

# Harbury & Ladbroke News

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## Editorial Team

John Holden - Chris Finch - Marian Millington  
Ralph Swadling - Janice Thraves

*The views of contributors are not necessarily those of the Editorial Team  
The Editors reserve the right to amend articles as they see fit.*



## Editorial

Many villagers will remember John Ridgley and his great contribution to many areas of Harbury village life. Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this time.

The first phase to improve Harbury Village Hall has just been completed in time for the Mini Beer Festival where, no doubt, the new toilets will be put to good use!

After twenty years, the Myton Hospice Support Group are stopping the annual plant sales. Over this time they have raised £47,000 for the hospice and many of us will now have to look elsewhere for our plants.

Finally, we also extend our sympathies to the family of Eva Wright.

# Harbury Diary

## MARCH

- |            |           |   |
|------------|-----------|---|
| Tues       | 9         | Toddlers Service 2.00pm in Church<br>Holy Communion 7.30pm  |
| Wed        | 10        | Ballroom Dancing 8.00pm in Village Hall   |
| Thurs      | 11        | Holy Communion 9.45am<br>Blood Donors Village Hall<br>Table Tennis 9.30am in Village Hall<br>Lent Course 7.30pm in Church<br>WI Members Evening 7.45pm in Tom Hauley Room |
| Fri        | 12        | Mid-day Prayer with Meditation 12 noon in Church<br>Lent Lunch 12.30pm in Tom Hauley Room<br>Tai Chi 7.00pm, Village Hall   |
| Sat        | 13        | Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Dogs for the Deaf<br>Mini Beer Festival 11.00am – 11.00pm, Village Hall<br>Afghan Heroes fundraising event 7.30pm Rugby Club  |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>LENT IV</b><br>MOTHERING SUNDAY<br>Holy Communion 8.00am<br>Family Communion Service 10.30am   |
| Mon        | 15        | ADVERTISEMENTS TO 31 BINSWOOD END BY 5.30pm   |
| Tues       | 16        | Holy Communion 7.30pm   |

- Mothers' Union Meeting 8.00pm in Tom Hauley Room -Bill Davies' talk on Santiago de Compostella
- Weds 17 Tea 3.00pm in Tom Hauley Room  
Ballroom Dancing 8.00pm in Village Hall
- Thurs 18 Table Tennis 9.30am in Village Hall  
Holy Communion 9.45am  
Harbury Society AGM & Talk on Warwickshire Building Stone 7.30pm, Tom Hauley Room  
Lent Course 7.30pm in Church
- Fri 19 Mid-day Prayer with Meditation 12 noon in Church  
Lent Lunch 12.30pm in Tom Hauley Room  
Tai Chi 7.00pm Village Hall
- Sat 20 Men's Prayer Breakfast 7.30am Tom Hauley Room  
Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Church Flowers  
Moving Pictures 'Sherlock Holmes' Doors open 5.30pm
- Sun 21 LENT V**  
Holy Communion 8.00am  
Sung Eucharist 10.30am  
Short Act of Worship 6.00pm, followed by P.C.C. AGM
- Mon 22 Duke of Edinburgh Group 7.45pm Village Hall  
Bingo 7.30pm at Galanos House, Southam, everyone welcome  
tel: 812185 for details
- Tues 23 Holy Communion 7.30pm  
Julian Meeting 8.00pm
- Weds 24 Drop in Tea for the Bereaved 2.30 to 4.30pm, 19 Farm Street  
Ballroom Dancing 8.00pm in Village Hall
- Thurs 25 Table Tennis 9.30am in Village Hall  
Holy Communion 9.45am  
Thursday Club 2.30pm in Village Hall
- ARTICLES TO HARBURY PHARMACY, HIGH STREET AND  
EMAIL ARTICLES DEADLINE BY 5.30pm  
Lent Course 7.30pm in Church  
Parish Council 7.30pm Village Hall
- Fri 26 Mid-day Prayer with Meditation 12 noon in Church  
Lent Lunch 12.30pm in Tom Hauley Room  
School breaks up for Easter holidays  
Tai Chi 7.00pm Village Hall
- Sat 27 Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room in aid of GASS  
(Guides & Scouts Support)  
Theatre Group fundraising lunch in aid of Village Hall 12.30pm
- Sun 28 PALM SUNDAY**  
Holy Communion 8.00am  
Procession from School 10.15am  
Sung Eucharist with Distribution of Palms 10.30am
- Mon 29 Holy Communion 7.30pm  
Stations of the Cross 8.00pm

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Tues 30 Holy Communion 7.30pm  
Stations of the Cross 8.00pm

Weds 31 Holy Communion 7.30pm  
Stations of the Cross 8.00pm  
Men's Group Meeting 7.45pm Tom Hauley Room  
Ballroom Dancing 8.00pm in Village Hall

**APRIL**

**Thurs 1**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

Table Tennis 9.30am in Village Hall  
Holy Communion 9.45am  
Art Group 10.00am in Tom Hauley Room  
Passover Meal 7.00pm Tom Hauley Room  
Folk Club at Dog Inn 8.00pm  
Sung Eucharist 8.00pm followed by the 'Watch' at the Altar of  
Repose until Midnight

**Fri 2**

**GOOD FRIDAY**

Children's Service 10.30am  
Devotional Hour 2.00 – 3.00pm  
Tai Chi 7.00pm in Village Hall

**Sat 3**

**HOLY SATURDAY**

Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Work with  
Children in Church  
The Blessing of the Paschal Candle & Service of Renewal 8pm

**Sun 4**

**EASTER SUNDAY**

Sung Eucharist 9.00am  
First Light 'Celebration of Easter' 10.30am in Church – Everyone  
Welcome

Refuse Collection Rota				
	Deppers Bridge	Harbury	Ladbroke	Refuse Collection Week
March	Wed	Thurs	Fri	
	10	11	12	Grey Bin
	17	18	19	<b>Green &amp; Blue Lid Bins</b>
	24	25	26	Grey Bin
April	31	1	2	<b>Green &amp; Blue Lid Bins</b>
	7	8	9	Grey Bin
	14	15	16	<b>Green &amp; Blue Lid Bins</b>
	21	22	23	Grey Bin



## From the Rector

Father Craig Grocock

The Rectory, Vicarage Lane, Harbury Tel.: 612377

### **'Never gonna give you up!'**

My daughter Jess came home a while back telling us that she'd been 'Rick rolled'. Now I know that I am usually with it and 'where it's at, man' but I was flummoxed, didn't have a clue what she meant. Do you know what being 'rick rolled' means? Well, apparently it is when someone tricks you into following a link on an email, you go to the link only to find that you're greeted by Rick Astley, singer from the 80's (remember him?) singing his famous ditty 'never gonna give you up' – so there you go; Rick rolled!

Well, once again we've arrived in Lent, the six week period before Easter and it's traditional to give something up during this time – perhaps alcohol, eating between meals or chocolate.

'The ritual of abstinence over Lent, which began on Ash Wednesday (17<sup>th</sup> Feb), has all but disappeared. The British public has given up on giving up', according to a well known newspaper. This might be so but I would argue that the value, whether you're 'religious' or not, of giving something up for a period of time, is worthwhile.

The tradition of giving something up during Lent goes back many years and was a reminder to Christians of Jesus' forty days in the wilderness, recorded in Matthew's Gospel, when he went without food and was tempted by the devil in preparation for his work and ministry. In remembrance of this, Christians would 'fast' as a sign of sorrow and penitence for their sins, but also as a means of developing their self-discipline.

Research has shown that self-discipline and self-denial can in fact develop personal character. During the 1970's, a test was carried out in the United States amongst young children. The children were told that they could have a marsh mellow now or wait until later in the day when they could have two. The children were followed up later in adult life and the research showed that those who had waited, who had exercised self discipline in the marsh mellow test, were far more successful as adults in terms of their careers, relationships etc, than those who in the test couldn't wait.

So there is some evidence it seems to show that self-discipline is good for our personal development and character. As a British people we might be giving up 'giving up' for Lent but in our busy lives and stress-ridden society where everything has to be instant, perhaps revisiting Lent and the challenges of abstinence might not be such a bad thing after all.

May this Lent be a blessing to all of you and . . . watch out for Rick!

## From the Registers

### *Burial of Ashes, All Saints' Harbury*

February 17 - Eva Wright

### *Funeral, All Saints' Harbury*

February 25 - John Ridgley (66 years)



## From the Churchwardens

**Will & Fliss**

Not much to report this month, you'll be relieved to know, but do look at the diary!

Thank you to John (and Ronnie) for their timely reminder during the Family Communion Service, that Jesus was always up for a party so we mustn't turn our backs on His invitation, especially during Lent.



## First Light

**Alison Abbott**

If you didn't come to First Light in February you missed a treat. We enjoyed an (unintentionally) funny drama about forgiveness, or perhaps more accurately, unforgiveness. A message that was brought home by stories and other activities; but all is not lost as March is shaping up nicely and should be just as good. We are examining that perennial problem of how to resist the things we know we shouldn't do,

and do the things we should, otherwise known as temptation. Once again we have music and drama and things to join in with.

We aim to make First Light child friendly, but it is not just for children. Our regular gathering is a mix of single people, couples and families, and we span ages from babies to those who enjoy a free bus pass!

April's First Light is going to be rather special because it falls on Easter Day - one of the most important days in the Christian Calendar. So we are going to have a Celebration of Easter in Church rather than using the Tom Hauley Room. This will give us more room, not least for the Easter Egg hunt!

Everyone is welcome at 10.30 in the morning.

So in summary: March 7th 10.30 in the Tom Hauley Room and April 4th 10.30am in Church.

	<h2>Mothers' Union</h2>	<p><b>Gillian Hare</b></p>
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February brought more snow, but not on meeting days. At the afternoon meeting, Ruth Smith's talk "Safe on the Streets" informed us of the work of the Children's Society. Started in Victorian times by Edward Rudolf who was moved by the plight of starving and freezing children sheltering in the gasworks, it tried to alleviate some of the suffering of the times. In a move away from the huge institutionalised orphanages as portrayed by Dickens, it placed children in family age units combining Christian care with physical and educational aid.

Social changes in the last 20 years have changed the nature, though not the magnitude, of the needs so, the emphasis now is on helping older children living on the streets of our cities. They provide safe houses and lobby local authorities to recognise the problems. Another aspect is the work with young carers – often quite young children looking after a parent so losing out on their childhood and schooling. We left feeling that the money raised at the Christingle was well spent.

Our evening meeting was on the day before Lent started and so Chris Rutherford led a most thought provoking study on Jesus' temptations in the wilderness. It is one of those stories that is so familiar that one doesn't give it serious thought, so that was most interesting and helpful.

Thank you to everyone who supported the coffee morning which raised £152. Of this, £60 will be sent to M.U Parenting Projects and £60 to the Away-From-It-All holiday scheme.

We shall organize the Tom Hauley Room lunch on April 17<sup>th</sup> and will be needing members' help for food preparation and serving.

We welcome two new members, Lyn Barton and Judy Farnsworth and hope they enjoy their time with us, and send best wishes for a speedy recovery to Eve Lowe and Mary Kimber.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday March 16<sup>th</sup>, 8.00pm following 7.30pm communion – Bill Davies, "A Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostella". Do come!



## Toddlers' Service

Barbara Thistlethwaite

"The Lost Sheep" was the title of the month's story at our February service.

Mrs Travis told us about the shepherd who, every night, would count his one hundred sheep before putting them to bed in their shed. One night when he counted them there were only ninety nine.

He thought that he had made a mistake and counted them wrong so he counted them all again and there were still only ninety nine. Mrs Travis asked what we thought had happened to the last sheep.

We decided that it must have got lost so we all helped search the hillside (inside the church really!)

After looking very hard all around (the church) Megan found the missing sheep. Thank goodness we all said and made sure that it was brought back to the rest of the flock so that it could not get lost again. Mrs Travis said we would not get lost because Jesus looks after all of us all the time.

Mr Hare played for us whilst we sang two songs. "He's got the whole world in his hands" and "there are hundreds of sparrows, thousands, millions".

After that we did some stickings of a sheep to take home with us and to make sure that it did not get lost. We had our drinks and played until it was time to go home.

Our next meeting is at 2.00pm in the Tom Hauley room at Church on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March. All toddlers and babies accompanied by an adult are welcome to join us.

## Ladbroke News & Diary

### MARCH

- Mon 8 Table Tennis, 8.00pm in Village Hall  
**Sun 14 MOTHERING SUNDAY**  
 Holy Communion, 9.00am in Church  
 Mothering Sunday Service, 3.00pm  
 Mon 15 Table Tennis, 8.00pm in Village Hall  
**ADVERTISEMENTS TO 31 BINSWOOD END BY 5.30pm**  
 Wed 17 Parish Council Meeting, 7.45pm in Village Hall  
 Sat 20 Whist Drive, 7.45pm in Village Hall  
**Sun 21 LENT V**  
 Holy Communion BCP, 9.00am in Church  
 Mon 22 Table Tennis, 8.00pm in Village Hall  
 Thurs 25 Womens Institute, 7.30pm in Village Hall  
**ARTICLES TO HARBURY PHARMACY, HIGH STREET AND  
 EMAIL ARTICLES DEADLINE BY 5.30pm**  
**Sun 28 PALM SUNDAY**  
 Holy Communion, 9.00am

### APRIL

- Fri 1 GOOD FRIDAY**  
 Children's Hour, 10.30am  
 Devotional Hour, 12 noon  
 Service of Music and Readings, 7.00pm  
**Sun 4 EASTER SUNDAY**  
 Family Communion with refreshments, 10.30am



### Ladbroke Church News

Sue Lord

There will be a Family Service for Mothering Sunday at Ladbroke Church on Sunday 14th March at 3.00pm. The Children's Service on Good Friday will be held at 10.30am followed by a Devotional Hour from 12.00 -1.00pm. The day will end with a Devotional Service of Readings and Music at 7.00pm.

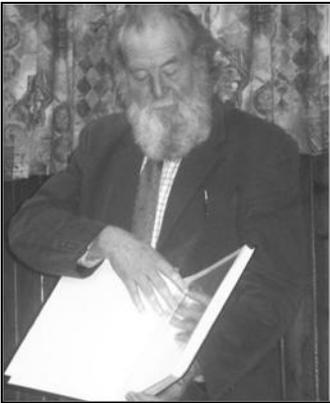


## Ladbroke & Deppers Bridge W.I.

Carol Lane

People hearing shouts of laughter from Ladbroke Village Hall on the evening of Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> might have been surprised to learn that the topic for the evening was 'Life on the Drug Squad'. Retired Police Officer Ray Allen returned to Ladbroke and Deppers Bridge W.I. – 'greyer with a longer beard' - following his talk many years ago. Ray had been a member of the Warwickshire Constabulary (sorry, that sounds like something out of Gilbert and Sullivan) for 30 years and part of the CID and drug squad in Leamington for much of that time. As well as seeking out the perpetrators of drug crimes he also checked chemists' records and talked to schools and other relevant bodies. After his time in the drug squad his daughter announced to her teacher that 'my Dad doesn't do drugs any more'.

He explained that the difference between investigating most crimes and those involving drugs is that with the former there is a complaint i.e. a burglary, assault etc but crimes with people using, dealing in and possessing drugs has to be discovered, often using information from the general public. Ray explained and demonstrated – without drugs – the use of the paraphernalia connecting with smoking and passing on the drugs. We naïve audience were amazed at the cunning with which some of this equipment had been disguised into everyday objects such as key rings, pens and even a belt buckle



The photograph shows Ray explaining what growing cannabis looks like and he had a couple of calendars, which are readily available, with lots of varieties of spectacularly attractive plants. The obvious comparison was made with the W.I. calendar!

Sue Moore thanked Ray for a most interesting and informative talk.

There has been a change to next month's programme. The visit to Chesterton has been postponed until May. Instead there will be a relaxing evening of music and slides entitled 'God's Wonderful World'. This will take place on 25<sup>th</sup> March starting at 7.30 p.m.



## Ladbroke General Section

The results of the draw for January were:

£80	Ken Whiteley
£50	Susan Moore
£25	Sue Lord
£10	Cyril Spence
£10	Peter Baker
£10	Graham Lewis
£10	Deborah & Seth Brown
£10	Carole & Peter Loftus

**Janet Goldson**

### **Ladbroke School Governor for St James' School, Southam**

When Ladbroke School closed in 1977, Ladbroke parish was asked to nominate two foundation governors for St James' School in Southam. As our school was an Anglican Church School, the pupils from here were given places at St James' which is also a Church school.

The appointment of governors to St James' school is quite an honour. It also gives Ladbroke parents a say in the running of the school. For the last 30 years this hasn't been a problem but now we find it very difficult to select a second governor.

We would like the person to be a member of our Church congregation, but this isn't essential. It isn't essential either to have children attending St James although being a parent probably would be an advantage. It isn't necessary to actually live in the village. Valerie Copley is, at the moment, our only governor. She finds it all very interesting and would be more than willing to give you more details if you think that you would find it interesting also.

**Betty Winkfield**



*Official minutes can be viewed in the Library on the Parish Council website [www.harbury-pc.gov.uk](http://www.harbury-pc.gov.uk) or obtained from the Parish Clerk*

## January 2010

**Police** - Parish and District Councillors were unhappy with the response they received to complaints that officers no longer attended Parish Council Meetings, but decided that it was not worth protesting any more. The Clerk informed them that a free bus from the Village Hall was to be laid on for the next Community Forum meeting.

**Schools** - Southam College had a substantial grant for an all weather football pitch and associated facilities which will be available to the community as well as the school children, Cllr Hancock reported

**Village Hall** - Fund raising was continuing and the Parish Chairman had been in discussion with Geoff Thorpe on how the Parish Council might contribute. The improvements were proceeding but work had slowed down when the roof was found to be leaking.

**Councillors' Corner** - 6<sup>th</sup> March outside the Post Office. Your chance to put your concerns to your elected representatives. On the same day the Parish is holding an Energy Saving Event in the Village Hall 10am-3pm.

County Cllr Bob Stevens reported cuts of £20m in WCC's budget with £300k taken from the County Music Service and transport for 16+ students at Further Education Colleges reduced, but there was an extra £500K for Libraries.

He was pleased the gritting had gone smoothly with all main routes and 45% of all roads covered. Now he urged the public to report potholes by ringing 01926 412515 or emailing details to [countyhighways@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:countyhighways@warwickshire.gov.uk).

Parish Cllr Hancock wanted definitive advice to householders on clearing footways and Chairman Tim Lockley would put a notice in the Harbury News about it.

Stratford Cllr Andrew Patrick praised the resident's patience and the valiant efforts of the Verdant crews who had struggled to collect the rubbish during the snowy periods. He was congratulated by the Parish Council on the approval of the Bush Heath Lane Plans.

**Planning** - Granted by Stratford DC with conditions:- Stable adjacent to Bull Ring Farm; extensions:- at 17 Manor Orchard (single storey) and 30 Percival Drive (detached double garage); time extension on permission for extension to garage at Westfield Cottage, Westfield Farm, Fosse Way. They refused a time extension on a workshop off Ufton Road and the plans for the "Old Orchard" Mill Street were withdrawn.

The Area Planning Committee approved the Bush Heath Lane development which the Parish Council had supported.

The Parish Council also supported the application to improve facilities at the Wight School subject to controls over the hours of use; the parking and access and noise levels.

**Deppers Bridge** - Is still considering what to do with its Telephone Box and may use it either as a notice board or for a free book exchange like the one in Harbury Library.

**Properties** - The BMX Track received an Area Committee grant of £6K but more money was needed unless the plans could be simplified. For the small Children's Play Area Councillors chose the "horsey" seesaw.

Grit Bins were requested for opposite Heber Drive to serve the Surgery too and for Honiwell Close where an ambulance had got stuck in the snow.

**Lighting** - The yellow bulbs in the four new lights will be changed. Residents should report to the Clerk any lighting faults along with the column number.

**Save Money – Save Energy Day** - in the Village Hall would have presentations on how to save energy and Mr Bristow's group would do carbon footprint calculations. The Parish might like to consider a feasibility study into how to provide community energy. Teas would be served.

**Parish Plan** - Grant aid would be needed to update the Parish Plan. Advice would be sought from Warwickshire Rural Community Council.

**Milk Tanker** - Cars parked too near to Trice's Farm entrance were making it impossible for the milk tanker to gain access. Advice on how to prevent this happening was being sought from the County Council.

**Warwickshire's Best Village** - Several organisations were interested in entering for this competition including the Village Hall and Harbury Heritage.

## **Members' Items**

Cllr Jenny Patrick wanted a bus stop at the surgery. Busses will stop anywhere in rural areas on request if it is safe to do so.

SDC Cllr Andrew Patrick reported on progress to clear the sewage that overflowed again this Christmas onto the field behind the petrol station. Severn Trent had promised to improve their alarm system.

Cllr Hancock reported that the street sweeper had been round; the Hall Lane/Church Terrace corner was still flooding. The Harbury sign at the junction of Middle Road and the Fosse was still missing.

**Budget** - Cllr Mancell recommended an increase of 5% which would be "less than the price of a pint of beer" for Band D payers or £2.89. At present the PC had a very good energy tariff but it was due to rise considerably. He was of the opinion that inflation for the PC was higher than for the basket of goods used to calculate inflation for householders.

**Thanks** - Letters of thanks for grants were received from the Rugby Club and the Village Hall.

## **Parish Council February 2010**

**John Hancock**

Chairman Tim Lockley started the meeting by paying tribute to John Ridgley for his huge contribution to village life. 8 councillors were in attendance as were County Councillor Bob Stevens and District Councillors Andrew Patrick and Beverley Mann. There were also five members of the public, two of whom had come to make a significant contribution to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillors Thornley and Thompson.

Mr Alan Sampson spoke about an application for a grant for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Group which has recently been set up and has 14 young people working for their Bronze Award. He explained that funds were needed for the leaders to take training courses and cooking stoves and, in a later discussion, the decision was made to award the group £500.

Mrs Smart addressed the Council to explain her and her husband's plans for Bishop Bowl lakes which they have recently purchased and taken up residence. They have bought the lake area on the Harbury side of the B4451 and are planning to develop it as a fishery.

They expect to eventually have 6-12 fishing lodges (there is planning permission for 21), and a clubhouse but a priority is to build a house for themselves. Councillor Patrick pointed out there had been problems with people swimming in the very dangerous quarries and asked whether there was an intention to make the site more secure. Mrs Smart replied that to fence the area completely would be very expensive and the fishermen themselves would act as a deterrent to swimmers and cliff jumpers. Councillor Lockley said that poor summers had meant there had been fewer problems any way. It remains to be seen if a 'scorcher' sees a return. In reply to Councillor Grey, Mrs Smart also said they had no plans for water sports and they were involving Natural England to help with conservation at the site.

Once again, dogs at an outlying farm have attacked a walker and P.C. Hill has been informed. Councillors were unanimous in their concern that no police representative now comes to meetings. They wanted to see more of a presence in the village if only an attendance at the regular Councillors Corner.

The perennial problem of dog excrement was condemned. There have been many complaints about the filthy state of the path between Percival Drive and South Parade. Vigilance is needed to identify the culprit.

Councillor Jenny Patrick informed the meeting that the new toilets at the Village Hall are almost completed and would be ready for the Beer Festival on March 13<sup>th</sup> when they will no doubt get a thorough testing. The Rural Cinema is thriving. A 'Buy a Brick' scheme will be launched at the end of May and a grant towards a new bar area has been approved by Southam Vision.

Linfoot Homes, the developers of the new housing, have been told they will have to pay £54,000 as a contribution towards educational provision for children living there. This money should go to Harbury Primary School and Southam College.

County Councillor Stevens announced there would be a 2.4% rise in the County budget, the lowest since 2000. He assured the meeting that the sign to Middle Road on the Fosse way would be repaired at last and that £100,000 had been allocated for pothole repair. The library's future remains in doubt so use it as much as possible.

The planning application for the school swimming pool has been delayed as there were some questions about ventilation and these have now been answered by the school and a decision should be made in March.

The legal document of easement to enable services to cross the playing field from Bush Heath lane should be completed in March.

Efforts are being made to find additional grant funding for the BMX track and Councillor Hancock and the Clerk had met with a grants officer from the County Council who will advise as to possible sources of finance. A meeting with the contactor will be arranged when Councillor Thornley has recovered from her recent stay in hospital.

The award of the maintenance contract for the next 3 years was discussed. The invitation to tender brought three responses and it was decided to award the contract to Philip Cook who offered a competitive price and had excellent references.

It was agreed that in future the council would purchase white lining material for the football pitches in bulk which would be cheaper.

Grit bins have been ordered for Honiwell Close and the end of Heber Drive. These will enable residents to keep the roads a bit safer in the event of more snow and ice.

The promised traffic calming work has been delayed because of 'training' apparently which met with some cynicism. However, preliminary electrical work has now begun.

Councillor Patrick reminded everyone of the Energy Saving Day at the Village Hall on March 6<sup>th</sup> when there will be lots of suggestions on making us more efficient in our use of resources. She thanked Harbury Society for agreeing to provide teas etc throughout the day.

During the cheque signing, there was a conducted tour of the new toilets which met with approval, particularly the long overdue provision of an adequate disabled facility.

The meeting closed at 20.18hrs-is this a record? Next meeting is on Thursday March 25<sup>th</sup> in the Village hall at 7.30pm.

## **Street Lighting Faults**

From 1<sup>st</sup> April, Warwickshire County Council Street Lighting Department has made the decision to discontinue night patrols throughout Warwickshire. This is part of a cost saving exercise and will mean that Harbury Parish will pay less for street lighting maintenance this year, however, it does mean that we will be completely reliant on members of public reporting faulty street lights in order that they can be repaired.

To report a broken light, please call 01926-736542, giving the column number (if possible) and the road. Alternatively, lights can be reported to the Parish Clerk on 01926-614646 or by e-mail, clerk@harbury-pc.gov.uk.

**Nicola Thompson**  
Parish Clerk



Harbury Society held their annual dinner at the Dog Inn on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January. Sadly our Secretary Linda was unable to be there due to John's illness, but nevertheless had organised a fiendish quiz with a Prohibition Theme.

The room was decorated with pictures to match the theme. The quiz was won by Gillian and Michael Hare and Shirley and Tony Brunton.

The meal was excellent and there was no Prohibition!

A big thank you to Linda for her usual organisation, and to the staff of the Dog for looking after us so well.

### **Our next events:**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March** – AGM and talk on Warwickshire Building Stone – 7.30pm for 8.00pm in the Tom Hauley Room.

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April** – Showing of archive film of RURAL LIFE same time and venue.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July** – Guided Walk round Graham Robson's private Nature Reserve, Marton starts 11.00am.



The weather has got to get better soon but the snow does not like to leave us permanently. Let's hope the frosts are killing the bugs in the garden. We must thank all the kind people in Harbury who have delivered during these times.

The walks are on hold right now. A good effort was made by our team taking part in the Federation Quiz who came 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are getting together to plan our entry in the Carnival on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

The Annual Group Meeting will be held by Stockton W.I on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May at Long Itchington School. The annual Group outing is to Trentham Gardens on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Our visit to the Lord Leycester Hospital is on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am. We will be shown around by the Master, Lt. Col. Lesinski.

The speaker this month was Bill Davies telling us about his pilgrim's ride to Santiago de Compostela nine years ago. The story of the pilgrimage goes back through many years with people from all over the world who have travelled there and why. It is said that St James, a disciple of Christ, was taken to Spain and buried there.

Well Bill, who said he was a lapsed agnostic, got the urge to travel on the route. What did he do, get himself a first class touring bike with good gears and pannier bags. He trained by cycling up Burton Dassett Hills loaded with bricks. He had some criticism from his grandchildren but took it all in his stride. Then off he went across the Channel and, once deposited there, started on the 700 mile route.

We were told about his experiences and the different types of lodgings, the different nationalities he met and the simple meals. In one area he used jelly babies to keep wild dogs at bay. He had to keep his passport stamped at each P.O. he passed. But his journey on the bike was hard work covering four mountain ranges, lonely and boring at times, with bleak scenery, occasionally green.

Bill said that he was filled with personal thoughts and getting to know himself and he felt at peace. At one stage of his journey he was aware that someone was at his back, although no one was there.

The spires of Santiago de Compostela Cathedral's gothic architecture were wonderful to see and the tomb of St James wonderful to touch at a service.

Bill flew back home a very different and slimmer man who had benefited from his pilgrim's ride. As a speaker he was great and even got us singing "Viva Espania"!

He also stunned us by saying he did not have one puncture!

The March meeting is in the Tom Hauley room on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> at 7.45pm – it will be Members' Evening.



## Harbury Theatre Group

Jo Banbury

Following the casting evening earlier this month, the group are now busy in rehearsal for the upcoming show in May (13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>). The production will consist of 2 one act plays, one of which may be entered on behalf of the Village into the A.C.T. Festival in June.

Ian Donnelly is directing "White Lies" by Richard James (which received the 'Best Comedy' and 'Best Unpublished Play' awards at the Maidenhead Drama Festival, 2006). It is an extremely funny play, telling the story of four old university friends who get back together for a reunion with quite hilarious consequences.

As well as the preparations for the production, we are organizing a fundraiser for the Village Hall, with all the monies raised being donated to the cost of rebuilding the Village Hall.

**Sausage and Mash Lunch** (includes pudding) on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March** (start 12.30 p.m).

**Tickets: £7 (Adult)    £3.50 (Children)**

**Tickets *MUST* be purchased in advance (call 613488 or 613120)**

**Hurry or miss out!** (Raffle to be held)

If you would like to know more about the group, or are interested in joining/helping out with upcoming events, then do give us a call on 613120, or come along to our monthly meeting (**next meeting 29<sup>th</sup> March, from 8pm at The Dog Inn**)



## Folk Club

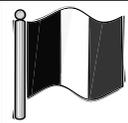
Sue Hartland

February's Folk Club was the 303<sup>rd</sup> edition and the theme was 'Times of the Day'. The Harvesters opened with 2 songs that fitted very well, 'Morning of my Life' and 'Clockwatching'. Summer and Jenny followed and, as Summer will very soon be leaving us to settle in her native Canada, they decided on a Canadian theme. Deb and Mike let us all join in with 'Norwegian Wood' and Debbie also read us a thought provoking poem entitled 'Forbidden Fruit'. Rick got us singing with the wonderful 'Spanish Lady' and continued with the famous Rolf Harris song 'Two Little Boys'. Janny and Maureen, as usual, sang beautifully 'When the Cold Wind Blows' and 'Almost Every Circumstance'.

Peter Mason took us to the break with 'Follow the Heron Home' and 'Idle Time'.

The second half continued with The Folk Club Choir singing 'Early One Morning' and 'The Teddy Bears Picnic' and what a fine job they made of them! (Though I am somewhat biased!) It was good to see Ron who sang 'Go to Sea No More' and the rousing 'Strike the Bell Landlord'. Ted and Sue followed with Sue singing the lovely 'John O Dreams' and by contrast Ted singing the very rude 'Bantam Cock' that had us all laughing! Ted stayed on and played duelling harmonicas with the amazing Will Pound; they played 'Three around three' and then Will treated us to an outstanding rendition of a French Canadian tune. Des followed that beautifully with 'Bold Captain Ward' and the evocative 'Turn of the Road'. Liz and Pete continued with 'Eight Frames a Second' and one of my favourites 'The Loch Tay Boat Song'. Ruth taught us 2 songs from Ghana, which she sang beautifully and so did we! Peter McDonald was next with a great arrangement of 'Courting Too Slow' and then Ted joined him to play harmonica on the amusing 'First Line of the Blues'. The evening was brought to a close by The Barbers Shop Quartet, Bianco, who gave us an encore of 'Hello Mary Lou'.

The raffle raised £54 towards Ian's run in the London Marathon in April. He will be running for the charity PHAB Kids. Thank you to everyone who donated and to all who attended and made it such an enjoyable night. Next month will be hosted by Peter McDonald and the theme will be 'Legends'.



## Harbury Twinning Association

**Colin Humphreys**

February has been a quiet month for the Association, but by the time you are reading this we will have held our Coffee Morning on the 6<sup>th</sup> March and our Quiz Evening on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

However, the highlights for February have been Andrew Patrick's French conversation classes that were held in the Farley room of the Village Hall. These proved very popular and were well attended and it was generally agreed that they were both instructive and enjoyable. I would really recommend them to any member should Andrew repeat a similar series at some future date.

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April we have booked a "meal and skittles" evening at the Navigation Inn at Wooten Wawen, to eat and play skittles.

The cost is £10 to include the meal and games and we need to know numbers of those interested in joining us.

Full details have been circulated to all members and replies should be sent to:- Margaret.McDonald@btconnect.com.



**7th February 2010**

**Away at Kenilworth**

**Under 9s**

Match 1 Harbury 1 v Kenilworth 2 with a try from Alex

Match 2 Harbury 0 v Kenilworth 2

Harbury U9s played really well against tough opponents; both matches could have gone either way.

**Under 10s**

Harbury had three very competitive matches against Kenilworth, losing the first match 20-0, winning the second match 25-0 and losing the final game 20-10, despite being in the lead at half time.

A positive for the Harbury team was the performance at the scrum, with Harbury winning several strikes against the head. Our scrum was built around Callum, Mario, Josh Beth and James B with Brandon also trying out in the front row for the first time.

Some of the Kenilworth players showed us that the more assertive you are at the breakdown, the more likely you are to win the ball. Their centre, who is a giant of a lad, also demonstrated how effective a well weighted, accurate pass can be in moving the ball out wide. All things which help our players build their game.

Our new half back partnership of Jamie, Crash, Tiarnan and Jim also proved pretty effective. Only once did we lose our entire back line to the maul.

Tiarnan and Calum put in a lot of good work around the park and both made some great breaks over the gain line.

Crash and Jim made some good line breaks and, when they take the ball at pace, are both very hard to stop.

The rucking started to take shape a bit more. That will continue to be a focus, and our tackling around the legs in order to put the attackers on the ground. In the first game Kenilworth started with an immediate try simply because their player set up a maul, remained determined and went half the length of the field to score because no one was able to put him on the ground and force him to release it.

Overall plenty to be optimistic about.

Our try scorers were Crash (3), Jamie (2), Mario and Tiranán.

MOM was James Bath for his driving runs, competitiveness in the lineout, scrumaging & willingness to ruck.

### **Under 12s**

Harbury travelled to Kenilworth which is one of the strongest sides in the area and they certainly didn't let their standards slip.

Without either of their two hookers, Harbury had to play a complete novice (William Irvine) in the position, who stood up to the plate and did himself and the team proud, well done William. As always Harbury U12s were strong up front and competed well for the ball, but unfortunately were outplayed in the back division, not through the want of effort, but sometimes you're just outplayed!

Game 1

#### **Kenilworth 0 v Harbury 7**

Great team work and pressure on Kenilworth's try line was ended with a darting 5m run in for the only try of the game from Ethan Barr with the conversion by Sam Tutt.

Game 2

#### **Kenilworth 21 v Harbury 0**

Game 3

#### **Kenilworth 35 v Harbury 0**

The try count in the last two games could have been even bigger if it hadn't been for the never say die attitude of our players who managed to hold the ball up on the try line four times, once in the second game and no less than three times in the third. The under 12s never let their heads go down and always work hard for each other.

### **At home to Broadstreet**

#### **Under 13s**

#### **Harbury 19 v 7 Broadstreet**

Harbury U13s were up for this game right from the first whistle. Despite being against a large pack, the forwards rucked over brilliantly and supported each other.

Joe Webster, Sam Cave, Callum Panton and Finn Toner all tackled well. Simon Fisher spoilt Broadstreet's ball constantly. Sam Cave broke tackles to reach the Broadstreet 22 and from the resulting ruck Bradley King burst through the defence to score.

Mid way through the first half after a tap penalty Bradley picked up from the back of a ruck and again used his pace and tenacity to score a great try under the posts which he also converted.

After twenty minutes following a maul Jack Hewson went to ground and scrum half Ted Easton rucked over setting up full back Aaron Ward on the half way line to use his pace and burst through to the try line. Bradley kicked the conversion. Half time 19 - 0.

Inevitably Broadstreet came back strongly and scored a converted try soon after half time, thereafter Harbury's defence stood firm. Rory Picken, Willem Davies and William Rea all played well in the backs and right at the end of the game flanker Finn Toner was only prevented from scoring by a Broadstreet hand under the ball on the try line.

All together a great team performance, the best this season and the coaches were proud of you all.

## **14th February 2010 - Away at Shipston**

### **U9s**

A depleted squad owing to half term but those that were available increased their tackle rate from previous fixtures.

Two close matches with honours to Harbury in the first game.

**Harbury 3 v 2 Shipston** tries to **Danny, Lucas and Alex.**

The second game was a very defensive encounter with Shipston scoring the only try of the match -

**Harbury 0 v 1 Shipston**

### **Under 12s**

Harbury and Stowe on the Wold under 12s both traveled to Shipston on Stour to play hard fought round robin games.

**Shipston 7 v Harbury 7**

This was Harbury's second draw of the season. Despite being the stronger side overall, Harbury were unable to make the most of the better play in a shortened game.

Alex Marston and Sam Tutt broke through the Shipston defence several times before the deadlock was broken by a fine pass from Henry Steele to put Adam Grey through for a great 30 meter run down the wing, for a try which was converted by Sam Tutt.

### **Stowe on the Wold 14 v Harbury 7**

After watching Stowe beat Shipston quite convincingly Harbury knew that they had their work cut out. It didn't start well with Stowe scoring within the first minute mainly due to Harbury being half asleep, at least this woke them up and they started to play some good rugby, but unfortunately still managed to concede a second try later in the first half. Harbury came back into the game in the second half with a fantastic mazy run down the wing from William Irvine going past three players and breaking clear before he was hauled down with a last gasp tackle from a Stowe player. This good work was continued with an excellent rumbling maul from the Harbury forwards and the hard work was finished off with a try from Ben Taylor. The conversion came from Sam Tutt - going over in off the post (lucky man). Harbury continued to force the play and were unlucky when Henry Steele was held up just short of the try line as the final whistle blew.



**Harbury Junior's Football**

**Malcolm Tanner**

### **Under12/13's**

#### **February 7th 2010 v Tysoe W 6-0**

Harbury continued to be unbeaten this season in the Three Counties League and dominated the game in a comfortable 6-0 victory over Tysoe. This was one of the best performances with all players contributing in a good all round performance of passing and movement from the start.

Joe and Thomas were excellent in defence and the few times during the game that Tysoe threatened, it brought out excellent saves from both keepers Ollie and Aiden. This performance was a reward for the hard work and demonstrated the ability in the side. Scorers were Will (3) and Aaron (2) and Jamie (1).

#### **February 13th 2010 v Cropedy W 7-1**

Harbury started brightly and continued where they left off the previous week with good passing football from midfield and forwards, to go into

an early 3-0 lead with goals from Will (2) and Aaron. However Cropedy fought their way back into the match and, but for a missed penalty and an open goal, the game could have been much closer, but Harbury went into half time leading 5-1 with two further goals from Aaron and Josh.

In the second half, Harbury's performance was more solid with Joe and Harneil controlling defence and Toby controlling midfield. Whilst William completed his hat trick, Jamie added number 7 which was well deserved for his energetic performance covering every blade of grass on the pitch, helping out in defence and attack!

Our thanks to referee Marcus Birch who received complements from the opposition coach for his handling of the game which ran smoothly to make it an entertaining game for players and spectators .



## Harbury Tennis Club

**Colin and Sue Mercer**

The weather has continued to disrupt play on all fronts but we have managed to complete 4 league matches. The Club's good form in the Floodlit League continued with 2 more successes, both at home. The first was a close match against Deddington. Steve Stark and Keith Thompson got off to a good start winning both sets, although they were taken to a tiebreak in the first. Caroline Morland and Karin Kirk lost their first set but came back well to win the second in a tiebreak. Caroline and Steve then won their mixed doubles while Karin and Keith halved theirs which gave Harbury an overall 5-3 win. In the next match against Byfield, Caroline and Steve were joined by Eira Owen and Peter Walshe. Steve and Peter had a comfortable 6-2, 6-1 win but the ladies doubles was very close. Caroline and Eira lost the first set 3-6 but recovered well to take the second 7-6. A 6-2 win was secured in the mixed doubles after a win for Eira and Peter and a halved rubber for Caroline and Steve. Those 2 wins consolidated the top spot in Division 4 for Harbury at this stage.

In the Banbury weekend league only 1 match was possible but it was an emphatic 7-1 home win against Charlbury, the "gang of 4" for this one being Eira Owen, Sue Mercer, Keith Thompson and Colin Mercer. We got off to a flyer winning the opening 2 rubbers to take a 4-0 lead into the mixed doubles. Eira and Keith then won both sets of theirs and a whitewash looked on after Sue and Colin won their

first set but the visitors fought hard to take the second and halve the rubber.

The Stratford league men's doubles finally played their first match of the year when they entertained local rivals, Whitnash. This was a closely fought match but the visitors proved to be the stronger and went home with a 3-1 win.

Finally, there was some good news for the Junior section in that following a review of the Club's programme we have been awarded a grant by Warwickshire LTA to maintain and enhance the programme in the coming months including running a taster session in a local school and subsidising four of the Club's teenagers to attend coaching courses.



After all the excitement of the "Outstanding" Ofsted report in January, it seemed possible that February might be a little subdued, but this was not to be the case. The children had a wonderful time making the role play area into a magnificent shoe shop, with shoes, boots, clogs, flip flops, sandals and even a pair of adult sized flippers to select from, try on and pay for at the till. In another area, the workbench was set up for shoe making and repairs and the "Elves and the Shoemaker" story was told and retold in a variety of different versions.



Problem solving and numeracy came to the fore as the children measured each other's feet, made price tags for the shoes and worked out how much they would have to pay for their chosen purchases.

At the creative table, the children drew around each other's shoes and used the shape to paint and add decorations of their choice. Left to her own devices, Mae made the most fantastic flip flop, punching holes in exactly the right places and using ribbon for the straps. Lots of lovely observational pictures were made, using paint, glue and collage materials, with the children demonstrating their talent in recognising the differences between the various shoes, and developing them in their own creations.

After the half term break, we began by celebrating Chinese New Year. The children heard the story of the animal race and the role play area became a Chinese kitchen, complete with wok, food for stir frying, wool for noodles and Chinese costumes for the children to dress up in. Real cooked noodles were put into the builders' tray, with chopsticks and bowls, so that the children could practise using the utensils as well as their hands to investigate the texture. Vegetables were prepared by the children and then stir fried and eaten at snack time.



The children produced some fantastic observational paintings inspired by a large model of a Chinese dragon: Abi - "It's Abi the dragon. She's got shiny horns, black eyes and white teeth. She wants to play with my Daddy." Isabelle - "This is the dragon and he's got glasses on! His horns are golden at the top. He always does a 'hello' kiss." Isabelle brought in some special gold coins to share with her friends as well as wonderful costumes for them to try on.



We welcomed Ruby and Henry to Pre-School after the half term break and also Lilly, a student from Warwickshire College, who is with us on a work experience placement.

If anyone would like further information about Harbury Pre-School, please contact Jacqui Quinney, Chair of the Pre-School Committee, on Harbury 613386. The web site can be found at [www.harburypre-school.org.uk](http://www.harburypre-school.org.uk).



**Windmills**  
Nursery School

**Nursery School Staff & Committee**

The seasonal weather helped to provide lots of spontaneous activities connected with our winter theme, and provided some beautiful scenery for our Forest School sessions.



## Forest School

During our Forest School session the children went out into the woodland and experimented with mark making using mud paint and charcoal after using a mirror to look up at the patterns the branches made against the sky. We also acted out the story of Jack and the Beanstalk with Amanda playing the part of the Giant chasing the children around the snowy woodland which kept everyone warm.

Other activities this month have included :



- \* visiting church for the Toddler service
- \* using the light box to explore shape and texture
- \* making valentine cards and peppermint creams to give to the person the children love
- \* decorating the room with hearts and tasting valentine cookies brought in by Finley's mum

\*celebrating Chinese New Year with a party during which the children

made lanterns and attempted to write their own names in Chinese and cooked and tasted Chinese food using chopsticks.



## Thank you

Thank you to Tracy Pettifer and Jock McVaris for producing a very professional DVD of our Christmas Concert. Thank you also to Joseph Coulter's dad for donating some colouring sheets, to the Bastin family for donating some lovely toys and jigsaws, and last but not least to Bobbie Jones for bringing in a variety of Chinese artifacts for the children to investigate and explore.



## Dates

Windmills Nursery will be holding an informal parents' information evening on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March from 7.30pm till 9.00pm in the nursery classroom. This will be an opportunity for parents to speak to staff and look at their childrens' work on display. There will also be a short presentation by Nicola Perrett, our administrator, on the introduction of the new flexible funding which comes into effect from September this year.

Windmills Nursery is holding an Indulgence Evening on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March in the Village Hall at 8.00pm. Tickets are available from Windmills Nursery or Katharine Giblin on 01926 613084 and are priced at £4.00 which includes a glass of wine and nibbles. Taster treatments will be available on the night of reflexology, canesology, facials, manicures, massages etc. There will also be a raffle and variety of stalls.

Windmills Nursery School is situated in the grounds of Harbury Primary School; 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](mailto:info@windmills-nursery.co.uk), log onto our web site at [windmillsnursery.co.uk](http://windmillsnursery.co.uk) or call Nicola on 614564 or Tina and Marie on 07906 519148.



### Village Hall Update

**Chris Finch**

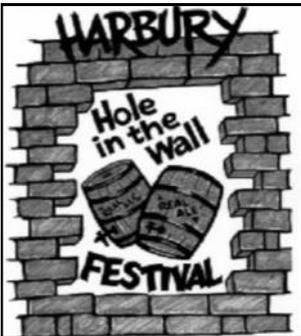
The work on the long planned for modernised 'toilet block' at the Village Hall, started in earnest at the beginning of last month and by the time the H & L News is delivered, the facilities will be ready for use. Local builder, John Warner and his team of workers have worked 'flat out' to complete the changes, which encompass the existing men's toilets and the adjacent Wagstaffe Room, despite having discovered structural problems as they set about the task. Two roof leaks, which would have caused severe problems in coming months, were found between the adjoining walls, and a collapsed drain needed urgent repair before the new pipe-work could be connected. These challenges have all been met by the skilled team and a separate door leading to the outside near the children's playground area has also been included. This improvement was suggested by project manager, Paul Quinney, who felt that a separate entrance to the toilets would

prove advantageous to some local groups who might need access to the facilities when the playing fields were being used for some sporting/community activities. This separate provision will be discussed by the Village Hall Management committee at their next meeting, as it may prove possible to negotiate use of the toilets for a nominal rent by prior arrangement with the booking secretary. Details will be given in next month's magazine.

The development to date represents phase 1a of the proposed improvements and it is hoped that the village will feel that all subsequent stages of development will attract the support needed to underpin the later phases. Whilst the current phase was underway, it was also discovered that there were structural weaknesses in the south roof of the main Hall and this will need attention before too long.

The next internal improvement will involve the conversion of the former Youth Room to form a bar and storage area. This work will be supported by CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale), as they regularly host one of the most successful festivals in the Midlands in the Village Hall and they are anxious to assist in opening up the dividing wall to the Fosse Room to create a more accessible bar, which can then be used for all other major functions.

The aptly named, Harbury 'Hole in the Wall Festival', organised by the Heart of Warwickshire CAMRA group will be taking place on Saturday March 13<sup>th</sup> from 11.00am to 11.00pm. There will be 30 real ales from breweries all found within a 30 mile radius of the Hall, as well as 10 traditional ciders, a number of wines and cheeses – again all sourced from within 30 miles. At one time, it was suggested that the one day Festival might be called the 30:30:30 event, but the eventual vote went to HITWF, as it conveyed the aim of raising funds for the next modernisation



proposals. CAMRA are providing all their expertise from running all the previous festivals and feel that the proposed improvements will assist with running the next main Harbury Beer Festival.

The Village Hall Committee will be running the food operation during the day, which will feature good quality hot dogs, burgers and bacon sandwiches. The wines will be available by the glass or bottle and the cheese will be sold in pre-packed portions. The beers will include all the Warwickshire breweries, with a first appearance by the new Patriot Brewery.

Other beers will come from Bucks., Glos., Northants., Oxfordshire Worcs., and the West Midlands. Admission will be £10.00 which will include a specially commissioned Festival glass and drinks tokens.

There will be entertainment provided by Hereburgh Morris team at lunch-time and by the village Folk Club in the evening. It promises to be an excellent community day in support of the Village Hall and we look forward to seeing as many local residents as possible sampling the range of produce. The event is sponsored by Stratford District Council which was anxious to see local businesses promoted and it is hoped that the cash raised during the day will provide a good basis for the next round of developments at the Hall. If anyone is willing to assist with food preparation or washing up at any time, all help will be gratefully received as the committee is only a small band of willing volunteers acting on behalf of the village. Please phone either 613801 or 612002 to offer assistance for a few hours during the day. Many thanks.



February seems to be a bit of a jinx month for us, as last year we had to cancel due to adverse weather and this year we had to cancel again as the speaker was taken ill on the Monday. Many thanks to Dorothy, Barbara and Daphne for contacting members to let them know. Derek Walker the speaker sent his apologies, and I have rebooked him for November this year. I have fingers and toes crossed for March!

Meanwhile I have now finalised the 2 day trips for this year as follows. The first one will be on Wednesday 9th June when we will be going to Hestercombe Gardens in Somerset in the morning and East Lambrook Gardens in the afternoon, leaving the Village Hall at 8.30am. I have always wanted to visit Hestercombe; it has so much history. Briefly, it was created in the 1750's then added to in Victorian times, then the stunning Edwardian gardens were designed by Edward Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll, so a wonderful provenance. It is about 40 acres with walks, streams, temples, terraces, lakes, cascades and breathtaking views. We will have lunch here then go a short distance to East Lambrook; these gardens were created by Margery Fish and are renowned for their English cottage gardening style. It is still a true plantsman's garden, although with a recent chequered history.

The last but one owners only stayed for 2 years and, as per the present owner Mike Werkmeister, seemed more inclined to cater for corporate events and make money and they neglected the gardens. Since Mike took over in 2008 he and his team of only 2 have been trying to restore it to its former glory. When I spoke to him he had been fighting with a neglected wisteria; he hopes to win the battle! He will give a short introductory talk on our arrival, then everyone can wander and enjoy the results of his labours. We can have tea here and will leave at about 5.00pm. The cost will be £18.

The second trip will be a bit closer to home and will be on Wednesday 7th July, leaving the Village Hall at 9.00am. The first garden will be Castle Ashby Gardens between Northampton and Bedford. This is the ancestral home of the 7th Marquess of Northampton and the extensive gardens cover over 10,000 acres. Don't panic - we will not be exploring all of these acres! We will be covering more like 25/30 acres of gardens with several different styles such as Italian, Secret, Butterfly, Fuschia House, Orangery and stunning borders called Rainbow and Maltese Cross; there is also an Arboretum and much more. We stay here for lunch then move to Coton Manor Garden near Guilsborough. A smaller garden of 10 acres but recently voted 3rd by Daily Telegraph readers when asked for their favourite gardens. There are a series of enclosed gardens to provide interest and variety and the gardens are landscaped on several levels. There are lots of climbing shrubs and luxuriant borders with colourful pots on the terraces. Again, something for everyone. We can have tea here if required and will leave at about 5.30pm. The cost for this trip will be £15.

So, two different locations and wonderful gardens to explore. Once again the coaches will be Cheney Travel and Martin will be our driver. The Society does subsidise these trips and I'm sure you will agree that they both are excellent value. Last year the total cost for the 2 trips was £32, this year total cost is £33 - where else could you get such good value? I have booked a 50 seater coach for both trips. You can give me your names at the meetings or contact me by phone, as in previous years, could I have payment by the May meeting please.

There are still snowdrops to see, such a wonderful sight. Just drive past the church at Chadshunt, the graveyard is a picture. Ragley Hall is looking good too, also Coughton Court which is near to Ragley. There have been thousands of daffodils planted by the present Throckmorton family at Coughton and they are a splendid sight.

Look in your National Trust Handbook for opening times etc and of course don't forget Upton House and Gardens opening fully on 13th March with lots to see and do.

Garden Organic at Ryton are currently holding workshops about allotment gardening; the next one is on 13th March, then 10th April, for details phone 02476 217717 or look on their website. Hill Close Gardens open again at Easter, my apologies for not including their Snowdrop event in February in my last article, I was going to mention it at the February meeting.

Why not go to Waterperry Gardens near Oxford for Mother's Day on 14th March, or to Barnsdale Gardens near Rutland Water where special events will be held. On April 11th at Evenley Wood, just outside Brackley (Larkrise countryside!) James Alexander-Sinclair (he always wears a hat) will be the guest speaker in the afternoon at a rare plants fair. It is on from 11am to 4pm and this year will be sponsored by the RHS with a marquee and talks throughout the afternoon and an RHS expert on hand to answer any gardening questions.

Hopefully by next month the weather should improve and we can start to plan and prepare our gardens and allotments for planting etc. Such an exciting time with lots to look forward to. My seed order from Dobie's arrived last month and I'm just itching to get started! Despite all the recent bad weather everything seems to have survived in my garden, some tender shrubs have been covered up since December but I peeked under the fleece and the Agaves, tree fern and bottle brush are all in one piece. The huge Chusan Palm in a pot at the top of the garden just keeps going, we just brush the snow off, what a good value for money plant. I bought it from Heligan in Cornwall in 1998 when it was about 8 inches high, it is now about 7 feet high, a monster.

The March meeting should be good, "Spring in Texas", hopefully I will report on that in April. At the April meeting on 6th we will welcome back Dr John Page who visited us in October 2008 and spoke about the Joys of English Gardens, this time his topic is Irish Gardens; another one not to be missed.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meetings, do try to get out and about, Easter will soon be here with lots of lovely daffodils to see and much more. Enjoy.



## Garden Jottings from Bridge Nursery

Christine Dakin

*Your local hardy plant specialists, also fresh cut flowers in season.*

Hopefully the worst of the weather will now be over. (We are such optimists!). After such a long time of being unable to garden, you will all be eager to get outside and catch up on things which need doing.

Do take care though and remember to pace yourself; knees and backs will not be used to bending and stretching!

### **A reminder of jobs for March**

- Cut down ornamental grasses
- Cut down perennials
- Weeding
- Prune hybrid Tea and Floribunda roses
- Prune Buddleia and Dogwoods
- Prune late flowering Clematis
- Remove any plants which have succumbed to the winter frosts
- Now is your last chance to plant bare-root trees and shrubs
- Sow hardy annuals e.g. Marigolds, Larkspur, Cornflowers
- Sow Sweet Peas (if you didn't in November)
- It's not too late to plant Garlic, Onions and Shallots
- Sow Broad Beans, Peas, Parsnips and Leeks
- Towards the end of March, use Rose fertiliser on your Roses
- Lift and divide clumps of Snowdrops and re-plant around the garden

That should be enough to keep you busy!

If you have any gaps to fill in the garden, do come and visit us at Bridge Nursery and at the same time check out the progress of our new shed/visitor centre.

PS. We do like to receive any feedback; you can email us via our website.

*Bridge Nursery, Tomlow Road, Napton*

*Tel: 01926 812737 [www.bridge-nursery.co.uk](http://www.bridge-nursery.co.uk)*



## Nature Notes

John Hancock

As I write, (21<sup>st</sup> February), there is no let up in the winter weather. This afternoon, it's a bit warmer than of late and the sun on the remaining snow is splendid. Missing out on walks in January due to my knee surgery, I couldn't resist a walk over the fields after the latest decent fall of snow on the afternoon of February 18<sup>th</sup>. It was still snowing when I left the village via the Playing Fields and the path to Harbury Heath. From there I walked on a bee-line towards Chesterton Church. A hare got up and raced away towards Kingston into the gloom of a fading day. I took a look at its paw prints and marvelled at the length of its stride. The size of the snowflakes falling that afternoon were some of the largest I have ever seen, perhaps because the temperature was close to freezing and several flakes amalgamated to give an impression of size, or is there another reason? Coming back into the village on the footpath leading to Temple End, I was very grateful for the 'kissing' gates which had replaced the old, greasy, wooden stiles. I said a silent thank you to Clive Taylor, John Ridgley and the footpath group.

A bittern has been seen on more than one occasion on the edge of the parish. The size of a small heron, but a beautiful golden colour, it's effectively invisible when standing still in a reed bed, its usual habitat. Both Bittern and Heron have a flattened serrated claw, a toothcomb, on their third toes. This is used for preening, a vital task, as the act of catching and eating an eel, for instance, can make a real mess of the bird's flight system.

Ditches at present are brimming and the month is living up to its reputation as 'February Full Dyke'. Today, the Itchen at the Welsh Road crossing was deep and yellow brown in colour due to the snow melt and suspended products of erosion. Further on my ride down the A423 towards Fenny Compton, I noticed the tiny heart shaped leaves of Danish Scurvy grass [*Cochlearia Danica*], which now seems to border most of our main roads. Introduced on shingle used for drainage, this plant thrives on salt, being a native of pebbly beaches. In March and April its tiny white flowers in profusion will be noticeable, even from a car, appearing like a covering of hoar frost at the edge of many main roads. As its name suggests it was used by country folk to prevent scurvy. Our native known as Common Scurveygrass is larger with fleshy leaves.

A pair of Buzzards floated away to the east with their familiar mewing call as I turned off the main road. The contrast between our Lias stone cottages and the orange 'Hornton' stone in the older buildings of Fenny Compton could hardly be greater. The rusty colour is just that, due to iron in the rock. At one time the area around Edgehill was quarried for its ironstone and an aerial runway linked pits on the Dasset Hills to the railway near Northend.

Signs of spring are all about. The Winter Aconites and Snowdrops in Liz and Frank Bunting's garden were clustered round the base of their Horse Chestnut when Sharon and I visited on February 7<sup>th</sup> and now I see the same flowers round the Stobo memorial close to the south porch of Harbury Church. Alder trees look quite dense due to the swelling of their catkins and last year's brown cones. I'm waiting for the eye-catching green on Larch twigs heralding new growth. There are a line of these trees alongside the track in the Thwaites Estate at Chesterton. Perhaps next month's article will include Larch in tiny leaf.

Some butterflies, those which hibernate, can be seen throughout winter if it warms up sufficiently to bring them out of their torpor. Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*), Peacock (*Inachis io*) and Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*) in particular do this. I was being very optimistic yesterday afternoon when I set off for Ufton Woods. It was sunny but there was still snow on the ground. The path I took was the one which leads from behind Ufton Church and follows the southern boundary of the wood to emerge near the cemetery at Bascote Heath. No insects were seen but the ditch and bank is very sheltered with the thickness of the wood shielding it from northerly winds. The leaves of Wild Arum (whose common names include Lords-and-Ladies and Cuckoo Pint) were prominent and coming back along the unofficial and muddy path through the wood, I found plenty of Bluebell, Strawberry and Primrose leaves portending what is to come as daylight lengthens and temperatures climbs.

At the time of writing I'm looking forward to Steven Falks' illustrated talk to the Harbury Society on Tuesday February 23<sup>rd</sup> as advertised in last month's Harbury News. His book, 'Warwickshire's Wildflowers' is subtitled 'The Wildflowers, Shrubs and Trees of Historic Warwickshire'. I think we are in for a treat and will report back in next month's article. In the same vein is a talk to the Harbury Society on March 18<sup>th</sup> entitled 'Warwickshire Building Stone' to be given by Hugh Jones. Do come to this in the Tom Hauley Room (7.30pm for 8.00pm); non members are very welcome.

Yesterday, I saw a magpie with a fair sized twig in its beak, no doubt starting to build a nest. The evening chorus of birdsong was hearteningly loud. Wildlife is slowly but surely revving up for spring.



## General Section



### John Ridgley – A Tribute

In the middle of February, the very many friends and acquaintances of John Ridgley were shocked and stunned by his sudden death. Only days before he was taken into hospital, he seemed his usual self, as he walked into the village to collect his morning paper or he went round on his bike delivering notices for his Parish Paths Partnership or for the Harbury Society. All Saints' Church was packed to capacity on February 25th to celebrate the life of

one of Harbury's unsung heroes, who had contributed so much to village life ever since arriving here in the Seventies. The eulogies to John included a tribute from Linda, from Don Foster, John's immediate boss at the County Council and from Stan Finch, a life-long friend. It is fitting in this month's magazine to reflect on the wonderful contribution that John made to our community by including parts of Linda's tribute, which was read out at the service by Father Craig. 'Big John' was a larger than life person who was loved and respected by all who knew him - for his selfless acts in caring for all those he came into contact with at home or at work and for involving himself in so many projects which helped others, that his loss will leave a vacuum impossible for any one person to fill.

John and Linda arrived in the village in 1971, with daughters Sarah and Vicky, at a time when Harbury School's PTA had begun work on the Swimming Pool. As Linda recalls, "we soon found that we were living in a very vibrant community" and John immediately became involved with other young fathers in digging the space for the pool and man-handling the pool's structure into position. "I think the first time we entered the Carnival was on a float for the PTA.

The whole family was kitted out as Victorian Bathing Belles round a Bathing Hut with John in a rather revealing bathing suit. After that we helped with floats for the Old New Inn – the most memorable of which was the Kenny Everitt Video Show, which revealed hidden aspects of several locals, including our Bank Manager, Gordon Bennett who was ‘Disgusted of Mayfair’. John enjoyed dressing up and he and his friends performed for the Senior Citizens Christmas Party for many years, including the never to be forgotten, Swan Lake, with John and Rick Evans dressed in pink tutus and football boots!

John also volunteered to help Doctor Hancock with the Scout Troop and organised camping for them at Kingsbury Water Park, one of the Country Parks he helped to set up in his time at the County Council. He later became the Quartermaster and spent many hours putting back together the disparate parts of tents and generally enjoying himself tidying the hut and organising things.

Every summer we joined the Carnival procession – he was the Incredible Hulk, the Flasher and Dracula and together we entered as Noddy and Big Ears, Holmes and Watson, Two Fat Ladies, Wallace and Gromitt, Pope John Paul and his Pope mobile, Hagrid and Harry Potter and on and on. Every December, John was Santa at the Christmas Fayre and on Christmas Eve we had our traditional party.

In 1984 we bought a tumbledown condemned cottage in Farm Street and spent about a year making it sound and converting it with a great deal of help from friends and craftsmen that John knew from his extensive research in all of Harbury’s pubs. John encouraged me to take on the post of Field officer for a small rural charity that meshed well with his work for the County. The children grew up, went to University, became career women and, to the immense pride of their father, married very loyal, supportive husbands and had families of their own.

John moved on from heading up Countryside Recreation at the County to producing Rural Strategy and then managing the Recreation section. I have had many very kind remembrances of his achievements there, but also gratitude for the way he sought to advance the careers of his staff and to take away from them much of the administrative burden. He was excessively tidy, with a dead straight line of flagged files on his desk from which he could instantly find what was wanted. After he retired, John did not give up work – he took on more. He volunteered for the Stratford CVS, sat on the Veolia Landfill Trust Grant Panel, organised the Parish Paths Partnership,

sought funding for and installed the Christmas Tree lights at the Wight School, as well as being part of the team that strung up the Christmas lights and set off the fireworks for the Bonfire Party. He worked with the Youth Drop In team, helped with the Village Design Statement, the Parish Plan and fund-raising for the Village Hall – everything he did quietly and with little fuss. He also helped many individuals and it seems no-one had a bad word to say about him and very, very many people have had some kind things to say and remember him for. He was generous, sociable and really enjoyed being with people. He was never happier than when he was in a pub or the Club, with a pint in his hand, discussing football or all the other inexplicable things men talk about when they are together. He enjoyed making people happy and he did throw exceedingly good parties”.

John will be missed for all his good works, his kindness and thoughtfulness and for being the ‘special person’ he was to so many people. As everyone at the service recognised, he was a big man, with a big heart and a truly gentle man. He was a good, caring, perfect gentleman – ‘Big John’ – to be remembered always.

**Chris Finch**

## **Pat Hunt**

Many of your readers who have lived in or around Harbury may remember Pat Hunt. She ran the local general grocery shop, also known as the 'Spar' shop in Chapel Street for many years. She was also active in the scout troupe, Harbury school parent teachers association and more latterly the Horticultural Society.

Pat was a loving and dedicated mother, grandmother and wife. She was a hardworking, positive member of the village who was always helping people. When running the shop she made a point of allowing anyone who couldn't pay for groceries extended credit. This was something she carried on with for quite some time after the shop finally closed.

Although originally being brought up in Bedford she joined the Women's Royal Navy as an officer and moved to London to work at the Admiralty for the duration of World War II. Soon after the war ended she married Peter Hunt and they moved to Birmingham to raise a family, and thereon to Harbury. After closing the grocery shop Pat and Peter moved to Southam to retire.

Pat passed away on 10th February 2010 after a short illness. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Her sense of fun, love of life and curiosity in everything was thankfully infectious.

**Jeremy Ayres-Hunt**

## **Blood Donors**

The need is as great as ever, as the winter weather has affected many sessions in rural areas. Sadly it has also increased health problems, on top of the regular demands of routine operations, chronic illnesses and cancer sufferers. You probably would be prepared directly to help someone with these needs if you knew them, but the Blood Service works so that blood is available to everyone who needs it. Could you swell our numbers so the Harbury session can hit the 100 mark, as we did last March?

The session is on Thursday March 11<sup>th</sup> in the Village Hall, 1.30pm – 3.30pm and 4.30pm – 7.30pm. There is no need to book but you can on [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk) or by phoning 0300 123 23 23.

**Gillian Hare**

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 678 6633 ext. 229 or email [fishandchips@spinal.co.uk](mailto:fishandchips@spinal.co.uk) or visit [www.spinal.co.uk](http://www.spinal.co.uk).

**Elizabeth Wright**

**Donor Development Officer**

## **Spirit of Harbury Award 2010**

Nominations are invited for the Spirit of Harbury Award 2010. The award, given in memory of John Hunt, is to recognise those individuals who form the backbone of our great community. They quietly give their support, time and commitment to the many organisations and activities in Harbury and this effort and service deserves to be recognised. Nominations please to 10 Farley Avenue or to [all@thehunts.eu.com](mailto:all@thehunts.eu.com).

**Andrew Hunt**

## **Chinese Year of the Tiger is a Roaring Success at Harbury School Kids' Club!**

Children attending Harbury School Kids' Club were in festive mood in preparation for the Chinese New Year festival which, this year, fell on 14th February, 2010.

To herald the Year of the Tiger, Lynn Hill, the after-school club's manager laid on a series of special activities, all of which had a Chinese connection. Aided by the club's Asian Studies Advisor, Charlotte Shalgosky, the children played games with chopsticks and tried their hand at Chinese calligraphy.



"They have had a great time learning to write Chinese," said Ms. Shalgosky, who has a dual honours degree in Mandarin and French and teaches Mandarin to both adults and children.



"It's amazing that even the youngest children pick it up so quickly." Some were photographed painting the character 'fu', which means prosperity. "The character is traditionally printed on posters which are then hung upside-down on the front door as Chinese believe this

will keep the luck from flowing away," explained Ms. Shalgosky, adding "it's a bit like our old tradition of hanging horseshoes over the front door."

Last term, Club manager, Lynn Hill also organised informal Tai Chi classes and an introduction to basic Mandarin phrases; both activities were led by Ms Shalgosky.

Mrs. Hill is keen that the club exposes children to new interests. "As China grows more powerful, understanding Chinese culture will bring new opportunities in the future" she asserted. It looks like Harbury's youth may be getting a head start!



## London Marathon 2010

Some people are bitten by the running bug, while others are simply happy to do it once to get it off their chest. Having first run the London Marathon in 2008 at the tender age of 55, I have kept on entering competitive races and I am running in the London Marathon again this year. This time I'm doing it for a great charity called PHAB Kids, which is the leading national charity committed to promoting and

encouraging disabled and non-disabled children and adults to take part in a wide range of social and sports activities.

Some of you will already be familiar with their excellent work locally and nationally. Their Patrons include Lord Snowdon, Rolf Harris and the D.J. Ed Stewart.

Inevitably, good causes benefit from donations, so I am looking for as many sponsors as possible to get me round the 26-mile course. If you would like to sponsor me on-line, just go to: [www.justgiving.com/ihartland](http://www.justgiving.com/ihartland) and get busy with your credit card!

**If you're not keen on Internet transactions, then why not drop a cheque (or cash, if you prefer) through the door of 45 Mill Street, made payable to PHAB Kids, for whatever you think my endeavours are worth?**

I have run the London Marathon before, so I know how hard but how inspiring and worthwhile it is. It is the largest mass-participation fund-raising event in the world and millions of pounds are raised every year for numerous good causes and charities. By sponsoring me you avoid having to run it yourself. Does that sound like a fair trade?

**Ian Hartland.**

**612734**

## **New Evening Bus Service**

In partnership with Stratford District Council and bus operators, a pilot scheme is being introduced by Warwickshire County Council from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 which aims to promote bus travel in the evenings. Customers will be able to purchase a return ticket for £2 to travel from anywhere in Stratford District to either Stratford or Leamington after 1800.

Additional journeys will also be provided to complement the existing evening network of services:-Harbury (supermarket) to Leamington departures on Stagecoach 64 service (journey time is 23-26 minutes) 1857, 2008, 2140 & 2310, Leamington Upper Parade to Harbury 1815, 2030, 2200 & 2330

The project helps to meet aspirations of young people to give access to leisure facilities at affordable prices and will also encourage adults to be able to have a drink and leave cars at home.

**Dennis Young  
Publicity Team Manager  
Transport Operations**

## Harbury Village Club

Harbury Village Club will be holding their AGM at 8pm on Tuesday 23rd March 2010. All members welcome.

Could any member who has not paid their subscription for 2010 please contact the Secretary. Subs due on 1st January each year.

**Deborah Gee**



## Southam Lions Ladies – Charity Pamper Day

Southam Lions Ladies are fundraising for the Warwickshire Air Ambulance and Zoe's Place. The Ladies will be holding a Charity Pamper Day on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2.00 – 5.00pm at the Graham Adams Centre, Southam. Entrance is £1.50. Reiki Healing, Pilates, Belly Dancing, Foot Massage, Make-up, Jewellery and more.....

**Viv Hoyle**

## Mask-arade Heads to the World Cup



Harbury resident Dean Walton will be heading off to the Football World Cup in South Africa loaded with England FanMasks!!

The new Fabio Capello half-masks from Mask-arade.com have already been selling like hot-cakes; in fact at the recent Spring Fair at the NEC orders were taken for over

2000 of the special masks. Dean said "the demand has been overwhelming, the whole country is on the verge of going World Cup crazy and our unique product is going to be a massive hit both at home and in South Africa". The masks have been designed to 'free-up' the wearer's mouth - allowing them to drink and wear the mask at the same time!!!

For further information contact [info@mask-arade.com](mailto:info@mask-arade.com) or go to [www.printedmasks.com](http://www.printedmasks.com).

**Ruth Walton**

## **What Happened To The First Responders?**

There has been a nationwide scheme for several years to place automated cardiac defibrillators, and trained volunteers to use them, throughout the country. The concept being that the sooner defibrillation can be administered, where appropriate, to heart attack victims the better chance of survival. In Harbury's case a trained village team would clearly be able to help people far quicker than waiting for an ambulance to reach the village from Warwick or further.

Deb Ellis worked very hard initially to raise sufficient money to buy a defibrillator for the village and in due course sufficient people volunteered for training through the ambulance service to establish "Harbury First Responders". There might well be a lot of surprise at the number of calls the group actually responded to. The team members were alerted via automated texts and calls from the ambulance 999 service to a mobile phone.

The sad news is that the group has disbanded, in common with many other village groups, because of the increasing bureaucracy and excessive demands made by the ambulance service on the volunteers.

The good news however is that the Harbury doctor's surgery has agreed to take over the defibrillator and undergo the necessary training in its use.

**Geoff Thorpe**

## **Harbury Senior Citizens Committee Update**

Just a short article this time about the activities for the year so that you can put them in your diaries. The summer outing will be on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June and we will let you know where we are going in the coming months. Other dates to be added to your diaries are the Summer Lunch on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August and the 2010 Christmas Party on Saturday 11th December. Further details will be provided nearer the dates.

**Mike McBride,**

**On behalf of the Harbury Senior Citizens Benefit Association**

## Harbury Blues?

I put in an article last month mentioning that as a middle aged guitar player who up to now has played for his own entertainment, I had been wondering whether there were any other amateur musicians in the area who would like to get together for an evening informally say once a month to play blues style music together (electric or acoustic).

Whilst I have had a number of positive replies, if there any others out there (guitar, bass, keyboards, sax etc) who would be interested please e mail me at [harburyblues@googlemail.com](mailto:harburyblues@googlemail.com).

**Andrew Cook**

## Recollections of Winter 1962 – 1963

In the 1980s the year 6 children at Harbury School invited their parents and family friends to write down their memories of winter 1962-3. The replies have recently been re-typed as a Word document so that they are more accessible to a greater audience. We have an enormous number of documents which need digitising. Any volunteers? Contact Nigel Chapman through the school or by phoning 813765 - I will be delighted to add your name to the list of volunteers. All you need is the time; there are never any deadlines to keep - a great job for the terminally bored! My thanks to our regular team of Rosemary Harley, Bobbie Jones, Haidee Powell and Carol Jackson who have brought our total of digitised documents up to around 40, including the complete Census for the village from 1881.

*"My memories of this winter are very faded. I can remember the snow being around for weeks and weeks. I lived in Leamington and I can remember walking across the Grand Union Canal from bank to bank, and walking along the canal itself all the way from the Myton Road to Emscote Road.*

*Helen's daddy remembers it as the year he went sledging for the first time.*

*Helen's grandma remembers that my great aunt was staying with us at the time, had to go home in a hurry (because she had had a phone call telling her that her house was flooded because a pipe had burst) and she had to go home on the train because the roads were absolutely impassable and so we couldn't take her home."*

## Mrs Liz Robbins

*"Severe snow and icy roads – snow chains on car wheels – lovely*

*thick snow for tobogganing – on Chiltern Hills outlying villages cut off – ponies on Dartmoor had hay dropped by helicopter.”*

**Mrs Sue Wilkins & Mr Allen Wilkins**

*“Complete white stillness with the snow on the footpath at the height of my head. I was 11 years old living in Essex. The snowman I built stayed until April.”*

**Mr Phil Egging**

*“I also lived in Essex. I remember not being able to get out of the doors in the morning. We lived in the country up an unmade road and my father had to cut a trench through the snow so that we could walk to the main road. The sides of the track came well above my head. I was ten.*

*My brother and I made an igloo of sorts and it lasted over two months. I remember when the thaw came, how wonderful it was to see green grass again. It seemed to have been white forever, whereas now, the snow only ever lasts a few days before it turns to dirty slush.”*

**Dawn Egging**

*“Power cuts – sheep were lost, and lambs – difficult to get milk from the farms to the dairy – ambulances had difficulty reaching hospitals – villages were cut off and short of food – elderly people died of hypothermia – buses and trains were stopped – some stranded on roads and lines – helicopters delivered to the desperate – tracker dogs and collies to sniff out the sheep in the snow.”*

**Mrs Pam Scholtz**

*“At that time I was living in Kenilworth with my family and distinctly remember the severity of those winter months. I remember one occasion in particular, as my father and I used to walk over the park in Kenilworth known as the Abbey Fields on Saturday afternoons and at that time there existed a very deep miniature lake – a vestige of the old Priory fishing lakes – this lake had never before been frozen over, but this winter saw it completely solid, from top to bottom. So sound was its structure that the entire temporary population of the park were skating upon it and in no danger of falling through. Similarly the Finham Brook which bordered the lake on one side had been staunched in its normally fast flow and rendered immobile by the ice, allowing people to cross from one side of the park to the other, via the ‘stream’.*

*I think these two instances clearly illustrate the severity of that exceptional winter.”*

**Mr Nick Andrews**

*“Coventry – The snow came very early in the year – before Christmas I think. It was the year my father had his first heart attack and was in bed for 6 weeks, so mum and I were reliant on our feet and public transport for getting about. I travelled by bus to school and did not miss any time off, but I do remember the snow being piled about 3 feet high in the kerb and you had to get over this before you could get on the bus.*

*The snow lay about for a long time – about 8 weeks - and it got dirtier and dirtier!*

### **Mrs Sue Andrews**

*“I was very young during the cold winter of 1962/3. But I can still remember how the milk froze in my bottle and my dummy stuck to my lips. My parents could hardly push my pram through the snow and as for my nappy rash.....!*

*More seriously, we were living, as Jamie’s grandparents still do, in North London. Jamie’s grandfather was working in the City of London, in Broad Street, off Finsbury Square. Usually, he would commute to work; he would catch a train at Hornsey station and that would take him to Liverpool Street station. From there he would walk to work.*

*I was at Tollington School, at the top of Muswell Hill – the steepest hill in London. It had been my father’s school, and my grandfather’s and my great-grandfather (Jamie’s great-great-grandfather) had designed the original Tollington Park School. That was why I travelled three miles to school, by bus and on foot, rather than going to the Stationer’s School which was just round the corner. My brother was at our local Primary school across the road.*

*My father remembers the snow being so heavy that many days the trains did not run. The underground trains into Moorgate were packed, and he chose to walk to work, along City Road and into the City of London. I don’t know how far that would be, but it takes about twenty minutes to drive, so it must be eight to ten miles.*

*Dad was churchwarden at our local church. He remembers the church being so cold that icicles hung inside. The pipes froze solid, and one Sunday the boiler exploded. Our own house froze up and my mother had to get our drinking water from a standpipe; a tap in the pavement coming straight from the main.*

*I still went to school. I walked all the way with friends, and nobody minded if we were late; we were heroes for getting there! There was snow on the school roof for weeks, and a gang of us borrowed the*

*stuffed penguin from the biology lab, put a school scarf on it and put it on the staffroom roof.*

*We were very sorry when the snow went; but we had more excitement that summer when there was a bus strike! Perhaps because I didn't have a house or a car to worry about, I remember that much more clearly. We used to hitch lifts to school every day, and we gave ourselves points for what we rode in. You got three or four points for a Ford or a Hillman, eight for a Jaguar, and ten for a Bentley or a Rolls-Royce! We never got a ride in one of those, but seven of us did arrive in school one day in the back of an old Post Office van. We scored minus ten."*

**John Stringer**

**Nigel Chapman**

## **Morris: A Life with Bells On**

You've seen the hanky dance, you've dodged the stick, you've been woken up at dawn.....Now see the film! Hereburgh Morris are always looking for opportunities to bring folk-related entertainment into the village.

Next month, we are hoping to host a screening of "Morris: A Life with Bells" on at the Village Hall on the evening of 10th April. Still in the early stages of negotiations, we hope to make this a village event by inviting our friends Plum Jerkum to dance with us before the screening. Please look out for an advertisement in next month's Harbury and Ladbroke News to confirm that it will go ahead. Tickets, to include a fish and chip supper and a bar (whoever heard of a Morris event without a bar?) will be available from Celia Neill, tel: 612819. All profits will be donated to the Village Hall extension fund. Come and find out what goes on behind the scenes and in the halls of power of Morris Dancing - if you dare.....

**Lynne Cooke**  
**Hereburgh Morris**

## **Harbury Carnival - Saturday June 12th, 2010**

Firstly, we would like to pay tribute to John Ridgley, who sadly passed away last month. John was a great supporter of the carnival over many, many years, as a participant in the procession, stall runner and a willing helper. He will be greatly missed by us all.

Unlike Rio, we have not been asked to tone our carnival down so it's time to think how YOU can participate and help us continue the great carnival tradition, no holds barred (John would have approved). Get together with your local organisation, pub, street or friends and see what ideas you can come up with for either a float or a walking group for the procession. The more participants we have, the more fun it is for everybody and I promise that you will enjoy the experience. Here is the list of categories:

Trade Float

Independent Float

Children's' Float

Decorated Bike/Pram/Car

Horse Drawn/Mounted/Lead

Walking Tableau Children 2-8 persons

Walking Tableau Children more than 8 persons

Walking Tableau Family

Walking Tableau Adults

Walking Adult

Walking Child

If you would like to book a stall/pitch on the field, please call Mike McBride on 612421.

Come and join in and, if you have any questions about the carnival, please feel free to call John Broomfield on 614258. He will be happy to provide whatever help he can.

**Harbury Carnival Committee**

## **Village with a Vision Competition**

I'm writing to bring you up to date on the proposed Extra Care Housing Scheme for the village. At this moment we're awaiting the questionnaire for the Housing Needs Survey, which will be distributed to you all as soon as available.

In the meantime, we're looking for some help please! We would like to have our own logo for Village with a Vision; is there anyone in the village who would like to try their hand? The logo should include our name or the initials VwV. So, if you'd like to enter our competition for the design, then please get busy!

We're delighted that the Editorial Team of the Harbury & Ladbroke News has agreed to act as our judges. There will be two prizes:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize a £10 Co-op Voucher

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize a £5 Co-op Voucher

There will be a separate competition for children at the School, with an Easter egg for the best one in each Year Group. The competition is also open to children attending other schools, but who live in the village - but please be sure to include your Year Group.

If needed, more information can be obtained from the address below.

Final date for receipt of designs: 12 noon, Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

Happy designing!

**Tony Stubbs**  
**5, South Parade**  
**Harbury**  
or e-mail to: [villagewithavision@hotmail.com](mailto:villagewithavision@hotmail.com)

## **Bench Televison, Southam**

Ray Bench has advertised in the magazine continually since April 1976, firstly working from Bishops Itchington and then moving to his shop in Southam in 1981. This makes him one of the longest advertisers in the magazine. The Editors would like to thank Mr Bench for his support of the magazine over the last 34 years and wish him a very restful retirement. Hopefully never to have to view the inside of a television again!!

**John Holden on behalf of the Editors**

## **Ballroom Dancing**

The next session will start on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 8.30pm – 10.00pm for six weeks. We're working towards a fund raising dance for the Village Hall in the autumn so, if you feel like honing your ballroom dancing skills in preparation for that, please come and join us.

For further information, please ring me on 613680.

**Joan Smith**

## **Brain Tumour Research**

Recently, Hayley celebrated her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday but decided to do

something for charity instead of a party and presents. She arranged a "Black and White Ball" at Stratford Manor with proceeds going to Brain Tumour Research, a charity close her heart.

It was a great success and a night to remember by all, raising over £6000 for a wonderful cause!

Thank you to everyone supported the evening or were kind enough to give donations and also "well done Hayley" – what an achievement!

**The Green Family**



### **Dear Editors**

*Linda Ridgley, her daughters and family would like to thank the very many people who sent good wishes to John during his short illness and their condolences to them on his death.*

*The kind thoughts, the praise for the help and the kindness he extended to many, and the multitude of happy memories you recalled (particularly of his Carnival and Christmas Fayre appearances), have been a great comfort to us.*

*It seems that many people miss him almost as much as we do and we are proud to have been able to share this big, kind, gentle man with you all.*

**Linda, Sarah and Victoria**

### **Dear Editors**

*Many people will remember Pat Hunt who, along with Peter her husband, kept the Spar Grocery shop in Chapel Street. We were sorry to hear from their son, Jeremy, that Pat died in Coventry Hospital on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February. She was a popular resident of Harbury for many years, always ready to stop and talk and, most memorably, to laugh. What a cheerful chuckle she had and thought troubles were best dealt with through laughter.*

*For many years Pat was a loyal member of the Horticultural Society, rarely missing a meeting. Even after moving to Southam she continued to attend the monthly meetings, travelling here by taxi. If help was needed almost the first volunteer would be Pat, along with her friend, Gwen Boardman.*

*In Southam she joined the Darby and Joan Club, regularly making cakes for the meetings saying a homemade item was so much nicer than a bought biscuit. Pat was always a keen, adventurous cook with Gwen often on the*

receiving end of her experiments. Within the last year she began to cut back on her activities but could still be met in the shops in Southam and, as ever, ready to stop and talk.

Not only will Pat be missed by her sons Paul and Jeremy and their families but by the many people who knew her and remember her friendly cheerfulness.

### **Pat Smith**

---

#### **Dear Editors**

May I please send my sincere thanks to all who enquired after Muriel, sent cards or messages of support and offers of help after the stroke which she suffered at Christmas. Your sympathy and concern for her has been quite overwhelming and I and our family are truly grateful.

At the time of writing, she is in Victoria ward at Warwick Hospital where she is continuing a slow but steady recovery.

### **Ron Grey**

---

#### **Dear Editors**

We would like to thank everyone who has supported our plant sales over the last 20 years enabling us to raise over £47,000 for Myton Hospice!

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, we are sorry to have to tell you that we are unable to continue with these sales any longer.

A big "thank you" must go to Lancet Nurseries! Ed started us off many years ago with Lou, Cheryl and Nigel — later joined by Steve who carried on in his memory. Thank you to the four of you for all your hard work, not only growing the plants for us to sell but delivering them to us each Saturday as well. Without you and our loyal supporters we couldn't have done it and made it such a success!

### **Myton Hospice Support Group**

---

#### **Dear Editors**

Harbury Bellringers, whose turn it was to do the Coffee Morning on Saturday 20th February, would like to thank all those who attended and who enabled us to raise £141.52 which we have great pleasure in donating to the Village Hall Development Fund.

Kind regards,

**William Jones**

## Dear Editors

Carmen and the Ellis-Greenway family & friends held the annual STEPS coffee morning and we raised £228.97 - we were so pleased with this amount and STEPS have sent their thanks as well.

We would like to thank all the helpers that came to ensure all went well. Also, the kind donations from Harbury village people. The photo of the morning shows Carmen holding the banner on the right hand side.



Good news is - she does not have to wear her leg brace now!!!! Left leg to be operated on later in the year. AND she is growing at last!

Thank you VERY MUCH.

**Karena EA Ellis-Greenway**

---

## Dear Editors

I am researching my family tree; my grandfather's sister Mary Matilda Southam was born in Ladbroke in 1863 and married in 1896, a William Wells (born 1871 in Harbury) and they lived in Sussex Cottages, Harbury. They had a daughter named Ruth Francis Marian Wells who later went to California to live; she died in 1986. Aunt Tilly as she was known died in Harbury in 1952 but I cannot find any information on what happened to her husband William Wells.

In the late forties and early fifties, I remember spending school holidays in Harbury but I can only remember Aunt Tilly living alone. Also I remember an Uncle George who had a pub and a butcher's shop. I have heard that in 1937 there was a fire in the pub and a child died in it and is supposed to be buried in the Cemetery in Harbury. I have also heard that the grave has a large guardian angel on it but the surname is not visible.

I intend to visit Harbury in the spring and stay a night or two to try and gather some more information. If anyone has any information on the surnames Southam or Wells, it would be much appreciated.

I can be contacted via e-mail: [patbutler10@btinternet.com](mailto:patbutler10@btinternet.com)

Thanking you

**Patricia Butler**

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

**Bookings for:**

<b>Scout Hut</b>	<b>Caroline Hill</b>	<b>613780</b>
<b>Tom Hauley Room</b>	<b>Liz Bunting</b>	<b>612450</b>
<b>T. Hauley Room Coffee Morning</b>	<b>Sally Stringer</b>	<b>613214</b>
<b>Village Hall</b>	<b>Celia Neill</b>	<b>612819</b>
<b>Wight School</b>	<b>Lin Hayes</b>	<b>613488</b>

**APRIL EDITION – HARBURY & LADBROKE NEWS**

**Adverts to**      31, Binswood End by 15<sup>th</sup> March

**Articles to**     Harbury Pharmacy by 25<sup>th</sup> March

<b>BOOKINGS FOR HARBURY</b>	
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Tom Hauley Room	
Liz Bunting	Tel: 612450
T. Hauley Room Coffee Morning	
Sally Stringer	Tel: 613214
Village Hall	
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On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2010 Harbury Rugby Club are promoting a charity event in support of Afghan Heroes. *This Modern Youth* supported by *Retro City* are undertaking a seven gig tour of Warwickshire as part of their effort to raise support for British troops in Afghanistan. A local band from Nuneaton they are keen to help raise the profile of the 'Afghan Heroes'.

*'Afghan Heroes' has been launched by a group of mothers with the aim of helping our service personnel directly on the front line; the families of those who have fallen and our returning service personnel who have witnessed these horrific losses of their fellow comrades. You can find out more by visiting [www.afghanheroes.org.uk](http://www.afghanheroes.org.uk)*

The bands will be performing from 7.30 pm through till 11.00 pm and tickets are only available from the Club through Tom Jamieson (07877640081) and other Club Members and are £5.00 each.

This event will give you all an opportunity to watch an up and coming Warwickshire band and contribute to a very worthy cause.