

Harbury & Ladbroke News

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*The views of contributors are not necessarily those of the Editorial Team
The Editors reserve the right to amend articles as they see fit.*



Editorial



Our photograph shows one of Harbury's intrepid post ladies battling through the recent snow. In both villages, all the shops and services continued despite the difficult conditions – thank you to you all.

It is encouraging to learn that the Duke of Edinburgh group has

fourteen young people working towards the Bronze Award. This, like many other activities in the village, might be credited towards an entry towards the Best Village Competition, details of which appear elsewhere in the magazine.

The Tennis and Netball Clubs, along with the Parish Council, have incurred extra costs through having to replace damaged fencing at the courts – a disappointing start to the New Year.

Harbury Diary

FEBRUARY

Sun 7 SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK

Sung Eucharist 9.00am

First Light Service 10.30am Tom Hauley Room

Holy Communion with Laying on of Hands 6.00pm

Tues 9 Toddlers' Service 2.00pm in Church

Holy Communion 7.30pm

French Conversation 8.00-9.30pm in Farley Room, Village Hall

- Wed 10 Southam Childrens' Centre 12.30-3.00pm in Village Hall
Ballroom Dancing 8.30-10.00pm in Village Hall
- Thurs 11 Table Tennis 9.30-10-30am in Village Hall
Holy Communion 9.45am
Harbury Choir School 6.30-8.30pm in Village Hall
WI 7.45pm in Tom Hauley Room – "A Pilgrims's Ride to Santiago de Compostela" by Bill Davies
- Fri 12 **SCHOOL HALF TERM**
Tai Chi 6.30-8.30pm in Village Hall
- Sat 13 Coffee Morning 10am -12pm in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Harbury PCC
Morris Dancing Workshop 10-5.00pm in Village Hall
- Sun 14 SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT**
Holy Communion 8.00am
Sung Eucharist 10.30am
- Mon 15 **ADVERTISEMENTS TO 31 BINSWOOD END BY 5.30PM**
Village Hall Committee 8.00pm in Village Hall
- Tues 16 **SHROVE TUESDAY**
Holy Communion 7.30pm
Mothers' Union Meeting Tom Hauley Room 8.00pm: Study & Discussion on preparing for Easter – Chris Rutherford
Senior Citizens Benefit Committee 8.00-9.00pm in Village Hall
- Weds 17 **ASH WEDNESDAY**
Tea, 3.00pm Tom Hauley Room
Holy Communion with Ashes 7.30pm at Ladbroke
Ballroom Dancing 8.30-10.00pm in Village Hall
- Thurs 18 Table Tennis 9.30-10-30pm in Village Hall
Holy Communion 9.45am
- Fri 19 Lifeline Screening 8.30-5.30pm in Village Hall
Mid-day Prayer with Meditation 12 Noon in Church
Lent Lunch 12.30pm Tom Hauley Room
Tai Chi 6.30-8.30pm in Village Hall

- Sat 20 Men's Prayer Breakfast 7.30pm Tom Hauley Room
Coffee Morning, 10.00am – 12pm, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Bell Ringers
- Sun 21 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**
Holy Communion 8.00am
Family Communion Service 10.30am
Evensong 6.00pm
- Mon 22 SCHOOL STARTS
- Tues 23 Holy Communion 7.30pm
Julian Meeting 8.00pm
Harbury Society talk by Steven Falk – Warwickshire Wildflowers, 7.30 for 8.00pm in Tom Hauley Room. All welcome.
- Weds 24 Southam Children's Centre 12.30-3.00pm in Village Hall
Drop in Tea for the Bereaved 2.30 to 4.30pm, 19 Farm Street
Ballroom Dancing 8.30-10.00pm in Village Hall
- Thurs 25 ARTICLES TO HARBURY PHARMACY, HIGH ST.
HARBURY, E-MAIL DEADLINE BY 5.30PM
Table Tennis 9.30-10-30am in Village Hall
Holy Communion 9.45am
Thursday Club 2.30pm in Village Hall
Harbury School Choir 6.30pm in Village Hall
Parish Council 7.30pm in Village Hall
- Fri 26 Mid-day Prayer with Meditation 12 noon in Church
Lent Lunch, 12.30pm Tom Hauley Room
Tai Chi 6.30-8.30pm in Village Hall
- Sat 27 Coffee Morning, 10.00am-12.00pm in the Tom Hauley Room in aid of Cancer Research
Moving Pictures in Village Hall, Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs, Cert. U, Doors open at 4.00pm, film starts at 4.30pm
Rummage Sale 2.30pm at Galanos House, Southam. Everyone welcome. Tel: 812185
- Sun 28 LENT II**
Holy Communion 8.00am
Sung Eucharist 10.30am
- MARCH**
- Mon 1 Theatre Group Meeting, 8.00pm The Dog Inn

- Tues 2 Holy Communion 7.30pm
Horticultural Society "Spring in Texas" by Nicholas Clark
8.00pm Tom Hauley Room
- Weds 3 Holy Communion 2.00pm
Mothers' Union Meeting 2.30pm Tom Hauley Room:-
"The Lilies of the Field" – Charles Catt (Talk with Slides)
- Thurs 4 Holy Communion 9.45am
Art Group 10.00-4.00pm in Tom Hauley Room
Men's Group 7.45pm Tom Hauley Room
Folk Club 8.00pm at the Dog Inn
- Fri 5 Mid-day Prayer with Meditation 12 Noon in Church
Lent Lunch 12.30pm Tom Hauley Room
Womens' World Day of Prayer Service 2.00pm in Church
- Sat 6 Coffee Morning 10.00am-12.00pm in the Tom Hauley Room
in aid of Harbury Twinning Association
Coventry Bellringers' Barn Dance in Village Hall
- Sun 7 **LENT III**
Sung Eucharist 9.00am
First Light Service 10.30am Tom Hauley Room
Evening Taizé-style Service 6.00pm

Refuse Collection Rota				
	Deppers Bridge	Harbury	Ladbroke	Refuse Collection Week
February	Wed	Thurs	Fri	
	10	11	12	Grey Bin
	17	18	19	Green & Blue Lid Bins
	24	25	26	Grey Bin
March	3	4	5	Green & Blue Lid Bins
	10	11	12	Grey Bin
	17	18	19	Green & Blue Lid Bins
	24	25	26	Grey Bin



All Saints
HARBURY

From the Rector

Father Craig Grocock

The Rectory, Vicarage Lane, Harbury Tel.: 612377

Where is God?

Broken buildings, broken bodies, women cowering in fear of being raped, starving children, the unburied dead, unimaginable despair and horror.

The tragedy of Haiti has affected us all as we've watched the dreadful scenes on our TV screens and seen the pictures in our newspapers. When faced with such tragedy the question 'Where is God?' looms large in many minds.

Throughout history people have asked this question. The aftermath of the First World War brought church decline in this country as people in their thousands struggled to answer and resolve that question in their minds. It is easy to give glib responses to suffering because we demand an answer. We want to be able to hold together the idea of a God of love on one hand and a suffering world on the other.

The problem is, faith in many ways has become superstitious. We expect God to wrap us up in cotton wool and to make life nice for us. Consequently when something goes wrong our faith is destroyed because it's built on sand.

I was listening to an interview on the radio with some people from Haiti. They were asked this same question but their response was very different. The tragedy had not affected their faith and trust in God but in fact had drawn them closer to him. It seems the people of Haiti have a faith built on more solid foundations.

Christianity embraces suffering and pain and, at the very heart of the Christian message, we see the pain and suffering of a man on a cross. Jesus never explained suffering – he experienced it and therefore relates to our most painful and bitter experiences.

And where do we see God? Well, we see him in those attending the sick, those digging out survivors from the rubble, in the eyes of the nurses, the relief workers and the fire crews. We see God where love is shown, given and expressed. I guess the real challenge for us is daring to recognise him and being willing to open our eyes to see him in the love of those around us.

God bless.

From the Registers

Holy Baptism, All Saints' Harbury

January 17 Rebecca and Chloe Thomas



From the Churchwardens

Will & Fliss

Although Christmas seems long past, we're sure that your memory of the inspiring services has not faded and we'd like to thank everyone who worked in so many ways to make it such a joyful and worshipful festival.

On 23rd January, some sixty of us from across the Deanery attended a training session on "Leading Intercessions and Reading in Church". It was led by the Rev. Richard Cooke, supported by Gemma North, a reader who has recently moved to Harbury. It was a very helpful morning – and entertaining! We thank them both for their time and expertise and thank Alison for arranging the event.

Now we look ahead to Lent which is fast approaching. You will see from the Diary that we are holding our usual Friday service of Prayer and Meditation, followed by a Lent Lunch. There will also be an evening Lent course. Don't forget the Women's World Day of Prayer service which will take place on Friday 5th March at 2pm.

Please do join us whenever you can.



First Light

Alison Abbott

We started the New Year on a cheerful note reflecting how it is easier to feel "another year older and deeper in debt!" But all was not lost because, through music, drama and words, we discovered that our biggest debt is not financial, but is owed to God for all the good things he generously gives us, and most of all for forgiving us for all the things we do wrong. We are worth an immeasurable amount to God,

and so, unlike most lenders, he doesn't ask us to pay it back. All he asks is for us to love others like he loves us and to forgive too.

Forgiveness is a very powerful thing as can be seen by the effect of the truth and reconciliation commission in South Africa. It can have an equally powerful effect in personal relationships too. It's something we can all experience however young or old we are. Please come and join us on February 7th in the Tom Hauley Room as we think about the cost and rewards of forgiveness in a relaxed environment.

In March our theme is that "naughty but nice" factor that tempts us to do those things that are really not good for us!

	<h2>Mothers' Union</h2>	<p>Gillian Hare</p>
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Unfortunately, the January afternoon tea party was cancelled as skis were the only safe form of transport that day; we hope all our members survived the snow and ice unscathed.

All was clear for the evening party which was a happy and well attended event. Thanks to everyone's contributions, the food was varied and delicious and much hilarity ensued during Mrs Innes Brett's amusing talk, "We haven't a form for it"!

By the time of reading, we shall have had our coffee morning and our first February talk.

February 16th: Preparing for Easter

Wednesday 3rd March: 2pm Communion in the Tom Hauley Room followed at 2.30pm by Charles Catt with slides of "The Lilies of the Field".

Friday 5th March: 2pm, Women's World Day of Prayer – all are welcome to this and to all our meetings.

	<h2>Toddlers' Service</h2>	<p>Lorna Bedford</p>
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At our January service Mrs Gillian Hare told us how God spoke to Noah and instructed him to build a very large wooden ark. Mrs Hare showed us tools like the ones Noah would have used for the construction of the boat, namely an axe, a saw and a hammer.

Because a lot of people in the world were being quite horrid to one another, God had decided to save Noah, his family and lots of animals from a flood he was going to send upon the earth. So, as God had instructed, Noah made a huge boat and when the floods came, he and his family and the animals boarded the boat and were kept safe and dry. When the rains ceased Noah sent birds to look for land and when one came back carrying an olive leaf Noah knew there was dry land ahead. God spoke to Noah and said he would not flood the world again and, as a sign of his promise, he would make a rainbow in the sky.

We sang two songs, "I love the sun" and "Rise and shine and give God his glory, glory", accompanied by Mr. Michael Hare on the accordion.

For our activity, we had a picture of the Ark and we stuck on lots of animal pictures. After refreshments, we played until it was time to go home.

Our next service will be in Church on Tuesday 9th February at 2pm. All babies and toddlers accompanied by an adult are very welcome to join us.

Women's World Day of Prayer 2010 – 5th March, 2.00pm

This year, the service has been prepared by the Christian women of Cameroon. The theme is "Let everything that has breath praise God". It demonstrates the wonderful gift that the people of Cameroon have of being able to praise God at all times and in all circumstances, in good times and bad. It promises to be an interesting service, please come and be part of it.

Ruth Dodds

Ladbroke News & Diary

FEBRUARY

- | | | |
|------------|----------|---|
| Mon | 1 | Table Tennis, 8.00pm in Village Hall |
| Sun | 7 | Christingle Service with Family Communion and refreshments 10.30am |
| Mon | 8 | Table Tennis 8.00pm in Village Hall |

10

Sat 13 Whist Drive, 7.45pm in Village Hall

Sun 14 Sunday Next Before Lent

Holy Communion 9.00am

Mon 15 ADVERTISEMENTS TO 31 BINSWOOD END BY 5.30PM

Table Tennis, 8.00pm in Village Hall

Wed 17 ASH WEDNESDAY

Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes in Church, 7.30

Lent Lunch, 12.30pm, Hall Farm, Ladbroke

Sat 20 Whist Drive, 7.45pm in Village Hall

Sun 21 LENT I

Holy Communion B.C.P, 9.00am

Mon 22 Table Tennis, 8.00pm in Village Hall

Wed 24 Lent Lunch, 12.30pm, Walworth Farm, Bishops Itchington

Thurs 25 ARTICLES TO HARBURY PHARMACY, HIGH ST.

HARBURY, E-MAIL DEADLINE BY 5.30PM

Women's Institute, 7.30pm in Village Hall

Sun 28 LENT II

Holy Communion, 9.00am

MARCH

Mon 1 Table Tennis, 8.00pm in Village Hall

Wed 3 Lent Lunch, 12.30pm, Chapel Ascot Farm

Sat 6 Whist Drive, 7.45pm in Village Hall

Sun 7 LENT III

Family Communion, 10.30am followed by refreshments in Church



Ladbroke Parish Council

Betty Winkfield

Matters Arising: Valerie Copley is to be the new co-opted Parish Councillor. There were eight local residents who expressed interest in the position.

Change of Road Name: there was only one family who replied to the letter from the Parish Clerk regarding the new name of the upper end of Windmill Lane. There are three properties along the lane and the change has to be agreed by a two thirds majority. It will all take several months in any case to get the change.

Caravans Illegally Parked behind Ladbroke Farm: this caused much discussion regarding enforcement notices and communication with the occupant of the caravans.

Windmill Lane (lower end): no progress regarding parking bays in the lane. The Highways Department has been busy lately!

Community Forum: the main items at the Forum will largely be about crime and traffic. It will really replace the police attendance at Parish Council meetings. The police will only be attending these, on request, for a specific reason.

Speeding on the Bypass: it was noted that four vehicles were stopped the last time the cameras were used. No motorcycles were stopped. Monitoring does not take place at weekends.

Planning Applications: (a) Sainsbury's Supermarket has withdrawn its application.

(b) Erection of stables and food storage containers off Upper Windmill Lane – this is pending. The Council was unanimously opposed to this; it was discussed at length. Basically, which comes first, the stable or the horse? (c) Discussion also took place about the buildings and boat building at old Barn Farm. It has finally been granted **but** with many conditions. How are those conditions going to be monitored? Apparently it will only be officially monitored if the contravention is reported to the District Council by the person who actually witnesses it.

The Parish Plan: no further discussions following the joint meeting in December to progress outstanding issues. The Parish Plan Committee will reconsider the issues and work on presenting the final format with the inclusion of photographs.

The Village Hall: at the AGM, Margaret Bosworth was elected as the new chairperson. The retiring chairman, Mark Teverson, will remain on the committee. There are many money raising events in the "pipe line" – watch this space! The pantomime and New Year's party were great successes.

Millennium Green: the committee are having a Safari Supper on January 30th. The village Fete is on June 19th.

Warwickshire County Councillor: the final budget meeting is on 13th February. The council tax is likely to go up by 2.5%. Schools are not going to have any cuts. The charges for people having home carers will go up. The biggest “groan” was the fact that the County is not obliged to provide school transport for the 16 year olds and over. The number county-wide of children taken into care has increased. The checking of volunteers working with children is rather vague, some new proposals are on hold.

The Fire Service: no decisions have yet been made and all neighbouring County Councils have to agree the changes.

District Councillor: was very pleased that the waste collections had gone so well over the Christmas period and during the bad weather conditions. It was noted that our Parish Council thanked the “bin men” for their working during the bad weather.

Gritting of Roads: there was much discussion about this. Apparently grit has been stolen from yellow boxes and sold on. The District Councillor was asked about the lack of gritting in Ladbroke – “if the main roads were getting gritted three times a day, couldn’t they reduce that to two and give one gritting to our village?”

A memorial tree is to be planted in memory of Janice Berry. The money used will come from the Best Kept Village prize money. The site for the tree has yet to be decided.

Finally, the Bell Inn is closed – again.

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday March 17th**. There will be no meeting in February due to two councillors being away and the Council therefore not being quorate.

The meeting closed at 21.37hrs.



Ladbroke Church News

Sue Lord

Ladbroke Church has had a busy Christmas and New Year with the Church filled to capacity on three occasions, the first being the Christmas Day Service. How inspiring to see the Church full of worshippers and most gratifying for Father Craig, although it was a race for him to make the Harbury service in time as there were so many people to welcome.

We then had a Winter Wedding, very romantic with suitable winter floral arrangements. Guests arrived by classic double decker buses and coaches which was probably a first for Ladbroke.

Finally we had a beautiful Carol Service. The choir, directed by Bill Bosworth, encouraged everyone to fill the Church with song. Many stayed behind to enjoy refreshments and the social atmosphere.

Annie Goldthorp has been part of our worship for several months and we shall miss her interaction. Our very best wishes go with her as she continues her training and ministry.

As always many thanks go to our flower arrangement team for making the Church look so stunning and welcoming.

The wonderful ladies of Ladbroke Church are once again providing Lent lunches. Soup and cheese are on offer for a donation of £4.00. Money raised will go towards the Haiti appeal and the venues are as follows starting at 12.30pm:-

Wednesday 17 th February	Betty Winkfield, Hall Farm, Harbury Road, Ladbroke
Wednesday 24 th February	Sue Moore, Walworth Farm, Bishops Itchington
Wednesday 3 rd March	Jenny Barrett, Chapel Ascot Farm
Wednesday 10 th March	Catherine and Hazel, 3 Ladbroke Hall
Wednesday 17 th March	Valerie and Margaret, The Croft
Wednesday 24 th March	Beryl Ross, Field Farm, Kington Road, Southam

The Ash Wednesday Service will be on Wednesday 17th February at 7.30pm.

	Ladbroke & Deppers Bridge W.I.	Sue Halsall
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It seems a long time since we met for the Christmas Party in December but ten W.I. members did get together on 12th January when we were taxied across to the Courtyard Theatre in Stratford to see The Arabian Nights.

I don't think that many of us had any preconceptions, but nothing **could** have prepared us for the colour and energy which packed the stage throughout the production.

We were then well supported for the coffee morning in the Tom Hauley Room on Saturday 23rd and the usual team of Beryl Ross and Catherine and Cyril Spence can be seen in their usual places behind the raffle prizes!



The January meeting was held on 28th in the Village Hall and as we went in we were intrigued by a table with objects covered by a cloth. These were revealed, after our

business meeting, as a selection of everyday antiques objects (I was relieved to see that I wasn't still using any of them) and we were invited to guess their uses. There was much hilarity as we crowded round inspecting the items. Sue Moore thought that particularly vicious looking pliers was used by a dentist – it turned out to be a cobbler – and we were nearly all nonplussed by a big wooden box with a lid and leather strap. It turned out to be a box for carrying an organisations' wages. My favourite was a fairly ornate



metal box with a pattern of vents in the top which was revealed as a carriage warmer. Another one which took my fancy was a smooth wooden holder with about 16 nails with their points all at the same length. I guessed it to be something to do with teasing wool but it was a biscuit puncher making the indentations such as you see on a digestive biscuit. Janet Yeates was the winner who correctly deduced 10 out of the 20 items. Julie Harris and Pam Collins can be seen discussing one of the curios with Pat Justice, who led the evening.

The next meeting is to be held on Thursday 25th February starting at 7.30, when Ray Allen will be giving a talk on Life in the Drug Squad.



Ladbroke General Section

Quiz

A quiz will be taking place in Ladbroke Village Hall at 8pm on Friday 19th March 2010. £20 for Teams of four (to include refreshments), bar provided. To book a team – please contact Janet – 01926 817733 or Christine – 01926 811606.

Christine Baker

Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Club

The results of the draw for December 2009 were:

£80	Derek & Collette Batty
£50	Helen Ballard
£25	Marion Grainger
£10	Carole & Peter Loftus
£10	Gwynne Badman
£10	Susan Moore
£10	John & Heather Wright
£10	Geoff Timms

Janet Goldson

Ladbroke Bell Tower

Sadly I missed last month's edition so there is much to catch up on this month and it's fair to say we've all been going "like the clappers". The festive season is always a busy season for any church and with that also means much ringing to be done. Those of you in the village will have heard the bells ringing on Christmas morning whether you were attending service or unwrapping your gifts at home and it was nice to hear the appreciative comments by the attending flock. The bells on Christmas day were rung by Laura, Kieth, Kay, Marg and myself.

Another great tradition is to ring the old year out and ring the new year in. The bells were rung on New Year's Eve by Laura, Su, Kieth, John and by no means least Laura's daughter Rosie who was fantastic.

There is a set pattern to how the bells should be rang on New Year Eve with the bells all ringing and then one by one on bell will stand at a time to see the old year out until only one bell is tolling in which it will proceed to toll twelve times to strike midnight. Once the last bell has tolled for the twelfth time all the other bells will rejoin to celebrate and bring the New Year in. With this interesting fact I will cite only one verse of Lord Alfred Tennyson from *In Memoriam A.M.H;*106

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty night:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Additionally, the bells rang for a wedding shortly after New Year in which Kieth, Su, Laura and Wonder Will rang. Afterwards two of the bell ringers went on to sing in the choir!!!

The month of January has seen some new additions to our bell ringing squad. With Super Samuel Archer and Paul Taylor in bell ringing boot camp with the master Graham Nabb over at Kinton bell tower and then joining our ranks, our numbers are swelling nicely but again anyone who would like to join our happy band of ringers is more than welcome. Practice nights are on Monday nights at 19:30pm.

A couple of weeks ago we had a "Rookies Night" with all the newest camponologists in attendance. So please. you need not have worried that the bells were all coming crashing down the tower... that was just a team of fledglings at play.

The next tradition that we will be looking at is the date of the 30th January. The execution of Charles 1 took place on this date in 1649. Almost immediately after his death he was portrayed as a martyr, and the day of his execution was included in the calendar of saints' days in the Anglican Prayer book from 1662; the special prayers were only removed from the official service in 1859. A number of churches in England and abroad are dedicated to him and it was the custom in many places to commemorate his martyrdom with a muffled peal of bells.

So more than enough ding dongery has been going on with plenty more to come. The team are endeavouring further into method ringing by attempting plain hunting and dodging.

Here's to keeping them "pealed"!

Till next month.

Krys Robinson

Ladbroke Village Hall – Past Times

I've just realised that when you write "in living memory", you have to be really careful.



My next door neighbour, Rosemary Allington on reading this, came round with these lovely photographs of a Christmas concert (she didn't remember it being a pantomime) in the Village Hall about 1960. Rose identified herself (the little angel/fairy in the centre of the front row and looking to the left). Her sister Linda and brother Tom are

also there, as was Anita Todd, nee Edwards and an angelic looking John Frost, the last dairy farmer of Ladbroke. He is the first elf in the front row to Rose's right. Is there anyone around who can remember other shows or who have other photographs?



**Betty
Winkfield**



Quarterly Report, January 2010

- ⇒ In the last three months the Parish Council has:
- ⇒ Been re-accredited with Quality Parish status.
- ⇒ Begun work on updating the Parish Plan.
- ⇒ Worked with strategic partners to secure planning permission for affordable housing in Bush Heath Lane.
- ⇒ Agreed a budget which will permit us to continue updating village streetlighting, add new play equipment, and support Village Hall improvements.
- ⇒ Made grants to the Junior Rugby Club and to Village with a Vision.
- ⇒ Secured a grant from WCC towards a BMX track.

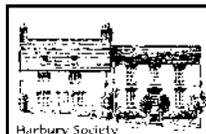
Winter pavements: - the Parish Council is grateful to all parishioners who cleared pavements in the village during the snow. If we get more snow please clear the pavement near your house, if you can - you would not be liable if someone slipped after you had cleared it, just don't try to clear it by pouring hot water on it that might then freeze!

Save Money: Save Energy Day

The Parish Council is organising a Save Money: Save Energy Day on Saturday March 6th at Harbury Village Hall, 10am-3pm. This is a drop-in day where you can come and learn practical tips about how to save energy from fellow villagers and see what village organisations and nearby villages are doing to save energy and save money. We all need to reduce our energy consumption and our carbon footprints and we might as well save money in the process!

Tim Lockley

Chairman, Harbury Parish Council



Harbury Society

Linda Ridgley

By the time you read this we will have held our Prohibition Dinner at the Dog with photos of Flappers and Gangsters and questions about the criminal gangs of the time, the dances, booze and the law enforcers.

Our next events:

Tues 23rd Feb – Warwickshire Wildflowers - Steven Falk in Tom Hauley Room 7.30 for 8pm.

Thurs 18th March - AGM & Talk on Warwickshire Building Stone same time and venue.

The Museum Service sent us details on the following events and courses at the **Records Office off Cape Road in Warwick** and bookable on 01926 738959.

Beginners Family History - 8th Feb 10.30-12.30 £5 per person

Archives Online (using the online catalogue) **13th Feb** 10-1pm **FREE** but please book as above.

Next Steps in Family History (resources for research) – **22nd Feb** 2-4pm £5 per person.

Ancestry.co.uk (in depth look at using the website) – **26th Feb** 9.15-12.13pm £12 per person.

At the Activity Centre, St John's Museum Warwick - Bookable on 01926 412069

Create Jewellery (inspired by collections & learn basic skills) **27th Feb** 10-4pm £25 Bring lunch.

Tapestry Weaving Workshop (learn simple techniques) **24th April** 10-4pm £25 Spaces limited.

Make Do and Mend (Wartime clothes) 5th May talk starts 3pm Tickets £2.50. Booking advisable.

You can find out more at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/museum - Look for Events and Activities on the left-hand side – then Outlook and Lookout.



Harbury Women's Institute

Jeanne Beaumont

On an absolutely foul evening we managed to get to see Robinson Crusoe at the Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth. Oh yes, we did have a pleasant evening and always wonder at the excellent production and scenery for such a small theatre. Thanks to Christine for getting us there after being let down by the first coach company.

After being unable to attend the New Year's party which I have gone to for years (illness), I have heard what a good time was had by all. The committee and helpers worked very hard preparing the Hall etc as there are workmen in there right now. The food, as always, was super. The entertainment by Pam Miller was amusing and saucy in the style of Pam Ayres. So what with the company, the evening was a success. Many thanks to the great helpers.

A reminder to submit a photo on the theme "Reflections" for the W.F.W.I 2011 calendar by 30th April (no N.T properties).

The annual Federation meeting 2010 is on Wed. 17th March at the Spa Centre. Diana and Gillian will be doing the floral decorations and the guest speaker will be T.V vet, Steven Leonard.

The speaker at the January meeting was Felicity Howatson on "Great Grandma's Workbox". I would not attempt to go into detail but would like to say how enjoyable she was and so interesting. She was brought up in India for the first part of her life as her father was a medical officer. She was taught to sew by Granny, a beautiful sewer who passed her talents on to Felicity.

Her mother did not like sewing but was a good watercolour painter.

Felicity said she started working on her family tree when she was 11 and some interesting background was found, dating back to the 11th century.

She has worked ecclesiastical robes and the huge millennium robe she brought showing the life and death of Jesus was fantastic. Felicity is hoping that it will go to the Victoria and Albert Museum.

But Granny's workbox was out of this world; made of ebony and mother of pearl in 1830. The historical contents each had a story and were fascinating. Thoroughly enjoyable.

The next meeting is in the Tom Hauley Room, Thursday 11th February at 7.45pm, speaker "A Pilgrim's Ride to Santiago de Compostela" by Bill Davies.



Harbury Theatre Group

Jo Banbury

With the Christmas break over, it's all systems go as Harbury Theatre Group embarks on their preparations for the next production, which will be performed on 13th, 14th and 15th May.

This month the group got together to read through a selection of plays, and we have chosen two short one act plays; one of which is "White Lies" by Richard James (which received the 'Best Comedy' and 'Best Unpublished Play' awards at the Maidenhead Drama Festival, 2006). "White Lies" is an extremely funny play, telling the story of four old university friends who get back together for a reunion with quite hilarious consequences.

The group has great fun pulling the shows together, but we can't continue to do so without the support of the village. We would love to see some new talent and issue an open invitation to anyone who is interested in being involved, whether that is trading the boards or helping build the set, controlling the lights and sound or helping bring us into line behind the curtain! Do come along to the casting evening, which will be held at the Tom Hauley Room on 6th February from 8pm. Please don't be shy – there is a load of activity you can get stuck into and any support will be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to be involved in May, but cannot make the event on the 6th Feb, then please call on 613120. It's going to be fun! Don't miss out!!

Next monthly meeting to be held at The Dog Inn, from 8pm on Monday 1st March.



Folk Club

Doug Freeman

The theme for Harbury Folk Club number 302 was "Harbury". With the arctic conditions we wondered how many locals would make the club, let alone our friends from outside the village, but we were very pleased that some hardy folk had made it from the Coventry and Rugby areas. For this first club of the "Teenies" we had fewer acts to schedule than in previous months, and so we were looking forward to a relaxing evening.

The first half had performances from Janny and Maureen & Margaret, Sue Crum, Ian and Sue, Free Harmony, Summer and Jenny, Pete and Liz. There was some wonderful singing, and everybody managed to weave Harbury into their contributions, some though having very doubtful connections. Ian had written a new song which got the prize for first self-penned offering of the decade. Free Harmony (Chris, Corinne, and Pam) had made the long trek from Coventry, and we bent the rules to allow them three songs. Pete and Liz gave us a song which actually mentioned Harbury by name and then Pete sang about the Dog Inn, and somehow managed to include Harbury's own Father Craig, and Pete and Liz's new grandson Callum.

The second half was started by our very own Harbury Folk Club Christmas choir following their successful December tour of Harbury. The choir outnumbered the audience and filled the room with their magnificent sound. They were followed by Peter McDonald joined by Ian, Lynne and Margaret, and they played some of Peter's self-penned Morris tunes with Harbury connections. Free Harmony gave us a final lovely song, and then Des delighted us with a couple of recitations with clever references to Harbury. Ian and Sue were given 30 seconds warning to finish the second half which they did with great aplomb.

The third half started with further contributions from Pete Bones and Peter McDonald, before the evening was concluded with a music session by members and ex members of Hereburgh Morris. We raised £56 which has been donated to the "Caring for Life" charity. Thanks again to Mark and Carol for allowing us to use the restaurant at the Dog Inn. Sue Hartland will host the next Folk Club on Thursday 4th February, starting at 8pm, when the theme will be "Times of the Day".

Folk Music in Harbury during the Christmas season

The 2009 Christmas season in Harbury began at the beginning of December with a concert given by the Harbury Folk Club Choir.

Thanks to the help offered by church wardens Fliss and William, and the decorating and catering talents of the many who volunteered to help us, the church looked beautiful, and the stage set for a relaxing evening of home-spun entertainment.

Thank you so much for the messages of thanks and congratulations we received from all who came to support both us and our two charities - Harbury Church and the Leamington Christian Mission.

After balancing the books, we were able to send donations of £200 each to these two charities and we are very hopeful that this will be increased in the lead up to next Christmas when we will be selling our second CD for which production plans are progressing well. We were delighted, also, to have support from BBC CWR's presenter Keith Wedgebury. Although he apologised that, due to a prior commitment, he couldn't make the concert in person, Keith featured several tracks from our first CD on his afternoon programme 'Wedge's Warwickshire' on Sunday 20th December. He also expressed interest in receiving a copy of volume 2 for next year.

If you would be interested in reserving a copy, you can follow its progression on the Harbury Folk Club Choir webpage: <http://listen.to/harburyfolkclubchoir>.

Harbury is blessed with an abundance of musical activity and, in addition, on 18th December, the Folk Club's annual carol singing around the village pubs raised £109.00 for Myton Hospice, and Hereburgh Morris's New Year's Day Hangover Tour of the village raised £80.35 For the Red Cross.

Thank you all for your generosity, and a Happy 2010 from the Harbury Folk Club, Choir and Hereburgh Morris.

Lynne Cooke



Happy New Year to all members of the Association; even though I am a bit late wishing it. As far as the Association is concerned 2010 has started on a high note with a superb evening on the 12th night for our Fete des Rois which was kindly held in David and June Eaves home. It was such a pity that June was so unwell that she could not join in with all the festivities, but David did a grand job as host, and we all had a very enjoyable evening.

Andrew Patrick's French conversation sessions have now started, and as last year these are proving to be very popular and well attended. They are being held in the Farley room of the Village Hall and any members wishing to attend should contact our Secretary Sally Stringer on 613214.

We will be holding our annual Quiz night at the Village Club on Sunday March 7th and teams wishing to enter should contact Tony Thomas on 612689.



Harbury RFC

Harbury Mini & Midi Rugby

Mike Steele

24th January - Away at Rugby St Andrews

U7s

Rugby St Andrews 3 v 9 Harbury

A comprehensive victory where all the team scored tries in a flowing team performance. Thomas Betts led the way with some excellent tagging that frustrated the opposition.

Berkswell 10 v 12 Harbury

A superb, offensive team performance where the team showed support skills over numerous phases. Sebastian, Tom, William, Thomas, Roman, Oliver and Ryan all contributed to a fine victory.

Harbury U9s

Rugby St Andrews 0 v Harbury 6

Tries from Chloe, Danny, Tim Baldwin 2, Alex 1 and Ceallach 1

Having not played for a long time due to the snow, Harbury were fired up for their match and played really well. We were 1-0 up after the first half, and finished with a 6-0 win after the second half squad played to the very enthusiastic crowd!

Balsall and Berkswell 1 v 2 Harbury

Tries from Danny and Alex.

This was a tougher match with 1 large opponent who was almost twice as tall as our squad, but Harbury were not afraid and tackled at every opportunity.

Under 11s

Rugby St Andrews 5 v 5 Harbury

The last time Rugby St Andrews met Harbury it was at Middle Road and we were beaten by the visitors. This time we were away and had only just enough players to create a team. We had two no shows, one no gum shield, one bad ankle, who played to his credit till a straggler turned up, (so thanks Lujker) and one damaged finger. Against us, Rugby had men to spare and a girl called Kate who was a pack all by herself.

Undaunted, the Harbury under 11s went forth and in a fierce game, scored first, by Joe Hunt who, somehow, crossed the line.

The huge double pack of St Andrews easily drove Harbury off most of the ball in scrum and maul, (we were helped a little by St Andrews putting the ball in on our side of the scrum) but Harbury responded, by good tackling and two at a time on Kate.

Eventually, St Andrews crossed the line, but couldn't ground the ball and all around the field lay the strewn bodies of St Andrews men.

St Andrews had the advantage of being able to replace the injured, while the Harbury boys, had no such luxury. They just licked their wounds and got on with it.

The inevitable happened and St Andrews scored, but Harbury came back at them and in a fantastic bit of play from their own try line, ran the full length of the field with the ball zinging from player to player. Luke Barnes was taken out, inches from the line.

Ben Jones was brave and in true Kamikaze style tried to run a ball along the touch line; he was hit by three St Andrews players at the same time and taken down but not out.

We had no Man of the Match, for they all deserved that accolade. Ben said on hearing that we only had the one match, "good, I couldn't play anymore".

And so it was, all gave their all. There was nothing left to give!

It finished 1 try all.

Under 12s

Rugby St Andrews 5 v 38 Harbury

After a prolonged Christmas break due to snow, ice and flooding, the Harbury under 12s are back on top. They won convincingly with a fantastic team performance as usual. Tries came thick and fast from George McGowan, Henry Steele, Ben Taylor and Josh Hill. Conversions were kicked by Henry Mancell and George McGowan. Special mention goes to Josh Hill who put in an outstanding performance, scoring twice in his first season in the game.



Harbury Tennis Club

Colin and Sue Mercer

The recent dreadful weather wiped out most activity for several weeks. Our traditional New Year's Day Muffler Tournament was also a casualty, for the first time in the 15 years I've been with the Club. However, we're now getting back into the swing of things on all fronts and the burst pipe in the Clubhouse has now been repaired!

The floodlit league team resumed with an emphatic home win against Kings Sutton. Jon Guy and Geoff Prince just edged the first set in a tiebreak but ran away with the second without conceding a game. Caroline Morland and Sara Peters started off slowly and lost the first set but recovered well to win the second to give Harbury a 3-1 interval lead. This became 7-1 when both doubles rubbers were won by 2 sets to love with the win taking Harbury to the top of the league. Caroline then turned her attention to the Banbury league at Tysoe where she was joined by Keith Thompson and Sue and Colin Mercer. This match was all square at the halfway stage after Colin and Keith comfortably won their rubber but Caroline and Sue comfortably lost theirs! The mixed doubles were both very close encounters with Sue and Colin and Caroline and Keith losing long first sets (6-7, 5-7) but fighting back to win the second sets to secure a 2-2 draw which was enough to take us into second place at the halfway point of the season.

Unfortunately I have to close by reporting some serious damage by vandals to a length of the perimeter fence closest to the Village Hall which was only replaced last year at considerable cost to the joint Tennis and Netball Clubs and Parish Council sinking fund. The matter has been reported to the Police and we hope the culprits are found – it is a great shame that a tiny minority find it necessary to spoil an excellent facility that is enjoyed by so many people, particularly young tennis players. Let's hope it is a one-off incident and we can get back to concentrating on playing.



It's official! Harbury Pre-School receives an **OUTSTANDING** outcome from Ofsted!

On the very first day of term, unannounced, the doorbell rang and there stood the Ofsted Inspector. She stayed for the whole session and arranged to come back the following day for the summing up. But then the snow came.... Pre-School was closed for two days, leaving us on tenterhooks as we waited for her to return. It was well worth the wait, as the inspector was delighted to report that she had classified Harbury Pre-School as "Outstanding" in all seventeen areas of her report:

"Harbury Pre-School makes excellent provision for children in a vibrant and homely environment. Children's individual needs are successfully

met through the support, care and dedication demonstrated by each member of staff and the highly valued partnerships with parents and others ensures all children flourish.”

“All children achieve significant potential in this dynamic and child-centred atmosphere.”

These are just two of the comments on the report, which will be available on the Ofsted website very soon!



Well, what a month January turned out to be! First Ofsted and then all that snow! The “Winter Wonderland” created in the book area clearly reflected the outdoor conditions and, while we had planned to use artificial snow in the exploratory tray indoors, this proved unnecessary as the real thing was available in abundance. Winter songs were sung, ‘cold’ colours were used in the creative area for paintings and collages, and coats, hats, gloves, scarves and wellies were donned for outdoor play. The paint program on our computer was put to good use as the children chose ‘cold’ colours for their designs and then used their IT knowledge to print them.



Once the snow had gone, we were able to concentrate on additional activities, such as painting twigs white and creating wintry trees by sticking them into moulded clay, and making and painting a papier

mâché scene for small world arctic animals. Wonderful patterns were made with the “teabag splosh” – dipping teabags into watery paint and dropping from a height onto paper and trays of cellulose paste followed by cornflour mix were very popular as the children explored the textures with their hands.



Towards the end of the month, we turned our attention to the feature story “The Elves and the Shoemaker” so that, during February, the role play area will be turned into an old fashioned cobblers and shoe shop.

If anyone would like further information about Harbury Pre-School, please contact Jacqui Quinney, Chair of the Pre-School Committee, on Harbury 613386. The web site can be found at www.harburypre-school.org.uk.

Harbury Pre-School Fundraising Group

We held a Christmas party for the children and their siblings in early December which was a lovely event. A special mention of thanks goes to Matt and Janine who set up and provided the disco, music and lights, with help from Dominic. Thank you for all the food contributions from the parents/carers, also lastly for Father Christmas for popping in to visit the children with his sack of presents.

Christmas Market and Thank-Yous

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who came and supported us at the Christmas market held at the Village Hall on 13th December. Special thanks go to the superb Harbury Choir School led by David and Helen Iles, who made the afternoon very special. The children were delighted to see Father Christmas and the lovely Elf, so thank you to them for making time during their busy period.

It all looked so festive due to the generosity of the Senior Citizens Committee for letting us hold on to their tree and decorations, which we really appreciated. We wish to thank all the stallholders and local businesses (including Mallory Court and the Crown Pub which donated meals) who kindly contributed raffle prizes and to Martin, the caretaker at the Village Hall, who was a great help. Also to Adele Scott from the Crown Pub who cooked all the meat.

Lastly, thank you to all the stallholders and helpers who turned up on the day to make it a very successful afternoon and to all the parents/carers who made the cakes, mince pies, etc. We raised a total of £657.43 for the Pre-School, which is so generous of everyone. So, many thanks once again and hopefully we will be back in December 2010.

Winners of the competitions are as follows:

Christmas Carols – Catherine Best

Anagram Competition – Steve and Thomas Conway

Colouring Competition – they were all so good, they all win! Lauren Stanton, Matthew and Ben Gowland, Rose McElfrick, Alex-Mikaila Fell, James Jennings, Lydia, Ryan Bradford.

To claim your prize (and your pictures for the colouring competition), please contact Julie Young, tel. 614050.

Tom Hauley Coffee Morning

The coffee morning held for Harbury Pre-School on 16th January raised £170.63. Thank you to everyone who came and supported us. Many thanks for all the cakes, donations and raffle prizes and to all the helpers on the day.

Upcoming Events for Harbury Pre-School

Sometime in March – Bags 2 School Clothing Collection. Any adults' and childrens' clothing, bedding, curtains, soft toys, shoes, belts and handbags (unfortunately no bric-a-brac).

Sunday 28th March – Children's Easter Party at the Scout Hut.

Saturday 17th April – A Big Night Out at the Village Hall.

More information in the March issue of the Harbury News. Posters will be going up shortly!

Our theme this term is Fairy Tales and also Winter. Some of the



Windmills
Nursery School

Nursery School Staff & Committee

planned activities were put on hold at the beginning of term with the arrival of some very wintry weather. This caused a great deal of excitement at Windmills and the children had great fun exploring our woodland and also the school field which was covered in a blanket of snow. "It's like fluff - I made a snow princess at home" – Freya, "my feet are like icicles, I'm freezing" - Bella "Igloos are made of ice" Millie.

They compared the sizes of their footprints and the different patterns on their soles, and also used sticks to write their name in the snow. Before returning inside they made two snowmen, and collected some snow to bring inside and see how long it took to melt. The wintry theme was continued inside by creating an igloo in the role-play area.



Forest School

We have held two Forest School sessions this term. During the first session the children went out into the woodland in the snow and joined in a woodland workout to keep warm and then made animal sculptures out of the snow. To coincide with the RSPB big garden bird watch during the second woodland session, the children made bird cake which was moulded onto pine cones and then hung onto the trees.

Other activities this month have included :

- * making our usual visit to the toddler service when we listened to the story of Noah
- * creating a wonderful wintry back drop for role play area using cold colours
- * baking gingerbread men
- * making fairy godmothers magic wands to make wishes
- * collaging leaves to make into a huge beanstalk to trail around our room and bring our fairytale display to life.



Thank you

Thank you to Haley Bennett for the donation of wellies and waterproofs to use on our Forest school. Thank you to the Wagstaff Foundation for their donation, which was used to purchase bamboo tubes and magnifying glasses for use in our Forest School. A big thank you also to Tracy Pettifer for applying for a grant from BT which resulted in a cheque for £100.00.

Windmills Nursery School is situated in the grounds of Harbury Primary School if you would like to register a place for your child or require any information on Windmills Nursery you can email us at [info@windmills-nursery](mailto:info@windmills-nursery.co.uk) .co.uk, log onto our web site at windmillsnursery.co.uk or call Nicola on 614564 or Tina and Marie on 07906 519148.

Thank you.



The girls at 1st Harbury Rainbows have been incredibly busy over the past few months. In addition to the usual craft activities and games we have also held a very successful 'bring & buy' sale raising £90. Fortunately, this money helped fund our Christmas Party at the Playbox Theatre in Warwick which the girls

thoroughly enjoyed. We have also had a visit from WPC Lisa Oakley and her dog 'Blaze', who told us all about their job in the Police Force and how important dogs like Blaze are in catching criminals.



Our four newest Rainbows, Erin, Jennie, Amy & Saffie (pictured left) made their Rainbow Promise this term and we all had a party to celebrate. We are also visiting St John's museum in Warwick to look at how girl guiding has changed over the past 100 years

and having lots of pancakes to celebrate Shrove Tuesday. My thanks, as always, go to all those who help make Rainbows as successful as it



Village Hall Update

Chris Finch

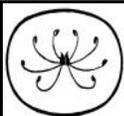
is, Liz, Lisa, Ellie, Annie & Becky.

There's always a myriad of decisions to be taken on a regular basis by the members of the Village Hall committee but, since the building work started in the middle of January, some of the intrepid band have been confronted with other challenges. Already cupboards in the Wagstaffe Room have had to be emptied and space found to accommodate amongst other things – a badminton score board, a bingo roller container and balls, a fridge, a collection of Country and Western tapes and a box full of new (teenagers?) paper backs. If anyone in the village recognises the last two items as long lost treasured possessions, would they please ring 613801 to claim the items, otherwise good homes will be found for them – with the last item being offered to the Library for the book exchange. As an observer noted recently, "it's not until you get involved with the Village Hall that you realise how much on-going work is needed for its continued maintenance". There's hire booklets and invoices to be sent out, minor repair activities, cleaning requirements and now that modernisation is being considered, a mountain of paper-work and forms to be completed to attract support funding into the 'coffers'. Fortunately most of the committee members are retired or semi- retired and can devote some part of most days to the required tasks, so that the premises are maintained in a good state.

The New Year's Dance always provides a good source of income for the general fund and a generous donation from Stratford District Council will underpin the next fund-raising venture – the 'Harbury Hole in the Wall' Beer Festival, which has been arranged for March 13th. This event has also been referred to as the 30/30/30 event, as there will be thirty barrels of Real Ale, from 30 breweries within 30 miles of Harbury. If you didn't realise there were so many local breweries then a visit to the day's Festival will provide all the answers to the question – 'where are they all located'? There will also be some wine and cheese from some of the 7 wineries and 5 cheese-makers also located within the 30 mile radius of the village. As with all the events, a considerable number of people will be needed to support the event for food preparation, serving food/collecting money etc and it has been suggested that the committee should ask for a band of helpers who could be regarded as 'Friends of the Village Hall' who are willing to turn out to assist one of the fund-raising ventures, which will be advertised in the H&L News from time to time. Again, if anyone feels they would be able to get involved to support one of the forth-coming activities, the committee would be pleased to recognise volunteers as 'Friends' who can add much needed 'back-up' to the vital activities for the upkeep of the Hall. Please call 613801 to offer your help and become a FRIEND – your reward will be seeing the Village Hall maintained as an important part of the village for years to come.

By the time you receive this edition of the News, village builder, John Warner and his employees will have commenced work to refurbish the toilets and we hope that the up-graded toilet block will be the first of many improvements to be set in place to the advantage of all.

Other items removed from the Wagstaffe Room in preparation for building work to start include a medium size Ralph Lauren Sport grey cardigan, a pink H&M sleeveless top, a black scarf and a large size black Patagonia fleece, as well as a Shar Pei cuddly toy. If you recognise any of these items please ring 613801 or contact the booking secretary as listed in the H&L News.



Horticultural Society

Judy Morrall

I was really surprised to see over 40 members at our January meeting; if you remember this was the start of the snow and conditions both on the roads and pavements were quite treacherous. Thank you to everyone who made the effort, we were not disappointed either.

Our speaker Chris Begg made it from Leamington and gave us a most interesting talk about the restoration of Hill Close Gardens in Warwick.

At least half of our members have visited; it was so fascinating to learn about how the project started and the progress made. Chris explained that in Victorian times it was quite the thing to own your own pleasure gardens complete with Summerhouses. These would have been owned by merchants who took great pride in their individual plots. There would have been a mixture of the exotic and ordinary fruit and vegetables and they would have been surrounded by native hedges to afford privacy. Sadly there are not many examples today throughout England which is why it was considered to be a matter of urgency in the late 1980's to preserve and restore these unique gardens.

There were a total of 31 plots in 1886 and old maps showed the layout of these at Warwick. Sadly by the 1970's just one person was tending his plot. The council had permission to build here but due to the tenacity of the late John Picking and the assistance of English Heritage who had 4 of the Summerhouses listed, a Trust was formed in 2000 Thus began the task of clearing the site and the start of restoration work. The first job once clearance was complete was to plant native hedges and these were done to the scale of the original map. Sadly many of the summerhouses were just shells but 7 of them have been totally restored including a unique 6 sided one complete with stained glass. A lot of this work was very labour intensive and all credit to those involved to see these delightful buildings brought back to life again. Such dedication is to be applauded.

The planting too is well under way so much so that events are now held throughout the Summer months to generate extra income and bring more recognition to this gem. A new visitor centre has been built with a green roof, the heating is from underground cables, the insulation is shredded newspaper and the inside spacious to support the Educational Programme for Children. There is a delightful tea room and all this is mainly run by volunteers. Many varied events held include an Apple Day each year when old species are highlighted. Outdoor concerts feature too. A most interesting and enjoyable talk with lovely slides too.

Chris didn't stay too late and did get home all in one piece, safely negotiating Treen's Hill.

The February meeting will have come and gone by the time you read this, more next month about that. The March meeting is on 2nd when Nicholas Clark will be speaking about spring in Texas.

An unusual request from Nicholas, he is willing to accept as part of his fee any odd foreign currency, coins and notes including those replaced by the Euro that you may have secreted away in the odd pocket, so start searching and bring along anything you no longer have use for to the March Meeting.

I'm currently finely tuning the 2 day trips in June and July this year. Hoping to go to Hestercombe Gardens plus another one nearby for one trip, then 2 gardens in Northamptonshire for the other. I shall also soon start booking speakers for 2010/11 so I have quite a lot to do over the next few weeks. This is in addition to starting off seeds and hopefully, now that I am fully mobile again, doing a bit of tidying etc on the allotment. Thank you to everyone for your cards and phone calls after my recent knee surgery.

There are already snowdrops putting in an appearance - here are a few suggestions near and not too far to see them at their absolute best. Hanwell Castle near Banbury is having a Stars and Snowdrops weekend on 13th and 14th February. Enjoy a woodland walk in the ancient snowdrop colony, then view the progress at Hanwell Community Observatory. Adults £2.50 under 18's £1.00 and under 5's free. Enjoy teas by a huge log fire. See www.hanwellobservatory.org.uk for directions and further details. At Dial Park in Chaddesley Corbett next to Judy Berrow's (our October speaker), there will be 2 days of snowdrop spectacular plus other lovely flowers such as primroses and hardy ferns on 17th and 18th February between 11.00am and 4.00pm. This lovely garden is found on the A448 midway between Kidderminster and Bromsgrove.

Don't forget Painswick Rococo Gardens; their snowdrops are amazing too, this event is on 23rd and 24th February. Situated near Cheltenham, Colesbourne Park has a massive collection of snowdrops and is a absolute must for all galanthophiles. There are special snowdrop weekends throughout February from 1.00pm last entry 4.30pm. Adults £6 children free. Visit their website www.colesbournegardens.org.uk.

A bit nearer again why not make a visit to Ragley Hall near Alcester, during February there are many winter plants to see and enjoy mingled with the snowdrops. Look out for the display of silver birch, quite spectacular. If you are an RHS member you get free admission on 13th February. If you are a National Trust member do go to Hanbury Hall near to Droitwich, there too will be a snowdrop display. Look at your new member's book for dates etc.

Hope you manage to catch one of these, with the snowdrops here Spring is a little nearer. Even the recent snow and frosts don't seem to have put back the progress of plants in my garden. The clematis "Freckles" has been busy flowering since late December. The buds on the clematis "Armadii" Warwickshire Lass are swelling daily, as are the buds on my lovely Cornish Camellia. Daffodils are about 3 or 4 inches high and I even had violets in flower in December. The heucheras seem to be immune to the bad weather, my collection is looking very colourful at present. Isn't nature a wonderful thing.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the meetings.



Who says we don't have proper winter weather anymore??

The freezing temperatures, constant snow and ice in January will certainly have caused some plants to wither and die. We have all been lulled into thinking we can easily grow the more tender plants and now we shall be paying for it!

Plants in pots are particularly susceptible to prolonged periods of frost, especially if not well drained. At the Nursery we expect to suffer significant losses this winter (this being written in early January amid the depths of the cold). It is difficult not to get despondent when throwing away barrow loads of dead plants.

If you do find you have lost plants in this cold period, remember, we are always available for advice (though we do prefer it if you buy some plants from us too!).

Our new shed was delivered on time. The next day, despite of freezing conditions, Philip braved the cold and began to erect it. Within a few days – having managed to sort through hundreds of identical looking pieces – it was up to eaves level, given a certain amount of 'persuasion'. Since then building work has come to a complete halt due to Christmas and now the freezing snow. We hope that by mid-February the roof will be on.

Unusually, I am going to suggest you restrain yourself from rushing out into the garden to get certain jobs done. The soil will be cold and wet still, not to mention sticky. Take it easy! Make some plans.

Have positive thoughts about the coming months. Potter about in the greenhouse if you have one.

PS. We do like to receive any feedback; you can email us via our website.

*Bridge Nursery, Tomlow Road, Napton,
Tel: 01926 812737*

www.bridge-nursery.co.uk

¼ mile from Crossroads Garage – look for our Tourist Sign



Nature Notes

John Hancock

The snow came and it stayed here until Friday the 15th January when it warmed up a bit and we got lots of overnight rain which washed all the white stuff away. Sharon had a couple of outings on cross-country skis especially enjoying a session in early January when there was fresh snow and a clear blue sky. I read in our newspaper recently that the intricate crystal pattern of a snowflake is never repeated. That seems hard to believe; in the same league as a fingerprint.

Birds such as Long-Tailed Tits came through the garden. We had a resident Fieldfare which seemed happy with the cooking apples [windfalls from the autumn courtesy of John and Sally next door] we put out for it defending the lawn against other birds such as Song Thrush and Blackbird. Nationally, there was a greater influx of North European members of the Thrush family, such as Fieldfare and Redwing, than usual due to the severe cold snap. Bitterns too were reported to be here in greater numbers.

December gave us two full moons. This happens every two and a half years but the second full moon on December 31st as occurred this time is a rarity, and won't come along for another 18 years-hence the saying 'once in a blue moon'. Did you see it? The cold frosty weather made it quite spectacular.

Flowers outside have been hard to find but they are out there and will be getting increasingly common. The large Viburnum bush outside the 'Shakespeare' was showing its pink flowers before Christmas and early flowering Cherry can be found in Jephson Gardens. Climb the narrow lane rising to Bromson Hill off the roundabout at Harwoods House. It soon dips sharply down the south-west side through a copse where Old Man's Beard [Clematis vitalba] is prominent.

Look on the right hand side and you will see a large leafed prostrate plant taking over the grassy bank. Cycling round that way on 23rd January, I found the snow and cold had flattened the plant even more. One flower spike was opening and soon there will be many more. This is an introduced compositae (Daisy family) and extremely invasive. It is known as Winter Heliotrope (*Petasites fragrans*).

Earlier, in the large arable field just past the turn to Chesterton, one buzzard stood as a sentinel where Chris Finch had counted eight in the autumn. I disturbed another in a roadside tree and it flapped away towards the motorway. My route took me through Moreton Morrell and back on the tiny lane to Lighthorne which climbs over the shoulder of a hill after crossing the Fosse Way. The roadside stream was full and noisy, heading west to join the River Avon at Charlecote. I diverted to explore the northern edge of Dark Lane Copse near the top of the hill. Ground ivy and dead Elm seemed unpromising. Then, in amongst the leaf litter, I saw what I had hoped to find, the pale green leaf shoots of Bluebell (our native hyacinth). It will be several months before we're gazing at that evocative sight, a wood carpeted with glorious blue.

Cycling to Southam, as I do frequently, the road passes the side of Ufton Woods before coming to the Welsh Road. Many of you will know the gate into the tiny graveyard close to the sign admonishing 'Gypsy and Gentry alike to leave no litter'. On January 19th, I took a visiting friend into that quiet place. The grand graves of the Chamberlayne and Lousada family rub shoulders with the simple wooden crosses of locals whose names brought back lots of memories for me - Payne, Shalor, Rollins, Coleman, Rathbone..... it's a sheltered place and sprinkled with snowdrops.

Today, 25th January, I walked into the village and noticed that the potted snowdrops outside Bill Griffin's front door were in flower. They are a long stemmed variety and always early. Outside the south door of All Saints, near the Stobo Memorial, snowdrop shoots were 2 inches high but it will be February before the flowers show, joined by the yellow of Winter Aconite (*Eranthis hyemalis*), a member of the buttercup family.

Now the days are definitely lengthening. The birds which were crowding into gardens to be fed have spread out into the countryside, some even looking for nest sites. I found a pile of broken snail shells by our garden shed after the snow had melted. Starving birds had come across a bonanza of food in the form of snails glued to the underside of the woodwork and had a feast.

Purple Alder catkins seem plump but still shut tight. Hazel catkins are bursting open here and there to reveal yellow male pollen bearing parts. There was a field full of heavily pregnant ewes beside the Welsh Road towards Marston Doles. It's all happening. Enjoy the wonders of spring as it begins to unfold.



General Section

Southam Lions Ladies

Southam Lions Ladies are holding a Charity Quiz Night on Friday 26th February 2010, 7:30 pm in the Graham Adams Centre, St James Road, Southam. Cost is £10 per team of 4. Entry Forms available from Viv Hoyle on 815265. All proceeds to Warwickshire Air Ambulance and Zoe's Place Baby Hospice.

Viv Hoyle

Southam Lions End the Year on a 'high'!

Despite appalling weather conditions in the run up to Christmas, Southam Lions turned out in force and raised a magnificent record amount of £4,769 for selected charities at Christmas.

Funds were raised for Acorns Childrens' Hospice and The Teenage Cancer Trust and representatives from the charities collected their cheques on 20th January.

Children and adults alike turned out everywhere to welcome Father Christmas with all ages catered for, from babies to great grannies and everyone enjoyed the chocolate bars handed out by the great man!

The fund-raising task this year might have been hampered by the general economic gloom, but it turned out to be not the case at all. Lion President Steve Hoyle said 'It was very gratifying to see the extent of generosity and we offer our heartfelt thanks for the support of residents of Southam and the surrounding district to Southam Lions particularly at this busy time of the year. Each year we collect more and more for the worthwhile charities we choose'.

THE LIONS EXTEND THEIR SINCERE THANKS AND WISH EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Peter Guy

Southam Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) - How we are Doing

As the Inspector responsible for your local Safer Neighbourhood Team, I am committed to ensuring that your local officers continue to offer a high level of protection and that they are actively dealing with local crime and anti-social behaviour. The Southam area is well served by an experienced and committed team who are under the supervision of Sergeant Fretwell are performing extremely well. The following information shows you how well we are doing:-

- Since April 2009 there has been a 19% reduction in serious violence across the Southam area. This is particularly impressive as last year Warwickshire Police achieved the greatest percentage reduction in violence out of all the Forces in the UK.
- Southam has the greatest detection rate for violence of the six SNTs within the Stratford District.
- There has been a significant reduction of 29% in the number of thefts from vehicles.
- Burglary, dwelling offences are still extremely rare and there have been no offences of aggravated burglary at all.

We attend approximately 85% of emergency calls within the target response time. Our response times between 10pm and 7am have improved greatly.

- We continue to achieve 100% of the policing activity agreed at Community Forums.
- 85.6% of people surveyed after using our service are satisfied with the service provided.
- Crime across Warwickshire has fallen for three consecutive years.

New ways of Policing "Right Service , First Time"

Having reviewed and changed the way we respond to calls we are confident that we are providing the right response to callers at the first time of asking. We continue to answer and respond to 999 calls as quickly as possible. However, when calls don't require an immediate response we now offer an appointment at a police station or a visit from a Constable or a P.C.S.O at an agreed location. This appointment system has been designed to fit around people's lifestyles and aims to provide appointments during the next working day.

We endeavour to answer all e-mails received within 24 hours and are now putting information on our website about police surgeries, meetings and community engagement events where people can meet officers.

Southam and the surrounding villages are very safe areas where crime levels are low and we remain committed to keeping it this way

Insp. Patrick Devereux
Stratford on Avon District Safer Neighbourhood Inspector
www.safer-neighbourhoods.co.uk



Captain R.W. Morris. 1893-1943

I have written previously about Richard Morris whose name appears on the War Memorial, but who at first proved elusive to my research. I have now been contacted by Audrey Atkins who is Richard's niece and I have obtained some information from the Ministry of Defence. Richard was born in Hereford in 1893, one of 7 children of Edwin and Ellen Morris.

The family moved to Harbury sometime in the 1890's and Edwin worked in

the quarry. They lived in Co-Op Terrace, now Ivy Lane, and the younger children were born there. Richard's other surviving niece, Gladys Gurden thinks he ran away to join the army. Certainly by 1911 when he was 18, he was a Private in the



Royal Warwickshire Regiment and living in Budbrooke Barracks. In 1913 he went with the regiment to Malta, returning on the outbreak of World War 1. In May of 1915, he went to the Dardanelles and was there until January of 1916. During that time, the Royal Warwickshires suffered very heavy casualties and endured dreadful conditions during the winter with many men suffering frostbite.

After this ordeal, they went to Palestine and Richard was there until 1919 after which he spent a year in Egypt before leaving the army with the rank of Lance-Sergeant.

Richard was to stay in Egypt for most of the next 20 years. In October 1923 he married Margaret, a member of the large Greek community in Egypt. They came to Harbury for the birth of their only child Ellena Francis. Gladys remembers that Margaret refused the attentions of Dr Pirie, as he was a man, and Richard's mother delivered the baby. Audrey remembers the family coming back during the 1930's on visits and that they were here in 1939 when war was declared. Richard immediately returned to Egypt and his wife and daughter followed. In Cairo, he applied to return to the army and on the 11th November 1940 he was granted a temporary commission in the Army Intelligence Corps. On his application form, he states that he is fluent in Arabic, Italian and French and after 20 years of residence has a thorough knowledge of Egypt and its people. He also records knowledge of construction machinery and the country's road and rail system and gives his employment as general manager of a British owned company. It is not difficult to understand why, even at the age of 47, the army wanted his services. Leaving his wife living in Alexandria, he joined a unit in the Western Desert.

Richard, by now a Captain, was reported missing in Crete on 6th June 1941 and was later confirmed as a prisoner-of war. There was an airborne invasion of Crete by Germany on 20th May 1941. Despite very heavy losses, they captured Maleme airport in Western Crete and flew in reinforcements. The Allied forces were overwhelmed in 10 days. Over 4 nights, 16,000 troops were evacuated to Egypt by the Royal Navy, but thousands including Captain Richard Morris were left behind. 1751 Allied soldiers were killed on Crete and many more wounded. 1828 sailors were killed in the evacuation and 12,204 troops were captured. Richard spent the rest of his life in a prison camp somewhere in Eastern Europe. Audrey remembers his brother sending out woollen underwear via the Red Cross as he had written complaining of the severe cold. On the 27th March 1943, Richard died of pneumonia, aged 50. After the war, his grave was moved to Hanover War Cemetery and Audrey tells me that his daughter who has now died was able to visit his grave.

Twice in his 50 years of life, Richard Morris left this quiet place to put on a uniform and fight our battles, the second time when he was no longer a young man. I would like to thank Gladys Gurden and Audrey Atkins for helping me tell some of his story.

Sharon Hancock

Harbury Blues?

As a middle aged guitar player who up to now has only played for my own benefit I was wondering if there were any other amateur musicians in the area who would like to get together for an evening informally say once a month to play blues style music together for our own entertainment. Anything from Delta blues to Chicago to Eric Bibb or anything else in the blues style (electric or acoustic). Whilst I was thinking that all levels of experience would be welcome, I was not envisaging this being appropriate for beginners.

If there is interest I will try to sort out date and venue.

If you are interested send an e-mail to harburyblues@googlemail.com.

Andrew Cook

Chesterton Windmill

In my brief article about the illumination of Chesterton Windmill last month, I mistakenly referred to the windmill as being in the ownership of Les Evans of Squab Hall. Whilst it is on his land and he did provide the lighting and power, I have been informed that the windmill itself is still owned by Brian Merriman and Michael Thwaites. My apologies to them for this mis-information.

Peter Bones

Seeking Warwickshire's Best Village in 2010

Villages across the county are being called upon to shout about their achievements in the last year. Warwickshire's Best Village Competition provides an opportunity to win prize money as well as to share ideas with other communities facing similar challenges.

Anyone living in a village with 5,000 inhabitants or less can enter and there are hundreds of pounds to be won. There are six categories to choose from:

- Community Projects
- Community Buildings
- Communication
- Community Heroes (or businesses which benefit the community)
- Environment
- History & Heritage – and all kinds of evidence are welcome (photos, DVDs, publications etc).

The closing date is Sunday 31 May.

For more information about how to enter the competition, or to volunteer to be a judge, visit www.ruralwarwickshire.org.uk or telephone Ariadne on 02476 217390.

Ariadne Uslu

Harbury Choir School - Make a BEATLES Noise

It is that time of year again, David is spending hours writing music, the neighbours are sick of hearing 'yellow submarine' on repeat, Helen is getting excited over ways to make a giant octopus, musicians have been booked to play and kids are whispering about it on the playground...

The 2010 Make a Noise workshop is being held on SATURDAY 20TH FEBRUARY and this year will be an adventure into the songs of the Beatles.

The workshop is open to all aged 7-16 and will involve singing, dance, live music, craft, face painting and more! It is a great day packed with fun from 10.45am to 4pm with an open public performance at 4.30pm for all to enjoy.

We are very lucky to have a great group of musicians coming to play for us again this year – with the addition of drums and guitars to the line-up of woodwind and brass for extra rock-and-roll factor.

There is a charge of £5 per child to cover costs and each child will need a packed lunch on the day. Places are limited, so be sure to sign up early via the website www.harburychoirschool.org.

See you there!!

Helen Iles

Harbury Choir School

www.harburychoirschool.org

01926 614150

Harbury Duke of Edinburgh Award Group

Some good news. The Duke of Edinburgh Group has fourteen young people working towards their Bronze Award. In the volunteering section of the award we have helpers walking dogs for the elderly, tennis coaching, helping young pupils read at school and assisting at the uniformed groups. The physical activities section includes those who are playing table tennis, going to the gym and trampolining.

In the learning new skills category we have young people learning to referee rugby matches, improve at the flute and trying out circus skills.

As well as all this activity, our training for the two day expedition has started and Alan Sampson has set up our website with key dates and contact numbers plus useful links: **www.harburydofe.co.uk** .

The group is delighted to have received start-up grants from the Parish Council and the Carnival Committee. New equipment for the group and training for the team of six leaders does not come cheap so we have submitted applications for grants from three other sources. In addition we are pleased to announce the following fund raiser:

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Nick Tawney

Southam/Feldon Community Forum

We are offering FREE community transport to the next Southam/Feldon Community Forum at Southam Primary School on Monday 22nd February, 6.30pm from the villages of Bishops Itchington, Long Itchington, Stockton and Harbury. Places are limited so book early by contacting the Stratford Area Team on 01789 290784 or by email to stratford@warwickshire.gov.uk by WEDNESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY at the latest.

Amanda Wilson Patterson

Warwickshire CC, Stratford Area Office

Village Christmas Lights

Once again the lights on the tree outside the Library needed to be repaired and once again Mike rode the platform lift to fix them. Thanks to Richard Linforth for his dexterity with the lift platform and to Jo Griffin for the time-saving crimpers. Hopefully next year they will be OK.

Thanks also to The Dog Inn, Kath and Roger Ellis, The Gamecock,

The Shakespeare, the Supermarket and the Library for allowing us to plug into their electricity, to the householders in Chapel Street, High Street and Church Street who have the rope lights attached to their properties and to the Parish Council for meeting the other costs.

We know people enjoy the lights, they tell us as we are putting them up and taking them down. We enjoy doing it. Occasionally it is suggested that we should go for something more sophisticated. Let us know what you think. We'd need to do some substantial fundraising and build a bigger team.

Gordon Bennett, Steve Dolley, Mike McBride and John Ridgley



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editors

I found some money in Mill Street in December. If anyone has lost money there, please contact me on 01926 613786.

I have kept it safe for you.

Chloe Kempton

Dear Editors

The Rotary International Coffee Morning held on Saturday 2nd January raised £156. On behalf of the Rotary Club of Southam President and members, thank you everyone who came along to support us.

A Happy New Year to you all.

Jean Foster
Secretary

Dear Editors

The Parish Council would like to thank those residents who took the time and trouble to put out grit from the grit bins on Treen's Hill and Farm Street. Your efforts helped to keep Harbury moving during the recent bad weather. The Council would also like to thank the landlords of The Dog, The Shakespeare and The Gamecock, Michelle at the library, Guv at the Harbury Supermarket and Mrs K Ellis of Chapel Street for allowing the Christmas lights to be

plugged into their electricity supply again this year, also to the intrepid band of volunteers, John Ridgley, Mike McBride, Steve Dolley and Gordon Bennett who put the lights up every year and maintain them – many thanks for helping to brighten the dark month of December.

Harbury Parish Council

Dear Editors

Mike and I just wanted to pass on our thanks to the delivery ladies who managed to keep the postal service going during the snowy weather. They were absolutely amazing.

A special thanks to our local delivery lady, Mary, who is always so cheerful and friendly all year round.

Chris and Mike Jones
Dovehouse Lane

Dear Editors

Having two young children, what a joy it is to walk to school on a glorious Spring morning, embracing the country aromas!.....

Unfortunately, over the last few weeks our morning walks have been far from enjoyable. The pathway from Percival Drive to South Parade is littered with dog mess, as is South Parade all the way to the school. This is a disgraceful situation and whoever is responsible for not clearing up after their dog should be ashamed. I have taken to driving to school to avoid dog mess on shoes and pushchair wheels (which has happened twice in the past week)! What on earth will the paths be like by the summer? Whoever you are you will get caught out one day—be warned! Please take pride in our village.

T. Bastin (A concerned parent and watchful resident of Percival Drive)

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

Bookings for:

Scout Hut	Caroline Hill	613780
Tom Hauley Room	Liz Bunting	612450
T. Hauley Room Coffee Morning	Sally Stringer	613214
Village Hall	Celia Neill	612819
Wight School	Lin Hayes	613488

MARCH EDITION – HARBURY & LADBROKE NEWS**Adverts to** 31, Binswood End by 15th February**Articles to** Harbury Pharmacy by 25th February

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 Unit 2, Bull Ring Business Centre
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E-mail: clerk@harbury-pc.gov.uk

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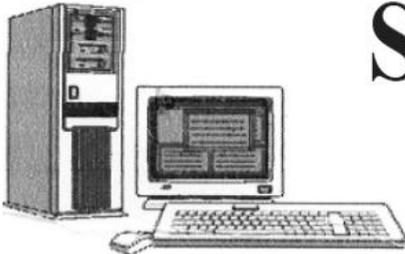


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5.00pm - Gymnastics (all ages) 6.00pm - Grade 1 Ballet (9yrs +)



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Tuesday Evenings, The Grange, Southam

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4.30pm - Pre-Syllabus (5-6yrs) 5.45pm - Primary (8yrs+)



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Thursday, 11th February, 12.00 – 4.30 p.m.

Refreshments provided by the NSPCC

Items may be left to be entered into a suitable sale. For larger items, an appointment can be made to see you in your home or office.

Charles Hanson is available for Charity events

i.e. valuation days, talks, auctions etc.

Please contact Mrs Carol Jones,

Hansons Warwickshire Representative on 01926 770066

or email service@hansonsauctioneers.co.uk www.hansonsauctioneers.co.uk

Hansons Auctioneers are pleased to inform you that Mrs Kate Bliss MRICs, qualified Gemmologist has joined Hansons to advise clients on the value and sale of Jewellery and Silver through auction.