

Harbury & Ladbroke News

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

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March 2005

No. 372

This month marks the retirement of Tony Ceney as the postman for the outlying areas of the village. He has served the village for the last 28 years and will be using his newly found spare time to pursue his caravanning and other interests. We understand, following a Harbury postal tradition, his successor is a family member.

With this edition of the news, Harbury residents will be receiving their copy of the Parish Plan. This publication represents the efforts of many villagers, first with the Harbury Review and latterly with the production of the plan.

Spurred on by the results of last month's traffic speed survey the Parish Council will be looking at a traffic-calming scheme. We hope that good practice from other villages that have solved the problem can be learned and that we will shortly see a scheme implemented in Harbury.

After the driest and sunniest winter for sometime the youngest members of the village enjoyed a "brief encounter" with real snow in the last week of February. A small snowman was even made at a Pre-School session!

Finally we extend our sympathies to the family of Doreen Best.

Harbury Diary

MARCH

- Sat 5 Coffee Morning in aid of Meningitis Research in Tom Hauley Room 10.00am – 12 00noon
- Sun 6 **MOTHERING SUNDAY**
Sung Eucharist 9am,
Evening Worship 6pm
- Tues 8 Toddlers Service 2.00pm
Holy Communion 7.30pm with Lent Address and Laying on of Hands
- Thurs 10 Holy Communion 9.45am
Thursday Club 2.30pm Village Hall
WI 7.45pm in Tom Hauley Room
- Fri 11 Holy Communion 12 noon
12.30pm Lent Lunch in Tom Hauley Room
- Sat 12 Coffee Morning in aid of Guide Dogs in Tom Hauley Room
10.00am - 12.00noon
Hereburgh Morris Dinner Dance at Village Hall
- Sun 13 **LENT V**
Holy Communion 8am, Sung Eucharist 10.30am
- Tues 15 **ADVERTISEMENTS to 31 Binswood End Harbury, by 5.30pm**
Holy Communion 7.30pm
Senior Citizens 8pm in Village Hall
- Wed 16 Tea in the Tom Hauley Room 3-4pm
- Thurs 17 **ST PATRICK'S DAY**
Holy Communion 9.45am
- Fri 18 **RECYCLING & GREEN WASTE COLLECTION**
Holy Communion 12 noon
12.30pm Lent Lunch in Tom Hauley Room
- Sat 19 Coffee Morning in aid of Steps (Lower Limb Abnormality) in Tom Hauley Room 10.00am – 12.00noon
Men's Prayer Breakfast 7.30am in Tom Hauley Room
- Sun 20 **PALM SUNDAY**
Holy Communion 8am
Procession from School 10.15am
Family Communion 10.30am
Said Evensong 6pm
Annual Church Meeting 6.30pm
- Mon 21 Holy Communion 7.30pm followed by Stations of the Cross
- Tues 22 Holy Communion 7.30pm followed by Stations of the Cross
- Wed 23 Drop in Tea for the Bereaved 2.30-4.30pm at 19 Farm Street
Holy Communion 7.30pm followed by Stations of the Cross

- Thurs 24 MAUNDY THURSDAY**
SCHOOL ENDS
RUBBISH OUT TODAY
 Holy Communion 9.45am
 Sung Eucharist 8pm followed by watch at the Altar of repose till midnight
 Thursday Club 2.30pm in Village Hall
 Parish Council 7.30pm in Village Hall
- Fri 25 GOOD FRIDAY**
 Children's Service 9.30am
 Devotional Hour 2-3pm
LADY DAY
ARTICLES to Harbury Pharmacy, High St, Harbury, by 5.30pm
- Sat 26 HOLY SATURDAY**
 Coffee Morning in aid of Multiple Sclerosis Research in Tom Hauley Room 10.00am – 12.00noon
 Easter Ceremonies 8pm
- Sun 27 EASTER DAY**
 Holy Communion 8am
 Sung Eucharist 10.30am
- Mon 28 BANK HOLIDAY**
- Tues 29 Holy Communion 7.30pm**
- Thurs 31 Holy Communion 9.45am**

APRIL

- Sat 2 Coffee Morning in aid of Mrs Revitt in Tom Hauley Room 10.00am – 12.00noon**
RECYCLING & GREEN WASTE COLLECTION
- Sun 3 SECOND OF EASTER**
 Sung Eucharist 9am
 Evening Worship 6pm
 Village Hall AGM in Farley Room at 8pm
- Mon 4 Holy Communion 7.30pm**
 Horticultural Society talk 8pm in Tom Hauley Room – "Labour Saving Gardening" by Mr P Aubury
- Wed 6 Holy Communion 2pm**
 Mothers Union 2.30pm
- Thurs 7 Holy Communion 9.45am**
 Folk Club 8.30pm in Shakespeare Inn
- Sat 9 Coffee Morning in aid of Bell Ringers in Tom Hauley Room 10.00am – 12.00pm**
 Harbury Society Guided Walk starts 10.30am from Olive Tree at Flecknoe
- Sun 10 THIRD OF EASTER**
 Holy Communion 8am
 Sung Eucharist 10.30am

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 2005

Sat 16 Nursery School Race Night in School Hall

MAY 2005

Sat 7 Tennis Club's 25th Birthday Dance in Village Hall

From the Rector

I think you can tell whether you are going to be forgiven or not. It may be a look in a person's eye that gives us the clue. We say it all depends on what kind of mood a person is in but I think it goes deeper than that. A lot of parent-child dialogue is a bit like play-acting. The child knows that it is going to be forgiven and the scolding is something to be gone through, a necessary introduction to real forgiveness.

If there is no forgiveness in a person's face then I doubt if it is worthwhile bargaining for. Compassion is not something we can cajole people into feeling. We can only go looking for forgiveness. But sometimes even asking for it is superfluous; the other person sees the request in our eyes as we see the forgiveness in theirs.

The dramatic climax to the story of The Prodigal Son is the meeting of the father and son and hardly a word is spoken. The son had taken a gamble, which had not paid off. He needed to go home again. So he made up a speech to deliver to his father when he returned. He would bargain his way into being taken on as a servant.

All this time, at home, there was a father who only wanted one thing – the return of his son. The very sight of his son in the far distance was all the father needed; he wanted no speeches. I doubt if he even listened to what his son was saying. He was too busy welcoming him and planning the celebrations.

In so many ways, the prodigal son parable tells us about God's forgiveness. God has only one wish; that we come back to Him. He wants no speeches, no excuses, and no justification. Sometimes we want to lay our sins out, neat and tidy, but the thing about our sins is that they are messy. God knows that and that's how He forgives them. The very sight of our turning back to God is enough for Him. He runs down and "clasps us in His arms and kisses us tenderly".

Fr. Roy Brown

From the Registers

Holy Baptism, All Saints' Ladbroke

February 20 Amelia Alice Reeves

Holy Baptism, All Saints' Harbury

February 27 Connor Mark O'Meara

Funerals at Oakley Wood

February 8 Doreen Best (73)



Thought for the Month

God does not take away trials or carry us over them, but strengthens us through them.

From the Churchwardens

These three photographs show the FUNDAY CLUB in full swing! As you can see, it is fun. Please join us on Sundays during term time at 10.30am in the Tom Hauley Room.





Lesley and Felicity



Mothers' Union

The February afternoon meeting heard a fascinating talk by Mrs Ann McKenzie about her experiences of Bee Keeping. She explained how the 60,000 bees in a hive work together to collect nectar and pollen, feed the larvae, fan the water from the nectar with their wings and protect the colony from invaders. A world in microcosm.

The evening meeting followed the Lent address, so was an opportunity for discussion. Jill Winter described her experiences as a prison visitor and helping the chaplain with study courses. We also heard a letter from a Mothers Union leader in Madagascar, where the emphasis is on helping girls and women to develop their potential, teaching them reading, cooking and embroidery. This can enable them to earn money to help their families. We were quite humbled by the cheerful tone of the letter, from someone who materially has so much less than us, but is assured of God's love.

The coffee morning on February 19th was well supported and raised £160. This will be divided between Mothers Union projects in this country and overseas.

March 15th at 8pm – Salvation Army

April 6th at 2.30pm – "When we were younger". Please bring a photo of a youthful you!

To finish; a Chinese proverb quoted by Barbara Thistlethwaite;

*"If there is light in the soul, there will be harmony in the house.
If there is harmony in the house, there will be order in the nation.
If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world."*

Gillian Hare

Toddlers' Service

Mrs Pam Brown kindly led our February Service. The theme was "sharing" what we have, and she told the story of how a little boy gave Jesus his picnic basket, which contained five loaves and two small fish. Jesus was able to share the picnic amongst the five thousand people who had been listening to him, and there was even some left over!

We sang "Praise Him, Praise Him all you little Children", and for our activity we coloured a picture of a cake and decorated it with hundreds and thousands.

Afterwards, we had refreshments and played with toys.

Our next service will be on Tuesday 8th March in the children's corner of the church. Please note the new start time of 2pm.

Lorna Bedford

Church Flowers

Through the Harbury and Ladbroke News I would like to thank everyone on the Church Flower Rota team for their effort and enthusiasm throughout the year, which has helped to make our church look so beautiful. Also a big thank you to everyone who has so generously given contributions to our fund, enabling us to buy all the lovely flowers we have all enjoyed in the church throughout the year.

Finally, if there is anyone who would like to join our team, please give me a call on 613892.

Jo House

Ladbroke News

MARCH

- Sun 6 **MOTHERING SUNDAY**
Family Communion 10.30am
- Wed 9 Lent Lunch 12 noon Walworth Farm, Holy Communion 2pm,
Women's Fellowship 2.45pm
- Sun 13 **LENT V**
Sung Communion 9am
- Mon 14 Millennium Club Draw 7.30pm in Village Hall
- Wed 16 Lent Lunch 12 noon at Old Rectory
- Sun 20 **PALM SUNDAY**
Sung Communion 9am
- Thurs 24 **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
Holy Communion 7pm
W.I Social evening
- Fri 25 **GOOD FRIDAY**
Children's Service 10.30am
Devotional Hour 12-1pm
Music and Readings 7pm
- Sun 27 **EASTER DAY**
Sung Communion 9am

APRIL

- Sun 3 **SECOND OF EASTER**
Family Communion 10.30am
- Sun 10 **THIRD OF EASTER**
Sung Communion 10.30am

Ladbroke Church News

Firstly many thanks to everyone who came, gave generously and worked hard to make our coffee morning in the Tom Hauley Room such a success. We made £153+, which was our best ever.

Our Lent lunches are going well – the weather this week has put people off, rather a shame really as the soup was delicious!

Mothering Sunday is March 6th. This year the service will be included in the Family Service at 10.30am. Posies will be given to all Mums!

The Church Easter cards will be coming through the letterbox any day now. The services in Ladbroke for Holy Week and Easter are:

Palm Sunday – 9am

Maundy Thursday – 7pm

Good Friday – Children's Service 10.30am

Devotional Hour 12noon to 1pm

Music and Readings 7pm

Easter Day – Holy Communion 9am.

A happy blessed Easter to everyone.

Church flower arranging for Easter – see the rota in the porch.

Betty Winkfield

Women's Fellowship

Many thanks to John Eld for coming and explaining the work that Saloam Christian Ministries Ltd do in Southern India. I'm sure the money that we are raising at our Lent Lunches will be put to good use.

Our meeting on March 9th will be at 3, Ladbroke Hall, by kind invitation of Catherine Spence. The meeting follows the Holy Communion service in church at 2pm.

Betty Winkfield

Ladbroke and Deppers Bridge W.I.

Five members spent last weekend at the Denman College. It was my first visit but certainly will not be the last. We enjoyed every moment.

Jo & Catherine spent their time making beautiful pure silk flowers. Jo Sowerby brought her lovely finished work to our meeting for all the members to see. Hazel explored the historical city of Oxford taking in its timeless architectural beauty, Susan Moore and myself attended the course on Dance & Drama. This was great fun - dancing and dramatising the old silent movies.

Our speaker on 24th February was the entertainment organiser at Galanos House. She gave us an interesting insight into the history of Galanos House and examples of the busy weeks of activities that she organises for the residents. There was a request for volunteer visitors

to spare a little time to visit the residents, i.e. playing scrabble or reading to them or just talking to them. If you are interested, please contact one of the committee for details.

The next meeting on March 24th is a Social Evening with an Easter Theme. Tea Hostesses are Susan Moore & Catherine Spence.

Date for your Diary - Coffee Morning Saturday 30th April 2005 at the Tom Hauley Rooms in Harbury.

An additional note: Our thoughts are with Anne Edwards (past president) at this very worrying time as her son lies poorly in hospital in India following a motorbike accident. She is at his bedside.

Sue Halsall

Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Club

The draw for January was held at the Village Hall on 14th February 2005.

The lucky winners were;

£70 K & C Picken

£25 Jill Norgate and Sue Ford

£10 K Tancock, Lois Workman and Mary Coley

Next month's draw will be held on March 14th 2005 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Catherine Spence

Ladbroke Whist Drive And Safari Supper

On Saturday 12th February Ladbroke Village Hall played host to an evening of fund raising for the Tsunami Disaster Relief Fund.

To start the evening, Betty Winkfield organised a "Whist Drive and Raffle", which was well attended and enjoyed, thanks to her special Raffle prizes.

Though most of the Whist Drivers retired at 9.30pm, three brave souls stayed on to join the 52 merry diners who arrived for the final leg of their Italian Themed Safari Supper, which had started some two hours earlier at various locations in the village. Desserts and wine were served and quizmaster Graham Lewis led the raucous crowd through

an Italian Quiz and Raffle. Together we raised £810 for the Tsunami Disaster Relief Fund. With Gift Aid the total donated will be £1038. Thanks to Betty and everyone who helped to make a successful and enjoyable evening.

I would like to take a break from the organisation of Safari Suppers for a while. If anyone would like to organise the next one, please go ahead. I will be happy to advise on set up and logistics if required (815196).

Nicky Lewis

Harbury Parish Council – February 2005

It's a big thing your Parish Council has done – completing its Parish Plan (you should get a copy with the Harbury News). The challenge now for the Council will be to firm up on the suggestions in their Plan and achieve some quite large improvements. But sometimes it can be the little things that count and can be just as important to the parish.

Take mud on the footpaths – and dog excrement. This has been troubling people who have asked the Parish Council for action. The Parish Council asks dog owners to ensure they clear up after their pets, and points out to parents of our budding football stars that knocking the mud off their kids' boots onto the pavement in Park Lane is making the footpath dangerously slippery. In both cases the solution is simply to use a polythene bag and take it home!

PLANNING

Stratford granted tree works at the Quarries, amendments to existing plans for a courtyard development at Harbury House, conservatories at 7 Manor Orchard and Hall Bungalow, Bull Ring Lane.

The Parish Council had no representation on tree works at Roalyn on Hall Lane, a front extension at 71 Mill Street and guest accommodation at Northfields, Mill Lane. They shilly-shallied over the very large extension proposed at 30 Percival Drive but eventually decided not to object just comment on the excessive size.

They sent in objections to the extensions at 27 Manor Orchard which would increase the floor space by more than 50% and whilst they had no objections to the revised plans for 5 Hillside, they wanted enforcement taken on changing agricultural land to a garden.

Negotiations proceed for an "easement" over the WCC allotments to provide a water supply for the Tennis Courts. Various repairs are in hand to the Play Equipment at the Recreation Grounds and quotes have been received for repairs to the wall at the Manor Orchard play area. Repairs on buildings in the Cemetery will start in the spring.

Cllr Janet Thornley reported that she is finding difficulty getting a quotation for moving soil to build the BMX track and the young people had expressed a strong desire for a youth shelter incorporating the existing kick wall. Although the youth meeting had not found parents willing to form a committee, the youth club will be run for a trial period by two outreach youth workers and a leader. There will be a "detached" youth worker for a six-week period who will engage with the children on the street.

A new light has been installed in Temple End and a new lighting schedule has been agreed. Cllr Thornley will continue with her monthly inspection of all the street lighting. Cllr Thompson was able to draw on his many years' service to the Parish Council by recalling their responsibility for maintaining and cleaning the lych-gate light.

Councillors are "looking at" a bright yellow grit bin to place on the wall at the junction of Farm Street and Mill Street. They will journey to see Loxley's ripple paint traffic calming in action before committing Harbury to a similar scheme.

Your Council is still moving towards Quality Status. One of the criteria to be satisfied is communication with the public and Cllr Tim Lockley (sorry about the name change last month!) is writing the third of his quarterly reports for the News.

District Cllr Patrick reported February's Joint Councillors Surgery outside the Post Office found the state of the roads was the greatest concern.

The meeting ended with a very full debate on approving provision of Councillors' Allowance to defray expenses. There was a view it was unnecessary and an avoidable expense, but others said expenses were incurred and that without reimbursement some potential Councillors would be deterred from seeking election.

Even if the Parish Council agreed to provide allowances individual Councillors were at liberty to decide not to claim them. Cllr Van Spall argued that if the Council reject allowances they took away the right of individual members to decide if they needed them or not. The vote went 7 -2 in favour of providing allowances.

Look at your copy of the Parish Plan. If they accomplish what you

asked for, you may think the councillors deserve some remuneration! The design and layout of the publication was done by Mike Abbott and the PC acknowledged their gratitude for his skilful presentation.

Next meeting of the Parish Council is 24th March 7.30pm in the Farley Room of the Village Hall.

Linda Ridgley

Best Kept Village and Village of the Year Competitions 2005

Harbury has once again been invited to compete in the Best Kept Village Competition, the Village of the Year and a new competition called Building Community Life. If anyone (or any group) would be interested in taking on the organisation of our possible entry into these events, could they please contact the clerk to the Council, Nicola Thompson on 614646.

Harbury Parish Council - Quarterly Report, January 2005

In the past three months the Parish Council has:

- Agreed a budget for 2005-6 that increases the average band D rate by about £2 a year. This budget will permit the Parish Council to continue to replace street lights, swings and other play equipment; maintain and repair existing assets as necessary; and contribute towards the future traffic calming and improvements to the centre of the village.
- Objected to a planning application submitted to Stratford District Council for Bishops Bowl Lakes that was instrumental in the subsequent refusal.
- Paid for ongoing maintenance and for repairs to vandalised Parish Council property.
- Organised a meeting for the young people in the village
- Updated the Parish Council's website
- Held meetings with representatives of the Tennis Club with a view to formalising their lease.
- Received the results from a traffic survey undertaken by Warwickshire County Council. A sub-committee has now begun to seek possible solutions to the issues highlighted.
- Completed the Parish Plan.
- Held an open surgery outside Harbury supermarket to listen to the concerns of parishioners.

Cllr Tim Lockley

Harbury Parish Plan

Harbury residents will be receiving the Harbury Parish Plan with this month's Harbury & Ladbroke News. The Parish Council would like to thank the deliverers for their efforts.

We are also extremely indebted to Warwickshire Rural Community Council and Linda Ridgley especially for all her unceasing support to this project.

Our thanks also go to Mike Abbott of Vantage Graphics and Design for his expertise in putting the whole booklet together.

We hope you will all make time to read it.

Jenny Patrick



Harbury Society

The fountain in the middle of the Jephson Gardens is a memorial to the Czech Patriots of the Second World War and Alan Griffin spoke about their resistance to the Nazis.

It was the tale of the seven men chosen to be parachuted into occupied Czechoslovakia who successfully assassinated Herr Hedrick, then the head of the Gestapo and the brutal retribution the Nazis took against the collaborators and hundreds of innocent civilians. The memorial to the patriots in the Jephson Gardens takes the form of a fountain, shaped like a parachute. The falling water forms the cords of the chute and the arms of Czechoslovakia and the names of the martyrs are inscribed on it. It is a very sad and moving tale, which he has recounted, in his new book.

The Harbury Society has also published a book – Cross the Stile. It is a comprehensive guide to the footpaths around the village of Harbury and is available at Mugglestons or from the Secretary, Linda Ridgley on 612792. It complements our other book, Hungry Harbury, the History of a Warwickshire Village.

The Society will be holding one of its famous pub walks on 9th April, but this walk is not in the book! It centres on the fascinating hilltop village of Flecknoe in the far east of the County.

It starts at 10.30am from the Olive Bush pub in the centre of the village. Parking is available on the Pub Car Park. More details from Ed Wilson on 612345.

Linda Ridgley

Harbury's Women's Institute



Members enjoyed a four-mile walk in the Southam area recently followed by lunch at a local pub. The next walk has been arranged for 1st April, meeting at 10am at the Village Hall.

To celebrate 90 years of W.I we have been asked to walk a minimum of 90 miles between January and December so we have made a start.

The Public Affairs Committee are inviting us to visit six Warwickshire villages and towns to learn about their history, the first being Atherstone on 15th April. Enquiries are being made for a trip to the Well Dressings in June.

A collection by members in memory of Joan Lodge has been sent to the M.S. Society.

The speaker was Mrs M. Evans talking about Easter traditions and their stories. As it was near, Mrs Evans touched on Valentines Day. It dates back to the ancient Roman Festival of Lupus (wolf), all to do with fertility of course. Way back in 1300 Edward III got a Valentine and Valentine letters were popular in Victorian times.

We were told of many traditions and customs, some of which still carry on today. Traditional dishes have been eaten before the start of Lent such as puddings from the different regions. An example is Pancake Day and the pancake race has taken place at Olney since 1485. "Going on the binge" refers to a Belgian town's Beer Festival. Collup Monday, before Shrove Tuesday is Scottish and means "meat down you".

The Mardi Gras, in warmer climates comes from Carnivalli and translates as farewell to meat. Lent is a pagan word meaning the lengthening of days and the coming of spring. Ash Wednesday is when crosses were given covered in ash. Kissing Friday came after Ash Wednesday but was also known as Cussing Friday, as the priest denounced those who strayed.

A heathen was a dweller of the heath lands. Mothering Sunday dates back to six months after the Mops when the new employees were allowed to visit their families. This is when simnel cake was eaten, also called Mothering Sunday cake. Nothing to do with the American Mothers Day, which was introduced by Annie Jarvis in 1907 in appreciation of American mothers and held in May.

On Palm Sunday in Medieval times a priest would ride on a donkey. Pussy willow was called palm because nobody knew what palm trees were like so crosses were made out of pussy willow. Easter Day dates back to Egyptian times. It was thought it held the seed of new life. Easter eggs and bunnies are given but not the hare, which was said to drive winter from the land. Then there are Easter bonnets, but we learnt that Easter is named after the pagan goddess, Eastr.

Interesting to learn that our traditions are intertwined with Christian and pagan beliefs.

March meeting – Members evening.

Jeanne Beaumont

Harbury Youth Theatre Review

Premier performance by Harbury's Youth Theatre Workshop

"The Lantern."

"real entertainment"

"the cast were magnificent"

"eerily atmospheric"

"a triumphant new venture"

"superb scenery"

These are just a few comments overheard from the theatre critics of Harbury on Saturday 5th February 2005.

"The Lantern" was a one-day-only play, performed in the Village Hall by a cast from the Youth Theatre. Not only the acting but also the scenery and lighting were produced by the youngsters under the attentive eye of director Trish Weatherall.

You missed it? You missed a great afternoon or evening's entertainment. Be sure not to miss their next one!

Gael Conway

**Harbury Theatre Group – Children's Workshop
presents: The Lantern by Brian Way**



The future of Harbury's theatre group is assured after a wonderful performance tonight by their youth section. The intriguing story of a magical lantern that periodically lit, despite having no apparent means of lighting, was excellently portrayed in every department.

From the moment that the curtain went up revealing a rocky shore with swirling mist (soon to engulf us all!) the audience was captivated. The four main characters, played over two performances by Albany Vincent, Lauren Wilson, Hannah McCluskey, Jack Rae, Sam Butler & Edward Coady who become enchanted by the mystery of the lantern, produced faultless performances of maturity way beyond their years.

As the story developed three of the four players were granted 'wishes' by the lantern, which in turn drew in the wonderful support cast of dancers, plus an excellent array of props, wonderful weird machines, and some imaginative use of scenery.

The play culminated with a storm, so adeptly put over by the use of sheets one could almost feel the salty sea spray, and we were left wondering what the fourth character's wish would be.

Congratulations to all the players and the Harbury Theatre Group adult support crew for a great performance, and one that fully credited all the hard work that they have undoubtedly put in. We look forward to more of the same!

Jim Ward

Scout Leader (written as a result of 6 members of the cast being members of 1st. Harbury Scout Group)

Harbury Theatre Group

Laffs for Cash with Bangers and Mash!

Saturday 9th April 2005

April brings the return of Harbury Theatre Group to the stage of the Village Hall. After our recent exploration into youth theatre we now present an evening of **adult entertainment**.

Our Spring Production will take a similar format to last summer's successful evening of short plays incorporating a meal at half time. The cast undertake to amuse you with several comedy sketches to open the evening. These will be followed by **smashing bangers and real mash**, (included in the ticket price), and the evening will continue

with the performance of the one act play, **Last Tango in Harbury.**

A play about a play about a play! The struggling heroes of the Theatre Group struggle against the odds (and each other) to pull off one final production, so that they can go out with a bang!!

Gerald the director wants the poster for his play to state a simple warning: **ADULTS ONLY! THIS PLAY CONTAINS EXPLICIT SCENES OF NUDITY WHICH MAY SHOCK OR OFFEND.**

Can they pull it off? Will they sell any tickets? Will anyone be shocked or offended?

There will also be a **licensed bar**. Tickets will cost **£7.00**.

Doors open at 7.30pm with the performance starting at 8pm on Saturday 9th April.

Tickets available from Trish Weatherall 612150 or Ali Hodge 612029 and The Salon.

The Theatre Group coffee morning was well attended and raised over £100 from the raffle and sale of cakes. This will be split and a donation will be sent to Myton Hospice and some will be put towards forthcoming attractions.

Are there any budding heroes or villains? Any damsels or comedians or dramatists waiting out there? Have you ever fancied having a go at treading the boards? Harbury Theatre Group wants you!! We meet monthly in the Shakespeare and currently put on two productions a year, as well as holding social events and fundraisers.

If you love the theatre and would like to become one of our committed group, (or group who should be committed?), contact either of the persons mentioned above.

Trish Weatherall

Harbury Folk Club

February 3rd was my third stint as Harbury's MC, and prompts me to make some observations about the audience at Harbury. I still feel extraordinarily nervous when I do this MC thing, though found this last time felt easier. In part though, it's because the club has such a generous and good mannered audience who will from the start of the evening join in choruses and have some good-natured fun. It's always been a pleasure to perform at Harbury for this reason and I applaud the audience.

The theme for the evening was "Out of Season". It was, of course, easy for The Harvesters to be out of season, as it was for Summer who performed with Jane. In fact with contributions from Rick on his dulcimer it was quite a first spasm of this music. We also had contributions from Linda and John, Three Men in a Boat, Martin and Sue Harris and Pete and Liz as well as myself in this spasm.

The first spasm was followed in time-honoured fashion by the second spasm with The Band of Folk opening and followed by Jilly Kemp, Ron, Pete Mason, The Harvesters, and Brian.

The third spasm followed on from the second and, following tradition, opened with the raffle. The raffle was this month on behalf of "Amnesty International" and raised a more than respectable £54. I am trying to wean Harbury off its wine for raffle prizes fixation, so had brought as one of the prizes some excellent real ales in bottles as well as a double CD given to me at Xmas, which I discovered I already had a copy of. The discerning folk of Harbury clearly knew a thing or two about music as this was the first prize claimed even though Pete Bones lamented the fact that on this anthology none of the Bones family figured. This is of course a lamentable omission that must at some point be rectified with a future similar release.

The third spasm offered an opportunity to reprise some of the acts seen previously with The Harvesters, Three Men in a Boat, Ron and The Band of Folk. The evening finished with The Band of Folk being led by Ron in their own rendition of "Nutting Girl". For the most part everyone seemed to have found something to link to the theme, Pete Mason and myself finding links to WW2 and The Cold War!

For further information on the activities of Amnesty International, there is a web site and this is the link: <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/>

Des Patalong



Harbury Junior Football Club

Year 1 – Steve Darby

Year 1 group - the future of junior football in Harbury continues to flourish, this new group formed at the turn of the year is showing progress across all skills. Routines that were difficult to complete at the beginning of the year are now being mastered and every individual has shown improvement. Congratulations go to Jessica Almond and Saul Groves who have won the weekly trophy for outstanding skills and personal development.

Under 8's - Steve Darby

Under 8's - we have some 26 children registered for the U8's group, they have great potential. 6 of the group regularly play in the under 9's and so far when they have played as a group in one half of a match, they have remained undefeated. Against Fenny U9's we had some year 2 boys playing against an all Year 4 Fenny team and they managed to hold them to a draw in their section of the match. The remaining boys and girls will be playing their first-ever competitive match on 12th March away against Tysoe.

Under 9's - two matches have been played and whilst the results went against Harbury, we are seeing some great individual performances relative to ability. Every Harbury player has given 110% effort and we cannot ask any more than that - all parents have seen the level of determination and personal mental strength to keep going against the odds - character building stuff!

Harbury 2 - 4 Tysoe - Tysoe are top of the league and Harbury gave them their toughest game of the season. Harbury played some great passing football at times

Harbury 3 - 7 Fenny - A strong Fenny team was tested by Harbury. Some fine individual performances from James Chamberlain, Austin Dixon and Jack Groves kept Fenny on their toes. Beren Long and Ralph Henry played their best game of the season showing grit and determination in their tackling during the 3rd Quarter of the game.

Under 10's - Neil Murray

The under 10s have played two matches since the last newsletter. Firstly against Priors Marston, where we lost 6-1 but against a very good side, then a great performance and an 8-4 victory against Fenny Compton. The whole team were particularly strong in all positions although captain and scorer of 7 goals (!!) Adam Miles must get a mention! The under 10s continue to improve not just in matches, but also in training sessions attended by all.

Under 15's - Keith Edwards

In a hard battled contest at Wellesbourne, the under 15's came away with a 1-1 draw. As usual, the first goal was scored by the opposition, through a hotly disputed penalty, which kick-started us into action and we equalised almost immediately through local lad James Pettipher's first goal of the season. Both teams could have won the game but chances squandered by Harbury left us coming away with just the one point.

Only three games left to our season. Training is held on Saturday mornings now at Myton School's all weather pitch from 11.00am to 12 noon....anyone is welcome to come and join in.

Please see the regular diary dates for updated details of the training sessions for the teams, which range from year 1 (age 5 – 6) through to the under 15s. Anyone who is interested in joining a team is very welcome at the sessions.

Year 1: Training: 9.00am Saturday at Harbury playing fields
Coach: Steve Darby Tel: 613330

Years 2&3: Training: 10.45am Saturday at Harbury School
Coach: Steve Darby Tel: 613330

Year 4: Training: 9.00am Saturday at Harbury School
Coach: Neil Murray Tel: 612524

Year 5: Training: 9.00am Saturday at Harbury School
Coach: Neil Murray Tel: 612524

Under 12s: Training: 10.30am Saturday at Harbury playing fields
Coach: Alastair Cattrell Tel: 335366

Under 15s: Training: 11am Saturday at Myton School
Coach: Keith Edwards Tel: 421414

Liz Henry

Harbury Tennis Club

A quiet month for a change!

The "B" Team continued its unbeaten sequence with a win against Charlbury "B". Sue Mercer and Caroline Morland had a comfortable win in the ladies doubles with Jon Scothern and Colin Mercer halving the men's doubles in a very close match. In the mixed doubles Sue and Colin lost the first set but recovered to win the second. Caroline and Jon proved too strong for their opponents and clinched an overall 3-1 win.

This was followed by a draw in the top of the table clash with Byfield "C". Caroline partnered Angie Dean in the Byfield match and they recorded another win. This means that the Ladies are undefeated this season having won 6 and drawn 2 of the 8 rubbers played. It is to be hoped that's not the kiss of death with 2 matches to play. Steve Stark and Richard Harding lost a close first set 5-7 but fell away in the second losing 1-6. Both mixed doubles were halved with Caroline and

Steve nearly sealing a win for Harbury but they were just pipped in the second set.

In the Stratford League (Men's doubles) Harbury (Jon Scothern, David Lauder, Geoff Prince and Steve Stark) drew with Henley "B" in a match played in farcical conditions. After playing in a gale force wind with heavy showers the 8 players concluded they might have been better off adjourning to the pub for a game of virtual tennis!

Although the winter leagues are drawing to a close, the preparations for the summer season are well in hand and will be the Club's busiest ever. This summer we have 3 teams in the Banbury League and one in the South Warwickshire Summer League.

The 2005 season officially starts on Sunday 3 April (2.00 p.m.) with the traditional "Cheque Book" tournament. As ever, we welcome new members, so if you haven't played for a while and want to start again or have never played and would like to try, please don't hesitate to give me a ring for a chat.

Juniors

Everyone who played last year has been contacted with details of the sessions arranged. There may be spaces in some groups for new players. If you're interested please contact Sue for details.

Another "plug" for our dance at **Harbury Village Hall on Saturday 7th May** to help celebrate the Tennis Club's 25th birthday - dancing to the best party music from the 60s to the present day with London based live cover band, The Bitter Lemons. Tickets are £15 (food included) and there will be a Bar. To order your tickets in advance please give us a ring on 613284 or Email sucol-merc@tiscali.co.uk

Colin and Sue Mercer



Harbury Pre-School

February at Pre-School

Whoever said that February was a damp and depressing month, with very little going on, obviously hasn't been to Harbury Pre-School lately! At the beginning of the month, the children, with their usual enthusiasm, continued their theme of "Our World Around Us" by creating the most fantastic models of their homes.



They brought in photographs of their houses and used cardboard cartons, plastic lids, paper, masses of glue, sticky tape and anything else that they felt would be suitable to make wonderful replicas. Some of these models shown, make up the current lovely display in the Wight School and are a credit to their little creators.



While they were building their models, the children talked about the different building materials that could be used to make real houses and had tremendous fun re-enacting the "Three Little Pigs" story. Judging by the volume of "I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down", the big bad wolves outnumbered the little pigs by about three to one, but this simply added to the enjoyment of the story and ensured that all the children became involved.

On Shrove Tuesday, they learned about the beginning of Lent and all joined in with making pancake batter, carefully measuring the ingredients and giving it all a good stir, before enjoying the results, with a choice of toppings, at snack time.

The following day, 9th February, was Chinese New Year and with the role-play area changed back from a shop to a home, we introduced our new Chinese cooking utensils and chopsticks. The children were given bowls of dried noodles to look at, feel and smell and then compared them with cooked noodles. They each had a go at picking up the cooked noodles with chopsticks and some were remarkably good at it, especially Oliver who looked as though he had always used chopsticks in preference to other cutlery.

At snack time, the children were offered noodles, beansprouts, prawn crackers and fortune cookies in place of their more traditional fare and most were willing to try everything, with fortune cookies proving to be the favourites and beansprouts the least popular. As well as trying the traditional Chinese food, the children were taught a few Chinese words and could be heard chanting "Kung Hey Fat Choy" which means "Happy New Year" in Chinese. The children also had a go at Tai



Chi and learned an exercise called "the flying eagle", and to round off the Chinese theme they made lovely streamers using bright yellow and red crepe paper and ribbons and waved them around as they danced to Chinese music.

And finally, after half term, the snow arrived at last! Needless to say, the children were delighted to be able to go outside to build a little snowman that they could take back indoors with them, and they also used buckets and spades to make "snow castles". We so rarely see snow and it is wonderful to watch the children investigating and playing – although it has to be said that the staff probably had been hoping for the opportunity to play just as much as the children!



Donations

We would like to say a big thank you to the Clifton family for donating a lovely selection of dressing up clothes which the children have already had great pleasure trying out, and to Sam and Max Cheesman for all the fantastic books that they gave to us before Christmas.

Pre-School Coffee Morning

The next Pre-School coffee morning will be on Saturday the 23rd April from 10am-12noon in the Tom Hauley room. Please make a note in your diaries. It will be an ideal time to top up on your birthday cards from Phoenix cards, cheer up the garden with some spring flowering plants or let your child loose at the table top sale! There will be a raffle and 'guess the number of sweets in the jar' game as well as a lovely selection of homemade cakes.

If anyone would like further information about Harbury Pre-School, please contact Clare Stone, Chair of the Pre-School Committee, on Harbury 614482.

Harbury Pre-School Staff and Committee



Windmills

Nursery School

Continuing our theme of shapes and winter we have had a very busy and most enjoyable month in the Nursery. We celebrated Shrove Tuesday, Chinese New Year and Valentines Day. The children made pancakes with Mrs. Kennedy; Paige especially enjoyed them and asked for a second helping describing them as "yummy". The children then told Mrs Varriale at circle time how they made them and what ingredients they had used.

The children celebrated Chinese New Year – the year of the Rooster in a number of ways. Following our theme of shapes the children created a huge Chinese dragon using circles for its body, triangles for its tail and a hexagon for its head. It is now on display in the nursery surrounded by some Chinese writing that the children carefully copied, and lots of Chinese lanterns. Making the lanterns gave the children the opportunity to practice their fine motor skills - cutting and sticking and also drawing patterns. On Friday 11th February, the children visited the Chinese restaurant at the Dog, and enjoyed prawn crackers while Vince wrote everyone's name in Chinese. Vince was very

impressed when all the children said "Kung Hey Fat Choy"! A big thank you to Vince and his staff at the Dog Chinese restaurant for organising the visit for us. Back at Nursery the children enthusiastically cooked and tasted Chinese stir-fry vegetables, using a wok, Chinese dishes and chopsticks. Tim told his mum "we had bamboo shoots and water chestnuts to eat today".



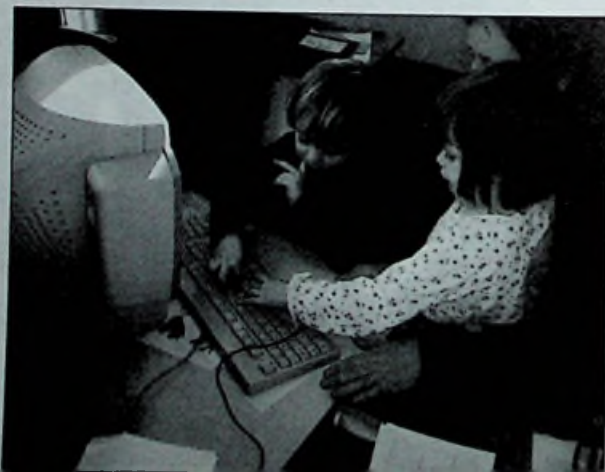
Following on our theme of winter we made ice at Nursery which provided the children with the opportunity to discuss what they saw what was happening and why. Here are a few of their comments: Ellie "it feels cold", Bailey "the big block of ice will take ages to melt", Gwyneth "the ice cubes have melted and only the big one is left now, there is a lot of water – it has come from the ice"

We talked to the children about Ash Wednesday and lent. To reinforce this we gave each child a blessing bag to take home. These contained 40 statements (1 for each day of lent) each asking the children to think about people less fortunate than themselves and encouraging them to use their counting skills putting pennies in the bag to bring back at the end of the term. Thank you to Connor's mum Sharon for making these bags for us.

The children attended the toddlers' service at church, which they always look forward to. They particularly enjoyed playing the musical instruments with great gusto while the grown-ups sang the hymn. Thank you to all the ladies and Mr. Catt for changing the start time to 2.00 pm to accommodate us.

We also visited the library this month for story-time, which is an activity the children always enjoy. The Nursery has now obtained a library card and we intend to take small groups in turn to visit the library to choose a selection of books. This will be on a Monday afternoon or a Thursday morning.

The term finished with another celebration – Valentines Day. The children created some colourful paint splattered hearts using a toothbrush, Mrs Casement helped them to produce a Valentine card using the computer.



Mrs Kennedy's cooking skills were again utilised when she helped them make chocolate coated peppermint creams to give to the person they love.

Training

Tina and Marie have attended two Early Years cluster meetings recently, 'BEAM' maths through play and 'gender issues'. These were both very informative and we will be incorporating some of these ideas into future nursery planning.

Easter Coffee Morning

Windmills Nursery will be holding an Easter coffee morning on Wednesday, 23rd March 2005 in the Tom Hauley room from 10.00 am until 12.00 noon. The children will be visiting during the morning to parade in their Easter bonnets and perform some songs. Please come along and join us.

Race Night

Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances, it has been necessary to change the date of the Race Night originally planned for Saturday 19th March 2005. This event will now be held on Saturday, 16th April in the School Hall. This is an important event as it will be our major fund-raising event this year, please try and support us. Further information will be available in next month's article.

Open Morning

The date of our official re-launch and open morning has also been changed to Saturday, 7th May 2005. Again more information will follow nearer the time.

Donations

Thank you to John Broomfield and the Carnival committee for their donation of £50.00. It is much appreciated and will help with the purchase of some new art and craft materials.

Thank you also to the triplets mum Nicola for her donation of some delightful dolls and dolls clothes. They have replaced some of our much loved but very tired ones!

Childcare Vouchers

We are in the process of registering with Family Matters to be able to accept their childcare vouchers that are issued by employers. If you are eligible for these or know of anyone who uses these vouchers at the moment and may be interested in sending their child to Windmills Nursery school, please speak to our administrator Nicola on 614564.

E-Mail

Windmills Nursery now has an email address. If you have any general questions or information for us you can now email us at info@windmills-nursery.co.uk

There are only a few places left on some sessions for next term. If you require a place for your child or would like further information about the nursery, please contact Nicola on the above number or Tina and Marie on 07906 519148

Nursery School Staff and Committee

Harbury Carnival - June 11th 2005

This time last year and the year before, I stressed the importance of our Carnival and pointed out that its continued success is a function of what we all put into it. Well, the message is the same this year, so start thinking about how you can participate and help us continue a winning formula. Get together with your local organisation, pub, street or friends and see what ideas you can come up with for either a float or a walking group for the procession. The more participants we have, the more fun it is for everybody and I promise that you will enjoy the experience. For your reference the list of categories are:

Trade Float

Independent Float

Children's Float

Decorated Bike/Pram/Car

Horse Drawn/Mounted/Lead

Walking Tableau Children 2-8 persons

Walking Tableau Children more than 8 persons

Walking Tableau Family

Walking Tableau Adults

Walking Adult

Walking Child

Maybe you would like to book a stall/pitch on the field and if so, please call Mike McBride on 612421. Or, simply, do what you can to get your friends and family to attend on the day.

As usual, I would be happy to answer any questions and provide whatever help I can. Please feel free to call me on 614258.

John Broomfield

Parish Paths Partnership

Work has started on our rights of way again. Before Christmas we widened the surfaced path between Frances Road and Vicarage Lane to make it suitable for buggies and wheelchairs. Since then we have dealt with three small dead elm trees blown across rights of way in the gales. The resurgence of Dutch Elm Disease has left large numbers of dead elm trees in our hedgerows and where they are next to rights of way they can be a danger. On our next workday we will be adding an extra step to the stile into the Co-op field and repairing a stile on one of the routes to Ufton.

Can we remind you to keep your dog under control and close to you when you are on farmland rights of way!

If you notice anything that needs attention you can contact me, John Ridgley, on 612792 or at 16 Farm Street.

John Ridgley

What is CINDI?

CINDI stands for Children in Distress. The branch for which we run our coffee mornings is called CINDI KANSENSHI. It exists because of the rising number of single and double orphans in Zambia. Its aim is to assist and support these children, within their extended or adopted families, so that they can grow up to be healthy, happy and self-supporting members of society.

It offers health, education, simple skills, schooling, clothing, medical and nutritional support. It also offers unconditional love to the broken-hearted and aims to set captives of poverty and ignorance free, for the strength of future generations. I have been to CINDI KANSENSHI and have seen the work that has been put into this project. Even to the extent of building their own schoolhouse and making the bricks themselves. All of the money we raise here goes directly to CINDI KANSENSHI and not one penny is wasted.

At our last coffee morning we raised £150, which may not seem a grand sum, but the difference it will make to CINDI KANSENSHI is unbelievable.

Thank you to all of my stalwart helpers and thank you to all who came to support us.

Gladys Hutchins

Siloam Christian Ministries – Tsunami Appeal

Firstly, thank you for your initial response to our appeal. Of course, just giving emergency help, whilst valuable, is not the complete answer. It takes time for people to get back on their feet after an upset, especially one on this scale. The appeal therefore remains open for the on-going work.

What have we done so far? We were contacted by our local man in India immediately and so, within days of the disaster, had sent £5,000 for him to spend on emergency help. He then visited local villages in his area and recommended that we concentrate on supporting three of these. He sent a budget for emergency clothing, food, medicines and bedding to be purchased locally. This was the cause of our appeal for an initial £25,000.

By mid January we had given help to 1250 families. By the end of January, working with Childcare International as our partners, we had in addition donated 5 fishing boats and nets that have enabled 50 families to start providing for themselves again. Further, 6 containers of aid worth about £3m had been sent – 3 to Indonesia, 2 to Sri Lanka and 1 to India (by mid February this had increased to a total of 10 containers). In late February we were able to order two more boats.

But who are Siloam? We are local to you, being based in Leamington Spa, where the UK operation was set up in 1982. We are inter-denominational and our motto is "Love in Action" as our mission is to demonstrate God's love through the help and support we give to others.

Initially, our work was in Portugal – children's homes and amongst those living in refugee-style camps having come from old Portuguese territories in Africa. We have since grown to provide support for individual missionaries, and children's homes and rescue centres in various African countries, the Philippines and Vietnam. In addition we help those working in Eastern Europe where we fund Christian holidays for youngsters and Christmas parcel ministries by churches. Some of you will remember giving to our aid trips to Romania and Croatia in the 90's. In the UK, we co-sponsor those working with the poor and homeless, mainly in the Leamington area.

Whilst maintaining all this work, currently our major interest is in South India, where we have taken on much of the work of a sister charity from Germany. There we sponsor missions to rural areas to test

eyesight, perform cataract operations and treat glaucoma. In addition, we support an eye hospital, rural healthcare, children's hostels and education and a bible college where students study to Bachelor of Theology level. Hence our ability to be on hand at the time of the tsunami, although thankfully none of our people (staff, patients or children) or our projects were directly harmed.

We always try to work through local churches or missions, enabling local Christians to show their love for their neighbours. We are simply a bridge between you and recipient individuals or organisations who ensure that your gifts benefit their local communities. This is why you don't often see our name – we stand behind those on the front line to enable them to do their work.

One exception to this is child sponsorship, where we arrange direct sponsorship for the education or upkeep of individual children in India, Africa and the Far East. The sponsor receives letters and photographs from the child – indeed, some sponsors have even visited the children when on holiday in the country.

Our expense ratio is low – less than 6% goes on fundraising and 2% on salaries and administration. Gifts given for a specific project will only be used for that purpose, although we always welcome donations to general funds as this allows us to be more flexible in emergencies.

Donations can be made:

- By cheque payable to Siloam Christian Ministries Ltd and sent to 5 Clarendon Place, Leamington Spa, CV32 5QL
- Direct to Siloam's bank account – Siloam Christian Ministries Ltd, sort code 60-12-35, account no. 00932329
- Via me - John Eld, Director – Siloam Christian Ministries Ltd (registered charity 327396) on 613340

If you are giving specifically for the Tsunami appeal, would you please clearly mark your gift "Project 066 – Asian Tsunami Relief Fund".

If you would like more information, please visit www.siloam.org.uk or let me know.

John Eld

Harbury Village Hall

We thought your readers might be interested in recent improvements carried out in the Hall and our plans for additional improvements.

As we stated last year the flooring in the Farley Room was renewed and a new cooker installed in 2003. After many years of planning we have at last obtained (with the assistance of the Harbury Theatre Group) a portable stage at considerable expense, which is available to hirers of the Hall. Recently the curtains were cleaned and in the last few weeks the Main Hall and Toilet windows have been renewed with double glazed units. This has improved the appearance of the Hall and we are hopeful it will also reduce the heat loss. (In connection with this we are looking into updating the present heaters, which have served us well for many years!)

The AGM of the Village Hall is to be held on **Monday 4th April** in the Farley Room of the Hall at 8pm. All villagers are entitled to attend and we welcome in particular those who hire the Hall. Do please come along and join us – we would like to have your views.

The Village Hall Committee

Harbury Neighbourhood Watch News

Smart Water

Yes it is coming!

Over the next few weeks and months every house should receive a package through the door explaining how to obtain a bottle of Smart water fluid. We are going to do it a few roads at a time so it may be some time before you get yours. As I have said before it can be used to mark virtually anything. Computers, electrical equipment, china, glass, garden equipment, leather, (saddles etc). So while you are waiting why not make a list of things to mark? It is best to mark everything at once as that way you are less likely to miss things out.

Street co-ordinators

Do you receive the crime summaries and trading standards alerts? If not, this could be because your road does not have a NHW co-ordinator. Maybe this is something you could do. It basically involves distributing information (either by email or paper) about once a week or fortnight to about 12 houses.

If you want more information or would like to help ring me on 612939.

Alison Abbott

Tennis Marathon for Motor Neurone Disease and Tsunami Appeal

Thank you to everyone who supported or donated money to the two charities. Overall the day was successful, with about 45 hours of tennis played altogether. I was joined by 12 people so thanks to Graham and Gill Alder, Carol Jackson, Rosemary Harley, George Bloxham, Phil and Stuart Mugleston, Ben Gumbrell, Adam Crossling, Tom Price, Jethro Lomas, Alan Guy and Sam Sykes. Money is still to be totalled, but we expect to have raised around £300, which will be split between the MND Association and the Tsunami Appeal.



We had to keep warm throughout the day, although the conditions improved after lunchtime. We had some T-shirts and sashes from MND which we wore the whole day. We made a few brief drink breaks and two half-an-hour breaks, one for lunch and one to shelter from the rain. Thanks to Mum, Grandma and Mary Mugleston for supplying us with hot dogs, flapjacks and fruit respectively. Overall the day was enjoyable, and we were all cream crackered at the end. We were all pleased with ourselves for raising so much money.

Jonathan Guy

Morocco Hitch

As many of you will know, I am a student at Swansea University, and in March a friend and I will be hitch-hiking to Morocco as part of an organised appeal to raise money to improve the quality of teaching and learning in South Africa, Uganda and Ghana. Over twelve years, 1,700 students have successfully completed the journey. I need to raise at least £300 to register with the scheme; and would be very grateful for any donations. There is a sponsorship form at the back of the church, or with my parents at 30 Mill Street, Harbury, CV33 9HR (613214); any cheques should be made payable to 'Link Community Development'. Alternatively donations can be made on the following web page www.justgiving.com/robstringerhitch

You can ask me more on my mobile: 07818 668127. Thank you very much!

Rob Stringer

N.S.P.C.C

Many thanks to all who came to the "Burns Night" held at the Village Hall on 29th January 2005.



The hard working committee with the Piper.

A grand total of £1404 was made so we were delighted with the success of the evening.

NSPCC Committee

Large Ginger and White Tom Cat

For several months a large (stray?) ginger and white cat has been making a nuisance of itself in the Manor Orchard/Farm Street area. It goes into houses through cat flaps and steals cat food and sleeps in cat baskets. We have been in touch with the Cat Protection League who has advised us to enquire whether it has an owner before taking action. If you are the owner please ring Harbury 612791.

Catnaps

Reading the article in last month's Harbury and Ladbroke News on Nora Durrant and her donkey, it mentioned the cat that likes to "catnap" on the donkey's back. I enclose a photograph I took last summer. The cat often sleeps in my hay store and is the first animal I see each morning as I enter the field.



Tina Gilbert

The consideration of motorists

Having lived opposite the Harbury cemetery now for two and a half years we are very aware of how the parking is used. Not once during that time have we observed a difficulty with any funeral cortege being able to park. In fact, Mr Bloxham, if you read the "No Parking" sign photographed for last month's issue, both funeral parties and visitors bringing flowers would be precluded, as it clearly states that the only time any parking could take place would be evenings, weekends and Bank Holidays! There is currently very adequate signage on the road thus, may we suggest: "If it ain't broke don't mend it!"

On the same subject of consideration, we have experienced difficulty at the weekends from parents abandoning their vehicles at football time: Half on – half off, both sides of Park Lane. This makes exiting from the properties extremely hazardous plus denying a proper through route for vehicles and obstructing the pathway. This is a shame because the obvious enjoyment and excitement that we hear from the school at these times is a delight to us. It should also be borne in mind that the lunatic fringe may not slow down!

Bryan & Janet Pratt

Easter Meditation

An Easter Meditation entitled "Calvary" will be taking place at St James, Southam on Tuesday 22nd March at 7.30pm.

The same "Riding Lights Theatre Company" that led this in Harbury last year will be doing the drama and providing the service outline.

Tickets (priced £8 and £5 for concessions) will be limited and will be available from me, Janet Pratt on 613181.

Janet Pratt

Know Your Rights! .. Advice from Trading Standards

Don't fall foul of a scam

It is estimated that scams cost UK consumers £1 billion per year. Scams take many forms, frequently masquerading as lotteries, prize draws and sweepstakes. They often involve sending money or phoning premium rate 090 numbers to claim a prize, which doesn't exist. Some schemes, often originating from Nigeria, ask for details of a person's bank account in order to permit the transfer of money and the perpetrators use the information to empty the victim's account.

Remember, if it sounds too good to be true then it probably is – don't be caught out – put it in the bin! Trading Standards wants to know if you have received something which you think is a scam. You can send us information free of charge at:

**Scams, Warwickshire County Council Trading Standards Service,
FREEPOST, Old Budbrooke Road, Warwick CV35 7BR**

Tel: 01926 414000

or report it online at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reportascam

Pat Whorton

Letter from the Evans of Levignac de Guyenne

It's six months since we left Harbury and retirement so far has been very enjoyable.

We miss our friends in the village and events such as the Senior Citizens Christmas Party and all the other things that draw people to Harbury. We keep in touch with what is going on and how people are doing through telephone conversations with Marie Wallington or our children Nikki and Peter (if he remembers to tell us!!).

We have joined a Levignac group called 'Fleurs d'Automne' (Rick is not sure what sort of flower he is) for the over 55s. The group is similar to the Harbury Senior Citizens but it is associated with a French national organisation for retired people called 'Les Aînés Ruraux'. We went to their annual New Year lunch in January, a typical French Sunday affair starting at twelve noon and finishing around five-thirty – it consisted of six courses and 'beaucoup de vin' plus champagne to finish with. A truly memorable event - we'll be there next year for certain. We are also looking forward to joining them on their trips throughout the year.

We seem to spend quite a lot of time in the 'Hotel des Impôts', the 'Sous-Prefecture de Lot-et-Garonne', and the 'CPAM' offices trying to get to grips with the French bureaucratic system (we're still not sure what CPAM stands for but they deal with reciprocal health matters).

When not in government offices, Rick is busy doing all sorts of things in the house, garden and garage. When the sun is out, he is outside landscaping (or that's what he calls it); when it is dull, he is in the garage tinkering with the Spider sports car to get it on the road; when it is cold he carries on with the things that need doing in the house. He's also learning to play golf. I have started going to an aerobics class on a Monday and Friday and playing tennis on a Wednesday morning. The only badminton group was on a Sunday morning at ten o'clock (a little early for a Sunday morning if you've been out the night before). So I enquired if there were any other people wishing to play and I have started up a Thursday afternoon badminton club (a far more sensible time!). There are both French and English players at tennis and badminton, so I get a French lesson thrown in!! I might eventually join Rick at golf as well.

Rick and I attend French language classes and find them interesting social occasions. There are classes run for the English learning

French and the French learning English, occasionally we all get together to aid our mutual progress, which turns into an enjoyable social event.

We are looking forward to the spring and summer. We will be able to get out in the garden more, planting and building everything that we have planned. We also hope to do a bit of travelling to other parts of France, Spain and Portugal. The dog is also looking forward to the spring and summer as he loves to be outside, but he prefers to have someone with him!

Best wishes to everyone in Harbury

Jenny Evans

Time Out – Ufton

Our February event was very successful with all places taken and we made some exciting and colourful jewellery. Please be sure to book our next events early.

Next events:

3 Dimensional Fabric Sculpture - Friday 11 March 10am - 12.30pm at Ufton Village Hall

Twist and fold fabric to create a raised 'rose' as a centrepiece for a cushion, box or quilt, with expert Sheelagh Trigger, using shiny and matt fabrics. Bring basic sewing kit. Suitable for both beginners and experienced sewers.

Cost: workshop £4.50 materials £5.00

Beaded Tassels - Thursday 21 April 10am - 12.30pm at Ufton Village Hall

Stephanie Burnham returns to Ufton and will show us how to make beaded tassels to add a decorative touch to home furnishings and even jewellery. Cost £5 for workshop, select your materials, colours etc., on the day, cost approx. £5 depending on your choice.

TO BOOK PLEASE RING TRACEY WATTS ON 614413

Please book early as places are strictly limited

Karin Kirk

Harbury Surgery

Surgery	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Harbury					
From 8.45am	Dr Snowdon	Dr Snowdon	Dr Hancock	Dr Panting	Dr Wilkinson
	Dr Panting	Dr Wilkinson	Dr Hill	Dr Hill	Dr Panting
Evenings 4pm - 6pm	Dr Panting	Dr Snowdon	Dr Snowdon	Dr Wilkinson	By
	Dr Hill	Dr Panting	-	Dr Hill	Rota
Bishops Itchington					
From 9.15am	Dr Wilkinson	Dr Panting	Dr Snowdon	Dr Wilkinson	Dr Snowdon
Evenings 3.45 - 6.00 pm	Dr Wilkinson	-	Dr Hancock	-	-

APPOINTMENTS:

For Harbury ring 01926 613554 between 8.45 am and 12 Noon and 2 pm and 5.30pm

For Bishops Itchington ring 01926612977 during their opening hours.

Useful Telephone Numbers:

Warwick Hospital	01926 495321
Walsgrave Hospital	02476 602020
Coventry & Warwick Hospital	02476 224055
Warwickshire Nuffield Private Hospital	01926 427971
Rehabilitation Hospital, Heathcote	01926 317700
Chemist, Harbury	01926 612858
Chemist, Southam	01926 812287
Chiropodist, Southam Clinic	01926 815045
Chiropodist, Cape Road Clinic	01926 400001
Health Visitors, Southam Clinic	01926 815045
District Nurses, Southam Clinic	01926 815045
South Warwickshire Primary Care Trust	01926 493491
Volunteer Drivers	01926 817525
Citizens Advice Bureau	01926 457900
Registrar of Births, Marriages, Deaths	01926 812636
Samaritans	0845 7909090
NHS Direct	0845 46 47 48
Out of Hours	01926 600090



Horticultural Society

Mr John Gregory began the evening by telling us that when he retired from the Parks Department in the old LCC, he started a nursery, which kept him pretty busy. Now that he has officially retired, he gives talks! Although the name of the talk was "Hardy Bulbs", he managed to include corms and rhizomes, showing many slides and in spite of many of the plants being renamed, told us the Latin names. As in most cases if the plants are happy they increase, and he suggested they all appreciated a liquid feed providing they still are "in the green" before dying down. He mentioned lilies are gross feeders, so it is even more important to feed them especially if grown in pots.

Judy gave us advance notice of the forthcoming trips, the all day coach outing on **Thursday 9th June**, firstly to **Stapley Water Gardens** then after lunch, to **Arley Old Hall and Gardens** costing **£13 for members and £18 for non members**. Once again the Society are subsidising the coach. I have been reliably informed there are good restaurants at both venues.

The evening trip to Mill Dene Gardens at Moreton-in-the-Marsh will be on Thursday 23rd June and the charge will be £4. John, our Treasurer, will be on hand to receive the names at the next talk for one or both trips.

It will soon be seed sowing time, how about setting a few extra with the **Walkabout Weekend** in mind, which this year will be **Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th July**, as people do like to buy plants. To reduce the snail population in the coming season, it is a good idea to hunt and kill them, particularly search under hedges and up walls etc.- after dark is the most productive time I understand!

Mr Philip Aubury will give the talk, "Labour saving gardening", on April 5th.

Muriel Grey

Nature Notes

Ferns, evergreen beech trees and mountain parrots known as kea. Where on earth are we? The New Zealand Alps in the southwest of the South Island, to be precise - Fiordland. The beech trees, which come in several varieties depending on their height on the mountains, are now known to be related to the birch and are not beech trees at all. The common name has stuck through the Latin, *Nothofagus*, meaning 'false beech' which gives the game away.

The silver fern, together with the kiwi, are the national emblems of New Zealand, the former on the All Blacks Rugby shirt. In fact, the silver fern only grows in the North Island, which Sharon and I have not visited yet. The profusion of other ferns, mosses, lichens and mountain flowers we encountered on our five-day walk (or 'tramp' as kiwis like to call it) through the beautiful Fiordland and Mount Aspiring National Parks was superb. The bog plant communities are quite fragile and, to minimise damage to the environment, the Department of Conservation is sensibly strict about access. A lot of multi-day walks in summer have to be booked and numbers are limited due to hut size.

We were struck by the total absence of litter, the friendliness of both hikers and hut wardens and the sheer exuberance of the vegetation in the temperate rain forest. I've only scratched the surface in identifying the trees we saw and a digital camera has been very useful. It now contains a bank of photographs, which can be identified (perhaps) using reference books back home.

We walked the Routeburn and Capels Tracks and were thus able, with the help of a short minibus ride to the start near Glenorchy and an exciting 20-minute speedboat ride at the end, to do a circular walk. Perhaps not as famous as the nearby Milford Track but scenically stunning with trees hanging with ferns and lichens on the lower slopes and alpine flowers above. The most notable flower for me was the white gentian, which grew in profusion, as did several varieties of daisy, some with florets several inches across.

John Hancock

Gardening Notes

This can be a busy month but be guided by the weather and conditions of the soil. We were beginning to think that winter was almost over when down came the snow. Do not be tempted into doing jobs that require warmer weather but on bright days enjoy pruning, feeding and general tidying. An indicator of the start of spring was to watch for the hawthorn leaves to open but these old sayings may not hold true any more.

Do start seed sowing in earnest this month. Many half-hardy annuals for bedding and containers must be sown now, in warmth. Sow at 15-21C (55-60F) and grow on at 7C. If you do not have hothouse conditions, buying in could be as good and may even be cheaper. Bought trays of seedlings will need pricking out into small pots and

continue to need warmth, so it may be better to wait and buy 'tots', which are 6cm pots holding single or a few plants. These plants can be put directly into containers or into the next size pot, but they still need to be kept in light, warm conditions until they can be put outside. On dry days plant lilies in pots or in the borders. Complete the planting of bare rooted deciduous trees, and shrubs including roses, and fruit bushes. Container grown plants can be planted out at any time but the start of the growing season is the best time. Listen to weather forecasts and be ready to cover camellias and pieris with horticultural fleece. Give a liquid feed to daffodils and crocus when flowering finishes, repeating every few weeks until the leaves begin to droop. Top dress alpine areas with gravel. A handful of grit under the crown of a plant can be a lifesaver in wet weather. It will also keep clean the leaves and flowers which are near the soil surface and will set off low growing plants.

If not done in February, hard prune any shrubs, which flower from July to autumn, and any grown for their winter stem colour. Most can safely go to 12" from the ground if necessary, but on variegated dogwoods only cut out 1 stem in 3. Coppice or pollard an overgrown Eucalyptus to a framework. It can then be cut back every third year to keep a good shape and young leaf form. Do this when danger of hard frost has passed towards the end of the month. Do not remove winter protection from around new shrubs and young trees yet. Plants are starting to lose their cold resistance now so may be caught by a sharp frost. Sunny days and chilly nights are particularly difficult for a plant to cope with. Only 25% of gardeners now grow vegetables, but several kinds will grow in the flower borders. Start some salad crops off in pots and grow them on to plant in the open ground later on. Once germinated they'll be ok in a cold frame or porch. The greenhouse year begins in March and even the protection given by a cold one can be a boon. Good air movement is essential when growing plants under glass; so on sunny warm days ventilate and keep the atmosphere as dry as possible. Watch for aphids and white fly and treat early. Put up sticky yellow traps 20cm. above plants.

Increase water to over wintered tender plants. As new shoots appear they can be used as cuttings. They will root quickly with some bottom heat that could come from a house radiator, but do watch that the compost does not dry out. This is a good time to take cuttings of fuchsia, heliotrope, marguerites and pelargonium. Put them into individual small pots where they can grow on and then be planted out without root disturbance. Prune hibiscus plants. A mature shrub of

2ft. can have the main stem cut back to about 8" and side shoots to 1" Do not pot on until new growth is well under way and do not feed until then. Pinch back leggy stems to keep the plant a good shape. If ferns need repotting do this now or next month.

Plant of the month - Rhubarb

At the start of the 17th century Charles de l'Ecluse wrote the *Rariorum Plantarum Historia*, describing 600 plants, new to European gardeners. In the gardens of the Ottoman Empire he found a medicinal plant with large hand shaped leaves and red edible stalks, *Rheum rhaponticum*. This plant, native to Asia, from China through to the Himalayas, is certainly not a rarity now, with many people growing the red stalks as one of the early treats from the vegetable patch. Most of the early rhubarb sold in the shops comes from W.Yorkshire, where it is forced in large dark sheds, harvesting even being done by candlelight. Traditionally the sheds were warmed by coal and the plant crowns were protected by the wool waste called 'shoddy'. Up to the early 1960s the 'Rhubarb Express' took crates or the juicy pink stalks to the London vegetable markets. Now there are only twelve growers making a living from this vegetable. Plant rhubarb crowns from November to March in well manured soil, in a sunny open position. Do not pull any stalks in the first year, but for about eight more years the plant should yield a crop from March through to the end of June. Top dress each winter with well-rotted manure to keep a vigorous plant.

Pat Smith

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors

We would like to thank our friends and neighbours for their cards, flowers and gifts, love and prayers, on the loss of a special Dad, Father-in-law and Grandad.

Thank you to Father Roy and Pam for their prayers, love and support over these last few months, which have been of great comfort to us.

We also wish to thank our neighbours Ann and Evelyn, for all their offers of help and support, which was very much appreciated, especially during the times when we were either travelling or staying in Cheshire to be with Dad.

Gill, John, Alan and Nicola Guilford

Dear Editors

We would like to thank all our friends who sent cards, donations and messages of sympathy on the loss of a dear Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother. A special thanks to the two Tony's and Maggie for so supportively attending the funeral at Wixford Church.

Our thanks to Father Roy for the many prayers he offered for Mum's health, and then at the end, for her "safe journey".

A big thank you to you all for being so kind and caring over the past months.

Our love

Ray and Jan Playdon and Family.

Dear Editors

We would like to thank all who gave cards, gifts and flowers after the arrival of our precious daughter Maddison Mai on 19th January, a lovely sister for Kirsty Skye.

Thanks again

Christine, Pete, Kirsty and Maddison xxx

Dear Editors

May I, through the Harbury and Ladbroke News, express my gratitude to all the people from Harbury that visited me and sent me well wishes and gifts during my recent stay in Warwick Hospital. It was touching and reassuring to know that I have so many friends in and around the Harbury area.

I was discharged from hospital on Tuesday 22nd February and I am now on the long road to rehabilitation and health.

Thank you once again

Sue Merrick and family

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

ART TUTORIALS: Tom Hauley Room 1st Thursday of the month

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-not in the summer) 8:00-10:00pm;
Friday (612029) (Juniors) 2:00-3:00pm;
Sunday (not in summer) (613340) 7:00-10:00pm

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

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS various homes 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month 2.00-3.00pm
(613207); 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month 10.30-12.00 Noon (612864)

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

CHILDREN'S DANCE CLASSES Farley Room Wednesday 4.00-8.00pm (01789 842242)

CHOIR PRACTICE: Church, Fridays 6:30pm

CHURCH NEN'S GROUP: Tom Hauley Room 1st Thursday in the month 7.45pm

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

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

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: Shakespeare Inn 1st Thursday in the month 8:30pm

HARBURY FRIENDS: Tom Hauley Room, 2nd Tuesday in the month 8:00pm

HARBURY JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB:

Year 1 - Training: 9.00am Saturday at Harbury playing fields

Coach: Steve Darby Tel: 613330

Years 2&3 - Training: 10.45am Saturday at Harbury School

Coach: Steve Darby Tel: 613330

Year 4 - Training: 9.00am Saturday at Harbury School

Coach: Neil Murray Tel: 612524

Year 5 - Training: 9.00am Saturday at Harbury School

Coach: Neil Murray Tel: 612524

Under 12s - Training: 10.30am Saturday at Harbury playing fields

Coach: Alastair Cattrell Tel: 335366

Under 15s - Training: 11am Saturday at Myton School

Coach: Keith Edwards Tel: 421414

HARBURY PRE-SCHOOL: Wight School (behind Library), High St. Tuesday to Friday 9:00am-1:00pm (614482)

HARBURY THEATRE GROUP Last Tuesday of the month Shakespeare Inn (612009)

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

HARBURY VILLAGE CLUB: Contact 612498

HEREBURGH MORRIS DANCERS: (613730) School Hall, Wednesdays 8:00-10:00pm

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: Tom Hauley Room, 1st Tuesday in the month (Oct. to May) 8:00pm Contact Daphne Clifford 01926 612829

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;

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

Matches on Saturday Afternoon

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Tom Hauley Room, 3rd Saturday in the month 7.30am

MOTHER'S UNION: Tom Hauley Room, 1st Wednesday in the month 2.30pm; 3rd Tuesday in the month 8pm

SCOUTS: Scout Hut, Thursdays 7:00pm

PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP: (612792) Meeting on 2nd Wednesday in the month at the Shakespeare 8:00pm

TENNIS CLUB: April to September:

Adults (614532): Tues & Thurs 6:30pm onwards; Wednesdays 1.45-3.15pm; Saturdays 3:00-5:00pm. Call secretary 614532 Tim Lockley or Chairman 613284 Colin Mercer for details

Under 16s (613284): Coaching sessions for minis (4-7year olds) Junior 7-11 and intermediates 11-16 years at various times. Call Sue Mercer 613284 for details. Non-members may book courts at £2.00/hour, £5.00/hour to include floodlights, (plus £5.00 deposit for key to floodlight box). Bookings should be made at Country Fayre, Chapel Street

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

W.I.: Tom Hauley Room, 2nd Thursday in the month 7:45pm

WINDMILLS NURSERY SCHOOL: Primary School, Monday-Friday; 9:00am-3.15pm; Friday 9.00am-1.00pm

YOGA: Tom Hauley Room, Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30pm Dianne Surgery Tel. 817904

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

APRIL EDITION – HARBURY & LADBROKE NEWS

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