

During May, Harbury has been saddened by several tragic deaths and many villagers have mourned the loss of well-loved friends.



The 2001 Census was taken on April 29<sup>th</sup> and our French guests were included on their host's census forms, a demonstration of true Jumelage! One of the first forms, posted

by Tim Millington, in the Church Street box, was captured on film by our photographer, Mike Bloxham.

On May 1<sup>st</sup> some of the Samoian visitors rose early to witness Hereburgh Morris dancing at Chesterton Windmill, whilst children at Harbury School celebrated May Day with traditional Maypole dancing.

The Village Carnival is on June 9<sup>th</sup> and information about events in the preceeding week and the Carnival itself are detailed in the magazine.

Our sympathy is extended to all the relatives of Win Bloxham, Norman Boley, Freddy Fields, Moi Hughes, and John Hunt who died in May.



*I looked up to John immensely: his counsel was always clear, helpful and wise. John cared passionately about his local community: he probably never realised how much we all cared about him. I shall miss him as a great and good man, and a true friend.*

*Philip Bushill-Matthews MEP*

# Harbury Diary

## JUNE

- Sun 3 Whitsunday Pentecost** - Sung Eucharist 9am; Evening Worship 6pm  
Cricket home to Wolston
- Mon 4 SCHOOL BEGINS
- Tues 5 Holy Communion 7.30pm
- Wed 6 Martial Arts in Village Hall 6pm  
Holy Communion 2pm; Mothers' Union 2.30pm  
Prayer Meeting in Church 8pm
- Thurs 7 POLLING DAY in Village Hall 7am – 10pm  
Holy Communion 9.45am  
Storytelling in the Library 10am  
Youth Club in Village Hall 7-9pm  
Folk Club in The Shakespeare 8.30pm  
Myton Hospice Line Dancing Club 7.30pm Beginners 8.30 Weekly Class
- Fri 8 Beat Buddies 9.30-11.30 & 2-3pm in Village Hall
- Sat 9 CARNIVAL DAY  
Cricket home to Nuneaton 3/Belle Vue
- Sun 10 Trinity Sunday** – Holy Communion 8am; Sung Eucharist 10.30am
- Tues 12 Horticultural Society's outing to Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Castle  
Bromwich, be at the Village Hall at 9am  
Holy Communion 7.30pm  
Village Hall committee in Village Hall 8pm
- Wed 13 Martial Arts in Village Hall 6pm  
Cricket home to Tachbrook  
*Talk it Through* at 33, South Parade 8pm
- Thurs 14 Holy Communion 9.45am  
Thursday Club in Village Hall 2.30pm  
Youth Club in Village Hall 7-9pm  
Myton Hospice Line Dancing Club 7.30pm Beginners 8.30 Weekly Class  
WI 7.45pm in Tom Hauley Room
- Fri 15 NEWSPAPER COLLECTION  
Beat Buddies 9.30-11.30 & 2-3pm in Village Hall  
**ADVERTS 31, Binswood End by 5.30pm**
- Sat 16 Men's Prayer Breakfast 7.30am  
Summer Concert by Warwickshire Singers in Harbury Church (see Andrew Patrick)  
Cricket home to Trotters
- Sun 17 FATHERS DAY**  
**1<sup>st</sup> after Trinity** – Holy Communion 8am; Family Communion 10.30am  
Evensong 6pm  
Cricket home to Stratford Bards
- Tues 19 Holy Communion 7.30pm; Mothers' Union 8pm  
Senior Citizens' Committee in Village Hall 8pm
- Wed 20 Tea in the Tom Hauley Room 3.00-4.00pm  
Martial Arts in Village Hall 6pm  
Prayer Meeting in Church 8pm
- Thurs 21 LONGEST DAY  
Holy Communion 9.45am  
Harbury Society tour of Jephson Gardens  
Youth Club in Village Hall 7-9pm  
Myton Hospice Line Dancing Club 7.30pm Beginners 8.30 Weekly Class
- Fri 22 Beat Buddies 9.30-11.30 & 2-3pm in Village Hall  
**ARTICLES to Harbury Chemist, High Street by 5.30pm**
- Sat 23 Food & Drink Festival at Pump Rooms, Leamington  
Cricket home to Peugeot
- Sun 24 2<sup>nd</sup> after Trinity** – Holy Communion 8am; Sung Eucharist 10.30am  
Cricket home to Barford
- Tues 26 Horticultural Society's trip to Brackley 5.45pm  
Holy Communion 7.30pm; Julian Meeting AGM at the Rectory
- Wed 27 Martial Arts in Village Hall 6pm

- PCC Meeting in Church 7.30pm  
*Talk it Through* at 33, South Parade 8pm
- Thurs 28 Holy Communion 9.45am  
 Sung Eucharist 7.30pm – 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rectors Priesting  
 Parish Council in Village Hall 7-30pm  
 Myton Hospice Line Dancing Club 7.30pm Beginners 8.30 Weekly Class  
 Thursday Club 2.30pm Village Hall
- Fri 29 Beat Buddies 9.30-11.30 & 2-3pm in Village Hall  
 NEWSPAPER COLLECTION
- Sat 30 Cricket home to Highway

## JULY

- Sun 1 3<sup>rd</sup> after Trinity – Sung Eucharist 9am; Evening Worship 6pm  
 Cricket home match v Rex Humphreys XI

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### Please note:

**Adverts** to 31, Binswood End by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June

**Articles** to Harbury Chemist by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June

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

### Bookings for:

<b>Scout Hut</b>	<b>Mr. R. Flanagan</b>	<b>613612</b>
<b>Tom Hauley Room</b>	<b>Mrs. W. Stubbs</b>	<b>612782</b>
<b>T. Hauley Room Coffee Morning</b>	<b>Mrs. J. Windsor</b>	<b>612504</b>
<b>Village Hall</b>	<b>Mr. P. Winchester</b>	<b>614466</b>
<b>Wight School</b>	<b>Mrs. L. Hayes</b>	<b>613488</b>

## REGULAR DIARY DATES

**BABY CLINIC:** Surgery, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 2:00-4:00pm

**BADMINTON:** Village Hall, Monday mornings (613174) 10:00am-12:00noon  
 Mondays (612627) (Seniors) 7:00-9:00pm;  
 Tuesdays (613413) (Club) 8:00-10:00pm;  
 Friday (612029) (Juniors) 2:00-3:00pm;  
 Sunday (613340) 7:00-10:00pm

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

**BEAT BUDDIES:** Village Hall, Tuesdays 2pm

**BELL RINGING PRACTICE:** (613605) Church, Fridays 7:30pm

**BROWNIES:** Scout Hut, Mondays 6:15-7:30pm

**CHOIR PRACTICE:** Church, Fridays 6:30pm

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

**CUBS:** Scout Hut, Wednesdays 6:30-8:00pm

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

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

**HARBURY FOLK CLUB:** Dog Inn 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of Month 8:30pm

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

### HARBURY JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB:

**Under 7/8s:** Training: Harbury School Pitch 9:00am  
 Coach: Mike Grayson 613027, and  
 Jim Farrell 811216 (Mob. 0777 6130569)

**Under 9/10s:** Training: Harbury School Pitch 10:30a  
 Coaches: Joe Greenwell 613623 & Jim Ward 612401, and  
 Adrian Hawley 614353 & Rob Wilkes 613948

**Under 10/11s:** Training: Playing Fields 9:00am  
 Coaches: Steve Darby 613330 & Trevor Montague 612340

**Under 12/13s:** Training: Playing Fields 10:30am  
 Coaches: John Wilkins 612115 & Steve Wilkins 614574

**Under 14/15s:** Training: Playing Fields 10:30am  
Coaches: Paul Harris 613148  
**HARBURY NURSERY SCHOOL:** School, Monday-Friday; 9:00am-12:00noon;  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays 12:45pm-3:15pm  
**HARBURY PRE-SCHOOL:** Wight School, High St. Monday 12:30 - 2:30pm;  
Tuesday-Friday 9:00am - 12:00noon  
**HARBURY VILLAGE CLUB:** Contact 612498  
**HEREBURGH MORRIS DANCERS:** (613402) School Hall, Wednesdays 8:00-10:00pm  
**HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY:** Village Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of Month (Oct. to May) 8:00pm  
**KICK START APPALACHIAN STEP DANCERS:** (612734) Scout Hut, Saturdays, 10:00am-12:00noon  
**LIBRARY:** (613297) Mondays 2:00 - 5:00pm and 5:30 - 7:00pm;  
Thursdays 10:00am - 1:00pm; 2:00 - 5:00pm & 5:30 - 7:00pm;  
Stories, Rhymes for U5s, 10:00am 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of Month; Term Time only  
**LINE DANCING:** BEGINNERS, Harbury Village Club, Thursdays 7.30pm  
**MARTIAL ARTS:** Village Hall, Wednesdays 6pm  
**NETBALL CLUB:** (613239) Village Hall Car Park, Training Thursdays 6:30pm;  
Matches on Saturday Afternoon  
**SCOUTS:** Scout Hut, Thursdays 7:00pm  
**TAI CHI:** (614730) Village Hall, Wednesdays 7:30pm  
**TENNIS CLUB:** (614614) (Apr-Sept) Tues & Thurs 6:30pm onwards (6:00pm for April);  
Saturday 2:00-5:00pm, Monday & Wednesday 1:45-3:00pm  
**THEATRE GROUP:** (612610) The Dog Inn, last Tuesday of Month 8:00pm  
**THURSDAY CLUB:** (612273) Farley Room of Village Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of Month 2:30pm  
**TODDLER GROUP:** Wight School, Monday 10:00-11:30am & Wednesday 1:30-3:00pm  
**W.I.:** Tom Hauley Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of Month 7:45pm  
**YOGA:** Wight School, Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30pm Diane Surgey Tel. 817904  
**YOUTH CLUB:** Village Hall, Thursdays 7:00-9:00pm

## DO YOU NEED HELP WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?

*Harbury Helpline is for you!*

**EMERGENCY TRANSPORT:** Call Tim Millington 612808 or Charles Catt 612864.

### HELP WITH FORM FILLING:

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

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

**HOUSEHOLD BUDGETING ADVICE:** Call Tony Brunton 612191.

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

## All Saints' Church Harbury Sunday Services

<b>Holy Communion</b>	8:00am
<b>Sung Eucharist</b>	10:30am (Except 1st Sunday of Month: Sung Eucharist 9.00am)
<b>Family Service</b>	10:30am on 3rd Sunday of Month
<b>Evensong</b>	6:00pm (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

Overheard on a bus.

Boy aged 10: *Do you believe in God?*

Girl about 7: *What will he do to me if I say "No"?*

## From the Rector

“By following the rules we could spell *fish* this way, *ghoti*” claimed George Bernard Shaw. “The *f* as in enough, the *I* as in woman and the *sh* as in fiction!” which goes to show that rules are not always the best guide.

Right from the beginning of his teaching Jesus makes exactly that point. Through his preaching and healing he showed that it is only through love we can find the infallible way of getting things right all the time. As St. Paul reminds us:

*Love is always patient and kind, it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish, it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.*

This is the message Christ preached. The many miracles recorded in the gospels simply demonstrate his authority to confront the rule of law with the law of love. And each time we try to apply rules instead of love we run the danger of making the Word unrecognisable!

**Fr. Roy**

## From the Registers

### Holy Matrimony at All Saints' Harbury

25<sup>th</sup> May

Brian Thistlethwaite to Lisa Pearmain

### Holy Baptism at All Saints' Harbury

6<sup>th</sup> May

Eleanor Kate Jennings

13<sup>th</sup> May

Emily Claire Cousins

20<sup>th</sup> May

Adam John Draper

27<sup>th</sup> May

Joshua James Steele

### Holy Baptism at All Saints' Ladbroke

20<sup>th</sup> May

Charlotte May Hatfield

### Funerals at All Saints' Harbury

1<sup>st</sup> May

Freddy Fields

10<sup>th</sup> May

Winnie Bloxham

15<sup>th</sup> May

John Hunt

## Funerals at Oakley Wood

9<sup>th</sup> May

Moi Hughes

## Funerals at All Saints' Ladbroke

16<sup>th</sup> May

Annette Taylor

### From the Churchwardens



The village mourns the loss of John Hunt, a caring, genuine, talented gentleman. We also remember Mrs. Winnie Bloxham who was until she was no longer able, a regular member of the congregation. Our sincere condolences to both families.

The Church Spring Clean was something of an epic but the result is a reward for the very many people who put in a great team effort to make it work - very many thanks to everyone. By the way, please pick up your dustsheets from the choir vestry

#### Bill Davies 'aloft' during the cleaning process

The May family Service, well attended as usual, reminded us of Our Lord's Ascension and of the gift of the Holy Spirit – Pentecost. It was a particularly special occasion because Fr. Peter Snow celebrated the Eucharist to mark his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary since being ordained – well done! Another well done was for Lillian Clarke who has attended Sunday school 200 times. After the service, the new Sundial was dedicated – and very fine it looks – and the sun shone at the appropriate moment to prove that it works!

The Church website will be up and running by the time you see this: [www.harburychurch.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.harburychurch.fsnet.co.uk) Many thanks to John Stringer and the team and especially to Gordon Robbins who has provided the technical guidance and much enthusiasm.

**Felicity & John**

### Mothers' Union

Afternoon meeting: Following the Communion service, we were pleased to welcome Bill Gibbons, who spoke about Leamington – 1905 to 1928. With the aid of excellent slides, he painted a graphic picture of the town, pointing out many of the features we would still recognise today. Some buildings have been adapted and changed, whilst others have sadly disappeared altogether – such as Christchurch which stood at the top of the Parade, and the Jephson Pavilion, the setting for some wonderful concerts and shows in years gone by. Mr. Gibbons' talk certainly stirred memories – even for members who were not born

locally – and we hope for a return visit fairly soon – with more reminiscences!

Evening meeting: Felicity Hawke, Action & Outreach organiser for M.U. Coventry Diocese, was our speaker. She outlined the vast amount of *doing* which happens under the M.U. umbrella. With a million members in 60 countries worldwide, it certainly covers a huge range of topics and needs. 30 grants a year are made to overseas projects such as literacy, self-sufficiency, education, bible study etc. Members in the African countries work under great difficulty but with huge enthusiasm, making the best of their circumstances.

Closer to home, M.U. is setting up parenting courses, promoting the family, and teaching parents how to cope with the stresses of daily life. There is the ‘Virtual Baby’ project, introducing teenagers to a crying, demanding life-size baby doll, which they take home for a weekend to find out for themselves exactly what ‘24-hour care’ is all about! Here in Harbury, a group of ladies has been busy knitting hats over several months, some for ‘Missions to Seafarers’ and others via M.U. to refugees (total around 250 hats to date – all gratefully received). Action and Outreach extends to many other areas – far too many to list, but this worthwhile work is all done in God’s name and with love.

Next meetings:

Wed 6 2.00pm Service; 2.30pm Slides & Talk by Dorothy Clay  
Tues 19 7.30pm Service; 8.00pm A visit to Canada by Pam Clarke

Diary date: Coffee Morning & Lunch on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July

**Anne Moore**

## Toddlers’ Service

Mrs. Alison Abbott led our May service and related the story that Jesus told about the wise man who built his house upon the rock, and the foolish man who built his house upon the sand.

We did the actions to a song with the same theme as the story, and then coloured in a picture of a house standing firmly upon the rock.

The next Toddlers’ Service will be on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June** at 2.15pm in the children’s corner of the Church. All babies and toddlers, with an adult, are very welcome.

**Lorna Bedford**

# Ladbroke News

## JUNE

Sun 3 **Whitsunday Pentecost** – Sung Communion 9am  
Thurs 7 POLLING DAY from 7am – 10pm  
Sun 10 **Trinity Sunday** - Sung Communion 9am  
Wed 13 Holy Communion 2pm; Women’s Fellowship 2.45pm  
Fri 15 **ADVERTS 31, Binswood End by 5.30pm**  
Sun 17 **1<sup>st</sup> after Trinity** - Sung communion 9am; Children’s Church 10.30am  
Thurs 21 LONGEST DAY  
Fri 22 **ARTICLES** to Harbury Chemist, High Street by 5.30pm

Sun 24 2<sup>nd</sup> after Trinity - Sung Communion 9am

## JULY

Sun 1 3<sup>rd</sup> after Trinity – Family Communion 10.30am

### Ladbroke Flower Rota

June 10<sup>th</sup> - Jo Sowerby  
 June 17<sup>th</sup> - Marie Kennedy  
 June 24<sup>th</sup> - Jane Rutherford  
 July 1<sup>st</sup> - Catherine Todman  
 July 8<sup>th</sup> - Gwynne Badman

*Sorry about confusion in May. I used the 2000 list - Betty.*

**Jane Rutherford**

### Women's Fellowship

We had a very thought provoking talk by Jan Roberts of the Alzheimer's Society in May. We heard how they motivate people's awareness of life, even drawing on what they can remember of their past. Jan got involved with the society through her mother's illness. She died of Alzheimer's at the age of 64. We were able to send them £100 from our Coffee Morning held in the Tom Hauley Room on May 5<sup>th</sup>. (We made a total of £135; many thanks to everyone involved.)

We are going on our Annual Outing on June 13<sup>th</sup>, leaving from outside the church at 11.00am.

We are going to Broughton Castle just outside Banbury. Where we will stop for lunch will be a surprise!

**Betty Winkfield**

### Ladbroke and Deppers Bridge W.I.

The May meeting was held in Ladbroke Village Hall at 7.30pm on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The President welcomed the guest, WI Advisor, Mrs. Marie Coleman and members.

The Quiz night, held on May 4<sup>th</sup>, organised by Chris and Sue was a great success with our Treasurer's team coming second and over £200 was raised for the funds.

Third prize in the Hat competition at the Group meeting was won by Jo who made the Ladbroke Jockey hat.

The Short-mat Bowls semi-final and final were held at Alcester. The 'B' team was knocked out in the final, but we have another certificate to hang on the wall!

Some members went on a County trip to Wells and Cheddar Gorge. All enjoyed the day out and the weather was wonderful.

Marie Coleman was with us to explain the Resolutions to be put forward at the IGM. They were explained very clearly and, after discussion, decisions on 'for' or 'against' were taken by a show of hands. Anne



thanked Marie for attending the meeting. The Raffle prizes were won by Jenny, Sue H. and Linda.

Tea Hostesses for the next meeting are Susan and Jenny.

June 28<sup>th</sup>: We have the Park Street Players coming to entertain us, which should be good. Do come along to Ladbroke Village Hall at 7.30pm on that date. (We now have new chairs so don't be put off by the hard seats of the past!)

Don't throw away your mobile phones. Please give them to a WI member when they will be collected for Charity at the Autumn Council Meeting in October.

#### Dates for your Diary:

- |      |    |   |
|------|----|---|
| June | 30 | Fete on the Millennium Green when there will be all the usual stalls with the WI having a cake stall and providing refreshments |
| Aug  | 23 | An evening historical walk around Warwick starting at 6.30pm followed by refreshments   |

### **Hazel Sharples**

#### **Ladbroke Village hall**

Would you like a large sign of Ladbroke Grove? It is 6' by 6' and is ex-London Underground. If so, please phone 813745 and make an offer.

The fourth draw of The Millennium Club was held on May 14<sup>th</sup> at The Bell Inn. The winners were: Ken Whiteley £80; Peter Duffy £50; Ron Abbott £25. Jill Norgate, Jo Sowerby, J & P Laidler, Marie Kennedy and Bernard Billings each won £10.

The next prize draw will be held on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June** at 8.00pm at The Bell Inn. Come and join the fun.

### **Catherine Spence**

#### **Ladbroke Parish Council and Annual Village Meeting**

The Parish Council meeting preceded the General Meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup> in the Village Hall.

Jeff Todd and Carol Lane were re-elected as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively. The other Parish Councillors remain the same namely Geoff Timms, Peter Williamson and Beverley Bradley.

#### **Restorative Work/Drainage Update**

Kerbs have been raised adjacent to the bypass to re-route flood water.

A replacement bollard has been ordered for the north end village entrance.

The Highways Authority will be alerted to the dirt on the 30-mph sign on the approach to the village.

#### **Planning Matters**

It was decided to recommend refusal of an application for the removal of four hedges around New House Farm on the following grounds: conservation of wildlife habitat, particularly as many hedges have

already been removed in the area; the fields are adjacent to the bypass so there could be ever greater run-off of water exacerbating the likelihood of flooding and two of the fields are old meadow lands.

Permission has been granted for the demolition of the barn adjacent to The Bell Inn.

### **Annual General Meeting**

More villagers joined the Parish Councillors, County Councillor Bob Stevens and District Councillors Geraint Morgan and Alan Akeister.

### **Police and Neighbourhood Watch**

Everyone was pleased to welcome PC Andy West back as Community Officer to the Bishop's Itchington and Napton beat and to hear that this post had been re-established. Crime in Ladbroke in 2000/1 numbers three burglaries, two thefts and one violent event.

The difficulties of controlling the motorbikes speeding on the A423 on Sundays were accepted.

There have been problems with staffing the Southam Police Station in the last few weeks but it should now be open from 9.00 – 13.00 and 13.45 – 17.00 from Monday to Friday.

Mike Radburn recounted the re-launch of Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in October 2000 since when six alerts have been received, one of which referred to a Ladbroke dwelling. Anyone who would like to become part of the scheme can collect a leaflet from Yew Tree Cottage.

### **Chairman's Report**

Jeff Todd reported eleven council meetings and sixteen planning meetings. During the year much work had been done to keep the village in good order but Jeff acknowledged that there is still much to do. With the help we receive from our District and County Councillors and the good relationship the council has with the maintenance sector at Dunchurch, he was confident that this could be achieved in time.

The order has now been received for the de-trunking of the A423 from Banbury to Ryton. As an ordinary A road, maintenance will be carried out by the County Council not the highways agency.

The roadside parking at the north end of the village can still cause a problem and Jeff urged villagers to take care.

In giving special thanks to our County and District councillors for all their support it was understood that when the ward boundaries change next year we will join with Fenny Compton and therefore we will be represented by one councillor instead of three.

His thanks to Elsa for all her work as Parish Clerk were warmly seconded by everyone present.

### **Financial Matters**

The yearly accounts were distributed.

## **Reports from the Organisations**

Allibone Trust – Terence Sullivan

The proceeds from the sixteen acres of land left in trust for the benefit of the church and village are divided equally between the two. Approaches for funding which would benefit the whole village can be made to the Trust through Terence.

### **Church - Betty Winkfield representing Father Brown**

There are fifty-three parishioners on the electoral roll. An average of thirty worshippers receive communion each week and there are good congregations at major services. Thanks go to Michael Short for his guidance to the choir on these occasions.

The programme is underway for the first stage in the refurbishment as can be seen by the scaffolding in the church and the sparkling windows.

Thanks were also given to Don Darkes who retired as Tower Captain although his services as a ringer are still much in demand.

### **Children's Church**

Betty is really grateful to Jackie Thacker and Kate Pickin for their tremendous support. Children's church is held at 10.30am on the third Sunday of the month and for special services.

### **Women's Institute - Sue Moore**

The new president Anne Edwards, with a membership of twenty-nine, can boast a varied programme from an Antiques Roadshow to Hollywood musicals at the meetings held on the fourth Thursday of each month. The short mat bowls team competes at county level. The Annual Strawberry Tea this year is on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July**.

In answer to a question, Sue was unable to say when the calendar was coming out.

### **Village Hall – Peter Derrick**

This has been a charitable Trust for the last five years with the committee as managing Trustees and the Charity Commission, the holding trustees, who have recently received the accounts.

Peter thanked Peter Duffy for his work as treasurer for two years and was pleased that another man, Mike Radburn, replacement treasurer, had doubled the number of male members on the committee.

Special thanks go to Catherine and Cyril Spence. The Millennium Fund is the main source of income and allows good maintenance of the Hall. We were all comfortable on the new padded chairs and the next aim will be the car park and the roof.

### **Millennium Green - David Helsall**

David ran through the major events of the year leading up to a visit two weeks ago by John Maples.

## **Women's Fellowship - Betty Winkfield**

As well as the enjoyment of the ten meetings last year, outings and a tea party, money has been raised for the sponsored boy in Cairo, Dogs for the Disabled, Acorns and Gideons.

## **Bell Ringers - Anne Edwards**

Following Don's retirement as Tower Captain, Anne has become Secretary, John Davies, Clock Keeper and Jenny Barrett, Treasurer.

A rope has been fitted to improve the safety of the spiral staircase.

Harry Windsor from Harbury attends to help teach the three new recruits and the ringers regularly ring at other towers and attend Guild meetings.

## **Friends of Ladbroke Church – Betty Winkfield**

There have not been any events this year although funds from the Friends have paid for an extension to the altar step. The church does need good support – whether you are a regular church attendee or not and this organisation needs 'resurrection'.

## **Footpaths**

Michael Boden Pritchett had mounted an excellent display of maps with walks based on Ladbroke and his plans for future work.

There were demonstrations of the two notices that will shortly appear following risk assessment. The orange one continuing the Foot & Mouth restrictions where there are animals and the green one allowing access.

## **County and District Councillors reports - Bob Stevens, Geraint Morgan and Alan Akeister**

Bob attended very many meetings and always does his best to ensure that Ladbroke gets its share of the cake!

Education is the biggest spender of County Council budget. £1 million is to be spent on a new classroom for Southam College of Technology and money will also be spent on Primary Education.

Geraint explained the changes in the administration system at District. Bob is now the leader of the Cabinet system.

The council tax has risen by 10%.

Following the acceptance of Warwickshire Structure plan the District are looking at a local plan review, which is their opportunity to make an input to the plan. Stratford District Council now has a website and by 2005 all information will be sent electronically which should provide enhancement to the current service.

Travel tokens are still available.

As it was his last meeting after twelve years Geraint thanked the Parish Council and Elsa. We councillors were gratified to hear him comment on particular hard work and dedication in Ladbroke.

Alan was pleased that a second flood officer had been appointed to help Dave Tiley.

£800,000 had been approved to upgrade Southam Swimming pool and enhance the changing rooms and aerobic centre.

The second phase of securing Closed Circuit Television cameras for Southam town centre should be completed by December 2001.

All three councillors promised to continue to give their support despite the boundary changes.

In closing the meeting Jeff Todd thanked everyone for attending.

The next Parish Meeting is on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June** at 7.45.

**Carol Lane**

### ***John Hunt***

*As the news of John Hunt's sudden and untimely death spread around the village the feeling of a shared loss was profound.*

*John came to Harbury 32 years ago with his wife Alison and two young sons. Coventry born (and proud of it) he had been working in Suffolk but was happy to return to Warwickshire and a job in the County Council Treasurer's Department. He eventually became an outstanding County Treasurer. John was something of a financial wizard. No doubt he could have made large sums of money in the private sector, but he believed passionately in public services and that well managed public money could make people's life better.*

*John served many village organisations notably the Scout Group. He became a Parish Councillor ten years ago when he retired and for the last three years was Chairman. He brought to the post, skill, diplomacy, and a seemingly endless capacity for work. He was endlessly courteous, always heard both sides of an argument summed up with clarity and followed decisions through firmly. That makes him sound rather stuffy which of course he was not. He was sociable and funny and enjoyed nothing better than a chat over a pint after meetings.*

*John's successful professional and public life were founded on the rock of his long marriage to Alison. Our thoughts are with her, Andrew and Kary, Stephen and Katie and the five grandchildren of whom John was so very proud.*

***Sharon Hancock***

### **Harbury Annual Parish Meeting May**

Harbury's Annual Parish Meeting was a sombre and serious affair, following so closely on the sudden and shocking death of Parish Council Chairman John Hunt. Fellow Councillor Sharon Hancock paid fulsome tribute to his unstinting commitment to the community, his courteousness and inclusiveness. *He stood*, she said, *for all that was good in public service. She was proud to have worked with him, and felt a profound sense of loss.*

John Hunt had worked hard to bring together the Police and community for the Annual Parish Meeting and it was at his family's request that the meeting went ahead at the appointed time.

Chief Inspector Slemensek, responsible for Rural Policing, explained the changed priorities that should see Harbury with a Beat Bobby once again, but he faced a barrage of complaints from the packed Hall. Residents detailed the nuisance, vandalism, abuse and criminal damage they were suffering at the hands of a small group of local children.

People were frustrated by the inability of the police to effect any improvement and asked what they were legally entitled to do with the culprits. Chief Inspector Slemensek, playing a straight bat, stressed offenders should not be challenged, merely observed and details of the offences reported to the police. He admitted that there had been over forty incidents logged this year.

Cllr Drinkwater, a retired Village Policeman, said he had been appalled by the reports that were coming before the Parish Council. There needed to be a visible police presence, with someone who could relate to the children. The ringleaders must be dealt with swiftly.

Householders suggested that when the police did respond they should leave their cars and patrol on foot, to have a better chance of apprehending the hooligans. Some wanted CCTV and advocated photographing or videoing vandals, as this had proved successful in the past.

However, pressure for action mounted, with stronger responses being proposed. The audience wanted immediate results and were particularly critical of the difficulty of contacting the police by telephone. ☎ 451111 is the official number – 999 is only for emergencies.

What could they do if they found intruders on their property or saw them causing damage? The Inspector warned against detaining the children or attempting to restrain them. Residents were not convinced and said strongly that they felt they had to take action themselves. Vigilantes were not the answer Chief Inspector Slemensek reiterated.

The more vociferous, and muscular element moved elsewhere whilst Vice-Chairman Dutch Van Spall thanked the Chief Inspector and committed him to reporting progress to the next meeting.

**It is evident parents of these unfortunate children should have concern for their future.**

There then followed a poignant reminder of his sensible, caring leadership of the Parish as John Hunt's final Chairman's Report was read out. He had catalogued the initiatives the Parish is taking to consult residents and help resolve their problems: the Parish Review to discover needs and wants; the Housing Needs Survey to back up moves to provide Sheltered Accommodation; the opportunity for Harbury to become a "Quality Council" with more funds and more responsibilities; the GM Crops issue and finally the problem of the lack of policing.

John's final words to the parish were in tribute to the work of his fellow Councillors and Clerk and a genuine and unselfish delight that the

contributions to the community of his colleague, Cllr John Drinkwater, had been recognised with the award of the MBE.

The remainder of the meeting covered the annual reports from the Council's Sub-Committees on Planning, Properties, Deppers Bridge Environment and Finance with added contributions from the Council's School Governor, Village Hall Management Committee and Twinning Association where David Winter expressed the sense of grief the community in Samois-sur-Seine felt on hearing of John Hunt's death.

**Linda Ridgley**

## Harbury Parish Council Meeting – May

Twelve members of the public were present to hear Chief Inspector Slemensek explain their tiered strategy to deal with the local vandalism problem and the co-ordinated approach they had piloted elsewhere.

There will be increased patrols, a revival of Neighbourhood Watch, a crackdown on speeding and drink driving and the appointment of a Beat Bobby. The Chief Inspector suggested the formation of a Community Safety Forum with the Police, members of the community and young people to look holistically at the problems. Sergeant Tew gave his phone number (812366) as the first point of call.

As a consequence of the death of Chairman John Hunt there is a vacancy on the Parish Council. Unless an election is called for (by five electors) the Council will co-opt someone to fill the position. Dutch Van Spall was elected Chairman and Jenny Patrick became Vice-Chairman.

Dutch Van Spall reported that the meeting with Ufton Landfill management had been taken up by a presentation from consultants. He thought Biffa were embarrassed at "being caught with their trousers down" over the condition of their lorries carrying cull animals to the tip. As a result of the exposé, which showed vehicles were not being disinfected, they had withdrawn from dumping carcasses on 25<sup>th</sup> April.

Dutch reported that WCC had lost the paperwork relating to the Traffic Calming for Deppers Bridge. As a result the area had been re-surveyed and all the residents would have to be consulted on the proposals once again.

Planning: Stratford District Council approved a two-storey extension at 18, Dovehouse Lane. The Parish Council made no representation on an application for porches at 7&9, Wagstaffe Close but commented that the conversion of an outbuilding at Saddlers, Chapel Street must not create a separate dwelling.

The Councillors had visited the site of the proposed new house at Lullington Lodge in Dovehouse Lane and were pleased to see that existing walls and trees were to be retained.

They were not happy with plans to convert the garage of Bellringer House in Mill Street (at the bottom of Farm Street) into accommodation and to build a new garage in the paddock behind the house. It would form an extension of the built up area into farmland and turn the paddock into garden space.

Proposals for a two-storey extension to the side and a single-storey extension to the rear with a swimming pool at Stickle Rise in Temple End were viewed with amazement.

The Clerk had protested to the Planning Authorities about the large intrusive sign put up by the Library but was told that the County Council could give itself permission. The Parish Council will ask for the sign to be lowered and for directions to the Church Car Park to be appended to it.



Dutch Van Spall had negotiated with South Warwickshire Housing Association for new trees and hedges round Deppers Bridge Playing Field as their reparation for felling (in error) the mature tree in Crown Street.

Sharon Hancock reported that vehicles working on the Railway at the Fosse Way Bridge were not signed or coned off and constituted a severe hazard. There should be proper warning signs and traffic lights to protect the public.

The Sheltered Housing Survey had been delayed because forms had to be reprinted.

### **‘A sign of the times’**

Bus passes would be issued in the Wagstaffe Room of the Village Hall on **17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> July** from 2-3.30pm.

Next Meeting **Thursday 28th June.**

**Linda Ridgley**

### **Harbury Society**

We held a highly successful Coffee Morning at the Tom Hauley Room where we displayed people's ideas of the topics that should be covered in the coming Appraisal (see Parish Review Article for details).

We also displayed a model of the centre of the Village where the Parish Council is thinking of extending the One Way System. We will show it again at our Stall on Carnival Day along with old photos of the floats and costumes from the last thirty years. Come along and see whom you recognise.

We will have a guided tour of the **Jephson Gardens** on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June.**

**Linda Ridgley**

### **Parish Review Group**

A separate survey run by Mary Catt and her group on the need for Sheltered Housing will go out before the Parish Review.



The Parish Review will be a questionnaire with a broader range of questions. We have been busy asking people what their concerns were:

- ❖ Community policing, dealing with vandalism, more provision for youth;
- ❖ Extra school places, IT and adult education courses;
- ❖ Recycling, dealing with litter and dog fouling, preserving open spaces;
- ❖ Setting up a small industrial site;
- ❖ A lady doctor;
- ❖ A Parish Office where people could talk to their Councillors,
- ❖ Better road gully maintenance and street lighting;
- ❖ A café;
- ❖ More sympathetic design to new buildings, disabled access;
- ❖ A Youth Centre, Bowling Green, Village Square, improved Sports facilities, bus shelters, and traffic calming were some of the most popular suggestions that have been made and they will be included in the **Parish Review Group's Appraisal**.

The Group is now working on the questions and hopes to have the survey out before the end of the summer. We need people who are willing to distribute and collect the survey forms. If you are interested in volunteering, please let Linda Ridgley know at 16, Farm Street (612792).

**Linda Ridgley**

## Harbury's Women's Institute

Due to an important meeting at the Village Hall plus other happenings we were rather thin on the ground in May.

Mrs. Rosemary Galilee from the Warwickshire Federation came to chair and discuss the two resolutions, an important part of the WI. Mrs. Anne Allen, our representative, will take our votes to the IGM at Cardiff in June.

Orders for the 2002 Calendar should be back by the end of June. Get snapping for the 2003 Calendar. The subject is *The Best of Warwickshire* and the closing date is 31<sup>st</sup> January 2002, so get those cameras clicking.

Some members attended the Yearly Group meeting at Napton. Always an enjoyable few hours when we meet other WI's we haven't seen for yonks.

The fantastic hats, displayed by the Stephen Morley's hire business caused quite a stir. Why buy when one can hire a model hat for a fair sum?

June hostesses: Pat Smith, Celia Barrett and Mae Watson

**Jeanne Beaumont**

Harbury Folk Club

Our theme for May 3rd was 'Sport' and it proved to be quite a challenge for many of our performers. Not so for Ron who always seems to find songs to suit every occasion - on this occasion, the sports were boxing, sailing and scree-running. Rik was also right on the nail with cock fighting and clipper racing while Des and I both chose songs about hunting - "We'll all go a-hunting" and "Innocent Hare". Gilly took a harder line on blood sports with the "The Killing Time" - a Keith Donnelly song guaranteed to wipe the smile off your face.

Making his first visit the Club, artist Colin Dick was not prepared for the theme but sang a delightful Dorset song anyway. The other Colin could not claim ignorance because he had been e-warned so instead he asked us to use our imagination with "Cumbrian Dream" and "Towersey Fair". The same ploy was used by the Harvesters but we all enjoyed "One Hit Wonder" and "Brief Encounter" anyway.

The Scratch Band (consisting of Janny, Rosie, Ian and Sue on concertinas, Margaret on fiddle and me providing the bass line on the left half of a melodeon) struggled with a sporting connection for the tune "Cats and Concertinas". Brian cleverly chose to play "Dingle's Regatta" but we weren't as convinced about the sporting angle on the tune "Ladies of Pleasure". We predicted that Mike would major on climbing and we weren't disappointed - and it was great to hear the "Ballad of Idwell Slabs" again. As a fitting finale, Des had us all "Rolling Home" which allowed us to exercise our voices to the full.

Our charity also had a sporting theme. The raffle raised a magnificent £50 as additional sponsorship for Sue in a 5km run in Stratford on May 20th, in aid of women's cancer - the "Race for Life". It was particularly pleasing to know that her employer (Barclays Bank) would be doubling the money Sue raised.

The Folk Club continues to meet at the Shakespeare and the next session is on Thursday, June 7th at 8:30pm, hosted by Ian. Just for a change, there is no theme so that should cut down the length of the song introductions. On July 5th, we have our 200th session and we are planning a special evening hosted by everyone in the compering team. Don't miss it! You can find Folk Club news and information at <http://welcome.to/HarburyFolkClub>

**Peter McDonald**

## Hereburgh Morris – May Day

Hereburgh's May Day Dance at Dawn went ahead as usual this year



despite the Foot and Mouth epidemic and the sorry state of Chesterton Windmill.

Undaunted, Celia Neill and Mike Putnam mowed a patch of grass outside the fence where we could dance, and Rosemary Harley proudly took her own Chesterton windmill for us to dance round.

We were delighted that so many of the visitors from Samoia and their hosts came to watch at 5.00am. I do hope they didn't regret their decision too much as they stood on top of the hill catching the full force of a biting wintry wind, and watching the strange ritual of welcoming in the summer.

Thank you, all you brave Harbury people who joined us for this occasion. Perhaps, if you watched the ITV local news that evening you were rewarded by seeing yourself in the audience as Hereburgh performed for the cameras.

**Gill Barber**

## **Harbury - Samoia-sur-Sien Twinning Weekend**



**French Visitors welcomed on arrival**



**Celebratory dinner at the Village Hall**



**'Entente Cordiale'**



**Presentation of painting by artist from Samoa**



**'Au Revoir'**

## **Harbury Nursery School**

The children have been making the most of the lovely weather recently by taking a lot of their play in the Nursery outdoors. They have been having a great time singing, playing musical instruments, playing with sand and 'painting' the playground with water. They have also enjoyed

playing with some of our new ride-on toys on the road system that we had painted on the playground.

After half term our older children will be visiting the Reception class and meeting Reception staff as part of their preparation for starting school in September.

Harbury Carnival: This year the theme for our float is *The Children's Circus* and we are particularly pleased that we have been able to involve many of the children in actually producing the artwork for the float.

80/20 Sale: We held our most recent 80/20 Sale in the Village Hall on May 19<sup>th</sup>. The event was a little quieter than previously but we still managed to raise just over £200 for Nursery funds. Many thanks to all who came and helped and, not least, those who came and bought!

Coffee Morning: Our Tom Hauley Room Coffee Morning will be held on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June**. We hope to see as many people as possible.

Open Afternoon: We had a very busy open afternoon on May 8<sup>th</sup> and registered a lot of new children for Nursery places next year. If there are parents/carers who have not yet contacted us but would like a place for their child(ren) over the next academic year, please call Kate Smart on 612609 or at School on 612656, or Anne-Marie Campion on 614496.

**Marie Kennedy**

## The Pre-School - Learning Through Play

*(The Pre-School is held in the Wight School, behind the Library)*

We have continued our broad approach to the term's theme of Harbury in order to reflect the children's own interests. We still haven't found a way to include a model of Thunderbirds' Tracy Island in the scheme (answers on a postcard please) but in discussion of what life here might have been like a long time ago, we have been able to take on dinosaurs. Yvette showed the children how to make fantastic dinosaur models and palaeontologists may be surprised to learn of several new species indigenous to Harbury including 'Stripy-saurus', 'Tree-osaurus' and 'Bertie Bongo-saurus'!

The Pre-School session is divided into a sequence of activities. The children start with free-play for about half an hour. We try to get out big equipment such as the child-size telephone kiosk or messy things like water, sand and paint, which might not be so easy to organise at home. Then we have news-time when the group comes together. This is the time when we also discuss what the day's project will be and think about ways we might do it before the children leap into action. After the project work comes the morning break with fruit or toast and then the children bounce outside to play on the outdoor toys and equipment. After putting all the toys back in the shed, we come in to look at the morning's work as a group and talk about what individual children have achieved and what they might do another time. Finally everyone helps to tidy up before stories and songs.

Fundamentally, this approach follows the acclaimed Hi-Scope method of Early Years' education that is based on the principles of plan-do-review and it's a system that we've followed in Pre-School for some years now. It's good for small groups because we can come together easily to



support each other, to look at the work each child has produced and to celebrate their achievements. You can come and see for yourself on one of our three open sessions. They're on **Wednesday 6 June** and **Thursday 7 June** from **9.30am**. On **Friday 8 June** we shall be holding our annual sponsored wheelie so if you fancy coming on that day, come at **10.30 am** and do bring your bikes!

Of course it's Carnival time again and we shall be doing the teas. Needless to say, the ability of villagers, friends and families to consume homemade produce is legendary so we warmly welcome donations of cakes, scones and biscuits. Put it this way, if you're 'batch-baking', we'd be very grateful if you could bake something for us! Do please contact Sheila Malin on 612928 if you can help. We are also looking for waiters and waitresses, particularly anyone who is not involved with the fancy dress since a lot of us will be looking after assorted fairies and rabbits around 2 pm. Those who helped with the teas last year can honestly say it was a giggle and you get to meet everyone in the village so the social aspect is fantastic. Sign the rota in the Wight School before all the places go!

Many, many thanks to those kind families who have donated toys to us. It gives the children such huge pleasure to have toys new to them and we really do value your support. And speaking of support ... yes, at the end of term we're losing another generation of children and their parents from the Pre-School. So if you would like to be involved with small but beautifully formed organisation that really benefits your children, don't be shy, there's a lovely committee just longing to meet you! Just talk to Yvette and discover how little you have to do for huge rewards!

*Harbury Pre-School Committee*

## Harbury Primary School News

### Travellers

We have received reports of Travellers in the Warwick area. Can we request that all of our neighbours maintain a vigilant watch on the school field in case anyone tries to set up home there? If you notice anything suspicious then contact the police immediately – they have an agreement to remove Travellers from school premises with all due haste.

### Staff vacancies

We are still in need of extra staff at lunch times on a part-time and/or daily basis. The schools meals service (serving) is presently being run by Mrs. Lynda Wright alone and she would appreciate some help for about an hour per day. We could also use some extra midday supervisors even if only some names of people we can call on when our permanent staff can't come into school. If you know of anyone who might fit the bill please ask them to call the school bursar (new title and well-deserved) – Mrs Carol Percival (612656).

### Road Safety competition

Our school score for this quiz was 82/100, which was commendable. However, the schools that reached the final round scored in the nineties!

Nevertheless, well done to year six who did remarkably well considering they live in such a rural location, and have little contact with road signs, lollipop ladies etc.

### Maypole Dancing

Many thanks to all those who turned up to school on May Day. We just escaped the weather and, despite the cold, there were hundreds of smiling faces across the lower playground. Special thanks to all those who helped with the floral displays, dresses and costumes; the infants looked superb.



### Coffee Morning

Many thanks to Mrs. Isobel Clarke and a tremendous number of volunteers and attendees who provided a superb morning during the Easter holidays. Thanks to all of your efforts the school fund is £138.00 better off, lots of lovely cake was eaten and some nice raffle prizes were won!

### Oxford Trip

Leam and Sherbourne had a fantastic day at the Ashmolean and Natural History Museum recently. Ben Gumbrell writes:

"We saw a mummy that was real. It had a winged scarab beetle across his chest. On top of his shrine there were four birds on each corner. He was in four different shrines (counting the stone one at the very bottom). When we went upstairs I was a mummy (and came to life and haunted Josh!). Charlie was the assistant who mummified me. They had shabtis that they were buried with. These were little figures like their servants. We also went to the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. They had lots of skeletons and my favourite was the Tyrannosaurus Rex, the most unusual were the elephants because the trunk is all skin along with the tusks and tail."

Many thanks to all of the parents who went along to help; your time is greatly appreciated. Final message from the museum staff: *We'd be happy to have your school back again; the children's behaviour was brilliant.* There is no better compliment.



**Paul Milner****Harbury PTA**

100 Club: Our collectors are out and about contacting people who already have numbers. For those not in the know we sell the numbers 1 – 100 for £12 a year and then make 5 winning draws of £100. We have some numbers available to sell. If you would be interested in supporting the PTA in this way please contact Susan Graydon on 612479.

Our main event for this term is the Summer Fayre, which will be held after school on **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June**. Our usual stalls will be there, such as tombola, raffle, barbeque, jam jar jamboree and hopefully this year we have some new ideas. So there is plenty for everyone so please come along and support your local school. Any further information can be obtained via the School or Susan.

On a positive note after a successful year, the PTA is in a position to make their 2<sup>nd</sup> contribution towards the Computer Suite, which is being well used by the children. (Leaving one more payment next year.)

We are also contributing towards some picnic benches and play equipment for the area by the top playground. These should be in place very soon so all we need is good weather to enable the children to use and enjoy them.

Many thanks to all who support the PTA enabling us to provide extra things for the children of Harbury School.

**Susan Graydon**

## The Thatcher's World 2001

This article has nothing whatever to do with the current election, which will all have been 'signed, sealed and delivered', by the time of the next Harbury & Ladbroke News!

However, for many people in Harbury, the sight of a Thatcher at work on one of the village properties will be a 'once in a lifetime experience'. There are only two houses in the village, which are still thatched – one in Vicarage Lane and the other, Poole Farm on Temple End. For the last three months, Graeme Denton from Rugby (01788 812024) has been hard at work completely renovating the roof of the latter property both front and back and it has attracted considerable interest from villagers who have enquired about the 'art of thatching'.

Graeme who has worked on the village property since March, comes from Rugby and he has been involved in his trade for 23 years, from the time he left school. He was always intrigued by the country craft and

joined a Thatcher, Mr. Rimmel, from Alcester, who was known to his family. He joined the craftsman as an apprentice and eventually gained his certificate from COSIRA (Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas). Subsequent apprentices gained a City and Guild's Certificate in thatching, but nowadays to move with the times, an NVQ (National Vocational Qualification) is awarded at courses based at Knuston Hall, near Wellingborough. The Thatcher works all year round on his craft (weather permitting) and the time spent on each property is variable, depending on the size of the roof and whether the whole roof needs to be replaced or just the 'crown'.



### Thatcher at Poole Farm, photo by Mike Bloxham

As many long-established villagers will know, the roof at Poole Farm was once the 'longest thatch in Warwickshire' and although it has been somewhat reduced in modern times; it is still a substantial area to cover with thatch. The last time the property was completely restored was 37 years ago, although the 'crown' was replaced more recently – probably within the last twenty years.

The present thatch has used water reeds from the banks of the river Tay in Scotland. Other reeds can be obtained from a Nature Reserve in Norfolk, which specifically allows an area of the reserve to be cultivated for the purpose. Considerable supplies are now provided by some of the Eastern bloc countries, including Hungary, Poland, and Romania, as the U.K. no longer provides sufficient material to cope with the demand. Although a high proportion of 'thatched properties' have a thatch made

of straw, reed is considered easier to work with, as the strands in each bundle are longer.



**Thatcher working at the front of the property, photo by Neville Ellis**

On Poole Farm, interested passers-by will have noticed that the existing thatch was totally removed, so that the bare bones of the roof trusses and the battens were completely exposed. The dry reeds were then placed on the roof in layers and secured in place at regular intervals with man-made hooks. In previous times, hazel twigs were used to fix the reed bundles in place, but nowadays, these are only used to fix the straw ridging at the crown of the roof. In all, Poole Farm roof has required over 2,300 bundles of reeds and each bundle of reeds is flattened into place using a special tool, the legget, which has the appearance of a flattened board on the outer edge, with toothed ridges on the underside. There is no trimming of the thatch with shears or any other cutting implement, so the surface is purely the result of the trained “Thatcher’s eye” placing the bundles in the appropriate place. There will still be one or two more weeks of work to be carried out before the scaffolding is eventually removed, but if you pass along Temple End (preferably slowly) take some time to admire the work of a skilled craftsman, who will have been part of the village life for nearly four months. His handiwork will undoubtedly survive for the next four decades and who can guess at the changes which the village will see in that time? Another eight changes of Government, at least?

### **Editors**

### **Harbury Albion Football Club**

As you are aware from last month’s report on the playing side of the club two outstanding issues remained to be decided at the beginning of May. One was the league championship and the other was the Andy Campbell Charity Cup final. We managed to beat Moorefields F.C on May 4<sup>th</sup> to win the first league championship won by the club since 1951/2, all the more impressive as we won it without losing a game. Unfortunately the "double" was beyond us and 3 days later we were beaten 3-1 by a very strong Leam Hibs team in the Cup final with Shaun Smith putting us in contention at one 2-1 down at one stage of the game.

Any chance of the Fair Play award from the league disappeared during our last game of the season when Rickie Sheasby, accused of diving by the referee, told him that he (Rickie) only “dived when in a swimming pool!” Result: yellow card. Not to be outdone by this, Nathaniel Cleaver also made himself known to the referee with an Adams/Keown style tackle from behind. 24 hours before this game we had held our presentation evening at the Old New Inn, one of our sponsors this season.

Player of the year was Shaun Smith who has well and truly shaken off his "Jigsaw" (goes to pieces in the box) nickname with some very important goals in the last 2 months. Rather worryingly, he says he's passed the name on to Dean Merrick, goalkeeper. Young Player of the year and Top Goal Scorer was Pete Evans and Club man was Mike Stone. John Markham was Most Improved Player. Alternative awards were also given out, among them a very nice hat for Dean Merrick, which he definitely earned!

Many thanks are due to Brian and Sandra and family at the Old New Inn for their considerable help this season and also to Leah Wallington for kit washing. This has been the best season that I can remember both on and off the field and thanks also go to all of the players.

**Rob Davis**

## **NSPCC – Cheese and Wine Tasting Evening**

A most enjoyable cheese and wine tasting event took place on May 19<sup>th</sup> in the Tom Hauley Room. The NSPCC raised £400 thanks to the generosity of Tesco Stores, who supplied all the food and the wine for the tasting. Chris and Stephanie from Tesco did a tremendous job explaining about the different wines we tasted and we would like to thank them for giving so much time and going to such a lot of trouble on our behalf to make the evening such a success. Many thanks to all who came and supported us.

Our next event will be in Church on **June 16<sup>th</sup>** when the Warwickshire and Shropshire Singers will be performing for us – tickets now available.

**NSPCC Committee (614285)**

## **Harbury Carnival June 9<sup>th</sup>**

### **Carnival**

A few last minute items.

1. Will last year's winners please return cups and shields to Kathleen Ellis (Hairdresser's) as soon as possible so that they are available on Carnival Day?
2. We need cakes (plenty of them!) for the afternoon teas. Please take any kind donations to the Village Hall on Carnival morning.
3. There is still time to book a stall but please contact Dan Killian on 612265 as soon as possible.

4. Programmes and raffle tickets are available from various shops in the village and from committee members.

To ensure the success of the event we hope that you will support us with your usual enthusiasm, floats, groups and fancy dress.

### **Fun Week**

The Wheelbarrow Race on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June will commence from the Dog Inn. Please have your team in place by 12-30pm so that form can be studied and odds set. If you still need to enter please contact Dan Killian on 612265.

For the other events taking place during Carnival week please assemble at the appropriate pub for a 7-30pm start. The order of events is:

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> - Aunt Sally at the Shakespeare
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> - Skittles at the Old New Inn
- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> - Test of Strength at the Crown
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> - Quiz at the Gamecock

Please help to make this a success and enter a team. You need a squad of up to 12 people with any 4 to compete on the night. Entry forms from the above venues or from Dan Killian.

**John Broomfield**

### **Warwickshire Wildlife Trust**

The restrictions on access to the local reserves imposed because of the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak have been removed. There are two WWT events, in June and July, all people are welcome, but dogs are not!

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June:** Butterflies at Harbury at 2.30pm at Harbury Spoilbank (ref SP 384598). Meet at the entrance off the B4455.

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July:** Monitoring changes on Nature Reserves from 10.00am to 1.00pm at Ufton Fields SSSI Ufton (SP 378615). Meet in the car park.

**Marian Millington**

### **Into Summer at Last**

Back in February, with rain alternating with snow and then more rain, spring was a promised land. Then it came with *Please keep out / footpath closed due to Foot & Mouth Disease*. It looks as if, thank goodness, we have been spared and now the rights of way are gradually opening up; green 'Footpath Open' signs are replacing the orange 'Please Keep Out'.

It was nearly three months before access to our local nature reserves became a reality. What had been missed in the intervening period? Somewhat like a naughty boy I ventured back to the spoil bank near the Great Western, and to Ufton Fields. We've now had some glorious early summer weather and nature is blooming. At the spoil bank some new gates and fencing are in place and extra areas have been cleared of

scrub to see what comes through. On May 19<sup>th</sup> I did a quick recce in the middle of the day. A peacock butterfly was sunning itself on top of a hawthorn stump. I saw my first early purple orchids of 2001, always memorable. Common Twayblades were opening into flower and it looked like a good year.

On May 12<sup>th</sup> Sharon and I ventured to Hampton Wood on our bikes and were bowled over by the bluebells we thought we might not see this year apart from those glimpsed from the road or in gardens – never quite the same.

At Ufton Fields the path has been resurfaced and every day brings closer the annual display of wild orchids. The first sighting of a marbled white butterfly – more cream than white – the chessboard of the butterfly world is yet to come.

Stockton railway cutting will be my next port of call and perhaps as I write, Draycote Meadows will be opening just in time perhaps for the display of green veined orchids. For more information, 'phone Warwickshire Wildlife Trust at Brandon Marsh, Coventry, telephone 02476 302 912.

**John Hancock**

## Neighbourhood Watch

At the Annual Parish Meeting the importance of having an active Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in the village was mentioned.

A nucleus of N.W. Co-ordinators already exists but more street representatives would enable the N.W. Scheme to become more effective.

Neighbourhood Watch aims to promote good citizenship and greater public participation in the prevention and solution of crime. I would be pleased to hear from anyone willing to participate in the N.W. Scheme. Ring me on 612044.

If anyone has information that may assist the police, but does not wish to become involved, ring Crimestoppers free on 0800 555 111. You will not be asked your name, address or telephone number and are guaranteed anonymity. No one will know who gave the police the tip off!

**J.A. Chapple Main Co-ordinator N.W.**

## Harbury Parish Council

*Bus Vouchers for Senior Citizens, Registered Disabled and Handicapped Persons.*

Bus vouchers will be issued in July to the above categories of residents living within the Parish. 'Senior Citizen' means a person of State Pensionable age i.e. 60 and above for a woman and 65 for a man. For 2001 the total value of vouchers to be issued is £15 and each voucher is worth 50 pence towards Stagecoach Midland Red services 63, 64 and 65 and Village Taxi-Bus services. There is no time limit on the use of the

vouchers, but if you have some left from previous years please use them up before using this year's vouchers.

To obtain the vouchers, please register for the Scheme by getting a form from either the Post-Office or from the Clerk to the Council, Deborah Steele at 12, Hillside.

The forms must be completed and returned to one of the above by no later than Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

Vouchers will be issued in the Wagstaffe Room at the Village Hall on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July and on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July between 2pm and 3.30pm. Please note that only in very exceptional circumstances can vouchers be issued to persons who do not register by the due date of July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

In addition to the Parish Council's scheme, Stratford District Council also runs a concessionary travel scheme for Senior Citizens and Registered Disabled persons. If you have previously applied to the District Council for tokens it is not necessary to apply again. If you have not previously applied, forms are available in the Library or by telephoning 01789 260 402 or 01789 260 423.

**Deborah Steele, Clerk to Harbury Parish Council**

## Teenage Cancer Trust Event

Fans of *Sixties Music* will have a rare treat next month when four bands will perform live at the Harbury Rugby Club in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust. Members of each band are providing their services without charge, so that all the money raised on the evening will be forwarded to the Trust. The compère for the evening is Classic Gold's top DJ Jeff Harris and apart from Woody Allen and the Challengers, Phil King and the Royals, the Richard Phillips band and 706, Union, two soloists are expected.

The music starts at 7.00pm, although visitors to the event are advised to arrive soon after 6.30pm when the Rugby Club gates open, if they are anxious to secure seating in the marquee. However, it is expected that many 'sixties' fans will be unable to resist the temptation to 'dance the night away' at the event which is scheduled to go on 'till late. A range of superb prizes, including a colour TV is available in the raffle and for those for whom listening and dancing is more than just 'thirsty work', hot food will be available throughout the evening.

The event has been organised by a number of local people, who appreciated the care and support provided by a specialist cancer care unit to the daughter of a 'Harbury girl', whilst she was undergoing treatment for leukaemia. As they explained: *As a teenager with cancer, you would be too old for the children's ward and too young for a hospice. A T.C.T. unit allows teenagers to be together, whilst they are being treated and offers them the recreational facilities, which allow them to simply be teenagers.*

The Chief Executive of the Trust, Simon Davies, has taken a keen personal interest in the event and has written to Michelle Griffin, the correspondent for the charity organisers, offering his support. Patrons



for the Trust include: the Duchess of York, Sir Henry Cooper, Nick Faldo, Duncan Goodhew, Prince Naseem and Mark Knopfler.

The event on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July** will be advertised around the village on posters designed by ‘Suzie Q’, so please look out for the details. Tickets, priced at £5, will be available by ringing the following numbers: 613151, 612687, Mobile 07787 180348 or by contacting the email address on [live60s@hotmail.com](mailto:live60s@hotmail.com).

Come along and enjoy a superb night’s entertainment, whilst at the same time knowing that all the money collected at the event is going to a very worthwhile cause.

## Editors

### Chiltern Railways

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May sees the introduction of our new summer timetable. We are also pleased to add that our fares will remain the same at this time. Chiltern Railways will see 6 new stations added to our line of route. This new direct service between Stourbridge Junction and London Marylebone will provide 3 morning business trains and 1 morning off-peak train on Mondays to Fridays. These services will also call at Cradley Heath, Rowley Regis, Smethwick Galton Bridge, The Hawthorns and Jewellery Quarter, providing new direct travel opportunities between all these stations and London. There will also be minor changes to some of our commuter services to improve punctuality and help match available capacity to demand where we can.

In order to ensure that we continue to improve and adapt our timetable in accordance with our passengers needs we are strengthening our team responsible for timetable and resource planning. This will enable us to better analyse and test our timetables to ensure they are as robust in operation as possible. It will also allow us to react more quickly to changing circumstances to ensure that our services remain punctual and that the seats we have available are provided where they are most needed.

Continuing with this theme of strengthening the ranks and tying in with the fact that almost all of our car parks are regularly full to capacity, we’ve recently recruited a new Bus Manager. This means that we now have someone in our business that is dedicated towards improving existing bus links and implementing new services. In conjunction with Buckinghamshire County Council we’ll shortly be announcing new routes to Beaconsfield and Princes Risborough stations, and we’re also looking at new schemes for Warwick Parkway, Bicester North and Solihull.

Unfortunately despite all our efforts, our communications systems have not always been robust enough, particularly during severe disruption. This has meant that we have simply not been good enough at getting accurate information from our control offices out to station and on-train staff quickly enough. As a result of this, later this year we will be introducing a new ‘Integrated Control Centre’ at Banbury. This will bring together Railtrack staff, their infrastructure maintenance contractors Amey Rail as well as our own controllers. The new centre will also house our people responsible for information dissemination, in



turn they will be close to all key decision makers and can react quickly to spread the word and anticipate any knock on delays.

As you may know, one of our new franchise commitments is to create an 'innovation station'. We want to bring together the best in design and content from the viewpoint of our passengers and staff and, using the benefit of experience in station management, create a blueprint for the future redevelopment of all our main stations.

If you'd be interested in working with us or have some ideas and views on what makes a superb station please write to Cath Proctor, Sales and Marketing Director, Chiltern Railways, Marylebone Station, Melcombe Place, London. NW1 6JJ.

Warwick & Leamington Festival: Why not attend a lunchtime concert by international artists at the Warwick & Leamington Festival? Ten lunchtime concerts will run from 5<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> July and last approximately one hour. Held in the Royal Pump Rooms, which are five minutes from Leamington Spa Station, they commence at 12 noon. Entry tickets are £6.50, if you hold a senior railcard, show it, and get 2 tickets for the price of 1. For more information or to book tickets in advance call 01926 496277 and quote Chiltern Railways.

Track Improvement Work Summary:

*Birmingham - Leamington Spa - Banbury – London*

*Aylesbury - High Wycombe - London*

Saturdays 9, 16, 23 and 30 June 2001.

Buses replace trains between Banbury and Bicester North from 22:30. Please allow 30 minutes extra journey time.

The 21:45 departure from London Marylebone will be replaced by a bus between Bicester North and Birmingham Snow Hill. Please allow 110 minutes extra journey time. Sundays 17<sup>th</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Buses replace trains between Banbury and Bicester North until 09:45. Please allow 40 minutes extra journey time.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June the 23:45 departure from London Marylebone will have a slightly extended journey time. Allow up to 20 minutes extra journey time.

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June: Buses replace trains between Banbury and Bicester North until 09:45. Please allow 40 minutes extra journey time.

There will be a reduced service between Princes Risborough and High Wycombe until 12:40. There will be approximately 1 train per hour, on both Northbound and Southbound services. Please check for full details.

The 23:45 departure from Marylebone will have a slightly extended journey time. Allow up to 20 minutes extra journey time.

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June: Late night Track Work will cause extended journey times on the 23:45 and 00:10 departures from London Marylebone. Please allow up to 25 minutes extra journey time.

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June: Marylebone Station will be closed until 12:30. All trains will terminate at London Paddington except stopping trains from Aylesbury via High Wycombe, which will terminate at Wembley Stadium. Passengers travelling on these services into London are advised

to change at South Ruislip for an onward connection into London Paddington. Please allow 10 minutes extra journey time.

Passengers from Northolt Park or Wembley Stadium are advised to use other local rail or Underground routes into London.

### **Chiltern Trains**

## **Harbury-Samois-sur-Seine Twinning Association**

### **Twinning Weekend**

John Hunt, as our President, was a founding member of the association and from the outset a keen supporter of the ideals and aims of twinning. His tragic and untimely death has been a shock not only to us but also to our friends in Samois who knew him well and had great respect for him. Their Mayor, Georges Guillo Lohan and the Chairman of their association, Nelly Renaud-Touchard have expressed their grief and they send their deepest sympathy and condolences to Alison and his family. We have all lost a very good friend. During the recent visit by villagers from Samois, John had been enthusiastically involved in all the activities. The following report is a record of the time, which our French guests spent with us.

It seemed to have been raining for months. We knew that our friends from Samois were extremely anxious to learn to play cricket, but cricket in the pouring rain did not seem a very inviting prospect.



When their coach turned up at the Village Club, on the afternoon of April 28<sup>th</sup> in brilliant sunshine, despite the gloomy forecast, none of us could believe our good fortune. This was to be the second official visit from Samois and we had been preparing for ages. Fifty-eight Samoisiens had come to stay with families in Harbury. After a pleasant welcome in the bar of the Club, visitors made their way to our homes.

### **HOWZAT!**

Sunday dawned bright and sunny, perfect weather for cricket. Under the able bi-lingual instruction of Peter Rollason, many of our visitors learned how to wield a bat and ball. After a delicious tea, two teams of mixed French and English participants were arranged. While not quite up to Lords standard, the game was hugely enjoyable for spectator and player alike, despite several French wanting to join the fielding side as soon as they were out! The atmosphere had to be experienced to be

believed. As Peter later said at the dinner, when he presented the trophy to the French side: *The result is academic, the winner is sport.*

A beautifully decorated Village Hall was the venue for our twinning dinner, when 138 adults and children were served a sumptuous meal, superbly cooked by Ray Playdon and his team. Philip Bushill-Matthews, as our M.E.P. amusingly toasted the twinning and gifts were exchanged between our two communities.

Kick Start amazed us with their dancing and the barn dance, which followed was greatly enjoyed by all.

Monday was spent either with families exploring the area, or on a coach trip to Birmingham and the sun shone once again.

Five o'clock on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May found many of our French friends up at the windmill joining Hereburgh Morris, dancing to welcome in the summer.



Before the coach left later that morning, they presented us with the Harbury-Samois Pétanque Trophy, and we gave all their ladies the traditional French Mayday gift of lily of the valley. Nelly Renaud-Touchard, their Chairman, wrote on their return to Samoio, that this had been an unforgettable visit and she asks that her thanks be conveyed to all the people of Harbury who contributed to its great success. I can only echo her sentiments and thank everyone concerned.

**David Winter**

## Recipe of the Month

I am proposing to start a monthly recipe page for easy, economical dishes. Any recipe for cakes, main courses, deserts or any dish you would like to share please send to Sue Lord, 'Yew Trees', 19, Mill Street. Tel 613722.

Here is a very easy boiled fruitcake to start off with.

Ingredients:	4 oz margarine	oven at moderate heat
	one cup sugar, brown or white	
	one cup semi-skimmed milk	
	2 cups mixed dried fruit	
	2 cups self raising flour	

one beaten egg  
 one teaspoon mixed spice (optional)  
 one greased and lined loaf tin

Bring margarine, sugar, milk and fruit to the boil, can be done in microwave for 5 minutes, if preferred. Leave to cool for an hour. Add egg, flour (and spice). The mixture will be gooey. Pour into the greased, lined, loaf tin and cook for 40 minutes to one hour. Test by inserting a skewer or similar in cake. If dry, cake is done.

### **Sue Lord**

#### **The Italian Job 2001**

NCH Action for Children – 25<sup>th</sup> October to 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2001

In 1990 the ‘Italian Job’ touring Event was born from a desire to assist children who needed help. Inspired by the film of the same name, the idea was to travel to Italy in a car, as featured in the film, with the drivers (jobbers) raising money for children’s charities. Now each year around 100 Minis and 300 people, including service teams, journalists and film crew travel to Emilia Romagna in Italy, a 3,000 mile 10 day trip.

This year, my son Philip, and I have entered a Mini in the above event and are commencing our fund raising campaign. We have committed over £3,000 to cover entry fees and a guaranteed pledge for NCH Action for Children. Our actual goal, however, is to raise £5,000 for the nominated charity. There are currently a number of active NCH projects in Warwickshire, including the Leamington Parenting Centre project.

We are seeking sponsorship at various levels, ideally one major or a small number of key sponsors, plus many lower level pledges. Each sponsor will benefit from appropriate signage on the vehicle, together with significant publicity, over a 12-month period. It looks likely that there will only be one or two entries from the Warwickshire and West Midlands areas and we will therefore take full advantage of that position with PR activities.

A number of local companies are being approached over the next few weeks and we have already secured support from Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce.

If you would like to make an individual pledge or would like to discuss corporate sponsorship, please call:

**Alan Lord on 01926 613722**

#### **“See You in the City”**

*See You in the City* is the name of a Palm Sunday play written by Edyth Algar and performed in Harbury Church some seventeen years ago. It was then produced jointly by Eve Hailey and Mary Shelley and the Stage Manager was my husband, John.

Some months ago Edyth learnt that her play was to be performed again this year. John and I both felt that we would really like to see it and

were delighted to discover that the performances were to take place in three churches in Farnham – one being my cousin's church!

It was interesting to see the plot unfurl in a different location and directed by a different producer. Well written with a serious contemporary message that is both moving and challenging, *See You in the City* is also sparked with plenty of humour. It was very well received by the congregation in Farnham just as it was in Harbury all those years ago. What a thrill for Edyth to find her work being used again to explain the events of Palm Sunday, and being enjoyed and appreciated in another part of the country.

I wonder if *See You in the City* may be revived in Harbury some time in the future?

**Rosemary Eld**

### **Pensioners' Patio**

A noisy hunt goes on overhead as the swifts cut each other up in search of flying insects. I am reminded of my first meeting with this bird when a young child. Coming back along the village street I saw a bird lying under a bush and assuming it was injured I picked it up and took it home. My father, whom I met in the farmyard, took it, gave it a quick examination, then to my horror hurled it up into the air with all his might. An injured bird? Was he out of his mind? The bird, of course, swooped in delight around the yard before speeding off home. My father, seeing my face, hastened to explain that swifts couldn't take off from the ground because their wings are too long. I just wished he'd realised my ignorance earlier!

Preparations for the patio makeover proceed apace; the lily of the valley bed has been adopted in chunks by family and friends; little remains now, but the Nelly Moser clematis (here before we came) has earned itself a permanent niche by bursting into bud as soon as its neighbours were cleared away.

The blue tits' nesting box had to come down when their intentions obviously became serious; otherwise they would have been caught in the trauma of trying to feed a brood amid noise, dust and continual movement. As we hoped, they knew just what to do – they flipped over the wall and took possession of an upmarket property with bark roof on our neighbour's garage wall. For two days they dashed back and forth ferrying the same kinds of nesting material they had used here – bits of bark and dry leaves from the ceanothus. Now they pop back singly for a nutty snack or a few insects; I suspect the eggs are not far off hatching.

The new garden, incidentally, will not quite match what we've seen in the last few days on TV from Chelsea. There will be no dramatic proscenium arch or rows of carved circles; no mysterious floating tennis balls or Islamic mosaics – not even a blue wall. We have reached the stage when we find mellow brick rather more conducive to that afternoon nap in the sun.

**Edyth Algar**

**Horticultural Society**

The last talk of our season, *Hostas*, was given by Mr. Brian Cook. As expected it was very informative and amusing, even bordering on the hilarious!

It seems there are 2,000 varieties ranging from 2inches to 4ft in height and mostly prefer damp shade. The blue or gold leaf varieties do tolerate more sun. The worst pests are snails and slugs. He suggested prevention and hygiene, then mentioned pellets or other preparations and as early as St. Valentines Day, 6 weeks later, then again in autumn. The pests dislike bark mulch, they also hate a dressing of grit on top of the compost. If planted in pots use Vaseline or spray with WD40, round the top and base of the pot! Also do regular searches for the pests, evening is a good time. Hostas respond well to pelleted chicken manure in March, but do not need feeding after June. It seems the thicker leaved varieties are less attractive to both slugs and snails. If the hostas are planted in the ground, they may be left for up to 30 years – music to my ears! Of course, he answered questions and sold many of the plants he brought with him.

Hopefully the coach outing to Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens is now fully booked (it would be worth contacting Judy on 613103, if anyone wants to make a late booking). Please be at the Village Hall just after 9.00am on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June**. The coach leaves at 9.30am sharp! We should be back by 6.00pm. We will keep our fingers crossed for nice weather, but as usual, I will take my umbrella for insurance!

We shall hope also for a nice evening for our trip to Brackley on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June. Please be at the Village Hall early – we leave at 5.45pm. I must apologise as I have stated the wrong date for this trip in the last two editions – sorry for the confusion.

Our thanks to James and Heather Turner for hosting our Social Evening in delightful surroundings, all very enjoyable and the evening was fine. We also had the opportunity to buy plants from the Bridge Nursery.

With the Village Show in mind, please note that, if you intend to exhibit wines, use clear glass bottles with flanged closures, as this makes it easier for judges to evaluate clarity and colour etc. As last year, the show will be open to Ladbroke and Deppers Bridge W.I. and residents of Harbury and Deppers Bridge. Schedules will soon be available.

**Muriel Grey**

## Gardening Notes

Now is the time to enjoy all the blooms that appear daily to make this the best time to be in the garden. Many tasks were neglected because of the bad weather but it may be best to get on with early summer work first and then do the late spring jobs if time and energy permit.

One of the essentials is to get baskets and containers planted up. Feed roses, hoe it in and then water, finishing with a layer of mulch to conserve moisture. Acid-loving plants such as camellias and pieris enjoy a good feed with a fertiliser such as Miracid now to prevent yellow leaves. Treat the lawn with a high nitrogen feed and a moss killer.

Tidy up privet, yew and Ionicera. Prune broom as soon as flowering finishes by shortening all new growth to prevent a straggly shape but do not cut back into old wood. All early flowering shrubs benefit from a one-in-three treatment after the blooms fade. This makes the plant put out new shoots which then have the whole of the summer for growth and ripening ready to put on a show next year. Cut back poppies and iris as they finish and sow annuals to fill the gaps. Now is the time to sow biennials such as wallflowers and honesty.

Plant out courgettes and marrows, beans and tomatoes. Leek, cabbage, sweet corn plants and potatoes need to go in. Try a flower border edging of the salad crops. After all that, bring out the best garden tool in any shed: a chair!

#### Plant of the month: Alliums

In an old gardening book the first plants listed under this name are chives, garlic, leeks, onions and shallots, with an afterthought on ornamental varieties. Originating in countries as far apart as Italy and China, these bulbous plants were prized for possessing medicinal and aphrodisiac qualities as well as flavour. Today a garden design book will certainly include one or more of the flowering tall alliums to use as spectacular focus plants, with perhaps a passing mention on chives as an edging plant. So the fashion in plants has changed. To follow the current trend look for allium *aflatunense*, sorry, but there isn't a common name. These have globe shaped rosy-violet flowers that can be used as cut flowers. However, the seed heads are even more eye-catching, looking like giant dandelion clocks. Leave them to add interest through the autumn or cut them and dry them for winter decorations.

Others to plant in the same sunny, well-drained areas are *A.christophii* and *A.giganteum*, which will reach 1.5m. Some of the tall varieties have looser heads, and *A.siculum* with green, purple and cream bells on 1m stalks is sure to be noticed. The gardens at Sissinghurst Castle use these plants to good effect. At the other end of the scale is *A.oreophilum* or *A.mairei*, which, at only 20cm, is suitable for rockeries. All the ornamental alliums look best when planted in groups. Leave them undisturbed and they will self seed and form a striking feature. However, do not plant them where the leaves may get bruised because they do carry the onion family odour!

**Pat Smith**

## Letters to the Editors

*Dear Editors*

*Alison and her family would like to thank everyone who has given them love and support over the last weeks and for the many tributes to John. We have always known how much Harbury meant to John and it is lovely to know that the feelings were returned.*

***Alison Hunt and Family***

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*Dear Editors*

*We wish to thank everyone for the messages, cards and flowers, also those who attended the church after the passing away of our dearly loved Mum and Gran, Win Bloxham.*

*Grateful thanks to the staff at Eversleigh Nursing Home and to the Rector, Roy Brown for his kindness.*

***Michael, Cecil and Family***

*Dear Editors*

*Donations given in memory of my dear husband, Norman Boley, realised £1,054.24 and a cheque for the equivalent amount was forwarded to the Macmillan Cancer Relief Coventry & Warwickshire Appeal.*

*Thank you all for your generosity and kindness in my recent sad loss.*

***Mary Boley***

*Dear Editors*

*Looking through the March edition of the H&L News, I read the Diary and saw the school was addressed as Back Lane, Mill Street. Since when has it been changed to Back Lane? I have lived in the village for 78 years and it has always been Dark Lane, and I have friends in their 90s, Harbury born and bred, and they say it was always known as Dark Lane, like Golden Row was known as that for years and years. Then all of a sudden it's Park Lane Terrace - a little bit of snobbery?*

***E. Sollis***