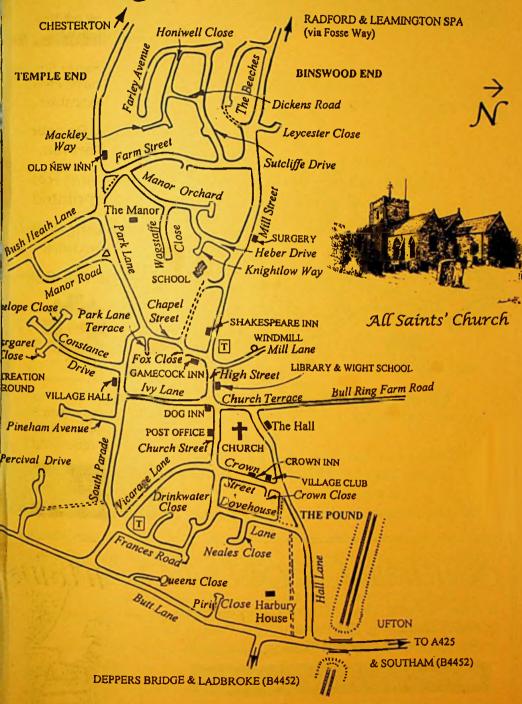
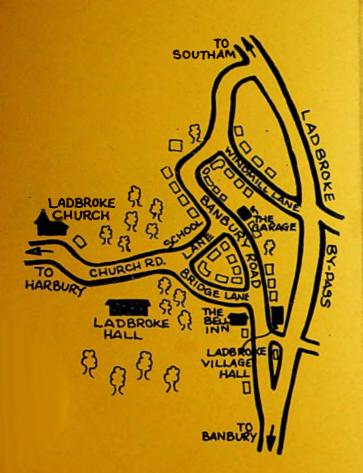
# Harbury & Ladbroke News



# 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.

Editorial Office:

(**2** 612155)

Articles to:

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

Please note: Adverts to 6, Knightlow Way by Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January

Articles to Nifty Needle by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January

#### **JANUARY 1998**

No. 286

How will Christmas 1997 be remembered in Harbury & Ladbroke? For the celebrations in the local churches which saw record congregations?

For the Christmas Fair which continued to thrive under new leadership? For the Senior Citizens party which was an acknowledged success? For the Nativity plays performed by pre-school children or

For the groups of Carol Singers who braved the elements to tour the villages?

Whatever your special recollections, we wonder how many lucky children were recipients of the ultimate present of either Tinky-Winky, Dipsy, Laa-Laa or Po? Even Jonathan Dimbleby popped up in Teletubby land for his review of the year!

One event that always delights adults and children alike is a nativity play performed by the very young of the community. Both the Playgroup and Nursery School put on productions and our photo on the next page shows two of the Angels from amongst the host.



Gemma Harold and Eleanor Clarke at the Nursery School Nativity Play

If that was the good news, the bad news must have been the upsurge in crime that hit the village during the festive period. One lady was mugged outside the Post Office; items were stolen from garages in Park Lane and Mill Street and one vehicle went missing from Ivy Lane.

There is always a need for vigilance and maybe the improved street lighting should have deterred the criminals in the last mentioned site where new street lamps have just been erected. The lantern design is a great improvement and if they had appeared in time, photographs of them could have been on display in the quiz at the Christmas Fair.

The new year has been heralded by extremes of weather in various parts of the country and in Harbury only Temple End has suffered a short power cut. Fortunately as we live on a hill we at least do not suffer from flooding.

Finally we offer our sympathy to the family of John Overton who was a character well known throughout the village.

# Harbury Diary

JANU	ARY	ecrould lenin equiples 5 years your market			
Sun	11	Epiphany I - Holy Communion 8am; Sung Eucharist 10.30am Evensong 4pm			
Tues	13	Holy Communion 7.30pm; Prayer Group in Church 8.10pm Village Hall Committee meeting at 8pm			
Thurs	15	Holy Communion 9.45am  ADVERTS 6 Knightlow Way by 5.30pm			
Fri	16	Newspaper collection Pantomime The Toy Cupboard in Village Hall 7.30pm			
Sat		Men's Prayer Breakfast in Tom Hauley Room 7.30am Pantomime The Toy Cupboard in Village Hall (2.30pm & 7.30pm)			
Sun	18	Epiphany II - Holy Communion 8am Family Communion 10.30am			
Tues	20	Holy Communion 7.30pm  Mothers' Union in Tom Hauley Room 8pm  Senior Citizen's Committee in Village Hall 8pm			
Thurs	22	Holy Communion 9.45am Thursday Club in Village Hall 2.30pm Parish Council meeting in Village Hall 7.30pm			
Sat	24	NSPCC Burns Night in Village Hall			
Sun	25				
Tues	27	Holy Communion 7.30pm; Julian Group in Church 8.10pm Harbury Society in Tom Hauley Room 7.30pm			
Thurs	29	Holy Communion 9.45am; PCC Meeting in Tom Hauley Room 7.30pm Line Dancing in the afternoon in Village Hall			
Fri	30	Newspaper collection ARTICLES to NIFTY NEEDLE by 5.30pm			
Sat	31	Race Night in Village Hall for <i>q.A.S.S.</i>			
FEBRUARY					
Sun	1	Epiphany IV - Sung Eucharist 9am			

LEDK	UART
Sun	1 Epiphany IV - Sung Eucharist 9am
	Sunday School in Tom Hauley Room 10.30am; Evensong 4pm
Mon	2 Candlemas Holy Communion 7.30pm
Tues	3 Holy Communion 7.30pm
	Horticultural Society in Village Hall 8pm
Wed	4 Holy Communion 2pm;
	Mothers' Union meeting 2.30pm
	Wi's 80th Birthday Dinner

Thurs 5 Holy Communion 9.45am
Stories, Rhymes for U5s in Library 10am
Line Dancing in the afternoon in Village Hall
Folk Club in the Dog Inn 8.30pm

Sun 10 9th Before Easter - Holy Communion 8am; Sung Eucharist 10.30am; Sunday School in Tom Hauley Room 10.30am; Evensong 4pm

# 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, Mondays (Club) 7-9pm; Tuesdays (League) 8-

10pm; Friday (Ladies) 2-3pm; Sunday (Mixed) 7-10pm

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

BELLRINGING PRACTICE: (613605) Church, 7.30pm Fridays

BINGO: Village Hall, 8pm Mondays

**BROWNIES:** Village Hall 6-7.30pm Tuesdays CHOIR PRACTICE: Church, 6.30pm Fridays

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

**CUBS:** Scout Hut, Wednesdays

DANCING CLASSES: (613698) Farley Room Village Hall, Children & Adults 4-9pm Wednesdays.

GUIDES: Scout Hut. 7-8.30pm Mondays

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 Tuesday of Month

HARBURY JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB: (613358) 10.30am-12.30pm Saturdays

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

HARBURY NURSERY SCHOOL: School, 9am-12noon Monday-Friday HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: Village Hall, 8pm 1st Tues (Oct. to May) KEEP FIT (Bodywise): (495368) Harbury School 6.30-7.30pm Fridays

LIBRARY: (613297) Mondays 2 - 5pm and 5.30 - 7pm;

Thursdays 10am - 1pm; 2 - 5pm and 5.30 - 7pm; Stories, Rhymes for U5s, 10am 1st Thursday of Month: Term Time only

LINE DANCING: (613478) Village Hall 8pm Thursdays (except 4th Thurs.)

LINE DANCING: (624454) Village Hall 8pm Wednesdays

NETBALL CLUB: (612841) Village Hall Car Park, Training 6.30pm

Thursdays; Matches Saturday Afternoon

PLAYGROUP: Wight School, Tuesday to Friday mornings QUIZ EVENING: The Old New Inn, 8.30pm Saturdays SCOUTS: Scout Hut, 7.45pm Tuesdays & Thursdays

TENNIS CLUB: (614614) (Apr-Sept) Tues & Thurs 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: Farley Room of V.Hall 2.30pm 2nd & 4th Thurs. of Month

TODDLER GROUP: Wight School, 10-11.30am Mondays & 2-3.30pm Wed.

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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EMERGENCY TRANSPORT: Call Tim Millington 612808 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.

Rector: Father Roy Brown, The Rectory, Vicarage Lane, Harbury

Tel.: 612377

## Laugh Line

Seen on the Church Notice Board:

"Seven days without prayer makes one week".

### FROM THE RECTOR

Christ, our brother. There is an old legend that Christ came on earth a second time and nobody recognised Him. People failed to see who He was not because of their hostility or lack of good will, they did not understand that Christ was here because He was so 'ordinary'. And when they were told that this man who had been living in their midst was, in fact, God, they were all astonished. They said they had taken him to be one of their brothers

The truth on which this legend is built is the amazing fact that God lived on earth in such an ordinary way. People did fail to recognise Him, because He was so like a carpenter's son. The one who walked the hills of Galilee and the streets of Jerusalem got to know Him as a friend

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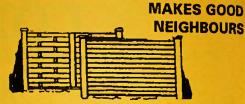
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before they discovered who He really was. They knew Him as a supporter of those in trouble and a true friend to the sick and sinners. What a thrill it must have been when they discovered that the person they had grown to love so much was also their God.

Few, if any, believers accept Christ in an instant. Believing in Him involves a process of growth. The people who lived in His time had to grow in their understanding of Him until they could see and accept that their friend Jesus was truly God. We, on the other hand, have to keep on reminding ourselves that the Son of God did share our humanity. Jesus is God and man and it is only when all the pieces are in their proper places that we get the correct picture. It is only because Christ is God and man that He was able to turn the world and all its values upside down. God, by entering human history, changed its course for ever more. Every thing was now centred on Him, all things were drawn to Him and all peoples would benefit from the fact that God became one of us.

Nothing changed the course of history as surely as the life, death and resurrection of Christ. What happened then is not hidden in the obscure depths of the past. It is no secret. We have the records of all these things, written by people who were involved in those first staggering years of coming to grips with what Christ had done. They wrote to share their faith and experience. Good books can be read many times, but the books of the gospel can be read without ever coming to the end because when we read it Christ becomes present and where there is Christ there is always a new beginning and hope.

A Happy New Year to you all.

Fr. Roy

## FROM THE REGISTERS

Holy Baptism - All Saints' Harbury

14th Dec. - Joshua Christopher Hill

23rd Dec. - Katherine Elizabeth Cooper and Kristina Lynne Cooper

28th Dec. - Alexander Myles Crowley - Palmer

# Funeral

8<sup>th</sup> December - John Overton

## FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

A Happy New Year to all.

Although this is the time we should be busy listing all the tasks ahead, it is worth a brief look back to December.

The Advent Play was very successful and well supported by the Harbury Theatre Group. It is always particularly pleasing to note how well the younger members of the cast get involved and undertake a variety of roles. Those teenagers with leading parts included Lauren Woodward, Sophie Eadon, Peter Clarke and Robert Stringer.

The Christmas Fair in the Village Hall was under new management. Colin Ingram, has taken over the reins with a new committee. We understand the experience left him undaunted and he is already planning for next December.



Beryl Checkley & Jean Cooper on their stall selling Parish Mugs

The Church services for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day were well attended. An aggregate total attendance for the four services being in excess of 900 adults and children. The retiring collection at the Village Carol Service was the sum of £454.85 and has been forwarded to the Children's Society.

## Ruth and Jeff

## **MOTHERS' UNION**

The Mothers' Union throughout the Diocese are holding a special day of prayer on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February to express fellowship and concern for members in other countries ravaged by war and famine. People are asked to light a 'Candle of Concern' on that day. In Harbury we shall be marking this day as follows:

At 9.30am - Fr. Roy will light a large candle and say prayers to begin the vigil. Coffee will be served at the Rectory between 10am and 12noon. The proceeds will be sent to Overseas Outreach.

At 2pm - The Deanery Prayer Group will meet in Church and would like to extend an invitation to anyone able to join them. We hope that as many as possible will pop in to Church at some time during the day even if only for a few minutes to make this a truly prayerful day. If you are sick or house-bound, please join in at home. The day will end with the celebration of the Eucharist, for Candlemas at 7.30pm.

## **CHILDREN's SOCIETY**

The Children's Society collecting boxes were opened in November and £156.90 was sent to the Society. Thank you to all who contributed. If you would like to have a box in your home to support this worthwhile cause, please contact Pam Brown at the Rectory, not Jeff Bedford as recorded in the Harbury Directory.

## Pam Brown

# **TODDLERS' SERVICE**

We sang Away in a Manger and Mrs. Bedford told us the story of baby Jesus. Every time she mentioned the name of one of the animals in the stable we made the noise of that animal. We all stuck manes on

cardboard donkeys to take home and we finished by singing Little Donkey.

The next service will be on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 2.15pm in the children's corner of the church. All toddlers and babies, with an adult, are very welcome.

C. Mary Catt

# Ladbroke News

#### **JANUARY 1998**

Sun 11 Epiphany I - Sung Communion 9am; Evensong 6pm Wed 14 Holy Communion 2pm; Women's Fellowship 2.30pm

Thurs 15 ADVERTS 6 Knightlow Way, Harbury by 5.30pm

Sun 18 Epiphany II - Sung Communion 9am Children's Church 11am Evensong 6pm

Wed 21 Holy Communion 9,45am

Thur 22 Ladbroke & Deppers Bridge W.I. in Ladbroke Village Hall 7.30pm

Sun 25 Epiphany III - Sung Communion 9am

Mon 26 Local History Society meeting in Stoneythorpe Hotel 7.30pm

Wed 28 Holy Communion 9.45am

Fri 30 ARTICLES to NIFTY NEEDLE, High Street Harbury by 5.30pm

## **FEBRUARY**

Sun 1 Epiphany IV - Family Communion 10.30am

Wed 4 Holy Communion 9.45am

Sun 8 9th Before Easter - Sung Communion 9am

**The Flower Rota for January:** Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Edwards Sundays 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

## LADBROKE CHURCH NEWS

Remember our Christmas Fayre back on 29<sup>th</sup> November? Well we made £560. A really splendid effort by all who helped and all who spent. Many, many thank you's. Half the proceeds went to Leamington's Christian Mission.

The Christmas Eve Crib Service was very well attended and a joy to watch and listen to. Jane Steenstra had worked hard and had got the

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small children almost word perfect with their Christmas play. Well done everyone.

The Carol service - the Sunday after Christmas, was a truly wonderful occasion with over a 100 people in the congregation. It really made a Grand Finale to 1997.

Wishing everyone a Very Happy 1998.

# **Betty Winkfield**

# FRIENDS OF LADBROKE CHURCH

Our next get together is at Jim and Jean Clews on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm, for an evening of good food, pleasant conversation and of course Jim's famous quizzes.

Best wishes to all for 1998.

#### Gill Moore

#### WOMEN's FELLOWSHIP

Our December meeting started with our extra-special service in Church. We then had a Christmas tea party and a chat. Our January meeting on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January will be at Hazel's home, when she will tell us more about All Saints' Hospice in Cairo, Egypt. That meeting will also be our AGM. Please come with some ideas for the coming year, e.g. where to go for our annual outing.

## **Betty Winkfield**

## LADBROKE AND DEPPERS BRIDGE W.I.

The Christmas Dinner on the Prince Regent was a great success. The night was very cold, but we were pleased that we had braved the weather and travelled to Offchurch in two mini buses. The well presented meal was very enjoyable and the service on board was very good. We cruised along the canal towards Leamington and were delighted when we recognised buildings and scenery along the way.

The general feeling was that we should go again in the summer, so, to those few members who could not make it this time, make a date for August. Of course, had two members not spilt their drinks and another

not brought a chamois leather to clear the condensation from the windows, it would not have been quite such an hilarious evening!

The next meeting is on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 7.30pm in Ladbroke Village Hall. Our speaker will be Mrs. Linda Doyle whose talk and slides of 'A lost Village' should be interesting, particularly to local people. Visitors will be most welcome (male and female).

Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Pam Collins and Mrs. Julie Harris

# **Hazel Sharples**

# SOUTHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY - Ladbroke Section

The Society has had an extremely successful year with membership increasing each month.

Meetings are held on the last Monday of the month at 7.30pm at the Stoneythorpe Hotel and cater for anyone interested in local history in particular. Talks have covered subjects such as: Police History, Coaching and Warwickshire Poets, while visits have included private houses such as Shuckborough and Stoneythorpe Halls.

The 1998 year starts at 7.30pm on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January with the AGM at Stoneythorpe Hotel, Southam. Then on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February Richard Chamberlaine-Brothers will introduce us to Victorian Photographers in Warwickshire.

A snippet from Ladbroke: From the time of King Henry VIII, the Chebsey family were gentleman farmers in Ladbroke, possibly living in the old Manor House in Farmyard Field by the church, tenants of Catesby. By the turn of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, four Chebsey gentlemen had bought their houses and land off Robert Dudley and became Freeholders.

On 10<sup>th</sup> April 1591, Prudence Chebsey, the daughter of John Chebsey of the Farm and wife Blanche, married one John Shakespeare of Ladbroke. Related to 'The Shakespeare'? Probably not, Shakespeare was a name common to 24 Warwickshire villages in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century and 36 villages by the 17<sup>th</sup> Century!

Still, it did not stop them from being prominent village personalities.

Thomas Chebsey Senior was also Sir Robert Dudley's bailiff and the 1639 map of Ladbroke shows Richard, Thomas Junior and George Chebsey with large houses in the village centre.

# Linda Doyle

### **Dear Editors**

Philippa, Melanie and Sally would like to thank all those who gave so generously (including the chocolates!) when they were carol singing and collecting for the Bell Tower Fund. A grand total of £60 was collected. Thank you.

# Philippa Surgey

### HARBURY SOCIETY

The winners of our Christmas Fair 'Lamps' quiz were your Editors! John & Gill Holden with 21 out of 24 questions right. Alison Hodge had 20 and Sam & Jenny from Ivy Lane got 19 correct.

It is surprising how many different street lights we have and how many people help by lighting lamps on their homes at night.

The lights shown were:

- 1. Chapel Street
- 2. Western House
- 3. Kingston House
- 4. Hall Lane Cottages, opposite. The Club
- 5. Butcher's Barn
- 6. Stonewalls, Farm Street
- 7. Holly Cottage, Farm Street
- 8. The Dog Inn
- 9. The Shakespeare
- 10. 4, Chapel Street
- 11. South View Cottage, South Parade
- 12. The Crown

- 13. The recreation ground car park
- 14. 10, Manor Orchard
- 15. Lullington Lodge, Dovehouse Lane
- 16. Temple End
- 17. Back Lane entrance to the School
- 18. Ivy Lane/South Parade junction
- 19. Neale's Close/Dovehouse Lane
- 20. Mill Street/Back Lane corner
- 21. 18, Farm Street
- 22. East View, Dovehouse Lane
- 23. Hall Lane/Ufton Road junction
- 24. The filling station

Dorothy Travis 'mans' the Society's stall whilst Mary Mugleston and son Stuart attempt to recognise the village lamps

Our next event is a talk by Cecil Bloxham on the life of the Quarry workers. It begins on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm with coffee in the Tom Hauley Room. Do join us.

# Linda Ridgley

### HARBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The December meeting started with a presentation of flowers to Wendy, our past president.

Members enjoyed the Carol Service in the lovely old church at Priors Hardwick.

Many thanks to those who made the lovely cakes and preserves for the Christmas Fair, not forgetting those who helped on the day.

I must mention our 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Dinner on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30 for 8pm. Bring your own drink, although there will be sherry and

wine for the toast. Please enclose your £12 in a named envelope and bring it on the evening.

Special thanks must go to Mary Thompson who stepped in at short notice to tell us about her wonderful day at Highgrove House near Tetbury. Mary is Headteacher of St. James' C. of E. Primary School in Southam and the school was delighted when informed they were mentioned for their high achievement in the Ofsted report. In fact, on the morning the news became public it was found to be the only school in the area.

Later in the year an invitation came from Buckingham Palace to visit Highgrove with Headteachers of other chosen schools. Lengthy instructions with map and information of do's and don'ts were included.

So, on a perfect day, Mary dressed in her fetching new outfit, went to Highgrove, meeting some very nice people from all over the country.

Hospitality was excellent with plenty to drink (if one was not driving). She met David Plunket with whom she was impressed and later Prince Charles, who was charming.

Later they were allowed to tour the vast grounds, mostly designed by H.R.H. The gardens are open at certain times for the Prince's Trust and there is also a shop. Certainly a day to remember for Mary and we were so pleased to hear about it.

We enjoyed sherry, mince pies, our pressies and a picture quiz to round off the evening. We wish all readers a Happy New Year.

January Hostesses: D. Buck, S. Lapraik and B. Heaver

Jeanne Beaumont

### **HARBURY FOLK CLUB**

The Folk Club session on December 4th was a very festive occasion with more Christmas spirit than we can usually muster so early in the month. Perhaps it was the presence, for some of the evening, of the Harbury Chronicles cameraman that inspired the performers to make that special effort?

The evening saw the usual hordes of performers including some interesting groups and debuts. Steve, Maureen, Janny and their

daughters, Lizzie, Emma and Kathy, as "The Young and not-so-Young", sang a delightful carol with flute accompaniment and then got us to sing it as a round. Andrew & Jenny Patrick sang two carols, as did 11 members of the Folk Club Choir, and Rosemary & Anne 'signed' a seasonal poem. "50 Hertz" (get it?) was a new group featuring a number of familiar faces from other groups - John Black, Stuart, Chris & Alan-while the Hartlands and McDonalds got together again as "Double Up". There were also contributions from the Blues Fathers, the Harvesters, Sue and Douglas from Warwick Folk Club, Pete Bones, Rick, the Jug Band (with "Christmas in Australia" by special request!), and me.

A noticeable absentee on this happy occasion was Jean Shuttleworth, a regular performer at the club for many years. Sadly, Jean passed away that very night but she will be fondly remembered, especially for her sense of humour and her brave performances while clearly suffering poor health.

The raffle raised £37.01 for the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. Later in the month, singers and musicians from the Folk Club and Hereburgh Morris went out carol singing around some of Harbury's pubs. We would like to thank the publicans and their customers for helping us to raise £60 for Myton Hospice.

The next Folk Club is on February 5th, at 8:30pm in the Dog Inn, hosted by Peter Bones. The patriotic theme for the evening will be "England".

### Peter McDonald

### THE TOY CUPBOARD

This is a magical seasonal play by Anne Megeney, which will delight the whole family. Come along to the Village Hall on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January or Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm (also 2.30pm on Saturday) and find out what goes on in an attic playroom after dark.

When things go bump in the night, perhaps you should check the toy cupboard! Tickets from Party Paraphernalia and Nifty Needle at £3 (adults) £1.50 (children). Buy early to save disappointment.

## Anne Megeney

## **GUIDE LEADERSHIP CRISIS 1998**

Sadly, I am leaving the Guide Unit after camp in July 1998 and because of the offer of help for the next two terms from Carolyn Dorning, it is now possible to continue Guides until then. There is no possibility of my continuing after this time. We are therefore looking for someone, or friends, who will be willing to take on the running of the Unit from August. Please think about it and make enquiries. It will be a great pity if the Unit closes next year, particularly with the rebirth of the new Scout Hut, which should be ready for the start of the new Autumn term! (Somehow I seem to have missed out on the lovely new facilities planned for the new hall!)

On behalf of all the Guides and everyone who is involved with the Guide Unit I would like to thank Ann Brunt who has retired from the Unit this Christmas. Her contribution has been of great benefit to the Guides and her input and the support from her family has been most appreciated. Thanks Ann.

# Coffee Morning and Guide Craft Show - Saturday 10th January

Come to the coffee morning in the Tom Hauley Room on Saturday from 10am-12noon and see the lovely Craft Show items the Guides have produced. We shall be really pleased to see you and your contribution will help towards the new Scout Hut - bring your family and friends. Contributions of cakes and raffle prizes will definitely be appreciated.

# Pam Shepherd, alias Kite

# IT's A G. A.S.S.

Laugh? I nearly cried. The G.A.S.S. 'Racenight with a Difference' was rehearsed just before Christmas and believe you me YOU ARE IN FOR A TREAT.

A new and beautifully made racecourse complete with horses will debut on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January in the Village Hall from 7.30pm.

Look out for jockeys 'Sizzling' Susie Buck, Pam 'Sensational' Shepherd and Clerk of the Course Julie 'Luscious' Linforth. If the Stewards Enquiry (headed by Andy 'Amphetamine' Linforth) doesn't get you, the visit to the Vet (Pete 'Needles' Woodward) might, and mind the water jump . . . .

We guarantee you will be screaming from the stands, flinging yourself at fences and panicking in the paddock. Meal provided, great bar, six different races and the Race of Champions and all for only a fiver - plus 'Honest' Stephen Kelly and 'Racing' Raymond Flanagan at the Tote. Come and take part (it is an interactive night of tremendous fun). Tickets from any committee member or at Party Paraphernalia. Bring your lucky horseshoe, wear your favourite rosette, but most of all whip yourself along to the Racenight with a Difference - Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January.

# Peter 'Perfect Day' Walshe

#### HARBURY TENNIS CLUB

A quiet month for Harbury tennis players, with only one match being played in the Banbury League (Harbury 'B' losing to Byfield), both 'A' team matches were postponed.

The New Year was seen in with gusto, however, with The Muffler Tournament attracting a record number of members (28 for tennis and 30 for lunch). Best Lady was the (suitably named!) Carol Best, and men's winner was Ed Wilson.

On the social side, our Christmas bash was a great success, helped in no small way by a mystery benefactor who bought us all champagne and brandy .... Very many thanks to that man! We will be sending him a free copy of our 1998 Calendar of Events for his mantelpiece.

But the real highlight for December has to be the wedding of our Chairman, Colin Mercer and Sue Brown. Congratulations from all of us. It remains to be seen where Colin's allegiances will lie in the future - will Sue now take precedence over the other love of Colin's life: 'The Villa'? Watch this space.

## **David Snell**

### HARBURY CHRISTMAS FAIR

The fair was once more a tremendous success and everyone enjoyed the day. I would like to express our thanks to all the stall holders, the social committee, John Ridgley (alias Father Christmas), the Morris dancers and last, but not least, Ron Dunbar.



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The monies raised will be donated to Christian charities and church funds. Once again our thanks to everyone and we look forward to next year.

# Colin Ingram



Jester minute! Who's in charge? Colin Ingram stamps his authority - on the event in exuberant style.

#### **NSPCC**

The NSPCC committee would like to thank the church choir and parents for their support on 15<sup>th</sup> December when we braved an arctic blast to sing carols around the village. We were able to raise the amazing sum of £120. Thank you for your generosity.

Our next fund raising event is a *Burns Night* in the Village Hall on **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January**. Tickets are available from Margaret Sherrington (613704), Jackie Steele (614285) or any committee member.

#### **Sue Lord**

#### HARBURY - SAMOIS TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Harbury's first official trip to Samois-sur-Seine is imminent. The committee in Samois have arranged their official Twinning Ceremony for the weekend of March 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> and already the list of people who are interested in attending is growing rapidly - including some of the children from Harbury School who have pen-friends in Samois, and their families, which is very pleasing. Given the numbers of people in the party, accommodation within families may be limited and some of us may have to stay in nearby hotels where available. However, if anyone who has expressed an interest in twinning has not yet heard about it do let me know; the list is as yet only provisional, although the number who can be accommodated obviously rests with Samois. If you have already indicated your interest we shall be getting in touch shortly.

If you have not yet joined the association and would like to do so the annual membership fees are as follows: Individual £3, Family £5, and Group £10. Please give you money to our treasurer, Martine Jenkins (6, Margaret Close, 613857) or to any other member of the committee.

Our next committee meeting will be Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January, 8pm in the Wight School.

Sally Stringer (613214)

## **COUNTDOWN TO A CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Each year in the fortnight before Christmas, a committee of eleven organise a 4-course dinner with 'all the trimmings' for the Senior Citizens of Harbury and Deppers Bridge.

It is a venture which represents all the finer aspects of the community spirit, involving the co-ordinated efforts of over 40 people who work throughout the day to offer an evening to remember for the 130 people who accept the H.S.C.B.C. invitation. The organisation starts long before the day with arrangements for the cooking of fresh turkeys, making apple pies, ordering all the Christmas fare from the village shops and collecting the many raffle prizes which are generously provided by local people.

The day long activity is a masterpiece of organisation with helpers arriving on cue to perform their individual tasks which contribute to the whole smooth running operation.

- 8am Harry and Margaret arrive and Janet lends a hand with the preliminary washing up of over 500 separate items of crockery and glassware.
- 9am Neville makes his appearance and assists Harry with putting up the decorations which will give the Village Hall a festive appearance.
- 10am Rick provides the added height to put up the highest decorations and starts on the Christmas tree lights.
- Brian sets out all the trestle tables and lays the cloths out with Margaret. Marie delivers the rolls whilst Tony collects all the salad material from Country Fayre and the drinks from the 'top shop' i.e. the Post Office.
- 12am Margaret and Mary polish all the cutlery and arrange the place settings and table decorations.
- 1pm Brian carves the fresh turkey and work begins on preparing the salad.
- 2pm Jenny blends the soup into a creamy consistency in three large jam skillets with all the enthusiasm of a netball player needing exercise on an enforced break from the game.
- 3pm Chris and Marie set out the ham and turkey salad on the plates arranged on every conceivable flat space in the kitchen and adjacent room whilst four ovens around the village are each primed to receive 50 potatoes for baking.
- 4pm John begins the unenviable task of folding 3,000 counterfoils from the raffle tickets which have been sold around the village -

special thanks to the Club which sells the lion's share.

The first of the guests arrive on foot, followed shortly by an army of Senior Citizens who are chauffeured to and from the event with the kind assistance of many P.T.A. members. Ethel sends up her home baked pies and her share of the cooked potatoes.



Jim Chapple and his wife Edna enjoying the proceedings with Ethel Sollis appearing behind them.

Father Roy Brown says Grace, which signals the start of the dinner served by 9 waitresses and 2 waiters. In the kitchen the heat is on to put out 130 bowls of soup in the least possible time, followed by the plates of salad which are accompanied by the potatoes delivered from their home baked sources. The 4 washers-up recycle the bowls and spoons for later use and keep pace with the mountain of cutlery and plates which appear through the hatch at very regular intervals!



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- 7pm The sweet choice is apple pie or Christmas pudding and this year, everyone seems to want apple, so the last few tables are without a choice. Last year pudding was the main choice!
- 8pm The tables are cleared and the raffle is drawn by Tony with many lucky winners in the Hall exclaiming their delight at winning one of the 20+ prizes.
- 9pm The hour long entertainment provided by Mavis Young accompanied by Richard Cox (duet on the piano), Deidre Dunbar (well loved songs), Phil Linnett and Harbury School pupils (line dancing) and carol singing has been enjoyed by all and audience participation has enlivened the spirits!
- 10pm Everyone has gone home and the committee clear the decks, brush the floor and leave the heaps of newly washed tableware, decorations and tree till tomorrow.

It's another day and in another year it will start all over again, but at least for one day, many Senior Citizens get the chance to be together, so it's all been worthwhile. The only other opportunity for a major gettogether is the annual Summer outing which should be worth recording as a communal activity of the 90's?

Footnote: Mr Drinkwater arrived with a green anorak but left without it! Someone left a navy blue anorak behind, so maybe in the darkness there was some confusion. If you find that the anorak you thought was yours has changed colour, please ring either 612903 or 612519 and each will be returned to their rightful owners!

Harbury Senior Citizens Benefit Committee (H.S.C.B.C.)

# **BLACKPOOL FOR JUST £92**

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's a holiday at this ever popular resort. The holiday in Blackpool costs just £92.00, which 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 seaside breaks. 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. Holiday makers must be able to climb stairs as the small comfortable family type hotels do not have lifts.

On arrival by coach at Blackpool, people will be transferred with their luggage to their rooms and will have tea or coffee and biscuits to settle in before the evening meal. Included in the price will be a Mystery Tour, Western Night, 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 14 May to Thursday 21 May 1998.

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 - Telephone 01926 815145.

Completed forms should be returned to John Dugmore no later than 25 February 1998.

Rotary Club of Southam 2000

### HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The start of another year, where did 1997 go - a very Happy, Healthy New Year to everybody. I am glad to say the last meeting of 1997 was very successful. Mr. Michael Leech gave an entertaining talk with slides entitled "Down the Garden Path", then we rounded off the evening with our social. This year the food was provided by our members, it was nice for the committee not to have a lot of the work involved - thank you very much to everybody who helped.

The two gentlemen in the kitchen dealing with the drink were also quite

busy! Again many thanks.

I have heard that 13 of the 44 Parish Council Allotments are now vacant. As older tenants give up, younger tenants are not coming forward. Like many things in the village it is a case of 'use it or lose it'. At present, the unused plots are just grassed over, but if this trend continues, the question of using the land in some other way will be bound to arise.

Our next talk *Herbs from Plot to Pot* will be given by Mrs. Eleanor Zonik, just the thing to get the New Year off to a good start.

# **Muriel Grey**

#### **GARDENING NOTES**

Many people will have received houseplants as presents, so a few hints on their care may help them to live longer in our warm houses. People are happiest in room temperatures of 20 - 25°C and as dry as a desert, but the majority of the winter houseplants are happier at 15 - 18°C. Most of them come from the tropics but high humidity is more important than high temperatures. Stand pots on trays of gravel or special clay granules, or put the plant-pot into a decorative pot and pack moist compost into the gap and water into this. Keep the water level on the tray topped up to just below the bottom of the pots. This will provide humid air around the plants but you need to water them once or twice a month as well.

Let the top inch or so of the compost dry out then take the plant to the sink and soak the whole pot, allow it to drain, then return the plant to its place. Cyclamen and African violets should be watered by standing the pot in shallow water and letting the compost soak up the water. It is difficult to keep most of the flowering plants to bring them into bloom again, so give them good care now to enjoy the colour they bring, especially once the Christmas decorations come down. Do remember to move plants from windowsills when you close the curtains.

There is little to do outside but if there is a mild spell check tree stakes and fences and clean slippery paths. Check stored tender plants once a week, remove any dead leaves and keep fuchsias just slightly damp. If you are planning to put in a hedge in the Spring you could copy the old gardening method of enriching the soil. Dig the planting trench and into this tip all the vegetable waste from the kitchen, along with an occasional

spade full of soil to help it all rot down.

Regular food put out for the birds helps to attract them to your garden and to survive when natural food is scarce. Whilst watching the birds through the windows you can also plan any alterations to the garden.

Finally, get ready for a new gardening year, so service the lawn mower, sharpen tools, clean seed trays and order seeds and plants.

## Plant of the month - Mahonia

These hardy evergreen shrubs are especially valuable in winter for their glossy leaves and striking shape. Native to North America and China they were brought here by the great plant hunters of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Several of the species flower from January and are sweetly scented, so are widely planted in public gardens as well as small gardens, although they are best if given space. Plant them near the house to appreciate the flowers but beware of their prickly edged leaves. When planting give them plenty of compost or manure and then they only need a mulch each Spring. In early April prune off any straggly stems to maintain a bushy shape.

#### **Pat Smith**

# Letters to the Editors

### Dear Editors

We would like to thank everyone in the village who attended John's funeral and for all the lovely flowers. A special Thank You to Stan Finch for his in-depth true to life tribute to John - it was really appreciated by all the family.

Also, we would like to thank all those who sent their condolences and personal messages of sympathy. Thank you especially to my close friends who gave me such wonderful support during John's short illness.

Zita Overton and family

Dear Editors

£1,606.00 was the staggering total collected for the 1997 Poppy Appeal.

Our sincere thanks for the magnificent effort of contributors and collectors of Ufton, Deppers Bridge, Chesterton and Harbury.

M.G.Bishop



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