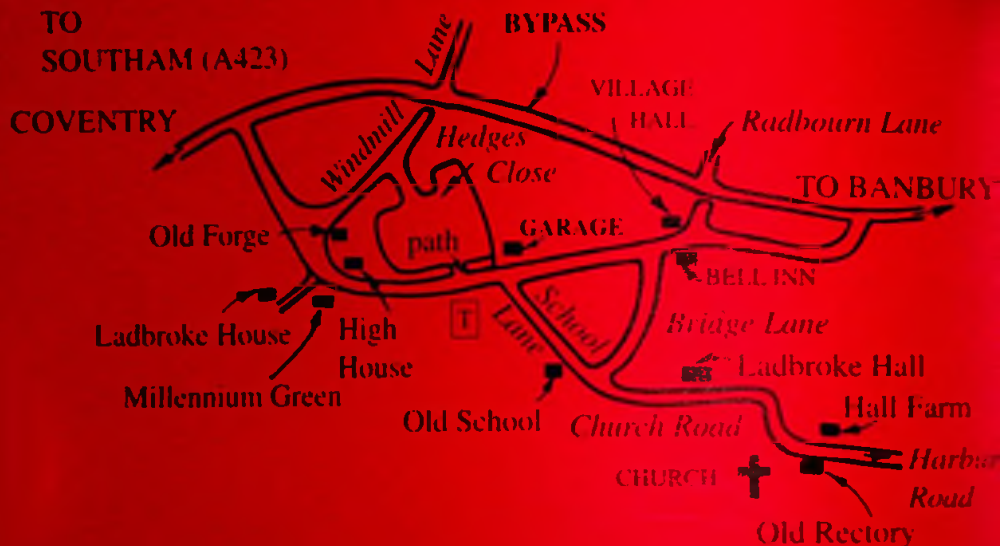




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Harbury & Ladbroke News

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

April 2003

No. 349



March has exceeded all expectations weather-wise and has given us many days of glorious sunshine. The warmth has encouraged the spring flowers to bloom and brought some of the hedgerows into leaf.

Susie Tawney has had another wonderful success, winning a silver medal in the European Masters Indoor Championship held in Spain in early March.

The Editors would like to remind you that the AGM of the Harbury & Ladbroke News will be held on Tuesday 22nd April at 8.00pm in The Shakespeare Inn and there is an open invitation to anyone in the villages to attend.

After 11 years our typist Janny Freeman is leaving the Harbury & Ladbroke News (see advertisement in the magazine). The Editors are extremely grateful for her dedication and hard work over the years.

Rosemary Barr holding a lamb in Ladbroke



Peter Cook admiring the daffodils in Vicarage Lane

The threat to the local countryside is at the forefront again with the issue of another consultation document on the siting of a new UK airport. The consultation will close on 30th June this year, so if you have concerns, it is important to register them before then.

Information is available on www.airconsult.gov.uk.

At this time our thoughts are with all service personnel and their families, especially those who find themselves in challenging circumstances (see article later in the magazine).

Finally we extend our sympathy to the family of Ann Bradby.

Harbury Diary

APRIL

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Sun | 6 LENT FIVE - Sung Eucharist 9am; Evening Worship 6pm |
| Tues | 8 Holy Communion 7.30pm
Village Hall Committee in Village Hall 8pm |
| Wed | 9 Lent Course 7.30pm in Tom Hauley Room |
| Thurs | 10 Holy Communion 9.45pm
Thursday Club in Village Hall 2.30pm
Youth Club in Village Hall 7-9pm
WI in Tom Hauley Room 7.45pm |
| Fri | 11 Holy Communion 12 noon, Lent Lunch 12.30pm in Tom Hauley Room |
| Sat | 12 Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Harbury Scouts |
| Sun | 13 PALM SUNDAY - Holy Communion 8am; Procession from School 10.15am
Sung Eucharist 10.30am |
| Mon | 14 Holy Communion 7.30pm Stations of the Cross 8pm |
| Tues | 15 ADVERTS 31, Binswood End by 5.30pm
Holy Communion 7.30pm Stations of the Cross 8pm
Senior Citizens' Committee in Village Hall 8pm |
| Wed | 16 Holy Communion 7.30pm Stations of the Cross 8pm
Tea in Tom Hauley Room 3-4pm |

- Thurs 17 **MAUNDAY THURSDAY**
Holy Communion 9.45am,
Bible Study at 12, Park Lane 2pm
Youth Club in Village Hall 7-9pm
Sung Eucharist 8pm, followed by watch at the Altar of Repose until midnight
- Fri 18 **GOOD FRIDAY** - Children's Service 9.30am
Devotional Hour 2-3pm
- Sat 19 **HOLY SATURDAY** — Recycling Collection
Men's Prayer Breakfast 7.30am in Tom Hauley Room
Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room in aid of P.C.C.
Easter Ceremonies 8pm
- Sun 20 **EASTER DAY** - Holy Communion 8am
Sung Eucharist 10.30am, Evensong 6pm
- Mon 21 **EASTER MONDAY BANK HOLIDAY**
Music Session in The Shakespeare Inn 8.30pm (contact 612832 for details)
- Tues 22 Holy Communion 7.30pm; Julian Group in Church 8pm
H&L News AGM in The Shakespeare Inn 8pm
- Wed 23 Drop in Tea for the Bereaved 2.30-4.30pm at 19 Farm St
Prayer meeting in Church 8pm
- Thurs 24 Holy Communion 9.45am
Parish Council 7-9pm
- Fri 25 **ARTICLES to Harbury Chemist, High Street by 5.30pm**
- Sat 26 Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Multiple Sclerosis Research
- Sun 27 **SECOND OF EASTER** - Holy Communion 8am, Sung Eucharist 10.30am
Harbury Society Walk, 10.30am from Surgery call 612345 for more details
- Tues 29 Holy Communion 7.30pm
- Wed 30 'Talk it Through' at 33, South Parade 8pm

MAY

- Thurs 1 Hereburgh Morris dance at Chesterton Windmill at 5am
Holy Communion 9.45am
Storytelling in Library 10am
Folk Club in The Shakespeare Inn 8.30pm
Youth Club in Village Hall 7-9pm
- Fri 2 Recycling Collection
Matthew Bason in Concert at The Grange Hall, Southam, 7.30pm (£8 Concs. £6)
- Sat 3 Youth Club Coffee Morning 10-12 in Tom Hauley Room with Presentation of
Shield for "Contribution to Village Life"
Myton Hospice Plant Sale at Dog Car Park 11-2pm
- Sun 4 **THIRD OF EASTER** - Sung Eucharist 9am
Evening Worship 6pm

All Saints' Church Harbury Sunday Services

1st Sunday in the month:	9.00am Sung Eucharist 6.00pm Evening Worship
2nd, 4th (and 5th) Sunday in the month:	8.00am Holy Communion 10.30am Sung Eucharist
3rd Sunday in the month:	8.00am Holy Communion 10.30am Family Communion 6.00pm Evensong
Every Sunday:	10.30am Sunday School (in Term Time)
Rector:	Father Roy Brown, The Rectory, Vicarage Lane, Harbury Tel.: 612377 www.harburychurch.fsnet.co.uk

From the Rector

In writing this at the end of March, I am anticipating the resurrection of Jesus Christ – Easter Sunday. **CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD.** This is great news and we need to repeat that phrase over and over, *Christ is risen*, and the heartfelt response to that truth is summed up in the shout: *Alleluia!*

Mary Magdala ran to Peter with the news that the tomb was empty, and that some one had removed the body. Unwittingly, she was announcing that the Lord had risen. The Apostles ran with that news as far as they could go, and right at the end of their lives. The Church is entrusted to run with the news until the end of time: **CHRIST IS RISEN, ALLELUIA.** The resurrection of Jesus Christ has eternal implications for every human being.

When Christ rose from the dead:

- Sin and death was finally conquered;
- Hope and optimism were made King;
- Meaning was restored to earthly existence;
- Suffering, now, could have some meaning and purpose;
- Eternal life is offered to every human being;
- Good had triumphed over evil.

For many people these are hard times. The problems of poverty, the war in Iraq, oppression of peoples, all work towards a feeling of hopelessness about this life. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the **GUARANTEE** that life has **MEANING** and there is a real **HOPE**. Some will say: *You are only offering pie in the sky.* The resurrection of

Jesus Christ is not just the promise of "pie in the sky". It is also a statement of each person's worth for the Son of God died and rose again to save each one. It is a most radical phrase to utter, *Christ is risen*. It implies the worth and dignity of all people because He died and rose again to SAVE US ALL.

Fr. Roy

From the Registers

Funerals at All Saints' Harbury

27th February - Ann Bradby, 49



Mothers' Union

Afternoon meeting: The Rector took our Lent Service in March, and Mavis Young was our organist.

The address was given by the Rev. Marjorie Warnes. She spoke about how we prepare practically for Easter, and how we should also be preparing spiritually during Lent to make ourselves ready for the joyous time of Easter.

Evening meeting: We had another inspiring talk at the evening meeting from Margaret Sweet who is co-ordinator for the M.U. Prayer and Spirituality Unit in the diocese.

Margaret organises all M.U. diocesan church services as well as arranging Quiet Days and overseeing the emergency prayer chains. As soon as a request for prayer is received she contacts each of nine chains and the message is passed down so that prayers are soon going up all over the diocese. Margaret is also a Reader in the Church.

She encouraged us to access the Coventry M.U. website, at www.mothersunion-cov.org.uk, which has been praised as one of the best.

Next meetings:

Wed. 2nd April 2.00pm Service; 2.30pm Betty Phillips on *The History of M.U.*
Tues. 15th April 8.00pm Alan Barr on *Birdwatching*.

C. Mary Catt

Toddlers' Service

Mrs. Alison Abbott led our service in March. We sang *There are hundreds of sparrows*, and then Mrs. Abbott, with the help of puppets, told us about the shepherd who lost one sheep and searched until he found it. She told us that God loves us just as the shepherd loved the sheep.

After a prayer, the children finished pictures of sheep by sticking on cotton wool.

The next service will be at 2.15pm on Tuesday 8th April. All babies and toddlers, with an adult, are very welcome.

C. Mary Catt

From the Churchwardens



Women's World Day of Prayer – Service 7th March

In our notes this month there is much to report. It has, above all, been a prayerful month. We began with a Day of Prayer for Peace, especially in Iraq. Many came into church to say a prayer, to light a candle, to sit in quietness. Each Thursday now before the 9.45am Holy Communion Service a candle is lighted and we are all invited to come at whatever time to pray for peace. Then on March 7th there was an Inter-denominational Service to mark the Women's World Day



The Caucus Race – March Family Service

of Prayer, prepared for us by Christian Women of Lebanon; its theme *Holy Spirit, Fill Us*. It was a moving service. We were very pleased to welcome Sarah Bennett who spoke of the significance of the Holy Spirit in her own life and we do thank Mary Catt for all that she did behind the scenes to make it a special time.



Sunday School Prizes: Robert Rollason, 50 attendances and Joshua Hill, 25 attendances

The Family Service followed. It was led by Tony, ably supported by members of the Men's Prayer Breakfast group. There are talents there that were hidden but have now been exposed to public view. Watch this space! Taking as his theme the *Caucus Race* from Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, Tony showed us that wherever we start from, wherever we are on the track, as long as we press on towards the finishing line, there are heavenly prizes for all; everybody's won. And what's more, the children and adults had a wonderful time.

Several of us attended the open meeting of the Deanery Synod when the possible future of the Southam Deanery was

discussed. Information is being given to the PCC and will be considered at a future meeting. Meanwhile, if there are issues that concern you, please ask Father Roy or one of us.

Last, but by no means least, we remind you of all that is happening during Lent to help us to make a prayerful preparation for Easter. There is the opportunity for Fellowship at each Friday's Holy Communion service and Lent lunch. Father Roy's teaching each Wednesday evening has been truly inspiring, giving us the opportunity to review the implication of the promises we made at Confirmation and the chance to renew them or to consider making them for the first time. There is, too, in the discussion that follows, a way of getting to know each other in a different context. If you have not been, you have missed something. If it has not been possible for you to join us, please do ask for copies of Roy's addresses, which will be available at the end of the course.

Lesley and Felicity

Better than Ballet

Every Sunday in school term-time between 10:30 and 11:30am, a small but loyal group of primary school-aged children meet in the Tom Hauley room behind the church to take part in lively and enjoyable activities as part of Sunday school. On the second and fourth Sundays of each month, they join the end of the Sunday service for the Communion. On the third Sunday, the children join the rest of the congregation for the family service. On the first Sunday when morning service is at 9 am, the children have their own small service at 10:30 as usual.

Sunday School is led by a team of enthusiastic adult volunteers who aim to introduce children to the Christian story and familiar Bible tales without forcing religion on them. Activities include drama, drawing, singing songs and making up poems, and often, cooking! The present group of children is aged between four and nine years, and older ones have attended more than a hundred times. They don't all come every week. All we ask is that you safely deliver and collect them on time and we will do the rest! The care and attention they receive is well rewarded by their comments. One little girl could think of nothing nicer. *Sunday school, she said, is even better than ballet.*

For more information, phone Sally or John Stringer on 613214.

Sally Stringer

Mothers' Union needs Needles

One of the activities of Harbury Mothers' Union is the knitting of Prayer Shawls for Hospices, including Myton Hospice.

These shawls are knitted on size "0" (8mm) needles, which are proving difficult to find. If you have some size "0" needles that you no longer need and would like to donate them to the Mothers' Union please phone Barbara Thistlethwaite on 613555 and she will arrange to collect them.

Barbara Thistlethwaite



What will it cost me?

There will be 134 Alpha courses running in the UK's 160 prisons this autumn, but you do not have to go inside to gain from one.

1.3 million people in the United Kingdom have already attended an Alpha course. Alpha is a basic course in Christianity, and All Saints Church plan to run one in the autumn of this year. Alpha courses have run twice before at All Saints', attracting committed Christians, questioning Christians and uncommitted people of all ages. The open nature of each meeting means that nobody is put under pressure or made to feel unwelcome. If you find it is not for you, you do not have to come again either and nobody will chase you. It will not cost you anything, so unlike that evening class you never quite got on with, you will not be wasting a fee. Alpha courses have always been noted for the importance of food and there may well be an opportunity to enjoy a good meal in good company if you choose to join the Alpha course away day.

The national Alpha course aim for this year is that everyone in the UK should have the opportunity to go to an Alpha meeting this September and Harbury will be no exception, so keep your Monday evenings free and come along. What do you have to lose? Certainly not your freedom.

John Stringer 613214

Coventry and Warwickshire Organists' Association

On March 15th, the Coventry and Warwickshire Organists' Association visited Harbury Church for an afternoon of mixed music and educational matters. There were four different sessions. Alan Baker on the music staff of St. Mary's Warwick gave a talk with practical examples of arranging music (hymns) for small instrumental groups (like Jubilate). I demonstrated a variety of uses for computers in music, including printing music and recording music in various ways and turning a computer into a church organ!

After a very welcome tea break, Adrian Moore, Director of Music at Holy Trinity, Leamington demonstrated and played his beautiful harpsichord. Finally, we were able to meet our new president, Katherine Dienes, Music Director at St. Mary's, Warwick who gave a stunning demonstration recital on the Harbury organ. It was exciting to hear our organ played by a top professional. Charles Catt remarked that he had heard sounds from the organ he had not heard before!

Clive Watts

What's in a name?

Looking through the Harbury Diary it struck me that the diversity of names we use for the various services in Church might well be confusing or even meaningless to many people. For instance, what is 'Evening Worship' as opposed to 'Evensong'? Similarly the Church meets in a wide variety of small group settings on different days, for different purposes. But have you ever wondered what on earth is 'Talk it Through' and what could possibly happen at the 'Men's Prayer Breakfast', especially at 7.30 on a Saturday morning?

For the curious, here's a brief 'user's guide' to the main services at All Saints', and a couple of the group meetings to be going on with.

All Sunday morning services are centred on the Communion, i.e. the sharing of bread and wine, a reminder or enacting of Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples.

Sung Eucharist: a full communion service with sung responses and hymns. 'Eucharist' comes from the Greek meaning 'giving thanks'.

Holy Communion: a said communion service without hymns.

Family Communion: a popular service held monthly, it includes a short presentation by lay people instead of a sermon, and music by the Jubilate group. A simplified communion service for all the family.

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Evening Worship: a simple Sunday evening service (not communion) with songs and readings, using modern language.

Evensong: a traditional Sunday evening service (not communion) with sung responses and hymns, taken from the Book of Common Prayer.

Everyone is most welcome to any of these services. If coming to Church is unfamiliar territory for you, do not be put off by the names; choose a service that sounds most suitable and give it a try. As with anything new, going through the door is the hard part. Once inside you will find a warm welcome. This was experienced recently by a couple who now come regularly, who likened it to joining a big family.

Small Groups

Talk it Through: This growing group meets on alternate Wednesday evenings at 33, South Parade, the home of Tony and Shirley Brunton for friendship, Christian fellowship and discussion. There is no fixed agenda, but it is a place where concerns can be aired and friendships grown. Anyone is welcome to come and the refreshments are recommended! If you are interested, call Tony and Shirley on 612191. Dates (after Easter) will be in the Harbury Diary.

Men's Prayer Breakfast: As its name implies, a group for men. Meeting on the third Saturday every month at 7.30am, medals all round! Not to mention hot drinks, rolls and marmalade. At the start of the weekend, a chance to meet together, share and pray. For details contact Tony Stubbs on 612782, or just come along.

These are just two of many small groups that have grown out of All Saints'. Next month we will highlight two more.

Lesley and Felicity

Laugh Line

While addressing the crowd at *Speaker's Corner* in Hyde Park, the distinguished Methodist Minister Lord Soper was interrupted by a heckler who kept shouting: *What about flying saucers?*

Finally Lord Soper turned to him and, much to the delight of his audience, silenced him with: *I cannot deal with your domestic difficulties now.*



Ladbroke News

APRIL

- | | | |
|-------|----|---|
| Wed | 9 | Lent Lunch 12.30pm Fields Farm, Holy Communion 2pm,
Women's Fellowship 2.45pm |
| Sun | 13 | PALM SUNDAY - Sung Communion 9am |
| Mon | 14 | Ladbroke Village Hall Draw at The Bell Inn 8pm |
| Wed | 16 | Ladbroke Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall 7.45pm |
| Thurs | 17 | MAUNDY THURSDAY Holy Communion 7pm |
| Fri | 18 | GOOD FRIDAY Children's Service 10.30am, Devotional Hour 12-1pm
Music and Readings 7pm |
| Sat | 19 | WI Spring Council meeting at the Spa Centre, Leamington Spa |
| Mon | 21 | Music Session in The Shakespeare Inn, Harbury 8.30pm (contact 612832 for
details) |
| Sun | 20 | EASTER DAY - Sung Communion 9am |
| Thurs | 24 | Ladbroke WI meeting |
| Sun | 27 | SECOND OF EASTER - Sung Communion 9am |

MAY

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| Fri | 2 | Matthew Bason in Concert at The Grange Hall, Southam, 7.30pm (£8 Concs. £6) |
| Sun | 4 | THIRD OF EASTER - Family Communion 10.30am |

Women's Fellowship

It is with much regret that we have to announce the death of one of our members, Gill Moore, after much suffering; our condolences go out to her families.

At our March meeting we were entertained by Mary Entwistle from Harbury. Mary gave us a very informative talk on her days as a Land Army Girl. Her enthusiasm for the outdoor life was amazing and what a dedicated lady she was.

Up with the sun and cycling for five miles before starting a very strenuous day's work. Mary was asked to weed a strip of a field one day, and after many hours of hard labour, went to the boss and asked if all was OK; only to be told that the whole field had to be done. Of course when she had done this, the weeds were growing again so she had to do the job all over again. This took a total of three weeks at the end of which she was a very fit young lady.

We thoroughly enjoyed your talk Mary and many of us have purchased your books. Thank you for coming to our group.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 9th April at the home of Betty Winkfield at Home Farm, Ladbroke.

Jo Sowerby 811749

Ladbroke and Deppers Bridge W.I.

The meeting held in the Village Hall on February 27th was too late for the last edition of the H&L News. The meeting was very well attended by members who were prepared and ready to colour their silk scarves.

President Anne welcomed Lorraine Whitehouse, the Instructress for this Craft evening. Although the members all followed Lorraine's instructions no two scarves were the same when finished; colours and patterns were very varied. All enjoyed an interesting evening; even the six members who had decided not to make a scarf wished they had done! Instead, they answered a quiz compiled by Anne. In future, Ladbroke members will be recognised by their scarves.

Arrangements were made for the Spring Council meeting at the Spa Centre, Leamington Spa on March 19th when four members will be acting as Stewards. The raffle prizes were won by: Susan, Jean and Lesley. Tea Hostesses were: Julia and Pam.

The March meeting held on 27th, began with a welcome from the President. Anne then expressed the sadness that we all felt at the death of Gill Moore, a long serving member and past President.

The Group meeting will be at Long Itchington Community Centre on May 7th at 7.30pm. Names of volunteers were taken to sell raffle tickets. The competition for the evening is to wear a hat suitable for a Royal Garden Party.

Suggestions for our August Outing were made and a final decision will be taken in Committee.

A brief report of the Spring Council meeting was given by Susan who had received a letter of thanks to the helpers. It was the 85th anniversary of the Warwickshire W.I. The Chairman, officers and Dignitaries walked into the Hall to the music of Happy Birthday. After the business reports the morning speaker was Jan Wade, formerly a Police Officer for 30 years, a WI member and now Editor of the County Newsletter. She had stepped in when the arranged speaker had been unable to come. Her talk was informative, amusing and very much enjoyed.

The afternoon speaker was Mr. Normal Willis, ex General Secretary of the TUC, who told us many anecdotes of his working life. He is also a keen worker in cross-stitch – another interesting speaker.

The Supporters Club raffle was drawn and Catherine Spence won the first prize. Seven large sacks of discarded jewellery were collected for Charity. The Autumn Council meeting will be on October 29th at the same venue.

Anne welcomed the evening entertainers, Peter and Jeanette Cook, who gave an hilarious presentation of monologues, poems and drama. They had some strange relatives during their childhood! Marie gave the vote of thanks. Jean Clews was the fortunate winner of this year's bursary for Denman College. Raffle prizes were won by: Marie, Betty and Chris.

The next meeting is on April 24th, when Mr. Hector Sutherland will be with us to talk about *Queen Elizabeth I's* visit to Charlecote.

Tea Hostesses: Collette and Sue.

Hazel Sharples

Ladbroke Village Hall Draw

The second draw of 2003 took place on Monday 10th February, in the Bell Inn, Ladbroke.

The prize winners were:

- £80.00 - Chris Payne
- £25.00 - Mike Todman
- £25.00 - Helen Dowdeswell
- £10.00 - Kevin Pickin
- £10.00 - Maureen Wright
- £10.00 - Muriel Grey
- £10.00 - Nancy Stubbs
- £10.00 - Rhian Kelsall

The next draw will take place at 8.00pm on Monday 14th April 2003 at the Bell Inn, Ladbroke.

Mike Radburn

Ladbroke Parish Council Reports

The meeting of the Ladbroke Parish Council took place on 19th February 2003 in Ladbroke Village Hall at 7.45 pm.

Present were: District Cllr. Chris Williams, Cllrs. Peter Baker, Derek Batty, Richard Bennett, Janice Berry and Tim Seden, Clerk Linda Doyle, P.C. Andy Went, Michael Boden Pritchett and three villagers.

Apologies: County Cllr. Bob Stevens.

Chairman Richard Bennett signed the minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2003. Matters arising: The Macklin Bridge Pole is still in place.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998: Cllr Peter Baker gave an interim report on the Crime and Disorder questionnaire he is carrying out. Less than twenty percent of the village has been covered so far. He has found that: 83% of those consulted believe Ladbroke has a problem with speeding vehicles; 67% believe house burglary is a problem and 42% believe the problem is vehicle crime.

Peter went on to say that under Section 2 Possible Solutions, the statistics relating to this section would be completed once the programme of work has been finished, as it is clear to him that villagers find it difficult to relate their 'potential problems to possible solutions'. For example: no one thinks there is a problem with drugs in

the village, but when asked if a solution to the problem was to "provide better and more factual information about drug misuse and present this to education programmes and parents", no less than 67% said "yes", when, in fact they should have said "no" because they did not see this as a problem in the first place. The Parish Council will need some care when interpreting the wishes of the villagers in this regard.

Speeding Traffic and Quiet Lanes: P.C. Andy Went confirmed that some motorists are not conforming to the thirty mile per hour speed limit within the village. He has spoken to the Mini Centre regarding the use of the village as a trials circuit and although they cannot be stopped from driving through the village, they can be stopped from driving at excessive speeds and becoming a nuisance to residents. He has spoken to the owner of the turf-lorries which are being driven through the village fully laden in the early morning. He will also be looking into the weight limits.

Planning Matters: The Parish Council supports the following applications:

Folly Field's Farm – Mrs. S Scholes (03/00247/AGNOT) Hay Barn.

Mr. and Mrs. Theaker, Cherry Trees (03/00281/TREE) Leylandii.

Mrs. E Pittaway, 1 Village Farm (03/00270/FUL) Licensed Store. Mrs. Pittaway attended the meeting. The Parish Council has given its support with the recommendation: that approval is given for an initial twelve months to monitor the business for traffic, noise and annoyance to immediate neighbours and to be reviewed at the end of this period before full permission is granted.

(03/00189/REM) Southam Warehouse new planning application. This application is much improved, being seven units (units 1 and 2 are individual warehouse units but if needed can be merged into a warehouse with four levellers). The Parish Council has no objection to this application, as it is certainly not a distribution centre. If this is granted permission, the 02/01908/REM, the Southam Warehouse Application Planning Appeal will automatically be cancelled.

Old Barn Farm (02/00574/AGNOT) Planning Hearing held at Shire Hall, Warwick on 28th January 2003 (Mr. D Webster and Mrs. S. Scholes). The Inspector will be making his report available in 28 days.

Mr. C. Wall, The Barn (03/00299/AGNOT). The Parish Council wanted clarification from Stratford that this is agricultural.

The meeting was told that permission had been refused for the Airstrip at Wormleighton (02/03444/FUL).



Churchwarden David Rutherford with new gates at Churchyard to Farmyard field

Parish Path Volunteers: Michael Boden Pritchett distributed his ground report and parochial update No.22. Footpath SM-33 and 33a Farmyard Field. The new replacement gate was re-instated within the churchyard boundary fence-line. The new Millennium/Jubilee way marking finger post can now be installed.

Ploughing and Cropping Campaign – 2003: Notice has been received that with effect from this year, a procedure has now been instituted to record each and every act of footpath non-reinstatement by farmers and landowners. This will result in enforcement being implemented and with a much stronger risk of legal action then ensuing. This is

a county-led initiative and is neither parochially nor P3 motivated.

Blue Lias Ring Group – Walk leaflet: The proposed format for leaflet No.3 Ladbroke and The Lost Villages has been approved. Two thousand copies will be printed although there are insufficient funds in the BLRG coffers. Sarah Manchester will confirm whether the cost of the project will be met from the Peethree funding account, her reply is eagerly awaited.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm and the next Parish Council meeting arranged for Wednesday 19th March.

The meeting of Ladbroke Parish Council took place on 19th March 2003 in Ladbroke Village Hall at 7.45 pm.

Present were: District Cllr. Chris Williams, Cllrs. Derek Batty, Richard Bennett, Janice Berry and Tim Seden, Clerk Linda Doyle, P.C. Andy Went, and two villagers.

Apologies: County Cllr. Bob Stevens and Cllr. Peter Baker.

Chairman Richard Bennett signed the minutes of the meeting held on 19th February 2003. Matters arising. The pole under Macklin Bridge

is still in situ; a contractor has been given instructions to remove it and the work should be completed by end of May.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998: Cllr Peter Baker will give an account of his findings at the next meeting.

Police Matters and Neighbourhood Watch: P.C. Andy Went said that between 11.30 hours and 15.15 hours on Thursday 27/02/03 offenders gained entry to outbuildings in Ladbroke. Horse saddles, riding caps and a bridle were stolen.

May Elections: Information about the forthcoming parish and district elections will be displayed on the village notice board

Planning Matters: The Parish Council supports the following applications:

Mr. and Mrs. Moore, Manor Farm (03/00521/LBC) listed building conversion to holiday home.

Mr. and Mrs. Moore, Manor Farm (03/00520/FUL) conversion to holiday home.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Clews, The Grove, Harbury Road, (03/00798/FUL) Pitched roof to replace flat roof on side extension.

Mr. C. Wall, The Barn (03/00299/AGNOT). The councillors requested a site visit.

Southam Warehouse (03/00189/REM). Cllr. Williams told the meeting that the new planning application was approved. The Southam Warehouse Application Planning Appeal (02/01908/REM) will now have to be officially withdrawn by Southam Properties of Milton Keynes.

The Millennium Green Committee has announced that the Village Fete is to be held on 28th June 2003.

The bollards at both ends of the village have been knocked over and damaged. The Clerk said they would be replaced in the next couple of weeks.

The meeting closed at 9.44 pm and the next Parish Council meeting arranged for Wednesday 16th April at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall, Ladbroke.

Janice Berry

Ladbroke is today very saddened by the death of Gill Moore on March 26th.

Gill had coped with illness for several years; having had a heart bypass in the early 1990's. She recovered to spend some very happy holidays with husband Bob before he died.

Gill, with Bob ran the Friends of Ladbroke Church for some years. She had been President of the Women's Institute and a member of the Women's Fellowship.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Gill's family, especially daughter Sarah whose baby's birth is imminent.

Betty Winkfield

Ladbroke Neighbourhood Watch

Policesafe

In 1996, police stations in Warwickshire 'officially' stopped keeping records of keyholders for premises. Consequently an automated process was set up called Policesafe and information is now stored centrally at Leek Wootton. All officers will have access to this information, not just local officers. Radio communication is quick and efficient for divulging keyholder information from data on a central computer. It contains a list of all contact telephone numbers.

Information stored on Policesafe includes vulnerability of your premises, security company details, electrician/boarding/gas supplier information as well as the neighbour/family member who also has keys to your property. Should you need more information regarding this scheme, please telephone 01926 415160 or call into Southam Police Station for an application form. There is a cost involved.

Boing UK Limited

In November 2002 Warwickshire Police Force with many other police forces nation-wide joined a partnership with Boing UK Ltd. It had been noticed that many calls received from members of the public were not specifically police matters – in future these calls will now be forwarded to Boing.

The Boing Service Response Centre offers a quick and reliable, 24 hours, 365 days a year service to the county police and members of the public alike. All calls will be treated in a sympathetic and practical manner. The Free-phone telephone number is 0800 587 0548.

Services include: Glaziers/Boarding up, Locksmiths, Tree Surgeons, Electricians, Fencing, Plumbing and Heating Services, Builders, Skip Hire, Graffiti Removal, Pest Control, Roofing, Caravan Repairs, Voluntary Services, Information, Chemists, Routers/Directions, Breakdown Recovery, etc.

Crimestoppers

The Crimestoppers telephone number is 0800 555 111. This number can be used if you wish to make our communities safer but want to remain anonymous because of the fear of reprisals or other reasons.

- ⇒ Calls to Crimestoppers are free;
- ⇒ Callers are not asked for their name or address;
- ⇒ Calls are not recorded or traced;
- ⇒ Cash rewards of up to £500 are available, paid via local banks if the information supplied results or assists in an arrest and charge.

Crimestoppers is open from 8.00 am to 10.00 pm Monday to Friday and from 8.00 am to 4.00 pm at the weekend.

Finally, a message from Stratford Neighbourhood Watch. If you pick up the telephone receiver and someone you do not know asks for your postcode, do not give it to them. If they say they are data protection engineers or anything like that, ignore them. If you do get into conversation with them and they ask you to press telephone keys 90 hash (90#), on no account do so, as otherwise your line is exposed to illegal calls abroad and to every other line that they want to contact (for which you will be billed). The police are aware that this scam is happening; they want everyone to be aware of it to avoid crime getting off the ground.

Janice Berry

Harbury Parish Council Meeting - February

It was an uncomfortable meeting with, initially only four Councillors present, including Chairman Dutch Van Spall – they were outnumbered by the audience of six!

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The Chairman announced that if members of the public wanted to make a contribution they would have to put in a request to speak before the meeting (this is the formal procedure for Parish Councils). Cllr. Van Spall himself then complained about the length of the meetings and suggested there should be a tea break at half time where Councillors could chat (presumably amongst themselves).

Cllr. Van Spall had attended the Parish Councils' Association meeting at Napton. The refreshments were good and the Planning Enforcement Officer had explained why Stratford D.C. rarely took offenders to law.

The Chairman had invited the County's Emergency Planning Team to put up a speaker for the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr. Drinkwater was worried that the Council would be embarrassed by the dearth of support from parishioners.

The Chairman had written to Conservative MP John Maples about the lack of Broadband availability in rural areas. It appears to be another cause about which the Chairman is passionate as he gave a very full explanation about the disadvantage suffered by rural businesses denied access to this service. Harbury will need to have at least 200 households registered before BT will consider upgrading the exchange.

Cllr. Van Spall reported he and Cllr. Mancell had negotiated with WCC for fewer signs along Ivy Lane but to comply with the One-Way regulations there had to be a backlit sign and large white signs on the roadway. It transpires that the County will not put up all the signs until it is convinced that the system will actually work!

The Chairman had been active in Deppers Bridge, badgering South Warwickshire Housing Association to plant trees on the Playing Field. Cllr. Van Spall said WCC was dealing with the fall-out from the traffic calming and that there was nothing the Parish Council could do about the hayrick (and now the muck heap) that had appeared behind residents' gardens, as it was a "neighbour dispute".

The Chairman was to invite "key members" of community groups to form a Committee to assess who should get the prize for "Young Person of the Year". The chosen community groups were; the Church, Harbury Primary School, Southam College, Scouts, Guides, Parish Council, Youth and Sports Clubs. District Councillor Patrick managed to get the Theatre Group added.

Cllr. Janet Thornley had succeeded in securing funds for the skateboard park and wanted to complete the facility by providing a footpath and developing the mounds. She resisted the Chairman's suggestion that the grant aid should be used for future maintenance. Dutch Van Spall thought she should continue to raise money for a Sinking Fund to cover replacement and repairs.

However, it was pointed out that the District Council reimbursed the Parish for maintenance of such equipment. (A precedent had been set by the Springboard group, spearheaded by former Cllr. Walsh, who secured grants for the small children's play area. Their commitment had ceased once the facility was installed.)

Planning

SDC granted extensions at 18 Manor Orchard, 7 Pineham Avenue, 14 Vicarage Lane, and 27 Deppers Bridge. Re-instatement of the 2nd floor attic accommodation with addition of four pitched roof dormers (3 at the front, 1 at the rear) and re-instatement of chimney stack at 2 Mill Street. Refurbishment (part demolition and extension) of existing buildings to form two business units and construction of four class B1 units at Churchlands Farm, Bascote Road. Conversion of existing garages into bedrooms with a glazed link to existing properties at Mansfield Barn, Fosse Way. Various tree works at 4 Blenheim House, Farm Close. The erection of two dwellings at Mill View, Chesterton Road was refused. The Great Western application was withdrawn.

Parish Council made no comments on extensions at: 15 Manor Orchard, 27 Deppers Bridge, 13/15 Mill Street, 10 South Parade; but said Churchlands Farm barn, Bascote Road was unsuitable for holiday lets because of its proximity to light industrial units and they objected strongly to the twin tracking application on the Southam distribution site. They made extensive representations on the planned Materials Recycling Plant at Ufton Tip.

Linda Ridgley



Harbury Society

Harbury Society AGM

At our AGM Chairman Alan Lord outlined the work of the Society and paid tribute to the efforts of retiring Treasurer, John Lapraik. New Treasurer John Holden gave the Accounts and the existing

Committee plus Margaret Wilson were elected en bloc.

The speaker, Ed Wilson, Planning Archaeologist, arranges for the

County's most vulnerable sites on the Sites and Monument Record to be investigated when development is proposed.

The Record for Harbury outlines the Medieval settlement and important buildings; Roman coins had been found in the Paddock round the Church and there was evidence of medieval house platforms. When Transco cut a pipeline across the parish a very rare Neolithic cremation site with bones and a circular pot were discovered near the village.

Nearby Chesterton is now a small hamlet but an air photo showed remains of several medieval sites with ridge and furrow, as Chesterton was much more extensive.

The "Camp" is just the final phase of the Roman settlement, fortified by the remaining inhabitants after the Roman Army pulled out of Britain in 410AD. At its height the original town extended well beyond the Camp area. There were villas outside the town used by residents as summer retreats.

An amateur archaeology group working at Chesterton undertook a geophysical survey, which clearly showed the grid pattern of the internal roads and even the plot boundaries. They excavated part of an extensive Roman Villa with a hypocaust at Ewefields Farm, including a tessellated pavement uncovered by Mr. Warhurst's cows!

Our Ed Wilson leads a Walk round Ufton Fields on 27th April (Surgery 10.30am or Ufton Fields Car Park at 11am). Tree Survey Walk is on Sunday 18th May.

Linda Ridgley

Harbury Women's Institute



At our Coffee Morning on June 7th, we also hope to have a Luncheon afterwards. Just to give you plenty of notice. Then on Carnival Day we are having the usual Cake Stall, so all members are asked for their support, please.

There is to be an 85th Birthday Exhibition at the Community Art Gallery (old library) in Leamington Spa in October, where there will be a large number of exhibits of all sorts of crafts. Harbury WI will be displaying their hanging, depicting features of the village and worked on by our clever band of embroiderers. It always seems such a shame that it is only seen on such occasions.

The annual Members Evening was fun with the usual group of members providing the quizzes. Good they were too! The varied questions certainly taxed the brain and were well compiled - our thanks to the 'Gels'.

At April's meeting, Mrs. Glenda Montgomery will be giving a demonstration of *Cooking with Pork* and we hope to welcome other WI members in the area. It should be an interesting evening.

Jeanne Beaumont

Harbury Folk Club

The topical theme for the 220th session of the Folk Club, on March 6th, was 'War and Peace', and proved to be an inspiration for many of the performers although it did inevitably mean that there wasn't quite as much humour as usual. However, we also reflected that it was almost exactly 10 years since the Club celebrated its 100th session in the Old New Inn, an occasion which, thankfully, was recorded on tape for nostalgia enthusiasts like me.

I started the evening with a tune written for our own *Doctor John* and that was followed by Daniel and Susie with *Recruited Collier* and *Flesh and Blood* from the repertoires of Kate Rusby and Mary Black respectively. Brian, as usual, selected his fiddle tunes carefully for the theme and Pete Mason did likewise with his songs, including the moving *The Band played Waltzing Matilda*. The women were strongly in evidence on this occasion, some singing solo for a change - Janny with a rarely-heard Tom Paxton song, *The Thought Stayed Free*, Liz with *Daughters of the Revolution*, Lizzie making a very accomplished debut with *Champagne Supernova*, Maureen with that beautiful song *Song for Ireland* and Sue Harris with Huw Williams' *Rosemary's Sister*. Janny, Maureen, Ian and Pete B teamed up to perform that famous anti-war song *Last Night I had the Strangest Dream*.

I started the second half with Julie Gold's much-recorded song *From a Distance* and Martin made an excellent first appearance at the Club with *Jack Judge's Song (Tipperary)* and a monologue which told the true story of the *Battle of Hastings*. Ron's *pièce de résistance* was his topical re-write of a traditional song, *Babylon is falling* - not too many laughs there (blame the person who chose the theme!). The Harvesters included one of their old favourites, *Soldier's Return*, John chose *Bad Moon Rising* while Rik sang the Phil Ochs song *Cops of the World*. Des depressed us with *Winter turns to Spring* but then

lifted our spirits to finish the evening with the rousing, jingoistic *Hearts of Oak*.

The Garden Room of the Shakespeare Inn was full to capacity again and the charity raffle raised £40.50 for Comic Relief. The next Folk Club session will be at 8:30pm on May 1st, led by Pete Bones. Don't forget that information about the Folk Club can always be found on the Internet at <http://welcome.to/HarburyFolkClub>.

Peter McDonald

Harbury Primary School

New Head Teacher Appointed

The Governing Body has been pleased to appoint a locally serving headteacher, Mr. Denis Daly as Head Teacher of Harbury School from September 2003.

Moiria Rollason, Chair of Governors commented, "We are extremely confident that Denis Daly is the right choice for our school. We are looking forward to welcoming him, and are sure that he will continue to build on the successes of previous years".

Don't Skate Board Here Please!

An appeal to parents of older children, and those with children who have left the school. Over half-term the grounds were alive with children skate-boarding and using the grounds as a play area.

The picnic benches were used as ramps, and the litter was a disgrace, with wrappers and bottles flung down everywhere. We ask you to stress to the children that this is trespassing, and that any damage will be attributed to regular offenders.

We also ask all parents to report incidents to Mr. Chapman, preferably naming names, as he ALWAYS contacts the parents of children involved, and NEVER reveals his sources!

Our Visitor – by Adrian van Kesteren

Last week a man named Soren came to Harbury School to talk about looking after the world. Soren taught us to walk to school, don't cut down trees, all about wildlife care and never to drop litter. Can holders are incredibly dangerous to animals, if a small one gets caught in one it could choke them or break their neck.

Soren also taught us to reduce, re-use and recycle. They are all equally important to achieve a good environment for our world. Soren

told us about natural cleaners like tomato sauce can clean copper. So if you have a very dirty 2p coin dip it in tomato sauce for about 20 minutes and it will be shining. It was a very enjoyable morning and we are very glad to have had Soren at Harbury School. I thought it was very good, what do you think?

Poppy Appeal

The school donated £37.94 towards the Royal British Legion for collections made in school.

Postage Stamps

We have received a number of suggested charities that would welcome our used postage stamps. We will donate them to Guide Dogs for the Blind for the rest of this term, and then change to another charity in the summer term.

Co-op Credit Card

A payment of £52.00 was paid into the school funds from the Co-operative Bank for purchases made by those parents/friends who hold a special Schools Visa Affinity Card.

UNICEF – Non-Uniform Day

The Non-Uniform Day in aid of UNICEF raised an amazing £146.60. Thank you to everyone!

Cross Country

Congratulations to four children who qualified for the county Cross-Country Championships in Nuneaton on 15th March. They were Ben Gumbrell and Emily Howell of Year 6 and Mica Allen and Sam Bench of Year 5.

Training Course for Aspiring Classroom Assistants

A course for aspiring classroom helpers is due to be advertised next week. It will run over a ten-week period for four and a half hours once a week. Part will be theory, part practical. Flyers will be sent home or contact Carol Percival in the School Office for further details.

Earthworms

The Earthworms group is now up and running again for the new season. The flowerbeds have been dug over and the No-Dig garden has had its black plastic cover taken off ready for planting up. This has all been achieved by enthusiastic teams of children during break times. Susie Tawney has shown some of the children how to make hanging baskets, and the results can be seen at the front of the school. The willow tunnel looks brilliant too, thanks to the hard work of Bob Sherman and a dedicated group of parents.

Fostering and Adoption Leaflets

We have a stock of child fostering and adoption information leaflets in school. Should anyone wish to have one, then please call in at the School Office.

Nigel Chapman (acting Headteacher)

G.A.S.S. (Guide And Scout Support group)

First of all, two important dates for your diaries: the Brownies Coffee Morning on Saturday 5th April and the Cubs & Scouts Coffee Morning on Saturday 12th April, both in the Tom Hauley Room of course.

Please come along and support these mornings, which generate much-needed funds for the groups. As well as cakes and drinks, there is always a raffle and there will be a couple of amusements at the Cubs & Scouts morning.

While on this topic, congratulations to the Brownies for hosting the special Coffee Evening on Monday 31st March in aid of Young Cancer Care.

GASS organises the fund-raising activities that keep our Scouting and Brownie groups with a roof over their heads. For example, we will be organising a stall at the Carnival and another big event early next year as well as the Village Bonfire Night.

We would love to hear from anyone who would like to join us. The current members' children are passing through the groups all the time so we need to get fresh faces in, to keep us in touch! Thank you in anticipation.

Alan Guy (614242)

Who Stole Our Telephone Box?

The Telephone Box on the corner of Francis Road and Vicarage Lane has disappeared.

Mary Muggleston saw it going out of the village on the back of a lorry.

Ex-policeman John Drinkwater is on the case. He took reports from residents that it was spirited away a fortnight ago. Did you see it go?

The Parish Council rejected suggestions it was repossessed by BT. They had no notification and BT is a responsible body.

Perhaps it will be up to Pc Hill to solve the MYSTERY OF THE MISSING PHONE BOX.

Just what will we lose next?

'Agatha' Ridgley

Harbury Pre-School

March has been a very busy month for the children at Pre-School. It all began with Shrove Tuesday, when the children helped make pancakes. The skills they have developed using a bat & ball came very useful in tossing the pancakes!

The children have been learning enthusiastically about the seasonal changes happening around us. They have made a lovely spring picture with extra woolly lambs and have learnt about new life. The beautiful spring weather has been ideal for the children to be outside noticing the spring flowers and budding trees.



March 6th was World Book Day. Pre-School was given the opportunity to go into the Library to listen to stories. The children loved hearing about Kipper's adventures and were eager to look at all the books.

We had a visit from the "Kids Klub" video company who invited the children to make their own video. The theme they chose was Safari Adventure! The film was made using back projection and the children thoroughly enjoyed pretending to drive a jeep while waving at gorillas, giraffes and lions.

Throughout this busy time the children have been looking at shapes and have been noticing straight and curvy lines. It is so pleasing when

the children can reinforce what they have been learning in Pre-School in their every day environment.

On March 20th we held a parents evening at the Pre-School which was very successful. This gave the children's pre-school key workers an opportunity to discuss the development of the children with parents. The classroom was set up to reflect a normal session to show parents, particularly Dads, the type of activities that are available to the children. A pre-prepared folder for each child was shown to parents, which included photographs, observations and samples of their work.

New Session: We are pleased to announce that from April 29th we will be offering a quieter play session on a Tuesday afternoon, during the Summer Term. This will start at 1.00 pm and end at 3.00 pm at the cost of £3.00. Please contact Yvette Tanner (the Pre-School leader) or Jane Kempton (Chair of Pre-School committee) for further details.

If anyone would like further information about Harbury Pre-School, then please contact Jane Kempton, Chair, on 01926 613786; alternatively, you can drop a note through Jane's door at Helen Owen House, Mill Street.

Harbury Pre-School Staff and Committee

Harbury Pre-School – Beatles Night

The music started and so did the dancing by the time the band came on stage there was not much dance floor to spare. The band played a broad spectrum of Beatles music from their early hits such as: *She Loves You* and *Please, Please Me*, through to later sounds like *Don't Let Me Down*. By the end of the evening there were lots of smiling faces and many pairs of sore feet!

It was a super social event but best of all it raised an incredible £1,621.58 which has kindly been increased by £750 from Barclays Bank (on their £ for £ scheme) to £2,371.58! We have already purchased some equipment for the children to play with and would like to use the remainder towards improvements to the flooring inside the Wight School. The children would like to say a big thank you to everyone for your support at this event.

Harbury Pre-School Staff and Committee



'The Beatles' on stage



Having a good time dancing



Everyone showing their appreciation



Exhausted but happy!

Harbury Cubs Scouts

WE NEED YOUR HELP! I have now been the Akela at 1st Harbury for six months, in which time I have come to know the Cubs Scouts, their parents and the other leaders within the group. The last six months have been a challenge, and there is a lot to report.

The Cubs have completed Badgework in both Communication and First Aid, and Challenge Awards in global events and creativity. Some boys have also done well and have been awarded their Entertainer's badge.

Apart from the pack nights, we have held some special theme evenings, which have included Harry Potter, Pirates and Robin Hood. We have also taken part in district events. At present we are leading in the district football, and we came 3rd in the Cross Country and 12th in the Swimming Gala. We will be attending Cub Camp in July to Horley, Banbury.

Membership now stands at 19/17 and there is no waiting list for new boys. However, there is a BIG PROBLEM in taking on new boys, with a busy outdoor summer programme about to start. We do not have enough leaders in uniform!

I must take this opportunity in thanking Richard Linforth who helps every week when possible; he himself came through the Scout system and feels that he should give something back in return for all the good times he experienced within scouting. Also thank you to my uniformed assistant Cub Scout leader, Isobel Clarke, who helps two evenings in four. However, due to other commitments Isobel will be unable to attend during the summer term. Thank you to all the parents who have also helped over the last six months, in particular Claire Coady and Nicola Thompson. So, if there is anyone out there interested in becoming a uniformed Cub leader, please contact me. You will need to give at least three hours each week; be prepared to take part in district events at weekends, and attend Cub camps.

I have been in scouting first in Leamington, then in Harbury for sixteen years and it is hard to put into words the enjoyment it has given me. The joy in your pack winning; the heartbreak of the boys when they come last and you tell them *it is the taking part that counts*. The sheer pride when a Cub Scout completes a task that he has found really difficult; the fear when your Cubs go over the side of a forty-foot high wall, and abseil down the other. For the first time, the sleepless nights on Cub camps, and for the many new and different people you get to

meet, and all the new friends you make, I would not change any of it. The joy is when you have all had enough fun you can return them all to their parents.

Please if you think you have what it takes to become a Cub leader, get in touch with me on 01926 614348 or 07866 609 674, or call round to 33, Manor Road – any evening. Once again thank you for the support.

Pat Taylor

Harbury Tennis Club



The new season starts with our traditional Cheque Book Tournament on Sunday 6 April at 2.00 p.m. For anyone who has not experienced the tournament it is an afternoon of very light-hearted tennis and an early opportunity to shell out your subs! New members will be very welcome.

We recently managed to complete the Dave Brown Tournament for our Winter Mixed Doubles. Sue Mercer and Andrew Rendell were in fine form and won all their matches to be worthy winners!

In the Banbury Winter League the "A" Team has done well against some tough opposition. It finished its fixtures with a good away win at Warwick to finish in a mid-table position in Division 1. Not so good for the "B" Team who are rooted to the foot of Division 3 and even with 3 matches to play; bookmakers are refusing to take any more bets on whether they'll be relegated!

There will not be much of a break for either team as the Summer league fixtures start at the end of April!

Under 16s

Lots of planning has been going on in the last few weeks. We're trying to provide more coaching this year and the Club has been awarded Greater Warwickshire Active Sports Stage 2 funding to provide 20 hours coaching although finding qualified coaches willing to come out into the "sticks" is still difficult but we have had some success!

Tennis for the Under 16s will start again at the beginning of May. We have just "acquired" another coach, Pat Langston, who is LTA

qualified. Pat is already known to many of the children as she took some of the Active Sport "taster" sessions in the local schools and also one of the coaching weeks held at Harbury Club last August. Pat will be taking two groups of Minis (Reception, Years 1 and 2) on Thursdays between 4pm and 6pm starting on 1st May.

Fortunately we also have Pete Brinkley again and he will be taking two groups of Juniors (Years 3 to 6) on Tuesdays between 4pm and 5.50pm starting on 6th May. Pete will probably take the younger and less experienced ones. The rest of the Juniors will be on Sunday mornings between 10.00am and 12 noon, starting on 4th May.

The two groups of Intermediates will be on Wednesdays between 6pm and 8pm starting on 7th May.

If your child was a member of the Tennis Club last year you should have received an e-mail or letter giving more details. If you have not received it then please let Sue know. Anyone else wishing to join, please e-mail Sue (sucol-ashcroft@tinyworld.co.uk) or give her a ring (613284).

We shall be holding a Play Tennis Day again this year on Saturday 10th May, so mark it on your calendars. Remember it is free tennis for all. We're hoping to include an Adult Beginner/Rusty session with Pete Brinkley this year (I'm waiting for confirmation on that). If it goes ahead we hope to see lots of parents there!

A very exciting development this year is that we've entered 3 teams in the Warwickshire section of the National Junior Club League in the Boys 11, 13, 15 and under age groups. This is a first for the Club and made possible because of the improved facilities we can offer. The fixtures include "local derbies" with Leamington, Warwick Boat Club and Kenilworth and trips to Alcester, Beechwood (Coventry), Berkswell, and Coventry & North Warwickshire. Unfortunately we don't have enough girls of high enough standard to enter this year but perhaps this time next year?

Another first is that we have also entered the 2003 Road to Wimbledon National 14 & Under Challenge. This starts with a singles Tournament with the winner and possibly the runner-up going through to the County finals. Winners of the County finals qualify for the National Finals that are played during the week of 18th August on the Championship grass courts at Wimbledon.

Sue and Colin Mercer

Serving in Iraq



David Birnie



Emma Rawlings

There cannot be a single person in either of the two villages who has not spent some time each day recently thinking about the events taking place in the Middle East. How much more poignant are the images, which are beamed into our homes 24 hours a day for families who have a young son or daughter out there supporting the Armed Forces? For two families in Harbury who both live in Neale's Close, this is a reality. They live each day hoping that their own youngsters will be able to cope with all the trials, which will confront them and from which they will eventually return home safely.

David Birnie is 22 years old and has lived in Harbury from birth. He went to Harbury School and then continued his education at North Leamington School. He went on to Stratford College and qualified as a chef in 2000. He had wanted to join the Army for some time and eventually enrolled for basic training at Pirbright in Surrey, before moving to Catterick a few months later. He passed out as a 'Guardsman' in 2001 and is in the 1st Battalion of the Irish Guards Front Line Infantry based in Germany. He was due to move back to London at the end of March, but recent events overtook him and he was posted out to Kuwait. His family are not aware of his exact whereabouts, but they keep in touch with a constant flow of letters from home to 'keep his spirits up'.

Mum, Phillipa, sister Lisa and niece Jade had not heard from him for 3 weeks until this weekend when some flowers were delivered for Mother's Day. He has given some idea in his early letters about life in the desert camps and describes queuing to use the showers for the allocated 1 minute and the lack of proper toilet paper as some of the first hardships to be encountered. The family has posted out parcels of 'goodies', including the longed-for 'soft' toilet paper! They are constantly passing on the good wishes of all his friends and extended family members, who are strong in their support for David. As Phillipa says "the family are very proud of David and know that he has a job to do, which he will carry out to the best of his ability. If you are realistic, however, you don't ever think it is going to be on the front line fighting a war."

Emma Rawlings is 26 years old, like David went to Harbury School, and then moved on from Southam School to Warwickshire College. She qualified as a nurse through her studies at Keele University and the training she completed in the North Staffordshire Hospital. After working at Walsgrave Hospital, Coventry for over three years as a Senior Staff Nurse, she joined the Royal Navy as a Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nurse in 2001. She is now a Leading Naval Nurse and was, until recently stationed in Plymouth working at Derriford Hospital. She was on exercise aboard the RFA Argus (a casualty receiving ship) and was expecting to be drafted to Gibraltar in April, after a brief period back in Plymouth. Instead she was sent on attachment to a Field Hospital Training Unit near York where she trained with doctors and nurses from all three services in preparation for the conflict in Iraq. She is now stationed at 34 Field Hospital, near the border with Kuwait and is nursing POWs, civilians and coalition troops. The family in Harbury, John, Janet and Louise have been informed that Emma and her colleagues are well and in good spirits, but they have had no direct communication from her since the beginning of the War.

As Janet says, "we worry about Emma being in a war zone, but know that she is there to nurse the wounded from all sides. She is a very capable young woman who will respond well to whatever challenge is before her. We are very proud of her and look forward to her safe return."

Both David's and Emma's family feel that it "helps to talk to people who are in the same position" and the fact that they have been close neighbours for many years has made "coping with the daily anxieties more easy." They are, however, very appreciative of the support from all the local people, who understand that it is their son and their

daughter who are experiencing the daily hardships, which the rest of us only see through media images. We are sure that all readers of the Harbury & Ladbroke News will join with both families in wishing for a safe and speedy return of village youngsters to a life, which is more than a 'million miles' away from their present existence.

As receiving letters provides the greatest source of support to all young people serving in the Armed Forces, the addresses of David and Emma are published below. It is possible to pick up FREE blue airmail letters from the Post Office for OPERATION TELIC and your news from home would be tremendous morale booster. When you next watch the TV images, pick up a pen and write your words of encouragement to:

25127777 Guardsman Birnie
1st BN 1G
RDG BATTLEGROUP
7th Armoured Brigade
OP TELIC
BFPO 647

LNN Rawlings
Y004013P
34, Field Hospital
CAMP FOX
OP TELIC
BFPO 649

Chris Finch

Harbury Village Hall

The Village Hall was built on its present site in the early 1960's, officially opened in 1962 and has since been extended. It has served our community well over the years thanks to those villagers who 'way back' had such vision, imagination and the will to see it through.

Many of you reading this short article will have had reason to be thankful for this wonderful facility – either as individual hirers or as participants in various village events. What you may not realise is that it does not function on its own – as a Registered Charity, it needs a small committee to ensure its continuation. Many of us on this committee are well past our 'first flush of youth' and are looking to be replaced before long. We read in this excellent magazine of the good work and effort that some younger persons put into various village organisations: Toddler Group, Pre-School, Nursery, PTA for example and others. May we suggest that those youngsters for which you do such admirable work will be the future users of the Hall and would be saddened if it were not available for them in the future? We are looking for such enthusiasts and/or others who may be interested to extend their sights a little.

The AGM of the Village Hall is to be held on Tuesday 8th April in the Farley Room of the Hall at 8pm. All villagers are entitled to attend. Do please come along and join us; you will be welcomed but **not** press-ganged, but really would one hour a month be too much to ask of you?

We are talking about your Village Hall and it is there for you.

Village Hall Committee

IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE! – Final comments

Shortly after the last Harbury & Ladbroke News was published, I received two further communications from the House of Commons – this time from John Maples MP. As James Plaskitt stated in his earlier letter, he was sure 'Mr Maples would reply' – he did, not once, but twice! It is very encouraging to discover the speed with which busy people with many demands on their time can and do respond to local issues. In his second letter Mr Maples says that he is 'more than happy to print a copy of his (sic) response of the 28th February' and 'please keep me in touch with events locally.' The details from his first letter are printed below and as with my previous articles, photocopies will be sent to the House of Commons, so at least parts of 3 issues of the H&L News have been read in very prestigious circumstances! Again, I thank both MP's for obviously 'reading, marking and inwardly digesting' the information I included in my original article. The first letter from John Maples MP is, as with the earlier correspondence, printed in its entirety:

"Many thanks for your letter and copy of your most interesting article in the Harbury and Ladbroke News. It really is amazing how far asylum seekers manage to get with nobody apparently knowing they are there. On the whole they seem to head for big cities and I am not aware of them causing much of a problem in South Warwickshire, though I was interested to see in your letter to the Chief Constable that several other people had had similar experiences. I suspect eventually they do make it to Coventry or wherever they are seeking to go.

I imagine that the appropriate response is to call the police and this is certainly what I would do. If you are told by the Chief Constable that this is the correct response, no doubt he will publish it himself."

As can be seen from this response, there is agreement on the way in which the police would welcome the support of local people. I am

aware that recent editions of the Neighbourhood Watch bulletin distributed to many villages surrounding Harbury has carried the same message.

Chris Finch



Janet Thornley – first recipient of the ‘Spirit of Harbury’ shield

Janet has seen herself variously described recently as a ‘committed community activist’, a ‘hard-nosed business woman’ and a ‘champion of youth projects’. She modestly proclaims that she doesn’t really see herself as an ‘activist’ and is probably not a ‘hard-nosed business woman’,

but no-one in the village who has been aware of her efforts in recent years would feel that the epithet as a ‘champion of youth projects’ is undeserved.

Janet has worked tirelessly to support a group of village teenagers and their combined efforts have succeeded in raising over £30,000 in capital grants for the provision of a skateboard facility at the Harbury Playing Fields. Initially, she encouraged the young people to make presentations to the Parish Council about the need for a half pipe, quarter pipe and fun-box on which to practise their skills. The group then set about fund-raising to establish the basis for applications for support from the Lottery Awards for All, the Countryside Agency, the District Council and Warwickshire County Council. All their original hopes have been realised and there are further plans in the pipe-line to remodel the mounds around the old Tarzan swing with a path leading to the area.

Janet identified some time ago that it was essential to address the needs of young people in the village and get them involved in supporting not just themselves, but the whole community. As she recognises, ‘time moves on’ – ‘this is progress’ and the young people of today have differing expectations for their leisure activities than in previous generations. She recognises that it is far more beneficial to provide a recreational activity, which is both stimulating and

challenging than to see groups of disaffected teenagers 'hanging around with nothing to do.' Certainly there has been renewed interest in outdoor pursuits on the playing fields in recent months and this is in no small measure due to Janet's commitment to her dream to invest in young people. For this reason, the committee selecting the person who deserved to be the recipient of the first Spirit of Harbury shield chose Janet. Not surprisingly, she recognises that there are other people in the village who have contributed significantly to village life over the years, but she is honoured to accept the shield, which is being presented in memory of the late John Hunt.

Janet is the daughter of a coal miner and was born at Cannock Chase in Staffordshire. She was brought up in a very political environment, as her father was Chairman of the Cannock Chase No.3 branch of the National Union of Mineworkers. She eventually moved to Leamington and came into the village to live in a cottage in Temple End in 1963, which had been purchased two years previously.

Her children, John and Sally were both born here and attended the village school and Southam High School (now Southam College) where Janet feels they had an education, which allowed them to become extremely successful in later life. John originally went in to the Merchant Navy, but is now the UK Technical Centre Manager for a Japanese company, which manufactures car components. In his younger days John played for Harbury Albion and also for the Rugby Club, but he has now turned his attention to golf.

Sally is the Regional Policy Manager for the Freight Transport Association and in her spare time acts as the secretary for the Harbury Youth Project, as well as helping out with the Youth Club activities. Both John and Bronte, Sally and Steve have returned to the village to live and Janet is delighted that she is able to look after John and Bronte's children – Ben (6) and Alex(andra) (4) whenever she can.

After her children were established in school, Janet worked part-time as a medical secretary at Warwick Hospital covering periods of absence and then she became Practice Manager for a large General Practice in Leamington until she retired in 1996. She still occasionally does weekend work for the Emergency GP Service receiving patients requests for medical help and recording the information on computer. Just in case she didn't have enough to fill her spare time, Janet also plays Flat Green Bowls at Southam and last year she won a Southam Club Bowls Cup for the Mixed Pairs with Roger Eaton. She has also been a member of the Harbury Theatre Group for 39 years and has

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performed in countless productions. She will shortly be seen treading the boards in the latest Murder Mystery play and she confesses that she has played in a complete spectrum of roles from comedic to manic depressive! She has recently become a Parish Councillor and is on both the Twinning Committee and the Village Hall Committee.

It is hardly surprising that the judges valued Janet's contribution to the community in all its many facets up to date, but she is still energetically looking at other projects to get involved in. She was previously involved in supporting an Adult Literacy programme in Long Itchington and she harbours a desire to assist any young people in the village who might benefit from developing a range of communication skills to enable them to reach their full potential. 'Caring for each other, across the ages' is something she feels passionately about and as with all of her other deeply felt passions, she usually puts her energy into getting things moving!

Janet will be presented with her award at a Coffee Morning in the Tom Hauley room on May 3rd at the Youth Group's Coffee Morning. An invitation is extended to representatives of all the groups that Janet has worked with over the years to be there when Alison Hunt will present the shield in memory of her late husband.

Chris Finch

Take Time Out - Ufton

Saturday 12th April 2.30pm Rehearsal; Concert at 7pm at The Congregational Church, Southam. Come and sing *Handel's Messiah* from scratch with Conductor Brenda Beck. Parking in Wood St. Car Park, opposite the Church. Teas can be provided, just let us know you are coming or bring your own sandwiches. Scores available for loan on the day. Singers £3; Audience £5. In aid of Southam Town Mayor's Charities; for further information or to book teas, ring 01926 812607.

Saturday 12th April, 4 till 5pm at the Village Hall. We are holding an Easter Bonnet Parade and Competition. It is open to everyone and each entry will be 50p. There will be 1st and 2nd prizes for all categories (all children will receive something for entering). Categories will be: Boys, 0-7, 8-15 years; Girls 0-7, 8-15 years; Female 16 plus and Male 16 plus. Refreshments will be available along with a raffle and of course our sweet stall! Proceeds go to the Children's clubs.

Tuesday 29th April 7.30 – 9.30pm at Ufton Village Hall: Graham White, ornamental horticulturalist from Moreton Morrell College is making a return visit to give an illustrated talk and answer questions on *Garden Ponds and Planting*. Cost £3 to include light refreshments.

Harbury Carnival June 14th, 2003

King and Queen: Congratulations to Thomas Kostiuk and Jessica Holden who have been selected as our King and Queen for Carnival 2003.

Fun for All: The Wheelbarrow Race will be on Sunday 8th June, hosted this year by the Shakespeare and will again include a separate race not involving alcohol (time to start training!). Please contact Dan Killian on 612265 to enter or for more information. The pub games competition will take place from June 9th to 12th inclusive and full details will be published in next month's Harbury News but in the meantime, please consider entering a team to represent your organisation, pub or simply get together with some friends.

Carnival Dance: This year we are going to see a welcome return of what was once a Carnival Institution, the Carnival Dance. The Village Club are going to organise and hold the event on Carnival Day evening and will of course be publicising the event themselves, but I wanted to make you all aware of it now, so that you can make a note in your diaries and plan to attend.

Other Business: If you want to book a stall or space on the field please call Jane McCluskey on 614453.

Don't forget to visit our website at www.harburycarnival.org.uk and you can e-mail us on harburycarnival@aol.com.

John Broomfield

Neighbourhood Watch

A large part of Harbury is aware of the existence of Neighbourhood Watch, and of the support and reassurance it can give to residents. Those who are aware are almost certainly part of the scheme, which passes information to and from the local police through area co-ordinators who are responsible for a group of 10-15 neighbours. There are currently 43 public-spirited co-ordinators in Harbury and

Deppers Bridge, and a separate scheme in Ladbroke. If you live in Harbury or Deppers Bridge and you are not aware of the scheme it almost certainly means that there has been no volunteer in your road. The scheme has for example, recently offered information and advice with regard to apparent illegal immigrants. There has been considerable concern over this matter in the Harbury & Ladbroke News. The advice passed on through the Neighbourhood Watch weekly message reads:

BE AWARE - ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS - M40 Area

It is understood that residents of Harbury/Bishops Itchington area may be concerned re illegal immigrants being sighted wandering the area at any time of the day. These persons are no doubt from the M40 service area where they alight from trucks and make off. The number of such incidents has dropped dramatically over the last month, due to changes at the ports in France. However if you do sight any such person, do not be alarmed, they are not dangerous and invariably want to be detained. Contact the police immediately and notify them of the last sighting.

Your local co-ordinator will know where to phone, or they may already have passed such information on to you. If you haven't got a co-ordinator then try volunteering. Our comparatively crime-free environment in Harbury and Deppers Bridge can only survive with concern and vigilance. I am pleased to discuss NHW at any time.

Ian Jackson - Harbury NHW Organiser 01926 612615

Faster Internet Access for Harbury

Are you interested in getting a high-speed Internet connection for your home?

A connection that uses your existing 'phone line, but doesn't interfere with 'phone calls, and is always available 24 hours a day? A connection that lets you download files and software updates 10 times faster than your existing dial up connection?

If you use the Internet you will be only too well aware that BT's much vaunted Broadband service is not available in Harbury, (Ladbroke is on the Southam exchange and under review to receive Broadband). However, BT says that if enough people in Harbury register their interest in Broadband, they will enable it for the Harbury exchange.

So if you would like to register at no cost, or just find out more, please

go to: <http://www.btopenworld.com/broadband/reg10/>

Unless you register, it will not happen, so please do so if you'd like a better Internet service for Harbury. ☺

Keith Dormer

The Vital Village Project in Warwickshire

Did you go on the *Liberty and Livelihood* march?

How was it for you? Great camaraderie and sore feet? And does it not seem like a long time ago? But at least you know you are not alone.

So what happens now?

Many of the real problems of the countryside can only be addressed at a national level. And we could wait for a very long time before effective action takes place. But that need not mean that nothing can be done.

Individuals or groups within rural communities do have the opportunity to act within their own area. There are a number of sources of funding with the specific object of supporting a renaissance of rural communities.

Most of the schemes offer the possibility of small awards specifically for market research or feasibility studies. This means that even some wacky ideas can test the temperature of the water. If the response is positive then more substantive funds may be available for the project.

If you have an idea, or would simply like more information, contact Steve Patalong on 02476 531 284, or email stevep@wrccrural.org.uk.

Steve Patalong

Warwickshire and Worcestershire Rural Partnership

Mary, Pat and Mary

They have all served the village community well at the Top Shop and Post Office for a combined total of more than a hundred years.

Mary Ceney (in the Post Office) was born in the village and began work at 15 in Car Robes in Leamington Spa. She started work in the Top Shop 41 years ago and was soon asked to move over to the Post Office side where she was joined by Mrs. Drinkwater. Only a wire

screen crossed the counter then. Headquarters installed the glass screen in the 1970s to protect staff and cash from 'smash and grab' robbers; sub Post Offices were favourite targets at that time.

For many years Mary shared the counter with Gill Carter and recently Dave Cooke, when he retired as sub Postmaster in West Street, Warwick and moved to the village.

"I really enjoy myself and when I leave, I'll miss the customers." However, more free time will open opportunities for Mary to share more of her husband Robin's hobby: steam traction engines rallying. Mary's hobby is supporting charities and she has more than 200 of the little badges she always wears. Myton Hospice has benefited for many years from the money raised by Mary and friends (approximately £3,500 every year!). All the events for Myton Hospice, such as the plant sales, will continue.

Pat Weeks began work in Leamington at 14 years old, serving in a shoe shop in Bath Street. She moved to No 1, Chesterton Green in Chesterton when she married Ted in 1956. *"There was no shop and when I got married, my Mum made me up a big box of groceries; after three weeks it was empty and I came here (to the Top Shop) and I've worked with Brian ever since."* Mrs. Madge Taylor asked Pat to help in their shop in 1970 and Pat has worked part-time and holidays ever since, taking metrication and decimalisation in her stride. *"I enjoy the customers"*, she says, but she is looking forward to having more time for her favourite hobby: shopping!

Mary Newbold followed her mother Daisy Ceney to work at the Top Shop. As a girl she used to get off the Southam High School bus, come to the shop and work until closing time and on Saturday. Both Mary's children worked in the shop during their last few years at school. Louisa, who became a Librarian in Leamington is now working at the Library Heritage and Trading Standards Department in Warwick; and Mark, who went to Oxford when he left school is working for Lunn Poly. Mary said that feeling part of the centre of the village and hearing the news 'as it breaks' has been one of the pleasures of working in the Top Shop. She explained her role ensuring quality and freshness, and taking care of the freezers is her responsibility. *"The red tape can be very sticky, but it keeps you on your toes!"* Soon Mary expects to have more time for renovating their cottages in Vicarage Lane.

On behalf of the customers, thank you everyone.

Marian Millington

Wartime in Harbury

Printing this title reminds me of a video, which the top class at the school made about 10 or 15 years ago. The film told the story of what life was like in the village during World War II, including the effects of rationing, the bombing of the cottages opposite the Old New Inn, and so on. It was filmed entirely by the children, and contemporary music added. I wonder what happened to the copies of it – I can't find one.

One particular part had to be filmed on the corner by Western House. Although it was only a few sentences and a quick pan round with the camera, it took all dinner time, as a steady stream of cars, heavy lorries, and Tornado jet fighters, roared past every time we switched the camera on. The last straw was White Van Man who drove right up to the children and asked for directions to Warwick. What has all this to do with this article? Nothing really.

These extracts are from the Courier in 1940, and contain some familiar names.

Nigel Chapman

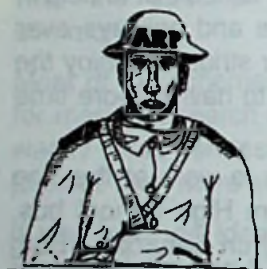


Illustration (ARP) by
George Coady

March 1st, 1940 – Gas Masks for Babies

Residents of Harbury will be glad to know that the super small respirators for young children are now available for distribution. There will be a special meeting at Harbury School at 3.30pm next Monday for the purpose of supplying and fitting these respirators and for demonstrating the baby

helmets and registering equipment. The authorities would be grateful if all mothers and guardians, resident in the parish, make it convenient to bring to the meeting those of their children who require this service.

April: Herbert C.A. Bowell, cement worker, of Chilydke Cottages was fined 10s. (50p) for riding without lights on March 7th at 10.10pm.

Douglas Overton, cement worker, of Binswood End, was fined 5s. (25p) for failing to stop at the 'Halt' sign in Church Street.

June 7th: Mr. Honiwell appealed for men to join the Local Defence Volunteers.

Evacuees arrived last Sunday from Lowestoft, and Southwold, on the train. After being picked up at the station they were taken to the Dance Hall for refreshments; 102 children and 2 teachers, many less than expected, arrived.

August 2nd: Your Spitfire – “Heart of England” Fund to be Open.

Fired by the marvelous performances of our Spitfires in the war against Nazi aggression, a number of local residents have set their hearts on raising a fund to defray the cost of a fighter. It is suggested that the fund should be entitled “The Heart of England Spitfire Fund”.

We are sure the scheme will fire the imagination and command the wholehearted support of all who are privileged to live in the Heart of England – Leamington, Warwick, Kenilworth, Stratford-upon-Avon, and the villages and hamlets in their neighbourhood.

Mrs. A. Hugh Wootton of Sheridan House, Northumberland Road, who has taken a leading part in setting the scheme afoot is acting as Honorary Secretary and already promises of valuable help have been received. Indeed, quite a number of cheques are to hand, the amounts of which will be set forth in our next issue together with any sums received before next Friday.

September 6th: For Spitfire Fund.

Harbury: Shakespeare Inn 1s. 6d.; Old New Inn 9s. 3d.; Women's Institute £1.16. 9d.

September 20th: Elizabeth Sheasby of 15, Council Road, fined 15s. for showing a light.

October 4th: Mrs. William Webb of South Parade fined 15s. for breaking the blackout regulations.

December 27th: Mabel Denning of Denys Close fined 15s. (75p) for not having proper blackout. John Tipper, a carter of Childyke Cottages fined 5s. (25p) for cycling showing too much light (see April).

Musings from a Country Garden (9)

Blackcap

I was watching eight blackbirds, and two thrushes eating the chopped-up apples the other day when down came a bird I have not seen for some years. I looked in my book and saw that I had marked it off in 1998 but not since. It was a Blackcap. I found some information about this bird and it said that this species was becoming more popular in this country, and, because of our milder weather they were arriving much earlier in the year.

Buds & Birds

The honeysuckle is loaded with shooting buds and there are literally hundreds of bulbs just waiting for the sun to get a little warmer. I am getting itchy feet to get the garden furniture out and ready for use. The first primroses have arrived - as well as the primula.

As a follow-up to last year's bird promiscuity episodes I have to report that the three different birds have turned up again: the Blue Tit, Great Tit and a Sparrow. They have each been in and out of 'the box' but to date I do not know the precise identity of the occupier. Will I eventually see the first 'freak of nature' - a blue, yellow and brown bird with a black head? No, it is only my wild imagination going haywire again.

Peacock Butterfly

Oh dear! I said I would let you know what happened to my resident Peacock Butterfly. It went from the bedroom beam to the landing carpet. Well I forgot to explain to my "helper" that the saucer of water on the landing was to make the air moist and the apparent piece of roughly torn black paper was in fact the under-wings of a Butterfly. After Jane had departed I could find neither saucer of water nor the Butterfly; enquiries revealed that it had been hovered up! Well the saucer of water wasn't in the Hoover bag, but the butterfly was.

Feral Cat - (Ginger)

I had a surprise visit from the second feral cat called Ginger (by me, because he was!). He has not been round for a couple of months. He and 'tilla (wild cat Atilla) used to arrive at the same time; I thought they were friends but they weren't; quite the opposite. Well last week I saw a ginger cat coming in under the five barred gate. I sat on my seat stick and looked and said: *Hello Ginger is it you, where have you been all this time?* He looked interested and continued his journey

through the copse so that he arrived at the back door at the same time as I did. It WAS Ginger because he came straight into the kitchen and waited for some food and drink. We had a chat and I noted that he was looking quite healthy and cared for. He ate everything up and then went and I haven't seen him since. Ginger was the cat who could eat for Great Britain and win. A whole large tin of cat food used to disappear before my very eyes, as it did today. I think he waits until he is ravenous and then comes to 'MacGreenways' Take-Away.

Elsa Greenway



Horticultural Society

Mr Busby was the speaker at the March meeting; the subject being *Ferns*, which have been in existence for 350 million years. He passed round various specimens, including a fossil of one that is still quite common today. It seems the Victorians were great collectors, and generally people liked them in both their houses and gardens. He showed slides and answered questions. The evening ended with wine and nibbles by way of a celebration of the 'Silver' meeting of the resurrected society – here's to the next 25 years!

Will those who have booked for the all day coach trip to Rocco Gardens and Abbey Gardens on Wednesday 11th June and have not yet paid, please do so soon? The cost is £11.50; you can also pay for the evening trip, which is on Thursday 26th June, price £3, and John will be pleased to see you I am sure!

The hour has gone on, the birds have been singing for weeks; it must be spring. The weather has been abnormally warm, a real treat. I hardly dare say we could do with some nice warm showers (at night). Quite often once it starts it does not know when to stop!

Although the Village Show is not until Saturday 13th September it is time to bear in mind certain details. When showing double tuberous begonias a maximum pot size of 6" is allowed, but for pelargoniums and fuchsias an 8" pot is statutory.

Provided a sufficient number of people want to go to the Flower Show at Blenheim Palace on 19th to 22nd June, there could be concessions for a group, please contact Judy on 613103.

The next talk, the last of this series, will be on *Plants for hot spots*, given by Ms. Rachel Salisbury on Tuesday 6th May at 8pm.

A friend asked me had I ever wondered why potatoes should be planted on Good Friday. It seems the devil has plenty of other work that day, so the potatoes will be all right!

Muriel Grey

Gardening Notes for April

The wonderful days of warm sunshine have lured many of us into our spring gardens that are so colourful now. Enjoy this forerunner of summer whilst it lasts, always remembering the fickleness of our climate. Thinking ahead, sow easy to raise hardy annuals straight into the borders where positions need to be marked with sand. Rows may be easier to weed and thin out, but as plants grow the rows are disguised. Open-faced flowers e.g. Tagetes, attract hoverflies, which are good garden insects. Quick maturing half-hardy annuals such as Alyssum and French marigolds can be sown in trays and planted out towards the end of May. Alternatively buy in 'tots' if they can be kept warm and in good light. They should flower from June onwards until the frosts.

Hoe weeds regularly before they can set seeds, and fork in a general fertiliser around all plants in borders. A straw or bark mulch attracts the dew that keeps plants moist. Research suggests this should be 3" (7cm) deep. Never mulch right up to the stems as it can cause rot. Plant up alpine troughs whilst the many colourful plants are in the garden centres.

Plant evergreen shrubs and conifers, and give them a screen of windbreak netting. Spray with water as well as giving it at the roots, especially in dry spells. This is also a good time for moving them, as the soil temperature begins to rise, and root growth is good at the start of the season. Make sure the planting hole is at least 6" wider than the diameter of the root-ball, and only dig the hole on the day of planting as water-logging can kill roots. Add compost or bark, and bonemeal to excavated soil. Look for the dark mark on the stem to indicate the right planting depth. Firm soil into hole and water thoroughly. A shallow basin around the plant acts as a reservoir allowing the water to soak in gradually. Mulch around and out, to the

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width of the plant. Large conifers may need staking on windy sites, position stake on side of prevailing wind and use tree ties to secure it.

Prune established early flowering shrubs, e.g. Winter jasmine, as soon as flowering finishes to allow new growth to mature to carry the flowers for next year. Reshape those outgrowing their position. Feed and mulch all shrubs after pruning, and remember to mulch hedges. Evergreen ones can be trimmed at end of month to restore shape. Evergreen shrubs can be pruned this month and next.

Sow short rows of salad vegetables every 3-4 weeks. Cover with cloches. Consider the lettuce variety, Salad bowl, from which single leaves can be harvested. Lettuce, radish and spring onions can all be grown in a flower border. Feed and mulch all fruit trees and bushes. Sulphate of potash is good for bush fruit. Prune stone fruits now there is a minimal risk of silver leaf and bacterial canker infection. Droplets of gum oozing from a stem could be a sign of canker so cut this out. Disinfect tools after use. Shortening the current seasons' growth should be left until after fruiting.

Pot up gloxinias, achimenes and begonia tubers, which go concave side up. Achimenes can go 4 to a 4" pot and ½" deep. Spring clear houseplants. Re-pot if roots are visible at bottom of pot. Replace supports if necessary for climbing plants. Begin weekly feed and water. Indoor azaleas can be re-potted in lime free compost, add a little bonemeal and sand. Lightly trim to prevent straggling and pinch off dead blooms. Water with rain- water and feed weekly with Miracid.

This is a good month to re-seed bare patches in the lawn, sow a new lawn or lay turf. If sowing seed cover with clear plastic or fleece to keep birds off until germination. For tough wearing include some rye grass. When designing a new lawn think of keeping it as time saving as possible by having trees, shrubs and plants in large beds. Keep shapes simple, and ornaments and furniture on a hard surface.

Hedgehogs are coming out of hibernation so encourage them to stay by offering saucers of cat food and crushed dog biscuits. Peacock and small tortoiseshell and red admiral butterflies come out of hibernation in warm sun and need nectar. They enjoy grape hyacinths and will lay eggs on nettles. Others seen are brimstone and orange tip, which will lay eggs on honesty and sweet rocket.

Plant of the month - Dicentra

These hardy perennials begin to flower in April and continue throughout the summer, some even into October. Two forms are easy to find in the garden centres. *Dicentra spectabilis* is known as bleeding heart, lady in the bath, or Dutchman's breeches because of the shape of its white or red flowers. A plant was sent by plant hunter, Robert



Fortune, from China, to the R.H.S. in 1846. It had been collected thirty years earlier but had not been successfully established. The other well-known type is *Dicentra formosa*, but paradoxically this one is native to N. America. Both plants are beautiful in flower but the ferny foliage remains attractive for a long time. These are woodland plants but they will grow in full sun if the soil is rich and deep. However, they do best out of direct midday sun and need to be left undisturbed.

Pat Smith

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors

It was very generous of Janet Thornley to thank me for helping her access grants for the Youth Project - but it is what I do! Helping activists in rural communities overcome the difficulties of life in the Warwickshire countryside is my job.

Housing, Transport, Youth, Environment, History, Social Care, Village Hall, Parish Councils, Retail Services, Post Offices, Pubs, Education, Crime, Traffic - are all concerns of the Warwickshire Rural Community Council. I have to know about the problems, the potential solutions and where the money is coming from.

You may have noticed that Harbury is usually the guinea pig for the latest initiatives - Village Design Statements, Appraisals, Parish Plans etc. So we may as well get some of the benefits.

Janet's achievement is inspiring, but there are dozens of others like her in villages all over the county. They are the volunteers who hold rural communities together and the WRCC celebrates their successes bi-annually in its Village Ventures Awards.

Anyone who needs assistance with a project can phone us on 02476 531295.

Linda Ridgley

Dear Editors

On behalf of the Port Chaplains, Staff and Seafarers (Immingham, Felixstowe and Bristol) many thanks to the Ladies of Harbury 'sewing bee' for their latest consignment of woollen hats.

The collection of hats is now discontinued until September when we will again be bringing a smile to those at sea next winter.

Bill Davies

Dear Editors

If you read Dutch Van Spall's interesting view on Broadband in Harbury you may like to know the process by which BT decide how and when we can have Broadband and how we can lobby and influence them to provide this valuable service for us sooner.

BT has over 4,000 local exchanges from which they could deliver Broadband services. So far they are providing this from around 1,000 exchanges, which according to BT serve two thirds of the UK population. For the other 3,000 exchanges BT will examine the commercial viability of providing Broadband services based upon demand at that exchange. In Harbury, 122 people have registered their interest in Broadband services.

There is a very useful website which provides more information than the BT site. The ADSL Guide website lists all the local exchanges in the UK, the number of Broadband registrations they have and more importantly the minimum number of registrations that will trigger BT into publishing a date when the first users will be able to connect to Broadband

services. It also ranks each exchange in order of priority based on demand, currently Harbury is ranked 64th out of 3,193!

The trigger level at which point BT will make Broadband available at the Harbury exchange has yet to be set, but other exchanges appear to have the level set around 350 to 400 registrations, so we need to increase the number of registrations to get BT to set a trigger level to review demand. This can be done by registering your interest for Broadband on the BT website www.bt.com/broadband.

The web address for the ADSL Guide is:

<http://www.adslguide.org.uk/availability/btprereg.asp?order=trig>

Brian Young

Dear Editors

Good Cause for Jazz



A belated but sincere thank you to all those who supported the Rotary Jazz Evening on February 15th. The sum realised of £700 was divided between Rotary Charities and Cancer Research. Well done and a special thank you to the musicians under Mike Ridley who gave their talent and time free.

Doug Hardy (President Rotary Club of Southam)

Dear Editors

Harbury Twinning Association

We would like to thank everyone who supported our recent fund raising events. A coffee morning at the Tom Hauley Room raised £147 and a Quiz Night at the Club raised £340.

We are all looking forward to a visit from our friends in Samois-sur-Seine. They will be arriving on Thursday 1st May and leaving on Sunday 4th May. They will be staying with 22 Harbury families. A full programme of events is planned including visits to places of interest, an afternoon of pub games, and a Ceilidh in the Village Hall with music by 'Reel to Reel'.

We are always glad to welcome new members. There is no need to speak French! We have activities throughout the year and a visit to Samois every two years. Samois is a beautiful village on the south side of Paris. If you would like to join please contact the Secretary, Sally Stringer at 30, Mill Street, or myself at 32, Mill Street.

Sharon Hancock (Chairman)

Do you need help with any of the following?

Harbury Helpline is for you!

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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.

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.

**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	Wendy Hawkes	613198
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

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS: (613207) various homes, 1st & 3rd Thursdays in the month 2:00 to 3:30pm

(612864) various homes, 2nd & 4th Tuesdays in the month 10.30am to 12noon

BOOKWORMS: (614793) Tom Hauley Room, 2nd Tuesday of the month 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 only
Wednesdays 4:00-8:00pm

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: The Shakespeare, 1st Thursday in the month 8:30pm

HARBURY FRIENDS: Tom Hauley Room, 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 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: Harbury Primary School, Monday-Friday; 9:00am-12:00noon;
Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays 12:45pm-3:15pm

HARBURY PRE-SCHOOL: (613786) Wight School (behind Library), High St. Tuesday to Friday 9:00am-1:00pm;

HARBURY THEATRE GROUP: (612009) The Shakespeare Inn, last Tuesday in the month 8:00pm

HARBURY TODDLER GROUP: (613311) Wight School, Monday 10:00-11:30am & Wednesday 1:30-3:00pm

HARBURY VILLAGE CLUB: Contact 612498

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

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: T. Hauley Room, 1st Tuesday in the 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 1st Thursday in the month; Term Time only

NETBALL CLUB: (613239) Village Hall Car Park, Training Thursdays 6:30pm;

Matches on Saturday Afternoon

SCOUTS: Scout Hut, Thursdays 7:00pm

PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP: (614274) Meeting on 2nd Thursday in the month at the Shakespeare 8:00pm

TENNIS CLUB: April to September:

Adults (614532): Tues & Thurs 6:30pm onwards (6:00pm for April & September); Wednesdays 2.15pm onwards; Saturdays 3:00-5:00pm

Under 16s (613284): Sundays 10:00am-12Noon; Wednesdays 6:00-8:00pm; Thursdays 4:15-6:00pm

Non Members may book courts for £2 an hour at Country Fayre, Chapel St.

E-Mail: sucol-ashcroft@tinyworld.co.uk

Club Website: www.harburytennisclub.homestead.com

THURSDAY CLUB: (612273) Farley Room of Village Hall 2nd & 4th Thursday in the month 2:30pm

WEIGHT WATCHERS: (07971 457143) Tom Hauley Room, Mondays 7:00pm

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: (612688) Village Hall, Thursdays 7:00-9:00pm

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Our long serving typist is no longer able to type the magazine and we need to replace her.

The duties involve typing up some articles and inserting others which are received via e-mail or on disk. This is usually done over the last week-end of the month. Then after editing on the Sunday evening, the copy is laid out in MS Publisher the next day with final alterations on the Tuesday.

Payment is based on £3.50 per page e.g. £168 for a 48 page Magazine.

Knowledge of MS Word is essential and whilst experience of Publisher would be an advantage, tutoring on the package can be given.

If you are interested in finding out more about this post please contact

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