

The more observant of you will have noticed that last month's edition number was incorrect and was not a rerun of January's magazine. You can rest assured that we are now back to the present day!

With the postponement of the local elections until June 7th, articles by the two candidates standing for the County Council seat appeared in last month's edition of the magazine.

David Booth is the Liberal Democrat candidate and Michael Doody is standing for the Conservatives.



The traditional Palm Sunday procession from the school to the Church commenced the Holy Week celebrations. Easter Sunday was chosen as the day for a peaceful protest against G.M. crop trials with an 'organic picnic' held on the playing fields.



As we write, our friends from Samoisi-sur-Seine are staying with host families in Harbury, and there will be a full report of the activities in the June edition of the magazine. We understand that there was a very enjoyable sporting afternoon, after which the trophy for the cricket match was awarded to Samoisi with the petanque trophy going to Harbury.

Finally we extend our sympathy to the family of Elsie Bland.

Laugh Line

A Missionary, deep in the jungle, came across a witchdoctor who was pounding his drum furiously. *What's the matter?*, asked the Missionary with some trepidation.

We have no water, replied the witchdoctor. *Oh, I see,* said the Missionary. *You're praying for rain?*

No, I'm not, replied the witchdoctor, *I'm sending for the plumber.*

From the Rector

Have you ever had the experience of being told how marvellous a new film is? *The acting is superb,* says your friend. *The story is really gripping; and there's a fantastic ending.* Then you go to see for yourself and you are bored to tears all the way through.

The annoying thing is that if your friend had not told you about it you would have enjoyed it. All the lavish praise led you to expect too much; so when you saw the real thing it was a big letdown.

Building things up in advance can always be a bit risky. We have all been disappointed at some time with holidays, new cars, new jobs, new houses that did not quite live up to our expectations. But we can play the 'great expectations' game with people as well as with things. We can put people on a pedestal; a friend or a fiancé; a husband or wife; our children. We can build them up in our minds and expect things of them that are out of all proportion to their true capabilities and talents.

Then when they fall from the impossible ideal we have set for them we are angry and indignant. Sometimes the results can be disastrous; the end of a friendship; a broken marriage; a son or daughter who leaves home and never comes back.

It's hard sometimes to allow people to be themselves. But unless we learn to do it we can never say we truly love them.

Fr. Roy

From the Registers

Holy Baptism at All Saints' Harbury

22nd April

- Jessica Jane Kitchener

Funerals at All Saints' Harbury

11th April

- Elsie Bland, 98



From the Churchwardens



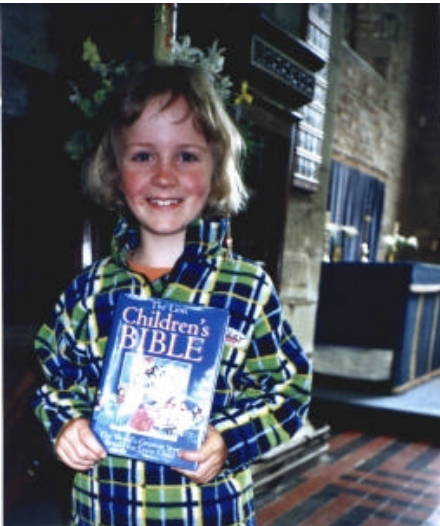
The joy of Easter was well celebrated and the church was beautifully decorated – thanks to the Flower Ladies.

The new sundial, a replica of the original, is now in place and is in memory of Joan Clark to whose family we are indebted for both the initiative and the funding.

The church AGM was held on April 1st when the new PCC was elected. Ruth Dodds took over the reins as Secretary from Sheila Carr, to whom many thanks for her years of service in this position.

Helen & Andrew Clarke

At the subsequent PCC meeting, Treasurer Liz McBride again warned that our regular income is now significantly below our committed outgoings. We should not rely on fund raising events to meet regular expenditure on the running of the church. There is a need for all of us to consider our level of financial support, and to take advantage of the Gift Aid provision, which enables tax to be reclaimed.



The Tom Hauley Room carpet is to be replaced after 11 years of hard use and Charles Catt is to make a sponsored cycle ride, planned for the end of May, or as soon as it promises to be fine(!) to raise funds for this – please sponsor him.

On the Sunday after Easter, Amy Graydon was presented with a Children's bible to mark her 100th attendance at Sunday School – well done!

Felicity & John



Afternoon meeting:

Revd Mervyn Roberts gave a Lenten Address at the Communion Service, pointing out just how important it is to keep a sense of humour, even whilst dealing with the most serious of situations in life. It certainly helps in difficult circumstances, if we don't allow ourselves to become swamped in gloom, and we can be of more use to others and ourselves if we look on the bright side of life – not always easy, but worth a try!



Evening meeting: Three new members were admitted at the Service: Barbara Thistlethwaite, Jill Winter and Joan Smith (see photo). It is a great joy to welcome new members and to see the work of the M.U. moving forward. This was ably demonstrated by our speaker, Chris Cook from Southam, who gave a talk with slides on her trip to Uganda.

In April last year she was part of a team from this deanery who travelled out to Uganda on a Christian Mission, visiting schools and hospitals, attending a Christian Conference, and meeting up with Mothers' Union members who had travelled huge distances in difficult conditions, using various means of transport. All were so enthusiastic to uphold Christian traditions and really live life to the full, without the luxuries we all take for granted these days. Chris and her companions obviously enjoyed the experience, in spite of rather primitive accommodation for part of the trip. So much so, that she has recently returned from a visit to Ghana – we look forward to hearing all about that on a future occasion!

Next meetings:

Tues. 15 May: 7.30pm Service; 8pm Action & Outreach, Felicity Hawke

Wed. 6 June: 2.00pm Service; 2.30pm Video & Talk on Zambia, Dorothy Clay

Anne Moore

Toddlers' Service

At our April service it was good to welcome back some of the older children, as it was the school holidays.

The service was led by Jacob Hunt, accompanied by Kary. Jacob read to us the story he had written telling what happened on the first Good Friday and Easter Day. Kary talked about the things we associate with Easter and why we have Easter eggs.

We all sang *Sing Hosanna* while the children waved paper palm trees. Afterwards they coloured pictures to take home.

The next Toddlers' Service will be on **Tuesday 8th May**, at 2.15pm in the children's corner of the church. All babies and toddlers, with an adult, are very welcome.

C. Mary Catt

Ladbroke News

Ladbroke Flower Rota

14 th May	Tricia Teverson
21 st May	Hazel Sharples
28 th May	Pam Barnett
4 th June	Peggy Askew

Jane Rutherford

Women's Fellowship

Pat Adams from Southam entertained us all with how she gets the interest of the children she instructs at the Sunday School at St. James' School. They have 50 children on their register and at least 30 attend each week. I must say *it lifts my heart* to hear about the work they do. Mind you if they get the children tied up with string like Pat had us, no wonder they can't get away!

We made £340 at our Lent Lunches, many thanks to everyone who came and the ladies who provided the lunches. What about a recipe book of all those wonderful soups?

Next month Jan Roberts from the Alzheimer's Society is coming to tell us about the work they do. Don't forget to come to the meeting at Gill Moore's, Windmill Lane, **Wednesday 9th May** at 2.45pm after the service in church, as usual.

Betty Winkfield

Ladbroke and Deppers Bridge W.I.

The April meeting was held in Ladbroke Village Hall on April 26th. The president welcomed everyone including Peggy, a guest.

Seventeen of our members will be attending the Group Meeting at Napton Village Hall, to be held on **Thursday 3rd May**.

Tina, Irene, Peggy and Julie, agreed to represent the W.I. at our Quiz Night to be held on **Friday 4th May** in the Village Hall.

Fourteen members will be going on the County trip *Pots and Frocks* to visit the Denby Pottery Visitors' Centre and Bradelei Mill Shop on **Monday 7th July**.

At the time of going to press our Short Mat Bowls B Team will be playing their semi-final match at Alcester, and hopefully if they win go through to the finals to be played the same day, **Sunday 29th April**.

April was our month to clean the Village Hall, so a group of members agreed to meet in the Hall on April 27th, armed with their dusters and rubber gloves!

We will be holding a cake stall at a fete to be held on the Millennium Green on **Saturday 30th June** and members were asked to supply cakes for this.

Our speaker Mr. Barrett, gave a wonderfully entertaining talk, which he introduced as 'his tribute to the Hollywood Musicals'. He began his

tribute by going back to 1927 and playing Al Johnson, in the Jazz Singer and continued through to the mid-1970s playing Barbara Strisand and Louis Armstrong from *Hello Dolly*, one of the last Hollywood musicals to be produced. We all sang along with Bing Crosby, Shirley Temple, Gene Kelly, Doris Day, Fred Astair and Ginger Rogers to name but a few. He even had our President dancing round the room as Ginger Rogers and Judy Garland! All had a wonderful evening reminiscing and Beryl and Hazel won the raffle.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 24th June**, in the Village Hall at 7.30pm and will be our Resolutions Meeting, with cheese and wine. Marie Coleman will be our W.I. Advisor for the evening. Our hostesses for this meeting will be Sheena and Linda and all visitors will be made most welcome.

Marie Kennedy

Ladbroke Village hall

We have now been spending the funds again and bought 70 new chairs for the Hall. They have padded seats and backs and are very comfortable.

I don't know what happened to last month's entry so here are two months' prize lists.

The second draw of the 2001 Millennium Draw was held on March 12th. The winners were: J. & P. Laidler £780; A. & E. Pittaway £50; Chris Payne £25; M. Theaker, Steve Birch, Nicky Lewis, Nancy Stubbs and Peter Derrick each won £10.

The third draw of the Millennium Club was held on April 9th at the Bell Inn. The winners were: Joy Moore £80; Pat Kennedy £50; Nancy Stubbs £35; Lorna Carleton, Francis Badman, Marie Kennedy, Cyril Spence and Beryl Ross each won £10.

The next prize draw will be held on **Monday 14th May** at 8.00pm at The Bell Inn – everyone welcome.

Catherine Spence

Ladbroke Parish Council Report – April

Parish Council Chairman, Jeff Todd chaired the meeting on 18th April in the Village Hall with Parish, District and County Councillors present as well as three members of the public.

Restorative work

The next phase has been promised when the weather improves.

Drainage

The latest environmental agency assessment of the Ladbroke flooding had been received. Area Surveyor, Gerald Brookes and the representative of W.S. Atkins of the Highways Agency had met to discuss the details of certain repairs to be carried out, i.e. replacement of the kerbs and cleaning of the drainage system.

The construction and position of balancing ponds is still under discussion.

Foot and Mouth Situation

The Parish Clerk receives all updates of the latest situation.

The District Council is opposed to the dumping of animal carcasses at Ufton land fill site but were overridden by MAFF.

Maintenance of Millennium Green

David Halsall gave a breakdown of the costs of maintenance. Some of this will be met by volunteer labour, capital reserves and fund raising but the Parish Council will consider financial assistance in next year's Precept.

Police and Neighbourhood Watch

There had been a break-in in Radbourne Lane but no details were known.

Forms for E-mail users are available from Janice Berry at Yew Tree Cottage. This will allow direct communication from Southam Police regarding potential crime.

Planning Applications

Confirmation was received for two applications considered during the month. There were no objections to an extension to 1, Village Farm or to the replacement of the garage at the Old School.

Footpath Report

In response to the offer of help from the Southam Footpath Group, Michael Boden Pritchett indicated that the problem in completing the circular walk based on Ladbroke was due to the inaccessibility of the E-roads.

Financial Matters

The Annual accounts were received and approved.

County and District Council reports

There had been little County Council business owing to the expected election.

Flooding at T junction with Deppers Bridge Road

It appears to be caused by blocked culverts. Southam Town Council will arrange for repair work to be carried out,

We need yet another bollard at the north end of the village.

It was noted that an excellent job was made of the mowing of the verge at the entrance to the village.

Carol Lane

Harbury Parish Council Meeting, April 2001

Our previous "Beat Bobby", PC Bosworth has not yet been replaced. Damage to homes, cars and property has escalated. Noise and nuisance has increased. The Parish Council is urging everyone not only to report incidents to the Police, but also to ensure that they are given an **"incident number"**. This guarantees their incident is registered, becomes part of police statistics and "encourages" the authorities to address the problem.

*The Parish Council also wants all who are suffering in the recent spate of hooliganism, vandalism and criminal damage to attend **the Annual Parish***

Meeting on May 10th, 7.30pm in the Village Hall. You will have the chance to tell the Inspector in charge of rural policing just what you think of the service and the cover Harbury receives.

No one from our footpath and walks groups was present when the man they all waited for last month, Chris Wood from Stratford District Council, finally turned up. He offered entry in a glossy book of walks promoting tourism to encourage walkers to visit our “retail services” and use our holiday accommodation! It seems Southam resisted his blandishments, already having their own footpath walks books, but Harbury PC agreed to be part of the scheme and to check all the details for him.

Planning: It all got a bit confused here as District Cllr Daly insisted on commenting on applications out of order and then left without allowing clarification, but it seemed there would be a site visit to 24, Vicarage Lane to assess the overshadowing caused by the proposed extension and that enforcement action had been taken at Churchland’s Farm on non-compliance with previous conditions. Councillors commented on the poor state of the road there, the unsightly highways materials stored on the site and the run-off.

Stratford District Council granted an extension at Westfields and a new sign and fascia at the Crown. The Parish Council made no representation on extensions at 4, Hall Lane and 18, Dovehouse Lane. The refusal for permission to demolish a garage and rebuild at 17, Binswood End is to go to Appeal. There are new plans in for extensions at Sharmer Farm and 3, Vicarage Lane.

Despite there being an existing carriage-drive from Bull Ring Lane into Harbury Hall a “temporary” access had been approved breaking through the brick wall to facilitate building works. This is quite scandalous, but was granted despite the Parish Council’s opposition that: it was not necessary; would constitute a traffic hazard, and could not satisfactorily be made good again. *The wall, said Sharon Hancock, will never be the same again.* The application was not opposed by our local member.

The Parish Council promised to clarify just what they wanted to put in the **Village Review** about their proposal to extend the existing One Way System, although Sharon Hancock pointed out they could not themselves decide what they wanted!

The Sports Clubs will rework the Lottery bid for improvements to the Tennis and Netball Courts. The Clerk is still waiting for quotes for the repair of the Village Pump. There was no progress reported on the Youth Project although the councillors wanted young people to take part in a village clean up prior to the Best Kept Village judging.

Ken Stephenson raised the continuing saga of the Hillside affordable homes where there had been no progress in finding a solution to the mortgage difficulties. Mortgage companies would not lend on the properties. John Hunt explained this was a national problem and Sharon Hancock thought it was better for the village to have rented homes, which could not be sold on the open market, thus securing them for local people. The Sheltered Housing Survey was ready and the Chairman asked for volunteers to deliver it.

The Chairman had accompanied MEP Philip Bushill-Matthews to view the safety precautions at Ufton Tip where animals, culled around Foot & Mouth outbreaks, were being buried. They had been satisfied with what they saw and were told, but the reality revealed to be very different. The farmers' blockade had resulted in a MAFF Official being posted at the Tip to ensure that the vehicles using it were clean. Sharon Hancock pointed out that no known virus was killed by disinfectant.

Accounts for Payment: £105 for gassing the Cemetery moles!

Linda Ridgley

Annual Parish Meeting, May 10th

The annual Parish meeting this year will be held in the Village Hall on **Thursday 10th May** at 7.30pm. By law, a parish is required to hold an annual parish meeting. It is not a meeting of the Parish Council, but is an assembly at which all local electors may speak and vote.

The Parish Council and the Village Hall Management Committee present to the Parish Meeting their annual reports for the previous year. Copies of these reports may be collected from the Library at the Wight School from May 3rd onwards. Harbury's representatives on Stratford District Council and the County Councillor for the area are invited to attend and the meeting's agenda provides for them to take questions.

It is customary for a speaker to address the meeting on a relevant topic. This year's speaker will be Chief Inspector Slemensek, of the Warwickshire Constabulary, who will describe the revised policing arrangements in prospect for this area. The Parish Council has regularly registered its concern at the less than satisfactory service experienced over recent years, a concern clearly shared by the community as a whole. It will therefore be a good opportunity to question the senior Police Officer responsible for rural policing on the planned future arrangements.

If you are interested in this topic or in any other matter relating to services, etc. in Harbury & Deppers Bridge, please come along on May 10th to listen or better still to air your views.

John Hunt, Chairman Harbury PC

Harbury Society

<p><i>Events come thick and fast in the summer months. We have a fund raising Coffee Morning in the Tom Hauley Room 10-12 noon on Saturday 19th May where we will display some of the topics you have asked to be included in the Parish Review.</i></p>

For the **Carnival** this year we are mounting a photographic display of previous years' Carnival processions. Come along and see whom you recognise and tell us the date!

We are hoping to visit the **Jephson Gardens for a guided tour on 21st June** and once the Foot & Mouth restrictions are lifted John & Ed will arrange more of their famous **Pub Walks**.

Our last speaker, John Crossling, gave us a photographic pub crawl, outlining the history of pubs, illustrating some of the more unusual local hostelries, explaining the ways in which licensees are diversifying to stay

in business and showing what has happened to those premises which have closed. Rosemary Harley revealed a surprisingly comprehensive knowledge of many of the pubs John featured!

Linda Ridgley

Harbury's Women's Institute

The Garden Design team came top in their category *A Garden for the Disabled!* at the recent Spring Council meeting. We thank the team for their hard work and look forward to seeing their design.

The first of two visits to Warwickshire County Cricket Club to see the Warwickshire/ Gloucestershire match will be on **Thursday 31st May**.

The Bulb Scheme 2001: orders to be in by the end of May.

Congratulations to Mrs. Merriman on her recent 90th birthday. She has been a longstanding W.I. member.

Mrs. Marion Handscombe came to speak on World Blindness (Sight Savers). Members were rather apprehensive when the first few slides were shown but then became really interested in the talk.

Mrs. Handscombe works for Sight Savers. She has travelled all over Africa, India, Middle East and South America. She would operate on the eyes and remove a cataract in 10 minutes. Since retiring from operating she travels in an administrative capacity.

The main cause of blindness in these countries is ignorance. Vitamin A deficiency, flu, chemicals and measles are a few other causes. Lack of hygiene is certainly a problem when children's faces are not washed because water is so scarce and precious. In parts of India there is plenty of water but after washing clothes, themselves and the cows, one can imagine what is in the water.

Mrs. Handscombe travels to countries to lecture and confer with government officials. She teaches and organises teams to use the equipment and perform the simple cataract operation, and to try to educate the importance of cleanliness, vaccination against measles and diet.

Above all she stresses to governments the importance saving sight is to the economy of their country.

Yet another organisation dependent on voluntary contribution.

May hostesses: Gunde Walshe, Mae Watson and Dorothy Travers.

Jeanne Beaumont

Harbury Theatre Group – Costume Loan

Harbury Theatre Group is more than happy to provide costumes for individuals or groups wishing to borrow them. Have you got one? Some have been borrowed without our knowledge. They have usually re-appeared later, but by then we have often wasted time looking for them because we or someone else needs them. If you would like to borrow costumes, please don't help yourself, but to do it through the group so that we can keep track of everything. You can contact our chairman Alison Hodge (612029), our wardrobe mistress Sue Exton (613661), or

any member of the group and we will do our best to help you – we do have quite a wide range of styles and sizes.

Currently we are missing, among other things, a blue shirt (part of a genie's costume made especially to glow in UV light), a white harem costume and one or two dresses and skirts. If you have any of these could you please return them to any member of the group? Also if at any time you have been in one of our productions and still have any part of your costume we would be grateful if you would return it. We look forward to a flood of returned costumes!

Sally Stringer

Harbury Folk Club

This month's theme was "When Irish Eyes are Smiling" – although at the beginning of the week there were not many smiles about as we had lost our usual venue. Fortunately, The Shakespeare Inn was persuaded to accommodate us and it proved to be a very pleasant change of surroundings (thank you very much the proprietors of The Shakespeare for coming to the rescue).

Most of the performers have, over the years, managed to concoct all sorts of links to connect their particular songs to the theme of the month. To save any embarrassment for people not being able to find any link, I did suggest at the beginning of the evening that they could simply tell an Irish joke – the sillier the better - and believe you me, we did have some silly ones.

I opened the proceedings by singing *The Mountains of Mourne* with a very nice keyboard accompaniment provided by Peter McDonald. Des gave us a sea shanty and the *The Old Triangle* and this was followed by a couple of tunes from Peter on the melodeon. Ron Shuttleworth reminded us it would soon be St. George's Day and then gave us a very funny version of *Kathleen*. The first half ended with a beautiful rendition of *Danny Boy* provided by Rick on his English concertina.

The second half started with a ladies' Barbershop Quartet singing *Accentuate The Positive* and *San Francisco Bay Blues* – nothing to do with the theme, but they did tell us a terrible joke. Other performers in the second half included: John Black, Peter & Liz Bones, Mike Putnam and the fabulous sound of a scratch band of musicians consisting of 2 concertinas, 2 melodeons, 1 guitar, and 2 violins (hope I got that right!).

At the start of the third half the raffle was drawn. Celia won the bottle of wine and the children's charity N.C.H. is now £30 better off. After the raffle we had an audience participation number followed by one more each from Ron, Des, Peter and Mike (for whom this was to be his last folk club as one of the group of volunteer presenters, as he is moving out of the area. We all wish him well can hope he will visit the Folk Club whenever he is able).

The end of a very enjoyable evening was provided by The Harvesters who gave us: *Molly Malone*, *Jug O'Punch*, *The Holy Ground* and *Black Velvet Band*. The audience, as they always do at Harbury, were happy to join in the choruses and seemed to have enjoyed the evening as much as I did.

The next Folk Club will be on **Thursday 3rd May**, again at The Shakespeare, and you can be assured of another great night.

Bob Hodgkiss

Harbury Brownies

A meeting was held on April 23rd to discuss the future of the Harbury Brownies. Many thanks to the seven parents who attended. The following letter was discussed:

Dear parents,

As you are aware, due to a change in circumstances Clare will be finishing at Brownies from the end of this term so I am writing to explain why the unit may have to close if another leader cannot be found.

Whilst it may be possible to keep the pack running until the end of the summer term with Guiders from other units taking one or two meetings, I am sure you can appreciate that this is not a satisfactory way of running things. The girls will suffer because there will be a lack of continuity in leadership and activities plus there may be times when a meeting has to be cancelled at very short notice. It is also not fair to expect those Guiders to give up more of their time to run a unit other than their own on a regular basis.

I should also point out that the other Brownie packs in the District are full with long waiting lists of their own so the prospect of your daughter finding a place is unlikely. This means that the fate of Harbury Brownie Pack is in your hands.

If you feel that you can spare some time each week and are willing to become a Brownie Guider please call me on 01926 812183 and I will be happy to talk to you. No experience is necessary, the Guide Association will provide the training needed to become a leader, a little bit of your time and enthusiasm all we ask.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Lesley Foster

Southam District Commissioner

After some discussion, Helen Larder offered her time and enthusiasm to become the Brownie Guider. There is still a vacancy for anyone else who is interested in assisting her, or volunteering a pair of hands on a fortnightly basis. If you are interested, or know anyone who may be, call Helen on 613455, or Lesley Foster on 812183.

Harbury Brownies will recommence on **Monday 4th June**, 6.15pm in the Scout Hut. If you want to put your daughter on the waiting list, contact Helen. There are currently 23 girls on the list. Another regular leader would significantly reduce this number.

Many thanks to all those who expressed an interest in keeping Brownies running, to Helen for taking over, to Yvonne Keyte for continuing as assistant, and to the girls for all their messages of good luck and best wishes, and the lovely planter they bought me as a leaving present.

Good luck to you all,

Clare-Louise Clements

Harbury Toddler Group

With the onset of the new summer term, we are saying goodbye to some of the toddlers who are now moving on to Nursery or Pre-School. So, as always, if anyone has babies or toddlers and would like to come along, the sessions are held on Monday mornings from 10.00 – 11.30 and Wednesday afternoons from 1.30 – 3.00 in the Wight School behind the Library.

The children all enjoyed the Christmas party held in the Village Hall last December and we would like to thank Father Christmas for being able to make it!

For those of you familiar with Toddlers over the last few years, you will remember the large rug used mainly for the smaller children. This had become rather old and after looking into ways of replacing it, we were lucky enough to be given Gym mats from Leek Wootton Police HQ, which only needed to be recovered. This has now been done and the rug has been discarded. The Parish Council kindly awarded us some money to help towards the cost of recovering these mats and we would like to express our gratitude to them for this.

Finally, it is time for the present committee to hand over to the new one and the kind volunteers are: Paula Russell, Lana Long, Lianne Gillespie, Sarah Bull and Kate Thomas.

Tracey McGowan, Nicola Perrett and Tracey Bell

Harbury Nursery School

Drama Sessions

Charlotte Saunders, who works with children in drama and mime, has visited the Nursery. The children loved her games, and chasing each other around the hall and turning into big bears and little squirrels. The children proudly announced that they had ‘made a play’ taking a pretend snowman on a walk. Charlotte was very impressed with the children’s confidence and ability to improvise and how well they remembered small details. We look forward to her coming back in the Summer Term.

Open Afternoon

We are holding an Open Afternoon on **Tuesday 8th May** from 2.00 to 3.00pm. All parents, grandparents and carers of children who can start Nursery in the coming months are welcome to come and see what we have to offer and talk to our staff. Children can start at Nursery from 2 years and 9 months and we are particularly interested to meet with parents who would like their child(ren) to start Nursery in September. Harbury Nursery does have a large number of children already booked for next year but we are confident that we can accommodate all who want to come. If you are interested but cannot come to the open afternoon please call Kate Smart on 612656 or Anne-Marie on 614496 and we can arrange for you to visit on a day to suit you.

LEA Funding

We have had confirmation from Warwickshire County Council that it has formally changed its funding policy for children in nursery education and

the Authority is now in a position to provide full funding for children in the term in which they are four. We can now guarantee our children at least one term's funded nursery education (and more dependent on when their birthdays fall). We believe that this will be of tremendous benefit to children and their parents as they prepare to start school.

Assisted Places Scheme

We would like to remind everyone that Harbury Nursery runs its own Assisted Places Scheme. This is designed to help parents whose financial circumstances are such that they find it difficult to pay their Nursery fees, and whose children are not yet old enough to receive LEA funding. The scheme entitles children to a free Nursery session in addition to the one (or more) that parents pay for. All applications for an Assisted Place are dealt with in the strictest confidence and if anyone would like more information on this they can contact Anne-Marie Campion on 614496.

80-20 Sale

We are holding our next 80-20 Sale on **Saturday 19th May** in the Village Hall, from 10.30am to 12.00noon. This is an 'as new' sale of baby/children's toys, equipment and clothing, whereby Harbury Nursery School retains 20% of the marked price. Anyone wishing to sell should book a place by ringing Marie Kennedy on 01926 812244 who will allocate a number that must be put on all items to be sold. There is a £1 charge to all sellers to cover costs.

Arabian Night

Our Arabian Night on April 7th was a tremendous success. Around 90 people enjoyed a great night out in a transformed Village Hall with a fantastic Arabian banquet from Tarsus Restaurant in Southam, entertainment from the belly-dancing troupe *Phenomenal Women* and an excellent disco to round the night off. Many thanks to all of you who came along and made the night such a success. We would like to thank specifically *Phenomenal Women* who were truly phenomenal, Ian Potter from Leamington Sight and Sound who so generously provided the sound and lights system for the disco at no charge to the Nursery, and last, but by no means least, Barclays Bank plc who pledged to match whatever profit we managed to raise from this event. On the night we made £785 so with the incredible generosity of Barclays we will have around £1,500 to invest in the Nursery. This type of cash injection will benefit our current children and many more in the years to come and we are most grateful to Barclays for this gesture.

Marie Kennedy

The Pre-School - Learning Through Play

Harbury Pre-School. Playgroup. Pre-School? Whatever the name it's learning through play at the Wight School!

So what's in a name? As most of you already know, we have decided to go it alone for a bit and opt out of Ofsted. Essentially, very little has changed in the Pre-School that we know and love. Yvette and Jill continue their fantastic caring and imaginative work with the children. Class sizes remain at a round dozen (just!) with one member of staff per six children. We still address the six learning outcomes demanded by Ofsted and we still operate a key worker system so that each child has an

adult to whom they relate in particular and who monitors and supports the development of that child. The only difference is that Yvette and Jill have not signed up for the NVQ supervisors' course since they need the time outside working, planning and preparing for the Pre-School to support their own families and the family businesses.

In discussion of our plans and aspirations with the Pre-School Learning Alliance, we told them that we felt it only fair to alter our name to Playgroup to reflect this change. The response was that since we are still doing all that Ofsted would expect and more, albeit with staff that are not entered for an NVQ, there was no reason to change our name. Their advice was that the word 'playgroup' could suggest to some people that we were giving up on any sort of learning goals whereas we remain strongly committed to learning through play. Unfortunately, the straightforward government funding for children aged 4 and over disappears with Ofsted but the PLA have been very encouraging about our ability to tap into other sources given the quality and aspirations of the Pre-School. Until then, the emphasis must be on fund-raising like never before and if there is anyone in the village who feels they can help with either their time, particularly during the carnival, or their advice, we would love to hear from you.

We had a wonderful curriculum planning session during the holidays. Our theme this term is Our Village. The children have been making pictures of their own houses and other favourite buildings for a map of the village. Once again, we shall be trying our hands at bricklaying and we shall resume our walks around the village to visit particular landmarks. We will also be looking at the shops and services in the village. We have already visited Muggleston's to find out what they sell and where it comes from and are very, very grateful to Paul and Mary for their kindness in telling us about their shop. It seems a poor way to repay them but we are setting up a rival establishment, selling all sorts of fruit and vegetables in the Wight School although the potatoes and oranges so carefully weighed out are in fact made from play dough and painted by the children. Other visits will include a trip to the Post Office following a project of making postcards and posting them to ourselves and we hope that a real doctor will visit us and talk about what they do. Our term will end with an acknowledgement to Harbury's twinning with Samois-sur-Seine and a fabulous French fortnight.

Finally, we would really like to thank Yvette and Jill for their continued support and commitment. Yvette turned up to the curriculum planning session simply brimming with ideas and with a wonderful array of books of things to make and do. We would also like to thank all those individuals, shops and societies in the village who, on hearing of our theme, have very generously agreed to help us. To any newcomers reading this, this is the joy of Harbury. It's a very active community that is determined to help the wealth of activities here prosper. And it's great to be able to connect the next generation with this sort of spirit. Thank you.

Harbury Pre-School Committee

Harbury Albion Football Club

The club has once again had a very good month of results and, at the time of writing, stand 9 points clear at the top of our division of the league with 5 games to play. We are also in our first cup final for 6 years. It is the Andy Campbell Charity Cup final and will be played at Kenilworth Town F.C., Gypsy Lane, Kenilworth on **May 6th**, K.O 3.00pm, against Leamington Hibernian F.C. All of the support that we can get will be most welcome.

The semi-final for this competition was a tense affair against Moorefields Rangers, which saw stand-in keeper Vince Crossan in excellent form along with the rest of the Harbury defence, to such an extent that after 90minutes + extra time the score was still 0-0 and penalties had to be taken to decide the tie. After 5 penalties each the score was 3-3 and "sudden death" was required to separate the teams. This was where Harbury's finest(!) stepped forward. After the opposition had made it 4-3 Steve Evans equalised. Vince Crossan then saved to leave Shaun Smith the unenviable task of needing to score to win the game and send Harbury through to the Final. This he did and the rest, as they say, is history. Support us on May 6th if you can.

Finally the club is looking for new talent to add to the current squad for next season, particularly youngsters in the 16-19 age group. There are no trials as such but potential new players will be welcome to come to training, which will start at the end of July. The precise dates will be announced in July's H&L News.

Rob Davis

Harbury Tennis Club

Our traditional "Cheque Book" tournament on 1st April to welcome the new season went really well, although unfortunately we had to clear several smashed bottles from the Courts before starting. We were fortunate to get some warm weather for the day after what has been a very cold and damp start. It was good to see some new players and we hope to see more of them during the summer. Well done to Jo Mann and Keith Thompson who were the winners.

The Winter Mixed doubles reached its conclusion at the end of March with Krystyna Mackowiecka and Paul Crowton coming out on top winning all their matches. Well done to all the hardy players who took part!

In the Banbury Winter League the "A" Team survived its end of season fixture congestion and won all its re-arranged matches to clinch the Division 2 title. The "B" Team also maintained its consistency and lost its last few matches and as a result will be in Division 4 next winter! The summer leagues have now started with the "A" team in Division 2 and the "B" Team in Division 5.

Under 16s

This season we are running 6 sessions for the various age groups so that we can make better use of the Courts. The 35-40 Minis and Juniors on Thursday afternoons are being expertly coached by Peter Brinkley and thoroughly enjoying themselves. Unfortunately the Coach we had lined up for the Sunday morning and Wednesday evenings dropped out at very short notice. We are trying to find a replacement but in the meantime the

50-60 Juniors and Intermediates will be limited to the vast experience of the Club's enthusiastic members!

A shortage of qualified Coaches is a widespread problem in this part of the County and, at the time of writing, has prevented the Active Sport programme in the Southam area taking off as planned. We have also had to withdraw from the Play Tennis 2001, partly for the same reason. The Club has set aside funds for Tennis Assistant courses so if anyone out there is interested in becoming involved in coaching please give me a ring on 613284.

Colin Mercer

Creepy Goings On at Harbury Theatre Group





The Thursday Club

We meet in the Farley Room at the Village Hall at 2.30pm on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month (except in August). We invite you to join us. The Club is for both men and women of any age, if you are free on Thursday afternoons. Please come along and you will be very welcome.

Beryl Checkley

Southam Lions 30th Annual Spring Party

This will be held at Southam School at 2.15pm on **May 12th**. They invite all Senior Citizens to attend. A coach will pick up in Harbury. Please give names to either Ruth Dodds (612529) or Pam Brown (612377).

Beryl Checkley

Harbury *M*aking *A* *D*ifference

“Unfinished Business” – Rebooked due to weather.

Many apologies to everyone who came along on March 17th. We are organising a car boot sale on **Saturday 26th May** at The Wight School from 10am – 12noon. Pitches are £5 in advance, £7 on the day. Please ring Mrs. Ashworth to book on 613304.

This is a one off fund raiser to make a contribution to the charities that asked to be adopted by MAD. Please come along, there will be ‘all morning’ breakfast rolls, tea and coffee and many bargains.

Many thanks Harbury

Nicola Guy 614010

PARISH REVIEW

Before we can get the authorities to address our problems, we have to prove that we need and want solutions!

A separate **Survey on Sheltered Housing Needs** is going out in the next few weeks. That will be followed by our **full Parish Review** with findings published, we hope, by Christmas.

We asked what you wanted to be asked and you can see those results at the Coffee Morning in the Tom Hauley Room on **Saturday May 19th!**

The next task is to devise the questions and organise the delivery of the survey. Please tell John Holden 31, Binswood End, 612155 or Linda Ridgley 16, Farm Street, 612792 if you can help with this.

Linda Ridgley

Saturday Coffee Mornings

I shall be renewing the Coffee Morning Rota shortly, to run from August. If you or a group to which you belong, would like to be included, please notify me on 612504 by **Wednesday 30th May**. If you are already on the rota or have asked to be included there is no need to contact me again. The Coffee Mornings are sponsored and supported by All Saints’ Church and are an excellent way of meeting people and raising money for your chosen cause. If you require a specific date this can usually be arranged.

Joyce Windsor

Summer Party 2001

For the past few years, I have organised with the help of family and friends, a Summer Event to raise funds for The Duke of Cornwall Spinal Unit in Salisbury.

This year my focus has turned, to help people from our community in Harbury and I am organising an event, which will take place on **Saturday 2nd June** to raise funds for Harbury Nursery School, Harbury Primary School and Harbury Senior Citizens:

- * Harbury Nursery School - Learn and play equipment
- * Harbury Primary School - Computer Equipment
- * Harbury Senior Citizens - Social Fund

The event will be held at the Village Hall for an evening of live music & disco with a light supper & Grand Raffle. The seven-piece band "Completely Funked" (who are based in Harbury) has already made a very generous gift, by donating most of their fees (£500) towards the total.

Tickets will be priced at £7.50 and all profits will go towards the collective total. If you would like any further information or tickets please contact me on 01926 614466.

Paul Winchester

Harbury Carnival June 9th, 2001

Last month we promised more details on the activities during the week leading up to Carnival Day.

As usual these will start with the Wheelbarrow Race on **Sunday 3rd June** 12-30pm, which will be hosted by the Dog Inn. This year, to attract a wider participation, there will be a separate event that will not require the consumption of alcohol (at least not during the race!). This will be open to teams comprising parent/child or two adults pushing push chair/pram/wheelbarrow as appropriate (or not as the case may be!). Please call Dan Killian on 612265 to register.

The week will continue with a team competition over a series of pub games:

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| Monday | - Aunt Sally at The Shakespeare |
| Tuesday | - Skittles at The Old New Inn |
| Wednesday | - Test of Strength at The Crown |
| Thursday | - Quiz at The Gamecock |

This will be organised on a "grand prix" basis with points awarded for 1st, 2nd 3rd, etc. The team that accumulates the most points overall will be the winner. As I said last month, we would like to see more participation this year so please consider entering a team to represent your organisation, pub or simply get together with some friends. More details will be available shortly around the village but in the meantime, if you want more information or to enter a team, please contact Dan Killian on 612265 or John Broomfield on 614258.

Arrangements for the Carnival Day are now well and truly under way – just a few items to mention. If you still need to organise a stall please get in touch with Kary Hunt on 613598.

Will last year's winners please return cups and shields to Kath Ellis (Chapel Street) as soon as possible.

John Broomfield - Carnival Committee

Harbury Carnival Football Tournament

Six-a-side football at the Playing Fields at 7.00pm. If interested, please contact:

Nathaniel Cleaver (612357)

Harbury Carnival 2001

Queen: Kiri Shuttleworth. Kiri is 10 years old and is in Avon Class at Harbury School. Her interests include playing rugby for Leamington Athletics (she is a member of Leamington Athletic Club), swimming (which she loves), and playing the flute and steel drums.

Photo 6 = 10 x 9

King: Ryan Overton. Ryan is 10 years old and is in Avon Class at Harbury School. Ryan's interests include playing football for Harbury Juniors, member of Harbury Cubs, playing computer games and, when allowed, likes nothing better than to sing at Karaoke evenings.

Dan Killian

Harbury Myton Hospice Support Group

Every Thursday evening we hold Line Dancing in the Village Club. Beginners are welcome at 7.30pm to learn the steps and be ready to join in the weekly class following.

It really is great fun and a very friendly social evening. We'd love to see you!

Sylvia Green

Play Review: *The Creature Creeps*

Visitors to this production were treated to a gothic horror-comedy (written by Jack Sharkey).

The story concerns the strange going-on in the castle of Count von Blitzen, high in the mountains of Transylvania. The Count and his manservant Mort (a combination of Quasimodo and Herman Munster) have been carrying out sinister deeds in the castle cellar and are planning a new 'experiment' involving the four identical Stunken brothers who have innocently been invited to the castle with their respective fiancées for dinner.

The Count's evil plan is rudely interrupted by the arrival of his dippy daughter Daisy (Jacqueline Clarke) plus the thoroughly decent Frank (Jonathan Clarke) to whom she has just become engaged, and her old school chum Babsy (Ruth Thurogood). The unexpected (and unwelcome) visitors soon become alarmed by human groans from the cellar – blamed by the Count on the wind and settling masonry. The four Stunken brothers then arrive one by one with their wives and just as promptly disappear somewhere in the castle.

This is a perfect play for actors who enjoy 'hamming it up' and, dare I say it - the Theatre Group took up the challenge with enthusiasm.

Needles to say, the plot becomes even more involved before finally unravelling with general satisfaction and lots of surprises.

The cast all performed with enthusiasm and style but a few deserve special mention. Gordon Robbins as Mort seemed to metamorphose into the ghastly, but rather lovable hunchback with a deathly pallour and macabre sense of humour. Keith Hayes was a very convincing, monocled Count and Keith Dormer as the four Stunken brothers (!) had more costume changes than everyone else put together. Jacqueline Clarke managed to convey Daisy's naïve inability to see the obvious meaning in anyone else's sentences. The Count's Germanic housekeeper Gretchen (Betty Barr) was another major role played without a flaw.

The crew behind the scenes had produced a convincing castle set which was managed and lit with typical aplomb. My only slight criticism is aimed at the playwright who makes rather a meal of unravelling the plot in the second half. This said, it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening's entertainment. John Stringer is to be complimented for putting it together so entertainingly.

Alan Guy

Pensioners' Patio

Strengthen the feeble arms; steady the tottering knees. Had the prophet Isaiah been overdoing the gardening? Perhaps after being hindered by unseasonable weather, as soon as the sun appeared he'd dashed out to prune the fig tree, thereby waking up joints and muscles he hadn't known he possessed.

We can sympathise – here the Head Gardener, after a frustrating wait, has started preparing for the projected patio paving, resolutely ignoring protests from unaccustomed limbs. Small plants have been moved to the tiny border edging the communal driveway. Goodness knows how they manage to flourish there, but they do, apart from the occasional one unfortunate enough to be sitting on an ants' hideout. More, the water feature (to dignify it by the name currently in vogue) has been dismantled. I'd almost forgotten what lurked beneath the patch of pebbles – the little

fountain had a surprisingly soothing sound when switched on, but when spectacular torrents pour down regularly from the skies above it rather loses its point. Maybe there'll be some kind of replacement – the little grey frog, which sat under the scattering drops, will need somewhere appropriate to park himself.

The question of the blue-tits remains. Once apparently on the verge of adopting our nesting box this year, another spell of rain, wind and frost cooled their ardour and dispelled their interest. It's time the garden plans became official if it's really going to happen for this summer, so maybe there'll have to be a compromise solution – remove the box altogether. Otherwise the hen will decide to lay eggs there just as Garden Force comes up the drive. They won't become refugees – this is far from being the only box in this bird-friendly neighbourhood!

On the brighter side, the dwarf almond in its container is a mass of delicate pink flowers and the photinia near the front door sprouts bunches of glossy new red leaves every time it's trimmed. The latter is our third attempt at growing this shrub and it's certainly been a case of third time lucky.

Edyth Algar

Horticultural Society

At our last talk *Hardy Geraniums*, Mr. Bond certainly gave us plenty of information on the subject. “Ierodiums” are much neglected, but are part of the large family, coming from many different parts of the world – USA, Nepal, Finland, Siberia, and Madeira to mention a few. They are very useful and mostly hardy; some are invasive and some are suitable for difficult areas. He showed us many slides, answered questions and sold many of the plants he brought with him. There was a good attendance, especially as it was such a nasty wet evening.

There are some seats still available for the trip to Birmingham University Botanical Gardens and Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, which have been restored, including a conducted tour. This is an all day coach trip on **Tuesday 12th June** – members £9, non-members £10. Please contact Judy on 613103 and give payments to John Clifford, 71, Mill Street. Members who intend going on the Brackley trip on **Tuesday 22nd June** and haven't yet paid, please do so to John.

After many years of finding and booking interesting speakers, and quite often entertaining them, Mrs. Eleanor Zonik intends to bow out gracefully. She deserves a long service medal - many thanks Eleanor, you have done a grand job. We will of course need a replacement - any offers please?

The list of gardens for the Walkabout Weekend on **July 7th and 8th** is pretty well complete I think, with some new and of course some familiar gardens. It would help if we had some nice weather this year - gardens look much nicer in the sun! Don't forget: any surplus cuttings and plants you have can be sold on the plant stall this weekend.

The Society has been invited to Hurrans on **Wednesday 16th May** for an evening event with a chance to purchase items afterwards – there is no entry charge. If interested, please phone Judy on 613103.

The Social evening at Heather's, 11, Church Terrace, on **May 22nd**, starts at 7.00pm. Again it would be nice if the weather provided a fine evening, or at least a dry one!

The Society has been asked to take part in the Carnival Procession on **Saturday 9th June** - if interested please phone Judy on 613103.

The Schedule for the Show in September is well in hand, with something for everyone. If you intend to exhibit fruit, do not polish it or otherwise damage the bloom because you will lose points. Should you plan to show jams or other preserves, the containers and closures are important. These details can all be found in the W.I. book *On with the Show*, and Janice Siddle (614459) has a copy.

P.S. *There is a Composting Day at Ryton Organic Gardens on 7th May!*

Muriel Grey

Gardening Notes for May

There is an old saying that *A wet May will lead to a good summer*. As I look through the window today at yet more rain we can only look to that old adage for consolation and hope. A bonus of the cooler weather has been the long life of the early Spring flowers, so when you begin to tidy the daffodil leaves when flowering finishes do remember that they need a minimum of six weeks to feed the bulbs for next year. Split up large clumps of primulas - replanting the young growth. Iris can also be split up after flowering, putting the fleshy base of the stems on the soil surface to bake in the sun.

Trim rock plants as they finish flowering and early shrubs need pruning as the blooms fade to allow time for the new shoots to mature before the autumn. Begin to harden off tender plants you have over wintered or bought in, but do not be fooled into putting them out in permanent places yet. Frost may come right up to the end of the month, so resist the tempting displays of summer plants now in the garden centres unless you have somewhere to grow them on inside.

This is the time for gardeners to go to pot! Bring out all the containers and baskets, give them a wash and begin to plant them up, allowing a couple of weeks for them to get established before they go out, so leave this task until mid month. Continue to sow hardy annuals to fill the gaps left by winter losses. This is a much cheaper way to have a good show than buying lots of bedding plants. I read recently of an experiment carried out by Sheffield University to ensure success with seed sowing into the borders. Two factors improved results. Keep down the weeds and keep out the slugs and snails by putting down pellets around the seeded area. One dose of one pellet every 4" was enough. If you do not approve of pellets, use sand, eggshells or beer traps and let them die happy!

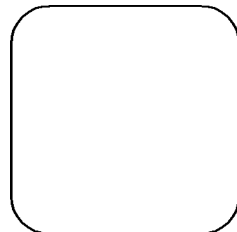
Clip privet hedges. Sow salad crops, a few at a time every few weeks. It is becoming fashionable to grow vegetables in the flower borders. Isn't that what the old cottage gardeners did? Sow runner beans in 3" pots to plant out when about 9" tall. These can be grown in large pots if you do not have a vegetable plot. Nothing beats picking your homegrown food and you know what has gone into them.

Sow annual herbs and divide straggly mint and thyme. Nip out the tops of broad beans when they have 4 or 5 clusters of flowers. This helps reduce black fly and encourages an early crop.

Houseplants may need a spring clean and trim and they now need their weekly feed. Pot up begonias and gloxinias. Move plants from windowsills that receive afternoon sun, few except cactus like this. Offshoots on these can be taken off and potted separately, to replace fading plants or to give away.

Plant of the month: *Comfrey*

This well-known herb is a native of Europe and was grown by the monks in their physic gardens. The ancient Greek name was *Symphytum* and it gained the reputation for healing wounds and soreness, even mending broken bones, earning it the old country name of 'knitbone'. It was also used to treat stomach and intestinal problems but may have caused more illness than it cured.



About ten years ago it was banned from herbal remedies after a link with liver complaints. However, it is still a good friend to the gardener because the leaves are one of the richest sources of organic potassium. A 2" layer of leaves in the compost heap will rot down rapidly and act as an activator to break down other plants. The leaves can also be put straight into a trench before planting runner beans, potatoes or sweet peas. A handful of leaves is beneficial around tomatoes and pot plants or a liquid fertiliser can be made.

This month the common comfrey and the more attractive variegated version of Russian or Caucasian comfrey will be putting out a clump of large hairy leaves and then a tall flower stem. The bell-like bunches of flowers may be white, pink or blue. Grow the common type in the wild garden or beside a pool, but the variegated one with its shades of cream, yellow and green will look well in the border, especially in dark corners, but not very dry ones. Although originating in East Europe, comfrey quickly naturalised in other parts of Europe and North America where it was taken to grow as fodder. It was found in most cottage gardens but fell from favour until the organic growers began to promote it as a natural fertiliser.

Pat Smith

Please note:

Adverts to 31, Binswood End by Tuesday 15th May

Articles to Harbury Chemist by Friday 25th May

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors

Through your magazine we would like to thank all the shops, licensees and everyone who donated prizes so generously for our Ladies Night held at Harbury Club on April 11th in aid of Myton Hamlet Hospice.

Our thanks too to the Club Committee and the Bar Staff for all their hard work. This evening proved to be a great success and through everyone's support and generosity a staggering sum of £700 was raised and handed to the Chief Executive of the Hospice on stage.

Once again many thanks.

Joy Ward and Stacey Wheeler

Dear Editors

On Mother's Day, Daddy, Lauren and I decided to take Pickle (our dog) for a walk. As we walked down our drive we noticed a lot of the daffodils along Vicarage Lane were lying on the grass.

Photo 7 = 9.7 x 11.7

Lauren and I were very upset because the daffodils always look so beautiful in the spring.

As we walked into South Parade we saw more daffodils lying on the grass. The daffodils had been trampled on by some very naughty people and I think they should be told off. Whoever did this; can they please not do it again? Thank you.

Sophie Brough (aged 8)

Dear Editors

Visited your website.-.interesting. I now realise this is where an old friend of mine moved to. Does anyone know the whereabouts of Ann Alford-Hunt originally from Stratford-Upon-Avon? It's been nearly 20 years since I heard from her. Maybe married by now. Any sightings or information too me or on ph 64 3 325 1204. Regards,

*Dave Stuart Irving
Email: **anglia5456@hotmail.com***