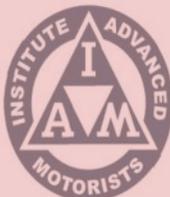
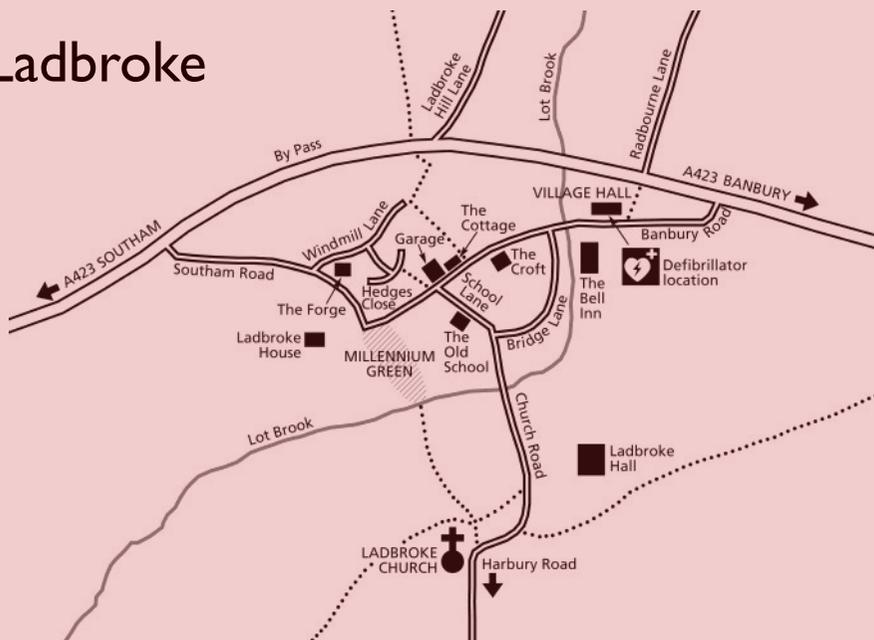




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# Harbury & Ladbroke News

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**December 2021**

**No.573**

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## Editorial Team

Chris Barber - Paulette Kavanagh - Peter McDonald  
Daralyn Warren - 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



It was good to see so many attending the Act of Remembrance at the war memorial with the reading of names and laying of the wreaths. The younger members of our community did a good job of representing the village uniformed groups. Adrian Giblin's photo shows them getting ready to walk up to church.

By the time you read this, Harbury will have had its 'switch on' and be illuminated with the glow of seasonal lights again. While walking around the village on the lights trail you can also explore the Christmas Story. From 12<sup>th</sup> December a new window in the village will be lit up each day showing a scene from the story of the birth of Jesus Christ. There will be the usual church services in both villages as well as good old singing of Christmas carols.

Don't forget to use the GASS Christmas post for sending your Harbury village cards making sure that you give a generous donation for using the service, much needed monies for a depleted year of fundraising.

Thinking of those who are not so fortunate, if you can, please don't forget contributions for the Food Bank. Donations can be left in the foyer of Harbury Village Library, but please see article on page 36 for details on a change of collection dates during the festive period.

Ladbroke village is celebrating the end of the main repairs to All Saints Church. More work is still to be done, but the building is looking good and visitors are always welcome. The final instalment of Alice and the Adventurer is published this month. The recent event 'An evening with Lady Alice' was very enjoyable and quite a success, see photos on page 31.

Please note there are no changes to the recycling and refuse collection days over the holiday weeks.

Due to the Christmas and New Year holidays, the articles deadline for the January 2022 edition of the magazine will be a little later on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> December. This means that copies will not be available from the printers until Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January and these will be distributed as soon as possible after this date.

Finally, we wish all our readers a safe, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



# Harbury Diary

## DECEMBER

- Sat 4 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Agnes Court Care and Nursing Home  
Christmas Fayre, 2.00 - 4.30pm, Village Hall  
Festive Family Bingo, 7.30pm, Village Club
- Sun 5 ADVENT 2**  
Said Communion, 9.00am  
Zumba, 9.00am - 10.00am, Village Hall
- Mon 6 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall  
Southam Lions Club & Santa visit Harbury from 5.30pm  
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall  
Yoga, 8.00 - 9.00pm, Village Hall
- Tue 7 Meeting Point, 12.30pm, Crown Inn (bookings by 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec)  
Southam Lions Club & Santa visit Harbury from 5.30pm  
Parish Surgery Evening, 7.00pm, Tom Hauley Room  
Heritage Centre open, 7.00 - 9.00pm, Harbury School Park Lane entrance
- Wed 8 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall Car park - Easenhall (3.5 miles flat)  
Pleasant Pastimes, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Tom Hauley Room  
Ballroom Dancing, beginners 7.30pm, experienced 8.30pm, Village Hall
- Thurs 9 Holy Communion Service, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room  
Harbury WI, 7.30 for 7.45pm, Christmas Flowers by Katy Constance
- Sat 11 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Multiple Sclerosis  
Harbury Local Market, 10.00am - 12.30pm, Village Hall  
Senior Citizens' Christmas Party, 5.30 for 6.00pm, Village Hall
- Sun 12 ADVENT 3**  
Holy Communion, 10.30am  
Messy Church, 3.00pm  
Zumba, 9.00am - 10.00am, Village Hall  
Ben and Soph's Christmas Jazz Special, 3.00pm, Village Hall - 07515 275655  
Harbury Advent-ure - explore the Christmas story, 5.00 - 7.00pm daily  
Family Disco, time TBC, Harbury Village Club
- Mon 13 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall  
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall  
Yoga, 8.00 - 9.00pm, Village Hall
- Wed 15 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall Car park - Frankton (4 miles)  
Connections (Dementia) Café, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
- Thurs 16 KS2 School Christmas Service, 9.30am in Church  
Holy Communion Service, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room  
Harbury Beer & Carols starting 6.30pm, The Crown Inn
- Fri 17 Last posting date for GASS Postal Service
- Sat 18 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Parochial Church Council  
Southam Indoor Market, 10.00am - 12.30pm, the Grange Hall, Southam

- Sat 18 Winter Woollies Christmas Concert, 6.00 - 7.15pm, Harbury Church
- Sun 19 ADVENT 4**  
Joint Service at Ladbroke led by Bishop Christopher, 10.00am
- Mon 20 Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall  
Yoga, 8.00 - 9.00pm, Village Hall  
ADVERTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE TO 36 MANOR ORCHARD,  
HARBURY OR EMAIL ADVERTISING@HLNEWS.CO.UK
- Wed 22 No Wednesday Walk
- Thurs 23 Holy Communion Service, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
- Fri 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE**  
Harbury Christingle Service for children and families, 4.00pm  
Harbury Midnight Holy Communion, 11.15pm
- Sat 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**  
Harbury Holy Communion, 10.30am
- Sun 26 BOXING DAY**  
No church services
- Tue 28 ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE TO: HARBURY PHARMACY,  
HIGH ST OR EMAIL TO ARTICLES@HLNEWS.CO.UK BY 5.30PM
- Wed 29 No Wednesday walk
- Thurs 30 No Holy Communion service today
- Fri 31 Family Disco, time TBC, Harbury Village Club

**JANUARY 2022**

- Sat 1 **NEW YEARS DAY**  
No Coffee Morning
- Sun 2 CHRISTMAS 1**
- Mon 3 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall  
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall  
Yoga, 8.00 - 9.00pm, Village Hall
- Tue 4 Meeting Point, 12.30pm, Crown Inn (bookings by 31<sup>st</sup> December)
- Wed 5 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall Car park -  
Moreton Morrell (4 miles)  
Mothers' Union New Year's Party, 2.30pm start, Tom Hauley Room
- Sun 9 **CHRISTMAS 2**
- Wed 12 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall Car park -  
Lapworth (4 miles)

**Dates for inclusion in the Harbury Diary please to:**

The Editorial Office, 31 Binswood End, Tel: 612155 or email articles@hlnews.co.uk



**LOCAL FOODBANK** - Christmas food donations will be picked up from the Wight School car park 11.30am - 12.30pm on 30<sup>th</sup> December & 6<sup>th</sup> January. Library foyer open for donations on 30<sup>th</sup> December between 10am - 12 noon.

Thank you for your support in 2021



<b>Refuse Collection Rota</b>			
	<b>Deppers Bridge</b>	<b>Harbury, Ladbroke &amp; Deppers Bridge outlying properties</b>	<b>Collection Week</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Fri</b>	
	8	10	<b>Green &amp; Blue Lid Bins</b>
	15	17	<b>Grey Bin</b>
	22	24	<b>Green &amp; Blue Lid Bins</b>
	29	31	<b>Grey Bin</b>
<b>Jan</b>	5	7	<b>Green &amp; Blue Lid Bins</b>
	12	14	<b>Grey Bin</b>
	19	21	<b>Green &amp; Blue Lid Bins</b>

	<b>From the Rector</b>		<b>Rev Andy Batchelor</b> The Rectory, Vicarage Lane, Harbury ☎ 01926 714295 ✉ rev.andyb@gmail.com
	<b>All Saints HARBURY</b>		

As I write this, I'm looking out on to a vicarage garden sparkling with a coating of frost as the weather takes a decidedly chilly turn, reminding us that winter is just around the corner. The church is just about to enter the season of Advent as we prepare for Christmas and the arrival of Jesus, both as a vulnerable baby so long ago, and looking forward to his return when all that has darkened God's once perfect creation will be finally overcome. Every year at this time Christians are encouraged to set aside just a little time to reflect on our lives, where we each are in our relationship with God, and how much or little we have allowed him to mould us into the people he designed us to be. In our hectic lifestyles this is a valuable discipline and can be surprisingly beneficial. Each Sunday in Advent we will be lighting one of the candles on the Advent wreath. These can symbolise a number of different themes, but my favourite is the gifts that God brings us through Jesus – Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. In a world which focuses so often on material things, wealth, or fame, these gifts are often undervalued, but if we spend some time reflecting on what is really important to us, we might find that perspective is turned upside down.

This year our churches are not facing the same restrictions as during the worst of the pandemic, and so there will be much more on offer, and no doubt the wardens will give more details in their article later on. You would be warmly welcomed at any of our services or events, and my prayer is that this year we would all gain a fresh understanding of how God wants to bless us, and open ourselves to his transforming power as we welcome Jesus amongst us once more.



## From the Churchwardens

**Liz & Michael**



We look forward to our Christmas services this year starting at 4pm on Christmas Eve with a Christingle service, candlelit Midnight Mass at 11.15pm and Family Communion on Christmas Day at 10.30am. For those who haven't been to Harbury Church for a while or are visiting over Christmas please remember we have no heating so wrap up well - a warm welcome however awaits you. And probably the smell of oranges following Christingle.

By the time you read this our Christmas Fayre will have been held so thank you to all who came and all who helped run and organise it.

Look out for lit up Advent house windows in Harbury from mid-December until after Christmas which tell the story of the birth of Christ. A map of the trail will be available from the lychgate and in Church.

A Messy Christmas church celebration is on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December starting at 3pm in the church hall. It has been so good to restart Messy Church and see all our friends and families old and new.

The Winter Woollies Christmas concert is on 18<sup>th</sup> December and tickets may still be available from Harbury Village Library. We are very grateful to the library and all the volunteers for providing this service. Both this concert and the Fayre are raising funds for Heat, Light & Stone.

There will be a joint service at Ladbroke Church on 19<sup>th</sup> December at 10am with Bishop Christopher joining us in worship. There will be no service at Harbury that day.



And how about beer and carols? This begins at the Crown at 6.30pm followed by the Gamecock at 7pm and ending up at the Shakespeare about 7.30pm on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December. Come and join in - timings may vary but the start time at the Crown is fixed!

We, the Churchwardens, and all the PCC at Harbury Church, wish you a blessed and happy Christmas.

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

Liz McBride (tel: 612421) and Michael Vincent (tel: 614806)



## Heat, Light and Stone Progress

The Heat, Light and Stone Appeal has raised nearly £128,000 so far. This is an amazing sum, and it represents the affection and respect in which the church is held, both by its congregation and less regular church-goers - and also those who may not attend church at all, but value the building, its traditions and links to the

past. Donors will be wondering why the work hasn't started. What has been happening?

The committee has been steadily working its way through the permissions needed for major work on our 800-year-old building. Changes to the original plans have been made in response to the comments of the Diocese - the Bishops' office - and re-submitted. Final approval has yet to be granted; but we are close.

At the request of the Diocesan Advisory Committee we have relocated the roof mounted hot water radiant heating panels high in the roof to camouflage them against the roof beams and the gas-fired hydrogen-ready boilers have been increased in capacity. Their heat will still radiate down, warming the congregation effectively and efficiently. The heating will be zoned, so that small areas of the church can be heated individually; the Lady Chapel with its smaller altar for some services alone, for example.

The new church lighting will shine downward as originally planned, lighting the church efficiently while not revealing the ceiling radiators.

Following research on different types of effective heating for the Tom Hauley Room, the aim is to use a hydrogen-ready gas boiler supplying hot water to radiant panels mounted in the roof similar to those in the Village Hall.

These and other developments should satisfy Coventry's Diocesan Advisory Committee concerned with church buildings, and after a further month to deal with objections, it should be possible to approach the major donors who we expect to match our funding. With their backing, we can begin to engage the builders and craftspeople and start the work. All this will take time, too.

Unsurprisingly, costs have risen as the church has negotiated the best outcome for our church. The final total may be as high as three hundred thousand pounds. So the appeal continues, and events will be held to continue adding to the fund. It's not over yet; but we expect our patience to be fully rewarded.

There will be an HLS Christmas Concert on 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm in the church. Wrap up warm! The raffle at the Christmas Fayre in the Village Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm is another fundraising event for the project.

**John Stringer**

## **Why is Harbury Church STILL unheated?**

Some people in the village have been asking why our much-loved church is going through another Christmas without heating. And why are we in the Heat, Light & Stone team continuing to seek your support as we approach another year?

One of the main reasons is simply that we are sticking to the principle of minimising carbon impact for the future. The technology we will be installing, using radiant heat panels in the roof, is state of the art and took several months to be chosen and designed. The design (with lower annual energy

running costs as recommended by the Church Building Council in London) is new to the Coventry Diocese advisors and is visually different to conventional systems. Hence, it is only after many months of review, refinement and discussion that we hope to gain Diocesan approval this month, which will also enable us to submit applications to grant bodies for 'match funding'. And, of course, Covid has added delays to all our dealings with contractors and the Diocese. You can be assured that many hours and days of effort have also gone into designing and estimating the lighting and stone works.

And, as to why we need more of your generous donations, the selected heating system is an advanced design and not the cheapest option to install; however, this will be compensated for by lower running costs in the future - as well as a substantial carbon saving. Similarly, the lighting scheme is a fully controllable network of attractive, low energy LED lights. There is also much urgent work needed to repair the stone fabric and we should be able to start this work in the spring. Our target is to raise a further £100,000 from the HLS appeal, a challenging goal!

We ask you to be patient for a few months more until work commences and, if you are able to support any future appeals we will be tremendously grateful. The Christmas Fayre, Winter Woollies Concert and the sale of Tote Bags and Pens are some of our fundraising events and projects; there will be more in 2022. If you have ideas or would like to join our fundraising team, we'd love to hear from you!

Whatever you can do to support our appeal is very welcome and greatly appreciated. For further details, please follow John Stringer's regular updates on the project in the Harbury & Ladbroke News.

A huge and heartfelt thank you from the project team.

**Michael Vincent (614806) Liz McBride (612421) Churchwardens**

	<h2>Mothers' Union</h2>	<p><b>Gillian Hare</b></p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------	----------------------------

You will be reading this after our December meeting when we will have had our AGM - happily Chris is willing to continue as Branch leader. Hurrah!

If you want to pay your subs (£30) which supports the wider work of MU, please contact Jo.

We shall also have held the stall at the Christmas Fayre which I am sure will have been its usual success.

Our next meeting, on 5<sup>th</sup> January, will be the New Year party. Come for a 2.30pm start, if possible with a bran tub gift (value <£2), for the usual silly games followed by tea. As ever, visitors are welcome, but to help catering please let us know if you would like to bring a friend.

Chris and the committee wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.



# REMEMBRANCE

## NOVEMBER 2021

PHOTOS BY ADRIAN GIBLIN





## Harbury Advent-ure with All Saints Church

Explore the Christmas story as you walk round the village this year. Each day from Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December there will be a new window somewhere in the village lit up between 5pm and 7pm showing a scene from the story of the birth of Jesus Christ. You could go for a walk each day to see the window of the day or explore the whole story on a longer walk between Christmas Day and New Year.

Maps with the display sites and dates when they will be lit will be available in the church lych gate from 5<sup>th</sup> December.

**Ann Clucas**

# Ladbroke News & Diary

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

## DECEMBER

<b>Sun</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>ADVENT 2</b> Family Communion, 10.30am, followed by refreshments
Tue	7	Photography Club, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Wed	8	Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall
<b>Sun</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>ADVENT 3</b> Holy Communion (sung) 9.00am
Wed	15	Carol Singing round the village, 7.00pm Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Fri	17	Film Night, 7.00pm, Village Hall (MUST BOOK)
<b>Sun</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>ADVENT 4</b> Joint benefice service with Bishop Christopher, 10.00am (note later time)
Mon	20	ADVERTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE TO 36 MANOR ORCHARD, HARBURY OR EMAIL ADVERTISING@HLNEWS.CO.UK
Wed	22	Village Carol Service, followed by mince pies and mulled wine, 6.30pm
<b>Fri</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> Crib Service, 3.00pm
<b>Sat</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> Christmas Day Communion, 9.00am
<b>Sun</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>BOXING DAY</b> No service this morning at Ladbroke Church
Tue	28	ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE TO: HARBURY PHARMACY, HIGH ST OR EMAIL TO ARTICLES@HLNEWS.CO.UK BY 5.30PM

## JANUARY 2022

<b>Sun</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS 1</b> Family Communion, 10.30am followed by refreshments
Wed	5	Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall
<b>Sun</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS 2</b> Holy Communion (sung) 9.00am
Tue	11	WI, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Wed	12	Parish Council, 7.45pm, Village Hall





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## Ladbroke Church News

**Peter Rigby**

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

Our Remembrance Day Service was well attended and we are grateful to all those who took part, from ex-servicemen to children from St James Academy and the choir. The collection from the service amounting to £150 has been donated to Galanos House.

During December, we are looking forward to welcoming the Bishop of Coventry to a special united service of the three parishes in our benefice (Harbury, Ladbroke and Ufton) on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December. This service will be held at Ladbroke, commencing at 10.00am.

Christmas is, of course, now fast approaching. We shall be singing carols around the village on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December, and our Carol Service will be held in church on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, starting at 6.30pm. There will be a Crib Service on Christmas Eve at 3.00pm and our Christmas Day service will be at 9.00am this year. All are welcome to join any of these services.

Whether you are able to join us or not, may I wish you a very happy Christmas.

### From the Registers:

#### *Baptism*

7<sup>th</sup> November

Joshua Archer



[www.ladbrokechurch.org.uk](http://www.ladbrokechurch.org.uk) [ladbrokechurch@gmail.com](mailto:ladbrokechurch@gmail.com)



## Ladbroke Parish Council

**Jackie West**

**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>**

**HS2:** Simon Davis from EKFB attended the first part of the meeting. He is the community engagement person from the civil engineering consortium responsible for the section from Greatworth to Southam. Chris James who we have met before is more senior and covers further south too. Simon recapped the various meetings the contractors and HS2 have had with parish council reps and reminded us that Ladbroke Village Hall had received an HS2 community grant for the recent improvements and that contractors had supported our birdsong and several archaeology events during the year. He also said that EKFB have vacancies for a wide range of roles.

Regarding potential flooding - independent modelling had shown the designs for water management during construction resulted in a negligible impact on both 1 in 20 and 1 in 100 year events. Simon offered to present this report to the community at a future date if desired.

Several footpaths have or are being closed for safety reasons: SM33 to Southam previously had signs but soon there will be barriers and the footpath will not reopen until it can use the new route via the overbridge. Provided it is safe to do so during the construction work, SM90 on Windmill Hill may be diverted onto the road and farm access track. There are also footpath closures at Lower Radbourne, eventually a replacement will go under the HS2 line.

The Schedule 17 Design Submission will go to the Local Authority in late November. Rather than maps it has technical drawings including the plans for Windmill Hill, the A423 overbridge and the Kineton Road area. It will be published on the planning portal and a printed copy given to the Parish Council. Construction of the A423 overbridge will be in 2022-2023 and the tie-in to the existing road in 2023. Planting plans, including the reinstatement of hedges, are in the Schedule 17 document.

During 2022 there will be earthworks - stripping more top soil and storing it for re-use and also deeper work on cuttings. Fusion will be planting another 3000 saplings, native local species to replace losses from the spinney on Windmill Hill. The site compound where the nursery was will have more permanent, but still temporary, buildings and better lighting that causes less impact on our dark skies but still meets safety and security needs. The access roads and haul route will be created, with the haul route starting to be used in Sept 2022. Simon said that in early 2022 the Kineton Road, between Southam and Deppers Bridge where the haul route will run, needs to be closed to re-inforce it. This was a huge concern to councillors and public present, who could not understand why having been told the overbridges would be constructed first so the haul route could go under these, to minimise impact on the community, EKFB were not now doing this. There was extreme disappointment and concern that, as with the route just north of Southam, contractors were reneging on promises, to make it more convenient for them and it was local people who would suffer. Simon advised that the duration of the closure for re-inforcement was not yet known and he was alerting us to it as soon as he could, rather than giving the statutory two weeks notice. Councillors, including WCC Cllr Kettle told him to go back with the message that EKFB needed to design a solution that would not result in road closure, especially as BBV and LM (the contractors north of Southam) are closing alternative routes from January - March.

**Brock Farm Stud:** Following a visit by Cllr Rock and an expected refusal of planning permission by SDC, the owner gave a very clear explanation of why after many years living in a caravan on site to keep her business going she needed "support" rather than "no representation" from Ladbroke Parish Council. She didn't mention it, but to me it seems most unfair that developers can fill fields with large numbers of houses for profit yet this one, a small scale business, eminently suited to a rural area, can't get permission for one house even when they have a very clear need to live on site to make the

business viable. The parish council agreed they would support it when resubmitted.

**SDC & WCC:** After high numbers, Covid cases in the district have fallen but the Southam area is still particularly high, perhaps because of less herd immunity. People still need to be careful, Covid is not over.

The consultation about merging WDC and SDC has finished and a decision will be made in December. Irrespective of that decision there will be changes in the ward boundaries to balance up numbers of residents in each - we are likely to become part of a mega-ward with two councillors representing 14 communities.

Apparently, although Planning contact consult statutory authorities about proposed developments, that doesn't include Severn Trent so there is no check on its impact on water and sewage infrastructure. Several years ago Ladbroke decided not to develop a Neighbourhood Development Plan; having seen how little weight is given to them at present, Cllr Rock's personal opinion is that they do not seem to be worth the huge effort required to create them. Cllr Kettle (WCC) said that NDPs created before the Core Strategy had been used to reject developments but they can be over-ruled by other planning considerations. However, the Community Infrastructure Levy was increased if there was a NDP.

Avian flu has killed a significant numbers of swans in Stratford and a poultry farm in Bidford was affected - birds culled, a 3km exclusion zone and monitoring in the surrounding 10km. Avoid contact with sick or dead birds. Report dead geese and swans to SDC and they will remove them; smaller dead birds can be double bagged and placed in the black bin or let nature take its course. Dog owners are advised to keep them on leads in affected areas and people should follow DEFRA advice if their pets contact sick or dead birds.

**Planning:** The Parish Council had made no representation on proposals at Swanwick Barn. Planning permission had been given for Deppers Bridge Farm and The Paddocks but had been refused for Cornerstones.

**Website:** It was agreed that the new Parish Council website will have a **gov.uk** address as recommended. The existing village website could therefore remain but would need people to maintain it. Jackie West confirmed that she had done some updates this year but would not continue as the village website was not required by the church (it has its own) and that [www.ladbrokeheritage.org.uk](http://www.ladbrokeheritage.org.uk) contains small sections about the Village Hall and Millennium Green which could be expanded.

**Highways:** The clerk had put in a FOI request to obtain WCC's speeding sign policy as their most recent excuse had been "it's being rewritten" and a refusal to send her the old one, which surely still applies until the new one is issued. Gullies/drains in Church Road were once again blocked, resulting in flooding in Church Road and Highways would be asked to clear them. Note: Patch is retiring this year. There has been some close shaves between vehicles and horses; if the registration is noted, poor driving should be reported on 101 as warnings could be given to repeat offenders.

**Other:** A small grounded drone had been found in a local field. There was no update on recent issues at the pumping station in Bridge Lane - Cllr Rock advised a named contact at Severn Trent.

**Next meeting:** 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022.



We had a super evening making iris folded cards with expertise provided by Heather. There may have been a few slips (and laughs) along the way but everyone went home with a very professional-looking Christmas card. We made plans for our forthcoming coffee morning and were very pleased with our results in spite of a lower turnout. Unfortunately, we clashed with the Craft Fair which no doubt impacted on the numbers. However, as ever, we were our own best customers



and the raffle was very popular. Thank you to all who attended or helped in any way. Your support is very much appreciated.

In lieu of our December meeting we will meet at The Bell in Ladbroke for a Christmas get together and dinner on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm. Details have been emailed to members so if you would like to go and have not yet done so, please contact Dianne as soon as possible. Firm numbers are required at least one week before.

In January we look forward to hearing from award-winning TV writer, Steve Attridge who lives here in Ladbroke. Our February speaker was booked for last year but had to cancel because of Covid so we are really hoping for a successful evening learning about painting on glass. We are planning an outing in March and details will follow.

The resolutions should be included in the next WI Life magazine and we will discuss those in January as votes need to be sent in during February. To summarise briefly, they are:

- Fit for purpose – fit for girls (design of clothes)
- Appropriate sentencing of non-violent women prisoners
- Equality in law for the menopause
- Women and girls with ASD & ADHD – under-identified, under diagnosed, under-supported

- Talking digital exclusion

WFWI have a number of interesting activities listed on their website, <https://warwickshirewi.org.uk> so do please have a look. Quite a number of us are planning to join Anton du Beke for a light lunch at Dallas Burston Polo Ground in March! Denman at Home are also offering a wide range of events on Zoom.

If for any reason you are not free to join us for our Christmas meal, we all send very best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



## Ladbroke Matters

David Wright



The Ladbroke Matters team looks after the Village Hall and the Millennium Green. To help with this we organise regular fundraising events so that we can continue to offer both facilities for the benefit of our community.

Due to unexpected circumstances we have had to change the date of our December supper and film night to **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December** when we will be showing the film *Fisherman's Friends*.

We hope you will still be able to join us for a feel good film, great food, great company, and a complimentary glass of fizz/juice to welcome you back.

**We ask that on this occasion masks are worn in the Village Hall, and we will adhere to social distancing, hence the serving of food may take longer than usual so your patience will be appreciated.**



The improvements to our hall are now complete. We have a revamped kitchen, a new entrance lobby, a new floor, new stage lighting, improved internal lighting, and new stage curtains. We thank all those who helped with this project to make the hall look so fresh and inviting.

Our hall bookings diary is filling up very quickly and the improvements to the hall are being admired by all. To book your special occasion contact Debs (tel 07779 225105 or email [debs.dptv@gmail.com](mailto:debs.dptv@gmail.com)). The rates are still £15 per hour with a great 20% discount for Ladbroke residents.



If you would like to join the Ladbroke Matters team, have any suggestions for future events, or any other comments please contact the Trustees (details on the Ladbroke website).

Finally, we wish all our supporters a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We hope to see you all again in 2022.



## Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Draw for October 2021

£50	Steve and Val Copley	£50	Mike Todman
£25	Mary Coley	£25	John Bicknell
£25	Carol Lane	£10	Markene Schafer
£10	Joan Perry	£10	Geoff Timms

**Margaret Bosworth**



### Ladbroke Photography Club

**Kip Warr**

What's it like to have a professional studio with flashes and backgrounds for photographing portraits? Steve Gale provided just such a setup in Ladbroke Village Hall for our November meeting. He demonstrated the use of studio flashes with diffusers and reflectors and remote triggering devices. With cameras set to Manual (scary for some) we experimented with different shutter speeds, lens stops and ISO settings to get the best results. We also took it in turns to act as models and the results were - perhaps - not always flattering.



**Steve Gale explains  
studio lighting**

Our next meeting, on 7<sup>th</sup> December in Ladbroke Village Hall, will be a competition and photopic on the theme of Autumn. January has traditionally been the time for our get together over dinner at the pub. We may have to make alternative plans if new restrictions come into force.

Anyone can participate in any of these events and it really is free this year for all! And the photos we took during lockdown are still on display at [kwarr.co.uk/photography](http://kwarr.co.uk/photography). If you would like more information about this very friendly club, please contact Jackie West: [ladbrokephotoclub@btinternet.com](mailto:ladbrokephotoclub@btinternet.com)



### General Section

## Ladbroke Heritage

### Church Repairs



We've reached a milestone - after 16 months of work by our team of contractors, we can now celebrate as all the main repairs are complete; the tower, stained glass windows, masonry and smart new doors. We hope you will come and visit us and see for yourself. However, we haven't quite finished this round yet. Thanks to excellent management of both the project and budgets by Jackie, we are now able to

afford to go ahead with some more repairs to our beautiful church and our iconic 140 year old lychgate which is badly decayed in some areas. So follow our story as we continue to conserve our church. Here is our start point, the bad decay on the lychgate which will be transformed and repaired next year.



## Activities

Last month we reported that our judges had, with difficulty, decided on the **Photo Competition** winners. We are pleased to show you these three photos in glorious technicolor on page 34. They were joined by more entries in the mini photo exhibition in church. Perhaps you saw that and voted for your favourite (to be announced next month). You can still enjoy the online images at [www.ourladbrokeheritage.org.uk](http://www.ourladbrokeheritage.org.uk).

We love getting your ideas of things to do and, as suggested by Martin after he saw the exhibition in church, we have created an **Advent Calendar** online. Those who follow Ladbroke Heritage on Facebook or Instagram you will have "opened" the first few windows already. If social media is not your thing, then take a look at our main website [www.ladbrokeheritage.org.uk](http://www.ladbrokeheritage.org.uk), where each day until 25<sup>th</sup> December we are revealing another aspect of Ladbroke. Some will be familiar sights, others from new perspectives. Thank you to all the photographers who contributed via the competition or at other times to this portfolio. Keep your photos coming and we'll do something similar this time next year or maybe even earlier, "a photo a day through the month of May" has a nice ring to it.

We know that many people have been following the **Alice and the Adventurer** story in this magazine. The final instalment is in the following article, but of course those of you that came to the Evening with Lady Alice will know what happens. Thank you to The National Lottery Heritage Fund for inspiring us to discover more about our heritage and share it with others. We are indebted to everyone involved in the preparations including the photos and videos depicting Alice's early life, all who played a role on the day on or off stage and those who prepared and served the delicious food and drink. And a huge thank you too to our audience for coming and for all your compliments. If you were there you may like to re-live it through the review in the next-but-one article; if you couldn't make it you can see what you missed.

And finally, we wish everyone a merry Christmas, a happy New Year and hope to see you exploring Ladbroke church and village. Remember you can

book a talk or tour, and we will be organising more activities next year to share our heritage. Contact Nicky Lewis for more information [www.nicolalewis1958@gmail.com](mailto:www.nicolalewis1958@gmail.com).

**Jackie West & Nicky Lewis**

## **Alice and the Adventurer Part Four**

**Last time** you heard how successful Robert became overseas and how I managed without him.

I was to lose all but one of my daughters over the next 30 years and by this time I had relocated to St Giles-in-the-Fields outside London. At that time it was a small community of about 300 people but it was becoming a wealthy suburb with other people like myself building properties there.

I became very involved with the church there which had become unsafe and had been demolished. I donated large sums of money to help with the building of a new church and in 1631 it was consecrated by the Bishop of London. I also arranged for a Great Bell to be hung and gave money each year for the sexton to ring the bell when condemned men and women passed by on their way to execution. I wanted those poor souls so know that their lives meant something. I also paid for the rector's house and gave money for his stipend.

In 1644 I was amazed to receive a letter from the Royal household. It contained these words *'and holding ourselves in honour and conscience obliged to make reparation; and also, taking into consideration the said great estate which the Lady Alice had in Kenilworth, and sold at our desire to us at a very great undervalue... we do... give and grant unto the said Lady Alice Dudley the title of Duchess of Dudley for life'*. I felt that at last, I had overcome the ignominy of my abandonment and had become a Duchess in my own right.

There had always been outbreaks of the Plague from way back so when news started coming in of one or two people apparently suffering from it in the slum parts of St Giles, nobody took too much notice. To put you in the picture about these slum dwellings: as more and more people travelled to London when work in the country was getting scarce, they were crammed into makeshift structures. There was no sanitation and open sewers ran down the centre of the winding streets. Particularly in Summer the stench was appalling and if I ever had to go near those parts I always carried a nosegay against the smell.

Anyway, in the Spring of 1665 we became aware that more people were dying each week and the authorities started to take more notice. There was no duty to report a death so a System of Searchers was created. Their role was to seek out the dead, establish the cause of death and report it to the clerk of the parish and ultimately to the Minister of State. However, many of the people chosen were illiterate, had scant knowledge of disease and were open to being bribed as no-one wanted it known that a member of their household had died of the plague so numbers were erratic. When there was a proven case of the plague, the whole house was put into quarantine and to make sure that the rules were kept, people were locked inside with a guard

placed at the door. It had a big red cross and the words 'Lord Have Mercy on Us' painted on. One night just as they started doing this, we heard shouting and banging of tins and it was a huge group of people rioting in St Giles against these measures.

Ships coming from cities known to have plague victims were also quarantined in an effort to keep it out of this country. Businesses and most of the alehouses were closed but even with all these restrictions nothing seemed to be able to stop the spread and men and women were dying in the streets.

We could hear the dreadful call of the men driving the dead carts every evening, 'Bring out your Dead'. St Giles graveyard was soon completely full and grave pits were dug such that, as men were excavating at one end, bodies were being tipped in at the other. In Summer apparently there were 2,000 deaths in one week and by September it had risen to 7,000 deaths in a week. However gradually things started to improve and the King and other nobles who had fled the city started to return. Somehow we people who had stayed through it all felt a greater sense of community afterwards as it was something we had all been through together.

Then just as we were beginning to think that life was going to get back to normal, when I woke up on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September, I was urged to look out of the window. In the distance I could see red flames over the rooftops along a long line of houses. We couldn't take our eyes off it for three days as it spread nearer and nearer to my home and, worse still to the newly built church of St Giles which meant so much to me. At night, the whole sky was red and the air was full of the choking smoke. The road was a steady stream of people with as many possessions as they could carry loaded onto anything with wheels leaving their burning houses. Samuel Pepys could be seen everywhere evacuating his own house, helping others and advising the King. When he had nowhere else to store his things, we heard that he and his friends dug a big pit in his garden and buried bottles of wine and a big Parmesan cheese! That made us all laugh. We could hear the explosions when houses were deliberately blown up in the path of the fire to stop its spread. All those beautiful buildings and churches, including the Mercers' Hall where Katherine had got married, ruined. My heart ached. However just as we began to wonder if we ought to start putting things in boxes, the fire was brought under control.

At least so many of those dreadful slums had been burned away and architects were invited to submit plans for the complete construction of a new city.

By this time I was a very old lady by any standards and I began to make provision for after my death. I wanted to be buried back in Stoneleigh with my parents and other members of my family, which I still considered my home. I realised that this was quite an undertaking to transport my body from St Giles -in-the-Field to Stoneleigh so I asked that £5 should be given to each place we stopped at along the way and sixpence to any poor person whom we passed. I requested that my funeral be attended by as many widows as my age and that each one is given money for a gown, a 'kerchief and a shilling to buy their supper.

I had been moved by hearing about the plight of English Christians imprisoned by the Turks so I wanted £100 to be taken from my estate for their redemption.

In St Giles parish, I arranged for £400 to be given to the hospital and a further £20 per year for ever. I wanted to help poor children gain skills so they could support their families in future, so some of my estate will buy land and the rent from it pay for apprenticeships that their fathers cannot afford. As there will always be poor people in need of help, my will also instructs that £100 a year will be distributed among the poor in eight parishes of my choice.

It is now January 1669. I am feeling all of my 90 years and more and more frail each day. I'm not sure I will be here to see the spring flowers but I thank God every day for the life I have had.

*Duchess Alice Dudley died on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1669 at her home in St Giles-in-the-Fields. Her body was taken to Stoneleigh and buried there on 20<sup>th</sup> March in accordance with her wishes.*

**Carol Lane**

## An Evening with Lady Alice



This event in Ladbroke Village Hall on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November was just that - an evening with someone we eventually felt we knew - and it was excellent. Part of a Lottery funded project to repair Ladbroke Church and share its heritage, the production was unusual in that the ideas and script were entirely new and were the work of local people.

The presentation was inspired. It was set as if Alice herself had come back to Ladbroke to tell her story. She was portrayed convincingly by Vanessa Comer who, standing simply at a lectern, dressed in sumptuous satin with a Tudor headband and snood, drew the audience in - almost as confidantes - to hear her secrets and stories. She joked and smiled, even apologised occasionally and the result was that she easily won everyone over, each of us rejoicing and grieving with her as she movingly recounted her life.

And what a life. Though this story was of a woman who lived 400 years ago, we could almost have been reading some of it in *Hello* magazine today. It told of riches and fame, beauty, enviable homes (read castles), love, religion, betrayal, loss - all set against points in history so familiar that the tale made poignant connections. Added to this, we found that, even though the story was partly set in London and Italy, Lady Alice had lived near where we live - had seen some of the same things that we see and donated gifts to our own village church. That brought it even more to life.

The story is of Alice Leigh and her husband Robert Dudley. The first part of the production introduced them, told of their time at Kenilworth Castle with

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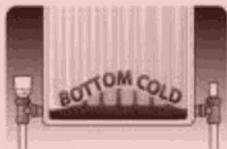
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their five daughters and led on to Robert's betrayal of Alice (he went abroad with his mistress to have a new life - and 13 more children! - in Italy). The second part told of Alice making her way as an independent single mother, becoming a duchess in her own right, surviving the days of London's fire and plague and finally becoming a caring benefactor to local churches and the poor.

The narration was cleverly broken up by evocative music, interesting pictures and clever film. We saw the young Alice and Robert in gentle settings with their children, little girls in Tudor dress skipping and playing whilst the couple cradled their newest baby, all dressed in period costumes and looking every bit the Tudor family they were depicting. Special effects like London burning, brought the story to life, as did some exciting 'real live people' performances including a terrifying Plague Doctor marching up the aisles tolling his death-knoll bell and a benevolent clerk distributing Alice's (chocolate) coins to lucky members of the audience. There were live dances and even an escaping Robert Catesby of gunpowder plot fame, running through the hall chased by soldiers.

The attention to detail by the cast and whole production team, including costumes, sound, music and lighting resulted in a very engaging performance.

A welcome drink and delicious and copious finger buffet supper were provided before the performance as part of the entry ticket. Home-made quiches, sausage rolls and other delicacies were appreciated by all.

The evening that Lady Alice 'came back' to Ladbroke after 400 years was completely enjoyable, moving and effectively produced. Well done, all.

**Joanie Robins**



## **Teams4u Love in a Box Christmas Shoebox Appeal**

We had a fantastic response this year, and thanks to everyone's valuable contributions I was able to take 44 completed boxes plus funds for their transportation (which we were able to Gift Aid) to our area collection point.

Pam and John, who co-ordinate the area collection at Stretton-on-Dunsmore are an amazing inspiration - so far this year from their bungalow they have despatched over 2,000 boxes to the regional centre in Evesham. From Evesham the boxes are loaded onto lorries and taken direct to children in Bosnia, Belarus, Georgia, Romania and Moldova using local contacts.



Thank you so much to everyone for being part of this initiative which is such a blessing to the children and families who receive the boxes. It was particularly special to link up with the Harbury Knitwits this year whose knitted items were a wonderful addition.

I hope we can do it all again next year. Many thanks.

**Sue Wright**



## Report from your District Councillor for Ladbroke

### Covid Rates

It is a mixed picture. Over recent weeks Covid infections in the District as a whole have been higher than they have ever been, and continue to fluctuate widely, both over time and across the area. Having starting to fall back from around 500 per 100,000 in recent weeks, latterly there has been resurgence in cases. Local areas have seen something of a series of hotspots, but around Southam itself the numbers have reduced from the very high infection rates we have seen. Weekly vaccination numbers are rising as booster jabs are administered.

Whilst the majority of cases are still in school age children there have been increasing numbers in the over 60s which is a particularly vulnerable group. Personally I am perplexed by the Government's messaging that even minor controls, such as mask wearing in shops, are not needed. I thank the many people locally who are considerate and do wear masks in confined settings. Speaking personally, I now know more Covid sufferers than I have ever done before.

### Possible Merger - Warwick and Stratford Districts

Work on the potential merger between Stratford and Warwick District Councils has been continuing and the formal consultation has now closed, but I would like to hear any personal opinions from residents. The two councils will vote on whether or not to recommend a merger to central Government on 13<sup>th</sup> December.

### Avian Flu

Cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 have been confirmed in Stratford District near Alcester (a small commercial poultry flock). There have been other cases near Wellesbourne. If you find dead wild waterfowl (swans, geese or ducks) or other dead wild birds, such as gulls or birds of prey, you should report them to the Defra helpline (03459 33 55 77). Do not touch or pick up any dead or visibly sick birds that you find. More information at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu#latest-situation>

### Planning Enforcement

There has been a restructuring of the team that deal with suspected infringements of the planning regulations, which has been an area of some concern for a while. It has taken months if not years to investigate cases. It is in everyone's interests to understand whether planning rules have been broken as soon as possible and two new enforcement officers have joined the team. If residents are unsure about whether permission is needed, the duty planning officer may be able to advise 01789 267575. If a breach of planning control is suspected it can be reported at: [planning.enforcement@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:planning.enforcement@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

## Nuisance Lighting

I have had complaints about nuisance lighting from HS2 and other properties. There are a number of controls that can be applied but environmental health at Stratford is the first point of advice if it affects a residence. I am discussing HS2 depot lighting with their contractors.

As the end of the year approaches, I wish residents a safe and happy Christmas.

**Cllr Nigel Rock**  
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*

### November 2021 Meeting Report

New Councillor Jess Dominick was co-opted and welcomed to the Council.

#### Reports from other organisations

**Harbury Society** - Cllrs agreed with the Society complaint that the recent Stratford District changes to information in planning applications for tree works made it harder for the public to know exactly what was to be done and by whom. Harbury lost so many mature trees to Dutch Elm Disease that every remaining tree was precious. Our Cllrs and our District Councillor Jacqui Harris agreed and they all promised to complain to the District Council about the lack of clarity in recent planning applications.

**Library** -The Chairman said that ventilation in the Library would be enhanced by an air purifier. The blocked drains had been cleared of tree roots and "baby wipes". The GASS Christmas card box would be placed on the front of the Library.

**School** - Cllr Gibb explained the school had advised parents of its intention, in September, to join the Arden Forest Multi Academy Trust for Primary Schools, rather than another Academy Trust that mainly consisted of secondary schools. The school would still have local governors but would have more help on teaching, building works etc. Teachers would, under TUPE, join the Academy Trust.

Chairman Tim Lockley asked why Harbury School was joining a group so far away but was told that the school didn't want to be forced to join another TRUST and that the ethos of the school and the role of Harbury's Governors would remain. The teachers had been very understanding of the move as they knew of the school's current situation.

**Village Hall** - Cllr Thompson reported that Severn Trent had cleared blocked drains. There was concern that there had been so many people at the Bonfire (Two thousand had attended) that he had been concerned about safety. This was discussed later.

**County Councillor Kettle** reported that despite having promised not to close more roads round Southam, HS2 now intended to do so. Work on the Fosse crossroads might begin in 2022. Covid rates were up and down and changes could happen quite suddenly. Our Chairman confirmed we have 65 cases.

Cllr Kettle warned that Avian Flu had come into the County with bird migrations and counselled that residents should report any bird deaths to Defra. Stratford would collect any large birds that died in your garden. All poultry keepers must lock up their birds by 29<sup>th</sup> November.

**Planning** - Cllrs agreed that the planning applications for tree-works in the churchyard were confusing and that this and the other applications should specify who was to undertake the work. After that, on advice from Cllr Allen, they approved: - work on the Wagstaffe School building; work at Western House; removal of a holly at 23 Farm Street; felling of a tree near Meadowside in Pirie Close and an extension to a house on Hereburgh Way.

On a very fully detailed application for tree works at 39 Farm Street there was some dissent on whether one of the trees should be left in place or felled. The application for a solar panel array at Eastfields Farm was discussed at some length but Cllr decided that it should be supported and could provide the Parish with money for other environmental projects.

There was laughter from Councillors on the request from District's Housing and Employment Availability Study asking for distances in the parish to bus stops. As Tim Lockley said, we have several bus stops, but they don't necessarily have any buses!

**Environment** - Cllrs agreed that before the next Council meeting, in January, they will have looked into ideas and costs to combat climate change. There was discussion on whether they could "re-wild" our greens and verges, but were concerned that residents might not be happy to see our Greens left un-mown. The Chairman suggested that they could trial the idea on one open space but would have to ensure that the vision splays were protected.

Paul Quinney reported on progress of the tree planting.

Residents campaigning about fast traffic on Butt Lane and Bush Heath Road might get some feasibility study money in the New Year.

Paul Quinney said the playing field had not suffered as much damage as usual from the bonfire and that Mr Mann would "run a magnet" over the grass to pick-up anything metal left by the bonfire. Cllr Thompson was concerned about fireworks being lighted with flaming torches, and the management of the very large crowd. Mr Quinney said this year the fireworks went less high than before, and were sited as far back as possible. He estimated that there had been two thousand at the event, many were not from the village. He was congratulated by the Chairman for a good event.

Colin Sheasby had again offered his cherry-picker for volunteers to set up the winter lights which were due to be illuminated at 4pm on the 27<sup>th</sup> November,

Cllr Balch had produced a map with a trail showing where all the lights would be situated. There would be lantern-making in the Library.

**Other issues** - Work to provide a lease agreement with the Tennis Club has been sent off by the Clerk to see if it meets the criteria.

**Next Meeting:** 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021 in the Village Hall.

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

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



Linda Doyle was the Harbury Society speaker on 16<sup>th</sup> November and her presentation was entitled 'Medieval Deserted Villages around Ladbroke'. Along the A423 there are four deserted medieval village sites - Radbourne, Hodnell with Wills Pastures, Chapel Ascote and Watergall. They were all separate Saxon villages, but mostly all under the same manorial ownership after Domesday and into the Norman period. Linda moved to Chapel Ascote Farm, which is on the edge of Ladbroke and Bishop's Itchington, in 1975 and was intrigued by the unusual land marks, old pathways, pottery shards and strange-shaped stones she found in the vicinity and this led on to her starting research into the local history. A 1653 document said 'anciently an eminent parish' and for many years past the estates had been in 'great men's hands' and so Linda wanted to know who these Great Men were. Further research revealed that they were ancestors of the Spencer family, Catesby of gunpowder plot fame, and a captain who was beheaded in the Civil War battle of Edgehill, to name but a few.

As a result of HS2's construction and the various artefacts unearthed along the route in this area, Linda published a book entitled 'Chapel Ascote - A Deserted Village'. At one time there were two chapels, both called St. Helens, one at Radbourne and one at Ascote which, at a later date, was called Chapel Ascote. In 1980 a medieval skeleton was accidentally dug up while draining Chapel Field. This must have been where St Helen's Chapel once stood, hence the field name. Other finds have included old horseshoes and, Linda's favourite - a medieval dagger. When looking at old maps of the area, there are a number of tracks and pathways linking the settlements, some of which were probably drovers' roads used for moving livestock from one place to another.

The two main reasons for a village to be abandoned was the Black Death in 1348 and the Act of Enclosure in 1773. Warwickshire is divided into two distinct areas - the Arden to the north of the county, which was wooded in medieval times and hence had a low population, and the Feldon to the south, which consisted of more open areas and supported a larger population. By 1348 the population had grown to be three times the size since 1086 with the

result that those who could afford to started to move into the Arden area leaving the less well off inhabitants in the Feldon region. Before the plague in 1348 there had been a succession of poor harvests and famine which had already claimed lives in this area but the Black Death was, literally, the 'final nail in the coffin' for the continuation of some villages and they just fell into decay leaving the humps and bumps visible in the ground today as evidence of their previous existence.

The other main factor to explain why these villages disappeared is that in 1773 an Act of Parliament was passed, the Enclosures Act, which meant that the feudal strip system of farming (ridge and furrow), which had been in place for hundreds of years, ceased. Enclosure meant fencing off the land so that only one farmer had the right to raise crops there. This made the land more productive, yet enclosure often had disastrous consequences for the poor. Enclosure, despite increasing productivity, resulted in increased poverty, rural depopulation and homelessness.

In conclusion, Linda highlighted the history of some of the notable families from the district, namely the Catesbys, the Spencers and the Wilkes. The talk was a fascinating insight into local history and the Society looks forward to welcoming Linda back to hear about more of her discoveries.

### **Forthcoming Events:**



Be sure to look out for the Harbury Society Christmas Quiz which will be circulated to members in December and in January there will be the annual social gathering - details of which will be released shortly. If you would like to become a member of the Harbury Society and enjoy a varied programme of talks and outings, please contact the Membership Secretary, Sue Turner, on 07917 055920 or email [sue@turners.co.uk](mailto:sue@turners.co.uk)

In the meantime, we should like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

	<b>Harbury Women's Institute</b>	<b>Mary Thompson</b>
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At our AGM on 11<sup>th</sup> November Hilary and Ann reflected on the past year. In spite of Covid, we had managed to have a meeting every month - sometimes having to change speakers if their talks weren't suitable for Zoom. It was great to start meeting in person again in August and September. The committee had managed to keep all members in touch over the year. Sue Myhill, Warwickshire Federation treasurer, attended the meeting; she congratulated the committee and members on the way they had kept things going during a difficult year.

Hilary has decided to come off the committee after serving 12 years as secretary and Maureen has decided to have a rest after serving a number of years on the committee. Both were thanked for their hard work and presented

with gifts. Sylvia, Helen and Doreen were presented with gifts to thank them for running the raffle at meetings for at least 20 years. Rosemary and Sheila were thanked for taking on this role.

Sadly, there were no new volunteers to go on the committee so the following will remain as committee members – Sue Coupe, Lin Hayes, Pat Mott, Chris Rutherford and Mary Thompson. Pam Furnivall has agreed to take over as secretary with Gill Thorpe remaining as treasurer and Ann Mayer as president.

We have a full programme of speakers arranged for 2022. Mary will hand over the programme secretary's role to Julia Fowler in the new year.

After the formal part of the meeting members were invited to taste a selection of puddings provided by members - very popular!



The November cinema was very successful with the film "Official Secrets" receiving applause at the end. The next cinema will be Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January - more details in the Harbury & Ladbroke News and on village notice boards.

At our Christmas meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December we shall welcome Harbury resident Katy Constance who will be demonstrating Christmas wreath-making and table arrangements.



## Harbury Theatre Group

**Keith Hayes**



As I write this I have no idea whether you have seen our Pantomime at all. This article has to be submitted before our opening night and things are that close. Since we first started in late August the whole production has been threatened by the "Death of a Thousand Cuts" It could be that the 1000<sup>th</sup> cut has just been dealt as our "Wishie Washee" has just lost her voice completely (not Covid) so we are now tottering on that knife edge that I mentioned once before. If we survive and if you have seen our production it will be put down to the "Bull Dog Spirit" of our remaining cast.

And what a cast they are! I have never seen so much determination to make a thing work. No wonder we won the Second World War against all the odds.

These people are the sons, daughters and grandchildren of those heroes of old. I am so proud of them.

I am sure that the rumours have been going round the village as we tottered from crisis to crisis but each time we found a way to overcome them. Missing people have been replaced or their lines spread out among others. Sections have been cut. Complicated special effects have been simplified, complicated scenery redesigned.

Through all the uncertainty we are driving on. The wardrobe department are still producing costumes as I speak. The carpentry guys are still hammering away. The art department is still splashing paint in all directions.

Due to losing at least four rehearsals at the start, the cast are struggling to have this show ready in time but their dedication to succeed can't be faulted. Little groups are getting together out of hours and extra rehearsals have taken place unprompted by me.

One of our recent problems was that our Music Director caught Covid and had to self-isolate. Will this now run through the rest of the cast and stop us all together? We don't yet know but again, we are pushing on. This could not happen at a worse time as the musical numbers still need work and we have no time left. But yet again we are trying to overcome it by having the MD on Zoom on a lap top. Thankfully he arrived back for our final dress rehearsal and all is well. (?)

So there you are. It is what it is as they say. I know that the cast are worried that this is struggling to come up to the high standard that we like to present but they couldn't be trying harder. Before we open (if we open) I will tell them that they have nothing to reproach themselves for. There is a saying in the theatre world that goes "*If the show is a success the actors were brilliant, if the show is a failure the Director was rubbish*".

Here's hoping that you were able to see it and that if you did you enjoyed it.



**Harbury Heritage Centre**

**Bill Timson**

This month's article looks at the village football team; during an informative chat with local sportsman Les Sollis who played both football and cricket for the village, we have come up with some key facts and dates outlining the history of the football club. There are also some interesting snippets taken from the '*Royal Leamington Spa Courier and Warwickshire Standard*' which have been sourced via the 'British Newspaper Archive' software which we have available in the Heritage Centre. These are shown in ***italics***.

The football team was formed in 1905 and was called 'Harbury Rovers'. However, the team was banned from the league in the 1920's for 'violent conduct'. After some cooling off, the team reformed the following year as 'Harbury Albion'. The word Albion was originally used to mean 'Britain', then only for parts of Britain with white cliffs. Not sure how Harbury qualifies!

**Below: a team photograph of Harbury Rovers FC circa 1920**



In the early days, Harbury played their home games on the ground which is now the site of the primary school in Park Lane; at the time this was a recreation ground. Les thinks that they moved to the existing playing fields in the 1930s. The club had its own changing pavilion on the 'top field', in the corner by the gate into Ridgley Way. It had separate changing rooms and a communal room with a stove to boil the kettle for cups of tea at half time. Les thinks that it was built in the 1930's as it was 'old' when he started watching the 'Albion' in the 1950s.

In 1937 a 'Harbury Works Football team' listed three players with the name Freeman, J, C, and A. This may have been another village team possibly made up of cement work employees. *Indeed in the Leamington and District league in October 1946 there were two Harbury football teams mentioned: Harbury Albion who played in the second division and Harbury Works who played in the first division.* By 1948 Harbury Works had dropped out of the league while Harbury Albion continued to play in Division Two. There was now also a Harbury Juniors team.

After World War II games were played against German and Italian prisoners of war. We assume that these were 'friendlies!' In the mid 1950s Harbury won the 'Aston Villa Cup' beating Bishops Itchington FC.

On 6<sup>th</sup> November 1953 Harbury Albion were now joined by a Harbury Boys Club team, both of whom had won comfortably the previous week. *It was also reported that the Boys Club had entered an under 18 team in the Coventry Evening Telegraph Trophy. 'Mr C Bloxham is giving the boys instruction in weight lifting and various other exercises.'*

*December 31<sup>st</sup> 1954 saw a report that Harbury Albion had arranged a charity match played on Boxing Day against Flavels who won 5-3. £6 - 5shillings was raised in support of 'Blind Babies'. The same charity was also at the heart of a carol singing effort by two members of the Junior School; Pat Lowe and*

*Kevin Bloxham who 'armed with only their voices and a cocoa tin sang to neighbours in Manor Road and raised 5 shillings.'*

Another local prestigious trophy 'The Presidents Cup' was won around 1960. The photograph below shows the team at the start of the 1969-70 season.

Harbury Albion joined the Leamington Sunday League in the 1968-69 season and finished runners up gaining promotion to Division One. There were enough keen players to start a reserve side in the early 1970's.



I first met Les, the club's secretary, when I travelled over to Harbury to referee matches on Sunday mornings. This was in the late 1970's by which time the teams changed in the Village Hall, but unlike today there was no separate facility for the referee. Les continued as secretary for 20 years from 1971 until 1991.

Probably the most successful Harbury Team was when Nathaniel Cleaver was manager in the early 'noughties'. During this period they won several trophies and worked their way up to the Premier League finishing runners-up to Westlea Wanderers. Their success continued for several years but like many village teams there have been high and low moments. The football team is once again active, and putting the name of Harbury on the sporting map playing in Division Three of the Leamington Sunday League.

The crest on the football shirts is that of the Wagstaffe family in the 16 and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Harbury Parish crest was added to the badge about 30 years ago, the idea of club player George Bryers.

Thanks to Les for providing much of this information. All the names of the players in the team photographs are available in the Heritage Centre.



HARBURY HERITAGE CENTRE  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH HARBURY SCHOOL

# 2022 CALENDAR

**A collection of Harbury scenes by local artists**  
(A4 size, opening up to A3)

To place an order contact:  
group@harburyheritage.org.uk  
or 01926 713389 (free local delivery)

**ONLY £7.50**

Proceeds from the sale of this calendar will be split between The Heritage Centre and Myton Hospice.

It's not too late to buy a 2022 Calendar in support of **Myton Hospice**. An ideal gift for Christmas, it comes complete with an envelope and is priced at £7.50. To order phone 01926 713389 or email 'group@harburyheritage.org.uk'. They are also on sale in Harbury Village Library.

Harbury Heritage Group wishes all the residents of Harbury a peaceful and Happy Christmas.

Come and visit us in the New Year.

See our website for opening times  
[www.harburyheritage.org.uk](http://www.harburyheritage.org.uk)



## An Evening with Lady Alice



Alice remembers  
(clockwise)  
her parents,  
her childhood,  
being a wife and mother,  
her daughters,  
a time for celebration,  
the plague





David and Barbara Thistlethwaite would like to wish all our friends in Harbury a happy, peaceful and healthy Christmas and New Year and may 2022 be less turbulent for us all.

**Best wishes to all our friends and neighbours in Harbury for a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year. We are making a donation to Save the Children this year instead of sending cards.  
Ann and Michael Vincent**

To all our neighbours and friends in Harbury in these unpredictable times, we wish every possible joy and peace this Christmas.  
With love from Andrew and Jenny Patrick

Michael and Gillian Hare send their best wishes to all their friends in Harbury for a happy and peaceful Christmas. We shall send a donation to Christian Aid in lieu of cards.

**Festive greetings to our friends and neighbours and best wishes for 2022.  
Jackie & Simon West**

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for your continuing support.  
From The Milk Shed

*Sheila & Gerry Parker wish all their friends in Harbury a very Happy Christmas and Best wishes for 2022.  
We are supporting several charities this year.*

**Merry  
Christmas**

*Seasons Greetings to all  
you health and hap  
Alan and*

*Christmas greetings to all o  
Ladbroke and best wishes  
2022. Instead of sending  
charitable o  
Joe and Ann*

*Stan, Chris and famil  
in Harbury, a very h  
healthy New Year.  
donation to the Air*

***Happy Christmas to my fi  
best wishes for  
Pauline B***

*Wishing my friends and ne  
Christmas and New Year. Th  
Jeanne B*

*Happy Christmas and a very hap  
friends in Harbury. I shall put a  
instead of ser  
Izzy G*





Happy  
Christmas



*To my many good friends in Harbury, I can't thank you  
enough for all your loving support.*

*Christmas greetings to all and every best wish for a  
healthy and happy 2022.*

*Love, Moira Rollason xxx*

*our friends and wishing  
happiness for 2022.*

*Sue Lord*

*our friends in Harbury and  
s for a happy and healthy  
cards we will be making  
donations.*

*the Greenwell*

*y wish all our friends  
happy Christmas and  
We have made a  
Ambulance Service.*

*riends in the village and  
the new year.*

*Baldwin*

*ighbours good wishes for  
thank you for your concerns.  
eaumont*

*ppy and healthy 2022 to all my  
a donation into the Scout box  
nding cards.*

*imes*

Alan and Pauline Hayes would like to wish all  
their friends and neighbours a very happy  
Christmas and New Year.

We have made a donation to Myton Hospice.

*Gordon Bennett would like to thank friends and  
neighbours for their kind help and friendship over  
the past 12 months. Wishing you all a very happy  
Christmas and an enjoyable New Year.*

*Wishing all our friends in Ladbroke and Harbury a very  
Happy Christmas and all good wishes for 2022.  
from Nicky and Gray Lewis*

Beryl Checkley wishes you all a happy  
Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Geoff and Gill Thorpe wish all their friends a  
Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

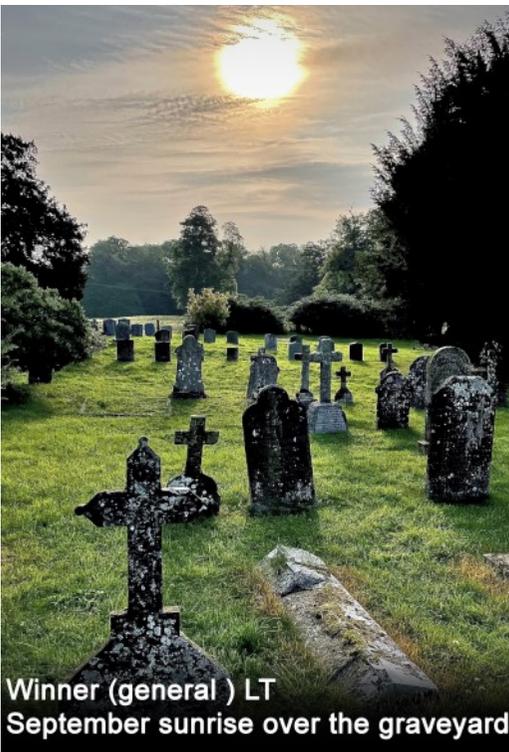
Wishing all my friends in Harbury and Ladbroke a  
very peaceful and happy Christmas. My thoughts  
and prayers will be with you.

Pam Brown





**Winner (Experienced ) KW**  
**Ladbroke Hill - a view that is part of our heritage and will be destroyed when the hill is excavated for the HS2 cutting**



**Winner (general ) LT**  
**September sunrise over the graveyard**



**Winner (Child) LS**  
**The Phone Box - What is that?**

**Ladbroke Heritage  
Photo Competition**



## Harbury Energy Initiative

**Bob Sherman**

☎612277 ✉info@harburyenergy.co.uk

### **COP-ping out**

No doubt you expect me to talk about COP26. Everyone else seems to have stopped, so I won't even start. We can all get interested when we see clear evidence of action on promises - and beyond, if we want a real result.

### **LCWN**

(don't try and say it; it's an acronym)

In April 2019 a group of HEI members, with an open meeting in the Village Hall, started something that became the Low Carbon Warwickshire Network. As usual we had no idea that it would work, just a shrewd hunch that it was needed. By the end of the year we had four groups in this new Network and a Steering Group, so not quite a Network yet. Little did we realise that creeping dramatically and persistently into our lives would come a pandemic that shut down most human contact activity. The Network stalled momentarily but we continued to grow through 2020 and into 2021. In early November this year we held our first open contact event since autumn 2019, this time at Church Lawford. By the end of that event we could count 19 groups in our membership and a contact list of over 80 individuals.

People trying to act positively and practically on net zero ambitions need the support and counsel of others. Together we can do so much and feel stronger.

If you want to be part of that you should be part of HEI. It's as easy as sending me an email or Facebook post. No one will expect you to undertake a massive project. What we want is personal energy, belief and determination - and new ideas. That's what brought us together in 2010 and that's what we need now to maintain the momentum. We are greatly respected locally for what we have achieved. Let's keep inspiring the local communities to act with new projects.

### **In the News**

One of the benefits of being known is that people start to come to us. In the middle of last month I was contacted by an ITV News researcher working on a project about rural electric car charging (or lack of it). In urban areas there is a charging station every mile; in rural areas it is 16 miles between charge points. There is a problem here in unequal distribution of infra-structure that we are trying to address with our Harbury Future Energy village charging station project. More big vision with slightly scary prospects but high hopes!

In due course I spent an afternoon filming for a report that was broadcast on ITV Central News on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November and in four or five other ITV regions. I would like to have heard the phone ring immediately with an offer of substantial funding for our project but of course that didn't happen. Not yet anyway.

## Glasgow, Westminster...Harbury

November was an important month - not only did world leaders from nearly 200 countries meet in Glasgow, but HEI approached Harbury Parish Council for a formal acknowledgement of the climate emergency.

Residents need to be sure that all our elected representatives, at every level, understand that global heating is a real and present threat to the world, and that they will do everything in their power to reduce the emissions that are causing it, and adapt to the effects.

The climate emergency was declared nationally in the Westminster parliament in May 2019, and subsequently by Warwickshire County Council, Stratford and Warwick District Councils - and it has now been formally acknowledged by our Parish Council. We are delighted to say that the motion was carried unanimously - though this was only as we had expected, given that our council has always shown great care and concern for our local environment.

It is clear that our Parish Council has much more limited powers than our other tiers of government, but our local councillors can have influence well beyond their official powers. We asked them to do two things.

The first is to examine every decision the Council takes in the light of the climate emergency.

The second is to use their influence with higher tiers of government, and also with residents.

Because they understand the need for action on the climate emergency, they should be able to help residents come to terms with any national and local changes - like the essential move from petrol and diesel cars to electric ones, and all other moves away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy.

We were also delighted that the Council resolved to establish a working party to consider its actions and report in time for its January meeting. This is important, because it is the January meeting which decides the Council's budget for next year. We understand that village groups may be asked to contribute to the discussion, and are looking forward to being invited.

**HEI wishes you all a very happy Christmas**



**Harbury e-Wheels**

**Bob Sherman**

✉ [harburyewheels@gmail.com](mailto:harburyewheels@gmail.com) 🌐 [www.harburyenergy.co.uk](http://www.harburyenergy.co.uk)



**Food Bank over Christmas and New Year**

Thank you to all those who regularly donate to the foodbank, bringing goods to the library or the car park every Monday. During the Christmas holiday the Foodbank at St Peter's church in Kineton is closed on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> December and Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

So that there is no shortfall at this critical time, Harbury e-Wheels will, just for those two weeks, be collecting instead on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> December and

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January at the usual times of 11.30am to 12.30pm. You will be able to donate in the library foyer on 6<sup>th</sup> January as it will be open anyway. On 30<sup>th</sup> December the library was planned to be shut but they are kindly opening up between 10.00am and 12.00 noon just for foodbank drop-off.

The Food Bank organiser has asked me to let you know that anything with a specific Christmas content should be donated by 13<sup>th</sup> December to be sure to be in time.

Not everyone can look forward to a happy Christmas. Please do keep donating.

### Recent e-Wheels Events

**A BIG Thankyou** - to all those who supported Harbury e-Wheels events recently: *Travels with Tottle* and *Murder at Raymondo's*.

Hugh Tottle attracted the maximum audience for the Harbury Village Library to be engaged and entertained with his array of wonderful photographs taken on his global travels focussing on many unusual wildlife species. He also finished with an instructive view of what makes a great and an awful photo - using his own examples for both!

Two performances of *Murder at Raymondo's*, John Stringer's third murder mystery, filled the Library with fun, laughter and brain-teasing questions of who the villain could be. It turned out it was a combined job by Alphonse (played by John himself) and Florence (another hilarious characterisation brought alive by Sue Bushill). The innocent members of the cast, chef Suzie (Moiria Rollason), sous chef Wayne (Terry Hunt complete with arm tattoo) and a dissolute barman Greg (Trevor Montague), duly delivered many red herrings to keep the audience guessing. We have already been requested for a fourth murder mystery next year and John has had his arm twisted to write another. Clearly, for e-Wheels, crime does pay!



**Peter Walshe**



**Harbury Rugby Football Club**

**Steve Kittendorf**

The first VP pre-match lunch of the season was held on 30<sup>th</sup> October. A "Full House" was treated to a roast beef lunch followed by cheese, biscuits and port before being entertained by Paul Boardman. All this before the home side delivered an accomplished performance against Rugby Welsh picking up a convincing winning 42-10.

### Bedworth 21 Harbury 7

During the first half, Harbury was able to wrap up Bedworth's wingers as the home side elected to run the ball wide at every opportunity. However, one did

manage to get away and score under the posts at the end of the first quarter. Harbury could have made more of the wind but did manage to force their way over to even up the score at half time. Bedworth made better use of the wind in the second half to dominate field position and the visitors not only thwarted several attacks on their line but often broke out in attack only to fall short of the home line by a few metres. The home side continued to maintain possession going into the final quarter and were rewarded with a couple of tries to

seal the match. NOT wanting to criticise the referee, but the spectators from both sides were somewhat bemused at the number of times the whistle was blown and for the number of yellow cards shown – enough said.

### **Shipston A 12 Harbury A 17**

Without a League match on the Saturday, Harbury travelled to Shipston for a Friday night game to play a friendly against Shipston. The visitors fielded a couple of old faces that relished their first run out for weeks – no let's say months! Hendry's comment after the game – *"Boys well proud of everyone involved last night.....!!! We played beautiful rugby.....!!! We were one team of 16 players that beat two teams. They had at least 30 players coming at you guys and we controlled them.....\*\*\*\*\* well done.....!!!!* Cost – one broken cheekbone and one dislocated shoulder. Injuries are mounting.

Sundays at Harbury continue to be fun-filled and full of fixtures across the region, we had a week off on Remembrance Sunday, but have been up against Shipston, Earlsdon, Old Leams and we welcomed Alcester back to Harbury following our away fixture. We had a brilliant day at Coventry RFC for a takeover day with the Harbury players doing games and skills with some of the 1<sup>st</sup> team players. They also got to form the tunnel for the players as they came onto the pitch and enjoy a hard fought 80 minutes resulting in a win for Coventry.



**George & Ian Mann**

New players are always welcome, keep an eye on our Facebook page (Harbury Rugby Football Club. Mini & Juniors Section) for information about what is going on Sunday mornings and come up and have a go! Get in touch with Phil (sheepy226@virginmedia.com) or Chris (chris.woodhams@argentaconsult.com) for details.

***Above: Ground preparation work to install bollards and gate posts ready for concreting.***



	<h2>Guides and Scouts Support</h2>	<p><b>Laura Harris</b> <b>G.A.S.S. Committee</b></p>
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### **Bonfire & Fireworks Event**

We were back with a bang after a year away, for the 2021 fireworks event! There was a record attendance due to some other local events being cancelled which meant that we could recover last year's losses towards running the uniformed groups and scout hut improvements. Thank you to everyone for all the generous donations for wood collections and your support at this local Harbury event.



**Photos kindly supplied by Nick Lines**

We'd like to thank the Parish council for their continued support and the village hall for use of their facilities and the understanding of all local residents impacted by the traffic caused by such large numbers. We realise that advance arrangements and management of parking will be needed in future and we are looking at ways to reduce disruption next year.

With over 70 people involved in organising an occasion like this, there are too many names to mention but we'd like to say a special thanks to:

- Mike McBride and his team of volunteers for another wonderful display of fireworks.
- Paul Quinney who managed the bonfire build and team of fire marshals.
- Over 40 children, parents and other volunteers who turned out in their 4x4s and trailers and worked tirelessly on Saturday daytime to collect material for the bonfire.
- Special thanks to Michael Mann, the parish council contractor on his tractor who worked non-stop from 11am-4pm to ferry trailer loads across the field and to the digger drivers.
- Everyone on kitchen duty who shopped, prepared, and served up the hot drinks.

- Our stewards, particularly the Explorers who helped man the gates and keep the crowds moving.
- Everyone who gave up their Sundays to litter pick, rake ashes and remove bonfire debris from the field.
- Harbury Pharmacy staff who sold a record number of tickets.
- Harbury Library for selling bonfire tickets and donation of bar profits from the “Bonfire Radicals” concert at the Village Hall.
- Special thanks to Rich Fowler for setting up and managing our online sales.
- David Turner for providing the ticket stationery and printing.
- The Parish Council for allowing us to use the playing field.
- Our local sponsors: Tesco and the Harbury Co-op who donated lunch items.
- Our food stall holders James and Pete for their generous donation of a percentage of their profits
- Heather at the Harbury Milk Shed for the hay.

## Remembrance



### Photos kindly supplied by Adrian Giblin

We were pleased to see so many of our leaders and young people making an appearance at the Remembrance Parade this year with members of the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows, representing the Guiding sections and Scouts and Explorers the Scouting sections. Sadly, this year there were no Beavers or Cubs present as the sections are currently closed due to lack of leaders. We are urgently looking for anyone who might be able to fill those roles, please do get in touch with [@GASSHARBURY](#) on Facebook or email us [g.a.s.s.harbury@hotmail.com](mailto:g.a.s.s.harbury@hotmail.com).

### Christmas Post

Our final fundraising event GASS Christmas Post 2021 will begin on Monday **29<sup>th</sup> November** and run until Friday **17<sup>th</sup> December**.



The Harbury Village Library have been kind enough to host our special post boxes again this year. There will be one inside the library, available during opening hours but also our very popular **24hr accessible service** which will be installed on the outside of the library door.

You just need to post your cards through the letterbox and make your donation either online (preferred) or with cash in an envelope (please **do not post** loose cash through the door). Online donations can be made via GASS 40-42-15 01159917 Ref: XMASPOST please give generously!

The Scouts, Guides and Explorers will be sorting the post under COVID safe guidelines and our network of volunteers will be making three delivery rounds in December with the final cards arriving at their destinations in time for Christmas. Note: Christmas cards must have a **full street address, in Harbury** or our volunteer elves will not be able to deliver your post.



That just leaves us to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year from everyone at GASS.



## Harbury Pre-School

Staff & Committee



**Diwali:** We have had a lovely few weeks learning all about Diwali, the Indian Festival of Light. The children have enjoyed watching short videos and looking at books to give them an insight into how Diwali is celebrated across the world.

The children have enjoyed playing in our Indian-themed role play area where they have served up 'Indian cuisine', explored some Indian fabrics, artefacts and clothes and tried on some Indian costume jewellery.

We learnt all about Diya lamps and lit some of our own using battery-operated tealights, using the opportunity to talk about light and dark.

Stencils and chalks were used to create some intricate and striking rangoli patterns.





Snack was also a big hit; the poppadums, naan bread and chutney certainly didn't last long after being served to the children.

We all had a great time dancing to some Indian dance music with scarves. We watched a few traditional dances on the iPad and the children did a splendid job of replicating the moves.



**Bonfire Night:** This week we made our very own bonfire! The children used the red and yellow bricks to make a big 'fire' and some dressed in high-vis jackets and helmets to stay safe. The children used instruments to recreate some fabulous firework noises. The children have also been producing some lovely firework pictures!

**Autumn Collages:** Before half term, all of the children were given a named paper bag and asked to collect some Autumn finds to bring back to Pre-School to show their friends.

We have been reading the story 'Leaf Man' to inspire our imaginations and the children have used their finds to create their very own Autumn collages. The children have obviously been very busy collecting as we have had an amazing variety of leaves in different colours, shapes and sizes, grasses, seeds and nuts, feathers, sticks etc. The collages look fantastic on the wall.



**Children in Need:** To support Children in Need, we had a Pre-School Pyjama Day. The children and staff wore their favourite pyjamas and had a fabulous time dancing every hour during the day. We talked about children who may not have as many toys as we have and what we can do to help. Thank you to the parents for all their support. We raised over £30.

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



**Christmas Closing** Harbury Village Library and Biblio's Café will close at 12 noon on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December. The library reopens at 10am on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January, and the cafe reopens at 9.15am on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. We'll also be open from 10am to 12 noon on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> December so that people can drop off donations for the Food Bank.

**Home Delivery** Can't get to the library? Library closed by the time you get home? Don't panic! You can browse our online catalogue, select the books you'd like, and click on the Home Delivery option. Then, just like Ocado, we'll deliver the books to your door. Not sure what books you'd like? Just tell us the authors you like and the types of books you prefer and we'll make the choice for you. This is a service we've been providing to people in Harbury and Deppers Bridge for some time. One of our borrowers wrote:

*"The library book delivery service is excellent because I cannot always get up to Harbury library due to my disability and no public transport. The service has proved so valuable to me in acquiring reading books and I always get a very good selection. I have even given the Library a list of authors / genres I like and they have often met this requirement. Many thanks."*

**Jigsaws** were very popular during lockdown, and we still have a big selection for you to choose from. Either browse the puzzles in the library, or request from our online catalogue.



**Christmas Presents:** Looking for something a little different this year? We have copies of books about Harbury, the eWheels Recipe Book, the Harbury Heritage 2022 Calendar, Heat, Light and Stone tote bags, and a selection of pictures by local artists hanging in our art gallery. For an early present, we still have tickets for the Winter Woollies Christmas Concert available in the library and online.

**Seasonal Lights Trail:** Paper copies of the Seasonal Lights Trail map are available in the library and there's a downloadable and printable version on the library website.



**Live at the Village Hall:** If you've already got your 2022 diary, why not make a note of some of the events we're presenting "Live at the Village Hall" next year:

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022 - Tears of Laughter

Simon Mayor's mandolin, guitar and fiddling wizardry (and inimitable brand of humour) meets Hilary James' honey-dripping vocals.

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022 - A Ghost of a Smile

Two ghost stories from Charles Dickens (spooky but with a comic twist).

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022 - Same Same ... but Different

A family show, mixing Kathak and contemporary dance, live music and physical storytelling, to create a playful and colourful world where we celebrate our individuality, diversity and the bonds which connect us all.

And finally, all of us here at Harbury Village Library and Biblio's Café wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



## Harbury Village Club & Institute

Judy Morrall

Welcome to another update from our club. Autumn is certainly spectacular this year; the colours are amazing. Can you believe Winter will start next month? We have enjoyed another busy month. The functions that we held for children and adults were very well supported. The pool, darts, snooker and crib teams too are in full swing. The concert room which is free to hire is being used more and many children have and will enjoy parties. The photo shoot in October was a success for Raccoon so we have catered for a very diverse range of events.



The table top sale was enjoyed by many and we will be holding more next year. I changed the date for the Christmas Quiz from 20<sup>th</sup> November to Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December as it clashed with other activities on the same evening. Do come along and take part in the festive quiz. There will be two lots of 20 questions which range from past to present. There will be an interval between the questions when the bumper raffle will be drawn. It is only £3 per entrant and everyone is welcome. Come along for a fun evening. It will start at 8.00pm and doors open at 7.00pm.



The festive family bingo is on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December. This is always enjoyed by families and the children have an extra game too. The cost is only £1 per ticket and there are eight tickets in a book. Prizes to be won plus the usual special raffle. It will start at 7.30pm so not too late for the younger ones. We look forward to seeing you and as usual everyone is welcome. There will be two more family discos, the first one on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December and another one on 31<sup>st</sup> December - look out for times on our Facebook page. The Halloween one was a huge success.



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## HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

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Website: [www.harbury-pc.gov.uk](http://www.harbury-pc.gov.uk)

Open: Monday - Thursday  
10.00am - 12.00pm

### CHAIRMAN:

**Tim Lockley**

Email: [chair@harbury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:chair@harbury-pc.gov.uk)

### CLERK:

**Alison Biddle**

Email: [clerk@harbury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@harbury-pc.gov.uk)

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open to the Public.

To speak on any issue, please  
contact the Parish Clerk.

## Harbury Village Library & Biblio's Café

### Harbury Village Library

Browsing & Borrowing, Click and Collect, Home Delivery and Takeaway Shelves for Children's and Adults' Books, Audio Books, Jigsaws, and Board Games. Public Access Computers, WiFi access and Printing Facilities

### Biblio's Café

A selection of hot and cold drinks, cakes and baked goods either as takeaway items, which can be consumed in an area of the car park, or served at your table inside the cafe, depending on current Government regulations.

Please check in the Harbury Ladbroke News, on Social Media, [www.HarburyVillageLibrary.org.uk](http://www.HarburyVillageLibrary.org.uk) and village notice boards for information about current opening times



Harbury Village Library, The Wight School, High Street,  
Harbury CV33 9HW 01926 258776  
01926 258776 - [library@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk](mailto:library@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk)

As mentioned last month many people have asked about the adult bingo and I am pleased to say that we will restart these in January. We will be changing the night from a Friday as we intend to hold more food events with different cuisines on Fridays. We have chosen a Wednesday as this doesn't clash with the team games and we can brighten up a midweek evening and, of course, the chance to win cash prizes. We will hold a raffle too and it will start at 8.00pm. The first one will probably be on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January but I will confirm this in my next article and it will be on our Facebook page too.



We are planning lots more events next year and will be finalising these at our committee meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November. We intend to follow up the coffee morning ideas which were suggested at the AGM. Of course, these will not clash with other coffee mornings held in the village and will be during the week. I can host more general knowledge quizzes as these are well supported. Lots to look forward to and hopefully to cheer us up in January which can be a dark and dreary month.

I have been busy emptying the four pots along the wall and refilling with some really cheerful and colourful plants which should last for six months. I have been busy on the rockery too. I have planted tulip, crocus and daffodil bulbs along the top to replace the plants grown from seed which put on a splendid display for many months. I took out the dahlias and osteospermums which had been flowering profusely - such value for money plants. I have replaced these with hellebores, rosemary, heathers, cyclamens and many more violas and polyanthus and other plants to ensure a colourful display for Winter and Spring. Thankfully a bit of a rest now from weeding and tidying but it has been great to see it develop from a barren area to how it is now. Thank you to everyone who has taken the trouble to stop and chat while I have been working on it and for your compliments.

So, I need to attack my allotments next!!!! think a wet spell is forecast next week so hopefully I can make inroads on Sunday (28<sup>th</sup>) as I am really behind this year. At least I have lots of homemade compost to spread over for the Winter months. Need to plant my leeks and broad bean seeds too. The friendly robin was there last week when I took a lot of veg waste etc to the compost bin - I look forward to renewing his acquaintance!

The last few Saturdays at Upton have been busy - a bit in the cold side though as the heating only comes on if it is humid outside so we wear lots of layers! We will be open every day from Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December to 24<sup>th</sup> December from 12.00 to 4.00pm. The house will be decorated and the theme will be based on the Abel Grimmer seasons paintings which are on a wooden panel in the picture gallery. I have seen some of the baubles which look amazing and can't wait to see how it looks. The huge Christmas tree will be in the picture room and is always a big hit with adults and children. Hope to see you there on a Wednesday or a Saturday.



A quick reminder that annual subscriptions will be due from 1<sup>st</sup> January. The cost is still the same at £12.50 or £5.00 for over sixties. As before you can pay by BACS, HSBC Bank, sort code 40-42-15, account number 21135228 or by cash or cheque made

payable to Harbury Village Club & Institute Ltd. You can pop your card and payment to the club or through my letter box at 55 Mill Street. I will be at the club on Sundays from 2<sup>nd</sup> January between 1.00 and 3.30pm to collect payments.

I would like to wish everyone a happy festive season and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

	<p><b>Garden Jottings from Bridge Nursery</b> Christine Dakin</p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------

The time of short days and long dark nights is here and it's a good time to reflect on the past year and to make plans for next year. Many (most of you?) will be caught up in various preparations for Christmas but there will always be something to do or think about for your plants and gardens.

Look at seed catalogues or websites and get happily carried away ordering more seeds than you really need or want.

Take a critical look at the bare garden, does it need more evergreen plants? Could the borders be bigger or a better shape? Have some shrubs become straggly and past their best? Perhaps some plants need moving or dividing up.

If your soil is sticky, claggy clay drops heavy hints that a bag of well rotted manure would be a welcome seasonal present rather than another pair of socks.

Spend some time in the garden just looking to see how many flowers there might be in the depths of winter. Colourful foliage and stems can also add interest for the next few weeks.

Season's greetings to you all.

***Bridge Nursery, Tomlow Road, Napton, [www.bridge-nursery.co.uk](http://www.bridge-nursery.co.uk)***

	<p><b>Nature Notes</b> John Hancock</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------

This afternoon, (Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November), I spoke on the 'phone to Graham Robson, a retired farmer from Marton. For many years he has been recording the wildlife to be found on and around his patch, Fields Farm. To encourage nature Graham has planted trees and shrubs as well as digging out a fair sized hollow which now contains a pool rich in wildlife including a good number of dragonflies. Nearer the farm buildings barn owls have been encouraged by providing nesting sites. Here, it is easy to collect owl pellets. By dissecting these, young naturalists can discover the diet of these stealthy hunters.

Graham has filmed the wildlife too and made a series of fascinating DVDs over the years. Money that has been raised by the sale of these films has

been donated to Myton Hospice. I have some of Graham's back numbers so if you would like to view some splendid natural history, do contact me on [j.hancock43@btinternet.com](mailto:j.hancock43@btinternet.com) - I am sure you will not be disappointed.

'90 Years in Farming' is a book Graham has written based on his long life and his study of the natural world. He has corresponded with Sir David Attenborough whose views he respects and upholds. Graham has seen for himself the decimation of our insect population, the essential base of the food chain. Looking at our arable crops, we can see the lack of weeds which in turn means a lack of insects because of the use of weed killers. We only have to inspect our car windscreens after a drive in summer to back up the claims made by environmentalists. Insect populations have markedly declined. Nature Reserves and gardens are helping to mask what is happening on agricultural land where, to maximise crop yields and feed our population, we have a monoculture largely devoid of wildlife.

I have been keeping an eye on the swale adjacent to Brookes Drive. A swale is a hollow channel with gently sloping sides designed to manage water runoff, filter pollutants, harvest rainwater and conserve soil. With extremes of weather becoming commoner, flood prevention is more important than ever. Rather than straighten out water courses, it is important to allow streams to divide and spread into marshy areas before rejoining the main line. A good example is the River Itchen near the Church and Manor House in Long Itchington. Beavers do the job for us and the Eurasian beaver which was once commonplace throughout the country is being reintroduced. DEFRA is helping by designating 20 sites with beaver enclosures. The colony on the River Otter in Devon is the star of the show.

Coming back from a fungi foray at the Wildlife Trust Reserve of Snitterfield Bushes north of Stratford-on-Avon, a few U3A Natural History group members diverted to see an ornithological rarity. We had heard that a Hoopoe had been seen in the grounds of IBM Warwick. How would we find this striking crested and striped bird amongst the vegetation between the office



blocks? It proved easier than we thought as turning a corner near the car park; we were confronted with about ten enthusiasts armed with an impressive range of cameras. They were all trained on a patch of vegetation and using our binoculars, we were able to get a good view of this bird which is more at home in Southern Europe and North Africa. In fact, Sharon and I had an excellent view of one when we visited Cairo twelve years ago. It was probing for ants on the hotel lawn. Warwick's Hoopoe was no doubt blown off course on migration and was resting and feeding before heading south for warmer climes.

The Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) is the only European bird whose scientific name suggests the sound it makes - a repeated bottle-blown poop. It rarely breeds here and in fact only about a hundred birds visit these shores annually. It is about the size of a dove but with a distinctive crest, a sabre like bill and pink plumage which merges into black and white zigzag lines halfway along its

body. I am indebted to Birds Britannica by Mark Cocker and Richard Mabey for that description.

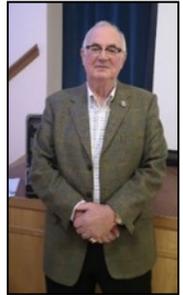
Now it's a case of wrapping up and getting out, if you can, to enjoy kicking through fallen leaves and identifying various species from the berries they produce. It remains for me and Sharon to wish you all the compliments of the season.



## 1984 and All That

Harbury was privileged to have Richard Blair, the adopted son of Eric Blair (whose pen name was George Orwell), give an illustrated personal talk in the Village Hall including memories of his father as well as insights about his books and life.

Richard is the Patron of the Orwell Society and he explained it is dedicated to promoting the understanding and appreciation of the life and works of George Orwell. The Society also awards bursaries and prizes including a young journalists' award and a student competition to write a dystopian short story - take note any young budding writers in Harbury and Ladbroke.



When pressed on what his favourite Orwell book was, Richard neatly managed to recommend his father's Spanish Civil War novel 'Homage to Catalonia', the experiential novels 'Down and Out in Paris and London' and 'The Road to Wigan Pier' as well as 'Animal Farm' and '1984'. Who could blame him?

This rich legacy of writing was supplemented by stories of learning to smoke (at the age of four) by gathering up cigarette butts and stuffing them into his father's pipe (and curing himself of the habit by being immediately violently ill), getting to Jura (where he wrote '1984') with a two day journey from London which finished with a five mile walk down a stony path, and of Richard surviving being shipwrecked when his father got the tide times wrong around the channel at the top of Jura.

It was a warm-hearted evening and a picture emerged of a good father who clearly loved his son.

**Peter Walshe**

## Harbury Senior Citizens Committee Update

The next event will be upon us in no time at all and that is the annual Christmas Party on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 5.30 for a 6.00pm** start in Harbury Village Hall. Note the change to the opening time this year.

Invitations were delivered and returned in November so we can confirm that everyone who requested places can come along to the party.

As you know, we do not charge or ask for a donation for the party, but we do run a raffle. If you wish to donate raffle prizes, they can be delivered to either 1, Park Lane or 32, South Parade.

At the time of writing this article, there are no Covid restrictions in force for the party. However, there will be extra ventilation during the event e.g., some open windows. Please be prepared. We would also ask that if you are not feeling well or can no longer attend, please let us know as soon as possible to assist our planning. Please contact Mike McBride on 612421 or Julie Clarke on 612066 or talk to a committee member.

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

Finally, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Mike McBride**

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

## **Heat Light Stone – Tote Bags and Pens for Sale**

Are you looking for beautifully designed and practical stocking fillers that you can post to friends and family this Christmas? Would you like to show your support for the Heat Light Stone Appeal?

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Pop into the library to purchase your tote bags. Or, you can order both bags and pens with free local delivery (minimum order is £5). Email [sales.harburyhls@gmail.com](mailto:sales.harburyhls@gmail.com) or phone 614242 and leave your FULL order details. Payment by cash or cheque.

All profits go towards Harbury Church's Heat Light Stone Appeal.

**Ruth Guy - 614242**

**[sales.harburyhls@gmail.com](mailto:sales.harburyhls@gmail.com)**



## **Winter Woollies Christmas Concert 18<sup>th</sup> December**

Just a reminder about this short concert at Harbury Church at 6pm on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December - an opportunity to hear carols and Christmas music, sung by two very different choirs.

Harbury's popular Folk Club Choir, with instruments, will be performing traditional and modern folk carols and Christmas songs while, by contrast, the Warwickshire Singers will be performing a range of Christmas carols and songs in a more classical style. There will be some carols for you to join in with and the money raised will go towards the 'Heat Light and Stone' Appeal (see separate article regarding the project's progress).

The aim of the appeal, and of the concert, is to bring warmth and brightness to our beloved (currently unheated) church, so come along in your warmest winter clothes, enjoy a mince pie and mulled wine or punch (included in your

ticket price) and be treated to an evening of Christmas joy and celebration. Doors open at 5.30pm, start is 6pm and the concert finishes shortly after 7pm. Covid measures will be in place.

Tickets cost £8 per adult (£2 for U16s) and can be purchased from the Library or online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/hvlbc/t-rmxamd](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/hvlbc/t-rmxamd).

We hope to see you there!

**The Concert Team**



### **Wednesday Walks**

On 17<sup>th</sup> November Sheila led a delightful walk from Clifford Chambers, through the interesting village of Preston on Stour.

A bit of a hidden gem. The trees were still clinging to their foliage in such delicate colours. Now the frost and wind has cleared them bare, so the shape of the branches are sharp against the sky.

This month we have a walk from Frankton with a meal at the Friendly Inn; all booked up but let me know if anyone else wants to come and I will see what can be negotiated.

We have a break of two weeks around Christmas and start again on 5<sup>th</sup> January with a gentle 3.5 miles round Moreton Morrell. If your seasonal indulgence needs a shake down, do join us.

**Gillian Hare**



### **Ladies Walking Netball**

We are a group of WI members and friends who meet on Monday mornings from 9.30am until 10.30am in the gym at Warwickshire College, Leamington Spa to play Walking Netball.

For Health, Mental Stimulus, Friendship, Fun and Learning New Skills (not to be taken too seriously) we would welcome newcomers and invite ladies to join us.

If you are interested, please contact Ann Mayer (01926 612708) or Kate Wellsted (07713 113464 e-mail [kate.wellsted@btconnect.com](mailto:kate.wellsted@btconnect.com))

**Ann Mayer**



### **Harbury District Councillor Update**

#### **Happy Christmas Everyone!**

I hope that this message finds you happy, healthy and able to have family time this festive season. As another year draws to an end and a new one dawns, we reflect on what has gone before. I hope that we can put some of the unsettlement behind us and look forward with hope for better times.

I feel privileged to be able to serve, help local people and businesses. I will continue to do so with the same passion as always. I am now nursing with our District Nursing Service in this community, so please say hello if you see me out and about.

I wish you health, happiness and all the very best for the future. Merry Christmas.

**Jacqui Harris - [harris@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:harris@stratford-dc.gov.uk)**

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- Joanna

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- Sally



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### **Dates for next year 2022**

4<sup>th</sup> Jan – bookings please by 31<sup>st</sup> Dec

1<sup>st</sup> Feb- bookings please by 28<sup>th</sup> Jan

1<sup>st</sup> Mar - bookings please by 25<sup>th</sup> Feb

5<sup>th</sup> Apr – bookings please by 1<sup>st</sup> Apr

3<sup>rd</sup> May – bookings please by 29<sup>th</sup> Apr

7<sup>th</sup> June – bookings please by 3<sup>rd</sup> June

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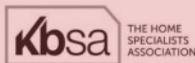
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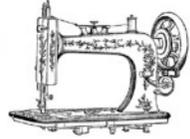
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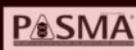
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