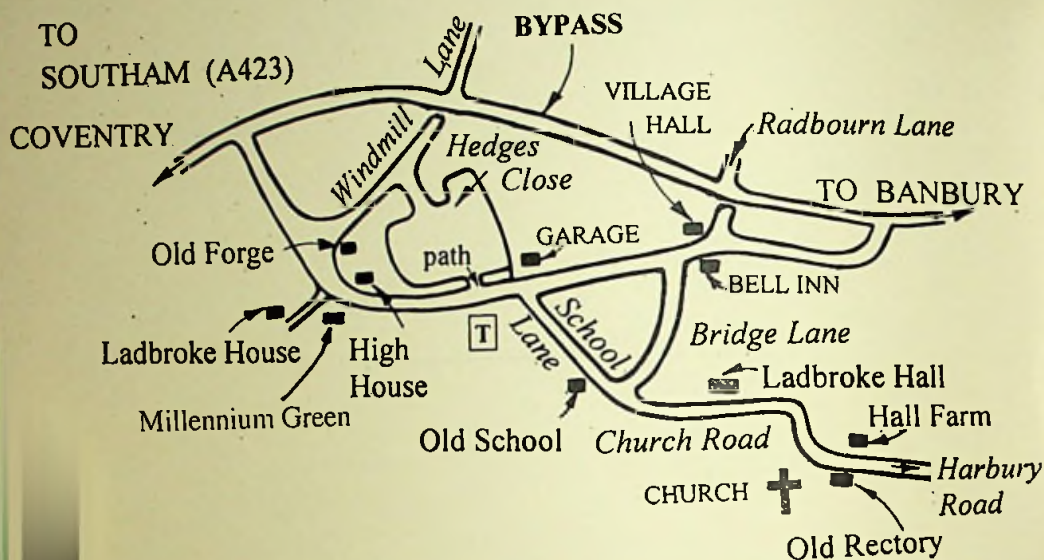




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Harbury & Ladbroke News

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

February 2002

No. 335

The New Year has brought some encouraging developments on the Youth scene. The skateboard ramp has been constructed after local fund raising and is now in use for bicycles as well.

The Youth Club re-opened in January and a Youth Worker has been appointed. The Club is open for 11 to 17 year olds on Thursday evenings in the Village Hall.



The Guide And Scout Support group (GASS) has refurbishment work planned for the Scout Hut in the spring. The village is fortunate to have Brownies, Cubs, and Scouts, whereas the Beavers and Guides are, unfortunately, without leaders. Both the Youth Club and this organisation cannot continue without the support and commitment of villagers prepared to give up their time to lead and

Adam Johnson and Sam Wilkins

assist these groups.

At the other end of the generation spectrum, we are pleased to include memories and a photograph shared with us by a long-time Harbury resident. In this jubilee year the Editors would welcome recollections and photographs of any Golden Memories in Harbury and Ladbroke of 50 years ago.

Finally we extend our sympathies to the family of Hettie Barkaway.

Harbury Diary

FEBRUARY

- | | | |
|-------|----|---|
| Sun | 3 | Second before Lent - Sung Eucharist 9am; Evening Worship 6pm |
| Tues | 5 | Toddler Service 2.15pm Holy Communion 7.30pm Horticultural Society in the Village Hall 8pm |
| Wed | 6 | Golden Jubilee Toast 11.30am at Newend House, Bull Ring Lane Holy Communion 2pm, Mothers Union 2.30pm <i>Talk it Through</i> at 33, South Parade 8pm |
| Thurs | 7 | Holy Communion at 9.45am Storytelling in the Library 10am Men's Society meeting: <i>Amateur Motor Racing</i> by John Moore in Tom Hauley Room 7.45pm Folk Club in The Dog Inn 8.30pm |
| Fri | 8 | Recycling Collection |
| Sat | 9 | Parochial Church Council Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room Harbury 1st Rugby team home to Standard Twinning Cheese & wine in Tom Hauley Room 8pm |
| Sun | 10 | Next before Lent - Holy Communion 8am; Sung Eucharist 10.30am |
| Tues | 12 | SHROVE TUESDAY Harbury Friends meeting with Cecil Bloxham in Tom Hauley Room 8pm Village Hall committee in Village Hall 8pm Holy Communion 7.30pm |
| Wed | 13 | ASH WEDNESDAY Holy Communion with imposition of Ashes 7.30pm Prayer meeting in Church 8pm |
| Thurs | 14 | ST VALENTINES DAY Holy Communion 9.45pm Thursday Club in Village Hall 2.30pm Myton Hospice Line Dancing at Harbury Village Club 8pm |
| Fri | 15 | Holy Communion 12 noon; Lent Lunch 12.30pm in Tom Hauley Room ADVERTS to 31, Binswood End Harbury, by 5.30pm |

- Sat 16 Men's Prayer Breakfast 7.30am in Tom Hauley Room
Coffee Morning in aid of Multiple Sclerosis in Tom Hauley Room
Harbury 1st Rugby team home to Old Wheatleyians
- Sun 17 **Lent 1** - Holy Communion 8am
Family Communion 10.30am; Evensong 6pm
- Tues 19 Holy Communion 7.30pm, Mothers Union 8pm
Senior Citizens' Committee in Village Hall 8pm
- Wed 20 Tea in the Tom Hauley Room 3-4pm
Talk it Through at 33, South Parade 8pm
- Thurs 21 Holy Communion 9.45am
PCC Meeting 7.30pm in Tom Hauley Room
- Fri 22 Recycling Collection
Holy Communion 12 noon, Lent Lunch 12.30pm in Tom Hauley Room
ARTICLES to Harbury Chemist, High Street, Harbury by 5.30pm
- Sat 23 Coffee Morning in aid of Youth Project in Tom Hauley Room
Harbury Extra Rugby team home to Coventrians
- Sun 24 **Lent 2** - Holy Communion 8am; Sung Eucharist 10.30am
- Mon 25 Harbury Society, Cecil Bloxham on the life and times of the Railway men 7.30pm
for 8pm in Tom Hauley Room. All welcome.
- Tues 26 Holy Communion 7.30pm including Lent address followed by tea and discussion
in Tom Hauley Room
- Wed 27 Tea and companionship 2.30 - 4.30pm at 19 Farm Street
Prayer meeting in Church 8pm
- Thurs 28 Holy Communion 9.45am

MARCH

- Fri 1 **ST DAVIDS DAY**
Holy Communion 12 noon; Lent Lunch 12.30pm in Tom Hauley Room
Women's World Day of Prayer in Church 2pm
- Sat 2 Coffee Morning in aid of Meningitis Research in Tom Hauley Room
Harbury 1st Rugby team home to Northampton Heathens
- Sun 3 **Lent 3** - Sung Eucharist 9am; Evening Worship 6pm

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From the Rector

We have just celebrated, on February 2nd, the feast of the Presentation of our Lord, traditionally known as Candlemas. It is the day that brings the Christmas season to an end. The previous forty days have been a celebration of light coming into a world of darkness and hopelessness.

At Christmas the birth of Christ, the light of the world, was witnessed by just a few: Mary, Joseph and the shepherds. At the Epiphany we celebrated the revelation of the light of Christ to the Gentiles, who are to be drawn to the new Jerusalem, the *City of Light*. And as we celebrated Candlemas, in symbolism of a candle, the light is placed in the hands of each one of us for us to carry into our world.

We often light a candle at home. At birthdays, Christmas and on special occasions our lighting of the candle should remind us of Christ's light in our lives, the light received at baptism, as we become a child of God. From that day we have belonged to him and at the Eucharist, as we pray the Creed together, we are restating and reminding ourselves of God's total love and commitment to us. In the Creed we affirm our belief in God the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit and the family life of His Church; a belief first stated by us or on our behalf at our baptism.

That is why the Creed is one of our most treasured prayers. It speaks only of God and not at all of ourselves. In other words, it gets us "out of ourselves" and focuses all our attention on the Creator. When we recite the Creed, we are invited to take a close look at what God does and what He is. Now when we really do that, our whole inclination is to give Him thanks and praise. And thanking and praising the Father through Christ our Lord is what the Eucharist is all about.

As we return to our daily lives the love of God enables us to live out our belief. The light of our candle will remind us that our faith will indeed bring us to "the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come".

During this month the season of Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, and I leave you with a prayer for Lent:

Your word is a lamp for my steps and a light for my path.

I have sworn and have determined to obey your decrees.

Lord I am deeply afflicted by your word. Give me life.

Accept, Lord, the homage of my lips and teach me your decrees.

Amen

Fr. Roy

From the Registers

Funerals at All Saints' Harbury

15th January - Hettie Barkaway, 82



From the Churchwardens

After the excitement of the Christmas season, Lent cannot be far away; Ash Wednesday is on February 13th.

Thanks to Harry Windsor's efforts, the church has been warm, so far, this winter. The election of the Parochial Church Council and the Church Wardens takes place in April and it is not too early to be thinking about offering your skills and talents to help with the running of the church.



We are fortunate at All Saints' to have a good number of people who deal with the many tasks (often unseen), which need to be done in both the practical and the spiritual senses. However, some of us are getting older and feel that younger people should be encouraged to take an active part in the running of the church. If you would like to know more, do please talk to Father Roy or to one of us.

Our photograph shows Lucy Davis receiving an award from Father Roy for attending Sunday school 25 times.

Felicity and John

Mothers' Union

Our January meetings were parties: an Afternoon Tea Party with games, delicious tea and presents from the bran tub, a very jolly occasion, thoroughly enjoyed by all, and a Faith Supper for members and guests, with quizzes, delicious food, and songs by Mike Grimes to

6
round off the evening. 2002 is off to a good start, and we look forward to a busy calendar ahead.

National Marriage Week begins on February 10th, celebrating marriage and family life, and gives us chance to say thank you for the gift of marriage and to ask for guidance and support to deal with any challenges which may come our way.

By the time this issue is circulated, we shall have had a service for Candlemas, when we remember Christ's presentation in the Temple, another good reason to keep looking forward.

Wed 6th Feb 2pm Service; 2.30pm Beryl Checkley: *Holiday - Australia & Japan*
Tues 19th Feb 7.30pm Service; 8pm Bill Davies: *Santiago de la Compostella*

Anne Moore

Toddlers' Service

Our January service was led by Mrs. Bedford with Mrs. Lesley Jones as our guest speaker. As part of our series on *People who help us*, Mrs. Jones told us about the work of a post woman in Harbury. She delivers messages to people and she gave us the message that God loves us. Lesley's talk was illustrated with her delightful drawings, finishing with a picture of her recovering with her feet up.

We all sang *Colours of Day*, accompanied by the children with the percussion instruments.

The children illustrated cards saying "God Loves You" which they 'posted' in a model post box.

Please note: *The next service will be a week early on Tuesday 5th February, at 2.15pm.*

C. Mary Catt

All Saints' Church Harbury – Electoral Roll

Under new laws governing the Church of England, a new Electoral Roll must be made every six years. This is now due.

The existing Roll will be discontinued.

If you wish your name to be included on the New Roll, please let me have your completed form by Sunday 10th March. Forms may be obtained from me or from the table at the back of the church.

What is the Church Electoral Roll?

It is your parish church's register of electors, i.e. it is the list of those qualified to attend and vote at the Annual Parochial Church meeting, where elections take place for:

- a. The Parochial Church Council;
- b. The parish representative on The Deanery Synod.

It is intended, by the use of this system, that, firstly, church people at every level should feel that they are in touch with The Church as a whole and can play their part in decision making, and secondly, that the laity have their place in every aspect of Church life, including its doctrine and services.

Moya Waterman – 612285 – Electoral Roll Officer

Women's World Day of Prayer

This annual service will be held throughout the world, on Friday 1st March. The theme this year is *Challenged to Reconcile* and the women of Romania have drawn up the service.

In Harbury we shall be holding the service at 2.00pm in the Church. Women, men and children of all denominations are very welcome. There will be a collection during this service.

We should finish in time to meet children from school. Tea and biscuits will be served in the Tom Hauley Room afterwards. Please come - join with us, and people in 180 countries, from Tonga in the East to St. Lawrence Island in the West, to take up this challenge.

For further information please contact:

Mary Catt - 612864

Laugh Line

A rather long-winded preacher was dealing with the prophets, one by one. *And where shall I put Isaiah?* he shouted. A little man in the front row said: *He can have my seat, I'm going home for my dinner.*

- | | | |
|-------|----|--|
| Sun | 3 | Second before Lent - Family Communion 10.30am |
| Sun | 10 | Next before Lent - Sung Communion 9am |
| Wed | 13 | ASH WEDNESDAY - Lent Lunch 12 noon at 3 Ladbroke Hall, Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes 2pm Women's Fellowship, 3, Ladbroke Hall 2.45pm |
| Fri | 15 | <u>ADVERTS</u> to 31, Binswood End, Harbury by 5.30pm |
| Sun | 17 | Lent 1 - Sung communion 9am |
| Wed | 20 | Lent lunch at Fields Farm, Kineton Road Parish Council meeting 7.45pm |
| Fri | 22 | <u>ARTICLES</u> to Harbury Chemist, High Street, Harbury by 5.30pm General Knowledge Quiz Night, in aid of All Saints' Church, Ladbroke Development Plan at Ladbroke Village Hall. Doors open at 7.30pm, quiz starts at 8pm |
| Sun | 24 | Lent 2 - Sung Communion 9am |
| Wed | 27 | PCC meeting 7.30pm Chapel Ascote Farm Lent lunch 12 noon at the Old Rectory |
| Thurs | 28 | WI meeting |

- Sun 3 Lent 3 - Family Communion 10.30am**

February 3rd and 10th: Gwynne Badman
No flowers during Lent

Jane Rutherford

This was my first meeting as the new co-ordinator. I was pleased to welcome seven ladies to our first meeting of the Year 2002.

We were delighted to welcome Mrs. Jane Rutherford, a local Magistrate, as our guest speaker. We had a very informative talk and I think most of us were amazed by the amount of work that is expected of this voluntary job. Once again, thank you Jane for giving up your time to come and talk to us.

Our next meeting will be on February 13th, at 3, Ladbroke Hall and our speaker will be Linda Doyle, our very own local Historian, who will talk to us on the history of our area.

During Lent the members of the Women's Fellowship will be hosting Lent Lunches in their own homes, the cost for soup and bread and cheese will be £2.50. The proceeds of these will help a Sudanese student from the Cairo Refuge with her education. A warm welcome will be given to everyone who wishes to come and support us.

Jo Sowerby



The photograph shows the Nativity tableau in Ladbroke Church at Christmas, put on by Ladbroke Children under the direction of Jo Sowerby.

Ladbroke and Deppers Bridge W.I.

The meeting, held on January 24th, at 7.30pm in Ladbroke Village Hall, was the first of the Year 2002.

The president welcomed everyone and wished us a Happy 2002. All members agreed that the Christmas meal and entertainment at Ashorne Hall was excellent.

The darts team played the 2nd round game against a team from



WI members and Mr. Spence outside our hotel in Bruges

Haselor WI on January 23rd at Harbury Village Club having beaten the Bishop's Itchington WI team in the 1st round. Haselor won 6-3. It was a good match. Supporters turned out for Ladbroke and Deppers Bridge and helped to eat the abundant refreshments.

The Shortmat Bowls team are still in play and are waiting for the next match after beating Marton WI.

Names were taken for the Spring Council meeting, to be held on March 20th at the Spa Centre, Leamington Spa.

Long Itchington WI have invited us to a Microwave Cookery Demonstration on April 17th. Names were taken.

Irene Bennett will be holding a Scrabble evening on April 9th.

Sue Halsall has been elected as representative of the WI on the Village Hall Committee.

The president welcomed Mr. Winterburn. His talk and slides on *Little Known Warwickshire* were so interesting. Lawn Tennis was first played on the grass in front of the Manor Hotel, Leamington Spa, three years before Wimbledon began. His photographs of the Harbury cutting designed by I.K. Brunell and 110 feet deep surprised us all. Little Virginia, Kenilworth, was the place where potatoes were first

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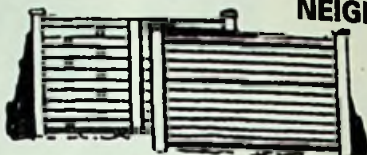
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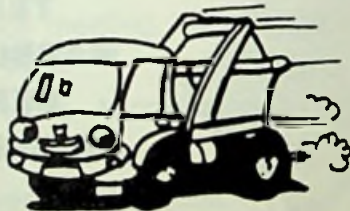
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grown in this country, having been brought from Virginia, U.S.A. The people's dispensary in Southam was the first in the world. The Warwickshire gentry, who hid at Coughton Hall, whilst on the run, instigated the 'Gunpowder Plot' and he told us so much more. Mr. Winterburn is a great speaker. Jo gave the vote of thanks.

Raffle prizes were won by Path Kennedy and Beryl Ross (an early birthday present Beryl!!).

The next meeting is on February 28th, when Mrs. Margaret Bosworth will be telling us about the work of the Macmillan Nurses.

I was lucky enough to win the Denman Bursary and spent a great weekend there in January.

Tea Hostesses: Jo and Hazel

Hazel Sharples

All Saints' Church, Ladbroke – Development Plan

A big thank you to all the members of the Women's Fellowship for all their help at the Luncheon held in the Tom Hauley Room on January 19th. It was a great success and we raised £160 for the fund.

Our next fund raising event will be a *General Knowledge Quiz Night* to be held in Ladbroke Village Hall on Friday 22nd February. Doors open at 7.30pm - the quiz starting at 8pm. Teams of four welcome, £8 entry fee per team. There will be a bar, light refreshments, and a raffle. Contact Peter Baker for tickets on 01926 813370.

Jo Sowerby

A **Mods and Rocker** Disco, in aid of Macmillan Nurses, will be held on March 15th, at Ladbroke Village Hall. Doors open at 8.30pm with the disco starting at 9pm, music will be from the period. Tickets are available from Peter Baker or Janet Lowman on 01926 817295.

Peter Barker

Dear Editors

Ladbroke is an old and very beautiful church with an interesting churchyard, which is the resting place of many relatives of people living in the surrounding areas. My father Jack Wall, cared for the grounds for many years and loved it, but now the churchyard needs more care to enable visitors to enjoy the peace and serenity it provides.

There are, I am sure, many people who would be willing to help, provide monies through Church funds for the maintenance of the churchyard, to enable contractors to keep the churchyard in a condition their loved ones would appreciate.

As a member of the P.C.C. of All Saints' Church, Ladbroke, I am hoping interested people will contact me so this can be put into motion.

Volunteers have done and are doing, a wonderful job, but they cannot be expected to keep the whole area in order, and we all get older.

Mrs. Peggy Askew - 812009

Ladbroke Parish Council Report

Minutes of Ladbroke Parish Council Meeting held on January 16th.

It was with great regret that those present at this meeting learned of Elsa Greenway's resignation as Parish Clerk after 17 years in post.

Structure of the Village: The non-illuminated signs had been replaced but almost immediately had been flattened again. The County Council has agreed to look at the design and to change if necessary to a more appropriate fixing.

The Parish Council agreed to deal with the weeds on the Central reservations at the entrances to the village. Japanese knotweed is in Harbury and spells disaster if it spreads to Ladbroke so the Chairman asked for people to be on the lookout for it (see picture and article on pages 20 & 21 in last month's H&L News). Also the yellow ragwort should be eliminated when spotted.

Police and Neighbourhood Watch matters: Janice Berry, Neighbourhood Watch coordinator, had sent her apologies. Information had been received regarding the movement of new age travellers in the vicinity. The only crime in Ladbroke was some vandalism in the grounds of Ladbroke Hall.

A free newspaper entitled 'The Citizen' will be available, 3 editions in 2002 and 4 editions are planned from 2003. The distribution of this has not yet been finalised. Congratulations are to be sent from the Parish Council to Ian Tew on his promotion to the rank of Inspector.

Financial Matters: The accounts are at the District offices for audit. A letter of thanks for the £500 towards the cost of maintenance and a statement of accounts had been received from the Millennium Green Trust.

Planning Matters: Two Villagers had written to the Parish Council expressing deep concern about the application for a very large warehouse (23,000m²) to be erected on the Southam Industrial Estate. At the time the Clerk had to tell them that the Council knew nothing about it. They wrote to Stratford District Council Planning Department and two days before this meeting the detailed maps and drawings were received. This was discussed at length by the Council who strongly objected to a Warehouse that could accommodate between 500 and 700 H.G.V. in order to operate a 24-hour per day business and use the existing roads in the area. They were totally inadequate for the purpose. The Council objected also to the light and noise pollution. The District Councillors said that there would now be a Dassett Area Planning meeting in February. The Clerk is to write expressing the Parish Council's concerns.

Dog Fouling: Sadly, despite many reminders and encouragement for dog owners to clean up any excrement left by their pets, the Parish Council had received another letter of complaint regarding fouling, particularly in the Banbury Road area. The only course left appears to be for any villager affected to contact the Dog Warden at Stratford District Council. There is then the risk that a loose dog could be impounded and the owner has to pay administration costs for their pet's release.

Date and time of next meeting: Wednesday 20th February at 7.45pm. Stratford District Chairman Councillor Les Topham will be present at this meeting.

Carol Lane

Harbury Parish Council Meeting - January

PRECEPT: Deliberations were made difficult by the absence of the Finance Chair and Ken Stephenson wanting extra money to extend the Playing Fields Car Park. Eventually the Council agreed to raise £41,000 this year (an increase of about 22p per week for Band D payers).

LAW AND ORDER: Re-branded Crime & Disorder and now "Community Safety" brought good news. Ian Jackson is Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and needs more local members. Do volunteer if you can help. The police caught the milk thieves, "spoke" to the youths responsible for the vandalism on Bonfire Night and jailed one of the Wellingborough gang responsible for damaging cars.

PLANNING

Stratford District Council approved an extension and pool at Heron's Cabin; extensions at 31, Mill St and 33, Binswood End; a garage at the Wagstaffe School and the felling of trees at the Manor.

The Parish Council had no view on the retrospective application for internal alterations at Harbury House, an extension at Phoenix House, a conservatory at Walnut Tree Cottage and remedial work to the walnut tree at Deny's Close.

They objected to the extension to Compton House on the grounds that it would seriously overshadow the neighbouring property. They protested that the proposed dormer bungalow behind Hazebrook would be dominating and have access onto a narrow land. They queried whether the garage at 12, Church Terrace was part of Newend House or the proposed new dwelling and along with many other local councils they expressed great concern at the proposal for a large distribution centre at Southam.

Dutch Van Spall explained the worry was that extra traffic would come through Deppers and Harbury to access the M40. He wanted HGVs banned or a voluntary agreement that vehicles would not use that route.

Three further applications were presented to Councillors: a changed access at the Rugby Club; a renewal of existing permission of a Club House at Bishops Bowl, and an extension at 15, Percival Drive.

Cllr. Winchester asked that investigations were made as to the status of the huge conservatory, veranda and porch being added to the

already extended Harbury Croft.

TENNIS/NETBALL CLUB EXPANSION PLANS have been modified and the Parish Council will cover the small shortfall in the "Sinking Fund" - the money set aside by the Club and Council to cover maintenance. There was opposition from Cllr Winchester to the Cypresses screen.

Cllr. Thompson explained the trees shade the courts and encourage moss to grow. They have to be pruned every year to keep them under control and there are concerns the roots will eventually damage the courts. But Ann was emphatic - she wanted them replaced.

THE YOUTH PROJECT'S "FUN BOX" has been well used since December and the group thanked the Parish Council for its support - they are "over the Moon" Cllr. Biddle reported. An extra £23,000 is still needed to complete the project but a variety of funders have been approached for help.

VILLAGE PUMP: Dutch reported Harbury School children had watched the craftsman refashioning it. Dutch wants an Annual Children's Prize set up with the winner's name engraved on the pump.

IVY LANE RESIDENTS heard the Parish Council report discussions with County Highways on flooding and congestion. Neville Metrick said the carriageway reduces to 7' 7" outside Ivy Cottage. He considers the road unsuitable for HGVs and would like it made Access Only. The County has suggested a Weight Limit or a One Way System. John Drinkwater wanted Ivy Lane residents to choose what they want, but Councillors thought other villagers could be affected and everyone ought to be consulted.

A question will be added to the Parish Review.

Linda Ridgley

Harbury Society



The "Famous Scots" quiz broke the ice at our "Burns-ish" Night Social at the Shakespeare and the complimentary dram, courtesy of Andrew and Carol, helped re-enforced the party mood.

Sheila Scott read part of Burns' *Epistle to J. Lapraik* to John Lapraik! Alan Lord gave us 101 things you didn't (?want to) know about Burns and his times, and I embarrassed everyone and

John again by singing "Charlie is me Darling"!

Next month (Monday 25th February 7.30pm in the Tom Hauley Room) our guest Cecil "Bonzo" Bloxham recalls the life and times of the Railwaymen. Our AGM takes place on Monday 25th March and there will be a Guided Tour of Lichfield Cathedral on the morning of Saturday 11th May.

(Our answers were: John Logie Baird, Lord Reith, and Alexander Graham Bell and those were the easy ones!)

Linda Ridgley

Harbury's Women's Institute

Trips to Kensington Palace in February and Blenheim Palace in May should be enjoyable. A Spring Council meeting at the Spa Centre and a Leam 'n Lunch at Claverdon will be held in March.

Within Warwickshire consists of six monthly courses on interesting sites, starting in March.

For those who purchased WI calendars, please note that April's recipe for American Chicken should read: "pre-cooked chicken".

Mr. Steven Bruce, an Auctioneer and Valuer gave an interesting talk. He impressed that life is not at all like the Antiques Road Show. We all know that really, but it is amazing how popular the show has been for a quarter of a century.

He told us of his opinions and experiences in the business, and to ask a solicitor for the name of a reputable auctioneer if in doubt. Then there are those pretending to be antique dealers and it can be hard to judge. To beware of sales, which are not catalogued, and to ask a sensible price for the sale article, as it will not be worth as much if not sold the first time.

Something large would cost to transport, then the 15% selling fee, insurance, and VAT. If nobody is there to buy, the article won't sell and one could be out of pocket.

In fact, it does not sound so easy with bouncing cheques, stolen goods and security to cope with, but then, Mr. Bruce was stating all the pitfalls at once.

Mr. Bruce deals a lot on the Internet and says it is a matter of trust with the Client. It sounds rather precarious.

There were articles for Mr. Bruce's perusal and some members were pleasantly surprised.

February Hostesses: Lyn Edwards, Mary Thompson, and Jeani Hadley.

Jeanne Beaumont

Christmas Morning Cycle Ride



L to R: Ann Brunt, John Hancock, Roy and Maureen Lambert, Sue and Ian Hartland

We did not attract any runners to our traditional run and cycle ride. Five keen cyclists set off and awoke unsuspecting villagers with our excellent singing. We made our customary stop to greet Michael Thwaites at Hurdiss Farm; on through Thwaites Estate for welcome refreshments provided by Roy and Maureen Lambert.

Are there any runners left in Harbury who are fit enough join us next Christmas morning at 9am?

Doug Freeman 612002

Harbury Folk Club

In my dictionary, the word 'Wassail' is defined in many ways - 'a festive occasion', 'a drinking bout', 'a type of liquor', 'to make merry', etc. - all of which seemed to make it a very suitable theme for the Folk Club

session in January. All those interpretations, and a lot more, were in evidence and we had an amazing number of genuine Wassail songs. We had Wassails from Gloucestershire, the Gower and Orkney to name but a few and there were several spoof ones too. My favourite was the Death and Glory Wassail sung by Des, another brilliant song by Sid Kipper.

January 3rd was a very cold evening but the lads at the Dog had made great personal sacrifices and put ample heaters into the back room to take off the chill. After I started the evening with the inevitable Here we come a-wassailing, the Jolly Wassailers (Maureen, Janny, Celia and Margaret) took to the stage with two delightfully arranged songs followed, in order of appearance, by Rik, Pete & Liz, Alan, Ron, Pete G, Des and the Harvesters. Alan finished the evening with the folk 'standard' Wild Mountain Thyme, which didn't mention Wassail once but allowed the smaller-than-usual audience to sing along like a much bigger one.

The raffle raised £35 for Ovacome, a support group for ovarian cancer.

Next month's session, hosted by Ian on February 7th, has the theme of 'Heat'. Use your imagination!

Peter McDonald

Hereburgh Morris

Hereburgh Morris again celebrated New Year's Day by dancing outside all the Harbury Pubs. The weather was fine and we would like to thank all the pubs and their customers for supporting this event. We raised £65 for the Red Cross Disaster appeal.

Doug Freeman

Harbury Theatre Group

Postponed production: *Generations Apart*, by Peter Gordon.

We now have new dates for the performances of this play: 25th, 26th and 27th April. The planned performances had to be postponed due to Gordon Robbins unexpectedly being taken ill. Gordon has a very large part in the play; he's hardly ever off stage! Unfortunately, we don't have enough members to be able to have understudies, so with just a week to go to performances, we had no choice but to postpone.

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At the time of writing Gordon is out of hospital and we wish him a speedy recovery.

I would like to thank everyone for their understanding, and in particular Paul Winchester, for finding us a new week when the Village Hall was free. So the play will go on, but a little later than planned!

Alison Hodge, Chairman

Harbury Brownies



The 1st Harbury Brownies would like to say a big thank you to Keith Guy for making their new toadstool. The pack currently has 16 Brownies, with 8 new Brownies due to be enrolled in the next few weeks, thanks to the hard work and leadership of Brown Owl Helen Larder, Snowy Owl Yvonne Kyetes and their rota of mums!

We would also like to thank everyone who supported our Coffee Morning on January 19th. All the Brownies who helped worked very hard and did a wonderful job. They seemed to have a fun time too! The fantastic sum of £119.71 was raised for Brownie funds.

If you would like to put your daughter's name down to become a Brownie, please contact Helen on 613455.

Gael Conway

Harbury Youth Club – Good News!

We have appointed a Youth Worker/Leader and re-opened the Youth Club on January 17th. Our new Youth Leader is Melanie Scobie and on our opening night she discussed a varied programme of activities with our members who attended the re-opening. All girls and boys aged between 11 and 17 years are welcome to join us on Thursday evenings from 7pm until 9pm at the Village Hall.

There are occasions when we cannot use the Village Hall and over the next few weeks some trips have already been organised by Melanie. If you have not attended Youth Club previously, perhaps you would like to join us and discuss with Melanie your ideas on activities of interest to you.

We would also like to encourage parents to assist us in running the Youth Club and we have organised a rota for helpers. If you are interested in helping and would like to be included on our rota, please contact me on 612688.

We are extremely fortunate in appointing a Youth Worker and our grateful thanks are extended to WAYCE (Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs based in Leamington), particularly Anna and William who were instrumental in the appointment of Melanie.

The Youth Club will not survive if we cannot get support of the village community and we owe it to the future generation of Harbury to provide youth activities to meet their needs.

Janet Thornley

Harbury Nursery School

Well-prepared play is a key way in which children learn with enjoyment and challenge during the Foundation Stage (Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage, 3-5 years).

Through play activities the nursery children have explored the topic of journeys. They have learnt about traffic lights through icing biscuits,

improved their co-ordination through games in the hall, investigated how fast or slow cars will travel down a ramp, and described real and imaginary journeys. Kira and Francesca described their visit to the Tweenies by train: *We went through a tunnel. It was really dark and very scary.*

Some children conducted a traffic survey and made marks on paper to count the number of vehicles they had seen. The children are always encouraged to come up with their own ideas and they have made their own version of 'The Wheels on the Bus'. Emily W. has been developing her rhyming skills and contributed this delightful line: *The wipers on the bus go wash and squish, swish and splash, wash and squash.*

The nursery will be holding a Saturday open morning after Half Term so that prospective parents can see evidence of the children's learning through play and how the nursery caters for all the children from two years and nine months to five. If you are interested in the nursery's activities and would like to see us on a normal day please do drop in or call Kate on 612656. We will be happy to see you and your child.

Alison Baldwin

The Pre-School - Learning Through Play

This month the children have been learning about winter and how the seasons of the year change from autumn and winter through to spring and summer. This theme explores how the environment and nature around the children changes in winter, and how the different clothes they wear and the food they eat varies from season to season.

During January the children have brought pictures into Pre-School of animals that hibernate during the winter months such as hedgehogs, squirrels and tortoises, and pictures of those that live in very cold climates such as penguins and polar bears. The children have talked about animal habitats, where animals go and what they do during the winter months.

The new equipment for the 'home corner' has now arrived, which has caused great excitement. The children are busier than ever cooking, washing-up and loading the dishwasher!



At play in the new 'home corner'

We do have quite a comprehensive range of books in our library for the children to look through, and have decided to expand our book collection still further. In the relaxed environment of our classroom we gently encourage 'the love of books' both at school and at home, so the children will help us choose the books to add to their library.

The Pre-School is extremely pleased to welcome Cassie Gibb onto our team. Cassie has three children of her own, and has experience working with children to help them express themselves through drama and role-play, and will introduce drama activities across all the Pre-School sessions this Half Term based on our winter theme.

Fund raising news: Over the last year, our fund raising activities have been extremely successful and enjoyable. This has meant that the children now have lots of new equipment and toys. We owe much thanks to all those who support the Pre-School through their donations, cake making, coming to our events, and offering their help.

Beatles Tribute Night: Saturday 20th April at Harbury Village Hall. Tickets are now available from Lana Long (613311) at £12.50 per ticket. A bar and refreshments will be available on the night. We've already had lots of interest, so don't delay in getting your tickets.

Harbury Pre-School Staff and Committee

Guide and Scout Support (GASS)

GASS was formed in the mid 1990s to raise money for the support of the Scout Hut and the scouting organisations in the village. GASS was closely linked to SHAK (Scout Hut Action Komitee!), which raised a fantastic £26,000 to refurbish and extend the original very basic (and accurately named) hut. This work was finished in 1998.

A new GASS group has just taken over the reins from the original team although the original members have kindly offered to help us out with fund raising events.

In March, following some minor building work, we will be re-decorating the main room and kitchen (which has suffered from some water leaks) and improving heating and lighting. New cooking facilities and work surfaces will be installed for the use of the groups. Last and not least, GASS will continue to pay for the running of the hut and for new equipment when required.

Speaking for GASS, I know that we would all welcome the return of Girl Guides and Beavers (the pre-Cubs group) if leaders could be found. Moreover, there is a continual turnover in group leaders and I would urge any parents, particularly if their children are just approaching Beaver or Cub age, to consider giving some time to the children of the village, whether on a rota or full-time basis. For example, I understand we may be losing some of the current Cubs leaders after the summer term.

Most scout and guide leaders these days simply commit themselves to help out for a few years while their own children pass through the various groups. This arrangement is fine but, in order to work, it obviously needs a continual input of new leaders/assistants at the younger end of the organisation!

Working and living patterns have changed and it is difficult to fit these 'extra' activities into our lives. But I hope that future parents will continue to make that commitment and see the pleasure that scouting and guiding gives our children, as well as being a valuable counterbalance to the TV/computer orientated culture that surrounds them.

Alan Guy (Tel. 614242)

Harbury Albion Football Club

The club has continued to progress throughout this season and currently stands in 2nd place in the league with slightly under half the games played. The veteran players (over 30's) have played particularly well so far this season, Paul Gladden and Steve Evans have 25 goals between them and this was highlighted on Boxing day when Merrick (Jr), Cleaver, Markham and friends, representing Harbury's best under 30's, received what can only be described as a 6-1 hammering from the over 30's, the highlight of which was a lesson in the art of finishing from Harbury's way over-30 manager! Talking of finishing, it was good to see Shaun Smith back to his usual "dodgy goal"-scoring self last week. Quality, as the professionals say. Thank you to our sponsors Brian and Sandra at the Old New Inn for continuing to support us this season.

Robin Davis

Harbury Tennis Club

After sweeping frost off the courts a dozen or so brave members enjoyed the traditional New Year's Day Muffler Tournament with the help of the occasional glass of hot punch to keep the cold out! Rosemary Harley and Brian Biro managed to hit the ball enough times to be crowned champions!



Harbury Netball team moving the goalpost!?

Still on the playing front, the Club has had a very successful first half to its Banbury Winter League season. Both teams started 2002 at the top of their divisions although the new year saw a blip for both, with the "A" Team losing 5-3

to a strong Banbury "A" team. The "B" Team lost by the same score to second placed Nether Heyford, who replaced them at the top of Division 4, but they bounced back with a fine 7-1 victory over Banbury "D" with Anne Greenwell making a very impressive debut.

There is good news in that the moss will soon be disappearing from both the Tennis Courts and the Netball Courts, as they are to be re-surfaced at a total cost of £17,000. The courts will be out of action while the work is done so the season will start about 6 weeks later than usual depending on the contractor's programme. I hope to be able to give details of dates and news of other proposed developments in next month's report, so watch this space! This little investment will leave a bit of a hole in our bank account so the fund raising starts again! The first event is a **Jumble Sale** on Saturday 9th March in the Village Hall. Details about collecting jumble will be circulated during February.

Colin Mercer - 613284

Damage to Properties

It has come to my attention that damage has been caused to windows in Ivy Lane and Knightlow Way by what is believed to be air rifle pellets. The laws in relation to air rifles are quite clear. If anyone would like clarification, or advice, please contact me on 01926 812366.

Please note that if an air rifle is used in a garden, it is an offence to allow any pellets to go outside the boundary of that garden.

Please be careful when using any firearms.

P.C. Nigel Hill

Harbury Carnival – 8th June 2002

Apparently, there has been some speculation over the date of this year's Carnival. Well, we were asked by you-know-who to change our timing but we refused (she would not change her arrangements either!), so June 8th it is. Anyway, there's nothing wrong with a bit of competition. It should give you all some ideas as to what to do for this year's procession and a good excuse to make this our best Carnival ever! We will have to change our schedule for the events leading up to Carnival day, but the Wheelbarrow Race will still be on the Sunday before, June 2nd. More details in the months to come.

This year's selection process for the King and Queen will be the same as last year, but will be carried out earlier. Any child between the ages of 6 and 12 will shortly be able to nominate themselves by writing their name, address and telephone number on a piece of paper and putting it in a special box outside Harbury School. Final selection will be by way of a popular vote amongst the children.

If you want to book a stall or space on the field for carnival day, please call Julie Killian on 612265.

We now have an e-mail address, harburycarnival@aol.com, so please feel free to contact us there or, phone me, John Broomfield, on 614258 if there is anything you would like to know about the Carnival.

John Broomfield - on behalf of the Carnival Committee

Parish Paths Partnership

Although our programme of work last year was severely affected by the restrictions imposed by the Foot and Mouth epidemic we have made good progress.

Our most recent project was the installation of steps on a section of the steep bank through the Spinney on the path, which begins by Hillside (SM63). At the same time the 'Leaning Stile of Harbury' was brought to the vertical and given two new steps.

Before Christmas we ventured over the parish boundary to clear the path that leads off Kingston Farm drive, through the



Some of the group using their muscles on 'the leaning stile of Harbury'

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Over the next couple of months we will be re-surveying the parish paths. If you are aware of problems with any path, please let us know. Also anyone wishing to join us would be most welcome. We meet to discuss and plan at The Shakespeare on the 2nd Thursday in the month at 8pm. Work is carried out on the 1st Saturday in the month in the morning. For further details contact Clive Taylor on 612221.

Catherine Darby

A Reading Group for Village Bookworms?

The pleasure of a rattling good book or a well-crafted story is hard to beat, but have you ever wanted to share that sense of 'discovery' with some else? We are interested in hearing from anybody who loves reading and likes the idea of meeting and sharing their opinions with other 'bookworms' in an informal atmosphere.

Depending on the amount of feedback, we propose the group would meet every 6 weeks to discuss/debate/deconstruct a novel chosen from a library list of 47 books, specially designated for reading groups in the Warwickshire area, sampling an eclectic mix of authors, including Helen Dunmore, Ian McEwan, Meera Syal, Tony Parsons, Zadie Smith, etc. We could even make up our own lists from our personal favourites and choose from them. The possibilities are endless for book lovers of all persuasions!

If you need further details or have any queries, or simply want to add your name to our list please contact: Kate Thomas 614793, or Lesley Jones 613207. We look forward to hearing from you.

'The Bookworms'

Harbury-Samois-sur-Seine Twinning Assoc.

2001 was a very successful year for the Twinning Association. A large group of our French friends visited us at the end of April and several families arranged their own visits to their twin families, including John and Sharon Hancock, who decided to combine their visit with some gentle exercise and cycled all the way to Samois!

An encouraging development has been individual visits by young

people to their twin families and this is something that we are very keen to encourage. Plans are well in hand for another group visit by families to Samois from 3rd to 6th May and we are very pleased to report that Ruth and Alan Guy will be leading a group of Year 5 and 6 pupils from Harbury School and some of their parents to stay at a Youth Centre near Samois in June. They will have the opportunity to explore this delightful area of France and will also be meeting pupils of their own age at the Samois Primary School.

If you would like to get to know us and learn more about all the really enjoyable aspects of twinning, why not come along to our Wine and Cheese Evening on Saturday 9th February in the Tom Hauley Room? Tickets are available from our Secretary Janet Thornley, 612688.

Our Annual General Meeting will be on Wednesday 20th March, at 7.30pm, also in the Tom Hauley Room.

Twinning Committee

Ahmedabad Special Project Fund

Report Gujarat Earthquake appeal - 1st Year Report



**The school destroyed by the earthquake
and right the new school today**



It is now one year ago that an earthquake devastated Gujarat in India. We are very pleased to report on the good things that have happened since then. As you remember we immediately set up a fund aimed at helping children back into education. The response was overwhelming. In total we have raised £5,074.53 and have made a major contribution to the first new school in the area!

We received £1,150 through collections at Harbury and Ladbroke Church and from people in both villages. Harbury School raised £480;

several other schools in Warwickshire contributed straight into the bank account - making it difficult to trace them. The University of Warwick held a fund raising event that brought in £670, colleagues, business relations and friends donated the rest. Thank you all!

We have done two things:

1. We donated £3,000 to the Eklavya Education Foundation in India that went directly to the construction of the primary school in Aadariyana, a village the size of Harbury. Aadariyana is an isolated village about 85 Miles west of Ahmedabad, with 5,500 people living in the community. Farming (cattle, goats and horticulture) and crafts (textile) are the main source of income.
2. We held a workshop with 35 representatives of the different castes and religions in the village to establish a shared vision for the community, using the tools and processes and that Daniel's company InterAlign normally applies in companies. They all agreed that education was most important for the future of Aadariyana and actively supported the building of the school in the months ahead.

For instance, during the dry period in summer, water for cement mixing had to be fetched from 5 miles away! Disaster Management at Coventry University is trying to get funding to develop this approach further.

Jane, Daniel and Nicholas have visited the village for the 'Bhoom Pooja' laying of the first stone, and were impressed with the positive attitude of the people. The school was officially opened in October 2001 making it the first one in Gujarat, as far as we know.

The building is earthquake-proof and has access for disabled children. It is a cluster school that supports 9 other schools in surrounding villages. In the evening the school is used for adult education specially helping women to develop new skills.

Eklavya is going beyond just rebuilding the school; it has established a long-term training programme for the teachers. The effort is towards rebuilding the village and the relationships.

They do not require any more funds for this long-term commitment, but are considering using our approach in another village. And there is so much else to do, still people sleep in tents, containers are used as schools.

We are waiting for Eklavya's decision to donate the rest of the money;

alternatively it will be used to develop learning materials (posters, games) to help children understand earthquakes and appropriate constructions.

On behalf of Aadariyana villagers thank you all again. It is good to know that we were able to contribute to their future.

Web site references:

<http://www.eklavya.org/>

<http://www.eklavya.org/proj-1-1.htm>

<http://www.interalign.org/ahmedabad.htm>

Daniel & Jane Steenstra, Roy Brown

Blues Night

Would anyone be interested in a monthly Blues Night in the village? I am looking for musically minded people who would be willing to have a bash at the Blues. I have been in touch with a band that are eager to perform, but they would like other people to either join in with them or have a go on their own. It would probably take place on the 3rd Thursday in the month and the venue possibly the Village Club.

If you are interested in this venture, please give me a call on 817019.

Steve Heydon

Recycling for Charity

Following an article in the Coventry Evening Telegraph, the Macmillan Cancer Relief is asking people to donate their old mobile phones and used printer cartridges to them.

Through an arrangement with a recycling company, the charity can obtain a substantial donation for each item. We would be willing to have a collection of these items at our house in Harbury and send them on.

If you can support these wonderful nurses in our community, please drop your old mobile phones and used printer cartridges off at our house (a box will be outside the back door) and help this worthy cause.

Liz and Frank Bunting, 2, Dovehouse Lane

¡Hola! de Espana

You may have read those books about moving to Spain entitled *Snowball Oranges* and *Driving on Lemons*. I think ours would be *Walking on Water*. Collecting luggage, all 11 pieces, off the carousel on 5th November 2001 we noticed they were soaking wet. It continued raining solidly for the next three days and during the next seven weeks we had only five good days. So much for sunny Spain. The Spanish endured the worst December they have had in the last 52 years and we shivered with them. The shops were selling heaters galore and the local towns had to turn off their Christmas lights because so much electricity was being used on heating.

As there does not appear to be many drains on the roads, they soon become flooded, so driving and walking become hazardous occupations. Hillside roads were raging torrents in minutes and many gardens were washed away or flooded.

Queues and paperwork are other hazards to overcome and I can see why they say: 'mañana'. Be proud of our local post office with Brian, Mary and Dave. We went down to ours at Torrevieja to buy a stamp and queued for 36 minutes. I bought two dozen to make sure. That was one of the short queues, we went to the bank to activate our account and that took an hour and three quarters just to get to the appropriate desk. Another hour to get out of the bank. No wonder people take books to read. Mind you nobody gets annoyed. It is treated as a social occasion; I suppose people catch up on all the local gossip.

Mentioning the post, don't complain about the UK postal service. On average we get a delivery every ten days and our first lot of letters to arrive since Christmas came last Tuesday. And that's on an established area. Friends of ours on a new urbanisation don't have any post. They have to go and sort and collect theirs from the local post office.

Paperwork, goodness knows how many trees they use in a year. Everything official has to be done in triplicate and, of course, you have to queue. When you get there and think you have achieved your goal, you still have to come back to collect it and then take that pile of documents somewhere else. Some day I'll tell you about buying a car over here!!

I suppose so far you might be thinking why on earth did we move out to Spain. Well despite all I have said it is absolutely wonderful, no

regrets whatsoever. The weather since Christmas has improved greatly, we've made some good friends and been warmly welcomed into the Bowls Club. We heard today that we had been selected to play for Costa Blanca Provincial Team (County Team, in the UK). Our bungalow is coming along fairly quickly with just one or two problems.

Cost of living is a lot cheaper. We've found local places where you can get a three-course meal with a bottle of wine for £4 and stay there for as long as you like.

Life has a different pace about it, and what does it really matter about the queues and the paperwork. We are learning at a fast rate that time is not so important as it used to be; we are learning a more important lesson of living for each other.

Our new life is one we could recommend to anybody, young or old. There's a lot to do out here. It is a huge country to explore.

We'll let you know how it goes. ¡Adiós!

Wendy and Barry Latham

Travelling to London by Rail in April/May

Chiltern Railways are giving advanced notice of a proposed closure of the railway line affecting the service from Warwick, Leamington and Banbury to London Marylebone. This being to enable the single line section to be doubled.

To carry out the project it will be necessary to close the line between Banbury and Bicester North completely for 17 days from 20th April until 6th May inclusive. During that period no trains will run between these stations.

During the line closure:

Passengers travelling to or from Banbury and stations to Birmingham will have a special timetable, including a choice of alternative services to and from London.

They are planning to divert many of their West Midlands trains as possible to run to and from London Paddington via Oxford.

When through services cannot be run directly to London, because of track capacity limits in the Paddington and Reading areas, trains from Birmingham and Banbury will run to Oxford for connections with Thames Trains services to and from London Paddington.

Passengers, who would prefer to avoid the disruption entirely, and already choose to drive to one of the stations north of Bicester, can drive to Haddenham & Thame Parkway (a few minutes from M40 junction 8A). This station will have a virtually normal service to and from London Marylebone throughout the period.

There will also be a regular replacement bus service between Banbury and Bicester North, linking with trains either side of the closed section of track.

Kerry Dalton - Chiltern Railways

Doug Tanner



Doug on his daily walk along Bush Heath Lane 2002



Taken in 1945, towards the end of the World War II

When the weather permits, Doug Tanner can be seen taking his daily walk along Bush Heath Lane. Doug is an ex-Navy man who was employed before the war at Lockheed Hydraulic Brake Company in Leamington Spa.

In 1940, like many young men at that time, he gave careful thought to his continued employment with the company and decided to 'sign up' with the Royal Navy in Coventry, along with another villager, the late Dennis Bloxham. They travelled together to Plymouth and shortly afterwards another Harbury man, Bam Dealtry enlisted. Doug trained

on detecting equipment, whilst 'Den' trained on guns but after their training they went to serve on different ships.

After the war, Doug returned to the village and went to work in Harbury's signal box, which he operated on a shift pattern with Jim Abbott and the late Walt Spencer. When Dr. Beeching's axe fell on the railway system, the local station and signal box were closed, so Doug returned to 'Lockheed', from which he eventually retired at a later date.

Doug spent his school days at both the Wagstaffe and Wight Schools and fondly remembers Miss May Bird, who was the teacher at the Wagstaffe Infant School.

Mike Bloxham

Southam Panto

Come and support local children and adults in the "Mother Goose" Panto by the Grange Players in Southam, on 22nd, 23rd, & 24th February. Tickets are £4/2, from Karena 613867. Many thanks.

Karena Ellis

Pensioners' Patio

A damp, dirty day and the seagulls are flying far lower than usual. Do they ever drop into local gardens, I wonder? It would give the regular bird visitors, not to mention us, something of a shock if one suddenly landed in the birdbath. Not likely to happen – they belong to open spaces, whether of sea or sky.

The garden, like the morning, is damp though not, at the moment too dirty. Paving slabs are not only easy to sweep clear of leaves, but also simple to hose down when necessary - a great advantage.

The container contingent has been joined by a Christmas present: the tall slim package that arrived with its 'Open Now' label sheltered a little pointed box-tree already in its own green wooden planter. It stands beside the stone trough, which was manhandled into place by stalwart neighbours and we'll have to send them an S.O.S. if it ever needs moving; small as it seems, it's heavy, weighted no doubt by the moulded lemons (if that's what they are) which decorate it. Though rather more ornate than our usual style, it looks quite good with its

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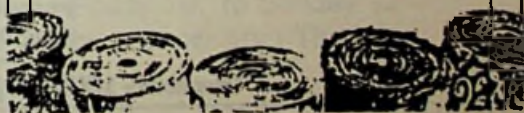
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bright yellow pansies (marvellous how they revive after a frosty night!) and a neat little conifer. It was bought in a hurry as visitors were expected and the garden looked bare (you may know the feeling).

The usual bird visitors, much as we love them, are hardly the stuff of television wildlife programmes. Maybe you have a favourite type of nature presenter, a big name underwritten by a massive budget, using incredible cameras and techniques to show us what no humans had seen not so many years ago, or the determined specialist wading through thicket and swamp in search of his quarry which, after a big build-up of near misses, can be guaranteed to turn up in the last two minutes, having no doubt signed a contract to that effect with the producer.

My own money's on that ex-comedian, who has managed to retain a childlike sense of wonder about even quite ordinary plants, birds and animals. He also shows genuine delight at the rare oddity, but just admits defeat if it doesn't materialise. A great character, Bill Oddie; he could even make an attractive programme out of our pensioners' patio.

Edyth Algar

Horticultural Society

At the last meeting, Mr. Smith gave a talk on plants generally, which included a very detailed section on orchids and their close relatives.

The slides, which he showed were superb (in fact he is a professional photographer and gave details of his camera and his favourite lenses). Mr. Smith also answered questions at the end of the evening.

To help the dark evenings along, although there is a marked improvement already, Judy has announced the outings. The day trip will be to Hodneth Hall Gardens, where there is a restaurant, then after lunch on to nearby Wollerton Old Hall. This will be by coach – more details later. The evening trip will be to Tadmarton Manor near Banbury, in members' cars. Both outings will take place in June, the actual dates will soon be announced.

We hope to arrange the next social evening this time by kind invitation of Mr. & Mrs. Brunton of South Parade, again watch this space for details.

The Malvern Spring Show this year will be Friday 10th to Sunday 12th May inclusive, then at Blenheim there will be a show from Thursday

13th until Sunday 16th June inclusive. Anybody interested in going to either or both, please contact Judy 613103 for more information, as there are concessions if we can muster sufficient numbers for each.

I expect everybody saw the article on Japanese Knotweed – let us hope the planned treatment will eventually eradicate this weed. If there are more patches in the village, or anybody suspects they have Knotweed on their ground or who could help in any way, please contact Judy Morrall 613103 or Alan Guy 614242.

To try and cut down on the snail population in the coming season it is a good idea to hunt them now and kill them. They congregate under hedges, etc. and in many dry places over winter. This was Pippa Greenwood's tip on Gardeners' Question Time on the radio this week.

The next talk will be entitled *The History of Cottage Gardens*, given by Mr. Nex.

Note: Subject for one of the classes in the photography section of the Show in September will be: *Holiday Memories!*

Muriel Grey

Gardening Notes

Now we begin to look forward to the start of another new season with the prospect of some of the traditional early flowers emerging. This month can bring a few days of spring-like weather, which can tempt us to don the wellies and get in touch with the soil once more. Try to stay off the grass as much as possible and use any good days to repair hard features around the garden or to give woodwork a coat of preservative before plants grow again.

Rose pruning can be carried out any time before the leaves begin to unfurl. Tests have shown that rough pruning gives as good a result as carefully measured cuts. Do make sure that the cuts are clean however, and the stems are not torn. Clematis, which flowered in late summer or autumn, should be cut back to the lowest pair of plump buds to prevent the base becoming bare. Check stakes and ties on plants as you go around the garden.

Pansies in pots may need watering and as you deadhead keep an eye out for disease. Tidy up any top growth on perennials that have been knocked down by the weather. Deciduous trees and shrubs can be planted, but wait until late April before putting in any evergreens.

Witch hazel shrubs are in the garden centres now so buy whilst you can see the colours, but ask which will grow in our alkaline soil.

In the kitchen garden some seeds can be sown if the soil is first warmed by black polythene or you have cloches. Early carrots and peas, broad beans, radish and shallots can go in. Try beetroot, spinach and turnips too. Dig up and pot a clump of chives and mint. Keep these in a cold greenhouse or frame for an early picking.

Keep bowls of bulbs in full light but as cool as possible. Stand pots of azaleas on damp gravel to keep their compost moist all the time. As flowers on cyclamen fade, twist and tug sharply to remove them. Bring into the house stems of the early flowering shrubs to force them into bloom.

Plant of the month: Hyacinth

Many people will now have a bowl of these beautiful, fragrant flowers, so commonplace at this time of year as a houseplant that we never think about their history.

Greek mythology would have us believe that when Hyakinthos, a youth of great beauty was accidentally killed by Apollo, his spilled blood caused the hyacinth to spring forth. Certainly the wild plant, a more slender form of our plants, with fewer and smaller bells, but the same fragrance, comes from the Mediterranean region. These were taken by the Ottoman Empire into their gardens and hybridised into a stronger form.

Around 1590 Charles de l'Ecluse, the Founding Father of the Ornamental Garden, re-introduced them to Western Europe, when he was professor of Natural Science at Leiden University. At that time our gardens were poor compared to their continental counterparts and grew only herbs and vegetables. New hybrids, named Dutch hyacinth, continued to be produced, and the botanical name of *Hyacinthus orientalis* referred only to the wild form. Their popularity was such that the flowers were favourite subjects of the Flemish painter Jan Breughel and a century later by Jan van Huysum and many other artists.

Hyacinths were introduced to Britain in 1596 as a pot plant, but were not especially valued. However, during the Industrial Revolution they were widely grown in a pot by the farm labourers who became factory workers. Perhaps as a reminder of the countryside they had left behind, although our own wild hyacinth, the bluebell, is not the same species.

Today the bulbs we buy for Christmas flowering have been specially pre-cooled and have a silvery sheen to the skin. Hyacinths are equally popular as a bedding plant but if you want them for this purpose buy the cheaper untreated ones and plant them in the border not later than the end of October. Next time you give a bowl of these wonderfully fragrant flowers you should know that in the Victorian Flower Code they signify 'play'!"

Pet Smith

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors

Jennifer and Colin Ingram would like to thank friends for their prayers, letters and cards received after the death of Dad, John (Jack) Gibey.

They were all greatly appreciated.

Jennifer and Colin

Dear Editors

I found your site and it gave a lovely snapshot of Harbury today, as I have never had the privilege of visiting there. However, a distant ancestress of mine, with an unusual name, Bellaria Beasley was born in Harbury in 1800. Can you tell me if there are any Beasleys still living in Harbury, or if there are any books about the history of Harbury which might have information about the family? I believe Bellaria's father was the town butcher. Best wishes, and even if you cannot help me, thank you for the pleasure of the site.

Val Wright

(The Editors have an e-mail address for Val Wright and if you wish to make contact with her please telephone 612155.)

Dear Editors

I'd like to say a big Thank You to all of our friends in Harbury who offered their help and support to Colin and the girls when I was in hospital. The number of good wishes, cards and gifts that came my way was overwhelming, and really kept my spirits up when things were bleak.

I'm glad to say I'm on track for a full recovery - behaving myself and doing as the doctor says (as usual!).

Love and thanks

Paulene Snowdon

Dear Editors

Your contribution to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2001 was a magnificent: £1,974.00!

Many, many thanks to our dedicated band of loyal collectors and to the generosity of the people of Chesterton, Ufton, Deppers Bridge and Harbury.

Once again, our sincerest thanks.

Harbury and District British Legion Committee

Dear Editors

Thank you to everyone who has supported our recent fund raising events. Our Coffee Morning on November 24th raised an amazing £350, and our Christmas Under 5's Disco on December 8th raised £130.

Both events were enjoyed by all; particularly the children. The money has been spent on new toys and equipment for the children, which were purchased in the January sales.

Harbury Pre-School

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

Bookings for:

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Scout Hut | Lesley van Kesteren | 613411 |
| Tom Hauley Room | Liz Bunting | 612450 |
| T. Hauley Room Coffee Morning | Mrs. J. Windsor | 612504 |
| Village Hall | Mr. P. Winchester | 614466 |
| Wight School | Mrs. L. Hayes | 613488 |

Regular Diary Dates

BABY CLINIC: Surgery, 2nd & 4th 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 2:00pm; Fridays 9:30-11:30am & 2:00-3:00pm

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, Children & Adults Weds 4:00-9:00pm

DROP-IN TEA: (612585) 19, Farm Street, 2.30 to 4.30pm, 4th Wednesday in the month

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

HARBURY FOLK CLUB: Dog Inn 1st Thursday in the month 8:30pm

HARBURY FRIENDS: School, 2nd Tuesday in the month 8:00pm

HARBURY JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB:

Under 9s: Training: 9.00am Saturday at Harbury School Pitch

Coaches: Jim Farrell 612396 and Reno Varriale

Under 11s: Training: 10.30am Saturday at Harbury School Pitch

Coaches: Jim Ward 612401 and Adrian Hawley 614353

Under 12s: Training: Playing Fields 10:30am

Coaches: Steve Darby 613330

Under 14s: Training: 10.30am Saturday at Playing Fields Top Pitch

Coaches: John Wilkins 612115; Steve Wilkins 614574,
and Dave Hudson 613958

HARBURY NURSERY SCHOOL: School, Monday-Friday; 9:00am-12:00noon;

Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays 12:45pm-3:15pm

HARBURY PRE-SCHOOL: (612781 or 613780) Wight School (behind Library), High St.

Tuesday to Friday 9:00am-1:00pm;

HARBURY VILLAGE CLUB: Contact 612498

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

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: Village Hall, 1st Tuesday in the month (Oct. to May) 8:00pm
KICK START APPALACHIAN : (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 for U5s, 10:00am 1st Thurs in the month; Term Time only
MYTON HOSPICE LINE DANCING: Harbury Village Club, 2nd Thursdays 7.30pm
MARTIAL ARTS: Village Hall, Wednesdays 6pm
NETBALL CLUB: (613239) Village Hall Car Park, Training Thursdays 6:30pm;
 Matches on Saturday Afternoon
PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP: (612221) Meeting on 2nd Thursday in the month at the
 Shakespeare 8:00pm
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 in the month 8:00pm
THURSDAY CLUB: (612273) Farley Room of Village Hall 2nd & 4th Thursday 2:30pm
TODDLER GROUP: Wight School, Monday 10:00-11:30am & Wednesday 1:30-3:00pm
W.I.: Tom Hauley Room, 2nd Thursday in the month 7:45pm
YOGA: Tom Hauley Room, Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30pm Dianne Surgey Tel. 817904
YOUTH CLUB: Village Hall, Thursdays 7:00-9:00pm

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