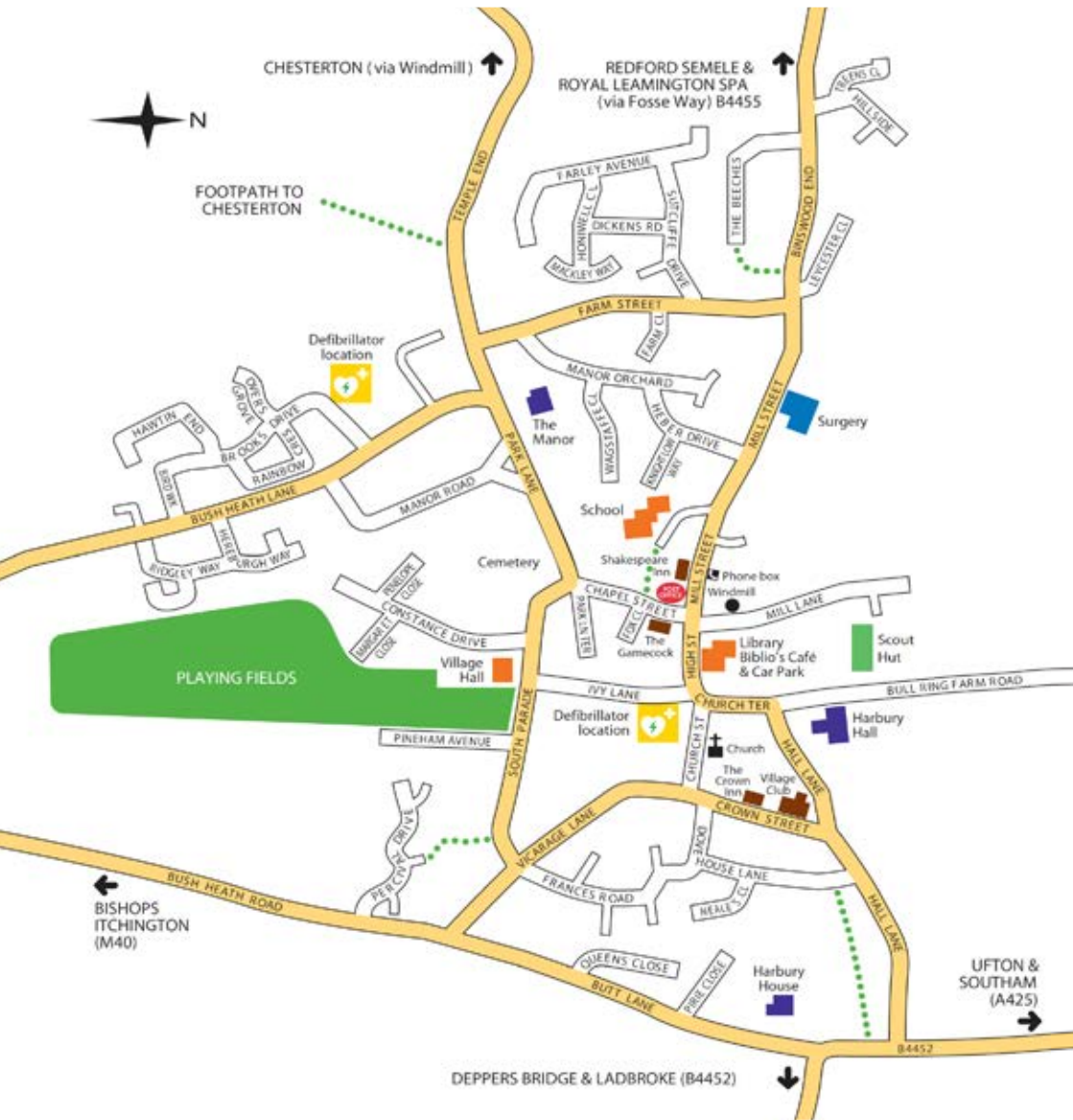
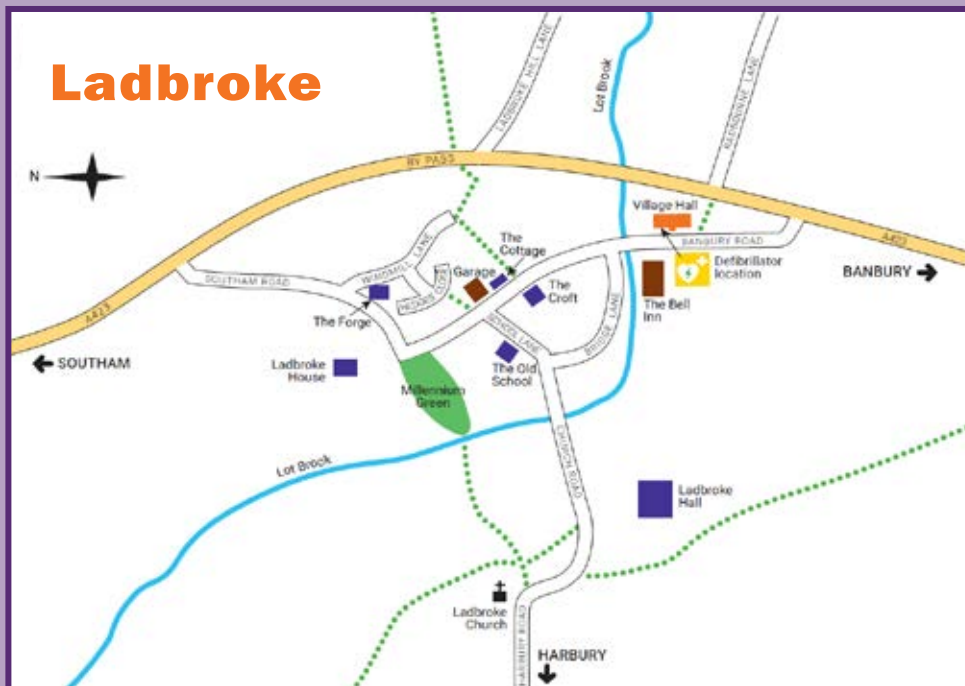


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HARBURY & LADBROKE News

Published monthly to reflect all aspects of local life

February 2024

No. 599

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



EDITORIAL

A round up of local news

Congratulations to Rich Fowler, who in the New Year's Honours list was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for his services to Libraries. During his time as Library Lead at Harbury Library, he helped to bring in many new initiatives, events and activities which enabled it to be recognised as a real community hub. The library (and café) is an important asset to the village. Thanks must also go to Janice Montague who temporarily became Library Lead for the second time, in the interim period, before new leaders Liz Ball and Michael Luntley took over the reins at the beginning of January. We wish them good luck.

May 2024 will see the Harbury & Ladbroke News magazine reach its 50th Anniversary. We hope that you will agree that the publication has gone from strength to strength over the years and it is valued as a worthwhile contribution to village life. In our May edition and as part of a tribute and celebrations we would love to include some memories from villagers who were living in Harbury during the 1970s. Please do let us know what life in the village for you and your family was like then. You can email these memories in to us using the email address at the front of the magazine or by dropping a hard copy into the Pharmacy.

Ladbroke's Heritage and Friendship group always welcomes new members. Their next meeting is on 7th February. Next month Ladbroke Church is planning a 'Tours and More' day on Saturday 9th March when they will be displaying their rocks and fossils - see page 17.

There will be a Litter Pick in February and March in Harbury if you would like to play your part in keeping our village tidy, meet at the Village Hall car park at the start time - see page 38.

We are very pleased that the plea to start up a Poetry Corner in the magazine has resulted in two more poems being sent in this month - we hope you enjoy them. If you are a budding poet and would like to send in your verse we would be happy to publish it.



HARBURY DIARY

For local events

FEBRUARY

Sat 3 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Hereburgh Morris

Sun 4 5TH AFTER EPIPHANY

Said Communion, 9.00am, Church

Little Saints, 10.30am

Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall

Litter Pick, 10.00 - 11.00am, meet Village Hall car park

Mon 5 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall

Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 6 Free Chair-based Activity Class, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall

Bumps & Bundles, 10.30am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room

Harbury Heritage Centre open, 7.00 - 9.00pm, Harbury School (Park Lane entrance)

- Wed 7 Toddler Group, 9.30 - 11.00am, Village Hall
 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall car park - Leamington Hastings - maybe with snowdrops! (4 miles - flat)
 Mothers' Union, Service 2.00pm, meeting starts 2.30pm -
 Mandy Williams update on Refuge for Women in Azerbaijan, 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 8 Said Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
 Harbury WI, Members' Evening, music from the Musicals by Claudine and friends, 7.30 for 7.45pm, Tom Hauley Room
- Fri 9 Ben & Soph's Jazz Night, Tickets - www.ticketsource.co.uk/bsjazz
 Tel: 07515 275655, music 7.00pm, Village Hall
- Sat 10 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Harbury Senior Citizens
- Sun 11 LAST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**
 Holy Communion with activity for children, 10.30am, Church
 Messy Church, 3.00 - 5.00pm, Church
 Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall
- Mon 12 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall
 Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall
- Tue 13 Free Chair-based Activity Class, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
- Wed 14 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall car park - Wilmcote (4 miles)
 Quiet Space, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
 Knitwits and Pleasant Pastimes, 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 15 Said Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
- Sat 17 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room run by All Saints' Ladbroke in aid of Harbury Church repairs
 Southam Indoor Market, 10.00am - 12.30pm, The Grange Hall, Southam
 Harbury Village Cinema presents 'Barbie', doors open 6.15, film starts 7.00pm
- Sun 18 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**
 Said Communion, 8.00am, Church
 All Age Service, 10.30am, Church
 Zumba, 9.00am - 10.00am, Village Hall
 Harbury Heritage Centre open, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Harbury School (Park Lane entrance)
- Mon 19 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall
 Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall
- ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE TO: HARBURY PHARMACY, HIGH ST OR
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Tue 20 Free Chair-based Activity Class, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Bumps & Bundles, 10.30am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room
The Collective - 'Do all faiths lead to God', 7.30pm, Shakespeare Inn
Harbury Society talk - Bat Conservation Trust, doors open 7.30pm, Tom Hauley Room
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Wed 21 Toddler Group, 9.30 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall car park - Kineton (3.5 miles)
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 22 Said Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
WI Members' Cards and Board Game Evening, 7.00 - 9.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
Parish Council, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sat 24 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Mothers'
Union Southam
Councillors Corner, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Harbury Local Market, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall
Harbury Repair Café, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Library

Sun 25 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
Holy Communion, 10.30am, Church
Muddy Church, 10.30am, meet in Tom Hauley Room
Zumba, 9.00am - 10.00am, Village Hall

Mon 26 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 27 Free Chair-based Activity Class, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Bumps & Bundles, 10.30am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room
Harbury Theatre Group, 7.00 for 7.30pm, Village Club

Wed 28 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall car park - Halford-Idlicote (4.5 miles)
Knitwits and Pleasant Pastimes, 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 29 Said Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room

MARCH

Fri 1 Meeting Point, 12.30pm, The Crown Inn
WI Soup and Pud lunch, 12.30pm, Tom Hauley Room

Sat 2 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of
Southam United Bowling Club

Sun 3 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
Said Communion, 9.00am, Church
Little Saints, 10.30am
Litter Pick, 10.00 - 11.00am, meet Village Hall car park

- Mon 4 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall
- Tue 5 Bumps & Bundles, 10.30am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room
Harbury Heritage Centre open, 7.00 - 9.00pm, Harbury School (Park Lane entrance)
- Wed 6 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall car park - Combrook -
Compton Verney (4 miles)
Mothers' Union, Service 2.00pm, meeting starts 2.30pm - Lent reflection from
Rev. Barry, Tom Hauley Room
Spellbound Dance Classes, 5.00 - 5.30 & 5.30 - 6.15pm, Village Hall
Ballroom Dancing, beginners 7.30pm, improvers 8.30pm, Village Hall
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall
- Thurs 7 Said Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Folk Club, 8.00pm, Village Club

Refuse Collection Rota

Week Commencing Monday	Thursday Collection - Harbury	Wednesday & Friday Collections - Ladbroke Friday Collection - Deppers Bridge
5 Feb	F - R - G	F
12 Feb	F - W	F - R - W - G
19 Feb	F - R - G	F
26 Feb	F	F - R - G
4 Mar	F - R - W - G	F - W
11 Mar	F	F - R - G
<p>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</p>		

March Edition - Harbury & Ladbroke News

Adverts to: 36 Manor Orchard, Harbury or e-mail to
advertising@hlnews.co.uk by Tuesday 20th February

Articles to:
Harbury Pharmacy, High Street or e-mail to
articles@hlnews.co.uk by 5.30pm, Monday 19th February





FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

Liz & Andy

We are grateful that Rev Andy's knee operation went well and that he will be back, hopefully operating on all cylinders, from Sunday 28th January. And thank you to Reverends Ann, Barry and Bob who led us for all services during this period. And also, to Ann Clucas, Elaine Nomura and Martin Wright for their musical accompaniment, with very little notice, for the Christmas services.

The dress-up Nativity, led by Julie Batchelor and Jenny Dean, was brilliant and adults and children alike found themselves braying like donkeys, mooing like cows and various other animal noises! Thank you to the Harbury Folk Club Choir and Orchestra for performing three songs and to Fliss Harris for choosing the readings and arranging all the readers for the Village Carol Service.

From the Christmas collections and the raffle held at the coffee morning on 22nd December we have sent £425 to the Children's Society.

Every year, every CofE church has to submit statistics. (And Liz has many spreadsheets going back over 15 years to prove this.) In order to do this one of the duties of the churchwarden is to count the number of people coming to worship. This is recorded in the service register. In January we have to complete the "Statistics for Mission" data online. From this we have gleaned the following: -

- Over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day 526 people came to Harbury Church for the four services.
- The school carol service added another 322.
- The Remembrance service saw 220 people attend.
- Our "worshipping community" numbers 161 - falling into the following age groups:- 17 (under 10 years old): 6 (11 to 17 years): 13 (18 to 39 years) : 36 (40 to 69 years) and 89 (over 70 years young).
- And we have three Fresh Expressions - Messy Church, Muddy Church and Little Saints - these are different ways of being together to worship.
- We had two weddings, seven funerals but only one baptism in 2023.
- 13 people, on average come to Thursday morning communion
- Average attendance at Sunday services is 60.

And we, the churchwardens, did our duty as directed, "to maintain order and decency in the church and churchyard". We think.

If you have any questions, we can be emailed on warden@harburychurch.org or phone us - Liz McBride 01926 612421 or Andy Dean 07753 497967.

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MOTHERS' UNION

Gillian Hare

We started the New Year in our usual happy way with fun and games and tea! Chris gave out the programmes for the year: thanks to Sally we look forward to some interesting speakers. We start, on 7th February, with Mandy Williams updating us on the work of her charity which supports a refuge for abused women in Azerbaijan. This is followed on 6th March with a Lent reflection from Rev Barry. We meet in the Tom Hauley room at 2pm with a communion service before the talk; visitors are always welcome.



LADBROKE NEWS & DIARY

FEBRUARY

Sun 4 2ND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

Family Communion followed by refreshments, 10.30am

Tues 6 Photography Club, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Wed 7 Heritage & Friendship Group, 10.30am - noon, The Old School

Sun 11 LAST SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

Holy Communion, 9.00am

Tues 13 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Wed 14 Ash Wednesday Service with imposition of ashes, 7.00pm, Church

Sat 17 Coffee Morning run by Ladbroke Church in aid of Harbury Church repairs, 10.00 - 11.30am, Tom Hauley Room Harbury

Sun 18 LENT 1

Holy Communion, 9.00am (BCP)

Mon 19 ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE TO: HARBURY PHARMACY, HIGH ST OR EMAIL TO ARTICLES@HLNEWS.CO.UK BY 5.30PM

Tue 20 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

ADVERTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE TO 36 MANOR ORCHARD, HARBURY OR EMAIL ADVERTISING@HLNEWS.CO.UK

Sun 25 LENT 2

Holy Communion, 9.00am

Tues 27 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

MARCH

Sun 3 LENT 3

Family Communion followed by refreshments, 10.30am

- Tues 5 Photography Club, 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Wed 6 Heritage & Friendship Group, 10.30am - noon, (location to be confirmed)
- Thurs 7 WI, 7.30pm Village Hall
- Sat 9 Guided Tours at Church - fossil tours at 10.30am, 11.30am and 2.30pm;
stained glass tours at 11.00am, 12 noon and 3.00pm



LADBROKE CHURCH NEWS

Sue Moore & Peter Rigby

www.ladbrokechurch.org.uk

Last month we attempted to give an account of our Christmas events before they had happened. We managed to get most of it right, but special mention is due to Bill who led both our Carol Service and the singing around the village, and our bellringers, cleaners, flower arrangers and tree decorators who all did a wonderful job. Gary and Charlie Collins kindly delivered and set up the tree including putting the star on the top! All our Christmas services were well attended with the congregations for the Carol Service, Crib Service and Christmas Day totalling almost exactly 200.

We would also like to repeat our thanks to Rev Ann and Margaret Clarke who have been working extra shifts during January whilst Rev Andy continues to recover and to Debra Neal and Cath Ching who have continued to support us by leading our music since Kate Pickin's accident.



It may seem that Christmas is only just over, but Easter will soon be here! Lent starts as early as early as 14th February, which is not only Valentine's Day but also Ash Wednesday. There will be a special service in church, starting at 7.00pm. We are also planning to have some Lent Lunches, details of which will be publicised in church and through Ladbroke e-news.

Finally, a huge thank you to our neighbour Terry, of Seal Roofing Solutions, who repaired the hole in the chancel roof left by Storm Isha. Great service - it was all sorted within hours of contacting him.

Forthcoming services:

Sunday 4th February	10.30am	Family Communion
Sunday 11th February	9.00am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 14th February	7.00pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Sunday 18th February	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 25th February	9.00am	Holy Communion

www.ladbrokechurch.org.uk

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

All five of our parish councillors and our District Councillor were present at the meeting on 11th January. Our County Councillor Chris Kettle, who is the chairman of WCC this year, was unable to come. He had sent a written report in advance but as it was not summarised at the parish council meeting, I can't tell you what it covered.

SDC update: Susan Ostrander advised that she is now on SDC's Planning Committee. SDC Planning Dept had received a quote for a site visit and written appraisal on the proposed equestrian use of the land at the end of Windmill Lane from an appropriate organisation and were discussing the timing with them. The first of quarterly meetings of the police with local councils is scheduled for 27th January - Cllrs Groves, Ostrander and our clerk plan to attend. SDC has announced a Community Climate Change Fund (£100,000 annually) to support projects by councils, charities or community groups in Stratford District that reduce greenhouse gas emissions or build resilience to impacts of climate change where other funding options have been explored. Since the last meeting, our parish clerk, Jackie Chapman, had made Susan aware of ongoing issues of concern (1) could SDC issue parish council clerks with a directory of contacts and (2) why had so little of the £8.2M HS2 money given in 2017 for road safety actually been spent. SDC have formally queried this with WCC. It appears the normal criteria still apply, ie spend is triggered by injuries and deaths from road accidents!

Budget: Cllrs had already reviewed the expected expenditure for 2024-25, the main issue being that electricity for street lights in 2018 was only £500 but was predicted to be c.£3000 this coming financial year. This is a huge increase compared to precept (income from council tax) which is only a little over £5000. The council is discussing if there should have been a reduction when the lights were changed to LEDs and are looking at other energy suppliers, but this may not reduce the cost significantly. It was agreed that the precept would be increased but less than the total required, balancing income and expenditure by transferring some of the council's reserves and having no capital items/grants in the 2024-25 budget.

Planning: The council would make no representation about the proposal to convert a barn to a house at The Old Rectory and noted there was to be a new wooden pole for broadband in Radbourne Lane. An update about the land at the end of Windmill lane had been given earlier in the meeting, see SDC update.

HS2: Cllr Neal wanted to be invited to HS2's next meeting with local representatives to push them to minimise traffic coming through Ladbroke when the new A423 bridge is linked in. Are surveys of the strength of the existing bridges in Ladbroke required?

Housing Needs Survey: Three replies had been received so far.

AOB: Parish Council agendas do not include AOB, *otherwise how would councillors and residents know the topics that will be discussed?* Therefore, Bonfires (in relation to thatched buildings insurance) will be discussed at a future meeting.

Our first meeting of the year was held on the 4th January and we went not quite knowing what to expect with the title Games Evening. The weather was appalling and only 15 of us made it to the village hall.

There was a variety of entertainment and it started when we were divided into two teams of seven in a curling competition. Dianne had collected the curling stones from Federation House and brooms were available but as there was no ice to melt by frantic brushing, brooms were used for a bit



of fun or by some participants who didn't want to stoop down to project the stone down the room. After two rounds it was a draw so the best player from each team had a play off.

After that, while coffee or tea and biscuits were enjoyed, there was the opportunity of playing Jenga, pick-up-sticks, identifying objects hidden in linen bags or solving quizzes. It was more fun that I was anticipating and thanks must go to Dianne and Joan for preparing it all.

In the business meeting Dianne highlighted various events from the list available on the Warwickshire Federation web site and informed the meeting that Denman on-line courses are now free.

The Food and Friendship group met at Stoneleigh on Monday 15th January. This date was chosen as it is named Blue Monday and supposed to be the most depressing day of the year.

Dianne urged members to study this year's resolutions which are in the last edition of WI Life ready to vote at the next meeting. The shortlist is as follows: Dental Health Matters; Impacts of poor housing conditions; Say no to gambling advertising; Improving outcomes for women in the criminal justice system.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, 1st February starting at 7.30 when we will 'discover the secret of listening to your gut' with Tracy Barnbrook. All are welcome.



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.



Our first supper and film night for 2024 proved to be a great success and was sold out even before the Harbury & Ladbroke News was distributed. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make it enjoyable - especially our magnificent

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chefs. The two course meal was exceptional. As usual, the film had a feel-good factor and might have even given us an idea for our own community! We raised over £600 towards the Millennium Green play area.



Watch this space for more events this year including another boules tournament in the summer.



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). Despite rising costs we have been able to keep our hourly booking rates 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 December 2023

£50	Sheena Healey	£25	Mike Todman
£50	Carol Lane	£10	Josh Robison
£25	Clive Coleman	£10	A and E Dowdeswell
£25	Colin and Kay Constable	£10	Kip Warr

Margaret Bosworth



LADBROKE GENERAL NEWS



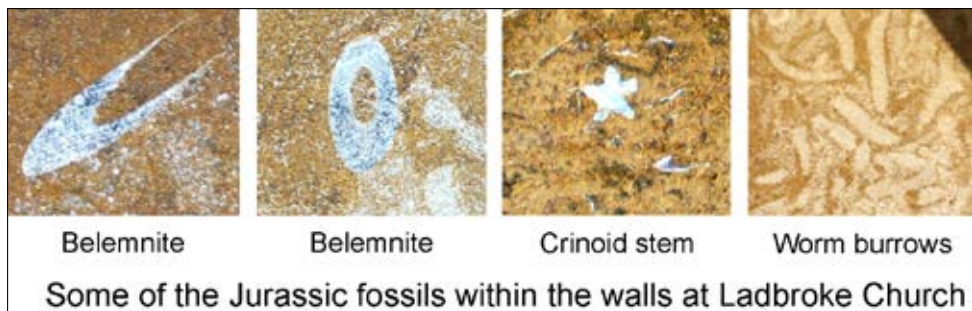
LADBROKE HERITAGE

Jackie West

The Heritage and Friendship group continues to meet on the first Wednesday of the month but during the coldest months has relocated to members' homes. So on 7th February our hosts will be Carol and Geoff and, recognising that it's both Pancake Day and Valentine's Day soon, our theme is Traditions. If you would like to join us or have more information about the group, phone 814715.

A relatively new tradition at Ladbroke Church has been Open Days. "But isn't the church open every day of the year?" I hear you ask. Yes it is, 10am - 4pm but on these special open days we offer visitors who want to explore more than usual. Our first Heritage Open Day weekend with displays and tours was in September 2015 and we've held them every year since, though it was on-line during the 2020 Covid restrictions.

Last year we took part in the National Lottery Open Week in March too, as a thank you to Lottery players who helped fund the recent repairs and we are running **Tours and More** again on **Saturday 9th March**. Our Rocks and Fossils display will be on show and interactive activities for kids. There will be free all-age guided tours introducing some of the fossils within the church walls at 10.30am, 11.30am and 2.30pm. No booking is required but I'm expecting these to be popular as I'll be running a rocks and fossils session in a local primary school a few days before as part of their science week.



For those interested in our stained glass there will be a short, free tour of our magnificent windows at 11am, 2pm and 3pm. Tours and more is free, there is no need to book and everyone is welcome. However, as a special thank you to Lottery Players (and to comply with the rules of the scheme) anyone with a lottery ticket, which can have been bought at any time, will receive a free booklet about the geology of the church and churchyard or Alice and the Adventurer or the Ladbroke Treasure Trail, a fun way to explore the village on the day or later. Hope to see some of you there and if you would like a private tour at another time, perhaps when friends or family are visiting, please do ask.

If you wonder what else is available during National Lottery Open Week take a look at their website, www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/open-week



HARBURY SOCIETY

Sue Turner

A delicious New Year Feast for 35 members of the Harbury Society was provided by John and his team at The Crown, Harbury, on 16th January. Two quizzes provided light-hearted and competitive entertainment. It was a very convivial and social gathering and a great way to start our 2024 programme.

Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 20th February: Talk by Tricia Scott about the work of the Bat Conservation Trust.

Meeting in the Tom Hauley Room. Doors open 7.30pm. All welcome - free to Harbury Society members - guests £2.

Saturday 9th March: Coffee morning in the Tom Hauley Room, 10am - 12pm. Donations of cakes and raffle prizes would be appreciated.

Tuesday 19th March: Annual AGM followed by a presentation given by Bill Timson, Chair Harbury Heritage Group, entitled 'Harbury Windmill - Past, Present & Future'. Meeting in the Tom Hauley Room. Doors open 7.30pm. All welcome - free to Harbury Society members - guests £2.

Tuesday 16th April: Presentation by Mark Newbold entitled 'An Insider's View of the NHS'. Meeting in the Tom Hauley Room. Doors open 7.30pm. All welcome - free to Harbury Society members - guests £2.

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.

Our first meeting of the New Year started with an excellent speaker. Trevor Langley taught in local schools for 10 years and then, at the age of 40, decided to take on a secondment to train as a teacher of the deaf in Birmingham. In May 1992 he was appointed to work at St John's School in Kenilworth where they had a deaf unit, Trevor realised the needed to know how to sign and went on a crash course before he started work in September. He worked very hard to ensure that the children in the unit integrated with the mainstream children.,

Trevor made us all aware of the difficulties children face who are profoundly deaf. He taught us how to sign the basic alphabet and numbers. We participated in a story told by signing in such a way that we had a really enjoyable evening. Rosemary was able to give a vote of thanks using signing.

Our New Year Party was held on 12th January where members provided a lovely supper for members, husbands and other guests. The speaker was Margo McCleary who entertained us with a variety of poems and monologues using a range of voices including "Going Home Time" by Joyce Grenfell. A very talented lady who rounded off a very enjoyable evening.

At our Member's Evening on 8th February we shall be entertained with Music from the Musicals by Claudine and friends.

The next Cinema in the Village Hall will be on Saturday 17th February when the film will be Barbie. Pink tickets will be on sale in the library and should be purchased by Wednesday 14th February. The audience are encouraged to wear something pink!

Our final event for members on 22nd February will be the opportunity to learn a board game called Sequence - Tom Hauley room 7pm to 9pm .

On Friday 1st March we shall be organising a Soup and Pud lunch in the Tom Hauley Room from 12.30pm. Order forms can be found in the church or at the Saturday coffee mornings - everyone welcome.



HARBURY THEATRE GROUP

Nikki Holt

The Theatre Group puts on two shows a year; one in May and one in November. We also meet monthly on the last Tuesday of the month in the Village Club. It is a friendly and welcoming group for all ages and abilities, as there are many roles and skill sets required to be able to put on two shows a year. The amount of work that goes on behind the scenes is amazing and everyone pulls together to put on, I hope you would agree, some amazing shows year after year. The investment in some new lighting and sound equipment could be seen by all in our Pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk." So what is next for 2024?

The group have been busy discussing ideas for plays for the May Production (and beyond as there are some great scripts out there. We want to do them all!) We have been reading a variety of scripts and try and match a good play with the group members that are available

to direct, perform, produce and manage all the back stage roles, or help out on the night. It's no mean feat but we have great fun reading through and discussing ideas. The next stage is our read through of the chosen script and the director casts the play. Rehearsals are then scheduled for Thursday and Sunday evenings and the magic begins. It's definitely a way of getting rid of any January blues!

We have experienced directors in the group and new members that have joined are keen to assist and learn from the best, which is great for bringing new ideas to the table and keep the group running. If you are interested in joining our May production in any capacity please look out for details on our social media posts or our website: www.harburytheatregroup.com or you can email us at Harburytheatregroup@gmail.com for further details.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 27th February at The Village Club. 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Look forward to seeing you there.



FOLK CLUB

Peter McDonald

The theme for the 444th session of Harbury Folk Club on 4th January was 'Thanksgiving' because I liked the idea of songs of gratitude. As usual, the performers rose to the occasion and used their skill (and imagination) to present relevant songs in an evening of contrasts - of both musical styles and emotions.

I started the evening with 'The Prickly Bush', a traditional song where the subject is appealing to anyone who can save him from the gallows (by bribing the hangman). Pete Grassby followed me with the song 'Appleby Fair' about the annual horse fair in Cumbria, followed by his own topical song, 'Beating the Covid down'. Our only female duo, Sue and Maureen, were up next with 'Avila', a song that describes a longing for peace in a town that has endured hardship and trauma, and then 'Serving Girl's Holiday' with its gratitude for a break from lowly work. Rik sang one of my favourite Tom Paxton songs, 'Outward Bound', and then Graham Nash's 'Our House', reflecting the songwriter's brief relationship with Joni Mitchell. Dave went to town with 'Thank you' songs - firstly Ray Davies' 'Days' and then the Scaffold's 'Thank you very much'. Peter Mason finished the first half with a touching Eric Bogle song, 'Rosie', and then the magnificent 'January Man' which he sings so well.

The Folk Club Choir started the second half with a reprise of two songs that they had sung at Harbury's Christmas Eve Carol Service - 'When a Child is Born' and 'Lyngham' (one of many rustic settings of 'While Shepherds Watched'). My second song was Steve Knightley's 'Tall Ships' which expresses gratitude for ships deliberately wrecked on the rocks (by disabling lighthouses) so that their cargoes could be plundered by those in desperate poverty. I was joined by Margaret who read verses from 'The Wrecker's Prayer', interspersed in the song. Pete & Liz joined the 'Thank you' competition with 'Thanks a Lot, God', an amusing, but sincere, 'hymn' from the Kipper Family, then followed with the famous 'Amazing Grace'. Des sang a traditional carol, 'We Be Wise Men Three', and then a powerful song called 'Go Home' by Angeline Morrison, dedicated to *"all the people who ever have been made to feel unwelcome in the place they call home"*. Our resident poet, Debbie, read one of her own poems, 'Inner Light', then sang George Gershwin's classic 'Summertime'. Michael advised us to stay single with 'Bachelor's Hall' and then gave us one of his own songs, 'So much of him and each other',



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CHAIRMAN:

Tim Lockley

Email: chair@harbury-pc.gov.uk

CLERK:

Alison Biddle

Email: clerk@harbury-pc.gov.uk

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Harbury Village Library & Biblio's Café

Harbury Village Library

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dedicated to his late brother. Then we were ready for something a little lighter and The Harvesters obliged with their two songs to finish the evening - Ian Tyson's 'Someday Soon' and 'Handle with Care' by the Travelling Wilburys.

The charity raffle raised a magnificent £72 for Cancer Research UK. The next Folk Club will be at 8pm on 1st February, in the Village Club as usual, when Debbie will be the host and her theme will be 'Justice'.



HARBURY TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Tony Thomas

On Friday 5th January 30 members of the Association celebrated "Fete des Rois" at the home of David and June Eaves, to whom we extend our grateful thanks. In some countries 5th January is known as "Twelfth Night" in others the 6th. This is not just the date to take down the Christmas decorations. It marks the start of the religious period of Epiphany and is celebrated in France and across the Iberian Peninsula and Spanish islands, where it is a vibrant and joyous fiesta celebrated by families. It is the anniversary of the visit to Jesus by the Three Kings. It is known as "The Festival of the Kings". (6th January is also the anniversary of the christening of Jesus by John the Baptist thirty years later.) In France this festival is an opportunity for families to gather for some delicious Galette des Rois (King's cake). In Spanish "Roscón de Reyes".

Four members made our galettes and while they were warming up in the oven, we enjoyed the quizzes set by David and June. David used his extensive library of photographs to set us the task of identifying, in the first section the subject of the photograph and in the second, the places where he had taken photographs. The task set by June was to identify entertainment celebrities from photographs cutout from magazines. This was followed by us all having a generous slice of the galette. Hidden in each galette was a fève (a bean). Some purists in France still use a bean, but we use the more usual fève today which is a small porcelain trinket. If it's your lucky day, your piece of galette will hold the fève and you will be crowned king ("le roi") or queen ("la reine") for the evening with a cardboard gold crown. We followed this tradition and crowned the receivers of the fèves.

A tradition that is followed in some countries is to save a small piece of the galette for an unexpected visitor, or poor person, who may pass by.

Our next social event will be our supper and skittles evening in March.



HARBURY HERITAGE CENTRE

Bill Timson

Visitors to the Heritage Centre, and we would like lots more, often come to find out about a property they have moved into; especially if the property is an old one. It is very hit and miss as to whether we have any information or photographs regarding their 'new' home. The only way we can increase our collection is for you to share old photographs and deeds that you have. If you have any estate agent details or other interesting documents about your home please get in touch or bring them along to one of our open days. We have tea/coffee and

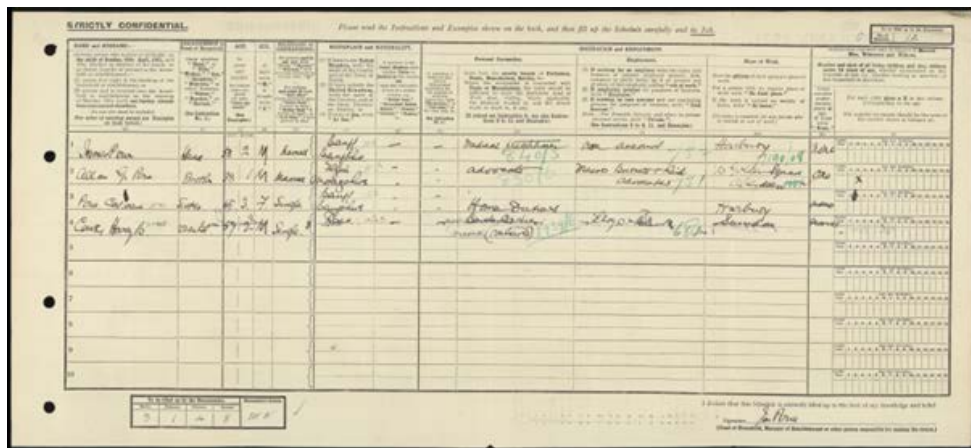
biscuits!! We would be delighted to make a copy of them, with your permission, and add them to the village archives.

Similarly, we do not have any dedicated software like 'Ancestry' or 'Find my Past' for tracing ancestors and building family trees. These activities can take many hours and we only open at limited times so cannot offer this facility. However, the information we hold on censuses, burials, land surveys etc. often help family members to add pieces to their 'jigsaw' as they strive to find out more about where they came from.

A task I have been helping with during the cold winter months is transcribing the 1921 Harbury census. John Holden kindly downloaded the original scans from the census and together we have been ploughing through the information provided by the families on the 19th June 1921. The census is a survey of 38 million people living in England and Wales during a period of economic turmoil between two world wars and recovering from a global pandemic; (Spanish Flu). The original date was scheduled for April but industrial unrest in the country delayed the collection of the data. Indeed, one of the names on the census is a coal miner who was visiting a relative in Harbury and is recorded as 'out of work'.

The typing in of the data from the original scans can be quite tedious and sometimes frustrating, particularly when the handwriting proves difficult to decipher. Having said that the rewards are many. It provides a clear picture of the village one hundred years ago in terms of who the residents were, where they lived, their family members and their occupations.

A copy of one of the original documents is shown below:



Interestingly, this entry filled in by Doctor James Pirie, local medical practitioner and the man whom Pirie Close is named after, who lived at Ashton House. I say interestingly because the handwriting is a typical example of an entry requiring some educated guesswork in order to create an accurate record of the information which can then be searched. After all, he was a doctor and they do have a reputation of not having the neatest handwriting! By the time you read this article we should have the 1921 census on our PCs in the Heritage Centre so you can come and seek out your Harbury ancestors from a century ago.

Other News

On a very cold Wednesday 10th January, volunteers from the Heritage Group took 30 Year 1 pupils, their teacher, helpers and parents on a guided tour around the village pointing



out aspects of village life and highlighting the key landmarks to help them with their topic 'our island, your island'. I was very impressed with how well the children coped with the cold weather, their attentiveness and their enthusiasm.

This enthusiasm continued on our return, after they had warmed up and had a break, when we talked to them in the Heritage Centre about the history of Harbury. Well Done Year 1 and Good Luck with your topic. We are looking forward to seeing the work you produced and will be happy to display it in the Centre.

Coffee Morning

On Saturday 13th January we held a fund-raising coffee morning in the Tom Hauley Room. A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who came along, the generous people who donated raffle prizes and to the volunteers for running the event. We raised just over £200 which will go towards the running of the Heritage Centre.



Opening Times for public access:

In February – Tuesday 6th 7 - 9 pm and Sunday 18th 2 - 4 pm

In March – Tuesday 5th 7 - 9 pm and Sunday 17th 2 - 4 pm.

Get in touch

Our email address is 'group@harburyheritage.org.uk' or you can leave a message via our website 'www.harburyheritage.org.uk'. We look forward to hearing from you.



HARBURY FUTURE ENERGY

Bob Sherman

Project update

The Harbury Future Energy EV charging and energy project involves the installation of an electric car charging station behind the village hall with an extension of the car park to allow for six extra parking places. The chargers will be part powered by renewable energy from an additional solar voltaic panel array on the roof of the village hall and supplied from these and the grid via a battery energy store. If it proves viable we may in the future also have a wind

turbine up by the skate park. In its final detail it will now have six twin 22kW chargers, two twin 50kW chargers and one or two 7kW chargers elsewhere in the village. This will be quite an innovation for a village.

Projects don't always run smoothly and ours is no exception. We began working on it in 2019; it's been a long haul to get to here. It's been a while since we brought you up to date and quite a lot has happened in the interim, much of which you won't want to know, I suspect. By June 2022 we had a project ready to go, complete with all consents and planning permission. All we needed was the funding to make it a reality.

To achieve this we have been working on the project with Warwickshire County Council (WCC) and prepared a successful application for them to bid to the government's Low Emission Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund's early action pilot stage, enabling the project to go ahead. By this time it had had a few additions and changes and, because of the nature of the funding, has had to become a County led project, reducing our involvement. This is a disappointment for us as it will make it harder for us to provide any community benefit beyond the provision of the charging station. Our original inspiration for this project was to support Harbury e-Wheels with an income stream and, if possible, support other community activity relating to energy saving and energy generation. We are trying to find a way round this reduction in our status. Harbury Future Energy is now a Community Interest Company with the intention of initiating more projects for the benefit of the village.

WCC determined that the car park extension was not part of the LEVI funding. We have, however, successfully applied for a grant, through Harbury Parish Council, from the UK Government to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund with Stratford-on-Avon as the lead authority, which, combined with a community donation from the Vantage RE Eastfields solar farm and the support of Harbury Parish Council, enables us to complete that part of the works.

Harbury Parish Council has appointed a contractor and work on extending the car park will begin in February and be completed by the end of March. The County has yet to go out to tender but expect work to start in May or June (my guess is not before June!). We will try to keep you up to date as things progress.

NOTE: The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and provides £2.6 billion of funding for investment by March 2025. The fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills. For more information, visit, www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus



HARBURY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Steven Kittendorf

With the cold and rain causing matches to be postponed, the 1st team travelled away to Stoke Old Boys for the last game of 2023. Not having played for three weeks there was both an element of rustiness in the squad together with injuries keeping a number of key players on the side lines. On a pitch that was very soft underfoot, the visitors commanded the first half and turned round one try to nil up. However, the home side upped the tempo and despite Harbury butchering a number of scoring opportunities, Stoke ran in four unanswered tries. The visitors finally got their act together and scored a second try to leave the final score 24-10.

Harbury welcomed Kenilworth IIs on the first Saturday of 2024; starting the match with several well rehearsed plays that saw them 24-0 at half time - Try bonus point secured. The theme continued into the second half and the last and ninth try of the day went to Josh Buckley with a final score of 57-0. The scoreline was harsh on a young Kenilworth side who kept going throughout, and Harbury had to play well to keep them to nil.



Action from 1st team game against Kenilworth

The following week, Harbury ventured into Staffordshire to take on a young and exuberant Tamworth IIs. Long bus journeys are always hard to get out of the legs and it took 20 minutes to get the visitors act together and fashion a score. Despite further opportunities in the first half Harbury eventually scored their second try to take a 12-0 lead into the break. The visitors added a further four try's to give a final scoreline 0-36 and leave with five league points.

Back home the 2s took on Stratford IIs and secured a hard-fought win 40-26. At the same time the Colts travelled over to Nuneaton and made it three wins out of three for the Club on the day with a scoreline of 10-19

Minis and Juniors

Although the weather has tried its best to stop us, we have managed to get out for some fixtures over the past few weeks. Our Mini age groups are progressing well with their new rules and getting well stuck in to matches, the amount of mud they are covered in (lots!) is a good sign of an enjoyable Sunday morning! Our Juniors have also been playing a combination of friendlies and cup fixtures, with the second half of the Warwickshire Cup taking us up to the finals just started, good luck all! Our Colts are on a bit of a winning streak with three wins on the bounce. Now into the second half of the season, there's all to play for moving towards the end of the season.

If you have kids that are interested in getting involved we run age groups from U5 (Reception school year) to Colts (U18s) including a junior girls touch team, give our Chair, Chris, a call on 07834 972999 or drop us an email on harburyrfc.enquiries@gmail.com.



HARBURY JUNIORS NETBALL CLUB

Abi Watson

We have started off the New Year in a great way, with our under 16s A taking great control over their first match coming out with a score of 24-20. Under 16s B also came out with a strong win of 19-8. Thank you to some of our under 15s for stepping up, you made a great contribution to the win. Well done to Yaz and Freya who were given players player. Our under 15s also started with a great match of 24-17. Their defence was solid with lots of interceptions as well as excellent attack and passes into the circle. Unfortunately our under 13s missed the win, however were determined and the girls put in 110% effort!

We had another amazing Sunday of matches, our under 15s having a cracking win! In the first quarter they had a huge lead of 15, and kept going into the other quarters! Shooting was on fire, with attack and defence working stupendously well. The final score was incredible with a large lead of 48-6. Well done to under 14s, who unfortunately just missed the win but some great play down the court. Well done to our players player Jenna and Meg.

The girls have come into the New Year with smashing netball, and we are so excited for the upcoming matches ahead of us.



HARBURY PRE-SCHOOL

Staff and Committee

A New Term

It was lovely to welcome all the children back fresh from their Christmas break. We have enjoyed hearing about the presents they have received and what they have been up to during their holidays.

Pets and Animals

We started off the new term with a role play pet area. The role play was a vet as well as a place to look after and take care of pets. The children enjoyed playing with the cats, dogs, rabbits and fish. They took great care to place them in carriers to bring them to the vet and take turns in bandaging them up, taking their temperature, listening to their heart and checking their blood pressure and writing notes with the resources provided. They could also bath them, feed them and put them down for a sleep. It was so lovely to see the great care the children took as they played.



In the small world area, we set up a playmobile hospital and vet ambulance and the children played together, loading the ambulance up with the pets and taking them to the hospital.

At circle time we talked about our own pets, how we look after them and how to keep ourselves safe around animals. We also read some books and sang some animal-related songs.

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The weather

The cold weather has provided a wealth of learning opportunities. We have been learning about the seasons, and what happens during the winter. We have also been talking about the different weather conditions we have experienced, such as rain, frost, snow, wind and sunshine.

As temperatures have been sub-zero, we have not been short of ice. The children have been fascinated by it and have been exploring its texture and temperature and looking at how and why it melts and turns into water. We have been investigating how we can speed the process along by rubbing it in our hands or using brushes.

We have added some water and animals to a tuff tray and revisited it the next day to find the animals stuck in the ice. The children have been enjoying breaking up the ice and have been finding out that they can't put the ice in their pockets to take home!

Indoors we filled a tray with cornflour and water which the children have loved playing with and watching how it changes as they manipulate it.

The role play area has been set up for a 'winter' area, complete with some winter animals, spare coats, gloves and scarves for the children to dress up warm and pretend they are going on a winter walk.

Looking Forward

On the theme of nature, we are excited to be joining in with The RSPB 2024 Big School's Bird Watch. We will be looking and listening to the birds outside and using a simple picture sheet to record data by adding marks. I wonder how many we will find?

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



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

Growth Mindset Month

Over the last four years, it has become an important Harbury tradition to focus on the importance of having a growth mindset and positive learning behaviours. January 2024 is no exception! This year we have been focusing on improving our emotional literacy and self-awareness. We are learning how to communicate our feelings and find ways to support ourselves to feel calmer and more regulated. Every class in school focused on



the Zones of Regulation programme alongside opportunities to explore of a range of calming and regulating activities in order for the children to begin to form their own regulation toolkit - an Octopus of Options!

Many of our Harbury families already use the language of Zones of Regulation in their homes as a way of encouraging open conversations around feelings and behaviours.

Year 1 - A walk back in time

Year 1 had so much fun on their walk around Harbury. The heritage group led the trail and were so impressed with how engaged the children were. They were very respectful and had so many brilliant questions! Massive thank you to The Heritage Centre for supporting this fantastic history opportunity.

Digital Leaders

We are super excited that Miss Minto, our year 4 teacher, will be supporting children to become Digital Leaders. This is a brilliant opportunity for children who have a passion for technology, to take on a responsibility, learn new skills, demonstrate leadership qualities and help pupils, staff and parents to get the most out of our technology. We will work together to review and recommend new apps/software to be used in school, complete the Digital Challenges set each month on Purple Mash, raise the profile of computing in school with events such as online safety week, and show others how to use the equipment we already have most effectively.



HARBURY LIBRARY & BIBLIO'S CAFE

Michael Luntley

Liz Ball and I are still settling into our new roles as Joint Library Leads and getting used to the Library's IT systems. It is both a joy and a privilege to be entrusted with leading an organisation run entirely by keen and enthusiastic volunteers. The Library is very precious. We have some new ideas we want to try out, but the starting point is one of celebrating the wonderful community hub we have in the library and Biblio's cafe.

Volunteers - they keep coming: a warm welcome to our new volunteers: Jan Wickes (library) and our two young cafe interns. If any of our cafe customers and library users have been thinking about volunteering, do get in touch. Simply enquire at the desk or cafe counter.

Saturday February 17th



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Moving Pictures

Don't judge it until you've seen it!

After the hiatus that was Covid, Harbury Primary school is re-starting its regular visits to the library. These will start in the second half of the current school term - once the weather has warmed up a bit. We look forward to welcoming the Year 1 class in mid March.

And talking of our younger readers, we're delighted that one of our volunteers (Sue Wurr) has come up with an initiative to profile the books for our youngest readers. There are a great many picture books for early years and it can be tempting to go for the easily recognised familiar authors. Starting in February, Sue is going to select a 'book of the week' and give it special shelf space. We hope this will help parents explore the range of options for our very youngest readers to enjoy.

Finally: do you like crime fiction? Do you have a favourite book/author? If so, you could help in picking the winner for the 'Dagger in the Library' award 2024 - a national award for crime writer of the year. Our library has three votes to cast in this year's competition. You can find the list of nominees for the 2024 award at the Library desk. You are invited to cast up to three votes for your favourite authors on the list. On 28th February, we will count the votes and the three authors with the highest votes from our readers will each receive one of our Library votes.



GARDEN JOTTINGS

Christine Dakin from Bridge Nursery

Flowers for February

Most of us will be looking forward to the spring. We've had enough of the winter wet and cold so anything which will make us feel cheerful will be welcome. Snowdrops, hellebores and early daffodils will be most commonly seen. Primroses and violets look wonderful grown together and multiply easily. Slightly more unusual are some of the winter flowering shrubs. *Viburnum botnantense* 'Dawn', *V. tinus* and *Lonicera fragrantissima* are all likely to flower right through the winter. Hazel catkins are developing at this time of year and look good in a vase with daffodils. To see a much wider range take yourself to any of the botanic gardens where there will be an abundance of winter colour.

Now is a good time to buy seed potatoes and onion sets. Sow sweet peas and broad beans in cell trays and put out of reach of hungry mice. Towards the end of the month you can start to cut down any ornamental grasses and other herbaceous plants. And prune dogwoods by removing two thirds of all stems to the ground.

Bridge Nursery, Tomlow Road, Napton | www.bridge-nursery.co.uk



NATURE NOTES

Martin & Amanda Randall

Last month we wrote about the Big Garden Birdwatch. How did you get on? Although the commonest bird recorded in that survey for the last twenty years in the UK was the House Sparrow, our most frequent visitor to the bird feeders this year has been the Goldfinch; there were very few House Sparrows, so we thought it would be interesting to look in more detail at these comical little birds.

House Sparrows are very familiar to us, and feature in much of literature, from Chaucer to Beatrix Potter. Perhaps because of that familiarity we do not often give these attractive little birds a second glance as they hop around our gardens in noisy groups chattering among themselves. Look closely, though, and you will see that the male House Sparrow is resplendent with a mix of rich chestnut and brown feathers on his back, a grey head and black bib, while the female and young are more uniformly brown. They are sociable birds much associated with our dwellings, whether urban or rural, and nest in loose colonies in dense bushes, hedges and creepers, as well as in nest boxes and crevices in buildings. Their nests are built from straw or dry grass and lined with feathers hair, and even string and paper. Sometimes individual nests are as little as 20 to 30 centimetres apart.



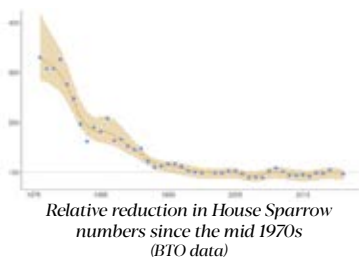
The oldest recorded age of a House Sparrow was twelve years (from bird ringing data) but, on average, adults live for three years and typically breed at one year old. Although nesting has been observed all year round in some places, the main nesting season is from April to August. Typically House Sparrows raise two or three broods a year, with the female laying two to five eggs in a clutch. Both parents share nesting duties equally and incubate the eggs, which hatch after 11 to 14 days. The chicks fledge about two weeks after hatching. For a week or so after fledging the male continues to care for the fledglings, since they are unable to feed themselves. During this time the female prepares for the next brood.



House Sparrows are non-migratory and are found year round throughout Britain and Ireland, except for on the highest mountain peaks. They have a mixed diet of seeds, grain and insects. In the summer they will forage in hedgerows and meadows providing they do not have to fly too far from their nests. Later in the summer, urban flocks tend to move to the countryside to feed on the ripening grain fields.

Male House Sparrows use a variety of displays and behaviour. They crouch with the tail raised and fanned out, often with an open beak, as a threat to other males. To attract a mate, the male hops around his chosen female, flicking his wings and tail. A common sight in summer is of House Sparrows enjoying a dust bath. They dig a hollow with their feet in a suitable dry area of soil and toss the dust under their wings and over their backs as if it was water. Then they shake off this 'dry shampoo' and preen their feathers until they are in good condition again. It is thought that this behaviour is to aid the removal of parasites from their feathers.

British Trust for Ornithology research shows that the number of House Sparrows in the UK has declined by about 66% in the UK since the mid-1970s (see graphic) and the species has been on the UK Red List since 2002. Urban populations are faring worse than rural ones most notably in the south and east of the UK. The reasons for the decline in urban sparrow populations aren't fully understood. There is evidence that less suitable



foraging habitat, fewer nesting sites and predation (by sparrowhawks, but also cats) play a part. The reduction in rural areas appears to be linked to changes in agricultural practices, particularly a reduction of winter stubbles and improved grain storage. This deprives the birds of valuable food sources at this time of year. As you can see, we enjoy watching the antics of these birds and would never say 'Oh, it's just a sparrow!'.

The recent cold weather has brought other birds to our garden. We have frequently seen Lesser Redpolls on the seed feeders: a daintier finch than the Goldfinches and Greenfinches. Very occasionally we also have visits from parties of Long-tailed Tits. They don't stay for long, just enough time to eat a few seeds before they flit away over the fence. We have also had reports of Blackcap Warblers visiting Harbury gardens. They are a little smaller than House Sparrows and have a greyish overall appearance, with the black cap found only in the males; females and juveniles have a brown cap instead. These birds are usually summer visitors, typically arriving in March and April and migrating south for the autumn. However in recent years there has been an increasing wintering population in the UK.



Lesser Redpoll and Goldfinches
(Martin Randall)



HARBURY GENERAL NEWS



HARBURY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Susan Ostrander (Cllr Harbury Ward)

Budget

The administration for Stratford District Council is in the process of setting a budget for the year 2024/5 and are pleased to announce that no cuts to services are anticipated. Central government advises local authorities of their settlement figures on an annual basis (rather than three or five years) which makes long-term planning difficult. The final figure from central government was reported to SDC on 22 December. Due to these tight timescales, the Cabinet has been working on the budget for some months prior to the central government figures being announced. The preliminary figures were finalised following the Christmas break. By the time of printing, the budget will already be out for public consultation, and we welcome your comments, but you will need to be quick as the consultation closes on the 6th February.

The link below takes you to this consultation as well as a great deal of information about this budget that will affect us all. I hope that many of you will take the opportunity to look over this information and comment if you wish.

www.stratford.gov.uk/news/press.cfm/item/138144



Local government is facing financial pressures in two ways. Firstly, they have experienced real-term cuts of 27% in core spending power since 2010 but costs and demand pressures have added almost 29% to the cost of delivery services since 2021/22. This data has come

from the Local Government Association, the national membership body for local authorities such as Stratford District Council. For those who are interested in some of these national statistics I recommend two sources for further reading:

[www.local.gov.uk/about/campaigns/save-local-services/
save-local-services-council-pressures-explained](http://www.local.gov.uk/about/campaigns/save-local-services/save-local-services-council-pressures-explained)

[www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/explainer/
local-government-funding-england](http://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/explainer/local-government-funding-england)



Dogs

Some of you will have seen me with my greyhound Silas. Sadly, over Christmas we discovered he had a brain tumour and so we had to let him go. It was very unexpected and sad as he was only six years old. Just after Christmas we were made aware of a lurcher who looks very much like Silas whose owner had died. So, we now have Toby the lurcher. If you see me out with a black, short-coated dog please come and say hello as he loves people.

This brings me onto the topic of dogs more generally. As a dog owner, I have spent a lot of time in public spaces with my dog and I know that not everyone is as keen on them as I am. Some people are frightened of dogs, or simply don't want dogs jumping up on them, some have mobility issues and so find boisterous, bouncy dogs unnerving. Some dogs too need a little space from other dogs, they may be nervous, or old and a bit wobbly on their legs and so also find the playful bouncy dogs a bit much.

From talking to residents, I am aware that there are mixed views on having dogs off lead in parks and open spaces, but I just wanted to take this opportunity to mention what the law says.

In public places, you must keep your dog 'under control'. Generally, this means close to you and ideally on a lead. If they're not on a lead, they need to be under control in another way, such as paying attention to your voice commands.

It's a criminal offence to allow your dog to be 'dangerously out of control' in both public and private areas. This could be anything from your dog chasing a person or another animal to physically harming them. It can also be if someone *feels at risk of being injured by your dog*. This last point includes if they think they could be injured if they tried to stop your dog attacking their animal. Either the owner or the person in charge of the dog can be charged. If this happens, you may have to pay a fine, compensation and costs. If your dog hurts a person, unfortunately they can be seized by police and may even be humanely destroyed.

The law applies to all dogs and makes clear that even the friendliest dog could be considered out of control if people around the dog feel it could cause them or their dog harm. Because of this, many animal charities recommend making sure you're **on top of your dog's training**. Always keep your dog on a lead around strange dogs if they don't have good recall as, even if your dog is friendly, you never know how the other dog is going to react. And please also don't forget that many people out enjoying a walk in the park don't want to have dogs jumping at them, this may be especially true for young children who can easily get knocked over and frightened by them.

Stratford District Council provides a lot of information on dog control on their webpage. What

was previously called the dog warden is now an Environmental Protection Technician (a bit of a mouthful I know) and they carry out many of the same roles. This link will take you to their information page and at the bottom you can find the contact details and a link for reporting dog related issues.



www.stratford.gov.uk/environment/dog-warden.cfm

Fire and Rescue

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service are consulting on a proposed change to its service and are inviting comments from residents. A link to the consultation is here:



ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/insights-service/wfrs-r2r/

The explanation in the consultation papers is a bit difficult to follow but there is a public presentation at Southam Grange Hall on 27th February at 6.30pm for which you can book tickets here:



www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/resourcing-to-risk-information-session-southam-tickets-774349338717?aff=ebdsoporgprofile



PHILIP BUSHILL-MATTHEWS

Bill Timson

Many local residents will remember Philip and Angela Bushill-Matthews and their family who lived at the Manor House for many years until 2015 when they moved to Leamington. Sadly, Phillip passed away on 10th December last year after a long illness.



Philip was MEP for the West Midlands he was also leader of the Conservative MEPs; however, he switched allegiance to the Liberal Democrats four years ago believing that the Conservatives were no longer the party he had joined.

Philip's Obituary, written by his family, can be found on the 'Warwickshire World' web site and provides a fascinating picture of a man who led a full and interesting life.

I have downloaded and printed out a copy of the obituary which we have archived in the Heritage Centre, for those not able to access it electronically.

Our thoughts are with Angela and the family at this very sad time.



POPPY APPEAL COLLECTION UPDATE

Gill Holden & Nicola Thompson

We were delighted to be notified by the RBL that a further £50 was donated to the Harbury District using our area QR code. These being donations made by debit or credit cards. This has taken our total for the 2023 collection to £2,647.00. Thank you again.





LITTER PICK IN HARBURY

Ian Reynolds

A litter pick will take place on Sunday 4th February and Sunday 3rd March between 10am and 11am.

We meet at the village hall car park. We have pickers, hoops and bags, just need able bodies willing to give up their time for the hour to pick up rubbish from across the village! All welcome but not too suitable for young children as we do the roadsides.



SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mike McBride

After recovering from the Christmas Party, just a brief update this month.

As part of our ongoing fundraising, we are due to host the Tom Hauley Room coffee morning on Saturday 10th February. We look forward to seeing many of you then where you can also meet members of our committee.

Thank you all for your continuing support.



QUIET SPACE

Jill Winter & Gill Guilford

We were delighted to welcome some new folk to our last gathering. We invite anyone who is attracted by the thought of spending some time in silence, in the company of others, to our next meeting in the Tom Hauley Room. Nothing is expected from you.

A coffee/tea is offered at 10am and then silence starts at 10.30am for 20 minutes to spend in whatever way is comfortable for you. Always on the second Wednesday of the month, our next gathering will be on 14th February, 10am for refreshment or 10.30am prompt for the silence. Just turn up, you will be very welcome.

Jill Winter 612585 or 07941 872383 or Gill Guilford 07856 764814



THE COLLECTIVE

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 20th February 2024 at 7.30pm. Our next subject for discussion is - 'Do all faiths lead to God?'

Do come along, have a drink and engage in interesting debate.



BUMPS & BUNDLES

Carol Jackson and the Bumps Team

Bumps and Bundles got off to a great start in the New Year. It was good to welcome back little ones that know us and watch them confidently go to the toys that they remember. Also, to welcome some new Mums, Dads and Childminders with their little bundles.

The group is a drop-in and although we ask you to sign in there is no need to “join” just come along to the Tom Hauley Room (behind the church) any Tuesday morning between 10.30am and 12 noon. (Term time only). There are plenty of toys for the children to play with and the helpers are there to make you a cup of tea/coffee and supply you with biscuits.



WEDNESDAY WALKERS

Gillian Hare

Not surprisingly, we have changed some of our advertised routes to avoid the deepest mud, but have had some pleasant walks and been glad to shake ourselves out of the winter doldrums. We hope February will bring some brightness to open the snowdrops; already the buds are showing colour on some willows and poplars.

We welcome everyone who would like a bit of company and maybe go somewhere new; just meet us in the Village Hall car park at 9.35, any Wednesday morning or ring me on 614809 for more details.



HARBURY AND BISHOPS ITCHINGTON SURGERY PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

Judy Timson

Since April 2016 it has been a contractual requirement for all GP practices in the UK to have a patient participation group (PPG).

A PPG is generally made up of a group of volunteers, a practice manager and a GP. The aim being to discuss the current services, and how improvements can be made for the benefit of patients and the practice.

In recent months there has been a resurgence of the Harbury and Bishops PPG, with new group members having joined. The group's purpose is to help give our patient community a say in the way services are being delivered to best meet their needs. This we believe can contribute to the improvement of services, and the quality of care for patients within our local community.

To establish goals and priorities, over the next twelve months the group will work with the practice to explore what patients think about the current services available. This will require the PPG to understand the practice population range, which is an important factor, as not all patients will have the same needs or requirements.

The role of a PPG is to be a ‘critical friend’ by assisting the practice in understanding and appreciating what patients are thinking. Therefore, one of the key objectives will be to obtain feedback from patients of both practices.

To help with this the PPG will be placing posters, promoting the group's purpose, on notice

boards in both Harbury and Bishops Itchington villages, including the two surgeries. The contact details for patients to send their suggestions /comments to, will be on the posters. **ppg.harburysurgery@gmail.com**

As the group becomes more established in its objectives the minutes taken from meetings will be published on the practice website as well as on the 'PPG noticeboard' in the two practices. This will provide patients with information as to what topics have been discussed and what the PPG is working on.



HARBURY LOCAL MARKET

Steve Ekins

Important Information

Due to a printing error, two of the dates are incorrect on our flyer that was delivered last month with the magazine.

The 4th April should have been 4th May and 29th June should be 22nd June, please amend the copy of your flyer accordingly.

This Month's Market will be Saturday 24th 10.00 - 12.30 in the Village Hall.

Councillors Corner will be there from 10.00 - 11.00am to answer any questions you may have.

Join us for a Tea or Coffee and a Bacon Roll.

If you would like to contact us, you can email us harburylocalmarket@gmail.com and also on Facebook @Harbury Local Market, please join our group for regular updates.

Thanks to our Sponsors.



NEW YEARS HONOUR

From Warwickshire County Council - Press Release

Originally from Oswestry in Shropshire, Mr Fowler has been awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) for his services to Libraries.

The New Year's Honours are awarded each year to recipients who have made outstanding contributions to society, community, or their area of work, and this year more than 1,000 people across the across the UK have been recognised.

Mr Fowler has always been passionate about libraries and has a degree in Library Studies, which included working on the mobile library running out of Oswestry and in the library of the Rubber and Plastics Research Association in Shawbury. He began his role at Harbury Community Library during retirement and helped to develop the library facility into a successful community hub for the village. He is also a founder member and trustee of the Community Managed Libraries National Peer Network, which is a group that advocates for community-led libraries across England and Wales.

Mr Fowler, aged 70, has recently stepped down from Harbury's Library Lead role to return to life in Shropshire with his wife Julia, and Warwickshire Libraries is very grateful to Mr Fowler for the positive impact he has made, both to Harbury Community Library and the village's local community. He will be formally presented with his BEM by the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, Anna Turner, later this year.



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The Bell Inn at Ladbroke is in full romance mode with their Valentines set menu! check it out online and book your table

WHATS COMING UP

February 14th - Valentines (Special Set Menu)

February 26th - Quiz & Curry

March 10th - Mothers Day (Special set menu)

March 28th - 31st: Easter Weekend

- Good Friday Fish Specials Menu -

- Easter Weekend Specials Menu -

- Easter Sunday Lunch -

-Easter Egg Hunt in the Garden -

April 8th - Quiz & Curry

May 13th - Comedy Night & Tapas - £19.95pp

Find out more about our upcoming events direct with the team or visit our whats on online.

www.bellinnatladbroke.co.uk

Contact us on
bellinn@freespiritpubs.co.uk
01926 811224

The Bell Inn, Banbury Road, Ladbroke, Nr Southam, Warwickshire, CV47 2BY

Harbury Community Library offers a great collection of jigsaws, board games and books that are available to borrow for free to all library members. Books can be borrowed in-person, through the online library catalogue, or by browsing the BorrowBox collection which includes a great range of eBooks and eAudiobooks. Inside the library there is free Wi-Fi, public computer access and workspaces, and printing and photocopying facilities, which can all be used whilst enjoying a coffee and cake from Biblio's Café, which is managed and staffed entirely by volunteers. Find out more at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/harburylibrary.

Harbury Community Library is also one of many Warwickshire Libraries participating in the County Council's Warm Welcome initiative. Residents who are struggling with energy costs, or who are feeling vulnerable or isolated, are invited to attend on their own or with their family or friends, to have a safe and warm place to spend some time. Find out more at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/librarieswarmwelcome

To join your local library for free, visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/jointhelibrary



HARBURY BALLROOM & LATIN AMERICAN DANCING

Amanda Randall

Wednesdays at Harbury Village Hall

Beginners 7.30 - 8.30pm, Improvers 8.30 - 9.30pm

We are back after the break!

Unfortunately, so many of our dancers were going to be out of action at the beginning of this year that we had to postpone the start of 2024's classes until March. We are looking forward to meeting our new starters as well as welcoming back our existing supporters!

The new set of classes begins on 6th March and runs for six weeks. Beginners will be working on the Waltz, and learning the Whisk and Chassé. This lovely set of steps allows you to progress across the dance floor: it's not a complicated move but looks and feels great! Beginners will also be learning ways to negotiate 'corners' on the dance floor. Improvers will be adding some new steps to their previous Jive routine, so there will be some revision plus learning how to link the old and new steps together.

The fee is £15 per couple, per class, 'pay as you go' and you will need to bring a partner to dance with.

Dancing is for everyone, so come and give it a try. We are a friendly bunch!

Get in touch with us by email, phone, Instagram or Facebook (details below).

Dates for your diaries: 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th March – 3rd, 10th April

Contact: harbury.ballroom.dancing@gmail.com or 01926 613871

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

"KEEEEEP Dancing"!!



Ballroom Dancing 2024



THE TOOTH FAIRY

*She comes in the night without a sound.
In return for your tooth she'll deliver a pound.
Under your pillow it shall be found.*

*When you wake, you feel under your pillow,
You're tooth fairy, her name is Willow,
You know this because she left you a letter,
"Too stormy" Willow says, her wings they got wetter!*

*She couldn't deliver, the weather was too nippy!
She couldn't collect, the tooth was too slippy!*

*The rain stopped her work, her fairy dust fell!
Hid under leaves she returned with a spell,
Skipping back home, tinkling her bell,
When the storm passes, all will be well.*

*So now you know what the tooth fairy's like,
She can't handle storms, only fairy light!*

By Tania Hunt from Harbury, (age 8)

Dusk

*Night falls softly over sleepy streets,
when days are short and cold.
Lamps flutter on their posts,
waking one by one.*

*Walking village lanes,
wrapped in woollen clothes.
Shielded against the ache of fingers and toes.*

*Frost treads crisp under foot.
Silver glitter adorns spiders' careful work.
Puddles shining, rooftops snuggle under cover of white.*

*Birds sing their final chorus,
shrill and clear,
preparing for the hours ahead.
Giving way to night,
a disappearing sunset, red.*

*Windows light up, families home, speaking of their day.
Whispers of smoke from chimney pots.
Air sharp, nose frozen, ears frozen.*

*A turn of a corner, the final stretch.
Now home is in sight.
The last chink of day,
Silently surrenders to night.*

*Key turns the lock in haste,
layers peeled off, curtains drawn, kettle on.
Warmth envelops me.
Fingers tingle and thaw and
the comfort of home surrounds me once more.*

by Lisa Helliwell, Harbury



SOUTHAM COMMUNITY MINIBUS

Ann Clucas

Would you like to take your community group on a trip?

We are a voluntary organisation based in Southam that provides a self-drive 17 seat minibus to local non-profit making organisations for community use in Southam and the surrounding area. The minibus is located in Southam for easy collection. Southam library has information packs and can check driver credentials and accept bookings.

Full day hire is £55. Organisations whose primary purpose is the education or involvement of children are offered a 50% discount.

More information at www.scma.org.uk



READERS' LETTERS

Dear Editors

We would like to say a huge thankyou to everyone who so generously donated raffle prizes, made cakes and attended our coffee morning on 20th January in aid of Myton Hospice. We made £280 profit for this very worthwhile cause.

Thanks again.

Friends of Myton Hospice



LOCAL FOODBANK donations of non-perishable items as listed below which supplies the surrounding area, including Harbury, can be left at:

Harbury Village Library Foyer
(Wight School when open)

e-Wheels driver
Wight School car-park on Mondays
between 11.30am - 12.30pm

Harbury Co-op
Tall basket by door

- Potatoes - tins and packets of instant mash
- Tins of meat
- Jars of pasta sauce
- Tins of spaghetti in sauce
- Tins of fruit
- Sponge puddings
- Custard
- Small bags of sugar
- UHT milk
- Toiletries such as: shampoo, shower gel, soap, toilet rolls and household cleaning products.

CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION



2024

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE LITERARY FESTIVAL



ENTRY
£3.50
(plus 30p
admin fee)

CATEGORIES:

FICTION Judge: Sue Burke

CREATIVE NON-FICTION Judge: Gwyneth Box

POETRY Judge: Beth Brooke



OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS:

**JANUARY
15th**

CLOSING DATE:

**MARCH
29th**

OPEN THEME

Max 800 words for fiction and creative non-fiction

Max 40 lines for poetry



SINGLE PRIZE FOR EACH CATEGORY: £50

Winner and two runners-up in each category will have the opportunity to read their work at the Festival at

Victoria House, Leamington Spa, on 21st September 2024

Full details and submission rules

<https://www.southwarwickshireliteraryfestival.com>





FREE ANTIQUES VALUATION DAY

St Francis of Assisi Church Hall,
110 Warwick Road, Kenilworth CV8 1HL

Thursday 8th February | 10am - 2pm

**Bring along your Antiques, Toys, Jewellery,
Silver, Gold, Watches, and Collectables**

Items may be consigned into Auction on the day

Free Home Visits for large/multiple items.

House clearance and downsizing advice Probate and Insurance Valuations

For further information please contact
Hansons Warwickshire 07470 459309

www.hansonsauctioneers.co.uk

Hansons Auction Centre, Heage Lane, Etwell, Derby, DE65 6LS

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Ed Hudson, Harbury.
Mob: 07801 430029
email: eddhudson@me.com

the **WI**
INSPIRING WOMEN

Soup and pud lunch



Friday March 1st
12.30 - 1.30
Tom Hauley Room

£7. Order forms in Church
and available at the
THR coffee mornings.

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Free measuring service.

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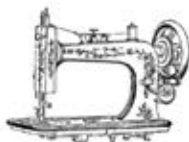
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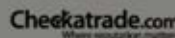
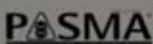
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