

# Harbury & Ladbroke News

Is published monthly and reflects all aspects of local life.

**October 2020**

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## IN THIS ISSUE

## Page

EDITORIAL .....	2
HARBURY DIARY & REFUSE ROTA .....	3 - 4
FROM THE RECTOR & CHURCH NEWS .....	4
LADBROKE NEWS .....	9
HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL .....	18
CLUBS & SOCIETIES .....	21
SPORTING ACTIVITIES .....	26
EARLY YEARS & SCHOOL .....	30
VILLAGE HALL, LIBRARY & CLUB .....	36
GARDENING & NATURE .....	40
GENERAL SECTION .....	42
LETTERS TO THE EDITORS .....	46

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Jackie West - Katy Wiltshire

*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

Well done to everyone who took part in the Village Show this year, although not in its usual format of entering produce and artistic creations for judging in the Village Hall. The changed presentation of displaying your fruit, vegetables or flowers outside homes for villagers to walk around and view was successful. The colourful gnomes also around the village and the good weather added to this enjoyable event.



This month Reverend Andy Batchelor our new vicar has sent in an article introducing himself to the villages. Rev Andy and family will shortly be moving to live in Harbury and will start a new phase of their life looking after the three parishes.

Congratulations to the school on completing an upgrade to their Key Stage 2 area of the school and also for attracting another full reception class at the beginning of September. With a number of Covid-19 restrictions in place, we are sure this is causing a challenge to staff and children, however with the dedication of the team at the school we wish them well for the year ahead.

The old Kids Club at the school has now turned into an amazing space which houses the Heritage Room and their recent open day went well. If you are interested in visiting the Heritage Room you can book a slot, please see their article for details. You may also be interested to know that they are producing a 2021 calendar with the proceeds going to the Heritage Room and Myton Hospice. With Christmas on the horizon this could be a lovely gift to give to family and friends.

October also sees the Village Library extending its opening hours and Biblio's Café opening for a limited indoor café service. Advance booking for the café is needed and we hope that you will all support them in trying to move forward during these uncertain times.

Thank you to all who paid their annual subscription to the magazine by BACS or gave cash direct to their distributor over the last month. If you haven't paid yet, there is still time to do this.



# Harbury Diary

## OCTOBER

- Sun 4** Service by Zoom, 10.30am  
(see website <https://allsaintsharbury.org/>)  
Church is open for private prayers, 1.00 - 7.00pm
- Wed 7 Church is open for private prayers, 1.00 - 7.00pm
- Thurs 8 Ben Holder's Jazz Night, doors open 6.30, show 7.00 - 9.00pm,  
Village Hall, limited tickets - social distancing, call 07515 275655  
for details
- Sun 11** Holy Communion, 10.30am at Church  
Church is open for private prayers, 1.00 - 7.00pm
- Mon 12 Toddler Group Online Dance and Movement Session,  
10.00 – 10.30am (see article)
- Tue 13 e-Wheels Online Quiz, 7.05pm, register at  
[www.virtualquizevents.com](http://www.virtualquizevents.com)  
Harbury Heritage Centre open, 6.00 - 8.00pm, book a slot (see  
article)
- Wed 14 Church is open for private prayers, 1.00 - 7.00pm
- Thurs 15 Harbury Heritage Centre open, 6.00 - 8.00pm, book a slot (see  
article)
- Sat 17 Harbury Heritage Centre open, 2.00 - 4.00pm, book a slot (see  
article)
- Sun 18** Holy Communion, 10.30am at Church followed by  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
Church is open for private prayers, 1.00 - 7.00pm
- Tue 20 ADVERTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE TO 36 MANOR ORCHARD,  
HARBURY OR EMAIL ADVERTISING@HLNEWS.CO.UK
- Wed 21 Church is open for private prayers, 1.00 - 7.00pm
- Thurs 22 ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE TO: HARBURY PHARMACY,  
HIGH ST OR EMAIL TO ARTICLES@HLNEWS.CO.UK BY  
5.30PM  
Harbury Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, by Zoom
- Sun 25** Holy Communion, 10.30am at Church
- Sat 31 Harbury Local Market, 10.00am - 1.00pm, Harbury School  
field and playground (entrance in Park Lane)

### November Edition - Harbury & Ladbroke News

**Adverts to:** 36 Manor Orchard, Harbury or e-mail to  
[advertising@hlnews.co.uk](mailto:advertising@hlnews.co.uk) by 20<sup>th</sup> October

**Articles to:** Harbury Pharmacy, High Street or e-mail to  
[articles@hlnews.co.uk](mailto:articles@hlnews.co.uk) by 5.30pm, Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

<b>Refuse Collection Rota</b>			
	<b>Deppers Bridge</b>	<b>Harbury, Ladbroke &amp; Deppers Bridge outlying properties</b>	<b>Collection Week</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Fri</b>	
	7	9	<b>Grey Bin</b>
	14	16	<b>Green &amp; Blue Lid Bins</b>
	21	23	<b>Grey Bin</b>
	28	30	<b>Green &amp; Blue Lid Bins</b>
<b>Nov</b>	4	6	<b>Grey Bin</b>
	11	13	<b>Green &amp; Blue Lid Bins</b>
	18	20	<b>Grey Bin</b>

	<b>From the Rector</b>	<b>Rev Andy Batchelor</b>
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## **A Potted History**

Hello everyone,

I have been asked to write a few words of introduction as the new vicar of Harbury, Ladbroke and Ufton. I know you may well have heard something of my background, so forgive me if you have already heard some of this.

I was born in Birmingham, but my family quickly moved to Wootton Wawen (so I never developed the infamous accent!). At the age of 11 my parents moved to Claverdon, and I went on to Henley High school.

Whilst living in Claverdon I was a choirboy at St Michaels church, and later served on the PCC and started a youth group in the parish centre.

I came to faith through the work of CPAS - in the form of Pathfinders and CYFA youth work, and particularly CPAS ventures, and as a consequence have a long-standing friendship with Rev Bob and his wife Ann who, no doubt, could tell you some stories about how much prayer was involved in my conversion!

I left school with mediocre results, having been a bit of a rebel, and found work, first as a laboratory technician at Birmingham University, and later in the IT department of West Midlands Gas in Solihull, where I moved from the operation of large mainframe computers to Technical and Customer Support.

I met Julie during my time as a youth leader, and we were married less than a year later in Claverdon, moving to Redditch where we set up our first home.

We were blessed with two daughters, Abigail and Zoe, and moved a number of times to larger properties in the town.

In my twenties I explored a call to ordained ministry, which to cut a long story short, did not work out at that time, so I pursued my IT career, along with a longstanding role as Trade Union rep and various lay positions in our local church alongside Julie, who eventually became a reader.

After encouragement from a new vicar, many years later I revisited my call to ordination, which had laid dormant for many years, although it was always there waiting for the right time to re-emerge.

After being assessed by the Diocesan director of ordinands over a period of a year, I went to a national selection panel, and was recommended for training, and the family moved to Nottingham where I attended theological college.

At the end of the course we had a strong sense that God was calling us 'up north', which was not only a surprise, but also very much unknown territory for us. I was taken on as a curate in Ulverston, and later went on to be vicar of my first parish of St Marys on Walney Island (just off Barrow-in-Furness in the Irish Sea), which was later combined with St Johns on Barrow Island (which is no longer a true island).

We spent 11 fruitful years in Cumbria, amongst wonderful scenery and warm hearted people before feeling that call to move on once again, and after spotting the vacancy here back in my home county, I applied, and the rest, as they say, is history.

I still have a keen interest in IT, and have been developing a Smart home using a variety of internet connected devices. I am also a lifelong motorcyclist, although these days I am very much a 'fair weather' biker.



I am a huge fan of science fiction and fantasy novels and films, have quite a collection of Marvel comics, and also have a deep interest in Cosmology.

Julie and I have been foster carers for 5 years. We have two lively cocker spaniels, Poppy and Lily, and my daughter Abbie has a cat called Pippin.

I am really looking forward to joining you at the beginning of October (coronavirus allowing), although the rest of the family are already in the area, as the children have started at a local school.

I am thrilled to be returning to my roots, and am looking forward to meeting as many people as I can in the three communities I will be serving.



During September we were able to continue holding a mix of Sunday services, with three Holy Communion services celebrated and enjoyed in church (with people safely socially distanced and masked but with no singing) and a service held remotely via Zoom on the other Sunday.

At the time of writing this article, following the Government's latest restrictions announced on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, we will be able to continue with this pattern of services during October. We are planning for a Zoom service at 10.30am on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October, and for Holy Communion services in church at 10.30am on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of October. We will also be holding the Annual Church Meeting (it's like an AGM, and includes an annual report on church activities and the election of a new PCC) in church at the end of the service on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October. Any changes to this schedule will be announced in the weekly pewsheets and on the website <https://allsaintsharbury.org>

Should you like to come to any of the Sunday services or the annual meeting, please call Liz a few days beforehand so we can best plan the seating, that can accommodate a maximum of about 65 people.

Also, the church will continue to be open on Wednesdays and Sundays from 1pm-7pm for private prayer or if you just wish a quiet visit.

Finally, we are all very much looking forward to the arrival of Rev Andy Batchelor and his family in early October. His licensing service is likely to be held sometime in October (date not yet set) via Zoom so that more people can participate than is possible in church at the moment. Rev Andy has written an introductory article elsewhere in this Harbury & Ladbroke News that will tell you more.

Please do contact either of us should you have any queries relating to church life.

Liz McBride (tel: 612421) and Michael Vincent (tel: 614806) or e-mail us on [warden@allsaintsharbury.org](mailto:warden@allsaintsharbury.org)



## Mothers' Union

Gillian Hare

So a return to more careful measures is the order of the day. It is easy to be resentful or depressed but our sisters in many parts of the world are in so much worse a situation. Many have no health care at all, no reliable food supplies or safe water. So maybe it is right to pray for them and give thanks for our many blessings. Let us take guidance from this version of Psalm 23, by Stuart Townend.

And I will trust in You alone, and I will trust in you alone

For Your endless mercy follows me, Your goodness will lead me home.



### We are Halfway There; News of The All Saints Church Harbury Appeal

Thanks largely to the huge generosity of the village community and congregation, we are halfway to our target. The aim, you will remember, is to make essential repairs to the roof and stonework of our eight-hundred-year old church, to replace the failed church boiler and the Tom Hauley Room heating with a modern, low-carbon, radiant heating system, to rewire the church and fit efficient LED lighting, and at the same time to install an audio-visual system for everyone using the church and Tom Hauley Room.

By adding every possible pound from Harbury Church's own modest funds, our current total approaches £100,000.

But we need twice that. And in these strange times, we cannot be as confident of matched funding from charities as we were before the coronavirus pandemic. All benefactors take time to approve their funding, and we can't afford to wait.

This is why we are asking those of you who have not yet contributed, to please make a payment to help heat, rewire and repair All Saints, Harbury. Ladbroke church has achieved miracles with its appeal, and its work is underway. But we cannot be sure of achieving the grants they have secured.

You may have put our leaflet aside, or forgotten it, or planned to give later. So please, if you can, support this essential work by your donation, with:

Cash or a cheque payable to Harbury Church, to Liz McBride, our treasurer, at 1 Park Lane, CV33 9HX, or:

A BACS transfer to

Bank account name: HARBURY CHURCH

Sort code: 40-42-15

Account number: 90414298

Reference: HLS

All Saints Church Harbury is a registered charity, number 1150990.

If you can Gift Aid your donation so that we can reclaim the tax, please add your name, home address and postcode. That increases every £100 given by £25. Or you can collect another donation form to complete from 1 Park Lane.

Thank you.

Each month we have been sharing with you peoples' experiences of Harbury church. This time, it's part of the church outreach; 'Messy Church' (sadly, on hold at present).

Messy Church operates out of the Tom Hauley Room and the Church one Sunday afternoon every month. Children together with their parents and grandparents enjoy Bible stories, arts and crafts, and games followed by a meal.

Our young adult helpers play a key role and when asked what they enjoy about helping, they replied:

*"It's rewarding and gives us a sense of responsibility".*

*"We love being around the children, and working with them is a chance for us to let go - you simply can't think about anything else".*

*"There's a real sense of family among the children, parents and helpers".*

*"It's an opportunity to be a bit of a kid ourselves!"*

*"Parents enjoy chatting together and all the adults have fun joining in the activities and being a bit creative".*

I shall be happy to receive brief stories like those above on 'What Harbury Church means to me' at [john23stringer@gmail.com](mailto:john23stringer@gmail.com)

**All Saints Harbury Parochial Church Council**



## **All Saints Church - Remembrance Sunday**

The church doesn't anticipate being able to hold our usual large community gathering on Remembrance Sunday this year so we would like to encourage people to make and display a poppy (or two). Whether you draw a poppy to be displayed in a window or have a go at making poppies to be displayed in your front garden, your contribution will help us all commemorate Remembrance Sunday. Thank you.

**Sarah Brooke-Taylor  
Harbury PCC**

# Ladbroke News & Diary

<http://www.ladbroke-pc.org.uk>

With Covid restrictions becoming more stringent, most events, except those linked with church, are on hold. For up to date details of church services and opening for private prayer, please refer to

[ladbrokechurch.org.uk](http://ladbrokechurch.org.uk)



## Ladbroke Church News



**Peter Rigby**

[www.ladbrokechurch.org.uk](http://www.ladbrokechurch.org.uk)

The reopening of Church for Sunday worship has proved to be a success and the majority of our regular congregation have felt able to return and have become familiar with our new Covid secure procedures. It was a relief to learn that (at least for the present) we are being allowed to remain open. If you would like to come to a church service but have not yet done so since we have re-opened, you will be most welcome. You will need to wear a face covering but otherwise the procedures are not too onerous; for a normal Sunday service you will not now need to book although this may be necessary on special occasions.

We are conscious that not everyone yet feels comfortable attending Church in person and so, for the time being, we are continuing to hold a Zoom service once a month. We shall keep this under review. Our services for October are as follows:

<b>4<sup>th</sup> October</b>	10.30am	Zoom Service
<b>11<sup>th</sup> October</b>	9.00am	Church Service - Harvest Thanksgiving
<b>18<sup>th</sup> October</b>	9.00am	Church Service
<b>25<sup>th</sup> October</b>	9.00am	Church Service

Our new Priest in Charge, Rev Andy Batchelor, is moving to the rectory in Harbury at the beginning of this month. We do not yet know his official starting date but we are hoping that he will be able to join us for the services later in the month.

We have also resumed "Pause and Pray" in Church. This has been moved to Wednesdays so that the building can be quarantined for 72 hours and the next meeting will be on 7<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm.

By the time this edition is published, we expect to have had our rearranged Annual Parochial Church Meeting. We have produced an Annual Report for this, which is available for you to look at on our website at <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13118/page/63775/view/>

You might be surprised at how much goes on in the Church!

*The Church continues to be open for private prayer on Sundays from the morning service until 4.00pm and from 2.00pm - 4.00pm on those Sundays when the service is on line.*



**Official minutes can be viewed on the noticeboard by The Bell Inn or on the parish council page of the website. <https://sites.google.com/site/ladbrokevillage/parish-council/pc-meetings>**

The meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> September was held by Zoom. Due to Covid, there will be no election to replace WCC Cllr Bob Stevens until May 2021 at the earliest. Condolences would be sent to his family and it was hoped that Nigel Rock, who represents us on SDC, would soon be fully recovered from his heart attack. In the meantime Andy Crump who represents Southam, Stockton and Napton on WCC and Southam South on SDC will support Ladbroke as best he can.

**SDC:** The collapse of tourism has reduced income by £8M due to the impact on businesses and even car-parking fees.

The last major reorganisation of local government was in 1974. Combining WCC with the district/borough councils could save £18M and reduce confusion on who to approach. If it happens, Cllr Crump would seek a more significant presence in Southam for better access to council services locally.

**Planning:** Councillors had no comments about three tree applications or proposals for changes and an extension at Deppers Bridge Farm.

**Highways & Footpaths:** Although the state of the trees on Penfold Green has been raised with Highways they are unlikely to take action unless the trees are actually over the road.

Fly-tipping on the southern edge of the village is not a one-off in this area, there have been two recent cases at Ufton. Note the "Stockton Tip" should re-open in late September, weekends only and booking essential.

**Flooding:** The tanker lorry which had been parked near the stream was (according to its driver) on 24/7 standby to take some of the flow from the pumping station in Bridge Lane. The tanker disappeared as mysteriously as it arrived; the clerk will follow up if it reappears.

**Village Hall:** Good progress made on the kitchen improvements was reported; such a shame that Covid means it will be a while before people can use it.

**HS2:** Arrival of the tunnel boring machine (TBM) was reportedly four months behind schedule. The extensive roadworks to bring in the power supply were of such poor quality that the Harbury to Bascote road is sinking - formal complaints have been made. Cllr Crump reported that cycleways from Ladbroke to Southam, Southam to Long Itchington and from there to Leamington are in the WCC programme, part HS2-funded. As there had been no information on controls to prevent Ladbroke becoming a rat run, Cllr Crump will ensure our concerns are raised again with the relevant people at WCC; apparently one contractor was suspended for a month for not following instructions.

**Village Notice Boards:** The board by the Millennium Green needs some maintenance and the open section of the board by the pub is in very poor condition. It was questioned if this open section was really needed as most notices on it are outside advertising, key village ones could go in the closed section. One proposal (dimensions and weight permitting) is for the new village trail map to be put there instead.

**Village Website:** Google are introducing changes to the underlying structure/function so the website needs updating. Councils must also comply with accessibility requirements etc. It was questioned if Ladbroke really needs a parish council website at all or could it be simplified to the minimum legally needed?

**Next meeting:** Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November, 7.45pm



The latest news doesn't sound too encouraging for groups like the WI. However, undaunted as ever, we continue to stay connected in a variety of ways. At Federation level, while we have been unable to meet in person, online courses are offered on a diverse range of topics including Indian block printing, photography, the life of a "panto dame" and garden bugs. These are only available for members but the Denman courses are open to everyone and they, too, provide an interesting programme of topics.

Recently I followed Peter Lawrence's talk about the city of London. Having worked at Scotland Yard, he has always been interested in history and in 1995 was made a Freeman of London for his contribution to promoting London. As such he is entitled to drive his sheep over London Bridge on a Sunday and spit at Mansion House - he has managed to resist both so far! He spoke at length about all the various guilds and how they developed and changed over the years. There are some fabulous buildings which, in normal times, can be visited by the public. Peter has a particular interest in churches and recommends a visit to St. Michael's, Paternoster where a number of



relics from many of the now long gone churches are to be found. Prior to the great fire of London there were 140 churches in the city of London and only five survived. Sir Christopher Wren was invited to rebuild 52 of them. Apparently, the Victorians knocked down a couple to widen roads!

Another fascinating presentation came from Christine Green, a well-known expert on patchwork quilts. She explained how she developed an interest in textiles when at the age of six, she and her sister were encouraged to select fabrics from their mother's catalogue. She studied textile design and developed her craft, finding cheap sources of fabric from London street markets and various factories. Travelling to

Canada, she was influenced by the Amish and also developed a love of bright colours used in Canadian flannel shirts. A new aspect of her work, "visible mending" resulted from her cat biting buttons off a favourite quilt. She entitled her talk "Bust the rules and get creative" as she now prefers to work in a more random way rather than following strict rules so that everyone can be encouraged to have a go.

These and many more topics are included in the latest list of Denman courses. They are usually £5 for an interesting hour presented by experts and can be found on their website - sadly, I am not on commission!



## Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Draw for August 2020

£50	Joan Perry	£50	Maggie Watts
£25	Sophie Kendall	£25	Kate Liverton
£25	Mike Connor	£10	Steve Morten
£10	Derek and Colette Batty	£10	Alan Lord
£10	Geoff Timms	£10	Martin and Debra Neal

**Margaret Bosworth**



## Ladbroke General Section



## Ladbroke Heritage Project

Our programme of activities has started! On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August we started work on our **'Who's in the Churchyard'** project, led by Caryl Thompson. We had a good turnout, and volunteer sleuths quickly got into the swing of logging information and photographing gravestones in several sections of the churchyard.



## Graveyard Sleuths



Headstone images and information will be uploaded onto the Billion Graves website, the world's largest resource for searchable GPS cemetery data. More workshops are planned; keep an eye on this page and contact Caryl on [carylthompson123@gmail.com](mailto:carylthompson123@gmail.com) if you would like to join us.

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September, as part of Heritage Open Days, Jackie West gave her virtual **Guided Tour** of Ladbroke church on Zoom. This was a popular and successful event, with viewers from as far afield as the USA, Scotland, Devon and London. Feedback was very positive: "Fascinating talk", "Good presentation", interest especially in our stained glass windows and "More talks please" - watch this space!

Unfortunately, our proposed Half Term **Build a Bird Box** session has become a Covid casualty; we have postponed this, probably until the spring in line with Government guidelines.

**Nicky Lewis**  
**Ladbroke Heritage Project**



## Good for Hundreds More Years

Repairs to Ladbroke church tower continue. For a few sunny days in September the tower parapet was the focus of attention.

Look up to the top of the tower walls at Ladbroke church and you can see decorative battlements. Some of the coping stones had been replaced in previous renovations, others were in a badly eroded state.



A sample of a good piece was removed and used as a template for new sections.

Away from its neighbours you could see the stone itself is much paler than the lichens coating its exposed surfaces and also that adjacent stones are held together with a steel rod as well as mortar. This pinning provides the extra strength needed for a small joint buffeted by high winds.

New coping stones were cut from blocks of Kirkwood York, and then hand carved to shape at the stonemason's workshop near Flore and brought to Ladbroke.

They were winched 60 feet up to the top of the scaffold and then pinned and mortared into place.



The shape of the copings has been restored but the colour will take much longer as lichens are slow to grow.

Bryn the senior stonemason said, "I'll guarantee these for a hundred years", but they should last for many more – a gift from ours to future generations.



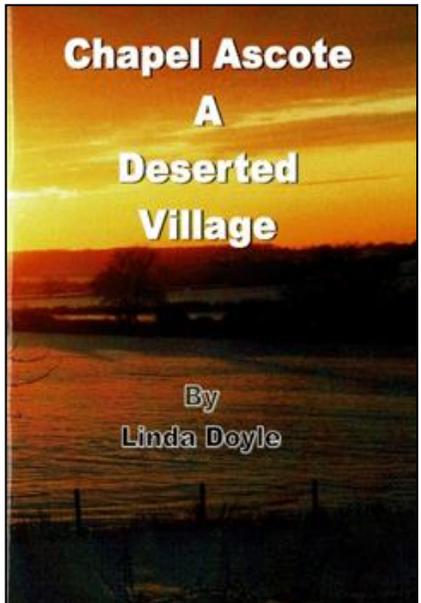
## Chapel Ascote - A Deserted Village



With HS2 in the background, in April, I was booked to talk to the Harbury Society about the history of Chapel Ascote where I live, but circumstances have delayed the talk. Meanwhile, I am delighted to say that the book “Chapel Ascote - A Deserted Village” that I was then writing, is now available and all proceeds from the sale are going to the charities Ladbroke Matters and Southam Heritage Collection.

Chapel Ascote is a small deserted parish on the edge of Ladbroke and Bishops Itchington, and when I moved there in 1975 and worked on the farm, I was intrigued by the unusual landmarks, old pathways, pottery shards and strange shaped stones I found. So much so I started to research the local history and found a 1653 document which said “*anciently an eminent parish*” and for many years past the estates being in “*great men’s hands*” and I wanted to know - **who were these Great Men?**

They turned out to include ancestors of our future King, Prince William, also Catesby of Gunpowder Plot fame and a certain Captain who was beheaded at the Battle of Edgehill, to name but a few. Then, as I researched more and continued to walk and work those acres, I wondered who rode the horses whose horse shoes I so frequently found, who built and lived in the now deserted village and once sat beside the glowing hearths, but more to the point, whose skeleton it was that we accidentally dug up while draining Chapel Field. This must have been where St Helen’s Chapel stood, hence the field name, so who had been buried there and why had the village, along with four others nearby, all been deserted by the 15<sup>th</sup> century?



I now have many of the answers and to find out more you can purchase the book for £7 from me on behalf of Ladbroke Matters and the Southam Heritage Collection. I am happy to deliver locally or post out for an extra £1.50.

If you are into local history, the Southam Heritage Collection now has its 2021 historical calendar with 13 different old photographs on sale for £5, which I am also happy to deliver locally.

**Linda Doyle - 01926 814214**  
**Linda@allhistoric.co.uk**  
**Southamheritage@hotmail.com**



## **From Your District Councillor for Ladbroke**

You may have heard that central government is proposing new planning rules. Worryingly, it seems that this District could see its house building targets more than doubled under the proposals. In the government's proposed new planning laws, local discretion over house building rates and numbers will be removed. Central government will share out an annual house building target between local councils, who will then be responsible for finding enough land to meet the target according to a formula.

A national planning consultancy has applied the new formulas across all local authority areas in England. The results show that Stratford District's increase in housing numbers would be one of the largest increases in the West Midlands. The new targets would represent a 129% increase on the current Core Strategy figures to a new requirement of 1675 homes a year. Additionally, because much of the north of the District is green belt, and therefore protected, it would presumably mean much greater increases in house building in the remaining areas, including ours.

Although these are central government proposals, my colleagues and I will challenge these ideas locally where we can.

Following the unexpected death of County Councillor Bob Stevens, the 'Notice of Vacancy' for the Feldon County Division has been published. Normally this would trigger a by-election. As a result of emergency regulations - the Local Government (Coronavirus) Postponement of Elections and Referendums Act - it is expected that a poll cannot take place until 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at the earliest. If anyone wishes to know more about this position, please contact me. (The Feldon county councillor post covers Fenny Compton, Priors Marston and Hardwick, Ladbroke, Wormleighton, Harbury, Bishops and Long Itchington, Farnborough, Deppers, Ufton, Chesterton). In these unusual times we will have to work through this extended vacancy period as best as we can.

For myself, I will be working at a reduced capacity for a while as I recover from my heart attack, with support from colleagues. Again I express my thanks for that help and for the many messages I have received wishing me well.

At the beginning of the Covid crisis Warwickshire's recycling centres were all closed, with most reopening a few weeks later. However, Stockton and Wellesbourne did not reopen. I formally raised this matter at the Council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> July. My concern was that Stockton in particular provides an

important local facility serving our area. Thank you to those that signed our on-line petition organised by Cllr Louis Adam and myself to press for reopening. I am pleased to say that the County Council has now announced that reopening is planned for Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September, with bookings scheduled to be released a week before. There is a booking system in place for residents to book a slot at all the sites at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/recyclingcentres](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/recyclingcentres). Initially, Stockton will be open on Saturday and Sunday only and Wellesbourne will be open on Saturday, Sunday and Monday only. Usual opening hours for these days will apply.

**Nigel Rock - 07971 343065**  
**Councillor for Ladbroke, Napton and Fenny Compton Ward**  
**[nigel.rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk)**



**Harbury Parish Council**

**Linda Ridgley**  
**Harbury News Correspondent**

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

### **September 2020 Meeting Report**

With help from Chairman Tim Lockley I managed to see **and hear** the Parish Councillors and members of the public at their latest “Zoom” meeting – thanks Tim!

**Energy Project** - Philip Mayer answered questions from Councillors about progress on providing more electric car charging points for the village at the playing fields. The Energy Group has been encouraged by the Government to put in a bid of £200K for this project which would be the first of its kind in the country. The group would be holding a Public Consultation on 26<sup>th</sup> September at the School which our MP would visit.

Philip confirmed that the charging points would be open to the public at all times and would have concrete posts installed to prevent vehicles being driven onto the playing field. The Group had a full Business Plan ready and hoped to complete Phase 2 by December and eventually would benefit from money from the National Grid tariff.

**Self Build Housing Project** - Steve Brough was quizzed about his plans for permission for six “Self-Build” houses on land he owns off Bush Heath Lane, north of the existing David Wilson development. The Chairman explained that Government cast such homes as a special case which Local Authorities tend to look upon favourably.

Mr Brough said the scheme was low density and could easily accommodate vehicular movements from the six homes proposed. The owners would be obliged to adhere to his Design Code and electric charging points would be installed. The access to Bush Heath Lane would be similar to that of the existing estate to the south. He would create a “Green Environment” for the

development with tree planting and would install the road and services needed. He had already had meetings with Planning and Highways and had taken up their suggestions. The only objections so far had come from the new residents to the south of the site.

Chairman Tim Lockley explained to residents looking in via Zoom, that although the site is outside the village boundary as described in the Neighbourhood Development Plan, self-build homes were a Government priority which seemed to override other considerations, even though the village had more than reached its development target.

**Rugby Club** - The Council agreed a sum of £600 from their Community Grant Fund to pay for coaches' first aid qualification renewals. The Club trains more than 100 children including Touch Rugby for 9-14 year old girls.

**Library** - Has opened again with Biblio's takeaways too. They had lent out 500+ books during and after lockdown. The roof which suffered storm damage, has been repaired. The Council would send a letter of thanks to Janice Montague who had resigned as Library Lead. A consultant is looking into how to reduce energy costs and reported that the heating pump "had two winters left in it"!

**School Governors** - Cllr Chris Gibb was upbeat about the improvements to the Key Stage 2 area and thanked Sam Butler, Paul Quinney and others for their help. The new Reception Class was welcomed. The County had forecast only a reception class of 15 new children but there were 31 most from the catchment area. The School had money from Section 106 payments and other funds, as well as donations and money the PTA continues to raise. Chris was congratulated by the Chairman for his work as Chairman of Governors.

**Southam College** - Details of progress were usually supplied by our County Councillor Bob Stevens, who died recently, so Tim Lockley reported that the school had good GCSE and A Level "results" and had gained an "International School Award" for "Bringing the World into the Classroom".

**Village Hall** - Chairman Chris Rutherford had been busy working to keep up with the "Regulations" and installed a QR recognition system (mobile phone that shows who is in the building). Income was "coming in again" and the CCTV system would be installed on Friday. It would cover the Village Hall entrance and the car park. There was at present no coverage of the proposed car charging points.

**Stratford Councillors** - Jackie Harris was joined by Andy Crump (from Southam). Jackie was quite up-beat about Covid saying that hospital admissions were stable there and there had been few deaths although they were increasing in the Rugby area. She expected numbers to go up as testing increased but sought to reassure everyone we were safe at present.

She urged the PC to get involved with the current Local Boundary Review; expressed concern about Government's planning agenda especially because of "Greater" Birmingham's shortfall on housing provision which could impact on us (meaning we might have to provide more housing.) There was a

backlog of applications and as SDC's two planning committees had been rolled into one, she urged the PC to monitor applications as she feared they might be rushed through.

Andy Crump (filling in as our County Councillor) announced that the Stockton Tip was re-opening, but booking was required. There was £4K left in Councillors' grants and the transport budget (which must be used for highways projects). We had to fight against over-development – Harbury had taken 100+ homes and Southam over a thousand with impacts on infrastructure. He wanted safer routes to schools.

Local Government Reform was a hot topic with government seeking to reduce the number of local authorities, whilst most local authorities did not want to be rolled into "Unitaries", but remain local. Warwickshire was holding a "Safer Warwickshire" event in October to encourage walking to school and stopping inappropriate parking. Cllr Ekins was pleased that Andy was keen to get better traffic calming for Deppers.

**Planning** - On the self-build application off Bush heath Lane Cllrs accepted it was an "Exception" site, but wanted a footway along Bush Heath Lane for people using the site, as had been provided for the previous development. There were concerns that the Design Plan might not be enforceable, but Mr Brough believed it would be enforced by Stratford DC. The Chairman pointed out that significant changes at "Henry's" were not enforced!

Tim wanted the homes to be for people with a local qualification and that they should be limited to Harbury and not the whole of SDC residents. Mr Brough was happy with that "At First sale", but the Clerk pointed out that it would be difficult to enforce at any subsequent sale and Mr Brough said lenders would sell to anyone if the owner defaulted on his mortgage. The Cllrs agreed to make a "No Representation" to the plans but "Comment" that it would like local residents to be given priority. They also wanted confirmation that the footway would be installed.

41 Farm Street: Cllrs agreed to object to this application for a house on the garden of Little Troy, reiterating their previous objections.

They had no representations on the hard standing for the Churchlands Business Park; or the tree work and wall rebuilding at 7 Binswood End, a listed building, or for tree felling at Merryfields, Bush Heath Lane. Their objection to tree works at Spinney Cottage, Hall Lane, seems to have been rejected.

Cllrs had met Grevayne Properties to discuss issues of highways access on the Old New Inn site, and again urged public consultation. The Housing Needs Survey for over 55's (44% of Harbury's population) would be done in the next six months.

And then there was the Government's latest "Planning for the Future" which was not likely to "go down well in the Shires" as the Chairman put it. Government appears to think there is a planning reason for the lack of homes, but Tim blamed the builders who held on to land until its value increased. The reduction in CIL (money Local Government can charge

developers to fund “infrastructure”) would reduce their ability to provide “Affordable Homes” making life difficult for first-time buyers to afford a home. Tim intended to challenge our MP about this at the Energy Group do.

**Environment** - Long discussion on what to do to stop parking at the Binswood End bus stop which Cllrs thought would be difficult to police. Tim suggested, given the decline in objections that they take a “gradual move to inaction until people complained again”.

**Playing Fields** - Long discussion on drainage which the Murphy Group had offered to deal with. And even longer discussion on which Company should deal with zip wire repairs and concrete pouring, which so taxed them, that they agreed to leave the decision to the Clerk and Cllr Ekins.

They approved the erection of a wooden storage container for the Junior Football Team. They agreed to pause contributions by the Council and Tennis and Netball Club to the Repairs Sinking fund.

**Other Matters** - The Cemetery Chapel was to be cleared out prior to remedial work to be undertaken after Christmas. The Clerk’s salary increase was approved. They were assured there was an electricity supply to the Deppers Bridge phone box where the Parish plan to have a defibrillator installed.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 7.30pm via Zoom.

**Current Parish Council members contactable via the Parish Office are:**

Tim Lockley (Chairman), Keith Thompson (Vice-Chair), Samantha Allen, Julie Balch, Steve Ekins, Chris Gibb, Alan Knowles, Tony Mancell, Andrew Rutherford, Janet Thornley

	<h2>Harbury Women’s Institute</h2>	<p>Mary Thompson</p>
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Some of our members have finally been able to meet up again

On the afternoon of the August Bank Holiday Monday, 22 ladies met up for a socially distanced picnic in the park (picture overleaf). We were very fortunate with the weather and it was lovely to hear members catching up with their news. We all enjoyed watching families and youngsters enjoying the fresh air. It was sad to see a small group of youngsters who thought it was a good idea to stand on the table tennis table and even ride a scooter along it. They quickly discovered that WI members don’t ignore ant-social behaviour!

We cancelled the September speaker but gave members the opportunity to meet up on 10<sup>th</sup> September at the Village Club. The club committee had clearly followed all the Covid rules and the staff were really welcoming. The 13 members who attended had a very pleasant evening catching up with their news, looking at our programme for 2021, and discussing the WI, National Trust and other current issues.



Sadly, the Covid crisis has resulted in the cancellation of other events which members were due to attend - lunch with Richard Coles and a trip to Windsor. The rule of six has now been followed with advice from the NFWI that we should cancel all meetings. This means we have cancelled our meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> October when Micki Coupe Brickwood was going to tell us about her Himalayan Trek for Roy Castle Cancer. We hope that we shall hear from her in the future.

We know that our members have been keeping in touch on Zoom and e-mail, going on walks and meeting in small groups in their homes and gardens. We hope that will continue.



**Harbury Heritage Centre**

**Bill Timson**

What have you been doing during lockdown? It's a question I'm sure that we have all pondered on over the last six months during the change to our normal life in these unprecedented times. As I write this, the threat of another nationwide lockdown looms as a second wave of Coronavirus gathers speed. The 'younger' members of the village have experienced their first and hopefully their last pandemic.

Just over a century ago, at the end of the First World War the world experienced 'Spanish Flu', which, strangely had nothing to do with Spain but it did kill more people than died in the entire War. This would be the most severe influenza pandemic in recorded history. It was caused by a virus of avian origin. There are various theories where it originated - none proven. It was first identified in US military personnel in Kansas in the spring of 1918. Some 500 million people, or a third of the world's population, became infected with this virus, and at least 50 million died worldwide, with a death toll of 228,000 in Britain alone.

Mortality was high in three groups of people - those younger than five years old; those between 20 and 40, and the over-65s. A unique feature of this particular pandemic was the high mortality in healthy younger people between 20 and 40.

Why was the outbreak so devastating?

Factors include the absence of a vaccine to protect against infection, along with the absence of antibiotics to treat secondary bacterial infection.

The war-torn situation in much of the world, with troops living in cramped, unhygienic conditions obviously added to the spread, as did frequent crowded troop movements. General ill-nourishment due to the war was another contributory factor.

Simple and obvious interventions such as isolation, quarantine, good personal hygiene, use of disinfectants and limitations of public gatherings were difficult or impossible to put in place.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that flu kills between 250,000 and 500,000 people every year around the world. It also causes severe illness in between three and five million.

The latest British figures available cover only England, where the average number of deaths in the 2014-15 to 2018-19 seasons was 17,000 deaths annually. This average figure varies a lot, with 1,692 deaths in 2018-19 and 28,330 deaths in 2014-15.

To put things into perspective, the world's population in 1914, before the war, was a little over 1½ billion, today it is over 7½ billion. Likewise, the British population has grown from 36 million in 1914 to 66 million today. Nevertheless, a pandemic is frightening to live with for everyone, young or old.

New strains like the present coronavirus can be even more devastating if the global population has no immunity to the particular virus.

Another major pandemic and more recent was in 1957-58. Older people in Harbury may remember this; first identified in China - and thus called Asian flu - it caused roughly two million deaths worldwide. I lost my sister to this pandemic; she was just 15 years of age, fit and healthy, her life cut tragically short.

The 1968-69 pandemic was first detected in Hong Kong and immediately named Hong Kong flu. The virus killed around one million people globally, with those over 65 most vulnerable. This virus still circulates today causing various, mostly small, outbreaks.

In 1997, for the first time, an influenza virus was found to spread directly from birds to people. It became known as bird flu. These bird-flu infections were linked to poultry markets. The first outbreak in Hong Kong killed six of 18 people infected. The WHO has recorded 598 cases since 2003, with 352 deaths. Most deaths from bird flu are in Egypt, Indonesia, Vietnam and China. So far, the virus has not adapted to spread easily between humans.

Another of the new strains was the swine flu virus that originated in Mexico in 2009. The virus is a combination of a Eurasian swine flu virus with another strain that was itself a mix of bird, swine and human flu virus. The strain went on to kill more than 18,000 people around the world.

Now in 2020 we have coronavirus.....

*Figures courtesy of 'Morning Star Newspaper'.*



**The Heritage Centre Open Day** was held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>. It was a sunny, breezy afternoon with a steady trickle of visitors, most of whom had come to look at the newly refurbished building in the Primary School grounds. It was good to see some people who had recently moved into Harbury wanting to find out more about their new village.

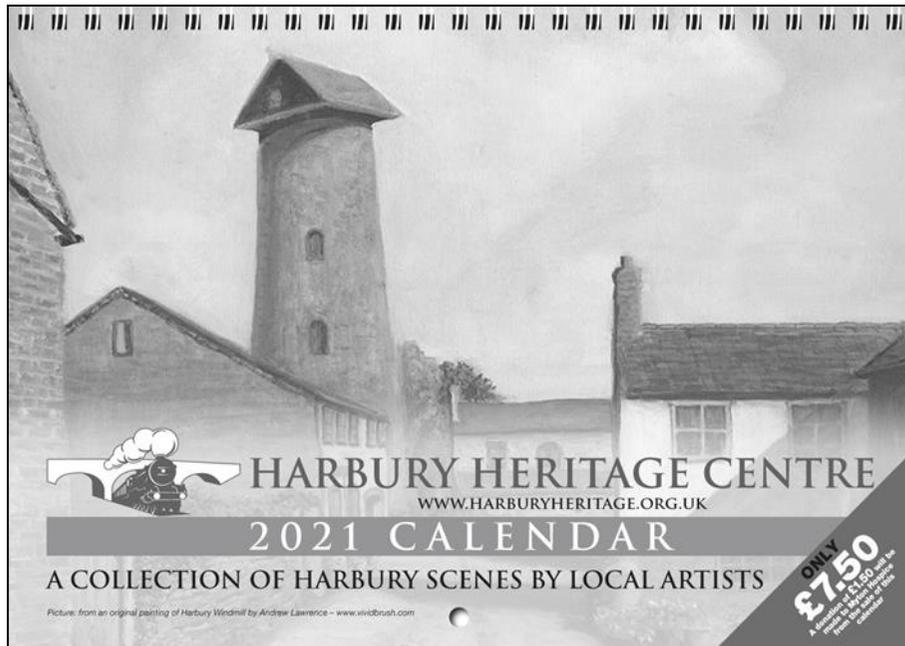
Following on from this we are offering slots to spend more time in the centre to peruse and use the collection at the following times: **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8pm**, **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8pm** and **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 4pm**. If you would like to book a slot with social distancing in place, email us at [group@harburyheritage.org.uk](mailto:group@harburyheritage.org.uk) with your preferred time up to one hour. Please wear a mask.



## Finally

During lockdown we asked various local artists to produce scenes of Harbury for a **2021 Heritage Centre Full Colour Calendar**.

With Christmas coming, at only £7.50, this is a really useful Christmas stocking-filler! Moreover, for every calendar sold, £1.50 will be given to Myton Hospice - who have been severely financially affected by the pandemic.



To place an order e-mail us at [group@harburyheritage.org.uk](mailto:group@harburyheritage.org.uk) or phone 07813 739972 or call in at Manor Stable, Park Lane. Also on sale in the Library.

Free local delivery can be arranged - **please support this important fund-raising venture!**

	<h2>Harbury Energy Initiative</h2>	<p><b>Bob Sherman</b></p>
<p>☎612277 ✉<a href="mailto:info@harburyenergy.co.uk">info@harburyenergy.co.uk</a></p>		

## Charging ahead

I don't think there is much more I can tell you about our plans for the EV charging station in the village. If you came to the Local Market at the school on the morning of Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>, you will have seen everything there is to know so far. Mind you, I am assuming, writing a few days in advance, that no more Covid restrictions affect the plans and that you actually turn out on a

chilly morning to see what we plan. Don't worry if you missed it. We are sure to keep you all up to date as we progress through the process.

Weeks of feverish bid writing and a lot of Zoom-ing later we are close to submitting our application for the next stage of grant funding from the government Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF). We know they like it but we still have to get it right - and we still have to know what you all think. So far those who have responded have been supportive. That has given us confidence to keep working on the project.

We have quite a few hurdles still to jump, not least the challenging hurdle of raising the capital to deliver the project. That's one thing that the RCEF grant doesn't cover. Meanwhile I know that the number of electric car (EV) owners in Harbury is creeping up. New EVs are not cheap but are becoming ever more efficient with batteries that can deliver 250 to 350 or more miles on a full charge. If you are wondering how you will ever afford the price tags on these new technical wonders, just remember that there is a growing pool of second hand EVs, which, because the new models are a significant step up, should be quite competitively priced. Harbury e-Wheels uses two cars from the last generation, capable of 160 to 180 miles on a full battery. We have never found that a problem.

### Connecting up

At the same time as writing a bid to the RCEF I have been composing another application to help us deliver the Low Carbon Warwickshire Network. The people working on this with me are not from Harbury but, surprisingly, they are still brilliant people. Our idea is to help the local authorities deliver some of their climate emergency plans by stimulating activity on climate and environment in rural areas through community groups and schools. Harbury is one of just a few rural communities in Warwickshire working actively on this agenda. It is more than 10 years now since HEI formed and we are pleased to have been able to implement a number of measures in our community buildings and to advise residents on measures to reduce carbon emissions and energy costs in the village.

I keep telling you that you can join HEI. I mean it. It's not an exclusive club.

**And don't forget the Green Homes Grants - see last month's Harbury and Ladbroke News.**



The popularity of Tuesday night **Training Sessions** delivered by Club Coach Hendry Rheeders followed by **Fitness Sessions** on Thursday nights has seen a rise in those attending, numbers regularly exceeding 40.

With the nights closing in, Tuesday's sessions start at 7.30pm whilst Thursday's start at 7.00pm, carried out in accordance with RFU Guidelines on social distancing. A competitive edge has been introduced with the sessions

including touch rugby based on the **Ready4Rugby** format. Some players are visibly losing weight (not all) and a lot more are seeing fitness levels reaching new heights. New players are always welcome and can expect a warm, safe and friendly environment.

Wellesbourne Ladies Touch Rugby continue to hold fitness/training sessions every Thursday night from 7.00 to 8.15pm in accordance with England Touch guidance. Events are family friendly and all new players aged 14 to 60+ are welcome. Interested? Contact Claire on 07506 309821.

From 13<sup>th</sup> September, our Mini and Junior squads have returned to regular weekend training. In line with RFU and Government guidance, we have split our training sessions to enable social distancing to be maintained. Our Mini Squads (U6 to U12) train from 10.00am to 11.15am with Juniors (U13 to U16) training at 11.30am to 1pm.

Junior training on a Tuesday evening remains popular with all squads participating in additional training to support fitness.

Anyone interested in playing rugby please feel free to turn up and join the squads. We are particularly interested in setting up a Girls' Touch Rugby squad with ages between 10 and 14. Anyone interested should contact Phil Sheepy on 07557 260465.

The cricket square has seen plenty of action right through to late September with TNC CC playing mid-week matches and Saturday matches hosted by Kenilworth CC and Coventry Blues CC.

Since the start of September, Warwick TAGB has been holding weekly classes for both children (from pre-school) and adults in the Korean martial art of Tae Kwon Do under the instruction of Miss Cassandra Oury, a 4<sup>th</sup> degree black belt, World, European and British Champion, who has produced many gold medal winners in competitions around the world. Tae Kwon Do instils respect and discipline through the five tenets of courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self-control and indomitable spirit. Interested? Contact Cassie on 07850 327507.

The **NatWest Rugby Force** event held over the first weekend in September saw members giving up their time to refurbish the Clubhouse and tidy up the grounds. Walls were washed and painted around the Clubhouse with particular emphasis placed on decorating the Bromley Room. Changing room benches were stained, stairs painted, chairs, tables, window frames, post protectors and tackle bags cleaned. Gym equipment was sorted/reorganised and the walls painted. Outside, edges, ditches and banks were strimmed together with a site litter pick. A great effort and so much done.

**KEEP SAFE.**



# Harbury Village Show

Photos taken by: Sheila Burt, Gill Holden



# ow - September 2020

, Margaret McDonald and Gordon Robbins





We continue to miss everyone so much and are constantly thinking of ways that we could reopen the Toddler Group in a safe manner. We acknowledge that many little ones are missing out on making new friends and socialising, trying new experiences and so forth, plus lots of children who have moved to the next phase of their educational journey to whom we didn't have a chance to say 'bye bye'. We know that parents have also valued catching up with each other.



We keep in touch with Harbury Scouting movement about the venue and possible use of some open space at the rear of the hut but as the weather changes this presents as more of a challenge. We have had positive discussions with other Toddler Group Leaders to glean the views of others. We have also contacted our Insurers Pre-School Learning Alliance who have been helpful but not definitive about opening our doors.

We are sorry but we feel at the moment we should remain closed. However, as an alternative we are organising a series of online 'Toddler' sessions for any pre-schooler at home. We would be so pleased if you could join us and pass the word along.

These sessions will be on Monday mornings with presenters who we know and love from our Toddler sessions and will be hosted on the Zoom platform. It will be nice to see familiar and new faces and hopefully will prove a different way of keeping in touch until times are more settled.

Please email Lynne at [lynnebarton@entrustcarepartnership.org.uk](mailto:lynnebarton@entrustcarepartnership.org.uk) to register and I will send the Zoom link to you for every session and you can choose what suits.

Miss Lorraine from Love Ballet.com is the first to be 'signed up' for Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October with more to follow.

With much affection from Lynne, Selina, Reg and Judy x x



# Harbury Pre-School

Staff & Committee

**Ofsted**  
Outstanding  
Provider

## Welcome back!

We were very excited to welcome back the children in September, both existing and lots of lovely new faces. We have been very proud of how quickly they have adjusted and how well they have all settled into their new routines.

**Outdoor Play:** The weather has been kind to us which has meant that we have been able to take full advantage of our revamped outdoor area. The children have loved playing in the new playhouses and the new music wall and boomwhackers have been a big hit all round. The children have been experimenting with creating different sounds by banging the different objects.



**Gardeners:** Our lovely new planters are full of annuals, perennials and daffodil bulbs thanks to Emma who spent an afternoon planting with the children.

We were particularly impressed with how knowledgeable the children were about the different varieties of the plants and how to look after them. The children have been reminding us to water the plants when the weather is hot and have done so gently and carefully using watering cans. We certainly have some budding gardeners in our midst.

For the first few weeks of this term, we have been following the children's requests and interests and providing resources accordingly. We have had a wide variety from sea creatures, minibeasts, farm animals, dinosaurs, trains, happy street, painting, puzzles, music and lots of stories. No two days are the same!



**Families:** For the rest of this half term we will be busy focusing on ourselves and our families. The children have been sharing photos of their families and talking about who is important to them and sharing their baby photos to encourage them to think about how they have changed since they were born. We will then be drawing our self-portraits.

## Update from the Committee

Dear Harbury,

The last few months have sent us all a new set of challenges, many of which we did not know existed. These times have affected everyone and has sent many of us on a rollercoaster of emotions, but at the same time has showed us the best of our community and how when we support each other, we can make things better.

Over this time, the Pre-School has had its share of challenges but I am thrilled to say that, with the help and support of our community, we welcomed back 20 children in September who are already thriving. This would not have been possible without everyone who participated and contributed to the Mini-Beasts Challenge in July which raised over £1,928, an absolutely amazing achievement.



In addition to this the Pre-school was awarded a grant from Harbury Parish Council which has ensured that the pre-school continues to be COVID safe and prepared for all the new processes and systems; it also contributed to some exciting new toys that are easy to clean.

But the support didn't stop there. Over the summer, Amber Turner (Wonderwall) created new jungle themed wall murals in the Pre-School garden with the paint kindly donated by the Dulux Shop in Leamington. You'd be surprised how much paint was needed so this was no small gesture!



Additional thanks goes to Sharon Hancock and the Library team, who had to react quickly to deal with some unexpected maintenance issues which occurred in the last weeks of the Summer holidays. Thank you to Paul Winchester and Door and Kitchen Store for the installation of a new kitchen area.

Julian Collins and Claire Jones also played their part in creating our cosy small group and outside areas, making sure all the jobs were completed and finished to a high standard. I am pleased to report the Pre-school opened in sound condition and was looking spick and span on its opening day.

Our biggest thanks goes to the Pre-school manager, Catherine Kilbey and her team, Anne, Deborah, Emma, and Sophia. They have put in extra hours, scrubbed floors, sterilised pretty much everything but most importantly have done everything in their power to ensure all the children are cared for, supported and happy. Catherine would also like to thank the Committee for their continued support and action during some challenging times.

I am certain the next months will throw us more challenges but I am sure we will continue to face them as a united front. The Pre-school is a wonderful place for our children to grow and thrive and I am so proud it will continue to

play a part in the heart of our community. Thank you again to everyone who has supported us, Catherine and her team, as well as all the wonderful children and their parents.

Many thanks.

*If you would like further information, or to register a child for Harbury Pre-School, please e-mail enquiries@harburypre-school.org.uk text 07907 598461 or look at the web site www.harburypre-school.org You can also find us on Facebook.*

**Kate Holliday (Chair) and the Pre-school Committee**



### **Harbury School Governors' Update – September, 2020**

I am pleased to report that the school reopened fully on 2<sup>nd</sup> September and welcomed over two hundred children, including a new reception class. The school is operating under new rules to minimise the risks of coronavirus to staff, pupils and families. Whilst parents and teachers did an excellent job in maintaining the children's education during the spring "lockdown", our priority now is for every child to progress with their education in as normal and safe a setting as possible, with their welfare at the heart of everything we do.

The summer saw us successfully complete a major building upgrade to the KS2 part of the school. The governors decided in 2019 that the best way to manage this project was for it to be led by the community. We are immensely grateful for the professional expertise of Sam Butler, Chris Hill and Paul Quinney who supported us in the design, tendering and supervision of the project. Arden Construction carried out the work during the summer holidays, as planned, despite the pandemic, and completed it on the day before we reopened! I also wish to express a big thank you to all the staff and their families who brought the school to life again in the hours before reopening.

We are proud to say that 2019/20 has been a successful period for the school, and we look forward to entering 2021 in a strong position.

In 2019 we successfully brought before and after school provision "in house" with our "Pod" within the school. More than a quarter of our children regularly attend the Pod, which is popular with parents and children. The Pod occupies its own dedicated room within the school building and has access to all the school's indoor and outdoor facilities. The Pod has its own supervisor and team but is fully integrated into the school under the headteacher's leadership. All profits from the Pod are reinvested in the school.

- Over the last three years, we have successfully invested money from section 106 money (paid to the County Council by the developers of

the new housing in the village which we had to campaign to receive), PTA funds and donations from the community and local businesses in making improvements. We have spent these funds wisely, refurbishing and upgrading some aspects of Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and the Pod; the school is now better equipped to handle full classes in future. School security has been enhanced with CCTV installation.

- We attracted another reception year of thirty pupils and the school is operating near to capacity, ensuring sufficient income (through the national school funding formula) for us to meet ongoing operating costs and be confident about the future. We have not, so far, been offered any of the extra coronavirus related funding referred to in the media.
- We continue to work closely with our PTA with fund raising, and welcome donations, both financial and “in kind”. Events such as the Harbury Local Market make good use of school facilities for the community and raise funds for the PTA. Recently completed successful projects have been an “outdoor classroom”, new infants’ playground equipment and new computers for our dedicated computer room, home to Chris and Gareth’s code club. We are grateful to PTA members, families and businesses who play an important and practical part in improving the school facilities, especially our extensive outdoor areas and Wendy’s Earthworms.
- We worked with the Harbury Energy Initiative and fitted solar panels to the school hall roof, to support the environment and reduce our energy costs.
- We worked closely with the Heritage Group to transfer the Harbury Heritage Centre to a self-contained building in the school grounds which better suits their objectives. The Heritage Group have done a great job raising funds from Severn Trent and the village community and refurbishing this building, with help from Network Rail’s contractor Murphy Group. We look forward to successful collaboration in future years to educate Harbury children and families about the rich heritage of our community.
- We hope to undertake further building projects in the next year to improve disabled access and facilities at the school and bring them up to current standards so we can accept every child in our community.

The coronavirus pandemic will no doubt continue to challenge our school in the school year ahead, but I am confident that our excellent staff, led by headteacher Kate Guymmer, will continue to educate the children of our community to a high standard.

**Chris Gibb**  
**Chair of Governors**



## Village Hall Update

Andy Rutherford

It has been an interesting few months for the Village Hall, with a never-ending stream of changing Government instructions. We have worked to implement all of the recommendations to make the Village Hall a Covid secure environment, and this has led to some seemingly onerous Special Conditions of Hire like the need for hirers to wipe down tables and chairs after every visit - but it is necessary and only takes a few minutes.

The latest regulations state that we must keep a record of everybody entering the Hall, and as from Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September we have put up “QR” codes around the building. Simply scan with the new NHS Covid App. We will have a secondary paper-based register near the entrance. For a group hiring the Hall, the hirer needs to register and is responsible for keeping a list of everybody in the group - or insist everyone scans the “QR” code.

The latest “Rule of 6” does affect us. We can have more than six people using the Hall (a Covid Secure Venue) but we must have social distancing between each group of six, or between individuals. We can’t have social mixing of the groups. We had a wedding reception for 30 people last weekend, but in the next months we can only have a maximum of 15.

We have seen a number of groups come back to using the Hall on a regular basis. Some events are still not practicable but I look forward to seeing them again in the future.



On a positive note I would like to thank the Heart of England Cooperative Society for a generous donation of £1670, from their “Plastic Bag Charge Fund”. Most welcome!



## Harbury Village Library & Biblio's Café

Rich Fowler

As some of you may already know, Janice Montague has stepped down as Volunteer Library Lead. Sharon Hancock, Chair of Harbury Village Library and Biblio's Cafe, said, *“Over the last four years Janice has provided dedicated service and led the development of the Library into the thriving community hub that it was before lockdown in March. With the able assistance of her team, Janice has led the efforts to maintain a service during these challenging times. On behalf of the Steering Committee I would like to thank her for everything she has done and wish her well in the future.”*

Rich Fowler will step in as Volunteer Library Lead on a temporary basis.

**Biblio's Café** - From Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October Biblio's will be opening for indoor cafe service. There will be a reduced amount of seating consisting of one table for four, and six tables for two. To ensure that we comply with Covid regulations we ask that you book in advance by sending an e-mail to [bookingsbiblioscafe@outlook.com](mailto:bookingsbiblioscafe@outlook.com) stating Date, Time required, Number of people, Name.

The available time slots are:

**Wednesday and Friday**, 9.15am to 10.00am, 10.00am to 10.45am, 10.45am to 11.30am and a short slot 11.30am to 12 noon.

**Saturday**, 10.00am to 10.45am, 10.45am to 11.30am and a short slot 11.30am to 12 noon.

Please be aware that we will be following the most recent government guidelines by asking people to use the hand sanitiser when they enter the building and wear their masks until they are seated and we will expect them to replace them before they leave their table. We will also be collecting Track and Trace information. We now have an NHS Track and Trace QR Code poster for people who want to use their smartphone to check in.

**Library** - The library will be extending its opening hours and plans to be open when Biblio's is open, in addition to the existing hours. New opening hours will be, Monday 10.00am to 12.30pm, Wednesday 9.15am to 12 noon, Friday 9.15am to 12 noon, and Saturday 10.00am to 12 noon. We will still be operating our Click and Collect and Home Delivery services.

We are expanding the numbers and types of books available as we are now able to offer Warwickshire County Library books in addition to our own Blue Label books. In addition to adult fiction the shelves will have some adult non-fiction books, in particular biographies, and a selection of large print books. We can't offer browsing of children's books right now, but we have an expanded range of age specific Ready Packs for children. Information available on our website.

**Harbury Lockdown Book** - The book, recording the experiences of Harbury during lockdown, will have been published on 30<sup>th</sup> September and the 100 free copies distributed around the village. We have now arranged



**“Our Wonderful NHS” by  
Andrew Lawrence**

for an additional 50 copies to be printed which will be available for sale from the beginning of October.

**Harbury Lockdown Art** - We have received the first works by local artists influenced by their experiences of lockdown and these will be on display in the library from 30<sup>th</sup> September. The picture "Our Wonderful NHS" (shown on previous page) by Andrew Lawrence is one of the works on display. We will be accepting works, in any medium, until the end of October, so it's not too late. You can bring your work to the library when it's open. Please let us know the title of the work, whether it is for sale, and if so at what price, and whether you are willing to have an image of the work included in the online gallery on our website.



## Harbury Village Club & Institute

Judy Morrall

August seems to have flown by with some excellent weather. We had a week away at the end of the month in Cornwall, still a magical place. The only poorish weather was on the day we had booked to go to Tintagel and walk over the new bridge. Slightly damp and misty, but what a fantastic job English Heritage have done there.

Back home and lots to catch up on at the club. We have welcomed groups, all safely and socially distanced, of course. We have also taken on extra staff; Emma was unable to join us but we welcomed Sarah, Jake and Rachel. So nice to have younger staff members and Bob is no longer our sole male employee! Rachel has worked at the pub in Radford and baked some delicious brownies for the enjoyment of everyone who came to watch the football and other sport on our new TV and Sky Sports. We had some very welcome extra help from Tom too on the curry night - a big thank you to him.

The G van has been a huge success for the two Fridays that we have invited the owner to the club and this will now be a regular event every fortnight. Next one will be on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Owing to the number of visitors who are enjoying our hospitality in the concert room where they can have a drink and enjoy their food, we have decided to hold our bingo sessions on alternate Fridays, as it is a struggle to hold them in the lounge. So, bingo every two weeks from Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September. Our bingo numbers are dropping so please come along and join us for a friendly evening out and a chance to win and have a chat in the interval. We look forward to seeing you.



The gazebo looks really good and John erected this before the last curry night. It is black and white and we have received some very nice comments about this. We had to strengthen the guy ropes as it became windy soon after it was put up but it is perfectly safe and secure. If we get a nice weekend, bring the family along and sit outside and enjoy a drink or two. The weather is

set to change this week but it will become warmer again. The grass has been newly cut and the pots are looking at their best and so colourful. Plus, the plants at either entrance to the drive are showing off too.



We have emptied out some of the furniture in the TV lounge so that if the three dartboards in the concert room are in use the dartboard in here can be used. We are so lucky to have such loyal and supportive members and the darts, pool and snooker tables have been used a great deal. As I said before, we are perfectly safe and all precautions have been strictly followed.

At our recent committee meeting we had lots to discuss. We had a good month financially in August. Thank you to everyone for your continued support. We have a new beer, Wadsworth 6x, and we asked our members to vote for their favourite out of three. We are seeing the rep from Hook Norton very shortly so that we can order smaller barrels of beer. We discussed the opening times etc and concluded that on a Saturday we would open as usual from 1.00 to 3.00pm. Then, again, from 5.00 or 5.30pm until closing time. This, of course, will now be 10.00pm. We found that the first Saturday we opened all through from 1.00pm there was no one in the club for the two or three hours from 3.00pm. Sundays will not be changed, we will open from 12 to closing time. We are providing rolls and small and large brownies on both days so please come along and join us.

We have some nice glossy posters from Sky Sports advertising future football and other sports events and these have been put all around the club. They are a bit too big for village notice boards but will be featured on our Facebook page and the Harbury Facebook page. We are also in the process of updating our website with help from Lisa, so it is all go.

We are planning to have a film night for adults and for children. The maximum, of course, will be 30 but we will produce tickets and it will be first come first served. We plan to provide nibbles and popcorn. This all sounds tempting so, as they say, watch this space or, better still, Facebook.

I will be contacting the Murphy Group in the next few days to see if they can lend us some muscle to clear away the drain and sludge outside the cellar. Our cleaning regime inside has been trebled and the bar staff do their bit by sterilising the bar areas as we want to ensure we maintain our high standard of cleanliness.

As you can see from all the above our committee has the best interests of our club and its members at heart. We have been getting quotes from local tradespeople for remedial work needed at the club and have had some very favourable feedback. Hopefully the roof can be fixed and watertight before the onset of bad weather. The fence will be replaced too and there is a lot of pointing outside to be carried out. It seems ages since we held our centennial celebrations and we need to ensure that we keep going for another 100 years. Again, a very positive committee meeting; the next one will be on 26<sup>th</sup>

October. As before, if you have any concerns or matters you wish us to raise please speak to any committee member.

Thankfully the courgettes seem to be nearing the end but I will soon have dozens of squashes. I will be running out of ways to cook and freeze them but of course I will be making lots of soup. It has been a productive time at the allotments with some vegetables doing better than last year and others not so well. Lots of fruit crumbles in the freezer and beans frozen too. We have a purple hazelnut tree in our garden and this year there are hundreds of clusters of nuts on it and on the ground. It is a race between us and the squirrel to pick these up as the squirrel then buries them in the lawn and other places in the garden. We are now giving away hazelnuts! I planted the sweetcorn late as two lots failed and I should be getting some delicious cobs this weekend.

Upton House re opened on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September but only a few ground floor rooms are open. We have done online training and a walk around the house. My first shift is this Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> and I'm looking forward to it. It will be very different but so nice to see fellow volunteers again, although a group of us have been meeting up regularly at the Herb Centre. The grounds at Upton need some TLC but I'm sure, once the garden volunteers come back, it will improve. I will let you know how I get on. I am not sure if Waddesdon will be putting on their usual festive display this year. I usually organise a day trip there for fellow volunteers.



I have spoken to the Head Office of the CIU to get clarification about the government's new rulings on table service for pub and restaurants and the wearing of face masks. Yes it does apply to clubs also but they had some very good suggestions. Face masks must be worn when entering the premises but once you are seated you can remove them. We will be placing note pads and pens and sanitiser and anti-bacterial wipes on the tables. Write what you would like to drink on the pads then the bar staff will collect this and bring your drinks to the table. A very good suggestion, I'm sure you will agree.

I am looking forward to another challenging month and meeting our members. Once again, thank you so much for your kind comments and for reading my articles. My very best wishes to you all.



## Nature Notes

**John Hancock**

As I write on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, the long days of summer appear to be coming to an end. After seemingly weeks of dry sunny weather with the temperature today climbing to 24°C, we are in for a shock. By contrast, on Thursday it is forecast to be just 12°C with cloud and rain. This is perfectly timed for a scheduled cycle ride with friends when the delightfully situated Pavilion Café in Lighthorne will be our refreshment stop. Many readers will

know the spot reached about a quarter of a mile after crossing the B4100 (the old main road from Birmingham to London). Lighthorne itself is a sheltered place lying in a steep-sided valley. The small stream flowing east to west seems too small to have carved out this mini canyon. Surely, at the close of the Ice Age, some 12,000 years ago, a lot more water came this way and helped form our modern landscape.

Earlier today, Sharon and I were in Chipping Campden having lunch with Linda Bitterli (now Gasser) and her husband and daughter. Some will remember the Bitterlis - Walter, Elizabeth and their four children. They were neighbours of ours in Manor Orchard and we kept in touch as they moved around the world eventually settling back in their native Switzerland.

After lunch at the 'Eight Bells' we went up to Dover's Hill on the Cotswold Edge so that three year old Charlotte could have a runabout which she did with glee. Plucking thistledown and throwing it into the air so that the breeze carried it proved popular. The short sheep-cropped grass was alive with craneflies or daddy-long-legs as they are commonly called. Their long legs seem excessive but probably act rather like cat's whiskers in preventing collisions. The larvae, known as leather jackets, live underground feeding on grass roots. They are a major food source for birds like starlings and rooks.

Dover's Hill is traversed by the Cotswold Way. This 100 mile long distance footpath from Chipping Campden to Bath is well signposted and generally keeps to the crest of the hills. Today, the view over the Vale of Evesham was gradually becoming obscured as cloud rolled in. Often, the Birmingham cityscape can be clearly seen. The motif marking the path is that of Robert Dover on his horse. He was the instigator in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century of the Cotswold Olympicks, a forerunner of our modern Games. Mind you, some sports like shin-kicking did not transfer to the modern version. This year, for obvious reasons, the sports on Dover's Hill, which had been revived, were cancelled as, sadly, were the Olympic Games in Tokyo.

Now, leaf fall is increasing and migrant birds such as swallows have flown south. Some strong-flying butterflies will leave us as well though species such as the Comma and Peacock hibernate whilst others overwinter as a chrysalis or egg. Enjoy the autumn colours and please send me any special wildlife sightings to [j.hancock43@btinternet.com](mailto:j.hancock43@btinternet.com)



The winter is looming; I'm trying to find ways to tolerate the dark cold days. Added to that, this year is the possibility that there might be more restrictions due to the virus.

It is more important than ever to make your garden sparkle with colourful plants for winter. There are various variegated evergreen shrubs which can lighten a dark corner. These include holly, euonymus and spotted laurel. Better still are some winter flowering plants which are also scented, such a bonus. Try *Lonicera fragrantissima* (the shrubby honeysuckle) bees love it, or

Viburnum farreri 'Nanum' which is a small, slow growing shrub with pink flowers. Don't forget the Sarcococca which are one of the most highly scented plants, great to have by the front door. Cornus (dogwoods), Arbutus (strawberry tree) and Hebe rakiensis all help to brighten up the winter months. There are many others, so do come along and ask for advice.

The opening times through the winter will be mostly by appointment but when the gate is open please come in. There will be some bargains too.

**Bridge Nursery, Tomlow Road, Napton**  
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## General Section

### Harbury Village Show



A huge thank you to everyone who took part in this year's show. The weather on the day was great which certainly helped as this year we were outside. We had some fabulous displays of produce, inventive and colourful gnomes, clever poems, amusing photos and a variety of crafts. Well done to the children who entered at a very busy time.

This year, as our usual judges were unavailable, we thought we would be the judges! We quickly realised how difficult it is to be a judge! The standards were so high that it was really difficult to choose between entries. This year we had decided not to present the cups but to use "Winner" rosettes instead. Therefore, we had several "winners" in many classes. It really wasn't about winning this year but about celebrating everyone's produce and ingenuity.

We have so many people to thank for their help on the day. The scouts and accompanying adults were at the Village Hall first thing in the morning putting up tents and gazebos (many thanks to Liz Henry for that) and were there again at the end of the day to take them all down again. The volunteers at Biblio's kept the café open from 10am to 3pm and this was greatly

appreciated by all that visited. The Village Hall Committee were also very generous in letting us use the grass and the tables and chairs from the hall.

We hope everyone who came to the Village Hall and wandered around the village enjoyed the day. Who knows what next year will bring but hopefully we will still be growing and showing.

### **Village Show Committee**



### **Harbury Village Show – Past and Present**

Congratulations to the Show Committee for continuing to put on the Show in a novel way within the present difficulties. The village is grateful to them for continuing one of the village traditions. The Show has been an autumn feature for many years, beginning life as the competition for keen gardeners to exhibit garden produce. When the Horticultural Society reformed in the 1950's, a group of them began to work with the old gardeners, many of them allotment holders, to organise the Produce Show. At about the same time of each year the W.I. put on a Produce, Cookery and Handicraft Show. The two groups joined together in the 1970's to make the Village Show as we have it today.

Before the recent improvements to the facilities in the Village Hall, heavy trestle tables which were stored in a room at the back of the Hall had to be carried in on Friday evening ready for the Show on Saturday, ready for competitors who began arriving at 8am. A look at the cups, still presented, will provide many of the names of the people who worked hard to make a Show which continues in popularity today. However, we must mention Muriel and Ron Grey and Julie, Paddy Clarke and family who worked to get the Show up and running. The sterling work put in over the years by many villagers has been ably continued by the present Show Committee.

If we have missed any names of the enthusiastic group of people responsible for working, or we have made any other errors we apologise, but hope that this gives a snapshot of the history of The Village Show.

**Pat and John Smith**



## Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2020

This year, we will be running the Poppy Appeal as usual in the village. Due to Covid-19 we will be taking some extra precautions to ensure the safety of our volunteers and customers:

- There will be no house to house in Ufton and Chesterton.
- We will be separating the various products of poppies, pins, crosses etc as much as possible within the boxes to minimise the need to search through when looking for what you want. Please, wherever possible, only pick up the item that you intend to take.

There will still be ample opportunity to buy your poppy or pin from the various outlets in the village and support the essential work of the Royal British Legion. If you are not able to get to one of the shops or pubs in the village or if you are looking for something a bit different to show your support for the Legion, a wide range of products are also available online. Visit <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/ways-to-give/shop/poppy-shop> for more information.

The Legion was founded in 1921 against a backdrop of 2 million unemployed and 1.75 million men who had returned injured from the First World War, half of whom were permanently disabled. There were also many families, women and children, who had lost their main breadwinner in the war and also parents who had lost sons, on whom they were financially dependent.

Today, RBL is the country's largest Armed Forces charity with 235,000 members, 110,000 volunteers and a network of partners giving support to former military personal and their families. RBL either directly or indirectly, through its partner charities, runs programmes of rehabilitation and adaptation to civilian life, provides dementia care homes and gives advice on housing and legal issues. It provides support for carers, help for independent living for ex-serving personal and much more.

But the RBL still needs your help in 2020 as it faces a challenging year of fundraising due to the pandemic. Traditional means of selling poppies have had to be curtailed or changed and it is possible that many older volunteers will be unable to help this year.

We hope that Harbury, Ufton and Chesterton will be able to support the Legion as generously as in the past and we will be working hard to make this year's appeal a success.

**Gill Holden & Nicola Thompson**





## Harbury Milk Shed

As some of you may be aware, we opened a milk vending machine at Chesterton House Farm on the 7<sup>th</sup> August.

The machines are situated in the farmyard on Mill Street. We are open seven days a week from 6.30am - 10.00pm.

We have just over 100 milking cows on the farm. All female calves are kept and they will one day join the herd, all male calves are also kept to join our beef herd.

Our cows are kept outdoors in the spring, summer and autumn to graze the fields that surround the village. In winter, when the weather changes and the grass stops growing and the ground is too wet, the cows are snuggled up indoors on straw and fed the grass that we harvest throughout the summer.

The milk we sell in the vending machine has been gently pasteurised. That is the only process it goes through. The milk is around 4% fat. As it is a natural product it does vary day to day, but that's still 96% fat free! It isn't homogenised meaning you will get the cream settling on top. If you don't like it on top then a gentle shake will mix it back in. The milk isn't standardised, meaning it is as it comes out of the cow, nothing has been added or taken away. The milk is also super fresh, as opposed to several days old once you get it home from the supermarket. The food miles are very low, from cow to vending machine in 50 steps!

We decided to try and minimise our plastic use so we sell reusable, recyclable glass bottles. Every time you buy a litre you have stopped a single use plastic from being used! Over a year that is a lot of plastic bottles!

Our aim in the near future is to expand to maybe doing a semi-skimmed option and also cream, eggs and seasonal fruit.

Feel free to pop down for a look, our glass bottles are £2 from the vending machine and a litre of milk is £1.20. Until we get the card reader up and running it is cash only.

Please see our advert on page 48 and we look forward to seeing you soon.

**Harbury Milk Shed**

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

### **Dear Editors**

*We, my family and I would like to say how very much we appreciated the cards, flowers and presents we received when Bill passed away in June. We were so amazed to see so many of you outside the Village Hall; he would have been very touched. The love and support we have had from everyone was overwhelming and so typical of our lovely village, but special thanks go to the wonderful nurses from the "Cert" team and "Myton at Home" for the care and support they gave us. Also to Rev Craig for a beautiful service. The total of donations to Myton Hospice was £915.*

*We cannot thank you enough.*

**Peggie and Family**

---

### **Dear Editors**

*My heartfelt thanks for the kind messages and cards my daughters and I have received from friends and neighbours after the loss of Peter. Peter bore his very long-term illnesses with courage and stoicism, but it has been particularly difficult for us that his last illness occurred during the current Covid crisis.*

*The cards and messages of love and support have been overwhelming and have helped me through a very difficult time.*

*My very sincere thanks to everyone.*

**Wendy Hawkes**

---



**LOCAL FOODBANK** - there is a facility in the village to donate non-perishable food items to your local Foodbank, which supplies the local area, including Harbury. For the time being please bring any donations to the Wight School (library) car park on Mondays between 11.30am and 12.30pm. One of the e-Wheels drivers will be there to receive your donations. Please observe all the usual safety advice and distancing. Thank you.

---

## CONGRATULATIONS, THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

If you would like to include:



- A Birthday message
- Congratulations to anyone for their achievement
- Wedding or special occasion wishes
- Thanks to someone



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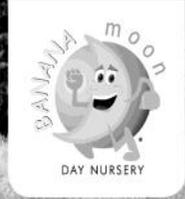
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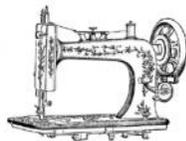


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