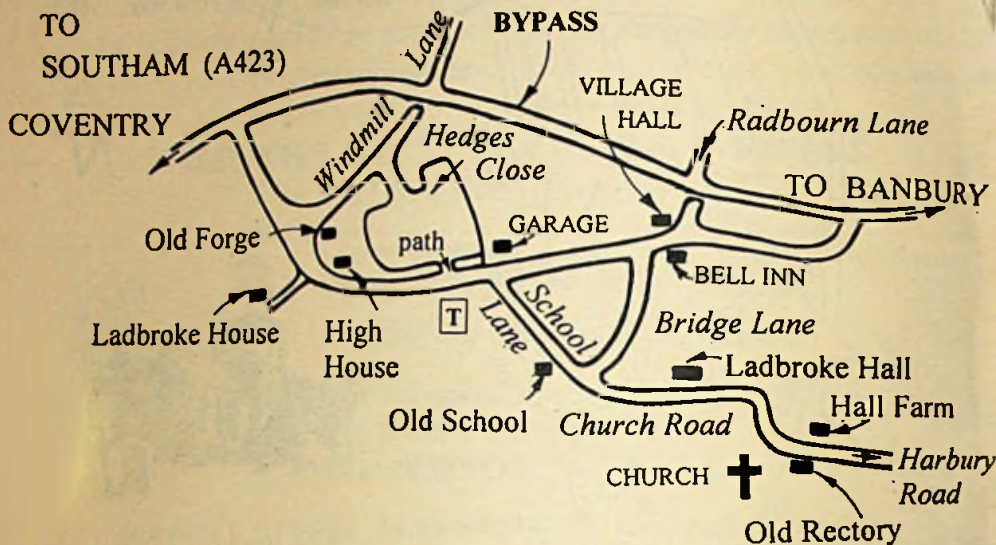


Harbury & Ladbroke News



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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The views of contributors are not necessarily those of the Editorial Committee.

DECEMBER 1998

No. 297

The annual bonfire and fireworks display went off with a bang even if the rockets were blown off course! As always a committed group of enthusiasts helped to build the bonfire and light the fireworks.



Rob Davies with his tractor delivering another load of bonfire material.

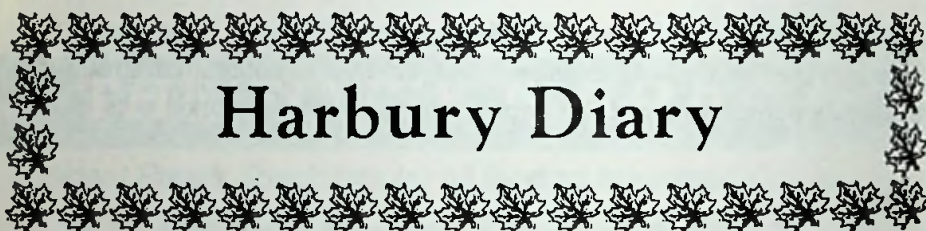
The next major events in the village will revolve around Christmas with the Christmas Fayre, Carol Services and Christmas parties. We wish everybody a joyous time during the festive season and hope that Father Christmas comes to all!

Remember that the Editors and Typist also like to enjoy a break at New Year and the deadline for articles will be **Thursday 31st December**.

Unfortunately the Editors do not always get it right and apologise for any errors which appear in the magazine, particularly in mistaking Dr. Wilkinson for one of his predecessors last month.

We are sorry to learn that tragedy has struck another family in Ladbroke and our thoughts are with Linda Doyle and the children.

Finally we send our sympathies to the families of Brian Cox, Cyril David, Maurice Dealtry, George Isham, Cecilia Mann, Neville Merrick, Robert Moore and John Mullis.



Harbury Diary

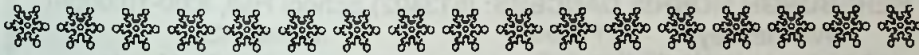
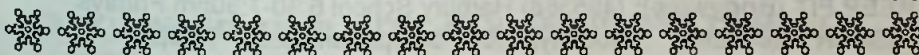
DECEMBER

- | | | |
|-------|----|--|
| Sun | 6 | Advent 2 - Sung Eucharist 9am; Evensong 4pm
Harbury Minis & Juniors & 7-12s home to Stratford |
| Mon | 7 | Martial Arts in Village Hall 6-9pm |
| Tues | 8 | Conception of the B.V.M. Holy Communion 7.30pm
Prayer Group 8pm
Village Hall committee in Village Hall 8pm |
| Thurs | 10 | Holy Communion 9.45am
Thursday Club Carols in Church 2.30pm |
| Fri | 11 | PTA Adult Entertainment Evening in School (ring Alan Guy 614242) |
| Sat | 12 | Harbury 1 st XV home to Burntwood
Senior Citizens Christmas Party in Village Hall
Challengers play Harbury Village Club 8pm |
| Sun | 13 | Advent 3 - Holy Communion 8am; Sung Eucharist & Baptism 10.30am
Evensong 4pm |
| Mon | 14 | Martial Arts in Village Hall 6-9pm |
| Tues | 15 | ADVERTS 14, Binswood End by 5.30pm
Toddlers' Service 2.15pm; Holy Communion 7.30pm
Senior Citizens' Committee in Village Hall 8pm |

- Wed** 16 Toddler Group Christmas Party in Village Hall
Thurs 17 Holy Communion 9.45am
 Martial Arts in Village Hall 6-9pm
Fri 18 Newspaper collection
Sat 19 Men's Prayer Breakfast in Tom Hauley Room 7.30am
 Harbury Rugby 2nd XV home to Southam
Sun 20 **Advent 4** - Holy Communion 8am
 Family Communion 10.30am
Mon 21 Martial Arts in Village Hall 6-9pm
Tues 22 Holy Communion 7.30pm
 A Christmas Conspiracy at Grange Hall, Southam 7pm
Thurs 24 **Christmas Eve** - Holy Communion 9.45am; Dressing of Crib 2.30pm
 Village Carol Service 6.30pm; Midnight Mass 11.15pm
Fri 25 **Christmas Day** - Sung Eucharist 9am
Sat 26 St. Stephen; Holy Communion 10.30am
Sun 27 **St. John** - Holy Communion 8am; Sung Eucharist 10.30am
 Evensong 4pm
Mon 28 The Holy Innocents, Holy Communion 10.30am
Tues 29 Holy Communion 7.30pm
Thurs 31 New Year's Eve - Holy Communion 9.45am
ARTICLES to **Party Paraphernalia** by 5.30pm
 Netball/Football Club Party at the Club 7.30pm

JANUARY 1999

- Fri** 1 New Year's Day - Naming & Circumcision of Jesus 10.30am
 Hereburgh Morris Hangover Tour around Harbury's Pubs (collecting for
 the Hurricane Mitch aftermath) starting at The Crown 12.15pm
Sat 2 Harbury 1st XV home to Coventry Tech.
Sun 3 **2nd Sunday of Christmas** - Sung Eucharist 9am; Evensong 6.30pm
Tues 5 Holy Communion 7.30pm
Thurs 7 Holy Communion 9.45am
Sun 10 **Epiphany I** - Holy Communion 8am; Sung Eucharist 10.30am
 Evensong 4pm


Please note:
Adverts to 14, Binswood End by Tuesday 15th December
Articles to Party Paraphernalia by Thursday 31st December


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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	Mr. P. Winchester	614466
For Wight School Bookings	Mrs. Hayes	613488

REGULAR DIARY DATES

APPALACHIAN STEP DANCING: (612734) Wight School, 10:00am-12:00noon Saturdays

BABY CLINIC: Surgery, 2:00-4:00pm 2nd & 4th Wednesday

BADMINTON: Village Hall, Mondays (Club) 7:00-9:00pm;
Tuesdays (League) 8:00-10:00pm;
Friday (Ladies) 2:00-3:00pm;
Sunday (Mixed) 7:00-10:00pm

BEAVERS: Scout Hut, 6:15-7:15pm Tuesdays

BELLRINGING PRACTICE: (613605) Church, 7:30pm Fridays

BINGO: Village Hall, 8:00pm Mondays

BROWNIES: Village Hall 6:00-7:30pm Tuesdays

CHOIR PRACTICE: Church, 6:30pm Fridays

COFFEE MORNING: Tom Hauley Room 10:00am-12:00noon Saturdays

CUBS: Scout Hut, Wednesdays

DANCING CLASSES: (01789-842242) Farley Room Village Hall, Children & Adults 4:00-9:00pm Wednesdays.

GYMNASTICS: Harbury School, 6:00-7:00pm

HARBURY FOLK CLUB: Dog Inn 8:30pm 1st Thursday of Month

HARBURY FRIENDS: School, 8:00pm 2nd Tuesday of Month

HARBURY JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB: (613358) 10:30am-12:30pm Saturdays

HEREBURGH MORRIS DANCERS: (613402) School Hall, 8:00-10:00pm Wednesdays

HARBURY NURSERY SCHOOL: School, 9:00am-12:00noon Monday-Friday; 12:45pm-3:15pm Mondays & Wednesdays

HARBURY Pre-SCHOOL: Wight School, High St. Tuesday-Friday 9:15am - 12:15pm

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: Village Hall, 8:00pm 1st Tues (Oct. to May)

KEEP FIT (Bodywise): (495368) Harbury School 6:30-7:30pm Fridays

LIBRARY: (613297) Mondays 2:00 - 5:00pm and 5:30 - 7:00pm;
Thursdays 10am-1pm; 2:00-5:00pm & 5:30-7:00pm;
Stories, Rhymes for U5s, 10:00am 1st Thursday of Month; Term Time only

NETBALL CLUB: (612841) Village Hall Car Park, Training 6:30pm Thursdays; Matches Saturday Afternoon

SCOUTS: Scout Hut, 7:00pm Thursdays

TENNIS CLUB: (614614) (Apr-Sept) Tues & Thurs 6:30pm onwards (6:00pm for April); Sat 2:00-5:00pm, Mon & Wed 1:45-3:00pm

THEATRE GROUP: Wight School, 8:00pm last Friday of Month

THURSDAY CLUB: Farley Room of V.Hall 2:30pm 2nd & 4th Thurs. of Month

TODDLER GROUP: Wight School, Mon.10:00-11:30am Wed. & 1:30-3:00pm

W.I.: Tom Hauley Room, 7:45pm 2nd Thursday of Month

YOGA: Wight School, 7:30-9:30pm Wednesdays, Diane Surgey Tel.817904

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For an appointment

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Southam 815045

POLICE

Southam 812366

SOCIAL SERVICES

Southam 813110

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John Hunt

Clerk:

Deborah Steele

Parish Office:

Tel. 614 646

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HELP WITH FORM FILLING:

- **Job Applications, CV's, Council Tax Forms, etc.:** Call Joanr 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	8.00am
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)
<i>Please see notice board in Church for weekday services or revised times on special occasions.</i>	
Rector: Father Roy Brown, The Rectory, Vicarage Lane, Harbury Tel.: 612377	

FROM THE RECTOR

The birth of Jesus into our world tells us so much about God. And sometimes we imagine that Jesus was born precisely to tell us more about God.

It would be closer to the truth, however, to say that Jesus was born to tell us more about 'ourselves'. By becoming a human being Jesus

revealed just how precious and valuable we are. He raised us up into another world.

The trouble is that we prefer to keep other people on the ground. We are best at reducing others down to size. Christ worked to raise us up; we work to put others down. That is the tension between God and man.

Prising a single word of praise from our lips is like getting blood out of a stone. There are millions of moments in the day when we see or hear something worth praising: the sunlight which accompanies our rising; the efforts (not always successful) of little Christopher to tie his own shoe-laces; the first letter of the new secretary to be typed without a single mistake; the ticket collector who says thanks; Mum's modest but munchy meal; Joanna's new boyfriend whose desperate shyness leads him to sit on the sofa as though he owns the place and who only needs one word of encouragement to feel properly at home; the colour of the bird's feathers sitting outside on the window sill. So many moments to praise; but we would rather die than say 'well done!'

In the Gloria of the Communion Service we praise God for His goodness. It may be the one occasion in the week when praise actually passes our lips. And that does us a great deal of good. The reason for our being so niggardly with our praise of others is that we ourselves are ill-at-ease with praise. When someone praises us either we become big-headed or we dismiss it as flattery. Both reactions have the same cause; we don't really believe that we are worth praising. Perhaps we have always been taught to despise ourselves; perhaps we have been despised. But whatever the reason we are not good at coping with praise.

And this is why we fail to cope with our Christian faith. If God tells us that we are worthy of praise, even to the extent of His Son becoming one of us, we dismiss the implications for our present and future life as idle flattery. We are simply not convinced by what Jesus Christ says about our being worth so much effort. In a word, we just don't believe Him. And so we neither praise God nor others.

Our refusal to give praise when it is due keeps our minds and hearts mean and miserable. It keeps us in our own small world. The Gloria, however, takes us into a bigger world where the sound of pure praise is heard. "Gloria to God in the highest" we sing, ".... We worship you; we

give you thanks, we praise you for your glory”.

The Gloria forces us to praise God. It nudges us into the habit of saying how wonderful He is. This doesn't add anything to His greatness or change Him in any way. But it does change us.

A young man who loves his girlfriend can't wait to tell her how marvellous she is. Such praise is not primarily for her benefit but, rather for his benefit. For him to say nothing would reduce him in size and make him less of a man. And this is true of our praise of God. There may be times when we don't feel like doing so - just as a husband finds it hard after years of familiarity to praise his wife. But making the effort makes all the difference. It enlarges our heart and mind and takes us into a greater world - a world which is full of praise. This Christmas let us praise God in our worship. And each other.

May you all have a blessed and joyous Christmas.

Fr. Roy

FROM THE REGISTERS

Holy Baptism at Harbury

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 15 th November | - Nicola Louise Sykes |
| 22 nd November | - Benjamin Oliver Steele |
| 29 th November | - Chloe Melissa Smith |

Holy Baptism at Ladbroke

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 22 nd November | - Charles Alexander Westland |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|

Funerals at Harbury Cemetery

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 23 rd October | - Maurice Dealtry |
|--------------------------|-------------------|

Funerals at All Saints' Harbury

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 27 th October | - George Isham |
| 29 th October | - Cecilia Mann |
| 30 th October | - Cyril (Bert) David |
| 2 nd November | - Neville Merrick |
| 3 rd November | - John Mullis |

Funerals at Oakley Wood

27th November - Brian Cox

Funerals at All Saints' Ladbroke

18th November - Robert Moore



Remembrance Day congregation pay their respects at the War Memorial

FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

On 22nd November Father Roy was delighted to enrol a further four full members to the choir. They were Lizzie Buck, Joanne Dorning, Sarah Sherman and James Smart. Each were presented with their blue ribbon together with the medal of the Royal School of Music. We congratulate them and wish them a happy and rewarding time during their membership of the choir.

The Christmas Services will follow the familiar pattern of previous years and full details will be delivered to each household. We look forward to welcoming you to join us at the church services to celebrate the festival of Christmas.

Ruth and Jeff

MOTHERS' UNION

Afternoon meeting: After a service of Holy Communion in Church, the meeting was an opportunity for members to share favourite readings and poems. There was a good variety of subjects chosen, from childhood through to recent favourites, all evoking nostalgic memories.

Evening meeting: Our speaker was Wendy Thomas with a fascinating account of how she started a Mothers' Union branch in Tenerife while her husband was working there as Chaplain. They realised M.U. did not exist in Tenerife, or indeed anywhere else in Europe. Thanks to Wendy, a Mothers' Union branch was formed and many members on holiday were able to visit the church and sign the visitors' book, thus maintaining that important link so vital to the future of the organisation. As a result, other branches are springing up throughout Europe as the word spreads and more women follow Wendy's example.

Next meetings: No Evening meeting in December.

Wed January 6th, 2:30pm - Party in the Tom Hauley Room.

Anne Moore

TODDLERS' SERVICE

At our November service we talked about light. We tried out all kinds of lights from electric lights to candles.

We remembered that Jesus told us to be like lights, cheering up people by being kind to them and helping them to know that God loves them.

After a prayer we lit night lights for the children to hold while we sang "Jesus bids us shine" and "This little light of mine".

Please note that the next service will be a week later, on **December 15th** at 2:15pm as usual.

C. Mary Catt

COFFEE AND MINCE PIES

We shall be holding our usual *pre-Christmas Coffee Morning* on **Saturday December 19th** from 10:00am - 12:00noon. The coffee and mincepies are free and we shall be running a raffle with the proceeds going to the Arthritis Research Council.

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There are many different forms of arthritis which, although not life threatening, can make life very difficult and painful. This complaint can affect people of any age from children to the elderly. Treatment has improved over the years, but there is a long way to go before there is a complete understanding and a cure. I myself, was given two replacement hip joints in 1976/1977 and have enjoyed 21 years of pain free life, but it is not as easy as that for many people. Please come and support the raffle and enjoy what is on offer. Over the last 12 months approximately £4,500 has been raised by the weekly Coffee Mornings for many different causes, both local and national. We thank you all for your efforts.

Joyce Windsor



Ladbroke News

DECEMBER

Sun	6	Advent 2 - Family Communion 10.30am
Wed	9	Holy Communion 2pm Women's Fellowship - tea at Beryl Ross' home after Service
Sun	13	Advent 3 - Sung Communion 9am
Tues	15	ADVERTS 14, Binswood End, Harbury by 5.30pm
Sun	20	Advent 4 - Sung Communion 9am; Evensong 6pm
Thurs	24	Christmas Eve - Dressing of the Crib 3.30pm
Fri	25	Christmas Day - Sung Communion 10.30am
Sun	27	St. John - Sung Communion 9am
Wed	30	Village Carol Service 6pm
Thurs	31	ARTICLES to Party Paraphernalia, Chapel Street Harbury by 5.30pm

JANUARY 1999

Sun	3	2 nd Sunday of Christmas - Family Communion 10.30am
Wed	6	Epiphany - Sung Communion 7.30pm
Sun	10	Epiphany I - Sung Communion 9am

LADBROKE FLOWER ROTA

Altar Flowers for Christmas - also 3rd January: Mrs. Gill Moore

LADBROKE CHURCH NEWS

As we rush and prepare for Christmas, let us make time to think about what it really is. I know Advent is the looking forward to the birthday of Jesus, but it should be a happy time. Relax, keep it simple, there is nothing worse than hearing people say: *I hate Christmas*. Just because of all the rushing, spending and lack of time.

Christmas Eve Service is at 3:30pm "Dressing of the Crib" the children are rehearsing for their Nativity Tableau now, parts for all!

Christmas Day Service is at 10:30am. We have got the most convenient time this year (Harbury's service is at 9:00am). So make the most of it.

We have begun our Choir practices for the *Carol Service*, which will be on **Wednesday December 30th** at 6:00pm. Practices are every Monday evening in church 7-8pm. If you enjoy singing and would like to join us you are very welcome.

Betty Winkfield

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Daisy Herringshaw, one of our older members, joined us for our November meeting. We thought it appropriate that as it was the '11th of the 11th' we would remember our wartime experiences. How interesting they were too - from being an evacuee to the bombing in Coventry.

Daisy, who is well into her 90's was an ambulance driver during the war and had a wealth of hair raising experiences to relate. Many thanks to Pat Kennedy for her hospitality at her new home in Napton.

After our Christmas Service with hymns and readings Beryl Ross has invited us for tea at her home on **Wed. December 9th** - 2pm in Church.

Betty Winkfield

We welcomed the arrival of Reith John Sopwith at Church Cottage in Ladbroke on Monday 16th November.

Mum & Dad Sopwith

LADBROKE AND DEPPERS BRIDGE W.I.

The meeting was well attended despite the inclement weather. The president welcomed members and after business she welcomed Mrs. Burrell of Brinklow W.I. who came to talk about and demonstrate the making of Hedgerow Christmas Rings. What a talented and interesting lady she was, holding us in amazement at her ideas. I am sure that there will be rings adorning the doors of many members - and all at very little cost. Just a carrier bag and a pair of scissors and it is amazing what treasures you can find in the hedgerows.

Stella gave us the latest information on the collage and it appears that we will have to wait until the Spring to know if we will be entitled to a grant towards it.

Raffle prizes were won by: Christine Baker, Susan Moore, Reidun Wilks and Jean Clews.

The Short-mat bowls' season is with us again. This year we entered two teams. A match was played against Rugby W.I. at Newbold Leisure Centre which was lost. The 2nd team played against Marton W.I. at Harbury Club and won. The benefit of playing on our home ground makes a big difference.

Five members are attending a weekend course at Denman College in February 1999. Seven members to date will be going to the Isle of Wight for a short break in April.

The next meeting is on **Thursday January 28th** when Mr. Ian Fryer will be talking about *Food Additives*.

Tea Hostesses are: Pam Collins and Julie Harris.

Happy Christmas to all and a healthy and peaceful 1999.

Hazel Sharples

LADBROKE VILLAGE HALL

The tenth prize draw of the Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Club was held on Nov. 9th at the Bell Inn. The winners were Gwynne Badman £80; Graham Lewis £50; Carol Northorpe £25. Gill Moore, Tina Gilbert, Muriel Grey, Pamela Brown and Terence Sullivan each received £10.

The next prize draw will take place on **Monday 7th December** at the Bell Inn at 8.00pm. Any new members will be very welcome. Please make contact on 814362.

There appears to be some confusion between fund raising for Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Club and Ladbroke Millennium Green so here follows the history:

About 18 months ago the Village Hall, as usual, was short of money for various projects we hoped to accomplish. We suggested having a '100 Club' to raise some of the money. After the first introductory letter 57 people signified their interest in the club and we decided to go ahead. It seemed pretentious to call it '100 Club' with only 57 members so after some thought we decided to call it the 'Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Club' because at that time we hoped that some work would be done for the Village Hall for the Millennium.

Later, of course, there came many suggestions for the Millennium and the idea of the Village Green came forward. This appeared an ideal opportunity for the village and hence Ladbroke Millennium Green was created to raise money to support that project.

Catherine Spence

Bob Moore

Bob was a friendly, quiet, conscientious, gentle man. He had many friends, as proved once again by the church overflowing at his funeral.

He had battled hard against his illness and continued with his hobbies and life as long as he could. In the two years since his retirement to Ladbroke he has turned his garden into a joy to behold.

He loved his family dearly and was very proud of them all. We all pray that our love and support will help you, Gill, through this sad time.

STEVE DOYLE

In a small village like Ladbroke any tragedy that befalls anyone living here affects us all. In some ways an extended family. The tragic accident to Steve Doyle has shocked us all. I think as a village we are at this moment numb and still reeling. We are all bringing to mind the many times Steve was there for us in an emergency - what shall we do without him? The Bell Ringers must be feeling that very much.

We are all here when you need us Linda.

"For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ".

Betty Winkfield

VILLAGE HALL

Preliminary notice: We are holding a *Masked Ball* on **Friday 5th February 1999**. Dancing to a live band. Please make a note in your diary and keep the evening free. Let's start 1999 off in a Positive Way.

Betty Winkfield

SOUTHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Ladbroke Section

The last meeting of the year was on Nov. 30th, because Christmas gets in the way of the December meeting. To move the date only causes confusion. So 1999 will start with the AGM on the last Monday in January, at St. Mary's School, Southam.

Our history display and bygones quiz at the Turner Festival was very successful and included the launch of a photographic book featuring a century of Bishops Itchington. A village close to Ladbroke in the 19th Century, when the children trudged daily across the Barn Farm fields to attend the Bishops Itchington school.

The recent new housing in Ladbroke has at long last doubled the size of the village. In 1639 there were 48 houses, including those in Farmyard Field and the grounds of Ladbroke Hall. In 1801 there were still only 49 houses, though the positioning of some had altered.

The 19th Century Parish Baptism book includes details of the early Government surveys of Ladbroke, between 1801 and 1841 after which full census records become available. Before 1841 there is no division between adults and children, but the male to female ratio remained reasonably constant, the fluctuations occurring in the male population. During the Napoleonic Wars, the 1801 record simply states: population male: 111, female: 124 - 57 families in 49 houses. Occupations divided into three: Agriculture, Trade and Others.

Since the number of families in Trade remained constant at 10, one assumes that the 1841 occupations relate closely to those of 1801. 1841 includes carpenters, wheelwright, blacksmiths, publicans, grocer, butcher, shoemaker and toll-gate keeper.

Between 1801 and 1811, 8 houses were demolished, leaving 52 families living in 41 houses. By 1831, 19 more had been built and the 62 families now occupied 60 houses, a number which has remained fairly constant until the middle of the 20th Century, when in-filling began and Ladbroke Hall was turned into houses and flats.

Linda Doyle

HARBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

A full year with activities and excellent speakers in pleasant surroundings.

For her 2nd year as president, with a full committee, Celia continues in her role. A busy time of year is approaching.

The Darts and Bowls teams will be playing their matches. Members are looking forward to the Christmas Party with entertainment on Dec. 4th.

The *Christmas meeting* will be on **Thursday 10th December** with a seasonal speaker and sherry and mince pies to savour. Don't forget the bran tub present.

The *Group Carol Service* is on **Sunday 13th December**, 3:00pm, at Our Lady of Wulstan R.C. Church, Southam.

No speaker this month, but a Mother & Baby competition, pairing off committee members as young children with their mothers. Not as easy

as it sounds and some kidlets got entirely wrong Mums. Amazing how many of the Mums were motor bikers in their hey day too. Real game girls!

Seasons Greetings to all readers.

Jeanne Beaumont

HARBURY FOLK CLUB

A theme night of witches (Halloween being close) and wicked plots (e.g. gunpowder) was met with the usual range of close, to not so close, connections, this month compounded by the fact that some had only heard witches and others only wicked plots, but then that is the problem with making announcements late in the evening! However, it really does not matter as the evening produced the usual brilliant performances from all the regulars: Rick, Liz (and Pete!), Des, Ian and Sue, Blues Fathers (and son), Ron, Peter MacD. Gilly, and Phil & Drill. It was also good to see and hear Colin Squires, complete with witch cut outs!

The evening was finished by a meeting of three old Warlocks, The Jug Band, who belted through some of their greatest hits including numbers from the Jug Band Tape, Oh, did I mention that we still have a few copies available?!

The raffle raised £42 for Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

Sue's Music Hall Evening having come and gone, the next Folk Club will be next year in the capable hands of Mr. Mike Putnam, first Thursday of the month at the Dog Inn.

John Kemsley

HARBURY NURSERY SCHOOL

This week we have been looking at the nursery rhyme 'Jack and Jill'. The children used maracas, a xylophone and cymbals to explore how Jack and Jill might get up the hill musically. They also did some guessing and experimenting as to which objects would sink or float in Jack's bucket. Finally, we stuck pictures of the objects onto a bucket to make a display.

Rehearsals are underway for our Christmas show *The Little Angel* which

will be held in the School hall on **Friday 11th December** from 10.30am to 11.15am. If you would like to see this magical tale about a shepherd boy who finds an angel with tattered wings stuck in a tree, do come along. There will be coffee and mince pies afterwards, and a collection to raise money for the Blue Peter Schools in Mozambique Appeal.

Our final event this year will be the children's Christmas Party with pass the parcel, musical statues and - of course - a visit from Father Christmas.

Looking forward to next year, each of the staff will be attending a Local Education Authority Training Course during the Spring term. These range from creative art to planning and assessment, from storytelling to early maths experiences. Also a reminder that Kate will be starting Wednesday afternoon sessions from January between 12.45 - 3.15pm.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas - and remember, if you should happen to come across a rather battered looking angel stuck in a tree it could be the start of something special.

Sarah Woods

HARBURY PRE-SCHOOL - Learning through Play

This last month has seen a celebration of Autumn and the start of preparations for Christmas. The children have been on a nature walk in the Autumn sunshine to look at the different coloured leaves and to find the seeds and fruits that have fallen from the trees and which are borne by shrubs and bushes in the hedgerows. Walking down Church Terrace they spotted the motorbikes in the Bull Ring Garage and we are very grateful to Dave who allowed them in for a closer look. Once inside, the fish tank proved to be the star attraction well, after all it was supposed to be a nature walk!

It was lovely to meet new parents and children at our open morning. If you missed it and are interested in finding out more about the Pre-School then please call in and you will be made very welcome. Our coffee morning was well attended and we would like to thank Ruth Coleman for her hospitality and everyone who came along to drink coffee, eat cakes and buy raffle tickets. Our thanks too to everyone who has ordered goods from the Webb Ivory catalogue. The order has been placed and you will be notified of the delivery of goods in due course.

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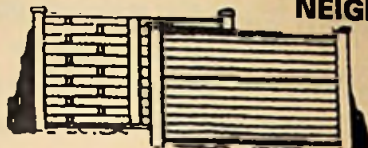
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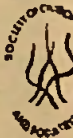
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Christmas is coming and the children are busy rehearsing for their Concert. We would like to extend an invitation to everyone in the village, whether you are a parent, grandparent, carer or simply someone who finds the sound of small children singing *Christmas Carols and Songs* very moving, to come along to the Wight School on **Wednesday 16th December** at 11.00am. Coffee and mince pies will be served afterwards and we hope to whet your appetites for our *Cake Stall* on **Thursday 17th December!** It will be held outside the Library from 9.30am and you are advised to come early! Donations of cakes would be very welcome. The *Children's Christmas Party* will take place on **Friday 18th December** and then there are two and a half glorious weeks of holiday before term starts again on **Wednesday 6th January 1999.**

Happy Christmas and a joyous New Year to you all.

Harbury Pre-School Committee

BOWLING

There is to be a special meeting of the Parish Council, probably on Thursday 14th January 1999, to hear and discuss the ambitious proposals of the Tennis and Netball Clubs to provide flood lighting, extensions and astro-turf surfaces at their facilities on the Recreation Ground.

It seems to me that this could be an excellent opportunity to include a Bowling Green, but there must be sufficient support shown from the village as a whole for this to be even considered.

If you are at all interested please attend this meeting and make your views known or we shall have lost a valuable opportunity which may never occur again. Look out for announcements confirming the date and location nearer the time.

Peggie Middleton - 612877



BREAKTHROUGH BREAST CANCER



Poised for Action! Harbury's Specialist Gardeners

In support of the 'Cover Britain in Crocuses' campaign, Harbury Parish Council purchased 1,000 bulbs for planting in the village. Pound Green was the chosen site and a hand picked team of specialist gardeners were recruited from Harbury School to carry out the work on Nov. 12th.

Planting 1,000 bulbs is no mean feat and it was anticipated the task would take a complete afternoon. However, thanks to 'pressed' labour, efficiency of the school team and their burning desire to return and study quantum physics and classical Greek, the job was completed in world record time.

My thanks to Harbury School for providing the team, the team for performing brilliantly under the direction of Mrs. Corkhill and 'the boys' - who did a bit!

Thank you all - due to your support for this important and worthwhile cause we can all look forward to a bright and colourful display next Spring and in the future.

John Woodward - Harbury P.C.

'XMAS POST BY *G.A.S.S.* - A service for Harbury this Christmas

Following the success of the last four years *G.A.S.S.* can save your shoe leather, your time and your energy by delivering your village Christmas cards for you. By putting your feet up and letting us do the work, you can support this worthy charity at the same time!

All you need do is to 'post' your village cards in the special box at Mugleston's and we will do the rest. The cards must be to an address in the village. They will then be stamped with the *G.A.S.S.* logo (so that your friends will see that you have supported us) and they will catch the next available delivery - we will be delivering at least three times a week starting on **Saturday 5th December right up to and including Sunday 20th December.** Oh! And please don't forget to make a donation! (There will be a clearly marked donation slot in the 'posting box'.)

Save your feet and help support the Beavers, Brownies, Cubs and Scouts.

From all of us at *G.A.S.S.* to all of you - *have a good Christmas.*

Peter Walshe

MISSION TO SEAMEN

Thank you everyone who supported our annual event in the Tom Hauley Room on Nov. 14th. The total profit was £128.48 from sales of cards/cakes/raffle. Well done everyone.

Please add seafarers to your prayers especially during the festive season.

Yours aye'

Bill Davies (Hon. Local Secr.)

MYTON HOSPICE

We would like to thank everyone who supported our Coffee Morning at Fox Cottage. We made £193.

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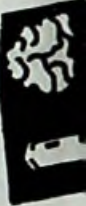
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Geniality

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Triumph

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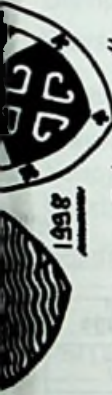
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R.S.P.C.A.

A record £520 was raised at the Coffee Morning in October. Thank you all for such marvellous support.

Pam Sperling

COUNTY AIR AMBULANCE

We would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who donated prizes etc. and all who helped on the day at the Victorian Street Fayre. We are pleased to report it was a great success.

Our tabletop/jumble sale brought our total money raised for the County Air Ambulance funds up to £633.

Once again, many thanks to everyone who supported these events for a very worthwhile cause. Hope to see you all at the next one! Again many thanks.

PS *We wish you all a Safe and Happy Christmas.*

Mary Revitt

HARBURY CRICKET CLUB

1998 Season - Club Averages

Saturday League XI - Batting(Qualification 8 innings)

Name	Innings	Not Out	Highest	Total	Average
Will Russell	15	0	54	310	20.7
Ed Russell	17	2	58	299	19.9
Seb Briggs	13	0	58	247	19.0
Zak Briggs	17	0	57	221	13.0
Les Sollis	10	2	26	95	11.9
Paul Bennett	17	0	64	152	8.9
Neil Maunder	8	1	19	38	5.4
Greg Sherrington	12	0	33	63	5.3
Gary Haynes	9	3	13*	23	3.8
Nathan Smith	8	2	6*	10	1.7
Ian Barrett	11	2	4	14	1.6

Scores above 50: Seb Briggs 58, 52; John Clifford 67, Paul Bennett 64, Ed Russell 58, Will Russell 54

Bowling (qualification 6 wickets)

Name	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Ian Barrett	23.2	2	85	6	14.2
Ed Russell	251.5	51	778	52	15.0
Gary Haynes	60	9	210	10	21.0
Will Russell	149	26	545	25	21.8
Zak Briggs	64.3	5	277	15	25.1
Greg Sherrington	39.4	2	189	7	27.0

Best bowling figures: Ed Russell 7-54, 6-67, 6-84, 5-23, 5-90

Catches (qualification 4 catches): 14 - Seb Briggs, 12 - Will Russell, 5 - Richard Carr, 4 - Paul Bennett, Zak Briggs (there were 5 unrecorded catches out of 59 taken)

Stumpings: 3 - Will Russell, 1 - Richard Carr

Player of the Year - Ed Russell

Midweek League XI - Figures not available

Player of the Year - Seb Briggs

Young Player of the Year - Greg Sherrington

Outstanding Performance - Will Russell (scored 108 runs in one match)

Sunday Friendly XI - Batting (qualification 5 innings)

Name	Innings	Not Out	Highest	Total	Average
Phil Linnett	9	2	85	287	41.0
Ian Lowe	5	1	57	120	30.0
Ian Jackson	5	3	14	50	25.0
John Clifford	11	0	53	213	19.4
John Wilkinson	13	0	36	232	17.8
Richard Carr	8	3	33	80	16.0
Les Sollis	8	2	34	97	12.1
Gary Low	10	2	38	42	18.4
Mike Daniels	6	1	23	42	8.4
Richard Lowe	5	3	2*	5	2.5
Malcolm Tanner	6	0	3	6	1.0

Other Batting of note

Name	Innings	Not Out	Highest	Total	Average
Brian Tegg	4	1	49*	89	29.7
Paul Bennett	4	1	46	19	15.3
Zak Briggs	3	1	27	20	13.5

Scores above 50: Phil Linnett 85, 60, 51; Ian Lowe 57, John Clifford 53

Bowling.(Qualification-bowled in 5 Matches)

Name	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mike Daniels	12.2	1	50	9	5.6
Ian Lowe	43	10	102	13	7.8
Clifford	110.4	44	232	14	16.6
	93	15	356	16	22.3
	84.4	11	338	14	24.1
	42.1	4	193	6	32.2

g of note

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
ys	31	5	99	8	12.4
Paul Bennett	24	2	81	5	16.2

Best Bowling Figures: Richard Lowe 7-51; Ian Lowe 5-21, 5-25

Catches: (Qualification-2 catches) Richard Carr 6, John Wilkinson 3, Mike Daniels, Ian Lowe, Derek Clack, Gary Lowe, Nathan Smith, Zak Briggs 2 (There were 6 unrecorded catches out of 33 taken.)

Stumpings: Richard Carr 6.

Player of the Year - Phil Linnett

Outstanding Performance - Richard Lowe - 7-51 in one match

Ian Jackson - Chairman

SOME MEMORIES OF HARBURY

Harbury has always been close to my heart. Chance encounters on two recent visits have made me realise how close. The memories, unlocked by talking to Gillian Carter, Celia Barrett and our neighbour of Temple

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End days, Tony Ceney, relate mainly to a large and rather shapeless group of young people which centred its activities in the early 1950s on the Youth Club, the Church and, I have to say, the local pubs, although alcohol did not figure largely in our leisure activities. Or am I mistaken? I met my informants in the Top Shop (is it really called that still?), having gone there partly on the advice of some people I had met earlier in The Shakespeare, and partly out of curiosity because my mother had worked for Mr. Taylor for a short time.

Trawling through these memories with Tony and Celia, and browsing through Celia's amazing photographic record of village activities, names spilled out like toys from Santa Claus' sack.

The Youth Club, I remember, started on the first floor of the Vicarage with the Reverend Atchison's encouragement, then progressed to outbuildings that were completely restored by the group itself (I remember the hens had left a hefty legacy!). Those who could danced endlessly to Joe Loss' *In the Mood*, and I remember being green with envy at the footwork of Pete Beaney and his partners in the quick-step. Others played table tennis, and vied with each other to produce the ultimate design of bat. I wasn't much cop at that either!

Some of the group were, on Sundays, either bell ringers or members of the choir. Some - I seem to remember that Gordon Smith was one - were in both and had to dash from the bell tower to the vestry. After Church, there were long walks round Bush Heath Lane in the summer months for a bit of courting. In my case, we used to go to Gordon and Rex Smith's house to watch *What's my Line?* on television (sets were quite rare in those days).

On Thursday nights, we were exposed to the delights of Hollywood and Ealing when 'the pictures' came to Harbury. There was much competition for the best seats in the W.I. hut which were chairs perched up on tables. The 'Flash Gordon' serial was quite popular, perhaps more so than 'Ma and Pa Kettle'! There was generally an unplanned break to sort out the equipment!

Perhaps because my family were newcomers from the town, I am inclined to exaggerate the joys of living in the country. But then again, perhaps not, as most of our leisure activities were shared with others. A good crowd used to go down to swim at Ufton, or sometimes at the Mill

Pool at Chesterton. With Tony and Gordon "Jim" Hawkins, we were always doing something: bird nesting, catching grass snakes and so on. I remember one occasion with Pete Beaney, David Kitchener and others, organising our own sports' day in the field just behind Temple House. From carol singing at Christmas (mince pies in the Manor House), to 'fag' smoking (the lads) in Bascote Heath cemetery, there was a string of activities that we were all involved in at one time or another.

We were only in Harbury for five years, but I am quite sure that anyone associated with this crowd will agree with me that they were heady and enjoyable times. I am very grateful to Celia, Tony, Ray and his wife for unlocking this treasure chest of memories. I am presently busily getting copies of photos of the 1953 Coronation celebrations that include one of my brother David and myself and many others who, if not mentioned here, are all remembered with affection.

Roger Court, late of Temple End

SAMOIS-SUR-SEINE CELEBRATION DINNER

As Moira and I have been Francophiles for a long time and already have



Left to right: Moira Lamont, Laurent & Françoise Bourguignon

many long standing friendships in the country, it was with interest that we became aware of the first steps that Harbury was taking towards twinning with Samois-sur-Seine.

The planning meetings prior to our visit to France were interesting and then it started to become very real as the arrangements to match the families started to happen. On the 27th March we set off to Samois with 50 other Harbury people. It has already been stated in previous newsletters how hectic the weekend was. However, it is almost impossible to explain just how welcome we were made to feel and just how hard the twinning committee in Samois must have worked to make the visit such a tremendous success. So much so that we did wonder if we could possibly repay their hospitality when our hosts returned to us. I have to say that we were incredibly impressed with the talent of all the travelling musicians we took with us and feel they made a real difference.

We stayed with Laurent and Françoise Bourguignon and their two young children. Françoise is in overall charge of Sports for Samois and both she and Laurent are national champions in the boules leagues in France. If anyone wishes to create sporting contact, please let us know and we will pass on your ideas with pleasure. In the space of that weekend we became firm friends and on our return to Harbury wrote often to each other and swapped our photographs.

In June, Françoise wrote and offered us their house during the time they were on holiday, we just had to water the plants! Moira and I spent a week in their home and were able to visit all the interesting places (especially to artists) in the area and enjoyed an extremely relaxing break. We didn't meet anyone we knew as all the French go away in August! This was a twinning bonus for us and we were really looking forward to seeing Françoise and Laurent in Harbury.

Our stalwart committee duly began the process of organising us all and yes, we had to fund raise, and yes we all donated the costs of the trip to the committee that the EU would give us back. I think the overwhelming feeling in those meetings was that we should try to help the committee to make the weekend in Harbury as memorable as the one had been in Samois. It was time consuming, especially for the committee and they are to be congratulated for the additional hard work they must have put in that the rest of us did not know about. Everyone involved seemed to have played their part and contributed what they

could, ours was a bit of graphics and the co-ordination of the much admired art exhibition. The result of this is that we have been asked by Ghislaine Degrange if we will arrange for some of the work of Harbury artists to be taken to France to be hung in their exhibition in Samois in June/July 1999. So, watch this space if you would like to take part and add 'exhibited in France' to your CV!

We have since heard from Laurent and Françoise, and they really enjoyed their weekend in Harbury. We are hoping that they will return soon for a longer holiday with us as they have already offered us their house again for next year. A bonus we didn't expect is that, through the twinning, we have met people in the village we didn't know before such as Ron Grey who kindly lent us the stands for the exhibition, Lesley Jones who produced the painting which was given to the people of Samois and Mostyn "Kim" Kimber who added a strong 3-dimensional contribution to the really impressive show we were able to put on.

We feel that the whole process of twinning with Samois has been a total success and that the experience so far augers really well for contacts between our two communities. Well done everyone!

Brian and Moira Lamont

HARBURY CHRONICLES 2000

We have almost finished filming. The last shooting is scheduled for this coming New Year's Eve. Danny and the Chapel Street group have agreed to light up the road for us.

It would be wonderful if we were to meet there, just before midnight to celebrate the New Year with Auld Langs' Syne.

Will you think about leaving your parties for a wee while to come along and make the closing sequence of the film? (If you are wearing Fancy Dress - more fun).

Please spread the word so that we can be together with family and friends, as a village community for the Grand Finale.

Mary Shelley

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Mrs. Dakin produced a talk entitled *Winter Gardening* at very short notice, bringing with her many slides, and some interesting plants for sale. One thing she mentioned was storing tools clean and in good repair for the winter. Will the grass stop growing this Autumn to enable the mower to hibernate I wonder!

The AGM took place at the last meeting. Mrs. Pat Smith agreed to be chairman for another year, Mrs. Judy Morell has joined us and I think Ron will soon have an assistant for Show Secretary.

As last year, I think Christmas shopping started in Harbury with the Craft Fair. Again the society provided the food and refreshments for the event. May I thank our superb team of helpers, skivvies, cooks, etc. I couldn't have managed without you all. The weather was reasonably kind - the sun came out more than once which gave encouragement for people to come and view the crafts - and to eat! We were obviously much appreciated by the stall holders and public alike.

It seems members ordering seeds have another month to think what they would like to grow next season - **January meeting on Thursday 5th** at the very latest please.

The Society has yet again renewed the Ryton Gardens ticket, this admits two people to the Gardens FREE any day of the year - not sure about Christmas Day! A visit during the school holidays? Mrs. Zonik has the ticket 612365.

The committee would like some help please - suggestions for the outings in June, both the all day and evening trip. Please give any information to any committee member. Just in case some people were not at the AGM - here is a list of committee members:

Mrs. P. Smith - Chairman

Mrs. J. Clarke - Secretary

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Mrs. E. Zonik, Mrs. V. Neill, Mrs. S. Batty, Mrs. J. Morrell, Mrs. H. Turner, Mr. R. Grey and me!

The January issue will not be out in time for our first meeting in the New Year, here are the details: Mr. Webster will give a talk entitled

Small Trees and Shrubs on Tuesday 5th January 1999 back at the Farley Room 8pm.

Finally, may I wish the hard working Editorial Staff and all our members a Very Happy Christmas, a Prosperous and Healthy New Year.

Muriel Grey

GARDENING NOTES

Trees are still bearing leaves and autumn colours gleam in the rare shafts of sunlight, but already we have seen frosty mornings so winter is on the way.

Perennials which are slightly tender need root protection. Heap 6" of leaves or bark around the root and secure it with netting or twigs, or try an upturned pot filled with leaves over the crown. Cut off any dead stems on the hardy plants but leave them some winter protection too. This may not look as neat but it could be life or death for the plants if we have a hard winter.

Move containers of hardy plants to a sheltered position if possible, or lag the pots. Evergreens which were planted this year appreciate a windbreak. If you have ordered deciduous trees or shrubs prepare the planting holes now. When the plants arrive soak them in a bucket of water for a couple of hours and then pop them in, making sure they will be at the same depth as they were in the pot or the nursery.

Prune back any tall growing shrubs to prevent wind rock, and tie in shoots on climbers. Lop trees which are too large or out of shape. Blackcurrant bushes will yield better if 1 in 3 of the older branches are pruned out at ground level. It is easy to see which are the older stems because they are a darker brown. Plant garlic.

In the unheated greenhouse group plants together and keep them up off the floor if possible. Be ready to cover them with fleece or newspaper if there is a frost warning. Remember to ventilate the greenhouse on warmer days to reduce the chance of diseases which love the damp air here. If we get frosts remember to check that ponds have an ice free space for gases to move through.

House plants may need to move into better light now and the winter flowering plants, such as azaleas and cyclamen, need a liquid feed once a fortnight. These plants cannot tolerate central heating so I find I can only grow them successfully in the porch or on the stair's windowsill. Bring bowls of bulbs into the light and a cool room when shoots are 2" or so high. Finally, do give the Christmas tree a drink too!

Plant of the month - Christmas Cactus

The original true Christmas cactus is pendulous, magenta flowered and blooms from December to February. Now there are more upright types, and a range of colours but all are varieties of *Schlumbergera*. No wonder they are all called Christmas cactus even though some flower in November and others in March!



The aptly named 'Christmas charm'

Often bought as presents they may be disappointing because they do not like to be moved about once the buds form. Look closely and you will see that they do not have a flower stem. Flowers turn towards the light, so may snap off. Another cause of bud drop is a very dry atmosphere or extremes of temperature. These plants originate in the jungles of Brazil so have made a remarkable adaptation to our living room conditions. New buds begin to develop in late August as the days shorten so they must not be in a room with artificial light until you can see the buds. Then return the pot to its normal position and the buds will go on growing regardless of the light.

When the buds are growing and the plant is flowering keep the compost moist. They prefer acidic soil so add some tea to the water. When the flowers have withered keep the plant dry until April, only water if the

foliage shrivels. Through the summer stand the plant outside in a shady position but watch that it does not get too wet from rain.

Pat Smith

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors

My family and I would like to express our thanks and gratitude for all the cards, flowers and expressions of sympathy we have received since the death of my Dad Fred Isham.

Thank you to all who attended the service.

Shirley Crossan & Family

Dear Editors

May I, on behalf of my family, thank everyone for the lovely cards and letters we have received following our loss of Bob, a devoted husband, Dad, and Grandad.

Special thanks to Father Roy for his kindness, sympathy and understanding.

Gill Moore

Dear Editors

Ruth, Anne and Alan would like to express their thanks to the friends and neighbours, who sent cards and messages of sympathy received after the sad loss of a dear husband and father Neville Merrick.

Special thanks to all who attended the service and to Father Roy for his thoughtful address and words of comfort.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who sent donations in memory of my dear Dad, best wishes to all.

Ann Edwards - Southam



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Dear Editors

We would like to thank everyone in the village who has helped over the last few months fund raising for Daniel's new wheelchair.

It is difficult to ensure we thank everyone because there have been so many people who together have made such an incredible difference. At the beginning of September Mike & Liz Henry at Westfield Cattery organised a barbecue which raised a huge amount (about £900) despite the dreadful weather, but this would never have been the success it was if it was not for the people who came and spent lots of money. Gordon North the butcher who provided nearly all the food, the people who donated raffle prizes, including the Newsagent and Co-op, Kary Hunt for face painting and of course Liz and Mike who had the idea in the first place.

At the same time Ian, Simon Blythe and friends from work completed a seventy mile sponsored walk from Fort William on the West Coast of Scotland to Inverness in the East in three days. So thank you to everyone who sponsored them.

In October Ed and Tim from Harbury Cricket Club held a sponsored wheelchair push in Victoria Park in Leamington and raised £500 towards the chair.

The response has been amazing - through the village, our families, friends and Ian's work, the sum raised is going to exceed £4,000. An amount which we find unbelievable. This means that Daniel will be able to have the most suitable wheelchair and car seat - it also means that in the future there will be funds available for other much needed equipment.

Could I also take this opportunity to thank Moya Waterman and Jane Haggitt for holding the coffee morning in the Tom Hauley Room to raise money to support Daniel at the Nursery.

So thank you all so very very much. Have a Merry Christmas.

Allison, Ian, Luke & Daniel Ashworth

Dear Editors

Some time ago in the H&L News, there was an article about the Wells family and a visit by several of their American descendants. The Wells were an old Harbury family who were landowners, tradesmen and landlords.

Arthur Wells, a gifted sign writer and painter was landlord at the Crown and a tale about him was still doing the rounds when I was a boy. Flowers (the Brewers who owned the Crown) commissioned Arthur Wells to paint most of their pub signs which were a work of art. He used to do this work in a workshop in the Crown yard. One day a regular customer looked in and pointed out licensed was spelt wrongly on a magnificent sign. Arthur supposedly started crying and took to his bed for a fortnight.

Another brother, 'Needle Nose' or 'Nosey Wells' was a ganger for Greaves, Bull and Lakin. He lived at Hillcrest and owned the field 'Little Woollens' up the Bush Road, now part of Thwaites Estate, which was rented by Bill Marlow.

Then there was Sandy Wells, one of the 'Three Musketeers' who used to sit on the seat on Park Lane watching the Cricket in the park in summer. Harbury had the village blacksmith as wicket keeper, whilst Jack Bloxham and Fred 'Fiddle' Field were a deadly combination of fast bowlers. The other two Musketeers were Bill Smith and Tradum Hughes. Les Bourton (of the Dry Wit) said: "Nobody got into or out of Harbury without their knowledge".

The Wells were connected by marriage to the Owens, a moneyed family, and the Owens to the Gascoignes, who had Harbury 'well sown up'. Jack Gascoigne was the village tailor!

A few years ago as I stood in the yard after dinner, a big car pulled in. "Cecil Bloxham? Son of Cecil Bloxham? There is an old gentleman in the car who would like a word with you." The man who got out was quite spritely despite being ninety. He shook hands with me saying: "I sat by your father in Harbury School until 1913 when I went to America, aged 13, and have never been back until now. My name is Tom Keyte. It occurred to me that, as I was ninety I should 'come home' and look round before I die."

Tom told me: "Eli Keyte was a wheelwright and undertaker, but the family was split by snobbery. The snob is 'Keat', the other's 'Kite'. Tom said he was of the lower order. Before he left Tom asked: "Would you go to the Pastor and say that Tom Keyte has been home and ask him to say a prayer for me?" Tom then said: "I have been all over America, married an American and my family are Americans. I can now return feeling that I have justified my faith and remained true to England and the place called 'Home'."

Canon Rowe did say the prayer when I asked him.

Cecil Bloxham

Dear Editors

In the last issue of the H&L News I read with great interest the article under the Harbury Society relevant to the history of the police force in a talk given by Inspector Graham Sutherland.

I feel that I cannot let the paragraph relevant to the late commander Kemble go by, as I feel it gives a wrong impression of the man due to the fact that the inspector did not know him personally.

Commander Edward Richard Bert Kemble R.N. had been Admiral Beatty's regulating officer at the Battle of Jutland in 1916 and became Chief Constable of Warwickshire in 1929. He continued in that position until 1947 when he did take his own life at Bronson Hill, Ashorne.

For half of my police service I served under him and met him on many occasions. It is true that he attempted to bring moral discipline into the police service in his early years with the force, but in doing so he also ensured that there was a strong visible presence of policemen on the streets of the towns and villages of Warwickshire. You never knew when he was going to appear, night or day, including myself!

The Home Office inquiry in 1941 was not entirely due to the discipline in the force, but concerned other matters. Later on we all received a Christmas card with a Biblical quotation on it which we were exhorted to look up.

It was that of a man who had seen the error of his ways. The force

today has a lot to be thankful for to Commander Kemble, inasmuch as he was the originator of the very strong Benevolent Fund which he started off with the sum of £2,000 bequeathed in his will, a lot of money in those days, i.e. 1947.

John Drinkwater
Sometimes PE46, ex. Warwicks. Constabulary



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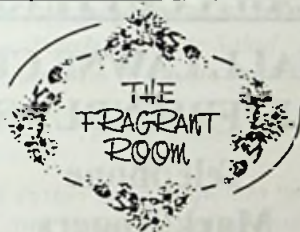
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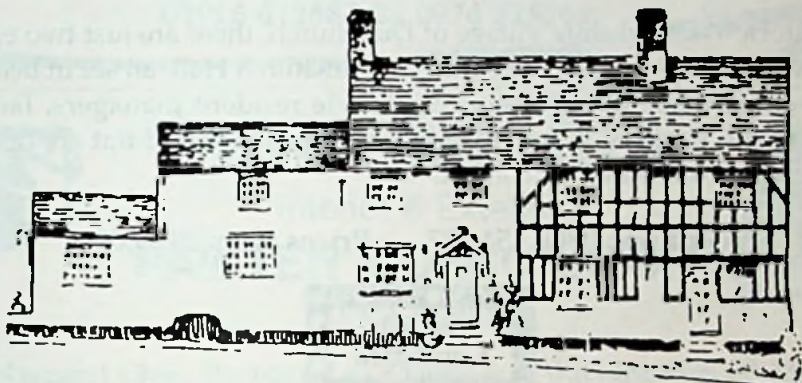
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