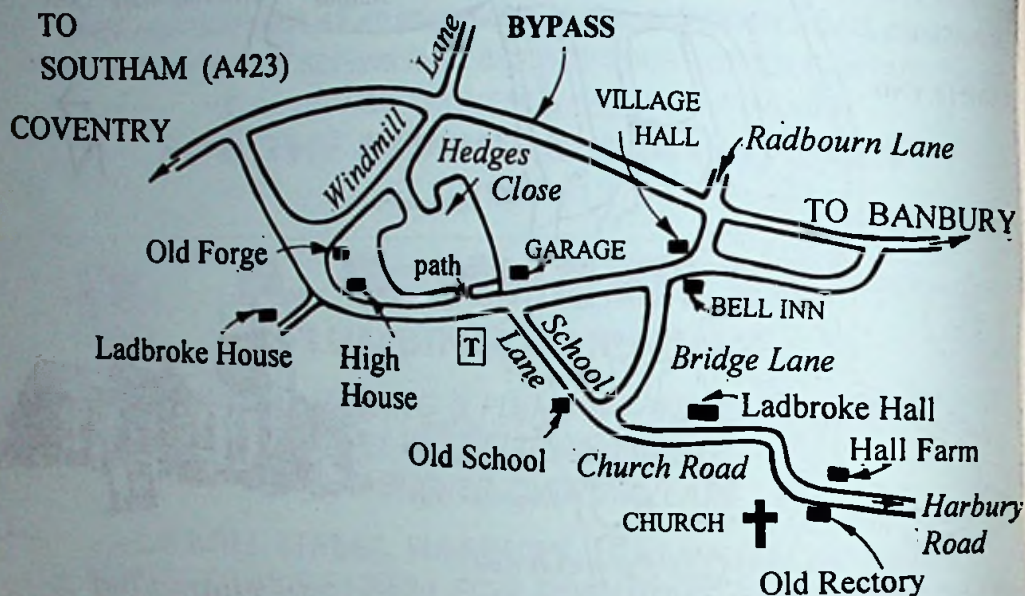




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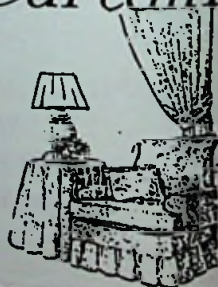
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Harbury & Ladbroke News

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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MAY 1998

No. 290

HARBURY - SAMOIS TWINNING



Left to Right: Jean-François Robinet (District Councillor); Annick Irlinger (Mayor of Samois); James Turner (District Councillor); Nelly Touchard (President of Samois Twinning Society); Ken Stevenson (Chairman of the Parish Council & Harbury Twinning Association)

For more than one reason, April 1998 will be a month to remember and we have been flooded with articles, so we have had to defer some for next month and abridge others.

Harbury is now officially twinned with Samois sur Seine and without exception, the 50 villagers who travelled to France for the ceremony had a weekend *formidable*. The *entente cordiale* flowed throughout the three days and gave everyone an unforgettable experience. The hosts were exceptionally welcoming and had gone out of their way to ensure that the twinning initiative got off to a flying start. It is now up to Harbury to reciprocate in a similar vein in October.

Meanwhile it is difficult to express the raw emotion that resulted from the effects of the flooding. Whilst there have been many stories in the local press in the days following the disaster, we have included a few comments from local people about their experiences. We feel it is important to acknowledge the efforts of those who worked throughout the Thursday night to provide relief for stranded travellers and it was heartening to receive some letters of appreciation from grateful motorists.

We offer our congratulations to John and Olive Hanson who celebrated their Golden Wedding recently. Also to Mostyn (Kim) Kimber who won a photographic competition held on the Isle of Wight.

Lastly we extend our sympathies to the families of Maud Perry and Robert Sharp.

Harbury Diary

MAY

- | | | |
|------|---|---|
| Sun | 3 | EASTER III - Sung Eucharist 9am; Sunday School in Tom Hauley Room
10.30am; Evensong 6.30pm
Cricket Away to Willoughby |
| Mon | 4 | BANK HOLIDAY
Cricket away to Alveston |
| Tues | 5 | Harbury Nursery School open afternoon 1.30pm
Holy Communion 7.30pm
Horticultural Society in Village Hall 8pm |

- Thurs 7 Harbury Village Playgroup Cake Stall outside Library 9.15am
Men's Group Visit Hook Norton Brewery 9.45am
Stories, Rhymes for U5s in Library 10am
DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS in Village Hall 8am-9pm
Folk Club in the Dog Inn 8.30pm
Line Dancing in Village Hall
- Fri 8 Newspaper Collection
- Sat 9 Nursery School 80/20 Sale in Village Hall
Plant Sale in Wight School for Myton Hospice 2-4pm
Cricket away to Dunchurch/Bilton
Warwickshire. Singers in Church 7.30pm (inc. Bernstein's Chichester Psalms)
- Sun 10 **Easter IV** - Holy Communion 8am; Sung Eucharist 10.30am;
Sunday School 10.30am; Evensong 6.30pm
Cycle Race uses the Village Hall
Cricket home to Kineton II
- Tues 12 Village Hall committee in Village Hall 8pm
Holy Communion 7.30pm
Prayer Group in Church 8.10pm
- Thurs 14 Holy Communion 9.45am
Thursday Club in Village Hall 2.30pm
Parish Meeting with Village Design Stmtnt Display in V.H. 7.30pm
WI in Tom Hauley Room 7.45pm
- Fri 15 **ADVERTS 14, Binswood End by 5.30pm**
- Sat 16 Men's Prayer Breakfast in Tom Hauley Room 7.30am
Cricket home to Greenmore Road
- Sun 17 **Easter V: Rogation Sunday** - Holy Communion 8am;
Family Communion 10.30am; Sunday School 10.30am in Tom Hauley Room; Open Air Service at Deppers Bridge 3.30pm
Cricket home to Barford
- Mon 18 Harbury Society visit to National Herb Centre 7pm
W.I. evening at Hurrans Garden Centre 7.30-9pm
- Tues 19 Holy Communion 7.30pm
Mothers' Union in Tom Hauley Room 8.10pm
Senior Citizens' Committee in Village Hall 8pm
H & L News Committee meeting in Tom Hauley Room 8pm
- Wed 20 Harbury Village Paygroup open morning 10 - 11.30am
- Thurs 21 Ascension Day - Holy Communion 9.45am
Line Dancing in Village Hall
Harbury Youth Video in Village Hall
- Fri 22 Newspaper collection - School Ends
W.I. visit to County Cricket Club
- Sat 23 Plant Sale at Wight School 2-4pm for Myton Hospice
Cricket home to Pychlie
- Sun 24 **Sunday after Ascension** - Holy Communion 8am
Sung Eucharist 10.30am; Sunday School 10.30am; Evensong 6.30pm
Cricket away to Kissing Tree Lane
- Mon 25 **BANK HOLIDAY**
Cricket away to Warwickshire County Council
- Tues 26 Holy Communion 7.30pm
Julian Group in Church 8.10pm

- Thurs 28 Holy Communion 9.45am
 Thursday Club in Village Hall 2.30pm
 Parish Council meeting in Village Hall 7.30pm
- Fri 29 **ARTICLES to NIFTY NEEDLE by 5.30pm**
- Sat 30 **BLOOD DONORS IN VILLAGE HALL**
 Plant Sale at Wight School 2-4pm for Myton Hospice
 Cricket away to Coventry University
 Cricket Club Line Dance Evening at Rugby Club 7.30pm
- Sun 31 **Whit Sunday** - Holy Communion 8am
 Sung Eucharist 10.30am; Sunday School 10.30am; Evensong 6.30pm
 Cricket home to Ettington

JUNE

- Mon 1 SCHOOL BEGINS
- Tues 2 Holy Communion 7.30pm
- Wed 3 Hereburgh Morris dance at The Folly in Napton 8pm onwards
- Thurs 4 Holy Communion 9.45am
 W.I. Ramble and Stroll at Wychford 10am
 Storytelling in Library 10am
 Line Dancing in Village Hall
 Folk Club in the Dog Inn 8.30pm
- Fri 5 Newspaper collection
 Harbury Nursery School Cake Stall outside Library 9.15am
- Sat 6 Junior Football Presentation in Village Hall
 Cricket home to AEI Rugby
- Sun 7 Sung Eucharist 9am
 Wheelbarrow Race hosted by the Shakespeare
 Sunday School in Tom Hauley Room 10.30am; Evensong 6.30pm
 Cricket home to Welford

Please note: Adverts to 14, Binswood End by Friday 15th May
Articles to Nifty Needle by Friday 29th May

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

Sitting at her desk by the window of her convent, Sister Elizabeth opened a letter from home enclosing a £10 note. Seeing a shabbily-dressed man leaning against a lamppost in the street below, she quickly wrote "*Don't Despair* - Sister Elizabeth", put it in an envelope with the £10 and dropped it down to the man below. He nodded, waved thanks and strolled down the road.

Next day she was told that there was a man at the door asking for her. She found the stranger waiting for her. Without a word he handed her some money. "What's this?" She asked.

Your winnings - £60. *Don't Despair* came in at five to one.

FROM THE RECTOR

One of the outstanding features of the earliest days of the Church was the way in which Christ's followers really lived the Christian life and achieved a sense of community. Today, we sometimes envy them because in spite of all the facts, information and study by theologians and spiritual writers, we have great difficulty in living Christian lives.

Could our problem really be that we rely too much upon studying or listening to talks about Christianity and too little on trying to live it day by day? Most skills in life are achieved by practice and familiarity. Jim's experience may teach us more than we realise.....

Jim and Ted are school teachers. They have known each other since their college days and although they live in different parts of the country they meet up one or twice a year and go to a football match or to see a show together.

Their last meeting was in Birmingham where Ted lives. After the match he invited Jim back to his flat for a meal. Jim remembered that at college Ted used to mess around in the shared kitchen from time to time, but he didn't recall any stunning creations. Now he was in for a surprise. Ted produced a really sumptuous three course dinner and a bottle of wine which was smooth and enjoyable.

I'm amazed, said Jim. *I never knew you could cook like that.* Ted laughed, he didn't regard himself as a good cook at all, but had been working on improving. Living on his own had given him plenty of

opportunity for practice and these days he seemed to have developed the knack for getting things right.

Jim returned to London next day determined to match Ted's hospitality. He didn't go in for cooking, but he wasn't stupid and he felt confident that if he studied the subject, read about it and followed the instructions he would manage very well.

Jim's return meal was a disaster. The pastry was heavy, his sauce lumpy and the meat was hard, in spite of all his study and close attention to the recipe, he hadn't got it right. He hadn't done it often enough to develop the right sensitivity and understanding of what was needed. He was inexperienced at practising what he had read and studied!

Fr. Roy

FROM THE REGISTERS

Holy Baptism on 19th April at Harbury

Abigail Louise Irene Hunt

Thomas Steven Howard

Holy Matrimony on 11th April at Ladbroke

Stephen Lambert to Tina Collins

Funerals

On 2nd April at Oakley Wood: *Robert Sharp*

On 7th April at Harbury: *Maud (Ann) Perry*

FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

The Church unfortunately suffered from the heavy rains immediately prior to Easter when a drainage channel overflowed into the underground boiler house. The boiler motor and controls were submerged beneath a metre depth of floodwater. The chamber was quickly pumped out, however, drying out the motor and the controls took a further 3-4 days, leaving the Church a few degrees lower than usual for the Easter festival. Our apologies.

Subsequent investigations found a drain broken by an electricity duct which has since been repaired.

The Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual General Meeting took place on 19th April. Ian Graydon and William Jones were elected to the parochial church council for the following year. Copies of the church annual report and accounts are available for inspection at the Library and inside the Church.

The new flagpole is now on the tower and the flag of St. George was duly flying on 23rd April. We have also installed further notice boards around the children's corner in church and the Parish Council have supplied a lantern fitting within the lychgate to aid the street lighting in Church Street.

Ruth and Jeff

MOTHERS' UNION

Afternoon Meeting: After a service of Holy Communion in church we held a Garden Forum in the Tom Hauley Room. Pam introduced Vivien Neill and Eleanor Zonik who answered our questions about various shrubs and flowers. This proved most interesting and we all learned something from it. We ended our afternoon with the usual cup of tea and chat about our own gardens.

Evening Meeting: Following the Tuesday Communion service in church, our speaker was Sheila Heeley from Wellesbourne who gave a talk and demonstration on flower pressing. A delightful and absorbing hobby, using flower heads and leaves from her own garden (some begged from friends!). We shall all be looking much more closely at flowers as a result of this interesting talk.

Next Meetings:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 6 th May, 2:30pm: | Lynda Howells - Women's Refuge |
| 19 th May, 8:00pm: | Bible Study led by Mary Catt |
| 3 rd June, 2:30pm: | Bill Davies - Missions to Seamen |

Audrey Tebaldi & Anne Moore

TODDLERS' SERVICE

Another parent, Nick Tawney, took the April services, thinking about Easter and new life.

We sang "What a wonderful saviour is Jesus", with the children playing percussion instruments for the chorus. Mr. Tawney then brought out a box. We heard the noises of different animals and Mr. Tawney found each animal hidden in his box and then its baby. Last came an egg which 'hatched' into a chicken.

The children hunted around the church for paper eggs and were rewarded when they found them with chocolate ones. They finished by colouring their paper eggs. We all had a very enjoyable service.

The next service is on 12th May. We shall be talking about Rain.

C. Mary Catt

Ladbroke News

MAY 1998

- | | | |
|-------|----|---|
| Sun | 3 | EASTER 3- Family Communion 10.30am
Ladbroke Children's Church 10am |
| Wed | 6 | Holy Communion 9.45am |
| Thurs | 7 | W.I. group meeting at Long Itchington |
| Sun | 10 | EASTER 4 - Sung Communion 9am |
| Mon | 11 | Ladbroke Village Hall prize draw at The Bell Inn 8pm |
| Wed | 13 | Women's Fellowship outing, leaving at 10.15am
Parish Council meeting Village AGM 8pm |
| Fri | 15 | Standing Committee 9.30am
ADVERTS 14, Binswood End, Harbury by 5.30pm |
| Sun | 17 | EASTER 5 (Rogation Sunday) - Sung Communion 9am;
Ladbroke Children's Church 10am
Deppers Bridge Open Air Service 3.30pm |
| Wed | 20 | Holy Communion 9.45am |
| Thurs | 21 | Ascension Day - Sung Communion 7.30pm; PCC meeting 8.15pm |
| Sun | 24 | Sunday after Ascension - Sung Communion 9am |
| Wed | 27 | Holy Communion 9.45am |
| Thurs | 28 | W.I. meeting |
| Fri | 29 | ARTICLES to NIFTY NEEDLE, High Street Harbury by 5.30pm |
| Sun | 31 | Whit Sunday - Holy Communion 9am with sermon |

JUNE

Mon	1	Southam & District Local History
Wed	3	Holy Communion 9.45am
Sun	7	Trinity Sunday - Family Communion 10.30am Ladbroke Children's Church 10am

FLOWER ROTA

10 th May	Mrs. Karen Birch
17 th May	Mrs Hazel Sharples
24 th May	Mrs. Pam Barnett
31 st May	(Whit Sunday) Mrs. Jane Rutherford
7 th June	Mrs. Jane Rutherford

Jane Rutherford

LADBROKE CHURCH NEWS

What can be said about Easter 1998 that hasn't already been said? We, who didn't suffer in the floods cannot begin to understand the anguish and distress it caused. I do know though, that there are a good many people who will never get the thanks they earned by all the help and support they gave to those in need.

The "Dunkirk spirit" is alive and working in our country. Thanks be to God.

We couldn't expect a very big congregation at our children's service on Good Friday morning. Some of them were still caught in the floods anyway. The Good Friday evening service of music and readings was very well supported though and really helped to lift our hearts. (No heating - the boiler house was flooded!) Easter Sunday service was also well attended - no Easter Bonnets - all the winter woollies - with everyone wishing each other 'A Happy Easter'.

PS. The flowers in the church for Easter and Tina's wedding are still lovely. The temperature in church will keep them going for ages. That's something to be thankful for.

Betty Winkfield

LADBROKE AND DEPPERS BRIDGE W.I.

The April meeting was held on the 23rd. Our President welcomed the members present and also a new member. There were also three visitors.

In the WI County Short-mat Bowl's competition, held at Snitterfield, our team (Jo, Marie, Sue and Hazel) won the semi-final against Halford but lost the final to Wellesbourne. There were several supporters there and everyone agreed that the matches were well played. The team was applauded for their efforts.



The first Steering committee meeting, for the Millenium Collage, will be on Wednesday 29th April. The theatre visit to The Priory, Kenilworth, was a great success with twenty members attending. Why hadn't we been there for a long time?

Suggestions are to be put forward at our next meeting for the Summer outing. Tina gave us a brief account of her visit to Denman College for the Cricket weekend partly paid for by the Bursary. She and Roger also visited Lords Cricket ground, but there was no match unfortunately.

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Our speaker for the evening was Mr. Nicholas Clarke. He gave us a vivid account of a 2nd Class rail journey from Delhi to the south of India - not for the faint hearted! It was so interesting to see his slides, particularly of the Taj Mahal and other places known only by name to most of us. His own life history was also interesting and we plan to have a return visit for another of his talks. The raffle was won by Gill Moore and Beryl Ross.

The group meeting, at Long Itchington, is on **Thursday 7th May** and we are responsible for the raffle.

Tea hostesses for **Thursday 28th May** are: Beryl Ross and Nancy Stubbs when the Resolutions for the I.G.M. will be discussed. Do come along and hear what the W.I. do for the betterment of this country.

Note for your Diaries - our Strawberry Fair will be on Thursday 23rd July at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. More news on that in a later issue.

Hazel Sharples

LADBROKE CHILDREN'S CHURCH NEWS

Children's Church continues its new times i.e. 1st and 3rd Sundays in the month at 10am.

On **Whit Sunday 31st May** we hope to do our procession around the village (as we did last year) following the morning service (10am approx.). Everyone is welcome to join us. We hope to do a circle around the village - ending back at the church for a drink and biscuits.

Jane Steenstra

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We enjoyed the video and talk by Esme Churchill in April about her visit to Assisi. What a beautiful place it was before the earthquakes which it has suffered this past year. Let us hope things can be restored although it would seem that some of the murals in the monastery will be lost for ever.

The May meeting will be our annual outing. We are going in May as some of our members are on holiday at the time of the June meeting. We are leaving Ladbroke after the morning communion service (10.15am

approx.) and travel to Hanbury (near Droitwich) to the Jinny Ring Craft Centre where there is a restaurant among everything else! After lunch we will visit Hanbury Hall (N.T.), a William and Mary style house. All husbands and friends are very welcome to join us.
The date: **Wednesday 13th May.**

Betty Winkfield

SOUTHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Ladbroke Section

With the May Bank holiday getting in the way, the May meeting is actually on **Monday 1st June**, when we will be visiting the Bygones Museum at Claydon. Either meet in Wood Street Car Park or go straight to the museum for 7.30pm.

A Snippet from Ladbroke

When Christopher Saxton drew the first map of Warwickshire in 1576, it showed 2 large lakes. One was around Kenilworth Castle and the other was over Ascote Hill just south of Ladbroke, alongside the A423 at Watgall. A name unchanged from the 13th Century, "galle" means spongy ground - so combined with "water" it is self-explanatory.

The lake is also featured on the Sheldon Tapestry of 1588 (in Warwick Museum) and Phillip Lea's map of 1693 actually passes the Oxford road through its eastern edge. Quite a traveller's obstacle if that was the case, though the accuracy is in doubt since Ogilby's "Brittania" strip maps of 1675 make no reference to wet and difficult passage here. Perhaps Lea surveyed the Ladbroke road in winter or spring!

When or why the lake disappeared is not known, just that maps of John Carey's in 1787 no longer show a lake. It may have had something to do with the cutting of the Oxford Canal in the 1770s, which dissected the water flow from the Northamptonshire borders and even in the recent floods, it did not reach the levels it had been 400 years before, although it well and truly tried!

Linda Doyle

LADBROKE VILLAGE HALL

The third Prize draw of the Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Club was held on 6th April at the Bell Inn. The winners were: Alan Court - £80; Gwynne Badman - £50; and Ron Abbott - £25. Kim Ryan, Mike Todman, Beverley Bradley, Francis Badman and Sylvia West each received £10. The next prize draw will take place on **Monday 11th May** at the Bell Inn at 8pm. Any new members will be very welcome. Please make contact on 814362.

Catherine Spence

LADBROKE PARISH COUNCIL REPORT - April

The format of the Parish Council meeting held on 15th April in the Village Hall followed the usual agenda.

Police matters were discussed in the absence of PC Andy Went, who was on holiday. The costed Policing Plan for 1998/9 had been received and will be circulated to all councillors. Discussion took place again regarding the nuisance caused by excessive noise and speed from motorcycles on the bypass at weekends. Chairman Peter Williamson will go and see Sergeant Johnson, the officer in charge of Road Safety, at Greys Mallory.

At the Dasset Area planning meeting, permission had been granted for the conversion and rebuilding of the barns at 1 and 2, Village Farm.

Parish Clerk, Elsa Greenway will try to 'illuminate' the reasons for the delay in the lighting of Hedges Close. The Stratford District Council Enforcement officer will be informed that the noise barrier between No. 7 Hedges Close and The Garage still does not conform to specification.

The Council was pleased to learn from Michael Boden-Pritchett that James Fretwell, from Warwickshire County Council would be attending the June meeting to talk about the grant scheme for footpaths and maintenance work.

In their reports, County Councillor Bob Stevens spoke of sadness at the closure of Kineton Fire Station and District Councillor Jim Taylor informed the meeting of the Committee Structure Review which devolves some decisions from the central office to parishes.

Other business discussed included possible causes for the floods on Maundy Thursday. The actions of Southam emergency service and many individuals were to be congratulated. The owners of land where fallen trees and other debris were blocking water courses will be notified.

A Planning Service brochure is available with information concerning new planning surgeries in Southam.

Date for your diaries - everyone: The next Parish Council meeting on **Wednesday 13th May** will be succeeded by the Village Annual General Meeting at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Carol Northorpe

REGIONAL FLOOD EMERGENCY
Thursday 9th / Friday 10th April 1998

3" of rainfall over 24-hours was hardly surprising weather for Good Friday and Easter and was typical for a Bank Holiday weekend. But not even the weather forecasters predicted the huge scale of the flood to follow. During Thursday afternoon some employees were sent home from work early and by the evening rush-hour it was very clear that this rain was special.

People were stranded in Leamington Spa; the Radford Semele Road was impassable and grid-locked traffic compounded the situation. Harbury Lane floods quite regularly, so this was expected to flood and people were already walking; Harewoods House was cut-off and the Fosse Way was also cut-off at the Fosse Garage and Eathorpe. Ufton Hill road was becoming impassable; the River Itchen before Southam rose to 3-feet above road level; Deppers Bridge and Bishops Itchington were cut-off. Harbury was becoming isolated and local radio broadcasters were telling of problems everywhere.

The heavy rains were by now flooding the fields and swelling all streams and rivers which could not cope, and later this flow was to be transferred to the larger rivers Leam, Avon and Stour with spectacular effect which resulted in financial loss, risk to people, animals and property. There were both casualties and heroes - some who were later to be reported in the press.

There is an Emergency Plan published by the County Council and administered from the War Room in the basement of County Hall which is excellent for your "normal disaster", but which could not have coped with this general emergency. Harbury's contribution is to provide large rooms for shelter with food, blankets, communications, medical / first aid; technical skills and special equipment as well as local knowledge. All of these could be called upon as needed by the Emergency Services and Social Services whose responsibility it is to handle all emergencies, but it did not work on this occasion.

In the beginning, an attempt was made to mobilise all four-wheel off-road vehicles in the village to search the routes into the village to pick-up walkers and offer assistance on an "as needed" basis. This however, was only marginally successful as most owners were grid-locked in traffic and had not yet returned home. But the overall emergency situation was deepening. By around 10:30pm the County Emergency Team had contacted the Parish Council in order to prepare the Village Hall as an Emergency Reception Centre. The Police had taken an unprecedented step and announced on national news bulletins: "Do not travel into Warwickshire - motorways and roads are blocked by floodwaters" - we were also getting this feeling by now!

Deep waters at the Middle Road - Fosse Way road junction stranded motorists at the Fosse Garage who were then kindly ferried up to the village. Other would be travellers were arriving haphazardly and heading for the pubs, and some went to the school looking for warmth and respite. Meanwhile the Village Hall was optimistically standing-by awaiting the Emergency Services to arrive and take-over responsibility as per procedure.

On telephoning the Emergency Centre at Warwick, we were soon to realise no help would be forthcoming and their arrival would have been pointless because if they could have reached Harbury all supplies had already been distributed and no more were available for us - we were on our own!

Some councillors had turned up, residents were called and volunteers were telephoned from the traditional organisations. A team quickly came together at the Village Hall and, in true spirit, began the business

of organising as people looking for assistance began to arrive - some of whom also assisted in setting-up the emergency centre. Hot drinks and snacks were provided and welcomed, blankets and sleeping bags found, all at the kind expense of the volunteers.

The main hall was arranged with tables and chairs whilst dormitories were being set up in the side-rooms. By 11:30pm things were getting busy as floods had caused diversions from journeys to every corner of the country, and even some as close as Southam. We received many people from babies to a lively 83-year old. We were keeping the County Hall advised of local conditions and local radio BBC-CWR were doing an excellent job in keeping the world at large informed.

Our village pubs were told to expect an influx of strangers whom they should accept for as long as possible as they had only the Village Hall in which to spend the night. That is, except those who after telling their stories in the pubs, were invited by villagers to spend the night at their homes - a wonderful gesture!

The Ufton / Southam Road was blocked solid with traffic coming into the area which was unable to get out. The police were called away to attend a serious flood-incident along the Fosse Way, which caused even more problems of traffic control. Flooded and blocked roads were not signed or roped-off and there were up to 90 cars left abandoned with others milling along lanes, going nowhere. People were told to go to the Village Hall as they sat in the traffic jam or parked on verges for the long cold night ahead.

Stories of local conditions, rescues and grim conditions were commonplace. It was a serious situation in which we were involved and we were playing our part. Harbury was not badly affected, the playing fields were, however, completely flooded and under several inches of water which was streaming down Ivy Lane where some were having problems. Other village roads were flooded, but only a little more than has been seen previously. Some residents were not even aware of the full extent of what was going on in and around the village until next morning.

We had considered calling upon more back-up volunteers as resources were fully stretched by now, but fortunately, by 1:00am, the peak had subsided. We had 63 people under our care. Our team was split into two shifts and half sent home to return at 6:00am. Quite easily we could

have had a further 200 people who, due to our good luck, were ferried to Southam School for the night. Communications via the County Emergency Team and Police could have been better in this respect.

Amongst all this activity, we relied heavily on local radio to keep ourselves and our guests advised. And as an everlasting memory, we were astounded when at 1:00am Friday BBC-CWR switched off local reporting and went to the World Service then Sport. We were coping with a regional emergency and being told of events in Kenya! This is something for the debriefing to review later.

Next morning, the younger children in the Village Hall made certain everyone was awakened bright and early. Amazingly, the local floodwaters had completely subsided, almost as quickly as they had risen and we had confirmed reports of roads being passable.

All expressed their thanks and made their farewells. Others were provided with excellent bacon sandwiches prepared by the Dog Inn at 6:30am before leaving Harbury with a wonderful lasting impression of our community. We too will remember that night for a long time to come.

One of the reasons our country is still "great" is because we care and we, in some way, cope with situations like this very well. We have a renowned community spirit and this was commented upon by our visitors - all thanks to those who responded to "the Phone Call" and apologies to those who later volunteered but fortunately were not needed. We will note your names as you might be called within the next 200-years!

The Village Hall Team
 Celia Barrett
 Roy (Father), Pam Brown
 Andy Cowan
 Ruth & Tony Dodds
 Alison Hodge
 John Hunt (Cllr)
 Brian (Chairm V.H.), & Susan Ingram

Pam Sperling
 Keith (Cllr), Mary & Lucy Thompson
 Bill Savage
 Ken (Cllr. Chairman PC), Joan &
 Aaron Stephenson
 Wendy Stubbs
 Village Pubs
 The Fosse Garage

Thanks to those who provided accommodation:

Ken Stephenson

LETTERS RECEIVED FROM:**North Woodley in Berkshire**

To the kind folk of Harbury - Hopefully the post office will rise to this little challenge and this note will reach its destination as I am very keen to put on record our sincere appreciation of the hospitality afforded to us all on Thursday night.

Your kindness in opening the Village Hall meant that instead of a cold lonely night in the car by the roadside, we had hot drinks, the use of a loo and companionship - all of which were extremely welcome.

Lyric (the Labrador) says a special thank you to the lady who lives opposite the Village Hall somewhere who came up with a bag of dog meal, which saved him from wasting away.

You may be interested to know that the M40 was very clear and we actually got home before 8 o'clock. I hope you're all OK as from what we have seen on TV it looks as if it got worse again on Friday/Saturday.

Again sincere thanks for your hospitality, it's certainly put Harbury on my map and I shall think of you in future when I whiz (hopefully) by on the M40. Regards

Clive Birchfield & Family

Lancaster in Lancashire

To whom it may concern - We would like to send our sincere thanks to everyone who looked after us in the early hours of Good Friday 'Flood Night'. Unfortunately we did not get any of your names but would like to thank each of you for your kindness, blankets, teas, coffees, etc.

Would you please also convey our thanks to the man at the Fosse Garage? Your faithfully

Mr. & Mrs. D. Hill + toddler Freya

COMMENTS ABOUT THE NIGHT OF THE FLOOD FROM:**MARTIN SHEPHERD - Fosse Garage**

The water which streamed down Middle Road missed the garage completely and tore through the hedge and gateway in the field alongside. During the evening several cars were abandoned on the road outside and the recovery team had to remove 15 vehicles from deep

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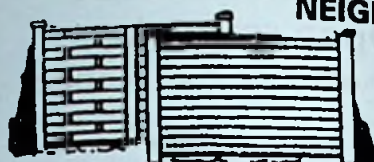
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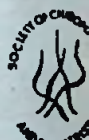
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water in the road leading into Harbury. They were called out by the police to assist with the removal of cars and vans which had been left at the roadside between the Moreton Morrell cross-roads and Princethorpe.

In total they retrieved 39 cars from the Fosse Way, M40 and A46 and towed them back to the garage which stayed open until 1:30am serving customers with fuel and hot drinks. One family stayed the night with David 'Bunny' Hodges at the bungalow next to the garage and another group spent the night in their car on the garage fore-court.

Martin drove his staff home to Bishops Itchington and Lighthorne in the Land Rover at 2:am and returned to pick them up at 7:am.

In the following days there were calls from all over England about the recovered vehicles. One person who abandoned his car in the middle of the B4100 near Gaydon did not enquire about his vehicle until one week later and then expressed surprise that it had been towed away!

ROB DAVIES - Harbury Fields Farm

Rob had listened to the weather forecast the previous day and realised that it promised to be an extremely wet Thursday. He had moved the 200 ewes which had already lambed into the field adjacent to the windmill, whilst the twenty ewes, which had not been delivered were in the farm buildings behind the house.

In the late afternoon the level of water in the fields between the farm and the Rugby Club rose to between one and two feet as the drains could not cope with the downpour.

By 4pm there were two gushing streams flowing on either side of the farm and whilst one flood found the low ground into a small copse before making its way towards the Fosse Way, the other torrent was tearing its way through the farm buildings. Rob managed to pen the pregnant ewes on the only remaining patch of high ground inside the barns and managed to save them from the rising water.

Even now two weeks later he has not been able to do any field work as the fields are too waterlogged, but as he commented: *Farming makes you philosophical - you have to learn to live with the weather!*

WILL RUSSELL - Middle Road Farm

Will lives at the farm on the opposite side of the road to Rob and by 4pm he was aware of water running through the farm sheds from the flooded fields alongside the railway line. Again there was so much water that it was impossible for the culverts to cope with the continual heavy rain. Will took out the tractor and trailer in an effort to get his flock to higher ground but found that they were hemmed in by a wire fence which needed to be cut to allow the animals to escape. On the far side of the track the water was half way up the railway embankment and Will had to encourage the ewes and the lambs to swim in the swirling water in order to find safe ground.

Although he has since heard that floods on this scale have only happened once in thirty years, he does not want to have a repeat of the experience which left so many of his animals in a miserable wet condition for several hours.

Editors

HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - APRIL

The meeting started with Pc. Bosworth and a colleague present to report on the burglary in Crown Street and two thefts of cars and two from cars. The meeting then moved on to lighting and bollards again. The choice seemed to be 'flat glass heads' or bollards. At Hillside, John Woodward advocated bollards to prevent light spillage, but Keith Thompson suggested traditional lamp standards with a pinkish light - "warm glow high energy lanterns" he called them. In Percival Drive there was a split between the light-shielding brigade and the 'flat glass heads' style of light.

John Woodward's persistence prevailed when he pressured Bryant to agree to remove the concrete bollard and replace it with non-illuminated ones at each end of the pedestrian walkway at Percival Drive and he got the Council to agree to look at a bollard lighting plan for Hillside.

John Hunt got approval for the Parish Council accounts to be presented at the Annual Parish meeting, after explaining how the £5,500 under spend had occurred. The Parish was, he said, in a "strong financial position" and he praised the ex-clerk, Alison Hodge for preparing the accounts so soon after the year end.

District Councillor Cooley reported that Stratford was preparing a plan for the phased replacement of the churchyard Limes and would help find finance for rebuilding the wall.

There were complaints from residents about speeding motorists endangering horse riders on Treens Hill; dog fouling; the loss of the hedge at Hillside and the state of the pavements. Councillor Drinkwater complained that too much Parish Council business was 'deferred'.

There were pats on the back for everyone who cared for the stranded travellers during the floods and compliments for Ken Stephenson who represented the Parish on the French exchange, "with two hats on" Councillor Hunt said, as chair of twinning and the Parish Council! We are apparently committed to installing a free "Twinned with Samois-sur-Seine" sign.

Planning

The bad news is that BT wants to put a 15 metre high mast on the Exchange building. The Parish Council is wild and there is not much that can be done as the Government gave the communications industry "permitted development" rights which limit what Stratford District Council can do.

The good news is that the Draft Village Design statement has a guideline which will be used by planners attempting to prevent the centre of the village being dominated by the mast.

The Parish Council made no representation on plans for: extensions to 2, Frances Road and 45, Mill street; amendments to plans at The Shires, Hall Lane and Harbury House where a new Walnut tree is promised when the old one is removed. At the Green Waste Transfer Site at Ufton Tip, they did object on traffic grounds to Biffa's plans to haul clay from the tip.

Linda Ridgley

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION - First two weeks of June

Over the recent years we have often been in the running but have never won first place in the Warwickshire Best Kept Village Competition. There have been various reasons for this, but this time we can win and we need your help and imagination to do it.

Judges will be awarding points for:

- the absence of litter
- neat and tidy houses, gardens, drives, hedges
- village greens, verges, play areas and recreation ground
- bus shelters, telephone boxes and notice boards
- commercial properties, pubs, shops and garages/workshops
- War memorial, Church yard and Village Hall.

Your efforts will count and do matter, wherever you are. Please do all you can with a little effort from everybody, we can win this time!

Ken Stephenson
Chairman Harbury Parish Council

HARBURY SOCIETY

Our guided tour of Coleshill had to be postponed but the trip to the National Herb Centre is still on for **Monday 18th May**. We will meet at 7:00pm at the Herb Centre on the B4100 (Warwick to Banbury Road) just beyond Warmington Church.

The entrance fee is £2.50 payable on the door. They give you a free cup of coffee before the presentation and the tour. There are still some places left, so let me know if you want to go or if you need a lift.

For the Carnival, we are recycling old china and would be grateful for any donated items. They can be left in the garage at 16 Farm Street or brought to the stall on the day.

Linda Ridgley (612792)

HARBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Thursday 9th April. *What an evening!* 13 members braved the atrocious weather and we started the meeting with a cuppa.

It was impossible for the speaker from the County Air Ambulance Service to get to us. No doubt he was a very busy man that night. So we had more refreshments and got off home early.

Members wishing to order bulbs please see Jean Abraham. Orders to be in by the end of May.

A visit to the County Cricket Club to see the Warwickshire/ Nottinghamshire game is on **Friday 22nd May**, cost £9.50 inclusive. The coach will leave County Ground after close of play (about 6.30pm). Applications to County House by Friday 8th May.

There is an evening at Hurrans Garden Centre on low water gardening techniques on **Monday 18th May**, 7.30-9pm.

A Ramble (and stroll) at Wychford on **Thursday 4th June**, 10am and a Beginners Flower Arranging course at Stoneleigh Village Hall on 22nd June, 10am to 3pm.

I am sure members would like to thank those who worked through the ghastly weather regardless. A special mention to those super people who stayed up all night to attend to those stranded and housed in the Village Hall.

Jeanne Beaumont

HARBURY FOLK CLUB

Folk Club was a night of fools and horse and the consequent devious connections..... a typical musical evening starting with down and out Blues Fathers and finishing with Gilly's Wise Song!

During the evening the regular performers entertained in a variety of keys, moods and languages. It was evident that with a number of the assembled company, having recently returned from the initial twinning visit to Samois, the wine and garlic was still coursing in their veins especially Andrew and Mr Gorilla sung in English and then in French!

There were also the usual excellent performances, wavering around the theme, from the Harvesters, Ron, Rick, Peter McDonald, Des, John Black, Doug, Mike, Steve Dudley and Gill Barber whose poem returned to the theme in no half measure.

The raffle raised £33.50 towards the fund to entertain the party from Samois in the Autumn. Next month's Folk Club is on **Thursday 7th May** when Sue has persuaded Colin Squires to do a guest spot.

John Kemsley

HARBURY THEATRE GROUP

The Harbury Theatre Group is this year hosting the A.C.T. Festival, when 6 Drama Groups will each be presenting a One Act Play at the Harbury Village Hall on **Friday 26th to Saturday 27th June.**

Our own offering will be "A Civil Marriage" by Robert Tanitch. This play, a comedy, was first presented at the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, and was directed by Trevor Nunn.

This will be a splendid opportunity to see a number of Drama Groups presenting a variety of plays, and we ask for your support. The Carnival Dance this year will be a barn dance. More details next month.

Alf Barber

THE SCOTTISH PLAY

I hate that phrase 'amateur dramatics' This is a serious play!

The play is about one man's obsession with putting on Macbeth, and charts his progress as he overcomes obstacles in doing so. However, his obsession leads to the disintegration of his marriage (with his wife having an affair with his best friend) and the loss of his job as his life dissolves into chaos.

It is a technically demanding play with a lot of sound and light cues. It was impressive that hardly any of the technical effects went wrong. It was unfortunate that the one that did go wrong was right at the start where it was most important.

Although the first act lacked punch, there were notable exceptions from Gordon Robbins and Carol Percival who played the principal roles. There were some lovely humorous moments and also some wonderful smaller roles performed by new members of the group including a 'dizzy blond' (Pat Whorton), and a most excellent supporting role played by Bill Coleman.

I don't know if Keith Hayes (the director) had a chat at the interval, but the second act most definitely was of semi-professional status, and the play picked up momentum with everyone giving excellent performances. Peculiarly it was a domestic argument scene between Gordon and Carol which reduced the impact. The scene in question should have leapt out

and smacked me round the face - but it didn't. Despite this, the energy and commitment in the second act was palpable.

All in all, an excellent production and, for the money, extremely good value - thank you! One question remains, however: Why was it so badly attended? In an age where Microsoft asks: *Where do you want to go today?* theatre still continues to fuel the imagination. Next time - be there and get an inner life!



MacBeth's 'Three Witches'

From the Scottish Critic - Ian R. Graydon

HARBURY CUBS

At present we have a very healthy and active pack of 26 Cubs in Harbury. Although a slightly younger pack than usual they have won the District cross-country 2 years running (this is a first and they must be congratulated). They also hold the District Sports trophy (but we won't mention swimming!). As you can see, they are all very keen and supportive. Recently some joined up with a group from Whitnash and went on a night hike and by the time you read this, the older boys will have been to the Ackers Trust for canoeing and rock climbing.

Now do you think any of these activities, and more besides, would appeal to you? I first started helping out at Cubs just before my son put his name on the waiting list (aged nearly 7). I won't mention his age now but he left school some time ago! I have learnt how to do quite a number of things that I would never have thought I would or indeed could do. I have found my time at Cubs very rewarding, but now feel that the time has come for me to hand over to a younger person and I will cease to be Akela in July when we break up for the Summer holidays.

What we are looking for is someone to take responsibility for running the pack, which isn't quite as daunting as it sounds. We already have one uniformed leader, a gentleman who has volunteered to go into uniform, another lady who whilst not in uniform comes to help each week, and finally a parent rota of additional helpers. As you will see quite a strong team already exists, so that the responsibility for running the pack will not fall on just one person's shoulders. BUT we do have to have a "Figure Head", otherwise the Cub Pack will not be allowed to continue, ending over 35 years of Cub Scouts in Harbury. If you feel that you are up to the challenge, especially now that work has started to improve the Scout Hut (rumour has it that there even will be running water!), it really CAN be fun, then please get in touch with me.

Muriel Coupe (Akela) 612507

GUIDE LEADERSHIP CRISIS 1998 - The Crunch!

There is every likelihood that the new Scout Hut will be up and running before the end of the Summer. The prospect of starting the Autumn term without a Harbury Guide Unit is a very real possibility.

I am leaving Guides this Summer!

If you are interested in helping to continue a Guide Unit in Harbury in the future then please get in touch - NOW!

Pam Shepherd, alias Kite 613559

HARBURY NURSERY SCHOOL

The children have had great fun this month getting ready for Easter, making cards and eating too many chocolate eggs. The older children

enjoyed their visit to the Leamington Fire Station, full marks to George Lintott for turning up in full fireman gear!

This is the last term at Nursery School for some of the children as they prepare to move 'seamlessly' up to big school. The committee were pleased to learn of the Governors decision to leave the nursery on site after such a successful initial period.

Future Dates for you diary:

May 5th: Open afternoon at the nursery for current and prospective parents 1.30pm

May 9th: Summer 80/20 sale in the Village Hall. This is a nearly new sale of children's clothes and toys. If you have anything to sell, please ring Nicola Thompson 612821 who will allocate you a letter. The Nursery school retain 20% of the sale price and there is a £1.00 selling charge. The sale opens at 10.30am.

June 5th: Cake sale outside the library 9.15am

Jackie Snell

HARBURY VILLAGE PLAYGROUP

Our children had the opportunity to visit Harbury School this month; it's hard to believe that they will be starting there in September! They went just before Easter and met Mrs. Rathbone and saw all of the wonderful Easter activities.

However, while they are still "ours" the playgroup is planning some lovely visits. We are organising a trip to the Fire Station on 5th May and to the Shire Horse Centre on **Tuesday 7th July**. I am sure Carol, Marie and Sue are also full of ideas to keep our youngsters purposeful and creative, as well of course having fun!

So please support our fundraising to maintain this pre-school experience for all Harbury's little ones. Thank you for coming to our last Coffee Morning, we raised an amazing £157. Forthcoming events include a Cake Stall on **Thursday 7th May**, outside the Library.

There is an open morning on **Wednesday 20th May** from 10-10.30am. All current and prospective parents are invited, so please come and find out for yourself what happens in Harbury Playgroup.-

Nicola Gray

HARBURY CRICKET CLUB

The South Warwickshire floods have taken their toll on the beginning of the cricket season. Not surprisingly, Darlingscott cancelled the first match on April 19th, since even in a dry season their pitch is pretty damp, and is sometimes affected by horses and hens. The prospects for the rest of the month are not good, since Warwickshire County Council Staff's ground has a layer of silt over the grass, and the weather does not look good for the weekend of the 25th/26th. The League XI under Will Russell, may therefore have to start their promoted Division III matches with no warm-up. For their first game they play Massey Ferguson at home.

The new Midweek XI, led by Greg Sherrington, have been placed in the top division of the Leamington League and start with matches against top sides Leek Wootton and Southam. The Harbury pitch was awash, but has good drying properties and an excellent groundsman in Richard Carr. We are very grateful to our match sponsors for our home league games.

In addition to the matches listed in last month's article please note: **Saturday 6th June** at home to AEI Rugby; **Sunday 7th June** at home to Welford.

Spectators are always welcome at the Middle Road ground. If last season's matches are any indication then the League matches promise to be competitive, lively and well worth watching. If, however, you wish to take down a deckchair and doze quietly in the sun, then the Sunday XI (under the leadership of Mike Daniels) matches may be your cup of tea. A cup of tea, by the way, will be available, and we promise to wake you if Les Sollis is batting, and there is any danger on the boundary. The rest of the team rarely prove a threat to spectators, even in the unlikely event of Ian Holroyd finding his flannels. In fact two or three of the team are not even a real threat to opposition bowlers, most of the time, but modesty forbids mentioning any names.

On a lighter note than the Sunday XI players, the Club are holding a Line Dance at the Rugby Club on **Saturday 30th May** at 7.30 for 8pm. The price is £7.50 to include a hot supper, and the dancing will be led by top local Line Dance Leader, Phil Linnett, whose twinkling feet allowed him

to score a century at the end of last season. There will be free tuition before the main dance. Tickets from Malcolm Tanner (613509) and Party Paraphernalia. Mosey on down, pardner.

Ian Jackson

HARBURY TENNIS CLUB

At last we have been able to start the Summer Season - despite the 'April Showers'!

Our Cheque Book Tournament went well, despite the weather - with some new faces bolstering the number of participants to a nice even number of 16. Fittingly, the event was won by Kinji Ito and his wife Marco. Unfortunately (or fortunately for some people) they were donating the prizes, so the runners up (Angela and me) received these.

Both 'A' and 'B' teams did well in the Winter Leagues with the former ending up 3rd out of 7 and the latter 6th out of 8 in their respective leagues. Straight into the Summer Leagues, our one team narrowly lost to Tysoe in early April.

Questionnaire Results: Many thanks to those of you who filled in the Tennis Club questionnaires which were circulated in the magazine last month. Highlights are as follows:-

- **You want to see more Junior involvement** - *we will be looking into the possibility of a Junior Section, with Coaching and possible links with other local Clubs and schools - if you have any ideas yourself, please let me know.*
- **You want to have better facilities** - *we have already begun investigations into funding, to enable us to upgrade the courts, possibly add floodlights and a Clubhouse - watch this space for further news!*
- **You want a better booking system** - *we are looking into this - and are already planning to put up a notice board which clarifies the system at the Courts themselves, as well as streamlining the booking procedure at Kane's News.*

Forthcoming Events: We will be running our very popular friendly mixed doubles competition throughout the summer again (starting **Monday June 1st**). All you need to do to take part is to be able to use a tennis racquet! Your name gets drawn out of a hat and matched with another who will be your partner. You then arrange to play all your games against the other pairs throughout the summer. A great way of mixing around and getting some fresh air!

OTHER DATES... PUT THEM IN YOUR DIARY NOW...!!!

Sunday 17th May: Afternoon Tennis for members and non-members 2pm.

Wednesday 10th June: Petanque and supper at The Dog Inn 6.30pm onwards.

David Snell (614 614)

NIFTY NEEDLE CURTAIN SHOP

Nifty Needle curtain shop will be closing down at the end of May. After much deliberation I have decided it's time for a change. This 'little' shop has been very successful, very profitable and most of all a pleasure to be in for the past 7 years. A nice sunny outlook, smiling friendly people passing by.

We set out as a curtain shop, but over the years we have become a useful place for many other functions, all of which we were happy to be of service: Breakthrough Charity; Harbury & Ladbroke News collection; Ticket office; Tourist information for lorry drivers; Best pub for lunch inquiries; Could we just pop a new zip in some old jeans that could have walked in by themselves (I turned them round and sent them across to Pat!). We have made a Lady Godiva costume for a man, a sleeve for a 3'sword, curtains for a lorry cab, golf club cosies, small sails for a toy yacht, large letters for the sail of a real yacht, shirts for a darts team, BBQ screens for Warwick Castle, 4 gladiator costumes - too many unusual requests to remember!

May I thank everyone who has supported Nifty Needle during the 11 years I have traded, and for your sweeties, flowers and kind letters of appreciation for the work we have done for you. Thank you.

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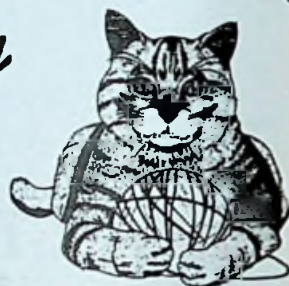
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- SHOE REPAIRS
- PHOTOGRAPH DEVELOPING

Why go elsewhere when we're on your doorstep?

I am not giving up completely, just changing and halving the hours I work at present down to 37! From June you will be able to visit me in a rather larger new store in the Regency Arcade, Leamington. Lee Longlands curtains and furniture shop. The products they have to offer are truly fantastic, very different to anywhere else in Leamington. The choice is endless, some may think a little overwhelming, but I intend to be as knowledgeable and helpful as in the past and hope very much to see and serve many of you there in the coming months.

Many, many thanks.

Chris Carter

HARBURY CHRONICLES

We had a good night's filming at the Village Club. Our thanks to all who participated so willingly.

The film is progressing well. Future filming topics include:

13th July: The Carnival - dressing the floats, the grand procession and the fête. (The camera will be at the Carnival Barn Dance.)

6th July: Harbury Primary School

11th July Garden Walkabout - Deppers Bridge

I need to know what aspects of their life the Deppers Bridge people would like us to film. Please contact me with your ideas and opinions.

A reminder that the Warwickshire Singers have an enjoyable programme of music at All Saints' Church on **Saturday 9th May** at 8 o'clock. Tickets £4 and £2.

Mary Shelley - 612539

(who is waiting to hear from Deppers Bridge!)

HARBURY CARNIVAL - Saturday 13th June

Arrangements for the Carnival day are now well and truly on their way. If you still need to organise a stall please get in touch with Dan Killian (612265) or John Broomfield (614258) as soon as possible.

Last month we promised more details on the activities during the week leading up to Carnival day. The intention is to start with the

Wheelbarrow Race on **Sunday 7th June** that will be hosted this year by the Shakespeare (don't forget to register with Dan Killian without delay, as places are limited). The week will continue with a team competition over a series of pub games:

Monday: Test of Strength at the Gamecock
 Tuesday: Skittles at The Old New Inn
 Wednesday: Boules at The Dog Inn
 Thursday: Quiz at The Crown

This will be organised on a "grand prix" basis with points awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. The team that accumulates the most points overall will be the winner. As I said last month, we would like to see more participation this year, so please consider entering a team to represent your organisation, pub or simply get together with some friends. More details will be available shortly around the village, but in the meantime, if you want more information or to enter a team, please contact Dan of John.

Finally, World Cup notwithstanding, there will be a 6-a-side football competition on Carnival day and all those interested should get in touch with Paul Gladden on 613082.

John Broomfield

VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

In the next few weeks copies of the Final Draft of the Village Design Statement will be available, on request, in the Library and will be displayed at the Annual Parish meeting on **Thursday 14th May** at 7.30pm

The Statement describes Harbury's main features and sets out design principles for the future. We think it reflects the views of all those who have contributed and we would like your comments sent to Sharon Hancock, at 32 Mill Street.

Linda Ridgley

COMPTON INTERNATIONAL FUNDRAISING

Compton International decided to base in Harbury because of the convenient location and great working environment. We have clients

across the United Kingdom and have recently undertaken assignments in Ireland and The Netherlands.

It is rare for our clients to visit us, except to attend training courses, so we didn't need to have a central business address - we could find somewhere where we *wanted* to work, rather than *had* to work. These days of electronic communications meant we could choose just about anywhere.

By way of background, since 1962 we have specialised in managing capital fundraising campaigns for not-for-profit organisations where the objective is to secure a large sum of money for a specific project or projects over a relatively short period of time.

Over the years an extensive client list of over 900 organisations in 24 nations has been serviced representing educational, health, arts and cultural, heritage, religious and environmental institutions. Targets have, in the main, been multi-million pound challenges. In this part of the world most of our assignments over the years have been for the Church of England with whom we have worked to save Cathedrals and maintain Parish Churches.

Compton International was founded in Australia with the local company being established back in 1975. We also have businesses in Vancouver, San Francisco and Johannesburg. Initially all our executives were Australians or New Zealanders, so we based ourselves out of a home in Bishops Tachbrook which we used as a company hotel. However, as our business has grown, we have moved our executive team to live in the areas where they work and we therefore needed a regular office space.

We apologise to the residents of Harbury for not offering a more useful business which all might benefit from, but hope we can make a contribution to the community in other ways. Thank you for the genuinely warm welcome we have received from all. Should anyone want to know more about Compton International, please drop by for a coffee.

Andrew Day

Chairman and Chief Executive

Note: *Compton International Fundraising operates from the premises located between the Library and Nifty Needle.*

THE 'FRENCH CONNECTION'

SAMOIS SUR SEINE

On Friday 27th March a group of people from Harbury set off to go to Samois sur Seine. After the ferry it was a long journey and it didn't help when we found out that we were heading the wrong way. When we got there it was about 9 o'clock. Decorations were hung from house to house in the main streets. Their Village Hall is twice the size of ours and it has little sections with paintings done by the people in the village. After the reception we were taken to the house that we were staying at.



Harbury and Samois villagers gather for the tree planting ceremony.

On Saturday morning we went back to the Village Hall for the twinning ceremony. A little while later we went to an old people's home to plant a young tree. Then we played "Ode to Joy" which everybody sang. In the afternoon we went for a walk in Fontainebleau's Forest. We had to

follow a trail of blue marks on trees and rocks.

On Sunday morning some people went to a church ceremony, some people went rock climbing and some went horse riding. At 1 o'clock we set off for home. The journey home was a lot quicker and the time seemed to fly by.

James Finch and Catriona Rollason - Y6 Harbury School

HARBURY TWINNING ASSOCIATION

"Brilliant", "Action-packed weekend", "Friendly, welcoming, hospitable people", "Attractive and unspoilt village" - these were some of the comments made by people from Harbury who went to Samoia for the official twinning ceremony at the end of March. The weekend was indeed very successful and thoroughly enjoyed by all of us who went - adults and children.

Our main problem now is to ensure that we give the folk from Samoia an equally enjoyable weekend when they visit us on 17/18th October for the official return ceremony. The twinning is essentially for the benefit of the whole community - individuals and families who would like to get to know French families and the French way of life, sports clubs who would like to arrange fixtures abroad and at home and clubs and societies who can discuss mutual interests and arrange visits with the emphasis on their particular hobby.

Indeed plans are already being made for a trip to Samoia by the junior football team, for a visit to the school and for an exchange of paintings by local artists. For anyone who is at all interested, now is the time to get involved; we need lots of help in all sorts of areas, one or more of which may be right up your street. One such area is accommodation for which we shall need volunteers - see separate article and insert. Whatever your contribution, a knowledge of French is not essential - there are all standards amongst the Twinning group from complete ignorance to fluency! If you feel you can help, see any member of the committee or give me a ring.

Finally for all you jazz fans: the Django Reinhardt Festival in Samoia will take place the last weekend in June. For further details see any member of the committee.

Sally Stringer (6132114)

CAN YOU HOST A FRENCH FAMILY?

As you will know over the weekend of 17/18th October, we are planning to welcome a party of French visitors from Samois sur Seine as part of our twinning celebrations. We are hoping to be able to provide family accommodation so that they can experience our English way of life.

Many of those who visited Samois this March are looking forward to welcoming back their French hosts, but we anticipate that there will be a need for more host families. It is possible that some of you may feel a little apprehensive as to what this entails. If you act as a host you will be asked to provide some meals and to accompany your guests to the various venues around the village where a number of twinning events are being planned. Please do not be put off if your French is limited, if this is the case we will do our best to try to arrange for your guests to have a knowledge of English.

Based on our recent visit to Samois, I am sure that you would find it to be an extremely enjoyable experience. So can you help? If so, please complete and return the form included in this month's issue of the Harbury & Ladbroke News.

Betty Barr - 612765

SAMOIS SUR SEINE ASSOCIATION OF ARTISTS

During the recent visit to Samois, Moira and I were introduced to the President of the Association of Artists, Ghislaine Degrange, who wished to talk about creating some form of link with artists from our community.

The Association had put on a display of work for our benefit in their Community Centre which reflected a wide range of experience and interests. One of the Artists who had work on show was Jean de Maximy whose work is both nationally and internationally known. We were introduced to him and he showed us his studio and some of his work in progress.

Although we do not have a similar association in Harbury, I do know that there are a lot of practising artists in the village.

As a start, I would like to hear from anyone in Harbury who would be interested in organising and taking part in an exhibition in the village

when the return visit takes place next October.

If I receive sufficient interest, I would be happy to arrange a meeting in order to discuss how to take this further.

Brian Lamont, 613527

GARDENING

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Flower Power indeed! We were all surprised at the estimated 40million containers being used in Britain - an awesome number! The speaker, Peter showed us slides of contrasting and harmonising plantings and he prepared two containers which he donated for extra raffle prizes. He also sold the remaining plants at very silly prices; all in all quite an evening.

The Samois/Harbury Twinning Association have asked the Society to donate a tree to be planted at the Village Hall site to commemorate the return visit to Harbury in October and the committee has welcomed the idea. However, now we would like some suggestions as to variety etc., any ideas, please contact Mrs. Pat Smith 612650.

The Malvern Show will be held from 8th - 10th May. This year there was no special group rate available, but of course this does not prevent anybody attending individually.

Anyone growing seedlings, cuttings etc., for sale at the Open Gardens Weekend will receive the proceeds. We will sell them, of course, on the stalls and the growers will receive the money.

With the Village Show in mind, I hope the following will be helpful: Maximum size pot 6" for pot plant (flower); pot plant (foliage); double tuberous begonia, cactus and succulent. For the Geranium and Fuchsia classes, the maximum pot size is 8".

Will anybody who intends going on the coach to Wisley on **Tuesday 16th June** and has not yet paid, please bring £6.20 to the next meeting, the last one before the Summer break.

The next talk on **Tuesday 5th May** will be given by Mr. & Mrs. Farer on their pet subject *Clematis* and as they own and run a nursery, I am sure there will be plants for sale. At this meeting we will be hosts to a party of visitors from Bishops Tatchbrook. This will be the day after the May Bank Holiday.

Muriel Grey

GARDENING NOTES

Bird song at dawn, the call of the cuckoo, fragrant bluebells in the woods, are the traditional images of this month. In spite of the vagaries of the weather we shall find all of these this month so the usual tasks of the late Spring can be carried out in the garden. Do remember that in this area we can have frosts at night until almost the end of the month, so do not be too eager to put out any plants which are tender. Several gardens have already suffered from the recent cold snap, mine included, and the young growth on plants which were surging ahead has been killed. I intend to leave this growth on until after the Thursday 21st May, the date used in weather charts as the cut off time for frosts. With luck, the plants will catch up, but even if they do not there is always something to admire in Nature.

Weeds in the borders compete for moisture and nutrients with the plants we want, so remove them before they set seeds, and then mulch, particularly around shrubs which flower late in the Summer. Prune the ones which have already flowered and give them a feed so that they make plenty of growth for next year's blooms. Cut back the straggly growth on grey leafed plants but do not cut into the hard wood of lavenders. Trim aubretias and winter heather and top dress this with peat.

Make up hanging baskets if you can keep them under cover for a few weeks. Be generous with the plants, at least 12 flowering ones in a 12" basket. Check that the drainage holes are clear in containers before planting and include a gravel mulch which will conserve moisture. Sow biennials and perennials in trays and place these where they will not be in the afternoon sun.

Sow annual herbs, basil, chervil and dill and divide straggly mint and thyme. Sow marrows, courgettes and cucumbers, also French beans at



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the start of the month and mange-tout towards the end. Earth up early potatoes as they grow and nip out the growing points on broad beans when they have produced 4 or 5 clusters of flowers. This is thought to reduce blackfly infestation.

Houseplants need regular feeding, and any weak growth should be pinched out. Pot on tuberous begonias and gloxinias into 5" pots. Move plants from windows which will receive the strong afternoon sun.

Plant of the month: Crab Apple

May is the month for flowering trees and some of the most beautiful are the Malus varieties. They cover their branches with flowers ranging from white through to deep pink, with the colourful 'crabs' and often bright autumn leaves later on. They are all hardy, love the sun, and any soil except waterlogged. With over 40 varieties, average height around 20ft. and a neat habit, they are ideal for today's smaller gardens. Crab apples are native trees in Britain and across the whole of the Northern Hemisphere. Several of the garden varieties originated in Japan, although the one called Red Jade, an attractive weeping type came from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

Pat Smith

DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Village Hall Thursday 7th May, 8:00am - 9:00pm

Dear Harbury Voter

My name is Richard Nealon - I have lived in Harbury for 27 years and consequently I am known to quite a lot of you.

I will be standing as a Conservative at the District Council Elections on 7th May. A local Conservative who will try and help conserve our rural way of life. Over the past few years Harbury has seen much development and



increases of heavy and speeding traffic, but has managed to conserve its village identity. We have a vibrant village, with many facilities shops, pubs, clubs and societies. We have a lot to look after, to protect our village for now and the future.

That is why I have used the word conserve, but we must improve whilst conserving. That is why I am standing as your Conservative candidate.

Yours sincerely

Richard Nealon

LABOUR

I, Jack Heath, will again be aspiring to become the District Councillor for Harbury Ward at the forthcoming election.

I have lived in the local area for 13 years, the last 11 in Harbury with my wife Susan and my youngest daughter Emma. I am a civil servant working in the Finance Branch at the local MOD base. I have been there for the last 4 years before which I worked in the world of commerce for 12 years, mainly in Leisure management. I was called up for National Service I 1960 and stayed in the army until 1982 when I retired in the rank of captain in the Army Physical Training Corps.

I have been amazed over the last year to watch the current District Councillors for this ward let money allocated to benefit the people residing in Harbury, Bishops Itchington, Deppers Bridge and Southam, be taken for a project in Stratford Town, especially, when shortly afterwards, money was needed to provide traffic-calming on Welsh Road West at Southam in an area where a lot of children from this ward go to school and many of us go to use the facilities at the Leisure Centre or at the School.

My aim as your Councillor would be to apply policies of fairness and common sense. I fully support the work of the LABOUR Group at the District Council in fighting disadvantage in the rural areas, resisting further green-field development, achieving "best value" for council services and consulting the people through new Area Committees.

In the 1997 General Election the LABOUR vote was very close to our main rival with the LibDem candidate trailing by 17%. This shows that

your vote CAN make a difference. It would be a privilege to serve you.
Please vote on 7th May and please vote LABOUR.

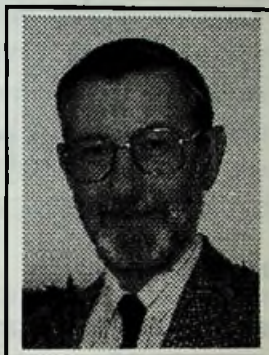
Jack Heath



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I can hardly believe it is four years since you elected me to serve as your District Councillor.

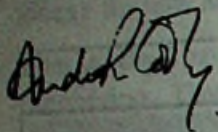
It has been an exciting time, because your decision in 1994 changed the shape of the District Council and enabled the Liberal Democrats to take the lead.

In doing so, we have tried to meet three objectives - to shift decision making as close as possible to the people affected, to ensure that decisions are fair and to ensure every £1 you pay in District Council Tax is used well.

One example of local decision making was when we tackled the government block on new council house building by transferring all council houses to a Housing Association - but only after asking the tenants, who voted nearly 9 to 1 in favour. This made it possible to fund the building of new homes to rent - some of which are in the new Percival Drive and Hillside developments - with priority for people from the village. This transfer also allowed us to clear all £8.9million of the Council's debt and to reduce District Council tax for the second year running.

Your Parish Council is now working, with support and advice from the District Council, on a Village Design Statement which will define the essential character of the village. When adopted by the District Council, this will become 'supplementary planning guidance' and help to define the design of any houses built in Harbury in the future. But there is no external pressure for any further housing allocations in the village.

I feel privileged to have been involved in these initiatives as your representative - and I hope your vote on May 7th will enable me to continue what we have begun.



Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors

Many ex-pupils of Harbury School will be saddened to hear the news of the death of Bernard Oldrid who ran the centre which we used to use at Devil's Bridge in Ceredigion.

Several groups of children spent a week based there, during the 1980s and early 1990s. Days out included long walks around the Rheidol Valley and across the hills to the ruins of Ystumtuen, the Centre for Alternative Technology and so on. The fields around the Centre were frequented by buzzards and red kites.

Bernard and his wife Jean ran the Centre until it closed a few years ago, and they moved to Pontrhydygroes. Bernard was one of life's real gentle men, who treated everyone with great patience and kindness. All the children and staff who came into contact with him will remember him with great affection.

Nigel Chapman

Dear Editors

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all my friends and neighbours for all their help, kindness and support during my dear husband Bob's final illness and since his death.

I feel I am privileged to live amongst such caring people. Thank you also to Fr. Ray for the lovely service.

June Sharp

Dear Editors

As a newcomer to the village, I have been pleased to receive copies of the "Harbury & Ladbroke News" and have read the contents with interest. It is an excellent publication, providing an introduction to the many and various activities within the village.

There is one point, however, that I would raise - the reports of Parish Council Meetings. Recent reports which have made specific reference to concerns of the majority of the residents of Percival Drive regarding street lighting, have trivialised the issue; and similar concerns regarding lighting in Farm Street were referred to in a somewhat derogatory manner. The impression has been given that there are residents complaining without due cause; and a Parish Council not knowing its own mind.

Following a telephone conversation with the Chairman of the Parish Council, I am reassured that every effort is being made to resolve the present lighting difficulties within the village. I think it unfair to the efforts of the Parish Councillors that reports of their meetings are treated in a somewhat flippant manner, and issues discussed by them reported in a selective style.

Yours faithfully

Judith Powell-Tuck

Dear Editors

The Meningitis Trust Coffee morning, on March 14th at Ford Farm Welsh Road West, Southam was very successful and raised £350 for the needy cause. Thank you to all who helped and all who supported it.

Marie Kennedy

Dear Editors

I would like to thank everyone who helped at the Myton Hospice Jumble on Saturday 18th April and thanks also for donations of jumble.

The amount raised was £267. Also on Wednesday 22nd April we handed a cheque for £4,000 to Maureen Hicks from Myton Hospice. Raising this amount of money would not be possible without all the help from my group of ladies. Thank you all. And thank you Harbury for your ongoing support.

Pip Birni



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Mid-week XI

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IIRH Prince Philip



Contact:

Will Russell (Saturday Captain) - 612078

Mike Daniels (Sunday Captain) - 612600

Ian Holroyd (Club Secretary) - 612527

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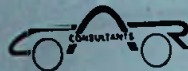
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