

Harbury & Ladbroke News

275



Ladbroke



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Harbury & Ladbroke News

THE HARBURY AND LADBROKE NEWS, reflecting all aspects of local life is published monthly and produced with the assistance of the All Saints' Parochial Church Council.

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FEBRUARY 1997

No. 275

Even in the quiet post-Christmas period, the Harbury and Ladbroke News still gives you an ongoing picture of life in the villages. This month provides an opportunity for all villagers to express their ideas and opinions about a permanent visual record of current life in Harbury. Seemingly trivial incidents or activities which we take for granted will go towards building a true illustration of life as we approach the next century. We hope that many people will attend the meeting to discuss the video, 'Harbury Chronicles' on **Monday 17th February**.

A village organisation which is about to experience an exciting new look is the Youth Club. This is being re-landed with the help of 'Project Endeavour'. We are confident that this will provide a much needed facility for the youth of the village and attract the support of the village.

Still on the subject of the younger members of the community, the Sunday School is reminding you that they are open every Sunday, welcoming all 4 to 11 year olds.

It is encouraging to hear that the Rugby Club is going from strength to strength, presently occupying one of the top places in the Warwickshire Division. We have it on good authority that the Club would welcome additional supporters joining Fr. Brown on the touch-line.

Finally we extend our sympathy to the families of Laurie Green, Jeff Smith and Alfred Clare.

Harbury Diary

FEBRUARY

- Sun 2 8th Sunday before Easter** - Sung Eucharist 9am
 Sunday School in Tom Hauley Room 10.30am; Evensong 4pm
 Rugby Home Match 7-12s v Old Coventrians
- Tues 4** Holy Communion 7.30pm
 Horticultural Society in Farley Room 8pm
- Wed 5** Mothers' Union Corporate Communion in Church 2pm, followed by
 meeting in Tom Hauley Room 2.30pm
 Youth Club reopens in Village Hall 7.30pm
- Thurs 6** Holy Communion 9.45am
 Grapevine Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room 10am-12noon
 Storytelling in Library 10am
 Line Dancing at Harbury Club for Myton Hospice 7.30pm SHARP £2.50
 Men's Society 7.45pm
 Folk Club in the Dog Inn 8.30pm
- Fri 7** Harbury PTA Quiz Night 7.30pm in the School Hall
- Sat 8** Rugby Seconds Home to Standard, Thirds Home to Willenhall 5ths
- Sun 9 7th Sunday before Easter** - Holy Communion 8am
 Sung Eucharist 10.30am, Evensong 4pm
 Rugby Home match 7-12s v Kersley
- Tues 11** Toddlers' Service 2.15pm
 Holy Communion 7.30pm
 Village Hall Committee meeting 8pm
- Wed 12** Ash Wednesday;
 Sung Eucharist 7.30pm with Lenten Address and imposition of Ashes
 Youth Club in Village Hall 7.30pm
- Thurs 13** Holy Communion 9.45am
 Grapevine Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room 10am-12noon
 Thursday Club in Village Hall 2.30pm
 WI in Tom Hauley Room 7.45pm
- Fri 14** Valentine's Day; Half Term starts; **NEWSPAPER COLLECTION**
 The Kid's Club Launch Party in Harbury School 3.15pm
- Sat 15** Men's Prayer Breakfast in Tom Hauley Room 7.30am
 Rugby First and Thirds Home to Claverdon
Harbury & Ladbroke ADVERTS to 1 Hall Line by today!
- Sun 16** **Lent I** - Holy Communion 8am
 Family Communion 10.30am; Benediction 5pm
 Harbury Colts Home to Old Bosworthians
 Under 14s to Home Old Coventrians
 Under 13s and 7-12s Home to Kersley
- Mon 17** Harbury Chronicles meeting in Tom Hauley Room 8pm
- Tues 18** Holy Communion and Lenten Address 7.30pm
 Mothers' Union Bible Study in Tom Hauley Room 8pm
- Wed 19** Harbury Chronicles' Whist Drive in Tom Hauley Room 2.30pm
 Youth Club in Village Hall 7.30pm

- Thurs 20 Holy Communion 9.45am
Grapevine Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room 10am-12noon
- Fri 21 **Harbury & Ladbroke News ARTICLES** to Nifty Needle by 5.30pm!
- Sat 22 Rugby First and Thirds Home to Earlsdon
- Sun 23 **Lent II** - Holy Communion 8am
Sung Eucharist 10.30am; Evensong 4pm
- Mon 24 School begins
- Tues 25 Holy Communion at Ladbroke
Harbury Society talk on the Deserted Villages by Linda Doyle in Tom Hauley Room 7.30pm for 8pm. All welcome
- Wed 26 Youth Club in Village Hall 7.30pm
- Thurs 27 Holy Communion 9.45am
Grapevine Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room 10am-12noon
Thursday Club in Village Hall 2.30pm
Parish Council meeting in Village Hall 7.30pm
- Fri 28 Newspaper collection
Working From Home Lunch at the Dog Inn 12noon onwards
Bridge evening

MARCH

- Sat 1 Coventry Diocese of the M.U.'s Day of Prayer at St. Nicholas in Warwick
Holy Matrimony 2pm
Rugby Seconds Home to Shipston
- Sun 2 **Lent III** - Sung Eucharist 9am; Evensong 4pm
Rugby 7-12s Home to Stratford

Please note: Adverts to: **1 Hall Lane**

Articles for H&L News to **NIFTY NEEDLE**

Deadline: Friday 21st February, before 5.30pm

DATES FOR INCLUSION IN THE HARBURY DIARY PLEASE TO: LINDA RIDGLEY - TEL. 612792.

For Tom Hauley Room Bookings	Mrs. Stubbs	612782
For Village Hall Bookings	Mrs. Hughes	612716
For Wight School Bookings	Mrs. Hayes	613488

REGULAR DIARY DATES

BABY CLINIC: Surgery, 2-4pm 2nd & 4th Wednesday

BADMINTON: Village Hall Tuesdays

BEAVERS: Scout Hut, 6-7pm Tuesdays

BELLRINGING PRACTICE: Church, 7.30pm Fridays

BINGO: Village Hall, 8pm Mondays

BROWNIES: Village Hall 6-7.30pm Tuesdays
CHOIR PRACTICE: Church, 6.30pm Fridays
CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU: Over Southam Magistrates Court, 10am-3pm Tuesdays (Except Bank Holidays)
COFFEE MORNING: Tom Hauley Room 10am-12noon Saturdays
CUBS: Scout Hut, Wednesdays
DANCING CLASSES: Farley Room Village Hall, Children & Adults 4-9pm Wednesdays.
GRAPEVINE: Tom Hauley Room, Coffee Morning 10-12noon Wednesdays
GUIDES: Scout Hut, 7-8.30pm Monday
GYMNASTICS: Harbury School, 6-7pm (U7-10yrs & Beginners 7-8pm; Over 10yrs 8-9pm) Mondays
HARBURY FOLK CLUB: Dog Inn 8.30pm 1st Thursday of Month
HARBURY FRIENDS: School, 8pm 2nd Tues of Month
HEREBURGH MORRIS DANCERS: School Hall, 8-10pm Wednesdays
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: Village Hall, 8pm 1st Tues (Oct. to May)
LIBRARY: Stories, Rhymes for U5s, 10am 1st Thursday of Month
NETBALL CLUB: Village Hall Car Park, Training 6.30pm Thursdays; Matches Saturday Afternoon
NURSERY SCHOOL: Village Hall, Tuesday to Friday mornings
PLAYGROUP: Wight School, Tuesday to Friday mornings
SCOUTS: Scout Hut, 7.45pm Tuesdays & Thursdays
TENNIS CLUB: (Apr-Sept) Tue & Thur 6.30pm onwards (6pm for April); Sat 2-5pm, Mon & Wed 1.45-3pm
THEATRE GROUP: Wight School, 8pm last Friday of Month
THURSDAY CLUB: Village Hall 2.30pm 2nd & 4th Thursday of Month
TODDLER GROUP: Wight School, 10-11.30am Mondays & 2-3.30pm Wed.
UPHOLSTERY CLASSES: Wight School, 2-4pm Mondays
W.I.: Tom Hauley Room, 7.45pm 2nd Thursday of Month
YOGA: Tom Hauley Room, 1-3pm Tuesday, Diane Surgey Tel.817904
YOUTH CLUB: Village Hall, 7.30-9.30pm Wednesdays

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EMERGENCY TRANSPORT: Call Vivien Neill 613461 or Charles Catt 612864.

HELP WITH FORM FILLING:

- **Job Applications, CV's, Council Tax Forms, etc.:** Call Joanne Cooper 613859 or Jeff Bedford 612753.
- **For University/Job Applications, interviews, CVs:** Call Philip Bushill-Matthews 612476.
- **For Personal Tax Claims, Rebates on Tax Paid to Building Societies or on Shares:** Call Jim Chapple 612044.

HOME VISITING: Caring for a sick or elderly relative and need a break for a few hours, or you would like someone to call on you. Call Sue Dormer 613254.

HOUSEHOLD BUDGETING ADVICE: Call Tony Brunton 612191.

ODD JOBS ABOUT THE HOUSE: Call Jeff Bedford 612753.

VISITING: Hospital. If you are unable to visit a parent or relative, or parents would like support with a child in Hospital: Call Fr. Roy Brown 612377 or Keith Dormer 613254.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH HARBURY SUNDAY SERVICES

Holy Communion, 8am

Sung Eucharist, 10.30am (Except 1st Sunday of Month:

Sung Eucharist 9am)

Family Service, 10.30am on 3rd Sunday of Month

Evensong, 6.30pm (Except 3rd Sunday)

Please see notice board in Church for weekday services or revised times on special occasions.

Laugh Line

On his way to a funeral the minister leaned forward and tapped the driver on the shoulder to ask him a question. When the driver visibly jumped, the minister apologised for startling him.

"That's all right sir", the driver replied. "It's just that I usually drive the hearse".

FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

A few unexpected sounds have been emanating from the organ in recent weeks. A close examination has revealed that the framework and pipes are not totally happy with the level of heating maintained in Church throughout the week. Having survived a cooler environment for one hundred years or more, modern gas-fired heating is proving a stern test for this grand old instrument. We shall make some adjustments and monitor the position for the time being. Meantime you are assured there will not be a cooling-off period during the services.

The weather has also brought about a further problem externally. When the clock was refurbished three years ago, we elected to use the original timber face which had for a number of years been covered up. Unfortunately the weather has not been kind and some warping or twisting of the boarding has occurred, manifesting itself as lines of cracking to the paint work. A solution will be found.

We understand the choir's recent visit to the pantomime was an unqualified success and a further event is being planned.

A further Alpha course will commence soon after the Easter Holiday so please make a preliminary rota in your diaries should you be interested in attending all or part of the course. Further details will be announced in the magazine and the Church pew sheets.

As most readers are aware, lunches are held each month on a Saturday in the Tom Hauley Room. These are excellent value at a maximum of £4 if you can manage the full four courses of home cooking. We do however, require some assistance in the planning and preparation and should you be able to offer occasional assistance please contact the co-ordinator, Mrs. Wendy Stubbs on 612782.

Ruth and Jeff

FROM THE RECTOR

A Small Pronoun?

What shall I do? Have I done the wrong thing? Did I say the wrong thing? Will it be alright? Oh, why don't they answer the phone? - Calm down. Stop flapping. Think - I'm on my own on this. Please God, let me do and say the right things.

How often have those kind of thoughts run around in your mind? Everyone has varying degrees of self-confidence, but it is doubtful if even the strongest minded will get through life without at least once asking for God's assistance in one form or other. It may be some life or death situation, but is more frequently, just some minor issue which catches one on the wrong foot, making it seem insurmountable. But after the panic, when the 'flap' is over and you flop into the nearest chair - what then? A drink perhaps (tea, coffee, whisky, each to their own), it does help. But whilst relaxing, ask yourself, how genuine was that muttered 'thank God' as your crisis came to an end? It was His will which brought about the panic and loss of confidence, then through Him, your restoration of calm and consequent result - good or bad. Remember the hymn beginning: "God be in my head and in my understanding".

You will understand a little better, if you add that little pronoun you into the middle of 'thank God' - try it, it does sound more genuine 'THANK YOU GOD'.

Fr. Roy

From The Registers

Funerals

Oakley Wood on 3 rd January:	Laurie Green of Deppers Bridge
All Saints' Harbury on 7 th January:	Jess Smith of Vicarage Lane

MOTHERS' UNION

No normal meetings were held in January. Instead, we had two social events. The first was our party when we were very pleased to be joined by our friends from Ladbroke Women's Fellowship. After a game we had readings, serious and humorous, on the theme of winter; the last one including much audience participation. The party finished with tea provided by the committee.

Twenty-two members and friends enjoyed a visit to the Loft Theatre to see Noel Coward's "Hay Fever", which we thought very well presented.

In February, our afternoon speaker will be Celia Barratt on the Rev. Wight. The evening meeting will take the form of a bible study on the theme "Praying Together", taken from the M.U. series "To Live and Work". Anyone who is interested is very welcome to join us for this open session at 8pm on **Tuesday 18th February**.

On **Saturday 1st March** the Coventry diocese of the M.U. are holding a Day of Prayer for the nation, at St. Nicholas' Church, Warwick, from 10.30am to 3.30pm. Anyone who would like more information please contact me on 612864.

C. Mary Catt

TODDLERS' SERVICE

Thanking God for our hands was the theme of the Toddlers' Service in January.

Mrs. Catt told us the story of how Jesus healed a man with a withered hand. A game was played using our hands in lots of different ways. We sang two songs accompanied by Mr. Charles Catt on the clarinet and the children on a variety of musical instruments.

Lorna Bedford

CHURCH MEN'S SOCIETY

On a night of sub-zero temperatures outdoors - and not that much warmer inside - it was welcome to have as our speaker on **2nd January**

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someone able to bring the promise of "a little bit of summer" for an hour or so.

He was of course Charles Catt who delighted us, as he has so many Harbury groups, with his talk entitled 'Lilies of the field', illustrated by a selection of slides from hundreds of wild flowers he has captured on his camera during a lifetime's interest in the subject. He was cordially thanked by vice-chairman Ken Hughes.

The society, which meets on the first Thursday in the month, except August and September, would welcome new members. Anyone interested should contact chairman Tony Stubbs (Tel. 612782) or myself (Tel. 613864) for information.

John Algar

SUNDAY MORNING COULD BE BRIGHTER!

What do your children do on a Sunday morning? All Saints' Church Sunday School Harbury for 4-11 year olds has been running for eighteen months now. Regular members have clocked up over fifty attendances. They must have found something they enjoy; perhaps it's the lively activities; the attractive full colour teaching materials; the duties they are asked to perform in our brief visits to the church services, or just the company!

There are three age groups in the school and a rota of teachers, which means a different reader most weeks with different ideas and experiences. We welcome newcomers. We meet every Sunday between 10.25am and 11.30am in the Tom Hauley Room behind the Church. Bring your children along - any Sunday - or phone us in advance, if you like, to find out more.

Sally & John Stringer 613214

Ladbroke News

FEBRUARY

Sun	2	8th Sunday before Easter - Family Communion 10.30am
Wed	5	Holy Communion 9.45am
Sat	8	Hazel Sharples' Bring & Buy Coffee Morning 10am-12noon
Sun	9	7th Sunday before Easter - Sung Eucharist 9.00am
Wed	12	Ash Wednesday - Holy Communion with imposition of Ashes 2pm
Sat	14	Tramps Ball at Ladbroke Village Hall
Sun	16	Lent I - Sung Communion 9am; Evensong 6pm
Wed	19	Holy Communion 9.45am PCC at Hall Farm 7.30pm
Sun	23	Lent II - Sung Communion 9am
Tues	25	Holy Communion 7.30pm with Lenten Address
Wed	26	Holy Communion 9.45am

MARCH

Sun	2	Lent III - Family Communion 10.30am
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LADBROKE CHURCH NEWS

I know it may be difficult to believe but Ash Wednesday is on **12th February** this year, which of course marks the beginning of Lent. The Holy Communion service on that day will be at 7.30pm in Ladbroke (no morning service).

Lent is a time when we reflect on our faith and Christian beliefs and we make a special effort to go to the Lent services to prepare ourselves for the coming of Easter. It really does mean more than depriving ourselves of some little treat.

Betty Winkfield

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Many thanks to Mary Catt for having us at the Mothers' Union party in January. We had a lovely time and certainly enjoyed the tea!

At our February meeting Jenny Reid is going to talk to us about her "activities" with the "Sealed Knot". They re-enact historic battles that took place in England.

Also in February on Ash Wednesday, we start our Lent Lunches. The

first one is at 7 Ladbroke Hall, by kind invitation of Catherine Spence. Please see pew sheets for subsequent lunches. All proceeds are for the Renal Unit at Birmingham's Children's Hospital.

Most importantly on **Saturday 8th February** from 10am - 12noon Hazel Sharples will be having a Bring and Buy / Coffee morning. This is for All Saints' Refuge attached to the church where Hazel went while she was in Cairo and she really feels they need our help and support. Please come and have your cup of coffee with us and help some needy children at the same time.

Betty Winkfield

LADBROKE AND DEPPERS BRIDGE W.I.

The meeting on Thursday 24th January was well attended despite the inclement weather and the fact that the annual subscriptions were due.

Two teams have been entered for the W.I. Short Mat Bowls competition. Dates and venues to be arranged.

Princethorpe W.I. have invited us to their meeting on **Tuesday 4th March**.

Many members wish to go to the Spring Council meeting, to be held at the Spa Centre on **Tuesday 18th March** with Kay Alexander as guest speaker.

Five members have volunteered to enter the County Quiz to be held on **Monday 24th March**.

Our speaker for the evening was retired Nurse Kohler who used to work for the Southam Surgery. She gave us a talk and slide show of her home town of Hanover and Bavaria. It was very interesting and of particular interest to members who had visited some of the places shown, on one of the Parish Holidays.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 27th February** when our guest speaker will be Mr. Philip Marr, who will give us a talk and slide show on the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. This should interest all who enjoy our coast line for holidays and visitors will be most welcome - male and female!

Hazel Sharples

LADBROKE VILLAGE HALL

Have you got your tickets yet for the "Tramps Ball" on St. Valentines night **Friday 14th February**? All the committee members and myself have tickets to sell, so come and make it a jolly evening dancing to Bob Cardalls Band.

Carol Northorpe

LADBROKE PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The whole Parish Council convened after the Christmas break on Wednesday 15th January. District Councillor Jim Taylor and one member of the public were welcomed.

Traffic regulations have been imposed to restrict all traffic above 7.5 tonnes on the bridge and on the road leading up to Ladbroke, during the repair of the bridge at Deppers Bridge,. Access will be allowed for loading and unloading.

Various amendments have been put forward on the development in Hedges Field, but in essence the plans remain as those approved at the appeal in January 1996.

A further meeting has been held with Kevin Reynolds, the housing officer from Stratford District Council. An analysis of the questionnaires regarding the social houses demonstrated the need for 2 x 3 bedroom semi-detached and 2 x 2 bedroom semi-detached houses. Mr. Reynolds agreed to take this recommendation to Gloucester Housing Association.

Councillor Marion Grainger had attended the launch of Agenda 21 on 3rd December 1996. This is the local focus group bringing about environmental improvements. Marion felt that the only way we could practically help at this stage was to make even greater efforts to recycle waste.

It was noted with pleasure and appreciation that the main village road had been gritted during the bad weather. An appeal will be made to the County Council for this to be extended to the entire road from Ladbroke to Deppers Bridge.

I think we were all pleased that the meeting closed at that point on an exceptionally cold January night or we might have lost toes from frost bite!

Carol Northorpe

HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - MARCH

Pressure for development is picking up once more. Bryant Homes are working on their Bush Heath Road site and four luxury homes are being set in the Farm Street Orchard. Stratford District Council has granted permission for the development of 18 houses and six affordable homes at Hillside Farm and persuaded the Parish Council to update its Housing Needs Survey. It seems there may be more revelations to come!

The Parish and Harbury Society approached the new South Warwickshire Housing Association (to which all Stratford Council Housing has been transferred) for permission to plant up Manor Road green to make a more interesting and environmentally friendly space, but found that SWHA holds out hopes of developing it. As John Woodward termed it: "They are aware of their assets". Similarly Stratford admitting ownership of the 'play area' in Frances Road appears to have declined the Parish's offer to purchase the land.

The Parish Council met Planning Consultant Geoff Wilson who revealed plans to clear contaminated soil from the Harbury Lane Airfield, create a safer access and develop the site for 40 houses and workshop units.

Stratford District Council granted permission for an extension at Stiperstones, Queens Close, a continuation for warehousing at Spiers Farm Barn and a replacement garage at Summerfield Lodge. Both the Harbury Hall Stables conversion and the house behind Brethren's Farm were rejected.

Stratford's Enforcement Officer will be asked to advise on the removal of illegally tipped material at Deppers Bridge and the continued presence of a holiday caravan at Tresco. Officers have been asked to investigate plans for an extension at Mansfield Barn on the Fosse Way, because the Parish Council thought the plans were unclear and access would be a problem.

The Parish made no objections to the flaring of landfill gas at the Biffa Tip, or tree surgery on the Walnut and felling of a Willow at Walnut Tree Cottage. Councillors agreed to re-enforce the action of the Harbury Society which had protested to both the County and District Councils over the removal of the Bush Heath Road hedge to gain a minor improvement in visibility for the Bryant Homes' site. Everyone agreed that Traffic Calming was what was needed there.

The Cemetery Limes are to be pollarded and an Elm and two Birches on the eastern boundary felled, the hedge there laid and bulked up with quicks. Councillor Woodward also proposed that the Parish have part of the Playing Fields' western hedge laid as the first phase in a comprehensive maintenance regime.

Bryant Homes' lighting scheme was reduced to 9 columns, compatible with "current standards" said Keith Thompson. The Clerk has Bromford Corinthina's assurances that they will have a lamp installed for the affordable homes tucked away in the far corner of the site.

Keith also announced that the Councillors had decided upon the Windsor style traditional lamp standard for use when lights in the Conservation Areas needed replacing. There was to be a rethink about lighting in the village including Ivy Lane.

Councillors were delighted to hear that Project Endeavour is to provide the Youth Club leadership for three months from 12th February. The Twinning meeting had been a great success and Stratford District Council is keen to support the Millennium Video "The Harbury Chronicles".

At Harbury Society's suggestion, John Woodward approached Stratford Amenities Department for free cycle stands and he was pleased to find these are available. Now he needs to know where to put them!

The Parish Council agreed to donate £320 to the *S.H.A.K.* appeal which has almost reached its total. Money for landscaping and refurbishment of the War Memorial and play area has been put by in the Precept along with a contingency of £2,000 for Traffic Calming and £1,000 for the Chronicles. In total the Precept is £23,175 an increase of 3% or between 47-82p this year for Council Tax payers.

It seems Pc Boulstridge tempted fate when he reported a quiet pre-Christmas period. So far in 1997 there have been three burglaries!

Linda Ridgley

HARBURY WOMEN's INSTITUTE

Wednesday 19th February is the centenary of the founding of the W.I. at Stoney Creek, Ontario, Canada. To celebrate the occasion, church bells will be rung nationally on that day. Harbury will be no exception

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and our bells will be rung during the evening. Refreshments will be available from 7.30pm and villagers will be most welcome to join us. You will be able to see the bellringers at work too, which will be interesting.

The speaker was Mr. Ray Allen, a retired police officer who spoke on "Busts I have known". Mr. Allan had 30 years in the force, 20 of those in the drug squad and CID. In 1980 there were just 2 detectives covering drug squad work in the area. He told us of the different aspects of the work leading to an arrest, the deviousness of the offenders and the unlikely places where drugs are hidden.

Dogs play a useful part in sniffing out drugs, but they can also get hooked. It was amazing to hear how many people have grown cannabis in homes on windowsills or in garden sheds. Some innocent souls have grown one thinking that it was just a pleasant foliage plant. There are even plants being grown under licence, allegedly for paper making.

Customs are successful, but really only touch the tip of the iceberg as the trade is rife with its feelers all over the world, affecting every country, city, town and village. A heroin addict needs about £23,000 a year to satisfy his needs.

In Mr. Allan's opinion, legalisation would cause more problems. A very informative talk, which he gives to organisations and schools. Let's hope that his words are heeded by the young people he speaks to.

February teas: G. Walsh, M. Watson and S. Leigh

Jeanne Beaumont

MENOPAUSE EVENING

Following the success of our recent 'Menopause Evening' we have arranged a second one for **Wednesday 19th February** at 7.30pm. If you are aged between 40 and 55 years and would like to find out more about the menopause, have a drink and a chat with Nesta, our Practice Nurse and Sylvia, our Health Visitor, then come along to Harbury Surgery. Numbers will be restricted to 30 so if you do want to come please ring 613554 and put your name down.

Barbara Andrews



(The photos , taken by Linda Ridgley, show the view looking towards Vicarage Lane before and after the removal of the hedge and young trees.)

HARBURY SOCIETY

This is a road improvement. An established, well maintained hedge with several young trees has been removed to improve the visibility at the Bryant Homes' estate. It came as a shock because the conditions which demanded the hedge's removal came after the original plans were submitted.

Harbury has lost a mature hedge and gained a more speed-inviting, suburbanised road. Traffic calming would seem to be what was needed here and the Society has written to both the Director of Planning at Shire Hall, Warwick and the Chief Planning Officer at Stratford District Council (Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford) pointing this out.

It seems that one of the few day to day planning responsibilities left to the County is giving advice on the Department of Transport Guidelines on Highways Planning matters.

The District Council is the Planning Authority and can ignore the advice offered by the County Council, but seems to choose not to do that. The result is a lack of sense and sensitivity in the application of the guidelines - they wrangle and we suffer environmental destruction.

If you care about this too, please complain to the two protagonists named above.

The Society's next event is a talk by Linda Doyle in the Tom Hauley Room on **Tuesday 25th February** (7.30pm for 8pm) on the Deserted Villages.

Linda Ridgley

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HARBURY THEATRE GROUP

With the evenings beginning to draw out, the Theatre Group is commencing rehearsals for the Spring production which Alan Barr will be producing. He has selected the play "Holiday Haunts" by Sam Bate. This is a three act comedy set in a Cotswold village and has a cast of nine women.

To this village three ladies arrive having rented a cottage for a holiday, which is rumoured to be haunted! A succession of strange occurrences cause consternation to the holiday makers!

The play will be performed on 17th, 18th and 19th April - put the dates in your diary now.

John Holden

HARBURY YOUTH CLUB RE-OPENS

Harbury Youth Club is re-opening on the **Wednesday 5th February**.

A group of young enthusiastic people from the "Project Endeavour Scheme" are taking over temporarily, until Harbury finds a suitable leader.

The people from this group are roughly the same age as the Youth Club members so they will have a good idea of what sort of programmes to do each week. Remember one thing: You miss it - you miss out! See you on **Wednesday 5th February**.

Keith Phipps

The management committee are delighted with the proposed new lease of life for the Youth Club. "Project Endeavour" is a peer education project which is in its fourth year; its parent project Endeavour Training started in 1955. The project is funded by the government and fund raising within the group.

The Southam project is in its second year. The first year involved personal development and this year is about working in the community. The group has up to five youth workers who work in a partnership situation with the group members. It's this partnership approach which

will be brought into Harbury.

Project Endeavour promise an exciting programme of activities. The activities are organised for both boys and girls and you can find out more by coming along to the Youth Club at 7.30pm on 5th February.

Vikki Holroyd

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HARBURY SCHOOL - KIDS CLUB

Just a reminder that the Kids' Club is open daily before and after school. The Club is open to all children of Primary School age in Harbury.

The Kids' Club will be holding a launch party on **Friday 14th February**. We will be having party fun, games and face painting, as well as a talk on wildlife, which includes live animals, such as snakes, spiders, birds and small mammals.

If you would like to book your child into the launch party (3.15pm-5pm) at £2.75 per ticket for members and £3.20 for non members, please phone me on 613740.

Lynn Jackson

HARBURY NURSERY SCHOOL

Another term begins - Happy New Year.

The children's combined Christmas Concert with the Wight School was a great success and it was pleasing to see a wonderful turn out of parents, grandparents and relations, as well as the Reception Class from Harbury School.

The term finished with a Christmas Party and a surprise visit from Santa! bringing an end to another eventful year.

At last a NEW term, a NEW beginning with a NEW name - HARBURY NURSERY SCHOOL and of course an extra session on a Monday afternoon.

Our Cake stall in January raised £24 and we look forward to more fund raising events, a Treasure Hunt at Half Term and of course our Casino Night on **Saturday 8th March**. Tickets are available from Party Paraphernalia Ltd. at £7.50 each, to include a hot supper and stake money. We also have our Cake Stall in March.

We are all looking forward to another busy year and will let you know of all future events.

Denise Vincent

HARBURY PTA

Cerebrally Challenging. YES. Great Entertainment. YES. Excellent Fun. YES. It's time once again for the Harbury School PTA Quiz Night (the most exciting social event since Christmas!) on **Friday 7th February** in the School Hall, at 7.30pm. Licensed Bar. Tickets are £3 per team member (teams of 4) including supper.

Will you rise to the challenge? Ticket sales, please phone 614224 and make a note in your diaries and look out for details of other forthcoming PTA events:

February	- Family Beetle Drive
March	- Children's Disco/'Home-made evening'
May	- Sponsored Walk
June	- Summer Fair/Carnival
August	- Adult Summer Disco
September	- Quiz Night
October	- Entertainment night/Beetle Drive

Andy Linforth

NSPCC

Our next fund raising event is on **Saturday 15th February** at 7.30 in the Church. The entertainment will be an evening of music with a Valentine theme, sung by **Divertimento**. Please support us at what promises to be a pleasant and unusual evening. Tickets are £4 and £3 for senior citizens, available at Kane's News or Pauline Hayes 612179.

Please note some of our future events for 1997:

24 April	- Hanging basket demonstration in Village Hall;
4 May	- Quiz night in Harbury Social Club;
12 July	- Barn Dance/Line Dance in Village Hall;
27 September	- Jumble Sale in Village Hall;
4 October	- Coffee morning/Christmas card sale in T.H. Room;
9 December	- Christmas carol singing around the village.

N.S.P.C.C. Committee

SCOUTS AND GUIDES SUPPORT COMMITTEE

The Scouts and Guides are beginning preparations for a show at the School on **Saturday 22nd March**. Details about tickets, times, etc. to follow. The show will involve as many of the children as possible and include Brownies, Cubs and Beavers.

Alex Byrne, Group Scout Leader

HARBURY FOLK CLUB

The first Folk Club of 1997 did not get off to the best of starts.

I had planned a relaxed sort of beginning with the first half given over to the 'floor artists' and unencumbered by theme. The second half was to star a guest Irish Band brought at great expense all the way from Leamington Spa, whilst the final half was to be 'floor artists' again, but this time with the responsibility of making everyone sing by giving us only chorus songs or well-known pot-boilers!

That was the plan.

The themelessness of the night had already been compromised because of my absence from the December club due to illness (yes, I brought a note)! Into this void someone tossed 'moustaches' as the theme, for some inexplicable reason, and for which, incorrectly, Mike Putnam got the blame: the real culprit being a well-known, and moustachioed, teacher from Southam School. I'll say no more!

The second draw-back was occasioned by the fact that the Guests failed to arrive, for reasons still unknown. This left me scratching about for inspiration as two regular contributors were conspicuous by their absence: notably The Harvesters and Mike Houston.

So I launched into the first half with some trepidation and opened proceedings with "Gaudete": having relearned the whole thing for the December club, I wasn't about to let it go to waste. Des, Peter McDonald, The Bones' and Ron Shuttleworth (making a welcome return with Jean after missing a few months through illness - good to see them both again) helped raise the level of musical entertainment in the first half to its usual level. Fill & Drill also did a spot which had dire

consequences later, as they had taken the 'moustache' theme very seriously and composed (I use the term loosely) two contributions on this hairy subject. The slant of one of them seemed to be aimed at me and frequently alluded to the removal of mine!!

In the first break I announced the evening's charity as 'The Blue Peter Leprosy Appeal' and Mike Putnam offered to match whatever was raised in the raffle in order to give something to a poor woman from Yarningale whose wooden-roofed, and hence uninsurable, home had burned to the ground on Boxing Day, leaving her destitute. This incentive coupled with John Black's song and the arrival of the Broadway Barber Shop Quartet in the interval lead me, rashly, to offer to remove my 31-year old companion from my top lip if the raffle exceeded £50. The die was cast.

John Kemsley, Aaron and myself opened the 2nd half with some Blues: and I was promptly upstaged by my son whose guitar break in Sweet Home Chicago got a rousing ovation! Hmmm! After us Bob Hodgkins gave us a somewhat risqué recitation before the Broadway Barber Shop Quartet serenaded us splendidly. Finally young Mr Black, together with Eleanor and Erica, and fresh from his supporting role for a certain Sir Paul, gave us a splendid version of the old Police hit Message In A Bottle.

When the 2nd intermission arrived it had already become apparent that my moustache would be going: Doug Freeman offered to sacrifice his beard if the raffle reached £75: Mike Putnam said "likewise" if it reached a ton! And Doug almost immediately pledged to make sure it reached £100 by offering to make up any deficit to this figure once the total had surpassed his £75 threshold. It is now a matter of record that all this was achieved: making this particular Folk Club one of the most financially successful ever! With £100 going to the Blue Peter Leprosy Appeal and another £100 to the homeless lady of Yarningale c/o Mike Putnam.

The third and final half began with Maureen publicly removing my facial hair whilst serenaded by the Barber Shop Quartet. Much to the amusement of the assembled crowd and the upset of my wife who promptly went home! After further contributions of a musical and 'sing-along' nature from each of the artists, the evening's entertainment was completed by the removal of Doug's and Mike's beards. Many

people stayed to the bitter end in order to witness this most auspicious of events.



Steve Dudley, Mike Putnam, Maureen and Doug Freeman

(Photo taken by John Kemsley)

And so what was planned in one way, began in another and finished.....well!!

Thanks to Mike and Doug for their generosity, to all those who contributed, musically and financially and.....anyone else who knows me.

The only real disappointment for me, apart from the non-appearance of the guest band, was that Margaret McDonald and Celia were wearing absolutely no leather, PVC or rubber garments after pestering me for weeks into having a fancy dress theme to which, I assure you, I agreed!

We can rest assured that John Kemsley's Dafter Awards Night on **Thursday 6th February** will be yet another humdinger of a night at Harbury Folk Club in The Dog Inn!

Steve 'Bo' Dudley



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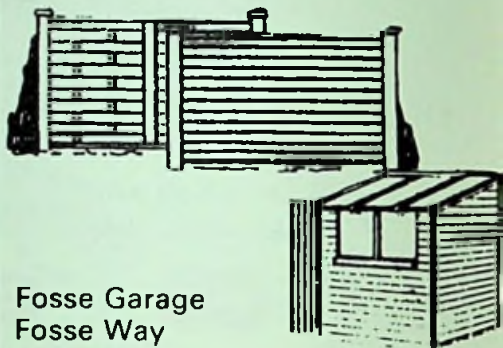
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Yet again - locally you answered the Poppy Appeal with a brilliant total collection of £1,449.40.

Our sincerest thanks to all you generous donors and to the wonderful collectors in Deppers Bridge, Chesterton, Ufton and Harbury. We would also like to thank Mrs. Allington and her helpers for their efforts with the annual Ufton Whist Drive for the British Legion. Thank you all.

Mike Bishop

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE INTERFAITH

At our December meeting we shared poems, music and thoughts about Peace, as well as sharing food. The next meeting will be on **Monday 24th February**, 7.30pm at 78 Lewis Road, Radford Semele. The theme will be refugees and will include a talk by a Bahai. Further details from Rosemary Harley, 613402.

Another interesting day is being held at St. Mary's Church Centre, Leamington Spa on **Saturday 22nd February**, entitled "Asian Equip", with sessions entitled: "Understanding your Asian Neighbours"; "Wise ways to make Asian friends"; "Understanding Muslims/Sikhs/Hindi" and "How to Share you faith with these people". Further details can be obtained from Bill Miller on 01926 831054 and Graham Harvey on 01926 492124.

Rosemary Harley

BLUE PETER BRING and BUY SALE

The Tom Hauley Room on 11th January was the venue for the debut of the 'Harbury Spice Girls' at a Blue Peter Bring and Buy Sale in aid of their Leprosy Appeal.

The girls involved, Jessica, Jessica, Julia, Kate, Krysten and Lizzie, wanted to raise money to help the Blue Peter Appeal and in addition to the Bring and Buy Sale they decided to put on a Cabaret Spot as the 'Spice Girls' to try to attract more customers to the sale.



'Harbury Spice Girls'

Back row: Krysten Hall, Jessica Fitzgerald

Front row: Jessica Farrell, Julia Greenwell and Kate Tandy

(Photo taken by Janny Freeman)

To date they have raised £187.12. This came from the sale, from donations and from an evening before Christmas when the girls, along with James Hyatt (whose help on the day of the sale was invaluable) entertained the residents of Bascote with carol singing.

Many thanks to all those who came to the sale, made cakes, helped on the day in any way and who generously gave donations.

Anne Greenwell

SURVEY of HOUSING NEEDS in HARBURY and DEPPERS BRIDGE

Stratford-upon-Avon District Council will shortly be sending a questionnaire to every house in Harbury Parish in order to find out the need for low cost housing in this parish only. If you are adequately housed there is no need to return the questionnaire, but if you are not, **don't miss this opportunity to make your housing needs known.** These questionnaires are very important to Stratford as they will use these to estimate the number of low cost houses they have to plan for Harbury and Deppers Bridge.

If you know of someone **in housing need and living outside Harbury and Deppers Bridge** at present, but who has contacts with the parish for example relatives living here, or they work in the locality, then please pass on the questionnaire to them to complete. People living outside the area and in housing need, but with local contacts are still eligible for low cost housing.

Low cost housing can either be for rent or on a shared equity scheme where the tenant pays part of the mortgage and so has a share in the market value of the property.

At present there are two housing schemes in the parish where low cost housing will be available shortly. The Bryant Homes estate off Bush Heath road is under construction now. The other is at Hillside Farm in Binswood End. A total of 12 low cost houses will be available from these two sites, six will be for rent and six as shared equity, three of each kind per site. Harbury people in housing need will be given preference and then people from the surrounding parishes will be considered. If you are interested in either of these sites please write to:

Caroline Bell, Stratford-upon-Avon District Council
Elizabeth House,
Church Street
Stratford-upon-Avon
CV37 6HX

Mrs. A. D. Hodge, Clerk to the Council

HARBURY VICTORIAN STREET FAYRE - 1996

The Victorian Street Fayre Committee had a 'get together' at The Dog Inn on the evening of Thursday 19th December 1996. We were very pleased that Brian Britton, who is Vice Chairman of the local Multiple Sclerosis Society and his wife were able to join us and during the evening the Committee presented Brian with a cheque for £1,300 for the local branch of the M.S. Society.



Left to Right: Dan Killian, John Crossling, Ian Bath, Brian Britton, Julie Killian, Brian Ingram, Roger Ellis, Mike McBride, John Kemsley and Benny the dog
(Photo taken by Anthony Allcock)

The Committee has also decided to make a donation to the Paul Winchester Fund.

Once again, we would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Victorian Street Fayre and we are sure you will be happy to know that all the hard work and effort in organising and running these events is worthwhile when the money raised is used to help others.

Dan Killian

HARBURY CARNIVAL - 14th JUNE

There does seem to be some confusion about the date for this year's Carnival. Harbury Carnival is always on the second Saturday in June, therefore in 1997 this will be **Saturday 14th June**.

Following on from the success of the Wheelbarrow Race, we intend to repeat the event this year and this will be on **Sunday 8th June** - more details later.

If you are an organisation who could sponsor or suggest other events to take place during the week 8th-14th June we would like to hear from you - please contact Dan Killian on 612265.

And finally: Anyone or group interested in organising or running a stall on Carnival Day should also contact Dan Killian.

John Kemsley

THE HARBURY CHRONICLES - Schedule for February

This month our cameraman Warwick Parkington is coming to the Tom Hauley Room at 8 o'clock on **Monday 17th February**, to meet the village.

It is our opportunity to explain to him what sort of a film we want. At this first, all-important meeting the contents of the Chronicles will be decided.

Here is a list on which to base the filming. The details and approach need thinking about.

Landscape	- Natural History, Man-made, Agriculture
Population	- Development, Characters
Religion	- The role of the Church and umbrella organisations
Housing	- Old and new
Education	- Pre-School, School, Adult
Medicine and Health Care	
Employment	- Shops, Small Industries, Working From Home
The Parish Council	- What is it? What is its role?
Social Activities	- Too many to list, but enormously important to our quality of life

It is hoped that every group, club, society and organisation will send a representative to the meeting. It would be helpful if the spokes people bring with them ideas about the way their groups can be best portrayed

e.g. by interview, by showing the group at work/play, acting a "scene", etc.

Of course the film is not just about communal activities. Someone once said: "Harbury is a village of characters!" Please come along on your own behalf with your ideas and suggestions.

Fund Raising / Social Event: An afternoon Whist/Beetle Drive on **Wednesday 19th February** in the Tom Hauley Room at 2.30pm. People needing transport, please phone Janet Thornley on 612688 or Mary Shelley 612539. We can arrange it for you.

Stop Press: Excellent response to coffee morning; it raised over £200 clear profit. We are on our way!

Mary Shelley

BLACKPOOL FOR JUST £90

The Rotary Club of Southam 2000 is offering holidays this year to Senior Citizens from Southam and surrounding villages who would benefit from a week away at this ever popular resort.

This week's holiday in Blackpool costs just £90. The cost includes: all meals, accommodation, coach travel to and from Southam, and entertainment.

Rotary has been organising holidays in Blackpool since 1992 and last year more than 3,000 Midlands folk enjoyed these holidays.

Rotary feels that people who would benefit from a holiday do not take one for many reasons, including the formality of making all the arrangements themselves, difficulty of arranging the travel, carrying luggage or lack of a companion. Experience has shown that once in Blackpool people are anything but lonely and friendships develop and carry on from year to year. Families can join together to pay for relatives who deserve to get away - they may be married, single, widowed or couples. Holidaymakers must be able to climb stairs as the small comfortable family type hotels used do not have lifts.

On arrival by coach at Blackpool, people will be transferred to their rooms and have tea or coffee and biscuits to settle in before the evening meal. Included within the price will be a Mystery Tour, Western Night,



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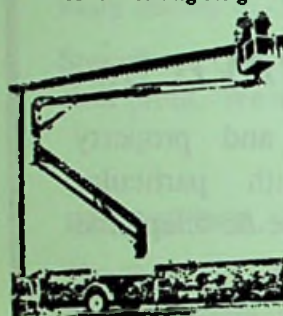
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Core Drill Bits	5.00	7.50	10.00
Per 1/2 inch Drill	9.00	13.50	18.00

Decorating Equipment	Day	2dy	Wk
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Plan Sander 24v	10.00	15.00	20.00
Orbital Sander 24v	8.00	13.50	18.00
Belt Sander 24v	23.00	34.50	46.00
Foot Sander 24v	12.00	18.00	24.00
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Quick Cut 2 Stroke	13.00	19.50	26.00
Floor Saw 1/2 inch Petrol	26.50	42.75	57.00
Floor Saw 1/2 inch Petrol	32.00	48.00	64.00

Miscellaneous	Day	2dy	Wk
Adm Prods	One week min	2.00	
Adm Rods	One week min	5.00	
Warning Lights	One week min	5.00	
1 Tonne 4 Wheel Trolley	10.00	15.00	20.00
Bulldozers 1/2 ton Barrow	One week min	10.00	
Engine Clamps	8.00	12.00	16.00
Dumpanter	22.00	33.00	44.00

Power & Lighting	Day	2dy	Wk
4 Stroke Generator	15.00	22.50	30.00
3 Stroke Generator	18.00	27.00	36.00
4 Stroke Generator Diesel	22.00	33.00	44.00
4 Stroke Generator Diesel	23.00	34.50	46.00
Transformer 1.5kw	3.00	4.50	6.00
2.5kw Transformer	5.00	7.50	10.00
Transformer 3kw	5.00	7.50	10.00
Transformer 4kw	7.00	10.50	14.00
2 Way Junction Box 110v	One week min	5.00	
4 Way Junction Box 110v	One week min	6.00	
Stand Hard Light 110v	8.00	12.00	16.00
Lighting String 110v bulbs extra	8.00	9.00	12.00
Light Light	7.00	10.50	14.00
6 clamp Leads 110/24v	3.00	4.50	6.00
Red Off Circuit Breaker	FOC		

Pumps & Blowers	Day	2dy	Wk
"C" Centrifugal Diaphragm Pump	18.00	28.50	38.00
"C" Diaphragm CAV 20 x 20 hose	25.75	38.63	51.50
"C" Centrifugal CAV 20 x 20 hose	31.50	47.25	63.00
Extra Hose	FOC		

Compaction Equipment	Day	2dy	Wk
Trench Rammer	11.00	16.50	22.00
Compaction Plate Petrol	16.00	24.00	32.00
F/R Compact Plate Petrol	30.00	45.00	60.00
F/R Compact Plate Diesel	30.00	45.00	60.00
"28" Pedestrian Roller	20.00	30.00	40.00

Bowlers & Gr	Day	2dy	Wk
250 Gallon Water	One Week Min	20.00	
500 Gallon Water	One Week Min	25.00	
250 Gallon Fuel	One Week Min	20.00	
500 Gallon Fuel	One Week Min	25.00	
800 Gallon Fuel	One Week Min	35.00	

Small Earth Movers	Day	2dy	Wk
Skid Steer Loader	100.00	150.00	200.00
1.2 Ton Mini Digger	100.00	150.00	200.00
750 kg Skip Loader Dumper	65.00	97.50	130.00

Garden Tools	Day	2dy	Wk
Garden Roller	6.00	9.00	12.00
Rotavator 5hp Petrol	22.00	33.00	44.00
Rotavator 6hp Petrol	45.00	67.50	90.00
Hedge Cutter 18/21 inch 24v	12.50	18.75	25.00
Summer 2 Stroke	18.00	27.00	36.00
Leaf Blower Petrol	22.50	33.75	45.00
Leaf Blower Petrol	9.50	14.25	19.00
Leaf Blower 24v	4.00	6.00	8.00
Leaf Vacuum Petrol	12.00	18.00	24.00
Leaf Vacuum 24v	10.00	15.00	20.00
Garden Refuse Bag/Sheet	1.50	2.25	3.00
Chopper/Stripper Petrol	35.00	52.50	70.00
Chopper/Stripper 24v	15.00	22.50	30.00

Access Platform	Day	2dy	Wk
13m Access Platform	80.00	140.00	200.00

Bingo and Sing-along nights. Wednesday is Party Night with a buffet. Additional excursions are also available at reduced prices.

Holidays are available for the week from **Thursday 15 May to Thursday 22 May 1997**. Anyone interested in going on holiday, or wanting to nominate someone they feel deserves to go, should collect an application form from one of the addresses below:

- **The Post Office, Southam**
- **Taylor's Chemist, Southam**
- **The Post Office, Napton**
- **The Post Office, Harbury**

or contact: John Dugmore, The Skoppy, Cox's Lane, Napton, CV23 8LW, Tel. 01926 815145

John Dugmore

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Those members who did not manage to hear Dr. Brian Cook's talk on "Pruning" on 7th January, really did miss a treat. He brought along tools including many pairs of secateurs and plant material on which to practice. There was quite a lot of sweeping up to be done, but there were many pairs of willing hands helping. In spite of the cold evening and the germs, which were rife in the village, there was a good attendance. We trust that all who were poorly are now fully recovered.

Again this year Ryton Gardens will hold a Potato Day on **Saturday 8th February** between 10am and 4.30pm. To make it more pleasant there will be a marquee, which should improve things all round, as Ryton Gardens are rather exposed!

Biffa have announced details of their 'Green Garden Waste' collection service. The nearest point is Wood Street Car Park, Southam and a collection will take place on the **3rd Saturday every month from 10am-2.30pm**. Please see the poster on the Club Notice Board for details about waste which can be collected and that which will not be allowed. For more information call 01789 260616.

Our next talk on **Tuesday 4th February** is listed as "Wild Gardens" by Mr. Webster. Unfortunately Mr. Webster is indisposed. Instead Mrs. Pamela Copson will give us an illustrated talk entitled "Wild Flowers of Warwickshire" which I am sure will be very interesting. Visitors will be

most welcome. Also more seed orders have arrived so please pick them up at this meeting.

Anyone who would like to go to the Malvern Show on 9th-11th May please contact Mrs. Pat Smith 612650.

P.S. Advance warning! A plant sale is to be arranged for the Spring - details later - sow a few extra seeds.

Muriel Grey

GARDENING NOTES

Traditionally this is the time to tidy up in the garden and prepare the soil. However, the seasons have slipped by about four weeks in the last few years, so we may have to leave some of the jobs until the end of this month. Some jobs such as checking stored crops and plants can be done now. Dead fuchsia stems can be cut off and this should encourage shoots to grow at the base. Do not trim the outdoor varieties yet. If you intend to dig any beds, cover the soil with thick polythene sheeting to keep off the frost and rain. Early sowings can be made later on in these areas which will be warmer because they are drier. Shallots can be planted and seed potatoes set to chit.

Prune apples and pears into shape, whilst gooseberries need all the old wood and crossing branches taken out to let in air and light. Remove about a third of the older branches on black currant bushes because they fruit best on the wood produced last summer. Do not prune plums and cherries until after the blossom has fallen or they could be attacked by silver leaf disease. Deciduous hedges can be cut back. Any pruning done in winter should improve the vigour of plants. Shrubs which have outgrown their space can be cut back very hard, dug up and moved or shredded for the compost heap! Clematis which flower after midsummer can be cut back to 30cm (\pm 12") from the ground. Even if you prune the wrong ones they will still have some flowers. Wisteria should have all side shoots pruned back to two buds.

When bulbs begin to show through, clumps can be moved if they are in the wrong place. Large clumps of rhubarb can be divided and replanted in heavily manured ground. All fruit bushes can be fed with sulphate of potash. On a calm day give fruit trees a winter wash. As well as killing insect pests it removes moss and lichens which provide a haven for

diseases. If you haven't thrown out the Christmas tree yet you could recycle it as a support for sweet peas. Achimena tubers should be planted in compost and kept warm and moist to break the dormancy. Once they have produced shoots pot up 6 or 7 in a 13cm pot and keep warm. Finally on a historical note, it was in February 1897 that a nursery was started by Roger Crompton in Woodbridge, Suffolk, which later became the first Notcutts Nursery.

Plant of the month - Snowdrop - Galanthus

Gala is the Greek word for milk and anthos means flower, so whether you use the botanical or the English name for this winter beauty it is aptly named. Native to Turkey, Russia and Europe the bulbs start into growth as the year draws to a close, with different varieties in flower from October to March. Pick a few flowers and examine the delicate green markings on the pure white petals and detect the scent. Our native snowdrop can be found in woodland so this gives the clue that they prefer part shade and soil which stays moist through the year. When growing well the bulbs can double their numbers each year so twenty bulbs will soon make a good clump. Do be sure to buy only bulbs labelled grown from cultivated stock to preserve them in the wild.

Pat Smith

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors

I wish to convey our thanks for the sympathies, letters and cards sent to us in our sad loss of Laurie, a much loved husband and father.

Thanks must also go to Father Brown for a moving service and to those who sent flowers and donations which are being sent to the Walsgrave Kidney Patients' Association.

Una Greene

Dear Editors

Many years ago, walking past the church on my way to the Men's Club one evening, the Vicar was coming through the Lych-gate. "Hello Cecil" he said, "I would like a word".

I have always been a bit wary when Priests or Policemen want a word. "I hear that you sometimes have a day with the dogs and I would like to come".

I said: "Well, you are quite welcome, but sometimes I do get on ground where probably I have not got permission, this is called poaching".

Before Basil Thwaites bought the estate, the Kingston Manor grounds belonged to Lord Willoughby de Broke and if anyone was caught by his gamekeepers they were brought before the Bench at Kineton and charged with being in search of coneys. One young man I knew charged with this offence, was brought before a most formidable lady on the Bench. She enquired from the Court Clerk if poachers could still be deported, but the clerk pointed out that this was a first offence, so the man was fined 5/- (25p) and warned of his future conduct. Now going through my mind was the thought that appearing before this lady with a man of the cloth would be very interesting. I pointed this out to the Vicar and he said: "You arrange the day and we will face that problem when it happens".

I called at the Vicarage on the day arranged and was invited in, dogs as well. The Vicar's wife was preparing the sandwiches when she shouted out:- "The sausages have gone from the table". I had a true Lurcher bitch, a thief of great stealth, I looked at her but made no comment.

Now the name Lurcher covers a lot of dogs, but a true Lurcher was bred by country men in their wisdom, crossing an English Sheep dog for their brains, hair and hardiness with a Greyhound for sight and speed, producing a dog with square mouth, beard, round ears, rough coat, mostly brindle and not afraid of rough going. This was called the Norfolk Lurcher. They made very little noise and were greatly favoured by poachers and gypsies.

I remember gypsy caravans coming through Harbury with two of these dogs walking underneath the back axle of the caravan. One gypsy family had been coming through Harbury for as long as I can remember and were true Romanies. They came through early in May

on their way to pea picking in Lincolnshire and back again in July for the Plums in Evesham. They caused no trouble where they camped and the late great Tim Percival told me he tried to make sure that they were not disturbed.

Now the Vicar's sandwiches had been sorted out and off we went. After a couple of hours or so we stopped for a bottle of beer and a sandwich in the burra, the Vicar said: "Sure that bitch has done well she has caught six rabbits, she deserved the sausages!" By now we had been spotted - a gamekeeper never comes straight to you, he contrives to bump into you, as this one did. He was Irish and so was the Vicar and they soon made friends.

This was one of the best days I have had and I wonder if anyone else has taken a Parson Poaching.

P.S. Farmers now pay to have rabbits caught.

C.G. Bloxham

Christina Sherman, BA, AMAR

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