

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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November 2005

No. 380



If in doubt form a queue!

Despite the mild weather so far, villagers could be heeding the warnings of a severe winter by taking advantage of the 'Flu clinics' at the surgery. Whether these predictions of a severe winter come true, only time will tell.

It is sad to have to report, once again, that there has been vandalism to cars at the Village Club car park. We hope that with the clocks changing and longer nights this will not encourage further acts of vandalism.

The Twinning Association is seeking new members to be involved with exchange visits. This is an opportunity to foster the Entente Cordiale!

Harbury Diary

NOVEMBER

- Sat 5 **BONFIRE NIGHT – on Playing Fields**
Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Southam Guides
10am – 12noon
- Sun 6 **THIRD BEFORE ADVENT**
Sung Eucharist 9am
Evening Worship 6pm
- Mon 7 Harbury Society - Mrs Ellerslie on Guy Fawkes 7.30 for 8pm
Tom Hauley Room
- Tues 8 Toddler Service 2pm in Church
Youth Drop in 7.15-9.15pm in Wagstaffe Room of Village Hall
Holy Communion with laying on of hands 7.30pm
- Wed 9 "Talk it Through" at 33 South Parade 8pm
- Thurs 10 Holy Communion 9.45am
Thursday Club 2.30pm in Village Hall
WI 7.45pm in Tom Hauley Room
- Fri 11 **RECYCLING & GREEN WASTE COLLECTION**
"Last Night of the Proms" style with Royal Spa Brass
(Brass 2000) Charity Concert in aid of Galanos House in Grange
Hall, Southam, at 7.30pm. Contact 813933 for info/tickets
- Sat 12 **CRAFT FAYRE** at Village Hall
Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room in aid of British Legion
10am – 12noon
- Sun 13 **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**
Holy Communion 8am
Service of Remembrance 10.15am War Memorial 11am
- Tues 15 **ADVERTISEMENTS to 31 Binswood End Harbury, by 5.30pm**
Youth Drop in 7.15-9.15pm in Wagstaffe Room of Village Hall
Holy Communion 7.30pm
Mothers Union 8pm
Senior Citizens Benefit Committee 8pm in Village Hall
- Wed 16 Tea in the Tom Hauley Room 3-4pm
- Thurs 17 Holy Communion 9.45am
- Fri 18 Myton Hospice Coffee Morning 10-12 noon in Tom Hauley Room
- Sat 19 Men's Prayer Breakfast 7.30am in Tom Hauley Room
COUNCILLORS' SURGERY outside Post Office
Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Missions to
Seafarers 10am – 12noon
Live music evening at Harbury Village Club – 8pm. In aid of
Macmillan Cancer Relief

- Sun 20 **CHRIST THE KING**
 Holy Communion 8am
 Family Communion 10.30am
 Fair Trade Stall in Tom Hauley Room 11.30am
 Evensong 6pm
- Tues 22 Youth Drop in 7.15-9.15pm in Wagstaffe Room of Village Hall
 Holy Communion 7.30pm
 Parochial Church Council 8pm - Tom Hauley Room
- Wed 23 "Talk it Through" at 33 South Parade 8pm
- Thurs 24 Holy Communion 9.45am
 Thursday Club 2.30pm in Village Hall
 Parish Council 7.30pm in Tom Hauley Room
- Fri 25 **RECYCLING & GREEN WASTE COLLECTION**
ARTICLES to Harbury Pharmacy, High St, Harbury & Email
Article deadline by 5.30pm
- Sat 26 Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Fair Trade
 10am - 12noon
- Sun 27 **ADVENT SUNDAY**
 Holy Communion 8am
 Sung Eucharist 10.30am
- Tues 29 Youth Drop in 7.15-9.15pm in Wagstaffe Room of Village Hall
 Holy Communion 7.30pm
- Wed 30 **ST ANDREWS DAY**
 Drop in Tea for the Bereaved 2.30-4.30pm at 19 Farm Street

DECEMBER

- Thurs 1 Holy Communion 9.45am
 Art Group in Tom Hauley Room 10-4pm
 Mens Society in Tom Hauley Room 7.45pm
 Folk Group in Shakespeare Inn 8.30pm
- Fri 2 Twinning Association AGM in Tom Hauley Room at 7.30pm
 Southam Twinning Association Quiz Night at Graham Adams
 Centre, Southam 7.30pm for 8pm start. £8 for team of 4. Tel:
 Paul Kitson 813637
- Sat 3 Conservation Association Soup Kitchen 12noon Ashton House
 Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Save the
 Children 10am - 12noon
 The Orchestra of the Swan "Christmas Concert" to be held at
 Grange Hall, Southam at 7.30pm. Contact 813933 for info/tickets
- Sun 4 **ADVENT II**
 Sung Eucharist 9am
 Evening Worship 6pm
 NSPCC QUIZ in the Village Club
- Tues 6 Youth Drop-in 7pm - 9pm in Wagstaffe Room of Village Hall
 Horticultural Society "Fun Evening" 8pm in Tom Hauley Room

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

- Sat 10 Jack and the Beanstalk Family Pantomime in Grange Hall, Southam at 2.30pm. Contact 813933 for info/tickets
- Fri 16 "Christmas at the Grange" Seasonal Variety Show in aid of the Town Mayor's Charities to be held at the Grange Hall, Southam at 7.30pm. Contact 813933 for info/tickets

From the Rector

"Blessed are the pure in heart: They shall see God."

Many of our common sayings in life are centred on the heart. We speak of people's hearts being in the right place or perhaps of people's hearts not being in the business in hand. We make a final plea to people's better selves by crying, 'Have a heart!' In all these cases we are speaking of something more than the romantic and sometime superficial love, which is generally associated with the heart. We are talking of the heart of man and the heart of the matter! The heart is the centre of man's deep human instincts; it makes him respond to others, it is a driving force in much that he does.

Understandably then, Jesus places much store on the human heart. To see God is the ultimate goal of the creature and it is won by those whose heart is undivided. In this beatitude; Jesus is teaching more than a moral purity or ritual purity; he is teaching us that our heart has to be in the right place; ultimately that is what matters. What we say and do is important but what we say and do will not save us. Only if our hearts are set on God will we see him.

The fact that Jesus does not need any evidence about us to know us because he knows what is in our hearts is at once a challenging and consoling doctrine. It is challenging because it means that we can never hide behind our words and good deeds. The prophets of old spoke out against people who worshipped God with their lips while their hearts were far from him. And Jesus said, "It is not those who say to me, "Lord, Lord", who will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but the person who does the will of the Father in Heaven". There is no way of hiding from the penetrating gaze of God and He judges our hearts.

On the other hand God is knowing us through and through and is consoling because He knows our weakness and does not judge as the world judges – by results. He sees every effort and every good try and

rewards accordingly. And besides, He is always ready to forgive. We often make allowances for people when they have failed or gone wrong. How much more will God, who is compassion, make allowances for us provided our heart is in the right place.

Fr. Roy Brown

From the Registers

Holy Matrimony, All Saints' Harbury

October 8th Martyn Taylor to Sarah Constable

Holy Baptism, All Saints' Harbury

October 9th Anna Grace Brittain
James Edward Brittain

October 16th Alexia Mae Mazurek
John Hollis Andrew



Thought for the Month

*There are three things that come not back,
The sped arrow,
The spoken word,
And the neglected opportunity.*

(Ancient Proverb).

From the Churchwardens

October began with a wonderful Harvest supper. So many people have said that the meal – always extremely good – was exceptional this year. We do thank Gill Guilford and her team for all their commitment and hard work; it really is appreciated. As for the entertainment: well, phrases such as, “a glittering array of talent” and “what price the BAFTAS?” do spring to mind, but perhaps we should, in all modesty, simply let the photographs speak for themselves!

John Stringer gave the presentation in October's Family Service. With the help of the children and several props, a tea cosy among them, he demonstrated, as proven by his recent project in schools, the efficacies of pester power.



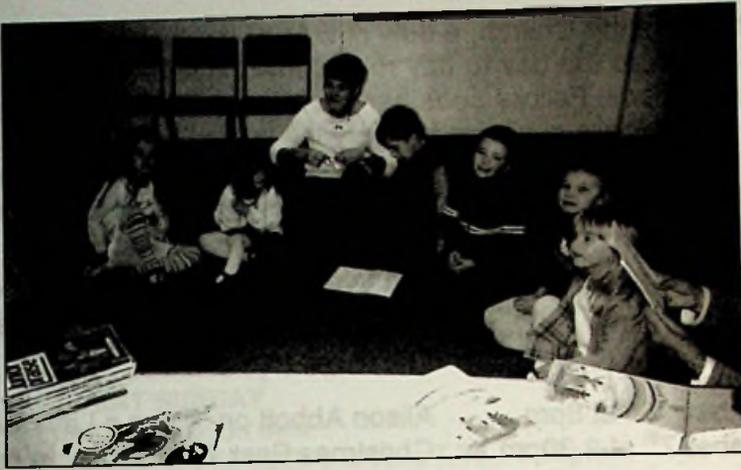
Harvest Supper entertainment



Children can pester their parents into conserving heat. John linked this with the story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand when a boy's willingness to give and to share his five loaves and two fish among so many acted as such a powerful catalyst. There were two baptisms that day – Alexia Mae's during the service and John Hollis' a little while afterwards. Concluding his presentation, John reminded us that a baby is a very powerful person.

By the time you have read this, the celebration of All Saints', our patronal festival, will have taken place and on All Soul's Day we shall have remembered our beloved dead who have gone before us. These are two very important dates in the Church's calendar.

Now we look ahead to Remembrance Sunday on November 13th and to the school's presentation in the Family Service on November 20th.



Funday Club

Please bear in mind, too, that 3rd December, the date of the Christmas Fayre, draws ever closer!

Tony and Fliss



Mothers' Union

The speaker at our afternoon meeting was Dr Elizabeth Penlington, talking about her spiritual journey with God. Her career as a community paediatrician, with particular involvement in issues of child protection, including being an advisor to the Bishop of Coventry, has been underpinned by her education at a Quaker boarding school. Her oneness with God is found in silence, and her commitment to child health is based on her belief in the intrinsic value of every single created being. She applies our Lord's promise, of life in all its fullness, to her understanding that true health means meeting the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of any individual; these cannot be separated. Children need unconditional love and praise for their efforts, not just their results. Her school practised the ethos that no one is a failure; everyone is gifted at something; and built on that. She summarised the many facets of her work and life by saying, "My line manager is God".

Our evening speaker came from much nearer to home, but was equally thought provoking, as Felicity told us her views on 'Being a Church Warden.' The office dates back to the thirteenth century and is a legally held position renewed each year by the Diocesan Registrar. It encompasses a huge range of responsibility, ranging from being the legal owners on behalf of the parishioners of all fixtures and

furnishings of the Church, a duty of care of the building, and a support to the priest, to the day to day role of making sure things are in place for the services. Felicity sees her position as that of a true servant of the Church who is available to everyone in the Parish (church member or not) with the aim of promoting harmony and understanding. A formidable task which we are grateful to her for performing so admirably.

Members are reminded that next year's subscription of £13 is due next month, and that we need toiletries for our stall at the Christmas Fayre.

Next Meetings:

November 15th at 8pm – Alison Abbott on 'Being a Lay Reader'.
December 7th at 2.30pm – Christmas Past. Please bring a momento.

Gillian Hare

Toddlers' Service

In our October service Mrs Dorothy Travis told us all about God making everything on the earth, in the sea and in the sky, He then thought, " I have made all of these wonderful things but something is missing ", She asked us if we knew what God made next. The answer of course is "God Made Us". We talked about everything that makes us into what we are such as arms, legs, eyes, ears and lots and lots of other things. Mr Catt then played for us and we sang some songs about all of these wonderful things that make us into us.

We then made people out of playdough. Had our drinks and biscuits and played with the toys until it was time to leave for home.

Our next service will be at 2pm on Tuesday 8th November in the Children's Comer at Church. All babies and young children accompanied by an adult are very welcome.

Barbara Thistlethwaite

Ladbroke News

NOVEMBER

Mon 7 Practice Night for Ladbroke bells 7.30 – 8.30pm
Wed 9 Holy Communion 2pm
Women's Fellowship meeting 2.30pm at Field Farm

- Sun 13 **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**
Sung Communion 9am with Act of Remembrance
- Mon 14 Millennium Club Draw 7.30pm in Village Hall
Practice Night for Ladbroke bells 7.30 – 8.30pm
- Tues 15 **ADVERTISEMENTS to 31 Binswood End Harbury, by 5.30pm**
- Sat 19 Autumn Fayre 2pm in Village Hall
- Sun 20 **CHRIST THE KING**
Sung Communion 9am
- Mon 21 Practice Night for Ladbroke bells 7.30 – 8.30pm
- Thurs 24 W.I. Musical Evening with Eric Hibbs
- Fri 25 **ARTICLES to Harbury Pharmacy, High St, Harbury & Email**
Article deadline by 5.30pm
- Sun 27 **ADVENT SUNDAY**
Sung Communion 9am
- Mon 28 Practice Night for Ladbroke bells 7.30 – 8.30pm

DECEMBER

- Sun 4 **ADVENT II**
Family Communion
W.I. Christmas Meal
- Mon 5 Practice Night for Ladbroke bells 7.30 – 8.30pm

Ladbroke Flower Rota

- November 13th – Remembrance Sunday – Susan Moore
November 20th – Susan Moore

No flowers in Advent



Jane Rutherford

Ladbroke Church News

We celebrated our Harvest Thanksgiving with joyfulness and gratitude as of course we did at our Harvest Supper. The flowers and produce in church at the Sunday Service and the food we enjoyed at the supper the Friday before are signs of our gratitude for the goodness of the earth's bounty, which we must remember to share with those whose lives are ones of terror and starvation.

Our Autumn Fayre is the next item on the agenda. This is where we give to charities that need our support. Please come and support our efforts again with gratefulness for all that we have.

I did mention it in the October magazine – the Fayre is on **Saturday 19th November at 2pm in the Village Hall.**

Ladbroke Harvest Supper

Once again our Harvest Supper was a great success - fun, fellowship and most of all friendship; 88 people sat down together to share a wonderful meal served and prepared by volunteers. We were treated to another of our Organist's theatrical productions fit for an Oscar nomination, if only for the casting! Thank you to all those who willingly give their time and support year after year, long may it continue.

Susan Moore

Women's Fellowship

We thoroughly enjoyed our talk by Linda Doyle at our last meeting. It is good to learn about other religions and Linda taught us a lot about Sikhism that we didn't know. The bit that I remember most is that they have always treated their women-folk as equals, having different jobs but still equal.

Our November meeting is at Field Farm, Beryl Ross's home. We would like members to bring items for which they think we might not know the use. I have a couple of items I don't know what their use is - I'm hoping someone can tell me. The meeting is on Wednesday 9th November at 2.30pm approximately following Holy Communion in Church at 2pm.

Betty Winkfield

Coffee Morning in aid of Breast Cancer

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you. We had such a great turnout for the coffee morning and we managed to raise over £300 with donations. It would not have been possible without the help of the Ladies of Ladbroke Women's Fellowship; well done to one and all.

Jo Sowerby

Ladbroke and Deppers Bridge W.I.

A very busy week for the ladies of Ladbroke & Deppers Bridge W.I. 13 of our members attended the Autumn Council Meeting on the 26 October in the Spa Centre. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day. In the morning Ros Walker, a Donor Transplant Co-ordinator, gave a very enlightening and detailed talk about becoming a Donor.

We were informed of the exciting events and outings for the next year. The Delights of Ireland Holiday in May 2006, which sounds really

good, and also for those who attended there was a very entertaining incident when the afternoon Guest speaker Canon Roger Royle pretended to walk out. What an entertainer! He certainly kept us laughing.

Then on the following day, Thursday 27th October we held our Annual meeting which was attended by Val Hill, a Federation Advisor. Sue Halsall was re-elected as President and the existing members were prepared to continue in office. We were also very pleased to welcome two new members to the Committee - Julie Harris and Pam Collins. I must thank everyone who helped with the wine and cheese.

Friday the 28th of October is our Quiz night in Ladbroke Village Hall so the W.I are very busy with the preparations for this event; I do believe that it is going to be well attended as several neighbouring W.I. have entered teams.

Thank you to everyone in the Ladbroke & Deppers Bridge W.I. for all your hard work and support over the last year and for making it such an enjoyable and fun time. I am certainly looking forward to the next year.

Dates for Diaries:

Next Meeting - Nov 24th (change from programme) Musical evening with Eric Hibbs.

Xmas Meal - 4 December

Xmas Capers - 8 December

Sue Halsall

Ladbroke Bells

Harvest Festival on Sunday 2nd October was the first time in many years that Ladbroke has had its own team of bell ringers ringing for the morning service. After a leaflet drop around the village earlier in the year we were delighted to recruit several villagers who wanted to learn to ring. Monday night is now 'Practice Night', 7.30pm - 8.30pm, so if anybody would like to come along you are more than welcome.

We have been very kindly supported by ringers from Southam either coming to Ladbroke to help with teaching or by welcoming us to their tower. We are particularly grateful to Angela Elliot who comes over from Southam every Monday to support and encourage us.

However the person to whom we are most indebted is Neville Ellis from Harbury. It is easy to forget that Neville is not a Ladbroke bell ringer but has kept the bells ringing once a month with volunteers from

outside the parish, for several years. Neville has been teaching all the new recruits and has generously and selflessly given his time and experience to establish the new Ladbroke team. We cannot thank him enough and it would never have been possible without him.



Bells all over the UK and the world rang out on Trafalgar Day and over the weekend, to mark the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. October 21st 1805 at 12 noon was the hour the first shot was fired at the Battle of Trafalgar by the combined French and Spanish fleet. Later church bells rang out with the bittersweet news of Nelson's victory and death. Again 200 years later the bells played an important part in this year's celebrations. We at Ladbroke joined in the commemoration by ringing at 7pm on Sunday 23rd.

"For centuries bells have played a huge part in the celebration of important events, so it's fitting that they should play a major part in this commemoration," said Judith Rogers of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

For more information about bell ringing in Ladbroke please contact Laura Taylor on 07767 623650.

Laura Taylor

Ladbroke Parish Council – October 2005

The first item for discussion was about Open Gardens 2006 – arising from the September minutes. The arrangements for this are to go ahead.

The Bell Inn was also discussed as a matter arising from the previous meeting. The Council has not had any satisfactory response from the Punch Tavern about their plans for the Bell Inn. District Councillor Williams said that the Punch Tavern chain was the second largest owner of Public Houses nationally and The Bell is a large investment. It is not a listed building and therefore any alterations internally would not need planning consent. External alterations would. Councillor Williams said any development on the site was unthinkable and can be dismissed completely. Renovations are still to be undertaken – after Christmas but the Bell Inn should be open for Christmas!

A member of the public was very concerned about the litterbags outside the pub, some of which have been there since February. There is concern about health problems and Councillor Williams will be contacting the Council department concerned.

Highways Meeting – A bungalow in Radbourne Lane is having problems with water draining onto the property from the roadway. The highways authority has been requested to meet the owner.

Bridge Lane – the roadway has been completely resurfaced. The resurfacing of Church Road and Harbury Road will hopefully be included early in the next five-year plan!

There was still some concern about parking in the lay-by in Windmill Lane by Chesby Court.

There is a grant scheme available for improvement to Highways and your Parish Council are considering applying for a footpath to be made from the Millennium Green as far as the turn for Windmill Lane.

Planning Applications – The Parish Council had no objection to a two-storey extension, garage and utility room being built at the side and slightly to the rear of Tollgate Cottage, providing the Crested Newts were not disturbed in the pond while work was in progress.

The Distribution Centre in Southam. The appeal will be heard in Southam in 18 months time!

Neighbourhood Watch – A dog waste bin has vanished from the bridge leading into Bridge Lane. Replacement has been deferred and if necessary it will be welded it to the bridge metalwork, (cost £150 approx).

District Councillor Williams painted a very gloomy picture of our emergency services in this area in the not too distant future. Fire Service Control Centre will be in Wolverhampton. Police Service will

be part of the West Midlands; Malvern and Worcester were places mentioned. All regionalised.

Stratford District Council's finances are in shortfall. Now that so much of our waste is recycled the average bin bags are only half full where as it was usually two bags per household. What would we think to a fortnightly collection?

Correspondence – A letter was received regarding transporting of narrow boats, which are built in the area, through the village. A discussion arose regarding the noise from sandblasting, which can be heard from the other side of the bypass.

A copy of the full minutes will be displayed on the village notice board.

Betty Winkfield

Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Club

Sorry I missed giving last month's winners – I was rather preoccupied at the time.

The results for August were:

£70 - Dianne Surgey

£25 - Beverley Bradley

£25 - Jill Norgate

£10 – Andy Benzak

£10 – Kim Benzak

£10 – Nancy Stubbs

The September results were:

£70 – Ken Whiteley

£25 – Chris Payne

£25 – M. Theaker

£10 – Catherine Spence

£10 – Pat Kennedy

£10 – M. Wray

The next month's draw will be held on 14th November in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Catherine Spence

Ladbroke Millennium Green Race Night

Ladbroke residents and friends went to the Races again on Saturday 24th September in the Village Hall, and the atmosphere, excitement and generosity raised £927 towards the upkeep of the Millennium Green.



Local companies sponsored the 9 races and we are grateful to Colin Constable; BMC (Andy Bendzak); Cab-Tech (Peter Baker); Green Leaf Farm Shop (Peter Healey); Barnbrook Livery (Drew and Sue Dodd); Southam Carpets (Andrew and Michael Steele); Jacqueline, the Florist (Elizabeth and Colin Evans); Essentials (Pat and Les Baldwin) and Terry Grey for their support.

Thanks also to everyone who supported us by buying and naming the horses in advance, You may be interested to hear the names of the winners:

Race 1 Spartacus	Fiona Loftus
Race 2 Hasty Henry	Henry Malby
Race 3 A Touch of Snake	George Howells
Race 4 Shergar	Mary Gunter-Smith
Race 5 Auctioned on the night	Andy Crompton syndicate
Race 6 Fly Like the Wind	Andy Bendzak
Race 7 Kitten	Jenny Parker
Race 8 Benorlucy	Geoff and Carol Lane
Race 9 Auctioned on the night	Andy Crompton syndicate

The tasty chicken and chip supper, provided by Ozmen from Sea Star Fish and Chips on Market Hill, was delivered piping hot.

The evening seemed to provide enjoyment and excitement for adults and children alike, as well as providing funds to help with the insurance and maintenance of the Green.



Carol Lane

Harbury Parish Council - October 2005

Official minutes can be viewed in the Library or obtained from the Parish Clerk

Kevin Biddle chaired his first meeting as Vice-Chairman in the absence of Jenny Patrick (and three other Councillors).

Karena Ellis reported that Ken Robertson had been elected Chairman of Harbury School Governors and Sharon Hancock confirmed that Bob Stevens was Chair of Southam College.

Geoff Thorpe represented the Village Hall Committee. They had requested grant aid towards upgrading the heating system and were awarded £250.

PLANNING

Stratford granted permission for a two storey extension and porch at 32 Ivy Lane, extensions at 11 Deppers Bridge and 4 Hall Lane and retrospectively allowed the change of use to storage and furniture restoration at Westfields Farm, Fosse Way. They refused permission for a mobile home at Bridge End Farm, Bull Ring Lane and a new home/office on land off Hall Lane.

The Parish Council made no representations on extensions at Westfields Farm, Fosse Way; 25 Frances Road; Harbury Croft, Chesterton Road and 8 Park Lane; the replacement of a livestock building at Pineham Farm and the variation of conditions at Kingston Grange Farm Landfill. They supported the application for an extension to West End Cottage on Mill Street as long as matching materials were used and a turning space for vehicles was created.

The Councillors listened carefully to **Rob Davies'** explanation of why he needed to convert barns at the listed **Harbury Fields Farm** to residential accommodation. He gave a fascinating historical record of the farm (built in 1783) and his family's association with it since 1943. The barns were of architectural merit but in need of considerable renovation, which could only be funded by their conversion.

Councillors were sympathetic but had already commented that the development did not help satisfy local need for social housing. In discussion they agreed though that rented accommodation was in short supply and were attracted by Mr Davies offer to view the site.

There was considerable discussion also of the Council's objection to plans for "home office" accommodation adjacent to the Lodge, Hall Lane. There was extant permission for the building to be converted to an office, subject to a new access being created off Bull Ring Farm Lane and the Council agreed that their objection was therefore unsustainable. It would be withdrawn but a proviso would be added that the access must be created before building work began.

Councillors were made aware of the publication of the **Local Plan Modifications** following the Inquiry and the conditions that would be attached to any proposed development of the **Quarries**. (view on SDC website <http://www.stratford.gov.uk/planning/planning-609.cfm>)

Kevin reported that the **Senior and Junior Football Clubs** were in discussion about amalgamating which would help them gain FA Charter Standard and access to grants for improvements and training.

The **Tennis/Netball** extension scheme was almost complete. Karena Ellis wanted them to investigate the potential for links with Fitness Clubs.

The new swings have been installed at a cost of £6,000. The Fireworks GASS Committee was given permission to use the field on Bonfire Night and Sharon Hancock reported on her trip to Hornton Quarries in search of a birdbath for the Burial Grounds in memory of John Drinkwater.

Public views on positioning a **Bus Shelter** in the village will be canvassed at the next Councillors' Surgery outside the Post Office on 19th November.

Councillors were advised to consult County Highways before spending money on drawing up their plans for "**Traffic Management**" in the centre of the village. **New street lights** have been ordered but as the Council is facing an under spend this year it may consider escalating its lighting improvement programme. It was willing to allocate money to expedite installation of a **dropped curb** in **Frances Road** after a wheelchair user suffered a fall there.

The tree in front of the **South Parade Sub-station** would be cut back for security reasons. Sharon Hancock reported the Mill Street phone box was in a disgusting condition and drew the Councillors' attention to the amount of dog muck along Mill Street. They were all aware of one particularly bad offender and pondered how best to discourage such anti-social behaviour.

The Finance Committee had been revising fees: Football Club up to £200, Burial plots to £72 plus £52 for interment, but had made no firm decision yet on how much was needed to make the Allotments pay their way.

Councillor Kevin, Cock-a-hoop that Harbury had achieved **Quality Status** as a Parish Council praised the Clerk for her efforts. Nicola reported that they had hit all the targets necessary; making their minutes available; setting up a website; publishing quarterly reports; undertaking a Parish Plan (for which they acknowledged the support of the public and village organisations). The only real criticism they had received was that not all the Councillors would allow their contact details to be made public.

The Chairman said he was perfectly willing to do this and so did Janet Thomley and Sharon Hancock, but Keith Thompson, Ann Winchester, Karena Ellis and it was reported Dutch Van Spall (representative for Deppers Bridge who was not present) decided that people must address them via the Clerk.

The PC increased its donation to the Royal British Legion to £60. Hearing this included the PC's wreath Chairman Biddle pronounced it "A Good Deal"!

Next Meeting is on 24th November in the Tom Hauley Room at 7.30pm

Linda Ridgley

Harbury Society



Cecil Bloxham – Bonzo, was billed to talk about Harvest-time in Harbury but true to form we got a mix of his life, reminiscences of farming and quarrying; vignettes of village characters and jokes!



He recalled reaping the field at the junction of Bush Heath Lane and Bush Road in the mid 1930's. Out in the fields the workers called young Cecil to fetch them the Devil's Brew – cider. He would carry it back on a yoke with bullocks' horns to drink it from. Although they would give him a little to drink he says some of it was awful. The "old boys" even made wine from scrap rhubarb, crushing it with a mangle. It was enough, says Cecil to stop you drinking.

The Quarrymen kept pigs and poultry, grew vegetables, made wine and were almost self-sufficient. They shared the meat with friends and family as there were no freezers.

Cecil enjoyed taking Fred Mann's horses to Binswood End Green Forge owned by the Miss Blicks. In their father's time it had been a true Blacksmiths - manufacturing and mending farm machinery.

The Gangmasters sat in the village pubs on Friday nights hiring men for the Quarry. They had considerable power and when Austins of the Bull Ring fell out with the Co-op they withdrew their money and forced the business to sell Co-op Terrace to Percy Knight for £900 to pay the debt.

Cecil refused a fee, so in gratitude for the talk, we presented him with a print of Temple End.

Next Event: 7th November 7.30pm for 8pm
in Tom Hauley Room Mrs Ellerslie on Guy Fawkes





Harbury's Women's Institute

There will be two coffee mornings to raise funds for the framing of our Wall Map, to be hung in the Village Hall. The first is on Tuesday, November 8th 10am – 12noon at 7 Hillside. The second is on Friday, December 16th 10am – 12noon at 17 South Parade. There will be a raffle and bring and buy, admittance £1. All are welcome.

This is the last appeal for Operation Christmas Child. Please bring your donations to November's meeting, as they will have to be packed to take to a collection point. Any filled shoeboxes will be welcomed.

Photos and recipes are requested for the W.I. 2007 calendar and should be sent to the Federation Office with details of a name and address. The topic is 'Warwickshire Seasons'.

The next walk will be on Friday 4th November, meeting at the Village Hall at 10.30am. The last walk was cancelled because of rain but members enjoyed refreshments at Pam's home instead.

The group Carol Service is on Tuesday 13th December, 7.30pm at the Catholic Church, Southam. Parking is right next to the Church.

Our speakers were, Mr Steve Jenkins and Mr Patrick Askins talking on 'Memoirs Revisited', Photo Restoration.

People think that their photos are their prize possessions. They show special events, happy and sentimental periods of one's life. Old photos can show the history of one's family. Yet how many of us keep our photos in old shoeboxes or plastic bags? Some poor souls have had their photos destroyed by fire or flood, completely obliterating their record of past times of their lives, which is so sad.

Well that could all be avoided by the services of Steve and Patrick at Torn Corner Ltd based at Kenilworth. They deal in photo restoration, photo album creation, genealogy, software and services and very good they are too. Faded, scratched, worn or torn photos, old or new get T.L.C. Photos and slides can be updated and put into albums which could prove a super gift for family and friends. An album can be put onto a DVD to be played on a television or onto a CD, which can then be played on a PC. These can be accompanied with music. Even birth, marriage or exam certificates can be included.

How do we know all of this? Steve and Patrick showed us with slides and very impressed we were. They even showed some photos of members in their youth and these were also excellent. Then really fun

photos with member's faces superimposed onto some strapping bodies. There were quite a few members consulting with Steve and Patrick afterwards. A very interesting evening.

November meeting: Annual Meeting.

Jeanne Beaumont

Harbury Theatre Group

Harbury Theatre Group's next production is "TABLE MANNERS",

This is a vintage Alan Ayckbourn comedy – the entertaining interaction of characters thrown together for a weekend by marriage and circumstance.

- Will Norman make another female conquest? The play is one of a trilogy called *The Norman Conquests*
- Will Tom finally take the plunge with Annie?
- Will Sarah's nerves survive the weekend, and her husband Reg?
- Will Ruth throw Norman out?
- Can the food get any worse?

Come and have an enjoyable evening. Bar opens at 7.30pm, curtain up 8.00pm on Thursday 24th, Friday 25th and Saturday 26th November.

Tel 612029 and 612150 for tickets £5.00 adults, £3.50 concessions also available on the door at Harbury Village Hall.

Alison Hodge

Harbury Folk Club

National Poetry Day went nearly unnoticed at the Folk Club on October 6th but the theme of 'Coast' was embraced enthusiastically by 19 musicians and singers – quite remarkable for a folk club in the heart of England!

Band of Folk (Janny, Ruth, Celia, Liz, Margaret, Ian and I) did the job properly with three tunes which required no contrived explanations – 'Horseshoe Harbour', 'Waves of Kilkee' and 'Portsmouth' – although we did have to humble ourselves to Barbara who had already played the last one on her accordion earlier in the evening. Another

instrumentalist was young Will Pound who, for his first performance in a folk club, displayed considerable virtuosity on the harmonica, particularly when he played 'Three around Three' whilst accompanying himself on the melodeon!

Rik sang about 'Waves' and the South Coast while Martin reminded us in song of the Braer oil tanker disaster, which caused considerable coastal damage around the Shetlands in 1993. I covered another disaster, the virtual demise of the Hastings fishing fleet, in 'I once was a fisherman' while Ron went 'Rounding the Horn' in the Gallant Frigate Amphitrite but also delighted us with the only poem of the evening, the self-penned 'Oh to be a poet'.

I enjoyed playing the piano accompaniment for Maureen when she sang the beautiful 'Song for Ireland' and then, in the second half, she joined Janny for 'I'll fly away' with Ian accompanying and step-dancing simultaneously (it was one of those evenings!). Without Sue on this occasion, Ian stayed 'on stage' with his feet firmly on the ground to sing 'The Unfortunate Tailor' and 'Nobody understands' (formerly the 'Folk Club Anthem'). Newcomer Tim who gave us some solid coastal material 'Grey Funnel Line' and 'Skye Boat Song' while Pete Grassby finished the second half, in a similar vein with 'Neptune' and 'The Seagull and the Mermaid', followed Ian.

In a short third half, Bernard Overton sang 'Sailor's Life', the Joy family sang 'Sweet Ladies of Plymouth' and Des rounded off the evening with a couple of shanties with the slightly depleted audience singing like a much bigger one.

The raffle raised £37 for Ovacome, a nationwide support group for all those concerned with ovarian cancer. The next session will be on 1st December, hosted by Steve & Maureen. As usual, we'll be in the Shakespeare Inn, at 8:30pm.

Don't forget that you can find out more about Harbury Folk Club on the web (including the theme for next month) by visiting:

<http://welcome.to/harburyfolkclub>

Peter McDonald

Harbury Twinning Association

In September, we held a Petanque tournament and barbeque at the home of Pam and David Clarke. We were able to make good use of the sets given to us by Samois-sur-Seine. Around 30 members of all ages enjoyed the afternoon in beautiful weather. The eventual winners

25
were James Turner and Colin Humphreys who each received a bottle of wine, French of course! Many thanks to Pam and David for their hospitality and use of their Petanque court.



Twinning Association Petanque Tournament

Our next event is the AGM on Friday December 2nd at 7.30 in the Tom Hauley Room. At least 2 members of the committee are retiring this time so if you would be interested in helping, please contact me at 32, Mill Street. The evening will not be entirely a business one, as after the formalities, we are having a wine tasting, organised by Peter Rollason. There will also be bread and cheese.

On December 16th, we are back in the Tom Hauley Room for our Christmas Party, which as usual will be a buffet meal, provided by members and some games with a French theme.

We will be visiting Samois-sur-Seine in 2006, and their committee are well advanced with planning events. The visit will be from April 29th until May 2nd and a coach has been booked. If you are not currently a member and would like to visit Samois, it is not too late! If you let me have your details, we can ask the Samois committee to match you up with a host family. Those of us who have experienced a Twinning weekend can promise you a wonderful time.

Sharon Hancock

Harbury Juniors

FOOTBALL CLUB

Years 1 & 2

In the six weeks that the group has been going to training sessions, we have seen without exception, individual improvements in their ability to control the ball, use both left foot and right foot to dribble the ball - learning of the magic words Control, Look and Pass and great determination during the matches at the end of each session. Steve, David and Mick are all pleased with the progress of the group. Congratulations to Brandon Hoey, Eathan Wildes, Alisha Long, Jessica Morrice, Shay Jacques and Lee Doming who have each won the weekly trophy for individual skills improvement over the last few weeks.

Years 3 & 4

With the entry of two teams into the Three Counties Friendly league from this age group (the Hawks and Eagles), the boys and girls are gearing up to the first local derby on the 4th December - what an occasion it will be with friendly rivalries amongst both children and parents. Any volunteers for a referee (LOL)...!!!

There are considerable abilities across the age group, but if the group is to progress into consistent match winning ways, the players must learn to work hard at the weekly routines and push themselves to improve their skills. The coaches have noticed that an air of complacency sometimes drifts into the skills sessions with individuals happy to coast through the routines instead of applying themselves to the task in hand.

Now that the season is underway, all players who attend training on a regular basis are guaranteed at least 15 minutes on the pitch during each 45 minute match, irrelevant of ability - a philosophy Harbury Juniors is proud to maintain.

Congratulations to Matthew Wildes, William Rea, James Chamberlain, Jack Groves and Aiden MacAulay who have won the weekly trophy for outstanding skills improvement over recent weeks.

Steve Darby

Match Reports U9's

Hawks v Hornton 1-2 (away)

Hawks v Napton 10-0 (home)

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An outstanding performance by the whole team resulted in a 10 - 0 victory.

Goals were scored by Michael Moss, Cameron Gibson, Josh Bailey, James Potts and James Chamberlain.

The defence remained solid and focussed throughout with excellent team play and accurate passing.

Tony Chamberlain

Eagles v Tysoe (away) 0-2

The Eagles put in a great performance and all worked very hard in a closely fought match. Jack Groves was impressive in defence as was Jessica Almond in mid-field. We look forward to the next match.

Neil Murray

Yr 5 & Yr 6

All boys have shown a great improvement in fitness and are working well on skills and techniques. Congratulations to trophy winners so far - Taylor Swidryk, Evan Jones, James Barker-Wall and Cory Cadwallader. The boys are working much better together as a group, and we look forward to progressing with new skills.

Match Reports U10's

Queensway 4-4 (away)

All the boys played with great passion and found themselves leading the match until stoppage time. They were disappointed after working so hard to come away with a draw. However, this has only added to their determination for the rest of the season. Goal scorers were Adam Miles and James Barker-Wall, though commendation to all for a strong team performance.

Tysoe 11-3 (away)

The boys found themselves 2-1 down but with great commitment turned in an excellent performance leading to a comfortable win.

The outstanding Adam Miles, along with James Barker-Wall, and John Van Kesteren, scored goals. Adam and James have formed a great partnership when attacking backed up with impressive defending by Angus. There is a very strong core to this team that bodes well for future matches.



Neil Murray

Match Reports U11's

U11 have started the season with two games against very good teams in Alveston & Priors Marston who finished first and second in the league last season.

Alveston proved to be too strong for us in our first game although outstanding goalkeeping from Jaime Warrander kept the score respectable. Our new players Taylor & Jack showed great promise in their first game, whilst our established players continued to show a great level of commitment and effort throughout the game which we unfortunately lost 4 – 0.

Our first home game against Priors Marston started as a very tight game with our defence showing great ability, Matt & Sam holding things together very well. After sustained pressure Priors finally scored. Our team stayed together well and looked capable of getting level with strong positive play from Ash & Mark finally resulting in our goal by man of the match Nathan. Priors strength finally proved too much for us and while pushing up to equalize we finally lost 3-1.

Although a disappointing start there are signs of good things to come from the team.

Andy Dickson



1st Harbury Scouts

Gold for 1st Harbury Scouts – Seven scouts from the Harbury troop did the village proud recently on a District Camp held at the Scout Association's activity centre next to the Forest of Arden Golf Course and Hotel. The seven had a packed weekend of activities including climbing, abseiling, scuba diving, shooting, pedal cart racing, orienteering, knots, first aid test, indoor crossbow shooting, javelin throwing, observation, hiking and an assault course. They were assessed on each event of the Activity Olympics along with a dozen other troops and came out on top with a shield and gold medals to take away. Just as pleasing for the leaders was that the group were complimented on their supportive attitude towards each other as a team and their politeness towards the activity organisers. The weather was glorious, the food, good and plentiful. Well done to Gareth Shuttleworth, George Bloxham, Chris Thompson, Sam Butler, Jacob Hunt, Ben Tawney and Peter Thompson.

Nick Tawney

1st Harbury Cub Scouts

Attending meetings week after week may seem boring to many but not for 22 boys aged 8–10 years who are members of 1st Harbury Cub Scouts.

This term's topics will be learning about and making volcanoes, rainforests, waterfalls, rich and poor games and much more.

All Cubs have the opportunity to increase their circle of friends by participating in organised District Activities such as Sports Day, swimming galas, camps, quizzes, the list goes on and on.

Our two eldest Cubs are at present working hard to obtain their Silver Award (the highest award presented to a cub scout). They have just organised a recycling campaign at the Scout Hut in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind by collecting used stamps and inkjet cartridges (all are gratefully accepted).

All the Cubs are taking part in an international link with a Cub Scout Pack from Queensland, Australia as part of their Global Challenge and International Award.

June Barrett

G.A.S.S.

Village Uniform Groups go with a bang!

By the time you read this you may have either attended (or heard!) the Village Bonfire Night, organised by GASS and Harbury Church. It promises to be as spectacular and successful as ever.



Feeding the thirsty beer drinkers!

Another good news story for Guiding and Scouting in Harbury! As the custodians of the Scout Hut, we are delighted to say that the building is now used every weekday by uniformed groups, that is Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Brownies and the new Rainbows (very young girls' group). We now only lack Guides in the village. GASS's last fundraising activity was providing the food for the Harbury Beer Festival in September; this was very successful due mainly to the enthusiasm and hard work of so many volunteers.



Next, we wish to thank the Harbury Hash, the Harbury Carnival Committee and the Horticultural Society for giving us generous donations. To end on a constructive note, we now have drawings and specifications for the proposed new roof and internal improvements to the Scout Hut. Three builders have been approached and we are still holding our breath waiting for a quotation!

Alan Guy, Chairman of Guide and Scout Support (GASS)

Harbury Tennis Club

The main event in October was the AGM. It was the usual non-controversial event, which concluded that the Club's 25th year had been a success in all areas. The Committee was re-elected en bloc; the only change being that Angie Dean is joining as Secretary.

We had hoped that the AGM could have been started with the formal switching on of the lights on the second court. The columns were in place but unfortunately and almost unbelievably, delivery of the most important components, (the bulbs!) had been delayed and they were somewhere between New York and Harbury! They have now arrived but bad weather has delayed the contractors coming back to finish the job!

The winter leagues are now in full swing. In glorious sunshine the A team kicked off their Winter league matches with a 3-1 win against Byfield B at home. The ladies, Kate Young and Carol Best, were in fine form and won 6-1, 6-2 but the men, Andrew Rendell and Geoff Prince, lost 6-3, 6-3 in a close fought match with lots of deuces. In the mixed doubles Andrew and Carol won easily (6-1,6-0) and Geoff/Kate won the first set 6-2 and then lost the second 7-6 on a tiebreak but by then the result was beyond doubt! Due to holiday commitments Sue and Colin Mercer were drafted in to partner Kate and Andrew for the second match against Middleton Cheney. Sue and Kate cantered through the first set 6-1 but lost the second 5-7 while Andrew and Colin had an emphatic 6-1, 6-3 win. Kate and Andrew wrapped up the points with a very quick win by 6-1, 6-1. Sue and Colin gave their opponents a hard fight and nearly halved their rubber but lost a second set tiebreak.

The "B" team faced Warwick "C" in its opening match. Warwick had two very experienced ladies and their straight sets win against Caroline Morland and Sue Mercer proved to be the decisive rubber as the rest were all halved. Keith Thompson and Colin Mercer recovered well after losing a close first set and took the second 7-5. The position

looked very good for a while in the mixed doubles as Harbury won the first set in both but Warwick came back strongly to win the second sets.

In the Stratford Men's Doubles League Leamington proved too strong for regulars Jon Scothern and David Lauder, who were joined by Bill Hathaway and new member Bruce Rendle. Despite putting up a hard fight they went down 0-4.

The Club has made a successful start to its first Banbury Winter Floodlit League programme. Harbury is the league's northern "outpost" as all other Clubs use the floodlit courts at Brackley and Banbury West End. Harbury started with a comfortable 3½-½ win over Buckingham 2 on the artificial grass at Brackley. This surface suited Steve Stark who was able to generate more spin than Shane Warne! He partnered Colin Mercer in a comfortable win and followed it up with a second win in the mixed doubles with Caroline who had also won her first match with Angie Dean. Angie and Colin halved their match after winning the first set but losing the second in a close tiebreak.

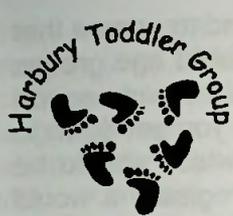
The second match against Marsh Gibbon couldn't have been much closer, 2 rubbers all and 36 games to 35 in Harbury's favour! Harbury started a bit slowly, with Caroline and Angie halving the ladies' and Jon Scothern and Richard Harding losing the men's. However, the team bounced back for Angie and Richard to win their mixed and Jon and Caroline halving theirs.

The first home floodlit match was scheduled for October but because of the globe trotting bulbs has had to be postponed until November!

Colin and Sue Mercer



Members of the Thursday morning Table Tennis Club.



Harbury Toddler Group

AGM

We held our AGM in the Shakespeare Pub at the end of September. In her annual report, as Chair of the committee, Eli Priest highlighted the events the group had been involved in organising over the last 12 months, including the Christmas Party, Carnival Float, Summer Outing and Teddy Bears Picnic. Special thanks also went to the Carnival committee for their generous donation to the group, allowing us to purchase new, exciting (noisy) toys for the Toddlers and to the Wight School Trustees for allowing us to use the building for such a reasonable rent, without which we would probably not exist.

We sadly had to say goodbye to our retiring committee members, Eli Priest (Chair), Nicky Kirk, Julie Jennings and Corinne Paine, all taking on far more demanding roles within the Pre School Committee. The huge amount of time and effort invested into Toddler Group by these ladies has ensured that it has continued to grow and remain the great sanctuary for new and seasoned mothers, carers and toddlers that it is today.

We also welcomed our new committee members and took on our new roles within the committee, which are: Emma Legg (Chair), Jacqui Quinney (Secretary), Catherine Best (Treasurer), and Officers Karen Taylor, Elizabeth Kitchener, Emma Alford and Sarah Gulliver. We hope we can keep up the high standards that the children have now come to expect.

NEW FACES

We are also happy to report lots of new faces at both the Monday and Wednesday sessions, hurrah! It would seem there has been a bit of a baby boom in the area...gets me thinking, there couldn't have been much on the telly last autumn. Thank you to all of you who have signed up to help out on the Monday and Wednesday rotas, it would be impossible to run the sessions without your support.

XMAS PARTY

As the evenings get darker all thoughts turn to the Toddlers Christmas Party. The date set for the party is Wednesday 7th December between 11.30ish and 2.30ish (times to be confirmed). Santa will be putting in an appearance, as a warm up for the big day on the 25th and there will be food, presents, dancing and much cheer for those under 4 years

old. Now, obviously this event takes some planning and to ensure that we get the right sort of entertainment and tell Santa what age groups he is buying for, we need to know if you are coming to the party or you know someone who would like to come. Please could you get down to toddlers and get their names and ages on the list, which should be posted up on the notice board or by the signing in register. It would help us out enormously.

If you would like any more information about Toddler Group Sessions or the Christmas Party then please contact me, Emma on 01926 613093 and I will see if I can help.

Emma Legg



Windmills

Nursery School

One of the highlights of our teddy bear theme was a visit from Emily Heydon's grandma with her 'well loved' teddy bear

called John. She told the children about how she used to play schools with her friends and their teddy bears and also how upset she was when she thought she had lost him. She asked the children to guess how old John was and we were all amazed to find out that he was 66 years old!



We have continued our discussions on harvest and autumn. The children

enthusiastically collected lots of different shapes and colours of leaves while on a nature walk around the school grounds that they used produced some beautiful leaf rubbings. We introduced the concept of heavy and light to the children by encouraging them to weigh lots of different autumn fruits and vegetables. Some of the children then sorted the fruit and vegetables, putting the heaviest item first.

The children have had lots of opportunity to practise their communication and literacy skills after listening to the story of Goldilocks and the 3 bears. They then confidently acted out and retold

their own versions of the story in front of all the other children. Mathematical language was introduced when making porridge with Mrs. Kennedy. After leaving it to cool for a while the children choose to eat either daddy bear's bowl, mummy bear's bowl or baby bear's bowl of porridge.



Lauren: "We stirred it round and round with a spoon"

Alexis: "I ate mummy bear's porridge and I ate baby bear's - it tastes yummy"

Alexander: "I had daddy bear's porridge - my porridge is delicious"

We have a new face in the nursery; Sarah Bench who is a student at Warwickshire College joined us this month and is already proving to be popular with both the children and staff. KidsKlub video productions visited the nursery on Monday 3rd October to video the children on safari in the jungle. Thank you to those parents who purchased copies of the videos and DVDs we managed to raise £22 in commission.

We have again visited the library for story time, and the church for the toddlers' service where we learnt how God created the world. The children especially enjoyed making a playdough man that they were able to take home.

We ended the term by exploring the topic, 'teddy opposites'. The children walked across the school playground using big and little steps, short and long steps, fast and slow steps and then jumped up as high as they could and crouched down as low as they could. They also had great fun singing and playing the musical instruments quietly and then extremely loudly! Finally, in preparation for the Halloween disco the children were very busy producing pumpkins, spiders, black cats and spiders webs using a variety of different media, which was used to decorate the village hall on Sunday 30th October.

Diary Dates

Saturday 12th November 2005 - Craft Fayre in the Village Hall, when we will be organising and selling the food - a joint venture with Pre-School.

Saturday 10th December 2005 – Windmills Christmas coffee morning in the Tom Hauley room from 10am till 12noon.

Friday 16th December 2005 - Windmills Christmas Concert in the school hall.

Monday 19th December 2005 - Windmills Christmas party

If you would like to register a place for your child or require any information on Windmills Nursery you can email us at info@windmills-nursery.co.uk , call Nicola on 614564 or Tina and Marie on 07906 519148.

Nursery School Staff and Committee



Harbury Pre-School

We were delighted to welcome our latest recruit, Nathaniel, who joined us at the end of September and is settling in well with his new friends. Oliver has had some trial sessions, accompanied by his mum and we look forward to his proper start after half term.

Teddy Bear Theme –

The topic of teddy bears has continued throughout October. The role-play area was turned into the three bears' house, with big, medium and small chairs, porridge bowls, bedding, wellies, hats and woolly waistcoats all ready for a variety of would-be Goldilocks.



The three bears figured widely, with a selection of Daddy, Mummy, baby and, as Jack insisted, brother bears taking turns to wonder about "Who's been eating MY porridge?"

Teddy bear counting songs have been very popular with the children and they particularly enjoyed making teddy bear shaped biscuits to eat at snack time. During the last week before half term, they had a great time decorating biscuits with different sorts of icing and dried fruit.

These were also eaten with very sticky fingers and lots of enthusiasm.

The Goldilocks theme was taken a step further when they helped to make porridge, which they topped with dried fruit and ate at snack time. Dry oats also substituted for sand in the sand tray and the children had a marvellous time experimenting with the different textures, particularly when they were encouraged to add water and get up to their elbows (and further in some cases) in the delightfully gooey mass.



Outdoor Activities – Certificates have been awarded to all the children for the first level of the Teddy PEGS programme for physical development. They had lots of fun throwing, catching, rolling and running to collect balls, beanbags and hoops and enthusiastically reached the required goals.

Travelling Animals – Each of the soft toys has been home with the children for a few days at a time. Max Monkey went to the zoo with Tamara, shopping with Grace and had fun with Matthew. Scruffy Lion had a marvellous time making cakes at Jack's house and visited Ludlow castle with Millie and Warwick Castle with Tiegan. Emmet Elephant made a blackberry crumble with Faye and a chocolate cake with Jack. Gerald Giraffe had a wonderful time at Anna's; he had a session at Windmills with Evie and was pleased to return to some peace and quiet after a hectic time with Clarice and her sisters! Stripes Zebra went to visit Molly's grandparents and came back with a plaster on his nose after he had been accidentally injured. What well travelled animals!

Huge thanks again – to Jonathan Jennings who this time has fitted our lovely but heavy wooden role-play kitchen units with castors so that they can now be moved easily into position.

If anyone would like further information about Harbury Pre-School, please contact Nicky Kirk, Chair of the Pre-School Committee, on Harbury 614316 or come and see us at our Open Morning on Saturday 5th November at the Wight School between 10am and 12noon.

Harbury Pre-School Staff and Committee



Harbury Primary School

The children of Year 6 at the village school have adopted the identity of someone who was their age at the time of the 1891 census. The list of these names appears with this article.

The children were asked to use the information on the census to tell something about their "adopted" family. The following story was written by Alice Woodhouse. It was so powerfully written that I thought it worth sharing. Not only has she used factual detail such as the names, ages and occupations of her "family", but she has woven in Victorian details as well.

My Victorian Home

"Hello, I'm Ellen Turner, I live in North Street and I have three siblings, two sisters and one brother. I'm the eldest, then Lyale comes next, she's ten and I can't stand her. She is also very pretty and the 'angel' of the house. We were born in the same place (Walsall/Stafford) one year after the other, so, unfortunately we're in the same class at school. Lyale is brilliant at absolutely everything but I'm rubbish at everything except singing and art (however, if we did reading, creative writing and botany like the boys I'd be good at those too). I like William and Sara Ann (she's named after mother) my other two siblings. Will is seven and Sara's five and they always go to school and play together at break time. Will was born in Ashorne/Warwick and Sara at Harbury/Warwick (like mother). None of them have ever had a whack with the cane, but I get one for every disastrous stitch!

Our father is forty-two, his name is James Turner and he was born in Bishops Itchington/Warwick and is an agricultural labourer. He loves making up poetry and mother says he could have been a famous writer if he had had a better education. As for mother, she's warm and cuddly, but slim with soft brown eyes. Her name is Sara Ann, she's forty-five and she was born in Harbury/Warwick.

Our neighbours Mr. And Mrs. Thacker have one son who is four years old and resembles a monster and one eight-month-old daughter who looks like a cherub.

This is my home and I will always remember it. Maybe, one day when I'm dead someone will look at a census sheet and see MY name written there.

Alice Woodhouse (Year 6)

If you have any information regarding any of the names listed here, the children would be delighted to hear.

Annie Smith, Arthur Turner, Mary Boffin, Alice Upton, Mabel Shearly, T.H.Overton, Martha Kyte, Ethel Lewis, Caroline Whitehead, Edith Payne, Lewis Wilkins, Mary Smith, Winifred Askew, Kate Hutchins, Gertrude Brown, Frank Sheppard, Harry Gibbs, Martin Owen, Eliza Brown, Amy Thomicroft, Walter Wells, Rosa Hillyard, Edward Bowell, James Borton, Daisy Humphries, Annie Overs and Ellen Turner.

This is a piece of work by one of the year 6 children interested in writing poetry. We hope you enjoy reading it.

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Cold

I shiver.

I'm waiting.

Waiting for the mystical blanket of white foam snow.

The cold cradles my frozen heart.

I'm cold.

I lose all connection with life on earth.

The cold has caught me.

I'm trapped; there's no way out, no escape.

I shiver.

By Ellie White, age 10

Denis Daly

Neighbourhood Watch News

First The Bad News

The Web and Email is increasingly being used to trick people. The following is a typical example of what goes on.

Consumers are warned to beware of a new scam Email. The Email says that the recipient's credit card account has been temporarily

locked and that the recent online credit card transaction involving a Mr H Wall was therefore not authorised. The Email will have been sent to many thousands of people in the hope that some of those who read it will have recently made online credit card purchases. Anyone tempted to click on the link provided on the Email risks exposing their computer to viruses. Further, the Email will also request personal and financial information as well as asking the recipient to confirm their bank details, and if obtained this can lead to identity theft.

Consumers should delete unsolicited (or spam) Email immediately and not be tempted to open it or follow any links. In addition, **never provide your personal or financial information.**

Now something to help you.

A Quality 2006 Calendar to Raise Awareness of Distraction Burglaries

The calendar is free of charge and has been produced for the Warwickshire Distraction Burglary Group by Frith who have a large archive of period photographs of Warwickshire - the photographic theme of the calendar that also includes helpful 'prompts' to the householder (such as having smoke alarm batteries checked).

It is for vulnerable and elderly people who seem to be particularly susceptible to distraction type burglaries. (There was one in Southam just last week involving bogus traders who stole from a woman in her 90's)

If you or anyone you know would benefit from this calendar please contact the person who delivers your NHW crime summaries or me (612939).

Alison Abbott

Harbury Senior Citizens Committee Update

Thank you to all of those people who came to the Summer Lunch and the Coffee morning in support of the Harbury Senior Citizens Benefit Association. We hope that you all enjoyed yourselves and would like to say thank you to those people who helped and those who attended. The monies raised will contribute to funding the activities that we arrange for the senior citizens of Harbury. Talking of which, the next will be the Christmas Party on Saturday 10th December 2005.

For ticket enquiries, please contact either Marie Wallington on 613205 or Margaret Taylor on 612903. We look forward to seeing you there and we hope that you will enjoy yourselves.

Mike McBride

Harbury Village Hall

This central, convenient facility is available to all residents in Harbury and Deppers Bridge and the Management Committee meets bi-monthly to administer and assess the requirements of our village community (comments on questionnaires returned by hirers). Over the years several improvements have been made; last year we purchased a portable stage and a new cooker. So far this year, we have purchased 30 new chairs, completed double glazing to the front windows of the main hall and been approved for a full licence under the new Act which comes into force in November (the latter having cost £420 to date). Our development plans for the next few months are to fit a control box for permanent staging lights, upgrade of the electric storage heating system and redecoration.

Unfortunately, due to increasing costs, we will have to increase the hire charges from January 2006 - the last increase was three years ago. Our electricity charges are increasing by 119% from November and together with the costs of applying for a full licence, there will be an increase of approximately £1 per hour in January. This increase is kept to a minimum, as we believe our community needs such a facility and this should be at a low cost to our residents. Below is a list of the new charges, which will come into effect in January 2006. For bookings where alcohol is to be consumed on the premises, an extra £15 will be added to the booking fee as individuals will no longer have to apply for a temporary alcohol licence.

HOURLY CHARGES FOR HIRE OF VILLAGE HALL (WITH EFFECT FROM 1 JANUARY 2006)

	Local (non profit)	Local (profit)	Non local
Main Hall	6.00	9.00	11.00
(including kitchen)	7.00	11.00	14.00
Farley Room	4.00	6.00	7.00
(including kitchen)	5.00	8.00	10.00
Fosse Meeting Room	3.00	3.00	4.00
Wagstaffe Room	2.00	3.00	4.00
Kitchen only (to include use of cutlery and crockery)	4.00	6.00	7.00
Changing Room (to include use of showers)	3.00	4.00	6.00
All Rooms	9.00	15.00	18.00

Representatives from village organisations are very welcome to attend our committee meetings and the next meeting will be held in the Committee Room of the Village Hall on Monday, 5th December at 8.00.pm. We welcome any new ideas and suggestions for the future development of the Village Hall as well as anyone interested in being a committee member.

Village Hall Management Committee

Back Door Drop-In

This youth facility is now open from 7pm every Tuesday at the Village Hall. Entry is by the kitchen door and we have use of the Wagstaffe Room, kitchen and now also the Farley Room, for example, for table tennis. The drop-in is open, free to all young people (minimum Y6) and our aim is to provide a place where they can meet friends, have a mug of hot chocolate, buy snacks if they wish. Occasionally we serve hot dogs for a change.

Parents please note, it is a drop-in and though we have plenty of adult helpers, we can only be responsible for the young people while they are on the premises. It should be said that all our adult helpers are being subject to Criminal Record Bureau checks and both this and our insurance has been kindly covered by All Saints Church.

The number of youngsters coming has varied dramatically from none one week (footie match on TV) to twelve another...so if you want us to remain open beyond Christmas, pay the drop-in a visit, on your own or with a friend – you'll be welcome.

Lesley Jones & Margaret Commons

15th Annual Harbury Hash

On Sunday 18th September 49 runners and walkers set off from Itchington Holt, Thwaites Estate, for the 15th Annual Harbury Hash. This year the hares were Mali (Little Big Horn) Murphy, Ian (Biker Bill) Hartland, Celia (Anonymous) Neill, and Doug (Dunn Inn) Freeman.

The Hash was again blessed with fine weather, and we learnt from last year, when we set the flour trail on the Saturday only to find it washed away by the rain or eaten by the animals in the Holt. This year the flour was actually visible, and the trail used all sides of the Holt, sending the

runners off on false trails from the woods. The first false trail was over the footbridge across the M40 in the direction of Gaydon Coppice, and the runners returned to meet the walkers ambling in the southern edges of the Holt. The walkers then managed to split into two groups, and one of the walker's hares was forced to run to try and reunite the walkers. As the runners followed more false trails, the walkers concentrated on picking blackberries and sloes. We stopped for refreshments at the northern edge of the Holt before sending the runners to Piper's Hill and beyond. The walkers took a more leisurely route via Christmas Hill Farm, and returned to Itchington Holt ahead of the runners.



With everyone safely back, it was time for down downs for breaking the unwritten Hash rules which included: being a first time hasher, getting the walkers lost, warming up before the run, checking times at the end of the run, bringing a comfy chair to sit on at the BBQ, and registering with the wrong name. Following the success of last year, Mali organised pre-BBQ games "egged" on by the crowd. Our thanks to Peter Bones (Hash Fire), Sue Hartland and Janny Freeman (Hash Cashers), Dave Shuttleworth (Hash Web), and to all those who turned up. We raised £66.35, which will be donated to Harbury Scouts and Guides.

Finally, our special thanks again to Brian Merriman for allowing us access to Thwaites Estate and Itchington Holt. Don't miss the 16th Harbury Hash in September 2006. Check out our web site (<http://www.actionability.co.uk/hh/>) for photos of this year's Hash.

Doug Freeman

Harbury Carnival

I know it is maybe a bit early to start talking about next year's Carnival but we wanted you all to know how much we made this year and what we have done with it. Our profit was £1,200 (last year £1,000) so an excellent outcome, mainly thanks to all of you for supporting the event in all of the ways that you do. Long may it continue. As you know, the Carnival proceeds are donated entirely to village causes and this year's recipients were: Harbury School, the Nursery School, the Pre School, the Church, G.A.S.S., the First Responder Group, the Village Hall, the Youth Club, the Senior Citizens, the Twinning Association and the Theatre Group.

Who gets what is largely a decision made by the committee. We do ask, via the Harbury News, for organisations to contact us if they have a need and this does generate some responses. Otherwise, we have to rely on who we know that needs money and who we think could do with some money, even if they have not asked for it! The overriding principle is that the money is used to benefit as wide a cross section of the community as possible. So, please bear this in mind for next year and, if you are an organisation that would like to benefit from the Carnival proceeds, already has benefited but would like to again, or if you know of an organisation that needs funds, please let us know. Also, if you have any comments on the allocation of funds in general, we would like to hear them. You can call me on 614258.

We also want you to let us know if you have any ideas/criticisms/concerns about any aspect of the Carnival and its associated activities. We are a committee of five people and whilst we have done and always will do our best to make the whole thing work, we do not claim to know all there is to know. We tend to operate, at least to some extent, on the "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" principle. This is not necessarily a bad thing and it does not mean that we are not open to new ideas. So, if you have some, let's hear them. Again, call me on 614258 or contact any other member of the committee, Dan Killian, Neville Sheasby, Mike McBride or Ann Winchester.

John Broomfield, On behalf of the Carnival Committee

ENGLAND EXPECTS...everyone to plant a tree!

The Woodland Trust, the leading woodland conservation body in the UK, is planting 33 new woods around the country to commemorate the

battle of Trafalgar; there were apparently 27 line of battle ships and six support boats. The nearest new wood to Harbury is only a few miles away at Hellidon Lakes Hotel and Golf Course. They need volunteer tree planters for two hours on 27th November between 11.00am and 1.00pm. Go to www.woodland-trust.org.uk for more details.

Nick Tawney

Can you remember?

Until about 10 years ago there was a rocking horse in the Infant end of the school. I believe it came from the Wight School, though perhaps it might even have come from the Wagstaffe School.

I am sure I was told me that someone in the village made it. It was given to the County Museum Service, rather than the local knacker, when it started to look rather tired. If anyone has any idea where it came from, or who made it, the Museum would be very grateful for the information. Please ring the school (612656) and we will pass any messages on.



Nigel Chapman

Harbury Library

Charity Christmas Cards will be on sale for the first time this year in Harbury Library from October 10th until 24th December 2005. The Library opening hours are as follows:

Monday 2.00pm – 5.00pm
5.30pm – 7.00pm
Thursday 10.00am – 1.00pm
2.00pm – 5.00pm
5.30pm – 7.00pm

All the charities receive at least 81p in every £1 from their card sales, out of which they have to pay for the production and distribution of their cards and any applicable VAT.

Chris Dunne

Dementia and Alzheimer's Warwickshire Network

Sandra Coombs, Chair of D.A.W.N. will be the speaker at an open meeting at **St James' Church, Southam on Thursday 17th November** at 8pm (coffee will be served at 7.45pm).

This event will be important for everyone who is interested in Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Sandra believes passionately that a "voice" must be found for the vulnerable people suffering from dementia. D.A.W.N.'s work includes lobbying Government for more funding and resources for sufferers, in our county of Warwickshire.

Anne Moore

Harbury Village Hall

Licensing Act 2003

The new Licensing Act comes into operation from 7th November.

From that date hirers no longer have to apply to the local Magistrates Court for an occasional license to sell/provide alcohol. Instead the local District Council takes over that role.

The Village Hall Committee were faced with two alternative routes. One is for the prospective hirer to complete a Temporary Event Notice (a 'TEN'), which would cost, we understand, £21.00 and send it to the District Council and Police. This would then cover that particular event but the disadvantage would be that only 12 can be issued per year each premises. In some years this figure could be exceeded so the Committee felt that the safest route would be the alternative (but expensive and complicated) of appointing a Designated Premises Supervisor (a 'DPS') who must also hold a Personal License and who would then assume responsibility for seeing that the event is conducted properly and in accordance with the provisions of the Act. There is then no limit on the number of such events that could be held in the Village Hall. **All the formalities have now been completed and we await the License itself.**

However, we must be made aware at an early stage of any event when alcohol will be on sale or consumed at the Village Hall. If you know of anyone who may be affected perhaps you would be good enough to advise him or her of this procedure.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss this matter then please phone Bill Middleton on 612877.

Grant Applications – Local Voluntary Groups

Are you a member of a local voluntary group or charity trying to get a new project off the ground? Or perhaps you just need more funds to continue your existing work? Feeling daunted at the thought of all those coffee mornings? The Parish Council has a fund for making small discretionary grants to local, village based organisations and would be interested to hear from any groups who may benefit from this. Enquiries in the first instance should be made to the Parish Clerk, Nicola Thompson 614646, or e-mail clerk@harbury-parish.co.uk.

Nicola Thompson

Macmillan Cancer Relief

Thanks to everyone who supported our Halloween Family Disco, we hope you all enjoyed the evening. Well done to all the parents for helping to make it a success by sorting out such lovely costumes, we thought everyone was a winner!

Our total raised up to date is over £1000 for which we are very grateful to you all.

Please see posters for our next fundraising event, on Saturday 19th November at Harbury Village Club. Doors open at 8pm - **don't miss it!** An evening of live soft rock music by 'Beyond Recognition', plus a raffle. For tickets (to include a light buffet), Adults £5, Children £2.50, please contact Mary on 613140, Donna on 614908 or Sally on 614290. Book now and help make it another successful and entertaining evening for this very important charity. Many thanks.

Mary Revitt

Harbury Support Group for Myton Hospice

We will be having a Coffee Morning on Friday 18th November in the Tom Hauley Room at 10am – 12noon.

There will be a raffle, cakes, bring and buy and also Christmas cards for sale, so please drop in, have a chat and a coffee and bring your friends, we would love to see you. Everyone is welcome.

Harbury Support Group

Harbury All Saints Christmas Fayre

Saturday 3rd December 2005

Hello friends - it is Fayre time again, how the time flies! We will soon be knocking on your door hoping to sell you a book or two of raffle tickets.

All proceeds this year will go to the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance Service, which is a good cause. They have been in this village five or six times this year.

We will have the usual attractions, Father Christmas will be on tour before entering his Grotto and hopefully the Morris Dancers will be free to entertain the waiting crowds.

The Fayre will open at 2pm and we all look forward to seeing you.

Colin Ingram

Your Christmas present problems solved!

You may remember that the Folk Club Choir gave a carol concert in the Tom Hauley Room last December. The concert was a sell-out and we were able to make substantial donations to the Leamington Christian Mission and Harbury Church. The concert was recorded and many people have asked for a copy of the recording if we could make it available.

I'm pleased to report that we are in the final stages of producing a CD, which will be ready for this Christmas. All 20 tracks are carols that we have performed, in our own informal style, at the Christmas Eve Carol Services over the years. So, if you missed the concert, or would like to hear it again, or you would just like to sample a local recording of seasonal music, look out for the CD, 'A Christmas Celebration', on sale from the beginning of December. In particular, we plan to have copies available at the Christmas Fayre on December 3rd but you can also place your orders by phoning Lynne Cooke (612580), Celia Neill (612819) or Peter McDonald (613730).

All profits will be going to the same charities so please buy CDs for you, your friends and relations! Solve your Christmas present problems with a musical taste of Christmas in Harbury!

Peter McDonald

Warwickshire Air Ambulance

Sheila and Liz held a Coffee Morning recently in aid of the Air Ambulance.

Debbie Ellis also did an excellent job with her promotional items and was delighted to raise £41.

They would like to thank all those who supported the morning by helping, by donating, raffle prizes, gifts and cakes for the stalls and especially to all those who came along. It was greatly appreciated and the excellent sum of £163 was raised, which has been sent off to this most worthy cause.



Rosemary Harley and Debbie Ellis - first responders

Sheila Scott and Liz Bunting

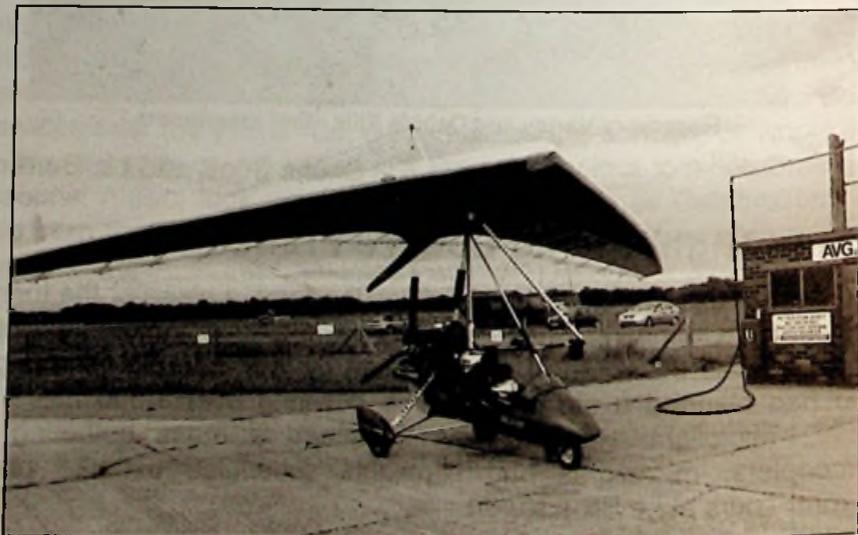
Flying High, Flying Low To France

For most of us a trip to France involves the ferry, a plane or the tunnel to cross the Channel to our nearest European partners. None of these, however, was the route of choice taken by 'our' intrepid fishmonger who had planned a trip of a lifetime covering over 1,500 miles by microlight. His aim was to attend a mass gathering of gyrocopters, microlights and ultralights scheduled to take place beyond Tours at Le Blios airport.

The entire adventure took 5 days starting from Sandtoft near Scunthorpe and heading for Headcorn in Kent before attempting the crossing of La Manche. The out-going journey was somewhat 'hairy', as a flight, which should have taken 4 hours, lasted 5.5 hours due to a strong headwind. It meant that Glenn's engine 'cut out' on landing, as all his fuel had been used up. Undeterred, he lodged his flight plan and flew from Folkestone to Le Touquet at 400ft above sea level due to the low cloud. Eventually he reached Abbeville where other pilots flying in from across Europe joined him. The route took him onwards over Chartres where he landed for re-filling and a military airbase at Chantresdun where rows of MIG jet fighters were lined up ready for action.

By the time he approached Onzaine where the rally was held, the air was filled with swarms of flying machines, which looked (and sounded!) from the ground, like a swarm of gigantic angry bees! There were over 5,000 flying enthusiasts in the air aiming for one of 3 parallel air strips and each pilot had to pick his 15 second spot in which to come to rest without impeding another craft – either in the air or on the ground.

As with all get-togethers of like-minded people, the show provided Glenn with a real 'buzz', whilst making his plans for the return journey over Abbeville and the beaches near Cap Griz Nez. At this point, he hovered along the coastline at 100ft to take in the exceptional views, but on leaving the mainland of France, he powered up to 6,500ft where all he could see was 'water, water everywhere' and not a drop to drink!



Waiting for fuel at Headcorn having run out on

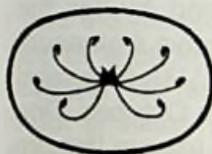
He landed back at Headcorn to close the flight plan and with a tail wind set off for his home strip – a trip which took 3 hours and left him with 25 litres of fuel. He then realised how close he had been to possible disaster before he had even left England's shores on the outgoing journey.

Will he do it all again? Most definitely, as the 'adrenalin rush was fantastic', especially for all the miles covered in total solitude and the final drop into France with hordes of enthusiasts jostling for position in the skies.

Will anyone else from Harbury try the trip? Probably not, as there is no chance to drop in at a French hypermarket to bring back quantities of cheap wine, or any fish!

If you want to hear more about the high and lows of a microlight trip, ask the 'man who knows' when you next see him parked with his fish van outside the Shakespeare on Mondays – approx. 12.30 – 2.30pm.

Chris Finch



Horticultural Society

Although I was not present for the talk "Alpines of the Italian Alps" I understand it was very interesting and informative, the slides superb and from what I gathered Sue Burn practically made you think you were there.

The hour has gone back, November has arrived and hopefully the seed catalogues will soon be available. To qualify for the various discounts, the Society has to spend a certain sum with Dobies and Marshalls, so when ordering please spread your order between both. The evenings are long and dark, so how about spending a couple of hours deciding what to grow next year, perhaps enter some exhibits at the Show and challenge this year's winners! I am sure there are some allotments available and if you don't think growing fruit and veg is "you", how about designing an area on the lines of the Victorian Hill Close Gardens in Warwick. They are quite delightful and well worth a visit. The Trustees of those gardens are always ready to accept help from any volunteers who would be willing to give them some time either on a regular basis or occasionally. If you are interested in an allotment in Harbury please contact Patrick Clarke on 612066.

By the time the November issue is circulated we shall know who is on the committee, some new names we hope.

The December meeting is probably the most popular of the year. As last year, instead of a talk, there will be party games with a horticultural flavour of course! This will be followed by a finger buffet served with a drop of wine no doubt! A fun evening and not to be missed – Tuesday 6th December at 8pm.

A note for your diary, the talk, 'Birmingham Botanical Gardens – Past, Present and Future', will take place on Tuesday 3rd January and will be given by Mr Ian Nex.

Muriel Grey

Nature Notes

As I write (Friday 21st October), the weather is cool with blustery showers, quite fitting for Trafalgar Day. However, the month has been generally mild with some really pleasant sunny days when butterflies such as the Red Admiral [apologies to Nelson, no pun intended] and some of the larger dragonflies could be found on the wing.

Fungi is the general name for groups such as Chanterelles, Boletes, Club, Bracket & Jelly Fungi, Stinkhorns, Puffballs and by far the biggest numerically Mushrooms and Toadstools. It's always a pleasure and an eye opener to be taken round by an expert. My U3A Naturalist Group met John Sells at Oakley Wood on Monday 10th October. One of those dewy, early autumn days which warmed up to require (for me anyway), a wide brimmed sun hat. The lawns near the crematorium at first glance seemed an unpromising place to start our search. Half an hour later we had been shown about 20 types with common names like Fly Agaric, Birch Milk Cap, Shaggy Ink Cap (also known as Lawyer's Wig), Red Cracked Boletus, Blusher & Deceiver. We then took a circuit of the wood and identified the razor-strop or birch polypore which, as its name suggests, is a bracket fungus growing on birch. False Chanterelle, which has the Latin name *Hygrophoropsis Aurantiaca*, a bit of a mouthful, was discovered under some pine trees. Once or twice we were offered a taste. The grey milk cap is not poisonous but even a small piece was very hot. Another in the *Amanita* group smelt of raw potato. In conversation, John reminded me that the so called 'Iceman' found some years ago high up in the Alps between Austria and Italy had tinder in his leather pouch. After research the body and accompanying artefacts were found to be nearly 3000 years old dating back to a period off copper and tin technology before the Iron Age. When analysed the tinder proved to be the Razor Strop fungus. There are some 3000 British fungi so a good reference book is essential and identifying them can be a life's work.

The typical toadstool is the fruiting body; the majority of the fungus consists of an underground network of fibres or hyphae through which nutrients are extracted from rotting vegetation, be it leaves, wood, or even other fungi. From the fruiting body, spores in their thousands are released and spread on the breeze in an attempt to colonise pastures new. Under the cap are gills of various types with pores from which the spores escape. Now is the time before the frosts start, to wander through a local wood with an expert, or armed with a reference book, and take a fresh look at the interesting and varied fungal types on parade.

On the grass bank in Bush Heath Lane is a large ring of toadstools. It's more than 5 metres across and formed by the Fairy Ring Champignon (*Marasmius oreades*). Outside the surgery in Mill Street, a dead Horse Chestnut tree is festooned on one side by Honey Fungus (*Armillaria mellea*). The tree is marked by a blob of red paint, as it's due to be felled, so it's easy to spot.

While clearing the seasonally flooded area in the Leam Valley Nature Reserve which harbours the rare and delightful Snake's Head Fritillary, I had the pleasure of seeing my first Harvest Mouse nest. About the size of a cricket ball and woven out of grass stems and leaves the occupier had left for the safety of a winter burrow. The Harvest Mouse is our smallest mouse weighing about 10 grams with a body length of 5-7cms (2-3 inches). Its tail is some 7.5cms in length and used as an extra limb as its tip can wrap round a grass stalk.

The first bird Rex Humphreys sighted when his plane landed in Majorca was an Egyptian Vulture. It was at the northern end of its range, which extends from Southern Europe to Mozambique, and from Spain to India. It is one of the smaller vultures and is renowned as one of the few tool-using birds known to science. It has been seen to grasp a stone in its bill, walk over to an Ostrich's nest and hurl the stone downwards onto an egg until it shatters and the vulture gets its meal.

Ron Grey found a nest in a low bush recently. Muriel brought it to show me in hope that I might identify the builder. It had an outer layer of interwoven vegetation. This had been neatly plastered with mud, which in turn had a lining, which resembled coconut matting. It seemed slightly smaller than a blackbird's nest. From the photographs I took Ron Stanbridge thought the most likely occupant was a song thrush, but after talking to other ornithologists, the consensus was that it was a blackbird's nest with some of its bulk stripped away. Please keep unusual sightings flowing in [612860].

Completing this article on 26th October, a cloudy, damp day with a moderate breeze, I was a bit surprised to see a male Brimstone butterfly in the garden. In fact this is one of four butterflies, which can be seen, weather permitting, throughout the year. The others are Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell and Comma.

John Hancock

Gardening Notes

The autumn flowers are still making a brave show but reluctantly we now must clear them away. There have been dire predictions of a hard winter so be thorough in the preparations to protect slightly tender plants that have cheerfully come through recent winters unscathed. They may not fare so well in the coming months. Most of our garden plants cease to grow when the temperature drops to 6C (43F), so clear away anything already dead, leaving less to do later.

Dahlias have been particularly good this autumn. Lift the tubers once the leaves blacken after frost. Cut the stem to 3" and then turn it upside down to drain. Clean off any soil when dry and dust with sulphur before storing them in a strong paper bag. Check them regularly in store to make sure they are not drying out. If they begin to look withered soak them in lukewarm water overnight. Treat begonia tubers in the same way.

Use well rotted compost to protect crowns of perennials after cutting them back to about 20cm (8"). Clear away any sodden leaves from plants and remove dead leaves from the centres of plants as these attract slugs. They will continue to forage as long as the temperature is over 5C but snails become inactive and seal the opening of their shells. Protect semi-hardy plants such as hosta and penstemon, with a 15cm (6") layer of slow rotting leaves, straw, bark or evergreen clippings and secure a piece of netting over the heap. Alternatively fill a plant pot with mulch and invert it over the plant crown. Erecting a screen of plastic netting around them can protect larger plants. Plants begin their period of winter dormancy when the daily mean temperature falls below 6C (43F) and here this should be around the end of the month so aim to finish winter preparations by then.

The soil in pots is subject to frost from all directions so will freeze solid more rapidly than soil at ground level. Move containers of hardy plants to shelter or lag the pots. Everything that needs protection must be under cover or insulated by lagging the pots.

Use the warmth left in the soil to plant new roses and fruit trees. Make sure the planting hole is large enough for the roots to be spread out well. Trim off any spindly branches. Choose varieties that are disease resistant. Plant new raspberry canes and cut back autumn fruiting varieties. Apples and pears can be winter pruned after leaf fall. Cut out any dead and crossing branches to open up the centre. Cut back main branches by up to a third and the laterals, or side shoots to about 3". Leave plum and cherry until the sap is rising in the spring to avoid silver leaf infection. Thin the centres of gooseberry bushes and shorten the side shoots. Prune red and black currants by cutting out one in three of the stems of established shrubs. Look for the darker colour of the bark to pick out the older growth.

Lift beetroot and celeriac and store them in slightly damp, old potting compost. Other root crops can be stored in sand, although carrots and beetroot will survive in the ground if given a frost protection of straw.

Garlic should be planted as soon as possible. It needs a period of 6-8 weeks with the soil temperature below 10C. to produce a good crop. If you miss planting it this month look for the variety Cristo to plant in the spring.

Check bowls of hyacinths and other prepared bulbs. If the roots are pushing out the bulb, carefully replant it, disturbing the roots as little as possible. Bring the bowls into the light in a cool room when the leaves are about 3" high, but with hyacinths wait until the bud is visible. Begin to water amaryllis bulbs from previous years in the old pot, as they dislike being repotted too frequently. Bring them onto a warm windowsill. Do not move Christmas cactus around once the buds begin to form or they may drop.

Plant of the month - Fatsia

Sometimes known as the Fig-leaf Palm or Japanese Aralia, this handsome oriental looking shrub is tough enough for the most difficult sites. Growing erect to about 2mx2m (7ft) in 15 years it is a glossy evergreen with hand-shaped leaves. In October milky-white globular flowers are well set-off by the dark green leaves. The flowers survive until a hard frost and will sometimes be followed by black fruits.



As its name implies it is native to Japan; being brought here in 1838; the time of many introductions from China and Japan by the plant-hunters. At first it was grown as a pot plant and it can still be grown in that way. However, it is suitable for growing in almost any soil and will thrive in medium or deep shade. Sometimes it is used as a tall plant in park bedding schemes. It makes a statement as a single sculptural plant in a front garden, a paved area or Japanese style garden. One leaf will form an impressive background in a floral arrangement and will last for several weeks.

Best planted in spring, this shrub requires little maintenance, needing only mulch in spring and autumn, and a feed with a general fertilizer once a year. If it outgrows its space it can be pruned back hard and will regenerate readily, so why not look out for this magnificent evergreen if there is a space in the shade to fill.

Pat Smith

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors

We would like to express our thanks to everyone who contributed so much to our Golden Wedding celebrations. We had a lovely time, but still feel sure we must have omitted saying all of our thanks to some.

Many Thanks

Catherine & Cyril Spence

Dear Editors

As a result of the coffee morning on October 8th I was able to send a cheque to the value of £140 to the British Heart Foundation.

My very sincere thanks to my usual band of happy helpers and also to everyone who came to support this very worthy cause.

Gladys Hutchins

Dear Editors

Firstly I would like to apologise for the incorrect figure given to some people for my Macmillan Coffee Morning at Karen's on September 30th, I miscounted the 20 pences, and the actual figure I banked was £375.20.

I would like to thank everyone who gave donations and support and their time to make the morning such a success, for a very worthwhile cause, especially Karen for allowing us into her home.

See you all again next year, I hope.

Mary Coley

Dear Editors

On behalf of the ladies that organised the Ladies Night on the 8th October at the Village Club in aid of the Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance which raised £865, we would like to thank all those that supported this event and the many businesses and shops that donated gifts for the raffle.

We hope to make this an annual event and hope for the continued support.

Yours truly

J Ann Ward

Dear Editors

Thank you for supporting the Cinnamon Trust at the coffee morning in the Tom Hauley Room on 3rd September.

I was able to send a cheque for £110 to the trust and have been advised that this will go towards the laying of a patio at the Poldarves Farm Sanctuary, "making stepping out a lot easier for those old unsteady legs."

Please accept heartfelt thanks from both the Cinnamon Trust and from myself.

Pat Hearn

Dear Editors

We would like to thank everyone who supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 30th September; we made a fantastic £424.00. We could not have raised this amount without your great support, so thank you everyone.

Sylvia, Mary and Friends

Dear Editors

I would like to make a plea to some dog owners to exercise more responsibility towards their pets in and around the village.

It seems that some dogs are allowed to roam around the roads without any control at all times of the day. They may, as a result, be the cause of an accident involving road users, as they rush out from behind the parked cars in the village centre.

In addition, there appear to be some owners who are unaware of the countryside code in respect to keeping dogs under control when using the footpaths across local fields.

During the recent hot weather, I was working in my garden and had left the back door of my property open when I was alerted to the calls of a dog owner attempting to call her pet 'to heel' from across the field behind my house. On entering the kitchen, I was confronted by an over-excitable dog, which was chasing one of my cats around the work surfaces and window ledges. As a result of the skirmish, two expensive crystal items were smashed onto the floor and shards of glass were scattered over a wide area. The items were of sentimental value and are irreplaceable, but my main concern on reflecting the incident, was that a young child or older person might have been knocked over in the melee caused by the uncontrolled dog rushing around the room chasing the cat. Fortunately, I was 'on hand' to remove my cat to another room and the owner retrieved her dog, so that the disturbance did not extend to other rooms in my house.

I hope that bringing this incident to the attention of readers that all dog owners will exercise due care of their pets and realise that an uncontrolled dog could cause damage, not only to property, but also to people. The

R.S.P.C.A. always remind the public as Christmas approaches, that a 'dog is for life' and that ownership brings responsibilities, which should be observed for the safety of all.

J Griffin

DECEMBER EDITION – HARBURY & LADBROKE NEWS

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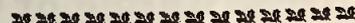


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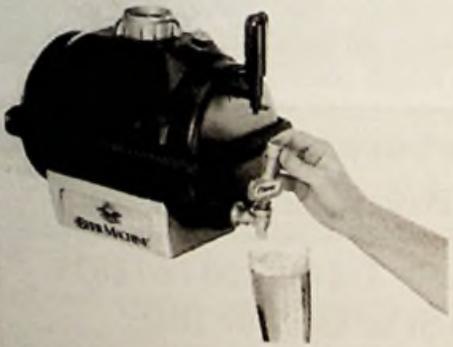
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