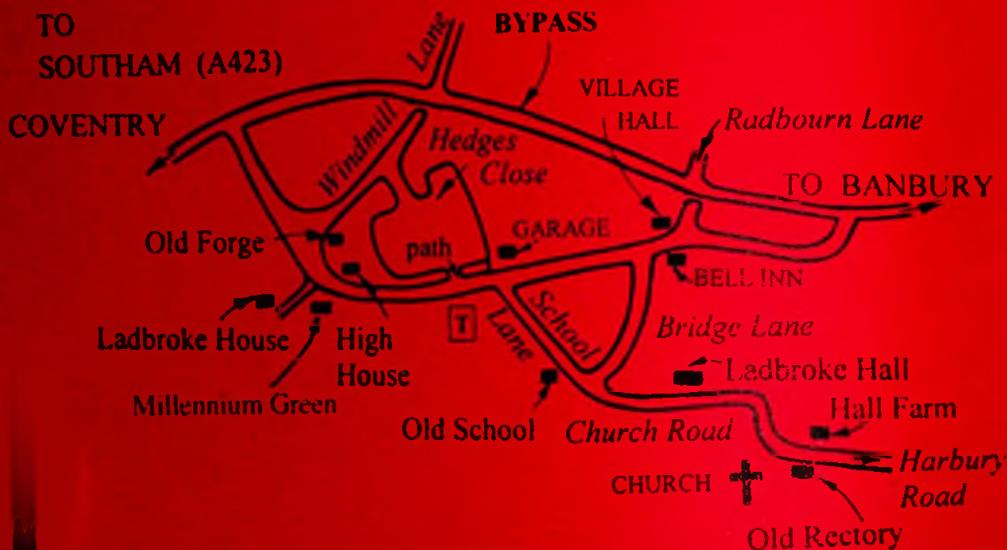


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HARBURY & LADBROKE NEWS

THE HARBURY AND LADBROKE NEWS, reflecting all aspects of local life is published monthly and produced with the assistance of the All Saints' Parochial Church Council.

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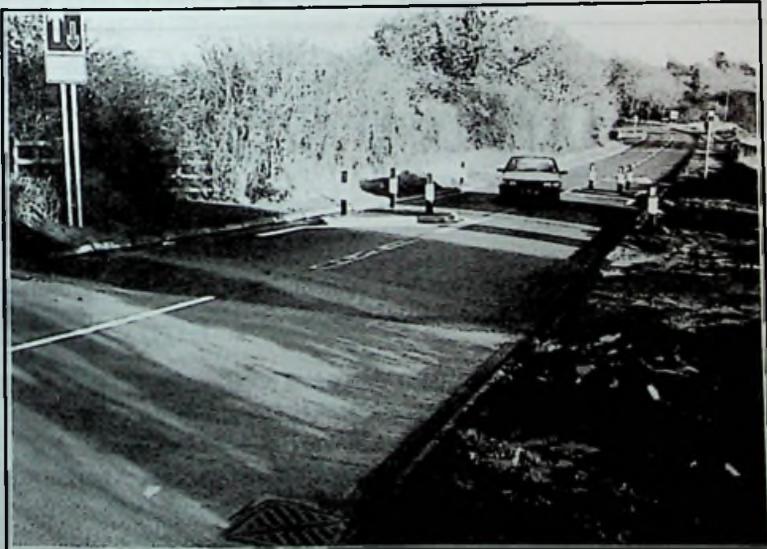
The views of contributors are not necessarily those of the Editorial Committee.



December 2002

No. 345

After years of campaigning the traffic calming measures have been installed in Deppers Bridge. We understand that residents are pleased and appreciate the effects.



The community is continually enriched by the contributions made by individuals and organisations. In November, the Bonfire Committee and their helpers rallied round in atrocious conditions to get the fire built for the evening. Happily the rain ceased in time for the fireworks. The Theatre Group's Panto was a tremendous success, well supported at each performance. Such a shame that the advertising banner tied to the Village Hall railings was stolen.

The end of this term sees the departure of Paul Milner after 6 years as Head Teacher of Harbury Primary School. On behalf of all parents we wish him well in his new post in Nuneaton.

This Christmas GASS (Guides And Scouts Support) are once again offering a Christmas postal service as a way of raising money for repair works to the Scout Hut. Also, weather permitting, traditional carol singing is being revived (see article by Sue Graydon).

Finally, we extend our sympathies to the families of Ethel Kendall and Ann Snowdon.

The Editors and the Committee of the Harbury & Ladbroke News would like to wish all our readers a

*Very Happy Christmas
and a Prosperous New Year*



Harbury Diary

December

- | | | |
|------|----|--|
| Sun | 8 | ADVENT 2 - Holy Communion 8am; Sung Eucharist with Confirmation 10.30am |
| Tues | 10 | Toddlers' Service in Church 2.15pm Holy Communion 7.30pm Village Hall Committee meeting in Village Hall 8pm |
| Wed | 11 | Sound Beginnings 9.30-10.30am in Village Hall Harbury Toddlers Christmas Party in Village Hall Thursday Club Carol Service in Church 2.30pm Dance Classes in Village Hall 4-8pm |

- Wed 11 Father Christmas (Southam Lions) in Harbury from 6.15 – 8.30pm
'Talk it Through' at 33, South Parade 8pm
- Thurs 12 Holy Communion 9.45pm
Thursday Club in Village Hall 2.30pm
Youth Club in Village Hall 7-9pm
WI 7.45pm in Tom Hauley Room
- Fri 13 RECYCLING COLLECTION
Twinning Association Soirée de Noël in Tom Hauley Room 8pm
- Sat 14 Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room in aid of the Netball Club
Senior Citizens Benefit Association Christmas Party in Village Hall
- Sun 15 Advent 3 - Holy Communion 8am; Family Communion 10.30am
Evensong 6pm
- Tues 17 **ADVERTS TO 31, Binswood End by 5.30pm**
Holy Communion 7.30pm
'Bookworms' in Tom Hauley Room 7.30pm
- Wed 18 Sound Beginnings 10.30-10.30am in Village Hall
Tea in the Tom Hauley Room 3-4pm
Dance Classes in Village Hall 4-8pm
Harbury Society Christmas Social in Shakespeare Inn
Prayer meeting in Church 8pm
- Thurs 19 Holy Communion 9.45am
- Fri 20 Carol Singing in the pubs by Folk Club & Hereburgh Morris in aid of Steph & Jeff
- Sat 21 Men's Prayer Breakfast in Tom Hauley Room 7.30am
Free Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room in aid of National Asthma Campaign
- Sun 22 Advent 4 - Holy Communion 8am; Sung Eucharist 10.30am
- Tues 24 CHRISTMAS EVE - Blessing of the Crib 2.30pm
Carol Service 6.30pm; Midnight Mass 11.15pm
- Wed 25 CHRISTMAS DAY - Sung Eucharist 9.30am
- Thurs 26 BOXING DAY - ST. STEPHEN'S - Holy Communion 10.30am
- Fri 27 ST. JOHN - Holy Communion 10.30am
ARTICLES to Harbury Chemist, High Street by 5.30pm
- Sat 28 HOLY INNOCENTS 9.30am
Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Rotary Club, Poliot
RECYCLING COLLECTION
- Sun 29 **FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS** - Holy Communion 8am
Sung Eucharist 10.30am
- Tues 31 Holy Communion 7.30pm



January 2003

- Wed 1 NEW YEARS DAY
Hereburgh Morris Hangover Tour around the pubs in Harbury collecting for charity
Harbury Society New Year Walk
- Thurs 2 Holy Communion 9.45am
Storytelling in Library 10am

- Thurs 2 Youth Club in Village Hall 7-9pm
Folk Club in the Shakespeare 8.30pm
- Sat 4 Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Great Ormond Street Children's Fund
- Sun 5 EPIPHANY Sung Eucharist 9am - Evening Worship 6pm
-

From the Rector

Once again we are in the season of Advent. How quickly it comes round each year. Is it that I am getting older? Well perhaps.

Advent the time of expectancy, looking forward to the Nativity, God's greatest gift to us, the birth of Christ. We also, of course, look forward to the second coming, the coming of God's Kingdom. During this period we are charged to be prepared so that when it comes we are ready.

I write these few words from my hospital bed. Was I prepared? No! However, we got by thanks to many friends. I think over a little while I was experiencing certain symptoms, I chose to ignore them and was not prepared. So, in our Christian pilgrimage we must be vigilant and listen to God's voice in our hearts. Then we shall be ready.

I thank all those who have prayed, sent messages by telephone or card and for those who have visited. I also thank God for enabling me to be on hand for those of the village, who are also sick and in Warwick Hospital. God willing, by the time you read this I shall be back among all you lovely people.

Please accept my warm Christmas greetings when the time comes.

Fr. Roy

From the Registers

Holy Baptism - All Saints' Harbury

24th November - Helena Claire Luntott

Funerals at Oakley Wood

5th November - Ann Snowdon, 64

21st November - Ethel Kendall, 91

Remembrance Sunday



From the Churchwardens

As we write, we are on the brink of Advent, the beginning of the Church's New Year, a time to look back with thanksgiving and a time to look forward with joy.



Past and Present Choristers

As we look back, we give thanks for the loving ministry of Father Roy and for his true vocation as parish priest; for the support that Pam gives to him and to the village; for the prayerfulness of Father Peter Snow and Mary; for all the visiting priests who serve us so well; for the faithfulness of Tony Stubbs; for all who serve the church in whatever way, seen or unseen. I may seem trite but it is also true to say that they are too many to number. What a wonderful reason, then, to celebrate our New Year!

Still looking back, we remember our Patronal Festival when Songs of Praise was followed by a Faith Supper. Both the service and the meal were very well attended, attracting Dave and Judy Kitchener all the way from Cumbria, and bringing together past and present generations of choristers who have worshipped or still do worship here. We recall, too, Remembrance Sunday when, so movingly, the sun came out at exactly 11.00am. Then followed the next day the School's service in which every year group took part. Later in the month came the Family Service when Lesley took as her theme *The God who communicates*. Dressed in her post women's uniform and with the help of the choir, she gave every member of the congregation a card on which was written the message that she would most like to deliver to everyone in Harbury: *Dear --- God loves you and invites you to get to know Him better. RSVP.*

Now we are looking ahead to Advent and to the Confirmation Service on **December 8th**. We think especially of the confirmands who will be

making their promises to God that day and we welcome the opportunity to renew our own.

Lesley and Felicity



Mothers' Union

Afternoon meeting: Mrs. Barbara Hodge was our November speaker and her theme was *Praying the Five Objects*. The Five Objects, on which the work of the MU is based, can be summed up in the sentence: *The purpose of the Mothers' Union is to be especially concerned with all that strengthens and preserves marriage and Christian family life.*

Barbara started by talking about the different types of prayer: adoration, confession, thanksgiving, petition, and intercession. She suggested that we could use each kind of prayer to pray about the five objects. We discussed each of the objects and then Barbara led us in prayers on them, encouraging us to take part if we felt able.

Diocesan Council: On November 19th, two members attended the MU Diocesan Council, held this year at Shotton. As always we were impressed by all that the MU is doing in this country and throughout the world, now in 70 countries. Parenting courses, the literacy project in African countries, the 'virtual baby' scheme, holidays for needy families, and relief aid to countries hit by famine are among its activities.

In the afternoon we had an enjoyable talk by Mrs. Veronica Bennetts, wife of the Bishop of Coventry, on her life as wife, mother, music teacher, and composer.

Evening meetings: John Smith spoke to us on *The mysteries of Mount Kinabalu*. He took us on a journey to Sabah, formerly North Borneo. In imagination we climbed the 13,500 ft Mount Kinabalu, with John and Pat, by means of his lovely slides of the scenery, flowers, and wild life, and his descriptions of the country.

Next meetings: We have no meetings in December, but are hosting the Diocesan Advent Carol Service on **Monday 2nd December.**

Tuesday 21st evening January 2003 – Bring & Share Supper

Wednesday 5th afternoon February 2003 – Party.

Anne Moore

Toddlers' Service

Our November service was led by Mrs. Dorothy Travis. We sang: *Stand up, clap hands, shout Thank You Lord* and then Mrs. Travis told us the story of baby Moses and how he was kept safe.

After prayers we sang: *He's got the whole world in His hands*. Then the children made collage pictures of baby Moses in the reeds.

The next service will be at 2.15pm on **Tuesday 10th December**, when we shall be looking forward to Christmas. All babies and young children, with an adult, are very welcome.

C. Mary Catt

Pre-Christmas Coffee Morning

The pre-Christmas free coffee morning will be held on **Saturday 21st December** in the Tom Hauley Room from 10.00am to 12.00noon. As in previous years the coffee, mince pies and cake will be free. The proceeds from the raffle will be given to the National Asthma Campaign to further their work in research into the causes and treatment of this distressing illness. Asthma affects approximately 5 million people in the UK. One in eight children currently suffer from the disease. If you have been involved in a coffee morning during the year or have simply supported them we would be very pleased to see you on the 21st.

Joyce Windsor

Laugh Line

Two men were discussing religion. One man said: *I don't have anything to do with things I don't understand.*

Have you had your breakfast this morning? asked the other. *Yes,* said the first, *but what's that got to do with religion?*

Did you have any butter on your toast? persisted his friend. *Yes,* replied the man, increasingly bewildered.

Well, can you tell me how a black and white cow eating green grass can make white milk that makes yellow butter? No, I can't, admitted the sceptic.

Well, his friend advised, I wouldn't have anything to do with breakfast then.

LADBROKE DIARY & NEWS

December

| | | |
|------|----|--|
| Sun | 9 | Advent 2 - Sung Communion 9am |
| Sat | 14 | Concert in All Saints' Church 7pm |
| Sun | 15 | Advent 3 - Sung Communion 9am |
| Sun | 22 | Advent 4 - Sung Communion 9am |
| Tues | 24 | CHRISTMAS EVE - Dressing of Crib 3.30pm |
| Wed | 25 | CHRISTMAS DAY - Sung Communion 11am |
| Sun | 29 | FIRST OF CHRISTMAS - Holy Communion 9am, Carol Service 6pm |

January 2003

| | | |
|-----|---|-------------------------------------|
| Sun | 5 | Epiphany - Family Communion 10.30am |
|-----|---|-------------------------------------|

Women's Fellowship

Our November meeting was held in the home of Beryl Ross and we were entertained by Mrs. Irene Cardall with a talk on the 23 pubs that had been in Southam over the past few decades. The talk was most informative and in fact revealed some most interesting facts about some of these Pubs and Coaching Inns.

We were told that in the last century we could have got a coach to London from Southam every day, and there were coaches to take us to Liverpool, Oxford, Cambridge at least once a week. Many thanks to Irene and we will most certainly be inviting her back for another talk in the future.

Samaritan's Purse Christmas Appeal. I was very pleased to receive 10 boxes for this very worthy cause. I delivered these to Kwik Fit for collection. Many thanks to all who supported this cause.

Our December meeting will be on **Wednesday 4th December**. We are having readings and Carols in Church before our Christmas Lunch (or should I say Banquet?) if you see the menu planned.

We are not having a meeting in January.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Jo Sowerby

All Saints' Church Ladbroke

Development Plan

The Halloween evening at our house on November 2nd was a great success and we raised £130.00 for the Fund – thanks to everyone who came and to those who came in fancy dress, which helped the evening go with a swing.

Photo below: Sue Halsall with Ethan and Esme Barr at the Christmas Fayre



The Christmas Fayre held on November 23rd was a great success and we raised nearly £700 including donations. Many thanks to all who donated Raffle prizes and items for the Tombola stall. A big thank you to all who gave up their time to help at the event.

The next event is the concert on **Saturday 14th December** – Seasonal concert by the Karousels in All Saints' Church Ladbroke at 7.00pm with light refreshments. Tickets £4 from Jo Sowerby (811749).

Jo Sowerby

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Ladbroke Village hall

The tenth draw of the Millennium Club was held on November 11th at The Bell Inn. The winners were: Ken Whiteley £80; Teresa Daly £25; Jo Elliott £25. Jenny Barrett, Andy Benzak, A. Dowdeswell, Ken Tancock and Avril Coust each won £10.

The next prize draw will be held on **December 9th** at The Bell Inn at 8pm. Please read the article from Mike Radburn regarding the future running of the Club.

Catherine Spence

Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Club

Catherine Spence has indicated to the Village Hall Committee that she would like to take a very well deserved rest from the onerous task of administering the Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Club.

The Millennium Club has been a very valuable source of income to the Village Hall, the committee is anxious to see it continue so as Treasurer I have volunteered to step into Catherine's shoes from January 2003.

It is the intention that the Club will continue very much as before, with only one small change. The majority of members arrange to pay their membership fees by standing order, which seems to be far and away the easiest method of payment. The bank does all the work, the fees are paid when they are due and there are no irritating phone calls, from the Treasurer, demanding money.

The view of the committee is that this should be the preferred method of payment for all members, as it makes life easier for all concerned. Therefore, from 1st January 2003, new members and members wishing to renew their membership are invited to do so by standing order. For those members who require them, the Club's bank details are available from me at Yew Tree Cottage, Ladbroke or by ringing 01926 817114.

Finally, on behalf of the committee I would like to thank Catherine for all her hard work and her contribution to the success of the Club.

Mike Radburn

Ladbroke Parish Council Report

The meeting of the Ladbroke Parish Council took place on 20th November in the Ladbroke Village Hall at 7.45pm.

Present were: County Cllr. Bob Stevens, District Cllr. Chris Williams, Cllrs, Peter Baker, Derek Batty, Richard Bennett and Janice Berry, Clerk Linda Doyle, Michael Boden Pritchett and two villagers

Apologies: Cllrs Peter Baker and Tim Sedan.

Chairman Richard Bennett signed the minutes of the committee meeting held on October 18th 2002.

The pole under Macklin Bridge is still in place.

Dog Fouling: The meeting was told that Mrs. Quartermaine (dog warden's dept at Stratford) had been to see the owners of the offending dogs on 28th October. The situation will now be closely monitored. Anyone seeing a dog roaming around the village or leaving their mess on footpaths or in other public places is asked to contact the clerk in writing.

Neighbourhood Watch Report: The police have been receiving calls from motorists advising that various animals have wandered from their fields and are on the road. Apart from this being an offence, it is highly dangerous and may cause an accident or a fatality to humans (not to mention the possible injury/fatality and vet's bill for the animals). If you do own a horse, cow, sheep etc. please check your fencing regularly.

European Environmental Controls, the company that uses high-pressure sales techniques to sell its security products, has been canvassing in the Gaydon area. From previous messages you will recall that their products do not have NACOSS approval (the industry standard for security products) and they are very expensive. We must keep our eye on our elderly residents who are usually the prime target for their sales teams.

Warwickshire Police has now installed voicemail. Everyone, including support staff and special constables has a mailbox. The police numbers that apply to Neighbourhood Watch are:

Southam Police Station: 01926 812366.

PS 374 Keith Brushett: Tel extension 5881, Voicemail Box No 1037

CEO 4509 Tracey Webb: Tel ext. 5880, Voicemail Box No 14509
PC564 Andy Went: Tel ext. 5882 or 5883, Voicemail Box No 10564
PC 561 Tony Saville: Tel ext. 5882 or 5883 Voicemail Box No 10561
PC 752 Nigel Hill: Tel ext. 5882 or 5883 Voicemail Box No 10752

Airport: A letter of objection has been sent to the County and District Councils expressing the Parish Council's opposition to the proposal to build an airport one and a half times larger than Heathrow at Rugby.

Warehouse: Land west of Kineton Road off Northfield Road, Kineton Road Industrial Estate, Southam. Three units for B1, B2 or B8 purposes. On 8th October 2002 members of the Dasset Area Planning Committee had referred this application back to the Planning and Regulation Committee with a recommendation that it be refused. The reasons for objection were (a) the scale of B8 use and traffic generation and (b) harm to landscape as a result of ridge height/bulk of buildings.

About one hundred people attended the meeting on 6th November at Southam College and listened to the debate during which the meeting was told that Excel had pulled out of the Southam project; the developer was asked three times to submit new plans for industrial B1 and B2 purposes only but declined to answer. The outcome went to the casting vote and Chairman Alan Akeister voted that the application be refused. The developer will now have to go to appeal or submit new plans.

Freedom of Information Act 2000: The Parish Council will adopt the Act and will submit a scheme to the Information Officer before the 31/12/02.

Footpath Report: Michael Boden Pritchett presented his Ground Report and Update No.21 – Autumn 2002 as follows:

The 'Countryside Symposium' hosted by Countryside and Recreation (Warwick), proved to be of great interest and extremely informative with regards to the changes in both legislation and policy. The opportunity to exchange with, and learn the views of other P3 organisations throughout the county was most beneficial, as, during these discussions it emerged that whilst some parishes undoubtedly enjoyed a 'healthy' following and support, Ladbroke and District was not entirely alone in the 'shrinking violet' league!!

Be that as it may, the general consensus of opinion was clearly unified in that whatever individual levels of active parish participation may be, the ethos of Peethree must be maintained. On the practical side, the meeting was updated as to the new preferred practices, with regard to field "accesses and openings". It transpired that, where suitable i.e. stock considerations being paramount, farmers were to be 'encouraged' to opt for Openings as opposed to stiles or gates in walls and hedgerows dividing the line of the r.o.w. This newer philosophy is aimed at encouraging the "lesser-abled" to better access the footpaths in and around developed areas in particular, and more open spaces in general, thus placing stiles at the bottom of the "preferred pecking-order". It remains to be seen whether farmers and landowners see this new initiative in quite the same, beneficial light!

SM92 and SM92a. *It has been noted that following agricultural operations, the surfaces of the bridleway/footpath across these fields have not been re-instated. County have been informed.*

SM33 and SM33a. *The new x-roads signpost is currently awaiting installation, pending receipt of details of the proposed new gateway betwixt the churchyard and the Village Farm field, from the Clerk to the P.C.C.*

The meeting closed at 10.20 pm and the next Parish Council meeting arranged for **Wednesday 15th January 2003** at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall, Ladbroke.

Janice Berry

Ladbroke Neighbourhood Watch

Between 8pm and 8.30pm on Thursday 21st November a female resident of Church Road, Long Itchington answered her front door to a young male person who started a conversation with: *A cat has been killed by a car.* Whilst talking with the man someone else entered the rear of the house and stole a purse containing monies and credit cards etc.

Description of male at the door: White male, between 16 and 23 years of age, 5' 8" tall, slightly curly dark brown hair, clean shaven, medium build wearing a dark loose fitting jacket possibly dark trousers and having a well spoken voice.

A similar type of burglary occurred last week at Napton, these people are about in our area and tend to prey on the elderly, so please take special care when dealing with callers at your door. They may not be genuine!!



Janice Berry

Harbury Parish Council Meeting - November

Co-opted Cllr. Tony Mancell was welcomed with unconcealed delight and promptly appointed Chair of the Finance Sub-Committee. His first task will be to set the precept!

The Council puzzled over the labyrinthine complexities of "amenity verge mowing" when the DISTRICT, which has the contract from the COUNTY offered the PARISH the opportunity to take on the task and be reimbursed up to the limit of what it would cost the DISTRICT to do the job. Sharon Hancock pointed out that not only did the Parish need to know what money was on offer but also it had to find out which bits of grass the District had intended to mow!

Deppers Bridge residents Dutch Van Spall reported were pleased with the effect of the traffic calming, but he admitted there were teething problems. There had already been an accident. Cllr. Kevin Biddle wanted the warning signs illuminated but the Chairman said that would be too expensive. John Moore of Walworth Farm told the Council the chicane was too narrow to take his farm machinery.

A resident's claim that part of the hawthorn boundary hedge at the playing fields is damaging the foundations of his garage will be investigated. Another burial grounds tree has fallen and two more need the attention of the Council's tree surgeon.

Planning. Stratford District Council had approved: the felling of conifers at 19, and 17, Farm Street; the pruning of the Walnut Tree in Wagstaffe Close and eight trees at Montgomery House, Mill Lane. Extensions at The Rugby Club; 9 Frances Road, and a conservatory at 18, Frances Road. It refused permission for an extension at 7, Pineham Avenue and the change of use from agricultural to garden use of land to the rear of the Lodge off Hall Lane.

The Parish Council made no representation to: an extension at 9, Frances Road; interior alterations at the Crown; an ATM aerial at the Co-op, and the removal and replanting of a hedge in the grounds of the Manor House.

The Parish Council supported the outline planning application from Mr. and Mrs. Trice for a house to the rear of their farm buildings in Mill Street with access onto Mill Lane. They commented that the planned extension to 39, Manor Road was not of a sufficiently good design and on the Appeal at Hazebrook, Dovehouse Lane, where a new dwelling was refused. The Council reiterated their concern that vehicles should not have to back into the narrow road.

At the Chairman's insistence the Parish agreed to support the County Council's plans to enforce the removal of illegally tipped waste at Old Barn Farm (which is in Ladbroke Parish). The matter of the new dwelling created in the grounds of Saddlers, Chapel Street, was referred to the Planning Enforcement Officer at Stratford D.C.

Dutch Van Spall reported that the Southam Distribution Centre had been refused permission but this could be the subject of an Appeal. County Councillor Booth provided a plan of the "Quality Freight Partnership Routes" still to be approved that could ensure that heavy lorries were directed away from small rural settlements.

The Parish Council's response to the Airport Consultation rejected the Rugby site on environmental, social, economic and transport grounds. The Review Survey is being analysed and the results will be displayed. John Drinkwater warned that tarmac gangs were operating in the area. Cars are still driving the wrong way up the One Way System.

Skateboard Project. Cllr. Janet Thornley had taken young people to see a variety of surfaces at Bristol and Cwmbryn. The "Funbox" had been repaired and re-sited. Janet and the Clerk met contractors to discuss the repair or replacement of pieces of play equipment. They will secure more quotes and take advantage of grant aid from Stratford DC. Dutch Van Spall suggested the Precept might have to rise again in 2003 to pay for this and other improvements.

Tennis Project. Cllr. Thompson explained a machine had been installed to take the tokens that switched on the floodlights for those who wanted to "play tennis in the dark". The security light would illuminate the machine so they could see to do this.

Linda Ridgley

Harbury Society



As I feared last month's gales caused the loss of another old friend. No, not Nigel! He has moved on to higher things!

The Weeping Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior pendula*) next to Victoria House, which framed the views at the end of Farm Street, was so badly damaged that it had to be felled.

This, coupled with the removal to two conifers in the gardens of numbers 17 & 19 makes it a very austere and plain vista.

We are highlighting the contribution that our trees make to the feeling of being in a village in the countryside with our display at the Christmas Fayre where we also have a Quiz based on Harbury's trees.

Having had the disappointment of two cancelled events this season we are all looking forward to the Christmas Social in the Shakespeare on **December 18th** and the traditional New Year Guided Walk led by Ed Wilson and John Smith.

We are still working on the number crunching of the Review Survey and hope to hold a public exhibition of the results in late January. For February 25th Mr Howe is giving a talk on Partners of Prime Ministers.

Finally, the Consultation Period on the Airport has been extended, so if you have not yet given the government the benefit of your views on their proposals you still have time to have your say.

Linda Ridgley



Harbury Women's Institute

November was the AGM. We welcomed Mrs. Marie Coleman from County who officiated and Mrs. Anne Edwards from Ladbroke WI. Mrs. Jean Abrahams has been an excellent President for the past two years. She takes on the important job of Treasurer, replacing Mrs. Peggie Middleton who has stepped down. Peggie had been Treasurer for many years and we will miss her. Mrs. Dorothy Groves is the new President and we wish her well in her term of office.

The usual seasonal party will be held in January 2003.

A reminder to members to remember the present for the December meeting.

The speaker in January will be Mrs. Marian Millington on *Her Life and Work in Baluchistan*.

Seasons Greetings to all Readers

Jeanne Beaumont

Harbury Theatre Group Panto

Christmas began early in Harbury with Dame Dumpling's mince pies at the Village Hall when the theatre group gave us an entertaining evening with their production of *The Christmas Cavalier*.

With the prospect of Christmas being cancelled and mince pies, parties and carols banned by Cromwell, the audience participated with hisses and boos aimed at the wicked Witchfinder General Nicholas Grimnasty played at his evil best by Trevor Grundy ably assisted by Caroline Dormer as the not quite as wicked Matthew Smallpiece. We laughed at the antics of Dame Dumpling the role being in the capable hands of Keith Hayes complete with large pink knickers and ample bosom. The three witches added colour and humour to the show as did the identical twin soldiers played with great timing by George Price and Robert Waterman, but which was which??

The depth of talent displayed from the very experienced to the very young was a pleasure to behold making it difficult to pick out individuals. Everybody was on top form, which meant that the only prompts were those given, by the Page, to the audience who responded with great gusto.

The whole production, directed by Pat Taylor, benefited greatly from excellent effects and musical accompaniment, with the village children and the Jean Champ dancers adding a charming sparkle to the evening. The producer Sue Exton merits special mention for her inspired casting of the unnamed actor who played the bear!!

A very enjoyable evening deserving congratulations to all who were involved in any way in the production and those of you who did not attend missed a real treat. Well done Theatre Group.

Dorothy & John Travis

Harbury Folk Club

November's theme was Reflection and Refraction. It was an evening of light entertainment, which included references to rivers, baldness and even by a stretch of imagination painting with light (swipe me)! A colourful spectrum of talent where the laws of physics and dare I say tone were challenged and distorted by some. The exception were the Band of Folk who somehow went off at a tangent and developed their own theme of fractions that just didn't add up, totally missing the focal point.

Many thanks to Pete Grassby for his complex, but ecologically sound raffle system, which raised not a crock of gold, but a worthy £28.00 for leukaemia research.

On reflection, not too bad an evening. December's theme is Christmas, an untimely challenge for anyone.

John Black

Folk Club and Morris Side Carol Singing

For a number of years now, the Morris Side and the Folk Club have joined forces to sing Carols around the pubs in the villages and collect for a local charity. This year we will continue this tradition during the evening of **Friday 20th December**, subject to permission from the appropriate landlord being forthcoming. We will be collecting for the Leamington Christian Mission (Steph & Jeff).

Peter Bones

Harbury Pre-School

During the month of November the children continued talking about the senses, and particularly concentrated on hearing. Activities included trying to guess what different sounds were on a pre-recorded audiotape, and making telephones with tin cans and string.



They have learnt about the Jewish celebration of Hanukkah, which takes place in December. The activity has specifically developed the children's counting skills, when we lit a new candle on each day, up until the 8th day.

During December the children will learn about nativity, and use role-play to act out the story. They will also be looking forward to their Christmas Party to be held on Friday 20th December.

Playbox Theatre Trip. The Pre-school have organised a trip to the children's Playbox Theatre in Warwick on **Thursday 6th February 2003**. Playbox is a children's professional theatre company that organises theatre activities and plays for children from age 2 upwards. Playbox will be running a small workshop specifically for Pre-school at their theatre. The children will have a tour of the theatre, try face paints, go on a proper stage, try on costumes and join in with singing.

We are pleased to say that this fantastic outing will be completely free of charge for all Pre-school children – the proceeds from our November coffee morning and the forthcoming Christmas Disco will

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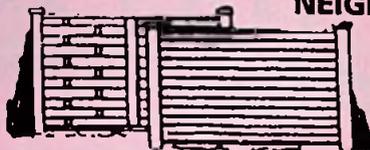
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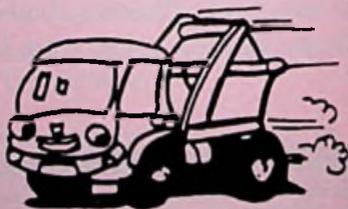
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pay for this event and the coach.

Assisted Places Scheme. We realise that affording fees for those younger children who have not yet reached the age to qualify for Government funding (voucher scheme), can be a bit of a stretch. We have decided therefore to introduce an Assisted Places Scheme that will help those parents who need some financial assistance to send their child to Pre-school. If any parent wishes to apply, they should feel free to discuss this with directly Jane Kempton our (Chairperson). There would be a limited number of places, and certain criteria would apply. Assisted places will be kept confidential and only known to the Chairperson and the Treasurer. Jane's no. is 613786.

Under 5's Christmas Disco – Saturday 7th December. The under 5's disco is on Saturday 7th December at the Village Club. The disco starts at 5pm and ends at 6.30, entrance fee is £2.50 per child on the door. The price includes a drink, crisps, a present from Father Christmas, games and dancing. Plus face painting will be available at £1.00 per child. Glo-in-the-dark jewellery will also be for sale!

The disco is open to all children under 5 years, who must be accompanied by an adult – so please spread the word – over 70 children attended this event last Christmas – and it was a real success. Lana Long is the organiser, so please don't hesitate to ring Lana on 613311 if you require further information.

Beatles Tribute Night. Everyone - keep **Saturday 8th March** free in your diaries for another fantastic Beatles Tribute Night brought to you at Harbury Village Hall. This will be another night to remember – last April we sold an amazing 130 tickets and the hall was rocking! We have again managed to hire the famous Beatles tribute band Prefab 4 – The band performed by Royal request at the late Queen Mother's 100th birthday celebration in London. Prefab 4 recreate the Beatles hits with uncanny accuracy. The reproduction of songs from 'Twist and Shout' to 'She Loves You' to 'Saw Her Standing There' really capture the atmosphere of 'The Cavern'.

So put the 8th March in your diary and tickets are already on sale at £12.50 each available from Lana Long on 01926 613311.

Halloween Party. We would like to thank Kary Hunt for holding a Halloween Party during half term, £70 was raised for Harbury Pre-school. This handsome sum will be put towards the re-surfacing of the outdoor play area.

Term Dates 2002/2003. The children break up for Christmas on Friday 20th December, returning to Pre-school on Wednesday 8th January 2003.

Jane Kempton is the new Chair of Harbury Pre-school. Should anyone wish to contact Jane her phone number is 01926 613786 – alternatively, you can drop a note through Jane's door at 'Helen Owen House', Mill Street.

Happy Christmas! From all the staff at the Pre-School – Yvette, Lisa, Jill, Kate and Cassie, and the Pre-School Committee, we wish everyone a happy Christmas and a successful New Year.

Harbury Pre-School Staff and Committee

Harbury Primary School

Remembrance Day. Many thanks for everyone's attendance at this poppy day assembly in All Saints' Church. The children did a fantastic job as performers, singers and congregation! We aim to gradually develop some feeling of understanding within children as a way of appreciating the sacrifice of others. It is obviously an adult concept but we have to start young and build.

Coombe Park. *"When we got to school we got changed. Then we got on the coach and off we went. On the way we told stories and songs. When we got there we went in the woods with a man called Doug. He gave every team a pole. We got sticks and leaves and we put them on. Then he got his watering can. We went inside and he pored water on the shelter. Then we went for lunch. After we did art in nature. We got lots of leaves and fruits. We fed the ducks. We played in the playground. Then we got 4 things, we made pictures, and we did rubbings of leaves. Then we got on the coach and we went back."* by Rebecca Marston.

All the children did a superb piece of writing about their visit, and all obviously had a really great day.

Art. Art continues to have a high profile. A number of children had their work on display at the recent John Turner Festival organized by Southam Lions. The exhibition was held at Southam College and there was a superb range of talent on show. Congratulations to those

children whose work was chosen – Emily Evans, Joanna Sykes, Alexander Tawney, Emily Davis, Jessica Holden, Adrian Van Kesteren, Christopher Barker-Wall, Alex Vincent, Emily Corkhill, Nicole Wilkes, Eleanor Clarke, Jack Rae, Kerry Dorning, Hannah McCluskey, Mhari Gibb, Isobel King.

Parking. We seem to be getting the old habits back again and have some people parking outside the school entrance, which is inherently dangerous, and others obstructing drives in various parts of the village. Please walk to school if possible or park in the Shakespeare Pub car park and use Back Lane to get into school. We would appreciate it if the parents of children attending Nursery also fit in with this pattern please.

Thanks. Many thanks to Southam Carpets & Curtains who have recently become the sponsors of our cross country teams as well as soccer team. The boys and girls all ran in their new red athletic vests, paid for by Southam Carpets and Curtains, and these will be a feature for future races.

Gymnastics. We have an excellent gymnastics club at school run by the Coventry Olympic Gymnastics Club. This meets every Monday evening from 6:00 to 8:00. For more information see one of the children who already attends or telephone the chief coach Téx Coton 024 7647 0012

Scanner. Many thanks to Mrs. Kathleen Ellis for the kind donation of a scanner. This is an excellent addition to our ICT hardware. Our present position is extremely healthy from the computer aspect (thanks largely to the PTA and parental support).

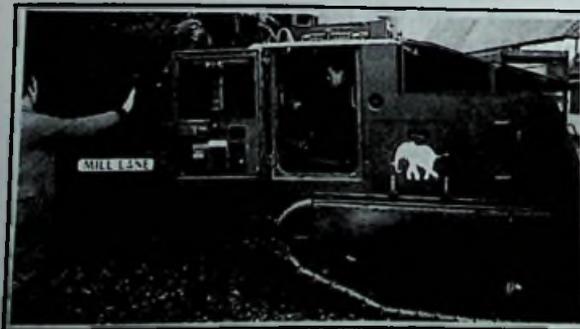
Staffing. After a round of interviews, Mr Chapman and the governors have offered the post of class teacher for two terms to Mr. Jonathan Vincent. Mr Vincent has taught in Rugby and Kenilworth and has recently been working in Australia. He will take up his appointment from the beginning of January 2003 and take Avon (Year 5) for the two terms while Mr. Chapman takes over the role of Headteacher.

Paul Milner

Bonfire Night 2002



Harbury's Missile Launcher



Transported by a low loader, Harbury's tank enthusiast Tony Jackson receives an ex-army anti-aircraft missile launcher together with scout car.

Mike Bloxham

Southam Lions

Father Christmas on his float will be in Harbury on **Wednesday 11th December** from 6.15 - 8.30pm.

Collection will be in aid of: Warwick Hospital Children's Ward, Helen House Children's Hospice, Whizz Kids.



Christmas Post

GASS are once again offering a Christmas Postal Service within the village. The collection box will be in Muggleston's from **Sunday 1st December** until **Friday 20th December**.

We are hoping people will make a generous donation for this service as we are in desperate need of extra funds to complete some essential repair works to the Scout Hut. This year has seen a complete revamp of the hall itself, but we still have a long way to go.

Many thanks to all those who turned out and supported our fireworks event. Despite the weather we all had a great time even those who spent the day building the bonfire in the rain!

We are hoping everyone will be equally supportive of our Christmas Postal Service. Let our feet do the walking!

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas

GASS Committee



Carol Singing

A small-supervised group of children would like to sing Carols in Harbury during the **week of December 16th**. If anyone would be interested in them calling to sing (maybe not always tunefully!) please get in touch. This is obviously weather dependent, but we would try to get to you. The children would like any money that they make to go to the RSPCA. Many thanks.

Susan Graydon 612479

Harbury Primary School - PTA

The P.T.A. Committee would like to thank all those who participated in the recent Quiz Night making it another successful event run by the PTA 24 teams entered the Quiz which resulted in an enjoyable evening with a total of £380.00 being raised towards funds. Our congratulations go to winning team 'The Black Sheep' and commiserations to 'The Combrook Crew' for walking away with the wooden spoon. Many thanks go to Linda and Mark Casement for all their hard work in preparing the questions and being Quiz Master for the evening!

Don't forget the Primary School Children's Disco on Friday 13th December, Infants start 6:15 - 7:15, Juniors 7:30 to 9.00pm.

PTA Committee

Parking in Mill Street

There have been reports of cars parking at the top end of Mill Street in a manner so as to make it difficult for traffic to pass. Can I ask that people who wish to park in this area please show some thought for others and leave their cars parked in a position that will not obstruct the flow of traffic.

P.C. David Hill

Broadband anyone?

My partner Dave and I have just returned to Deppers Bridge after living in the US for three years. Whilst there we subscribed to a broadband service which enabled us to access the internet without having to wait ages for things like pictures to download. Broadband is both cheaper and much faster than ISDN, and in addition it's always connected.

When we returned to the UK we were delighted to find that broadband is available here too. WRONG! In order to take advantage of this service, the local telephone exchange needs to be upgraded. The Harbury one (and, I suspect many other rural exchanges) has not been upgraded, nor is it likely until significant numbers of people in the area register an interest in it. In the absence of Broadband, the

options are ordinary telephone line or the faster (but much more expensive) ISDN line. Where available, Broadband is both faster and cheaper than ISDN.

If you have a computer at home with which you access either email or the internet, and would be interested in faster more convenient access, please help us out by visiting <http://www.broadband1.bt.com> and registering your interest.

Thanks in advance for your participation.

Lynne Cooke and Dave Shuttleworth

Harbury Twinning Association

The AGM of the Twinning Association was held in the Tom Hauley Room on November 12th with an excellent attendance by members.

David Winter, who has been Chairman for the last three years retired and will be much missed (not least for his fluent French!). In his final report, he highlighted the relationships that have developed between families in Samoia and Harbury, and the many 'private' visits that now take place. He thanked Ruth and Alan Guy for organising a successful school visit in June, much enjoyed by both parents and children.

A new committee was then elected. Chairman, Sharon Hancock; Vice Chairman, James Turner; Treasurer, Karen Ellis; Secretary, Sally Stringer; French Secretary, Jacqueline Clarke; Management Committee, Janet Thornley (Social Secretary), Alan Guy, Colin Humphries, Moira Lamont, Tim Millington, and Andrew Patrick.

We are all looking forward to a visit from our friends in Samoia from 1st to 4th of May next year, and we have a number of social and fund raising events planned starting with our Christmas Party on December 13th. New members are always welcome and you do not need to be a good French speaker. Despite being the new Chairman, my French is poor (I blame Whitmarsh – does anyone else remember those delightful text books?), but I have found that with goodwill on both sides communication is not a problem. Please do contact me at 32, Mill Street, if you are interested in joining.

Sharon Hancock

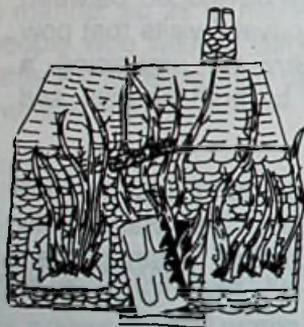
Alarming and Disastrous Fire at Harbury

Last month was printed the first part of a Courier article detailing the burning down of Mrs. Knight's store in 1888. This is the building now housing the Post office and Stores. If you missed the first part and would like a copy, please feel free to call into the School, and we will let you have a copy of the whole article (for a fiver!).

This second part is remarkable for the fact that someone had to go down to the railway line to send a telegram to Leamington, which would then have been relayed to the fire station (which is where the Polish Club was on High Street until recently).

Also, the firemen started to pull the engine by hand along the Radford Road, because the horses weren't ready – I bet that was a comical sight – were they shouting dee-dah-dee-dah? When they reached the blaze, three hours had elapsed, so it's hardly surprising that the fire had virtually given up waiting and burnt itself out.

Nigel Chapman



Shortly before 11 it was found that the Southam Brigade were unable to successfully cope with the burning shop, and a telegram was sent to Leamington by the Great Western Railway authorities for assistance. The alarm bell at the old Town Hall was tolled, and at 10 minutes past 11 Captain Orton and six of his men had the manual engine out ready to proceed to Harbury, but owing to the want of horses they were unable to do so at once. They waited until 20 minutes past 11, when, no horses being forthcoming, the men started to pull the engine along the Radford Road. When they had proceeded as far as the Oak Inn, the horses overtook them, and after they had been harnessed to the engine they started onward at a rapid rate, reaching the scene of the fire about midnight. The fire, to some extent, had burnt itself out, and the Leamington men remained for a couple of hours rendering such assistance as they could. They discovered a well in the vicarage grounds, and pumping from this into the Southam engine a fairly continuous stream of water was directed

on the burning building. The fire continued to blaze at the back of the premises until nearly five o'clock, but half an hour afterwards it was so far extinguished that the Southam firemen were able to return home, leaving two of their men in charge.

The house and shop, which were the property of Mr. J.G. York, draper, of Bath Street, Leamington, were entirely destroyed, and the damage is estimated at nearly £800. The whole of the property and the stores were insured in the Northern Insurance Office. A very erroneous report found its way into the Birmingham Daily Mail and Post. The statement that the Co-operative stores and two adjoining cottages were destroyed by fire is altogether wrong. The premises of the Co-operative Society are more than 100 yards from where the fire took place, and, of course, remained intact. The secretary has, however, received a number of letters, expressing sympathy. The business premises destroyed by the fire were designated "Knight's General Stores," but were in no way connected with the Co-operative Society.

With Christmas coming up, I thought it would be a good idea to share some of the articles sent into school with children some years ago. They were asked to interview older residents of the village, and talk to them about Christmas when THEY were children. This was done about 15 years ago I imagine, when the children were about 11 years old – (with the onset of forgetful antiquity I've no REAL idea)- but I might be miles out.

The first article was brought in by Gail Davis who is Ada Perry's niece. The other was brought in by Vincent Crossan, Helen Pratt's nephew.

Illustration by George Coady, our artist in residence.

Nigel Chapman



In 1925, Christmas started 5 days before, to prepare Christmas puddings, fetching beef suet from Alcock's the Butcher, and chopping away. We fetched half a pint of beer or stout to mix it. The bottle always had a label stuck

over the top, which was law. Messer's shop in the Bullring sold all sorts of Christmas goodies, so for the tree we bought sugar mice and pigs, chocolate pennies in a net bag and chocolate clocks. There were small candles in tiny tin candlesticks to clip to the tree all assorted colours. Christmas Eve was carol singing, and to light up we had bicycle lamps that burned carbide. Of course we always only had pennies given to us. Then we would hang our stockings on the old brass bed knobs, the stockings being black as they were what was always worn.

Our presents were apple, orange, nuts and always a pair of gloves. Our Christmas tree was always put up on Christmas Eve and it was hung from a beam in the ceiling.

Boxing Day, if snowy and icy was spent sliding on the pond in Temple End, now all grassed down!

Then we only had paraffin lamps stood in the middle of the table, which had to be filled every day.

On Christmas Night we would play Tiddly Winks, Draughts, or Strip Jack with cards even hiding a button. Christmas Dinner was always beef, our ovens being too small for poultry.

At night my brothers would bring in their pals to have supper and we always had a huge stone jar, which held about 12 lbs of onions, which would be pickled, and potatoes baked.

There was a School concert in the Wight School. Two classrooms were divided by a lot of panels, but for concerts, etc. they were taken down to make one large room.

Quite a few Christmases I went to the big house called Greenhill. The servants' sisters and brothers were invited for tea, then we had games like Blind Man's Buff, also guessing, when blindfolded, whose lap you sat on. The only way we could get there was to walk, 1 ¼ miles. That concluded our holiday, so home and light our candle and toddle to bed with a crock hot water bottle.

Mrs. Ada Perry (Gail Davis' great aunt)





Our Christmas Parties in the 1930's and 1940's.

Parties were a great occasion when I was young, so you can well imagine everyone looked forward to them weeks beforehand. There was a party for all children in the Dance Hall which was situated in Ivy Lane, one in the Old Vicarage for Sunday School children, and one at the Chapel School Room for their children, but the one which I liked best was The Cement Works Children's Party. My father, Percy Hopkins, was employed there. We were taken from Harbury to the Memorial Hall at Bishop's Itchington by Edwards Coaches. Everyone of us had our names and addresses pinned onto our coats. There we joined children from other villages.

We had lots of food and drinks, and after tea the Manager, Mr. Bulton joined in games and singing. On leaving we were given a present of the huge Christmas tree. Then it was back on the coach for home.

Mrs. Helen Pratt

Musings from a Country Garden (5)

DOGS - Buster. Stan was a 'dog' person and I am a 'cat' person. When we came to Ladbroke, we were both working full time so pets were out of the question. However, our nextdoor neighbours, at that time, were Jo and Mike and they had a lovely large black poodle. He soon got used to the fact that we loved him. He used to come round regularly and actually KNOCK the back door. We were amazed. We opened the door and he *barged in* (the only words that describe his entrance) and flopped out on the rug in front of the fire in the sitting room. We got permission to give him just *one* bone-type dog biscuit and that was it. Frequently he had to be collected and *taken* home. He was lovely - his name was Buster.

MARSH TITS. The Marsh tits, which I noticed were on the list of potentially rare species in the newspaper, are very frequent visitors at Bell View. Indeed, there are four of them. They are SO tame, they let me talk to them whilst they are eating on the bird table - they are beautiful, gentle, birds. It is quite a thrill to watch them. There is very little difference between the Marsh Tit and the Willow Tit - apart from

their song, but I read the other day that Willow Tits are not bird table eaters, so that is another distinguishing feature.

THE WINTER FEAST. Now to the mediaeval winter feast held by the light of the full moon in the middle of November. The year Stan died, I was smitten with an idea whereby I could thank, at the same time, all the friends that had helped me get through the first 9 months without going quite mad. Much more exciting, I thought, than buying 40 pots of daffodil bulbs! I asked Brenda my diagonal neighbour and friend, if invited, would she come to a party in the garden in mid-winter? She said without hesitation "yes of course". So, in June we started to make plans for a barbecue with a difference. We had a byre and a conservatory, which would seat about forty people, so I went ahead and sent out invitations. We had 38 acceptances plus many offers to help with the food. This consisted of two large barbecues and a wide variety of casseroles: hot soup; fish pies; cottage pies; spiced Moroccan potato wedges; curries; chilli con carne plus, of course, hot dogs. In view of the time of year hot punch was considered a suitable drink and for 'afters' hot, iced, Austrian Torte, cut into squares, served with thick cream and coffee or tea to drink. No problems there.

Another friend offered an awning which, when attached to the byre would seat all thirty-eight people, in the same area. Mike, my clever next door neighbour wired up the music system around the garden - Vivaldi; Bach, Correlli and country dances issued forth - nothing modern or too boisterous. Additional lighting was by way of candles in jars hanging from the trees. It looked idyllic. Someone else made a video of the whole evening. Father Roy looked mediaeval in his Priest's black cloak and biretta. The rest of us were dressed in woolly hats, scarves, gloves, thick winter coats and fur boots. Everyone helped in some way or another and the evening was simply splendid. We had a brazier at the entrance to the byre - this glowed red throughout the evening and it certainly dispersed the heat satisfactorily. The conservatory was decorated to look like a bistro and was heated. I rather hoped that it would snow but it didn't, but the moon was full, it was cold and it was a super *different* kind of evening. There was a lot of laughter and chatter as you can imagine.

Why not try Christmas dinner in the garden this year? I can certainly recommend it although, to be honest, I never did get Stan to agree to it. I cannot understand why.

Next month - Bell View CATS - gorgeous creatures!

Elsa Greenway

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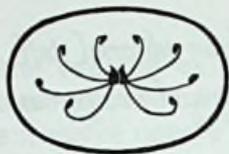
REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS: Ring 614119 please give 24 hours notice

TEST RESULTS: Ring 612232 between 11.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m.

DISTRICT NURSE: Ring Southam 815045

HEALTH VISITOR: Ring Southam 815045

**EXCEPT IN AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE DO NOT RING OUTSIDE SURGERY HOURS
THE SURGERY IS CLOSED ON SUNDAYS AND BANK HOLIDAYS**



Horticultural Society

Mrs. Susan Rhodes' talk last month: *The Restoration of the Lord Leycester Hospital Garden* was enthusiastic, entertaining and informative. That must have been quite a compost heap covering the pineapple growing house!

This year the AGM was after the talk and all executed very smoothly. The existing committee stays on, they are as follows: Chair, Mrs. Judy Morrell; Treasurer, Mr. John Clifford; Secretary, Mrs. Daphne Clifford; Show Secretary, Mrs. Janice Siddle; Mr. Alan Barr, Mrs. Heather Turner, Mrs. Pat Smith, Ron and Muriel Grey.

Sincere thanks were expressed for all the work done by Mrs. Eleanor Zonik over the past 26 years.

As usual the seed catalogues make for comfort reading this time of year, and would everyone please submit their orders and monies to Mrs. Heather Turner no later than the next meeting on **December 3rd**, the last meeting of this year, so that she may do the necessary processing and send off our orders in time for an early delivery?

Please keep an eye on our notice boards for participating Garden Centres etc. which offer discounts on production of your 2002/03 membership and before the sale is rung up on the till, if you wish to claim your discount. If by any chance you have not yet paid your subscription, £3 each person, I am sure John Clifford will be pleased to see you! Also please bear in mind other local Nurseries, etc. which, although they don't offer discounts, have keen prices and friendly, knowledgeable service.

At the January meeting Pat Smith will circulate a clipboard for talks subjects for the 2003/04 season, so bring your ideas please. How about a visit to Ryton Gardens during the school holidays? They are open every day but not Christmas Day. Tickets from Mrs. Zonik, Childyke, Mill Lane (612365).

NB: Just in case the January issue has not been distributed in time, the next talk will be given by our old friend Mr. Brian Cook on **Tuesday 7th January 2003** and will be entitled: *Plants for Difficult Situations*.

Finally may I take this opportunity to wish the hard working editorial staff and all our members a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Muriel Grey

Gardening Notes

As I write the garden is very soggy but still producing flowers of the late summer, penstemons, roses and clematis. It is hard to turn to thoughts of winter and Christmas but that is where we must go. Gardening will be put on one side for a few weeks but there are a few jobs to do.

On dry days hoe any weeds and particularly watch for nettles, which can go on growing all winter. This is a good time to prepare the ground for new beds by digging in rotted compost. Mulch Christmas roses with bark chippings to protect the flowers from mud splatter. Top up the gravel mulch around alpine plants especially around the necks to help drainage.

Plants with woolly leaves or rosettes may need a cover to keep off rain, which can rot them.

Check any plants planted earlier, firm the soil around them and check stakes and ties. Remove any dead or untidy growth and any tree branches, which may rub in the wind, as this gives a site where disease can enter. Prune apple and pear trees and give them a winter wash to kill moss and over-wintering pests. Feed and mulch currant bushes and inspect blackcurrants for big bud. Cut out branches bearing these swollen buds and destroy them. This is a good time to plant conifer hedges. Dig in plenty of compost to retain moisture. Even in damp weather water well and mulch. Deciduous hedging can be planted as bare-rooted plants.

Look around for anything to use as Christmas decorations. Hydrangea heads and other seed heads can be paint sprayed. Collect cones and berries before the birds get to them. About a week before Christmas bring in some forsythia stems and they should flower before the end of the month. Cut holly, ivy and evergreens for decorations

and wreaths as late as possible. Christmas trees also need water, even the ones without roots, a 5ft. tree needs 1pt. per day. To prevent excessive needle drop, add a teaspoon of Phostrogen to the water.

Rake lawns and aerate badly drained areas, top dress with sandy loam, worked in with a stiff broom or spring tine rake. Clear leaves from ponds and float a ball on the water to keep an ice-free spot. Continue to dig vegetable plots adding manure where peas, beans and onions will be grown. Place cloches over winter lettuce and parsley. Lift beetroot and a few root crops in case the ground becomes frozen. Before the end of the month garlic should go in. The soil can be warmed, by covering with black plastic, for early planting of broad beans. Prepare the greenhouse for winter, clean and prepare heaters. Remove debris from gutters on the greenhouse, shed, and house. Clean cold frames to ensure maximum light.

Regularly check summer bulbs and tubers that are in store. Also check stored fruit and vegetables. We are entering a difficult time for birds so regularly put out food and water. Hang a feeder in a fruit tree and whilst waiting their turn tits will eat over-wintering pests. Bread or apple on the lawn may encourage blackbirds and starlings to forage for leather jackets. All birds love bacon rinds. Clean out nest boxes and they may be used as night roosts.

Check any outdoor taps for leaks and lag exposed pipes and taps. Turn off the water supply. Finally wipe tools with an oily rag, clean the lawn mower and plan next year's garden!

Plant of the month - Mistletoe

This hardy, evergreen, parasitical plant has become as much a part of Christmas as holly. Girls believed they would remain 'old maids' if they were not kissed under the shiny white berries. Indeed kissing in public under the mistletoe was taken as a proposal of marriage.

Viscum album, or mistletoe, grows in trees across Europe and N. Asia. Apple and hawthorn are the preferred hosts but poplar, lime, maple and rowan will also support the globular cluster of forked twigs, which can grow to several feet across. Pale yellow-green flowers in spring produce the fruits on the female plants in the autumn. It is only in Britain that it is traditionally used in December, so the French farmers are delighted to get rid of this parasite from their orchards. However it has been used in herbal medicines since the Dark Ages for curing itch, sores, toothache and the bites of mad dogs and venomous snakes!

Today it is being investigated for anti-cancer properties.

The association with the Druids meant it was banned from churches. Legend has it that the mistletoe was the tree on which Christ was crucified so it was cursed to become a weak parasite.

To grow your own, cut a notch in the bark on the underside of a suitable branch and press in a berry, which you keep in a plastic bag until March. The sticky flesh surrounding the seed hardens and secures the seed in place. It then takes three months to germinate and many seeds are not viable, so you may have to wait another year. Plants seldom fruit before 7 years, so accept that you may as well go on supporting French farmers!

Pat Smith

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS



Dear Editors

We would like to thank all our friends and neighbours for their sympathy, cards and flowers following the death of our mother, Mrs. Ethel Kendall.

Thanks also to Father Roy for his kind words at the funeral service.

John and Peter Kendall

Dear Editors

Although my mother did not live in Harbury for a very long time, it is apparent from the number of cards and messages of condolence received following her recent death that the friends she made were kind and thoughtful.

My father, sister and I are grateful to all those who helped out when she was

being looked after at home, and we want to say thank you to everyone for their support at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

Colin Snowden

Dear Editors

My reign as Chairperson of Harbury Pre-school has ended but I feel the need to thank a number of people for their support during the last two years. My thoughts go back to Shelia Malin, who put in a great deal of time and effort when we were starting to build the Pre-School up to the great success it is now; her involvement was invaluable. Then there are the parents who have all consistently rallied round providing their ideas, help with fund raising activities and encouragement. There are too many individuals to mention, but your support has been phenomenal, thank you!

I would like to thank my fellow committee members who have been outstanding, and even when the going got tough, luckily, they did not get going. We all pulled together and have achieved so much in a relatively short time. Whilst on our way to the AGM two years ago with Yvette Tanner, we made a pact that we would not get too involved - I left as Chairperson and Yvette became the Pre-School leader! However, one thing that the outgoing Chairman said then, and has remained with me still, was "I have made some great friends" and I can say that I have done exactly the same.

Last but by no means least the staff deserves an incredibly big mention. Without their commitment and determination Pre-school would not be what it is today. I would like to thank Jeanette Andrews who worked with us last year, and some retired members of the village who helped out in the classroom. Leading to the current staff of Yvette Tanner, Jill Davies, Lisa Helliwell, Kate

Wilson and supporting us throughout Cassie Gibb and Claire Coady.

Pre-School is a great asset to the village and I have every confidence that the new committee will take it even further. So please, do get involved even if only a little, the reward is certainly great. Just look at Pre-School now!

Jo Simpson

Dear Editors

Reminder: I am still collecting used ink cartridges and old mobile phones for the Macmillan Nurses' charity. With Christmas fast approaching many of you will be receiving new mobiles, so please bring your old ones to me. Every little helps. Thank you.

Liz Bunting 2 Dovehouse Lane, Harbury

Dear Editors

Many thanks to all those in the village who sponsored me on my High-Wire jump from the top of Warwick University Car Park in aid of Macmillan Cancer relief. The final total raised was £1,230, half of which came from friends locally. This is a great cause, and your support was much appreciated.

Every good wish

Angela Bushill-Matthews

Dear Editors

May we take this opportunity to thank all our friends and family for helping us to celebrate the christening of our daughter Katie-Ann Lowe. A special Thank You to Father Roy Brown for the lovely service at Harbury Parish

Church, and thanks to Andrew and Carol and their staff at The Shakespeare Inn for the fantastic food and hospitality.

Thank you to everybody who had a photograph of our daughter, and raised the total sum of £110, which we have donated to Great Ormond Street Hospital in London.

Once again a big thank you from us all.

Gary, Julie and Katie-Ann Lowe

Dear Editors

The RSPCA coffee morning on November 6th raised £494.42 a great result. Thanks to all supporters who came despite the rain and cold, and to the many helping hands that made the event possible.

Pam Sperling

Dear Editors

Thank you everyone who supported the Mission to Seafarers Coffee Morning on November 16th. A cheque for £207.54 has been sent to the Mission's HQ.

Special thanks to Lorna Bedford and Sheila Scott.

Bill Davies

Dear Editors

We would like to thank everyone who supported our coffee morning on November 22nd at the Tom Hauley Room. We made £373. Also thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout the year.

We made £3,303 on the plant sales, so it is a special thank you to Lancel

Nurseries and thank you to Chris and Leon, at the Dog Inn for the use of the car park. We hope you will support us throughout the year 2003.

A Happy Christmas and New Year to Everyone.

Harbury Support Group for Myton Hospice

Dear Editors

I am partially sighted and my wife uses a wheelchair when we go out - I push her.

We took a week's holiday at an RNIB hotel in Eastbourne and travelled by train. We boarded a Virgin train in Leamington Spa. These trains are excellent, but had to change onto a South Central train at Heywoods Heath. Like most of their trains this had no provision for wheelchair passengers. We travelled in the Guards' Van!

Our return journey was similar and after writing to complain I received in total vouchers to the value of £70.

We are having another week at the time of the New Year, travelling on 28th December 2002 and returning on 4th January 2003. As it will be the middle of winter and cold in the Guards' Van, I wrote asking if they could install temporary heating. Frankly their reply made me wonder if they were taking the "Michael". It went thus:

"Dear Mr. Turner

Thank you for your letter of 10th October.

I would really like to be able to offer you a more positive response in respect of your journey for after Christmas. However, as there are no facilities to create warmth in the Guards Vans on the old Slam Door trains, we cannot provide any heating.

My mother travelled in a wheelchair in cold weather two years ago, and she found that a double duvet helped her stay warm. Perhaps you could also take a hot water bottle, and a flask with replacement hot water. I regret that any efforts to come up with a solution for your wife to keep warm will only evolve around layers of clothing and hot water bottles.

I expect I will be hearing from you again, when you have made your journey and wish to claim compensation for having to travel in the Guards Van.

I do apologise for the antiquated state of the old trains, and I hope that for your future journeys next year, you will be able to enjoy the comfort of our new trains.

May I take this opportunity to wish you good luck for the forthcoming journeys and best wishes for Christmas in the meantime?

Yours sincerely

Christal Porteous - South Central Customer Services"

Arthur Turner

Dear Editors

We would like to thank everyone who came along to our coffee morning in November; we raised £280.00, which will be most generously doubled by Barclays Bank to £560.00. The money raised from this event will pay for all the Pre-School staff & children to go on a coach to Warwick Playbox Theatre in February next year. Thank you all so much.

Harbury Pre-School Committee, staff, parents & children



Dear Editors

I feel it is necessary to respond to Mr. Bloxham's letter in last month's H&L News regarding the Victorian Street Fayre. He has assumed that because the event did not take place this year that it is now 'closed' but this is not the case.

The reasons why the Fayre did not take place this year are as follows:

1. Although we did receive generous offers of help, unfortunately, there were not received until quite late into the year and it was felt we would have difficulty completing all the work necessary in time. However, we had hoped to see if this was possible given the fact that we have to obtain many approvals regarding the road closure, traffic diversions, etc. before we can even begin any detailed planning.
2. However, I then had unforeseen family commitments which meant I would have been unable to devote hardly any time to guiding a new team in the organisation of this event and decided it would be unreasonable to expect a new team to put on a complex event such as this without any previous experience.

Therefore, it was decided that the Fayre would be put on hold for the time being and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who offered help. I hope that if the offers of help are still available that the Fayre will take place again in the future. It must be stressed that events such as this rely on very dedicated people devoting a lot of time and energy over many months to ensure the event runs smoothly and it will not always be possible for this to happen.

Yours sincerely

Dan Killian

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Do you need help with any of the following?

Harbury Helpline is for you!

EMERGENCY TRANSPORT: Call Charles Catt 612864.

HELP WITH FORM FILLING:

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

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

Call Sue Dormer 613254.

HOUSEHOLD BUDGETING ADVICE: Call Tony Brunton 612191.

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

**DATES FOR INCLUSION IN THE HARBURY DIARY PLEASE TO:
LINDA RIDGLEY - TEL. 612792.**

Bookings for:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------|
| Scout Hut | Lesley van Kesteren | 613411 |
| Tom Hauley Room | Liz Bunting | 612450 |
| T. Hauley Room Coffee Morning | Mrs. J. Windsor | 612504 |
| Village Hall | Wendy Hawkes | 613198 |
| Wight School | Mrs. L. Hayes | 613488 |

Regular Diary Dates

BABY CLINIC: Surgery, 2nd & 4th Wednesday 2:00-4:00pm

BADMINTON: Village Hall, Monday mornings (613174) 10:00am-12:00noon
Mondays (612627) (Seniors) 7:00-9:00pm;
Tuesdays (613413) (Club) 8:00-10:00pm;
Friday (612029) (Juniors) 2:00-3:00pm;
Sunday (613340) 7:00-10:00pm

BEAVERS: Scout Hut, Tuesdays 6:15-7:15pm

BEAT BUDDIES: Village Hall, Tuesdays 2:00pm; Fridays 9:30-11:30am & 2:00-3:00pm

BELL RINGING PRACTICE: (613605) Church, Fridays 7:30pm

BROWNIES: Scout Hut, Mondays 6:15-7:30pm

CHOIR PRACTICE: Church, Fridays 6:30pm

COFFEE MORNING: Tom Hauley Room Saturdays 10:00am-12:00noon

CUBS: Scout Hut, Wednesdays 6:30-8:00pm

DANCING CLASSES: (01789-842242) Farley Room of Village Hall, Children & Adults
Wednesdays 4:00-9:00pm

DROP-IN TEA: (612585) 19, Farm Street, 2.30 to 4.30pm, 4th Wednesday in the month

GYMNASTICS: Harbury School, Mondays 6:00-7:00pm

HARBURY FOLK CLUB: The Shakespeare, 1st Thursday in the month 8:30pm

HARBURY FRIENDS: Tom Hauley Room, 2nd Tuesday in the month 8:00pm

HARBURY JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB:

Under 9s: Training: 9.00am Saturday at Harbury School Pitch

Coaches: Jim Farrell 612396 and Reno Varriale

Under 12s: Training: Playing Fields 10:30am

Coaches: Steve Darby 613330

Under 14s: Training: 10.30am Saturday at Playing Fields Top Pitch

Coaches: John Wilkins 612115; Steve Wilkins 614574,
and Dave Hudson 613958

HARBURY NURSERY SCHOOL: School, Monday-Friday; 9:00am-12:00noon;
Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays 12:45pm-3:15pm

HARBURY PRE-SCHOOL: (612781 or 613780) Wight School (behind Library), High St.
Monday to Friday 9:00am-1:00pm;

HARBURY VILLAGE CLUB: Contact 612498

HEREBURGH MORRIS DANCERS: (613402) School Hall, Wednesdays 8:00-10:00pm

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: T. Hauley Room, 1st Tuesday in the month (Oct. to May)
8:00pm

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

LIBRARY: (613297) Mondays 2:00 - 5:00pm and 5:30 - 7:00pm;

Thursdays 10:00am - 1:00pm; 2:00 - 5:00pm & 5:30 - 7:00pm;

Stories, Rhymes for U5s, 10:00am 1st Thursday in the month; Term Time
only

NETBALL CLUB: (613239) Village Hall Car Park, Training Thursdays 6:30pm;

Matches on Saturday Afternoon

SCOUTS: Scout Hut, Thursdays 7:00pm

PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP: (612221) Meeting on 2nd Thursday in the month at the
Shakespeare 8:00pm

TENNIS CLUB: April to September:

Adults (614532): Tues & Thurs 6:30pm onwards (6:00pm for April &
September); Wednesdays 2.15pm onwards; Saturdays 3:00-5:00pm

Under 16s (613284): Sundays 10:00am-12Noon; Wednesdays 6:00-
8:00pm; Thursdays 4:15-6:00pm

Non Members may book courts for £2 an hour at Country Fayre, Chapel St.

E-Mail: sucol-ashcroft@tinyworld.co.uk

Club Website: www.harburytennisclub.homestead.com

THEATRE GROUP: (612610) The Dog Inn, last Tuesday in the month 8:00pm

THURSDAY CLUB: (612273) Farley Room of Village Hall 2nd & 4th Thursday in the month
2:30pm

TODDLER GROUP: Wight School, Monday 10:00-11:30am & Wednesday 1:30-3:00pm

WEIGHT WATCHERS: (07971 457143) Tom Hauley Room, Mondays 7:00pm

W.I.: Tom Hauley Room, 2nd Thursday in the month 7:45pm

YOGA: Tom Hauley Room, Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30pm Dianne Surgey Tel. 817904

YOUTH CLUB: (612688) Village Hall, Thursdays 7:00-9:00pm

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Articles to

Harbury Chemist by
Friday 27th December

Sound Beginnings

Due to the popularity of classes in Southam, *Sound Beginnings* is starting a New music session in Harbury, for children aged 0 to 2.

TIME: Wednesdays 10.30—11.30 am (from November 6th)

Place: Harbury Village Hall

Call Jo Lockley on 614532 to reserve your place, or visit our website:

www.soundbeginnings.connectfree.co.uk



Adult courses January 2003

Monday 13th January 7.30-9.30pm

| | |
|---|----------|
| Learn To Play The Guitar | 10 Weeks |
| Lip-reading group for all students | 10 Weeks |
| Music Workshop | 10 Weeks |
| Return to work with a computing qualification Clait | 10 Weeks |
| Frightened of computers? Here is a Basic computing course for you | 10 Weeks |
| Art classes including Acrylic, Oil & Water colours painting | 10 Weeks |
| Wood turning for the beginner | 10 Weeks |
| Conversational Spanish | 10 Weeks |
| Cake icing and sugar paste flowers | 10 Weeks |
| Clait computing I Term 2 | 10 Weeks |
| Stress management and relaxation technique | 10 Weeks |

Tuesday 14th January 7.30-9.30pm.

| | |
|---|----------|
| AS Psychology Term 2 | 10 Weeks |
| Advanced level computing IBT2 Term 2 | 22 Weeks |
| Basic computing Term 2 (A course for those who know how to turn the machine on but want to know more) | 10 Weeks |
| Arabic belly dance for improvers Starting 21/01/03 7.30-8.30 | 9 Weeks |
| Arabic belly dance for beginners Starting 21/01/03 8.30-9.30 | 9 Weeks |
| Indian head massage, techniques Starting 28/01/03 | 8 Weeks |

Wednesday 15th January 7.30-9.30PM

| | |
|---|----------|
| Italian Starting 22 nd January conversation course term 2 | 9 Weeks |
| Healing, crystals and meditation learning more about the Chakra's by a Reiki Master | 10 Weeks |
| So you think you can't draw | 10 Weeks |
| French for beginners | 10 Weeks |
| Cake decorating for children's party | 6 Weeks |
| Basic computing Surfing the Internet. | 10 Weeks |
| Pillow Lace Making (Bobbin Lace) | 10 Weeks |
| Keep Fit For Men | 10 Weeks |

Thursday 16th January 7.30 - 9.30PM

| | |
|---|----------|
| Beginners Italian Starting conversation course (term 1) | 10 Weeks |
| Watercolour Painting | 10 Weeks |
| Computing for the advanced user | 22 Weeks |
| Beginners Badminton For All 7.15 (Start at 7.30) -8.30 | 10 Weeks |
| Family Badminton For All 8.30 - 9.30 | 10 Weeks |

DAYTIME COURSES AT SOUTHAM COLLEGE

| | |
|--|---------|
| Conversational Spanish Monday 1.00-3.00 | 9 Weeks |
| Keep Fit To Music Wednesday 15 th January 9.30 10.30 | 9 Weeks |
| So you think you can't draw Wednesday 15 th January 10.30-12.30 | 9 Weeks |
| Water Colour Painting Wednesday 15 th January 1.00-3.00pm | 9 Weeks |
| Yoga For Relaxation Thursday 16 th January 10.00-12.00 | 9 Weeks |
| Water Colour Painting Thursday 16 th January 1.00-3.00 | 9 Weeks |
| Flower preparations for spring and Easter Friday 17 th January 10.00-12.00- | 9 Weeks |
| Water Colour Painting Friday 17 th January 1.00-3.00 | 9 Weeks |

In general all courses start at 7.30 unless indicated

Saturday Courses At Southam College

Lace making weekend 9.00am 08/02/2003 to Sunday 4.30 pm 2 days

Evening Course At Harbury CE Primary School

So how do you turn the computer on? Computing for beginners Mon 7.30 - 9.30
10 Weeks

Clait Computing Wednesday 15th January 7.30-9.30 10 Weeks

Keep fit to music Thursday 16th January 7.00-8.00 10 Weeks

Evening Course in Harbury at The Tom Hauley Room.

Yoga Wednesday 15th Jan 7.30-9.30 10 Weeks

Courses At Offchurch Village Hall

Upholstery And Soft Furnishing Tues 14th Jan 9.30-11.30 10 Weeks

Upholstery And Soft Furnishing Thur 16th Jan 1.30-3.30 10 Weeks

Courses at Long Itchington Primary School

Daytime Computer Keyboard skills Fri 17th Jan 12.45-14.45 10 Weeks

Courses At Stockton Village Hall

Upholstery and Soft Furnishing Tues 14th Jan 1.00-3.00 10 Weeks

Courses At Stockton School

Basic computing training for total beginner Tuesday 14th Jan 7.30 to 9.30 pm
10 Weeks

Courses At St Lawrence C.E. Primary School Napton

Computer Literacy and Information Technology (CLAIT) 7.00-9.00 22 Weeks

Computing for beginners 7.00-9.00 Monday 10 Weeks

Yoga Tuesday 7.30-9.00 9 Weeks

Bishops Itchington Memorial Hall

Keep Fit and Aerobics for all Tuesday 7.30 to 8.30 10 Weeks

Bishops Itchington Primary School

Basic computing for the total beginner stage 2 Monday 7.30-9.30 10 Weeks

Most courses enrol and commence Week beginning 13th January 2002.

The centre will be closed for Science work exhibition during the daytime only for

the week beginning Monday 10th March (at the Southam College site), Half term

Holiday week for all centres beginnings on Monday 17th February 2003, and

finishing term around week beginning 24th March 2003. The summer term will start on Monday 28th April 2003.

Most evening Courses start at 7.30 and finish at 9.30pm

Fees are based on a Charge of £2.45 per hour unless otherwise stated. A class for 2 hours per evening over 5 weeks costs £24.50. Discounts may be available and requests are considered on an individual basis. Quite a few of our courses are free apart from a registration fee, especially to the unemployed or those in receipt of certain benefits. Cheques should be made payable to Southam College, and Credit card enrolments are now also available.

If you feel that you should be entitled to a discount please apply to Gerry Young by Telephone 01926 810942- or 01926 812560 or through the Internet at gdyoung1@aol.com or GerrydYg@AOL.com.

Gerry is a full time teacher so please leave a message on the answering service. Those reserving places on Computer courses are advised to book themselves into the classes before they arrive to save any disappointments. These details may be change due to circumstances beyond our control.

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