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Week Commencing Monday	Thursday Collection - Harbury	Wednesday & Friday Collections - Ladbroke Friday Collection - Deppers Bridge
6 May	F - W	F - R - W - G
13 May	F - R - G	F
20 May	F	F - R - G
27 May	F - R - W - G	F - W
3 June	F	F - R - G
10 June	F - R - G	F

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

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HARBURY & LADBROKE News

Published monthly to reflect all aspects of local life

May 2024

No. 602

EDITORIAL	4
HARBURY DIARY	5
FROM THE RECTOR AND CHURCH NEWS	7
LADBROKE NEWS	11
HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL.....	21
CLUBS & SOCIETIES	23
SPORTING ACTIVITIES	40
EARLY YEARS & SCHOOL	44
LIBRARY & CLUB	48
GARDENING & NATURE	50
GENERAL SECTION	52

Editorial Office

31 Binswood End

☎ 612155

✉ articles@hlnews.co.uk

Article drop off point:
Harbury Pharmacy,
High Street

Advertising Office

36 Manor Orchard

☎ 612687

✉ advertising@hlnews.co.uk

Distribution Manager

49 Mill Street

☎ 07900 852236

✉ distribution@hlnews.co.uk

Inserts by prior arrangement with
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Editorial Team

Andy Goss – Paulette Kavanagh – Peter McDonald – Sue and David Turner
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.



EDITORIAL

A round up of local news

May 1974 saw the very first edition of what was then the Harbury News (Ladbroke joined in April 1977). What an amazing achievement that fifty years on we are still receiving plenty of articles and reports and the magazine is still in print! Thank you to you all of you for continuing to subscribe to the magazine and of course to our advertisers whose income we also depend on to keep us afloat. After asking for readers to send in their memories of living in Harbury during the 1970s, we would like to thank Carol Jackson and Alan and Sue Lord for sending in their recollections; we hope you enjoy reading them starting on page 34.

Speaking of advertisers, our advertising manager tells us that she has a couple of advertising spaces that are vacant which she would really like to fill. Two prime spots, one on the inside of the back cover and the other on the inside of the front cover. If you are interested in promoting your business on either of these spaces, please do get in touch with Sue to find out more, Tel: 612687 or email advertising@hlnews.co.uk. In the meantime, to use the space, you will find that the Refuse Rota has moved to the inside of the front cover.

With the arrival of Spring(!), organisations are thinking about their future events. These include the Senior Citizens' summer outing, the carnival games week, the carnival itself, the garden walkabout and later this year the Village Show. So there is plenty to keep you busy so join in the fun.

Ladbroke is looking for new art work for their phone box; they are also taking part in the 'Big Help Out' on 8th June by putting together a Churchyard Working Party - see page 20 for details.

Do remember, if you are having your magazine delivered and haven't yet paid your annual subscription, please can you give this to your distributor or pay electronically via your bank.

We were very sorry to hear of the recent passing of Marian Millington. Marian was part of the group of people that started the Harbury News magazine back in 1974, she was also one of the first editors. After a break of 24 years she joined the editorial committee again in September 2000 until April 2017. Marian was also a member of other village organisations, along with her husband Tim. Marian spent a number of years working abroad as a midwifery tutor. Our condolences go to her family.

We have also been notified about the death of Alan French who passed away on Saturday 30th March. Alan, who lived in Harbury from 1970 to 1983, was the village Policeman before Tim Percival. Alan had many fond memories and funny stories of his time in the police force and of Harbury. Our condolences also go to his family.

We also note the passing of Bill Bosworth of Ladbroke and Sue Grinstead of Harbury. We send our condolences to their family and friends.



June Edition - Harbury & Ladbroke News

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

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





HARBURY DIARY

For local events

MAY

Sat 4 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Myton Hospice
Litter Pick, 10.00 - 11.00am, Meet Village Hall car park
Councillors Corner, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Harbury Local Market, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall

Sun 5 EASTER 6

Said Communion, 9.00am, Church
Little Saints, 10.30am, Church
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall

Mon 6 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 7 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 8 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall car park - Fawsley - Badby Woods
(3.5 miles hilly)
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 9 Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Harbury WI, Resolutions, 7.30 for 7.45pm, Tom Hauley Room
Annual Parish Meeting, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Fri 10 Ben & Soph's Jazz Night, Tickets - www.ticketsource.co.uk/bsjazz
Tel: 07515 275655, music 7.00pm, Village Hall

Sat 11 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Cancer Research

Sun 12 EASTER 7

Sung Holy Communion with Children's Church, 10.30am, Church
Messy Church, 3.00 - 5.00pm, Church
Zumba, 9.00am - 10.00am, Village Hall

Mon 13 Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 14 Free Chair-based Activity Class, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Bumps & Bundles, 10.30am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room

Wed 15 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall car park - Wootton Wawen
(4 miles hilly)
Connections (Dementia) Café, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
Spellbound Dance Classes, 5.00 - 5.30 & 5.30 - 6.15pm, Village Hall
Village Hall AGM, 7.00pm, Village Hall
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

- Thu 16 Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Harbury Theatre Group presents, Murder Mystery and Mayhem, doors open 7.00pm, starts 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Fri 17 Harbury Theatre Group presents, Murder Mystery and Mayhem, doors open 7.00pm, starts 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Sat 18 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of British Legion Galanos House
Southam Indoor Market, 10.00am - 12.30pm, the Grange Hall, Southam
Harbury Repair Café, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Library
Harbury Theatre Group presents, Murder Mystery and Mayhem, doors open 7.00pm, starts 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Sun 19 PENTECOST/WHIT SUNDAY**
Holy 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)

ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE TO: HARBURY PHARMACY, HIGH ST OR EMAIL TO ARTICLES@HLNEWS.CO.UK BY 5.30PM
- Mon 20 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

ADVERTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE TO 36 MANOR ORCHARD, HARBURY OR EMAIL ADVERTISING@HLNEWS.CO.UK
- Tue 21 Free Chair-based Activity Class, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Bumps & Bundles, 10.30am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room
The Collective - 'Racial Justice: Why should we care?', 7.30pm, Shakespeare Inn
- Wed 22 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall car park - Hampton Lucy – Wasperton (3.5 miles flat)
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
- Thu 23 Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Carer's Group Meeting, 12.30 - 1.30pm, Village Library
Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Fri 24 Harbury Society, Leamington History Walking Tour, 10.20am, meet Leamington Visitors Centre, Pump Rooms
- Sat 25 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Southam Twinning Association
Councillors Corner, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Harbury Local Market, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall
- Sun 26 TRINITY SUNDAY**
Sung Holy Communion, 10.30am, Church
Muddy Church, 10.30am, Meet Tom Hauley Room
Zumba, 9.00am - 10.00am, Village Hall

- Mon 27 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall
 Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall
- Tue 28 Free Chair-based Activity Class, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
- Wed 29 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall car park - Upper Boddington
 (4 miles hilly)Thurs
 Spellbound Dance Classes, 5.00 - 5.30 & 5.30 - 6.15pm, Village Hall
 Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall
- Thu 30 Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room

JUNE

- Sat 1 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Harbury
 Mothers' Union
 Litter Pick, 10.00 - 11.00am, meet Village Hall car park
- Sun 2 **TRINITY 2**
 Said Communion, 9.00am, Church
 Little Saints, 10.30am, Church
- Mon 3 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall
 Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall
- Tue 4 Bumps & Bundles, 10.30am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room
 Harbury Heritage Centre open, 7.00 - 9.00pm, Harbury School (Park Lane entrance)
 Harbury Theatre Group's AGM, 7.30pm, Tom Hauley Room
- Wed 5 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall car park - Fenny Compton
 (4 miles one hill, optional pub meal)
 Mothers' Union, Service 2.00pm, meeting starts 2.30pm, "Mothers' Union - 100
 years in Coventry", Tom Hauley Room
 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 Meeting Point, 12.30pm, The Crown Inn
- Sat 8 Harbury Carnival

The Refuse Rota can be found on the inside of the front cover



**All Saints
HARBURY**

FROM THE RECTOR

Rev. Andy Batchelor

The Rectory, Vicarage Lane, Harbury ☎ 01926 714295 ✉ rev.andyb@gmail.com

Like many clergy I took a week's holiday after the busyness of Holy Week and Easter Sunday. However, on my return I had six funerals waiting to be dealt with. I was fortunate that two were taken on by colleagues, leaving me with the remaining four. I view the conducting of funerals as a real privilege, and one of the most rewarding parts of my ministry.

However you never quite know what situation you may be entering into, from relatives who

are hyper-organised and know exactly what they want, to families that are sadly split down the middle, and one half doesn't talk to the other half. A funeral can be the catalyst for reconciliation and forgiveness, and that can be a real joy. However I do sometimes encounter individuals who are determined to make the ceremony as non-religious as possible.

While there are secular celebrants who are happy to meet that need, it simply isn't possible in the context of a church funeral. The difference with a Christian service is that we are both celebrating the life of the deceased, and all the good memories that have been made in the past, but we are also trusting in God's promise of resurrection and new life as we look to the future. A quote I usually use at funerals goes like this:- 'death is not a full stop that ends the sentence of life, but merely a comma, before the story continues'. It is that hope of eternal life and many joyful reunions to come that gives a Christian funeral a different perspective and feel.

So please don't write off a church funeral just because you may not be a churchgoer. All clergy will be committed to make the service all that you would want, while at the same time emphasising the wonderful things God has in store for us, after our time on this Earth has come to an end.



FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

Liz & Andy

The Annual Parochial Church meeting was held on Sunday 21st April. This is the occasion when we review the life of the church. The annual report reviews our activities over the last year with reports from 16 groups included along with the finance report and accounts. Anyone is welcome to read it and copies can be found in the information corner of the church.

The PCC (Parochial Church Council, not to be confused with the PC, Parish Council) was elected and they are as follows - Elaine Barnden, Emma Browne, Lin Hayes, Brian Jones, William Jones, Philip Mayer, Amy Pedvin-Lewis, Sally Stringer and Michael Vincent.

All have served in the past year and we are grateful to them for continuing to do so.

We remain as churchwardens for a further year ... oh dear. And Liz is still treasurer.

Our thanks also go to Sally Stringer who has retired from the role of bookings secretary of the Tom Hauley Room and graciously passed the baton on to Moira Rollason. Thank you, Moira – who can be contacted by email on thr@allsaintsharbury.org

We have had Holy Week and Easter Sunday since our last report and thanks to all who decorated the church with flowers and cleaned it beforehand. A new service was added this year – a sunrise service on Easter Day. 12 souls made it to this service at 6.30am and, although not rewarded with a dazzling sunrise, did have bacon butties for breakfast. As well as, of course, partaking in a thoughtful service. Next year Easter is almost three weeks later so sunrise is about half an hour earlier. Ooh.

Muddy Church is on 26th May and the next Messy Church is on 12th May. Messy Church will be at Harbury Carnival on 8th June so if you have ever wanted to know about either of these find us there. And get messy.

An interesting service will be held in Harbury on Wednesday 12th June at 7.30pm when for the

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first time in years, Harbury will host one of the Archdeacon's Visitations when churchwardens from around the Diocese are sworn in for a further year. (Needless to say, we will be asking for help with refreshments closer to the day!)

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



MOTHERS' UNION

Gillian Hare

At our April meeting, many of us were jolted out of our complacency as we listened to Cllr Sidney Syson. As a volunteer street pastor, she showed us a side of Leamington we hardly knew existed - its night life. With over a dozen venues, it is the go-to place to dance the night away. The role of her team is to take care of the many young people who are vulnerable after drinking far too much. In their packs they carry water, flip flops, tissues, sick bags, dust pan and brush (for broken glass) foil blankets and lollipops. These, designed to raise blood sugar, are surprisingly effective to calm fighting drunk young men who accept them with enthusiasm! She also outlined some of the other services that the town offers to people with various personal or social problems. We were left with a huge sense of respect and gratitude to Cllr Sidney and people like her who surely go more than the "extra mile" to be good Samaritans.

Thank you to everyone who supported our coffee morning which raised £96 towards the wider work of M U such as the holiday scheme for struggling families.

In May Gemma will tell us about Iona, "A glimpse of the Eternal". And on 5th June, Felicity Hawke, a previous diocesan President, will tell the inspiring story of M U 100 years in Coventry.

Visitors are always welcome; we meet in the Tom Hauley room, starting with communion at 2pm.



LADBROKE NEWS & DIARY

MAY

Sun 5 EASTER 6

Family Communion followed by refreshments, 10.30am

Tues 7 Photography Club - Photographing Church Artefacts, visitors welcome, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Wed 8 Ladbroke Parish Council, 7.45pm, Village Hall

Sun 12 EASTER 7

Holy Communion, 9.00am

Tues 14 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Fri 17 Wine Tasting Evening, 7.00pm, Village Hall

Sun 19 PENTECOST

Holy Communion (BCP), 9.00am

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ARTICLES@HLNEWS.CO.UK BY 5.30PM

Mon 20 ADVERTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE TO 36 MANOR ORCHARD, HARBURY OR EMAIL
ADVERTISING@HLNEWS.CO.UK

Tues 21 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sun 26 TRINITY SUNDAY

Holy Communion, 9.00am

Tues 28 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

JUNE

Sun 2 TRINITY 2

Family Communion followed by refreshments, 10.30am

Tues 4 Photography Club, 7.30pm, at the Slot Car venue

Wed 5 Heritage & Friendship Group, 10.30am - noon, The Old School

Thu 6 WI, 7.30pm, Village Hall



LADBROKE CHURCH NEWS

Peter Rigby

www.ladbrokechurch.org.uk

Our Easter Day Service was well attended with a congregation of 50 despite the challenge of losing an hour due to the clocks going back the night before. Our thanks to all those who decorated the Church so beautifully beforehand and also to Rev Barry for coming to lead our service.

This year, our normal Egg Hunt after the service was replaced by an Easter Trail through the village, with eight different stations imaginatively decorated by their hosts. Thank you to Sue Wright and Jackie for organising the Trail, and to everyone who created and hosted displays. It was lovely that so many people walked the trail, discovering more about the Easter Story and it was very poignant to see a lit candle or two illuminating the gloom when locking up the church in the evening. Thank you too to everyone who added their own sheep to the flock on the hillside, it was quite crowded by the end. We are keeping that picture in church until the end of May for visitors to see. If you missed the trail itself you can still walk it virtually on our website (address below).

Prior to Easter Day, we held a special Tenebrae Service on Good Friday. This was a new form of service to many of us, in which a number of candles are extinguished after gospel readings about the Crucifixion, eventually leaving the Church in darkness symbolising Jesus' death. The service had been planned because we knew that our choirmaster Bill Bosworth would be unable to lead the service that day due to illness. What we did not know then was that Bill was to sadly leave us just a few days before, and the service was all the more poignant for



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the snuffing out of the candles to be carried out by members of the choir, partly as a tribute to him.

The Church was completely packed with around 160 present for Bill’s funeral. The whole of the rear of the Church was filled by Ladbroke’s choir, supplemented by members of other choirs with which Bill was involved, who rendered a very moving performance of Mozart’s Ave Verum Corpus. Bill’s son, Philip, read an extract from Upstart Crow (Ben Elton’s Shakespeare sitcom) and these two contributions summarised so well Bill’s love of music and of theatre. It was a memorable service for Bill, who was much loved by us all and will be sorely missed. A fuller tribute to Bill will appear in a future edition of H&L News, in the meantime we continue to pray for Margie and the other members of the family in their loss.

The church continues to be open daily from 10am to 4pm.

From the Registers:

Thursday 18th April Funeral of Bill Bosworth

Future Services:

Sunday 5th May	10.30am	Family Service
Sunday 12th May	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 19th May	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 26th May	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 2nd June	10.30am	Family Service

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

Extraordinary Meeting

A meeting was held on 10th April to discuss the council's response to the planning application for seven "Shepherd Huts" at The Bell Inn. All the councillors were present, a handful of villagers, two of whom expressed their concerns, and two representatives of Freespirit pubs, who explained the proposals in more detail.

They don't actually own the pub but have it on a 10 year renewable lease and need to do more than the current offer to increase its viability as a business. Ideally they would have liked to offer rooms inside the pub but this is not possible so these small self-contained external rooms are proposed. Photos circulated showed that while essentially timber-clad caravans with a metal roof, inside the huts would be modern with a kitchenette (obviously the pub would like them to eat main meals there), a tiny bathroom, a seating area and one double bed.

One concern raised was that they might attract glamping groups, hen or stag parties with BBQs, music around a firepit and lots of noise but The Bell Inn people said these were not their current nor target clientele and they definitely didn't want naked flames because of the fire risk to the huts themselves. Other concerns included that many of the huts were to be located against the boundary with the neighbouring property, a fact The Bell Inn had not considered until raised, and also that there would be even more cars parked on the road and blocking the pavement.

Parking had been considered; there would be nine new parking spaces, one for each hut and two to replace the two existing spaces lost to provide access. In fact, as the new parking spaces could be used by staff when huts were not booked, there would be a more spaces for the pub users at times.

The council agreed they recognised the business case but they would ask for clarification: exactly what change of use was proposed. Could it be a step towards permanent residences, even if that was not intended by the applicant? Reflecting village concerns, the response would also ask that the location of the huts be revised and there be controls on light and noise.



LADBROKE & DEPPERS BRIDGE WI

Carol Lane

For our meeting on Thursday 4th April in Ladbroke Village Hall, Alan Deeley had come prepared with a bee hive, a table of inviting jars of honey of different flavours and a table of objects to help us to understand a little bit about the fascinating life of bees.

Alan is the owner of Burton Green Honey which his wife describes as 'that not-for-profit operation that takes up all of your time', and has hives on his own four acre plot and others

in other good foraging areas. While he was talking, the hive was humming softly and Alan hoped he had brought along a hive of friendly, not nasty bees. The tee shirt he was wearing bore the words Keep Calm and Run if I Run. The ladies closest to the hive were just slightly apprehensive.

(This article may be seen as an addition to the report from Harbury WI in the last issue).

The tradition of linking bees to life events was interesting and Alan had put black ribbons on the hives when The Queen died and two blue ribbons for his two new grandsons!

The makeup of the colony was explained: a queen at the top, 50,000 female workers and 300 - 400 male drones. The queen can live for five years and, in Alan's hives, are marked with a spot of colour to denote her first year. She lays 1,500-2,000 eggs a day, determining the sex of her offspring as needed. She emits a pheromone which affects the mood of the colony and keeps the females from laying eggs.

Female workers can be a courtier to the queen, an undertaker to keep the hive clean or a guard to protect the hive. Her life span is only 6 weeks, the last 4 of which are spent foraging.

The male drones have no practical purpose and all meet in an area on the off-chance that a virgin queen will pass by. You can imagine how this information was greeted by a WI audience!



Alan told us so much more which would make this article too long but it is instructive to say that one of the threats to the bee population is the Asian hornet which is found in places in Europe and can wipe out a bee colony. Another is the fact that half of the sales of honey in supermarkets is a fraudulent product so avoid buying cheap substitutes. Pesticides also threaten the bees.

Apart from the honey and candles for sale, there was an interesting little booklet entitled 'Give Bees a Chance' listing ways of helping the bee population.

Alan imparted a wealth of information in a light and amusing way and I fear that this short article elicits more questions than answers. He can be thoroughly recommended to groups of all ages and gender. To find out more, contact 07785 306669 or burtongreenhoney@gmail.com

In the business meeting which followed, Dianne informed us that 2025 diaries are now available to order and Warwickshire Federation raffle tickets can be bought.

There was a short discussion on the make-up of the joint WI events. Ladbroke has been joined with Harbury, Stockton, Napton, Long Itchington, Priors Hardwick and Priors Marston but not all groups wish to remain in the group and others wish to join. There will be a meeting with representatives from each WI to discuss this.

There are forms for the nomination of Warwickshire Trustees if anyone would like to apply.

A leaflet about the WI bulb scheme (flowers not lighting!) was circulated.

The next meeting will be held on **2nd May in the Tom Hauley Room, Harbury**, as it is polling day in Ladbroke village hall. At the meeting we will be voting for a new president and committee members. The resolution chosen this year is 'Dental Health Matters' which we will also be able to vote on.

Light refreshments will end the evening so contributions towards these will be welcomed.



LADBROKE MATTERS

David Wright

What We Do

Our 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.

The Village Hall Website

Our village hall website can be reached at www.ladbrokevillagehall.org.uk. It contains photos of the interior and exterior of the hall and general information. You can get in touch with us via the form on the contact page.

The Millennium Green Play Area

We are actively seeking funding to be able to overhaul, replace, and/or add other items in the playground. Proceeds from this year's events will go towards this.

Our Next Event

A blind tasting of six wines with an accompanying quiz hosted by independent wine specialist Wendy Adams. It will be held on Friday 17th May in the village hall starting at 7pm at a cost of £20 per head including a cheese and biscuit platter. There will also be an opportunity to buy more wine, and a raffle - the first prize being a £50 voucher for food at the Bell Inn, Ladbroke.

Contact Graham Lewis (graylewis59@gmail.com) or Kip Warr (kip@kwarr.co.uk) for tickets. Bookings must be made by 8th May.

Other Events Planned for this Year

These include:

- A supper and film night in July
- A boules tournament in September
- A quiz night in October

TONY'S ROOFING

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Hall Bookings

To book your special celebration in our village hall, or if you wish to hold regular classes or meetings, contact Debs through the village hall website or telephone her on 07779 225105. Despite rising costs we have been able to keep our hourly booking rates at £15 per hour, or £12 for Ladbroke residents. Non-residents may be asked to pay a £50 deposit on booking.

Contact Us

If you would like to join the team, have any suggestions for future events, or any other comments please contact us through the village hall website.

Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Draw for March 2024

£50 Helen Langford	£25 Pauline Long	£10 John Lowman
£50 Sue Lord	£25 Scott and Siobhan Roberson	£10 Helen Hay
£25 Helen Morten	£10 Paul Taylor	

Margaret Bosworth



LADBROKE PHOTOGRAPHY

Kip Warr

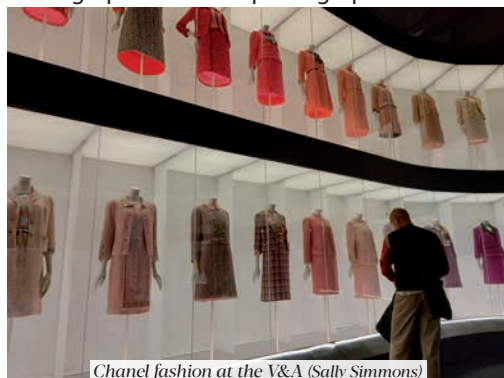
We had a wonderful collection of photographs taken at museums for our competition in April. We had steam engines and terracotta warriors, jewellery and a Vulcan bomber, a blacksmith and Chanel collection and many more. The variety and quality of the pictures were so good that we had difficulty picking winners and finished up with four pictures sharing second place!

Our programme for the coming months includes photographing church artefacts (an open event in May), slot cars in Kineton in June and our annual buffet in July. 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

Photographs are © the photographer



Chain Maker (Mike Jaye)



Chanel fashion at the V&A (Sally Simmons)



Ladbroke Photography Club Competition



LADBROKE GENERAL NEWS



LADBROKE HERITAGE

Jackie West

The **Heritage and Friendship Group** continue to meet on the first Wednesday of the month, with people dropping in and staying as long as they want between 10.30am and noon. All are welcome to come along, join in the chat and share memories, pictures etc on the theme. May's meeting will have happened before you read this but as our theme was FOOD, I expect there will have been tales of rationing, school dinners and Sunday roasts. I only came to Ladbroke in 2010, so don't have first-hand experience, but mention the name of the village to people you meet not expecting them to have heard of it and it's not long before one of them recalls the huge queues there used to be for steak dinners at our pub.

WANTED: artworks for a Phonebox Vivarium. The aquarium is going to be transformed in the coming weeks to a vivarium full of butterflies, insects and minibeasts. From mid-May children and the young at heart can pick up a colouring sheet in the church porch or make their own 2D or 3D creations. After we have laminated the pictures, we'll put everything up in the phone box for passers-by to enjoy. Please note anything that cannot be laminated needs to withstand damp or it won't last long in the phone box.

You may have seen in the press or social media that The Big Help Out is happening again this year between 7th - 9th June. In 2023, 7.2 million people took part in the Big Help Out during the King's Coronation weekend - lending a hand and making a difference in their local communities. Here in Ladbroke you can join a **Churchyard Working Party on Saturday 8th June 10am - noon**. We'll be tidying up graves of Ladbroke residents from centuries ago, the gravel paths and cutting back ivy, elder etc. There will be some secateurs and other tools to borrow but please bring your own and gardening gloves if you can. I nearly forgot to mention your reward for coming - a sense of satisfaction and free cake!

If you are new to the village or have a little more time to give than before, there are many other ways to get involved in village organisations on a regular or micro-volunteering basis. Let's have a chat in person or on 01926 810331 and see what you are interested and I'm sure I can find a way to develop or use your talents, or point you to another village group that would welcome you as a volunteer.



VILLAGE SHOW 2024

Village Show Committee

The Village Show in Harbury Village Hall is definitely not just for Harbury residents! The rules of the event categorically state that the show is open to residents of Ladbroke, so could 2024 see the first Best in Show prize go to someone living in Ladbroke?

From the heaviest marrow to the handcrafted quilts, Village Shows showcase the remarkable talents of everyday people. Whether you're a seasoned gardener, a budding baker, or an amateur artist, one or more of the 100 categories has got to be just right for you. There are

schedules for adults, and young people, so everyone age is catered for. Don't underestimate the joy of sharing your skills with others - it's a chance to shine!

Examples of entries in last year's show can be seen further on in the magazine on page 57.

This year's schedules for the show, can be downloaded from: hlnews.co.uk/harbury-village-show.html, or paper copies are available in Ladbroke Church's porch.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 7th September!!



HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Alison Biddle - Clerk to the Council

Harbury & Deppers Bridge

Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday, 19 May 2024, 7.30pm, Harbury Village Hall



One of the allotments in Hall Lane

All residents are invited to the annual parish meeting to review the past year, celebrate all the good things about our community, and discuss the topical issues of the day. Please come and meet other residents and local councillors and enjoy a glass of wine after the meeting.

Everyone is welcome!

Harbury Allotments Well-being Project

Exercise • New Friends • Fresh Fruit & Veg



We currently have some raised beds available for use by people who would benefit from spending time outdoors doing some gentle gardening and meeting other people but who are not able to look after a full size allotment. If this is you, please get in touch. Tel 01926 614646 or call into the parish council office Monday to Thursday mornings.



HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

John Holden – H&L News Correspondent

**Official minutes can be viewed on the Parish Council website
www.harbury-pc.gov.uk or obtained from the Parish Clerk, Tel: 01926 614646**

Meeting of the Parish Council held on 28th March 2024

It was possibly the forthcoming Easter bank holiday weekend that put the Councillors in a jovial mood for this meeting. There being no matters raised by members of the public so we were quickly into reports from Other Organisations. Tim Lockley reported that the Library had recently held its AGM where a new Chairman had taken office.

District Councillor Ostrander had sent her apologies to the meeting. However County Councillor Kettle was present. He advised that the County Council's budget for 2024/25 was £623m with around £400m being spent on adult social care. The council had identified internal savings of £16m. He apologised to the Council that the extension to the 40 mph limit in Bush Heath Road, which he had said would be completed by 31st March, had not happened. He was chasing this. The Traffic lights installation on Harbury Lane would be finished around the 19th April. The sails on Chesterton Windmill should be fitted by the end of the 2024. He told of his frustrations with HS2 and their lack of communication of road closures in his Ward.

Planning: There was no representation to a proposed extension and other works at 6 Mill Street. The other application was for the retention of the composting facility and offices at the former Ufton Landfill Site. The existing permission was due to expire this coming September and Biffa were seeking a 14 year extension. The Clerk from Ufton PC was present to tell of Ufton's problems with smell and flies emanating from the facility. She advised that any Harbury residents who have similar problems should report this to both the Environment Agency and SOA DC - Environmental Health. The Council agreed to support Ufton PC and make an objection.

The Council had been invited to meet with the developer who wants to turn part of Sharmer Farm (off the Fosse Way) into a Business Park. The Council were supportive of this, as it would provide local employment and would make a visit, if a suitable convenient time could be arranged.

Properties: The annual inspection of the playgrounds had identified the need for some repairs. They approved the purchase of a greenhouse and shed for the well-being project on the Pineham Farm allotments. This to be paid from the Eastfields Solar Farm grant. With the Hall Lane allotments, a meeting would shortly be held with the plot holders to record on a plan, who rented which plot, etc. The Council had received two quotes to undertake various degrees of pruning to a Beech tree in the cemetery which is close to a neighbouring property. The Council agreed that it was better for the long term to do the more extensive pruning.

Environment: Two stiles at Bridge End Farm had recently been replaced with gates. However, the land owner was concerned that the gate catches could injure animals kept in the field. The PC would replace the catches with animal friendly ones.

D Day Commemoration: The Council had been notified of a special D Day commemorative flag which could be purchased for £22 and could be flown for the celebration. An amusing debate took place as to why the Union Jack was not just as suitable? The Chairman noting

that a light weight Union Jack had recently been purchased that flew even in light winds!! In the end the Council agreed to purchase a commemorative flag, saying that it would be an investment on behalf of the Heritage Centre!

Although not part of the agenda, there was a discussion on the water running across the bottom of Farm Street and into Mill Street. Severn Trent had investigated and it was not coming from a water main. The cause appeared to be a broken land drain probably damaged when fibre cabling was laid earlier in the year. The Clerk had queried with WCC Highways as to whether the water was seeping from the road verge, in which case it would be a WCC responsibility. If it was on Binswood End Green land it would be a PC responsibility. So far no response had come from WCC. The next issue would be to identify which cabling company had dug in that area, the Clerk saying that WCC would have issued a permit for the work. This would obviously be an ongoing issue to resolve.

Date of Next meeting: Thursday 25th April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Current Parish Council members contactable via the Parish Office are:

Tim Lockley (Chairman), Julie Balch (Vice-Chair), Samantha Allen, Jess Dominick, Kate Gard, Alan Knowles, Ed Mulley, Alex Potter, Keith Thompson.

Would you like to become a Parish Councillor? Call 614646 or email clerk@harbury-pc.gov.uk for details.



HARBURY SOCIETY

David Turner

Marian Millington

Sadly, one of the Harbury Society's founder members, Marian Millington, passed away on Good Friday.

For many years Marian lived with husband, Tim, and sons, Peter and Christopher in Sutcliffe Drive.

Marian was a remarkable woman who, in middle age, offered her nursing and midwifery skills to the Save the Children Fund and worked overseas in some extremely challenging places such as Pakistan and Zanzibar, East Africa. When at home she always fully contributed to village life. Not only was Marian a founder member of the Harbury Society but also a founder member, and editor, of the Harbury News and, until quite recently, a Harbury Library volunteer.

We extend our sincere condolences to her family.

Harbury Windmill - Past, Present and Future

On Tuesday 19th March, Bill Timson, Chair of the Harbury Heritage Group, gave an entertaining presentation about the iconic Harbury Windmill to a sell-out crowd of Harbury Society members and visitors in the Tom Hauley Room.

Past

He said that the mill, which has had a turbulent history, is the tallest windmill in Warwickshire at 60 feet tall and comprises 6 floors. It is a tower mill, which means that the cap at the top, to which the sails are attached, is rotated to suit the wind conditions. Originally the cap was shaped like an upturned boat but it now has a pitched roof.



The deeds for the mill are dated 1779 and it was built between 1802 and 1812, but it is probably on the site of earlier mills. Edward I conducted a survey of England in the late thirteenth century known as the Hundred Rolls and this lists a mill in Harbury, being one of five in the area. In 1564, during the reign of Elizabeth I, Richard Willes was left an estate of which Harbury Mill formed part, by his father, who was also called Richard.



Bill informed us that there were two shocking fatalities at the mill; one occurred in 1893 when the miller, George Frederick Verney, 27, became entangled in the machinery and died in great agony. It was thought that the wind might have blown his lamp out causing him to stumble in the dark resulting in his clothes getting caught in the machinery. A witness at the inquest, Edmund Griffin, a carpenter, was the last person to see George Verney alive, when he went there to get his tools. He said he saw the miller go into the mill with his lamp and that he was quite sober. The other fatality occurred about a century earlier when the miller at the time was battered to death by the sails as he tried to adjust them in a high wind.

George Verney's widow sold the mill to the Haynes family in 1894. They were millers from Chesterton and they carried out extensive repairs before resuming milling at Harbury.

Ron and Mary Shelley used to live in the adjoining cottage and were convinced that a ghost frequented the mill - could this possibly be either of the two millers who lost their lives there?

A gale destroyed the sails in 1912 and they were never replaced. After this date various engines were used to power the milling equipment, initially steam, followed by diesel and then ultimately, in the 1930s, electricity. The Haynes family sold the mill in the 1950's to the owner of the New Inn and he, in turn, sold it to Theodore Goerres in 1964. He had been a German prisoner of war held at Birdingbury and he lived there until 1988, undertaking some repairs during that time.

Bill then called for a volunteer to help him illustrate what message the position of the sails on a windmill is meant to convey. Peter Walshe was 'volunteered' and he proceeded to give an excellent impersonation of the sails of a windmill. Apparently, when the sails are locked in a '4' position it means the miller is taking a short break. When they are locked in a 'x' position it indicates that the miller is on a longer break. When one of the sails is at an eleven o'clock position, just before it reaches vertical, it indicates a warning or an indication of a death and when one of the sails goes past the vertical position to one o'clock, it indicates joy such as the birth of a healthy baby.

Present

The mill today has a grade 2 listed status and it has recently undergone a major restoration. It was rented to a number of tenants before the present owner, Jeremy Atkins, bought the mill in 2017.

All the concrete pointing has been removed and has been re-pointed using lime mortar. Furthermore, many unsuitable bricks, from a previous restoration, have been replaced with ones closely matching the original ones (the mill, we learned, contains a total of 2779 bricks



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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

Open: Monday - Thursday
10.00am 12.00pm

CHAIRMAN:

Tim Lockley

Email: chair@harbury-pc.gov.uk

CLERK:

Alison Biddle

Email: 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

Harbury Village Library

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Offering a selection of hot and cold drinks, cakes and baked goods either served at your table inside the cafe or as takeaway items

Please check the Harbury & Ladbroke News, on Social Media, www.HarburyVillageLibrary.org.uk and village notice boards for information about current opening times



Harbury Village Library, The Wight School,
High Street, Harbury CV33 9HW
01926 258776

- library@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk

– in case you were planning on counting them!). Inside, all concrete rendering has been painstakingly removed and replaced with lime render which has greatly improved the thermal properties.

Bill thanked Jeremy, who was in the audience, for preserving this iconic structure for many future generations.

Future

As far as the future of the windmill is concerned, volunteers from the Heritage Group include the mill on guided tours around Harbury so that people can learn of its history and how important it is to preserve it for many years to come. Groups of local schoolchildren are also being taught how significant a structure the mill is and how fortunate Harbury is to, literally, have it in the centre of the village.

Bill was thanked by Joint Chair, John Smith, and the audience enthusiastically showed their appreciation.

Some dates for your diary

Friday 24th May: Leamington History Walking Tour (approx. one hour). Guided tour of part of Leamington Spa. Meet inside Leamington Visitors Centre, Pump Rooms, 10.20am (Toilets and Café inside too).

Saturday 8th June: Harbury Carnival

Tuesday 16th July: Tour of Avon Dassett followed by tea (of course!).

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, email sue@turners.co.uk or visit the website www.harburysociety.org



Our meeting on 11th April commenced with a minute's silence for Sue Grinstead, a much valued member, who died suddenly in March. Our thoughts are with John and Sue's family.

Our speaker for the evening was Heather Wilson who describes herself as an artist and maker of beautiful things. Her studio and shop are based in Hebden Bridge but she has family in Warwickshire so is often in the area and, indeed, would love to have a studio in the area. Heather proved to be a lively and amusing speaker who could transfer from a Black Country accent to a northern one etc.

Heather makes pictures that tell the stories of people's



Harbury Windmill today



lives. She accepts commissions for special occasions; Heather will collect photographs and information linked to a certain person or couple and will then build a brilliant picture linked to the people involved. Heather brought examples of work that she had done for special birthdays, weddings and anniversaries which were quite brilliant. They are framed and cost between £50 and £800. Heather also brought samples of the speciality hats which she sells. She buys a basic hat shape and decorates it to make what she described as a "mad hat". When Prince Charles visited Hebden Bridge after devastating floods he spotted Heather wearing one of her special hats.

On 15th April, 16 members met in the Tom Hauley room for a whist drive and cream tea. A most enjoyable afternoon organised by Lin.

Gill will represent Harbury and linked WIs at the National Federation AGM to be held at the Albert Hall in June. The resolution for discussion will be the problem with accessing NHS dentists. We will be discussing this resolution at our meeting on 9th May led by Anne Bloxham, a trustee from the Warwickshire Federation. If you have personal experience of this problem, our members would be pleased to hear from you.



HARBURY THEATRE GROUP

Anna Harper

As the weather gets warmer The Harbury Theatre Group are busy as bees, getting ready for our new play "Murder in the Choir" by Jane Page, directed by Wendy Lewin and Celia Stockdale. It is a brain teaser, murder mystery; one that will keep the audience on its toes until the end of the play. It is set in a village like Harbury. Everyone seems as if they're getting along until someone else comes to conduct the choir.

There is shock and disbelief as the choir members and the Police Officers are trying to solve the murder. It will be a fun evening, with witty lines to make everyone smile. There will also be some bits and bobs for your entertainment which include songs and poetry, performed by our very own local artists. If you are brave enough or just tempted to watch the play, it will be performed on the 16th, 17th and 18th May. You can buy tickets online and/or get further information at fienta.com/s/murder-mystery or from Harbury Library.

If you are interested in joining the group please come along to our AGM on 4th June at The Tom Hauley Room, Harbury Church at 7.30pm. We always welcome new faces.



FOLK CLUB

Stephen & Maureen Darby, Sue Crum

Folk Club Number 447

The theme for the evening was "Déjà vu" and, as it was, we hadn't had such an evening like this before. The audience arrived but not many performers did. It transpired that several Harbury regulars had been hit with illness and when combined with other regulars going on holidays for the Easter Week there were only five acts to fill the evening's entertainment. In the end it turned out to be a lovely evening of music, song and laughter which the audience thoroughly enjoyed.

Sue and Maureen commenced proceedings with the Everly Brothers' "Bye Bye Love", followed by "Hush Little Baby", a song collected by Cecil Sharp when he was in America. Steve was concerned about the lack of performers so decided to fill some of the time by singing his school song which is, in Latin, "Throsailia".

Peter McDonald had researched the Folk Club archives back to 1995 and was surprised that the theme had never been used before. He went on to sing "Don't Think Twice it's Alright" and Tom Paxton's 1964 song "Last Thing on my Mind" which Peter himself last sung in 1987. Debbie was definitely up for the evening's entertainment and recited two fun poems from her 2012 and 2013 repertoires, firstly "The Coffee Morning" and then the hilarious "Zona Nudista" based upon her real life experience when on holiday overseas.

Don closed the first half with Gretchen Peters', "It's Strange But True" and Derek and the Dominoes' "Layla" - his guitar work was brilliant. To make it a full Folk Club evening, all of the performers were happy to do another stint in the second half.

Debbie set the standard for the second half when she recited the challenging poem of Les Barker's, "Déjà vu". Her diction and timing were eloquent and she had us all laughing. Sue and Maureen sang The Threlfalls', "April Morning" and John Denver's, "Leaving on a Jet Plane". Peter then sang two serious songs, "The Man that I am" which was the subject of child transportation from the 1870's onwards followed by "Farewell to the Gold" written by Paul Metsers.

Don sang "Lowlands of Holland" and then played some superb Ragtime guitar music. Steve had held back the star performer Keith Donnelly for the second half and asked him to entertain us for the last 25 minutes of the evening which he certainly did. He did his own version of "Déjà vu", "Sweet Nightingale Forgets Her Song", a fantastic medley of about 20 songs, singing and playing just the first line and closing with "Ghosts of Love". In between there was his usual comedic banter and jokes.

What could well have been a very short night of entertainment due to lack of performers turned into a great evening with everyone giving their all to please the audience who gave lots of positive feedback at the end. All's well that ends well!!

The raffle raised £50 for TOFS, a charity that supports families whose child is born unable to swallow and requiring major surgery to repair the oesophagus.

Next month's Folk Club will be run by Pete Bones with the theme of "Songs of the Sea".

HARBURY FOLK CLUB - NOSTALGIA CONCERT

Doug Freeman (douglassrfreeman@gmail.com).

Our 12th annual concert was held on Saturday 13th April 2024, and, as in previous years, the concert had sold out months before. It was an evening of wonderful nostalgia from all the performers. The hall was splendidly decorated and the audience was treated to an evening of great entertainment.

The concert featured 33 local performers/support crew. Debbie Ellis, our MC, introduced the splendid variety of acts: Harbury Folk Club Orchestra, Maureen and Sue, The Somerville Gentlemen's Band, The Harvesters, Peter & Liz Bones, The Daft Dames, Rumble-O, Peter McDonald, and the Harbury Folk Club Choir.

The artists performed material from different music genres including traditional and modern folk, 50s to 80s pop, music hall, and orchestral. The audience could be heard singing along to numbers originally performed by Buddy Holly, The Beatles, Jim Reeves, Simon and Garfunkel, John Conolly, Sting, The Cure, Kate Rusby, Ralph McTell, and Les Barker, but had difficulty keeping up with the Yetties' Jug Band number. The evening finished with the performers and the audience singing "Those Were the Days" made famous in 1968 by Mary Hopkins.

From a member of the audience: "Wow! What a fantastic evening of entertainment you all gave us. We feel it was the best yet. It may be because of the reference to "Nostalgia" so much





of the music took us back to more youthful days. Please pass on our thanks to all involved as we appreciate how much work had gone into making such polished performances."

Thank you to all the amazing performers, support and setup crew who put so much effort into the concert, and our audience for supporting the event. This year's concert raised £756 for Harbury Village Hall.



We have already started planning for our 13th Annual concert on Saturday 15th March 2025, and the tickets will go on sale on Saturday 11th January 2025. If you would like to be added to our distribution list, contact me to receive details when the tickets go on sale.





HARBURY HERITAGE CENTRE

Bill Timson

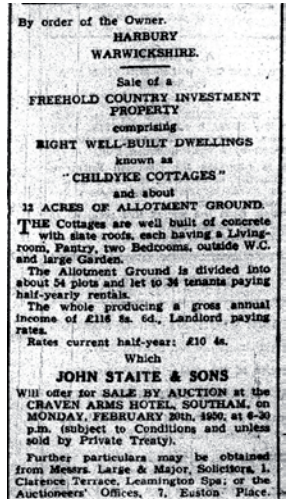
On a recent visit to Leamington library to look at back issues of the Leamington Courier, I came across an advertisement detailing the sale of the cottages at Childyke, Mill Lane, in 1950. These cottages have long since been demolished, although I have been told that near to the Blue Plaque for Harry Gardner, on the footpath beyond Mill Lane, some of the foundations can still be seen.

In our collection we have some information about the Childyke Cottages: an ink drawing by Ron Shelley, who used to live at The Old Mill House, (P2 - 0021), produced in 1976 showing eight cottages in 1914. There is also an account written by Mrs. Stowe about living in the cottages during the 1950's. (HM - 1313). According to our records they were known locally as 'The Huts' and 'Doctor's Cottages', the latter possibly named after Doctor Montgomery who at one time lived at Montgomery House, also in Mill Lane. The advertisement suggests that they were well built and certainly more than 'Huts'!

At one of our recent open days, local resident Jean Mann visited us. Jean has a wonderful memory of the village; it's fascinating listening to her recount her memories from the past about growing up in Harbury. Jean too, had been brought up in a cottage that is no longer standing – one of four, in Southbourne Place, known locally as 'Irish Yard', which was just off South Parade, opposite the village hall behind 'Holly Cottage'. We checked our catalogue and found a document (HM - 0035), showing a plan of the cottages and some information about who lived there, unfortunately there is no date given.

'**Harbury's lost houses or cottages**', depending on your definition, has now started to interest me. On further investigation, I found a document, photographs and a plan of the village centre, compiled and donated by Dorothy Elliman. The terrace of houses on Mill Street, next to The Shakespeare Public House, was demolished in the 1960s to make way for the Harbury Supermarket building and adjacent flats. The houses were deemed inhabitable and an order was granted to knock them down. Dorothy had lived in one of these houses as a child. Her detailed article provides names of the other residents and how the houses were laid out inside.

Springfield Terrace and Sussex Cottages, both built on Vicarage Lane, suffered a similar fate; although a reprieve for two of the Sussex Cottages was granted (later knocked into one), provided that the third was demolished. Once again, we have some information and a map showing their location, there is also a photograph (P2 - 0103) showing a glimpse of the terraced houses in the background. We also know that WW1 hero Raymond Brooks lived at number 5, Springfield Terrace, before he went off to war, unfortunately, never to return.



The Old Cottages - Childyke - 1914

Montgomery Cottages, *shown right*, a block of three terraced houses stood between the Great Western Hotel and the railway bridge, opposite the turning to Bishop's Itchington. The right-hand cottage was the first home of Dave and Barbara Andrews; many people will remember the couple well. Demolished, probably in the 1960s, the land now forms part of the extensive car park at the hotel.



Of course, we nearly 'lost' the Manor House in 1973. Plans to build 21 houses on the site were eventually withdrawn when the developer met stern opposition from local residents who later formed 'The Harbury Society'.

We should, of course, be grateful that the Victorian terraced cottages in Church Street, Church Terrace and Park Lane Terrace (once known as Golden Row), are still standing and in good condition. Farm Street and Chapel Street have many old dwellings that have also stood the test of time. Harbury is fortunate to have a good proportion of 'older' properties, many of them built from local stone. This brings a unique charm of its own and is often commented on by visitors from other local history groups.

I will be looking further into '**Harbury's lost houses**', so if anyone has an old photograph or relevant information of properties that are no longer standing, do please get in touch.

Other News

This month sees the start of a busy period for volunteers of the Harbury Heritage Group. We will be hosting visitors from two local history groups and members of the Warwickshire Local History Society who will be walking around the village on what we call our 'Village Trails' (a guided tour of Harbury pointing out significant landmarks and buildings of interest). At the end of each tour we will be providing refreshments in the Heritage Centre. So please do say 'hello' to our visitors if you see them around the village.

'Life in Victorian Harbury'. At long last our latest publication is available. A 108-page book divided into 13 chapters, 'paints a picture' of what life was like in Harbury 150+ years ago. It's an easy read and contains many photographs and illustrations. The cost is £6.50 and all profits will go towards running The Heritage Centre and enhancing the collection stored therein. Indeed, much of the content and photographs in the book have come from the collection. A project that started in 'lockdown' has now been realised! Vice Chairman, David Turner, has done a wonderful job of turning the 'draft' into a super-looking publication. **Please get in touch if you would like a copy.**

Email group@harburyheritage.org.uk website www.harburyheritage.org.uk

We also have a Facebook page - Harbury Heritage Centre.

You can also leave a message on 01926 713389.

Open Days - The Heritage Centre will be open to the public at the following times:

Tuesday 7th May from 7 to 9pm. **Sunday 19th May** from 2 to 4pm. Refreshments provided.

Come along to buy a copy of '**Life in Victorian Harbury**' and see our latest displays about the Manor House and the Dinosaurs found in the Quarry.

Memories of life in Harbury in the 1970s



by Carol Jackson

The village is so much bigger nowadays than when I first moved here in 1971 but there are fewer facilities and shops. The Spar shop in Chapel Street had a super delicatessen where you could buy slices of ham and other cold meats and the selection of cheeses was also good. Kath Ellis had a hairdressing salon. Muggleston's or Country Fayre was a great shop for vegetables, fruit, bird seed and flowers. It was possible to buy one carrot and two potatoes if that was all you wanted. Single people in the village nowadays have to buy 1kg of carrots because they are all prepacked.

There was also a cobbler at the far end of the shop. What is now the Post Office was also a supermarket. The hairdressing salon next to the Gamecock was originally a barber shop run by Phil Lindop. He later started to sell nick-nacks as well. The Co-op was where it is now and the Pharmacy was also part of the Co-op and it sold all sorts of hardware, knitting wool, sewing bits etc. We didn't have a Pharmacy in those days so the present Pharmacy and shop is a real asset to the village.



Harbury Co-op supermarket

Phoenix House was a Butchers with Gerry Sheasby. Further along the road at one time was a shop that sold Ladies' fashions. Then there was the Co-op Butcher. Opposite was a launderette and a hairdressers. Claws was a Midland Bank when we moved here. Since then it has been various other shops including Nifty Needle, a great shop for curtains and fabric, now moved to Kineton. Cana Wines also sold wine and some lovely cheeses. The house next door was a shop that sold all sorts of "antiques". The Bull Ring Garage has been in constant use by many of us drivers. The Parish Council and an Estate Agent now are in the front of the Garage.

The Post Office, or Top Shop, in Church Street was run by the Taylor Family - I loved buying bacon from them as Mr Taylor could cut it thicker than pre-packed. Their cheese selection was also good. I think there was another butcher opposite The Crown. In Vicarage Lane there was an Electrical shop where you could buy plugs, fuses and suchlike.

There was a village Nursery Playgroup in the Village Hall and a Playgroup in the Wight School.

The Theatre Group had been going for years when we moved in and members had to build the stage each time so the addition of a permanent stage is great. The village hall kitchen has been updated since then and anyone using it for a function no longer has to bring their own plates!

The village is so much larger now, so I don't quite understand why there are fewer facilities. Older people who don't drive have little choice with food - the only option in the village for Sunday lunch is chicken or chicken.

When the County Council wanted to close the library a group of volunteers decided that was not going to happen! Biblios café was set up to raise the money to keep the library open and is volunteer-run by village residents, using cakes also baked in the village. The church has had fantastic improvements made to the heating and lighting. The Tom Hauley Room at the back of the church is a great amenity - money left in his will by Tom Hauley, a choir member. I think the money was for "toilets" but with a little extra fundraising the room was built.

Another innovation is the Village Cinema with Fish'n'chips which is run by the Harbury W.I.

I moved into Harbury in 1971 with my late husband, Tim Percival and son Ian, Kathryn was born a year after we moved. Tim had been given the job of Village Bobby for Harbury. In those days there were village policemen in Harbury, Bishops Itchington, Long Itchington, Flecknoe and other villages. They all communicated with each other and could often nip any problems in the bud. Tim died in 1992 and that was when the village lost the local bobby and the Police House. When I re-married in 2003 Trevor and I chose to still live in Harbury.

So there have been some improvements to the Village but we have also lost a lot of things. Having said all that it is still a lovely place to live, a good playing fields for the children to run around in and the "swings" for younger children.



The Old Police House in South Parade

Life in Harbury during the early 1970s



by Alan and Sue Lord

We moved to Harbury in 1971 having bought our first house in Neales Close. That same year we had our twin boys. Dr Wilne thought they may have been the first twins in the village.

Prior to building the Queens Close and Butt Lane houses there was a field backing on to our garden which was the home of a friendly donkey. Our boys were always playing in the sand pit at the bottom of the garden with the donkey looking on. On one occasion we looked down the garden to see that the donkey had picked up one of the boys by the hood of his jacket and was dangling him over the fence.



Harbury proved very convivial with young mothers pushing their prams and pushchairs and meeting up.



*Post Office & Shop (Top Shop),
Church Street*

Mr Taylor ran the grocery store and Post Office in Church Street. He was always happy to take weekend orders and deliver them later that day. We had a choice of two butchers in High Street where there was always a great selection of meat and invariably rabbits for sale.

Prior to the building of the current Rugby Club the teams would meet in the Crown after the game where they would be served their pie and chips. Alan worked in the Crown bars in those early years and enjoyed the very different clientele in the public bar and lounge bar which were very separate then. The bar would be full of bikers who were noisy but well-behaved. The lounge was often occupied by well-heeled country folk. This sometimes included the 70's TV icon Eddie Calvert (The Man with the Golden Trumpet) when visiting friends.

The concept of a village magazine was under discussion during the latter part of 1973 and the first issue was produced in May 1974. The original editors were Diana Holt, Marian Millington, John Moore and Alan Lord, who were part of a much larger team.

Each article was typed up and printed by Sudak of Leamington. Every edition was hand-collated and stapled using a wooden frame and stapling arrangement made by Alan.

Having moved many times including living in America we are now in Ladbroke. The same community spirit in Harbury and Ladbroke continues today and is enjoyed by us just as we did over 50 years ago as young parents.



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HARBURY TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Ron Temple

In the last edition of the Harbury and Ladbroke News we had an article from Henri Boizette who is the Chairman of the Samoisi-sur Seine Twinning Group. The magazine cover depicted the Marie of Samoisi-sur-Seine and the Editorial reflected on our visit to France last year.

In his piece, Henri spoke about the fact that our friendship with Samoisi has been in place for twenty five years, with families from both Harbury and Samoisi visiting each other on many occasions. Henri also mentioned our fabulous visit to Samoisi last year where we made most welcome. It was my first visit to their village and it was really nice to see the long-term and meaningful friendships that have been made between families from here and from France.

Samoisi-sur-Seine is a lovely village with a lot of history. On 17th May our friends will be joining us here in our village. Like Samoisi, Harbury has a lot of history to explore. One of the big events in our past was the English Civil War. We have arranged for us all to meet with some folk who will, dressed as Civil War soldiers, give us an insight to what the war meant for Harbury and will demonstrate the firing of muskets!

We will all host a safari supper on Saturday evening with Sunday free to show our guests the sights of Warwickshire. Sunday evening will see a farewell dinner at the Crown.



HARBURY FUTURE ENERGY –AN UPDATE

Bob Sherman

The HFE charging station project continues to progress to installation at a, shall we say, restrained pace. This has nothing to do with the local team but with Warwickshire County Council's careful delivery. However, we now have a project officer assigned specifically to HFE and we look forward to moving forward with him. The next step is to send out the tender documents so that a contractor can be chosen. This, we believe, is imminent. Until a contractor is selected and contracts drawn up I can't advise you on the timings of operations. But we will definitely be getting an EV charging station in Harbury! Whilst this may not deliver the full community benefits we originally had in mind (financial support for e-Wheels and other relevant community carbon reduction possibilities) it will make faster electric car charging possible for people without a domestic charger.

Meanwhile HFE, which is now a Community Interest Company, is looking at what our next project might be to benefit the community and earn income to distribute to relevant village

proposals. We are considering two ideas, energy storage and district heating hubs. Heating consumes far more energy (and cash) than any other domestic usage. What we would be looking at is a way to provide low cost and low carbon heating as a community-owned project to a group of houses rather than each individual house having a separate heat pump. This would suit terraced houses or any group of houses in close proximity. The hope would be to avoid digging up the roads yet again by using a 'soft dig' to deliver the heat. There is more than one way to source the heat and we have no firm view at the moment of the best option. We would be interested to hear the views of fellow residents on the idea of district heating hubs in Harbury.

The energy storage idea would also aim to be a community venture. In this case it would be about balancing the grid at times of peak demand, storing energy when demand is low and costs are low and selling back to the grid when demand is high and prices higher. The difference in the two would deliver the income.

Technologies to respond to the serious situation that faces us all because of the climate and energy emergency are developing very fast these days. There may yet be another idea on our agenda before too long.

Bob Sherman - shermanbob55@gmail.com



HARBURY JUNIORS NETBALL CLUB

Abi Watson

What better way could you spend a Sunday, the sun shining and watching some fabulous netball! The tournament ended the season amazingly, giving the girls the opportunity to use their training and skills they have developed over the season to really make their mark on the league tables. All teams finished in the top half of the tables, and we are really impressed with the hard work and dedication that they have put into their teams! A special shout out to our coach Jane Buxton who won the special person award as well as Hillary Wilson who won umpire of the year award. Go Harbury!





HARBURY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Steven Kittendorf

Our first league match of the season was played at home last September against Worcester IIs; Harbury coming out on top with a very comfortable win. The return fixture and final game of the campaign was played out under storm "Kathleen" and the opposition looking to avenge their earlier defeat using "Home" advantage.

Harbury opted to play with the conditions in the first half to try and build a lead. However, Worcester started the game in the ascendancy and despite having most of the early possession they were unable to breach the visitors' defence. Slowly but surely, Harbury responded and ran in three tries; converting one, to lead 0-17 before stern words were had at half time. Worcester were determined not to roll over and scored a couple of tries whilst the visitors dominated the second half and scored a further four tries to finish the game 12-39.

The win secured Harbury's position at the top of the table and promotion next season. From 22 matches, the Village side won 20, drew 1 and lost 1, racking up 100 league points. Harbury scored a massive 1,017 points (an average of 46 points per game) and conceded 177 points, making a respectable points difference of 840 points. Of course, none of this will come as surprise to many of our readers as much more was reported in the local press putting Harbury on the map!



Not to let the first team grab all the limelight, the 2s travelled over to Coventry Welsh the following week and ran in twelve tries together with seven conversions to take the win 5-81.

The following week they came up against much stronger opposition over at Trinity Guild. Whilst the home side scored three converted tries Harbury replied with five tries and one conversion making the final score 21-27.

This was the 2s first adventure into the leagues and they won eleven of the nineteen games played which sets them up nicely for next season.

Minis and Juniors

It was unfortunately another month of cancellations for our M and J fixtures, but both Minis and Juniors managed a couple of fixtures; we had some celebrations with some of our rugby Mums on Mother's Day and a bit of training to keep on top of those skills. Our U14s and U15s had some success in their respective semi-finals and will be playing their finals on Sunday 28th April. Even though the weather has been against us, when we've played, there has been some great rugby on display.

Our colts have had a mixed bag of results against some strong opposition with some great wins along the way. They've joined up with the seniors for training on Tuesdays, which has been great for both sets of players.

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 TENNIS CLUB

Colin Mercer

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/HarburyTC>

The 2024 AGM saw the end of an era when Mary and Keith Thompson announced they were hanging up their rackets. Founder members of the club in 1980, between them they have made huge contributions both on and off the court. Mary has been on the committee for 30 years plus, and secretary for many years. During that time, she has been a stalwart for the club, always reliable and involved in virtually every fundraising event. Keith was also an integral part of building the courts all those years ago, even driving the digger for the groundworks! Thank you both, and best wishes for the future.



Keith and Mary with Colin Mercer

Nigel Eaton, our match secretary, gave a summary of the Banbury Winter league teams' performances. The wet weather and numerous postponements had made it a difficult job for team captains to arrange fixtures and there was an overlap with the summer season which had already started! In the floodlit format the "A" team came sixth of seven teams in a very competitive first season in the top Division One. The "B" team playing in Division Three is in 3rd place with one match to play and the prospect of finishing runners up. The "C" team finished third in Division Four. In the weekend format, Division 3, Harbury also finished third. Overall, it has been a very good season and feedback from players was that it had been very enjoyable.



As mentioned, the summer season has already started, and both our teams have been in action. The "A" team playing in Division One lost their first match at Banbury 3-6, and the "B" team playing in Division Three won theirs 5-4 at home against Charlbury.

Congratulations to Sue and Josh, winners of the annual April BACS tournament, (formally known as the Cheque Book Tournament) organised by Emma and Josh standing in for Peter who was away. Twelve players played four rounds of 12-minute matches with points for games won. There were some contentious sudden death points, but the eight with the highest points then played a semi-final, Josh & Sue v Nigel & Ian and David & Clare v Jeunine & Steve. The final was Steve & Jeunine v Josh & Sue with Josh and Sue the overall winners.

The Spring/Autumn coaching programme started after Easter with some changes to coaches. We said a grateful farewell to our inspiring and talented Head Coach Lianne Candappa, who has coached at Harbury on a Friday morning for the last five years.

She will continue to support the club through our coaching partnership with Coolsportz Tennis but due to other commitments, has handed the Friday morning sessions over to Ed Spilman. She will be missed!

Ian Shorrocks continues the Monday and Friday afternoon sessions which cater for all Junior age groups. He also has groups for adults, Rusties/Beginners on Mondays (7.00-8.00pm), and on Fridays the Walking Tennis group (3.00-4.00pm) and Cardio Tennis (7.00-8.00pm)

All sessions are open to non-members and individual coaching can be arranged. For more details, please contact Lianne Candappa at: lianne@coolsportz.co.uk or phone/text 07919 104093.

SCOUTS 1st HARBURY SCOUTS

John, Andy, Joe, Simon & Rory (YL) - Scout Leaders

We have some spaces for young people aged 10 -14 years.

We have a varied programme of activities, in our Summer months Harbury Scouts can find themselves engaged in range of scouting activities in and away from our hut base in Harbury, including:

- ❖ Games
- ❖ Night Hikes
- ❖ Knots & Pioneering
- ❖ Map Reading
- ❖ Fire lighting & Outdoor Cooking
- ❖ First Aid
- ❖ Making things – pop-pop boats
- ❖ Karts and orienteering at Burton Dassett
- ❖ Bike maintenance
- ❖ Kayaking

A no-obligation taster session, an opportunity for new young people to try out Scouts over a few weeks to see if it's something they'd like to do regularly, is always available

We also have a troop camp time planned locally at the end of May.

If you know of any young person that wants to join in the fun, or have any questions please email harburyscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk



GUIDES AND SCOUTS SUPPORT

David Browne

Notice of GASS AGM

Harbury Guides and Scouts will be holding their Annual General Meeting on 11 June at 7:30pm at the Scout Hut.

If you are involved in Guides or Scouts in the Village, either as a parent or a helper, please do come and join us for a review of what all of our sections have been up to across the year, what the GASS committee have been up to (for GASS, not our holiday pictures) and some of what everyone is planning for the next year.

As always, we will also need to elect officers to the GASS Committee. We have a number of vacancies on the current committee and are always keen to have new volunteers regardless of the amount of time they are able to give. It is not necessary to hold a formal 'committee post' as long as you are willing to offer some of your time to contribute to planning and delivering our activities to support the uniformed sections in their work with the young people of the Village.

As we are always wanting to develop our facilities and equipment to improve the activities we can offer our Scouts and Guides, we are particularly interested in anyone who might have a passion for fundraising or, anyone who would be interested in continuing to raise our profile through social media platforms as a media officer.

If you would like to learn more about what it is like to be on the GASS committee or are interested in joining, do contact the Chairperson, David, on 07792 514647 or g.a.s.s.harbury@hotmail.com who will be able to talk this through.

I hope to see many of you there on 11th June! If it helps encourage you along, we can offer tea and biscuits!



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



World Health Day

School Council organised a fruit sale for World Health Day. They wrote a letter to Tesco in Southam, who kindly provided the fruit for free.



They created posters for advertising and promotional leaflets. They spent an hour preparing the fruit and making the delicious fruit pots and kebabs. They raised £145.00 for outside fitness equipment for the school.

Year 1 visit to Leamington Gurdwara

Year 1 had a fantastic visit to the Leamington Gurdwara as part of our RE topic on 'Sikhism'. We received a guided tour of the prayer rooms and explored the history of Sikhism. They





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WHATS COMING UP

COMEDY NIGHT & TAPAS

May 13th, Ryan is back with a new group of comedians to tickle your funny bone! Enjoy Tapas at 6.30pm and pre-drinks followed by a live comedy set at 8pm. £19.95pp

D-DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY

June 6th we will be hosting a vintage evening with era music, themed menu and more. Save the date in your diary!

FATHERS DAY

Treat Dad to the best Sunday Lunch in the shire on June 16th

QUIZ & DINNER

July 1st, Bradley will be revving up the mic and ready to test your brain matter with the new Bell Inn pub quiz! Start the evening from 6.30pm with some pre-game food! £12.50pp, find out more whats on the menu & book direct with the team.

MID-WEEK OFFERS!

TUESDAY NIGHT is PIE NIGHT:

Chef's Pie and a selected drink £16.96.

THURSDAY NIGHT is STEAK NIGHT:

All steaks include a 125ml glass of House Wine

FISH & CHIP TAKEAWAY FRIDAYS!

Fish & Chips for £12.95 to Take Away 4pm - 6pm!

FRIDAY - HAPPY HOUR 4PM - 7PM:

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were so impressed with how much the children already knew about the religion! We were kindly invited to the kitchen (Langar) where we were offered some food to taste. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and had a brilliant day.

Think Tank visit

Year 4, as part of their science topic all about electricity, enjoyed a fantastic visit to The Think Tank in Birmingham. They were able to access the workshops and all the exhibits. A favourite was the sensory garden.



Volunteering

We are always after any adults to come into school and volunteer. This could include help with mathematics recall or reading. If you are interested please contact the school office on 01926 612656.



HARBURY VILLAGE HALL

Andy Rutherford

We are getting to that time of year, the season of Annual General Meetings. The Village Hall is no exception with our AGM scheduled for Wednesday 15th May in the Village Hall at 7pm. You would be most welcome if you would like to attend.

Our 2023 accounts will be presented and discussed at the meeting. In light of the price increases we were obliged to make last year, I am pleased to say that at the end of 2023 the Village Hall made a very small loss of approximately £100. Not a bad result from a non-profit making charity.

Booking levels at the Hall have been excellent, with the WI running popular Saturday Cinema events during the winter, a very well-attended free seated exercise session on Tuesdays, and a lot of weekend events for wedding parties, markets, model train enthusiasts, bell ringers, cultural societies, and more. There have been some difficulties with car parking around the Hall, particularly with the recreation ground car park having some extension work carried out. The actual number of parking places at the Hall is quite limited, and there have been instances where people hiring the Hall have been unable to access the Hall to unload equipment.

Earlier this month the Harbury Folk Club, Orchestra, Choir, and Singers, held the annual Concert at the Hall for the benefit of the Village Hall funds. It is an excellent event, much appreciated by the Hall, and the donation is very welcome. We have identified that the stock of chairs in the main Hall is ageing fast with some 20 chairs out of 130 being completely unusable, and others heading that way. We need to raise funds to buy new ones at an estimated cost of £15,000.

At the AGM on 25th March we said goodbye to Sharon Hancock who had worked tirelessly as Chair of our steering committee for several years. We wish her and John well in this second retirement!

A presentation was also made to Janice Montague who acted as temporary library lead until January this year. Both Sharon and Janet continue as volunteers in the cafe and library and are able to offer sage advice to us all.

In the library we are continuing to clear space and weed out old and unwanted books. We have had many positive comments about how it looks much more open with the cafe and library feeling as one. The children's area is more comfortable and we are continuing to develop this. The next area to look at is the computer and work area. As some of you will know the library needs a new heating system at which point we will lose the large radiators. This will give us the small amount of extra space that we crave. All ideas welcome!



Janice Montague and Sharon Hancock

A community library is the perfect place for community events. Do you fancy a daytime book club, or would your children enjoy a lego club?? Would you like to start a club?

A new initiative will be a carer's support group. This will meet, in the first instance, on a Thursday lunchtime, once a month 12.30-1.30pm. First date is 23rd May, followed by 20th June. Come along for a chat, and even to offer your thoughts about what is needed and how the group may run. Coffee and biscuits will be available. Judy Timson will be there to coordinate the group.

Pop up poetry events have started and been well received. These are free to attend. Our next scheduled one will be on 11th May at 11.45am. If inspired we have plenty of poetry books on the shelf.

Also on our shelves now are the "Quick Read" series. These are short books designed for adults, written by great authors. If you find a long novel not to your taste these might be the books for you.

If you want to know about any of these events, wish to come to a new club or have library ideas please do get in touch: library@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk



HARBURY CLUB & INSTITUTE

Club Committee

We have had a massive clear out of our store room and are in the process of revamping it into a Games Room for children. The children currently have access to a range of games in what used to be called the TV room which is accessed via the lounge bar. For a variety of reasons this is not acceptable so we are changing things around. The old TV room can then be made into a proper room for meetings to be held in, instead of having to share the space with various toys, games, and football tables!

Due to lack of support for the two-weekly Bingo sessions we have reverted back to monthly sessions. Prizes will be fixed at £3 for a line and £10 for a house. We hold a raffle with some fabulous prizes all donated by members so come and join us. The 'snowball' (a house in 45 calls) stands at £70 and rolls over each month if it is not won. We will be asking non-members to pay more to play this game in fairness to our members.

Dates for your diary

10th May Live music with The SKA man (SKA, and reggae music)

17th May Bingo

25th May Live music Devil's Hand

1st June Live music Chain of Fools

14th June Bingo

15th June Live music The Jolly Rogers (Rock covers)

22nd June Live music Loving the Alien (David Bowie tribute) featuring the Club's one and only Mark Smith!

Another local favourite 'Crocket' has been getting together a group of like-minded musicians some Sunday afternoons for a 'Jam' session. Bring an instrument or just your voice to join in with a sing-along. We are hoping to persuade him and his fellow musicians to make this a regular event so please look out on Facebook for dates for your diary.

Popular demand will see the return of the Jaykays (60s and 70s music) and new to the Club Richard Mills 'Bishop Sounds', will be putting on a gig, 80s and 90s disco. Dust off that Double Denim and join us. Watch out on Facebook for dates to be announced.

Please let us have your feedback (positive or negative) by email and tell us about what type of events you would like to see happening at your Club.

harburyvillageclub23@gmail.com.

For membership enquiries or room hire please email harburyvillageclub23@gmail.com or phone (after 5pm) 01926 612498 or why not pop in and see us.

Our opening hours are:

Monday to Thursday 5pm to 11pm, Friday 5pm to Midnight, Saturday and Sunday 12pm to Midnight.

We look forward to seeing you soon.



GARDEN JOTTINGS

Christine Dakin from Bridge Nursery

The first three months of this year have caused me to be constantly grumbling about the excess amount of rain and lack of sunshine. Let's hope that the next few months don't swing the other way so that we are all desperate for some gentle summer showers. One way to help alleviate this is to mulch the borders with compost to help keep the moisture from evaporating. I have six, yes, six compost bins and put a mixture of leaves, grass cuttings, peelings, manure if I can get it and spent compost from the nursery in layers. Avoid using any seeding weeds or you will have them all over the garden. It gets turned once and then maybe nine months later it is ready to barrow into the garden.

Jobs include...Apply lawn fertiliser...Plant bedding plants later in the month...Sow seeds of sweet corn, cucumbers and courgettes, also runner beans...Plant out cauliflowers and summer cabbages...Put rose fertiliser round roses...Now is a good time to freshen up house plants by re-potting them with new compost and, later in the month have them outside...Keep an eye out for ladybirds and relocate them to any greenfly which you might have...There are so many slugs around after the perfect conditions for them earlier this year. Try using nematodes to control them rather than slug pellets, much more ecological.



The garden here is open for the NGS each weekend through until the end of September. Donations amounted to £1800 last year for this wonderful charity. I hope you can visit and say hello.



NATURE NOTES

Martin & Amanda Randall

If you have been to Ufton Fields nature reserve you may have noticed a large number of small hummocks in the meadow area. These are not molehills but anthills. They are the surface structures of very large ant nests made by the yellow meadow ant. They make their communal nest underground, up to a metre deep, and the sand and soil excavated by them forms the above-ground anthill.



*Ufton anthills
(Martin Randall)*

Yellow meadow ant workers are very small, about 2 to 3mm long, and pale yellow in colour.

These ants are rarely seen above ground and have only microscopic eyes because they spend virtually the whole of their lives within the nest, finding their way around by scent and touch. They occasionally feed on smaller insects but mostly they eat 'honeydew', which is the sugar-rich waste product of aphids that feed on the roots of the plants growing above. The ants are like farmers who tend to their herd of aphids, protecting them and moving groups of these tiny insects around to different roots to produce the best honeydew. These specialised aphids are much smaller than the greenfly and blackfly that we are familiar with on our

garden plants. At least 22 different species of them have been recorded inside the ant nests and nowhere else.

A mature yellow meadow ant nest can contain about one hundred thousand workers along with the queen. In common with other ants, the yellow meadow ant colony produces winged females and males, which leave the nest in July and August for a nuptial flight prior to mating. The mated female then returns to the ground as a queen to found a new colony and, eventually, a new anthill.

The mounds constructed by the yellow meadow ant are an indicator of old pastures in lime-rich grasslands. They used to be very abundant especially in the south and west of England, however there was a big eradication campaign in the late 1700s with large-scale removal of mounds and ploughing to improve pasture. Mounds are usually only actively occupied by the ants for ten to twenty years, although abandoned mounds on undisturbed ground can persist for up to one hundred and fifty years. The satellite image from Google Earth shows the large number of yellow meadow ant mounds of various sizes and ages at the Ufton reserve.

Short grass in grazed pasture ensures that the ant nest gets enough sun to stay warm, up to ten degrees warmer than the surrounding air, resulting in a faster development of the ant larvae. Also the raised mound has better drainage, which results in markedly different vegetation from the surrounding area; and the north, south, east, and west sides can also show differences in vegetation depending on aspect to the sun. In effect, these are mini biodiversity hotspots that are also used by other insects, including several species of grasshoppers and the chalk hill blue butterfly. In this way, the presence of yellow meadow anthills greatly increases the number of species of both fauna and flora associated with this type of grassland. The yellow meadow ant is therefore classed as a 'keystone species' because it plays a crucial role in maintaining the structure of an ecological community and affects many other organisms in an ecosystem.

One of those other organisms is the green woodpecker. It is the largest of the three woodpeckers that breed in Britain with a diet dominated by ants, particularly those associated with open meadowland. This woodpecker has green upperparts with a paler belly, a bright yellow rump and red on the top of its head. Green woodpeckers rarely drum on trees like other woodpecker species, instead they are more noticeable by their distinctive 'laughing' call, which gives this woodpecker its dialect name of 'yaffle'.



Yellow meadow ant mound
(Martin Randall)



Anthills at Ufton from above
(Martin Randall)

We frequently hear and see them at the Ufton reserve, often on the ground using their strong beak to probe and dig into ant colonies and eat the inhabitants, which they extract with a long barbed tongue. They are shy birds that fly at the first hint of danger, so it is difficult to get too close to them before they disappear into the surrounding bushes.

One final observation for this month's Nature Notes is the late arrival of swallows this year. Our first report of the return of these birds locally was for 14th April, which is about a week later than usual. It is possible that the recent wet and windy weather has held back their return migration this spring, so we are hoping to see more arriving over the rest of the month.



HARBURY GENERAL NEWS



HARBURY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Susan Ostrander (Cllr Harbury Ward)

A slightly extended report this month as it has been a year since I was elected as your District Councillor. It has been a very busy first year for the Council – some highlights:

May 2023

- Local elections on 4th May 2023.
- A change of political control at the District council to the new Liberal Democrat administration with formal hand over on 24th May 2023.

June 2023

- Stratford on Avon District Council opens the process for applications for Infrastructure Projects through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) and invites eligible local organisations to submit expressions of interest for the second round of funding allocation.

July 2023

- Cabinet agrees to re-introduce a Concessionary Parking Permit for state pension aged District residents.

August 2023

- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Spending Round for Stratford-on-Avon District is now open for applications for funding towards infrastructure projects and improvements.

September 2023

- Cabinet agrees to support the designation of an area north of Stratford, called Lench Meadows, as a Local Nature Reserve and be managed for wildlife for the long-term future.

October 2023

- Planning Advisory Service team visit takes place with the aim of improving the Council's planning service.
- Concessionary parking permit scheme for residents of state pension age goes live.
- Cabinet agrees the final list of projects to be funded by the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) and the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). Thirty seven community projects across the District are granted funding including Harbury Future Energy Project (£2,500) and Harbury Parish Council electric vehicle charging/car park extension (£46,000)

November 2023

- Cabinet approves a process for assessing and distributing resources of the Community Climate Change Fund. An opportunity for parish councils, as well as properly constituted community and charity groups to apply for grant funding for green initiatives in their local community.
- Podback (coffee pods) recycling scheme is launched.

December 2023

- Full Council adopts a new Council Plan for 2023 – 2027. We aim to be recognised as a leader for supporting the health and wellbeing of our residents, protecting our environment, delivering sustainability, and innovation. The Council Plan may be found on the District Council's website by putting 'Council Plan' into the search box.

January 2024

- The new administration's budget proposals come out for public consultation.
- Cabinet approves new medical and community facilities in Upper Lighthorne. The lack of medical facilities here has had a knock-on effect in Harbury with residents from Lighthorne using medical facilities in Harbury and other local villages/towns.
- Community Climate Change Fund goes live.
- Cabinet agrees to allocate Community Infrastructure Levy funds to five projects across the District.

February 2024

- The Council's budget is set with no cuts to services. This includes funds for Rural Crime Advisers and funds to support the UBUS service. Funds have also been set aside for the District Council to investigate the use of waste vegetable oil in their refuse truck fleet, which can cut carbon emissions by up to ninety per cent.
- Stratford on Avon District Council's Rural Crime Advisers win a Neighbourhood Policing Award from Warwickshire Police.
- Stratford-on-Avon District Council expands online access to its meetings. All public meetings can be viewed as Council Meeting Webcasts on the District Council's website or as recordings on the Youtube channel.

March 2024

- Corporate Peer Challenge takes place with the aim of improving the Council's work.
- Residents in Stratford-on-Avon District are still some of the best recyclers in England, as the District Council reaches fifth in the top ten Councils for reuse, recycling and composting.

- New Grounds Maintenance Contract for the District Council

And some recent news:

- Home Upgrade Grant (HUG): The income eligibility criteria for Home Upgrade Grant - phase 2 (HUG2) funding has increased to £36,000 a year. Some residents who may not have applied previously because they were over the first £31,000 threshold may now be eligible.

Even though we are now entering the warmer months, residents are encouraged to apply to grants as soon as possible because there is a 3-6 month time frame from application to installation. Apply now to be warm NEXT winter.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council works alongside local energy experts Act on Energy, to help administer all winter warmth grant funding. There are many types of funding. To read more about them and how to apply you can look on the Act on Energy website or contact them direct on via phone 0800 988 2881 or email advice@actonenergy.org.uk

Please remember that I am here as your District Councillor. If there is anything that you think I might be able to help with, please do get in touch:

Sue.ostrander@staratford-dc.gov.uk or susan4harbury@gmail.com



HARBURY LOCAL MARKET

Steve Ekins

We have two Markets this month – Saturdays 4th and 25th May 10.00am - 12.30pm in the Village Hall.

The Charities being supported by the Market, will be GASS on the 4th and Harbury Rugby Club on the 25th.

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.



CONNECTIONS DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CAFÉ

Janice Montague

Do you care for or know someone who is living with dementia, or who would like some company? Can we suggest that you bring them along to our monthly meeting in the Tom Hauley Room (behind the church in Harbury)? Each two hour session is designed to be a relaxed environment in which people and their carers can chat with our friendly volunteers and do puzzles or play board games together, join in with a song or two and enjoy a hot drink and some cake. There is no charge for any of this. No need to book, just turn up at our next meeting which is **Wednesday 15th May**, or every month on the third Wednesday from 2-4pm. Please put the dates in your diary - we look forward to welcoming you.

If you would like further details, or to ask about transport to and from, you can contact Jill Baker (01926 612483) or Janice Montague (01926 612340).

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 21st May 2024 at 7.30pm. Our next subject for discussion is - 'Racial Justice: Why should we care?'

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

**HARBURY & BISHOPS ITCHINGTON
PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG)***Judy Timson*

At the end of March, we held an event for local carers at the Harbury Surgery. The number of people who attended was more than we could have hoped for, with the surgery waiting room full to almost capacity. Cakes made by PPG volunteers and the surgery staff were also well received!

The aim of the event was to provide the carers with an opportunity to chat with others in similar circumstances and to offer them some quality time out!

A representative from the Parkinson's Society and Stroke Community Service, also attended and chatted to many of the carers about their roles and provided information leaflets. In addition, we also had two social prescribers attend who gave an overview of the role they provide. Interestingly, very few in attendance knew about this important service, and as such the prescribers were kept busy during the event by people approaching them for information on the various services they offer. You can find out more about this valuable service on this link: www.wepcn.co.uk/health-wellbeing-team

It was a privilege to speak with some of those attending who gave accounts of their situations, and the challenges they meet day to day when caring for a loved one. Some spoke about the difficulties they experienced as they tried to navigate social care and/or NHS systems, and this with feelings of social isolation were a common theme. However, judging by the chatter and air of warmth and friendliness in the room it was clear this opportunity for 'me time' was just what the Doctor ordered!

As well as having delicious cake and coffee, those present were treated to a complimentary hand massage provided by Harbury beauty therapist Sarah Terry of 'Top to Toe', and which was described as 'wonderfully soothing and relaxing'.

Following this successful event the idea of having a 'Carer's Group' in the village was born.

I am pleased to say that the first meeting will be held in **Harbury Library on Thursday 23rd May 2024 at 12.30 - 1.30pm**. We look forward to seeing you there.





LITTER PICK IN HARBURY

Ian Reynolds

Next month our litter pick will be on Saturday 1st June 10.00 -11.00am, meet at the village hall car park, litter pickers, hoops and bags provided. All welcome but not too suitable for young children as we do the roadsides.



HARBURY CARNIVAL GAMES WEEK 2024

Mike McBride & John Broomfield

Pub Games

Last year we had EIGHT teams take part but we can easily accommodate a few more. Although we try and have some outdoor games, those of you who have come along in the past will know that we can move inside should the weather not be “flaming June”. Over the years we have had hundreds of people (and generations) join us to play a variety of games.

This year they will start Monday 3rd June through to Thursday 6th June, commencing at 7.30pm each evening.

The schedule this year will be:

Monday 5th – Horseshoes Tuesday 6th – Table Skittles

Wednesday 7th – Aunt Sally Thursday 8th – Full skittles

We will let you know the venues for the games later.

While there is a maximum of 12 players per team, only four players are needed for each game so there is nothing to stop a team having just four players as long as they are happy to turn up to play every evening. This gives plenty of flexibility for friends, neighbours, and colleagues etc. to get together and enter a team, so why not come along and enjoy the fun?

The games usually last a couple of hours. Points are allocated for each event and the team with most points at the end of the four nights will be presented with the Pub Games shield. We do ask for an entrance fee of £1 per person per team.

Entry forms will be available in the local pubs and club in May or you can contact me on 01926 612421 or John Broomfield on 01926 614258 to register or if you have any questions.



SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mike McBride

The committee have decided that we will have a summer outing this year and that it will be a trip to Bath, “An elegant city full of traditional heritage, contemporary culture, green spaces and a few surprises”. We last went there in 2005, so some things may have changed.

Keeping with tradition, we will be going on the Wednesday after Harbury carnival so that will be 12th June. Invitations will be delivered to those on our distribution list in early May.

Last year we hired one coach and will be doing the same this year. Again, fuel costs and inflation have meant that the cost of the coach hire has increased and so we will be asking for

a voluntary contribution to the cost of the trip of £5.00 per person, which still means that the trip will be mostly subsidised.

Could we ask that these voluntary contributions be returned with your completed invitations, should you wish to come on the trip? Thank you.

Seats will be allocated as the invitations are returned for collection from the Village Library by **Friday 24th May** which gives us time to confirm the coach booking. As we have one coach, first come, first served.

Prior to the trip will be the Harbury Carnival on Saturday 8th June. We will be running a sweet tombola as a fundraiser so chocolate and or sweet contributions are welcome and can be delivered to Julie at 32, South Parade.

If you have any queries or require further information, please call Julie Clarke on 612066 or Mike McBride on 612421



VILLAGE SHOW - 7TH SEPTEMBER 2024

Village Show Committee

The organisation for this year's Village Show is nearing completion. The Village Hall has been booked, judges for the various sections have been tracked down (no easy matter) and the schedules have been cogitated over. Hopefully the categories chosen will enable both adults and young people the opportunity to showcase both their talents and interests.

There are sections for Vegetable Growing, Fruit Growing, Flowers, Flower Arranging, Food Production (jams, chutneys, baking etc.), Art and Craft and Photography, so hopefully something for everyone! There is the possibility of winning a cash prize or even a trophy that will have the winner's name engraved upon!

The Schedules for both adults and young people can be downloaded from: <https://hlnews.co.uk/harbury-village-show.html>, and paper copies will be available from Harbury Library, The Post Office and The Milk Shed., so grab your copy and start planning!

We will always welcome new members to the committee, so if you are interested in supporting us, please contact Gordon Robbins g.d.robbins@outlook.com. Being a member of the committee does not exclude you from entering the show.

Some Entries from Last Year's Show, demonstrating the diversity of categories.





WEDNESDAY WALKERS

Gillian Hare

Another month of juggling our programme has avoided most of the mud as well as most of the rain. One interesting detour took us through some charming back alleys of Kineton and ended in an interesting cafe which had diversified from a family run garage but kept a lot of the ambience with some unusual memorabilia. Now it does seem to be slowly drying up and we look forward to seeing some bluebells. Though the early season may mean they will beat us to it, all are welcome to join us as we visit Badby woods on 8th May, or Austy wood on 15th May, and on 5th June there will be a look at the butterfly bank by the canal at Fenny Compton with the optional extra of a “pub meal” afterwards. The full programme is on the diary page, or ring Gillian on 614809.



HARBURY SWIFT VILLAGE - UPDATE

Amanda Randall

In the months since I last wrote about Harbury’s swifts, these incredible migrators have been living and feeding in Central or West Africa. The British Trust for Ornithology has followed the migration route of swifts by using tiny geolocators attached to adult breeding birds. The map shows the route taken by swift number A320 from when she left the UK on 23rd July 2010 until she returned on 8th May 2011, having spent the winter in equatorial and southern Africa. In April 2011 she started her return journey. First, she made a mammoth three-day flight across the Atlantic Ocean from Congo to Liberia. Then after ten days of feeding, she crossed the Sahara desert and took a further week to return to Cambridgeshire, where she had nested in previous years.

Swifts were once very common in Harbury, but the number of swifts returning here (and to other parts of the UK) from Africa each spring has fallen by around half in the past twenty years. Swifts choose to nest in the eaves of roofs or under house tiles.



Credit: www.hampshireswifts.co.uk/the-science

Once a pair of swifts has chosen their nest, they will return to it every summer for the rest of their lives. When roofs or eaves are renovated, the swifts' lifelong nests are blocked up and they are unable get in. This loss of their traditional nest sites is one of the causes of the alarming decline in swifts in the UK.

You may remember that in 2022, Harbury Parish Councillors agreed to help swift conservation by generously funding the supply and installation of bespoke swift nesting boxes, sited high up on houses throughout Harbury. Around fifty boxes were installed in March and April 2023.

Although no one reported swifts nesting in the new boxes last year, swifts were seen inspecting some of them. It is not an easy task to get swifts to nest in new locations straight away because young swifts breeding for the first time find potential nest sites by following adult swifts that are already breeding. Most Harbury swift action was seen around boxes on houses where the owners were playing recorded swift calls, presumably because the young prospecting birds thought there were already breeding swifts present.



Harbury Swift Village project was initiated to help the long-term recovery of these astonishing birds and we should expect it to take a while for the swifts to locate the new homes. You can help them to do this by playing recorded swift calls near your box, so if you didn't try this last year, it's definitely worth trying this, from late May until the end of July. (See below, if you want to find out more about call boxes.) Swifts don't breed until they are four years old, but young birds looking for a nest site will fly past potential sites looking for a nest site for years to come. They may not nest this year, either, but may return to do so next spring!

Last year, a few of the swift boxes were used by house sparrows. House sparrows, like swifts, are on the Red List of endangered species and also need protecting. Swifts and house sparrows can time-share and are able to fledge young out of the same nest box in a single year, one after the other; so don't be concerned about sparrows using the swift boxes!

Harbury Swift Village project has inspired residents of Lighthorne to set up their own project to erect twenty-five swift boxes in their village. Harbury Parish Council has been the gold standard in the Lighthorne residents' request for support from their own Parish Council!

Swifts usually arrive in the first week of May, so by the time you read this article some birds may have already arrived. Listen out for their screaming calls, then look up to the sky to see their black 'boomerang' outlines swooping high above.

Contact: swifts.harbury@gmail.com

<p>Swift calls MP3 (£2.00) or CD (£7.00) can be found here:</p>	<p>DIY call box information can be found here:</p>
<p>www.swift-conservation.org/Shopping!.htm or scan the bar codes</p> 	<p>actionforswifts.blogspot.com/p/attraction-call-systems-for-swifts.html</p> 

Southam Heritage Collection in Tithe Place, Southam, is well into its 2024 program and although much is the same as usual, with three exhibitions during the year, we have also taken on some new exhibitions and events, which we hope surrounding villages will be able to take advantage of as they are free to attend.

Our present exhibition covers local clubs and associations until the middle of June, including Ladbroke and Harbury, so do pop in and have a look. If you have a club, or area you would like to feature as a display in our windows, do please come in and have a word with me, or Bernard Cadogan who lives in Harbury.

The summer exhibition is on local maps and roads, with some unusual items on vehicles. This starts on 9th July and is until October.

Between those two exhibitions, during 22nd June to 7th July, we are part of the Warwickshire Open Studios with an art and craft trail that includes Southam and the surrounding villages. This includes full weekend opening rather than just our usual weekday morning open days. Brochures and leaflets are available from Tithe Place, and will include visiting Harbury.

Finally, we are part of the Heritage Open Days (HODs) in Warwickshire in September, and will be open for free guided Town History walks. Posters are on our notice board in Tithe Place with full dates and details, or ring me Linda Doyle on 01926 814214.



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
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- Jars of pasta sauce
- Tins of spaghetti in sauce
- Tins of fruit
- Sponge puddings
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