

Harbury & Ladbroke News

Reflects all aspects of local life, is published monthly and produced with the assistance of
All Saints' Parochial Church Council.

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*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



The photo heading this month is of the contributors to the Harbury & Ladbroke News, whose articles contributed to the parish magazine being recognised as having the “best content in the UK”.

In Harbury the generosity of villagers continues; over £3000 was raised in the Poppy Collection and the Myton Hospice Support Group raised £900 at the Craft Fair. In Ladbroke the community spirit resulted in a 5th November with flames, food and fireworks.

The deadline for contributors for the January edition is 22nd December.

We wish a happy Christmas and New Year to all our readers.

Finally we extend our sympathies to the families of Janice Siddle and Catherine Spence

Harbury Diary

DECEMBER

- Sat 3 Coffee Morning 10.00am – 12 noon in Tom Hauley Room
in aid of Rotary
Christmas Fayre 2.00 - 4.00pm Village Hall
Southam Christmas Street Event – 2.00 – 8.00pm at Market Hill

- Sun 4 ADVENT II**
 Sung Eucharist 9.00am
 First Light Service 10.30am, Tom Hauley Room
 Holy Communion with Laying on of Hands 6.00pm
 Warwickshire Young Voices Concert, 11.00am onwards in Village Hall
- Tues 6 Holy Communion 7.30pm followed by Advent Course "Gifts of the Spirit"
 Youth Club 6.45pm in Village Hall
 Toddlers' Christmas Party in morning at Village Hall
 Horticultural Society 8.00pm in Tom Hauley Room
- Weds 7 Holy Communion 2.00pm
 Mothers' Union Meeting 2.30pm Tom Hauley Room – "Craft for Christmas"
 Hereburgh Morris practice 8.00 – 10.00pm in Harbury School
- Thurs 8 Holy Communion 9.45am
 Warwickshire Young Voices 6.30pm in Village Hall
 WI 7.45pm in Tom Hauley Room – Pudding Evening
 Harbury Primary School PTA Market 3.15pm – 4.00pm in School Hall
- Fri 9 Christmas Folk Concert doors open 7.00pm in Village Hall
 Sat 10 Coffee Morning 10.00am – 12 noon in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Multiple Sclerosis
 Southam Christmas Street Event – 2.00 – 8.00pm at Market Hill
 Southam Lions and Santa visit Harbury, 3.30pm – 8.00pm
 Senior Citizens Christmas Party 5.00 for 5.30pm in Village Hall
- Sun 11 ADVENT III**
 Holy Communion 8.00am
 Sung Eucharist 10.30am
 Fixing of Christmas Lights - If you would like to help please come along to Chapel Street from 11.00am
 Staff Concert at Galanos House, Southam Tel: 812185 for details
- Tues 13 Toddlers' Service 2.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
 Holy Communion 7.30pm followed by Advent Course "Gifts of the Spirit"
 Youth Club 6.45pm in Village Hall
- Wed 14 Hereburgh Morris practice 8.00 – 10.00pm in Harbury School
- Thurs 15 Holy Communion 9.45am
 ADVERTS FOR NEXT ISSUE TO: 31 BINSWOOD END, HARBURY BY 5.30PM
- Fri 16 SCHOOL ENDS
- Sat 17 Men's Prayer Breakfast
- Sat 17 Coffee Morning 10.00am – 12 noon in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Harbury Society
 Southam Christmas Street Event – 2.00 – 8.00pm at Market Hill

- Sat 17 Moving Pictures presents 'Harry Potter & Deathly Hallows Part 2'
Doors open 4.00pm, film starts 4.30pm at Village Hall
- Sun 18 ADVENT IV**
Holy Communion 8.00am
Sung Eucharist 10.30am
Christingle Service 4.00pm for children and families
Evensong 6.00pm
- Mon 19 "Beer & Carols" from 7.00pm at The Crown Inn
- Tues 20 Holy Communion 7.30pm
NB No Mothers' Union meeting
- Weds 21 Tea 3.00pm Tom Hauley Room
Hereburgh Morris practice 8.00 – 10.00pm in Harbury School
- Thurs 22 Holy Communion 9.45am
NB No Thursday Club today.
**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES TO HARBURY PHARMACY,
HIGH STREET OR BY EMAIL BY 5.30PM**
- Sat 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE**
Free Coffee Morning 10.00am – 12 noon in Tom Hauley Room
Dressing of the Crib 2.00pm for children and families
Village Candlelit Carol Service 6.30pm
Midnight Mass 11.15pm
- Sun 25 CHRISTMAS DAY**
Sung Eucharist 10.30am
- Tues 27 BOXING DAY**
NB No Drop in Tea today
Holy Communion 7.30pm
NB No Julian Meeting
- Thurs 29 Holy Communion 9.45am
- Fri 30 New Year Dance in Village Hall
- Sat 31 **NEW YEAR'S EVE**
Coffee Morning 10.00am – 12 noon in Tom Hauley Room in aid
of Church Men's Group

JANUARY 2012

- Sun 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY**
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
Holy Communion 9.00am
First Light 10.30am Tom Hauley Room
Quiet Contemplative Service in the Celtic Tradition 6.00pm
- Tues 3 Holy Communion 7.30pm
- Wed 4 **SCHOOL RECOMMENCES**
Mother's Union Party 2.30pm Tom Hauley Room
- Wed 4 Hereburgh Morris practice 8.00 – 10.00pm in Harbury School
- Thurs 5 Holy Communion 9.45am
Men's Group 7.45pm Tom Hauley Room
- Sat 7 Coffee Morning 10.00am – 12 noon in Tom Hauley Room in
aid of Mothers' Union

Refuse Collection Rota				
	Deppers Bridge	Harbury	Ladbroke	Collection Week
December	Wed	Thurs	Fri	
	7	8	9	Green & Blue Lid Bins
	14	15	16	Grey Bin
	21	22	23	Green & Blue Lid Bins
	Thur 29	Fri 30	Sat 31	Grey Bin
Jan	4	5	6	Green & Blue Lid Bins
	11	12	13	Grey Bin
	18	19	20	Green & Blue Lid Bins

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

 <p>All Saints HARBURY</p>	<h2>From the Rector</h2> <p>Father Craig Grocock The Rectory, Vicarage Lane, Harbury Tel.: 612377</p>
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Why are we waiting?

We live in a society that doesn't do waiting all that well. Everything is instant these days – and we want it all now!

Waiting is a counter-cultural activity it seems and you often hear people say “The waiting is the hardest bit...” And I'm sure that's true; which is why maybe we need to sit with the difficult; to inhabit that space and to re-gain some perspective – God's perspective.

The Church of England this year is encouraging people to rediscover the forgotten joys and deeper benefits of waiting for the things they want with the launch of an online Advent calendar. The calendar is aimed at putting the waiting back into wanting as the countdown to Christmas begins.

The website, www.WhyWeAreWaiting.com features the Advent calendar with a difference, made up of reflections, podcasts, waiting tips and a series of seasonal hints suggesting ways of waiting for your wallet, waiting for your soul and waiting for the environment!

Bishop Stephen Cottrell, the Bishop of Reading, said: “This Advent Calendar is a timely resource as we approach Christmas in the credit crunch. It offers people a breathing space in what is often a busy and stressful time of year. We hope the website reminds people that waiting

is not a waste of time but will remind people that having to wait for what you want isn't always a bad thing. Sometimes you realise you don't want it after all and save yourself some time and money. Other times, what you want is even more welcome for having had to wait. Many Advent calendars offer daily chocolate – what this website offers is a daily dose of chocolate for the soul.”

May God bless you all deeply as you enjoy the season of Advent for what it's meant to be - slow down a bit, watch and wait and then be truly prepared to celebrate Christmas with real joy.

From the Registers

Baptism at All Saints' Harbury

12th November Dylan Fairbrother

Funerals at All Saints' Harbury

14th November Janice Siddle (60 years)



From the Churchwardens

Liz & Will

It was nice to see the Church once again full for the Remembrance Day Service. Our thanks to all the Standard bearers and particularly John Hall for stepping in at short notice to play the Last Post for us on his horn.

There are moves afoot to erect mesh guards at the windows of the Church. A trial is planned for the two South facing windows to see the effect. Guards already exist on all of the stained glass windows, and the only other East facing window, for protection from stones etc. The intention is to stop large projectiles entering the building and causing damage, particularly in light of the fire at Radford Semele Church.

For the All Age Communion Service this month, Alison brought us, with pantomime styling (complete with the obligatory “boo hiss...” which accompanies the baddie), the story of Esther. She showed how God was always working in the background even though it wasn't obvious at the time.





Mothers' Union

Gillian Hare

Our afternoon meeting was our AGM and Sue reminded us of some of the interesting talks we had heard. She is willing to lead for another year but Gillian has stepped down from the committee, so another member would be welcome. Regrettably, we shall no longer have evening meetings as the numbers do not justify a speaker making the journey.

The afternoon ended with a lively but inconclusive discussion about the "sit-in" outside St. Paul's.

In the evening we saw some of Dr Hancock's beautiful slides of butterflies and wildflowers; after he told us about his lifelong interest in natural history.

The shoebox packing resulted in a magnificent 105 boxes which have gone to Ukraine. Thank you to all the W.I. ladies who joined with us.

When this reaches you we shall probably have had a successful toiletries stall at the Christmas Fayre. Thank you to all who contributed.

Wednesday 7th December, 2.30pm: Christmas Craft – bring a small, sharp knife.

Wednesday 7th December, 7pm: A quiet evening led by the Bishop at St. Nicholas, Kenilworth. Gillian has two spare seats if anyone else would like to prepare for Christmas reflectively.

Wednesday, 4th January, 2.30pm: No service, but a tea party. Remember the laughs we had last year? Please bring an unwrapped gift, value £1 approx.

Saturday, 7th January, 10am – 12 noon: Coffee morning. We shall need help, cakes, raffles prizes and bric-a-brac. This is our major fundraiser to enable us to support the wider work of Mothers' Union so please put it in your brand new diary!

Finally, your committee wish you all a peaceful and blessed Christmas.



Toddlers' Service

Barbara Thistlethwaite

Mr Hare started our Toddlers' Service by playing our chosen song "Jesus' love is very wonderful". Mrs Hare then told us the story of the lame man who had some wonderful friends.

When Jesus came to speak to the people they took their lame friend to hear him. They could not get into the house because there were so many people there so they carried their lame friend up onto the roof where they made a hole and lowered him down right in front of Jesus as he was preaching.

Jesus just looked at the lame man and said “get up and walk”. The lame man said “but I cannot walk”. Jesus looked at him again and the lame man got up and walked out of the house to his friends. Everyone celebrated the amazing thing that Jesus had done.

We then sang some more songs and said our prayer. We then made some great models of a house with a hole in the roof and a little model man to take home with us.

We had our drinks and played with toys until it was time to go home. Our next Toddlers’ Service will be our Christmas Story on Tuesday 13th December in the Tom Hauley Room at 2.00pm. All babies and toddlers accompanied by an adult are welcome to join us.

	<h2>First Light</h2>	<p>Alison Abbott</p>
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At November's First Light we had a good look at meekness; not as mild and spineless as you first think. Meekness is one of those words that has changed its meaning. Its true meaning is a patient gentleness that stems from strength - strength controlled, not weakness. Once again this was ably illustrated through words, music and a little drama.

In December we are following this up with obedience. Thinking particularly about Mary's obedience. First Light is informal and child friendly, but also has something for all ages. We would love to see you in the Tom Hauley Room on 4th December. We have coffee from about 10.00am for a 10.30am start.

Ladbroke News & Diary

DECEMBER

Sun	4	ADVENT II
		Family Communion 10.30am followed by refreshments
Tues	6	Photography Club Christmas Social, 7.30pm in Village Hall
Wed	7	Yoga Class, 6.30pm, Village Hall

- Fri 9 Christmas Party in Village Hall – Ladbroke Rockers, buffet and bar
- Thurs 8 Women’s Institute Christmas Party, 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Sat 10 Christmas Whist Drive, 7.45pm
- Sun 11 ADVENT III**
Holy Communion (sung), 9am
- Wed 14 Yoga Class, 6.30pm
- Thurs 15 ADVERTS FOR NEXT ISSUE OF HARBURY NEWS TO 31 BINSWOOD END BY 5.30PM
Beer and Carols, 7pm at the Bell
- Sat 17 Whist Drive, 7.45pm
- Sun 18 ADVENT IV**
Holy Communion BCP, 9am
- Thurs 22 ARTICLES TO HARBURY PHARMACY, HIGH STREET AND EMAIL ARTICLES DEADLINE BY 5.30PM
- Sat 24 CHRISTMAS EVE
Dressing the Crib, 3.30pm
- Sun 25 CHRISTMAS DAY**
Holy Communion (sung) 9am
- Tues 27 Carol Service, 6.30pm in Church
- JANUARY 2012**
- Sun 1 CHRISTMAS I**
Family Communion, 10.30am
- Fri 6 Epiphany Service, 7.30pm, in Church
- Sat 7 Whist Drive, 7.45pm



Ladbroke Church News

Sue Lord

You will no doubt have noticed scaffolding covering the East Wall of the Chancel. This is to carry out substantial repairs to stonework which will last into the New Year. Work also included in the project covers internal wall renovations and further external repairs to walls and windows. Unfortunately the maintenance of these wonderful buildings is an ongoing expense and we rely heavily on fund raising efforts and the generosity of our parishioners.

The combined All Saints’ Service was a wonderful occasion. The Church was flood lit with the beautiful East Chancel window looking quite spectacular with additional external lighting. This was also a sad day as it saw the passing of Catherine Spence who, with husband Cyril, have been loyal members of the congregation for over 20 years. Catherine's funeral took place on 10th November. The Church was adorned with flowers and full with family and friends. A wonderful service and wonderful send off for such a lovely lady who will be very much missed.

For the second year running the Remembrance Sunday Service was held in the afternoon and was extremely well attended. The interaction of the village organisations and the presence of St.James School made the act of remembrance very special. Father Craig's address was particularly poignant and the service was enhanced by the afternoon sunshine.

A huge thank-you to Alan Lohead for his support with sound and lighting at all of the above occasions.

The December programme is busy as always commencing with the Coffee Morning and Christmas Fayre on 3rd December in the Village Hall. "Carols at The Bell" is on the evening of 15th December. Dressing the Crib is at 3.30pm on Christmas Eve and our Christmas Day Service this year is at 9.00am. The Carol Service is on Tuesday 27th December at 6.30pm and there will be a special evening service to mark the Epiphany on Friday 6th January 2012.

From the Registers

Holy Matrimony, All Saints' Ladbroke

10th September Sam Morris and Anna Todman

Funerals at All Saints' Ladbroke

10th November Catherine Spence

Ladbroke Flower Rota

No flowers during Advent

25th December, 1st January, 8th January - Jean Clews

Additional flowers for Christmas Day as per rota



Sue Lord



Ladbroke Parish Council

Betty Winkfield

Public Participation: The Council was asked about a council truck going round the village "litter picking". The truck went up Radbourne Lane and down again without picking up any litter including an old tyre. Windmill Lane has more dumping problems. Apparently a whole suite of furniture was left there one day. It had gone the next day – but not removed by the council truck!

Matters Arising: Although the caravan has been removed from the field behind Village Farm, the storage containers remain. An enforcement notice has been given to the owner.

Change of Name for Windmill Lane (North end) – because there has been a delay of eighteen months since the change of name was first applied for, it may well have to be submitted again.

Emergency Plan: The few minor changes to the plan are outstanding prior to approval.

The merger between the Millennium Green and the Village Hall is ongoing; discussions with the Charity Commissioners about this are in hand.

The Parish Council made a donation to the British Legion instead of replacing last year's wreath which was still in good order.

Precept 2012/2013: This was discussed in great detail, mainly looking at areas of possible savings. Money has been used from the reserve funds and grants for the last three years, which cannot be sustained.

The Parish Plan has to be reviewed and updated following development of The Localism Bill. Whether the government will give grants for this is unknown.

Insurance costs were discussed. The maintenance of the street lighting: what is the possibility of a lamp pole falling? How much insurance cover would be necessary to cover such an incident?

The cost of storage of redundant documents was discussed. Most relevant applications have been transferred to the SDC website and there are copies of them in Warwick Archives. It isn't really necessary and there is no legal requirement to keep them. The Council will examine them and make a decision.

The cost of training new councillors is increasing although there is an offer for this on a 2 for 1 basis. Regarding legal costs in association with HS2, all communities along the line would unite if necessary. Costs would be much worse if the project was approved, with the disruption of roads and people's mobility. Both District and County have money in reserve for any HS2 problems. All expenses incurred should eventually be recovered.

The precept will definitely rise; by how much will have to be decided by the end of January.

Beacon for the Queen's Jubilee: This will be offered as an opportunity for village groups to combine as a 'fund raiser' BBQ or otherwise on the 4th June 2012. Local Parishes are doing similar.

Highways: White Lines on Village Roads - these are not required as the width of these roads is too narrow. This is a cost saving activity by SDC

Village Hall: There was no report from the Village Hall. They are holding a party in the Hall on Friday 9th December – tickets £10.

Millennium Green: The committee is having an autumnal “tidy up” week ending on 20th November (too late if you were going to offer your services!). Their finances are healthy.

HS2 Action Group: The group is still very active. There are meetings arranged with the ministers concerned and with our M.P. Jeremy Wright.

Warwickshire County Councillor’s Report: Next year a Police Commissioner will be elected for Warwickshire. Anyone can stand; a £500 deposit is necessary. New Police and Fire Headquarters are to be built with the money from the sale of Leamington Fire Station. Twelve libraries are being saved in Warwickshire. They are to be run by volunteers but books will still be supplied by the County Council. Southam Library will continue in its present format. There is still talk of the re-development of Southam Town Centre (the old Police Station and Magistrates’ Court) with money from Tesco. Police have promised to stay in Southam. Although crime is supposed to be down in this area, the theft of metal has increased as well as petty crime. The new Health Bill will be announced next year.

The County’s annual grant from the government has been cut again. Next year the budget will be up by 2.5% - 4%.

The next Community Forum is on 15th December at Southam Primary School.

Community Payback Scheme – this is a scheme providing work for young offenders. They have been working in this area, but the work will need supervision!

The meeting closed at 9.57pm. The next meeting is on **Wednesday 18th January 2012, 7.45pm in the Village Hall.**

	<p>Ladbroke & Deppers Bridge Women’s Institute</p>	<p>Carol Lane</p>
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Held on Thursday 24th November in the Village Hall, about twenty members and a visitor listened as Sue Moore went through the business of the evening. Members were encouraged to bring the voting slip from W.I. Life to the next meeting where discussion can take place regarding the resolutions to be voted on.

During the month members had taken advantage of Warwickshire W.I. events. On 28th October six of us went to the Guy Nelson Hall in Warwick and joined a packed hall to see the historian Lesley Smith's frightening and gory enactment of Boudicca. She then came out of character and answered questions ranging from the primogeniture laws to contraception in the Middle Ages all with her hilarious brand of humour.

On 22nd November more members took advantage of a special shopping night at Hatton Craft Centre, driven there by Sue in the Community bus.

Sue had taken twelve shoe boxes of gifts for underprivileged children as part of the Operation Christmas Child scheme.



The speaker for the evening, Fay Palmer, was then introduced. Her talk was entitled 'Dowsing for Health' and she briefly explained that as a member of the British Society of Dowsers as Practitioners for Health, she was involved in cutting edge science as to how dowsing works. She started at the age of nine when, trying to locate water in a drought in Ireland, her dowsing rods acted so forcibly in her hands that they broke.

We all agreed that we only think of dowsing in relation to locating underground sources of water but she explained that ores and coals can likewise be found. I hope I have sufficient understanding of the way it works to give a feel of what she told us. All matter gives out vibrations of energy and these energies intermingle. Our bodies register these through the pineal gland in the brain. We no longer need to know these things so the brain blocks our consciousness of them. She gave the example that as we all expect water to come out of the tap whenever we turn it on, it is no longer necessary for us to find sources for ourselves.

Thus dowsing is able to be used to help archaeological digs, health and seeking the presence of earth energies (ley lines). In health it can be used in diagnosis, allergy testing and in the alleviation of many disorders. It is used in conjunction with other therapies and medical interventions.

After hearing some fascinating anecdotes of the help provided in specific cases it was our turn to try to discover each others 'aura'. I did not expect it to work for me at all so I was amazed when the rods moved of their own volition in my hands. So long as the question has a yes/no response the rods will 'answer' and the room was full of us all, rods in the 'pistols at



dawn' position, concentrating on proving things. The picture shows (from left to right) Heather, Rachel, Emily, Pauline and Janet in action.

Anyone who wishes to book a talk, a dowsing event, a private consultation or merely to find out more, may contact Fay on 07870 928931.

The Christmas W.I. Celebrations are to be held on Thursday 8th December at 7.30pm when the trio, Triple Bypass will entertain us. Visitors are always welcome.



Ladbroke Photography Club

Jackie West

"Creative Eye" was the title of the competition at last month's meeting and this certainly stretched everyone's creative skills whether that was in composition, technical aspects or digital changes before printing. The discussion of the entries gave us ideas and inspiration for future shots, including using a torch to paint in extra light into a scene at night or making a close up of a dandelion head pin sharp by blowing away half the seeds and using a small aperture or a tiny lens (e.g. on a phone). We also learnt about two programmes for producing collages from a set of photos and another that can improve dynamic range, getting back detail into the highlights and shadows. The most stunning shots in the competition were taken in crossed polarised light, with a pair of DIY goggles showing brilliant pink, green and turquoise striations; Andy explained that he'd read about this technique in a book: use your computer or lap top screen with a blank white page as the source of polarised light (making sure this is the only source of light in the room), place any clear plastic object a little in front of the white screen (standing it up on a book if necessary) and then put a standard polarising filter on your camera and turn it until the background goes black and the colours in the plastic are most at their most vivid.

Our December meeting will be on 6th Tuesday at 7.30pm in the Village Hall; everyone should bring along three pictures of household objects taken close up and/or from an unusual angle which will be used in a quiz during the evening. Please note we will not be meeting on the first

Tuesday in January but have a New Year's meal later that month. More information about the club can be found on the Ladbroke village website <http://www.ladbroke-pc.gov.uk/villageassociations/photography-club>.



General Section

In Memory of Catherine Spence

When you live in a village like Ladbroke with its strong sense of community fellowship, it is like losing a member of your family when someone like Catherine dies. We empathized with Cyril and his daughters when they gave their brave tributes to Catherine at her funeral.

Catherine, a true “Scottish lassie”, was born in Glasgow. In her school years she was a demon right winger at hockey. She went on from there to the West of Scotland School of Domestic Science where she did a course in Hotel and Industrial Catering. We all think, with longing, of her wonderful shortbread; Catherine was a superb cook. Remembering too the lovely, tasty soups she made for the Lent lunches here.

She met Cyril in 1953 when they both worked for the Metal Box Company in Carlisle. She managed the canteen and he was an internal auditor. They married in September 1955 on a very blustery day (history was to repeat itself on their daughter’s Sue’s wedding thirty years later – a very similar day).

They moved to the Midlands (which Catherine vowed she never wanted to do) 35 years ago; spending six years in Harbury before moving to Ladbroke where I am glad to say they were very happy.

It wasn’t long before both Catherine and Cyril became involved with “all things Ladbroke”, both becoming members of the Church Parochial Council and involved with the Village Hall. Catherine was on the Village Hall Committee, instigating the Millennium Draw which has raised funds over the last eleven years. She joined the Women’s Institute doing her term of office as its President. Both Cyril and Catherine were keen members of the Drama Group and the Table Tennis Club – Catherine winning a trophy one year.

Oh, she will be remembered for many things - manning the cake stall at the Christmas Fayre, doing the refreshments after the Family Services. Catherine also helped to choose the pew seat covers with David Rutherford. I have no doubt forgotten other things.

Those of us that are still here wonder how we carry on without the likes of Catherine. She was much loved and respected, always "just getting on with the job".

Our love and support go out to Cyril, Linda, Avril and Sue, at this very sad time.

Betty Winkfield

Bonfire Night



As the words of the rhyme go "*Remember, remember the 5th of November, gunpowder, treason and plot. I see no reason why gunpowder and treason should ever be forgot.*" Over 400 years later we haven't forgotten though we might be a bit hazy on the details and on the 5th of November, or the nearest Saturday, all across the country we

celebrate with fireworks and a bonfire, often topped with a guy. As you would expect, bonfire night is a traditional event in the Ladbroke calendar but where was the guy? Was he missing because the size of the bonfire made it impossible to get him up there or was there a more historical reason - the fact that the fire was located in Farmyard Field where there used to be a manor house owned by the family of Robert Catesby, one of Guy Fawkes co-conspirators!



Despite distinctly "iffy" weather during the day, the clouds dispersed just as the evening started and the bonfire was soon ablaze and generating so much heat everyone stood well back from the safety railings; youngsters and the young at heart drew circles or wrote their names with their sparklers before the main fireworks began and illuminated the night sky with their brilliant colours. A number of photographers were in evidence during the proceedings, some even with tripods, and you can see some of the results on the village website <http://www.ladbroke-pc.gov.uk/photogallery/bonfire-nov-2011>.



Over the years, we've been to lots of bonfire night events small and large but this was our first here and like everything we attend in the village it was very well done due to the hard work of the organisers, so many thanks to Mark and Trish and their band of helpers for a spectacular bonfire, great fireworks and a tasty barbecue, just a short stroll from home for everyone in Ladbroke.

Many thanks to the Teverson family who once again prepared and managed a wonderful Bonfire Night party for the village.

Mark vows every year that he won't do it again but he always turns up trumps, even getting the weather right. It involves much hard work from them all, with much deserved success.

Many thanks from the village community.

Simon and Jackie West & Betty Winkfield

Pantomime



This winter, there is no need to travel to the West End or even as far as Leamington Spa to see a traditional pantomime crammed with eccentric characters in amazing costumes, with lots of singing, dancing and special effects. The Ladbroke Players will be performing Aladdin in Ladbroke Village Hall on **Thursday 19th, Friday 20th and Saturday 21st January 2012 at 7.30pm with a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.** We hope to see you there as audience participation is essential to stop Abanazer getting his

evil way and to help Aladdin find the lamp! Tickets cost £9 each, £4 for those under 13 years, and are available now from Jackie (810331), Alan (810886) or Margaret (817312).

Jackie West

Your Opportunity to Own an Original Painting of Ladbroke Church

Local artist, Malcolm Wray has painted a beautiful picture of Ladbroke Church on a snowy day. This is for sale by **sealed bid auction** with the proceeds going to All Saints' Church. The picture including frame measures 17 x 15 inches. Come and see the original on show in early



December in the Village Hall at the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 3rd and at the Christmas Party with the Ladbroke Rockers on Friday 9th or see it at church services on Sunday 4th and Sunday 11th.

To place a bid: Write down the price you bid together with your name and phone number and send it in a sealed envelope marked "PICTURE AUCTION", to Margaret Bosworth, Swan Cottage, Bridge Lane, Ladbroke by 5pm, Sunday

11th December 2011. All envelopes will be opened after the closing date and the picture sold to the highest bidder. It is suggested you include a few pence in your bid to make it unique; in the event that several people bid the maximum amount, one of their names will be drawn from a hat.

Margaret Bosworth

Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Club

£80	Carole and Peter Loftus
£50	Sheena Healey
£25	Nicky Lewis
£10	Derek and Colette Batty
£10	Geoff and Georgina Middleton
£10	Carole and Peter Loftus
£10	Jim and Pauline Laidler
£10	Roger Plaskett



Margaret Bosworth



Harbury Parish Council

Linda Ridgley

Official minutes can be viewed in the Library, on the Parish Council website www.harbury-pc.gov.uk or obtained from the Parish Clerk Tel: 01926 614646

How does the man do it? We had a very long Public Participation Session yet Tim Lockley still managed to finish the meeting by 9.30pm!

John and Jo Clements, new residents in Hereburgh Way, alerted Councillors to what they saw as dangers caused by a combination of speeding and cars parked along Bush Heath Lane. The Chairman explained that the speed limit was to be moved up to Henry's which should mean that speeds past their estate would be reduced, but he said there were congestion problems all over the village and cited Binswood End as an example where it was difficult to find a solution. However, the Police would be asked to monitor speed along Bush Heath Lane.

Mr Clements also requested that the dead Ash on the mound at Five Ways be removed and replaced with an English elm. He explained that varieties resistant to Dutch elm disease were now available. Councillors decided to seek advice from the District's arboricultural officer.

Nick Tawney, for the Duke of Edinburgh Group, asked the Parish Council for a grant of £660 to train leaders. From a start of only thirteen young people the group had grown to 45 and the seven leaders needed to be trained in First Aid and other skills. The Councillors were very happy to support this initiative.

The Pre-School's new Chairman asked for a grant to help cover the cost of a canopy at the Wight School to allow outside activity in inclement weather. The group had previously been granted money for a canopy but this was, by agreement, transferred to help fund the new toilet block, which the Councillors accepted was a public benefit.

The Pre-School had already secured some grant aid and hoped to raise more money towards the project. Therefore the Parish Council agreed to provide £1,000 with the opportunity for the group to ask for more at the end of this financial year if it were needed and if grant money remained in the budget.

There was not enough information about what a grant to the Mobile Youth Project would fund and, as the project was already taking place, the Parish Council's rules would not allow them to support it.

A grant for the Community Links bus service would be discussed in the New Year.

An update on the Library was provided by Tim Lockley who explained there were now three sub-groups: a Buildings Group which he led; a Library Group which Chris Rutherford led and Rob Darlison's Café Group. A bank account had been set up, a Constitution was to be adopted and Charitable Status sought.

Tim said he was looking into the Parish Council taking ownership of the Wight School in the longer term but initially would like it to have a 25 year

full repairing lease on the site. This would be advantageous as the Council does not have to pay VAT on building and other works.

Councillors were concerned about the liability and the complex relationships between the County, Diocese, Trustees, Library Group and themselves. They wanted to ensure that if the Parish did take out a lease the Trustees should not benefit from any improvements the Parish made to the site.

Cllr Patrick wanted legal assurances that the County would relinquish any charge they had on the Wight School. She was promised by Cllr Bob Stevens that the County wanted to be rid of the building once they had paid the “dilapidations” money.

There were long discussions on legalities, licences, and leases with District Cllr Hamburger offering his expertise on the matter; it was agreed that Councillors needed to know more before they could make a decision.

County Councillor Bob Stevens reported that the government was revising the School Funding Formula which could adversely affect Southam College’s payment for its specialities. Already half of Warwickshire Secondary Schools had expressed an interest in Academy status. Bob Stevens thought that C of E Primaries were likely to do the same, by way of forming a Federation.

The government’s decision on High Speed Rail was due on 15th December, but as it would impact on all of the proposed new Parliamentary Constituencies in Warwickshire, he said none of the MPs wanted the changes.

The County would make a decision in December on the funding of Area Committees and Forums. There were likely to be more cuts to the County’s funding from government and rates would not be able to rise enough to cover the shortfall.

Deppers Bridge now had “Books in the Box” (a book-share in the old telephone box). Tesco had asked that residents who spotted their delivery vans ignoring the railway bridge weight limit to note the fleet number as goods came from fifteen different depots.

Cllr Patrick reported that the BOLLARDS were down again in Deppers!

Planning - Stratford granted permission for the Illuminated advertising at the Co-op; tree-works at 39 Farm street; access widening at Dennys Close, Temple End and confirmed that work at Bellringer House, Mill Street was permitted development.

The Parish Council had no comments to make on work at the Phone Exchange or 36 Temple End or the removal of a sycamore at the Dog Inn.

The Housing Needs Survey report will be given to the Parish Council in January. There had been 378 survey forms returned so far.

Broadview's Public Exhibition on their Wind Turbine Plans is on 8th December in Knightcote Village Hall 2.00 to 8.00pm

Properties - The Council was incredulous that the District proposed to charge them £100 a year to empty a new dog waste bin to be installed at the Playing Fields beside the footpath from Hereburgh Way. The District claims such bins are emptied weekly which Tim Lockley categorised as "slightly fanciful". Cllr Patrick confirmed that the operatives had admitted they did not have a list of the positions of all the bins and that she had on occasion had to point out those they missed. Cllrs decided they wanted a Service Level Agreement with Stratford which set out what they would be paying for and Cllrs would monitor the bins to see if they were being emptied every week.

The Cemetery Risk Assessment had been completed. Memorials which were in danger of toppling had been laid flat with only two marginal cases to be monitored.

Money was made available for repairs to the Christmas lights.

Cllr Ekins reported that ashes from the Bonfire dumped in the hedge between the BMX and Skate facilities contained pieces of metal.

Cllr Thompson asked that the Footpath Group be asked to improve the "Quarries Walk" bridges which he had found to have been worn smooth and which were dangerous when coated in mud.

Parish Plan - The update draft was discussed and will be refined by a small committee before publication.

Environment - The Clerk had asked Hereburgh Way developers, Linfoots to investigate reports of intermittently smelly drains in Constance Drive.

County Councillor Stevens is still seeking Snow Wardens who can take delivery of salt for the village and possibly snow blowers. It was getting late and Cllr Patrick quipped they were "waiting for a Snowman".

The matter of insurance for the Street Lighting was broached but the Chairman decided "we won't talk about it" - by which we gathered the premium was excessive.

The County Active Partnership Scheme was mentioned, but as even our County Councillor claimed to know little about it, Cllr Patrick was asked to produce a paper on it for her colleagues.

Next Meeting: 26th January 7.30pm in the Village Hall.





Councillor's Corner

Bev Mann

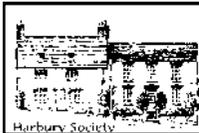
New service to help reunite stray dogs with their owners

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has recently introduced the Stray/Lost Dog Finder to its website, a free service developed by the Dog Warden Service to make it easier to search for missing pets.

Dog owners can now quickly report their dog as missing on the District Council's Lost Dog Finder web page – www.stratford.gov.uk/straydogs - through simply filling in an online form. When a lost dog is found by a member of the public, its description and location is immediately uploaded onto the same virtual platform, giving the dog owner the opportunity to view and locate their missing dog at any time.

If your dog has been found and is listed on the website, you must call the Contact Centre on 01789 260839 between 8.45am and 5pm Monday to Friday to claim your dog, please be aware, by law your dog only has seven days to be claimed or else it could be rehomed. You will need to pay the fine and be asked some security questions relating to the dog to make sure it is your dog you are claiming and you will be told where you need to collect your dog from.

If you do not have internet access the SDC Animal Welfare Officer can be contacted through the number above.



Harbury Society

Linda Ridgley

Paul Harris, professional planner, is committed to doing his best for our District and optimistic he can make changes to the planning regime work in our best interest. He's a local "lad", knows his patch and while changes will be challenging, frustrating and scary he hopes they will make "Plan-making" more inclusive and tailored to individual circumstances.

Government's ideas are still evolving. This and the raised expectations are what is scary. One of the strengths of Planning has been a level of certainty about what was and was not allowed.

The provisions of the Localism Bill abolish the Regional Spatial Strategies and introduce Neighbourhood Plans to allow us to make some decisions. The process is rigorous, led by the community, setting out its vision to meet its needs, involving everyone including commercial interests, but still compatible with the Local Plan. We could say yes to MORE development

(and in some circumstances give it Planning Permission) but not to LESS development. The Plan would only be accepted if it were approved by a majority of local votes cast in a referendum.

The National Planning Policy Framework reduces Planning Policies from 2,500 pages to only 52 with a presumption in favour of, as yet undefined, “sustainable development”, on which Local Plans should be based. Business interests are all for these changes – CPRE, National Trust and others loud in their criticism.

Stratford District has been actively preparing its Core Strategy which, if all goes well, might be adopted in 2013. The District commissioned a Housing Study and from that Stratford DC Councillors decided they could be five years into the Plan period before economic recovery started to impact on the District and so chose the lowest total of 8,230 for housing growth. This would require what Paul termed “greater dispersal” across the District with a focus on smaller developments (no larger than 100 units) outside Stratford and the Market Towns which had been the previous focus.

Councillors thought villages needed some development to keep their services and to give a better social balance. Much of the housing needed was for families moving here. If these homes were not built those people would still move into the District as they could afford to do so. Neighbourhood Plans and Local Choice policies would allow rural communities to make some choices for themselves and that would help us continue to provide homes for those who needed or wanted to stay in our rural communities.

Our next event is a fundraising Coffee Morning - **Saturday 17th December** 10am -12 noon in the Tom Hauley Room.

	Harbury Women's Institute	Jeanne Beaumont
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This year is coming to an end and times have been sad for Harbury W. I. lately. We attended the funerals of our President Janice Siddle and June Sharp.

It was our general meeting and Margaret Croad from the Federation conducted the voting for President. Ann Mayer has stepped into Janice's place for the coming year.

Our excellent Treasurer, Jean Abrahams has retired and Margaret Blair, a newcomer, has volunteered to take her place.

I must apologize for not mentioning the W.I Harvest Supper in November's report. What a super evening as usual and Dorothy Travis and her committee produced an excellent meal for members and friends. Entertainment was by Triple By-Pass and rounded off the evening nicely. We thank everybody for their hard work.

Our stall on Craft Day looked lovely and members were so talented with their crafts. We are sure Janice would have been impressed.

Some members helped with the packing of the shoeboxes and the last number was 105 so well done.

We meet at Priors Marston on Tuesday 13th December for the Group Carol Service.

The next meeting is Pudding Evening which should be interesting. Please do not forget the Bran Tub present. Thursday 8th December, 7.45pm, Tom Hauley Room.

Season's greetings to all.



This time last year my fellow thespians and I were recovering after four hectic performances of the group's 2010 offering, a pantomime loosely based on the story of Cinderella. It is hard to take in that a whole year has flown by and now, as you read this magazine, the cast of the HTG's 2011 Christmas offering, "Toad of Toad Hall" are doing the same.

In October's issue of the Harbury News, Keith Hayes, the play's director, explained how this year's Christmas production was cast, rehearsed, polished and lovingly honed until, hopefully, it emerged (sometimes almost miraculously) as an evening's entertainment worthy of a paying public. Well all I can say is that his, the entire cast's, and Lin's (how does she make all those costumes in time?) hard work paid off and I trust you agree, if you saw the play, that the company gave it their all and served us up a very good start to the festive season. I, for one, will for some time have sweet dreams about the lovely Alfred but then I always was a sucker for a 'norse'!

In the coming year the group will continue with its regular monthly meetings held on the last Tuesday of the month in the bar of the Shakespeare Inn, commencing 8pm (yes this has changed from a Monday evening) and new members or potential new members are always welcome. In addition, we intend to hold a fun play reading in

February with other social events lobbed in for good measure throughout the year. As with most groups and societies new blood is always needed so, if you nurture a secret desire to tread the boards, paint or make scenery, sew costumes or even just make the coffee, we need YOU.

Next year we will be staging two one act plays in May, followed in November by a pantomime that is, for the moment at least, brewing nicely in Keith's head! So may I urge anyone who doesn't currently support the HTG's humble efforts to give us a go. No transport costs as the productions take place in the Village Hall, reasonable ticket prices (a fraction of what you would spend at the theatre) and probably more importantly a chance to have a good night out in the village with family and friends.

The Harbury Theatre Group and friends wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year.



Folk Club

Ted Crum

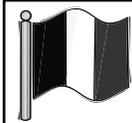
A full house was treated to a sparkling evening of songs and tunes on the theme of 'Gunpowder, Treason, Season and Plot'. Your scribe started proceedings with 'Monks March' and 'The Eynsham March Past', and was followed onto the stage by Stuart, whose songs reminded us of the Christmas truces on the Western Front during the Great War, and Mary's very effective and unusual method of picking cherries. Richard followed, singing 'Mary Hamilton' and a Mike O'Connor song with a surprise whistled solo in the middle. Rik then related the tale of the VTOL turkey, followed somewhat appropriately by 'The Wild Goose', the song of a wandering man. Pete Mason gave us 'In the Early Morning Rain' and the Dave Goulder classic 'January Man'. Terry sang the New Zealand song 'Sam's Off to Otago', and one must mention his amazing moves. Janny and Maureen finished off the first half with 'Hamlet' and 'Allen Water' in their own inimitable style.

The second spasm began with Pete and Liz singing 'High Germany' and 'Tim Maguire', a song concerning a trainee arsonist. Des took over and delighted your scribe by quoting the words of the theme almost in their entirety in his first song, 'Come a Cob o' Coaling'. He followed with the Eric Bogle classic 'Waltzing Matilda', and was brilliantly accompanied by Margaret on her new instrument, the fizzy water bottle. Ian and Sue gave us 'The Thistle and the Rose', a love song structured by the seasons, and 'Bring Out the Old Songs'. Pete McDonald sang the Joni Mitchell favourite 'Circle Game', and a song of the travelling people, 'My Wagon Keeps on Rolling'. John Rowan went north with

'Geordie's Lost his Penker', and the gentle remembrance that is 'Ladies go Dancing at Whitsun', with an extra verse which he said helped close the circle. To end the first half, your scribe was joined by his old partners in crime, Jem Patterson and Phil Ferrar (The Somervilles), to sing Woody Guthrie's 'Billy the Kid' and the spiritual 'Hallelujah, I'm Ready', which sparked a deal of chorus singing from a well-prepared audience.

The legendary third half began with Guy, Morris and Thompson, the latest Harbury super-group. They produced a gorgeous version of 'The White Cockade', and we expect great things in future. Pete Mason came back to give us a song using an Australian soldier's diatribe on the futility of war. To finish the evening, Des sang 'Roll Alabama Roll' and Peter McDonald followed with 'Four Strong Winds', both songs benefitting from more hearty chorus singing.

We made £65 on the raffle, which as we speak, is on its way to MND, the Motor Neurone Association. Next month's compere will be Des, ably assisted by Steve Darby as a short term replacement for Debbie, and the theme will be 'Seasonal Offerings'.



Harbury Twinning Association

Tony Thomas

On Friday the 11th November we held our Annual General Meeting followed by a Cheese and Wine party. Colin, having completed his three year tenure, stood down as Chairman and, as there were no propositions, I accepted the office for the next twelve months and thank Peter Rollason for giving me support as Vice Chairman.

We welcomed several new members to the Association and hope that they will find membership as enjoyable as we have found it. The Association is a community activity open to all residents who wish to extend the hand of friendship to our neighbours across the channel.

On the 16th December we will be holding our Christmas Party and on the 6th January (Twelfth Night) we will, as is traditional in France, be celebrating "Fete des Rois" (Festival of Kings) in the home of June and David Eaves to whom we are extremely grateful for volunteering to accommodate us again.

The calibration of "La Fete des Rois" is a merging of two ancient traditions. The Roman pagan celebration, "Les Saturnales" and the Christian celebration of Epiphany is to mark the arrival of the three wise men (kings) to Bethlehem where they gave their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the baby Jesus. A delicious cake, the "La galette des Rois" (the cake of the kings), is served at this celebration.

Tradition holds that the cake is “to draw the kings to the Epiphany”. Anyone wishing to learn more about “La Fete des Rois” should look it up on the world wide web.

Harbury Juniors
FOOTBALL CLUB

Harbury Junior's Football

Ian Jones



Club outing to the Ricoh Arena

On Saturday 19th November two 57 seater coaches left Harbury full of very excited boys and girls (and a few parents) for an outing to the Ricoh Arena to watch a Championship football match between Coventry City and West Ham. For many of the younger

children and a few parents, this was their first experience of stadium football. The fact that West Ham had brought along 7,000 vociferous supporters made for a great atmosphere inside the ground. Coventry City treated us all to a great day out, with the boys and coaches being allowed to walk round the pitch whilst the players warmed up. By special arrangement, we provided a fourteen strong, flag waving Guard of Honour on the pitch for when the players came out of the tunnel entrance and then at the end of the match, after the stadium had emptied, each child was allowed to take a penalty on the pitch. We are very thankful to the Coventry City Community Support Staff who looked after us during the afternoon. Despite the result (Cov City 1 - 2 West Ham), everyone enjoyed themselves. A big thanks to Ian Jones for organising the day which went without a hitch.

Under 6s - Steve Darby

This newly established group continues to grow as several Reception Year children have joined in and appear keen to give it a try. We hope they will persevere through their first few weeks, learn the "magic words" and practise the skills routines and drills so they can improve their technical capability. Congratulations to Joe, Charlie and William for being awarded player of the week for their efforts during training in November.

Under 7s - Steve Darby

We have had a number of new joiners to the group which is now 16 strong and we are very pleased with the progress they have made to get up to speed with the drills, some of which are quite complex and the boys are having to work very hard at them. Generally, we are pushing the boys to concentrate, think and focus on what they are being asked to do as well as move the ball quicker than last year. This is a challenge for them but good progress is being made. Congratulations to Jack, Ram, Josh and Ben for being awarded player of the week for their efforts during training in November.

Under 9s match reports - Ian Jones

29/10/11: Harbury Juniors 0 v Wellesbourne Wanderers 7

A spirited performance in spite of the result; the team never let their heads go down and kept playing until the end. Wellesbourne were having a great day at the office with the Midas touch all over the pitch. Harbury had no luck, and at times struggled with the basics.

05/11/11: Warwick Juniors 2 v Harbury Juniors 1

What a game, what a performance! Parents and coaches alike were so proud of the way in which the team played and battled in this cup tie against high flying opposition in the league above. It was tough on the U9s to lose this match, especially to a goal that was more fluke than an attempt on goal. This was a fantastic end-to-end game with superb performances all around the pitch. Great work from Jack in goal and Edward, Beau and Oscar put in great efforts also. An excellent free kick from Morgan J produced the goal. Everyone was chuffed with the performance, but gutted about the result. Well done!

12/11/11: Harbury Juniors 2 v Kenilworth Wardens Falcons 8

How did they score eight goals? That was the question. The Falcons were a strong team with a couple of exceptional ball carriers and a strong defence. The week to week consistency the coaches crave and the consistency that the team need was not to be found today. More work needed by Harbury on playing from the kick off, getting tackles in and making it difficult for the opposition. The Falcons took advantage and were soon 4 - 0! up. There was a much more competitive second half with Morgan J able to score two goals. However, the U9s had left themselves with too much work to do. The team worked very hard in the second half and never let their heads drop. The team showed great spirit.



19/11/11: Lawford United Colts 3 v Harbury Juniors 2

A very even contest and a solid performance from the U9s. After another slow start the team got into the game and created most of the chances on the day. Alas, Lady Luck had deserted the U9s in this game. A game that they deserved not just to draw, but to win. The U9s hit the post twice and the cross bar with efforts from Seb (ace header) and Luca. Oliver went so close with a strike in the penalty area and there were at least two goal mouth scrambles when the Lawford keeper dropped the ball. Lawford took the lead early on, the U9s drawing level with a superb Luca strike. Somehow Lawford scored again before Morgan J equalised with an excellent long range free-kick. The pressure was mounting, but Harbury just couldn't get the ball in the net again.

Lawford were awarded a penalty for hand ball. In spite of a great effort, Jack wasn't able to stop the ball going in. Harbury again pushed and pushed, but it wasn't to be. A massive effort from the team in a game that they should have won. The U9s can hold their heads up high, they really tried. Lady Luck, where are you? Luckily, the blow was somewhat softened by the trip to Coventry City v West Ham in the afternoon (Cov City could have done with Lady Luck too).

Under 11/12: Marcus and Woody

Southam Lions 1 -v- Harbury Rockets 5

This was our first game of the season and the Rockets got off to a flying start. Our league match consists of playing three 20 minute thirds and, at the end of the first third, the Rockets were 4 - 0 up and had pummelled the Southam goal resulting in excellent saves by their keeper and the Rockets having close misses. Our strategy of "attack is the best form of defence" was paying really good dividends. The coach's team talk was more of the same for the second 20 minutes.

Where had the Rockets disappeared??

The pass and move style we play had now given way to "we can score as many as we like", but our troops were not dropping back after each attack which let Southam back into the match. They left four up front against our defence which they dealt with brilliantly, but not long into the game we conceded our first goal. Instructions were given out on how we don't play with a front six and to get back in shape. The Rockets responded and now had to match Southam's enthusiasm. The last 20 minutes were much better and there was outstanding play from all our players. We don't like to pick players out above anybody else but three players from the Rockets could easily get into the Coventry Senior squad with their play, well done Gwyneth J, Ben H and Matt.

Scorers: Tim B 1, Dom P 1, Ben H 1, Riley B 2

Tysoe Vikings 4 v Harbury Rockets 3

The opening 20 minutes created a new Guinness world record for air kicks created by the Rockets. We could not get out of our 18 yard box because the Vikings were so strong. The Rockets were knocked out of their rhythm from the moment the Vikings kicked off but football being football, we broke out with our only attack and ended one nil up after a fine solo effort from Riley. The second and third quarters were far better with the Rockets being the better team though, it being football, we were now 3-1 down.

The final 10 minutes . . . After entering the final ten minutes 3-1 down, the coaches instructed the Rockets to go "gung ho" on the Vikings. This surprised them and we scored early on with a beautifully taken short corner and resulting shot from Harry breaking the back of the net. Game on. From the kick off we were all over the Vikings with another goal coming from Harry to make it 3-3. With our tails up we went for the win. The Vikings broke out for a rare attack and won a free kick which led to them scoring again. The Rockets never gave up and with a lot of time being added on we pinned the Vikings in their 6 yard box with corner after corner. I didn't think you could get that many kids in a 6 yard box! It wasn't to be, but with our superior shots on goal the coaches and parents went away pleased that the Rockets gave their all.

Scorers: Riley B 1, Harry W 2.



Harbury Tennis Club

Colin and Sue Mercer

Unfortunately the fine weather didn't hold out long enough to complete the refurbishment of the courts. They had been cleaned and were painted but very heavy rain arrived before they had dried completely with some parts being washed away so it will be necessary to wait until the spring to complete the work.

November has been a quiet month for league activity with only three matches being played. In the Weekend League the only match was against Charlbury "B" who were unbeaten and top of the league. That was still the position at the end of the match after the Oxfordshire visitors proved too strong for Tracey Pettipher, Sue Mercer, Steve Marshall and Colin Mercer and went home with a 7-1 win. Steve and Colin put up the most resistance in a very long rubber which was eventually halved. They won a first set tiebreak and pushed their opponents to the limit before losing the second set 5-7.

The team enjoyed better fortunes in the Floodlit League starting with a 4-4 draw away against Deddington 3. Caroline Morland and Sue Panton were in fine form winning both sets in the ladies' doubles without dropping a game. Steve Fitzgerald and Colin Mercer were edged out by the home men leaving it all square for the mixed doubles. Caroline and Colin had two very close sets but lost 5-7, 4-6, putting pressure on Steve and Sue to salvage something. They duly came up trumps winning the first set in a tiebreak which demoralised their opponents, as they ran away with the second set by 6-0. In the last floodlit match of 2011 against Buckingham, Caroline was joined by Sara Peters, Keith Thompson and Geoff Prince. They ended the year with a fine 6-2 win which took Harbury to the top of the league.

For a complete contrast a group of members and partners turned their attention to another sport when they went to Hellidon Lakes for a mildly competitive and very sociable evening of ten pin bowling. Between them they demonstrated a variety of strategies, which resulted in a few strikes, while some occasionally preferred to avoid the pins completely with the bowl ending up in the gutter! Yours truly somehow managed to accumulate most points and a bottle of bubbly and, analysing the tennis scores, perhaps a change of sport is due!! Rosemary Harley won the booby prize, appropriately a packet of "Skittles"!



Harbury Toddler Group

Sarah Hanson

We have been pleased to see lots of new little faces joining us at the group over the last few weeks. We have been getting into the spirit of the season with some lovely craft activities. We celebrated Halloween by making some pumpkin faces and spooky cakes and we created a boom with our fabulous fireworks pictures. We have also been busy making our first winter pictures of snowmen with nice cheery scarves, although we have been lucky that the weather has been mild enough for us to continue enjoying the outdoor toys that we have!

We are now preparing for the festive season and will be creating some lovely gifts for the family as well as making some fabulous artworks to celebrate Christmas! The Harbury Toddler Group Christmas party is taking place on Tuesday 6th December in the Village Hall and we have some wonderful things in store, including a visit from Santa himself!! We also have a raffle with some fantastic prizes – tickets can be purchased at the Group or on the day. We still have space if anyone wants to join us. Call Sarah on 612602 for more details.

We were sad to say goodbye to Jenny who has been organising Toddler Group for some time – many thanks to her from us all for all her hard work and good luck in her new venture.

If you are interested in joining us at Toddler Group we are always pleased to see newcomers. We run every Monday from 9.30am to 11.15am at the Wight School (behind the library), and cater for children from birth to school age. We are open throughout the school holidays, except Bank Holidays, and older siblings are welcome to come along too!!



Guy Fawkes Night: The children returned to Pre-School after the half-term break with their own impressions of Bonfire Night and the fireworks that they had seen. In the indoor classroom they made wonderful paintings and collages at the creative table, using black paper, coloured pastels, drizzled glue and brightly coloured glitter. The children continued the theme outside, where they used logs, cardboard tubes and other items to make a large scale reconstruction of a bonfire, with red and yellow bricks as “flames,” then leaped into the air themselves as the fireworks!



Pumpkin Week - After Halloween, the children spent some time investigating the different textures inside a large pumpkin and made some wonderful observational drawings of pumpkins and a variety of gourds. **Cooking:** Making their own pizzas for snack time proved to be a very popular activity. The base was half a muffin and the children could choose from different toppings including tomato, orange and yellow peppers and cheese. Some were very adventurous and tried all the toppings, while others just chose one or two.

Autumn Walks: Our annual Autumn Walks to the Spinney took place during the first and second weeks after half term. The children had a great time collecting leaves, twigs and conkers in their buckets, doing colourful bark rubbings on the

trees and using listening spheres to help them identify the sounds of bird song, trains, the wind and the rustling leaves. On the way back, they had fun searching for conkers and kicking the leaves about under the trees on the Pound. Thank you to the mums and nannies who came to help us on



the walks. On their return to Pre-School, the children learned about the story of the Leaf Man which inspired some fantastic pictures and collages made from the materials they had collected on the walks. A woodland area was created in the book area and this was equipped with logs, leaves, an assortment of soft toy woodland animals and autumnal books. The children also enjoyed hearing about “Hodge the Hedgehog” and retelling the story with the help of our story sack, before making clay hedgehogs, with pieces of straws, wooden tapers and pasta twirls as prickles. To round off the theme, several autumnal songs were sung at circle time.



Thanksgiving: We were lucky enough to have a visit from James’ mummy who told us the story of the pilgrims’ voyage to America. She brought with her a cornucopia filled with fruit and some homemade corn muffins which the children

enjoyed at snack time. She read a Thanksgiving story and the children created their own cornucopias to take home. The children were asked what they are thankful for and here are some of the replies: “I’m thankful for sweeties because I love them.” Sam

“I’m thankful for bikes because you can go fast down a hill.” Chloe

“I’m thankful for my garden because I play in my garden.” Margaux

“I’m thankful for the sunshine because when it’s dark we have to go to sleep.” Lola

“I’m thankful for my Mummy and Daddy because they give me new toys.” James

“I’m thankful for my new house because I’ve got a star light.” Amy

Christmas: Amid great excitement, we are now beginning preparations ready for our Nativity Songtime at the stables in Mill Lane, and for a visit to Pre-School from a very busy Father Christmas and we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

If you would like further information, or to register a child for Harbury Pre-School, please contact Rosemary Jackson, Pre-School administrator: e-mail enquiries@harburypre-school.org.uk phone 07939 122087 or look at the website www.harburypre-school.org.uk.



Windmills Nursery is situated in the grounds of Harbury Primary School and has the benefit of its own Forest School and qualified Forest School Leader. We are open all day between school hours and take children from the age of two years. If you would like to register a place for your child you can email us at info@windmillsnursery.co.uk, visit our web site at www.windmillsnursery.co.uk, call Tina/Sally on 07906 519148 or Katharine on 01926 613084. We offer places with NEF funding and accept childcare vouchers.

In Nursery

Highlights this month have included the children talking about Bonfire Night and fireworks which has provided lots of activities in Windmills. We talked about how to stay safe and the children created firework patterns using chalks on black paper. As well as some wonderful new displays in Nursery including a bonfire collage, the children created a firework dance with music and together wrote a fireworks poem.





Shaking sparklers up and down

“Fireworks popping in the sky
 I heard monsters noises
 Rockets whizzing pink and green
 Every firework squeals and bangs
 Whistle and crack, I’m not scared
 Orange bonfire smells of smoke
 Ropes to stop us getting close, all
 Kinds of colours, blue and gold
 whoo crackle boom!”

The children have been growing cress from seeds. The following week they enjoyed making egg and cress sandwiches.

French: In French, the children have been continuing with numbers and have been learning some names of farm animals. They really enjoy starting off the weekly session singing their “Bonjour Song”.



Outside Activities – Tennis and Football: Weekly tennis lessons have continued with qualified tennis coach James Marsh. Another popular activity enjoyed by all children has been football training run by qualified sports coach Danny Reid - the children are learning to participate in a team activity.

Windmills Nursery Christmas Concert – Friday 9th December

There is much activity in Nursery as we prepare for our Christmas Concert. The children are learning songs and actions for the performance and producing the artwork for the concert. The performance will be led by Munchkin Melodies who are coming in for practice and dress rehearsals on Friday mornings. Michael Hare will also be accompanying the children with his accordion on some of the songs.

Please feel free to join us in the Tom Hauley Room for our Windmills Nursery Christmas Concert. The performance will start at 10.15am and

there will be some stalls, cakes, refreshments and a raffle to raise funds for the Nursery.

Lily – “I am going to be Mary and Max is going to be Joseph and I am going to marry Joseph. Then I am going to have a baby and rock it. We will be on stage. The kings come and give him presents.”

Evelyn – “They give him presents on his very first day.”

Other News



All the staff have received anaphylactic training this month.

The Nursery held its Annual Review and Parent’s evening; thank you to parents for coming. Parents were able to look through their child’s Learning Journal and speak to their Key Worker.

Thank you to the Carnival Committee for their donation to the nursery from the

money collected on Carnival day.

Thank you also to Carol Jackson and the Wagstaffe Educational Foundation for their contribution to some new educational equipment.

Thanks to the individuals who have donated things to Nursery; to Jo McKenzie for the books and stickers; Eleanor for the toys and Katharine for the scooter and other items. Finally thanks to Steve for all his hard work assisting with the assembly of the new shed.

The children have been enjoying using the new laptop; thank you to Audrey’s parents for building it.

Dates for the Diary

Fri 2nd Dec - Christmas Fayre Fundraising at The Dog, 2.30pm-5pm

Wed 7th Dec – Nursery closed in the afternoon for teacher training

Fri 9th Dec – Windmills Christmas Concert, 10.15am in the Tom Hauley Room

Tue 13th Dec – Toddler Service, 2pm in the Tom Hauley Room

Thu 15th Dec – Christmas Party in Nursery with a visit from Father Christmas



Fri 16th Dec – Nursery closes for the Christmas break at 12.35pm

Sun 18th Dec – Christingle Service in Harbury Church at 4pm

Sat 24th Dec – Dressing of the Crib in Harbury Church at 2pm

Wed 4th Jan – Windmills reopens at 9.05am

Forest School – A Special Article from Dr Amanda Randall (Forest School Leader at Windmills Nursery)

Our Forest School at Windmills provides play-based learning which encompasses the Early Years Curriculum. The children have opportunities for both free play and a choice to participate in a range of multi-sensory activities. This half term, amongst many activities, the children have enjoyed creating some outdoor art (see photo), exploring life as a hedgehog, as well as tree climbing and minibeast hunts.



Forest School is about having fun outdoors in all weathers! Children are allowed to take safe risks (strict risk assessments are carried out before every session) and these experiences build their confidence and self-esteem.

Being warmly dressed is key to enjoying the outdoors, so parents need to ensure their child wears plenty of layers (with extras in his/her bag) and two pairs of socks inside wellies. A hat and gloves are also essential during the next few months.

Forest School wouldn't happen without the help and support of a number of people. I especially want to thank Michael McVeigh and Donna Wilson for all their hard work, particularly when we are setting up and clearing away; Michael never complains about cleaning endless amounts of mud from the buckets and spades after each session!

Thank you, too, to Evelyn's Grandpa, Alf, for his enthusiastic cutting back of large amounts of the hazel coppice which had become overgrown, and for planting some bluebells and primroses under the trees – we'll look forward to seeing these flower in the spring.



Eco-Schools Green Flag Award – I am delighted to inform parents that we heard this morning that the school has, for the third time, been awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag, the highest award open to schools in this country. Congratulations, therefore, to the whole school community for helping us achieve this most prestigious award – the children, particularly the Earthworms groups, who work so hard to ensure that the grounds are always in such good condition, the staff, who work so wonderfully to ensure that our pupils are so aware of ecological issues, and to our parents, many of whom give up so much of their own time to maintain the grounds. We can all bask in the glory of the award!!

Talking of parents giving up their own time, many thanks to the two parents who spent much of the weekend cutting down the willow tunnel next to the Junior playground. Unfortunately, the school was informed a couple of weeks ago that the willow tunnel was dying, and that it needed to be cut down – a great pity, as it has been such a great feature of the school over the years. The two parents not only cut the willow tunnel down, but also spent much time making the whole of that area safe before the children were back in school on Monday. Many thanks.

Congratulations – To the children in Year 6 who were on a residential course just after half term at a PGL centre near Shrewsbury. They were excellent, and were a real credit to the school – well done, all of you.

Congratulations – Too, to the somewhat depleted cross country teams, who ran in the third league race at Priorsfield School, Kenilworth, last week, the day after returning from PGL. Pride of place must go to Dominic Priest, who followed up his 5th, then 4th places in the two previous races with a magnificent 3rd place this time out – he was actually with the two leaders nearing the finish before falling at a stream crossing and losing ground. He was most ably backed up by Peter Gee in an excellent 8th place and Ben Hall in 86th place despite hurting his arm during the run. In the girls race, Chloe Kempton kept up her excellent form with a fine 10th position, supported by a most dependable Rosie Hill in 38th and Eve Murphy, who finished 88th after being phoned that morning by one of the girls and talked into running – well done, Eve, a super effort.





Harbury Primary School P.T.A.

PTA Committee



We've a couple of very successful events to report on this month. Firstly, our coffee morning held at the Tom Hauley Room on 5th November. This was a great morning with some fantastic raffle prizes and mouth-watering baking, with the addition of a children's activity table in the foyer. A great morning was had by all and we raised nearly

£250 so thank you to all those that supported us.

Our quiz night – well, if you weren't there you missed out! – although we realise some wanted to be there but couldn't be as we had reached maximum capacity and so were turning teams away! Jason and Jane Burrows lived up to their promise and provided us with a brilliant night out whilst CANA kept the drink flowing. We raised £993 which is a record amount so thanks again to all those who came along – book your teams in early next year! Congratulations to the winning team "Alain Rolland Is A Legend", who fought off stiff competition to take home first place.

Our Ultimate Plum and Triple Chocolate Puddings have sold well and just a reminder that they should be with you by Friday 16th December – we are, unfortunately, unable to take any more orders now.

Our next fundraising event is on Saturday 28th January when we will be holding a Charity Zumba Fitness Class in the school hall, 2.45pm onwards; more details to follow in the January 2012 Harbury News.

All our fundraising this school year is to buy twelve new computers for school – our target this term was to raise enough money to buy five – but thanks to all the support out there it looks as if we may have managed to raise enough to buy six – so THANK YOU! Merry Christmas everyone.





Village Hall Update

Chris Finch

By the time this magazine is delivered, the long-awaited photo-voltaics on the rear roof of the Village Hall should have been fitted. With a bit of luck, all the paper-work will have been completed, so that the Hall will qualify for the original payment of the FIT (Feed in Tariff) and not the reduced amount which the Government suddenly announced with a very short time scale – December 2011; not the end of March 2012. The latest ‘deal’ will allow approximately 50% of the original pay-back – probably because it was realised that so many people had bought in to the scheme for the next 25 years that it would be a very costly exercise to fund the full amount, as originally stated (42p – not the 21p now available). At least the cost of the PV’s has been covered by a grant of £10K, which a persistent member of the fund raising committee has raised from the Awards for All fund, so we have much to be thankful for – and hopefully we will beat the December deadline to claim the full FIT for sending surplus electricity back to the National Grid.



The Veolia event at the end of October provided a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon for all the villagers who crammed into the Hall. The Hereburgh Morris Dancers welcomed visitors at the start of the proceedings and the Warwickshire Young Voices gave a wonderfully professional performance of songs beautifully illustrated by quotes and pictures projected onto the end wall of the Hall.

The ‘business’ part of the afternoon saw Geoff Thorpe provide an overview of the work carried out as a result of the Landfill Trust’s grant; followed by a tribute to John Ridgley from one of his colleagues on the Trust’s panel of preliminary adjudicators for Trust awards.

The Chief executive of Veolia then presented a plaque in memory of John’s work for the Trust and this will be hung in the Farley Room, which is part of the ‘Veolia suite’; the rear of the building with its refurbished roof, doors and insulation. For booking purposes, the rooms will still be referred to as the Farley Room, the Windmill Room and the Fosse Room in recognition of well known links to village life. Many thanks to all those

who created an impressive range of sandwiches and cakes for the afternoon tea served to all the visitors.

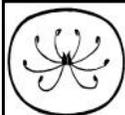
December will see three main fund raising events offered in the Village Hall – the Christmas entertainment by the Harbury Folk Club on 9th December; the next Rural Cinema screening on 17th December (Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows 2 – see advert) and the annual Black Tie Dance with the Likely Lads on 30th December. The



Ossie Dodds, Margaret Cobbold (Chief Executive - Veolia), Geoff Thorpe & Linda Ridgley

tickets are priced as last year at £22.50 and can be reserved by ringing Chris on 612305 or Geoff on 613801. As always, it is first come, first served and several regulars started booking tickets in October, so if you want to be sure to celebrate the New Year in style at the buffet dance make sure you are on the list before too long. It was suggested that this year's theme should be your 'alter ego' with Masquerade masks to liven up the evening (guess who you think I am??) – or appropriate clothes to represent an easily recognised public person. At the recent showing of Breakfast at Tiffany's, one young lady set male hearts racing by dressing as Audrey Hepburn, which was much appreciated, so imagination is all!

There will also be the Christmas Fayre to enjoy in December and the Senior Citizens party, always a special evening with good food and lively entertainment. We hope you all enjoy the Festive Season and continue to support us in the New Year.

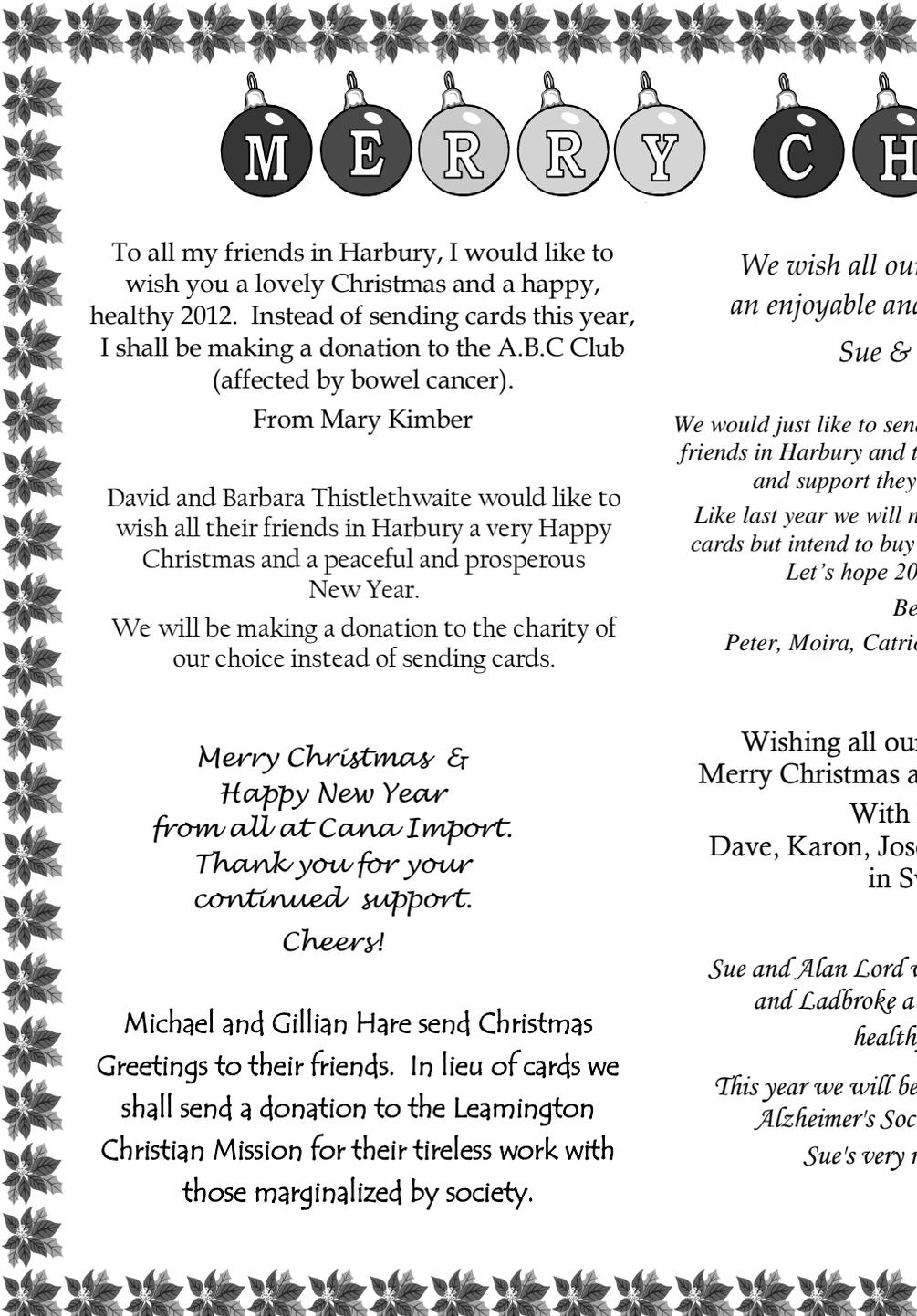


Horticultural Society

Judy Morrall

We all enjoyed another very good talk in November from Dr John Page. He is the author of numerous articles on plants and gardening, a member of RHS daffodil and tulip trials committee and a frequent visitor to the mountains of Europe, Crete, Cyprus and many more locations where alpine plants abound. He said that he was writing a book about the talk; "Two Hundred and Fifty Years of Rock and Alpine Gardening".

Horticultural Society Report continues on page 44



M E R R Y C H

To all my friends in Harbury, I would like to wish you a lovely Christmas and a happy, healthy 2012. Instead of sending cards this year, I shall be making a donation to the A.B.C Club (affected by bowel cancer).

From Mary Kimber

David and Barbara Thistlethwaite would like to wish all their friends in Harbury a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

We will be making a donation to the charity of our choice instead of sending cards.

*Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year
from all at Cana Import.
Thank you for your
continued support.
Cheers!*

Michael and Gillian Hare send Christmas Greetings to their friends. In lieu of cards we shall send a donation to the Leamington Christian Mission for their tireless work with those marginalized by society.

*We wish all our
an enjoyable and*

Sue &

*We would just like to send
friends in Harbury and to
and support they*

*Like last year we will not
cards but intend to buy
Let's hope 20*

Be

Peter, Moira, Catriona

*Wishing all our
Merry Christmas and
With
Dave, Karon, Jos
in S*

*Sue and Alan Lord wish
and Ladbroke a
health*

*This year we will be
Alzheimer's Soc*

Sue's very n



*r friends in Harbury
d peaceful Christmas.*

Jon Peacock

*d Christmas Greetings to all our
hank them for all the friendship
have given us this year.*

*ot be sending local Christmas
a goat or similar from Oxfam.
12 is good for us all.*

st wishes,

ona, Ali & Robert Rollason

*r Harbury friends a
nd healthy New Year.
love from
eph and Freya Killick
windon.*

*wish all friends in Harbury
Happy Christmas and
y New Year.*

*e making a donation to the
society in memory of Iris,
much loved Mum.*

We would like to wish all our Harbury and
Ladbroke friends a very happy and
peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Instead of sending cards, we are making a
donation to Cancer Research UK.

Andrew and Jenny Patrick

Christmas Greetings

To all my friends in Ladbroke, may I take
this opportunity to wish you every
happiness for Christmas and
the New Year.

I am sending a donation to Ladbroke
Church in lieu of Christmas Cards.

Beryl Ross

We would like to wish all our friends a
Merry Christmas and a Happy and
Prosperous New Year.

We will be making a donation to
Myton Hospice.

Rene and David Delin

Alan and Pauline Hayes would like to wish
all our friends in Harbury and Ladbroke
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We will be making a donation in lieu of
cards to Myton Hospice.

His talk opened with a view of Snowdon painted by the great landscape artist Richard Wilson in 1766. This was the start of an amazing journey through the 250 years. The Chelsea Physic Garden which was opened in 1772 with much input later from Joseph Banks, has a substantial collection of both rock and alpine plants. Many wealthy people in the 18th and 19th centuries made a grand tour of the Alps, where the various layers of rock and soil enable the plants to survive and flourish.

At Belsay Hall there is a brilliant example of a rock garden with huge boulders to replicate the Alps, some about thirty feet high; these edifices featured much in the grand gardens at that time, including Lamport Hall and Chatsworth. I'm sure those of you who came on the second day trip this year to Biddulph Grange can identify with that. I just can't imagine how many man hours it would take with no modern hoist or such equipment. The planting tends to be spilling over the edges with suitable plants inserted in between the crevices - very skilled work. John interspersed his wonderful slides with lists of plants relevant to the period, a lot of which have survived today. More examples of rock structures are at Waddesdon and Bicton Park.

Then came raised beds in all forms to hold alpine plants, some were ridges and others in lines both straight and curved. At Kew Gardens in the 1880's it was deemed that this was the best example of alpine planting in England. The slides which we were shown demonstrated the great skills of the gardeners. There is a marvellous Alpine meadow at Wisley too.

Next came troughs, in the 1900's which were quite large, and took many loads of grit and sand to fill. At Friars Park it took over 33,000 tons of millstone grit to fill some of these, as drainage is the key factor to success. That is gardening on a grand scale!! At Heligan (in Cornwall) there are some great examples of raised beds where alpinists quite happily thrive. In the Botanic Gardens in Birmingham one can see some old surviving rock gardens.

One of John's heroes is Reginald Farrer (1880 to 1920), who contributed so much to a better understanding of how alpine plants adapt to different climates. He wrote two volumes of English Rock Gardens and later My Rock Garden in 1907. He visited many countries and observed conditions and even now is held in great esteem. I can remember from all of my visits to Chelsea Flower Show, the Rock Bank Gardens, some of which were huge and so natural looking. A lot of the stone used came from a local quarry, Hornton (which was also used at Upton House and Gardens). Sadly these gardens are no longer a feature there but who knows they may make a comeback.

Another fine example of alpine planting is at Exbury Gardens and Churchill himself built a rock garden at Chartwell which is yet another

example of his many talents. The great plantsman E A Bowles was responsible for introducing many alpine plants in his nursery. Limestone gardens began to get established in the 1920's and 30's, obviously there was much more limestone available then. At Cambridge Botanic Gardens you can see some of these gardens today. John showed us slides too numerous to mention of other rock and alpine gardens, but I will mention the new alpine house at Kew, a peculiar shape, and here the pots of plants are submerged in the soil. Nearer to home, Pershore College has a very well managed alpine garden. I can recommend a visit here.

I'm sure we didn't realise the history behind these gardens and the whole topic was fascinating and well worth the wait as we hadn't had a talk on this subject before.

Afterwards we held the AGM. Both Barbara and Margaret stood down from the committee and a vote of thanks was given for their input; they will be missed. It was a struggle to get even one replacement but Jane Giddings volunteered her services - I did ask if she didn't already have enough to do with jointly helping Patrick to run the Village Show but she said she could do it. Many thanks to Jane. It is true that if you want anything doing you ask a busy person!!! The rest of the Committee have agreed to serve for another year, myself as Chairperson, David Powell-Tuck as Secretary, Tony Brunton as Treasurer, Kathleen Ellis, Laura Oliver and Jean Clews being the other very willing committee members. We did agree that if we go ahead with the Open Gardens that we would form a sub-committee and co-opt other club members to help. Thank you to everyone for the continued support over the last twelve months and we look forward to another busy year.

A brief mention that we will be holding a Coffee Morning in the Tom Hauley Room on Saturday the 28th January, I'm sure we can rely upon your support. Also don't forget that our January meeting is on Tuesday 10th January more about that in my next article.

I would like to express my condolences to Colin Siddle and his family on the very sad loss of Janice. She took over the organising and running of the Village Show for thirteen years and needless to say it ran like clockwork. She contributed so much during her time on the Committee and, as in everything she did, she gave 100% plus. We will miss you Janice.

I'm sure you will all be busy over the next few weeks so I have not suggested places to visit but a lot of National Trust properties have grounds open for walks which would be good after Christmas day to walk off the pounds gained!!! Just have a look in your membership book for details. Don't miss Waddesdon which is always beautifully decorated.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our December meeting on the 6th. My best wishes for a happy, healthy and enjoyable Festive Season.



Garden Jottings from Bridge Nursery

Christine Dakin

Your local Hardy Plant Specialists

Also: Fresh cut flowers and bedding plants in season.

Many of you will be thinking of Christmas, not gardening at this time of year. The two things can be cleverly combined by subtly suggesting certain garden related presents to your nearest and dearest. Inevitably many 'gifty' gifts will end up collecting dust in your shed or greenhouse but many things will be most welcome for all you green fingered horticulturists.

Books - There are so many to choose from and quite a lot of them are a waste of space. I suggest borrowing some from the library to see how useful they are. Reference books which say what to do and when to do it can be most helpful for those of you who are not too sure about such things.

Tools - If you have good tools it can help make the jobs easier to do. I know for a fact that cheap secateurs are really no good at all. They may not cut easily or leave jagged edges. As with so many others things the more expensive it is, the better it is. The same can be said for all hand tools. There's really no point in owning a cheap trowel which bends when it is used.

Plants - It might be obvious but what better present for a gardener to receive than a plant? If in doubt about what would be acceptable you could always buy one of our own vouchers so the recipient could make their own choice.

Happy shopping and Happy Christmas.

Bridge Nursery, Tomlow Road, Napton, Tel: 01926 812737

www.bridge-nursery.co.uk



Nature Notes

John Hancock

Ron Stanbridge, when he and Gloria lived in the village, was a great observer of the natural world. Years ago, he regularly set up mist nets at the Spoilbank Nature Reserve and furnished the Wildlife Trust with a record of his findings. A mist net is so fine that birds fly into it and are caught. They are not harmed and are released by the ornithologist who

patrols the site on a regular basis, usually every half hour. Before release the bird is identified, measured, weighed and ringed.

As Warden of the Spoilbank, I was approached by Andrew Moss who wanted to set up mist nets there and record every fortnight what birds he found. I enthusiastically agreed and Andrew promised to send me his reports. Between 9.00am and 2.00pm on the 11th November, the following birds were ringed:- 3 Robins, 4 Bullfinches, 1 Sparrow hawk, 9 Blue Tits, 2 Great Tits, 15 Long-tailed Tits, 1 Treecreeper, 1 Goldcrest, 1 Blackbird, 1 Coal Tit, 1 Wren, and 1 Marsh Tit. Some Fieldfares were seen to pass over but did not settle.

On the 17th November I went to see for myself. A group of four bird watchers had set up camp in the Reserve and I watched while they measured and ringed a Great Tit before allowing it to fly away. They took great care of the bird which weighed in at 18gms. Before putting up the nets, notices are posted at the entrance and around the site warning the public, with special emphasis on dog walkers, to beware. Ringing is not carried out in wet conditions as a small bird, trapped for 20minutes or so, could become hypothermic.

With Christmas on the horizon, our thoughts are turning to seasonal matters. Mistletoe is a strange plant with a lot of folklore attached. Its Latin name is *Viscum album* and it sits in a family all on its own, mysteriously having life while the tree it grows in, often a Lime or Apple is bare of leaves. Mistletoe is a partial parasite making some of its own food but taking minerals from the host tree. To the ancients, and well into the Middle Ages, it was magical, without roots, growing well above ground and green leafed when other plants were bare. It was thought to cure disease, keep witches at bay and help women to conceive when tied about their waist or wrist. To thrive, Mistletoe needs a mild humid climate so its heartland is around the Severn estuary. Herefordshire apple orchards are particularly renowned for their crop. The seeds are placed in the bark by berry eating birds and a certain number germinate. Locally, the plant can be seen growing in the crowns of the lofty Lime trees beside the A429 between the Memorial Park, Coventry and King Henry VIIIth School. On a quick "recce" I've found none in Harbury or Ladbroke. Have you had better luck?

On the 21st November, my Natural History Group met in the Tom Hauley Room and learnt about hedgehogs. Carol Davidson who runs a rescue centre from her home in Kenilworth was the speaker. She told us that nationally, the animal is now on the endangered list. Its main 'enemy' is us, especially our motor cars. Carol first got into hedgehog conservation when out for a walk near Cambridge. She and a friend found a dead female hedgehog and a young one trying to climb over the kerb away

from danger. She brought it back to Kenilworth, hand reared it, and when it was large enough, released it in a wild place. She has now done this several hundred times. Lactose free milk is given at first, then the animal is weaned onto mealworms, raisins and chopped peanuts. The animals are released at about six weeks old. At this time of year, before hibernation, a hedgehog needs to be at least 700gms in weight to survive. We all agreed hedgehogs are not seen as often nowadays. Over tidying of gardens and the use of slug pellets are other reasons for their decline.

As I mentioned last month, John Roberts is our next speaker on 5th December. Come to the Tom Hauley Room at 10.00am if you would like to join us and hear him talk and present slides on the wildlife of Spain. There is a charge of £2 to cover costs.

At the moment we have an area of high pressure dominating our weather giving us still conditions with fog developing overnight. If it persists through the day the temperature has been pinned back to about 8C (46F). When it clears we have had warm conditions with 14C (57F) being not exceptional. Rain is required in quantity as local ponds are fast drying out and rivers like the Leam and Itchen are a series of pools in their upper reaches.

I cycled down a local road today that I had never travelled before. I had arrived at the Airfield Cafe at Wellesbourne Mountford. It's a welcoming place where you can see a black and white photograph of the aerodrome in 1942. Circular patches of ground mark the dispersed parking slots for aircraft which were then a more difficult target. The tables in the cafe are flight maps of Britain showing sectors controlled by a particular air traffic controller. Leaving there, I cycled up the road to Huncote which took me towards the Stratford - Loxley road. The road takes you past a few houses with farms. After about a mile it becomes an unmade up byway and then a footpath. It runs in the flat, wide floodplain of the Avon Valley with hedges and some pasture but mainly arable. It is unspectacular and quintessentially Middle England.

Finally I'd like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and an exciting but healthy New Year.

JANUARY 2012 EDITION - HARBURY & LADBROKE NEWS

Adverts to 31 Binswood End by 15th December

Articles to Harbury Pharmacy or email to articles@hlnews.co.uk by 22nd December





General Section

Memories of Janice Siddle and June Sharp

It is with sadness the WI has lost two active members in the past few weeks.

As President of WI at the time of her death, Janice had also organised the annual Village Show for at least twelve years. A lady with many talents, lecturing in Law at Warwick University, a keen interest in craft and horticulture, she had an ongoing thirst for knowledge and up until the autumn was studying through the Open University for a further degree. Her illness was sudden and devastating to all who knew her.

As Minute Secretary, June Sharp had been a WI member for many years. As a widow with no close family June made her life around art classes, WI and enjoying the company of others at the weekly coffee mornings and monthly lunches in the Tom Hauley Room.

Both will be sadly missed by members of WI and the wider village community.

Ann Mayer

The Local Poppy Collection

The lady from Leamington, who co-ordinated the poppy collection for our area this year has emailed to say that the local area collected £3079.28, which is an amazing amount and higher than in previous years. This amount includes £179.34 which was collected at the Remembrance Service in Ufton. She will be sending out cards to let each collector know the amount in each tin and she expressed her gratitude for the way in which the village rallied round to ensure that most streets had their own collector. She also wanted to find out how many of the previous collectors who have been involved for at least 5+ years would wish to have recognition from the local branch of the Royal British Legion. Please call 612305, if you have acted as a Poppy collector for many years and you would like to receive official recognition.

Chris Finch



HARBURY BONFIRE & FIREWORKS 2011



The photographs show:
Collection of the bonfire material and helpers.
The bonfire and fireworks.
'Chief Bonfire Masters'
Rob Cooper (left) and Mark Clifton (right) with their wives.



myton
hospice

Harbury Craft Fair 2011

The Craft Fair this year was again organised and run by the Harbury Support Group and all proceeds have been donated to Myton Hospice.

A huge thank you to everyone that helped, either in the kitchen, on the Bottle Tombola and Xmas Pudding Game or by donating items - we couldn't have done it without you!

The weather was in our favour again this year and with a constant flow of visitors through the doors we managed to raise an impressive £900.00. Well done everyone!!

Tables are already being booked up for next year and we advise all 'crafters' to book early to avoid disappointment!

Finally, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at Myton Hospice Harbury Support Group.

Fiona Cadwallader

ficadwallader@btinternet.com



Operation Christmas Child

A huge thank you to everyone involved with the packing morning. This resulted in a wonderful total of 105 shoeboxes full of gifts for children in the Ukraine. We used all our supply of woolly hats, scarves and gloves, in spite of the marathon efforts of our knitters, so please look out for some in the sales ready for next year. Thank you again.



Mike Jones & Gillian Hare



John Ridgley Tree of Light

With Christmas now only three weeks away decorations and lights are appearing all around the village.

To many, this season brings reminders of Christmas' past, particularly of childhood when it was a time for celebrating with family and friends, both young and old. As the years go by, whilst inevitably some familiar faces disappear, they are not forgotten.

We are inviting you to remember someone special by making a donation and 'adopting' a light on the John Ridgley Tree of Light which will again shortly come alive with a myriad lights outside the Library. Those you wish to remember, together with any message you may wish to leave, will be recorded in a Book of Remembrance which will be on display in the Church.

Whilst no specific light will be allotted you are free to adopt whichever you wish. You are also free to donate whatever amount you wish, this will not be recorded in the Book of Remembrance.

All donations will be used to benefit children and young people in the Village and in the next issue of the Harbury and Ladbroke News we will be inviting applications from appropriate organizations and individuals. Requests will be considered by the Trustees of the Harbury Charities and funds distributed accordingly.

If you would like to adopt a light please complete the slip enclosed and place in an envelope, together with your donation, addressed to The John Ridgley Tree of Light and deliver to Muggleston's Country Fayre, 11 Vicarage Lane or 16 Farm Street.

If you wish to pay by cheque please make it payable to "Wagstaffe's Educational Foundation".

We wish you a happy and joyful Christmas and may the New Year bring you peace and prosperity.

Gordon Bennett on behalf of the Harbury Charities

Harbury Christmas Lights

We will again be putting the Christmas lights up in the centre of the village this year and plan to do this on Sunday 11th December, weather permitting.

If you would like to help please come along to Chapel Street from 11.00am.

With festive greetings Mike and Gordon



Harbury Art Group

A snowy landscape of Alpine hills and Swiss-style chalets was our task for November, and another interesting artistic challenge. Alma Brunt's painting was chosen as the 'best' one this month. However, on a sad note, we learnt that one of our long-standing members, Janice Siddle, passed away on 3rd November.

Janice was extremely well-liked and produced some excellent paintings. She had a truly individual talent and we will miss her. We send our sincere condolences to her family.

Our final workshop for 2011 is on Thursday 1st December and the theme is 'Watercolour Christmas', we wait to see what Nick will bring along to inspire us. Instead of a packed lunch we will each be bringing something for our 'bring and share' Christmas buffet. This has become a tradition over the years, and rounds off our painting year on a festive note.

If you would like to join us, you would be very welcome! Our 2012 programme is now available, and it promises to produce some more excellent days of painting. The workshops run on the first Thursday of every month in the Tom Hauley Room from 10am to about 3pm, and cost just £15 per person. All levels of ability attend, from beginner to the more experienced. Please telephone Pam on 01926 814923, or the tutor Nick on 01295 276465 or email harburyart@hotmail.com for more information or a copy of the programme. We hope you all have a peaceful and happy festive season.

Pam McConnell



Bumps and Bundles

It's business as usual at Bumps and Bundles with lots of fun and activities. We have had a Halloween messy play session, which the babies thoroughly enjoyed - they had jelly, green spaghetti with bugs, red pasta with eyeballs and a green water bog to play in. Most of the babies were covered in mess and some of the mummies were too!



We have also made some bottles that were noisy and sparkly to play with.

There is lots still to come including, Chatter Matter session, Christmas card craft and a Christmas party. We will close for Christmas and return on January 3rd

Do come along for friendly chat, tea and coffee with your Bump or your Bundle.

Date for future Diary - Bumps Birthday Party Saturday 14th January.

Kelly and Henry



Hereburgh Morris

Have you ever enjoyed a Barn Dance?

Maybe you have come away feeling exhilarated and thinking that you'd like to do that more often. Perhaps you just get a buzz from some other sort of dancing. Well, have you ever thought of Morris dancing? No partner needed! We practise every Wednesday evening in the Harbury School Hall and have a social drink in one of the local pubs afterwards.

We are currently practising to Christmas tunes in preparation for our Christmas 'dance outs' in Leamington town centre and in the village - the Hangover Tour on New Year's Day is a regular feature!

During January/February we will all be learning new dances for the summer season and we will be organising some special beginner sessions so if you are interested or wondering how to shed those unwelcome pounds after Christmas, forget the gym and do something more enjoyable instead!



Dancing is a great way to socialise, get fit and have fun!

Rachel Cousins

Hereburgh Contact: Douglas 01926 832598, Rosie 01926 512893

Art Classes

A very Merry Christmas to everyone from the Art Group. We have had a very busy term consolidating our water colour skills and have produced some beautiful pieces of art.

Our classes this term have moved to my purpose – built art studio in Crown Street which is proving a popular choice of venue.

We will be having our Xmas soup and walk with the classes from Norton Lindsey on December 6th. Last year this happened to fall on the day when we had that terrific hoar frost and the walk through Thwaites was breathtakingly beautiful. We are lucky enough to have the photos from the walk as a record of the stunning beauty of Nature.

The Spring term starts on January 10th. Please call Jan on 01926 614251 if you would like to join in the classes.

Jan Freeman

Cascading Lunches

I am delighted to announce that a new flurry of lunches has recently taken place, contributing a further £180 to the Village Hall fund. Well done to those who have hosted a lunch to date and please keep it going those who have participated. We are not far short of £1,400.

If you are a regular group or user of the Hall and feel that you would like to host a lunch/dinner in aid of the Village Hall, contact Jan on 01926 614251 for further details.

Jan Freeman

Harbury Energy Initiative

What a fortnight! As I write this we are still ten days away from the end of the energysave voting and the pace is manic as all bidders shout, chivvy and hustle for votes. We have Facebooked and tweeted, blogged, emailed, personally badgered and video-ed. Our vote is creeping up but we still have a long way to go to become leaders on the board. Deals have been secretly struck, we took to the streets to rouse the stragglers and the daily salutation became 'Have you voted yet?' Thank you for all your support.

Too late for votes now, **unless you are reading this before 5pm on December 3rd**. When you read this we may all know the good or bad news. What we all in HEI feel, however, is that it has been a wonderful example of collaborative working and has given us opportunities to talk with people about energy saving and carbon reduction in a way that we could not otherwise have achieved. The village is clearly aware of the issues and keen to see change. We believe that our project had the right approach. It was about people and their homes whilst supporting the village community buildings. We aimed for technologies within the reach

of many rather than high tech solutions requiring no personal engagement.

And whatever the outcome we will continue to seek solutions and pass them on through our village energy advisors.

Now, if you will excuse me, I need to comb my hair in preparation for filming.

Happy Christmas.

Bob Sherman - 612277

Albany Climbs Kili for Kids!

Some of you may know me from your Sunday afternoon visit to the Co-op, or others of you may just know my parents! Since starting my degree at the University of Nottingham in September this year, I have attempted to relish every challenging opportunity that has come my way. In doing so, I have signed myself up to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania next summer (which is certainly going to be challenging!). It is not only the highest peak in Africa, but it is the tallest freestanding mountain in the world, standing at a frightening 5896m tall!

I'm not only doing this for the experience of a lifetime, but I will be raising money for Childreach International. This is an extraordinary international children's charity that runs projects in various developing communities to help benefit the lives of children and youths. The places these projects are run include India, Nepal, Bangladesh, The Occupied Palestinian Territories, Cambodia, China, Peru and also Tanzania itself. A particular project in Tanzania is a School Development Programme, to help tackle the high rates of illiteracy in the country. This has been done through the renovation of the poorly built schools, building safe and clean classrooms with running water, kitchens and toilets, to not only make them a safe and attractive place for children to go, but also to reduce the risk of life threatening diseases, such as cholera and typhoid. This programme has been successful in funding the renovation of six government owned primary schools, which has seen 90% of school age children in that community be enrolled each year. Childreach also run a Carbon Offsetting scheme in Tanzania, through the planting of trees to offset any carbon emissions from flights for their projects. During my trip I will get the opportunity to visit one of these projects to see first-hand where the money I raise will go.

In order to go on this trip I have to raise a minimum of £2450, of which about a third goes towards my expenses for the trip with the rest going straight to the projects of Childreach International. I'm writing this to ask

for your kind donations, just in time for the festive season! If you would like to donate, I have a 'BT My Donate' page at:

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/albanyvincent>

I would truly appreciate all donations, however small, to help make this trip much more worthwhile. It's going to an amazing cause and it will really help push me to reach the summit when I go in July! I will be sure to keep you posted about my fundraising as well as the trip itself! In the meantime, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Albany Vincent

Blood Donors

Congratulations – you did it! Not only exceeded 100 donations for the first time since March 2009, but set a new record with 113 donations made. An extra thanks to the nine new donors – I hope you found it a satisfying experience and are willing to come again.

The next session here will be on 8th March 2012.

Something I overheard at the session is that some of the restrictions on giving blood because of your regular medication have been relaxed. So if you have been refused in the past and would still like to give, it is worth checking.

Gillian Hare



Wednesday Walkers

“No birds, no flowers, November”

In fact it hasn't been a bad month has it? A bit dull, but mild and dry and the walkers have seen some lovely countryside with the oak leaves glowing orange.

However: - it has come to our notice that if we advertise our walks we could be classified as an organised group, even though we have no constitution, committee or membership. This could mean that if anyone was unfortunately hurt on a walk, we could be held liable. If anyone with legal knowledge can suggest a way round this, we would be delighted to hear from them. Meanwhile we shall rely on word of mouth to keep people in touch with our programme.

Gillian Hare, 614809
Pam Parton, 614188

Books in the Box – A New Book Exchange in Deppers Bridge

Residents might be interested to know that, following on from the success of the book exchange in the foyer of Harbury Library, a similar facility is now available in the phone box in Deppers Bridge. The “Books in the Box” are free to anyone and residents can also leave any unwanted, good condition books there for others to take. It is hoped that this will make use of the previously redundant phone box, provide a recycling service and a new place for free books for residents in Deppers Bridge.

Harbury Parish Council

Warwickshire Young Voices Sing 'a Beautiful and Moving Tribute'



Warwickshire Young Voices made a trip to remember our fallen heroes at The National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire on Remembrance Sunday. We left Harbury in a packed 70 seater coach at 8am for what was to be a fantastic new experience for our young singers and their families alike.

The youngsters sang as part of the Remembrance Service, as well as providing music for the

thousands of visitors as they viewed the monument and laid their wreaths. Their performance of Eric Clapton's *'Tears in Heaven'* and Musical Director, David Iles' composition of *'Wherever You Are,'* which incorporates The Last Post, were described as *'a beautiful and moving tribute'* by one lady in the audience, who had recently lost her own son.

The youngsters proved to be exemplary in their professionalism and respectfulness, even dealing well with the presence of TV



cameras and press photographers. All of the youngsters have received certificates of commendation and should be very proud of the impact their performance will have had on over two thousand people on Remembrance Sunday.

You can see more photographs from the day on the 'media' page of our website, or feel free to sign up to our newsletter for up-to-date information from our busy schedule!

Term starts back on Thursday 12th January; we rehearse 6.30-7.30pm at Harbury Village Hall - new members are most welcome!

Have a wonderful Christmas break.

Helen Iles
Warwickshire Young Voices
www.warwickshireyoungvoices.org



Harbury Ukulele Group Review of the Year

Harbury Ukulele Group has had a fantastic year! We were founded in October 2010 by Craig Grocock - to be precise, our first meeting was on 11th October -- and most of us had never picked up a ukulele before. After the first meeting of a handful of interested but amateur uke players, there are now sometimes 30 of us meeting regularly each month, some even coming from Stratford to join us.

We have learned lots of songs, some of which have become our standards now, and have been invited to play at several Harbury events, for which we are very grateful. We hope the village residents haven't become sick of hearing the same tunes every time!

Highlights of the year have been:

The Harbury Carnival - Magnus and Will joined



the Bumps and Bundles parade in the June carnival. Not strictly a ukulele group event, I admit, but it was the first time a Harbury uke player had come out of the closet.

PTA Summer Fayre - Our first booking! We entertained



(hopefully) at the fundraising event for the Harbury Primary School PTA in July. Despite the nerves....

Beer Festival - Now that we were seasoned performers, we brought out our repertoire for the real ale enthusiasts at this year's Beer Festival in September. Everyone seemed to have a good time, even the youngest members of the audience.



Harvest Suppers - We played for both the Ladbroke and Harbury harvest suppers in October.

Family Social Evening - A smaller group of us played for the social evening held in the Tom Hauley rooms in November.

Harbury Christmas Market - A fundraising event for Harbury

Pre-School. This hasn't happened yet but I'm sure it will be wildly successful.

All of us in the Harbury Ukulele Group want to thank Craig Grocock for forming the group in the first place, and to thank Craig, Peter McDonald and Ian Hartland for leading us so well in our rehearsal sessions in the pub.

We meet on the first Monday of the month at the Shakespeare Inn, 8pm. Due to popular demand we now also meet "unofficially" on the third Monday as well.

For further information email contact@harburyukulele.me.uk, see our website at www.harburyukulele.me.uk or call Craig on 612377. Next meetings: 5th December, 19th December, 2nd January.

Magnus Lewis-Smith
contact@harburyukulele.me.uk
www.harburyukulele.me.uk



Harbury Senior Citizens' Committee Update

A big thank you to all of you who came to the Coffee morning in support of the Harbury Senior Citizens' Benefit Association and especially to those of you who could not make it to the coffee morning but who generously gave a donation. Thank you.

The next event will be upon us in no time at all and that is the annual Christmas Party on Saturday 10th December 2011.

Invitations have been delivered to everyone on our list. If you have accepted and then find that you are unable to attend the Christmas Party, do please let us know so that we can adjust the numbers to cater for. You can contact Mike McBride on 612421 or Julie Clarke on 07799 375264.

There were some eligible people who were not on our invitation list, but have since contacted us to let us know. If you are new to the village and think you may be eligible to come along, or you know of someone who may be eligible, please contact Mike McBride on 612421. You may not be able to get to our party but you will get an invitation for the coach trip next summer.

The members of the committee and all our helpers look forward to seeing you at the party and we hope that you will enjoy yourselves.

Mike McBride,
On behalf of the Harbury Senior Citizens' Benefit Association

New Businesses – New Businesses – New Businesses

Three new businesses, which have recently opened in the Bull Ring Centre will be featured in more detail in the New Year Harbury & Ladbroke News magazine.

In Unit 1 there is hypnotherapist, Rebecca Bedford, who has a card outside the Parish Office, which says 'we all need a little help sometimes'. There is also a new Property, Sales and Lettings office in Unit 3 run by Mr Kleinmann, who also deals in mortgages and financial services, whilst in Unit 4 facing the road is Moore's Fishing Tackle and Supplies shop. It would be hard not to notice all the fishing rods and poles in the shop window, but there is also an exciting range of ground bait, maggots and worms for those who love coarse, game and sea fishing. The shop is open Monday – Saturday from 9.00am to 5.00pm and on Sunday from 10.00am - 2.00pm. The shop is offering a 10% discount on items purchased before Christmas, so if you have someone in your family who loves fishing, you might want to pop into the shop for that little surprise item for under the tree.

Chris Finch

Village with a Vision

In mid November we were invited to a meeting with Mr. John Gordon, Development and Enabling Officer of Stratford District Council. Tony Brunton and I were accompanied to this very cordial and informative meeting by Mr. Mike Hill and Mrs Helen Shields of Bromford Housing, and Mr. Tim Willis of Warwickshire County Council.

The purpose of the meeting was to appraise the District Council of our Vision to provide Extra Care Housing in Harbury. I will quote here from the Meeting Notes:-

“The significance of the project as a pilot for the roll-out of similar schemes – providing a new model of housing and care provision in a rural setting – was noted”.

We came away feeling encouraged, but also realising that we have much work to be done, and it is likely that in the near future, we shall be looking to you all for further supporting information.

As ever thank you for your support and encouragement, and we will continue to keep you up to date with progress.

Tony Stubbs

Sponsored Walk in Aid of Brain Tumour Research



Fourteen walkers, including Bob the dog, took part in a sponsored walk on 29th October in aid of brain tumour research.

There was a cold wind but soon the sun came out and it was a good walking morning. The autumn colours were lovely and everyone seemed to enjoy the walk. Afterwards we relaxed over a good lunch in the Shakespeare Inn.

Altogether £661.60 was raised which has been sent to the Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust. Many thanks to those who took part and to all the people who sponsored us.

Our next fund-raising event will be a coffee morning on 18th February.

C M Catt

Chesterton Church

A big thank you to all who supported our Church Fete and our Harvest Festival Service.

There will be a Quiz night on Friday 23rd March at the Harbury Rugby Club - this is the night we will draw our raffle and we have some wonderful prizes besides the £100. Please be prepared to enter your teams; it should be lots of fun and not too serious. Raffle tickets and info. from Elizabeth Holding 613982.

Our Candlelit Carol Service will be held on **Saturday 17th December at 4.30pm** and we have the pleasure of the Harbury Folk Club Choir joining us. We look forward to seeing you.

Chesterton Church members wish you all a joyous Christmas and a Blessed and Peaceful New Year.

Jo Spurr

HS2

Last month's article summarised the HS2 project from a review of documents on the Department for Transport website. The background information and proposals there are those of HS2 Limited, the company formed to take this forward and thus the information presented is very biased in favour of the current proposal.

HS2 Action Alliance is a not for profit organisation working with over 70 local community groups, which is challenging the case for HS2 and working to get Government to take the right decisions based on clear communication of the facts, for example:

- the business case is seriously flawed.
- there are much better ways of improving capacity.
- the environmental case has collapsed.

Since May 2011 the Transport Select Committee (a cross bench group appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration, and policy of the Department for Transport and its Associate Public Bodies) have conducted an inquiry into HS2. Their report issued on 8th November hit the news headlines and while supportive of a high speed rail network they had a number of concerns and recommendations regarding HS2 including:

- the Government must commit to the Y-network (to Manchester and Leeds) and give details of its route before a final decision on HS2 is made.

- disappointment that it has been designed and assessed to a large extent based on overvalued time savings; the value of reduced crowding too should be included in the assessment of the proposal and alternatives.
- the Government should show how investment in classic rail will not suffer.
- claims made that HS2 would deliver substantial carbon-reduction benefits do not stand up to scrutiny.

There are other better, quicker to implement and much less expensive alternatives and I urge your readers to look at our websites www.HS2AA.org and www.betterthanhs2.org and linked documents and websites sites to get a more complete picture of what is proposed and the alternatives.

Graham Long
Director HS2AA Ltd & Chairman of the Ladbroke Action Group

SOUTHAMFIRST  **“All I want for Christmas” comes to Southam**

Treat yourself to a truly traditional taste of Christmas at Southam’s themed street markets on Saturdays 3rd, 10th and 17th December from 2pm to 8pm.

A glittering, fun-filled Market Hill awaits you with a host of festive treats and entertainment to enjoy – gifts and local produce, mulled wine, free demonstrations, tasty food to sample, seasonal songs from local choirs, competitions and games, street entertainers, dancing, drama and live music. All this plus a magical visit from Father Christmas, his elves, real live reindeer, the Snow Queen, and Iggle Piggle and Upsy Daisy in the snow garden!

“Take the stress out of shopping - avoid those packed city centres and spend an afternoon at Southam’s Christmas street fairs,” says Sue Hinsley, Southam First’s Events organiser. “Southam has a lot to offer and we’ve put together some fantastic entertainment so you can relax and enjoy yourselves while you shop.”

Market Hill will be closed to traffic between 2pm and 8pm so people of all ages can enjoy the events in a traffic-free environment. All the town centre shops will be open as usual with many Christmas gift ideas and offers, and there is free car parking. See Southam at its sparkling best – and take some of its special Christmas spirit home with you!

Christmas Food & Decorating: 2pm – 8pm Saturday 3rd December

Children's Festive Fun: 2pm – 8pm Saturday 10th December

Traditional Christmas Shopping & Entertainment: 2pm – 8pm Saturday 17th December

For further information, see www.southamfirst.org or contact Sue Hinsley or Jayne Greenshield on 01926 819093 or 07971 608850.

Pam McConnell



Southam & District Lions Club

'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' is just one of so many carols you will hear over the weeks leading up to the great day – Christmas Day 2011! 'Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells' is another one you will hear and this is definitely a sound associated with Southam Lions. It heralds the sound of Santa's Sleigh of course and although still very distant we have it on good authority that he is definitely coming to Southam!

Southam Lions will again be visiting the town and surrounding villages in the days leading up to Christmas and once again **all** the money so generously donated will be given to local Children's Charities. Every child, no matter the age, when talking to Santa will get a chocolate bar! Last year a young lady of 85 years came out to see Santa and got her bar of chocolate!

Last year through your generosity at Christmas time we raised £4,000 for Children's Charities. Please give generously again when we knock on your door. Our chosen charities this year are:

Sense for Deaf/Blind People and Teenage Cancer Trust Appeal West Midlands

This year Santa is visiting Harbury a week later than last year but will again 'switch on' the Southam Christmas Lights on **FRIDAY 2nd DECEMBER**. The carols and fun begin from 5pm onwards with the actual 'switch on' taking place at 6pm.

The Lions will be in your area on:

Saturday 10th December Harbury 15.30 – 20.00

**Friday 16th December Ladbroke, Deppers Bridge & Ufton
18.00 – 20.00**

Children can email Father Christmas if they wish on: fatherchristmas@southamlions.org.uk.

Happy Christmas Everyone from Southam Lions Club and thanks for the wonderful support you have given us in 2011.

Peter Guy



Back & 4th Transport

Back & 4th Transport is a community transport scheme based at Warwick University Campus (HRI), Wellesbourne and provides minibus hire for residents of Stratford upon Avon District.

We are urgently in need of volunteer drivers to take our passengers out and about in the local area and further afield, so if you have some time to spare and are interested in joining our team, please give us a call. We ask that volunteers complete a minimum of one drive per month for us but apart from that our requirements are flexible to suit your availability.

Full training to MiDAS (Minibus Drivers' Awareness Standards) is provided as well as all out of pocket expenses. An enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check is completed for all volunteer drivers.



If you have some spare time, enjoy driving and would like to help please contact Kate Skinner on 01789 471595 or kate.backand4th@btconnect.com for further information.

Kate Skinner
Community Transport Co-ordinator



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editors

On behalf of Harbury School PTA, I would like to thank all those who supported our coffee morning on 5th November at the Tom Hauley Room. We raised a total of £249.65 which is absolutely fantastic. We are currently raising money to buy new computers for the school and all the proceeds from the coffee morning will go towards this.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the village and our families for all the support they have offered the PTA with our fundraising activities over the year. Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to you all.

Katy Spencer Hammon
Harbury School PTA Chair

Dear Editors

The Farm Street and Farm Close collection in September 2011 on behalf of Myton Hospice raised £59.92.

Thank you.

John White

Dear Editors

We would like to thank everyone who supported our Air Ambulance coffee morning on Saturday 19th November. You made this event such a success that we have been able to send a cheque for £500 from the proceeds, to the Warwickshire/Northamptonshire Air Ambulance.

We very much appreciated all the donations of cash, raffle prizes, gifts and cakes which enabled us to raise this substantial sum. Once again thank you all and well done Harbury.

Air Ambulance Support Group

Dear Editors

We would like to thank everyone who supported our coffee morning, the World's Biggest Coffee Morning for MacMillan, on Friday 30th September in the Tom Hauley Room. We raised the wonderful amount of £396.

Mary and Friends

Dear Editors

For many years my wife and I cherished the thought that one day we would be lucky enough to live in the village of Harbury. We were very fortunate in finding Rose Cottage which made us extremely happy. Our thoughts that our small children aged 4mths, 2 and 4 would be able to grow and be educated in such a lovely environment were at last realised. Our move was exceedingly difficult as the cottage needed extensive re-furbishment due to its dilapidated state. We believed that a traditional white country cottage would certainly look better than mis-matched brickwork in a poor state. Once we took up residence it quickly became clear we needed to erect a temporary wooden fence whilst the new/existing hedge grows to protect our children and our privacy. Our reasons were that within just two weeks of moving in the hedge was trampled down by the thieves who broke in and burgled our house in the middle of the night whilst my family were sleeping upstairs. The police did not bother to respond and come out, just issued a crime number. We lost a large amount of possessions and now have sleepless nights worrying if it will re-occur. Not very re-assuring to start with. In addition our two small girls were

approached by strange males on a number of occasions whilst playing in the garden which was then open to view.

We have had to create an off-road parking area for ourselves and thus the reason for removing and levelling part of the garden –something needed as part of modernising the cottage as we do have cars we don't wish to park on the busy road. All the work carried out complies with current planning regulations. However an official complaint was made which resulted in a visit from a DC planning enforcement officer who confirmed that all work was compliant (which somewhat negates the concerns expressed in PC minutes) the only exception being the front fence which was 30cm too close to the highway or 20cm too high for its position. But as the fence is only temporary until the hedge height increases, it is allowed to be retained until next spring at which time we will remove the fence or apply for planning permission for a temporary fence.

As a direct result of the Parish Council's minutes a number of strangers have passed by standing and pointing at various aspects of the house causing concern to my family. On two occasions, we have come home to find strange people standing well onto our property gesticulating, hence the installation of CCTV. It is a great pity that our hopes and aspirations of an idyllic Harbury village life have been tarnished by the attitude of a small number of busybodies.

On the brighter side I have had many compliments on the appearance of Rose cottage since works began. My eldest child absolutely loves Harbury pre-school and has made many new great friends and looks forward to starting Harbury school in September.

I would be more than happy to receive a visit from the Parish Council to discuss the improvements to my property which all fall within permitted development rights. I am fully aware of planning regulations having developed a number of Listed Building properties in Leamington Spa.

Paul Cockell



Dear Editors

The new residents of Rose Cottage must be wondering whether they have done the right thing in moving to Harbury. How many of us knew planning permission is required to paint their homes white? Personally, I think it is an improvement. They are not building a garage but a car port. Within days of moving into their new home they were burgled, and so have constructed a fence around their entire property. This is a young family with three small children, one only a few weeks old when they moved in.

Come on Harbury, where is that wonderful attitude of help and support for which we are so well known?

Pat Hearn

Dear Editors

'Magic' the Pony

Defying all odds at 54 years, Magic is well, whinnying and still cantering around his paddock. 'Big' Emily, his companion, left in October to live nearer her master and a new 'little' friend may be joining him soon - watch this space.

I had a Gold Veterinary Health check actioned on Magic last year, which he passed with flying colours but it did suggest that he needs work done on his teeth to make him more 'comfortable'.

A charity event may be a solution to this, details will be posted up when I am able to arrange this.

Thank you again to George and Brenda, those who ask after him and the 'team' who attend to Magic in my absence - Abi, Ralph, Jo, Rosemary and Philippa.

Lisa

Seasons Greetings Seasons Greetings Seasons Greetings

		
<p>Karena EA Ellis MRICS, RICS Acc. Med., BSc Hons M: 07796 575716 T: 01926 612121 E: info@greenchameleon.net www.greenchameleon.net</p>		<p>Chartered Surveying ■ Mediation ■ Letting & Management ■</p>
<p>The Green Room, 31 Manor Road, Harbury, Warks CV33 9HY</p>		

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You will find our prices very reasonable and our care second to none. Give us a call on 01926 612921 or 07967 762475 and see how we can ensure you all have a good time!

All prospective boarders whose dogs didn't care for cats, please do ring again, as sadly, we no longer have cats.

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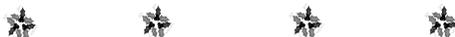


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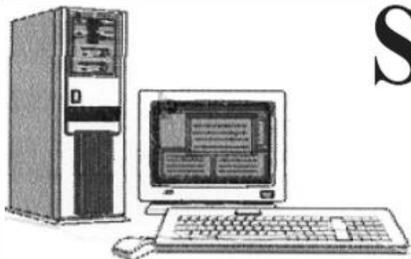
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