

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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Editorial Team

John Holden - Chris Finch - Marian Millington - Janice Montague
Ralph Swadling - Jackie West

*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

Whilst we can't promise good weather this month, there are plenty of activities on the horizon to put a spring in your step. Firstly, there is Harbury Energy Day on the 20th April – see the article in the magazine for full details. On the same day there is a Quiz Night in Ladbroke to raise funds for the Millennium Green. Then the following week there is the auction of promises raising funds for the Village Hall; there are some wonderful promises to bid for, such as a trip in a piper aircraft and flying a Boeing Aircraft Simulator. Further ahead the Garden Walkabout will be making a welcome return at the beginning of June after a number of years' absence.

There are a couple of local road closures to be aware of in April affecting Harbury and details of these appear in the magazine.

A reminder that subscriptions are due for the magazine this month; also all are invited to attend the Harbury and Ladbroke News AGM on Tuesday 23rd April at 8pm in the Harbury Village Club.

Finally, an incident which is a matter of concern; Police are appealing for any witnesses to a robbery that occurred to a lady walking in Binswood End in the early hours of Sunday 24th March. Anyone with information can call the police on 01926 684232.

Harbury Diary

APRIL

Sat 6 Coffee Morning, 10.00am – 12.00 noon in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Bellringers

Sun 7 **EASTER II**

Sung Eucharist, 9.00am

First Light Service, 10.30am, Tom Hauley Room

Evensong, 6.00pm

Tennis Club AGM & Cheque Book Tournament, 10.00am

Mon 8 Lady Day Eucharist Service organised by Mothers' Union, 11.00am in Church

Tues 9 Holy Communion, 7.30pm

Jan's Pen and Wash workshop, 9.30am – 3.30pm at the Studio, Church House, Crown Street

Wed 10 Wednesday Walkers - Hampton Lucy-Clumps Hill (4½ miles), 9.40am, meet at Village Hall Car Park

- Thurs 11 Holy Communion, 9.45am, followed by coffee
Movement to Music, 2.00-3.00pm in Village Hall
Warwickshire Young Voices, 6.30pm in Village Hall
Harbury W.I., 7.00pm, visit Waitrose, Kenilworth
- Fri 12 Painting of Tom Hauley Rooms interior walls, door, windows,
10.00am – 5.00pm, volunteers needed Tel: 613214
Quiz Evening in aid of Chesterton Church, 7.30pm at Harbury
Rugby Club
- Sat 13 School Cross Country Event, 9.00am uses Village Hall
Coffee Morning, 10.00am – 12.00 noon in Tom Hauley Room
in aid of Harbury W.I.
Moving Pictures presents "Great Expectations", Doors Open
5.30pm, Film starts at 6.00pm at Village Hall (see advert)
- Sun 14 EASTER III**
Holy Communion, 8.00am
Sung Eucharist, 10.30am
- Mon 15 ADVERTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE TO 31 BINSWOOD END,
HARBURY BY 5.30PM
Jan's Art Classes begin, 7.30 – 9.30pm the Studio,
Church House, Crown Street
- Tues 16 Holy Communion, 7.30pm
Village Hall AGM and Committee, 7.30pm in Farley Room
- Wed 17 Wednesday Walkers - Grandborough to Woolscott (3 miles)
9.40am, meet at Village Hall Car Park
Tea, 3.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
Essential First Aid course, 6.30pm for prompt 7.00m start at the
Library
- Thurs 18 Holy Communion, 9.45am, followed by coffee
Harbury Art Group - Come Paint With Us social painting group
from 10.00am – 3.00pm (approx.) in the Tom Hauley Room.
The theme for April is "Shadows". Tel: Pam on 01926 814923
for more details
Movement to Music, 2.00 – 3.00pm in Village Hall
Warwickshire Young Voices, 6.30pm in Village Hall
Village with a Vision AGM, 7.00pm in the Tom Hauley Room
- Sat 20 Men's Breakfast, 7.30am, Tom Hauley Room
Coffee Morning, 10.00am – 12.00 noon in Tom Hauley Room
in aid of STEPS
Harbury Society Pub Walk, 10.00am from King's Head,
Cubbington.
Harbury Energy Day event, 2.00pm at the School
- Sun 21 EASTER IV**
Holy Communion, 8.00am
Sung Eucharist, 10.30am
Evensong, 6.00pm

- Mon 22 Blood Donors, 1.30am – 3.30pm and 4.30 – 7.30pm in Village Hall
- Tues 23 Holy Communion, 7.30pm
Julian Meeting, 8.00pm
Harbury & Ladbroke News AGM, 8.00pm at Harbury Village Club
- Wed 24 Wednesday Walkers - Wootton Wawen - Austy Bluebell Wood (4 miles), 9.40am, meet at Village Hall Car Park
- Thurs 25 Holy Communion, 9.45am, followed by coffee
Thursday Club in Village Hall, 2.00-4.00pm
ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE TO:HARBURY PHARMACY, HIGH ST OR EMAIL TO ARTICLES@HLNEWS.CO.UK BY 5.30PM
Warwickshire Young Voices, 6.30pm in Village Hall
Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm in Farley Room, Village Hall
- Sat 27 Coffee Morning, 10.00am – 12.00 noon in Tom Hauley Room in aid of SD Trust for Brain Tumours
Auction of Promises event, 7.30pm Village Hall (see advert)
- Sun 28 EASTER V**
Holy Communion, 8.00am
Little Saints' Service, 9.00am
Sung Eucharist, 10.30am
- Tues 30 Holy Communion, 7.30pm
MAY
- Wed 1 Wednesday Walkers - Fawsley – Badby Bluebell Wood (4 miles) 9.40am, meet at Village Hall Car Park
Holy Communion, 2.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
Mothers' Union Meeting, 2.30pm, Tom Hauley Room:
Gavin Kibble talks about the work of Coventry Food Bank
- Thurs 2 Voting for WCC Elections, 7.00pm – 10.00pm at Village Hall
Holy Communion, 9.45am, followed by coffee
Tennis Club Open Evening, 6.30pm onwards
Men's Group Annual Dinner, 7.00 for 7.30pm, Tom Hauley Room
Folk Club, 8.00pm, Harbury Village Club
- Sat 4 Coffee Morning, 10.00am – 12.00 noon in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Church Work with Children
- Sun 5 EASTER VI**
Sung Eucharist, 9.00am
First Light Service, 10.30am, Tom Hauley Room
Service for Spring, 4.00pm, followed by tea and cake
- Mon 6 MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY
- Tues 7 Harbury Heritage Room open 6.30 - 8.30pm at school
Holy Communion, 7.30pm
Horticultural Society Demonstration of Hanging Baskets and Troughs by Derek Walker, 8.00pm, Tom Hauley Room

- Wed 8 Wednesday Walkers - Ryton Woods (4 miles),
9.40am, meet at Village Hall Car Park
Heritage Group AGM, 8.15pm at Shakespeare
- Thurs 9 Holy Communion, 9.45am, followed by coffee
Annual Parish Meeting, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Harbury W.I., 7.45pm - Resolutions
- Sat 11 Coffee Morning, 10.00am – 12.00 noon in Tom Hauley Room
in aid of British Heart Foundation
Tennis Club - "Bring your Mum or Dad", 2.00-4.00pm

Refuse Collection Rota				
	Deppers Bridge	Harbury	Ladbroke	Collection Week
April	Wed	Thurs	Fri	
	10	11	12	Green & Blue Lid Bins
	17	18	19	Grey Bin
	24	25	26	Green & Blue Lid Bins
May	1	2	3	Grey Bin
	8	9	10	Green & Blue Lid Bins
	15	16	17	Grey Bin

	From the Rector	Reverend Craig Grocock The Rectory, Vicarage Lane, Harbury ☎612377 ✉ kankudai43@aol.co.uk
	All Saints HARBURY	

Church that is accessible to everyone

I hear different comments as I go around the village about the Church. Some say that the Church plays an important role in our community and is an integral part of our village life. Others say that it's comforting to know that the Church is there when you need it for weddings, funerals, Christenings and the like. There are some however who feel indifferent about Church and faith and that being a churchgoer is just like being a member of one of our many groups and clubs in the village. There are others who feel the church is 'cliquey' and a bit exclusive and that it's not really for them.

Of course the Church isn't the building it's the people who worship there. I often say that if the building fell down next week the Church would still exist (unless of course the people were in it at the time!). The Church is the people who, across the village, meet up in the All Saints' building on Sundays and in one another's homes for prayer, worship and to learn more about God together during the week.

It's important though that what we do in the building is accessible to everyone in our community and not just a few. We want what we do to be inspirational and help those who come to connect with God and discover something of Him. We want people to come and worship with us and to keep coming back and to bring their families and friends as well.

In the Tom Hauley Room (the hall at the rear of the Church building) on the first Sunday of each month at 10.30am we have a service called 'First Light'. It's a very informal service, lasting about 45 minutes. The service always starts with coffee and biscuits giving everyone the chance to catch up with each other and welcome new people. It involves lively music and songs, usually a drama presentation and loads of fun! Children, parents, single people, young and old (you name it) worship together and no one is excluded. 'First Light' is brilliant and I would urge you to come and be part of it.

Look on our website for more information and if you'd like to chat with someone about 'First Light', then give Alison a call on 612939.

Looking forward to seeing you around.

God bless.



From the Churchwardens

Liz, John & Will

The PCCs AGM in March saw several long standing members step to the side. For their knowledge, support and faithfulness we are thankful. One of those to stand down was my fellow warden, Liz. She felt that the coming year held too many constraints on her time for health and family reasons and could not give herself to the job as fully as she would have liked. I, for one, am extremely grateful for all she has done in the post over the past two years.

This has left the way clear for a new entrant to the PCC and the job of warden in the form of John Guilford who must be congratulated on his successful election. I'm sure he will serve you well. This leaves us in the rather unusual position of officially having three wardens, that is until us two are sworn in at the Archdeacon's visitation in May.

Lookout for the service celebrating Springtime at the beginning of May also.

Harbury & Ladbroke Church Men's Group

Nick Tawney, a leader from Harbury's Duke of Edinburgh Award Group, came to speak to the group last month to tell us more about the Awards; something we all had heard of but our knowledge was wide ranging.

The Awards were founded in 1956 for boys and later introduced for girls. Today it is for ages 14 to 24 and there are three levels Bronze, Silver and Gold with the programme consisting of four sections...rescue and public service...pursuits and projects...physical fitness...expedition...and at Gold...residential. There is no competition and no membership requirements. Each individual can put together a programme of their own choice selected from the options available.

The Harbury Group in its current form was started in 2009 and is so popular that it is often over-subscribed. Priority is given to those from our village and surrounding area.

The Awards are well known for the expeditions, but volunteering also forms a key part of the programme and village activities such Scouts and Guides, the Cinema, and Biblio's Café benefit from enthusiastic and committed Duke of Edinburgh volunteers.

No doubt the success of the Awards owes a lot to Nick and the other leaders' desire and passion to help local young people; it's great that they do this and it was a real pleasure to hear all about it. May the Awards continue to go from strength to strength!

Next month is a mystery. Not just to our members but also to the Chairmen! Bill Davies is our speaker and he has told us no more than that his talk is entitled "A pinch of salt!" Bill has a great sense of humour and I have no doubt the evening will be very entertaining.

For more information, please contact John Guilford (614206) or John Stringer (613214).

John Guilford (Co-Chair)

Ladbroke News & Diary

www.ladbroke-pc.org.uk

APRIL

- | | | |
|------------|-----------|---|
| Sat | 6 | Whist Drive, 7.45pm, Village Hall |
| Sun | 7 | EASTER II |
| | | Family Communion, 10.30am followed by refreshments |
| Tues | 9 | Yoga, 10.00am, Village Hall |
| | | Photography Club, 7.30pm, Village Hall |
| Sun | 14 | EASTER III |
| | | Holy Communion, (sung), 9.00am |
| Mon | 15 | ADVERTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE TO 31 BINSWOOD END,
HARBURY BY 5.30PM |
| Tues | 16 | Yoga, 10.00am, Village Hall |
| Wed | 17 | Annual Village Meeting, 7.45pm, Village Hall |

Sat 20 Quiz and Supper, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sun 21 EASTER IV

Holy Communion (BCP), 9.00am

Tues 23 Yoga, 10.00am, Village Hall

Thurs 25 ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE TO HARBURY PHARMACY,
HIGH ST OR EMAIL TO ARTICLES@HLNEWS.CO.UK
BY 5.30PM

Women's Institute, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sat 27 Whist Drive, 7.45pm, Village Hall

Sun 28 EASTER V

Holy Communion, (sung) 9.00am

Tues 30 Yoga, 10.00am, Village Hall

MAY

Thurs 2 Voting for WCC elections, Village Hall

Sat 4 Whist Drive, 7.45pm, Village Hall

Sun 5 EASTER VI

Family Communion, 10.30am followed by refreshments

Tues 7 Yoga 10.00am, Village Hall

Photography Club, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Thurs 9 Ascension Day Service, 7.30pm



Ladbroke Church News

Sue Lord

Thank you to the people who hosted our successful Lent lunches over the last six weeks. As well as raising funds for the Church these lunches are a valuable social event.

The PCC is pleased to announce the appointment of Jackie West as Church Warden to replace Steve Copley who steps down after many years of service. However Steve will continue as our Treasurer and to offer valuable advice on issues relating to church fabric and handle contractual items.

Early warning: The re-decoration of the Nave will start at the end of May and there may be some disruption to services because the scaffolding is more extensive than expected. Further details will be in the pew sheet.

Ladbroke Flower Rota

7 th April	Jane Rutherford	14 th April	Christine Baker
21 st April	Christine Baker	28 th April	Sue Lord
5 th May	Sue Lord		

Sue Lord



Ladbroke Parish Council

Jackie West

The meeting on 20th March was a short one as there were no representatives from SDC or WCC present. I didn't make the meeting either, so this report is based on notes from Parish Councillor, Martin Neal and information taken from the SDC planning website.

Roads - There are general concerns about potholes in and around Ladbroke. Specially mentioned were the stretch of the Harbury Road leading up to the B4451 at Deppers Bridge and the Banbury Road through the village. The section of Windmill Lane on the east side of the A423 has been renamed **Ladbroke Hill Lane, Ladbroke**. It is hoped that this will reduce confusion for vehicles accessing the farms to the east of the village.

Flood Prevention - The Chairman of the Parish Council has been meeting WCC to encourage progress with the various schemes that have been discussed to reduce the flood risk for village properties. There is some optimism that further works will be approved. A formal update from WCC is awaited.

Village Website - The hosting arrangement is being changed to reduce costs and hopefully to improve stability. The site has also been updated. As soon as testing has been completed the changes will be publicised, however the address of the website **ladbroke-pc.org.uk** will remain unchanged.

Planning - The proposals for Church Cottage have been approved and consent granted for the removal of a silver birch on the Millennium Green. Consent would not have been given to fell two young horse chestnuts there growing, or about to grow, into adjacent trees so the application for these has been withdrawn. During the Parish Council meeting there was some discussion on reaching a general approach for wind farms, the latest application is a large wind farm east of Fenny Compton which will be visible from parts of our Parish; the application crosses the proposed HS2 route!

Village Organisations - It is proving hard to make progress on merging the Village Hall and Millennium Green charities; in the meantime events organised by each separately continue. The Village Hall has joined SDC's Moving Pictures scheme to show current films in small venues around the District; the first one was the new James Bond film, Skyfall on 22nd March. The Millennium Green are organising a Quiz with Fish and Chip Supper on Saturday 20th April. The Church has a number of special services planned for Easter.

Annual Village Meeting - this is on Wednesday 20th April.

Finally, don't forget that voting for WCC is on Thursday 2nd May.

This report is for two meetings as the February gathering was after the deadline for the last edition.

The February meeting was held on Thursday, 28th in the Village Hall.

Following the usual business notices highlighting the various courses and outings we could attend, Lesley Jeffries, our President for the evening, set us on course for our 'Games Evening'.

The idea was to introduce us to the world of Whist Drives. We had about eight 'experts' to explain the game to us which is not easy in just half an hour or so. Nevertheless, it turned out to be a great success and thoroughly enjoyed. So much so that after refreshments, members wanted more – and sat down for another couple of games. Whether they will join the local Whist Drives is another matter?

The topic for the March meeting, held on the 28th, was chocolate making. The speaker for the evening was Jenny Hudson who founded and operates 'Sweet As', whose shops in Leamington and Kenilworth specialise in bespoke wedding cakes, celebration cakes and patisserie. Jenny made chocolate using cocoa butter, cocoa powder, a natural sweetener and orange oil while she told us of the way her business started.

From a 3 year catering course at Stratford College, where she was the only girl in a class of 30 boys, Jenny went to Claridges for work experience and must have shown something special as she was then offered a job. Her task for a royal banquet for about 400 people was to take the plastic wrapping off the desserts and the only one she forgot was destined for Prince Charles!



A stay in Australia (nothing to do with not taking the film off Prince Charles' dessert!) gave Jenny the idea of trying to blend the two food cultures together and bring something special to her home town of Leamington and a loan from The Prince's Trust gave her the opportunity to start 'Sweet As'.

Some of her commissions include making the cake for the first wedding anniversary of Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall, a birthday cake for Philip Schofield and being part of the Alan Titchmarsh royal TV documentary. Amongst other honours in 2007 she won the award for the best brownies in

Britain and was selected as one of the three best bakeries in the Midlands by a TV production company.

We all had the opportunity to eat the chocolate she had been making and it was delicious!

The picture (opposite) shows Kay Constable purchasing chocolate from Jenny.

Some of the members had attended the Warwickshire Federation Annual General Meeting in Stoneleigh earlier in the month and reported an excellent meeting.

The speaker for the group meeting to be held in St Mary's School on 30th April is the screen writer, Andrew Davies. Tickets for this can be obtained from Janet Yeates at a cost of £4.

Unwanted jewellery is needed by ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World) to be sold to provide money to buy cows to provide work and therefore income for 'untouchable' women in India. Please bring anything you can spare to the next meeting which is to be held on 25th April where we will welcome a surprise speaker? Interesting.

Snowdrops

Nothing at all to do with the W.I. - I must just comment on the snowdrops in Ladbroke, which have been an absolute joy to see – to really gladden the heart during the really shocking weather. Why so many, so late and still going strong by the middle of March?

Betty Winkfield

	<h2>Ladbroke Photography Club</h2>	<p>Jackie West</p>
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At our March meeting we were transported round the world and back to Warwickshire through the lenses of our members and relatives. First of all Mike Todman, who had been on a photographic holiday to Croatia, showed us sun-drenched towns along the Adriatic coast and rain-drenched National Parks. He passed on a number of tips, one for night time shots was to use a long exposure time together with a small aperture (and a tripod of course) to get long reflections of lights in water; another for adding "mystery" to shots is something we plan to try out during next month's meeting.

We then had three shorter presentations. Laura Fell took us on a whirlwind world tour from the



wide open beaches of Australia and fjords of New Zealand via Thailand to urban New York. Jennie Daniels had an animal theme, including some great action shots of dogs in a local field with wet mud flying and then Jackie West rounded off the evening with underwater pictures of sharks and sealions taken recently by her nephew -



it's amazing what you can achieve with a £100 camera if you are in a right place, such as a sturdy anti-shark cage!

Our next meeting is a week later than usual on Tuesday 9th April, when we will be selecting pictures for our exhibition at Ladbroke Fete and trying out some photo techniques. Last month the club offered to give tuition to help people use their digital cameras better, if you are interested in this or would like more information about the club please email jackieszone-photogclub@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01926-810331.



General Section

Ladbroke Film Night

On a wintry Friday evening, 51 hardy souls braved the cold to attend a screening of the latest James Bond film 'Skyfall' at Ladbroke Village Hall. They came not only from Ladbroke, but from as far afield as Harbury, Leamington Spa, Northamptonshire and South Africa!

The glass of bubbly (or orange juice if preferred) on arrival was most welcome, and we were invited to partake in the hearty ploughman's supper prepared by the ladies of the Village Hall committee. Judging by the food, the ploughmen of Warwickshire must be some of the best fed in England!

As we found our seats and consumed our meals, a selection of James Bond related music was played over the speakers to put us in the right mood. Just after 8 o'clock the lights dimmed, and soon we were sitting on the edge of our seats watching our hero once again try to save the world from almost certain catastrophe. A little over two hours later, the villain had been slain and Bond was looking as immaculate as ever having gone literally through earth, fire and water in order to save the day. How do the makers of the Bond films produce so many thrilling tales using just one storyline?

Once the final credits had rolled, the MC for the evening, noticing the blizzard conditions outside, sent us on our way with a cheery 'Now you've seen *Skyfall*, when you go out you will see *Snowfall*.'

Thanks for yet another successful social evening must go to the Village Hall Committee for the organising, the catering, and the running of the bar; and to Lana Long, Rural Cinema Facilitator of Stratford District Council for providing the technical support, the cinematic equipment and the film itself. A questionnaire seeking feedback from the evening was circulated and it seems that the event went down well. We will therefore look to put on more filmshows over the next few months.

David Wright

Quiz Night - Saturday April 20th

The Millennium Green's Quiz and Supper on Saturday 20th April will be held in Ladbroke Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Come as team of four or make a team with others on the night. Tickets costing £10 per person include a fish and chip supper (or vegetarian alternative) and are available from the Millennium Green Trustees, by emailing me on jackieszone-quiz@yahoo.co.uk or phoning 01926-810331. Hope to see you there.

Jackie West

Ladbroke Fete - Saturday 15th June

Grateful as we are for advance publicity in the Leamington Courier we wish to confirm that "The Great Ladbroke Bake Off" at the fete is intended to be for local people and we are not expecting any celebrities - though of course they would be welcome! Hope that you have the date in your diary and are planning to come along. More details next month but in the meantime if you would like to run an event or have a stall please get in contact with us on 810331 or 815196.

Jackie West & Gray Lewis

Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Club

£80	Nicky Lewis	£50	John Lowman
£25	Susan Moore	£10	Sheena Healey
£10	Pam Collins	£10	Malcolm Wray
£10	Mike Connon	£10	Jackie West

Margaret Bosworth



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

February 2013

Public Participation

Carolyn for the Library asked the Parish Councillors to help finance two First Aid Courses in the Library at a cost of £25 per person. The grant of £200 would allow pensioners and those on benefits to have a £10 discount. The Councillors were all in favour of the initiative and would be pleased in principle to give a grant from next year's allocation.

Hazel Turner from Deppers Bridge alerted the Council to Follet's Solar Farm scoping exercise for a planned 50,000 PV panels. If they went ahead and received planning permission it would be one of the biggest solar farms in the country and be in full view of all the residents of Deppers Bridge. They are looking at the impact of similar schemes elsewhere. Chairman Tim Lockley said the Parish Council would consult residents and would like to see their evidence and research when Follets submitted an application.

Richard Wright asked Councillors to give a view on his amendments to his application for four flats on the Dovehouse Autos site after the District Council's refusal. The Council advised that there were two options: re-submit an application with the new amended drawings and the Parish Council would consider those, or appeal on the previous, refused, plans.

Other Planning Matters

Stratford District Council had granted permission for the removal of a hedge at Flax Hill, Ufton Fields, and also granted, with conditions, an extension to the rear of Four Acres, 10 Greenhill Farm and a Conservatory at The Stables, Harbury Hall.

The Parish Council made "no representation" on the creation of a ménage at the Ranch House, Chesterton Road or for the proposed 32 dwellings at Station Road, Bishops Itchington.

The Parish commented on the following: Field House – that a separate dwelling should not be created; they thought nine wind turbines at Starbold would be "disastrous" for Knightcote and objected.

Village News

The Library lease is still not ready. Biblio's Café kitchen has more worktops and cupboards and there is a new coffee machine.

Tim Lockley reported that two new central heating pumps had been installed at a cost of £1,500. It was agreed that the Parish Council would pay for these from contingencies set aside for the Library. The Council was happy for Tim Lockley to continue as their representative on the Library Committee. Details of Library opening times and other information are available at library@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk.

The Village Hall extension plans have been passed. The specification will go out to tender and fund raising includes the Moving Pictures showing of Skyfall, a Big Band Concert and an Auction of Promises.

The Energy Group asked for a grant of £480 for their Green Deal Energy Assessment Draw but as the PC thought this did not give a big enough benefit to the Parish as a whole the application was not successful.

District Council News

District Councillor Beverly Mann reported that the Boundary Review recommended the number of District Councillors be reduced from 53 to 36, which could mean Harbury would only have one representative. There is a consultation on this at: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/796>. Residents can have their say directly by emailing reviews@lgbce.org.uk until 8th April 2013.

She revealed Council Tax has been pegged at last year's level and the contracts for Waste Collection and Ground Maintenance show savings but there will be an increase in Planning Fees. The Starbold Windfarm application was refused but has gone to appeal.

County Council News

County Councillor Bob Stevens also reported no Council Tax rises. He explained that as the District was judged not to have a five year housing supply the National Planning Policy Framework took precedent over the Local Plan.

He was concerned about the disruption that would be caused if HS2 (the Highspeed Rail link) went ahead. A number of local roads would be closed for up to three years and there would be encampments which Councillors likened to the situation when the Cutting was built.

WCC had received a grant of £10-14m to improve M40 Junctions 12 and 14. Work on J14 would be finished by Christmas but J12 would take 18 months.

Village Properties

Playing Fields - Councillor Knowles had investigated ditches where he found bonfire refuse dumped in one and others in need of clearing. Nevertheless the Council considered flooding problems were due to excess water during a very wet season. Councillor Hancock suggested asking a drainage engineer to make recommendations.

Traffic Calming - The terms and conditions for a second Speed Aware sign on Bush Heath Road were agreed.

Finance

Approval was given for the appointment of the Internal Auditor. Councillors were happy with the recommendation that they had a Risk Management Assessment. They also agreed to raise the limit on what the Clerk could spend without reference to the Council.

Report from Harbury Parish Council

Dual Purpose Litter Bins

This is a reminder that litter bins can now be used for the disposal of dog waste as well as general litter. It is now the policy of the District Council when installing a new litter bin to remove any nearby dog waste bins. If you are placing dog waste in the bin, please make sure it is securely bagged.

Street Lights

Many people will have heard about the controversial decision by Warwickshire County Council to switch off street lights from midnight until the early morning. The street lights in Harbury and Deppers Bridge are owned and maintained by the Parish Council. These lights are currently timed to switch on from dusk until dawn. The Parish Council has no plans to change this. The wear and tear on the lights by switching them on and off each night has a detrimental effect on their life span, hence it would cost more in the long run than the saving in consumption costs. The Parish Council has a rolling programme of gradually replacing the old lights with new LEDs which are much more energy efficient and will also save money as well as reducing their carbon footprint.

Harbury Parish Council



Councillor's Corner

Bev Mann

Submitting a Response to a Planning Application

Stratford District Council receives many residents' letters in response to planning applications within the many Wards. There are different ways you can send in your response either by writing a letter or online.

The written response sent by post creates a lot of administration work and, although not everyone has a computer or is comfortable in submitting a response online, I thought I would just write a few words to show how easy this online process can be, not only for residents but in helping to reduce admin. and therefore costs.

All new planning applications are recorded on Stratford District Council e-planning which is sited on the main website. An easy way to check planning applications within our Ward is to go to our Parish Council website which has a planning link to Stratford District Council website.

When you have found the application you are interested in, open this page. It will show you all the documents, plans, dates, agent and applicant name and the designated planning officer. On the last section is “comments” which opens up a form for completion.

As your District Councillor, I find this method to be really quick and easy to use. If you leave an email address you will receive a copy of what you have submitted and within 48 hours your response will be uploaded onto this planning application.

All responses for and against a planning application are collated and included within a planning report for determination of the application.

If you would like any further details please do not hesitate to call me or email.

Bev Mann - District Councillor - Harbury, Bishops Itchington, Deppers Bridge and Chesterton. Tel. 01926 614006 - beverley.mann@stratford-dc.gov.uk

	<h2>Harbury Society</h2>	<p>Linda Ridgley</p>
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Our AGM was uneventful with the existing Committee and Chair being re-elected, but the talk by David Howe was a hoot!

Speaking without notes he entertained us for an hour on Memories of a Book Addict – an addiction, he claimed, for which there was no cure. He wondered what would happen to his enormous collection of books, now also being stored in his loft and garage. He was sure his children would “skip” them.

He feared that we, the old ones, were the last generation that would grow up reading books, writing letters, and keeping diaries. As a child, the only books he was bought were Annuals because he could borrow the rest from the Library. He loved the Jennings and Just William books but was told by teachers that he should broaden his reading. The lesson he learned from this was that children never like books that their teachers recommend!

As a student he bought the then new Penguin and Pelican paperbacks and later haunted second-hand book shops. Now as Director of the Warwick Book Festival he collects signed copies from the authors who speak at the event.

He then showed us an eclectic selection of his books along with the personal reasons why he could not possibly part with them. One was a joke book produced by 3F at Castle Bromwich Junior which was presented to him.

This caused him to ponder on the jokes that children like and the age at which they first understood them.

He ended with a series of unfortunate book titles, many slightly risqué! Five Go Off to Camp and the Handbook for the Limbless were the least offensive. Finally he told the story of a shy young man looking for relationship advice who was prevented from taking out the book labelled **How to Hug** because it was the Seventh Volume of the Encyclopaedia Britannica!

Next Event: is a Pub Walk on **Saturday 20th April** 10am from the Kings Head, Cubbington, to see the Wild Pear and the line of HS2. It's about four miles and given the "spring weather", likely to be muddy!



Harbury Women's Institute

Jeanne Beaumont

Well the weather does not want to improve yet. March has been awful and we hope to be spoilt in April. We wished Quona best wishes on her special birthday plus she also had a card from the Queen on her 60th wedding anniversary. Tony Mancell's photos of our 95th Anniversary were on show. We can see he will be on the list of the special celebrity photographers soon!

The Annual Federation Meeting 2013 was held at Stoneleigh Park on 20th March and Mary Thompson will give us a report of the enjoyable day in May. Why May? Because next month, on 11th April, we will visit Waitrose in Kenilworth at 7.00pm.

The W.I. coffee morning will be on Saturday 13th April with a raffle, cake stall and sales table. We hope to have helpers for the litter collection on Thursday 18th April. The Southam group meeting is on Tuesday 30th April, 7.30pm at St Mary's School Hall, Southam.

Our speaker this month was Lis Dobb-Sandie on "Grandma's stories in Zimbabwe". We were told of her happy upbringing and her adventures when changes in Zimbabwe took place. She was married with four children. She later had to vacate Zimbabwe as she was occupied in undercover work. Her four children are scattered in different countries now. She came to Oxford and became an evening bus driver but she found the city very lonely. She is now happy in Malvern.

A remarkable lady and very interesting.

May Edition - Harbury & Ladbroke News

Adverts to 31 Binswood End by 15th April

Articles to Harbury Pharmacy or e-mail to articles@hlnews.co.uk by 25th April



Harbury Theatre Group

Alison Hodge

A Fete Worse Than Death – 8.00pm 16th, 17th and 18th May

You will never be able to think about Harbury Carnival and Harbury Horticultural Show in the same way after you have seen Harbury Theatre Group's spring production. A Fete Worse Than Death, by Richard James, is a present day, comedy murder thriller, and the action takes place in a village just like Harbury. Actor Ray Martin is invited to open the village fete, playing on his fame as TV's "Inspector Brady". Little does he know that ambition, infidelity, and marrow envy will lead to murder and he'll be left to solve it - without a script! Which one of the village characters did it? All of them have a motive to keep their status in village life.

William Jones, one of Harbury's Church wardens, is making his acting debut as the underhand vicar! John Travis and Joy Russell, after joining us for Wizard of Oz, have taken on more challenging parts - John, as Chairman of the Village Fete Committee, and Joy, as fete organiser, and a rival for the position of Chairman. After a few years break, Ruth Walton is treading the boards again as the Chairman's wife.

We're also very grateful to Jan Freeman, a local artist, for building us a huge marrow!

Come and enjoy the plot, the humour and witness a murder on stage. It's all clean fun, though probably children 10 years plus will appreciate the humour most. Doors and bar opens 7.30 pm, curtain up 8.00pm on Thursday 16th, Friday 17th and Saturday 18th May, Harbury Village Hall. Tickets on sale from 20th April, £7.00 and £5.00 concessions, available from Cana Wines, Country Fayre, or tel 613488.



Folk Club

Ian Hartland

Some of the best dressed performers in Harbury turned out for the 340th Folk Club, whose theme was "Clothes". Now comfortably established in the excellent function room at the Harbury Village Club, we were treated to an evening of fine music that exploited the theme in so many ways.

First up were The Harvesters with "Goin' Down the Road Feelin' Bad" and then Bob Dylan's suitably relevant "Boots of Spanish Leather". Des was next and gave us a wonderful song about "The Bloomin' Computer's Down" and half of "Blood Red Roses" before an unfortunate throat tickle obliged him to postpone further singing until later. Ray and Anne played "House of the Rising Sun" and then Tom Paxton's "Victoria Dines Alone". Or would have done if they had brought the right crib-sheet onto the stage. They again chose

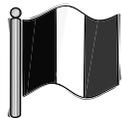
to complete their performance later. Rick was on next and gave us his "Tapestry" and then an excellent version of Jake Thackray's "Sister Josephine", about a nun with strange habits. Maureen and Janny amply met the theme with the traditional song "Gown of Green" and then the lovely "How Should I Your True Love Know?" Norman Wheatley had driven from Redditch to be with us, and gave us Kris Kristofferson's "Sunday Morning Coming Down" and then his own humorous song "Out of Africa". The first half was brought to an excellent close by Ted and Sue with "Sovay, Sovay" who dressed herself in man's array, and Bertel Brecht's charming and erudite "Life of a Soldier".

The second half kicked off with the Harbury Folk Club Choir For All Seasons (we must find a snappier name!) with the emotionally charged Sankey hymn "Only Remembered" from the score of "Warhorse" and then Carla Sciacky's "And I Will Sing". Peter McDonald followed with Huw William's "We Stayed Awake" and then a song that struck a chord with so many of a more senior vintage about saying the same thing twice. Newcomer Steve played some excellent blues guitar and sang James Taylor's "Steamroller Blues" and followed it with Eric Bibb's "Pocket in My Heart". We hope he returns before too long. Peter Mason then gave us his excellent version of Steve Tilston's "Slipjigs And Reels" and then a song called (I think) "The Setting". Martin Day followed with his humorous Cowboy Poem and then sang the poignant "St James Infirmary", with Ted on harmonica accompaniment. Terry was next with his nostalgic version of "Careless Love" followed by Elizabeth Cotton's timeless classic "Freight Train". With room for one more song before the second break, Rick gave us "Two Jolly Butchers", which is full of references to clothes (or the lack of them!).

The third half opened with The Harvesters with Si Kahn's "Wild Rose of the Mountain" which mentions brand new shoes. Des followed with the rousing shanty "Sharp as Razors" and was followed by Ray and Anne who successfully negotiated their Tom Paxton song from the first half. Peter McD. was next with his ukulele and skillfully performed a medley of "Dream a Little Dream of Me" and "I'll See You In My Dreams". Martin followed with his Simon and Garfunkel tribute "The Sound of Hohner" about melodeons. Terry then gave us his excellent "Monday Morning Blues" and the evening was brought to a splendid conclusion by Ted and Sue with "Female Drummer Boy", complete with obligatory female drummer.

The evening's raffle was for the British Heart Foundation and raised a healthy (or should that be hearty?) £65.00. I shall have completed the first Warwick Castle Half Marathon on Sunday 17th March by the time you read this and the raffle proceeds will go to the BHF which is organising the event.

The next Harbury Folk Club will be on Thursday 4th April and will be hosted by Des and Debbie. Their theme will be "Liberty, Equality and Fellowship". If you are thinking about coming along to the Folk Club, think no further but come along on any first Thursday at The Village Club. You'll receive a warm welcome and more change in your pocket from the bar than you might expect!



Harbury Twinning Association

Andrew Patick

Twining Association

A big *MERCI BEAUCOUP!* to everyone who attended and helped at our Coffee Morning on 9th March. Thanks to your support, the very creditable amount of £175 was sent to the Village Hall Development Fund.

The following weekend sealed France's wooden spoon in the Six Nations rugby championship, but we won't dwell on that, shall we? We'll attempt to drown French sorrows at our next event, the April skittles evening.

Preparations for receiving our visitors from Samois are simmering steadily, and with any luck should be ready to serve by 17th May. *SANTÉ!*

Andrew Patrick



Harbury Juniors Football

Steve Darby

Under 7's - Steve Darby

The weather again disrupted training but we managed to take our group of Year 1 and 2 boys to Wellesbourne where eight 5-a-side games were played against a very mature collection of Year 2 Wellesbourne boys. All of the Harbury boys acquitted themselves well with at least one win, several close matches and a couple where we were overwhelmed. For several of the Harbury boys, this was their first ever competitive fixture and was a good experience for them. Trophy's were awarded to Sam for his bravery after taking a nasty knock on his thigh followed by an elbow on his cheek (Sam had only just joined the team and is new to football so this was a painful initiation for him) and Charlie for his determination, effort and strong tackling against much bigger boys.

Under 10's Colts - Steve Burnell

Harbury Colts 3 vs Whitnash 5 16th March 2013 (League)

This was anticipated to be the clash of the season with the top two teams competing for the league title. Harbury started well and evenly matched our opponents, however every time Whitnash broke they scored as a result of some calamitous errors, and within 15 minutes Harbury were 0 vs 5 down though not actually playing too badly. With the Colts attempting to determine what had occurred, Harbury started to play and strung some passes together through inter play and made some good advances on goal. In time persistence paid and Beau S pulled one back for Harbury just before half time.

Reorganised and re-motivated Harbury went out for the second half and they came out of the blocks fast. It was all Harbury as they played football on the ground and Whitnash rarely touched the ball. Jack P had little to do, Oscar B covered every blade of grass, Ollie K and Joe D played well albeit they missed their wing lady Millie T, Morgan F harassed and hassled their midfield and Josh B played some nice balls into the forwards. Ten minutes in Josh B hit a tremendous 20 yards strike with nothing to pull another one back for Harbury. Jack D played well also with Luca W having the game of his life chasing every ball pulling back a third albeit it was a mountain to climb and Whitnash just held on despite Harbury's endeavours. A great show of character from Harbury and what a game for the independent supporter. All were impressed by Harbury's determination, attitude and come back but it just wasn't to be ours on this occasion.

Under 12's - Woody

Balsall and Berkswell Hornets Colts 3 vs Harbury 3

In a tough, physical match the ever reliable Riley opened the scoring in the first half, but Balsall equalised before Adam scored to send us into the break 2:1 up. In the second half Harry smashed one in from the edge of the penalty area, but Balsall scored twice to bring the scores level and gain a hard-earned draw.

Central Ajax 4 vs Harbury Under 12s 0 (Cup Semi-Final)

On a bitterly cold day Harbury started the first half well but Ajax pinched an early breakaway goal and although Harbury didn't play the good flowing football that we know they can play, they went into the break only 1:0 down. Harbury were much better in the second half and played with much more shape and discipline but Central Ajax were too strong and scored another three goals to win 4:0 although that wasn't a true reflection on the balance of play.

Harbury Under 12s 2 vs Balsall and Berkswell Hornets Colts 1

The match was almost called off due to the snow, but fortunately this cleared in time for kick off. Harbury started well, but were caught on the break and Balsall Colts scored an early goal to take the lead, but soon Harry popped up to curl a left footer past the Colts keeper to equalise. The second half was very even until the Colts were awarded a penalty, but once again Jordan proved unbeatable from the penalty spot and saved. This lifted the whole Harbury team and later that half, Riley ran on to a beautiful through ball and curled an exquisite shot over the despairing keeper for the winner.

A diary date for all parents - the club presentation evening will be held on Saturday 15th June at the Village Hall, full details to follow nearer the date.



Harbury Junior Netball Club

Beccy McDaid

It seems impossible that a full season has come and gone! We have survived the snow, rain and wind and have come out the other side with big smiles on our faces☺. Seven teams and over 50 matches later and Harbury Junior Netballers can hold their heads up high. We have had our busiest and most exciting season ever.

Leading by example, our most senior junior team the U16 A team finished third only losing to 1st and 2nd placed teams in their league. The whole team have played brilliantly individually and as a team and have really shown the true spirit of a TEAM (together everyone achieves more). The girls have been a pleasure to coach and I am very emotional about saying good bye to them all as junior players but very excited about welcoming them to the heady heights of senior netball. Congratulations to Katie Knowles, Jodie Simpson, Sally Harward, Polly McDaid, Ellie Potter, Scarlet Wakelin and Sophie Heritage on a fantastic season.

The U16 B team have equally had a very successful season. Finishing ninth in a very competitive league is a great achievement and, put into context, they came second out of the U15 teams entered in the U16 league; this bodes very well for next season. We are really looking forward to consolidating the strong finish of this season to a fabulous season next year. Well done to Megan Brain, Lucy Cramp, Hattie Rowe, Sian Chapel-Hyam, Ellie Parker, Nicky Sykes, Kate Barney and Savannah Palmer.

I move on to the U14s, two super teams. It is with great pride that I can tell you that the U14 A team finished winners of their league winning every league match and amassing an amazing 380 goals scored to 81 conceded! This just shows the enormous talent we have throughout this whole squad. An extremely well deserved first place. Huge congratulations to Charlotte Webster, Isobel Folkes-Skinner, Nicky Simpson, Bethan McDaid, Paige Adams, Katie Butlin, Chloe Young and Lauren Mann.

Not to be out shone the U14 B team finished third only 1 point behind second placed Leamington. A fantastic result. This team have grown in confidence throughout the season and have really stamped their determination on many of their matches. Showing just what can be achieved with hard work and dedication. Very well played to Lydia Folkes-Skinner, Emily Tedds, Ellie Rowe, Jade Childs, Jessica Morrice, Hayley Grey, Lydia (Syd) Crofts, Maddy Wakelin and Chelsea Kempton.

And still we go on! The U13 teams have had a very mixed season.

The U13 A team started very strongly really playing some excellent netball. As the season progressed a slight lack of self belief left them finishing fifth - a good result against some very strong teams. We are very much looking

forward to next season and seeing a more focused and confident team emerge. Well played to Eva Durman, Lauren Kelly, Phoebe White, Connie White, Claudia Ellis-Greenway, Nina Chard and Megan Moss.

The U13 B team and U12 team. This season has been a master class and lesson to every adult involved, coaches, parents and opposition coaches alike on the art of team spirit and positive attitude. Both the U13 B team and U12 team have gone out for each match and played to the very best of their ability. All of the players have kept their heads held high and played to the very end of each match often in horrible weather showing tremendous individual and team spirit. I have been extremely proud of them all and they have taught us all a great deal about the importance of taking part and good sportsmanship. We have certainly seen great improvement throughout the season and I know the girls will take this forward to next season. Special thanks to Ellie Smalley, Izzy McLoughlin and Aimee Brookes who have all really shown great versatility throughout the season. Well played to Megan Wilson, Charlotte McQuistan, Frankie Hadley, Emily Cousins, Ellie Smalley, Izzy McLoughlin, and Aimee Brookes for the U13 B team. Also well played to Rosie Hill, Gwyneth Jones, Chloe Kempton, Sophie Kirk, Caitlin Thomas and Eve Murphy for the U12 team.

Training is continuing until the end of season Tournament to be held on the 28th April. We are looking forward to our last netball push of this season and hope to bring some more trophies away to fill up our Trophy table at our Presentation Evening. Well played to everyone and thank you for your support. ☺



RFU Midlands Junior Final

Harbury 9 Old Yardleians 11

Heartbreak for Harbury as Old Yardleians converted a penalty in the final play of the game to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.

Harbury were utterly distraught as they had taken the lead midway through the second half and were hanging in for the whistle. The game was played in the most appalling of conditions and five hours before kick-off there was some doubt as to whether it would even go ahead. However, the sun came through and a drying wind help to improve the surface. Nonetheless, there was still standing water in certain areas of the pitch. A gang of helpers used forks, brushes and sponges to ensure that the game would indeed take place. Though still very heavy and sticky it enabled both teams to play rugby.

In his match programme notes Harbury President Ian Holroyd aptly commented, that after two previous league matches this season the score line was a one win apiece and that this match would prove to be an 'epic encounter'.



The difficult conditions did create handling problems on occasions for both sides. Harbury playing up the slope were under territorial pressure in the opening exchanges but worked their way into the OY's half and after seventeen minutes were awarded the first of three penalties. Unfortunately, all were narrowly missed and Harbury had nothing to show for their efforts.

Harbury aimed to play an expansive game but a few handling errors on occasions handed the initiative back to OY's. Nonetheless, defence was king and Harbury's big hits across the backline prevented OY's from gaining any real momentum. The set pieces were evenly shared though Harbury had a slight upper hand at the breakdown but a well worked ball was occasionally wasted as players struggled with the conditions.

It was OY's who took the lead on the 27th minute when they exploited a one man overlap and James Hendrick squeezed in the corner. The conversion was missed; OY's added a penalty through White to put his side 8-nil ahead at the break.

Heavy rain had been forecast for mid afternoon and, as if on cue, a downpour made conditions even more difficult for the players. After ten minutes play Tom Secher scored Harbury's first points with a well struck penalty. His side then began to get the upper hand and he added two more penalties to give Harbury a 9-8 lead with just under fifteen minutes to go. The



hosts defended quite superbly as time and again they prevented OY's back line and forward thrusts from getting anywhere.

The final minutes saw OY's desperate to seek the win and two rolling mauls were expertly stopped but following a further drive to the line after a set scrum

Harbury were penalised. With only minutes on the clock, White prepared his conversion which drifted wide. From the 22 kick out OY's attacked again and once more were held up on the line. Harbury were penalised but White's kick once more was unsuccessful.

With the clock now well into the red zone it seemed all that Harbury had to do was to ensure that the 22 drop out was successfully defended. The players were absolutely frozen by this stage and once more OY's attacked and once more Harbury defended exceptionally but the referee adjudged that the tackle was not to his satisfaction and blew for a penalty. Surely White would not miss a third attempt more so as it was on the correct side of the field for a right footed kicker? Indeed he didn't and as the ball scythed the uprights the referee called no side. Joy for OY's and desolation for Harbury.

The game was well played by both teams considering the conditions and well refereed by Ryan Owen and his two Assistant Referees from the Staffordshire Society. Harbury can reflect perhaps on missed chances in the first half but that would be churlish. The whole team and the replacements were superb in their defence and their commitment was outstanding. Congratulations to OY's in their quest for Twickenham glory.



Harbury Tennis Club

Colin and Sue Mercer

www.tennis-today.net/harbury

By the time you read this I'm hoping that Spring has really arrived and we've been able to play our traditional start of season Cheque Book tournament in warm sunshine! Playing activities have been somewhat curtailed by the conditions but there has been some activity for juniors and adults.

Juniors

Hayley Bennett gave us some excellent news about match play that two of Harbury's Juniors have been involved in. Between January and March Jamie Smith and Rhys Bennett took part in the 8 and Under Warwickshire Mini Tennis League. The Club has close links with Shipston Academy and Jamie and Rhys played in the "Shipston B" team with two other players from the Mini Red Performance Squad. The 23 teams who entered were split into groups for the first round. Our team came top of their group by winning all of



Rhys (second from left) and Jamie (far right)

their rubbers (11-3, 11-3, 8-6, 11-3) and secured their place in the semi-finals. Unfortunately they narrowly lost 6-8 to a strong Virgin Active Warwickshire team and finished 4th out of the 23 teams who entered. Despite the disappointment of missing out on the final, the boys thoroughly enjoyed the experience and their match-play has improved significantly. They are both now looking forward to representing the club in the forthcoming Mini Red summer league. Well done to both boys!

Adults

In the Banbury Winter league Harbury are just outside the promotion places in both the leagues. In the Winter league Harbury demolished Middleton Cheney 8-0 with Caroline Morland, Sue Panton, Steve Stark, and Geoff Prince in top form. This was followed by a 5-3 win at Priors Marston when Caroline and Steve were joined by Eira Owen and Colin Mercer. Karen Bristow played her first match of the season at top of the league Kings Sutton with Caroline, Steve and Geoff. This was a very long match with 3 of the 8 sets being settled by tiebreaks with the home team edging the match 5-3.

In the Floodlit league Harbury had two very convincing home wins to move into third place in the league. In the first, against Deddington D, Caroline, Sue, Geoff and Colin overwhelmed their visitors in an 8-0 win. This was followed by a 7-1 win against Brackley D with Steve Fitzgerald replacing Geoff which sets up a very interesting and busy end to the season.

Coaching:

The next round of **Junior** coaching is from the week beginning 8th April until the week ending Friday 13th July, with a break for half term. There are groups every day after school, catering for children aged from 3 to 18 years.

Adult coaching also starts on 8th April, finishing on 6th June, with a break for half term week (27th May – 1st June) There are two groups on Monday evenings. The first is for Beginners/Rusties/Improvers and is open to non-members as well as club members. The following group is for members who want to play more competitively. There is a further adult group on Friday mornings.

Diary Dates

We shall be holding **open evenings** for adults on Thursday 2nd May, and Tuesday 11th June when anyone can come along to the club session and “have a go,” or just watch if you don’t feel too sure. On Saturday 11th May we are having a “Bring a Parent (or 2)” afternoon, when the whole family can come along and take part in some fun tennis activities. Look out for more information about these events nearer the time.

If you would like more details about coaching, joining the Tennis Club or anything else about the club please contact Sue Mercer: sucol-merc@tiscali.co.uk.

Website: www.tennis-today.net/Harbury



1st Harbury Scouts

John Rea, Mark Clifton & Richard Tongue

Another busy term over and we are enjoying a couple of weeks off to recharge our batteries ahead of the summer term. This term we've had traditional Scouting skills, like map reading, woggle-making and night hiking. We've had entertainment with a trip to the Leamington WAGS Gang Show. We enjoyed an informative trip to Leamington Fire station and this week we were lucky to visit Ed Russell on his farm on Middle Road, where he kindly showed us the new lambs and ewes. Other than that we have been simply having fun; plenty of games, some cooking and play-slime making to name a few.



In the February half term we had our now traditional Youth Hostel weekend in the Peak District. Our oldest Scout Alisha takes up the story:

16th February 2013. "We set off from Harbury Scout Hut in the minibus, early on Saturday morning and arrived in the Peak District in Derbyshire at about 10:00am. We did a five mile circular walk starting and finishing in Wetton taking in some caves which, including a stop for lunch, took about

five hours: we were all exhausted at the end of the day! We then drove to our Youth Hostel in Ravenstor and settled in our comfortable rooms. We had a delicious tea and then played games afterwards. Finally, we watched the hilarious film 'Johnny English; Reborn' before going to bed.

Next day, we ate our cooked breakfast and packed all our things (plus the lunch we were given by the hostel) and left to go on our final walk, at the Stiper Stones at the Roaches. After we climbed our way up and over the mountain, we played a search game, where we looked for hidden chocolate eggs in the huge rocks which the Leaders had hidden for us.



Finally, we walked back to the bus and drove to our final destination, the swimming complex 'WaterWorld'; it was fantastic!! But two hours later, we were on the road home, back to Harbury. Despite it being my last trip out with the Scouts, I had a great time in Derbyshire!"



Harbury Toddler Group

Rosemary Scott

We've been busy during March at Toddler group with lots of craft activities including making Mothers Day cards with daffodils on for Mother's Day.

We also had a trip to a farm in Radford to see lots of new born lambs which was a lovely morning out for both mums and children.

The children also had an Easter egg hunt, hunting for paper cut outs which were then exchanged for real chocolate eggs at the end of the session.

I will be stepping down from running the group at the end of April and we are looking to recruit a new leader, or group of people. If you are interested in running the group or coming along as a volunteer to help out then please let me know - harburytoddlergroup@gmail.com. You might have older children that are now at school and would like to fill your Monday mornings.

If you are interested in joining us at Toddler Group we are always pleased to see newcomers. We have lots of toys each week as well as play dough and another craft activity. 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.



Harbury Pre-School

Staff & Committee

Under the Sea: With the second half of the spring term being so short, there was a great deal to fit in before we broke up for Easter. Immediately after half term, we started our "Under the Sea" theme with a fantastic trip to the Sea Life Centre in Birmingham. The children with their mums, nannies, grandparents and the Pre-School staff all enjoyed seeing the wonderful underwater world and learning about all kinds of creatures, from sharks to seahorses, and jellyfish to otters. After a picnic lunch and a play, we boarded the coach for the return journey, full of ideas for recreating the theme at Pre-School.

The children soon got to work, producing some fabulous artwork and collages inspired by their visit. The role play area was turned into an "under the sea" grotto, with sea creatures and treasure to find. A special treasure chest was made and filled with all kinds of trinkets, there were sea creatures and shells to be counted and sorted on the maths table and treasure was even to be found in the sand tray. There were wonderful stories about sea creatures to be read and large cardboard boxes and crates made great boats in the outdoor classroom.

Pebble Points, Fish Scales and Easter Nests: During the term, the children have been earning “pebble points” (which evolved into shiny “fish scales” following Anne's reading to the children of the Rainbow Fish story and his kindness in eventually sharing out his beautiful scales). These are awarded for desirable behaviour such as being kind, good sharing and so on and, when they achieve their target, the children are rewarded with a special treat. This term they were delighted to be able to make edible Easter nests. Working in small groups, they crumbled shredded wheat and watched as squares of chocolate melted over hot water, before mixing the two together and pressing them into paper cases to make nests. They were especially delighted when they were able to choose chocolate eggs to put in them. Some nests even made it home!

Mothers' Day: During Chinese New Year, the children had made Mother's Day cards inspired by Chinese watercolour paintings. They then added their own messages to the cards and to a small black and white photograph of themselves, which was then made into a lovely key ring gift.

Physical: Despite the cold and often wet or snowy conditions, the children continued to enjoy their outdoor play and, in particular, the obstacle courses that were set up where they could practise balancing, jumping off an object, climbing the steps on the slide using alternate feet and slithering through a small space.

The Easter Story: We were very grateful to the Reverend Annie, ably assisted by Gill Guilford, who came to tell us about the Easter story, using an egg box with the contents of the eggs as props. These included a donkey that Jesus rode upon, silver coins that paid for the betrayal, a piece of bread for the last supper, a tiny crown of thorns, and a stone that blocked the entrance to the tomb. The children listened intently and at the end of the story, each took a turn putting the props back into the eggs and replacing them in the box. Afterwards, the children were able to tell us about the twelve items as well as all about the chocolate they hoped to get from the Easter bunny!

Thanks: As well as to Annie and Gill, our thanks go to Sunny Dev and his father for painting our outdoor seating shelter with preservative and to Paul Cockell for rebuilding and painting the outdoor blackboard, as well as carrying out running repairs on the plumbing. Pre-School relies on its parents and volunteers to keep its fixtures and fittings in working order and we are very grateful to everyone who gives their time and expertise in this way.

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. Please note that, although the starting age for Pre-School is two years nine months, your child is never too young to be registered – we are already nearly full for summer term 2014 and are filling up very fast for the school year 2014-15.



Windmills
Nursery School

Nursery School Staff & Committee

Windmills Nursery is situated in the grounds of Harbury Primary School. 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 website at www.windmillsnursery.co.uk, call Tina/Sally on 07906 519148 (nursery mobile) or Katharine on 01926 613084 (admin).

**** Special offer for summer term 2013, buy one afternoon and get the second afternoon free (excludes lunch period)**** Please ring the Administrator on 01926 613084 for more information.

In Nursery



Extending the theme of Chinese New Year the children have been treated to visits at Nursery from some of the animals from the Chinese zodiac. Summer's nanny and father brought in two Labrador puppies, Mrs Houghton visited with her rabbit Snoopy and Tracey brought in Monty the pet python. At each visit the children listened well and were able to hold or stroke the animal. Windmills staff were especially proud when every single child had a go at touching the snake and they showed great care when holding all the animals. Thank you to Mary and

Gary Cheesman, Cassie Houghton and Tracey Pettipher for taking time out to visit Windmills Nursery this half term and show the children their animals.

We also had a special visit from Evan's new baby brother Fraser who was just a few weeks old. Evan proudly showed his little brother to his friends at nursery and his mummy kindly spoke to the children about looking after a baby.



In French the children have been learning some numbers and looking at animals found in a zoo or farm. This extended to animals associated with Easter and provoked a session on carrots where the children planted some seeds in a big trug which will grow during the summer term and give the children the opportunity to learn about growing and caring for plants. The children also made their own cress heads to take home and enjoyed a tasting with carrots and cress.



The children regularly enjoy mixing flour and water to create things such as play dough, or pancakes on Pancake Day. They have been driving construction vehicles through porridge oats and making penguin skittles to knock down. They have produced some wonderful pictures inspired by observational drawings of wheels, had fun with primary colours, created spring blossom artwork and participated in sessions involving music and motion.

Out and About

There have been some exciting adventures from Nursery for the children including some around the school grounds and others out and about in Harbury. The children were taken on a trip to see Mrs Houghton's new baby rabbits that were a few weeks old. In Woodland School they have been going out on nature walks enjoying the flora and fauna around.



Easter

Reverend Annie and Gill Guilford entertained the children with the story of Easter; thank you to both of them for coming to visit the children and for the informative way they translated the story to the children.

The children have been making Easter cards to take home and decorated an egg for the Easter egg hunt. The last day of term was the Easter party where the children enjoyed some party food and played a variety of games.

A story sent in from home by one of our children who was inspired by the Easter story:

Thomas' Version of the Easter Story

Jesus got some money.

He rode on a donkey – you might think it's the Christmas story but it's not!

He had a crown, it wasn't gold it had spikes.

They rolled a big stone and after 3 days they rolled it away and Jesus had gone to help God.

Windmills Nursery is closed for the Easter holidays and reopens on **Monday 8th April** at 9.05am.



Harbury Primary School

David Cousens

Let's Get Cooking Accreditation - Well done to our Cooking Club which has been awarded the Annual Certificate of Accreditation from the Children's Food Trust. This is awarded in recognition of our 20 club members learning 165 new cooking skills and taking part in three community cooking events. Many thanks to Mrs Rea and Miss King for organising and running the club.

Comenius – Recently, twelve teachers from Finland, Spain, France and Germany visited our school and worked with the children. Among the things the children learnt was a French song about a snail, a traditional Spanish dance entitled 'Chuh, Chuh Wah', they discovered which wild animals you may find in Finland and also made traditional Easter decorations with the German teachers. The children had a fantastic time during this valuable experience and really enjoyed seeing the work each class had completed in our Comenius assembly.



Harbury Adults' Running Club - Our running club has been up and running for a number of months now but please feel free to come any week to join in - we will be running from 3.45pm each Friday and meet in the reception area.

However, if you can't come and join in, the team is taking part in the Regency Run to raise money for the PTA and we have set up

a fundraising website. Please feel free to give generously <https://mydonate.bt.com/events/harburypta10k> . This link can also be found on the school website.

Mid-day Supervisor Cover - We are looking to recruit somebody who would be willing to cover a midday supervisor as and when we require it. For more information please speak to Mrs Wilson in the office.

Netball Report by Gina - On Thursday 28th February the netball team played an exciting game against Long Itchington. We won 6 - 2 with Gina scoring four, Emily scoring one and Lauren scoring one. We all did long and accurate passes to get up the court in a matter of seconds. By half-time we were four - nil up. Well done girls, you played fantastically and many thanks to Mrs Kluth for taking the training and organising the fixture.

Dates for the diary: 16th April – Class photos, **24th June** – Teacher Training Day, **26th June** – Year 6 Secondary School Induction Day, **27th June** – Reception Class at Ryton Pools

Well, the Spring term seems to have rocketed by and the Easter break is almost upon us. It's always good to see daffodils blooming, as they are at least hinting at the warmer weather to come!



During February, we had our Coffee Morning in the Tom Hauley room which raised a total of £230. This was excellent considering the snow we had on the day. The **Cross Country run** has been rescheduled for **13th April**, so please come along and show your support. We will be providing refreshments on the day. PTA Chair Ruth Coulter has stepped down due to the (very) imminent arrival of her baby. Katharine Giblin has now taken up this position instead, and we wish her well with this. Ruth will remain on the PTA as an Officer.

We are thrilled to announce that £3,500 has been raised for the purchase of some much needed audio visual equipment. The next big project is our outdoor area and designs are currently being looked at.

The summer term promises to be busy with a **Beer Walk on 16th June** and our **Summer Fayre on 6th July**. We hope to see you there! We are also really pleased to be able to tell you that we are running this year's **Victorian Street Fayre**, which will be held on **5th October**, so pop it in your diary now! Further details to follow.



Village Hall Update

Chris Finch

Two major fund-raising events down and one to go!! The third event, the **Auction of Promises**, programmed for April 27th at 7.30pm promises to be an evening with a difference, as CANA Wine are offering a **wine-tasting session** during the evening and a cold platter will be included in the £10 price of the ticket. There are over **40 auction lots** on offer and the variety is such, that there will be something to appeal to every member of the family. There is the chance for a youngster who may plan to become a vet to have a day working with either a cat and dog vet or a horse vet; for those who have a gastronomic interest - a Bed & Breakfast opportunity or a ready prepared breakfast; lots of sausages, home-made cakes offered on six occasions and vouchers for meals at both the Crown Inn and the White Hart in Ufton. For the more adventurous, there is a lesson in a Piper aircraft, a chance to imagine landing a Boeing aircraft in a flight simulator and tickets on Virgin Rail for a long distance journey throughout the UK, as well as the opportunity to have the use of a BMW for a weekend. There's so much to choose from that the organisers intend to put a leaflet through each door advertising the superb lots of offer, so that supporters of the event can make decisions about which lots might 'take their fancy' and plan accordingly. There will be posters around the village advertising this exciting venture, which has been planned in support of the final push for **OUR VILLAGE HALL** with the development of a permanent stage and new changing room facilities to accommodate a range of sporting activities.



The Big Band concert last month was a sell out and music enthusiasts were treated to a wide range of musical styles by the 20 members of the Coventry band. There was a standing ovation for the band at the end of the evening, which drew additional performances of well known musical and jazz tunes. The 'light food' prepared by Lin Hayes and her helpers turned out to be

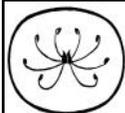
a splendid repast of salad, jacket potato and a variety of hot fillings, as well as a choice of mouth-watering desserts. As many commented at the end of the night, it was a 'small price to pay for great entertainment and good food'.

Moving Pictures presents Skyfall



The Moving Pictures presentation of Skyfall also attracted an impressive number of movie-goers, who were greeted with a glass of fizz on arrival and a fish and chip supper at the interval. Several villagers had entered into the spirit of Bond movies and there were Daniel Craig lookalikes in DJ's (aided by Masquerade masks), as well as chic Bond women in elegant evening dresses and lots of sparkle! This month's picture is **Great Expectations**, starring Helena Bonham-Carter and Ralph Fiennes and again fizz and fish will be included in the £12 ticket price. For those who may just want to see the film, it will be possible to turn up on the night – 13th April at 5.30pm to see if there are seats available for the film which starts at 6.00pm.

This month also sees the AGM of the Village Hall timed for **7.30pm on 16th April** and an invitation is extended to anyone who fancies being a member of either of the two committees at a most exciting, but challenging period for **OUR VILLAGE HALL**. The improvements which have been made over the past few years have drawn very complimentary comments from new hirers about the re-developed toilets and completely modernised kitchen and already three weddings have been booked for this summer on the strength of the very competitive price and attractive facilities. The COMMITTEES will be delighted to see new volunteers – so join us if you can??



Horticultural Society

Judy Morrall

Another full house for our March meeting, a welcome return visit from Adrian James. His topic this time was Courtyard Gardens. He is in fact a garden photographer and many of his pictures are published in well known magazines. He opened his talk by taking us to India and a view of the Taj Mahal. It is worth reminding ourselves that this is in fact a tomb built by Shah Majon in memory of his beloved wife. It took 22 years to build and the gardens surrounding it are in the traditional Islamic courtyard style. Strong features with four quadrants, a canal and very straight rills leading off it. Lots of citrus trees and exuberant planting.

We were then transported to Spain, to Condiber which is very Moorish with the design encouraging contemplation and quiet. Paradise gardens were the trend and lots of pots full with a riot of colours for the festival which lasts for a week in May, shady courtyards, very tall lemon trees and all of these features are lit up at night. The palace of Alhambra with Moorish architecture showed a huge courtyard with the typical water feature and colourful mosaics. The predominant colours are blue and yellow and miniature mosques are very ornately decorated. A hotel in Seville had the courtyard surrounded by arches and tiles with vibrant red and blue colours. A wonderful place to stay and enjoy the gardens, again lit up at night.

In Jerez, famous for sherry, a very glamorous garden was seen, the usual corners and fountain and rills, this time with a star shaped pool, very cleverly

built and so colourful. In Morocco the features were similar, but this time we saw a rectangular garden and lots of marble, the only thing which spoilt it was the smog!!! The markets ablaze with all sorts of spices, carpets, ornaments and gorgeous hanging lamps. Adrian was looking for a particular garden which he found on his last day at the end of an alley which opened up to reveal raised star shaped beds - it was gradually being neglected but you could sense the grandeur with magnificent tiles.

After the dazzling sights of the East we then came back to England and you can see in many houses the influence of these gardens. Monastic gardens (particularly the ones at Gloucester cathedral) are similar with courtyards but many of these would have had herbs for medicinal use. We saw cloister gardens at Westminster Abbey, another good example. The garden history museum in London shows much of the Tredescants influence of the 16th and 17th centuries with knot gardens dating from 1570. Nearer to home the gardens at Boughton House, which we visited some years ago when Monique Pace was there, have a Tudor style knot garden and all the elements of a courtyard garden.

Of course we can't forget Seizincote which we visited for one of our evening trips. These gardens of pleasure and paradise have rills and a canal and a huge orangery. A modern courtyard garden at Bosvigo near Truro in Cornwall is a great example of this style of garden. I have visited here and it is a stunning garden unlike typical exotic Cornish gardens. Raised beds surrounding a canal and rills and seating, fabulous. Wollerton Old Hall - again we have had an outing there - is another fine garden with courtyard features. We also had a fabulous cream tea here!!!! Andrew Lawson the photographer whose garden is in the Cotswolds has box hedges surrounding a canal, a new take on an old theme.

London open squares are another great place to head for to see examples of Moroccan styles. Look for these squares open weekends in the summer...well worth a day out. We saw more English gardens which reflect the courtyard style and finished with a lovely one belonging to a friend of Adrian's, a potter with his premises in his garden and canal and rills etc, how lovely to work at your craft and then go out and relax in a courtyard garden...perfect. We all enjoyed Adrian's talk and his knowledge and stunning photos. He has added more to his list of talks so I look forward to another visit from him. He is also opening his own garden near Evesham later in the year for the NGS, I will let you know dates etc, nearer to the time.

By the time you read this we will have had our April meeting on the 2nd so the last meeting is on Tuesday 7th May when Derek Walker will be making his third visit to us and will be giving a demonstration of hanging baskets and troughs with plants for sale.

I have places on both day trips so if anyone is interested in joining us please let me know, you will be very welcome. The first is on Wednesday 12th June

to Stourhead Landscape gardens and house, then in the afternoon to Great Chalfield Manor, both stunning gardens with a guided tour of the second house. Both are National trust properties so the cost is £15 if a member or £22, we leave Village Hall at 8.30am. The second is on Wednesday 10th July to Burford House and Gardens near Tenbury Wells, a fabulous collection of clematis and much more, then, in the afternoon to Westonbury Water Gardens near Leominster, with many unusual water features and follies. Cost will be £20, leave Village Hall at 9.00am. Lunch and teas available on both trips or you can bring a picnic. Looking forward to both of these trips.

Hopefully it WILL BE warmer in April so here are a few places etc you may wish to visit. At Spetchley Park near Worcester there will be a plant fair on Sunday 21st April from 11.00am to 5.00pm. Thirty plus exhibitors plus a marquee which will be manned by the RHS college from Pershore who will be on hand for advice etc. Cost is £5 and there is a very good restaurant here now. The gardens too are very well laid out. Talking of Pershore College on 17th April at 7.30pm Keith Wiley will be giving a talk entitled Widside.taking naturalistic planting to a new level. Keith developed The Garden House in South Devon then moved nearby and created his own garden. Both of these are spectacular. If in the RHS the cost is £7 or £8.50.

Under the NGS here are just a few for April...4 Poden Cottages in Honeybourne will be open on 15th and 16th from 2.00 to 5.00pm. The cost is £3. A cottage style garden with all year colour. Ilmington Gardens just down the Fosse Way will be open on Sunday 7th from 2.00 to 6.00pm and cost is £5, eight gardens will be open and teas available in the Village Hall. Next to the garden centre at Farnborough. Wildwood will be open on Wednesday 24th from 2.00 to 5.00pm and cost is £3. A half acre garden with trees, shrubs and some unusual rustic garden features.

White Cottage in Earls Common Road, Stock Green, near Inkberrow will be open on Saturday 15th from 11.00am to 5.00pm and cost is £3. There are two acres with herbaceous plants, shrubs, a stream, spring and woodland gardens too. Lastly at Upton Wold near Moreton in Marsh on A44 then A424 the garden will be open on Sunday 21st from 11.00am to 5.00pm, a little dearer at £7.50 but well worth it for the amazing views and a collection of unusual trees and shrubs, a wildlife area and woodland and much more. Also don't forget to come to Upton House and Gardens from the middle of the month to see the display of tulips.

I do hope that you are able to visit any of these and that we can look forward to enjoying our own gardens with the lighter nights a bonus. Looking forward to seeing you at the meetings.

Call for Open Gardens

We are now organising the Open Gardens to be held on 1st and 2nd June, but are struggling to find enough people willing to open their garden. Please help us to make this a worthwhile event - I'm sure there must be some lovely

gardens out there. We also hope lots of people will join in by making scarecrows. If you want yours included on the Open Gardens programme, please let me know by 4th May. Please contact me if you need to know anything about opening your garden or to find out about the scarecrow hunt.

Margaret Commons, Tel: 613963



Garden Jottings from Bridge Nursery

Christine Dakin

Is it spring yet? Or are we going straight into summer? Whatever the weather is doing it is a busy time of year and, even if you are very organised, there will be much to do in the garden this month. Fortunately there has been some respite from the rain in March so a considerable amount of cutting back and tidying up has been done. As I write this in the middle of March I find that the ground is still very sticky which isn't really good for doing any planting. So I will delay getting new plants planted for another week or so.

There was one beautiful day last week when we were able to sit outside and have our lunch in the sunshine. The thermometer in the polytunnel measured a high of 22C and a low of -1C. Too much of a contrast in temperature for my poor plants.

Jobs for this month include the following:

- Prune roses
- Plant potatoes, broad beans, onions
- Sow carrots, peas
- Divide snowdrops and spread them around your garden
- Dead-head daffodils and leave them to die back naturally
- Prune early flowering shrubs like forsythia after the flowers have finished
- Maybe give the lawn a feed
- Smarten up the edges of borders by using a half-moon edger
- As always, keep up with the weeding.

Bridge Nursery garden is open for the National Garden scheme from 1st April, every day from 10am-4pm.

Bridge Nursery, Tomlow Road, Napton
Tel: 01926 812737
www.bridge-nursery.co.uk



Nature Notes

John Hancock

Since last month's article it seems that little has changed out there. The temperature on Sunday 24th March barely rose to 2C and, with a stiff north easterly breeze, the wind chill made it feel more like -4C. Snow blanketed our villages and although there will be a gradual thaw, temperatures will not reach double figures this side of Easter. Perhaps by the time you read this, it will be more clement. Spring, when it comes, is likely to lift off at speed. Don't miss it.

Yes, signs are there now but lying low. Snowdrops are going over, daffodils are beginning to show and in sheltered places primroses are in flower. There is a cornucopia of spring flowers in the grounds of Woodside in Ladbroke where the garden comes down to the stream. In the undulating pasture towards the Church, lambs were busily 'exploring' their environment. I found my first violets of the year while cycling along the Wey Navigation towpath in Surrey on the 15th March. There was Coltsfoot in small groups brightening the journey. This fascinating waterway predates the canal age by about 100 years, being opened between Guildford and the Thames in 1653. It was collaboration between Sir Richard Weston, a Royalist, and a Cromwellian officer, no doubt a wise precaution in those revolutionary times. Going 100 miles south makes a huge difference to flowering times and the emergence of hibernating species. Down in Bath, for instance, we saw our first frogspawn of the year in a pool at our grandchildren's primary school.

On February 20th, I asked you to let me know when you saw a butterfly and if possible which species. After the magazine appeared, I began to get your replies. Tuesday 5th March dawned cold but clear with a hard frost. However a warm wedge of air pushed up from the Azores and by afternoon we were experiencing temperatures in the low teens. The blossom was coming out on the trees along Willes Road and there were Lesser Celandine in flower at the edge of Welches Meadow. At Snitterfield Bushes Nature Reserve I saw several Peacock butterflies and more against the warming masonry of Stratford Hospital. When I got home, I received messages from several readers to report Brimstone butterflies on the wing. The Peacock, with wings closed, mimics bark and hibernates in hollow trees. If roused by a predator it can open its wings when the 'eye' spots and furry body say 'owl' – beware. The Brimstone at rest mimics an ivy leaf, the perfect camouflage. Since then it's been almost downhill. David Brown at Charlecote has felt no need to set up his moth trap because the cold nights mean little is flying. He told me that this time last year, we had temperatures of 20C and he would have dozens of moth species to identify each morning.

Siskins are finches I had not seen before. Alan and Betty Barr invited me to their house when I met them at yesterday's coffee morning. Siskins were coming frequently to a bird feeder in a neighbour's garden.

Sitting in Alan and Betty's conservatory with a cup of tea, we trained our binoculars on a Sycamore tree and waited. There were chaffinches a plenty, a robin, house sparrows, greenfinches and then suddenly "There's one" said Alan. I swivelled my glasses and glimpsed a finch-like bird but have to say I'm relying on Alan to prove it was a Siskin. This species has spread south from its heartland in the old Caledonian pine forest of Scotland. Birds here however are probably winter visitors from northern Europe.

You may have noticed down at Harbury Spoilbank Nature Reserve, near the Great Western, that there is a small flock of sheep in residence. There are also two goats. Earlier in the winter I had a 'phone call to say a goat had been run over and was lying in the road. As it was dark this was causing a traffic hazard. Next day, when I saw the animal, it had been moved to the layby by the police. It was in fact a young fallow deer with budding velvety horns. Sad, but I was relieved the goats had not escaped.

Today, a pair of great tits are flying back and forth taking nesting material to the bird box in the apple tree. Our flora and fauna are slowly moving us toward spring. Who knows what next month will bring?



Diamond Wedding



Congratulations to Alan and Eileen Dronfield (nee Reeve) who recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. They received a card from the Queen and had a meal to mark the occasion with members of their family.

Editors



Blood Donors

The next session in Harbury will be on Monday 22nd April. The session times are 1.30 – 3.30pm and 4.30 – 7.30pm. Please note that this is a change of date; if you have already made an appointment you may need to check it. To make one, phone 0300 123 23 23 or visit www.blood.co.uk but anyone over 17 and in good health will be

most welcome. Last time's turnout of 117 was especially good; let's hope we can match it. I'm sure I'm not the only person whose friends or family have needed a transfusion to save their lives; what easier and quicker way can there be to give someone a chance of recovery from an accident, surgery or disease? Any questions – ask me on 614809.

Gillian Hare

Jan's Art Classes

I am opening up a class in my studio at Church House, Crown Street, on Monday evenings, 7.30pm - 9.30pm starting on 15th April. If demand is there, I could also open a slot on Tuesday evenings 7.30 - 9.30pm. I have been approached by 3 or 4 beginners in the last few weeks and it would be great to get a group of 7 together. We will start at the very beginning, drawing with a pencil, then charcoal, then pen and wash. This is a 10 week course, after which you will have built up your skill levels and confidence.

This prepares you to tackle the world of colour and composition, and we will explore this for the next two terms, using the dry medium of pastel. We usually follow this with watercolour or acrylic. You don't need any previous experience. I have never come across anyone who I have been unable to help progress, indeed those who feel least able often make the greatest leaps in progress. You can try a lesson and see if it is for you.

Pen and Wash Workshop

I am holding a pen and wash workshop in the studio on Tuesday 9th April, 9.30am-3.30pm. A two course home cooked meal with wine, and refreshments throughout the day and final critique will be provided. Beginners welcome.

If you are interested in either of these opportunities, please phone Jan for more information on 07746 871134/ 614251.

Jan Freeman



Harbury Art Group

Our tutored workshop in March was titled "Urban Landscape", using our own choice of medium. Nick provided a photograph of the harbour view at Tenby, with rows of pastel coloured houses in the background, fishing boats in the foreground, the harbour wall and interesting buildings associated with the fishing industry. Nick had decided to paint a panoramic view of the harbour in acrylics. Some of us followed his lead, and some of us did our own thing – choosing particular areas of the picture to focus on. A lot of hard but rewarding work resulted in a range of interesting interpretations of the scene.

On 7th April we will have a watercolour session learning how to use texture effects with Nick, then on 2nd May our workshop will be using colour pencils. These tutored sessions on the first Thursday of the month cost £15 for the day and the subject is provided. Contact Nick on 01295 276465 for more information.

In between the tutored sessions, a small group of us now meet on the third Thursday of the month for a social painting day – we are a friendly group with mixed ability levels and new members are always welcome to join us. We start at 10am in the Tom Hauley Room and finish at about 2pm, and the cost is usually £5 per person, depending on numbers attending. At these sessions you bring your own subject, but we do have a theme to inspire you – on 18th April the theme is ‘Shadows’ and on 16th May the theme is ‘Sunrise/Sunset’. Contact Pam on 01926 814923 for more information.

A full programme of all workshops is available by emailing harburyart@hotmail.com

Pam McConnell

Coffee Morning for STEPS

On Saturday 20th April, my daughter Helen and myself are holding a coffee morning in the Tom Hauley room at Harbury Church between 10am and 12noon. The coffee morning is to raise money for STEPS, the charity for children with lower limb disorders.

My granddaughter Seren has Bilateral Talipes and is receiving treatment at Coventry University Hospital. We are so grateful for the treatment she is receiving we would like to help other children that are not so fortunate.

We are desperately in need of adult help to make tea and coffee, help sell cakes etc. We would be very grateful for any donations of cakes and raffle prizes.

If you are able to help please ring Isobel Clarke on 613600. Thank you.

Isobel Clarke



Wednesday Walkers

Although I am looking out at snow as I write this, we have to believe that it is now spring and look forward to better weather. In spite of the cold and mud, an average group of a dozen stalwarts continue to walk every Wednesday. The programme, listed in the diary page of this magazine, features a wide range of venues and distances. If you would like to discover lovely countryside almost on your doorstep, in friendly company, you would be most welcome. For more information, phone Gillian on 614809 or turn up in at the Village Hall car park by 9.40am any Wednesday with your boots and a drink.

Gillian Hare

Harbury NSPCC Committee

We are holding another Ladies Lunch on Thursday 23rd May in the Tom Hauley Room. The event start **at 12.30pm** and tickets are priced at **£12.50** which includes a two course lunch plus coffee/tea.

Marion Canning, a local toastmaster is coming along to talk to us about her experiences.

We would be delighted if you could join us. Please telephone Elaine Bruce on 614664 if you are interested in purchasing a ticket.

NSPCC Committee



Harbury Village Library

Harbury Village Library (HVL) is growing! Since asking for donations, more than 500 books have been added to the shelves and can be identified by the blue sticker on the spine and the blue date stamp page inside the cover. These books belong exclusively to HVL and can only be borrowed from and returned to Harbury, as the books have been catalogued onto a computer system which is separate from that used by Warwickshire Library.

If you would like to borrow any of these new books, you will be asked to fill in a short form, in order to comply with the Data Protection Act. Your details can then be put onto the HVL catalogue database and your Warwickshire Library card can be used to borrow books from either system.

Although lots of books have been donated, we are still looking for more! Do you have any books which are only 2 or 3 years old, in excellent condition and which you no longer need? If so, please bring them into the library and hand them to one of the friendly volunteers. If the library is unable to use the books, they will be put onto the exchange shelves just inside the library entrance. Some of the older, but still very good ones, we are going to sell to add to our Buy a Book Fund.

Please note that the Library will be closed for the Bank Holiday on Monday 6th May.

Sue Wurr, Library Volunteer

Biblio's Intern Programme

Are you at school, wanting a part-time job but don't have enough work experience to get a job? We are finalising details of the Biblio's intern programme for students who are in Year 10 and above. This will be a 3 month programme starting in June, and depending on its success, we hope to have a rolling programme throughout the year. More details will be in next

month's Harbury & Ladbroke News. In the meantime, if you are interested drop us an email at biblioscafe@gmail.com and also Like our Facebook page: Harbury Village Library & Biblios Cafe and we will send you advance notice of the launch.

And of course, if you are an adult who wants to build your CV or confidence, or have some spare time, you are always welcome to join the team at any time.

Biblio's Achievements

If you were unable to attend the recent AGM and would like a copy of the Biblio's report, please email us at biblioscafe@gmail.com . One highlight that delighted us is that from mid-May to year - end December 2012 we made £5,500 net. This all goes toward maintaining Harbury Library – our cafe and bakers' team have worked brilliantly well in achieving this result. Huge thanks to them, and also to all our wonderful customers, we couldn't do it without you!

Lynn Macwhinnie, Jill Credland, Bobbie Sharpe

MP visits Harbury Library and Café



**Jeremy Wright with café volunteers
Lynn McWhinnie and Jill Credland
(right)**

Harbury's new volunteer-run library and cafe welcomed a special guest on Saturday when local MP Jeremy Wright held an open surgery there. Villagers were able to tuck into homemade cakes and coffee as they waited to chat to Mr Wright about a range of topics.

"It's great to have a venue like this where people feel relaxed and we can chat informally," he commented. "My open surgeries are a really good way for me to find out more about my constituents' views and concerns, and venues like Harbury Village Library are

allowing me to do this in villages as well as towns. The library and cafe has gone from strength to strength since it opened last summer, with hundreds of readers on its books and almost a hundred volunteers. It is a great example of a community initiative that is not only maintaining a service but enhancing it."

The library is run by villager Christine Rutherford, who is a retired English teacher. She was delighted that Mr Wright was able to use the library as one of his venues and said she hoped he could make the open surgery a regular event there.

The library, which is open five and a half days a week, already hosts a reading group and a writers' group and is available for hire in the evenings. It also runs a Tunes and Tales session for young children on Thursday mornings and has schemes for donating new and used books. For more information visit www.harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk.

Beverley Wright

Movement 2 Music

Recent sessions have attracted a healthy number of participants, so that the group is now solvent and has been able to pay off its bill for hiring the Village Hall. M2M has been running weekly (except the last Thursday in each month) for six months and regular attendees appreciate the range of movements, which challenge coordination and flexibility. There is no joining fee and anyone can attend one of the sessions to see if it might offer the type of exercise which they are looking for. The cost of each session is £2.50 and the last session included an exercise which was similar to line dancing, which was very well received. There is a variety of movements from week to week, although there is a basic pattern of warm up / warm down activities at the start and end of each session. There are both male and female attendees, who follow the trainer's instructions for both standing and seated exercises, (the break is appreciated!), so that no-one needs to feel that a one hour session is too much like hard work! If you want to find out more, please ring Chris 612305 or Jackie 612750.

Chris Finch



Bumps, Bundles and Tots Too

It's been a bumper month at Bumps and Bundles, we have had two celebrations during March, the first being Mother's Day - where we had a bring and share lunch (which included bucks fizz for the mums) and each mum was given a bunch of daffodils to celebrate Mother's Day. And then we had a lovely Easter party, with a small egg hunt for the tots and lots of chocolate cake, Easter nests and goodies for the parents.

We are still continuing to have a nice number of babies and tots every week. If you want to join us, drop in every Tuesday between 10:30am and 12.00 noon at the room at the back of Church, for tea, coffee, toys and chat.

Kelly and Henry

Harbury Senior Citizens' Committee Update - Summer Outing

This year we will be going somewhere slightly different. We have chosen to go to Gloucester on **Wednesday 12th June** and, as it is a bit closer than usual, we will be leaving the Village Hall at 9:15am.

Quoting from the Gloucester tourist office: "Gloucester combines a rich historic past with a modern City and is home to the famous Gloucester Cathedral and Victorian Docks.

The heart of Gloucester is home to excellent shopping centres, museums, wonderful restaurants and pubs. Nearby lies the beautiful Gloucester Cathedral with its 'Great East Window' and 'The Cloisters' - the most complete example in England, and also famously featured in the Harry Potter films.

A short walk from the centre of Gloucester takes you to the famous Gloucester Docks, steeped in over 200 years of history, with 15 Victorian warehouses serving what was once the most inland port in Britain. Over the past few years Gloucester Docks have been restored and redeveloped, giving the city of Gloucester a new dimension. Today it is a vibrant centre of museums, shops and restaurants including the fantastic Gloucester Quays Outlet."

In addition, for those who like the water, you can go on a boat trip either on the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal or the River Severn.

We will be sending out invitations in May and we would like you to return them to Muggleston's Country Fayre by Friday 31st May.

If you are new to the village and think you may be eligible to come along, or you think we may not have you on our list of invitations, please contact Thelma Gulliver on 613269, Julie Clarke on 612066 or me on 612421.

We will also be fundraising at the Carnival again this year by running a tombola stall. If you have any prizes we could use for a tombola we would be grateful for your donations.

Mike McBride

On behalf of the Harbury Senior Citizens' Benefit Association

Harbury Energy Initiative

Harbury Energy Day – Saturday 20th April, 2pm at Harbury School

'Affording Your Future Energy' – with the help of the Year 5 Class!

Riding in the slipstream of your Harbury and Ladbroke News this month speed two leaflets from us that we hope prove useful to you, with an invitation to attend a free event we are organising for the village on energy saving.

Since 2004 energy bills have increased on average by 159%, something you will surely have noticed in your bills. That can hardly be described as an imperceptible rise and energy prices are set to continue to rise for the foreseeable future.

The much-trumpeted recent finding of shale gas will not reduce bills. It is expensive to extract and there isn't much of it in Britain. We will continue to rely on Russia for our gas, the Middle East and countries farther off still for our oil and coal production here is now a fraction of what it was. It will pay, therefore, to invest in efficient insulation for your home. The Green Deal energy assessment completed on our own small house shows that our family can potentially save £350 per annum in the first year of making improvements. This will rise year on year, as energy costs climb inexorably. This year Harbury Energy Day will be about how to reduce energy use rather than about generating energy by wind, earth, air and sun. We will also have people there advising on ways of affording the investment and on schemes to buy energy at a lower price. You will have a chance to put questions to the panel of experts about your home.

Some house owners in Harbury have already packed their lofts and walls with insulation but may have an inefficient boiler or leaky windows and doors; many others will have, as we do, solid walls with no cavity to fill; if so, they may be eligible for special insulation grants. Please do come to hear what you could do to reduce your heating bills. The children of Year 5 have worked with us on a questionnaire which some of you will be asked to fill in for us. They will be presenting the results of this survey on the day. You will also see bright posters round the village about the event designed by these young enthusiasts.

Like the Year 5 pupils, we would like Harbury Energy Day to be a regular, fun event which will involve as much of the village as possible in saving energy, no matter how small the contribution. With this in mind, we want to know whether you or your family have found a novel way of saving energy or have some quirky suggestions to make: if so, we would love to hear about it. Do you use the hamster treadmill to generate energy? Is your loft full of shredded discarded jeans to keep the heat in? Have you invested in more furry pets to snuggle round you in the cold evenings? More sensibly, you could simply park up the car for the day and save fuel! I hope to read out some of the ideas at the event (attributed or not, as you prefer). Send your ideas to shermanbob55@gmail.com or pop them through our door at 8 Church Terrace.

We will also be running a prize draw at the event to offer one lucky person a free Green Deal assessment from our funds.

The second chapter in our personal Green Deal adventure – not quite yet a saga, you'll be relieved to hear – brought us into contact with The Provider. He has, through no design of his own, become a shadowy figure. This is mainly because he hasn't come yet. The Provider makes arrangements for

the work to be done with authorised installers and arranges any finance needed through Green Deal. He planned to come but then the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) had a slight disagreement with the Office of Fair Trading related to inconsistencies between Green Deal financing and the Consumer Credit Act. DECC has now announced that government has released funds to the Green Deal Finance Company, so the story awaits a conclusion. More...maybe... in next month's Harbury & Ladbroke News.

Bob Sherman - 612277

June is soon, Marvel at the Carnival

(Remember Saturday 8th June, 2013)



Definitely no snow for the favourite Dog Show

Don't be moody, enjoy Punch & Judy

Think about your gear, because Carnival is near!

The Big Parade assembles at 12 noon in Sutcliffe Drive to judge your entries.

There are coveted ribbons to be won for the first three places for most categories that include:

- Trade Float
- Independent Float
- Children's Float
- Decorated Bike/Pram/Car
- Horse Drawn/Mounted/Lead
- Walking Tableau Children 2-8 persons
- Walking Tableau Children more than 8 persons
- Walking Tableau Family
- Walking Tableau Adults
- Walking Adult
- Walking Child

Get your creative ideas up and running and prepare to make this a Parade to be hoorayed.

To book a stall/pitch on the field, please call Mike McBride on 612421.

To advertise in the Programme, call Julie Linforth on 613355.

To support the Raffle, call Haidee Powell on 612044.

And, any questions about the Carnival, call John Broomfield, Carnival Committee Chairman, on 614258. He will be happy to provide whatever help he can.

And get your Barrows in!

As we are probably the only Carnival in the World with a Wheelbarrow Race, you are encouraged to take part on Sunday 2nd June. You will need to complete an entry form and pay the entrance fee BEFORE the day. Forms will be available from the pubs and Mike McBride on 612421. And Pub Games Week follows (details in next month's Harbury News).

Don't delay, put it in the diary today!

Peter Walshe

On behalf of the Carnival Committee

Harbury Pre-School Fundraising Group

Thank you to everyone who donated textiles for our Bag2School collection on 24th January. We raised **£220!!**

Recycling: Donations of unwanted electrical leads, mobile phones and used ink cartridges still welcome too.

Pre-School Coffee Morning Saturday 18th May: Please support the Harbury Pre-School coffee morning at the Tom Hauley room on Saturday 18th May. There will be a raffle and face painting for the children as well as plenty of homemade cakes. Any donations of cakes\biscuits would be appreciated. Please bring them to the Tom Hauley room from 9am on the 18th. We hope to see you all there.

Pre-School Fundraising Events for your diary:

- May 18th 2013 – Pre-School Coffee Morning at the Tom Hauley Room
- June 1st 2013 - Cream Teas at Harbury Open Gardens
- June 8th 2013 - Barbecue at Harbury Carnival
- June 14th 2013 - Bag2School Textile Collection

Our recipe book "**90 of Harbury's Favourite Recipes**," full of delicious recipes such as Spanish Fish Soup, Braised Shoulder of Lamb with Apricots

and Lemon and Lime Syllabub, is **on sale at Mugleston's and Harbury Library/Cafe**. All recipes have been sent in by friends and family of Harbury Pre-School and will make a lovely gift for your friends and family or will provide you with inspiration for some new, exciting dishes for your family. All proceeds to Harbury Pre-School.

Thank you for your continued support. For more information about any of the above, or if you would like to join our friendly group, please call Sarah on 07791 807970.

Helen Edwards

Windmills Fundraising Group

THANK YOU to everyone who donated unwanted textiles for our Bag2School collection. Again this has helped us raise money. We will be having another collection later on in the year, so please start saving any unwanted items now. **Dates for your diary:**

Saturday 8th June - Harbury Carnival. Windmills will have a stall at the carnival, so please come along and support us on what is sure to be a fun day for all.

Saturday 29th June - Summer Ball. Details to follow but don't miss out, save the date in your diary. Thank you all for your continued support.

Windmills Fundraising Group

Essential First Aid Course for Adults, Infants and Children

Harbury Village Library including Biblio's Cafe together with Harbury Parish Council is pleased to offer you the opportunity to learn essential first aid skills. There are two dates to choose from:

- Wednesday 17th April 6.30pm for a prompt 7.00pm start
- Saturday 11th May 2.30pm for a prompt 3.00pm start

This course is taught by a professional trainer complete with mannequins to practice and will take approximately 3 hours covering:

- Communication and care of a casualty
- Looking after the casualty and yourself
- Resuscitation
- Bleeding
- Chest Pain
- Choking

- Burns
- Treatment of an unconscious casualty

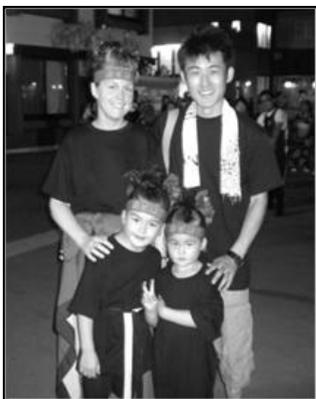
The charge for this course is £25/person, with up to 10 people per course able to attend for a special concessionary rate of £15/person for OAPs, people on benefits etc. You will receive a certificate of attendance and booklet with first aid information.

If you would like to reserve a place please bring full payment and fill in a form available at the library. Due to the limited number of places on each course we can only accept your booking with the payment at the same time. We regret that we are unable to offer refunds unless an alternative candidate is able to take your place.

If you cannot get a place on these courses, or if you cannot attend these dates, please fill in a form anyway indicating your interest. If we have sufficient demand we will hold further courses to meet the needs of the community.

Carolyn Murray

Harbury family move to Japan



By the time this edition of the Harbury & Ladbroke News is delivered to subscribers, the Chiba family will have left Harbury to live in Yokohama, Japan for 18 months. Masa is being seconded to Japan with his work as an I.T. consultant with Deloitte and Ceri, Saffie (9) and Nuala (6) are accompanying him to enjoy a very different life-style from that which they have known in the village for the past seven years.

Ceri grew up in Harbury and attended the Primary school, before moving on to Trinity School and then Cardiff University where she studied Japanese and Spanish. In her final year, she met Masa who was doing a Business Studies course and whilst he went on to complete a Masters at LSE (London), Ceri went off to Yokohama in Japan to teach English. She then moved to Shiga and worked in the local Town Hall translating Spanish for the many South Americans working in the area who did not speak Japanese. Ceri and Masa both returned to England and married ten years ago at Studley Castle, which was identified as a central venue for friends travelling from throughout the UK, as well as for Masa's family who flew in for the occasion.

At first they lived in Buckinghamshire where Saffie was born, but when she was two years old they moved into a cottage in Temple End, which had been

the former home of the well known Harbury artist, Henson Bamford. Both Masa and Ceri wanted to be involved in the type of community life Ceri had known whilst she was growing up in the village and the property became available at just the right time for Masa who was commuting to Milton Keynes in connection with his job. Meanwhile, Ceri had become a part-time Japanese to English translator working for a company based in Oxford.

Nuala was born after Ceri and Masa moved to Harbury and both girls started at Harbury Pre-School and are now at the Primary School, which they intend to keep in touch with when they enrol at their Japanese school in Yokohama. The girls have regularly attended a Japanese group for over 2 hours each Saturday morning in Solihull and have had Japanese lessons, so that they will be prepared for life in their new school and the changes they will encounter. They are both bilingual, as Ceri speaks in English to them at home, whilst Masa talks to them in his own language, so Saffie and Nuala have a headstart, as future translators in at least two languages! When they go to their new school, Nuala will start the first day in Year 1 along with children of her age, but Saffie will be in Year 4 and for a short time will spend time 'catching up'. There are, however, four cousins of a similar age to Saffie and Nuala who will be able to help the girls readjust, as Masa has two sisters who live in Iwate, Northern Japan.

For the past four years the family has spent every summer in Masa's hometown of Ofunato where they enjoy catching up with friends and family and participating in local festivals. Sadly part of Ofunato was devastated by the tsunami which hit Japan two years ago. At the time, Masa returned to his home country and joined the All Hands International Group which worked to clear up houses in the Ofunato area.



Whilst they have lived in Harbury, the family have played a very active role in village life, as Ceri had hoped, and many villagers will have marvelled at Masa's creative talents, which have been demonstrated on Carnival day with superb costumes and incredibly imaginative papier maché models, including the recently constructed Gruffalo, which was taken to a Pre-school session and then to the Primary school during Book Week.

The larger than life sized Gruffalo was made for the Leamington Lantern Parade, whilst Masa also made the Tin Man costume for the Theatre Group production of Wizard of Oz, in which he also took the part of Lord Growley on stage. All the family recently joined the Twinning Association and travelled to France last year and Ceri has been a member of the Hereburgh Morris group for five years and has danced her way around many events, including the

early morning May Day ritual at the Chesterton Windmill. She will miss this year's dance as the family will have flown out to start the next phase of family life in Japan on March 30th. Harbury will wish them well and hope to hear about some of their exploits either via the school or the News.

SAYONARA to Masa, Ceri, Saffie and Nuala.

Chris Finch

Village with a Vision

We would like to say thank you to everyone who came to our recent Coffee Morning in the Tom Hauley Room, which raised £104.66p.

May we also remind you that our AGM will be on Thursday 18th April at 7pm in the Tom Hauley Room; when everyone is welcome.

Tony Stubbs - Chairman

Warwickshire County Council elections - May 2013

Richard Dickson – Liberal Democrat candidate



Who am I? Born and educated in Warwickshire, I moved back to live in the county 23 years ago. I'm married to Kate (a Community Midwife), and have three daughters, all successfully educated at local Primary and Secondary schools.

I've extensive business experience spanning 20 years and have worked at a senior level in a number of well-known companies. Since 2010 I've been leading a Community Foundation which provides grants and loans to local community groups and social enterprises. This has given me a unique insight into the workings of local public sector bodies and the voluntary and community sector.

A former churchwarden, I'm active as a Trustee for my local day centre as well as involved in my local Fairtrade group and have served as Chair of the governing body of the local Primary School.

What do I stand for? I will push for much more collaborative working amongst local Councils, sharing expertise and back-office services. This is the route to efficiency, not cutting frontline services. I'll work to see the current void over a local planning strategy filled, so that local communities have a framework to protect themselves against over-development.

For the local economy, it's vital that more grant funding is available to support small and medium-sized enterprises and that, in its contracts with major

corporates, the County Council ensures that there is proper local social value obtained.

For those people affected by HS2, I'll work hard to get an improved compensation package for those communities and families suffering blight and uncertainty. I also want to see the role of children's centres developed further, integrating their activities with local NHS services. I support the introduction of more 20mph zones around schools and in built-up areas.

Richard Dickson

Bob Stevens Your Conservative County Councillor writes:



It was in 2009 that I was re-elected as your County Councillor and I have had a very eventful four years since then. As deputy leader of the County Council I have been involved and supportive of many of the County Council's successful policies; especially keeping the Council tax increases to a minimum (0% in the past 3 years) and at the same time ensuring real increases in investments in jobs, highway maintenance and Adult Services.

Education results have improved, crime levels have dropped and recycling rates increased. We have met the government's savings target of £60 million over the last 3 years (out of a total budget of £380million). Council staff posts have been reduced by over 1,500 out of the 6,000 who were previously employed (excluding schools). I have led the County Council's opposition to HS2 whilst looking for the best mitigation for our area.

As far as Harbury, Ladbroke and Deppers Bridge are concerned, despite the overall reduction in budgets, I have worked with your Parish Councils, whose meetings I regularly attend, to obtain additional funding to maintain our highways, introduce speed limits, improve the early years centre in the Wight Building, assist village recreational activities and help the library transform from County Council Control to your control.

By attending many of your village events, especially the fetes and carnivals, I have been able to meet you in informal surroundings and then follow up any problems you may be having with local Government bureaucracy. My experience over the years has taught me how to represent individual cases in the best light and achieve satisfactory outcomes for many of you. I look forward to representing you again for a further four years.

Bob Stevens
County Councillor, Feldon Division

Nominations closes after the magazine deadline so there may be other candidates standing on the 2nd May - Editors

Councillor Richard Hamburger



Stratford District Councillor Richard Hamburger (Harbury, Chesterton & Bishops Itchington Ward) has announced his resignation from both the Conservative Group at Stratford-on-Avon District Council and the Conservative Party. He will continue his valuable work as District Councillor and will be joining the Independent Group. He intends to continue and will stand as an Independent Candidate for Harbury, Chesterton & Bishops Itchington Ward in the forthcoming elections in 2014.

Councillor Hamburger writes:

After a lot of soul searching and with huge regret Councillor Hamburger is taking leave of his Conservative roots. However, he feels the interests of his Ward and Community are best served as an Independent Councillor without the overriding control of a political party, thus allowing him to follow his own principles and to prioritise issues dear to him and relevant to his Ward, namely:-

- His on-going long term fight against the devastating effect and waste of resources on ineffective windfarms in rural Warwickshire.
- His continued stance against HS2 and commitment to fair compensation for those, whose lives will be blighted by an unnecessary and costly project without proven merit.
- His commitment to greater transparency and consistency in the Planning Application process.
- His support for Social Housing and a reasonable, phased approach to new housing projects.
- His interest for local businesses and community welfare Issues.
- His concern for the local environment and amenities and a balanced approach to countryside issues.

Councillor Hamburger is very committed to his work within Stratford District Council. He has an excellent working relationship with his fellow Councillors and wishes to continue to be an active member of several Committees. Councillor Hamburger, his wife and a small team of dedicated supporters are set to continue to serve his Ward and work with his fellow Councillors for the benefit of the Community.

Richard Hamburger – Mobile: 07547 679230



Harbury Heritage Room

Situated at Harbury Primary School, the room is open on the first Tuesday of each month from 6.30-8.30pm, or at other times by prior arrangement. The room is situated in a converted classroom in the top car park coming from the Mill Street entrance to the school. The collection consists of hundreds of documents and photos relating to the village.

Currently on display are the drawings created by children about 15 and 25 years ago for their book "A Children's Guide to Harbury." There are also profiles of several village characters, and some information about village shops.

Another on-going project is the naming of photos. We have scores of class, staff, group and visit photos crying out for annotation. If you went to school here from ages ago right up to date, the chances are very high that you will recognise the faces in these pictures. Come and see!

Although the Heritage Room is within the school buildings, it is wholly self-funding. All the helpers are volunteers. We would welcome any donations you might wish to contribute. If you would like to join the group, please contact nigel.chapman@hotmail.co.uk.

Nigel Chapman

Painting the walls of the Tom Hauley Room

A team of us plan to repaint the interior walls, doors and window frames of the Tom Hauley Room on Friday, 12th April between 10.00am and 5.00pm. If you use the room yourself, you might be willing to give a day, half a day, or just an hour or two at some point to wield a brush, pad or roller. All materials and tools will be provided. All you have to do is turn up in some old clothes (and with a favourite brush if you like!) to paint for as long as you can. You can choose a task which suits you - no climbing is involved. Coffee and tea will be on tap all day. A fish and chip lunch will be provided for you if you order it during the morning. You could let me know in advance if you can come; but don't let that put you off coming, even if you haven't warned me! Later, we shall have the ceilings painted professionally, using a scaffold tower.

John Stringer – Tel: 613214



Southam & District Lions Club

May Day Fete – Monday 6th May 2013

On the Bowling Green Pub Car park, Southam at 2.00pm. Opened by celebrity Mary Rhodes from BBC Television. Come and join in the fun - there

will be stalls, cakes, toys and games, tin can alley, plants, Punch & Judy, ice cream, raffle, CD-DVD-book stall, refreshments and entertainment by Secret Garden Musical Theatre. To hire a stall please contact Lion Malcolm on 01926 814294 or visit our *website* for details www.southamlions.org.uk.

Come along and have fun, all in aid of local charities!

Peter Guy

Local Youngsters Have a Ball at Crufts



The Warwickshire Whizzkids are busy celebrating after a fantastic weekend competing at Crufts. The team, who are sponsored by Feldon Veterinary Centre, gained second place in the Young Kennel Club Flyball finals, competing against teams from all over England and Scotland. Flyball is a fast paced and exciting relay race for dogs; the dogs race over four hurdles to collect a ball and then return to their handler – it tends to be accompanied by a lot of noise as the dogs get very excited, and so do the handlers and audience!

The Warwickshire Whizzkids are based in Harbury, and have members aged from 6 to 23. This was the first time competing at Crufts for some of the dogs and handlers and, while the atmosphere can be a little overwhelming, they all rose to the occasion and were just fantastic.

Jo Hicks

Southam Community Education – Summer Term

Community Education classes run by Southam College commence week starting 15th April, 2013. Leaflets will be available from local libraries, shops and the leisure centre or visit our website www.southamcollege.com and follow the community education link from the homepage or under the 'About Us' tab. For further information, please contact us on 01926 810942 or email commed.s@welearn365.com The office re-opens on Monday 8th April.

Sue Hawthorn, Community Education Centre

Rural Housebound Library Service

The Rural Housebound Library Service, in partnership with Age UK, is a FREE library delivery service to those customers living in rural areas, who are

unable to visit a library due to ill health, disability or infirmity. Two volunteers will visit customers once every four weeks with a selection of books based on their preference. We offer a wide range of choice with both Large Print and talking books on cassette or compact disc being available. Customers may also reserve books free of charge.

If you know anyone who might require this service or if you feel you may benefit from receiving it, please contact Debbie Bennett on (01926) 851031.

Debbie Bennett
Home Library Services Volunteer Co-ordinator

Multi-million Pound M-way Junction Improvements

The M40 junctions 12 and 14 are to receive a multi-million pound investment to relieve the congestion caused by volumes of traffic.

At Junction 12, the high volume of traffic is largely due to workers travelling to the Jaguar Land Rover and Aston Martin sites at Gaydon. There is currently a lack of capacity at both the motorway junction and on the local road network between the motorway and car manufacturer's site entrances.

The county council has now designed an improvement to J12 and the route to the site entrances that will solve the current congestion and provide capacity for future growth at the Gaydon plant. The scheme includes lengthening the J12 slip road, adding a dual carriageway section on the B4451 and B4100, and a number of signalised junctions.

At M40 Junction 14, work is being planned to improve the A452 Europa Way roundabouts. Currently two roundabouts on Europa Way south of Leamington Spa lack capacity to deal with the volume of traffic leaving the motorway. The amount of traffic using these islands causes queues to tail from the roundabout at the junction at Harbury Lane back to the southbound exit slip road of the M40 at J14, and onto the hard shoulder.

Once funding is secured, the County Council aims to be on site to carry out the improvements in 2015, with the motorway work scheduled for completion in the same year.

Christopher Cresswell - WCC

Road Closures

Warwickshire County Council is closing the following roads for maintenance during April and May.

- Middle Road will be closed 15th – 19th April and the suggested diversion is Fosse Way, Harbury Lane, Chesterton Road, Temple End and Farm Street.

- Bush Heath Lane will be closed 29th April – 4th May and the suggested diversion is Butt Lane, Vicarage Lane, South Parade and Park Lane.

Any queries regarding these closures please contact Warwickshire County Highways - Tel: 01926 412515.

Michael Rogers
County Highways

Chesterton Church

Quiz Evening

Our fundraising Quiz Evening will be held at the Rugby Club, Harbury on Friday 12th April at 7.30pm – teams of 4 - £20. If you cannot make up a team still come along. Refreshments provided and a bar is on hand. Stretch those old grey cells and come along as we need your support. Book with elizabethholding@ymail.com or call 07767294394.

Horse Blessing and fun ride

The service will be held on Sunday 19th May at 2pm followed by an exhilarating ride in our beautiful countryside on a private estate. £10 on the day or £8 pre- booked. Your horse will enjoy the ride.

Book with Jo Spurr 01926 614431 jospurr@hotmail.co.uk or Lynne Smith 07759454195.

Jo Spurr

The 58th Annual Napton Horse Pony and Dog Show

Including qualifier classes for Equifest, the Side Saddle Association and the Veteran Horse Society.

The 58th Napton Horse, Pony and Novelty Dog Show, will be held on Saturday 25th May 2013. Holt Farm Southam will host the show by kind permission of P Davies. Of course, you shouldn't be fooled by the name. As well as the horses, ponies and dogs that descend on the showground, there are plenty of other attractions and entertainments for all to enjoy. Displays in and out of the main ring in the past have included carriage driving, vintage tractors, the Warwickshire Foxhounds, the Guide Dogs display team, terrier racing, duck herding and this year promises even more to amuse the crowds.

As well as being a fun day out, the show donates the money raised to local charities and causes. In previous years the show has donated money to the Napton War Memorial Fund, Myton Hospice, Galanos House, St Lawrence Primary School, Napton, the Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance and 1368 (Warwickshire & Royal Leamington Spa) Squadron Air Training, to name a few. We would like to say a big thank to all those who have come along and made this possible.

The show is a great family day out that won't stretch the budget in these troubled financial times. Competitors can contact 07899 916332 or naptonshow@live.co.uk.

Come along and join the fun and don't miss out on what promises to be another great day out. We look forward to seeing you on 25th May 2013!

Rachel Moxon

Offchurch Goff Croquet – The “Fun” Version

Golf croquet is a simple and easy to learn game. It is also a very sociable game where skill, conversation and laughter can all thrive. The game can be played by young and old without any previous experience (we even have equipment for members to use).

Offchurch Croquet Club meets every Friday at 5.00pm on the village green. Games typically last between 20 to 30 minutes. Normally we play for a maximum of two hours, although sometimes games may be interrupted as we stop for a cool glass of wine on a warm summer evening!

The game is fun and the company friendly. Our first season starts on Friday, 19th April subject to dry weather. Why not come along and have a go. You will be made welcome.

Contact Helen Palmer on 01926 421600 if you would like further information.

Janet Thomas

What's your view of Warwickshire?

A local charity is looking for people with a love of photography to share their work with a wider audience. WRCC is looking for people to submit original photographs which depict both rural Warwickshire and its communities to brighten and illustrate their website, which is currently undergoing a makeover. Those submitting photographs will be credited when their work appears on the website. Anyone interested in submitting a photograph can find more details at <http://www.ruralwarwickshire.org.uk/whats-your-view-warwickshire>

**Sarah Brooke-Taylor - Neighbourhood Development Officer
Warwickshire Rural Community Council**

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editors

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of myself and family to thank all those people who sent cards and messages of sympathy after the sudden death of my dear wife, Jill. She has left so much love behind and we all miss her terribly. Donations to the Dystonia Society have reached over £700 so far. Many thank to everyone.

Rod Smith and Amber

Dear Editors

We would like to thank everyone who came to the 16th March concert given by the Warwickshire Singers and the Warwickshire Young Voices. Thanks to your support over £600 was raised for Myton Hospice.

Andrew and Jenny Patrick

Dear Editors

I would be interested if anyone can explain to me why some motorists insist on parking on the footway? It is illegal. In most of the village it is not only unnecessary, but it does not provide enough space for two vehicles to pass each other. So that if two vehicles meet, one is are still obliged to give way.

It makes passage difficult for pedestrians and often forces mothers with pushchairs into the roadway. It damages the pavement and verges. So why do they do it?

Linda Ridgley

Dear Editors

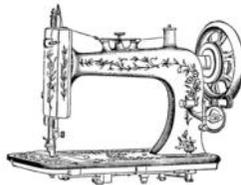
You may remember a month ago that I advertised bikes for free to a good home. Imagine my disappointment when I have since learned that the person who took them, presumably for a gift for grandchildren, has tried to sell them to make a profit. Whilst I see the funny side, I also feel bad for the dozen or so people that phoned me up with a genuine need after they had gone. Needless to say, when we move soon, our not needed and bulky belongings will be placed on Ebay. What a shame.

James Tayler

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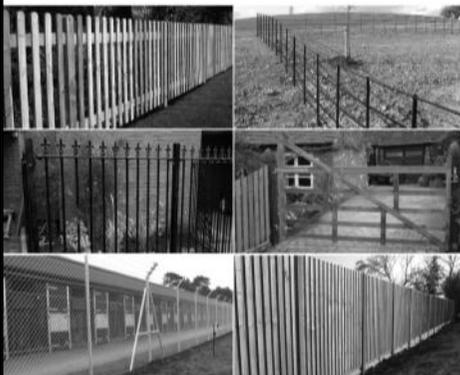
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