

# Harbury & Ladbroke News



APRIL 2023

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# HARBURY & LADBROKE News

Published monthly to reflect all aspects of local life

April 2023

No. 589

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Chris Barber - Paulette Kavanagh - Peter McDonald  
Daralyn Warren - Jackie West

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

**Cover photo: Park Lane by Sue Dronfield**





## EDITORIAL

*A round up of local news*

Congratulations to Colin Mercer on receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Lawn Tennis Association. A well-deserved award for his commitment to promoting the sport of tennis particularly in Harbury.

Will you be holding a celebration for the King's Coronation on Saturday 6th May? Harbury Parish Council is happy for residents to use the village greens but please let them know if you are planning to do this. They also have a limited amount of bunting available if you would like to borrow it.

Talking of councils, Thursday 4th May is when residents will go to the polls to have their say on who represents them on Stratford upon Avon District Council. Voting will be as usual in the Village Halls of both villages between 7.00am and 10.00pm. We carry profiles of two of the SDC candidates standing.

Following our snowy weather last month. It is a pleasing thought that Spring has officially arrived. Once you get into full gardening mode, don't forget if you would like to use the garden waste service and have your green bin collected, the annual service charge for 2023/24 is £44 from 1st April, see <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/waste-recycling/garden-waste-service.cfm> for details.

Harbury Village Hall is still looking for a new Bookings Secretary, please do get in contact with them if you can help.

If you fancy an early start on Bank Holiday Monday 1st May, Hereburgh Morris will be holding their traditional Dancing up the Dawn at Chesterton Windmill at 5.00am.



*Snow Lady by  
Rosemary Harley*

Congratulations must go to Jackie West and the Ladbroke Heritage Team. With the project nearing the end, their hard work in securing funding and making it all happen is worthy of much praise. Don't forget talks and guided tours are still available if you want to book a slot.

Finally, we extend our condolences to the families of Jean Deakin and Mary Shelley.

### May Edition - Harbury & Ladbroke News

**Adverts to:** 36 Manor Orchard, Harbury or e-mail to [advertising@hlnews.co.uk](mailto:advertising@hlnews.co.uk) by Monday 17th April

**Articles to:**  
Harbury Pharmacy, High Street or e-mail to [articles@hlnews.co.uk](mailto:articles@hlnews.co.uk) by 5.30pm, Monday 17th April





# HARBURY DIARY

*For local events*

## APRIL

- Sat 1 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Agnes Court Care Home  
Extended Access Clinics, 9.00 - 3.00pm, Harbury Surgery (pre-booked appointments only)
- Sun 2 **PALM SUNDAY**  
Holy Communion (said), 9.00am, Tom Hauley Room  
Messy Church, 3.00pm, Tom Hauley Room  
Zumba, 9.00am - 10.00am, Village Hall
- Mon 3 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall  
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall
- Tue 4 Harbury Heritage Centre open, 7.00 - 9.00pm, Harbury School - (Park Lane entrance)
- Wed 5 No Wednesday Walk - Easter break  
Mothers' Union, Communion Service and Tea, 2.00pm, followed by speaker Ruth Smith of the Children's Society on 'Victorian Housekeeping', Tom Hauley Room  
Ballroom Dancing, beginners 7.15pm, improvers 8.30pm, Village Hall  
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall
- Thurs 6 Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room  
Folk Club, 8.00pm, Village Club
- Fri 7 **GOOD FRIDAY**  
Hour at the Cross, 2.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
- Sat 8 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of PCC raising funds for Heat, Light, Stone Appeal
- Sun 9 **EASTER SUNDAY**  
Holy Communion, 10.30am, Tom Hauley Room  
Zumba, 9.00am - 10.00am, Village Hall
- Mon 10 **BANK HOLIDAY**  
Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall  
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall
- Wed 12 No Wednesday Walk - Easter break  
Pleasant Pastimes, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Tom Hauley Room  
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall
- Thurs 13 Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room  
Harbury WI, 7.30 for 7.45pm, Tom Hauley Room - Pam Goddard - All about Hats

- Fri 14 Meeting Point, 12.30pm, The Crown Inn  
Ben and Soph's Jazz, tickets - 07515 275655, 7.00pm, Village Hall
- Sat 15 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Godstuff
- Sun 16 EASTER 2**  
Holy Communion, 8.00am, Tom Hauley Room  
All Age Service, 10.30am Tom Hauley Room  
Zumba, 9.00am - 10.00am, Village Hall  
Harbury Heritage Centre open, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Harbury School -  
(Park Lane entrance)
- Mon 17 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall  
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Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall
- Tue 18 Bumps and Bundles, 10.30 - 12.00 noon, Tom Hauley Room  
Harbury Theatre Group, 7.00 for 7.30pm, Village Club  
The Collective - Topic: Change and Upheaval - Shaping a Response,  
7.15 for 7.30pm, The Shakespeare Inn  
Harbury Society 'Remote Sensing of the Sea Floor' by Catriona Rollason,  
Doors open 7.30pm, Tom Hauley Room  
Tennis Club AGM, 7.30 for 8.00pm, Village Club
- Wed 19 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall Car park -  
Meer End with optional pub lunch (4 miles flat)  
Connections (Dementia) Café, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Tom Hauley Room  
Spellbound Dance Classes, 5.00 - 5.30 & 5.30 - 6.15pm, Village Hall  
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall
- Thurs 20 Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
- Sat 22 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of  
St. Giles Church, Chesterton  
Repair Café, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Library
- Sun 23 EASTER 3**  
Holy Communion. 10.30am, followed by APCM, Tom Hauley Room  
Icon Youth Club, 7.00 - 8.30pm, Tom Hauley Room  
Zumba, 9.00am - 10.00am, Village Hall
- Mon 24 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall  
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall
- Tue 25 Bumps and Bundles, 10.30 - 12.00 noon, Tom Hauley Room
- Wed 26 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall Car park -  
Fawsley - Badby Bluebell Wood (4 miles hilly)  
Pleasant Pastimes, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Tom Hauley Room  
Spellbound Dance Classes, 5.00 - 5.30 & 5.30 - 6.15pm, Village Hall  
Ballroom Dancing, beginners 7.15pm, improvers 8.30pm, Village Hall  
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

- Thurs 27 Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room  
Parish Council, 7.30pm Village Hall
- Sat 29 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Harbury WI  
Harbury Local Market: 10.00am - 12.30pm, Village Hall  
Harbury Parish Council "Councillors Corner" session, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
- Sun 30 EASTER 4**  
Holy Communion, 10.30am, Tom Hauley Room  
Zumba, 9.00am - 10.00am, Village Hall

## MAY

- Mon 1 BANK HOLIDAY  
Hereburgh Morris, Dancing up the Dawn, 5.00am, Chesterton Windmill
- Tue 2 Harbury Heritage Centre open, 7.00 - 9.00pm, Harbury School - (Park Lane entrance)
- Wed 3 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall Car park - Wootton Wawen Bluebell Wood (4 miles)  
Mothers' Union, Communion Service and Tea, 2.00pm, followed by speaker 'Refuge for women and children in Azerbaijan,' Tom Hauley Room  
Ballroom Dancing, beginners 7.15pm, improvers 8.30pm, Village Hall  
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall
- Thurs 4 Voting in local elections, 7.00am - 10.00pm, Village Hall  
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room  
Folk Club, 8.00pm, Village Club
- Fri 5 Meeting Point, 12.30pm, The Crown Inn
- Sat 6 No coffee morning due to the King's Coronation  
Extended Access Clinics, 9.00 - 3.00pm, Harbury Surgery (pre-booked appointments only)

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

The Editorial Office, 31 Binswood End, Tel: 612155 or email [articles@hlnews.co.uk](mailto:articles@hlnews.co.uk)



**All Saints  
HARBURY**

## FROM THE RECTOR

*Rev. Andy Batchelor*

The Rectory, Vicarage Lane, Harbury ☎ 01926 714295 ✉ [rev.andyb@gmail.com](mailto:rev.andyb@gmail.com)

Happy Easter to you all! Easter assures us that God never gives up on us, even if sometimes we give up on ourselves. The challenge for Christians of living out the message of Easter is not just believing that Jesus rose from the grave, but to believe that no matter our age, mistakes and wounds, we can begin each day afresh. Of course we are all human and we cannot avoid those times when we fall into depression, bitterness, resentment and just simply tiredness. Like Jesus, we too will have our

moments of crisis. Yet our faith in the Resurrection invites us to be aware of the new life we are freely given, and that continues into Eternity. Belonging to our parish communities supports us in the challenging times and situations that come to us all. As part of those communities, we accompany and support each other in whatever we may face; not just on Sundays but every day. An anonymous writer puts it well; What the Resurrection teaches us is not how to live - but how to live again, and again, and again. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die" In church, we celebrate the reality of that promise, day by day, season by season, but especially over Holy Week and Easter. May the Risen Lord continue to bless you and your family abundantly this Easter and in the months and years to come.

Refuse Collection Rota		
Week Commencing Monday	Thursday Collection - Harbury	Wednesday & Friday Collections - Ladbroke Friday Collection - Deppers Bridge
3 Apr	F - R - W - G	F - W
10 Apr	F	F - R - G
17 Apr	F - R - G	F
24 Apr	F - W	F - R - W - G
1 May	F - R - G	F
8 May	F	F - R - G

F = Food caddy - R = Recycling (blue bin) W = Waste (black bin) G = Garden (green bin)  
 Wednesday Collection - Parts of Ladbroke - Thursday Collection - Harbury  
 Friday Collection - Deppers Bridge and Parts of Ladbroke



## FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

*Liz & Michael*

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Sunday 23rd April following the 10.30am service and not the 16th April as originally planned.

The work to install heating in church is progressing well - if a little slower than anticipated. It should be completed by the end of April but then begins a major clean-up operation after all the scaffolding has been taken away. Following that we will have to find everything that has been hidden all over church - I suspect the odd item may remain hidden for centuries to come. However, we are also investigating whether we can afford to get at least some re-wiring or even new lighting in place whilst the scaffolding is still up. That would delay the re-opening of church further but could be worthwhile.



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Services continue to take place in the Tom Hauley Room including those on Good Friday and Easter Sunday and all are very welcome.

If you have any questions or want to join in and find out more about what goes on then please contact either of us. Liz McBride (612421) or Michael Vincent (614806).

## FROM THE REGISTERS

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### *Baptism*

6th March Isla Audrey-Anne Thompson and Jayden Philip Horridge

### *Funeral*

21st March Jean Deakin (89 years)



## MOTHERS' UNION

*Gillian Hare*

---

Such a treat last month when Kath Ching showed us how she decorates her Ukrainian Pysanky eggs. Their history as a celebration of Springtime is lost in time, but then became a Christian symbol of new birth so, naturally, an Easter gift. They are so exquisite that even the demonstration made it hard to appreciate how she could achieve such fine detail. Close inspection revealed Christian signs such as stars, triangles, nets, grain and crosses, all in vibrant colours.

We have wrapped daffodils for the services on Mothering Sunday, and will be listening to an account of Victorian Housekeeping by a speaker from the Children's Society on 5th April.



Our speaker on 3rd May will tell us about a refuge for women and children in Azerbaijan. Anyone interested is most welcome - we meet in the Tom Hauley Room, starting with a said communion service at 2pm.



## LADBROKE NEWS & DIARY

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### APRIL

#### **Sun 2 PALM SUNDAY**

Family Communion, followed by refreshments, 10.30am

Tues 4 Photography Club, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Thurs 6 Maundy Thursday Service, 7.30pm  
WI, 7.30pm, Village Hall

#### **Fri 7 GOOD FRIDAY**

The Way of the Cross, a passiontide sequence of words and music, 6.30pm



## Sun 9 EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Family Communion, 9.00am, followed by egg hunt

Tues 11 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

## Sun 16 EASTER 1

Holy Communion (BCP), 9.00am

Mon 17 ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE TO: HARBURY PHARMACY,  
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HARBURY OR EMAIL ADVERTISING@HLNEWS.CO.UK

Tues 18 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

## Sun 23 EASTER 2

Holy Communion (sung), 9.00am

Tues 25 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

## Sun 30 EASTER 3

Holy Communion (said service), 9.00am

## MAY

Tues 2 Photography Club, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Thurs 4 Voting in local elections, 7.00am - 10.00pm, Village Hall  
WI, 7.30pm, Church

## Sun 7 EASTER 4

Family Service with baptisms, followed by refreshments, 10.30am



## LADBROKE CHURCH NEWS

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

March has seen two significant events organised by Ladbroke Heritage at the Church: the return of William Hudd for a guitar concert and the "Tours and More" thank you event for all those who have been supporting the All Saints for All Generations Project. There is a fuller report of these events in the Ladbroke Heritage article, but on behalf of the Church we would like to thank all involved with Ladbroke Heritage for all their work for the benefit of the Church, the Church family and the wider village community.

The fourth Sunday in Lent is traditionally Mothering Sunday and we were able to celebrate this with a special service which was well attended. A special thank you to Rosemary Allington who kindly provided posies which were given out to all the ladies present, and a few of the men for onward delivery.

I am writing this before our Lent lunches in late March but by the time this edition is published it will be almost Easter. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on 2nd April and we shall be holding a number of special services culminating on Easter Day a week later. On Maundy Thursday we shall be remembering how Jesus washed his disciples' feet just before he was arrested and on Good Friday, Bill and the Choir will lead a devotional service "The Cross of Christ" at 6.30pm. Our Easter Sunday service this year will be at 9.00am.

## Services and events this month:

Sunday 2nd April	10.30am	Palm Sunday Family Service
Thursday 6th April	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday service
Friday 7th April	6.30pm	"The Cross of Christ" - a passiontide sequence of words and music
Sunday 9th April	9.00am	Easter Day Family Communion, followed by Easter Egg hunt
Sunday 16th April	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 23rd April	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 30th April	9.00am	Holy Communion (said)
Sunday 7th May	10.30am	Family Service

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

[ladbrokechurch@gmail.com](mailto:ladbrokechurch@gmail.com)



## LADBROKE PARISH COUNCIL

Jackie West - H&L News Correspondent

**Official minutes can be viewed on the noticeboard by The Bell Inn and the parish council's website - [www.ladbroke-pc.gov.uk](http://www.ladbroke-pc.gov.uk)**

Holidays and snow significantly reduced the numbers of people at the last meeting, on 7th March. There were just three of our Parish Councillors, the clerk and me as the volunteer reporter for HLNews present. There wasn't much discussed either.

### Public participation

As the only member of the public there I was asked to don my other hat and answer a few questions about the All Saints for All Generations Project - in a nutshell we are almost at the end of this Lottery supported project. The planned repairs on the church have been completed and the interpretation and community engagement aspects are almost finished too. It has cost the best part £0.5M and our volunteers have given more than 500 days of their time.

### SDC and WCC

Our District and County Councillors sent apologies to the meeting so I have nothing from them to report.

### Admin aspects

The councillors discussed whether for such a small parish and low precept it was appropriate to audit its procedures, governance, minutes etc in addition to auditing the annual accounts. It was agreed to defer a conclusion and let the new Parish Council decide in May. The council did agree to sign up to the Civility and Respect Project - not that they need this at Ladbroke but as a gesture of support for those councils where there is poor behaviour.



## Planning

The council will make no representation about the proposed rear garden room at Tew Cottage.

## HS2

The A423 would be closed between Ladbroke and Southam from late on Friday 17th March until early on Monday 20th March. As the signed diversion is very long (via Daventry and Banbury!) - it is expected most drivers will ignore this and come through Ladbroke. Cllr Neal will ring the HS2 contractors to see what, if any, signage is proposed to discourage such traffic.

## Wheelie bin 30mph stickers

Councils can buy these where they think they will help reduce speeding, but as the minimum order is 100 stickers (£95) and only a few would be needed, our council will see if they can do a combined order with another.

**Next meeting:** Postponed until 24th May, 7.45pm



## LADBROKE & DEPPERS BRIDGE WI

*Carol Lane*

As we members of the WI came into the hall on Thursday 2nd March, we were met by a lovely Golden Retriever called Lacey! She is one of very many young dogs in training to become part of the Dogs For Good scheme. Anna Prosser took us from the beginning when Frances Hay from Kenilworth started the charity which is now nationwide.



The disabilities which the dogs were originally trained to help with include sight, hearing and medical problems but this has been widened to physical problems, children with learning difficulties and people with dementia.

The natural instincts of the dogs to push, pull, bark and retrieve for example are refined to provide useful assistance, like removing washing from the machine, opening doors and getting the attention by barking if there is a problem. Autistic children benefit greatly by having a dog to care for and their tantrums are much reduced as they see how much it upsets the dog.

Retrievers, Labradors, cocker spaniels and cocker-poos are naturally obedient and easy to train and these will go to a 'socialiser' at eight weeks until they are about 14 months when more official training begins.

Lacey was at the socialising stage and was cared for by Ken who has had about 15 such puppies under his care. Many more families are needed for this role as there are not enough dogs for the many disabled people who would benefit.

To learn more about this or to donate to the charity, please contact the Frances Hay Centre, 01295 252600 or [www.dogsforgood.org](http://www.dogsforgood.org)

## Dates for your diary

12th May - Napton Village Hall. Talk on Land Girls.

13th May - Photographic competition in Federation House, Warwick.

3rd June - Kenilworth Show when we are encouraged to donate baked goods or help on the day.

26th July, 7.00pm - Federation meeting in Spa Centre.

2nd August - Grand Day Out in Cambridge.

6th April, 7.30pm - Village Hall, Beetle Drive.

4th May, NB in Church. - AGM with resolutions. Jackie will give a short talk about Lady Alice.

The Village Hall is being used as the polling station on that day and we were reminded that we need to take photographic ID in order to vote.

WI members are encouraged to devise a post box topper on the theme of the Coronation but our box is not as 'user friendly' as the round ones.

Our subs of £46 are due in April when the programme cards for the coming year will be available.

We look forward to seeing as many as possible for our beetle drive (do remember your dice) and as always we welcome newcomers to join us.



## 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.



At the time of writing, our 1920's centenary event had not yet happened, but by the time you read this it will have. We hope that all who came along had a great time and we look forward to the next 100 years. Thanks to all involved in the planning and to those helping during the evening, especially our Charleston teacher.



We will be holding a boules tournament during May and June with the final being held with a village barbecue on Saturday 8th July. So get ready now and watch this space for more details.

**Coming  
Soon!**

Later this year we are planning a quiz night in the autumn; and another supper and film night (date to be confirmed). Watch this space for more events too!



To book your special celebration in our village hall, or if you wish to hold regular classes or meetings, contact Debs (07779 225105 or email [debs.dptv@gmail.com](mailto:debs.dptv@gmail.com)). Despite rising costs we have been able to keep our hourly booking rates for 2023 at £15 per hour, or £12 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).

### LADBROKE VILLAGE HALL MILLENNIUM DRAW FOR FEBRUARY 2023

£50 Trevor and Jan Jay	£25	Tracy Juba
£50 Margie Bosworth	£10	Cara Jenkins
£25 Sue Moore	£10	Martin and Debra Neal
£25 Malcolm Wray	£10	Rob Kendall

**Margaret Bosworth**



## LADBROKE PHOTOGRAPHY

*Kip Warr*

Our March meeting sparked. The theme of our competition was 'Sparkle' and our members rose to the occasion with many variations: reflections on water, lights outside the church, droplets condensing on a water bottle, shiny motorbikes, fireworks, chandeliers and even the northern lights. And Christmas decorations, of course.

The competition followed our AGM at which we reviewed another active year of visits, presentations and competitions. These have been run by club members and without their individual contributions we would have a very sparse programme. Our finances have been sufficiently healthy to allow us to operate without charging membership fees since the lockdown but we have to revert to charging this year.

We already have some tasty sessions lined up for the coming year, starting with a competition on the theme of 'Spring' on 4th April. Then there are visits to Chedhams Yard and the Batsford Falconry and talks on Colour and 3D photography. Visitors, guests and new members are all welcome to our meetings which are usually in Ladbroke Village Hall on the first Tuesday of the month. For more information please contact [ladbroke.photoclub@btinternet.com](mailto:ladbroke.photoclub@btinternet.com)

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Bottled light by Mike Todman



Rockets by Nicky Lewis



Sparkling embroidery by Steve Gale



## LADBROKE GENERAL NEWS



### LADBROKE HERITAGE

*Nicky Lewis & Jackie West*

#### The project is almost finished!

We have now completed all the repairs included in the project, and some more besides, and in March we had two public events. The first of these was the guitar concert; more than 60 people braved a cold, dark and wet night to come to church to hear William Hudd play Bach, a number of Spanish composers and some of his own works. From the murmurs of agreement and muted applause I think many people agreed with me when I said I liked his compositions best of all. As well as the wonderful music the interval was most convivial everyone chatting over wine and delicious finger food made by Sue, Carol, Margie and Jenny.



The following Saturday we gave tours and to thank Lottery players for their support via the National Lottery Heritage Fund gave ticket holders free copies of our stained glass or geology guide books or the Treasure Trail. Like Heritage Open Days in September, Lottery open week in March brings in some local people and others that have heard about us on the National website. One such a pair of ladies had come all the way from Dudley, a 100 mile round trip. We did feel honoured they chose to come to us and they left very happy having learnt about our interesting church and its stunning stained glass.

We also had a number of young visitors with parents/grandparents in tow. These families were particularly keen to see the fossils and the children enthusiastically hunted for brachiopods, belemnites, crinoids etc in the stonework. Some are quite visible but for the small fossils it's a bit like looking for a needle in a haystack. As has happened several times before, a pair of young eyes spotted another example that the tour guide had not noticed previously. Why not come along, with or without children, pick up our new Jurassic leaflet from the church porch and do some searching yourself. Who knows what you will find?



Our final event is on 13th May when families and young at heart can do some “bird spotting” inside church hunting for song birds, eagles, doves and terns in the stained glass, floor tiles etc and also see live birds of prey close up thanks to Arden Falconry. Conditions permitting the owls and hawks will put on a flying display in the morning (approx 11.30pm), repeated in the afternoon (approx 3pm). All welcome.



After that, the evaluation consultants will be collating all the feedback from the last three years and issue a report on what we have done. Then we move into what the National Lottery Heritage Fund call “the legacy phase”, during which we plan to continue a number of things started under the Ladbroke Heritage banner. So if you would like a talk or a school session please contact Jackie (email [ladbrokechurch89@btinternet.com](mailto:ladbrokechurch89@btinternet.com)), for tours of our fascinating village by trained guides speak with Nicky (815196) and for more information about the Heritage and Friendship group have a word with Carol (814715).



## LADBROKE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE

*Cllr Nigel Rock*

### **Budget**

The District Council set its budget on 27th February based on the Administration’s proposals. This is for a council tax rise of £5 for a band D property applied to the district council element of council tax. Liberal Democrat opposition proposals to increase the resource for planning enforcement were accepted and included in the budget. Other suggestions from the opposition: a zero carbon fund for community buildings and village halls, encouragement of solar PV, and an economic support officer, were turned down, although these would have been included in the overall budget figure that was agreed.

The Lib Dem opposition made a proposal for a review of the collection of ‘medical’ waste in the grey bins for residents with extra need, such as stoma products, incontinence products and adult nappies. It was hoped that such a system might be extended to infant nappies if this proved feasible. The administration did not accept this proposal, but following on from the Council meeting I had further informal discussion with other councillors to ensure this is kept on the agenda.

The council tax is therefore as follows (Band D examples):

	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>% Increase / (decrease)</b>
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	£154.12	£159.12	3.24%
Warwickshire County Council	£1,590.93	£1,653.57	3.94%
Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner	£262.71	£276.71	5.33%
Sub-total	£2,007.76	£2,089.40	4.07%
Town and Parish Councils (average)	£66.08	£69.26	4.81%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,073.84</b>	<b>£2,158.66</b>	<b>4.09%</b>

For those parishes that raise funds by a 'precept' an additional figure is applicable (average shown above). Whilst a number of smaller parishes do not have a precept, such as Radbourne, Chapel Ascote and Hodnell & Wills Pastures, Ladbroke's precept is below average at £43.07 up from £38.51 last year.

## **HS2**

By the time you read this there will have been traffic lights and closures on the A423, between Ladbroke and Southam. There are also plans for lights and closures between Wormleighton and Boddington in the coming weeks and months. This is likely to be very disruptive for local residents as there are no easy bypassing routes.

Some months ago we were told there would be few short term closures, but now those plans seem to have changed. I am in repeated contact with HS2 contractor EKFB and the highway authority to minimise the disruption. I have asked if there is any possibility of phasing the working differently, noting both harvest traffic and school transport.

I have been in further contact with the contractors about light pollution from their sites.

## **Elections**

These are unusually complicated because of the government's instruction to introduce photo ID (unnecessarily in my view) as well as boundary changes. At the risk of repeating myself, I would recommend getting a postal vote. Online you can apply at [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/apply-vote-post](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/apply-vote-post) and return the completed form to Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 6HX. Alternatively, e-mail a scanned copy to [elections@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:elections@stratford-dc.gov.uk). If you are not on line, I can give you a form.

Annoyingly for us, electors without a photo ID can go in person to the council offices in Stratford to get a special ID. This is hardly much use to residents over here, which I have pointed out to the senior staff.

I will cease to be the Councillor for Ladbroke after the elections as a result of the boundary changes.

**nigel.rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk Tel: 07971 343065**



# HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

*Alison Biddle*

## **Parish Council Election - May 2023**

The next parish council election is on Thursday 4th May 2023. We have ten seats (nine in Harbury and one in Deppers Bridge) and we are looking for new people to come forward and stand for election. It's not as scary as it sounds! If you're interested, please get in touch as soon as possible. You can phone the parish clerk, Alison Biddle, on 01926 614646 or call into the office Monday to Thursday mornings. You will find us in the offices just next to Bull Ring Garage. Nomination forms must be returned to Stratford District Council by 4th April 2023 \*\* so time is fast running out.

\*\* N.B. This is the deadline for correctly completed, and therefore valid nomination forms. It is recommended that they are returned to SDC no later than 31st March 2023 to allow time for them to be checked and any errors corrected before 4th April 2023.

## **Village Litter Bins**

Some of you will have noticed the bins in the centre of the village are regularly full to overflowing. At least some of the rubbish being placed in the regular bins is clearly suitable for recycling and could instead be placed in the recycling bin we installed to the left of the Co-op entrance a couple of years ago. Please stop and think about whether your rubbish can be recycled! It's also apparent that some people are using the public bins for their own domestic rubbish. Indeed, some people have been seen emptying the rubbish from their cars into the bins. Please use your own household bins for this purpose. We did ask SDC if the public bins could be emptied more frequently than once per week (on a Wednesday) but they refused.

## **Coronation Celebrations**

The parish council is happy for residents to use the village greens for their coronation celebrations. Please let us know if you are planning to do this. We also have a limited amount of bunting available if you would like to use it.

## **Parish Council Meetings**

All our meetings are open to the public and we welcome your attendance. We always have a public forum near the beginning of the meeting when you can speak directly to the council on any item on the agenda. If you want to raise something that is not on the current agenda, please contact the parish clerk to discuss. We aim to publish the draft minutes of the meeting on our website within 14 days. All kinds of information is available on our website including planning applications, finance, contact details, and meetings calendar.



# HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

John Holden - H&L 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**

## **February 2023 Meeting Report**

Public Participation - Bob Sherman gave an update on the proposed installation of car charging points at the Village Hall Car Park. He was hopeful of grant funding being shortly awarded via the County Council, which would fund the main installation. More funding would be required for associated works, like the additional parking spaces and again Bob was hopeful that this would be forthcoming. The Chairman said that the PC would like to see all of the work undertaken in one go and not staggered.

## **Planning**

The Council had made an objection to the construction of a self-build house on land north of Hall Lane. It was outside the 'Settlement Boundary' and was felt to be sited too close to the neighbouring house. They noted that the proposed pond had been withdrawn after an objection raised by Network Rail. There was no representation to the installation of an automatic prescription dispenser at the Surgery or an extension at Old Toms Barn in Hall Lane.

## **South Warwickshire Local Plan**

Councillor Allen had reviewed the Local plan and had made two pages of comments. The main concerns for the council were that the methodology used to predict future population growth was flawed. It assumed significant migration from Birmingham and Coventry to South Warwickshire. The plan suggests siting new housing along existing rail corridors but there is no evidence that Network Rail or the Train Operating Companies have been involved with this. So no guarantee that new stations would be provided.

## **Middle Road Solar Farm Public Consultation**

The Chairman reported that he had met with representatives of Ufton PC who wanted this large scheme split into two separate planning applications. The Council was in agreement with this. Councillor Thompson had attended the recent consultation event and had learnt that dynamic panels are to be used. These follow the sun round during the day and at some point could be 10ft high. Responding to a comment from a member of the public, the Council would press for improvements and regular maintenance to the footpath (running from Harbury to Radford) which crosses the proposed Solar Farm. Also they felt there should be a greater 'Community Benefit' from the scheme.

## **Environment**

There was a discussion on the litter bins in the centre of the village and how full they were. Councillors thought that they were being used for disposal of household



waste and would publicise their correct use. A request for additional street lighting in Binswood End had been received. Councillors noted Harbury was a 'low light village' and the street lighting in Binswood End was no worse than in other village streets. The County Council were to survey public areas suitable for tree planting and any planting would not take place until October. Where the new cemetery fence has been installed, the exposed bank will first be stabilised by grass seeding and wild flowers sown in due course.

## Properties

There was a lengthy discussion on the Village Hall Car Park and overspill parking at times in Constance Drive. Any suitable extension to the car park would not be cheap but at the same time councillors were mindful of the problems nearby residents experienced. As a first step to a consultation, an on line survey would be produced. Although Councillors were not sure if they had the technical skills to set this up?

To celebrate the Coronation, bunting will be placed on easily public accessible areas, like along the cemetery fence and outside the Library. Bunting will also be offered to groups that want to organise their own street or open spaces parties. A small grant will be given to enable the Harbury School children to make their own bunting.

**Next Meeting** - Thursday 23rd March, 7.30pm.

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

Tim Lockley (Chairman), Keith Thompson (Vice-Chair), Samantha Allen, Julie Balch, Jess Dominick, Steve Ekins, Alan Knowles, Tony Mancell, Alex Potter, Janet Thornley.



## DISTRICT AND PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS - THURSDAY 4TH MAY

*Editors*

District and Parish Council elections take place on Thursday 4th May 2023. We carry profiles for two candidates for the District Council elections. Other parties were invited to submit a profile but were having difficulties recruiting a candidate or did not respond. There will only be an election for the Parish Council if there are more candidates standing than there are seats available.

Don't forget, during the forthcoming election, voters at polling stations will be turned away unless they produce a form of **Photo ID**.

### STRATFORD-ON-AVON DISTRICT COUNCIL



#### Jacqui Harris - Independent

Most of you know me as your local Independent District Councillor. I was first elected in 2015 and re-elected in 2019. I have a commitment to local people, having supported many through sometimes difficult personal issues, housing, planning and standing up for what is right locally for Harbury Ward as a whole, since what effects one part of the Ward invariably impacts on the rest.



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## HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Unit 2, Bull Ring Business Centre  
 Church Terrace, Harbury CV33 9HL  
 Tel: 614646

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)

Parish Council meetings are  
 open to the Public.

To speak on any issue, please  
 contact the Parish Clerk

## Harbury Village Library & Biblio's Café

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 - [library@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk](mailto:library@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk)

I have developed a great relationship with the whole of the ward over eight years and I have worked in harmony with the three Parish Chairs and Councillors to deliver many solutions for issues including:

- Helicopter landing issue at Upper Lighthorne Parish.
- Leading the initiative for getting the permanent GP facility in place at Upper Lighthorne Parish.
- In 2015 one of my pledges was to get traffic lights for Harbury Cross Roads, I persisted with this pledge and even though it was detailed in a legal agreement I was the Councillor who pushed for the project to be realised, attending meetings and lobbying bodies such as WCC to get it done. Many local residents were involved including writing to WCC to get the delivery done.
- Supporting Harbury PC to retain local Post Office and Pharmacy services.
- Pro-active work on the impact of HS2 across the whole Harbury Ward.
- Supported Deppers Bridge, especially the local Parish Council ward member, in obtaining information to start up a local speed initiative to address the speeding issue in the village.

In this Election the Boundaries are changing and I look forward to getting involved with Ladbroke and Ufton just as heavily as I have with Harbury, Deppers Bridge, Chesterton, and Upper Lighthorne which now moves to another ward.

Please help me to continue using my skills and experience to support you by voting for me on 4th May.



### **Susan Ostrander - Liberal Democrats**

Although originally from California I moved here age 12 in the early 1980's when, as now, times were hard for many people. Since then I have lived in many parts of the country, establishing my home in this part of Warwickshire six years ago. Although I have spent some time in cities, my heart is in rural locations such as Harbury and surrounding communities. I enjoy walking with my greyhound Silas, appreciating the beautiful countryside. I am passionate about the environment and have worked with the RSPB, and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust at Ufton Nature Reserve. I am appalled by the environmental degradation caused by HS2. I know from talking to people in Harbury that many others feel the same.

For 30 years I have been a secondary teacher and still teach locally. I am not a typical politician. However, I think this could be a bonus. Although I believe politics has a limited role to play in local Councils, as a District Councillor for Harbury I would be part of the Liberal Democrat group based in Stratford, bringing fresh ideas to this experienced, hardworking and committed team. As part of a group at the Council there are improved opportunities to make things happen locally. I also bring many of my 'teacher' skills; diligence, careful listening, problem solving, communication and team working. As a teacher I work with local young people as well as their parents and the

wider community. Along with my weekend canvassing this gives many opportunities to listen to people who live in the Harbury area, and from these conversations I know that most people love living here. Nevertheless, many issues keep coming up on the doorstep. If elected, I would push hard for a more coherent planning strategy with due consideration for proper infrastructure and planning enforcement, as well as considering ways to support families and young people. As District Councillor for Harbury I would be part of a winning team of local District Councillors working hard and taking consistently effective action in the interests of local people.

## **HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

Profiles have been received for five councillors who are seeking re-election to Parish Council. Further profiles if received will be published in the May edition which is due out on Saturday 29th April.



### **Samantha Allen**

As a relative newcomer in Harbury terms, I have lived in the village for over 13 years and been a Parish Councillor for the past nine of those.

I presently chair the Planning working party and actively engage with all planning applications as a statutory consultee on behalf of Harbury Parish Council. We always recommend anyone make a formal documented response to any planning application that they have an opinion on via the Stratford District Council e-planning service. We use these comments, as well as feedback in other forms to shape our responses.

In the near future we will have a new South Warwickshire Local Plan which will dictate planning policy to 2050 in this area. Once this is at an adoptable stage we will look to update our Neighbourhood Development Plan again. It is important for us to have an up to date policy as without it, there are no guidelines!

I also chair the Finance and General Purposes working party. We work together to set our annual precept each year, taking into account what we'd like to spend money on for the forthcoming year and assess if each idea/section brings the maximum benefit to Harbury and Deppers Bridge residents.

In addition, I am part of the annual Seasonal Lights team. It's a huge group effort to plan, put up and take down all the lights in the winter months in Harbury, and it's great to be part of this.

My two children attend Harbury Primary School, and also participate in village clubs and activities such as Football, Rugby, Cubs, Beavers and Karate. We also take advantage of the fantastic community run library. The ability to access these interests (mostly volunteer led) demonstrates Harbury provides truly great facilities and is such a wonderfully community minded place to live.

I am proud to be a Harbury resident and it has been a great pleasure to have contributed on the Parish Council. I ask that you re-elect me in 2023 so I can continue in this position, working to represent the interests of the residents of the parish.





### **Julie Balch**

Craig and I moved to Harbury 14 years ago and love the village. It's a wonderful place to raise our two boys and we are embracing Harbury life.

I have had the honour of serving you as a Parish Councillor for three years now and would be delighted to continue with this role. I joined just as the pandemic began, during which I ran a volunteer network for an area ensuring that those self-isolating received provisions and medication. I'm a key member of the Seasonal Lighting party and am very proud of the improvements to our lighting year on year, our work with volunteers and homeowners to install and power them and the positive impact this has had for all. I Chair the Parish Council's Climate Working Party, working together with other village organisations to educate and improve our every-day actions. I also serve on the Staffing and Finance & General Purposes working parties and represent the Parish Council on the Harbury Energy Initiative committee.

I would be delighted to continue with my role as Parish Councillor and continue to support our community, particularly our small businesses, our young people and the elderly. I love Harbury's community spirit, the way that people come together to support events and each other and feel very privileged to live in such a beautiful area. I'm keen to ensure that all members of our community continue to enjoy living here.



### **Alan G Knowles**

My name is Alan G Knowles I have lived in Harbury for over fifty years during which time I ran a small Plumbing and Heating Business until I retired in 2006. I joined the Parish Council in November 2007.

I find being a Parish Councillor very fulfilling and I hope the people of Harbury will elect me so that I can carry on being of service to the local community.



### **Tim Lockley**

I have served on the Parish Council since 2003 and been chairman since 2007. I believe the Parish Council's main aim should be improve the lives of the people who live in the Parish, in whatever way it can. We should be proactive in finding solutions to problems, whilst also thinking of new ways that village life can be made better. We should protect the services and facilities that we have, and enhance them if we can, working in partnership with village organisations as well as the district and county councils to achieve the best outcome for residents. I think the pandemic showed just how important the Parish Council can be. I designed the volunteer network that supported vulnerable residents, and together with fellow councillors implemented the longer seasonal lights display in 2020 to combat those long dark nights during lockdowns. I am very pleased we have continued this in 2021 and 2022. Working at this very local level made a real difference to people's lives I think and I would be honoured to continue to serve the village.



### **Keith Thompson**

We have lived in Harbury for 55 years and our two children were born and brought up here. Our daughter has returned and now lives with her family in Deppers Bridge.

I have had the privilege and pleasure of serving on the Parish Council for 41 years. During this time I have been Chair of the PC for three years and Chair of the Properties and Finance Working Parties. I am currently Vice Chair and also serve on the Properties and Planning Working Parties. Part of this work involves coordinating the Play Equipment Safety Inspection programme. I also represent the PC on the Village Hall Management Committee.

Since my retirement from work as a Health and Safety Officer with Warwickshire County Council in 2007 I have had more time to dedicate to Village life and other interests. I am a member of the Village Hall Management Committee and enjoy playing Tennis with Harbury Tennis Club. As a National Trust Volunteer Guide I enjoy making a regular contribution to the running and conservation of Charlecote.

I believe that I have the necessary skills, enthusiasm, experience and time to continue to serve the community which my family and I value so much and so I am seeking your vote on May 4th - Many Thanks!



## **HARBURY SOCIETY**

*David Turner*

Simon Durk, of the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, came to the Tom Hauley Room on Tuesday 21st February. He explained the Wildlife Trust's vision for 'Living Landscapes' creating corridors between nature reserves along which wildlife can travel safely. The Warwickshire Wildlife Trust has about 24,000 members and in March 2021 it launched a Nature Recovery campaign with the aim of raising £3 million in order to acquire an additional 100 hectares of land under its control – the fund currently stands at £2.5 million.

His superb illustrated talk was about the Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*), frequently voted Britain's favourite species. Simon told us that another name for the hedgehog is 'urchin' but he said he had yet to meet anybody who uses that term.

However, hedgehogs are in trouble; their numbers have plummeted from 30 million in the 1950s to fewer than one million today, through loss of habitat, habitat fragmentation and pesticides. The large fields and the reduction of hedgerows, so prevalent in modern farming, are of no use to hedgehogs and the areas where they do survive are often isolated, reducing mating opportunities and, as slugs form part of their diet, the use of products such as slug pellets can be devastating.

However there does seem to be evidence that urban hedgehog populations have stabilised, possibly as people are becoming aware of their plight and are making their gardens more hedgehog-friendly and providing food for them.

Earthworms, beetles and caterpillars are the main food source for hedgehogs for which they compete with badgers, though badgers will also eat hedgehogs if their food source is scarce.

Hedgehogs, bats and dormice are the only three species in Britain that hibernate during the cold months of winter (December/January to February/March). Hedgehogs need to spend the late summer and autumn building up their fat reserves to help them survive the hibernation process. They live solitary lives and only come together for mating in spring and the females give birth in summer, raising a family of 4-5 hoglets. When they are first born they have no spines, which makes it easier for the mother to give birth though the spines begin growing when the hoglet is just a few hours old. A hedgehog will typically have around 6000 spines, which are really modified hairs. Sometimes the females will give birth to a second brood during the year but this can be problematic as there might not be enough time for the young to accumulate enough fat to survive hibernation. During hibernation their heart rate drops from around 190 to less than 20 beats per minute and their body temperature drops from around 35°C to less than 10°C, so the reduced metabolism enables them to conserve enough fat reserves to survive the winter. Upon emerging from hibernation the hedgehog will have lost about a third of its body weight, be extremely hungry and urgently need to replenish its reserves.

Simon dispelled some of the myths associated with hedgehogs, such as pets and humans catching fleas from them. Apparently, the hedgehog flea has evolved to travel between the hedgehog spines and is too specialised to infect people or furry animals. Another false myth was that hedgehogs can climb trees, but they have difficulty climbing anything so even getting over a road curb can be difficult or out of a pond, should they be unlucky enough to fall in.

We were urged to make our gardens more friendly towards hedgehogs; creating gaps under fences to allow them access, putting out food and water, providing a shelter and a place for them to breed, together with allowing an area of our gardens to go wild. Also ensure that any pond has a ramp suitable for them to exit. Meaty cat food is ideal for hedgehogs but they should not be given milk or bread as it could make them ill.

[bighedgehogmap.org](http://bighedgehogmap.org) is a website where we are encouraged to log any sighting of a hedgehog and enabling a better understanding of the population distribution.

Simon had brought along copious Wildlife Trust leaflets which we were encouraged to help ourselves to (to reduce the amount he had to carry back with him!). He also introduced us to 'Dave' the hedgehog who remained very still sitting on a piece of wood throughout the evening - he may have been stuffed, though we were never informed of the fact. We show a picture of Dave here.

Following some questions Simon was warmly thanked by Chairman Ed Wilson for a very entertaining talk and he extended a sincere invitation for a return visit for another talk in the future.



## Forthcoming Events:

**Tuesday 18th April:** Presentation by Catriona Rollason entitled 'Remote Sensing of the Sea Floor'. Meeting in the Tom Hauley Room. Doors open 7.30pm. All welcome - free to Harbury Society members - guests £1.

**Tuesday 16th May:** Tour of the medieval village and church of Wolfhampcote. Full details will be sent to members nearer the time.

**Tuesday 4th July:** Talk/Tour of Lighthorne. Full details will be sent to members nearer the time.

**Tuesday 19th September:** 'The Last Man in the World' a humorous talk by local actor Peter Walshe which will throw a spotlight on his theatrical career. Meeting in the Tom Hauley Room. Doors open 7.30pm. All welcome - free to Harbury Society members - guests £1.

**Tuesday 17th October:** A presentation by Stuart Pierson from Wessex Archaeology featuring their excavations at Coleshill Manor. This is the talk which had to be postponed from November 2022. Meeting in the Tom Hauley Room. Doors open 7.30pm. All welcome - free to Harbury Society members - guests £1.

If you would like further information about the Harbury Society or would like to become a member, please contact Sue Turner, Secretary, on 07917 055920 or email [sue@turners.co.uk](mailto:sue@turners.co.uk).



**HARBURY WI**

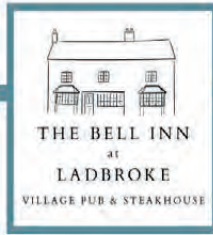
*Mary Thompson*

On 23rd February we launched our WI lunch club at the Bowling Green in Southam. Half term and last minute illness meant numbers were low but those who attended enjoyed themselves.

Our meeting on 9th March came in the snowy weather but our speaker made it from Tamworth as did a good number of members. The National Federation had asked County Federations to do something to mark the King's coronation. All Warwickshire WIs have been asked to take a photograph/video of themselves performing a curtsy holding suitable memorabilia; we were grateful to Philip Mayer for acting as our photographer.



Vicky Farmer entertained members with tales of her life as a quiz contestant. As a child Vicky enjoyed watching quiz shows such as Top of the Form, Criss Cross Quiz and Ask the Family. She had a large map on her bedroom wall so became very familiar with capital cities, oceans, rivers etc.



Coming up at The Bell Inn, Ladbroke.



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&  
Thursday Night is PIE NIGHT

### QUIZ & A CURRY

Tuesday 18th April

### KINGS CORONATION

Saturday 6th May

### GIN FESTIVAL & FAMILY FUN DAY

June - tbc

### FATHERS DAY

Sunday 18th June

### BELL INN GIN FESTIVAL

Saturday 24th June - tbc

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In the 1990s she went to watch a colleague appear in a quiz at Pebble Mill in Birmingham. She realised that entering a quiz show where a lot of contestants are needed meant you had a better chance of being selected. Her first quiz 15 to 1 was filmed in a small studio in Wandsworth where three programmes were filmed in one day. Vicky told us that few quiz shows have a live audience - the clapping is often added later.

Vicky had unsuccessful auditions for quiz shows such as Countdown, The Weakest Link, Catch phrase and The Lottery Show.

Once contestants have been successful in the audition their travel, meals and hotel accommodation are paid for. Vicky appeared in Playing For Time where she won a four night break in Dublin; Beat The Nation where she won £500 and £2,000 from Going For Gold. During Lockdown she auditioned for Winning Combination on Zoom where she won on the live show £8,972 split four ways. Vicky told us that most shows are filmed as if they are going out live and only slightly tweaked afterwards.

Vicky appeared in programmes which are being shown on ITV at present - Tipping Point where she didn't win.

She then showed us excerpts of her appearance on The Chase fourteen years ago. The Chase started in 2010 and now has a regular audience of five million and is on television for most of the year. Vicky won £9,000 in the cash builder which members who are regular viewers knew was very good. Two of the four contestants got to the final where they were playing against Anne Hegarty for £11,000. We saw Vicky correctly answer 22 of the 24 questions which has never been beaten. We expected that Vicky and her fellow contestant would have won the £11,000 but Anne was able to beat them. This was a very interesting and enjoyable talk.

At our meeting on 13th April we shall welcome Margot McCleary's one woman show called Velvet Glove. Members are invited to enter a decorated crown or tiara which could go forward to a competition in the Southam Area Group Meeting on 15th May in Napton. Subscriptions for 2023/4 are now due.

We are running a coffee morning in the Tom Hauley Room on 29th April. We shall be raising money for the Turkey Disaster Fund.

The rural cinema season is now over and we are looking to award some small grants to local organisations from our Community Fund which has built up with profit from the cinema. Please contact Ann Mayer for an application form (612708). Closing date 18th April. The next cinema will be 16th September.



## HARBURY THEATRE GROUP

*Anna Harper*

Here at Harbury Theatre Group, we're getting ready for our new production in May, Ridiculous Allsorts. Add these dates to your diary as a must: 18th, 19th and 20th May. The production will be made up of comical, ridiculous short stories, songs and poems. It

will make you, smile, laugh and cry with its humour and witty lines. Look out; the tickets will be on sale ridiculously soon. All money raised will go to the church lighting and heating project, Heat, Light and Stone.

If any of you are interested to join Harbury Theatre Group, our door is always open. Please email [harburytheatregroup@gmail.com](mailto:harburytheatregroup@gmail.com)

We would love to have you join in the fun.



## FOLK CLUB

Deb Ellis

The 434th Folk Club took place at the Harbury Village Club on 2nd March and the theme was 'Movement'. I chose this theme as I have a family friend who has been diagnosed with Huntington's Disease. I have raised funds for the Stroke Association before where people find that they cannot move. This time I wanted to raise funds for those people who cannot stop moving.

In the first half, Bob Clucas opened the proceedings with a Ralph McTell song 'Kenny the Kangaroo' and then, accompanied by Ann & Don, he performed a Vin Garbutt song, 'When the Tide Turns'. Maureen & Sue sang 'Leaving on a Jet Plane' which is one of my favourites and finished with the Bernard Cribbins song 'Right Said Fred'. Another folk club regular, Peter Mason, sang an English folk song 'Joseph Baker' and we found ourselves circling around the sun by Chris White. Sue Harris sang 'My Old Man Said Follow the Van' and 'Ten Cents a Dance'.

The Harvesters sang about the great depression in the USA with 'Make Me a Pallet on Your Floor' and 'Rock Me Mama (Wagon Wheel)' a Bob Dylan song. Rik sang a traditional song 'Stanton Drew' and 'Song For A Seagull' by Joni Mitchell. Pete Grassby sang 'Stable Lad' by Peter Cape and 'Home Lads Home' and the Harbury Chorus Engine joined in too.

In the second half, Don started with 'Rhythms of Your Grace', a self-penned song, and followed that with the 'Eyes of Ida Lewis' by Reg Meuross. Don stayed on along with Sally & Robin to sing 'Monmouth' a song written by Robin and 'As the Tide Rushes in' by the Moody Blues. Peter McDonald did two beautiful offerings with 'Riversong' by Peter Metsers and 'River Run' by James Keelaghan.

Rumble-o performed the sea shanty 'Keep Hauling' and the 'Detectorists' by Johnny Flynn. Dez sang a song by Ron Shuttleworth which was all about bodily movements and a song by the late Les Barker about breaking wind suddenly! Pete & Liz Bones found a sub theme and sang 'Two Coats Colder' about whales migrating around the Pacific Rim and followed that with an Edna McKay song 'Wind and Tides Permitting'. Keith Donnelly finished the evening with 'Only When the Moon'. The impressive total of £113.00 was raised for Huntington's Disease and this included £35 for the sale of an 18" bodhran that my Mum donated. The next folk club will be on 6th April and it will be with your host Peter Bones and the theme is 'Growth & Growing'.



# HARBURY TWINNING ASSOCIATION

*Tony Thomas*

On the 3rd March 23 members travelled to the Navigation Inn at Wootton Wawen for another fun evening of supper and skittles. Margaret McDonald split us up into five teams which she gave French Dessert names. The winning team was Profiterole which was made up of Ian Garvey, Peter McDonald, Sharon Hancock, Sue Crum and Tony Thomas. Sharon Hancock was the evening's highest scorer as she managed to knock down eight out of nine skittles in each of the three rounds played. The evening wound up with the sudden death game of Killer (Last player standing) which was won by Ian Garvey.

On Thursday 24th May, the party to visit Samois sur Seine - our pretty twinning village near Paris - sets out on its coach journey, stopping overnight at Albert on the way. This is our first trip since lockdown, and is eagerly anticipated. We always receive a wonderful welcome, and look forward to the return visit of our French friends in 2024.



# HARBURY HERITAGE CENTRE

*Bill Timson*

I was talking to someone recently who asked, 'what is Harbury famous for?' My immediate reply was the deep railway cutting and the dinosaur fossils found in the quarry. I'm sure someone else would have given a different response but being part of the Heritage Group these were the two things that came readily to mind.

Perhaps it was no coincidence that at the time I was working on a presentation entitled 'Monsters in Harbury' for Years 1 and 2 at the primary school are using our archive material about the dinosaur fossils found in Harbury Quarry in the 1920's.

The children's topic of 'dinosaurs', and ideally related to 'history within our locality' lent itself nicely to the finds made in the quarry in 1927 and 1928. Villagers of both Harbury and Bishop's Itchington will have had relatives who worked in the quarry in past times as this provided a secure income and an alternative means of employment from the agriculture and farming that has supported the area since the Middle Ages. The quarry opened in 1820 and provided Blue Lias limestone for building and later clay



Plesiosaurs



Ichthyosaurs



and shale for the production of cement well into the 20th century. Eventually the quarry became exhausted and in the 1970's was flooded and today provides a man-made lake for fishing and a nature reserve.

In December 1927 the surprise find was an 18 feet long fossil of a Plesiosaur marine mammal, (these could grow up to 50 feet long), believed to date back to the Jurassic period some 150 million years ago. Just under a year later a 33 feet fossil of an Ichthyosaur, another marine mammal of the same period was discovered. These could grow up to 66 feet long.

The local quarry men would boast saying, 'let's see who can find the biggest dinosaur this week' and although another Plesiosaurus was found in 1930 I have no further information on this one.

Both dinosaur fossils were carefully removed, packaged up and transported to the Natural History Museum in London where they have remained ever since. Sadly, these magnificent relics are no longer on display but stored away somewhere deep in their repository and although it would be nice to 'bring them home' where would we put them?!



Display cases showing some of the bones from the Plesiosaur in the Natural History Museum.

Many of the Year 1 and 2 children knew far more than me on the topic of dinosaurs and fossils when Mary Thompson and I did the presentation in March but I was able to tell them the largest dinosaur found to date a 'Titanosaur' would be on display at the Natural History Museum from the start of April.

I'm sure that this interesting story has already been covered in the magazine more than once in the past but just in case you get asked the same question as me, 'what is Harbury famous for?' you are now armed with a few more facts.

We have lots more documents and photographs about the 'Monsters in Harbury' in the Heritage Centre, come and have a look. We are open first Tuesday in the month 7 - 9pm and the third Sunday in the month 2 - 4pm.

Our website is [www.harburyheritage.org.uk](http://www.harburyheritage.org.uk) and our Facebook page is 'Harbury Heritage Centre'.

### Other News

In last month's edition I mentioned that we had donated £1000 to Myton Hospice for the sale of the calendars. The presentation was made at Heritage Centre on the 8th of March to Louise Carless the Myton Community Fund Raising Officer.

Shown below is Lou (left), members of the committee and some of the artists. Tea and cake were enjoyed afterwards.

Thank you to everyone who painted the scenes and bought the calendars!



## HARBURY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

*Steven Kittendorf*

**Harbury v Pershore** - the visitors were unable to raise a team, Harbury were awarded the win.

### **Coventrians 23 Harbury 0**

With both teams on the same number of league points sitting 2nd and 3rd in the league, Harbury took a strong squad over to Coventrians. The hosts immediately put Harbury under pressure forcing them to mount a stern defence of their line. Captain Ricky Alford put in a try saving tackle but suffered a serious neck injury and was immediately taken to hospital by ambulance. The game restarted with a 5 metre scrum to Coventrians and despite some heroic defence, Coventrians eventually crashed over for an early try. Harbury couldn't get a foothold in the game and conceded a couple of tries towards the end of the match.

### **Rugby Welsh 14 Harbury 89**

Too much to report here except to say that the visitors ran in 13 tries.

### **Alcester 2nd XV 31 Harbury 2nd XV 31**

A great result against a Club that sit at the top of the league above Harbury.

## Harbury v Upton on Severn

The visitors were unable to raise a team, Harbury were awarded the win.

## Harbury 59 Berkeswell & Balsall 17

Fresh from their victory in the Warwickshire 2's Cup Final, Berkswell and Balsall 2's took up the challenge and agreed to come over to Waterloo Fields for a friendly game. The game started quickly as Harbury ran in three early tries; two by Stevie Alford and the third by the returning captain. Hector Smith ran in a 4th try in the first half before the visitors hit back on the cusp of half time with a brilliant individual try to bring the score to 22-5 at half time. The pick of the second half scores started from a scrum deep in Harbury's half; the ball fed out to Ricky Alford at 10 who crafted a beautiful crossfield kick that was collected by Toby Whelan who turned the fullback inside out to score in the corner.

## Minis and Juniors

The Mini and Juniors took over Coventry RFC at the beginning of the month, with pre match games and then walking out as mascots with the first team players. A brilliant experience for the kids, thank you Coventry!

Since then we have been into fixtures and training. Our U16s and U15s have made it through to the Warwickshire Cup final, which is a fantastic achievement. U16s will face Leamington on the 16th April and U15s will face Kenilworth on the 26th April.

We celebrated our rugby Mums at the club on Sunday. A big shout out to them for all that they do throughout the age groups. Mums were toasted with a glass of prosecco and given a bunch of daffodils to kick off mother's day in style!

We offer rugby for U5s up to U16s, so if you have a child who is interested, drop us a message on [harburyrfc.enquiries@gmail.com](mailto:harburyrfc.enquiries@gmail.com) or give Chris, the Chair, a call on 07834 972999.



## HARBURY TENNIS CLUB

Mary Thompson

## Warwickshire LTA Lifetime Achievement Award

In December 2022 the Tennis Club committee nominated club chairman Colin Mercer for an award from Warwickshire LTA. In January 2023 we heard that Colin would be awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award at the LTA award ceremony on 15th March. Colin went to the ceremony knowing that he was going to present three awards on behalf of the LTA management committee. Our committee members had managed to keep his award a complete secret although he must have had an inkling when five members of Harbury Tennis club arrived at the Warwickshire Sports Club in Solihull.



Colin met his wife Sue about 30 years ago. Sue and her late husband Dave had been founder members of Harbury Tennis club; Colin quickly took on Sue's enthusiasm for tennis. He joined the club and within months found himself as chairman and has remained so ever since.

As part of the club's millennium project a club house was built and floodlights on three courts were installed. Colin was very good at applying for grants and with the committee's help masterminded fund raising with discos, quizzes, coffee mornings, lunches and wine tasting. He also dealt with all the planning procedures. Whenever the courts have needed cleaning, resurfacing etc Colin has been the one to lead the committee on planning and supervising the work plus obtaining more funding.

We have recently had to re-negotiate our lease with the Parish Council who own the courts. This was a very laborious process and involved the netball club who share one of the courts. Colin and Paul, treasurer, spent a long time successfully negotiating a new lease. Colin has recently embarked on negotiating a new maintenance programme with the Parish Council.

Colin was very involved with setting up our successful Junior Section. Helping Sue to coordinate it to begin with, and then negotiating with coaching companies to take over the Junior and Adult coaching.

Colin has been a very good team member willing to captain various teams over the years. He is a very enthusiastic club member - keen to organise social events away from tennis. He is a good committee member and with new committee members joining in the last couple of years, he is keen to encourage their new initiatives.

Harbury Tennis club would not be where it is today without Colin's hard work and enthusiasm over the last 30 years.

Away from Harbury, Colin has been a committee member of Warwickshire LTA for 9+ years - taking on a number of roles including Safeguarding officer and vice chairman.

We are delighted that Colin was presented with his award which is so richly deserved.



## HARBURY TODDLER GROUP

*Lynne Barton*

### **Hello from everyone at Toddlers**

We cannot believe that we have almost reached the Easter Holidays already, where is the year going?

Toddlers is always a treat and nearly every week we have a special guest. If you have a child under five why not pop along and join in the fun, every Monday, term time from 9.30 to 11.15am only £1.50 per session.

### **Highlights**

Our recent highlights are Mini Bamboo Soft Play who provided a vehicle package for us with traffic lights, cars, cones and bikes. Thank you to Louise Emerson. The





children had a great time developing their physical skills and learning about road signs. They all were very excited when they arrived and saw the room as it is always a surprise for the children.

The fourth Disney **Princess, Ariel** for those who don't know, is the seventh-born daughter of King Triton and Queen Athena of an underwater kingdom of merfolk called Atlantica. She swam in and came to say hi recently courtesy of DBA Theatre Company.

She offered the children glitter tattoos and serenaded us with songs from the film.

So utterly and totally believable as these photos show, let's keep the magic alive for as long as we can.



My heroine

### Always a good welcome

We have welcomed a number of new families recently which has been lovely, our regular parents are always so generous and warm with their time and friendship. Each week we welcome on average 24 children with their parents, carers or grandparents, many of whom return each week.

Thank you for your support.

Watching these children grow and being involved in their early years is a real treat.



Strike a pose

One part of the morning always guaranteed to make us smile is snack time. The children know this routine so well..... All little hands are on deck to help tidy up ready for their biscuit and drink. They then get their little individual mats to sit on – some Covid habits have stuck.

Coming up soon we have a relaxing and therapeutic treat for parents and for our Toddlers, more from Miss Chiara from LoveBallet.com and Fairy Tales with Lydia from SpOt Drama.

See you soon

**Love from Lynne, Selina, Debbie, Suzi and Judi x x**



**HARBURY PRE-SCHOOL**

*Staff and Committee*

### **The Firemen came for a Visit!**

We have quite a few children who particular enjoy pretending to be firemen on a regular basis so what better than to ask some real Firemen to come out with their Fire Engine to visit us!

The Fire Service have generously leant us their 'fire box' which contains a wealth of resources relating to fire safety and road safety. The children have been enjoying games, songs, puzzles, stories, role play activities



and dressing up clothes all courtesy of the Fire Box. We have been learning about smoke alarms and the need to 'stop, drop and go, go go' if there is a fire and we will be focussing on road safety over the next few weeks.

The Fire Engine came last week and the children came out into the car park in small groups to have a look at all their equipment and to talk to the Firemen. We saw their hoses, where they store the water, tried to collapse the collapsible cones and had a look at some of the equipment they use when there is a car accident.

The children were captivated and have absorbed the knowledge. We have loved hearing them share what they have learnt with us and each other.

### **Snow**

We were treated to a couple of snowy days the other week. The children loved playing in the snow. We added some snow to the mud kitchen so the children could



make some snowy concoctions. We added some buckets and spades and they built snowmen, made marks in the snow and threw snowballs at the wall and shed.

After being out in the cold, the children needed warming up so we treated them to some yummy hot chocolate for snack.

We then observed as the snow turned to ice and then started to melt to make water.

### **St David's Day**

We have been learning about all things Wales, in honour of St David's day. We have been colouring in the Welsh flag and learning about the country of Wales. The children made some yummy Welsh cakes which they took home to eat when they got home from Pre-School.



### **World Book Day**

Children were asked to bring in their favourite stories in celebration of World Book Day. We read them during circle time or during small group time and it was lovely to see the range brought in and hear some new stories. The children were invited to dress up and we saw some fabulous costumes, including Stick Man, the Gruffalo, the Skeleton from Funny Bones and Cinderella. Thank you to the parents for your support.

### **Looking forward**

The children have been busy making paper flowers to stick onto their Mothering Sunday cards. We hope all our mothers and female carers had a lovely Mother's day



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and we hope that you liked your cards. The children worked really hard to make them. For St Patrick Day we learnt about Ireland and tried some sour dough bread.

*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.*



## HARBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lucy Bosley - Headteacher

***To love, learn and grow together.***

***“Let us not love with words and speech but with action and in truth” 1 John 3:18***

### **Rocket madness!**



To celebrate British Science Week, we held a whole school rocket launch! There were some amazing creations some vinegar, bicarbonate of soda, air or cola fuelled! There was a distinct smell of vinegar and rocket fumes in the air! We even had a real rocket scientist to help launch our rockets. Thank you to Mrs Tarry, our science lead for organising this fun event!



Alongside this, we have had scientists into school visiting the classes these have included a CT scanner, a professor, and several doctors. Thank you all so much.

On Friday 10th March our school was filled with the wonderful music of jazz! Jazz labs came into school and performed for a whole school assembly and then also provided a workshop for each class. Thank you to the PTA for making this happen.



It so lovely to have these curriculum enrichment activities, that make learning engaging, inspiring and fun.

Congratulations to Mary Thompson who has received a Longstanding Governor Award for 16 years of service. Thank you for your hard work and dedication. We really appreciate all our governors on our Governing Board. Thank you for all you do to make our school so successful.





# HARBURY VILLAGE HALL

Andy Rutherford

The Village Hall depends completely on volunteers to help organise the many activities taking place. We are still looking for a Booking Secretary to take over the role from Pam Keane who has been doing that job for some years now. Pam needs to step down because of her full time employment commitments, but the role would really suit a retired or semi-retired person. This interesting job involves a lot of contact with organisations and individuals around the Village.

One of the issues we have been looking into is the problem of late cancellations at the Hall. If a hirer cancels a booking within two or three weeks of an event, there is rarely sufficient time to get another hiring for the same time slot. We find that people generally plan more in advance than that. Our Conditions of Hire state that bookings should be paid for four weeks before the event and that cancellation charges may be applied. For improved clarity, we are introducing a sliding scale of cancellation charges, which will be published on the website. Our cancellation charges have not been used for several years, having been abandoned at the outbreak of Covid.

Our new Treasurer, Steven Friling, has been working hard to prepare our year end accounts, assisted by our previous Treasurer, Susan Littlewood. Susan spent much time for many years looking after Village Hall finances, and her efforts have been very much appreciated.



## HARBURY LIBRARY & BIBLIO'S CAFE

Rich Fowler

*With a particular emphasis on the education of children and young people, Harbury Village Library provides services in the nationally defined areas of Reading, Health and Wellbeing, Information and Digital, and Culture and Creativity.*

**Home Delivery** – Have you been a regular borrower in the past, but are no longer able to get to the library? Is the library not open at convenient times for you? Don't worry, we can come to you instead.



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- Alternatively, provide us with a list of your favourite authors and we'll choose some books for you
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- There is no charge for the service, and we deliver on foot, by bike, or in an electric car, so it's all environmentally friendly as well.

If you want books delivered email [library@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk](mailto:library@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk) or call 01926 258776.

## Annual General Meeting

Our AGM on Monday 6th March was well attended and you can now read our comprehensive Annual Report and the Draft minutes on our website under “About Us”.

## Activities and Events

**Tunes and Tales** – Continues on Thursday mornings from 9.15am to 9.45pm. Stories and songs for babies and toddlers.

**Board Game Fridays** – Come along with friends to play some of the board games in our collection, or bring your own. Board Game Fridays start at 1.30pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits available.

**Harbury Repair Cafe** – Takes place in the library on the fourth Saturday of every month from 2pm to 4pm.

**Classic Book Group** – Our group meets in the library on the third Thursday of every month. We aim to read, and discuss, those “classic” books you always meant to read, but never did. If you’re interested in joining us please email [BookGroup@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk](mailto:BookGroup@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk).

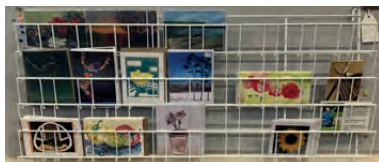
**Warm Welcome** – When Biblio’s is closed you can still drop in just to work using our WiFi or public access computers; print, copy, scan and laminate; sit and read, including a daily copy of the iNewspaper and the weekly copy of the Leamington Courier. All while helping yourself to free tea, coffee and biscuits.

**Creative Writing Group** – Are you interested in a new Creative Writing Group? If so, come along to a meeting on Wednesday 5th April at 7.30pm in the library. The meeting will be led by Sue Goss, experienced creative writing teacher, editor, journalist and published writer. The meeting will explore:

- Is there interest in setting up a Creative Writing Group?
- If so, what day of the week, and how often, should it meet?
- What should the group’s objectives be?

If you’re interested in attending please email to [CreativeWriting@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk](mailto:CreativeWriting@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk). Alternatively just come along on the day.

**Greetings Cards by Local Artists** are available again in the library. We have a new, more easily accessible, display of cards by, among others, Julia Essex, Susan Littlewood and Dee Luntley.



**Biblio’s** – Why not meet friends for a hot drink and homemade cake? Our friendly volunteers will be waiting to serve you in Biblio’s Cafe on any of the days and times when the Cafe is open, as stated in this article.

Closing times for Easter and the Coronation

## Easter Closing

7th April - Good Friday. 8th April - Easter Saturday. 10th April - Easter Monday

## Coronation (and May) Closing

Mon 1st May - Early May Bank Holiday. Sat 6th May - Coronation Day

Mon 8th May - Bank Holiday for the Coronation. Mon 29th May - Spring Bank Holiday



## Regular Opening Times

**Library** - Monday and Tuesday - 10am to 4.30pm; Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - 9.15am to 4.30pm; Saturday - 10am to 12 noon.

**Biblio's Cafe** - Wednesday to Friday - 9.15am to 12 noon, Saturday - 10am to 12 noon.

Bookings can be made via the following email: [bookingsbiblioscafe@outlook.com](mailto:bookingsbiblioscafe@outlook.com)



## HARBURY CLUB & INSTITUTE

*Club Committee*

A welcoming end to the winter and into the spring. 🌸

The 2022-23 league is coming to its end for our club teams, earning them a well earned break until the next season begins. Brilliant efforts by all those involved.

With the usual bingo, quiz night, and a race night too this April, we also have "Karaoke with Kirsty". Come along and be the star of the stage, 100% fun in a friendly environment guaranteed. There will also be another opportunity to view the wonderful tinplate 'O' gauge train collection, two dates added this month, a great thing to admire for big and little ones alike.

### Did someone say tribute band?

This April, Harbury Club is pleased to announce BLACK ICE.. AC/DC tribute band. This night is free to our members, £2 non-members, it'll be a great show to spring us into the summer months.

Our quizzes are proving quite popular with our fabulous quiz master Steve, thank you to the Strugglers for redonating their winnings in February, it was a lovely gesture.

### Dates for your diary during April

<b>1st</b> Family Bingo, 7.30pm	<b>16th</b> Model trains, 12pm - 4pm
<b>2nd</b> Model trains 12pm - 4pm	<b>21st</b> AC/DC tribute, 9pm
<b>13th</b> Karaoke 7.30pm	<b>28th</b> Bingo, 8.00pm
<b>14th</b> Bingo, 8.00pm	<b>29th</b> Race Night, 7.30pm
<b>15th</b> Quiz, 7.30pm	

Thank you for your continued support, to contact us please email; [harburyvillageclub@outlook.com](mailto:harburyvillageclub@outlook.com) or you can telephone evenings on 01926 612498 or pop in and speak to one of our barstaff or a committee member, who will be only too happy to help.



## GARDEN JOTTINGS

*Christine Dakin from Bridge Nursery*

The garden here was started 25 years ago with much optimism, determination and energy, also an almost total lack of understanding just how challenging it would be to make a garden on heavy clay soil. It gets waterlogged, splishy splashy wet in the winter and dries out with deep cracks in the summer. It is a windy site, there are

rabbits, and brambles would quickly take over if it was abandoned for a short period of time. It has proved to be a very useful testing ground for plants which will thrive in such awful conditions.

There are six large compost bins here and the contents are added as a mulch each year, this has helped enormously and the soil is much more workable these days.

There have been many casualties and quite a lot of plants which sulk but don't die. I'm fairly ruthless about removing clumps of this and that which aren't growing well. Among the stars of the show are asters, verbena, primroses, roses, shrubby winter flowering honeysuckle, viburnums, ornamental grasses, hardy geraniums, birch, bamboo, and too many others to list here.



If you are stuck deciding what to plant and where to plant it, please do come and take a look at what works here and also help raise funds for the NGS charity. The garden is open every weekend from Good Friday until mid September.

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



## NATURE NOTES

*Martin & Amanda Randall*

Now is the time to look out for Wordsworth's favourite flowers. No, not daffodils but celandines. He wrote three poems about the Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*):

*"There is a Flower, the Lesser Celandine,  
That shrinks, like many more, from cold and rain;  
And, the first moment that the sun may shine,  
Bright as the sun himself, 'tis out again!"*

The Lesser Celandine is one of the first flowers to appear after winter. It is a relative of buttercups and its glossy petals are brighter than other yellow flowers because they have a layer of cells containing light-reflecting starch grains below the yellow upper layers of cells. The starch deflects the light back so that it passes twice through the yellow pigment to produce the rich colour. The bright yellow petals are attractive to early flying insects, providing a welcome nectar source for queen bumblebees and other pollinators emerging from hibernation. The petals close overnight, as well as in the day when rain is due, as Wordsworth observed. In his herbal of 1653, Culpepper, also refers to Lesser Celandine by the name of Pilewort, because of the shape of its bulbous root and consequently, following the logic of that time, those roots were said to be efficacious against that condition. However, all parts of the plant are poisonous if taken internally!



Creeping along the hedgerows at this time of year you can also see the glossy arrow-shaped leaves of the Cuckoo Pint (*Arum maculatum*). Another plant with many different



names such as Wild Arum, Lords and Ladies, Friar's Cowl, Jack in the Pulpit, as well as Starchwort. The flowers of this perennial are borne on an unusual spike-like structure called a spadix which is partly enclosed in a pale green leaf-like hood or spathe. The cuckoopint plant has an unusual and quite wonderful pollination strategy. There are separate minute male and female flowers on the spadix. In the early evening the upper, male flower buds produce a chemical with a fetid smell. The plant's metabolism generates heat, up to 15°C higher than ambient, that volatilizes

this smelly chemical to attract small flies. These enter the spathe and are trapped by a zone of bristles then fall down the smooth-walled floral chamber. They cannot escape at that time but are able to feed on a nutritious secretion produced by the female flowers at the bottom of the spadix. By nightfall the male flowers, situated higher on the spadix, release a rain of pollen onto the insects. The next day, the protective bristles wilt, the smell has gone and there is no more food for the flies. These pollen-laden insects escape and are soon recaptured by another Cuckoo Pint flower, still in its receptive smelly stage, ensuring cross-pollination between the flowers. There was a splendid film of this insect-plant relationship in the first episode of David Attenborough's latest 'Wild Isles' TV documentary. Later in the year, the spadix produces attractive orange-red berries which are extremely poisonous to humans, but harmless to the birds that eat them and propagate the seeds. In fact, all parts of the plant can produce allergic reactions and there is no known antidote to *Arum maculatum* poisoning.

Cuckoo Pint was also called Starchwort because the root tubers contain starch that was used to stiffen ruff collars during the 15th century. The nuns of Syon Abbey also used the roots to make starch for altar cloths and other church linens. But these practices didn't last, as laundering the clothing could cause painful effects due to the corrosive properties of the juice. Gerard's Herbal of 1633 records:

*"The most pure and white starch is made of the rootes of the Cuckoo-pint, but most hurtful for the hands of the laundresse that have the handling of it, for it chappeth, blistereth, and maketh the hands rough and rugged and withall smarting".*

Another early spring flower is the Coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*), also called Mare's Foot, Foal's Foot or Horse Hoof because of the shape of its leaves, an alternative name is Coughwort since the plant was thought to remedy coughs, and colds and Coltsfoot preparations have long been used to soothe sore throats. Its scientific name derives from the Latin 'tussis', a cough. Surprisingly, we have also read that the dried leaves of the Coltsfoot plant were smoked, which was thought to have relieved asthma! Coltsfoot flowers looks similar to dandelions, with flowerheads made up of two types of florets (mini-flowers) - long yellow ones radiate from the disc of smaller ones in the centre. Under ultraviolet light the central disc appears much darker than the outer florets. This guides pollinating insects, which can see the world in UV, to home into the location of the nectar. One bee species that is associated with Coltsfoot is the hairy-footed flower bee (*Anthophora plumipes*), which is known to be an important pollinator of the plant. Other bumble bee species are also known to visit these flowers.



The Coltsfoot's fleshy stems have distinctive outer scales and, unlike dandelions, its leaves do not appear until later in spring after the flowers have produced their fluffy seedheads. Coltsfoot prefer heavier soil often at field edges and in rough ground. Once much commoner, the Chesterton Road verge near the entrance to Whitegates Farm is one of the few locations where they can be seen around Harbury.

One reason why these different flowers bloom early is so that they are able to take advantage of the increased sunlight and warmth in spring. This allows them to grow before other competitor plants emerge from their winter dormancy. However, flowering dates have been affected by climate change. Warmer temperatures can cause some flowers to bloom earlier than usual. For example scientists in Germany have recently recorded Coltsfoot now flowering between 3 and 14 days earlier than the early 1950s, as the average temperature in the January–March period has warmed significantly by 1.7 to 2.4°C since the period from 1951.



## HARBURY GENERAL NEWS



### OBITUARY

*Mary Shelley*

We are sad to report the death at the age of 94 of Mary Shelley. Mary passed away on 4th January in Blairgowrie, Perthshire.

She came to Harbury in 1966 and had lived in Mill Lane ever since, although dividing her final years between Harbury and Scotland. Mary and husband Ron, both west Londoners by upbringing, took quickly to village life and were long time stalwarts of the local amateur dramatics scene. Mary's production of *Alice in Wonderland* was filmed for ITV.

Mary established a greatly-valued nursery school in the village before returning to state school teaching, first in Bishops Itchington and then in a deprived area of Coventry. She retired as a deputy headteacher. Longer-standing villagers will remember the filming of *Harbury Chronicles*, a project that Mary co-led.

After Ron's death in 1991, Mary remained adventurous, travelling to Europe, Africa and the Middle East. She loved turning her hand to arts and crafts - watercolours, quilting, stained glass. Mary was a wonderful mother to her sons Toby and Matthew and later took delight in being a grandmother to Joe and Tom who miss her advice and mischievousness. She was loved by her daughters in law Fiona and Jennifer.

Many will remember bumping into Mary walking around the village and fields with her lurcher Spike and then her terrier Hobbit.

There will be a memorial service in the church - date to be confirmed - to which all will be welcome, followed by tea and sandwiches in the Tom Hauley room for friends and family. Her ashes will be laid to rest in Ron's grave.







## WEDNESDAY WALKERS

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*Gillian Hare*

We broke our run of dry weather by braving the snow last month! Surprisingly, being cosily clad, it was a happy outing. We used the impressively upgraded “Greenway” at Long Itchington - it even features mounting blocks for any horse riders! Then we rewarded ourselves with a tasty meal at the Two Boats.

After the Easter break we are trialling a walk from the Millenium Way website- lots of ideas there. That will also include the option of a pub lunch. And, looking further ahead, a look at the bluebells at Badby or Wootton Wawen.

All details on the diary page; new walkers are always welcome. More info? Ring Gillian on 614809.



## HARBURY SURGERY

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*Suzanna Stanley - Assistant Practice Manager*

### Extended Access Service

Warwickshire East Primary Care Network are offering a variety of appointments in the evenings and at weekends. Please book via your GP surgery. Dates are:

**Sat 1st April** - 9am - 3pm    **Sat 6th May** - 9am - 3pm    **Sat 10th June** - 9am - 3pm

Appointments must be pre-booked. Telephone 612232.



## THE COLLECTIVE

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*Rev. Andy Batchelor*

Events in today’s world trigger a multitude of questions on issues to which our modern society is wanting answers. All Saints Harbury engages in discussion on such issues from both a secular and Christian perspective by meeting on a regular basis in the Shakespeare pub. The next meeting of THE COLLECTIVE will take place on Tuesday 18th April at 7.30pm, and monthly thereafter. Our next topic for discussion will be “Change and Upheaval - Shaping a Response.”

The aim is to get to know each other better, hear a short presentation on a hot topic, and spend time discussing it together over drinks in an informal setting. Everyone is welcome and questions and challenges are encouraged! Please do come along.

Any questions, please contact me: [rev.andyb@gmail.com](mailto:rev.andyb@gmail.com) 01926 714295.



## HARBURY SWIFT VILLAGE - UPDATE

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*Amanda Randall*

By the time you read this, installation of Harbury’s fifty new swift nest boxes will have begun; a brilliant achievement. A huge thank you to Harbury Parish Council for their generous funding and enthusiasm in providing so many potential nesting places for

these endangered birds; and also to Craig Knowles\* of Phoenix Craft Creations for making forty of the boxes and engraving them with the Harbury Parish Council Swift Project logo! They look fantastic. And thanks again to Bishops Itchington Men's Shed for making a further ten boxes.

Swifts are gregarious and not solitary, choosing to nest alongside other swifts. Colony size is determined largely by nest site availability. By providing groups of boxes on a single house or on adjacent houses along one street, there is an increased chance that the birds will want to nest there alongside other swifts. So thank you, too, to the Harbury residents who have purchased additional nest boxes.

Harbury Swift Village project is for the long term, for future generations of swifts. It may take a while for the birds to locate their new homes, so please don't be disappointed if no swifts nest in your boxes in the first year. Look out though for young birds that are not yet old enough to breed, but who will be looking for potential nest sites in years to come.

Swifts do not breed until they are four years old, although they may form a pair bond when they are only one year old. Young birds looking for a nest site will fly past prospective sites brushing or 'banging' the entrance with their wings, to see if the site is occupied!

The RSPB's 'Swift Mapper' website has been used to provide information about swifts seen in previous years in Harbury, to help select the best places to locate the new nest boxes. You can use Swift Mapper to record where you see nesting swifts or 'screaming' parties of them flying low over roof tops. Scan the barcode to find the website.

There is only a month to go before we see the first birds returning to Harbury after their long journey from Africa. I am excited!

**RSPB SwiftMapper**  
[www.swift-conservation.org](http://www.swift-conservation.org)



**Phoenix Craft Creations**  
[phoenixcraftcreations.co.uk](http://phoenixcraftcreations.co.uk)



*\*Craig Knowles of Phoenix Craft Creations, is a Harbury-based local designer-maker. He uses sustainably sourced wood and a mixture of traditional hand skills and modern machinery to create everything from bespoke furniture to hedgehog houses and bird nest boxes! Scan the barcode to view his website.*



## HARBURY LOCAL MARKET

Steve Ekins

Is normally held on the last Saturday of the Month in the Village Hall 10.00 until 12.30pm. The next Market is Saturday 29th April up to 30 stalls selling local Produce, Food, Art and Crafts. Free admission, Tea Coffee and Bacon Rolls available.

The Community Group we are supporting this month, is Lighthorne Junior Football.

We are also on Facebook @Harbury Local Market join for regular updates.



## HARBURY GARDENS WALKABOUT SET FOR 1ST & 2ND JULY

*Peter Walshe (on behalf of e-Wheels)*

We are pleased to announce that the popular Harbury Open Gardens will be on again this year.

This event is the major annual fund raiser for e-Wheels, the local charity that transports, without charge, those in need within a 15 mile radius of Harbury.

We hope to have 20+ gardens, including old favourites, spread around the Village with some offering teas, cakes, drinks and maybe lunches. Why not also visit the Harbury Heritage Centre and Open Studios which will also be open?

Many garden owners have already expressed an interest to take part, but if you would like to open your garden please contact Peter Walshe on 07446 779879 or [peterdouglaswalshe@gmail.com](mailto:peterdouglaswalshe@gmail.com). We would love to include some gardens that have not opened before. The plan is to open 10am - 6pm on Saturday and 12pm -6pm on Sunday.

Here's hoping for a blooming good July!



## CALLING ALL LOVERS OF FLOWERS

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*Gillian Hare*

As we look forward to returning to Church, we would welcome some extra hands to join the flower team. Each "turn" only comes round four times a year, covering two weeks at a time; there are funds raised by coffee mornings and donations and not all the ladies attend Harbury Church.

If you think this might be for you, but are hesitant to come forward because it is new to you, please come to a Back to Basics talk. This will be in the café area of the Library, by kind permission of the management there. Some of the regular team will be there to answer questions - it will be free and quite informal and, I promise, no arm twisting!

We also hope this may encourage more entries to the village show in September where there will be a class for novice flower arrangers.

If you would like to come, or would like more details please ring me on 01926 614809.



## WELLBEING ALLOTMENT

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*Steve Erins*

We are holding an open morning from 10.00am to 12.00 noon on Wednesday 5th April at the allotments off South Parade. This is for people who would like to grow some fruit and veg but don't need a whole allotment and would like to be part of a community group. If you would like to find out more please come along. All are welcome.

If you can't make it and want to know more, you can contact us on Facebook @Harbury Community Allotment or on email [harburycommallot@gmail.com](mailto:harburycommallot@gmail.com). This project is being supported by Harbury Parish Council.



## BUMPS & BUNDLES

*Carol Jackson and the Bumps Team*

We have recently had some great mornings at Bumps. About ten little bundles now walking around, starting to talk and playing in parallel. It is fascinating seeing them all grow together and the smiles on their little faces as they recognise friends.

We welcome all small children and babies and Mums and Dads and carers and also Mums with their Bumps. It is a good opportunity for them to swap ideas and pass on tips.

We meet every Tuesday morning from 10.30 to 12.00 in the Tom Hauley Room (behind the church). There is a rota of us making drinks and providing biscuits. We would also welcome any one who would like to join our rota, it is not onerous, just setting up the room and making the drinks.

Carol Jackson and the Bumps Team - contact 01926 941784.



## HARBURY BALLROOM & LATIN AMERICAN DANCING

*Amanda Randall*

### **Harbury Village Hall Wednesdays Beginners 7.15pm Improvers 8.30pm**

During the last few weeks, the Beginners have been enjoying the drama of Paso Doble and getting into the spirit of its pageantry by striking up the poses! (See photos). This passionate and theatrical dance is based on a Spanish bullfight. The leader represents the proud Spanish matador and the woman or follower is the Matador's cape or sometimes also the bull.

The Improvers have been concentrating on learning a new routine in the lively and energetic Quickstep (see photo) and brushing up on the Saunter Together, a sequence dance.

The new six week term of classes begins on Wednesday 26th April when we will begin to learn some new dances and brush up on some we have learned previously.



**Beginners Paso Doble**



## Dates & Dances

26th April and 3rd 10th 17th 24th and 31st May  
Beginners: Cha cha cha & Social Foxtrot  
Improvers: Foxtrot & Rumba

The fee is £15 per couple, per session, 'pay as you go'. Please bring someone to dance with - we don't swap partners.

We look forward to welcoming you, whether you have been attending regularly, haven't been for a while or if you would like to come and try!



Improvers Quickstep

**Contact:** Email: [harbury.ballroom.dancing@gmail.com](mailto:harbury.ballroom.dancing@gmail.com) or Phone: Jacqui Powell: 01926 612887 or 07769 683888.

Follow us on Facebook (Harbury Ballroom Dancing Group) or Instagram @harburyballroomdancing for further updates.

**“KEEEEPP Dancing”!!**



## REPAIR CAFÉ

Rich Fowler

The next Repair Cafe will be on Saturday 22nd April, from 2pm to 4pm at Harbury Library. You can send us information about items you're interested in having repaired by filling in the form on our website: <https://sites.google.com/site/repaircafeharbury/visit/repair-details>

## Clothing and Textiles

While we can't carry out all possible repairs to clothing and textiles, among things we can do are:

- Repair torn seams or non inclusion
- Turn up hems either by machine or by hand sewing
- Sew on buttons - buttons to be provided
- Repair torn buttonholes
- Patch a hole in fabric - fabric to patch with to be provided although this can sometimes be 'harvested' from elsewhere on the garment
- Replace a drawstring - drawstring to be provided
- Replace a trouser, skirt or cushion zip - zip to be provided
- Replace elastic on fitted sheet corners - elastic to be provided
- Repair small holes in knitwear

In addition, general advice can be given regarding any type of domestic sewing including clothes, curtains, cushions, soft furnishings and alterations.

**Bicycles** – The days are getting longer and warmer, we hope, so now is good time to make sure your bicycle is road worthy. In addition to general bike repairs and help with punctures and tyre inflation we can carry out a Basic Bike Service comprising:

- Brake & gear adjustment
- General chain lubrication and greasing bearings
- A tyre inflation check.

We can also help with fitting of pre-bought parts e.g. inner tubes and cables, mudguards and pannier racks

If you know what to do to fix your bike, but don't have the right tools or spares for the job, come along and make use of the selection of Lubes, Grease, Spare Parts, and Tools we have available.

**Wanted!** – Volunteer Repairers, for 2 hours a month to help prevent broken household items ending up in landfill. If you're interested in helping, please email us at [repaircafeharbury@gmail.com](mailto:repaircafeharbury@gmail.com).

## Harbury & Ladbroke News

### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 2023/24

The Annual Subscription is due this month, the cost of this will be £8.00 covering the year up to March 2024.

If you would like to continue having the magazine delivered, and you have not already paid your subscription. You can still pay in one of three ways.

- Payment by BACS. Visit [www.hlnews.co.uk](http://www.hlnews.co.uk) and select the 'Subscription and BACS payments' Tab. Complete the online form and **then make the £8 payment from your bank account**. It is vital that you give us the first line of your address as the reference when making the online payment.
- You can put the £8 subscription in an envelope marked with your address and deliver to your distributor. If you are unsure who your distributor is please call 07900 852236.
- Alternatively, if neither of the above is an option for you, your distributor will call for the money when delivering a future edition of the magazine.

**Many thanks and we look forward to your continued support.**



**LOCAL FOODBANK** - there is a facility in the village to donate non-perishable food to your local Foodbank, which supplies the surrounding area, including Harbury. Please bring donations to the Wight School (library) car park on Mondays between 11.30am and 12.30pm, one of the e-Wheels drivers will be there to receive your items. Alternatively, donations may be dropped off at the library foyer during its normal opening hours. Thank you.

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We're open Tuesday to Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm  
and Saturday 9:00am to 2:00pm.

Nifty Needle Curtain Workroom, 1 Banbury Street, Kineton, Warwickshire, CV35 0JS  
Tel: 01926 641741 E-mail: [info@niftyneedle.co.uk](mailto:info@niftyneedle.co.uk) Website: [www.niftyneedle.co.uk](http://www.niftyneedle.co.uk)



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Corrine Seabourne, Associate Chartered Legal Executive

01926 359355 [corrine.seabourne@alsterskelley.com](mailto:corrine.seabourne@alsterskelley.com)



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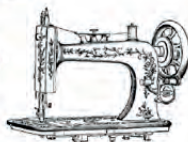
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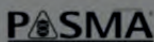
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