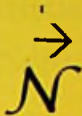
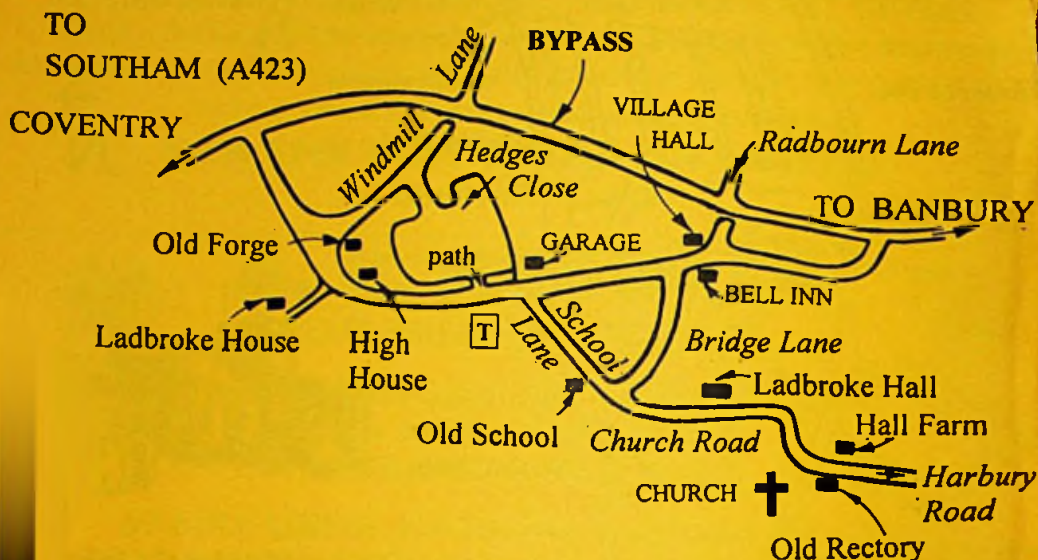


298



All Saints' Church

Ladbroke



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Harbury & Ladbroke News

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

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

JANUARY 1999

No. 298

The Christmas period was spoilt for many villagers by illness of one sort or another and we hope that 1999 will prove to be happy and healthy for everyone. The magazine this month features some of the Christmas events with one of the earliest being the Christmas Fayre organised by Colin Ingram.



(Left-Right) Colin Ingram-Chicago, Dawn Eld-Cats and Ralph Upton-Phantom of the Opera at the Christmas Fayre

There are still many people in the village who enjoy donning fancy dress, as evident in our editorial photo and in Chapel Street as New Year revellers were filmed for the 'Harbury Chronicles.' It is heartening to know that during the festive period the Publicans and the Club Steward have been generous in their support of village activities, which are featured elsewhere in the magazine.

Sadly another tragedy occurred last month in Ladbroke with the untimely death of James Moore and our thoughts are with all of his family and friends. We also extend our sympathy to the family of John Turner who ran the Village Petrol Station.

Harbury Diary

JANUARY 1999

- Sun 10 Epiphany I** - Holy Communion 8.00am; Sung Eucharist 10.30am
Evensong 4.00pm
- Tues 12** ALPHA Course starts at 3 Penelope Close 10.00am
Toddlers' Service in Church 2.15pm
Holy Communion 7.30pm; Prayer Group in Church 8.00pm
Village Hall Committee in Village Hall 8.00pm
- Wed 13** Teleworking Course Open Coffee Morning in Village Hall 9.30am
- Thurs 14** Holy Communion 9.45am
Thursday Club in Village Hall 2.30pm
Parish Council Special Meeting in Village Hall 7.30pm
WI in Tom Hauley Room 7.45pm
- Fri 15** Newspaper collection
ADVERTS 14, Binswood End by 5.30pm
- Sat 16** Harbury Rugby 1st & 3rds home to Coventry Saracens
- Sun 17 Epiphany II** - Holy Communion 8.00am; Family Communion 10.30am
- Tues 19** Holy Communion 7.30pm
Mothers' Union Party in Tom Hauley Room 8.00pm
Senior Citizens' Committee in Village Hall 8.00pm
- Wed 20** Enrolment for Teleworking Course in Village Hall 9.15am - 3.15pm
PCC meeting in Tom Hauley Room 7.30pm
- Thurs 21** Holy Communion 9.45am
Standing Committee at Rectory 7.30pm
- Sun 24 Epiphany III** - Holy Communion 8.00am
Sung Eucharist 10.30am; Sunday School 10.30am; Evensong 4.00pm
- Tues 26** Timothy & Titus
Holy Communion 7.30pm
Julian Group in Church 8.00pm
- Wed 27** Start of Teleworking Course in Village Hall 9.15am - 3.15pm
- Thurs 28** Holy Communion 9.45am

Thursday Club in Village Hall 2.30pm
 Parish Council meeting in Tom Hauley Room 7.30pm

- Fri 29 Newspaper Collection
ARTICLES to Party Paraphernalia by 5.30pm
 Sat 30 *G.A.S.S.* Race Night in Village Hall
 Sun 31 Epiphany IV - Holy Communion 8.00am
 Sung Eucharist 10.30am; Sunday School in
 Tom Hauley Room 10.30am, Evensong 4.00pm

FEBRUARY

- Tues 2 Candlemas
 Holy Communion 7.30pm
 Wed 3 Mothers' Union - Poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins
 Thurs 4 Holy Communion 9.45am
 Storytelling in Library 10.00am
 Folk Club in the Dog Inn 8.30pm
 Sun 7 Second Sunday before Lent - Sung Eucharist 9.00am
 Sunday School in Tom Hauley Room 10.30am; Evensong 4.00pm

Please note: Adverts to 14, Binswood End by Friday 15th January
 Articles to Party Paraphernalia by Friday 29th January

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

For Tom Hauley Room Bookings	Mrs. Stubbs	612782
For Village Hall Bookings	Mr. P. Winchester	614466
For Wight School Bookings	Mrs. Hayes	613488

REGULAR DIARY DATES

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHOIR PRACTICE: Church, 6:30pm Fridays

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

CUBS: Scout Hut, Wednesdays

- DANCING CLASSES:** (01789-842242) Farley Room Village Hall, Children & Adults 4:00-9:00pm Wednesdays.
- GUIDES:** Scout Hut, 7:00-8:30pm Mondays
- GYMNASTICS:** Harbury School, 6:00-7:00pm
- HARBURY FOLK CLUB:** Dog Inn 8:30pm 1st Thursday of Month
- HARBURY FRIENDS:** School, 8:00pm 2nd Tuesday of Month
- HARBURY JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB:** (613358) 10:30am-12:30pm Saturdays
- HEREBURGH MORRIS DANCERS:** (613402) School Hall, 8:00-10:00pm Wednesdays
- HARBURY NURSERY SCHOOL:** School, 9:00am-12:00noon Monday-Friday; 12:45pm-3:15pm Mondays & Wednesdays
- HARBURY Pre-SCHOOL:** Wight School, High St. Tuesday-Friday 9:15am - 12:15pm
- HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY:** Village Hall, 8:00pm 1st Tues (Oct. to May)
- KEEP FIT (Bodywise):** (495368) Harbury School 6:30-7:30pm Fridays
- LIBRARY:** (613297) Mondays 2:00 - 5:00pm and 5:30 - 7:00pm; Thursdays 10am-1pm; 2:00 - 5:00pm & 5:30 - 7:00pm; Stories, Rhymes for U5s, 10:00am 1st Thursday of Month; Term Time only
- NETBALL CLUB:** (612841) Village Hall Car Park, Training 6:30pm Thursdays; Matches Saturday Afternoon
- SCOUTS:** Scout Hut, 7:00pm Thursdays
- TENNIS CLUB:** (614614) (Apr-Sept) Tues & Thurs 6:30pm onwards (6:00pm for April); Sat 2:00-5:00pm, Mon & Wed 1:45-3:00pm
- THEATRE GROUP:** Wight School, 8:00pm last Friday of Month
- THURSDAY CLUB:** Farley Room of V.Hall 2:30pm 2nd & 4th Thurs. of Month
- TODDLER GROUP:** Wight School, Mon. 10:00-11:30am Wed. & 1:30-3:00pm
- W.I.:** Tom Hauley Room, 7:45pm 2nd Thursday of Month
- YOGA:** Wight School, 7:30-9:30pm Wednesdays, Diane Surgey
Tel. 817904

THE PARISH COUNCIL

9, Sutcliffe Drive, Harbury. CV33 9LT

CHAIRMAN: John Hunt

CLERK: Deborah Steele

PARISH OFFICE: Tel. 614646

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ALL SAINTS' CHURCH HARBURY SUNDAY SERVICES

Holy Communion, 8:00am

Sung Eucharist 10:30am (Except 1st Sunday of Month:
Sung Eucharist 9.00am)

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 in a Parish Magazine: *We are all in favour of change as long as it doesn't make any difference.*

FROM THE RECTOR

Text Luke 4 V 21 - *This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.*

The door of every Jewish home is open during the annual Passover celebration meal in the expectation that one day the great prophet Elijah will return to herald good tidings for Israel. For a moment the eyes of the Jewish family are fixed on the open door. They are waiting for something to happen.

Nowadays, in most of our homes, it's not safe to leave the door open or even unlocked. Usually, no one is likely to come anyway. The 'door' to today's home is the TV, and many are glued to the screen waiting for something to happen.

St. Luke tells us in chapter 4 of his gospel, that all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on Jesus. The people were waiting for something to happen. They were hoping for great things. In the event, they were disappointed. Luke tells us that they dismissed him as "Joseph's son" and tried to hustle him out of the town.

A lot of our time is spent in 'hanging around'. We are bored by the routine and monotony of life and look forward to anything that will bring a little excitement into it. This is why we often refer to time as the 'enemy' or as something to be 'killed'. Sometimes life seems without purpose. And so we are always waiting for something to happen.

Sometimes we find the Communion Service boring. We go to Communion hoping for something to happen. As in the synagogue in Capernaum the people look to the preacher for great things. As he begins the address we wonder if he will say something this week which will excite or amuse us. Sometimes we are disappointed.

As the preacher notices people looking at their watches while he struggles to find a moving and memorable finale, he has at least one consolation. Jesus himself didn't always manage to hold his hearers.

Nor did the greatest preacher since Jesus. Once St. Paul preached a sermon that went on till the middle of the night. *As he went on and on, Luke writes, a young man who was sitting on the window sill grew drowsy and fell to the ground where he was picked up dead.*

The proclamation of the Gospel is the priest's primary duty. But the fact that the sermon can be boring is clearly not always the fault of the preacher. For, as we have seen, greater men have failed before him.

If the words of the preacher fail to excite us is it because, like the people in the synagogue in Luke's Gospel, we make the mistake of looking forward to some marvellous word or action that will change our world beyond recognition? Is it because we are looking for someone to come along and sweep us off our feet so that life will never be the same again?

If this is what we are looking for we are in danger of overlooking the one man who can change us and take the boredom out of life. For Christ doesn't barge in and take us over. He comes, in His own words "even as you listen". He doesn't force an entry; He comes so that we hardly notice, for He is still the "carpenter's son". He comes in our neighbourhood and in the faltering words of the preacher.

The door to the human heart can be opened only from the inside. By turning over the words of the preacher in our minds and hearts our world is changed for, at last, we begin to see it in the light of Christ's life. In accepting the vision of His life our boredom dissolves. For His yoke is easy and his burden light.

May I wish you all a Happy New Year.

Fr. Roy

FROM THE REGISTERS

Holy Matrimony - All Saints' Harbury

28th December David Brown to Alexandra Gibson

Holy Baptism - All Saints' Harbury

13th December Elliot Lawrence Verge

Funerals - All Saints' Harbury

23rd December John Turner

FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

Once again the Church was a widely favoured venue over the Christmas period. Approximately 850 worshippers attended the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. The retiring collection at the Village Carol Service was slightly in excess of £500 and has been forwarded as in previous years to the Children's Society.

The proceeds from the raffle held for the Church Christmas Fair totalled £790 and this sum has been donated to Myton Hospice.

Ruth and Jeff

MOTHERS' UNION

Afternoon meeting: After a service of Holy Communion in Church, led by Father Roy, we held our meeting in the Tom Hauley Room. Mr. Wilmot came to talk about the work of the Children's Society which does so much for homeless children. He also showed us some films which made us realise what a lot of money is needed to provide homes and schools for these very needy children. Everyone wanted to try and give a little to help this extremely worthwhile cause.

On 3rd December, several Harbury members attended an Advent Festival of Light at Holy Trinity Church, Long Itchington, organised by the Deanery of Southam Mothers' Union. The theme was Jesus, Light of the World, with prayers, hymns and the address all taking up this theme. Candles were lit during the first hymn and held high during the rest of the service. Tea and cakes were provided in the school room afterwards - a most enjoyable occasion for all who took part.

Next meetings:

Tuesday 19th January

Party in Tom Hauley Room 8.00pm

Wednesday 3rd February

The poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins;
Speaker: Kathy Priddis

Audrey Tebaldi & Anne Moore

TODDLERS' SERVICE

In December Mrs. Bedford told us the story of the first Christmas. We then made camels from coloured paper and walked round the church following a star.

We sang *We Three Kings of Orient Are* accompanied by Mr. Catt on the clarinet. The next service will be on **Tuesday 12th January** at 2.15pm, the theme is *Our Hands*.

C. Mary Catt

WELCOME TO ALPHA

A new *ALPHA* course will begin on **Tuesday 12th January** at 10:00am at 3 Penelope Close. All are welcome. If you are interested in coming, please be in touch with:

Barbara Hodge on 614053

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Ladbroke News

JANUARY 1999

- Sun 10 Epiphany I** - Sung Communion 9.00am
Fri 15 ADVERTS to 14 Binswood End, Harbury by 5.30pm
Sun 17 Epiphany II - Sung Communion 9.00am; Evensong 6.00pm
Mon 18 Ladbroke Village Hall Prize Draw at The bell Inn 8.00pm
Sun 24 Epiphany III - Sung Communion 9.00am
Fri 29 Standing committee 9.30am
ARTICLES to Party Paraphernalia, Chapel Street Harbury by 5.30pm
Sun 31 Epiphany IV - Holy Communion 9.00am

FEBRUARY

- Sun 7 Second Sunday before Lent** - Family Communion 10.30am

STOP PRESS

Our Christmas Carol service ended our Christmas festivities on 30th December with joyful singing. Over 100 people filled our church and we rounded the evening off with wine and mince pies.

Many thanks must go to Michael Short who puts much time, thought and effort into these concerts. We all appreciate his guidance at the choir practices.

Betty Winkfield

LADBROKE CHURCH NEWS - Thoughts on 1998

Two men looked out of prison bars - one saw mud and the other saw stars.

My grandmother wrote that in my autograph book when I was a very young girl and for years it had me puzzled. At the end of 1998 in Ladbroke looking into 1999 I can see exactly what it means.

We look back with sadness at friends who have left us - tragically in some cases - some have just moved away - but all are very much missed.

BUT looking forwards: at Sarah (Copley's) beautiful dark curly hair growing abundantly following her chemotherapy; at Pearl walking

around the village and coming to church again; at the families flooded by the Easter rains, now back in their shining 'new' homes again after months of 'camping out'. Gwynn is back in circulation again too - after months of being unable to walk. Not least a BIG WELCOME to master Reith John Sopwith in such a hurry to get here that he arrived 5 weeks early. He is already over 7lbs in weight so he's doing very well.

A very big welcome too to all the new residents of our Parish who already seem to be joining into things. The stars are suddenly shining brightly - *A Very Happy and Blessed 1999 to Everyone.*

A few items that need mentioning: Remember the Christmas Fair? We made £571 which was not bad! Many thanks to all the lovely, lovely children who made our Crib service such a really happy occasion.

Keep your eyes open - work might, just might - be starting on the church as soon as March. You don't believe it? - WELL!

Betty Winkfield

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Many thanks to Beryl Ross who gave us a lovely Christmas tea at our last meeting. We sat in her lovely farmhouse sitting room round a real fire - a Christmas card scene in reality.

The January meeting is our AGM and after our service in Church the meeting will be here at Hall Farm.

Betty Winkfield

LADBROKE MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST

The village has now successfully purchased the site which is locally known as 'Macklin' for our Millennium Green. A Charitable Trust has been formally established that will own, manage and safeguard the Green's future for all time.

Trust Chairman - David Halsall

Trust Treasurer - Christine Baker

Trust Secretary - Miranda Lowman

Any future monies raised on behalf of the Millennium Green should now be submitted to Christine Baker as Treasurer for the Trust - contact 811606.

The Trust and its Trustees have now taken over the responsibility for building and establishing our Millennium Green and its future maintenance - hence the Planning and Management Group will cease to exist with immediate effect.

The target for completion of the village green is Autumn 1999. To achieve this David Halsall and his team urgently need your help. He needs manpower, equipment, expertise, gardeners, labourers, all to help him and the other committed members of the village. This labour is vital because we have to match any grant with 50% of our own funds which can be claimed through your physical or mechanical help. This is the easiest and fastest way of raising funds - so please contact David on 811838 to offer some help - thank you in advance.

Volunteers will be needed in the New Year for plug planting and tree planting. All volunteers must be over the age of 15 for Insurance purposes. For further information - contact Miranda Lowman on 817295.

The Trustees are looking for your ideas as to what you would like to see put into the 'Time Capsule' on the Millennium Green. Please contact any Trustee with your ideas.

Fund Raising Team: We have been successful in getting through the mountain of paperwork required by Biffa - Entrust and anticipate funds being available from them in the Spring. This will be in addition to funds agreed by the Countryside Commission. Both of these funds are to be used to purchase the land and build the Green but not the playground equipment. A separate grant from Stratford upon Avon has been applied for play equipment for at least 50% of the costs, which we are confident we will secure.

The 'Ladbroke Diners' that Penny Jenkins started has been really successful with funds regularly coming in from the numerous members - too many to detail in this Newsletter. Recent events included a Halloween Night which raised £150, a dinner party at the Old Well House which raised £90 and the children's Christmas Party where 23 children were entertained by Sooty & Sweep. Father Christmas made a surprise visit and the event raised £70.

So well done to everyone and keep it up please. Further events will be organised for next year - details of which will be posted well before the event.

As always, if you have any good ideas for an event, please contact Peter Baker on 811606.

Steering Committee: The committee feels it appropriate to recap on the background to the Millennium planning.

The Millennium Green is a big project and has, to date, taken up most of the time and attention of the Steering Committee. However, there are other activities being followed up as a result of the ideas raised by the villagers - these include:

- a) A photographic record and history of the village;
- b) Reviews of the footpaths and bridle paths for a pamphlet/booklet;
- c) A review of the trees in the village and their history, if any;
- d) A CD ROM giving an audio/visual record of the village;
- e) A Web Site that not only deals with year 2000, but becomes an on-going diary of the events and activities in the village.
- f) Plus several other ideas, all of which will need funding and organising - details of which will be advised through the newsletter or posted locally in the usual way.

The Year 2000 in Ladbroke

A very popular point made from the Village Public meetings was to celebrate the Millennium as a whole year, not just a moment in time and for the village to hold a number of events, throughout the year. Events like a church/village celebration at the start and finish of the year, a week long festival, a local history exhibition, a summer ball, a veteran & vintage car/motor cycle rally, social events in spring and autumn, etc. This would involve many different organisations or people arranging different events. To ensure that we avoid clashes of dates, and requirements for people and facilities, it is necessary to generate some form of Diary or plan for the year, showing the proposed events and allowing people to know what is going on. We clearly hope that people will co-operate in assisting us to avoid clashes both within the village and with other local events in places like Harbury and Southam.

The Steering Committee has therefore asked Mike Todman of Quince Cottage to talk with all the village organisations and anyone in the village planning to run something that year. He will also talk with

Harbury and Southam so that he can pull together a master sheet that will show what events are taking place in the Year 2000. He will try over the coming weeks and months to co-ordinate the plan of all the events as people firm up their proposals. He will not be involved with organising your event, but merely act as a clearing house for dates, etc. It is important to contact Mike if you have any thoughts regarding organising events of any type. This will help ensure we have a good year of events, planned to take place without any problems caused by clashes of dates, etc.

With the exception of the courtesy of periodic progress reports from the Trust, the Steering Committee will withdraw from work on the Green and focus on the other Millennium activities already planned or to be planned in the village.

We have already indicated that volunteers are needed in making things happen. Please don't be shy to come forward and offer your services in whatever way, you think you can help (big or small). Make the Year 2000 something very special in Ladbroke.

The Steering Committee consists of:

Peter Derrick - Co-Chairman

Fr. Roy Brown - Co-Chairman

Stan Greenway - Treasurer

Peter West - Secretary

If you have any ideas for a Web Site please contact Dutch van Spall at Deppers Bridge Farm. Don't worry about technology - Dutch will sort that out. He needs your information about the village - its history, legends, ghost stories, gossip - whatever. Please give him a call.

Peter Baker

LADBROKE VILLAGE HALL

The eleventh prize draw of the Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Club was held on December 7th at the Bell Inn. The winners were Maureen Wright £80; Avril Court £50; Marion Grainger £25; Karen Birch, Catherine Spence, Anne Edwards, Nichola Beecroft and Gwladys Gould each won £10. The next prize draw will take place on Monday 18th January at the Bell Inn at 8.00pm.

If you are a member of the club paying by cash or cheques, this will be your final draw of the 1998 round, so for 1999 remember to renew your membership as soon as possible.

Catherine Spence

LADBROKE PARISH COUNCIL REPORT - NOVEMBER

Matters arising: The November meeting of the Parish Council, started positively with the information that the sand/grit bin is now fixed ready for winter; a post has been placed at the footpath entrance to Hedges Close to prevent vehicles and it was the experience of councillors that the evidence of dog excrement had lessened considerably. Many thanks to the owners who have managed to alter their pets' habits!

Housing development: There was an air of completion in learning that the houses in Chebsey Court are now occupied. A letter of commendation will be sent to Allen Build for a relatively problem free construction period.

County Councillor's report: County Councillor Bob Stevens reported that the Tesco enquiry will take place on December 1st with the decision available in about February next year.

Plans are still underway to create a Southam Sports Hall.

There has been £30,000 allocated to parishes for road calming schemes.

Millenium Green: The Trust have made a successful application for funding from Biffa under a scheme which allows payments which would otherwise be paid in land fill tax to be allocated to local projects.

Electoral Roll: Villagers are urged to check that their details are correct on the electoral roll, which is available in Southam Library or with Elsa. Changes or additions should be notified to Mr Prosser at Stratford District Council.

Carol Northorpe

Bell Tower memories of Steve

There is only one of the current bellringers (Don) who did not receive the first lessons in bell ringing from Steve Doyle. We have all had occasion to value his ever present cheeky grin as he stepped across the bell tower to control a wildly swinging bell rope and calm an agitated ringer. Always ringing the tenor, the heaviest bell, his role was to provide the weight and steadiness behind the team and his hand was the one which tolled the twelve strokes of midnight each New Year.

We do not think it is an overstatement to say that the bells may not still be ringing if it wasn't for his regular and ingenious maintenance. Only this month he replaced 2 worn out bolts which have been holding the second bell since the 1800's.

He organised all of the assessments and completed the necessary forms for the bells to be rehung as we pass into the next millennium. He had offered to act as 'labour' for the professionals during this work in order to save cost to the Village.

How empty will the half made plans for these millennium celebrations seem now.

The Bellringers

HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - NOVEMBER

The Youth Club has officially been wound up and the residual funds entrusted to the Parish Council. Grants of up to £300 are available from this fund for "Youth" project and already two have been received, one for a Coffee Club in the Wight School, the other for a Media Club. Councillors agreed to give £250 for the Coffee Club. They also agreed to give £250 from Parish Funds to the Cricket Club for a permanent wicket.

Janet Thornley had taken up the cause of young skate boarders and the Parish Council agreed to consider requests for facilities. Councillor Shelley wanted greater consultation and dialogue with the village's children. She thought they should have a say in a replacement for the large slide.

Planning: Stratford District Council granted permission with conditions for: a bungalow at Dovehouse Autos; an extension to

Westfield House and the conversion of Nifty Needle to an office. The Parish Council had no representation to make on the removal of hedgerows for gas pipeline work but insisted that the oak tree at 1, South Parade should only be felled if it could not be saved.

Councillors complained bitterly that the amendment to the plans for 21, Ivy Lane were as bad as the originals (a large extension on a small site) and were livid that the regulations allowed the applicant to resubmit in the same time scale, giving them few days to respond. District Councillors Cooley and Booth explained Stratford's statutory obligations to the applicant stressing that planning law presumed in favour of development unless there were compelling reasons for refusal. The Parish Council agreed to voice their displeasure on this to the DETR.

The lighting saga drones on. Bryant refuse to put in a different bollard at Percival Drive, the Housing Association claims it cannot put up a lamp where the Parish Council want one and residents are still agitating for shielding. The columns are being lowered at Hillside.

Housing Association homes at Hillside are temporarily being rented out to the would-be owners who have experienced mortgage difficulties and Councillor Cooley explained that Stratford District Council could provide mortgages "after all the avenues had been explored" but the law decreed they had to be the mortgagor "of last resort".

There was no interest from the Councillors in a variety of tree schemes and they were positively dismissive of the national "Veteran Trees" initiative which asks local people to identify and measure the girth of the oldest trees in the parish.

They did applaud the new bus services put on by the County Council which include a Sunday bus between Leamington and Rugby calling at Harbury; a Monday to Saturday service to Leamington and Southam and a two hourly 'Nightowl' bus by Catteralls (Monday to Saturday at £1.20).

Councillor Cooley explained the significance of the District Electoral Review, the priority of which was "electoral equality" - meaning that each ward should have the same number of electors to a Councillor even if this resulted in dividing up communities.

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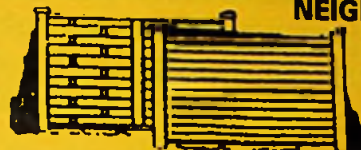
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The Stratford Partnership Strategic Plan whose goals are:

- improved services for youth;
- a commitment to life-long learning;
- improving public transport and quality of life for the elderly

got short shrift from Councillor Middleton.

There is a special meeting on **Thursday 14th January, 7.30pm** in the Village Hall, to discuss the plans for floodlighting the Netball and Tennis Courts and the Parish Council decided to join up for a meeting on Millennium Celebrations with the Church and any other interested groups. Mary Shelley expressed the hope that as many villagers as possible would join the people of Chapel Street this year for the singing of Old Lang Syne at midnight on December 31st.

Interesting items from the accounts were £50.57 for a Decanter and £125.72 for a set of Ceremonial Keys!

Linda Ridgley

HARBURY SOCIETY - November

A large and appreciative audience heard John Home talk on "Beekeeping down the Ages". Later when they sampled different kinds of honey Ken Stephenson was able to assure himself of the "aphrodisiac effects, which were he declared instantaneous but fleeting."

Mr. Home, whose Fosseway Honey is sold in the village, lives at Deppers Bridge although he originates from Devon. His interest in bees began at Agricultural College, developed as a hobby and then became his profession in 1975.

A Beekeeper's year starts in early Spring with contract work for fruit growers who hire in bees to ensure pollination of their crops. Mr. Home's bees are usually down in Kent working on the apples, cherries, plums and pears for a month.

Mr. Home has 350 hives which are usually scattered about on 25 local farms tucked away in uncultivated corners. The honey is extracted at the end of May when the bees have usually been working oil seed rape. This type of honey sets quickly and so has to be taken off early. The end of July is usually the last chance the bee keeper has to harvest honey because there are not enough flowers later in the year.

But sometimes it is possible to get a crop of Heather Honey and Mr. Home takes some bees to Derbyshire to work the Chatsworth House Moors.

Mr. Home feeds his bees sugar water if they need it. He considers himself to be a livestock keeper with a duty to look after the creatures he uses. If he were to take all the bees honey and not provide an alternative they would starve.

Once the bees are "tucked up" for the winter they still have to be watched over. Woodpeckers can be a problem when they make holes in the hives to get at the insects when other prey is frozen in. The holes can then be utilised by mice which eat the honey and stink the bees out of the hive.

During the winter Mr. Home makes and repairs hives and markets his crop. Mr. Home is proud of his relationship with the people who retail his honey and although he brought samples for us to try he would not spoil their market by selling to his audience. Eight to ten tons is a good harvest of honey with up to a hundredweight of wax for every ton of honey. The wax can be made into sheets for the hives, furniture cream or ecclesiastical candles.

Linda Ridgley

HARBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

What a busy time of the year it has been for everybody leading up to Christmas.

We had a super Christmas Party with husbands and friends. Amazing how the Village Hall gets transformed with each function and ours was no exception. It looked very welcoming and the food went down a treat. Then there was entertainment by members ending with the Harbury Line Dancers. They were great and we were able to join in, helped by Clare and 'the gang'. We thoroughly enjoyed the experience and did quite well for the first try. Many thanks to all who helped to make the evening a success.

Then came the Christmas meeting with sherry, mince pies and a bran tub. Mrs. Margaret Dolby gave a demonstration of the Christmas decorations she had made. We were taken all round the world with a story from each country as she introduced each decoration. There were bells, angels, hearts, balls, lanterns and tassels to name but a few.

Mrs. Dolby used silks and lace, felt, sequins, beads, fruit stones and nuts, in fact, anything she could use for effect. Smocking, embroidery and patchwork, worked in a variety of techniques resulted in these delightful baubles. Celia and Wendy hung them on a Christmas tree which was most effective. An appropriate talk for Christmas.

The Darts team won their match but the Bowls team got pipped by one point.

Finally, the Carol service put members in the Christmas mood.

May we wish all readers A Happy New Year.

January Hostesses: Lyn Edwards, Muriel Coope and Sue Chaplin

Jeanne Beaumont

REVIEW OF HARBURY PANTOMIME 1998

The sold out sign on the door was a hint that the Harbury pantomime's reputation went before it. Being a newcomer to Harbury, I was intrigued to find out what talent was lurking behind the scenes. I was not disappointed.

From beginning to end I was enthralled by the outstanding talent and team work displayed. If the audience's reaction was anything to go by I was not alone in my thought. Boos, hisses, sing alongs, cheers rang through the packed Hall. No one performance can be singled out as everyone put 100% effort into their role. The crowd scenes, the lovely singing, the special effects, the comic timing and the costumes all contributed to a colourful afternoon's entertainment.

Ruth should be very proud of all her efforts. The casting was very good, an outrageous widow Twanky, a dopey Wishy Washy, a mischievous Aladdin, an animated pair of policemen Chop Chop and Na Na, a cute duck, a graceful princess, a ferocious Abanazar, a manly genie and all the supporting cast.

The direction was very professional with quick scene changes and dynamic performances. All in all the whole team should be very proud of themselves, the only problem will be that next year's troupe will have a hard act to follow

Tessa Whittaker

Senior Citizens**Ada Perry****Audrey Tebaldi & I****Irene Wilkins & Ruth Merrick****Vera Frazer**

Christmas Party



hor Thompson



Peter Towell



Mary Merriman & Quona Huntley

HARBURY FOLK CLUB



Old Time Music Hall was the theme for the Christmas Folk Club. What a variety of Artistes and costumes we had.

The Harvesters set the scene with "Waiting at the Church" and "It's a Great Big Shame". Des was in Christmas mood with "The Pudding Hunt" and also on the menu was "Mrs. Hooligan's Christmas Cake" from none other than 'The Hooligans'. Peter got his little Ukulele out to play "Who's taking you Home Tonight" and Rick completed the first half with an excellent monologue: "Sam Pick up thy Musket".

We all sang the chorus of "Daisy Bell" with The Concertina Band. Then followed an interesting variation of "We Wish you a Merry Xmas" from "The Crapper Family". Fill & Drill sang "Nobody's Moggy Now" - especially for the cat lovers that one! The Choir sang "The Boar's head Carol" and 'Broadway' finished the second half in fine voice.

Audience participation followed with contributions from 'The Jug Band', 'The Blues Fathers and Aaron' and Mike Putnam.

Next came a fine recitation from Celia Neill. I was delighted to see my friends 'Parker & Watts' who entertained us magnificently with their humour and great songs - how do they remember all those words! The evening was brought to a close with 'Broadway' singing "Jingle Bell Rock" and "The Christmas Song".

The raffle raised £35.50 for MacMillan Nurses. Thank you to all the artistes and especially the audience for taking part!

Sue Hartland

CAROL SINGING by The Folk Club and Hereburgh Morris

On the evening of Monday, December 21st, a group of 17 singers and musicians from Harbury Folk Club and Hereburgh Morris went carol singing around the pubs of Harbury. We started at the Great Western and finished at the Village Club.

It wasn't the busiest evening of the festive season but we still managed to raise £80 for 'Crisis' to help the homeless in Warwickshire. We would like to thank the landlords, landladies, bar staff and their customers for their generosity and good humour. We hope that we brought you a little Christmas cheer.

Peter McDonald

THEY'RE OFF - AREN'T THEY?

This time for sure. The *G.A.S.S. Racenight with a Difference* is returning by popular request and believe you me - YOU ARE IN FOR A TREAT.

The beautifully made racecourse complete with horses will return under spotlights on **Saturday 30th January** in the Village Hall from 7.30pm. 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.

Note: Special offer - for booking tables of 8 or more a free bottle of wine!

Come and take part (it is an interactive night of tremendous fun). Tickets from any committee member, at Mugleston's or phone 612696. Bring your lucky horseshoe, wear your favourite rosette, but most of all whip yourself along to the Return of the Racenight with a Difference.

Peter 'Honest' Walshe

HARBURY NURSERY SCHOOL

A visit to see the little Angel - The Nursery School Christmas Play

Mary was going to have a baby. Mary and Joseph knocked on the door of an Inn. *Is there any room?* They said. And they need to live in the stable 'cos there wasn't any room.

Baby Jesus came out of Mary's tummy. Baby Jesus wasn't really in Mary's tummy, he was under a chair.

The Little Angel got stuck in a tree. The Little Shepherd Boy was sitting on a seat and then the Angel came. The Angel sang: *Twinkle, twinkle little star*

She couldn't get down from the tree. Her wings were all broken. Her Mummy helped her get down. A Wolf came: *Grraccht!* The Angel said: "I like animals." The Angel, the Wolf and the Shepherd Boy went to Bethlehem because the Angel's wings were all broken. There was a Soldier, a shining Star, and a big Girl gave the Angel some new wings. I didn't go on the stage.

I sat with some other girls at the front. After the play I had a mince pie and some juice.

Poppy Woods, 2 ¾ yrs

HARBURY Pre-SCHOOL - Learning through Play

Happy New Year! And thanks to the fund raising activities of the last half term, it seems as if it will be a very happy one for the children who attend the Pre-School. The coffee morning, the jumble sale, the cake stall and the commission from the Webb Ivory catalogue raised almost £400! Since there are just ten children on the roll of the Pre-School, this represents a phenomenal amount of support from parents and from the village as a whole and we are grateful to you all.

Of particular note is the generosity of the older children in the village. They seemed to take it as a personal challenge to spend as much of

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their pocket money as possible on books, games and toys at the jumble sale for the benefit of the younger children.

We will spend some of the money raised on new toys and equipment for weighing, counting and measuring games and on a wide variety of brushes and sponges for every creative eventuality. Fund raising will continue with a coffee morning in the Tom Hauley Room on Saturday 6th February. In addition to the not entirely unexpected coffee there will be delightful and unusual things to buy, watch out for posters nearer the time!

Everyone enjoyed the pre-Christmas events. The children were charmed to be taken to the 'big school' to watch their peers perform *The Little Angel*. Later on, they performed their own tribute to the festival in the 'little school' before parents and members of the village. The audience helped to create a really warm atmosphere which encouraged even the less confident children to contribute. The collection was donated to The Children's Society, which is supported by the village Church. At the end of term there was a very jolly party during which Father Christmas took time out from his preparations to visit the children, providing a moment of stunned silence in the proceedings.

News of the activities enjoyed by the children should become more reliable since sheets detailing the week's projects now support their version of events. This term the children will be heading towards the middle territory of Letterland, meeting the Hairy Hat Man, Lucy Lamp Lady and Munching Mike among others. It would be great if parents could check the sheet to see if there are items at home which relate to the projects or letters of the week and which could go on our interest table for discussion.

Finally, the OFSTED inspection of the Pre-School will take place on **28th and 29th January**. The staff, supported by the committee, has been attending courses and working very hard to ensure that our policies, procedures and practices meet all the standards required by the inspectors. If we are successful, the Pre-School will not only be able to proclaim the official recognition of the quality and value of its work, it will also be able to accept nursery vouchers. There are going to be a few sleepless nights in January!

HARBURY SCHOOL

The list of children who want new places in the Reception class at Harbury School from September 1999 is growing ever longer and is fast approaching our limit. This includes children who do not live in Harbury, but whose parents want a place at our school.

I am more than happy to take children from outlying areas but the school's priority has to be children from Harbury. Therefore, if you know of anyone in the village or from Chesterton, with a child who will be starting school this coming September and may be expecting a place here, please ask them to get in touch with us.

We are having an *Open Afternoon* on **Wednesday 10th February** from 1:30pm to 3:00pm so that anyone who wants to look around the school and/or ask any questions can do so. Later in that month we will be sending out letters offering places at Harbury School and I want to make every effort to be certain that we haven't missed anyone.

Paul Milner - Headteacher

HARBURY TENNIS CLUB

Not a lot of tennis being played at the moment - apart from the 'A' and 'B' Team Winter League matches. The 'B' team is doing OK but the 'A' team is sadly missing Gill Thorpe in particular. Gill is recovering from a leg operation and we are hoping she will be fit in time for the remaining matches in the New Year.

We had a very enjoyable evening of tennis at Billesley Indoor Courts the other weekend - followed by a Balti in Warwick.

If anyone is interested in helping with Junior tennis development, please give me a call.

David Snell (614614)

VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

After 18 months' work, Harbury's Design Statement will soon be arriving from the printers. It has already been adopted by Stratford District Council and is now part of the planning process and should have a significant effect on the way planning decisions are made.

However, the statement is more than that. It celebrates our village, how it developed and what makes it a distinctive and special place to live. A free copy of the Design Statement will be available to every household and you can register for your copy using the slip included in the magazine.

The production of the Design Statement has been made possible by grants from the Countryside Commission and the Parish Council. I would like to record my thanks to them and to the dedicated group of people who have given many hours of their time and talents.

**Sharon Hancock, Chairman
Village Design Statement Group**

HARBURY CHRONICLES - progress report

Filming has now been completed and editing is under way. The finished film and video copies should be available around April.

If your name is not already on the list and you would like one of the limited number which will initially be available at a discounted, pre-launch price of £9, then please contact Bill Middleton at Butchers Barn, High Street, Harbury (612877).

Now that Christmas 1998 has been and gone Christmas 1999 will not, I feel certain, be uppermost in your mind. However, could I suggest that you consider a video (or two) of the Harbury Chronicles film as a suitable present for your distant relatives and friends who would appreciate a reminder of the green and pleasant place in which we live and enjoy ourselves!

Bill Middleton

TELEWORKING - DAVENTRY TERTIARY COLLEGE

The above college will be starting a *Teleworking course* at Harbury Village Hall on **Wednesdays from 27th January** (9.15am - 3.15pm), if there are sufficient numbers. Enrolment on January 20th.

The course will be free and leads to the City and Guilds 4283 Teleworking qualification. Although the main aim is to provide those taking part with the computing and IT skills they need to run businesses, professional organisations or voluntary groups, anyone

who wishes to learn computing skills for their own purposes will be welcomed.

There will be an *Open Coffee Morning* on **Wednesday 13th January** for anyone who wishes to know more, or the College can be contacted on 01327 300 232 (extension 256).

Bill Middleton 612877

HARBURY SENIOR CITIZENS

A truly village affair with a truly magnificent cast of characters - where else but Harbury would a willing band of helpers enjoy providing a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings for 120 senior citizens?

All the funds for the event are generated by the efforts of a small committee of willing volunteers; all the prizes for the raffle are given by village shops and individuals and the entertainment is 'homespun' by talented members of the community. The wine waiters, waitresses and washers-up are all well known 'village people' and the Hall and tables are decorated by enthusiastic volunteers who all contribute to the success of the occasion.



Mavis Powell and Gamecock Landlord Gordon McFarlane

This year the committee have been extremely grateful for the revival of the 'bottle opening' ceremonies which took place at the Gamecock and Shakespeare Inn in December. Thanks to the efforts of the landlords / landladies and their generous customers over £270 swelled the coffers from the loose change that had been put into the bottles in the past months. Sadly one of the stalwart committee members who raised a considerable sum each year by organising the Harbury & Senior Citizens dominoes competition died suddenly just before this year's party. Before the start of the meal, Father Rowe paid tribute to the work of John Turner and also to Neville Merrick who was a valuable committee member for many years. Each of them will be sadly missed by the friends they worked alongside.



Carol and Andrew Cleaver at the Shakespeare with Marie Wallington
(SCBA Committee Member)

It is hoped that the domino competition will continue in the local area as teams from many pubs in Southam and Leamington enjoy competing for the prestigious Mary Aplin cup. In the summer months, Doug and Mavis Powell also work tirelessly to run a competition which produces a much appreciated sum for the 'Senior Citizens' Fund.

Each year, the committee hears about people who would have been eligible for the annual Summer Outing or the Christmas Party after the event, so if you missed the bus this year (in more ways than one!) please get in touch with our secretary Margaret Taylor, 16, Pineham Avenue, tel. 612903. The original constitution of the Benefit Organisation deemed that single women or widows were invited to join in the activities at 60 years, whilst men would have to be 65 years (young!) to attend with their accompanying partners.

The local talent which provided the delightful after dinner entertainment for this years party included the Harbury Jug Band (Brian Ingram, John Kemsley and Alan Wilkins) who were specially re-formed for the evening and Mavis Young - the ever willing pianist who accompanies the Carol singing with a special 'joie de vivre'. Just in case anyone felt too replete after the meal to stay awake, the incredible Appalachian Step Dancers, led by Sue and Ian Hartland, jolted everyone into life with their lively, complex routines which drew spontaneous applause from the appreciative audience! If you haven't been lucky enough to witness their wonderful dancing - they also performed at the Twinning event in the summer, then make a New Year resolution to catch up with them in 1999 - you will not be disappointed!

Finally, thanks must be expressed to the members of the Harbury PTA who delivered our guests to the annual Christmas party and to Mike Thompson (A & M Cars) who generously made one of his buses available to ferry people home after the enjoyable night out.

To return to the beginning - a truly village affair involving over 300 people which all happens because of the goodwill and unfailing generosity of many people who enjoy putting something into the community they care about. Thanks to you all - we couldn't do it without you!

**Harbury Senior Citizens Benefit
Committee:**

**Chris, Ethel, Harry, Janet, Jenny,
Margaret, Marie and Tony**

A CHRISTMAS TRADITION



For the last few years, a group of runners and cyclists have met at Kane's News at 9am on Christmas morning for a gentle circuit around Thwaites Estate.

Our thanks again to Michael Thwaites for his Christmas morning welcome and the Lamberts for their excellent hospitality at our halfway refreshment stop. The picture shows this Christmas's fine young athletes and we would welcome any newcomers, same time and place, next Christmas.

Doug Freeman

MORE MEMORIES OF HARBURY

The Harbury & Ladbroke News of August 1996, Number 269, reported Mark Petchey's wedding. It pictured Tim Henman with Michelle and Mark. It caused me to pick up pen and start to write of my memories of village tennis. The article never matured, but in the December edition Roger Court's memories made me take up the pen again - this time hopefully to complete a story.

My first memories of tennis in Harbury were of games on the lawn court behind the Manor. I imagine the players were invited by the then

owners, Alderman and Mrs. Frank Farley. Players I particularly remember were Mr. and Mrs. White of Pineham Avenue, Reg Farrow who was at that time assistant teacher at the Wight School and Eddie and Muriel Bicknell of Threeways, who despite their diminutive size made a formidably competitive pair. My Mum and Dad played, as did my Auntie Doris Cleaver, who seemed a bit of an oddity because she served underarm. My sister Vonnie and I would sneak onto the court between games and try to hit the ball to each other. Of course, the sun always shone and the tennis was very genteel.

It was Roger's reference to the Rev. Acheson which got me going again on this tennis business. David Acheson was the vicar who followed the Rev. A.J. Capps. He had been a Padre in the parachute regiment, and was a wild Irishman to boot, who had featured in the Daily Mirror because he kept chickens in the churchyard. The Wight School was a Church of England School so he was the chairman of the governors. A tennis enthusiast, he decided a court should be created on the playground behind the school. Sadly the playground was only about 2½ yards longer than a tennis court so it encouraged some very peculiar shots. For example, David Acheson developed a meteoric service with no back swing. Back swing was prevented by the wall of the boy's urinal. For the same reason shots of good length had to be returned on the bounce so we were attacking with top spin half volleys long before Bjorn Borg entered the tournament circuit. That tarmac court introduced many village lads to a game they had no prospect of playing otherwise. Dig deep at the bottom of John Wyatt's garden and you'll still find some of the lost balls because John's Mum would never let us over her fence to fetch them.

I mentioned Eddie Bicknell, who worked at the cement works. I don't know what his official job was but he did oversee maintenance of the sports field, which had three good grass courts. Von and I joined the club there and this reminds me of the first of many tennis injuries suffered over the years. One happened when the new Manor Road was being excavated. Von and I cycled up Park Lane on our way to play at the works. We carried the racquets across our handlebars in the customary manner of the time. A minor wobble caused Von's racquet to tangle with my handlebars. I swerved across the road, hit the roadside and pitched headlong into the ditch, landing with my head and shoulders through a discarded roll of barbed wire.



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The physical damage was minimal but my pride suffered a considerable setback.

It was at the works club that I first played tennis with Denis Catterall from Deppers Bridge. He delivered a mean serve on a good day. You may remember he married Diane Wilkins, whose Dad kept the Shakespeare Inn, before he emigrated to Lighthorne. A little bird tells me Denis is still involved in club organisation. With the passage of years I progressed to play tennis for Lincolnshire and to represent the RAF. I even had the privilege of a short knock up at Wimbledon with Stan Smith on the year he won the single's title. That wouldn't happen to a lowly guy like me today.

Now all the joints complain, the reactions are slower, but the memory is still as sharp. Thanks go to Roger Court, however, for pricking my conscience into recording this particular string of memories, and there are many more where they came from.

Dave Kitchener, late of Temple End

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Another year gone - welcome to 1999. I am glad to say the last meeting of '98 was very successful. Mr. Bob Brown's entertaining talk was not quite the subject we were expecting, more *What is a Garden?* He showed slides, many with good harmonising planting but others with some expensive errors.

The refreshments were supplied by many members - all very enjoyable - the committee almost had a rest! Ron and John were kept busy with the drinks, more than enough for everyone. Many thanks to everybody for making all this possible.

Congratulations to Mrs. Heather Turner, her name was drawn at the December meeting as the winner of the Bursary. We hope she enjoys the course of her choice.

On the dull days of winter it is good to think of the activities in the coming year, the interesting talks and the outings to name just two. Would anybody who has not paid their subs for the current year: £2 for the year and 30p for visitors, please see Mr. John Clifford the treasurer, as they are now overdue.

Mr Combs will give a talk on *Lilies* on Tuesday 2nd February 1999.

Muriel Grey

GARDENING NOTES

Will there be a 'proper' winter this year, to kill off some of those bothersome pests? We can only wait and see what the weather will do, but we can make sure that we keep the garden tidy by cutting back dead perennials. Leave some seed heads, both for the birds and because they look attractive when covered by frost. Plant new trees and shrubs providing the ground is not frosted or waterlogged. Remember the old maxim that what goes into the planting hole at the start of the plant's life is far more use than anything which is added later. Dig a hole twice the size of the plant's container, mix in compost and fertiliser, and position a stake for a tree.

When the early bulbs begin to flower, make sure that they are not smothered by leaves of plants growing near them. Cut off any that cover the delicate winter aconite, snowdrops or anemone blanda so that they can really be seen. The other plants will re-grow when it is their turn to put on a show.

Dig over any beds where summer bedding was growing and mulch with compost or manure, then leave the rain, frost and worms to work it in. Prepare the vegetable beds in the same way but do not add manure where root crops will be sown. Prune red and white currants. Remove old stems completely and cut back new growth to leave about 3" on the main stems and side shoots to one bud. Autumn fruiting raspberry canes should be cut off at ground level. Check stored fruit and vegetables and stored tubers and corms of flowers. When bowls of bulbs are brought into the house put them into a cool porch or window for a few days before they have to face a centrally heated room.

Treat fences and other timber with preservative and scrub plant pots, seed trays and canes in warm soapy water. Birds need water as well as food. If they are not visiting you it may be your tall hedge which is putting them off, so if you are planting a deciduous hedge now, bear that in mind. Deciduous hedges can be cut back hard at the end of the winter. Leave evergreen planting and cutting until late spring. Read the gardening books and magazines with an easy conscience knowing that most days this month will not be practical gardening days!

Plant of the Month: Cyclamen

This pretty winter favourite does not deserve its common name of Sowbread, but in the woods of Southern France, Italy and Sicily it is claimed that a diet of the corms, sought out by the pigs like truffles, adds flavour to the pork.

The wild cyclamen, native to the mountains of Southern Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean countries and islands, was collected by Charles de l'Ecluse, in the 16th Century. He worked in Vienna and Leyden transforming many wild flowers into garden forms, so that he became known as the Father of the Flower Garden. There are 15 species of cyclamen, giving blooms from summer through to March.

The hardy cyclamen hederifolium and coum are the most common garden varieties, thriving and multiplying in shady moist conditions, with their dappled leaves providing interest after the flowers have faded. The ear shaped leaves gave rise to the belief that the plant could be used to relieve earache. At Christmas a popular houseplant is the cyclamen bred from the wild form, persicum, but it is difficult to please. It quickly wilts if it is not kept in a cool temperature of 10 to 13 °C and in a well lit but not sunny place. Water the plant by standing the pot in a bowl of water so that the soil become moistened through, then leave it until the leaves begin to droop before repeating the watering. It is best to treat the plant as disposable as it is difficult to get it to bloom again. The nurserymen will be sowing cyclamen seeds this summer to raise the plants for us to buy in eighteen months.

Pat Smith

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors

Through the Harbury and Ladbroke News, I would like to say thank you to everyone who called, rang or sent a card to me when Steve died so unexpectedly. It is at times like this when you really appreciate the village community we live in and I feel so much better to know that people are there if I need them.

Jennifer has returned to Bristol, having spent Christmas here and Simon is working his way slowly through Steve's business so that he can take over any aspect of it possible.

1998 has not been a good year for many of us in one way or another, so let us hope that it all turns for the better in 1999.

Linda Doyle

Dear Editors

On behalf of Jeanne, Gladys and Gwen may I thank everybody who made and supplied cakes for the stall at the Christmas Fair. We handed in a valuable £140.90. I have said it before, but I think the cake makers of this area are marvellous - many thanks.

Muriel Grey

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