, so we had a great farewell party at the Pre-School before Christmas with lots of flowers and gifts and moist goodbyes.

Inevitably, there has been a lot of wild speculation as a result, but the



committee and the Pre-School Learning Alliance are adamant, **we are far too good to lose.** It has been very encouraging to realise just how fervently parents support the ethos of the Pre-School - we want high staff:child ratios, we want small classes and we want the child-centred, structured play for which the Pre-School has a deservedly high

reputation. Let's not forget, these are principles that the government has come to see as the foundation of a good education! This also seems a good moment to state that we are not in competition with the School Nursery. Many of our children attend both classes for the different things that each offers and we feel that they benefit hugely from this range of provision. It is wearisome for both committees to hear that a positive view of one organisation necessitates a negative view of the other. We support each other and we work for the benefit of all pre-school children in the village.

Now for the way forward. The Pre-School Learning Alliance has put forward the names of some possible supervisors and we will interview them shortly. We have also advertised the posts and we welcome applications from people who either have the Diploma in Pre-School Practice or who are willing to train for it. In the interim, some temporary cover has been arranged to ensure that the Pre-School can open on **Tuesday 9th January** as planned. Until the summer we will probably run a relatively small operation with about eight children per session - there are still a few places but do contact us quickly if you would like one. In the long-term, we need to find a way to give our staff more hours to make the job viable for them without compromising the intimate nature of the school i.e. without taking on lots of children in order to pay for their time. The committee is exploring several options and we will probably commission some research in the spring to find out what you really, really want. But please, don't hesitate to be asked! If you have any thoughts on what you believe is needed or how you might become involved either in the short, medium or long term then please ring Tracey Facer on 614346.

This has not come at a great time of year and it was quite easy to feel that it might all be too much work to find the right staff to carry on the Pre-School. But when you take your children to the school and see them rush over to join a little group of friends, all busily hammering away, (showing Jill Davies how to bash nails into their cork boards to make pictures and talking nineteen to the dozen) you realise the value of their experiences. It is such a happy, positive and beneficial environment that

we feel that we would be letting down not only our children but also those that will come after them if we don't take up the challenge!

Harbury Pre-School Committee

Harbury School

Harbury School - Admissions for September 2001

We are in the process of compiling lists of children whose parents may want a place in Reception in September. So far the numbers are about thirty-five. Priority will be given according to the agreed admission's policy. Also, we have to offer places in line with the Government's policy.

Therefore it is essential that we are made aware of any children who may not attend either of the pre-school provisions in the village but will be expecting to begin school this autumn and live in Harbury. If you fall into this category, or know of anyone who might, please pass on this information to them.

Please telephone 612656 or call into the school to register your child.

Paul Milner - Headteacher

Harbury PTA

As the Christmas decorations are being put away, the new school term fast approaches and the work of the PTA continues. Yes, we are still raising money to put towards the new computer suite at school with another 2 payments still to be made. However, efforts are rewarded as all the children at the school are benefiting from the suite.

Firstly just a quick thank you to all those who helped or supported our events towards the end of last term. October saw us host the Tom Hauley Room Coffee Morning where we raised a total of £147. The event was greatly enjoyed by those who attended, especially the children who, once again, had the opportunity of making 'Crazy Sand' items. We held a raffle for parents at the school in November raising £79 – congratulations to the winners.

The end of term saw us launch a Christmas Quiz, many thanks to Databases by Design Ltd. of Chesterton who put together the quiz for us. I am sure those who attended enjoyed it, although there were some comments about the quiz being hard! Congratulations to the winners who will by now have received their prizes. Anyone who would like a copy of the answers please contact me.

We also held a children's disco in December, which was definitely enjoyed by all children and probably all parents who had a little peace on a Friday night. A special thanks goes out to the members of staff who gave up their time to supervise the event since without their help we would probably be unable to run it. Also to DJs Andrew Hunt and Ian Ashworth who did such a good job that we hope we can persuade them to do it all again next term! We raised a magnificent total of £316.

Looking forward into the new term, we are at present organising two large events: our ever-popular Family Barn Dance on **Saturday 10th February** from about 6:00pm. Reel to Reel, with Caller Pete Bones, will

be playing at the event - come along, bring the kids and have a great time. Details of timings and tickets will be released at the start of term or contact me on 612479.

Saturday 17th March: Auction of Promises. We are still on the lookout for more promises - what can you do? Cook a meal, baby sit, clean someone's house, do you own a holiday cottage or have access to a helicopter, we need these promises from you. Please approach us before we approach you, everyone has a talent which can help us to raise a large sum of money and have a very enjoyable evening. We will give details of some of the promises in the next H&L News. Everyone is welcome to come to the evening. We look forward to hearing from you. Any further details can be obtained from Nick Tawney 614062 or myself.

Many thanks from the whole School for continuing support.

Susan Graydon

Harbury Albion Football Club

A 3 - 1 win at Kineton finished off what has been a good second half of the year for the club after a difficult start. So far this season we have won 7 and drawn 1 of our league games and are 3rd in our league. We are still in 3 out of 4 cup competitions and so can look forward to next year with confidence.

As this article goes to print before the Christmas holiday, this correspondent cannot report the score of the annual over-30's versus under-30's match on Boxing Day (K.o. 10.30) but, on the basis that the youngsters can't take their drink and struggle to get to league matches on time, he predicts a comfortable win for the Oldies!

Rob Davis

Harbury Twinning Association

Besides the varied activities of the French Circle, the Association is also organising a Quiz on **Saturday 27th January** at the Village Club, 7.30pm for 8pm start. Teams: 4 members for £12 (food included).

If you want to test your general knowledge and at the same time help the Association which is again receiving our French counterparts of Samois-sur-Seine this year, then please book your tables before Saturday 21st January by phoning Janet Thornley on 612688 or myself on 613607.

Jacqueline Clarke

Never Too Old To Start Dancing

Some weeks ago, my wife saw an advertisement in the local paper offering dancing lessons for adults: Rock and Roll. I said immediately: *I'm going for that!* I don't think she believed me at first, but Rock and Roll is something I've always wanted to do.

When I phoned, the lady at the dance school was not put off by my age (69 years young and now counting backwards). She did laugh when I added that I was partially sighted. However, she assured me that if I could see halfway across the room I would see the demonstrations OK.

As I am on medication, I thought it as well to approach my GP who, after almost falling off his chair with laughter, gave the thumbs up.

The lessons are held on the top floor above the Pizza Hut Restaurant on the Parade in Leamington. One has to climb several flights of stairs before arriving at the Dance School – oxygen is not provided at the top!

On the first night I did get some strange glances – an old duffer with a white stick – they must have wondered what they'd let themselves in for. After being put in a circle, I was found a partner – a lot younger than me. Come to think of it, everyone was younger than me. I said I was happy to dance with her, provided she did not mind dancing with an 'Old Duffer' as my sons call me. She replied: *You are as young as you feel.* Needless to say I responded with: *I like feeling them young!*

When we finished our lessons we watched the real dancers and on the second week I learned that my partner worked in the communications department at the police HQ. After that I was on my best behaviour for fear of going home in bracelets!

I have signed on for the intermediate course that starts later in September. I have a partner, again even younger, so roll on – or should I say Rock and Roll on.

On telling a neighbour, who incidentally, is 75 years young, of my exploits she said she would love to go to the line dancing classes being held in our Village Club. In a rash moment I said I'd accompany her if she really wanted to join. Outcome: Rock and Roll on Tuesdays, Line Dancing on Thursdays.

My wife uses a wheelchair when out, and I pushed her along to watch the line dancing and me making a fool of myself. She asked if I was embarrassed at being the only man. I replied that she must have been joking. I was in my element with all the ladies around me.

I wrote the first part of this piece after starting the dancing lessons. I sent it to the Warwickshire Association for the Blind. I had totally forgotten about my letter to them and was amazed to see it published in the Christmas Edition of their magazine. To finish my narrative:

My partner did not turn up for the two 5-week intermediate courses. I was obviously too much for her!?! I found a new partner – a young lady of about 5 feet plus.

I had great fun during the ten weeks, due in no small part to the patience of my partner. We were then offered the 10-week advanced course, having been promised that no throws would be included during the first five weeks. We both came to the conclusion that we should leave things there – at least for the time being. I never expected to do anything of this nature at this stage in my life – I just wish I'd done it earlier.

Arthur Turner

Financial Help For Farmers
... and small rural business in general

The state of the rural economy has been of concern for many years. Village shops and schools across the country have become victims of

competition and economies of scale, and the current petrol price problem hits villages harder than cities.

At Warwickshire College we are deeply concerned with these issues and in a bid to support the rural economy recently applied to Advantage West Midlands, for funding under their Skills Development Fund, for monies to address the problem. Our bid has been successful and, with partners from across a wide spectrum of concerned organisations, we have been awarded £185,000 to support training initiatives across four counties: Warwickshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire.

The project is called REDI (Rural Enterprise Diversification Initiative) and is based at Moreton Morrell. Essentially, the money is to be used to subsidise the cost of training, with as much as 100 hours training being available for as little as £50. Many courses are much shorter – as little as half a day – and cost as little as £5.

All small rural businesses particularly, but not exclusively, farming businesses are being offered support with a wide range of training, from computer and management skills to rural tourism, environmental skills, help with diversification, organic food production and marketing.

If you run any type of rural business and require help with training costs, contact us now on 01926 - 318273.

Stefan Drew – Project Co-ordinator

Blood Doning

The ‘blood doning’ session in the Village Hall was a bit of a fiasco, because the frosts the previous night meant the Hall was too cold for the blood to flow. Extra heaters were brought in, but it was lunchtime before the temperature was up to the required 62° F (17° C), and the morning session had to be cancelled.

Despite that, 75 people were able to stay (or come back) and give blood, compared with the projected 110. Although the Blood Collection Service has written to everyone who checked in, apologising for the inconvenience, I have written back and also spoken to the West Midlands Organiser telling them to get their act together. Apparently they write a week before asking for Village Halls to have the heating left on overnight, and that is exactly what happened in Harbury. But they never specified what the temperature had to be, in which case someone would have come in early and arranged for the heating to be boosted.

The nurses were delighted we all made such a fuss, as apparently this has happened before in other Halls and nobody has done anything about it until now. This time, the bosses have hopefully learned something and the letters will be changed in future.

Meanwhile it has all given extra publicity to a very worthy cause. If you haven't given blood before, do come next time. The Hall will be warm and the blood will really flow!

Philip Bushill-Matthews MEP

Village Appraisal

Following the public meeting, which was held in September, a steering committee has been formed to prepare the appraisal questionnaire, analyse the responses and produce a report and action plan.

The display at the Christmas Fair attracted many people and some good themes for questions were put forward. The next stage is to make contact with the many groups and organisations in the village to identify their issues and concerns. Whilst organisations that are listed in the village directory are easy to contact, there may well be other more informal groups who could identify other pressing needs, etc., which should be included in the appraisal. If you are a member of such a group please contact either of the following with your ideas: Sue Bridgewater on 612970 or Janet Thornley on 612688.

We shall be requiring help in distributing and collecting the appraisal questionnaire later in the year. If you feel you could help with this important task please let either Sue Bridgewater or Janet Thornley know.

The next meeting of the steering group will be on **Wednesday 17th January** at 8.00pm in the Gamecock.

John Holden

Harbury Senior Citizens Christmas Party

Once again on the second Saturday in December, an army of volunteers made the party possible for the senior citizens of Harbury. Every year, the volunteers turn up promptly at 5.30 p.m. to wash up, wait on table, serve up food, and act as general 'dogsbodyes'.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank everyone who helped make that Saturday evening a success, because without them it just would not happen. Our thanks also go to A&M Group for once again providing the transport and to all the traders and villagers who gave so generously to provide a wide range of raffle prizes. Mavis Young, who is by now a stalwart of our evening, once more provided the music, and further entertainment, which was enjoyed by one and all, was supplied by Daniel Kemsley and Matthew Tanner.

Thanks must also go to the many senior citizens who hold functions throughout the year to raise money towards the two events provided by the committee; long may they continue to do so.

The committee would also like to express its appreciation of the many village organisations that have donated money over the last year.

On behalf of the committee I would like to wish you all

Happy New Year.

Jenny Evans - Secretary

Pensioners' Patio

Thank goodness Harbury stands on a hill, so we're not likely to be emulating some of our relatives in Worcestershire. They narrowly avoided a flooded home by opening the front and back doors of their garage and encouraging the water to sweep that way instead. Our complaint is trivial in comparison: the garden gate is so swollen that it

takes a much stronger arm than mine to slam it shut (it's not only inanimate objects that are feeling creaky as a result of the weather!).

S.O.S. – Save Our Sparrows cried recent headlines in both the national press and the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust's newsletter. Our little band seems very much alive and kicking, but what about the one sometimes seen on the wall which always renews the question: Is it or isn't it? When I first saw its apparently chestnut head, I rushed to find a picture of a tree sparrow, but then wondered if it was just the effect of the low angle of the sun. Binoculars take far too long to focus, but at least now I know the distinguishing marks of a tree sparrow by heart: we'll be ready when he returns.

According to purists we are now, at last, in the true year of the millennium. Can we expect great events? I somehow doubt if we'll see the lion lying down with the lamb – anyway, a lion curled up around the birdbath would leave precious little room for anything else in the garden, and the only cat of any kind seen recently is a furtive Siamese which obviously has a guilt complex about being there. But the little miracles continue, no matter what the date; the choisya seedling that, a year ago sprang up uninvited, attracted my attention the other day. Under its crown of leaves a whole host of tiny buds are just ready to burst into flower and it is still barely eight inches high. There's always something to keep the sense of wonder alive.

Edyth Algar

Horticultural Society

A Happy New Year to you all. Once again I have to start the article by saying: *I wasn't at the last talk. I am reliably informed the speaker was both entertaining and informative and was, in turn, followed by the social. The members provided the food and a very nice selection there was, but I understand there were a few bottles that were not opened! Many thanks to everybody for making all this possible.*

The Bursary was drawn at this meeting. Mr. Rowell, one of our new members, was the winner and will choose from a selected list of courses. We trust he will enjoy it.

On the dull days of winter it is good to think of the activities in the coming year - the interesting talks and outings. Would anybody who has not yet paid their subscription for the current year (£3, visitors 30p) please see Mr. John Clifford the treasurer, as they are now overdue.

As promised, the list of committee members, mostly familiar, some new is as follows:

Chairman:	Mrs. Judy Morrell
Secretary:	Mrs. Daphne Clifford
Treasurer:	Mr. John Clifford
Show Secretary:	Mrs. Janice Siddall

Other committee members: Mrs. Pat Smith, Mrs. Eleanor Zonik, Mrs. Vivien Neill, Mrs. Heather Turner, Mrs. Jill Brazil, Mrs. Sally-Anne Batly, Mr. Ron Grey and myself.

Muriel Grey

Gardening Notes For January

As I write this, the rain is again soaking the ground, so I gloomily wonder if there will be any gardening this month. However, taking the optimistic view that we shall have the odd bright moment there are a few routine jobs that do not involve tramping on the sodden earth.

If you have a greenhouse, insulate it with bubble wrap or move plants to one end and erect a mini tent for them from horticultural fleece. Pot up a few snowdrops and bring them in to enjoy their exquisite form and scent without bending down. Check that supports on trees and shrubs, and ties on wall shrubs are holding fast.

Clean garden tools and sharpen them before rubbing them over with an oily rag, and check the lawn mower. If it needs a service, it is easier to get it done now than in the spring. Plant pots, seed trays, canes, and labels can be cleaned and disinfected. I do wish plant pot sizes were standard to make stacking easier! I shall be sorting through ours and throwing out the odd sizes. The garden centres were looking into recycling pots but I have been unable to find anywhere in this area which has set up a scheme. If anyone knows of one, please let me know.

Clear away dead leaves from around alpine plants and if the rain has washed off the gravel, top it up, tucking it in close to the stems to prevent rot. Most of these plants can stand a covering of snow but hate this perpetual wet. Evergreen shrubs, however, do not like snow on their branches, so if winter should put in an appearance put on the wellies and get out there to shake off the snow. Wintertime shows the bare bones of the garden so check it over and decide on any changes for improvement.

Winter flowering pot plants will have a longer flowering period if they are kept cool. Water house plants sparingly whilst they are resting through the winter months, but do not forget them altogether. Heated rooms are not an ideal environment for the majority of them, so grouping them together on a tray of gravel will make them feel more comfortable. Just ask them, when you have settled them all in!

Plant of the month – Skimmia

There are less than ten species of this hardy evergreen shrub, natives of China, Japan and the Philippines. They were first introduced about 1945 probably by Robert Fortune, a plant collector who went into China in 1842 when China opened up to British travellers. Many of his 'finds' were from Chinese gardens and nurseries as travel into remote areas was very difficult.

Most of the skimmias available today are varieties of *Skimmia Japonica*, a native of Japan and we use the Japanese name for these useful slow growing shrubs. The leaves are dark green and often glossy, enhancing the heads of fragrant white flowers and the red berries that are produced in August/September. The berries last throughout the winter on the female plants. The plants are either male or female, although there is one variety, which is hermaphrodite, so has both



sexes of flowers on the same shrub. This is *S. Reevesiana* or *Fortunei* that grows to about 60cm with a spread of 90cm (2 x 3ft). The smaller varieties originate from the Northern mountainous regions of their range - examples being Ruby Dome, a male plant, and Winifred Crook, a female.

Taller types, such as Kew Green, male, and Wisley, female, come from the more Southerly areas and grow to 2m (6ft) or more. No confusing names here as with the Hollies! *S. Rubella* has large clusters of red buds, which makes up for its lack of berries and *S. Fragrans*, another male, has a particularly strong scent so would be good in a front garden.

These pollution tolerant shrubs do not need pruning and are trouble free, although too much sun will affect their leaves. They prefer acid to neutral soil that is not too heavy. To our more alkaline soil add a little aluminium sulphate twice a year, or if your *Skimmia* is in a patio pot water once a month with a solution of 1 teaspoon of the chemical to 1 gallon of water.

Pat Smith

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors

May I through the H&L News thank my wonderful family and friends for their loving support during the sad loss of my beloved husband Ken.

I would also like to thank Fr. Brown for the lovely service and his kindness.

Sincerely

Frances Onions

Dear Editors

Thank you to everyone, who so willingly helped at the Arthritis Research Coffee Morning in the Tom Hauley Room, and to all those who gave us their support. We raised £130 and sold £60 worth of Christmas cards. Wishing you all a Happy – and pain free – New Year!

Sylvia Burdett

Dear Editors

I went to the Harbury School's Nativity Play before Christmas. What a joy it really was – the children were fantastic. I do hope the shepherd Zec, wife and 16 children have a Happy New Year!

Betty Winkfield

Dear Editors

Harbury Folk Club Carol Singers

It has become almost a tradition that, shortly before Christmas, the Folk Club assembles a group of volunteer carollers to visit the pubs in Harbury and Deppers Bridge and collect for charity. This year was no different and nine well-wrapped and well-fortified performers stepped out on the night of Thursday 21st and collected a handsome total of £100 in aid of The Salvation Army.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed so generously in money and the landlords and proprietors of the various pubs, and Harbury Club, who allowed us to sing in their premises

It was particularly encouraging that so many people also joined in the singing with us to ensure that we raised such an impressive amount for such a deserving cause. We will be back next year and you may telephone the following number next December for more details of our schedule.

Ian Hartland 612734

Dear Editors

On behalf of Jeanne (Wee Willie Winkle) and Sally-Anne (Tom the Piper's Son) may I thank all the people who made and gave cakes to our stall at the Christmas Fayre on December 2nd. Our contribution was £80+, pretty good we think. It was a very successful afternoon. Thank you all once again.

Muriel Grey

Dear Editors

The G.A.S.S. committee would like to thank Mugleston's (Greengrocer) for all their help in the sale of tickets for events such as Bonfire Night, and for giving space to the Christmas posting box, especially at such a busy time of year. It is much appreciated and makes organisation of such things possible. We are very grateful.

G.A.S.S. Committee

Dear Editors

The Coffee Morning on December 16th for The Multiple Sclerosis Society raised a total of £542.32. We thank everyone who supported it and helped on the day.

Brenda Turner & Doreen Bloxham

Dear Editors

We wish to express our appreciation of the efforts made by the Senior Citizens Benevolent Committee. For one reason or another we have

been unable to attend the Annual Christmas Dinner the last few years, but this year were able to and what a delight it was.



Helen Johnson, Vera Card, Bill Middleton (behind), Peggy Middleton, and Peter Snow

We were made most welcome and nothing was too much trouble. The food was excellent, the wine flowed freely and the service was faultless. The whole evening was a huge success and spent in convivial company. What else could we have wished for?

Once again our heartfelt thanks to all concerned – we don't know how they did it!

Bill and Peggie Middleton

Dear Editors

Thank you to all parents and children for our beautiful flower arrangements and presents. It was a sad last day saying goodbyes with many tears all round. Your cards and messages were most heartening.

We have made many new friends and met new families through our time at Pre-School. We will miss our present parents, and especially the children.

We are both sad to be leaving Pre-School but feel this is the right time to move on. It's unfortunate our decision to leave has come at the same time but we both fully support and understand each other's decision in leaving.

Our leaving will give an opportunity for new blood, ideas, and children to enter the group. We wish Harbury Pre-School continued success in maintaining our values and beliefs.

Both of us are looking forward to keeping in touch with each other as we continue our voluntary work as committee members in the Southam branch PLA. Part of our role is looking after 23 groups, including parent & toddlers. We help with funding, concerns groups may have, training that may be required, and lots more.

Next year sees the PLA celebrate its 40th birthday, including lots of fun activities with 12 M.P.'s competing in musical chairs in Westminster and other M.P.'s taking part in competitions during a birthday week in June. Here will be plenty of fund raising and invites could go to an M.P.

We are looking forward to keeping in contact with the groups in the village, and surrounding areas about these plans, as well as on-going interests you may have.

May we take this opportunity of wishing all parents, carers, friends, staff, past and present.

Happy New Year.

Marie and Gill

Dear Editors

Mission to Seafarers

A belated but sincere thank you on behalf of Seafarers to everyone who supported the Coffee Morning on November 25th - £175.82 was raised.

Sight Savers (Rotary's African Vision)

Our campaign of raising funds for Sight Savers (RAV) is now wound up. A breakdown of the response is as follows:

<i>Donations and sponsored bike ride:</i>	<i>£961.00</i>
<i>Words and Music Evening</i>	<i>£358.57</i>
<i>Harbury Christmas Fair</i>	<i><u>£418.00</u></i>
<i>Total</i>	<i><u>£1,737.57</u></i>

It is hoped that a matching grant can be obtained from Rotary International in the United States, thus doubling our funding. All monies raised will be specifically directed toward training an ophthalmic paramedic in Ghana – details of his/her case study will be passed on to us in due course.

On behalf of Sight Savers (RAV) thank you for your kind generosity and encouragement.

Bill Davies

Dear Editors

All Saints' Church's Harbury Christmas Fayre 2000

On behalf of the committee and myself, I would like to say a special thank you to everyone who took part and supported this very enjoyable event.



Colin Humphreys escorts Father Christmas to his grotto

The weather was magnificent and allowed Father Christmas to tour the village in a beautiful pony and trap, once again. Our thanks also to Hereburgh Morris who were able to perform in ‘dazzling sunshine’.

We managed to break all records thanks to hard working raffle ticket sellers and enterprising stallholders. The two selected charities: Sight Savers and M.A.D. will each receive a cheque for £418. Well done to everyone who made this possible.

Our theme for the year, ‘Nursery Rhymes’, was obviously the right choice. All the front line performers dressed up, as well as many more. This has been a memorable Christmas Fayre in more ways than one and for the Year 2000 very heartening.

Once more our warm community at Harbury gave us their full support and we look forward to the challenge of next year.

Colin Ingram

Dear Editors

I would like to take this opportunity of saying a huge “thank you” to past and present members of the Harbury NSPCC committee and to the following people who have so often come to my rescue and willingly given up two hours once a month to collect from the Welcome Break Services on the M40: Jo House, Jill Credland, Jane Haggit, Sue Buck, Maureen Johnson, Jane Nash, Liz Bunting, Jill Thorpe, Moi Hughes, Barbara Thistlethwaite, Sheila Allan, Anne Ainscow, Bronda Hawkins, Gill Barber, Bobby-Ann Kerton, James Baker, and Rosemary Harley along with her mother and friend, Sheila Scott. I also feel I owe my own family a great deal of gratitude for their support during what, over the many months, became known affectionately as Joan’s “begging weekends”.

Well these “weekends” have really paid off. I am so pleased to advise you that we have collected approximately £30,200. A tremendous result of which you can all be justly proud. I hope you feel as rewarded as I do to have been part of something that has made such a real contribution to preventing cruelty to children.

I really cannot finish without thanking Jo Stevens for all the tremendous effort she has put into this project – I think we have both bolstered each other when times were difficult.

Thank you all so much.

Joan Broomfield
NSPCC M40 Motorway co-ordinator